

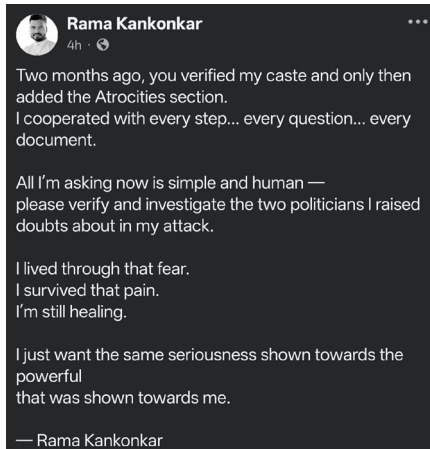


Rama urges police to **scrutinise** two politicians he named

■ “If my caste was verified in days, why can’t the same be done for them?” asks Kankonkar.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The investigation into the assault on social activist Rama Kankonkar has slowed after Panaji Police sought additional time from the Special Court at Mercers, stating that they must first verify Kankonkar’s caste certificate before completing the probe. The request has drawn fresh questions from the victim, who has publicly urged the police to apply the same level of scrutiny to the two politicians he named soon after the attack. Kankonkar, who continues to recover from his injuries, said he cooperated with every requirement placed before him—answering all questions and submitting every document—when police insisted on



verifying his caste two months ago before invoking the Atrocities Act. “My caste was verified quickly because the law required it. I only ask that the same seriousness be shown towards the powerful people I raised doubts about,” he said.

“I lived through that fear and pain. I just want the same verification for them that was demanded of me.” Meanwhile, the bail application of the main accused, Zenito Cardozo, has been postponed to November 26, prolonging proceedings in what has become one of Goa’s most closely followed criminal cases. Cardozo, labelled by police as a repeat offender, is one of eight men charged with attacking Kankonkar. He filed his bail plea on November 18, a day after investigators submitted their chargesheet. His and two others’ judicial custody had earlier been extended by fourteen days on October 31. The assault, which occurred in Mercers earlier this month, stemmed from a local

CONTD TO PAGE 04...

Mhaje Ghar Yojana Open for Six Months; ‘First and Last Chance,’ Says CM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Government of Goa has announced that the Mhaje Ghar Yojana will remain open for a limited six-month window. Launched on October 4, 2025, the scheme will conclude



on April 2, 2026, giving eligible beneficiaries time to submit their

CONTD TO PAGE 04...

Congress Reiterates Stand Against Defection; Alliance Decision for ZP Soon

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Congress has once again reiterated its firm stand against political defections, with Leader of the Opposition



CONTD TO PAGE 04...



Gala premeier

- Haati Haati Pa Pa
- Spying Stars
- Papa Buka

Open Air Screening

Miramar Beach

- 12th Fail @ 7 Pm

Vagator Beach

- The Truman Show @ 7 Pm

Ravindra Bhavan (Margao)

- Home Alone @ 7 pm

Masterclass

Breath and Emotion : A Masterclass on Performances by the Theater

Guru Mr. Vinayakumar Adishakti

By Vinayakumar K J

Special Screening

- Malliswari
- Rudaali
- Gaman
- The Sitarist / Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai / Ulgulan

Special Showcase

Haq

In-Conversation

'Unscripted' - The Art and Emotion of Filmmaking

By Vidhu Vinod Chopra

An Eurasian Festival Frontier:

'Do We Need to Redefine Cinema in the World of AI?

By Tricia Tuttle (Festival Director Berlin)

Special Screening

- Gaman
- Malliswari
- Party
- Umrao Jaan

Restores Classics

Muriel's Wedding

Indian Panorama

- Su From So (F)
- KAKORI / AMARAN (NF)
- DEEPA DIDI / MALIPUT MELODIES
- AANIRAI / TANVI THE GREAT
- Nilgiris - A Shared Wilderness / Mukkam Post Bombilwadi
- Maliput Melodies (F)
- Ground Zero (F)
- Sikaar (F)

International Competition

- Mosquitoes / Le bambine
- Renoir / Runowaru

Best Debut Feature film of a Director

Karla

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://twitter.com/iffigoa) [@iffigoa](https://facebook.com/iffigoa) [@iffigoa](https://twitter.com/iffigoa) www.esg.co.in [@esg_goa](https://twitter.com/esg_goa) [@esggoa](https://facebook.com/esggoa) [@esg_goa](https://twitter.com/esg_goa)

Souage Partner

Beverage Partner

Tea Partner

Airline Partner

Airport Partner

Inclusion Partner

Radio Partner

Mobility Partner

Technical Partner

Content Partner

Screening Partner

Licensing Partner

Cause Partner

Wireless & Surveillance Partner

Our Supporters

Other Partners

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

Goa's Rush to Approve Cell Towers on Government Land: Speed, But at What Cost?

The Goa government's push to approve cellphone towers on state-owned land within 67 days may look like a decisive step to improve connectivity, but the haste behind this policy invites serious scrutiny. The promise of fast approvals and "deemed permission" if officials miss the deadline sounds efficient on paper, yet it risks weakening public oversight, sidelining local bodies, and fostering distrust in communities already anxious about rapid, unconsulted development.

The intention is understandable. Goa has long struggled with patchy mobile networks, especially in rural belts where telecommunication companies hesitate to invest. A clear approval window and predictable costs are meant to encourage them to expand coverage. The state wants to cut bureaucracy, reduce delays, and create a smoother environment for digital infrastructure. But speed alone does not guarantee good governance. When policy is crafted in a way that compresses scrutiny, the consequences often surface later and become harder to fix.

One of the clearest fault lines in this policy is the shrinking role of local self-governance. Panchayats and municipal bodies have historically played a central part in deciding how land within their jurisdictions should be used. They are the closest tier of government to the people and best equipped to understand community sentiment. Under the new regime, their objections risk turning symbolic. If approvals become automatic simply because the 67-day clock runs out, the system effectively rewards administrative silence over thorough evaluation. Democratic participation becomes a casualty in the race to meet deadlines.

Public health concerns, whether founded or not,

This is not an abstract worry. Goan villages have repeatedly pushed back against tower installations for various reasons. Some residents object because they feel left out of the decision-making process. Others fear that their neighbourhoods are being transformed without enough explanation.

And many still worry about radiation from towers. Even when scientific bodies insist that emissions remain within permissible limits, fears persist. The state's job is not just to point to regulations, but to bridge the gap between technical assurance and public perception. Fast-tracking infrastructure without early engagement only fuels suspicion.

deserve respectful handling. People want transparency. They want to know where towers will be placed, how tall they will be, and what safety checks will be in place. They want the confidence that the state is not cutting corners. Instead of creating mechanisms for open dialogue, the current policy depends on tight timelines and silence as consent.

That is not the path to building trust in a state where environmental and land-use issues already spark intense debate. There is also the delicate issue of land itself. Government land is a

public asset, not a commercial commodity to be handed over casually. While tower installation fees may contribute to state revenue, the public has the right to know whether these returns justify the long-term occupation of land that belongs to them. Villages already face land pressure for housing, agriculture and community spaces. If telecom infrastructure is pushed through without evaluating long-term implications, Goa may find itself grappling with disputes that were entirely avoidable.

The automatic approval clause is particularly troubling. It shifts the system from proactive decision-making to passive greenlighting. Instead of ensuring that applications are examined thoroughly, it encourages the bureaucracy to treat inaction as compliance. A policy that depends on deadlines rather than due diligence makes it harder for citizens to challenge questionable approvals later. It creates an uneven playing field where telecom companies gain speed at the cost of democratic safeguards.

Goa can pursue better connectivity without sidelining its people. A more balanced approach would ensure meaningful involvement of local bodies, mandatory public notices, and clear communication about proposed tower locations and safety norms.

Independent monitoring and periodic disclosure of radiation levels would help reassure residents. And a more thoughtful fee and land-use structure would ensure that public assets remain protected.

Connectivity is a crucial need. But governance is not a race to the fastest approval. It is a system built on trust, participation and transparency. Goa must remember that development earned through consensus lasts far longer than development pushed through haste.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rising Crime in Goa Demands Immediate Action

Goa's reputation as a peaceful and welcoming state is slowly eroding as crime continues to rise in both urban and rural pockets. Incidents involving missing children, thefts, drug-related offences and assaults are becoming disturbingly frequent. What is most worrying is that many of these cases involve vulnerable groups, especially migrant workers who form the backbone of Goa's labour force. Their settlements often lack security, lighting and regular police presence, making them easy targets for criminals who exploit their economic and social isolation. Residents across Goa have begun expressing fear about venturing out late in the evening, and parents feel increasingly anxious about their children's safety. This shift in public sentiment should concern all of us because a society begins to unravel when trust in basic safety collapses. While the police have shown efficiency in several rescue operations, crime prevention still appears weak. Patrols are irregular, community policing remains limited and there is little visible outreach in high-risk areas.

Goa's rapid economic growth has brought more people, more movement and more opportunities. It has also brought new challenges that require stronger coordination between the police, local bodies and community groups. Safety cannot be treated as a seasonal concern tied to tourism cycles. It must be an everyday priority.

I urge the authorities to increase patrols, strengthen surveillance in vulnerable neighbourhoods and develop programmes that engage both locals and migrants in creating safer living environments. Goa deserves to remain a state where people feel protected, not threatened.

-Shane D'Souza, Chandor

Assagao's Roads Held Hostage by Endless Digging

Residents of Assagao are growing increasingly frustrated as the village roads remain under constant siege due to repeated digging. What should be quiet, well-maintained village routes have turned into uneven stretches of rubble, mud and open pits. Every few weeks, a different agency seems to dig up the same patch of road, leaving behind incomplete or poorly restored work. The result is chaos for motorists, danger for pedestrians and daily inconvenience for everyone who depends on these roads.

The lack of coordination between departments is glaring. Electricity upgrades, water pipelines, drainage repairs and private utilities all appear to work in isolation. Instead of planning joint projects or restoring the roads properly after each intervention, temporary patches are laid that crumble with the slightest rain or vehicle pressure. This careless approach has created a cycle where residents live with dust in summer, slush during the monsoon and traffic snarls all year.

Assagao, known for its greenery and peaceful lanes, is now witnessing increased accidents and near misses, especially at night when uneven surfaces become hazardous. School buses, senior citizens and two-wheelers are the worst affected. Visitors who come to the village expecting charm are greeted instead by trenches and debris.

It is time for the authorities to step in firmly. Agencies must coordinate before digging, ensure quality restoration and introduce accountability for repeated damage. Assagao deserves better than this patchwork approach that wastes public money and tests public patience.

-Maria Soares, Assagao

ED Attaches Rs 6.82 Crore Property in Anjuna in Land-Grabbing & Forgery Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Panaji Zonal Office, has provisionally attached an immovable property worth approximately ₹6.82 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The attached asset is a 1950 sq. m. land parcel bearing Survey No. 504/10 in Anjuna, Bardez. The ED action follows a chargesheet filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Goa Police in FIR No.



64/2022 dated July 23, 2022, registered at the Crime Branch Police Station. In that case, Mohammed Suhail, Anjum Shaikh, and Nure Faizal Bhatkar were named as accused for offences including cheating, forgery, and the use of forged documents under the IPC. According to investigators, Mohammed

Suhail, described by ED as a habitual offender, has been linked to multiple land-grabbing cases across Goa, with several FIRs lodged against him. In the present case, ED found that Suhail allegedly devised a detailed scheme to illegally acquire land belonging to the complainant's parents. Investigators say the accused prepared forged birth and death certificates to create a fictitious legal heir and then used these fabricated records to execute a false Deed of Succession.

Court Rejects Anticipatory Bail Plea in Assonora Canal Death Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Additional Sessions Court at Merces has refused to grant anticipatory bail to 35-year-old Ritesh Shirgaonkar, who is accused of driving a car into a canal at Assonora, leading to the death of his friend, Dipesh Mandrekar. In her detailed order, Judge Kshama Joshi observed that custodial interrogation was necessary to clarify the circumstances surrounding the late-night incident and to determine whether the act falls under culpable homicide or a lesser offence. The court noted that the investigation



required Shirgaonkar's full cooperation. "A prima facie case is made out against the applicant," the order stated. According to investigators, Shirgaonkar was allegedly behind the wheel of a white Zen car when he drove it into a hilly area near a water canal, purportedly under the influence of alcohol. The car reportedly plunged into the canal and became submerged, resulting

in the drowning of Mandrekar, who occupied the front passenger seat. The defence argued that the tragedy was an unforeseen accident, stressing that Shirgaonkar had no motive and that his blood alcohol level—recorded at 20 mg per 100 ml—was below the threshold required to invoke harsher charges. The defence also contended that he had been cooperating fully with the investigation, making custodial interrogation unnecessary. However, the prosecution maintained that the accused was withholding key details, including the purpose of visiting an isolated area late at night.

North Goa Collector Chairs DLC Meeting, Clears Majority of FRA Claims

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The District Collector of North Goa Ankit Yadav, IAS, presided over a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, to review and decide on pending claims. A total of 149 claims were placed before the committee. Of these, 40 claims from Maloli village were rejected



following requests for withdrawal by the applicants. Another 29 claims from Maloli were

turned down as the land in question falls under areas cultivated by the Goa Forest Development

Corporation (GFDC). The committee approved 6 claims from Golaulim village, 15 claims from Codal village, and 58 claims from Derodem village. One additional claim was referred to the Forest Department for further clarification. The meeting aimed at ensuring timely disposal of claims and addressing pending matters under the provisions of the FRA, 2006.

Sawant calls for tighter coordination to boost music education outcomes

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant today underscored the urgent need for better coordination between the Education Department, the Art & Culture Department and music instructors, noting that the State's substantial spending on instruments and trainers is not translating into the desired results. Sawant said the



true impact of these major investments will be felt only when all concerned agencies and teachers work in sync to ensure students receive meaningful training and visible progress in music education.

Goa Electricity Dept moves ahead with cable clean-up after HC refuses stay

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Electricity Department (GED) has gained momentum in its campaign to clear overhead cables placed by TV and internet operators on its power poles, after the Bombay High Court on Thursday declined to grant a stay on the operators' plea. The decision enables GED to continue removing what it terms "unauthorised encumbrances" that hinder power infrastructure maintenance. For years, private service providers have relied on electricity poles to support their cables, resulting in dense clusters of wires



that officials say impede repairs and raise safety concerns, particularly during storms.

Chief Electrical Engineer Stephen Fernandes, speaking to this publication, said the department will move forward with caution to prevent disruptions. "We need a workable long-term system.

Eventually, cable operators will have to install their own independent structures

and stop depending on electricity poles," he said. Fernandes noted that abrupt or careless removal of cables could knock out internet connectivity for thousands of homes, businesses and government offices. "We must first assess how removals can be executed without triggering widespread outages. Random cutting could severely impact connectivity," he cautioned.

Goa Govt Strengthens Oversight on Non-Biodegradable Packaging Under DRS Rules

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has introduced stricter regulatory measures for non-biodegradable packaging under the Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS), granting enforcement officials expanded powers to seize products and penalise manufacturers, dealers and retailers that fail to meet statutory requirements. According to the latest amendments notified by the Department of Environment & Climate Change, violators now face significantly higher



penalties— including fines up to ₹25,000, confiscation of entire product batches and criminal action in cases involving tampering with the mandatory Unique Serial Identifier (USI). The notification issued by Director (Environment) Sachin Desai, mandates that every DRS-covered item must carry a clear, readable and scannable USI throughout all stages of movement in the market — from manufacturing and import to storage, transport, distribution and retail sale. In a substantial escalation of enforcement powers, officials are now

authorised to enter and inspect warehouses, business premises, shops, transport points or "any other place" to verify compliance. A key clause states that any entity found altering, removing, forging or manipulating the USI on DRS products will be liable for fines up to ₹25,000, seizure of the entire batch and potential prosecution under other relevant laws. The amendments further clarify that products seized for lacking a proper USI may be returned only if the responsible entity corrects the deficiency within 15 days; failing this, the items may be retained for prosecution or disposed of by authorities.

Two Kidnapping Cases Solved in South Goa

■ Vasco and Margao Police Trace Missing Minors to Ratnagiri and Uttar Pradesh.

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO/MARGAO: In two separate kidnapping incidents reported from Vasco and Navelim, South Goa Police successfully traced and rescued three missing minors within days of their disappearance, using coordinated field operations, technical surveillance and interstate police cooperation. Vasco Case: Boy Traced to Ratnagiri Within 48 Hours A complaint was filed by Laxmi Kunashekar Pillai of Mangor Hill, stating that on 19 November 2025 at around 1:30 pm, unknown persons kidnapped her minor nephew from near Municipal High School, Vasco. Acting swiftly, a special team was formed under PI Vaibhav D. Naik, Vasco Police Station. While ground teams carried out extensive



searches across Vasco and adjoining regions, the technical surveillance unit worked relentlessly and successfully tracked the boy to Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra within 48 hours. The child was safely taken into custody and will be reunited with his family. The investigation was led by PSI Nikhil M. Naik Dessai, supervised by PI Vaibhav Naik, SDPO Vasco Shri Gurudas Kadam, under the overall supervision of SP South, Shri Tikam Singh Verma. Margao Case: Two Missing Boys Traced to Uttar Pradesh. In another case, Mohamad Taki of Navelim reported

that on 18 November 2025 around 4:15 pm, unidentified individuals kidnapped his two minor sons from Moddi, Navelim. A dedicated surveillance team was set up under PI Suraj Samant, Margao Town Police Station. Ground teams conducted thorough searches at KTC Bus Stand, Margao Railway Station, and across other parts of Goa, while the technical unit monitored digital trails continuously. Using a combination of human intelligence and technical surveillance, Margao Police successfully traced both boys in Uttar Pradesh on 21 November 2025. The operation was carried out by PSI Sanjay Velip, under the guidance of PI Suraj Samant, supervised by SDPO Margao Sidhant U. Shirodkar, and under the overall supervision of SP South, Tikam Singh Verma.

60-Year-Old Pedestrian Seriously Injured in Bambolim After Being Hit by Speeding Motorcycle

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A 60-year-old woman suffered grievous injuries after being struck by a speeding motorcycle at Bambolim last month. Agacaim Police have registered a case of rash and negligent driving against the motorcyclist. In a complaint lodged on behalf of the State, HC Ulhas Gaonkar of Agacaim Police Station reported that on 14 October 2025



at around 9:30 am, the accused rider Ramu Jaigadi (47), a resident of Bhatlem-Panaji, was riding a TVS Star City (GA-07-B-4054) towards Margao. When he reached opposite Holy Cross

Church, Bambolim, Jaigadi allegedly rode at high speed and hit a pedestrian, Nilima Parab (60), a resident of Kumbharjua, who was crossing the road at the time. The impact caused her to fall and sustain grievous injuries. The rider also suffered minor injuries. Agacaim Police have registered an offence for rash and negligent driving. Further investigation is underway under HC Ulhas Gaonkar.

Taxi Drivers Booked for Restraining, Abusing Rival Driver at Palolem

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Canacona Police have registered a case against ten taxi drivers for allegedly restraining and abusing another driver near a resort at Palolem. According to a complaint filed by Mayur Rane of Sirvoi-Quepem, the incident occurred on 18

November 2025 around 3:45 pm near Marron Sea View Resort, Palolem. The complainant stated that his driver, Shaheed Abdul Majid Betkari, was on his way to pick up customers when he was allegedly stopped by Viraj Pagi, driver of a Maruti Suzuki Ertiga, along with nine other taxi drivers. The group, acting in

furtherance of a common object, reportedly formed an unlawful assembly, wrongfully restrained Betkari, and abused him in filthy language over taxi-related rivalry in the area. Canacona Police have registered an offence, and further investigation is being conducted by ASI Anand Naik.

Restaurant Cook Found Dead Near Mayem Lake; Police Probe Underway

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A 51-year-old cook working at a popular restaurant near Mayem Lake was found dead on Thursday evening, prompting an investigation by Bicholim Police.

According to police, at 8:18 pm, restaurant owner Vishwajeet Ghadi of Mayem Deck Restaurant informed authorities that his cook, Sanjay Tukaram Gaude, a resident of the quarters behind the restaurant and originally



from Amboli, Maharashtra, was found lying unresponsive at his residence. Gaude was immediately shifted to CHC Bicholim, where the doctor on duty declared him dead. Police conducted an inquest panchanama over the body,

which has since been sent to GMC Bambolim for post-mortem examination to establish the cause of death. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Jayprakash Jankar of Bicholim Police Station.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Rama urges police to scrutinise 2 politicians he named

dispute but soon gained statewide attention due to Kankonkar's civic activism and Cardozo's criminal background. All accused were arrested shortly after the incident, prompting public calls for stern action. Investigators have opposed bail, arguing that the accusations are serious and releasing the accused could endanger witnesses or influence the inquiry. They maintain that the possibility of

a wider conspiracy is still being examined. Defence lawyers claim the allegations are exaggerated and that the accused have cooperated with police. Police say verifying Kankonkar's caste certificate is crucial to determine whether the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act applies. However, the absence of parallel verification into the two politicians mentioned by the victim has triggered concerns about

uneven investigative standards. The court is expected to hear full arguments when the bail hearing resumes on November 26. What the court decides next may not only influence the direction of the criminal case but also shape public confidence in whether scrutiny extends equally to ordinary citizens and powerful individuals alike.

Mhaje Ghar Yojana Open for 6 Months; 'First and Last Chance,' Says CM

applications. Calling it a "first and last chance," Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant urged citizens to make full use of the opportunity. Reaffirming the government's commitment, the Chief Minister said the scheme aims to benefit all Goans, "regardless of caste or creed," and is intended as a one-time regularisation opportunity for houses constructed on government or comunidade land before February 28, 2014. This assurance comes despite objections raised by certain groups against the initiative. To ensure smooth implementation,

Sawant announced that special camps will soon be organised across all panchayat and municipal areas to assist residents in securing the required residence certificates. "These camps will issue on-the-spot residence certificates for houses existing before 2014," he said. The Chief Minister also declared significant reforms to streamline related services. House repair certificates will now be issued within three days, while bifurcation certificates will be provided within seven days of application.

Congress Reiterates Stand Against Defection; Alliance Decision for ZP Soon

Yuri Alemão stating that the party will not tolerate defectors, especially while cases are being contested in court. "Defection is something our party is fighting against. Our leader Rahul Gandhi has clearly said that defection should be stopped," Alemão asserted. Meanwhile, Goa

Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Amit Patkar said that the party will decide on forming alliances for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat (ZP) elections only after discussions with like-minded partners. "We are supposed to meet them today. We will discuss some developments

that have taken place during the last two to three days," Patkar said. The Congress ZP committee convened in Margao on Saturday to review ongoing preparations. In a separate development, Quepem MLA Altone D'Costa has raised strong objections to the Mormugao

Port Authority's (MPA) reported move to intervene at Betul Port, warning that such involvement would adversely affect tourism, disrupt traditional fishing activities and jeopardise the livelihoods of residents in Betul, Cananguinim and neighbouring villages.

Fear after the darkest night: Sagar Nayak returns home, but not to peace

Team Goemkarponn

BAINA: The quiet lanes of Baina still carry the echo of a night that has unsettled an entire neighbourhood. For 60-year-old businessman Sagar Nayak, the victim of the brutal armed dacoity that shook Chamundi Arcade, recovery has been more than a medical process. It has been an emotional struggle. On Thursday, Nayak was discharged from the Goa Medical College and Hospital, but even as he walked out of the ward on his own strength, the weight of that night remained heavy in his eyes. At his brother's residence on the first floor of the same building — where he has temporarily



shifted the usually calm and reserved Nayak spoke to The Goan, revisiting every haunting detail. "I feel scared to go to my own house now," he said quietly, a sentence that revealed more than any police statement or medical bulletin ever could. His sixth-floor flat, once a familiar space, has turned into a site of trauma. "I don't feel like going back and my daughters are also scared.

The blood stains on the walls, the ransacked cupboards everything will bring back the memories of the darkest night of my life," he added. The decision to stay at his brother's home wasn't temporary escape. It was self-preservation. Moments of terror. The incident has already entered Baina's memory as one of the most shocking crimes in recent years: a gang of seven storming into a

private residence, tying the victim, assaulting him with iron rods, and leaving him grievously injured. But Nayak's retelling adds layers that only a survivor can articulate. "I had seen the dacoits at the basement while I was tied up in the gallery balcony," he recalled. It was the chilling realisation that the attackers were still close — just moments after they had left him wounded — that deepens his fear even today. The police, he acknowledges, reacted swiftly. "The police did a fantastic job and reached the site in quick time. While the first PCR arrived, within minutes two more PCRs joined them," he said. But what followed troubles him even now. While the officers focused

Two Injured After Car Rams Scooter from Behind at Mercés

Team Goemkarponn

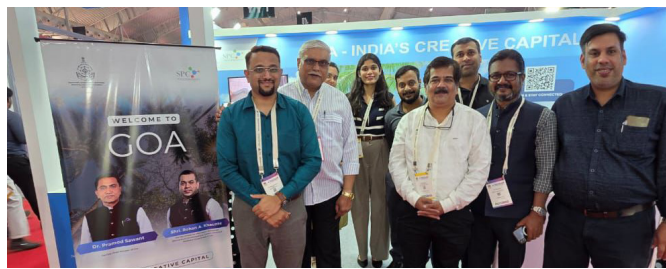
MERCES: A senior couple sustained injuries after their scooter was hit from behind by a car at Carmibhat, Mercés earlier this week. Old Goa Police have booked the car driver for rash and negligent driving. According to a complaint lodged by HC Rajan Zalmi of Old Goa Police Station on behalf of the State, the incident occurred on 18 November 2025 around 3:35 pm. The accused, Tanaveer Bhasha Amminbhavi (27), a resident of Indira Nagar, Chimbél and native of Karnataka, was driving a Hyundai Eon (GA-08-N-7981) towards St. Cruz. When

he reached Carmibhat, Mercés, Amminbhavi allegedly drove in a rash and negligent manner and rammed into a Hero Pleasure scooter (GA-07-H-8477) from behind. The scooter was being ridden by Udai Michel Dsouza (66), with Ms. Joanna Diana Dsouza (62) as pillion, both residents of Mercés. The impact caused the duo to fall onto the road and sustain injuries. The rider was discharged after treatment, while the pillion rider continues to undergo medical care at GMC Bambolim. Old Goa Police have registered a case and further investigation is underway under HC Rajan Zalmi.

DITE&C Goa Captures Global Attention at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pavilion at the 28th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 concluded on a high note, drawing strong interest from visitors, industry leaders and international delegates during the three-day event held at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC). Over 500 attendees visited the pavilion set up by the Department of Information Technology, Electronics



and Communications (DITE&C), Government of Goa, engaging with the State's digital initiatives, technology projects and fast-growing startup ecosystem.

The delegation representing Goa included Dr. Milind Sakhardande,

Joint Director, DITE&C; Shri Subrai Nadkarni, Chief Engineer, GITDC; Shri Siddharth Borker, Deputy Director, DITE&C; Shri Gaurabh Sawal, Assistant Director, DITE&C; and Shri D. S. Prashant, CEO, Startup and IT Promotion Cell.

Assistant HR Manager Booked for Rs 25 Lakh Payroll Fraud at Bambolim Resort

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: An Assistant HR Manager of a Bambolim-based gaming and hospitality establishment has been booked for allegedly siphoning off over ₹25 lakh by manipulating employee salaries over a two-year period. A complaint filed by Nikhil Shirodkar, Head of Security at Worldwide Resorts and Entertainment Pvt Ltd, stated that between 2023 and 2025, accused

Pandharinath Anant Govekar alias Viraj Govekar, a resident of Surla-Sankhalim and serving as Assistant HR Manager at "Strike by Big Daddy", was entrusted with payroll processing responsibilities. According to the complaint, Govekar allegedly credited excess salary amounts

totalling ₹25,33,270 into the bank accounts of six employees. He then reportedly instructed these employees to return the excess amounts to him via Google Pay for his personal benefit, thereby committing criminal breach of trust. The incident came to light following an internal audit, after which the company approached Panaji Police. The case



Goa CM Congratulates PACT Foundation's Sustainability Scholars Ahead of UK Study Visit

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant met and felicitated the three winners of the PACT Foundation's Scholar Programme, who have been selected to represent Goa and India at the QS Youth Impact Summit 2025 in London, UK. The meeting, held at the Chief Minister's residence, Mahalakshmi, Altinho, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to promoting youth leadership and sustainability-driven initiatives among Goan



students. Dr. Sawant warmly congratulated the scholars and highlighted the increasing importance of environmental stewardship, sustainability research and youth-led innovation. He encouraged them to absorb global best practices during their visit and return with new ideas to support Goa's development. "Not everyone receives an opportunity like this. Make

the most of it, learn deeply, and bring that knowledge back to our community," he advised. The PACT Foundation, a Goa-based NGO working to uplift the education sector, organised the PACT Scholar Programme across colleges in September and October, followed by rigorous interviews.

From this process, three students were

selected to attend the international summit. The chosen scholars are Ms. Sumaiya Khan (St. Xavier's College, Mapusa), Ms. Andrea Cardoso (Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim), and Ms. Raisa Mariette Pinto (V. M. Salgaocar College of Law, Panaji). PACT Foundation Founder, Dr. Ashwin Fernandes, briefed the Chief Minister on the organisation's broader efforts under the Yuva Shakti movement to cultivate globally aware and socially responsible youth leaders.

26-Year-Old Man Found Dead at Home in Bambolim; Police Register UD Case

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: A 26-year-old resident of Hillside Enclave, Alto Bambolim, was brought dead to the Goa Medical College (GMC) on Wednesday night, following which Old Goa Police registered an Unnatural Death (UD) case. According to a wireless message received from GMC at 9:25 pm, the patient, Kevin Jonathan D'Mello (26), was declared brought dead at the casualty ward under

MLC No. 25/18136. Old Goa Police subsequently registered UD No. 66/2025. Police contacted the deceased's father, Zelio S. D'Mello of Hillside Enclave, Santa Cruz, who informed that his son had been suffering from severe depression and anxiety. A team led by LPSI Jasvita Naik visited the residence. Preliminary inquiry indicated that the young man had taken the extreme step while at home.

IFFI Day 2: Masterclasses, Global Dialogues & Young Talent Drive India's Creative Surge

Nurturing Young Talent, Fostering Global Collaborations, and Celebrating India's Cinematic Innovation



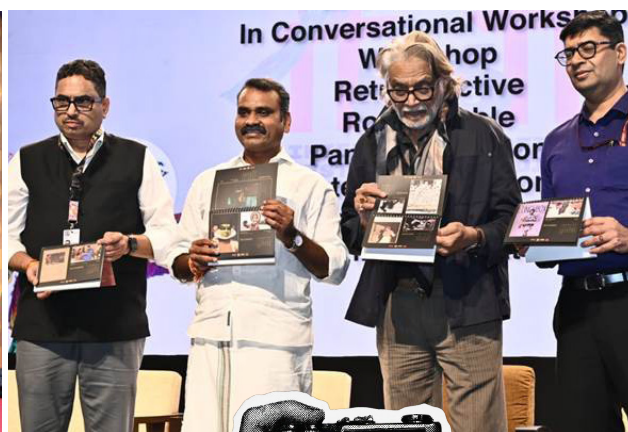
IFFI 2025 continued its dynamic showcase of India's cinema with masterclasses, talent programs, and international collaborations. The Masterclass Series at Kala Academy opened to the public for the first time, featuring participants from Australia, Japan,

Germany, and Canada, offering aspiring filmmakers direct access to global expertise. The Creative Minds of Tomorrow 2025 program kicked off with 125 emerging filmmakers taking on a 48-hour filmmaking challenge, promoting creativity, resilience, and innovation. Evening red-

carpet events brought glamour to the festival, featuring world and India premieres and lively interactions between stars and audiences. The Ambassadors' Roundtable strengthened international partnerships, focusing on co-production, technology exchange, and India's projected USD 31.6-billion

media and entertainment sector growth. A special In-Conversation session, Cinema and Culture: Reflections from Two Eras, highlighted evolving storytelling across generations, with insights from filmmakers Muzaffar Ali and Shaad Ali. The festival also emphasized knowledge-sharing and networking,

with workshops, panel discussions, and screenings creating opportunities for collaboration. From nurturing young talent to fostering global partnerships, IFFI continues to reinforce India's position as a vibrant hub for creativity, innovation, and world-class cinema.



When Cinema Thinks Green: Global Voices Unite for Sustainable Storytelling



At the 56th International Film Festival of India, the panel "Reel Green: Sustainability and Storytelling Across Four Cinemas" brought together filmmakers from India, Japan, Spain, and Australia to explore how environmental consciousness is reshaping filmmaking. Moderated by Naman Ramachandran, the discussion blended cultural insight with practical realities, highlighting the future of responsible cinema. Indian

filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda opened with a reminder of cinema's heavy carbon footprint, urging the industry to adopt greener habits. Japanese producer Mina Moteki, however, pointed out the difficulties low-budget productions face in implementing such practices, though she noted a gradual shift as younger crews embrace sustainability. Spain's Anna Saura stressed that sustainability is a creative responsibility, not a compromise, and

highlighted Spain's Green Film Certification as a model for encouraging eco-friendly production. Australian filmmaker Garth Davis added that stories themselves can influence environmental awareness, explaining how Australian productions prioritise respect for nature and ensure filming locations are protected.

The panel agreed that the younger generation is driving this movement, pushing for sustainable sets, greener narratives, and a long-term cultural

shift. They also highlighted practical steps reducing waste, reusing materials, preferring real locations, and seeking stronger policy support.

The session concluded with a shared belief that sustainability is a mindset. Across four nations and filmmaking traditions, the message was clear: cinema can be creative, impactful, and environmentally responsible, inspiring a greener world both on screen and behind the scenes.



Delhi Blast Case: Terror Doctor Confesses, Reveals 2 Year Conspiracy

■ NIA Interrogation Uncovers Self-Funded Plot, Foreign Links, and Serial Blast Plans.

New Delhi: The investigation into the Delhi blast on November 10 has exposed a meticulously planned terror conspiracy linked to the Jaish-e-Mohammed network. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) revealed that Dr Muzammil Shakeel, an associate of suicide bomber Umar Mohammad, confessed to preparing for the attack over the past two years. According to sources, Shakeel's role involved procuring explosives, electronic components, and other bomb-making materials. He purchased urea and ammonium



nitrate—both highly volatile when combined—and 26 quintals of NPK fertilizer from Gurugram and Nuh in Haryana. The chemicals were stored in a deep freezer to maintain stability, and a local flour mill was used to grind the urea. Umar handled processing the fertilizer and assembling



the explosives. The attack, which killed 13 people near the Red Fort, was reportedly a panic detonation of a larger planned serial blast across multiple cities. The conspiracy was entirely self-funded, with members contributing a total of Rs 26 lakh. Umar contributed Rs 2

lakh, Shakeel Rs 5 lakh, Adil Rather Rs 8 lakh, Muzaffar Rather Rs 6 lakh, and Shaeen Saeed Rs 5 lakh. A dispute over finances between Umar and Shakeel at Al Falah University, Faridabad, resulted in Umar transferring his Red EcoSport to Shakeel, which was later recovered by investigators. Shakeel also admitted to purchasing an AK-47 for Rs 6.5 lakh, recovered from Adil Rather's locker. The module reportedly had foreign connections, including instructions from Okasa of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

India Restarts Tourist Visas for Chinese Citizens After 5-Year Hiatus

■ Move Follows Resumption of Direct Flights and Strengthening Diplomatic Ties.

New Delhi: India has resumed issuing tourist visas to Chinese citizens worldwide, ending a five-year suspension imposed following the 2020 Galwan clash. The decision marks a significant step in restoring people-to-people ties between the two nations. The move follows a series of diplomatic developments in 2025, including the January agreement between India and China to resume direct passenger flights. Officials confirmed that a July directive formally recommended restarting tourist visas for Chinese



nationals. In June 2025, the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra pilgrimage, halted for five years, also resumed, with the first group of Indian pilgrims crossing into Tibet. Earlier, on April 1, marking 75 years of diplomatic relations, Presidents Xi Jinping and Droupadi Murmu, along with Premier Li Qiang and PM Modi, exchanged messages reaffirming a commitment to stability.



Chirag Paswan Declines Deputy CM Post, Eyes Expansion of LJP(RV) Beyond Bihar

■ Union Minister Credits PM Modi for Party's Success, Signals Plans for NDA Expansion in Other States

New Delhi: Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Friday clarified that he has no intention of appearing "greedy" by demanding the Deputy Chief Minister position, as he thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for granting two cabinet berths to his Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) in Bihar's new government. Speaking at a press conference, Paswan highlighted the party's performance in the recent assembly polls, where the LJP(RV) won 19 out of 29 contested seats, often in areas considered weaker for the NDA. "Our success was possible because of people's blessings and the Prime Minister's support. Two cabinet berths are enough. How much

more greedy can Chirag Paswan be?" he said. Reflecting on the party's journey, Paswan recalled the challenging phase in 2021 when the LJP was split, and contrasted it with the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, where the party contested five seats and won all, attributing the victories to the alliance and the Prime Minister's faith. Paswan also outlined plans to expand the party's footprint beyond Bihar, targeting upcoming assembly elections in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab as part of the NDA. "After the recent success in Bihar, we are seriously preparing to contest in these states as an NDA partner," he stated.

PM Modi Hails Implementation of Four Labour Codes, Calls It a Historic Reform

■ Codes to Ensure Workers' Rights, Social Security, and Ease of Doing Business.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lauded the implementation of four landmark labour codes, describing them as a historic reform that "greatly empowers our workers" and strengthens the foundation for universal social security. The codes coming into effect from today include the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code



on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. Collectively, they

consolidate and rationalise 29 existing labour laws. In a statement on X, the Prime Minister said, "Shrimev Jayate! Today, our Government has given effect to the Four Labour Codes. It is one of the most comprehensive and progressive labour-oriented reforms since Independence. It significantly simplifies compliance, promotes Ease of Doing Business,

and empowers our workforce." The reforms aim to ensure minimum and timely payment of wages, safe working conditions, and remunerative opportunities, particularly for women and youth. PM Modi emphasized that the codes will boost job creation, enhance productivity, and accelerate India's journey towards a Viksit Bharat.

Tragic Tejas Jet Crash at Dubai Air Show Claims Life of Wing Commander Namansh Syal

■ Fighter Jet Crashes During Aerial Display, Eyewitnesses Left Shocked.

Dubai: A single-seat Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) crashed during a flying demonstration at the Dubai Air Show, tragically killing its pilot, Wing Commander Namansh Syal. The incident occurred at around 2:10 pm local time at Al Maktoum International Airport. Eyewitnesses described the crash as sudden and devastating. The jet, performing a negative G manoeuvre followed by



a roll, descended rapidly before striking the ground. Attendee Abu Bakr, who captured the moments on video, said, "The jet started to go lower and lower. We thought the pilot would pull up the jet, but



it crashed on the spot. No one could believe it." The videos and photos show the aircraft engulfed in flames, sending thick black smoke into the sky. Close-up shots reveal the mangled and charred

wreckage of the fighter jet. Aviation experts explained that negative G forces occur when an aircraft experiences forces opposite to normal gravity, often during aerobatic manoeuvres or sudden descent. If not carefully managed, such forces can disorient pilots or cause loss of consciousness. Wing Commander Namansh Syal, 34, hailed from Patiyalkar village in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district.

Shubman Gill Ruled Out, Pant to Lead India in 2nd Test vs South Africa

■ B Sai Sudharsan, Nitish Kumar Reddy Return as India Adjusts Playing XI for Must-Win Test.

In Guwahati: India have made key changes to their playing XI ahead of the second Test against South Africa at Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Guwahati. Shubman Gill will miss the match due to a neck injury sustained on Day 2 of the first Test at Eden Gardens. In his absence, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant will captain India, becoming the 38th player to lead the team in Test cricket and only the second designated wicketkeeper to do so after MS Dhoni. B Sai Sudharsan returns to the playing XI as Gill's replacement. Sudharsan, who has featured in all five of India's Tests so far as a No. 3 batter, will bring stability to the batting lineup. Additionally, all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy, who played



both Tests against the West Indies last month, replaces Axar Patel in a bid to strengthen India's balance for the crucial encounter. South Africa have also made one adjustment, bringing in spin-bowling all-rounder Senuran Muthusamy in place of fast-bowling all-rounder Corbin Bosch. Muthusamy, who impressed during the two-match series against Pakistan last month, is expected to bolster the Proteas' spin attack and



contribute with the bat. Playing XIs: India: Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Washington Sundar, B Sai Sudharsan, Dhruv Jurel, Rishabh Pant (C & WK), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj South Africa: Ryan Rickelton, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Temba Bavuma (C), Tony de Zorzi, Tristan Stubbs, Kyle Verreynne (WK), Marco Jansen, Senuran Muthusamy, Simon



Harmer, Keshav Maharaj South Africa captain Temba Bavuma won the toss and opted to bat first in the inaugural Test at Barsapara. After a low-scoring first Test at Eden Gardens, Bavuma will be looking to anchor the innings and set up a strong total for the visitors. India will aim to bounce back in the must-win encounter under Pant's leadership, while South Africa will seek to secure a historic series victory on Indian soil.

Lakshya Sen Advances to Australian Open Semis, Satwik-Chirag Exit in Men's Doubles

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Australian Open Super 500, Friday: Lakshya Sen showcased resilience and skill to overcome Ayush Shetty and secure a spot in the men's singles semifinals, while India's top-seeded men's doubles pair, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, bowed out of the tournament. Seventh-seeded Sen, who had previously defeated 20-year-old Shetty at the Hong Kong Open earlier this year, won 23-21, 21-11 to set up a semifinal clash against Chinese-Taipei's second seed Chou Tien Chen. Chou, ranked world No. 9 and a 2018 Asian Games silver medalist, had advanced after a grueling 1 hour 23-minute win over Farhan Alwi, 13-21, 23-21, 21-16. The first game was tightly contested, with Sen



trailing 6-9 early on. The Almora shuttler gradually clawed back to lead 11-10 at the break and eventually closed out the opener 23-21 after Ayush squandered a game point. The second game was largely dominated by Sen, who raced to a 6-1 lead that extended to 15-7, before sealing the match in 53 minutes. Meanwhile, Satwik and Chirag, finalists at the Hong Kong Open and China Masters, were eliminated by the fifth-seeded Indonesian pair Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri, who won 21-19, 21-15.

Suyash Prabhudessai Appointed Captain of Goa Senior Men's Team

■ Goa Cricket Association Unveils 17-Member Squad Ahead of Prestigious T20 Tournament in Kolkata.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Cricket Association (GCA) has officially named Suyash Prabhudessai as the captain of the Goa Senior Men's cricket team for the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament, set to be held in Kolkata from 26th November to 8th December 2025. The 17-member squad brings together a mix of seasoned campaigners and promising young talent, aiming to deliver a strong performance on the national stage. The team comprises Abhinav Tejrana, Ishaan Gadekar, Deepraj Gaonkar, Darshan Misal, Mohit Redkar, Shubham Tari, Kashyap Bakhale, Rajshekhar

Harikant, Snehal Kauthankar, Amulya Pandrekar, Koushik V, Arjun Tendulkar, Lalit Yadav, Felix Alemiao, Vikash Singh, and Heramb Parab. With this combination, the GCA hopes to strike a balance between experience and youthful energy, enabling Goa to make a mark in one of India's most competitive domestic T20 tournaments. Speaking on the announcement, the GCA expressed confidence in the squad's potential and wished the players and support staff the very best for their campaign in Kolkata, emphasizing that the team is prepared to take on strong opposition and showcase the growing stature of Goan cricket on the national stage.

MCC Tigers Edge Past MCC Stallions in Thrilling 2-Run Win

■ Nail-Biting Finish at Margao Sees Tigers Hold Nerve to Secure MCL 11 Victory.

Panaji: In a gripping contest at the MCC Ground, Margao, the MCC Tigers secured a dramatic 2-run victory over the MCC Stallions in the MCL 11 T20 tournament, keeping fans on the edge of their seats until the final ball. Batting first, the Tigers posted a competitive 165 runs in 19.4 overs despite losing

both openers cheaply. Middle-order contributions from Nikit Naik Dalal (38), Vaibhav Naik (37), and Ketan Kunde (35) stabilized the innings, while late cameos from Rajaram Kundaikar (11*) and Dinraj Pai Khot (10) pushed the total to a defendable score. Stallions' bowlers, led by captain Nikhil Virginkar

(2/33) and Govind Gaonkar (2/28), kept the Tigers under pressure throughout their innings. Chasing 166, MCC Stallions fought valiantly but fell agonizingly short, finishing at 163 all out in 20 overs. Explosive opener Infancio Correia blazed 37 off 13 balls before retiring out, while Rueben Karekar

(34), Marzinho Almeida Coutinho (35), and skipper Nikhil Virginkar (34) kept the chase alive. However, the Tigers' bowlers held their nerve in the final overs to secure the win. Ketan Kunde's all-round brilliance earned him the Man of the Match award for his pivotal performance in guiding the Tigers to victory.



Goan Athletes Babu Gaonkar and Uddesh Majik Selected for UIPM World Championships

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Two Goan athletes, Babu Gaonkar from Sanguem and Uddesh Majik from Parye, Sattari, have earned selection in the India team for the UIPM World Pentathlon Biathlon, Triathlon, and Laser Run World Championships, scheduled to be held in Mossel Bay, South Africa, from 9th to 14th December 2025.

Babu Gaonkar will represent



India in the Laser Run event, while Uddesh Majik will compete in the Triathlon category.



Both athletes are set to depart from Mumbai on 4th December 2025 to participate in the championships. Sports Minister Ramesh Tawadkar, Director of Sports Ajay Gaude, and Secretary (Protocol) Sanjiv Gadkar, along with office bearers of the Modern Pentathlon Association of Goa, congratulated the two athletes on their selection, wishing them success in representing India on the international stage.