

Police Seek More Time in Kankonkar Assault Probe as Zenito Bail Hearing Delayed

- Caste Certificate Verification Awaited.
- Zenito's Bail Hearing Shifted to November 26.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The investigation into the assault on social activist Rama Kankonkar entered a new phase after Panaji police asked the Special Court at Merces for additional time, saying they must verify Kankonkar's caste certificate before completing the probe.



The request comes even as the bail hearing of the main accused, Zenito Cardozo, has been postponed to November 26, extending a case that

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Court Hearing..

- ▶ Zenito cardozo and seven others are accused of assaulting activist rama kankonkar in merces.
- ▶ Police argue that bail may allow interference with witnesses and impact the investigation.
- ▶ The defence says the accusations are overstated and the accused have cooperated.
- ▶ Verification of kankonkar's caste certificate is crucial for determining the applicability of the sc st act.
- ▶ Court will resume arguments on november 26.



A car plunged into a deep pit at the Chimbel flyover construction site in a dramatic incident that left onlookers shocked. According to locals, the driver may have dozed off, causing the vehicle to skid off the road and fall into an excavation dug for a pillar. Emergency teams, including the fire brigade, ambulance, and police, rushed to the scene and managed to rescue the trapped driver. Thankfully, the person sustained only minor injuries.

Loutolim Farmers Renew Objections to Borim Bridge Land Acquisition

- Farmers say bridge plan threatens khazan ecosystem and ignores ongoing legal challenges.

Team Goemkarponn

Loutolim: Farmers from Loutolim have lodged fresh objections to the government's latest land-acquisition notice for the



proposed Borim Bridge,
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INDIA Bloc Fractures Deepen After Bihar Drubbing

- ## ■ Allies Reconsider Their Place in Coalition.

New Delhi: The shock defeat in Bihar has triggered the most serious internal crisis yet for the INDIA alliance. What had long been whispered privately has now spilled



out into the open, with regional partners challenging the Congress-led coalition's planning, leadership and ability to hold the

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DAY
2

Gala premiere

- The FAMILY MAN Season 3
- Asambhav
- 120 Bahadur

Open Air Screening
Miramar Beach

- The Truman Show @ 7 Pm

Vagator Beach

- Home Alone @ 7 Pm

Ravindra Bhavan (Margao)

- Shyamchi Aai @ 7 pm

Panel Discussion

Reel Green : Sustainability and Storytelling Across Four Cinemas By

Goan Film

Halad

Special Showcase

- Ek Doctor Ki Maut
- 1942: A Love Story

In-Conversation

Cinema and Culture By Muzaffar Ali

The Luminary Icons: Creative Bonds & Fierce Performances - An Inconversational Workshop on Acting By Suhasini Maniratnam, Kushboo Sundar

Special Screening

- Gaman
- Malliswari
- Party
- Umrao Jaan

Indian Panorama

Kakori/Amaran (NF)
Tanvi The Great
Aanarai
Ground Zero





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.)

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Note: Delegates are required to enter the theatre before show start time to avoid reduction of their daily tickets quota.

If Home Isn't Safe, How Can Anyone Believe "Bhivpachi Garaz Na"?

There was a time when Goa took pride in its easy calm. People stepped out at any hour, children played freely on village roads, and homes remained unlocked because fear simply did not belong here. Today, that sense of natural security is fading fast. Against this backdrop, the Chief Minister's much-repeated line of "Bhivpachi Garaz Na" feels painfully disconnected from what ordinary Goans are experiencing.

This is not about political point-scoring. It is not a joke and it is not trolling. It is a simple question that many families across the state are asking each other at dining tables and WhatsApp groups: If we are not safe in our own homes, where exactly are we supposed to feel safe?

The recent wave of armed dacoities has shaken people in a way Goa has not witnessed in decades. These incidents are not isolated blips. They are part of a troubling pattern that has been building over the past few years. First came the chain snatching cases, then violent street assaults, daylight murders, rapes, and kidnappings. Now, families are being tied up inside their bedrooms while armed men loot their homes. The criminal landscape has changed.

The question is whether the administration has kept pace. Ask any Goan and they will tell you the same thing. People no longer feel safe on the streets. Women think twice before stepping out after dark. Parents hesitate to let teenagers take a scooter ride at night. Even a simple walk along the beach carries an unspoken sense of caution. Safety, which was once a natural right, has become a calculated risk.

What makes matters worse is the growing belief that criminals act without fear of consequences. When violent robberies occur across towns as different as Vasco, Mapusa and Saligao, it is clear the perpetrators do not care about police presence, patrol timings or CCTV cameras. They strike because they are confident they can get away with it. That is the part that frightens people most. Crime happens

"What Goa needs right now is not words, but action. The police force must be freed of political interference. Their autonomy must be strengthened, their resources expanded, and their accountability sharpened. Community policing must be revived in a meaningful way, not as a public relations exercise but as a partnership between citizens and law enforcement. Night patrols must increase. Quick-response teams need to be visible and active. Rural areas cannot be left behind while attention stays centred on coastal belts. The state also needs a Home Minister who treats law and order as a full-time responsibility, not a ceremonial portfolio."

everywhere, but when criminals start acting with impunity, society feels unprotected. Policing in Goa has its strengths. Many officers work sincerely and tirelessly. But the system that supports them is creaking. The investigation process is slow. Chargesheets drag on. Cases linger. Arrests are made, but convictions are rare. When people see accused persons walking free within weeks, public faith crumbles. The perception of ineffective policing becomes as damaging as the crime itself. The state leadership cannot ignore this shift in public mood. When the Chief Minister gives reassurances that "there is no need to fear," he may genuinely

believe it. But reassurance without results feels hollow. Fear does not vanish because a leader insists it should. It vanishes when institutions function effectively, when criminals are caught swiftly, and when justice is visible and decisive.

What Goa needs right now is not words, but action. The police force must be freed of political interference. Their autonomy must be strengthened, their resources expanded, and their accountability sharpened. Community policing must be revived in a meaningful way, not as a public relations exercise but as a partnership between citizens and law enforcement. Night patrols must increase. Quick-response teams need to be visible and active. Rural areas cannot be left behind while attention stays centred on coastal belts.

The state also needs a Home Minister who treats law and order as a full-time responsibility, not a ceremonial portfolio. Goa is too small and too vulnerable to manage safety on autopilot. Crime evolves quickly. A slow or distracted response is not good enough. But beyond policing and politics lies a deeper issue. Goa's social fabric is under strain. The pressures of tourism, migration, drugs, land disputes, and unchecked commercialisation have created cracks. Criminal networks thrive in these cracks. Security cannot improve unless these underlying issues are acknowledged honestly and addressed thoughtfully.

Goa has survived many challenges. It can survive this too. But only if its leadership listens to the people instead of dismissing their fear. Slogans are not safety plans. Comforting lines cannot compensate for crumbling trust. At a time when families are locking their doors earlier, when women look over their shoulders, and when the quiet of night feels less comforting than before, the state must respond with seriousness, not sound bites.

Goans do not want to live in fear. They should not have to. They deserve a government that treats their safety as its first responsibility, not its final talking point.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Forged Identity Cases Signal a Deeper Security Lapse in Goa

The recent arrest of a man in Sattari for possessing a forged Aadhaar card should set off alarm bells across Goa. While the Valpoi Police acted swiftly, the case exposes ongoing flaws in our verification and monitoring systems. When someone can enter the state, move around freely for weeks and work in a scrapyard using fake identification, it shows that our security filters are porous. This is not an isolated incident. Goa has seen repeated cases of forged documents, unverified labour and businesses hiring workers with little or no background checks. Each time, police step in after the fact, but the structural weaknesses that allow such individuals to operate remain untouched. It is clear that the state lacks a cohesive system to track transient workers and verify the authenticity of their documents. Commercial establishments must share the blame. Many sectors, especially scrap yards, construction sites and warehouses, rely heavily on out-of-state labour without implementing even basic verification procedures. When employers treat identity checks as a formality, they put entire communities at risk. A fake Aadhaar card is not just a minor offence; it can be a gateway to more serious crimes. Goa needs more than reactive policing. Mandatory verification, strict penalties for businesses that ignore protocol, better digital tools for police and regular checks for forged documents should become standard practice. Local bodies must also be empowered to monitor high-risk establishments. Goans expect safety to begin with simple processes that work. If forged identities can pass unnoticed, the system is not protecting us.

-Sandesh Sawant, Kudnem

Goa's Cable Mess Needs More Than a Court Order

As The High Court's decision to clear the way for the removal of unsafe and unauthorised cables may sound like a step forward, but it also exposes how badly the state has neglected this problem for years. Goa's electricity poles have become cluttered with tangled cables from TV operators, internet service providers and private contractors who freely attach their wiring without permission or safety checks. It is astonishing that only after the matter reached the court has the administration begun acting with urgency. The danger is real. These overloaded poles are prone to snapping in storms, causing outages, fires and in some cases even posing a threat to pedestrians and vehicles. Yet despite repeated warnings from engineers and residents, enforcement has been inconsistent at best. Operators have long taken advantage of this laxity, treating public infrastructure as their personal scaffolding.

The High Court may have given the Electricity Department authority to act, but the real question is whether the department will now enforce rules consistently or merely conduct a one-time drive. Cutting a few cables will not solve the problem. Without a proper system of audits, penalties and regular inspections, the state will land back in the same mess in a few months.

The government must lay down clear timelines for operators to shift to safer, regulated routes and introduce strict penalties for anyone attaching cables without approval. Equally important, the public should not be left in the dark due to sudden, unplanned drives that ignore consumer needs.

Goa deserves infrastructure that is safe, organised and accountable. A court order is only the beginning.

-Sebadtian D'Souza, St Cruz

3 Minor Boys Kidnapped in Separate Incidents in Vasco and Navelim

■ Complaints filed a day apart; Separate teams scan CCTV networks and question locals.

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO/ NAVELIM: Police in South Goa have launched parallel investigations into two separate kidnapping cases involving three minor boys, reported within a day of each other in Vasco and Navelim. In the first incident, Vasco Police received a complaint that a minor boy had been taken away by unidentified persons near the Municipal High School in Vasco on November 19 at around



1:30 pm. According to the child's relative, the boy was removed from his lawful guardianship without consent. The case has been assigned to PSI Nikhil Naik Dessai, and teams have begun tracing the suspects and examining the area for clues. In a second case, two minor boys were

Kidnapping Saga...

- ▶ Three minor boys reported kidnapped in two separate incidents in south goa
- ▶ Vasco case reported on november 19 near municipal high school.
- ▶ Navelim case reported on november 18 involving two brothers.
- ▶ Separate firs registered and investigations handed to psi nikhil naik dessai and psi sanjay velip.
- ▶ Police widening cctv checks and coordinating with nearby stations to trace suspects.

allegedly kidnapped from Navelim on November 18 at around 4:15 pm. The children's father reported that unknown individuals

took both boys without his permission. Police registered an offence and handed the investigation to PSI Sanjay Velip.

Govt Withdraws Proposal to Shift North Goa District Courts from Mapusa to Mercês

■ Move follows strong objections from Mapusa Advocates' Forum; CM agrees to recall order

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Goa government has withdrawn its earlier decision to relocate the North Goa District Courts from Mapusa to Mercês, bringing major relief to litigants and the legal fraternity who had opposed the proposal. The decision came after sustained objections raised by the Mapusa Advocates' Forum, which argued that shifting the courts would create significant inconvenience



for thousands of litigants who depend on easy access to the Mapusa complex. The Forum warned that relocating the district courts would increase travel time, raise costs for citizens and disrupt the functioning of legal services.

Goa Police Transfers 34 Inspectors in Statewide Reshuffle

■ Multiple postings across crime branches, coastal security units and district stations take effect immediately

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Goa Police Department has issued transfer orders for 34 Police Inspectors across the state, implementing one of its largest reshuffles in recent months. The changes take immediate effect and cover postings across district police stations, traffic cells, coastal security units, intelligence wings and specialised divisions. According to the order, PI Pravin Gawas has been moved from the Traffic Education Cell in Panaji to Canacona



Police Station, while PI Harsh Raut Dessai shifts from Canacona to the Traffic Cell at Colva. PI Vijay Rane Sardesai leaves the Crime Branch in Ribandar for Bicholim Police Station. Several officers have been realigned between coastal and specialised units. PI Shitakant Nayak goes from the Traffic Cell Panaji to Siolim Coastal

Security Police Station. PI Sandeep Kesarikar moves from Siolim Coastal Security to the Anti-Corruption Branch and Vigilance, while PI Shailesh Narvekar shifts from ACB/Vigilance to the Special Branch Centre in Vasco. In other key movements, PI Devendra Pingle has been transferred from SB Centre Vasco to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office in Panaji. PI Sachin Lokre replaces him at the Crime Branch Ribandar after being moved out of Pernem Police Station.

Locals, Rent-A-Bike Operators Detain EV Rentals in Calangute Over Safety Violations

■ Electric bike operators accused of flouting rules; police begin inquiry.

Team Goemkarponn

Calangute: Tension broke out in Calangute after a group of locals and traditional rent-a-bike operators detained several electric rental bikes, alleging that the vehicles were being hired out to tourists without mandatory safety compliance. According to those involved, the EV rental operators were allegedly allowing tourists to ride without helmets, insurance documents, pollution certificates or basic



verification such as driving licences. Traditional rent-a-bike operators said they are required to follow a stringent list of rules, including providing helmets, maintaining insurance and pollution certificates, paying road tax and keeping all regulatory paperwork updated.

Bus rams scooter near GMC; pillion grievously hurt



Team Goemkarponn

BAMBOLIM: A 19-year-old youth sustained grievous injuries after a Kadamba Transport Corporation bus allegedly hit a scooter on the service road near GMC Hospital, Bambolim. According to a complaint lodged by Head Constable Uday Palkar of Agacaim Police Station, the accident occurred on November 17, 2025, at around 9:15 am when the Kadamba bus (GA-03-X-0292), driven by Narayan Shetkar (48), was proceeding from the Siridao side towards Goa University. While overtaking on the service road, the bus allegedly dashed into a TVS Ntorq scooter (GA-07-AJ-0671) travelling in the same direction. The pillion rider, Yuvraj Vaddavet (19) of Khandola, suffered grievous injuries, while the rider, Ajit Pathak (21) of Carambolim, sustained minor injuries. Agacaim Police have registered a case of rash and negligent driving. Further investigation is underway.

Harishchandra Madkaikar Takes Charge as North Goa Superintendent of Police

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Harishchandra V. Madkaikar has been appointed the new Superintendent of Police (SP) for North Goa, according to a government order from Goa's Department of Personnel. Previously posted as SP of the Konkani Railway, Madkaikar takes over from IPS officer Rahul Gupta, who had held North Goa's charge in



addition to his Crime Branch role. Alongside this change, Tikam Singh Verma, currently South Goa SP, has been given additional charge as SP of the Konkani Railway.

PWD Launches Major Recarpeting Work on Belagavi-Goa Route via Chorla

■ Electric bike operators accused of flouting rules; police begin inquiry.

Team Goemkarponn

Belagavi: The Public Works Department has begun a major recarpeting effort on the Belagavi-Goa highway through Chorla, marking a key step toward improving one of the region's most important inter-state routes. The long-pending work comes as commuters have faced



persistent trouble due to the stretch's deterioration over the past several months. Officials said resurfacing operations will start in the next few days, with the aim of easing movement

before the peak travel period and ahead of the Karnataka Legislature's Winter Session. As part of the preparations, a temporary diversion has been created near the Kusmalli Bridge across the Malaprabha River. The route was opened today to ensure vehicles can continue to pass while work resumes on the bridge.

MPA reopens container services as SCI Mumbai dock

Team Goemkarponn

Vasco: Container operations resumed at the Mormugao Port Authority on Thursday morning as the Shipping Corporation of India brought its vessel SCI Mumbai to the harbour, marking a major step in reviving Goa's long dormant container trade. The service was inaugurated by MPA Chairman Dr N Vinod Kumar in the presence of Delta Ports Mormugao Terminal chairman Mohiuddin Ahmed, Delta Ports vice president and Goa in charge Raghoba Kotkar and other officials.



MPA said the reinstated service is expected to strengthen Goa's industrial and export network. Dr Kumar told reporters the port had ensured that the restart went smoothly. He said the berths have been allotted to the Delta Group under a public private partnership. The company will handle terminal operations while the port

provides support services. To encourage early uptake, the port has waived vessel related charges for the first six months. Dr Kumar urged Goa's pharma and non pharma sectors to make use of the facility so that shipping lines and feeder services gain confidence in the route. Mohiuddin Ahmed said the company has set highly competitive

rates to attract exporters and importers. He said the charges have been kept minimal to help restore container movement through Goa. He added that on berth warehouses are under construction and will allow stuffing and de stuffing inside the port. The terminal is equipped with modern machinery and electrically operated cranes powered by solar energy. He said the long term plan is to shift the entire operation to electric systems. Ahmed noted that the terminal will serve industries beyond Goa, including Belgaum, Hubli and Bellary.

MPA pushes ahead with Marina project inside port premises, cruise terminal set to open next season

Team Goemkarponn

The Mormugao Port Authority is moving ahead with plans to set up a dedicated Marina inside the port limits, MPA Chairman Dr N Vinod Kumar said on Wednesday while outlining ongoing infrastructure work. Dr Kumar said about eight thousand square metres of waterfront land had been allotted for the Marina through a tender, marking the first time the port is directly facilitating such a project. He noted that although fore shore land had been allotted to a private party in the past for a similar

plan, the port had never taken up a Marina development within its own premises. Marine Tech has secured the project and will invest in floating jetties and other facilities. The port will not fund the development and will earn only lease revenue from the allotted area. He said the Marina will initially operate as a parking space for yachts, but its location in front of the new cruise terminal is expected to draw additional services. According to him, allied facilities will develop naturally in the area and can be shared by yacht operators and cruise passengers.

Fruit vendor booked for obstructing traffic at Bicholim bypass

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A 25-year-old fruit vendor from Maharashtra was apprehended on for allegedly obstructing traffic while conducting vending activities along the Bicholim bypass. According to a state complaint lodged by ASI Ramdas Tari of Bicholim Police Station, the incident occurred on November 20,



2025, at around 10:45 am near the PWD Junction at Vathadev, Sarvan.

The accused, Dhanaji Mahadev Sargar, a resident of Sargarwadi, Solapur, was allegedly displaying fruits negligently by the roadside on the stretch leading from Valshi Pen Circle towards the junction, hindering the free movement of pedestrians and vehicles. Police said the vendor was caught red-handed and booked for creating obstruction. Investigation is underway.

MISSING DOG



MALE DOG MISSING
SINCE 11TH JAN 2025 FROM
SHETTY WADO MAPUSA
NEAR SFX HIGH SCHOOL.
IF YOU HAVE ANY LEADS
PLEASE CONTACT:
9637424166/
7972113907



Forged Identity Cases Signal a Deeper Security Lapse in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

Mapusa: A viral video showing a dog damaging a car has unexpectedly helped resolve a months-old search, after the animal was identified as Chiku, a pet missing from Shetye Wado in Mapusa

since January 2025. The video, widely circulated on social media, drew the attention of Chiku's family. They immediately recognised the dog's behaviour and confirmed that the animal in the footage was their long-lost pet.

Man held with 1.4 kg ganja in Calangute narcotics raid

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute Police arrested a 32-year-old man after he was allegedly found in possession of over a kilogram of ganja during a narcotics raid near the Sinquerim helipad.



According to a state complaint filed by PSI Snehal Malik, the raid was conducted on November 19, 2025, between 10 pm and 11:45 pm. During the operation, police searched the backpack of the accused, Ajay Giri, a native of Baleswar,

Odisha, and reportedly recovered 1,401 grams of greenish leafy substance with flowering and fruiting tops, suspected to be ganja. The seized contraband is valued at approximately ₹1.4 lakh. Further investigation is underway.

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Police Seek More Time in Kankonkar Assault Probe as Zenito Bail Hearing Delayed

has drawn widespread attention across Goa. Cardozo, described by police as a repeat offender, is one of eight men charged in the attack on Kankonkar. He filed his bail application on November 18, a day after investigators submitted the chargesheet. The court had earlier placed him and two others in judicial custody, extending their

remand by fourteen days on October 31. Police say Kankonkar was assaulted in Mercedes earlier this month during a dispute connected to local issues. The incident escalated into one of the most closely followed cases in recent weeks, largely due to Kankonkar's long-standing involvement in civic activism and the criminal history attributed

to Cardozo. All accused were picked up shortly after the attack, leading to public calls for strict action. According to investigators, the charges are serious and releasing the accused at this stage could affect the case. They have argued that witnesses may be susceptible to pressure and that the wider conspiracy needs further examination.

INDIA Bloc Fractures Deepen After Bihar Drubbing

opposition together. Discontent that once surfaced as muted concerns has evolved into pointed criticism, public disagreements and active conversations within several parties about whether to recalibrate their relationship with the bloc or walk away entirely. JMM's Breakaway Sets Off Tensions Signs of strain were visible even before

the campaign began. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha abruptly withdrew from the coalition's seat-sharing arrangement in Bihar after accusing senior partners of disregarding them during negotiations and failing to keep prior commitments. Since then, JMM leaders have argued that the Bihar episode reflects what they see as a deeper problem.

Loutolim Farmers Renew Objections to Borim Bridge Land Acquisition

warning that the project will severely damage the village's traditional khazan agro-pisciculture system. Their objections say the authorities have moved ahead without proper studies, public consultations or updated environmental impact assessments.

AAP Leaders Ask Governor to Seek CM Sawant's Resignation Over Rising Crime in Goa

■ Party cites surge in violent incidents and alleges collapse of law and order.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Aam Aadmi Party has asked the Governor of Goa to seek the resignation of Chief Minister and Home Minister Pramod Sawant, saying the state's law and order situation has deteriorated to an alarming level. A party delegation met the Governor on Thursday and submitted a list of recent violent crimes, alleging that the police machinery has failed and that criminals no longer fear the law. The delegation included MLA Venzy Viegas, working presidents Valmiki Naik and Gerson Gomes, and Women's Wing vice president Suvarna



Harmalkar. They told the Governor that the state has seen a sharp rise in robberies, assaults and shootings under the BJP government. Viegas said Goa is witnessing "brutal crimes every day" and claimed the police investigation system is failing. He dismissed the Chief Minister's review meetings with the police as mere optics. He urged the Governor to call the Chief Minister for a

meeting and ask him to strengthen the law and order mechanism. Naik said the administration has failed to assert control over criminals. He criticised what he called routine statements by the Chief Minister after each crime and said residents no longer feel safe in their homes. He repeated the party's demand for a full-time Home Minister. The memorandum listed several recent incidents

including armed robberies in Baina, Dona Paula and Mapusa, the murder of farmer Umakant Khot in Morjim, the assault on activist Rama Kankonkar, shootings linked to illegal sand extraction in Pernem and an attack in Madkai, the gang fight in Mungul, and murders in Pirna and Saligao. The party also accused sections of the police of misconduct, citing the assault on Edberg Pereira inside the Navelim police station and the involvement of IRB personnel in the Pernem case. AAP alleged political pressure on the police, naming the Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte in connection with the attack on Kankonkar.



AAP Launches Rajesh Gaonkar's ZP Campaign in Poinguinim

■ Over 150 residents join Cotigao meeting as party begins manifesto outreach.

Team Goemkarponn

Canacona: The Aam Aadmi Party has launched its Zilla Panchayat campaign in Poinguinim with a public meeting in Cotigao that drew more than 150 participants. The event doubled as a manifesto discussion where residents placed their concerns and expectations before candidate Rajesh Gaonkar. MLA Venzy Viegas, working president Gerson Gomes, general secretary for campaign Sandesh

Teleikar Dessai and joint secretary Prashant Naik attended the launch. Viegas described Gaonkar as a grassroots worker with strong local ties and urged voters to support him for what he called genuine development in Poinguinim. Gaonkar said he would visit every household and document issues raised by residents to address them if elected. He added that Poinguinim has faced years of neglect and needs leadership that listens closely to people's problems.

Goa Tourism to Spotlight Regenerative and Future-Ready Tourism at Qatar Expo 25

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, will be participating in the Qatar Travel & Tourism Expo 2025, scheduled to be held from 24th to 26th November 2025. This international platform will allow Goa to showcase its renewed tourism positioning, strengthened by innovative experiences, enhanced services, and emerging global trends that are shaping the State's evolving tourism



landscape. Speaking about the participation, the Minister for Tourism Shri Rohan A. Khaunte said, "Goa continues to redefine its tourism identity by combining responsible development with luxury experiences. Our participation at Qatar Travel & Tourism Expo 2025 will allow us

to present the depth of Goa's tourism offerings, from wellness and nature-based experiences to cinematic exposure and vibrant nightlife. We look forward to engaging with global industry leaders and strengthening Goa's presence in key international markets." The Director of Tourism, Kedar Naik, added, "Qatar Travel & Tourism Expo 2025 provides a vital opportunity to showcase Goa's expanding range of tourism services and new-age travel experiences.

North Goa Collector reviews Polling Station Rationalisation with Political Parties

■ Meeting reviews BLAs' appointments and progress of electoral form digitisation.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Collector and District Election Officer of North Goa Ankit Yadav held a meeting with representatives of recognised political parties on Thursday to finalise proposals for rationalising polling stations across several assembly constituencies. The meeting took place at the Collectorate's conference hall. Yadav said proposals for changes in polling



stations were submitted by the Electoral Registration Officers of Mandrem, Tivim, Saligao, Calangute, Porvorim, St. Cruz and Cumbarjua constituencies. These proposals were discussed

with party representatives and were finalised during the meeting. The Collector also reviewed the appointment of Booth Level Agents. He emphasised that parties must appoint BLA I and BLA II in time as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision. He briefed the members on updated Election Commission instructions which allow BLA II to be appointed from any part of the constituency.

Thousands Mark 98th Death Anniversary of Venerable Agnelo at Pilar

■ Faithful recall the saintly priest's life of simplicity, service and hope

Team Goemkarponn

Pilar: Thousands of devotees gathered at the Pilar hillock on Thursday to observe the 98th death anniversary of Venerable Agnelo de Souza, the priest of the Society of Pilar whose life of humility and service continues to draw pilgrims from across

Goa and beyond. The main Eucharistic celebration was led by Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bombay. Bishop Alex Dias, Bishop Emeritus of Port Blair, Fr Nazareth Fernandes, Superior General of the Society of Pilar, Fr Stevan D'Souza, Vicar General, Fr Joaquim



Rebello, Provincial Superior of Goa Province, Fr Hilary Fernandes of the Vice Postulation office,

and Fr Joseph Fernandes, Central Delegate Superior, concelebrated the Mass along with several priests.

In his homily on the theme "Venerable Agnelo Inspires Us to Be Pilgrims of Hope," Bishop Dominic Savio said the Church rejoices because Goa has been blessed with a priest of remarkable holiness.

He said Venerable Agnelo's life still speaks through its quiet strength and simplicity. He urged

the faithful to take inspiration from his example and live with the same sense of hope that shaped his life.

The Bishop recalled that Venerable Agnelo lived close to the poor and the suffering and believed that patience and endurance offered to God could lead to holiness.

IFFI 2025 Kicks Off with Historic Street Parade in Goa



Festival opens its 56th edition with a grand cultural carnival, honouring cinema, technology and India's creative spirit.

Step into the streets. Feel the rhythm. See the stories unfold. IFFI transforms Goa into a living, breathing reel of wonder! For the first time in its distinguished journey, the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) stepped beyond the walls of tradition into the vibrant heart of Goa—embracing its



people, streets and spirit in a celebration like never before. In a bold reimagining of its grand



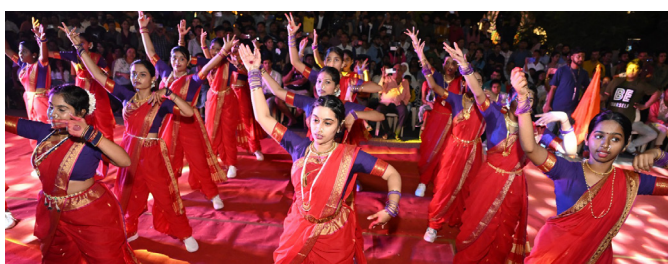
opening today, IFFI 2025 transformed the city into a vast, living canvas—where cinematic brilliance bold new chapter in IFFI's legacy. Inaugurating the celebrations, Governor of Goa, Shri Pusapati Ashok Gajapati Raju, lauded IFFI's growing global stature, saying, "IFFI has become a meaningful platform for creative exchange, new collaborations, and the celebration of cinematic excellence. With Goa's cosmopolitan character, cultural richness, and global connectivity, it is natural that film lovers gather here in such large numbers." He emphasised that IFFI

mingled with cultural splendour and the ageless magic of storytelling danced through the streets of Goa. As artists, performers and cinephiles filled the boulevards with energy and entertainment, Goa transformed into a pulsating corridor of creativity—signalling not just the beginning of a festival, but the dawn of a has always transcended the boundaries of a conventional film festival—serving as a meeting ground for ideas, stories, and creative minds from across the world, supporting young filmmakers, honouring cinematic brilliance, and strengthening India's position as a global hub of film and creative industries. Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant in his address highlighted Goa's rise as an international filmmaking destination. "Goa stands ready with



world-class infrastructure, and this is why it has become IFFI's permanent home. Our scenic beauty draws filmmakers, but it is our strong policy reforms that keep them coming back", he remarked. He noted that IFFI 2025 celebrates the theme "Convergence of Creativity and Technology", reflecting India's leadership in the global creative revolution. "IFFI bridges Indian talent with global possibilities. Our dream is to make Goa the Creative Capital of India. Come to Goa, tell your stories, shoot your films." He credited

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for propelling Indian cinema to unprecedented international prominence, making India a rising soft power in the world of storytelling. Addressing the gathering, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. L. Murugan, said that IFFI continues to evolve with every edition. "Traditionally, the festival used to begin at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium. This year, it begins as a grand cultural carnival, showcasing the diverse traditions of our states."



NFDC Tableau Shines at the 56th IFFI Opening Parade in Goa

Striking design, dynamic visuals, and rich storytelling celebrate the evolution of Indian cinema.

This year's opening parade at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa was truly unique, with participation from several production houses and cultural troupes from different parts of the country. Among all the entries, the NFDC tableau stood out for its distinctive design and impressive

moving elements. A major attraction was the large projector with dynamic projection lights, which added a powerful visual impact. Through this creative installation, NFDC successfully narrated the journey of Indian cinema. Known for giving Indian filmmaking a new direction and for initiating the new wave cinema movement,

NFDC showcased this rich legacy through thoughtful storytelling on the tableau. The tableau also artistically represented the aligned verticals—NMIC and NFAI—integrated in a visually appealing manner. The content curation for the tableau was done by Satyajit Mandle, DGM, NMIC, while the art direction and production

design were handled by Mahendra Potadar, under the guidance of Managing Director Shri Prakash Magdum. Overall, the NFDC tableau emerged as one of the most classy, unique, and thoughtfully designed installations at the IFFI 56 parade, attracting special attention from visitors and participants.



NIA Arrests Four More in Delhi Red Fort Blast Case

■ Accused from Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh Taken into Custody as Investigation Expands

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has apprehended four additional suspects in connection with the November 10 Delhi blast, raising the total number of arrests to six. Three of the accused Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganai (Pulwama), Dr Adeel Ahmed Rather (Anantnag), and Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay (Shopian)—are from Jammu and Kashmir, while Dr Shaheen Saeed hails from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The arrests were carried out in Srinagar



under production orders from the District Sessions Judge, Patiala House Court. According to NIA, the accused played a significant role in the attack that claimed 13

lives and injured 32 others. Earlier, two individuals, Amir Rashid Ali whose name was on the vehicle used in the blast and Jasir Bilal Wani, who reportedly provided technical support

for drone modifications and attempted rocket-making, were taken into custody. Delhi courts have also sanctioned NIA custody for Ali for 10 days to aid the ongoing probe. Interrogations are underway as the agency seeks to uncover the full network behind the terror module. The investigation, handed over by the Union Home Ministry, involves coordination with state police to track and apprehend all conspirators involved in the deadly attack.



Free Trade Talks Begin: India and Israel Sign Terms of Reference

■ ToR Signed in Tel Aviv to Boost Trade, Investment, and Technological Cooperation Between the 2 Nations.

New Delhi: India and Israel have formally signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) to initiate negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), signaling a major step in strengthening bilateral economic relations. The signing ceremony took place in Tel Aviv with India's Commerce and Industry

Minister Piyush Goyal and Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry Nir Barkat in attendance. Minister Goyal confirmed that both countries have agreed to commence comprehensive FTA negotiations aimed at expanding trade and investment flows.



Mamata Urges CEC to Halt SIR in West Bengal, Flags "Inhuman" Pressure on BLOs

■ BLOs Under "Inhuman" Pressure: Mamata Urges CEC to Suspend SIR in West Bengal.

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, requesting an immediate halt to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state, citing extreme work pressure on Booth Level Officers (BLOs). In her three-page letter, Banerjee described the situation as "inhuman," stating, "BLOs are operating far beyond human limits. Instead of support, extending timelines, or addressing systemic flaws, the office of CEO West Bengal has resorted to intimidation." She urged the Election Commission to intervene decisively, stop coercive measures, provide proper

training, and reassess the methodology and timelines. Banerjee also criticised the lack of planning and poor communication in the SIR process, calling it "unplanned, chaotic, and dangerous," adding that the absence of basic preparedness had "crippled the process from day one." The letter follows a tragic incident in Jalpaiguri district, where a BLO was found dead at her residence. Her family alleged that the death was linked to immense stress caused by SIR duties.

The CEC is reviewing Banerjee's letter and will issue a detailed reply. Additional officers may be deployed to support BLOs if necessary, as has been done in other states.

Amit Shah Criticises Political Opposition After Mamata Flags SIR Concerns in Bengal

■ Amit Shah accuses opposition of shielding infiltrators as Mamata Banerjee flags "chaotic and coercive" SIR exercise in West Bengal.

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday accused certain political parties of attempting to "protect infiltrators" by obstructing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, a day after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee described the exercise as "chaotic, coercive and dangerous." Shah, in a post on X in Hindi, said, "Stopping infiltration in India is essential not only for the country's security but also to safeguard the integrity of our democratic system. Unfortunately, some parties are opposing the voter list purification process to shield infiltrators." He did



not name any party specifically. Banerjee, in a strongly worded letter to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleged that the SIR process in poll-bound West Bengal was being conducted in an "unplanned and dangerous" manner. She cited inadequate preparation, gaps in training, confusion over

mandatory documents, and the near-impossibility for booth-level officers (BLOs) — many of whom are teachers and frontline workers — to complete door-to-door surveys effectively. "The absence of clear planning and technical readiness has pushed the process into disarray," Banerjee warned. She highlighted server failures, repeated data mismatches, and the extreme pressure on BLOs, who, under fear of punitive action, might make "incorrect or incomplete entries," risking disenfranchisement and undermining the credibility of the electoral rolls.

India's Samudrayaan Mission Set to Send First Aquanauts into Deep Ocean

■ Ramesh Raju and Jatinder Pal Singh to Pilot Indigenous Matsya-6000 Submersible Off Chennai Coast.

New Delhi: India is preparing to make a mark in deep-sea exploration as two scientists from the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) gear up to pilot the indigenously built Matsya-6000 submersible up to 500 metres off the Chennai coast early next year. This mission will place India among a select group of countries capable of sending humans to explore the deep ocean.



Ramesh Raju and Jatinder Pal Singh, India's first aquanauts for the project, will explore the ocean floor as part of the Samudrayaan initiative under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. NIOT Director Balaji Ramakrishnan highlighted

that while remotely operated vehicles have previously surveyed deep-sea beds, this is the first mission to deploy humans at such depths, with safety as a top priority. The Matsya-6000, a 28-tonne autonomous submersible,

is designed with a robust boiler steel personnel sphere, high-density Lithium-Polymer batteries, emergency systems, ballast tanks, propellers, robotic arms, and external cameras. Initially, it will operate up to 500 metres, matching naval submarine limits, before progressing to a 6,000-metre dive in 2027 with a titanium personnel sphere capable of withstanding 600 bar pressure.

Rishabh Pant to Lead India as 38th Test Captain After Shubman Gill Ruled Out

■ Wicketkeeper-Batter Steps Up Ahead of Crucial 2nd Test Against South Africa.

New Delhi: India will be without captain Shubman Gill for the all-important second Test against South Africa at Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati, with Rishabh Pant stepping in as the 38th captain in India's Test history. Gill suffered a neck injury during Day 2 of the first Test at Eden Gardens, forcing him to retire hurt after facing just three balls. He was subsequently hospitalised in Kolkata, observed,



and later discharged. Though he travelled to Guwahati on November 19, he did not participate in training and was ruled out for the match. The BCCI confirmed that Gill will return to Mumbai for

further assessment. In Gill's absence, Pant, India's deputy and wicketkeeper-batter, assumes captaincy, becoming only the second designated wicketkeeper to lead India

in Tests after MS Dhoni. Pant has previously captained India in five T20Is in 2022, with a record of two wins, two losses, and one no-result. Pant faces a challenging task as India looks to avoid a second consecutive home series defeat, having lost the opening match by 30 runs in just three days. The Guwahati Test will also mark the city as the 30th venue to host Test cricket in India

Indian Women Boxers Shine at World Boxing Cup Finals, Claim 4 Golds

■ Minakshi, Preeti, Arundhati, and Nupur Lead India's Dominant Performance

New Delhi: Indian women boxers delivered a stellar performance at the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025, held at the Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex, securing four gold medals and showcasing the country's growing prowess in the sport. The gold medal tally for India was opened by Minakshi Hooda, who defeated Fozilova Farzona 5-0 in the women's 48 kg



final. Overjoyed with her victory, Minakshi credited her district coach Vijay Hooda, ITBP, SAI, OGQ, BFI, and the home crowd for her triumph. "Seeing the supporters in large numbers motivated me, and I won the bout 5-0.



Tanaya Naik to Captain Goa in Women's U-23 T20 Trophy

■ Goa Squad Felicitated Ahead of Nagpur Tournament.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Tanaya Naik will captain the Goa team in the Women's U-23 T20 Trophy 2025-26, scheduled to be held in Nagpur from November 24 to December 1, 2025. The 16-member Goa U-23 women's squad includes Metali Gawander (VC), Tanisha Gaikawad, Harshita Yadav, Urvashi Govekar, Usma Khan, Pooja Kalel, Vidhi Bhandare, Athashree Shivarkar,

Sejal Naik, Presha Naik, Palak Arondekar, Angel D'Costa, Swarali Kasar, Roshni Parab Mayekar, and Siddhi Savase. The team was felicitated in a ceremony attended by GCA President Mahesh Dessai, Secretary Tulshidas Shetye, Vice President Pareshe Fadte, Director of Coaching & Cricket Operations Prakash Mayenkar, and Assistant Coach Anuradha Redkar, ahead of their campaign at the national tournament.

MCC Masters Triumph Over MCC Royals by 10 Runs in MCL 11 Opener

■ Siddhesh Prabhu Alvencar Stars in Thrilling Season Kickoff at Margao.

Margao: The MCC Masters began the Margao Cricket Club's Members Cricket League (MCL 11) on a high note, defeating the MCC Royals by 10 runs in the tournament opener. Batting first, the Masters posted a competitive total of 149 for 9 in 20 overs. In response, the Royals managed 139 for 8, falling short despite a determined chase. Siddhesh Prabhu Alvencar played a pivotal all-round role for the Masters and was named Man of the Match for his stellar performance. The MCL 11 season was inaugurated with a vibrant opening ceremony at MCC's Rajendra Prasad Stadium in Margao. Chief Guest Shri Nitin Kunkolienker, a



distinguished corporate leader and social entrepreneur, graced the occasion. The MCL Trophy was unveiled in the presence of MCC senior members Shri Vinod Dhamaskar and Shri Deepak Raikar, marking the beginning of what promises to be an exciting season of competitive cricket. In his address, Kunkolienker praised MCC's efforts, highlighting cricket as a platform not only for sport but also for personal growth and



Goa Shines at Pickleball Nationals with Gold and Bronze Medals

■ Men's 50+ Team Wins Gold, Women's 40+ Team Secures Bronze in Bengaluru.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa delivered a stellar performance at the Indian Pickleball Association (IPA) Nationals in Bengaluru, underlining the state's growing prominence in the sport. Led by Captain Nishad Shevde, the Goan contingent returned with an impressive medal haul of 2 Gold, 1 Silver, and 3 Bronze. In the team events, the 50+

Men's Team, featuring Noel Noronha, Wilfred Jacques, Mano Chhabra, and Clarence Noronha, clinched the Gold medal with a dominant display. The 40+ Women's Team, consisting of Charmaine Godinho, Natasha De Ataide, Audrey Menezes, and Meenakshi Chodankar, showcased resilience to secure the Bronze medal. Goa's success extended to the Individual Open Events.

Goa Cricket Association Names Selection Committees for 2025-2028

■ Senior, Junior, and Women's Committees Announced at GCA AGM.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Cricket Association (GCA) has finalized its Selection Committees for the 2025-2028 term, following approval at the Annual General Meeting on November 16, 2025. Former Ranji Trophy player Girish Parekh has been



appointed Chairman of the Senior Selection Committee, joined by members Nitin Vernekar, Anand Mhapankar, Ilyas Naroo, and Harshad Gadekar. The Junior Selection Committee will be led by former Ranji player Sahil Dhuri as Chairman, with Abrar Khan, Damodar Kitlekar, Vinay Palekar, and Chandrakant

Ghadi serving as members. For the Women's Selection Committee, former state player Sangeeta Mazrekar takes the role of Chairperson, supported by members Aparna Khandeparkar and Chinmayi Swar. The appointments mark a key step in shaping Goa's cricketering future across senior, junior, and women's levels.