



Mormugao Police Intensify Probe into Baina Dacoity

■ Staff questioned, CCTV search expanded as investigators act within 'golden hour'

Team Goemkarponn

Baina: Mormugao police have launched an intensive investigation into the armed dacoity reported at Chamundi Arcade in Baina, where a family was attacked with iron rods and valuables worth around ₹35 lakh were stolen in the early hours of Tuesday. Police have registered a case under Sections 331(3),

CONTD TO PAGE 04...

The Dacoity Probe...

- ▶ Family assaulted with iron rods, valuables worth about ₹35 lakh looted at chamundi arcade in baina.
- ▶ Case registered under multiple sections of the bns, 2023, and the goa children's act.
- ▶ Entire staff of the victim taken for questioning; fingerprinting and forensic checks underway.
- ▶ Cctv trail widened across baina and the vasco—mes college stretch to track suspects.
- ▶ Quick reporting enabled police to act within the crucial "golden hour," improving chances of identifying the gang.

Brutally Beaten in Baina Dacoity, Sagar Battles Through Recovery at GMC



Team Goemkarponn

Vasco: Businessman Sagar Nayak continues to recover at the Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim, after sustaining severe injuries in the armed dacoity at Chamundi Arcade in Baina early Tuesday morning. The 60-year-old, who lives on the sixth

CONTD TO PAGE 04...



SC Rejects Fixed Timelines for Governors to Assent to Bills

■ Court affirms constitutional discretion but warns against indefinite delays.

Apex Court Verdict...

- ▶ Supreme court rules that neither state governors nor the president can be forced to grant assent to bills within rigid, court-imposed deadlines.
- ▶ 5-judge bench led by chief justice b.r. gavai holds that strict timelines would compromise the separation of powers.
- ▶ The court makes clear that governors do not have unlimited power they cannot sit on bills indefinitely.
- ▶ Judicial review remains possible in "exceptional cases" where inaction is prolonged or unexplained, but courts cannot dictate how a governor should decide.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday

delivered a landmark CONTD TO PAGE 04...

High Court Clears Way for Removal of Unsafe Cables

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The dispute over hanging communication

cables returned to the High Court this week after a petition challenged the recent drive to remove

unsafe lines. The case stems from an incident in which a father and

CONTD TO PAGE 04...



56th International Film Festival of India
20th- 28th November, 2025, Panaji, Goa

IFFI Parade

In the gracious presence of

Shri Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju

Hon'ble Governor of Goa
Government of Goa

Dr. Pramod Sawant

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Goa

Dr. L. Murugan

Hon'ble Minister of State for
Information & Broadcasting &
Parliamentary Affairs
Government of India

Shri. Ashwini Vaishnaw

Hon'ble Minister of Information & Broadcasting,
Railways and Electronics & Information Technology
Government of India

Shri. Shripad Naik

Hon'ble Union Minister of State in the
Ministry of Power; and Minister of State in
the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

IFFI Parade on 20th November, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at Old GMC Building, Panaji, Goa

The IFFI Parade welcomes everyone. Come be a part of the joy!

For more Information & Registration log on to www.esg.co.in and www.iffigoa.org
IFFI Helpline number 08326741717 (8.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.)

www.iffigoa.org [@iffigoa](https://www.facebook.com/iffigoa) [@iffigoa](https://www.facebook.com/iffigoa) [@iffigoa](https://www.facebook.com/iffigoa) [@iffigoa](https://www.facebook.com/iffigoa) [@iffigoa](https://www.facebook.com/iffigoa) [@iffigoa](https://www.facebook.com/iffigoa) [@iffigoa](https://www.facebook.com/iffigoa)

International Film Festival of India, Goa



Mandrem Wedding Outrage Shows Why Goa's Beach Rules Need Urgent Fixing

The uproar over the Mandrem wedding has laid bare a contradiction that Goa can no longer ignore. The state openly permits beach weddings and markets itself as a destination wedding hotspot, yet the permissions system remains so tangled and inconsistent that even established resorts struggle to navigate it. When a legal activity comes wrapped in complicated procedures, confusion becomes routine and violations become predictable. The latest incident in Mandrem is more than a case of one resort breaking the rules. It is a reminder that Goa needs a clear, disciplined and practical framework for an industry it actively promotes but poorly manages.

The anger intensified after a lavish wedding reception was held directly on the Olive Ridley nesting site at Mandrem. Music, lights and even fireworks disturbed the protected zone. Locals alleged officials were negligent as enforcement agencies arrived late or did not act firmly enough. The Tourism Department insisted it had granted no permission, but the damage to a fragile habitat had already been done. This goes beyond a paperwork lapse. It raises serious questions about how a full-scale event reached the stage of celebration on one of Goa's most sensitive stretches without timely intervention.

The earlier November 17 violation involving Riva Beach Resort only adds to the concern. A Tourist Warden spotted the unauthorized setup. Tourism Police intervened. The resort was told to stop. Yet the wedding still went ahead. How does an event continue after two separate authorities have stepped in. Did the resort believe the consequences would be minor. Or does it point to an enforcement system that struggles to control situations once guests have arrived and preparations are underway. A penalty of one lakh rupees may sound substantial, but for a property that hosts premium destination events, it may not be enough to deter future violations. The Tourism Department has mentioned possible action under the Tourist Trade Act and even provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. These are serious options. But they only matter if applied decisively. Every year Goa issues stern warnings. Every year illegal setups appear on

A penalty of one lakh rupees may sound substantial, but for a property that hosts premium destination events, it may not be enough to deter future violations. The Tourism Department has mentioned possible action under the Tourist Trade Act and even provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. These are serious options. But they only matter if applied decisively.

Every year Goa issues stern warnings. Every year illegal setups appear on beaches. Without visible follow-through, rules become threats on paper rather than instruments of protection. Yet enforcement alone is not the whole story. Goa already permits beach weddings, which means the demand is recognised and encouraged. The problem lies in the way permissions are handled. Resorts and planners often face multiple approvals from different departments

beaches. Without visible follow-through, rules become threats on paper rather than instruments of protection. Yet enforcement alone is not the whole story. Goa already permits beach weddings, which means the demand is recognised and encouraged. The problem lies in the way permissions are handled. Resorts and planners often face multiple approvals from different departments. Requirements overlap. Timelines shift. Conditions change

unexpectedly. Permissions arrive late or with unclear instructions. Couples and planners expect certainty. Instead they encounter a system that feels unpredictable and unnecessarily bureaucratic.

This does not excuse the Mandrem violations. But it explains why resorts often push boundaries. Goa sells the dream of a sunset ceremony on the sand. It advertises itself as a destination where weddings feel effortless and scenic. But the regulatory process does not match the promise the state promotes. If Goa truly wants to benefit from destination weddings, shouldn't the legal route be so clear and convenient that no resort is tempted to bypass it.

At the same time, simplification cannot come at the cost of the coastline. Notified and protected zones exist for a reason. Turtle nesting areas, dunes and erosion-prone stretches cannot be treated as event venues. But responsible tourism and environmental protection can coexist. Many coastal destinations around the world designate specific wedding zones, limit the number of events, enforce strict noise and lighting guidelines and deploy on-ground monitoring teams. These systems protect sensitive ecosystems while still supporting the tourism economy. Goa can adopt a similar model. A single-window approval mechanism, fixed timelines, transparent criteria, and clear environmental safeguards would make compliance easier and violations less frequent. Resorts would know exactly where events can be held and under what conditions.

Authorities would be better equipped to act decisively when rules are broken. And the public would have confidence that beaches are not being quietly handed over to private functions. The Mandrem violations are symptoms of a larger structural failure. Goa permits beach weddings, but complicates them so much that enforcement becomes a seasonal contest rather than a consistent system. The state now faces a choice between continuing in this grey zone or building a clear, fair and environmentally responsible framework. Simpler rules, stricter enforcement and transparent monitoring are not opposing goals. They are the only way to ensure that Goa's beaches remain both accessible for tourism and protected for future generations.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An Atmosphere of Fear After Goa's Recent Dacoities

By Suraj Nandrekar

Goa is going through a moment of unease that it has not experienced in years. A series of dacoities in Vasco, Mapusa and Saligao in a short span has shaken the state's sense of security. Goa has always taken pride in being a safe place where families feel comfortable and where visitors move around without worry. That perception has now taken a hit. Across neighbourhoods, people say they are more alert at night. Homes are being secured earlier. Local WhatsApp groups are filled with warnings. What could once be dismissed as isolated crime has now begun to feel like a troubling pattern.

Police have urged people to remain calm, but reassurance alone cannot dilute the anxiety created by three major robberies in different corners of the state. The Vasco incident was still being discussed when the Mapusa dacoity struck, followed by the crime in Saligao. The quick succession has created an impression that organised gangs may be at work. When crimes occur repeatedly and with such confidence, the public naturally wonders whether law enforcement has kept pace. How did these groups manage to strike across regions so close together. Were they emboldened by gaps in policing. And why were they not detected despite Goa's relatively small geography and active police presence.

This fear has spread beyond households and into the workforce that keeps Goa's tourism economy running. Taxi drivers say they avoid certain stretches after dark. Staff at coastal hotels try to travel in groups after late shifts instead of heading home alone. Shopkeepers in quieter areas prefer to close earlier than usual. These behavioural shifts may seem small, but they reveal something larger. People no longer feel as secure as they did even a month ago. Once confidence dips, it affects the daily rhythm of life as well as the state's reputation among visitors.

This is why the current moment demands more than routine policing. It calls for visible and sustained action. Residents want patrols that are clearly present in residential pockets, town centres and tourist belts. They want quicker investigations that reassure them progress is being made. They want steady updates rather than broad statements that offer little detail. When fear spreads across communities, communication becomes as important as enforcement. If authorities remain vague or infrequent in their updates, rumours fill the void and intensify anxiety.

The government also needs to address the questions people are now asking. Is the police force facing manpower shortages as the season begins. Are rural and suburban stations overstretched. Has border and coastal surveillance kept pace with increased movement. Are intelligence units monitoring the arrival of new criminal groups effectively. These questions are not about assigning blame. They are about understanding whether the system has the tools it needs to respond to evolving threats.

Goa's strengths have always been its calm, its openness and its reputation for safety. If those begin to erode, the impact will be far-reaching. It will affect residents, businesses and the tourism sector. That is why the state must act decisively now. Strengthen night patrols. Improve coordination across stations. Increase lighting and surveillance in vulnerable areas. Deploy additional personnel where patterns suggest weaknesses. And above all, keep people informed.

Fear grows quickly if left unaddressed. Goa cannot allow that to happen.

The state must move firmly and transparently before this atmosphere of anxiety becomes the new normal.

Goa farmers hit by delays in harvester supply, suffer heavy crop losses

■ Opposition seeks higher MSP and compensation for affected cultivators.

Team Goemkarponn

Saligao: Farmers in Saligao are facing severe distress after delays in the supply of harvesters led to rain damage and widespread crop loss during the current paddy season. Local cultivators say the problem stems from administrative lapses and poor management. Paddy in the area was ready for harvest by 20 September, but farmers received only one harvester in early October instead of the usual three. The lone



machine reportedly broke down after cutting a few fields, leaving most of the crop exposed to rain. Many farmers say they have suffered losses they cannot recover from. Most cultivators in Saligao are marginal farmers with less than one acre of land. They are already burdened by high labour costs and low returns.

Farmers Demand Relief...

- ▶ Farmers say delayed harvester supply caused large-scale crop damage.
- ▶ Only one harvester reached saligao instead of three, and it broke down early.
- ▶ Marginal farmers with less than one acre suffered the most.
- ▶ Current returns of about twenty-six rupees per kilogram fall far below market rates.
- ▶ Opposition demands a higher minimum support price and compensation for losses.

The minimum support price stands at twenty one rupees per kilogram with an additional five rupees as subsidy, giving farmers about twenty six rupees

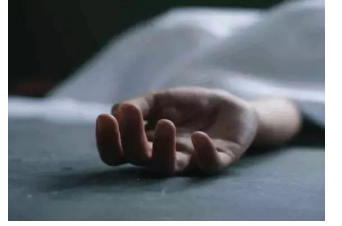
In the market, the same rice sells for close to one hundred rupees, widening the gap between production cost and income.

33-year-old Xeldem resident found dead at home

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM:

Curchorem Police have initiated an enquiry into the death of 33-year-old Deepak Bondre, a resident of Hodar, Xeldem, who was found hanging at his residence on Wednesday morning. Police received information at 10:28 am on November 19, 2025 from Pravin Jaiwal, a resident of Curchorem, reporting that Deepak Bondre had allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself using a saree tied to a rafter in his house. During the enquiry,



police visited the scene and conducted an on-spot investigation. Sahil Bondre, the nephew of the deceased, identified the body as that of his uncle, Deepak Bondre. A scene panchanama and inquest panchanama were conducted, and the body has been preserved at District Hospital, Margao for medico-legal procedures, including autopsy.

Three booked for restraining tourist taxi driver at Fatorda KTC stand

■ Trio accused of threatening driver over tourist drop-off.

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Fatorda Police have registered an offence after a tourist taxi driver was allegedly wrongfully restrained and threatened by three individuals at the KTC bus stand. The case has been registered as Fatorda PS Cr. No. 89/2025 under Sections 126(1), 351(2) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023. The complaint was filed by Ramesh Pagui, a resident of Saleri Cola, who alleged that around 5:00 pm on November



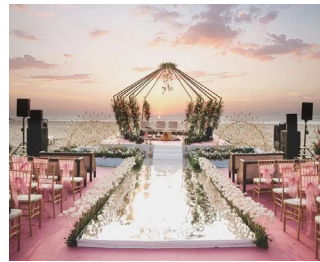
18, 2025, the accused—identified as Mayur Rane of Sirvoi Quepem, Saleem Shaikh of Comba Cuncolim, and Abdul Rehman of Azadnagar, Calconda Margao—approached him while he was at the Fatorda KTC Bus Stand with his tourist Maruti Suzuki Ertiga after dropping a client from Palolem, Canacona.

Riva Beach Resort served notice for illegal Mandrem beach wedding

■ Trio accused of threatening driver over tourist drop-off.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Department of Tourism has issued a show cause notice to Riva Beach Resort in Mandrem for conducting an unauthorized beach wedding on 17 November despite being instructed to stop the event. Officials said the resort proceeded without securing permissions required under the Goa Tourist Places Protection and Maintenance Act, 2001. A Tourist Warden had reported an illegal setup around 6 pm and, with help from Tourism Police, halted the preparations.



The department said the resort went ahead with the ceremony on a government-notified beach area, violating statutory norms and failing to pay the prescribed fees. The resort has been asked to pay a penalty of one lakh rupees within seven days and to explain why action under the Goa Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1982 should

Unauthorized Beach Event...

- ▶ Resort accused of conducting wedding on a notified beach without permission.
- ▶ Tourist warden and tourism police halted setup, but event reportedly continued.
- ▶ Tourism department issues ₹1 lakh penalty and seeks explanation for violations.
- ▶ Possible action under tourist trade act and bns 223 under consideration.
- ▶ Department warns against unauthorized activities on goa's beaches.

not be initiated, including possible cancellation of its registration. It has also been asked to clarify why proceedings under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita should not be considered.

The department reiterated that unauthorized events on Goa's beaches will attract strict enforcement to safeguard public safety, environmental protection and the state's tourism assets.

MP Viriato Fernandes seeks national bravery honour for Baina teen who shielded parents during dacoity

■ Fifteen-year-old praised for protecting her family and alerting neighbours after armed attack.

Team Goemkarponn

Vasco: South Goa MP Captain Viriato Fernandes has written to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant recommending fifteen-year-old Nakshatra Nayak of Baina for a national bravery award, citing her "extraordinary courage" during the armed dacoity reported in the early

hours of 18 November. In his letter, Fernandes described the incident as a violent attack carried out by a seven-member gang that broke into the Nayak family's flat and assaulted Sagar Nayak, his wife Harsha and their daughter. He said the teenager showed remarkable presence of mind even as the

assailants, armed with iron rods, repeatedly struck her parents. According to the MP, Nakshatra pleaded with the dacoits to spare her parents and offered them her piggy bank savings. When her father was being beaten and bleeding heavily, she stepped forward and took a blow on her forearm to protect him, suffering

injuries in the process. Fernandes said the girl remained composed after the gang fled. She reportedly crawled to the kitchen, exited through the window the attackers had used, and ran down seven floors knocking on neighbours' doors to raise an alarm. Her efforts woke residents, who rushed to help and

shifted her parents to safety for urgent medical treatment. The MP said the timely response may have prevented a fatal outcome. Calling her actions "brave and exemplary", Fernandes said the teenager had set an inspiring example for citizens, particularly young girls and women confronted with violence.



He described her as a symbol of resilience against robbery and assault.

AAP launches statewide 'Manifesto Meetings' ahead of ZP elections

■ Party says citizens, not politicians, will draft constituency-wise development agenda.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Aam Aadmi Party in Goa has launched a statewide outreach campaign under which voters will help draft constituency level manifestos for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections. The initiative was announced in Margao on Tuesday at a press conference addressed by AAP MLA Capt Venzy Viegas and ZP candidates Joseph Pimenta from Benaulim, Antonio Leao Fernandes from Colva and Isaca Fernandes from Velim. Viegas said the party wanted to reverse the usual process

where manifestos are prepared without public consultation. He said every ZP constituency would hold a "Manifesto Meeting" where residents can list their problems and suggest solutions. According to him, inputs gathered at these meetings will form the basis of the party's commitments and will be read out publicly at the end of each session for transparency. AAP leaders said the meetings aim to document local issues in each ward and village and to involve citizens directly in shaping development priorities. They said the goal was to ensure that



ZP agendas are based on specific concerns rather than broad declarations. Pimenta said voters in Benaulim appreciated efforts to bring governance closer to the people and expected practical commitments on matters such as roads, water supply, health services and the environment. Fernandes from Colva said residents preferred leaders who remain accessible and consistent

in their outreach. Isaca Fernandes said people in Velim were looking for an alternative to what she described as corruption and high handed politics. Viegas pointed to AAP's community work through free clinics, health camps and issue based campaigns, saying the party could deliver more effectively with ZP level representation. The party urged residents, including youth, farmers, fisherfolk and women's groups, to participate in the meetings, stating that their suggestions would directly influence the Zilla Panchayat level development plans.



Isidore Fernandes joins Goa Forward Party with 15 supporters ahead of ZP polls

■ Former minister targets current Canacona MLA, signals intent for 2027 assembly run.

Team Goemkarponn

Canacona: Former Canacona MLA and ex-minister Isidore Fernandes joined the Goa Forward Party along with 15 prominent supporters ahead of the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections. GFP president Vijay Sardessai inducted Fernandes and the group at a ceremony held on Wednesday at the Shristhal panchayat hall. Those who joined the party include councillor and social activist Shubham Komarpant, a close associate of Fernandes, along with several local leaders from Canacona and Poinguinim. Fernandes, who has earlier contested as an Independent, Congress and BJP candidate, has been elected MLA four times and previously served as minister and deputy

speaker. During the ceremony Sardessai welcomed Fernandes with a party shawl and symbolically handed him a coconut, the party's emblem. The gesture was described as a sign that Fernandes may contest the 2027 assembly elections on a GFP ticket. The list of leaders inducted into the party includes Shubham Komarpant, Dashrath Gaonkar, Putu Gaonkar, Anand Gaonkar, Anthony Borges, Somdatt Deshmukh, Dr Cajay D'Silva, Ganesh Gaonkar, Prashant Komarpant, Santosh Gaonkar, Tolu Velip, Yeshwant Velip, Vaibhav Shet Desai, Ashok Velip and Ulhas Modival. Fernandes said he had set aside past political differences with Sardessai and praised the GFP chief for what he described as consistent work for Goans.



ceremony Sardessai welcomed Fernandes with a party shawl and symbolically handed him a coconut, the party's emblem.

Vijay Sardessai accuses BJP government of corruption, calls it rule by dacoits

Team Goemkarponn

Canacona: Former Canacona MLA and ex-minister Isidore Fernandes joined the Goa Forward Party along with 15 prominent supporters ahead of the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections. GFP president

Vijay Sardessai inducted Fernandes and the group at a ceremony held on Wednesday at the Shristhal panchayat hall. Those who joined the party include councillor and social activist Shubham Komarpant, a close associate of Fernandes, along with

several local leaders from Canacona and Poinguinim. Fernandes, who has earlier contested as an Independent, Congress and BJP candidate, has been elected MLA four times and previously served as minister and deputy speaker. During the

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Mormugao Police Intensify Probe into Baina Dacoity

109, 351(3), 126(2) and 310(2) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, along with Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act, after the assailants assaulted multiple victims, including a minor girl. According to police sources, the entire staff employed by the complainant, Sagar Nyayak, was taken in for questioning on Tuesday morning. Staff members including peons, drivers, labourers, office boys and loaders

were picked up when they arrived for work. Officers subjected them to detailed questioning and cross-verification of their movements and activities. South Goa SP Tikam Singh Verma remained present until late night as the inquiry progressed. The staff is believed to have been taken to Margao or Verna for fingerprinting and forensic examination. Investigators have widened the CCTV trail, scanning footage from the building and

surrounding areas of Baina for possible clues. Teams are also collecting surveillance footage from shops and establishments along the Vasco-MES College stretch to identify suspicious individuals or vehicles linked to the crime. Sources said the police were at an advantage because the incident was reported almost immediately, allowing officers to respond during the crucial "golden hour" of investigation.

SC Rejects Fixed Timelines for Governors to Assent to Bills

verdict, ruling out fixed timelines for Governors — and by extension, the President — to grant assent to bills passed by state legislatures. A five-judge constitutional bench, led by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai, concluded that imposing strict deadlines would undermine the constitutional balance of power. While the court

rejected the notion of rigid timelines, it was careful not to grant Governors unfettered discretion. The bench emphasised that indefinite inaction can be challenged in exceptional situations. Under such circumstances, courts may intervene to ensure the legislative process is not frustrated, but they must respect the Governor's

decision-making role. Importantly, the court dismissed the idea of "deemed assent" — meaning a Governor's failure to act within a certain timeframe would not automatically convert a bill into law. The judges argued that such a remedy would diminish the constitutional role of Governors and the President.

Brutally Beaten in Baina Dacoity, Sagar Battles Through Recovery at GMC

floor of the building, was viciously attacked by a seven-member gang that forced its way into his flat and assaulted him and his family. According to relatives, the intruders struck Sagar, a heart patient, multiple times on the head with iron rods, causing deep wounds

and significant blood loss. The attackers repeatedly demanded locker keys and intensified the assault when he resisted. They allegedly kicked him on the face and stomach before tying him up in the balcony with cloth stuffed in his mouth. Family members said Sagar fought back against the group

and may have even been slashed with sharp weapons during the struggle. He suffered four to five major head injuries requiring stitches, along with cuts and contusions across his back, arms, shoulders and abdomen, consistent with the use of blades or knives during the initial attack.

High Court Clears Way for Removal of Unsafe Cables

son were injured while passing under a cluster of cables that had sagged dangerously close to the road. The accident triggered a safety review and a series of enforcement

actions by the Public Works Department, which maintains that unregulated installations have created serious hazards across several stretches. Following the latest hearing, Executive

Engineer Kashinath Shetye said the department has submitted a detailed report explaining how the two residents sustained injuries on their leg and hand.

Goa Police Steps Up Preventive Measures Across North District

Over 3,500 preventive arrests made this year as checks intensify.



Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: North Goa Police has expanded its preventive policing efforts in a bid to curb crime and strengthen public safety. The district has seen a significant scale-up in verification drives, night checks and targeted inspections of scrapyards and kabadi businesses. According to SP North Rahul Gupta, 66,479 tenants and 33,123 domestic workers or labourers have undergone physical verification so far this year. During a recent drive in Pilerne,

officers brought 13 tenants from West Bengal to the police station for questioning based on suspicion and placed them under preventive arrest. Police also initiated action against an owner who had failed to carry out mandatory tenant verification. With the Aadhaar-based verification system on the Goa Police app, more than 1,250 tenants have been verified through the digital route. Night policing has also been tightened. Police said more than 30 nakabandis are set up nightly depending

Preventive Action continues...

In the last 15 days, district police carried out:

- ▶ 161 Preventive Arrests.
- ▶ 79 cases on Public Drinking.
- ▶ 483 challans under COTPA.
- ▶ 15 actions against touts.
- ▶ 240 cases of smoking/spitting.

on staff availability, operating between 6 PM and 6 AM. These are monitored by Police Inspectors and senior officers who oversee checks on vehicles, patrol movements and area coverage. This year, officers have verified over 90,000 vehicles and two lakh individuals. Kilometer readings of patrolling vehicles are being recorded to ensure proper area coverage. Scrapyards and kabadi outlets have come under closer

scrutiny as well. Police verified 105 scrapyards and 221 kabadiwalas. One kabadiwala was found in possession of a fake Aadhaar card, prompting the registration of an FIR. Officials said preventive action has resulted in 3,596 arrests so far this year. The district police has urged residents to use the Goa Police app for tenant and labour verification and to report suspicious activity to their nearest police station or by dialling 112.



Reflective Belts for Stray Cattle in Calangute

Team Goemkarponn

Calangute: In a unique road safety initiative, Calangute Traffic Police have started tying reflective belts on stray cattle to improve visibility at night and reduce accidents on busy roads. Traffic Police Inspector Brendon D'Souza said stray cattle sitting on poorly lit stretches are often difficult for riders to spot, leading to serious collisions. "The reflective belts will make the cattle visible to approaching

vehicles, which will not only save the animals but also prevent accidents involving two-wheelers," he explained. D'Souza added that the department aims to cover as many stray cattle as possible in the coming weeks, particularly in accident-prone areas along Calangute and nearby coastal roads. The initiative is part of ongoing efforts to enhance road safety in the area, especially during night hours when visibility is low.

Mandrem Police Constable Dies in Road Accident

Team Goemkarponn

Mandrem: A 46-year-old police constable died in a road accident near Maharingan Temple in Mandrem while heading to duty on Monday. The constable was riding his two-wheeler to the Mandrem-Ashwem coastal area as part of the ongoing Sagarkavach campaign when he reportedly lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a nearby bike repair



garage, sustaining serious injuries. He was rushed to Tuem hospital, where doctors declared him dead

on arrival. Authorities have registered the incident and initiated further investigation.

Accused Held With 146.5 Grams of Charas in Mandrem Raid

Team Goemkarponn

Mandrem: Mandrem police have arrested a 25-year-old man from Punjab after he was allegedly caught with 146.50 grams of charas during a narcotics raid on Tuesday night at Sachhabhatle near a chapel in Mandrem. The offence has been registered as Mandrem Police Station Crime No. 103/2025 under Section 20(b)(ii)(B) of the NDPS Act following a complaint lodged by PSI Archana



Sharma. Police said they acted on specific intelligence and conducted the raid between 8.30 pm and 8.45 pm on November 18. During the operation, the accused, identified as Akash Adwal from Fatehgarh Sahib in

Punjab, was allegedly found carrying a blackish sticky substance suspected to be charas, valued at ₹1,46,500. Officers also seized a mobile phone with two IMEI numbers and a SIM card during the panchanama. The accused was placed under arrest at 12.44 am on November 19 after police completed all legal procedures in line with Supreme Court guidelines. Further investigation has been handed over to PSI Paresk Kale.

Department of Tourism to Host Goa Roadshow in Bahrain on 23rd Nov 25

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, will host a roadshow in Bahrain on 23rd November 2025 as part of its strategy to deepen engagement with the Gulf tourism market. The initiative aims to strengthen trade partnerships, promote year-round travel, and

introduce Bahrain's travel industry to Goa's evolving tourism landscape. Minister for Tourism, Shri Rohan Am. Khaunte remarked, "Bahrain and the larger Gulf region hold immense potential for Goa. Through this roadshow, we aim to present a refined version of Goa that is rooted in culture yet contemporary in its tourism approach.



With Feels Like Goa and the introduction of trends such as Nocto Tourism, Jet-Setting, and CalmCation, we

are positioning Goa as a global destination that caters to both adventure-seeking travellers and those seeking tranquillity

and wellness." Director of Tourism, Shri Kedar Naik, stated, "Our engagement in Bahrain is an important step in expanding Goa's visibility across the Gulf. Travellers from this region appreciate quality, diversity, and authenticity, values that Goa proudly offers. Our updated strategies and the integration of emerging trends aim to provide

travellers with a richer, more curated experience while strengthening Goa's global footprint." The roadshow will highlight Goa's dynamic new Feels Like Goa campaign, an elevated storytelling approach crafted to present Goa as a destination rich in culture, nature, spirituality, culinary diversity, and immersive experiences.

IFFI 2025

Goa All Set To Get IFFI-Fied As Grand Parade Opens 56th Film Festival

■ **Nine-Day Celebration To Showcase Cinema, Culture
And Creative Innovation.**



Panaji: Goa is gearing up to host the 56th International Film Festival of India from November 20 to 28, transforming the state into a vibrant hub of cinema, culture and creative exchange. With preparations in their final stages, this edition promises an expansive blend of film screenings, artistic showcases and industry-focused programmes. The festival will open with a colourful parade that will animate Goa's streets with cinematic themes and regional artistry. Tableaus from

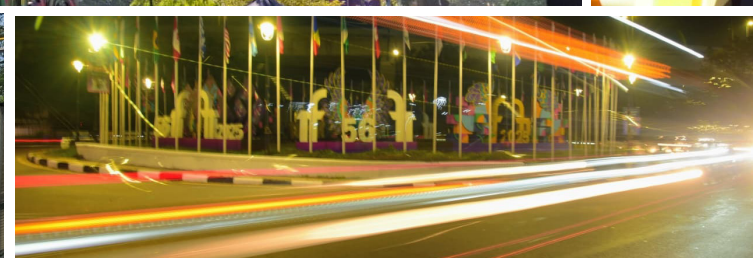
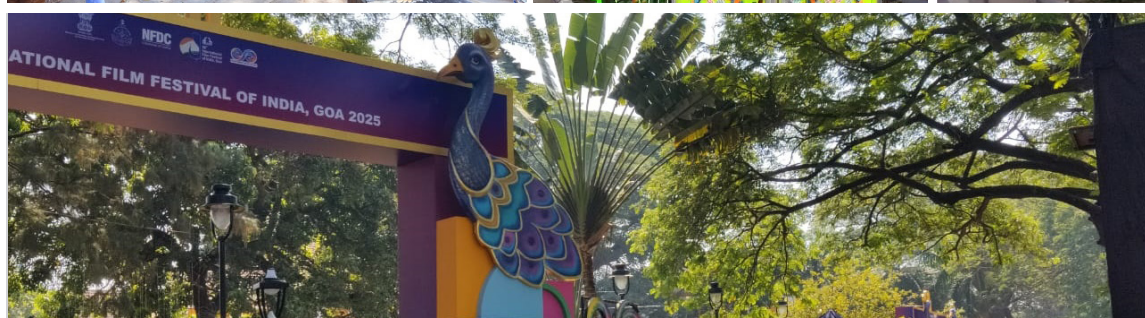
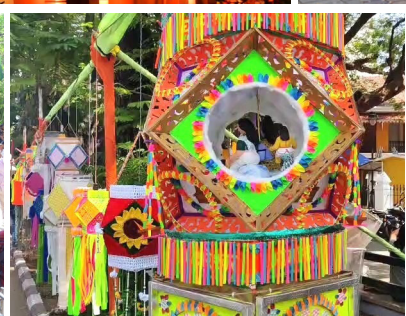
Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Goa will lead the procession, accompanied by distinctive displays from major film studios and a commemorative segment marking fifty years of the National Film Development Corporation. A large ensemble titled Bharat Ek Soor, featuring a hundred folk performers from across India, will add depth and diversity to the spectacle. Popular characters such as Chhota Bheem, Chutki, Motu Patlu and Bittu Bahanebaaz will bring an element of nostalgia and charm for younger

audiences. Beyond the ceremonial start, IFFI 2025 will present fifteen competitive and curated film sections, including the International Competition, Best Debut Feature Film of a Director, the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal, and specialised line-ups such as Macabre Dreams, Experimental Films, Docu-Montage, UNICEF selections and restored classics. The schedule also includes the Creative Minds of Tomorrow programme, which selected 124 emerging creators from 799 entries across thirteen filmmaking

disciplines. The 19th edition of the Waves Film Bazaar will again serve as a key meeting ground for industry professionals. More than 300 projects will be showcased through lab sessions, market screenings and co-production platforms. Delegations from multiple countries, film incentive displays from several Indian states and a dedicated pavilion on advanced production technologies will contribute to a dynamic marketplace environment. New to this year's festival is the CinemAI Hackathon,

organised in partnership with LTIMindtree and Waves Film Bazaar. The initiative aims to encourage innovation in filmmaking through artificial intelligence, with an emphasis on smoother certification processes and stronger anti-piracy solutions. Cultural programmes will run through the festival under the banner IFFlesta, presenting live performances and creative arts at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Auditorium from November 21 to 24. This edition will also honour the centenaries of

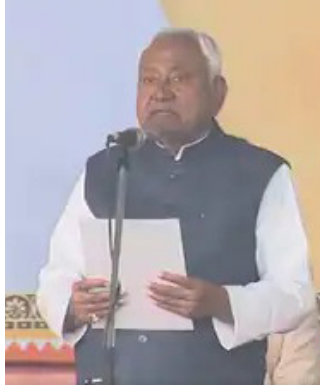
eminent artists including Guru Dutt, Ritwik Ghatak, P. Bhanumathi, Raj Khosla, Bhupen Hazarika and Salil Chowdhury, whose landmark works will be screened. Veteran actor Rajinikanth will be felicitated at the closing ceremony for completing fifty years in cinema. With detailed reviews of venues and arrangements completed by officials from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Goa is set to welcome nine days of cinematic celebration in an atmosphere of creativity and cultural pride.



Nitish Kumar Returns As Bihar Chief Minister For Tenth Term

■ Leaders From Across NDA Attend Swearing-In Ceremony At Gandhi Maidan.

New Delhi: Nitish Kumar took oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the tenth time at a ceremony held at Gandhi Maidan in Patna, marking another milestone in his long political career. The event was attended by senior leaders of the National Democratic Alliance, including the Prime Minister, along with chief ministers from several NDA-governed states. Kumar had stepped down from the post earlier in the week before presenting his claim to form a new



government to Governor Arif Mohammed Khan. With support from alliance partners, he secured the mandate to lead the state once again. The composition of the

new Cabinet is expected to reflect proportional representation for all constituents of the alliance. Partners beyond the two main parties, the BJP and JD(U), are likely to receive one ministerial berth for every six MLAs. Allocations are expected to include positions for the Rashtriya Lok Morcha and the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), while Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) is set to gain three ministries. The remaining portfolios will be distributed between

the BJP and JD(U). The full Cabinet expansion is planned after Makar Sankranti on January 14. At 71, Kumar remains one of the country's most experienced political leaders. A member of the legislative council, he did not contest the recent assembly elections but continues to hold significant influence in state politics. With nearly nineteen years in office, he stands among India's longest-serving chief ministers as he begins another term at the helm of Bihar.



Trump Again Claims Credit For "Settling" India Pakistan Standoff

■ US President Repeats Assertion That He Intervened To Ease Tensions.

New Delhi: US President Donald Trump has renewed his claim that he prevented a potential military conflict between India and Pakistan earlier this year by threatening both countries with steep tariffs. Speaking at an investment forum in the

United States, he said his warning of imposing a 350 per cent tariff convinced the two neighbours to step back from what he described as the brink of a nuclear confrontation. He claimed that leaders in both countries urged him not to proceed with the measure.

Russia Offers India Full Su-57 Technology Ahead of Putin's Visit

■ Moscow Offers Full Su-57 Transfer And Possible Su-75 Partnership To Boost India's Future Air Power.

New Delhi: Russia has proposed an expansive defence cooperation plan to India ahead of President Vladimir Putin's visit next month, offering full access to the technology behind its fifth-generation Su-57 stealth fighter. The proposal includes initial deliveries of Russian-built jets followed by a phased shift of production to India, potentially transforming India's future fighter aircraft capabilities. Rostec chief Sergey Chemezov said at the Dubai Air Show 2025 that Moscow is ready to open the entire Su-57 ecosystem to India. This includes the transfer of engine technology, stealth materials, sensors and



other key components that no other country has offered to New Delhi before. He added that any request from the Indian side would be fully accommodated, underscoring the long defence partnership between the two nations. Russian officials also indicated readiness to support the licensed production of advanced air weapons in India and integrate Indian-designed systems into upcoming platforms. They highlighted



Anmol Bishnoi Remanded To 11-Day NIA Custody In Baba Siddique Murder Case

■ Court Allows Extended Interrogation To Probe Syndicate Operations And Funding.

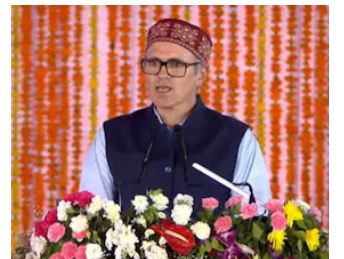
New Delhi: Gangster Anmol Bishnoi, wanted in the killing of NCP leader Baba Siddique, has been placed in the custody of the National Investigation Agency for 11 days following his arrest earlier on Wednesday. The order was issued by Delhi's Patiala House Court after the agency sought time to question him on activities linked to the Bishnoi crime network. During the hearing, the NIA outlined Bishnoi's suspected role

within the syndicate led by his incarcerated brother, Lawrence Bishnoi. Investigators described him as a key figure who had been on the run since 2022. He is the nineteenth person to be arrested as part of the wider probe into the terror-gangster nexus linked to the group. The court noted that the agency had presented reasonable grounds for remand and listed specific areas requiring detailed interrogation.

Omar Abdullah Says Kashmiris Being Unfairly Blamed After Delhi Blast

■ J&K Chief Minister Warns That Revocation Of Article 370 Has Not Ended Violence.

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday that residents of the union territory were being unfairly singled out following the November 10 explosion near Delhi's Red Fort. He criticised what he described as a growing suspicion toward Kashmiris after investigators identified a 28-year-old doctor from Pulwama, Dr Umar Nabi, as the suspected suicide bomber in the case. Abdullah said the atmosphere had become so tense that even driving a vehicle with a J&K registration plate now felt risky. He added that he often hesitates while travelling without security personnel in the national



capital, concerned that he might be stopped or questioned. His remarks came amid continuing investigations that have also linked two other arrested individuals, Dr Muzzamil Shakeel and Dr Shaheen Shahid, to Jammu and Kashmir. The Delhi blast investigation has unfolded alongside arrests made just hours earlier, during which police seized nearly 3,000 kilograms of explosives and detained eight people.

Supreme Court Signals Possible Transfer Of RG Kar Case To Delhi Or Calcutta High Court

■ Top Court Says Fragmented Hearings Cannot Continue As Multiple Issues Remain Pending.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has indicated that it may shift the case involving the rape and murder of a trainee doctor from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital to either Delhi or the Calcutta High Court. The court noted that the matter has become too fragmented, with several connected proceedings already underway in the Calcutta

High Court, making it impractical to address the issues in parts. A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma observed that it is not feasible for the Supreme Court to monitor every aspect of the situation, including ongoing protests in Kolkata. The court asked senior advocate Karuna Nundy, representing an association of



doctors, to prepare a detailed list of all pending matters before the Calcutta High Court. During the

hearing, Nundy highlighted that protesting doctors were facing repeated police summons and sought protective directions. The bench, however, maintained that it could not issue broad protective orders, adding that law enforcement is permitted to call individuals for questioning. The court said it would examine the issue further at the next hearing,

scheduled after the winter break. The case has remained under close scrutiny since the postgraduate doctor was found dead inside a seminar room of the hospital on August 9 last year. A civic volunteer, Sanjay Roy, was arrested the next day and later sentenced by a Kolkata court to life imprisonment until death.

BCCI Keeps Hardik Out of ODI Squad to Protect T20 World Cup Preparation

■ Hardik Pandya Set To Skip South Africa ODIs As BCCI Prioritises T20 World Cup Preparation.

New Delhi: India's build-up to the 2026 T20 World Cup has prompted a significant shift in player management, with Hardik Pandya expected to sit out the upcoming ODI series against South Africa as he continues to recover from a quadriceps injury. The three-match series, beginning November 30, is not considered central to India's immediate roadmap, and the all-rounder will focus exclusively on T20 workloads for now. Hardik has been undergoing rehabilitation at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence after hurting his quadriceps during last



year's Asia Cup in Dubai, which ruled him out of the final. Officials familiar with the recovery plan noted that jumping directly into the physical demands of 50-over cricket would carry unnecessary risk. His return will instead be phased through shorter-format competitions, beginning with domestic T20s. He is expected

to first prove match readiness while playing for Baroda in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. If all goes well, he will rejoin India's T20 squad for the South Africa and New Zealand series before the new year. The Mumbai Indians captain will then remain focused on T20 cricket leading into the World Cup. Jasprit Bumrah

is also likely to be rested for the South Africa ODIs as the team manages the workloads of its frontline fast bowlers. With limited relevance for long-term planning, the ODI contests against both South Africa and New Zealand are expected to feature a more rotation-based approach.

After the next IPL, the senior group's attention will shift toward preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup cycle. For now, India's priority remains the shortest format, with Hardik's full recovery and sustained fitness forming a crucial part of the strategy.



India's Strong Start Sees Five Shuttlers Advance At Australian Open

■ Lakshya Sen And HS Prannoy Lead Confident March Into Men's Singles Second Round.

New Delhi: Five Indian players produced commanding performances to reach the men's singles second round of the Australian Open Super 500 tournament in Sydney. The opening day proved productive for the contingent, with Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, Ayush Shetty, Tharun Manneppalli and Kidambi Srikanth

all progressing after impressive victories. Lakshya set the tone with a composed straight-games win over Su Li Yang of Chinese Taipei. The former World Championships bronze medallist controlled the tempo throughout the 21-17 21-13 contest, dictating rallies with sharp placement and measured aggression.

Arjun Erigaisi Crashes Out of FIDE World Cup After Tiebreak Defeat to Wei Yi

■ Indian Grandmaster Falls Short In Rapid Stage Despite Strong Classical Play.

New Delhi: Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi's campaign at the FIDE World Cup came to an abrupt end in Panaji on Wednesday after a 1.5-2.5 loss to China's Wei Yi in the first set of rapid tiebreaks. With both classical games ending in draws, the contest moved into the quicker format, where Arjun's resistance fell short against a sharper and more precise opponent. In the first rapid game, Arjun opted for the French Defence with the black pieces but soon found himself struggling. A miscalculated sequence cost him a rook for a minor piece, giving Wei Yi a commanding advantage on the board. Despite the setback, Arjun fought hard,



defending resourcefully in a difficult endgame until Wei Yi faltered and allowed the Indian to salvage a draw. The second rapid game proved far more punishing. With the white pieces, Arjun sought early control but Wei Yi seized the initiative in the middlegame, placing his light-squared bishop on an aggressive outpost that dictated the flow of play. Arjun slipped a

pawn in the endgame, and although the position still offered complexity, Wei Yi converted with accuracy, using well-timed pawn advances to force a decisive finish. Arjun was eventually checkmated, bringing his World Cup journey to a close. Elsewhere in the quarterfinals, Andrey Esipenko advanced after a 4-2 victory over American GM Sam Shankland, winning both games in the second set of tiebreaks. In another matchup, Javokhir Sindarov became the second Uzbek player in the semifinals after overcoming Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara 3.5-2.5 in a tense battle that tested both players' nerves.

Shubman Gill's Participation Uncertain Ahead Of Must-Win Guwahati Test

■ Captain's participation in the second Test remains uncertain after neck injury.

New Delhi: India captain Shubman Gill will undergo a fitness assessment on Friday to determine whether he can play the second Test against South Africa, beginning Saturday in Guwahati. His availability remains doubtful after he injured his neck during the series opener at Kolkata's Eden Gardens, a match India lost by 30 runs within three days. Gill, who travelled with the squad to Guwahati, did not participate in Thursday's training session. He is expected to take the fitness test a day before the match to evaluate his readiness for the crucial contest. The batter faced only three balls in India's



first innings in Kolkata before retiring hurt due to what appeared to be a neck spasm. He was taken off on a stretcher and admitted to a local hospital before being discharged later the same day. He played no further part in the match. The board has said that Gill is responding positively to treatment and will continue to be monitored by medical staff. A

final decision on his involvement in the second Test will be taken after the fitness evaluation. India enter the Guwahati Test trailing 0-1 after a misjudged pitch strategy in Kolkata resulted in a collapse on a sharply turning surface. With only nine recognised batters available after Gill's injury, India fell short while chasing 124, bowled out for 93 in the final innings.

Margao Sports Club Advance To Quarterfinals With Commanding 3-0 Win

PANAJI: Margao Sports Club booked their place in the quarterfinals of the 3rd Late Uday Shirodkar Memorial Intervillage Football Tournament with a confident 3-0 victory over Wilred Leisure of Curtorim. The match was held at the Subhash Chandra



Bose Sports Complex in Karai, Shiroda, and was

organised by the Shiroda Youth Club. Despite being reduced to ten players, Wilred Leisure tried to stay competitive, but Margao controlled the tempo throughout the game. Their consistent pressure, sharper passing and superior finishing ensured they maintained

the upper hand from start to finish. Margao Sports Club capitalised on their chances effectively, converting opportunities with precision while keeping Wilred's attempts at bay. The winning side displayed strong teamwork, disciplined defending and confident

attacking play, allowing them to secure a comfortable margin by the final whistle. With this solid win, Margao Sports Club move into the quarterfinal stage, carrying momentum and confidence as the tournament progresses at Shiroda's prominent football venue.