



Cruise Season Opens on a High at MPA

■ Celebrity Millenium brings over 2,000 international tourists, signals strong tourism rebound.



Team Goemkarponn

Vasco: The international cruise tourism season at the Mormugao Port Authority opened on a strong note on Monday with the arrival of Celebrity Millennium, which sailed in before dawn carrying more than 2,000 passengers. The vessel's entry set an upbeat tone for the months ahead, with port officials and tourism

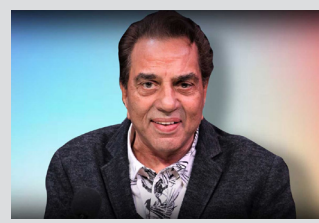
Season Kicks-off..

- ▶ First international cruise of the season arrives at mormugao port authority.
- ▶ Over 2,000 passengers disembark for day-long excursions across goa.
- ▶ International cruise terminal nearing completion, says mpa.
- ▶ Ropeway and marina projects back in focus to boost tourism.
- ▶ Local taxi operators, tour agencies report brisk business.
- ▶ Vessel arrived from singapore with multiple asian port calls before goa.
- ▶ Ship set to depart for mumbai after its scheduled halt.

stakeholders calling the turnout encouraging and commercially promising.

MPA Traffic Manager Jerome Clement said

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Veteran Actor Dharmendra Passes Away at 89, Weeks Before Milestone Birthday

■ Bollywood mourns the loss of its beloved 'He-Man'.

Mumbai: Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra died early Monday morning at the age of 89 at his Mumbai residence. The celebrated star, who would have turned 90 on December 8, had been battling age-related health issues and was recently discharged from Breach Candy Hospital after treatment for

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Goa, Norway Open New Channels for Collaboration in Tech and Tourism

■ High-level delegation explores joint opportunities in innovation, skilling, creative economy and sustainable tourism.

Top Deal...

- ▶ Goa hosts norwegian delegation for roundtable on tech, tourism and creative industries.
- ▶ Minister rohan khaunte says goa is building a model combining innovation, sustainability and quality of life.
- ▶ Goa highlights its growing startup ecosystem, ai skilling, electronic manufacturing and design-led innovation.
- ▶ Tourism officials pitch investment prospects in sustainable tourism, wellness, hospitality and adventure sectors.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa strengthened its international outreach on Monday as a high-level delegation from Norway met senior officials



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Country focus: Japan

- Two Seasons, Two Strangers / Tabi to Hibi
- Dear Stranger

Gala premeier

- Audacious Love (Gustaakh Ishq)
- Rudhivana

Goan Films

Ghar

Open Air Screening

- Miramar Beach
- Shyamchi Aai @ 7 Pm

Vagator Beach

- IF (Imaginary Friends) @ 7 Pm

Ravindra Bhavan (Margao)

- 12th Fail @ 7 pm

Workshop

Film is Made on Two Tables- Writing and Editing: A Perspective. By Raju Hirani

From Mind to Screen: Vision to Execution - An Editing workshop By Sreekar Prasad

Retrospective Rajinikanth

Baashha

Retrospective

Dastan-E-Guru Dutt : A Musical Retrospective

Restores Classics

Pulp Fiction

Indian Panorama

- Piplantri: A Tale Of Eco Feminism / Battlefield
- Chambal / Piranthanaal Vazhthukal
- Hamsafar / Barobabu
- Drushya Adrushya (F)
- Ru Ba Ru / Whispers Of The Mountains
- Where The Heart Is / Vimukt
- Piranthanaal Vazhthukal (F)
- Thudarum (F)
- Chhaava (F)

International Competition

- The Visual Feminist Manifesto
- Renoir / Runowaru
- Little Trouble Girls / Kaj ti je deklia
- Skin Of Youth / On ao tuoi tre

Special Screening

- Party
- CID
- Pyaasa

DAY 5

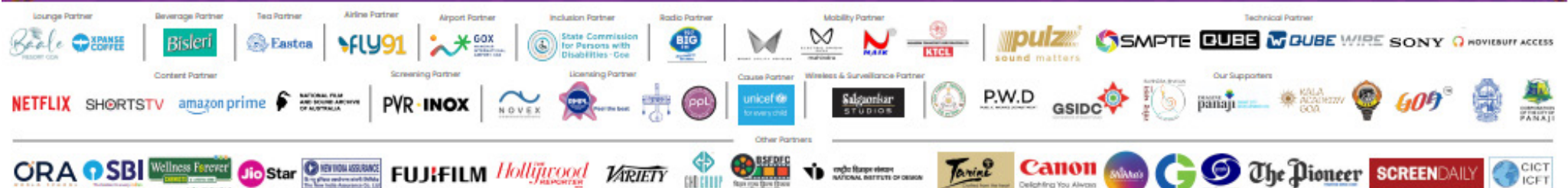
CINEMELA @ Kala Academy

- Gattu, The Prince & the Crown of Stone @ 8:30 am
- Manjummel Boys @ 10:00 / 10:15 / 10:30 am
- Bhupen Da, New Delhi Times @ 3:00 pm
- Darr @ 6:00 pm



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.

A Provocation Wrapped in Celebration: Goa Must Find Out Who Approved It

The controversy over the recent social media advertisement that linked Christmas to explicit and inappropriate themes is more than just another episode of insensitive marketing. It is a troubling reflection of a deeper, more deliberate attempt to exploit religious sentiment at a time of year meant for unity and reflection. The Church in Goa has voiced its anguish. The public has expressed distress. The police have now cancelled permission for the event at the centre of the ad. Yet the central question remains unanswered. How was such permission granted in the first place?

Christmas holds profound spiritual meaning for Christians. It is a time defined by compassion, peace and the birth of Jesus Christ. The season invites families and communities to come together in a spirit of goodwill. To twist this festival into a marketing hook built around explicit themes is not merely insensitive. It is provocative. It deliberately crosses a boundary that society instinctively respects, one grounded in the understanding that faith is not a commodity for shock-driven publicity.

The cancellation of the event by the police is the right step. But cancelling does not close the matter. If anything, it opens a more urgent line of inquiry. Who vetted the proposal? Who approved the permissions? Were the authorities fully aware of the nature of the event? Did the organisers misrepresent their purpose? Or was the approval granted without proper scrutiny?

The people of Goa deserve answers. Silence or vague explanations will only deepen suspicion and allow room for speculation that benefits no one. Accountability begins not only with taking down offensive content but

While offensive content appears frequently online, the timing, tone and messaging of this advertisement raise legitimate questions. Was this a careless act of tone-deaf marketing or a calculated attempt to provoke and create controversy?

The pattern across the country, where festivals of different faiths have repeatedly been targeted for "creative reinterpretation," suggests that this may not be accidental. And that is precisely why Goa must examine not just the advertisement, but the chain of decisions surrounding the event it promoted.

with understanding how administrative oversight failed in the first place.

The Church's appeal for an enquiry is therefore justified and necessary. This is not a matter of censorship. It is a matter of responsibility. The state must determine whether the advertisement was simply an ill-conceived marketing idea or part of a larger attempt to disrupt communal harmony by stirring emotions during a sensitive season. Goa cannot afford to take this lightly, especially in a climate where faith and identity are too often manipulated for personal, political or commercial gain.

Free expression is vital in any democracy. But freedom

comes with responsibility, and responsibility demands respect for the cultural and religious boundaries that shape our social balance. When expression deliberately insults or misrepresents a community's beliefs, it ceases to be creative expression and becomes provocation.

Beyond the religious dimension, there is a broader civic concern. Goa has long been admired for its peaceful coexistence, its ability to hold many identities together without hostility or fear. This incident may appear small in isolation, but such provocations have the potential to slowly erode the trust that sustains that coexistence.

Citizens must remain alert, not agitated. Outrage serves no purpose unless it translates into constructive vigilance. Goa's communities have historically shown remarkable maturity in handling sensitive issues. That same maturity is needed now.

As investigations move forward, authorities must ensure transparency, determine responsibility and make public the process that led to the approval and subsequent cancellation of the event. If procedural lapses occurred, they must be corrected. If deliberate misinformation was supplied by organisers, they must be held accountable.

The episode is a reminder that harmony is not guaranteed. It must be protected. Goa cannot permit sacred festivals to be misused for attention, nor can it overlook administrative lapses that allow such misuses to proceed unchecked.

The path ahead is clear. Withdraw the content fully. Conduct a thorough inquiry. Hold the responsible parties accountable. And above all, protect the peace and respect that have long defined the spirit of Goa.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Goa Cannot Ignore the Rising Tide of Crime

Another violent incident has shaken Goa, this time in Arpora where two workers at a food joint were brutally attacked with a koita over something as trivial as a plate of momos. The fact that such a senseless act could unfold in a public, busy locality speaks volumes about the growing erosion of safety in our State. Goa was once known for its serenity and its welcoming environment. Today, headlines increasingly tell a different story one marked by assaults, robberies, drug-related violence and rising lawlessness.

The latest attack is not an isolated case but part of a worrying pattern. Over the past few years, crimes involving sharp weapons, drunken assaults, and violent disputes have spiked across the coastal belt. Police statements often end with "further probe is on," yet citizens see little improvement in ground-level policing or preventive action. The sense of impunity some offenders display is alarming. Goa cannot afford complacency. As these crimes multiply, residents are left questioning whether the State is still the safe home it once was. Tourism, which thrives on a perception of peace, is equally at risk. It is time for the government, police and local bodies to acknowledge the scale of the problem and take immediate corrective measures. Stronger patrolling, quicker response systems, stricter enforcement against illegal migrants and substance-related crime, and a renewed community policing strategy are urgently needed. Goans deserve to feel safe in their own neighbourhoods. Unless decisive action is taken now, these disturbing incidents may become our new normal and that is something Goa simply cannot afford.

-Sharon Viegas, Assagao

Concerns Over Goa's New Telecom Policy

The Goa government's newly notified telecom infrastructure policy promises faster 5G rollout, but it also raises several concerns that deserve serious public discussion. While technological progress is welcome, the policy's aggressive push for towers, poles and small cells across the State may carry unintended consequences for communities, environment and local governance. A uniform approval system sounds efficient, yet it risks sidelining the voices of residents who live near proposed tower sites. The policy's emphasis on "streamlined" permissions could leave village panchayats with limited say, reducing the scope for genuine public scrutiny. With rentals fixed and applications routed only through the Central RoW Portal, local-level objections may be harder to register or address. There is also the issue of visual congestion and landscape impact. Goa's villages and heritage zones already struggle with unplanned infrastructure. A surge in 5G towers, even small cells, could alter skylines and disrupt the aesthetic value that defines much of the State. The policy's call for infrastructure sharing is positive, but unless strictly enforced, duplication may still occur. Environmental concerns remain unresolved. Although scientific studies continue to debate the safety of prolonged exposure to radiofrequency radiation, many communities prefer a precautionary approach. The new policy appears to prioritise speed over careful assessment. Lastly, the steep penalties and higher renewal charges could create a climate of compliance without accountability, where operators rush installations to secure long-term spots rather than plan responsibly.

Goa needs technological advancement, but it must not come at the cost of transparency, aesthetics or community participation. A more balanced, consultative approach would better protect public interest as the State moves into the 5G era.

-Shanto Naik, Margao

Installation of 77-ft Lord Rama Statue in Final Stage

■ PM Modi to Unveil Monument During 550th Year Celebrations at Partagali.

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA. The installation of the 77-foot statue of Lord Rama at Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math has reached the final stage, with organisers confirming that the structure will be ready ahead of the unveiling ceremony. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi has accepted the invitation of Vidhyadeesh Swami of SSGPJM to attend the Sardha Panchashatamanostsava celebrations marking 550 years of the Math's establishment. The Prime Minister is scheduled to unveil the bronze statue on Friday, 28 November. The statue, constructed at a separate location, was

transported to Partagali in three pieces. All three segments have been joined. Only the bow and arrow and one hand require installation. A source from the organising committee said the remaining work will be completed well in time for the Prime Minister's programme. The Math is expecting lakhs of devotees for the



eleven-day celebrations. In preparation, organisers have built more than 650 flats to accommodate guests, established a helipad near the Math for the Prime Minister's arrival and launched several development projects that are expected to continue for another two to three years.



6 Trains to Add Temporary Halts at Canacona for Partagali Math Fest

■ Konkan Railway Approves One Minute Stoppage from 27 November to 6 December.

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA. Six trains on the Konkan Railway route will make a temporary one-minute halt at Canacona Railway Station to facilitate devotees travelling for the Sardha Panchashatamanostsava celebrations at Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in Partagali. The trains granted additional halts are 12619 LTT to Mangaluru, 12620 Mangaluru to LTT, 16337 Okha to Ernakulam, 16338 Ernakulam to Okha, 16333 Veraval to Thiruvananthapuram and 16334 Thiruvananthapuram to Veraval.

The temporary stoppage will be effective from 27 November to 6 December 2025. Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd issued a notification on Saturday following a request from the Math. The notification states

that the temporary halts have been approved in view of the 550th year celebrations of the revered institution, which is hosting an eleven-day programme from 27 November to 6 December. The approval follows a letter from the Math dated 11 November, informing the railway that a large number of devotees and followers from Mangaluru, Udupi, Karwar, Gokarna and regions along the Konkan belt are expected to travel for the event. The Math has also requested permission to install a four-foot-by-four-foot information kiosk at Canacona Station to guide arriving devotees. The Konkan Railway notification does not mention the kiosk request. According to sources in the organising committee, the Math is awaiting a separate communication from the railway on this matter to support visitors arriving by train.

Goa Church Slams Ad Linking Christmas to Explicit Themes

■ Seeks Inquiry into "Deeply Offensive" Content.

Team Goemkarponn

The Church in Goa has expressed strong anguish over a recent social media advertisement that it says wrongfully links the sacred celebration of Christmas with explicit and unrelated themes. Church authorities described the content as deeply offensive to Christian sentiments and a distortion of a festival rooted in joy, peace, and the birth of Jesus Christ. In a statement, the Church said such portrayals disrespect the beliefs of an entire community and



undermine the values of mutual respect in a diverse society. It called on the creators and promoters of the advertisement to withdraw it immediately and reflect on the hurt caused.

Goa Notifies New Telecom Policy to Fast-Track 5G Rollout

■ Policy sets uniform tower rentals, tougher penalties and faster clearances to push statewide 5G rollout.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Goa government has notified a new telecom infrastructure policy aimed at accelerating the rollout of 5G services across the state. The policy introduces uniform guidelines for installing mobile towers, poles and small cells on government land, along with a streamlined approval process. According to the notification, rental charges for ground-based towers in urban areas have been fixed at ₹3 lakh for a five-year term,



while rooftop towers will cost ₹60,000. Rural areas will pay half these rates. The framework also prescribes registration and processing fees, stricter penalties for unauthorised towers and a 50 percent increase in renewal charges. Officials said the policy encourages telecom operators to share tower infrastructure to reduce duplication and improve efficiency.

Cansaulim Villagers Stop Alleged Trespass by Railway Officials During Underpass Work

■ Residents accuse SWR and RVNL of entering private land without consent, demand full halt and legal action.

Team Goemkarponn

Vasco: Tensions rose sharply in Cansaulim on Sunday after villagers alleged that officials of South Western Railway and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited entered private properties with heavy machinery to begin work on a proposed railway underpass near Cansaulim Railway Station. Landowners claimed the sudden arrival of machinery amounted to criminal trespass and

said no land acquisition process or prior consultation had taken place. Residents gathered at the site after excavation reportedly began on land belonging to Maria Celina Douza Antao in Survey Nos. 2/6 and 2/8. Villagers said RVNL personnel continued work despite objections raised on the spot. They also alleged that Cortalim MLA Anthony Vas was present but did not intervene to address their concerns. The incident prompted a



swift political response. GPCC president Amit Patkar, South Goa MP Captain Viriato Fernandes, Fatorda MLA and Goa Forward Party

president Vijay Sardessai and several other senior Congress leaders and activists reached the site following calls from villagers. Their presence

sharpened scrutiny of the legality of the ongoing activity. Residents voiced anger that leaders from adjoining constituencies responded immediately while their own MLA remained silent. They said the lack of communication had deepened frustration in the community. Tensions escalated further when, in the presence of the joint magistrate, the South Goa MP and the Fatorda MLA, an RVNL official identified as Sahoo allegedly told the affected landowner to

"do what you want to do." Villagers said the remark reflected a dismissive attitude toward their rights. Joint Mamlatdar Jennifer was deputed to the site but referred the matter to the Mormugao deputy collector. Villagers said this lack of immediate administrative intervention added to the unrest. Under sustained pressure from residents and political leaders, part of the machinery deployed for the underpass work was removed.

AGFTDA Presses Police for Stronger Night Vigilance After Baina Dacoity

■ Distributors seek swift arrests and tighter patrolling following a violent break-in at a member's Vasco home.

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Members of the All Goa FMCG and Telecom Distributors Association met Mormugao PI Sheriff Jacques and DySP Gurudas Kadam on Saturday evening to raise concerns over the midnight dacoity at the Vasco residence of distributor Sagar Nayak on 17 November. The delegation submitted a detailed representation outlining rising fear among distributors and urging immediate improvements in policing across the port town. In the memorandum, AGFTDA General Secretary Chetan Kapdi said the association was deeply concerned that a gang of seven to eight armed intruders managed



to force their way into a sixth floor flat at Chamundi Arcade, assault the family and flee with cash and jewellery. Kapdi said the attack had left the victims traumatised and insisted the crime could have been prevented with consistent night patrolling and surveillance. He said distributors engaged in FMCG, telecom, essentials and cosmetics contribute significantly to government revenue but now fear for their safety due to what he described as a decline in preventive policing. AGFTDA President Darryl

Pereira said the incident reflects a growing sense of insecurity in a state once known for its open door culture. He said the police have a primary duty to protect citizens and any slackness can have serious consequences, as seen in this case. Pereira urged police leadership to take charge of the response, ensure alert night patrolling, strengthen surveillance and intelligence gathering and personally monitor the investigation to ensure the accused are traced and arrested without delay.

Two Injured in Koita Attack at Baga; Accused Absconding

Team Goemkarponn

BAGA: Calangute Police have registered a case after two men sustained serious injuries in an early morning assault near a Royal Enfield showroom at Baga, Arpora. According to the complaint filed by Dinesh Sunar, 32, a resident of Assagao and originally from Nepal, the incident occurred between

3:30 am and 4:00 am on Sunday. The complainant alleged that Bobi, 31, a kitchen helper residing in Baga and originally from Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, attacked his brother Haribala Sunar, 37, and cousin Ganesh Kasera, 23, with a metal koita (sharp-edged weapon). Police said the attack was allegedly motivated by previous

enmity. Haribala reportedly suffered a deep cut injury on the left side of his face, while Ganesh sustained multiple serious cut injuries on his left forearm, left palm and back. After the assault, the accused allegedly fled the scene along with the weapon. Calangute Police have registered an offence and launched a search to trace the absconding accused.

Man Booked for Trespass, Abuse and Threatening Woman in Davorlim

Team Goemkarponn

DAVORLIM: Margao Police have registered a case against a man for allegedly trespassing into a woman's house, abusing her and her daughter, and damaging household property during an altercation. According to the complaint filed by the victim, a resident of Davorlim, the incident occurred around 8:30 pm on November 22, when the accused, Willy



Fernandes, a resident of Tembi, Raia, allegedly broke open and damaged the main door of her house before forcefully entering. Inside the premises, the accused allegedly abused the woman and her daughter in filthy language, outraged the woman's modesty by calling her

derogatory names, and threatened her with dire consequences. He also reportedly damaged household articles and personal belongings, causing financial loss. The dispute is said to have arisen over issues related to the relationship between the accused and the complainant's daughter. The case is being investigated by LPSI Sonal Gaunkar of Margao Police Station, and further inquiry is in progress.

North Goa Police Seize 2.9 kg Ganja in Back-to-Back Raids; Two Arrested

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: In a continued offensive against the drug trade, North Goa Police arrested two persons and seized nearly 2.9 kilograms of suspected Ganja, valued at close to ₹3 lakh, during coordinated raids carried out in the Calangute and Saligao jurisdictions over the past two days. Acting on credible intelligence, a Calangute Police team on November

23 conducted a raid near the Helipad at Sinqureim, Candolim, where R Bharath, 23, a resident of Rangareddy, Hyderabad, was intercepted while allegedly arriving to supply narcotic substances to prospective customers. He was found in illegal possession of 2.080 kg of greenish leafy flowery tops suspected to be Ganja, worth approximately ₹2,08,000. The raid was conducted in the presence of panch witnesses



by a team comprising PSI Saieel Vaigankar, PC Yogesh Bordekar, PC Peter Fernandes, PC Pritesh Kinlekar and PC Abhishek Gawas. A complaint

was filed by PSI Saieel Vaigankar, based on which an NDPS offence was registered by PSI Vishwajit Dhavalikar. A day earlier, on November 22, Saligao Police carried out a raid at Pilerne, during which Mohammad Kader Khan, a resident of Kolkata, West Bengal, was allegedly caught red-handed in possession of 852 grams of suspected Ganja, valued at around ₹85,000. The operation was executed by PSI

Akshay Gaonkar, PSI Akshay Fatarpekar, HC Vishant Mayekar, PC Srikrishna Redkar, PC Siddharth Parab and PC Yogesh Teli. The accused has been remanded to four days of police custody. Both operations were conducted under the supervision of PI Milind Bhuimbar, with overall supervision of SDPO Porvorim Vishwesh Karpe and SP North Harishchandra Madkaikar. Further investigation in both cases is underway.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Cruise Season Opens on a High at MPA

the port is entering an important phase of tourism-focused expansion. He confirmed that work on the new international cruise terminal is nearing completion and will greatly boost the port's ability to receive large vessels while improving the

passenger experience. Clement added that the port is simultaneously pushing ahead with proposals for a ropeway and a marina, projects that are expected to enhance Goa's cruise tourism ecosystem. Passengers were welcomed with traditional

Goan hospitality. A brass band performed at the terminal, and tour operators set up counters to guide visitors toward city tours, heritage routes, beach excursions and spice plantation experiences, which officials said were among the most popular choices.

Tourist taxi operators also reported a surge in business. Umesh Mandrekar of the Murgaooncha Raja taxi union said operators had mobilised vehicles in advance to ensure smooth transfers for the large group of passengers.

Goa, Norway Open New Channels for Collaboration in Tech and Tourism

during a roundtable organised by the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications and Tourism, Rohan A. Khaunte, along with DITE&C officials Kabir Shirgaonkar and Dr Milind Sakhardande, GTDC's marketing head Dr Gavin Dias and Startup and IT Promotion Cell CEO D. S. Prashant. Representatives from Kilowatt and other Goan stakeholders were also

present. The Norwegian side included senior members from the Norwegian Cybersecurity Cluster, NICCI, Gjøvikregionen Utvikling, Smart Farm AS, Nordic Intent, and representatives from clean-tech and innovation firms. Addressing the delegation, Minister Khaunte said Goa is advancing a development model where innovation is integrated with creativity and sustainable tourism.

Veteran Actor Dharmendra Passes Away at 89, Weeks Before Milestone Birthday

breathing complications. Dharmendra, born Dharmendra Kewal Krishan Deol, was among

Indian cinema's most enduring and adored icons. His career began in 1960 with "Dil Bhi Tera Hum

Bhi Tere," and over the next six decades he built one of Bollywood's most memorable legacies. He

became a household name with roles that ranged from the charming romantic hero to the rugged action star.

AAP Ramps Up ZP Campaign With Over 50 Meetings Across Colva and Benaulim

■ AAP drives one of Goa's strongest grassroots pushes as residents shape constituency-wise manifesto.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Aam Aadmi Party has mounted one of its most intensive Zilla Panchayat campaigns in Salcette, with MLA Capt. Venzy Viegas leading a sustained outreach effort across the Benaulim and Colva constituencies. Over the past several weeks, Capt. Venzy has conducted more than fifty manifesto meetings and health camps, creating what is being seen as one of the most extensive ground-level engagements in Goa's ZP election season. Held ward by ward, these meetings were designed to gather local



grievances and translate them into practical manifesto commitments drafted directly from public feedback. The MLA has kept his approach straightforward. Meet every voter. Listen to every concern. Build a ZP team that mirrors the aspirations of the constituency. This method

has earned AAP consistent praise from residents who say the party's decentralised manifesto-building process gives them a genuine voice in shaping development priorities. People in both constituencies say the constant documentation of their suggestions marks a break from symbolic consultations often seen during election cycles. They argue that by grounding the manifesto in actual neighbourhood issues, AAP's ZP candidates have managed to forge deeper and more credible connections on the ground. Capt. Venzy said the campaign is

driven by the belief that local development must arise from lived challenges and firsthand input, not from distant or generic political promises. He added that the team is determined to win both Benaulim and Colva, and that the momentum on the ground reflects this resolve. The manifesto meetings, he said, will guide post-election development in both areas. The party underlined that the sheer scale of the outreach – from meetings and interactions to health camps and booth-level coordination – signals the seriousness with which it is contesting the two seats.

Goa Gears Up for Feast of St. Francis Xavier

Team Goemkarponn

Goa has begun preparations for the annual Feast of St. Francis Xavier, which will be celebrated on 3 December at the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa. The revered event, which draws thousands of pilgrims every year, will be led this time by Auxiliary Bishop Simião Fernandes. The theme for this year's celebration is "Faith does not disappoint us; hence, like St. Francis Xavier, let us be Pilgrims of Hope." The nine-day Novena will begin on 24 November and continue until 2 December. Several Masses will be held each day, animated by different diocesan centres, commissions and



deaneries. Services will be conducted in a wide range of languages including Konkani, Marathi, Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi and Portuguese to accommodate the many pilgrims who arrive from within Goa and neighbouring states. An interreligious gathering is scheduled for 27 November as part of the novena activities. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration and priests will be available for confessions throughout.



Aldona MLA Lights Up Moira Ground, Delivering Key Youth Demand

Team Goemkarponn

Aldona: The long-pending demand of Moira's youth for proper night-time sports facilities was fulfilled on Saturday as Aldona MLA Adv Carlos Alvares Ferreira energised two newly installed high mast lights at the Moira ground. The lights, provided by the Goa Tourism Development Corporation, are expected to allow uninterrupted tournaments and extended play hours for local sports groups. At the inauguration were Moira Sarpanch Sagar Naik, Panch Freeda D'Sa, Moira Comunidade President Estetilo D'Sa,

Gitesh Maulankar and several villagers. Ferreira said the project was among the commitments he made soon after being elected. He credited GTDC for supporting the initiative and acknowledged Maulankar and the Pirazona United Boys for consistently driving the demand. The MLA thanked Chief Electrical Engineer Stephen Fernandes for facilitating timely approvals, along with Assistant Engineer Rama Sawant, Junior Engineer Madkaikar and the Electricity Department team for ensuring the immediate release of the power connection.

Teenager Who Saved Parents During Armed Attack Recommended for National Bravery Award

■ South Goa MP writes to Prime Minister seeking recognition for 15-year-old Nakshatra Nayak.

Team Goemkarponn

Vasco: South Goa MP Captain Viriato Fernandes has urged the Prime Minister to consider 15-year-old Nakshatra Nayak for the National Bravery Award, commending her courage during the violent armed

dacoity at her home in Baina on November 18. In his letter, Fernandes said Nakshatra showed remarkable presence of mind when seven armed dacoits forced their way into her family's flat at Chamundi Arcade. The attackers, armed with iron rods, repeatedly assaulted

her parents, Sagar and Harsha Nayak, leaving them seriously injured. The MP noted that Nakshatra pleaded with the attackers to spare her parents and even offered them her piggy bank savings in a desperate attempt to stop the violence. When one of the dacoits swung an



iron rod at her father, the teenager stepped between them and took the blow on her forearm.

Auda Viegas Condemns Christmas-Themed Event in Goa, Calls for Police Action

Team Goemkarponn

Margao: Bailancho Saad convenor Audha Viegas has sharply criticised a Christmas-themed event being promoted in Goa, accusing its organisers of exploiting religious sentiments and portraying the state as a sex tourism

destination. Viegas said the promoters were misusing the right to practise religion by pushing what she described as Osho-style celebrations under the guise of a Christmas festival. Christmas, she said, is a solemn and family-centred occasion, and linking it with themes

of tantra and sexuality undermines its religious meaning. She also objected to the involvement of a person presenting himself as Swami Dhyan Sumit, calling it a cultural affront to Goan Catholics. She pointed to invitations circulating for singles and couples to stay together



and take part in activities described as "Tales of Kamasutra and Christmas celebration," calling it an attack on the community's values.

Large Turnout at Sankhalim ADIP Camp as Goa Pushes Inclusive Welfare Drive

■ Chief Minister Pramod Sawant joins officials to distribute assistive devices and reaffirm support for persons with disabilities.

Team Goemkarponn

Sankhalim: An ADIP camp organised at Ravindra Bhavan in Sankhalim on Monday saw strong

participation, as the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities distributed assistive



devices to beneficiaries

under the centrally

sponsored scheme. The camp was held under the leadership of Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phal Dessai. Chief Minister Dr Pramod

Sawant attended the event, underlining the government's commitment to strengthening disability welfare through doorstep access to aids and appliances.

IFFI 2025 Day 4: India's Folk Heritage in Motion



The fourth day of the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2025 in Panaji, Goa, celebrated the country's vibrant cultural heritage. The INOX venue came alive as troupes from the Central Bureau of Communication presented a dazzling showcase of traditional folk dances, regional songs, and dramatic storytelling. Performances from across India highlighted diverse movement styles,

colorful costumes, and soulful melodies, offering audiences an immersive experience of the nation's rich traditions. Dramatic storytelling intertwined with music and dance brought myths, legends, and local tales to life, creating a powerful cultural interlude. By blending cinema with indigenous performances, IFFI continues to honor India's timeless artistic legacy while celebrating the heartbeat of its living traditions.



IFFIESTA 2025: A Grand Confluence of Cinema, Music, and Cultural Celebration



The 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa witnessed a spectacular inauguration of IFFIESTA, an event that has steadily evolved into a cultural extravaganza blending cinema, music, and art. Organized by Doordarshan in collaboration with WAVES OTT, the opening ceremony at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium brought together a galaxy of luminaries from India and abroad, marking the festival's continuing



journey as a vibrant platform for artistic expression. Over the years, IFFI has grown beyond being a mere showcase of films into an immersive cultural festival, and IFFIESTA has become its musical and artistic heartbeat. The inauguration, a celebration of creativity and talent, featured prominent figures including veteran actor Anupam Kher,

Oscar-winning composer M. M. Keeravani, National Award-winning actress Aimee Baruah, Ravi

Kottarakara, President of the Film Federation of India, and South Korean singer MP Jaewon Kim. They were joined by Doordarshan Director General K. Satish Nambudiripad, whose remarks highlighted the evolving media landscape. Shri Nambudiripad noted, "The lineage channel, a product of the satellite revolution, is gradually giving way to the digital era. WAVES OTT represents this transition, offering safe and wholesome entertainment for families. We hope the younger generation will rediscover Doordarshan and appreciate the legacy it continues to uphold." Echoing this sentiment, Anupam Kher shared a heartfelt reflection: "We all started our lives with Doordarshan.

I am fortunate that it introduced me to the world of cinema. It is a fragrance that lingers, wrapping us in its embrace even today." The evening opened with a stirring rendition of Vande Mataram by Jaewon Kim, whose performance symbolized cultural diplomacy and the growing collaboration between India and South Korea. She expressed her delight at being part of IFFIESTA and her excitement for future creative partnerships between the two countries.



Unrest At India Gate As Air Quality Protest Takes Violent Turn

■ Demonstration at India Gate Turns Violent as Slogans and Clashes Break Out.

New Delhi: A protest held at India Gate on Sunday evening to draw attention to Delhi's deteriorating air quality escalated into unrest after sections of the crowd clashed with police personnel. What began as a citizen-led demonstration over toxic air conditions quickly shifted into a disorderly scene marked by chilli spray, injuries and the raising of slogans linked to a Maoist figure killed earlier this month. According to officials, the gathering occupied the central stretch of the road near India Gate without prior permission



and remained stationed there for nearly an hour. Participants shouted slogans and displayed posters while calling for urgent action on the capital's pollution levels. Police teams arrived to disperse the crowd and asked them to vacate the area, following which the situation intensified. A group of protesters

allegedly used chilli spray against the officials, leaving several personnel injured. The affected officers were taken to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital for treatment. As authorities continued efforts to clear the site, a group in the crowd began raising slogans in support of Madvi Hidma, a senior Maoist leader

who was recently killed in an encounter in Andhra Pradesh. One individual was seen holding a poster referencing historical and contemporary tribal resistance movements in the context of environmental struggles. Hidma had been linked to multiple deadly strikes on security forces and civilians over the years, including major incidents in Dantewada in 2010, Jhiram Ghati in 2013 and the Sukma-Bijapur region in 2021. His death on November 18 prompted heightened security awareness across several regions.

Justice Surya Kant Sworn In as 53rd Chief Justice of India

■ Veteran judge with a diverse judicial record to serve as CJI till 2027

New Delhi: Justice Surya Kant was sworn in on Monday as the 53rd Chief Justice of India at a ceremony held in Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers, senior government officials, judges of the Supreme Court and members of the legal fraternity. Justice Kant, born on February 10, 1962, in Hisar, Haryana, will serve as Chief Justice of India until February 9, 2027. He



completed his law degree from Maharishi Dayanand University in Rohtak before beginning his legal practice in Hisar in 1984. He moved to the Punjab and Haryana High Court a year later, where he built a prominent legal career. In 2000, he became one of the youngest lawyers to be appointed Advocate General of Haryana.

'Borders Can Change': Rajnath Singh Suggests Sindh Might Come Back To India

■ Defence Minister Recalls Historical Ties And Suggests Region Could Rejoin India In The Future.

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday underlined the deep historical and cultural connection between India and the Sindh region, stating that although the area is not part of India today, it remains firmly linked to India's civilisational heritage. He added that territorial borders can shift over time and suggested that Sindh could one day return to India. Sindh, located along the Indus River, became part of Pakistan during the 1947 Partition, prompting large numbers of Sindhi families to migrate to India. The region shares its border with Gujarat



and Rajasthan. Speaking at a public gathering, the minister referred to remarks by former Home Minister LK Advani, who had said that Sindhi Hindus of his generation struggled to accept the separation of the land, given the reverence for the Indus River in Indian tradition. Quoting Advani, Singh noted that many residents of Sindh, including Muslims, considered the river's water deeply sacred.



Indian Navy's Rapid Missions Credited With Saving 520 Lives Amid Surge In Piracy

■ India Highlights Expanding Maritime Role And Global Cooperation At UN Security Council.

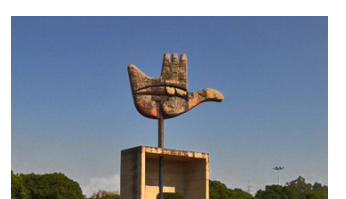
New Delhi: India has spotlighted the Indian Navy's growing role in safeguarding international sea lanes, telling the United Nations Security Council that its swift maritime operations have saved hundreds of lives during a period of escalating piracy and attacks across the Western Arabian Sea. Addressing a debate on maritime safety and the

protection of seafarers, India's Permanent Representative Parvathaneni Harish outlined the scale of naval deployments undertaken over the last two years. He noted that the Navy has positioned more than 35 ships in high-risk waters, conducted over 1,000 boarding missions and responded to more than 35 distress calls linked to piracy and armed attacks.

No Green Light Yet For Chandigarh Bill, Government Issues Clarification

■ Government Stresses Consultations Will Precede Any Move Amid Rising Political Opposition.

New Delhi: The central government has clarified that it has not yet reached a final decision on a proposal concerning Chandigarh's legislative framework, following intense reactions from political parties in Punjab. The Union Home Ministry stated that any step on the matter will be taken only after discussions with all stakeholders and confirmed that no Bill on the issue will be introduced in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament. According to the clarification, the proposal under examination aims to simplify lawmaking for the Union Territory. The ministry emphasised that



the plan does not involve altering Chandigarh's administration or affecting its long-standing relationship with Punjab and Haryana. It added that Chandigarh's interests would remain central to any future decision. The political debate gained momentum after a Parliament bulletin mentioned the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2025, which was listed for introduction in the Winter Session beginning December 1.

High-Level Diplomacy And Strong Global South Messaging Mark PM Modi's SA Trip

■ PM Modi's South Africa Visit Highlights India's Global Priorities Terror Financing, Global South and High-Level Diplomacy Dominate Agenda

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to New Delhi after a three-day visit to South Africa, where he attended the G20 Summit and held a series of high-level engagements

that reinforced India's growing influence on the global stage. The visit featured intensive diplomatic outreach, with the prime minister participating in 24 meetings

involving world leaders and key international organisations. A strong focus on counter-terrorism shaped the summit's outcomes. The G20 Leaders' Declaration firmly

condemned terrorism and stressed the importance of strengthening efforts to curb terror financing through the Financial Action Task Force framework.



'Sack Gambhir' Trends As India Collapse In Guwahati Test

■ Heavy batting failure leaves hosts staring at another home series defeat.

New Delhi: India's hopes of levelling the Test series against South Africa suffered a major blow on Day 3 in Guwahati, triggering widespread frustration among fans and prompting a social-media storm calling for changes in team leadership. With the visitors posting a formidable 489 in their first innings, India crumbled under pressure and slipped to 119 for 6, placing themselves on the verge of another damaging sweep at home under head coach Gautam Gambhir. With regular captain Shubman Gill unavailable due to injury, Rishabh Pant stepped in to lead the side. However, the stand-in skipper's dismissal turned into one of the biggest talking points of the day. Pant



charged down the track to Marco Jansen and edged a routine delivery to the wicketkeeper, an approach that baffled viewers given the match situation and further intensified criticism of India's decision-making. India began the day at 6 without loss, with Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul aiming to build

a foundation. The pair batted steadily and added 65 off 129 balls, appearing set to guide India through the first hour. But progress quickly unravelled. Keshav Maharaj broke the stand by removing Rahul for a patient 22, and the pressure mounted when Simon Harmer dismissed Jaiswal for 58 after extra bounce forced an edge to

backward point. Sai Sudharsan followed soon after, struggling to settle against spin before holing out at midwicket. India tumbled from 95 for 1 to 102 for 4 in just 19 deliveries as Dhruv Jurel fell for an 11-ball duck, mistiming a pull off Jansen. The second session brought no relief. Pant and Ravindra Jadeja attempted to stabilise the innings but departed for 7 and 6, deepening India's troubles and leaving the lower order exposed. The dramatic collapse sparked a wave of criticism online, with "Sack Gambhir" becoming a top trend as fans questioned both tactical choices and the team's intent. With South Africa firmly in control, India now face a steep challenge to avoid another home series defeat.

KL Rahul Handed ODI Captaincy For South Africa Tour

■ Limited recent game time keeps Rishabh Pant out of contention, says report.

New Delhi: KL Rahul has been appointed captain for India's three-match ODI series against South Africa, stepping in after regular skipper Shubman Gill was ruled out with a neck injury sustained during the opening Test in Kolkata. The decision places Rahul at the helm solely for this short assignment, with expectations that Gill will return for the New Zealand ODIs in January 2026. According to internal discussions, Rahul's elevation is meant to address an immediate leadership gap. Rishabh Pant was not considered for the role due to limited participation in the format, having played only a single ODI over the past year. The selectors are believed to be focused on maintaining continuity



once Gill recovers. The ODI series begins on November 30 in Ranchi, followed by fixtures in Raipur on December 3 and Visakhapatnam on December 6. The squad sees a notable recall for Ravindra Jadeja, who returns to white-ball cricket after eight months. His inclusion follows the decision to rest Axar Patel, who featured in India's recent campaign in Australia and also formed part of the spin unit during the Test against South Africa at the Eden Gardens.

SC Panel Calls For Overhaul Of ISL Commercial Model After Tender Draws No Bids Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

■ Report Flags Financial Strain, Limited Partner Representation And Urgent Need For Reform.

New Delhi: A Supreme Court-appointed committee has called for a comprehensive revamp of the All India Football Federation's commercial strategy for the Indian Super League after its latest tender process failed to attract a single bidder. The panel, led by Justice (Retd.) L Nageswara Rao, examined why the AIFF's offer for a long-term commercial rights partnership received no interest and concluded that the existing framework places excessive financial and structural burdens on potential partners. In its findings, the committee highlighted several major concerns, beginning with the minimum guaranteed payment structure that



many prospective bidders viewed as unviable. The report recommended reducing or restructuring this requirement to create a more realistic financial model while ensuring that the federation continues to receive stable revenue. Another key issue was the limited representation for commercial partners in the league's governing council. Under the current terms, bidders would receive only one seat on a six-member panel, with the AIFF retaining a dominant role.

Anupama Ramachandran Creates History With India's First Women's World Snooker Crown

■ Chennai Cueist Clinches IBSF Title After Edge-of-Seat Finale.

New Delhi: Anupama Ramachandran has etched her name in sporting history by becoming the first Indian woman to win the IBSF World Snooker (15-red) Championship. The 23-year-old from Chennai defeated Hong Kong's Ng On Yee 3-2 in a gripping final that kept viewers on the edge until the last shot. The contest swung sharply between the two players, with both displaying precision and



composure under pressure. In the deciding frame, Anupama found herself trailing as the three-time world champion closed in on victory.

However, Ng On Yee narrowly missed the final black while leading 61-60, creating a rare opening. Anupama seized the moment calmly, potting the black to seal a historic win and bring home India's maiden women's world snooker title. The triumph marks a milestone not only in her personal career but also for Indian cue sports, setting a new benchmark for women athletes in the discipline.

Warriors and Tigers Deliver Strong Performances to Continue Winning Momentum

■ Both Teams Secure Confident Victories in MCL 11 T20 Double-Header

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The latest round of matches in the MCL 11 T20 tournament brought an exciting day of cricket in Margao, where MCC Warriors and MCC Tigers recorded impressive victories in their respective fixtures. The matches were played at the MCC ground and featured disciplined bowling, composed batting, and two well-executed chases. In the morning encounter,



MCC Warriors overcame MCC Stallions with a five-wicket win built on a steady all-round effort. The Stallions, opting to bat first,

managed 144 before being dismissed in 17.2 overs. Their top order showed promise with steady contributions, but the innings could not maintain momentum against a focused Warriors attack. Raghuvir Kuncolienkar and Vikas Shetty struck crucial blows, while Govind Lotlikar added impact with the ball before leading the charge in the chase. Lotlikar anchored the Warriors' reply with a decisive 38, guiding his team to the target with 18.5 overs completed.