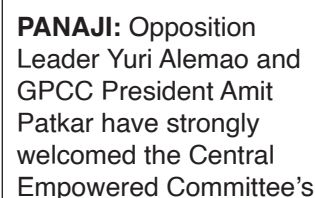


Oppn Leaders Welcome CEC's Tiger Reserve Directive, Slam Goa Govt

Team Goemkarponn



- ▶ 8-member gang tries to break into jewellery shop.
- ▶ Family locked inside house with rope from outside.
- ▶ Patrolling cops spot culprits fleeing in darkness.
- ▶ Dacoits hurl stones at police during chase.
- ▶ Cctv cameras spray-painted to blind security.
- ▶ Iron rod, pickaxe, spray can recovered from site.
- ▶ Cctv cameras spray-painted to blind security.
- ▶ No arrests yet; investigation underway.

out, the goldsmith realised the main door had been tied from outside with a rope, trapping the entire family inside. The inmates immediately called the police and also shouted

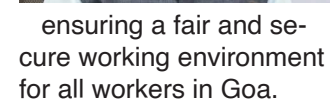
for help. Two patrolling policemen rushed to the spot and spotted about eight individuals fleeing into the darkness. When the officers attempted to

CONTD TO PAGE 04...

CM Welcomes Centre's New Labour Laws, Assures Strong Worker Protection in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has welcomed the Centre's newly introduced labour laws, stating that the State government is fully committed to



Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A daring late-night attempt by an eight-member gang to rob a jewellery shop at Chaudi was foiled after an alert goldsmith residing in the adjoining house raised an alarm in the early hours of Tuesday.

The incident occurred around 2.30 am when the family heard unusual sounds outside. Although nothing suspicious was initially seen through the window, minutes later the noise of the jewellery shop shutter being opened sent the family into panic. When they tried to step



Gala premeier
• Manushya (Ep 1)
• Bindusagar

Goan Films
My Dad Invented The Vadapav*
Ashok Vaidya And Sons

Open Air Screening
Miramar Beach
• Sonic the Hedgehog @ 7 Pm

Vagator Beach
• Amar Boss @ 7 Pm

Ravindra Bhavan (Margao)
• IF (Imaginary Friends) @ 7 pm

Interview
The New AI Cinema: A Discourse on
Generative AI and LLMs
By V Muralitharan & Shekhar Kapur

Interactive Session
Through the Lens: Crafting Emotion
in Every Frame
By Ravi Varman

From Bond to Batman: SFX, Stunts & Spectacle

By Christopher Charles Corbould OBE

Special Screening

- Khoya Paya
- Ek Doctor Ki Maut

- **Indian Panorama**
- That's A Wrap / Amrit Lal Nagar
- Piplantri: A Tale Of Eco Feminism / Battlefield
- Chalo India With Eric Ji / Vanya
- Hamsafar / Barobabu
- Vanya (F)
- Patralekha / Imbu
- Whispers Of The Mountains (F)
- Bhaimon Da (F)
- Thudaram (F)

Experimental Films

- Mare's Nest
- Dreaming Is Not Sleeping

International Competition

- The Visual Feminist Manifesto
- My Fathers Shadow
- Amrum
- Sham / Detchiage: Satsujin Kyoshi to Yobareta Otoko
- Mothers Baby
- Little Trouble Girls / Kaj ti je deklaka

CINEMELA @ Kala Academy

- Naal 2 @ 8:30 am
- Srikanth @ 10:00 / 10:15 / 10:30 am
- Enemy @ 3:00 pm
- DDLJ @ 6:00 pm

DAY
6

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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A Deadline Goa Can No Longer Evade

The Supreme Court's empowered committee has given Goa three months to begin notifying a tiger reserve. This is not a symbolic reminder. It is a direct indictment of years of hesitation and political hedging that have left one of the state's most vital forest corridors vulnerable to steady degradation. The warning is clear. Either Goa takes its ecological responsibilities seriously or it risks being remembered as the state that allowed its last chance at meaningful conservation to slip away. The debate over a tiger reserve in Goa has dragged on for more than a decade. Each time the issue gains momentum, the state government raises a new objection. It has questioned tiger numbers, the feasibility of land availability and the potential fallout for villagers. None of these concerns are illegitimate on their own, but they have become convenient pretexts for delay. What stands out is not a thoughtful reconsideration of conservation strategy but a pattern of resistance. Goa's insistence that it lacks a resident tiger population ignores the basic function of a reserve. Corridors matter as much as breeding grounds. The forests of Mhadei, Netravali and Cotigao form a natural link between the tiger landscapes of Karnataka and Maharashtra. Tigers do not recognise state borders. They disperse through connected forests, and if those forests are poorly protected, young tigers face the gauntlet of poaching, conflict and habitat fragmentation. Dismissing the need for a reserve merely because the population is transient reflects a narrow, outdated approach to conservation.

The argument about displacement demands careful scrutiny. Successive administrations have warned that thousands of people would be affected. Yet independent assessments suggest that very few families live in the areas proposed for the core zone. The state's inflated numbers

Goa's insistence that it lacks a resident tiger population ignores the basic function of a reserve. Corridors matter as much as breeding grounds. The forests of Mhadei, Netravali and Cotigao form a natural link between the tiger landscapes of Karnataka and Maharashtra. Tigers do not recognise state borders. They disperse through connected forests, and if those forests are poorly protected, young tigers face the gauntlet of poaching, conflict and habitat fragmentation. Dismissing the need for a reserve merely because the population is transient reflects a narrow, outdated approach to conservation. The argument about displacement demands careful scrutiny. Successive administrations have warned that thousands of people would be affected. Yet independent assessments suggest that very few families live in the areas proposed for the core zone

appear designed to provoke fear rather than reflect ground realities. Communities deserve honesty, not exaggerated threats that frame conservation as an enemy of livelihood.

The missing government file on the earlier tiger reserve proposal only deepens the suspicion of institutional reluctance. How does an official document outlining ecological boundaries and recommendations simply vanish? Even if the disappearance is a product of negligence rather than intent, it exposes a troubling lack

of seriousness in handling an issue that affects both biodiversity and law.

Goa's political class often speaks of development as though it must compete with conservation. This false choice has repeatedly stalled environmental decisions. Protecting a tiger corridor does not shut the door on economic activity. It demands regulation, planning and the willingness to accept that long term ecological integrity cannot be traded for short term commercial gains. If anything, Goa has the potential to build a model where conservation and community centred ecotourism work together. But that vision requires leadership, not excuses.

The Supreme Court's committee has now given the state a finite window. Three months may feel abrupt, but the order comes after years of gentle nudging, court observations and expert recommendations. The fact that the apex court had to freeze development activities in the proposed reserve area earlier this year shows just how far the situation had deteriorated. When a state refuses to act, the judiciary steps in. It is not ideal, but it is sometimes necessary.

Goa has an opportunity to turn this confrontation into renewal. Demarcating the reserve clearly, ensuring legal recognition of community rights, strengthening forest management and engaging villagers openly can create a framework that benefits all stakeholders. The question is whether the political will exists.

The clock is ticking. If Goa continues to procrastinate, it risks more than another court order. It risks losing a critical forest belt that supports wildlife, livelihoods and the state's identity. Tigers are only the most visible symbol of this ecosystem. The real battle is for the health of the Western Ghats. The choice before Goa's leaders is stark. They can either move with purpose or allow this final deadline to pass, taking with it a piece of the state's ecological soul.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MHAAJE GHAR... OR MHAAJE VOTE?

Suddenly—out of nowhere—the government remembers that thousands of Goans still don't have legal rights to their own homes. What a miracle! Must be the election climate... even the Housing Board has woken up from hibernation.

And now they promise "two major decisions" under the Mhaaje Ghar Scheme. Very touching. Almost emotional. But before we get carried away, what happened to the earlier grand announcement? The same one that ran straight into court cases, objections, and comunidade resistance? The moment the comunidades asked tough questions, everything went quiet... and now we're back with a fresh new "offer".

Like a seasonal festival sale. Also amusing is the idea that the government will now solve the mess created by private developers who sold flats without transferring land. So who's being rewarded here—the families who suffered, or the builders who broke the rules? And of course, no mention of proper planning laws, CRZ restrictions, actual title verification, or how the government will magically fix decades of disputed land before the election dates are announced. Goans aren't fools. We've seen enough "regularisations" appear only during campaign season. If this is real governance, show us the notifications, not the sops. Till then, this feels less like "Mhaaje Ghar" and more like "Mhaaje Vote Re Baba."

-Victor Hugo Gomes

Police Conduct Cannot Be Left to Apologies

The recent complaint by a foreign DJ who alleged harassment during a late night police stop in North Goa should trouble anyone who cares about public trust. Her account of officers using profanity, making xenophobic remarks and ignoring the rule that bars male officers from stopping women after dark points to a failure that goes beyond one errant individual. When visitors say they felt intimidated rather than protected, it reflects poorly on the entire policing system.

Goa depends on tourism for its economic health. Incidents like this do more damage than any promotional campaign can undo. If a visitor feels unsafe at the hands of law enforcement, the message that travels home with them is one of hostility and neglect. An apology from the officer involved may ease tensions, but it does not address the deeper issues of training, accountability and culture within the force. There is a persistent pattern in such cases. Action begins only after a complaint goes viral. Officers are rarely held to standards that prevent misconduct from happening in the first place. Stronger protocols already exist but are often ignored, especially the rule that women should not be stopped by male officers at night. If the police themselves break these guidelines, what confidence can citizens or tourists place in them. Goa needs more than an internal inquiry. It needs mandatory training in gender sensitivity, clear penalties for abuse of authority and transparent oversight. Public confidence will return only when the police behave as protectors, not as power brokers who act with impunity.

-Victor Soares, Sarzora

CEC Proposes 468.6 sq km Goa Tiger Reserve; Mhadei Left Out for Now

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a major step toward tiger conservation in the Western Ghats, the Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has recommended the creation of a 468.60 sq km Goa Tiger Reserve, to be set up in two stages and linked directly with Karnataka's Kali Tiger Reserve. Under the first phase, the CEC has proposed combining Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary and portions of Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park into the new reserve. These



areas, the committee noted, are ecologically connected to the core of the Kali Tiger Reserve and have relatively small human populations. Netravali (50 households), Cotigao (41 households), northern Bhagwan Mahaveer WLS (9 households) and Bhagwan Mahaveer National Park (2 households). The committee said

their proximity to the Kali landscape makes them essential for maintaining wildlife corridors and enabling tigers to naturally disperse into Goa. Significantly, the CEC has excluded the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary which has been at the heart of long-standing demands for tiger reserve status from the initial phase. Citing the high number

of households in Mhadei (approximately 612) and in the southern part of Bhagwan Mahaveer WLS (around 560), the panel said these areas require extensive consultations and confidence-building before they can be considered.

Their inclusion may be evaluated in a second phase after addressing community concerns over livelihoods and rehabilitation. The total area proposed for the first phase includes 296.70 sq km of core habitat and 171.90 sq km of buffer, forming a continuous landscape with the 1,345 sq km Kali Tiger Reserve complex.



Wedding Season Slows Opposition's Seat-Sharing Talks for ZP Polls

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Seat-sharing negotiations among Opposition partners for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections have hit a pause, with the ongoing marriage season in Goa delaying formal discussions. Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Amit Patkar said that several party heads, including those from Goa

Forward Party (GFP) and Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), are busy attending multiple weddings daily, pushing back the alliance talks. Patkar said that a structured meeting on finalising seat allocation is likely only after the flurry of wedding ceremonies settles. He noted that informal conversations may continue late into the evening, but concrete decisions will take a few more days.

Patkar Accuses BJP Govt of "Betrayal" Over Pending PG Reservation Notification

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Congress has launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led State government, accusing it of deliberately withholding reservation for postgraduate clinical seats in Goa Medical College (GMC) and Goa Dental College. GPCC President Amit Patkar said the delay reflects the government's "intent to deny justice" to



OBC, SC, ST and EWS communities. Patkar alleged that despite repeated assurances and a promise on the floor of the Assembly to act within a week, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has failed to issue the notification for reservation

even after three months. "No notification. No reservation. No justice. This isn't delay — this is betrayal," he said. He added that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has consistently exposed what he described as the BJP's efforts to weaken the rights and representation of marginalised groups nationwide, saying Goa is no exception. Patkar demanded that the

Chief Minister urgently convene a Cabinet meeting and issue the long-pending notification ensuring "100 per cent roster-based reservation without excuses or manipulation." "The fight for justice will continue. If the government remains silent, we will raise our voice louder. Goa's backward communities will not be cheated anymore," the GPCC chief said.

ZP Candidate List Finalisation Underway, Seat-Sharing Talks in Progress: Patkar

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Amit Patkar on Tuesday said the party has completed discussions and scrutiny of names for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat (ZP) elections and will soon announce the final list of candidates. Patkar said internal assessments have been carried out across constituencies, and the leadership is in the final stages of zeroing in on the most

suitable nominees. He further confirmed that seat-sharing discussions with alliance partners are actively underway. A round of meetings was held on Monday, with another scheduled for today to finalise the contours of the alliance and ensure a coordinated contest in the polls. Patkar added that the Congress is focused on putting up strong candidates and a united front to challenge the ruling dispensation in the forthcoming ZP elections.

Attempt-to-Murder in Margao: Victim Shifted to GMC, Accused on the Run

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A stabbing on Margao station road on Monday evening has intensified residents' concerns over the worsening law-and-order situation in the area, coming just hours after locals raised alarms about rising disorder on the busy stretch. According to police, an unidentified assailant stabbed a man in the abdomen during a quarrel, allegedly using a knife. The injured man was first taken to South Goa District Hospital and later shifted to Goa Medical College,

Bambolim, after his condition was declared critical. Margao Police have begun investigating the case and are awaiting a forensic examination of the spot.

Residents said the incident is the latest example of escalating criminal activity along the station road, where petty thefts, late-night drinking and nuisance by anti-social elements have become common. Several locals expressed frustration that the police presence in the area remains minimal. "We never used to see such fights or thefts here.

CEO Warns Goa Voters of OTP Fraud as Cybercriminals Pose as Election Officials

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Office of the Goa Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) has cautioned voters about a rising scam in which fraudsters impersonate Election Commission

personnel to trick people into sharing OTPs under the pretext of assisting with the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. According to the CEO, the con artists are calling voters while claiming to

be Block Level Officers (BLOs) and insisting that an OTP is required to "verify" details submitted in SIR enumeration forms. The warning makes it clear that this ploy is aimed at gaining access to victims'

bank accounts. "The Election Commission never seeks OTPs from voters. Any such request is fraudulent. People should refuse to share OTPs and immediately alert the police," the CEO stated.

AAP leaders seek explanation from Election Commission over Raia reservation change

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa leaders Valmiki Naik and Roque Mascarenhas on Tuesday met the State Election Commissioner seeking clarity on the

sudden and unexplained alteration of the Raia Zilla Panchayat (ZP) seat reservation, which was changed from ST to ST (Women) in a revised Gazette notification. AAP questioned the lack of transparency behind the

shift, criticising the State Election Commission (SEC) for issuing a last-minute change without public explanation or consultation with political parties.

The party alleged that such abrupt modifications



create confusion and raise doubts about the fairness of the ongoing electoral process.

Event Title Linking 'Kamasutra' With Christmas Sparks FIR for Hurting Religious Sentiments

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Police have registered an FIR against two individuals linked to spiritual organisations after a complaint alleged that an event they announced was offensive to the Catholic community. The offence was registered on November 24, 2025 at 13:56 hrs following



a complaint by Cyril A. Fernandes, president of the Catholic Association of Goa. According to the complaint, the accused—described as the Founder of Bhagwan

Shree Rajneesh and the Founder of Osho Ludhiana Meditation Society—allegedly acted with common intention to organise an event scheduled from December 25 to 28, 2025 and titled "Tales of Kamasutra and Christmas Celebration. Fernandes alleged that the event's title and its circulation with explicit sexual references

amounted to outraging the religious sentiments of the Catholic community by associating Christmas with inappropriate and sacrilegious content. Police said the precise time and location of the alleged act on November 23 remain unspecified. The case has been handed over to PSI Manjunath Naik, who is conducting further investigation.

Man held for accepting gambling bets near Valpoi school

Team Goemkarponn

VALPOI: Valpoi Police booked a 45-year-old man after he was allegedly caught red-handed accepting gambling bets in a public place near the Government School in Valpoi. According to a state complaint filed by HC Devidas Laxman Paryekar of Valpoi Police Station, the incident occurred around 11:53 am when the accused, Bhago Zore, 45, a resident of



Naguem, Sattari, was found conducting illegal betting activities openly in the area. Police seized ₹830 in cash and other gambling material from the spot.

48-Year-Old Construction Worker Declared Brought Dead at Colvale PHC

Team Goemkarponn

COLVALE: A 48-year-old construction worker was declared brought dead after collapsing at a worksite in Colvale. Police said they received a phone call from PSI Prakash Ghadi informing them that the deceased, identified as Swapan Bala (48), son of Shashadhar Bala, originally from Sukanta Nagar, Dharamapur, Rabindranagar, Hooghly, West Bengal and residing at Volvonem, Thivim,

Bardez, had been brought dead to the Primary Health Centre, Colvale. During the enquiry, it was revealed that Bala was working at a construction site in Colvale when he suddenly began feeling uneasy, and his health deteriorated rapidly. Co-workers immediately rushed him to the PHC, where the attending doctor declared him brought dead. Police are carrying out further formalities, and the cause of death will be established upon medical examination.

Speeding truck mows down biker at Pen Circle; victim declared dead

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A routine afternoon turned fatal at Pen Circle, Valshi, after a speeding Eicher truck rammed into a motorcycle, killing its rider on the spot. Police said the accident occurred around 12:20 pm when Abhishek Jagtap, 26, of Pune, was driving an Eicher truck (MH-04-KF-6995) towards Mapusa. Preliminary inquiry has revealed that the driver was allegedly speeding and failed to exercise



caution while negotiating Pen Circle, resulting in a violent collision with a Passion motorcycle (GA-03-Q-6391) coming from Mulgao towards Bicholim. The motorcyclist, later identified as Gnanasekaran S, 43, a resident of Canca, Bardez, suffered severe head and leg injuries in the impact.

77-Year-Old Fatorda Resident Dies After Fall at Home

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: A 77-year-old man from Guplem, Fatorda, died on Monday afternoon following a fall inside his residence. The incident came to light after the PCR informed police at 2 pm on November 24, 2025, that an elderly man was lying injured near Divya Laundry. Police reached the spot and found the man lying on the floor with a green nylon rope beside him. He was

identified as Domingo Barbosa (77) by his wife, Miguelinha Colaco. According to the initial enquiry, Barbosa had climbed an aluminium ladder to reach an iron ceiling hook when he lost balance and fell to the ground. His wife told police that he had been suffering from prostate cancer and was undergoing treatment at GMC, Bambolim, and had been experiencing severe pain and distress due to his condition.

Goan police must show mettle to restore law and order: Prabhav Naik

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Madganvcho Awaaz and youth leader Prabhav Naik has sounded a strong warning over the spiralling crime situation in Goa, stating

that the state is "slipping into a dangerous phase of lawlessness" and urgently needs firm, politically independent policing to restore public trust. Naik said Goa, once known for its peaceful

social fabric, is now witnessing a disturbing surge in dacoities, murders, gang wars, kidnappings and violent attacks, leaving citizens increasingly fearful even within their own homes.

Referring to fresh incidents reported on Monday, he highlighted the attempt-to-murder case at Station Road, Margao, an area he said is steadily becoming a den of anti-social activity, and the attempted dacoity

in Canacona, which once again exposed the fragility of the state's security environment. Repeated dacoities in Dona Paula, Mapusa and Bambolim, along with fatal accidents and violent confrontations,



have deepened public anxiety, he added.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Alert Goldsmith Foils Midnight Dacoity Bid at Chaudi

chase them, the culprits allegedly hurled stones, forcing the police to take cover as the gang escaped. Police later helped the goldsmith's family exit the house by untying the rope fastened to the door. According to officials, the dacoits had arrived fully prepared. They had blackened all

three CCTV cameras using black spray paint, and used an iron rod (paroi) and a pickaxe to break open the shop's locks before lifting the shutter. The tools, along with a spray can and empty lunch boxes, were recovered from the site. Additional police teams were deployed

immediately and checks were carried out at the railway station, KTC bus stand, and other possible exit points. Polem checkpoint was also alerted. However, despite the extensive search, the suspects could not be traced.

Oppn Leaders Welcome CEC's Tiger Reserve Directive, Slam Goa Govt

(CEC) recommendation—endorsed by the Supreme Court—to notify a Tiger Reserve in Goa within three months. Yuri Alemao termed the Supreme Court's order a "tight slap" to the Goa Government, insisting that the Tiger Reserve must be implemented immediately. He added that the concerns of residents

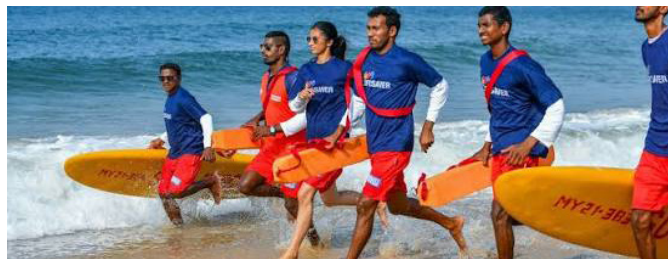
living in and around the wildlife area must be properly considered during the process. GPCC President Amit Patkar also hailed the CEC directive, alleging that the State Government's "hypocrisy stands exposed." He urged the government to take locals into confidence, chalk out a comprehensive plan, and respect the apex

court's order. Patkar further stated that establishing the Tiger Reserve would strengthen Goa's legal and environmental position in the ongoing Mhadei river diversion issue. The Opposition has called for immediate and transparent action, stating that the Tiger Reserve is both an ecological necessity and a legal obligation.

Nine Rescued From Drowning on Goa Beaches Over Weekend; Stingray Injury, Missing Child Also Reported

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Drishti Marine lifesavers carried out a series of critical rescues across Goa's coastline over the weekend, saving nine people, including Russian and German tourists, and responding to multiple emergency situations, officials said on Sunday. At Querim beach, a 29-year-old man from Bengaluru was pulled out of a rip current by lifesavers Dhakhu Talkar and Akash Takkekar, who used a rescue tube and board to bring him safely to shore. A challenging triple rescue unfolded at Morjim beach, where three Mumbai tourists — two men aged 24 and a 23-year-old woman —



were dragged nearly 70 metres into the sea by a rip current. Lifesavers Mahadev Gawade, armed with rescue equipment, and Yogesh Gadekar on a jetski intervened swiftly and brought all three back safely. At Candolim beach, a Russian child reported missing triggered an immediate search operation by lifesavers. The child was eventually found at another section of the beach and reunited with the family after standard identification

procedures. A Russian woman swimming at Arossim beach was also rescued after being caught in a rip current and unable to swim ashore. Lifesavers stationed nearby responded promptly and secured her safety. In a rare marine injury at Utorda beach, a 35-year-old German woman suffered a stingray-related wound to her left leg. Lifesavers provided first aid and advised urgent medical follow-up. A significant quadruple

rescue took place at Agonda beach, where four tourists from Pune were swept deeper into the sea by strong waves. Lifesavers Vikas Velip, Pralhad Velip, and Sameer Kankonkar used a rescue tube, surfboard and jetski to bring all four men back to shore, averting a potential tragedy. At Dudhsagar waterfalls, a 35-year-old man from Hyderabad sustained a cut on his leg after slipping on rocks. Lifesavers administered first aid and handed him over to his companion. Drishti Marine officials said that with rising visitor numbers, beach safety teams remain on heightened alert across Goa's coastline and major tourist sites.

Youth Arrested for Assault and Sexual Offences Against Minor

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A shocking case of assault and sexual abuse has surfaced in Goa, leading to the arrest of 19-year-old Gauresh s/o Barkelo Gaonkar of Podocem, Sattari. The complaint, filed by the elder brother of the minor victim, details a brutal assault that took place on October 14, 2025, between 12:15 Hrs and 12:30 Hrs at a secluded temple in Sarvan, Vathadev, to which the accused allegedly took the minor girl by force on his black Vespa scooter. During the incident, the accused is alleged to have violently assaulted the victim by constricting her neck, forcefully banging her face on the temple's concrete steps,



and punching her teeth, resulting in broken teeth and injuries to her lips. Furthermore, the complaint reveals that the accused had engaged in forceful sexual intercourse with the minor victim on multiple previous occasions. Adding to the gravity of the crime, the accused allegedly threatened the victim with dire consequences if she disclosed the incidents and further compounded the minor's trauma by publishing a video of the incident over WhatsApp, thereby revealing the victim's identity.



Goa cannot be allowed to be led into moral chaos: JIH

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) Goa strongly condemned a recently promoted event titled "Tales of Kamasutra and Christmas Celebration", which had been advertised by a Ludhiana-based organisation claiming affiliation with Osho. The event, scheduled for Christmas week in Goa, was cancelled after police received complaints from multiple quarters.

JIH Goa said the promotional material reflected a "deeply disturbing trend" that could not be ignored.

According to the organisation, groups associated with Osho and Rajnish ideologies are known for encouraging sexually explicit activities under the banner of individual freedom and alternative living.

JIH stated that inviting the public to such an event—particularly during one of the most sacred periods for the Christian community—constitutes an unacceptable breach of Goa's moral, social and cultural values.

The group said the proposal not only offended the religious sentiments of Catholics in the State but also raised concerns about an organised attempt to encourage moral degradation.

JIH Goa President Asif Hussain said the group stood firmly with the Catholic community, adding that any attempt to distort religious festivals, undermine Goan culture or manipulate the State's liberal ethos must be opposed.

"Goa cannot be allowed to be destroyed or led into moral chaos," he said.

GCCI hosts Agri Startup Conclave 2025, strengthens collaboration for agri-innovation in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCI), in collaboration with the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (UASD), NABARD and the Government of Goa, successfully organised the Agri Startup Conclave 2025 on Monday at Panjim Gymkhana, bringing together farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, FPOs, academic institutions, incubation



centres, government representatives and industry stakeholders to strengthen the agri-startup ecosystem in the State. The event began with the inauguration of the

Agri Startup Exhibition, followed by a tour of stalls featuring innovative products and solutions developed by startups and young entrepreneurs from Goa and neighbouring regions.

04 mm of rain brings the soaring afternoon temperature down

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: While days are hotening up amidst the beginning of winter season, 4 mm of unseasonal and unexpected rains gave a huge relief bringing down the soaring afternoon temperature on Monday. Rains have lashed certain parts of Canacona taking many off guard particularly at the commercial hub of Chaudi, where including two-wheelers riders and marketers ran to seek protection from the sudden spurt of rainfall. While the



rains continued for an hour in Colomb-Patnem, Rajbag regions, it lashed between 30-50 minutes in Palolem, Nagorcem, Chaudi, Ponsulem, Sheller and Mastmoll areas of municipal areas, while Shristhal, Sadolxem, Galgibaga, Ordhofond too were amongst the few other places pounded with unexpected rains at afternoon time.

3 Helipads Ready to Receive Prime Minister at Partagali Math

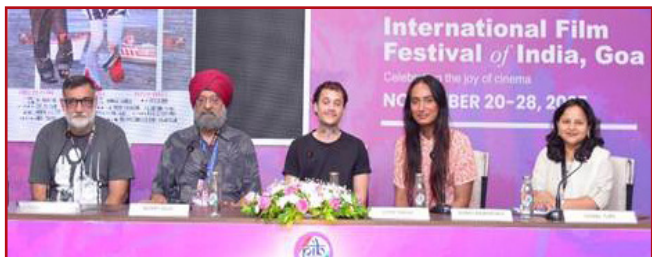
Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Preparations for the once-in-a-lifetime Sardha Panchashatamanotsava celebrations of the revered Partagali Math have reached their final stage, with three helipads constructed to receive Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his entourage now fully ready as of Monday. The three helipads, located within a few metres of each other and approximately half a kilometre from the Math, have been completed in



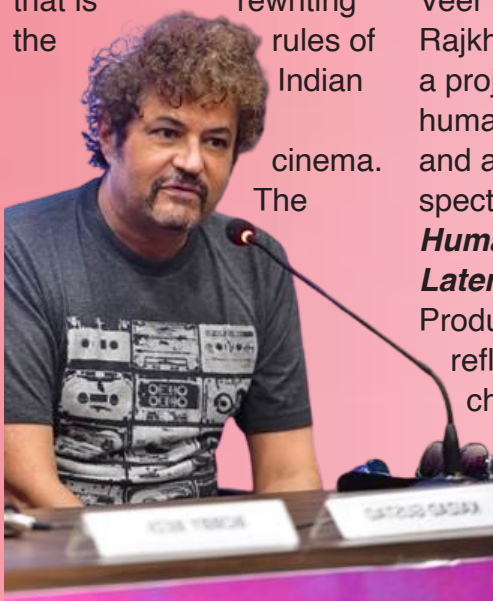
all respects. They have been specially prepared to accommodate the simultaneous arrival of three helicopters carrying the Prime Minister and accompanying dignitaries on Friday. To facilitate the landings, the construction involved clearing dense vegetation and levelling the ground near the Math.

'Lala & Poppy': A Groundbreaking Tale of Love Beyond Labels



Transcending binaries, the film's cast and crew share how authenticity, courage, and representation shape a story that speaks to all audiences...

T At a lively press conference at IFFI 2025, the team behind 'Lala & Poppy' offered an intimate glimpse into a film that is rewriting the rules of Indian cinema. The



gender-fluid love story, set against the vibrant backdrop of Mumbai, brings together director Kaizad Gustad, producer Bobby Bedi, and actors Veer Singh and Suruj Rajkhowa to discuss a project that places humanity above labels and authenticity above spectacle.

Humans First, Gender Later

Producer Bobby Bedi reflected on why he chose to support this unique story. "Every big film becomes big because audiences embrace it," he



said, highlighting that 'Lala & Poppy' thrives on sincerity and connection. Noting India's evolving yet complex social landscape, he added, "Humans come first, gender later," emphasizing the right of every individual to live, love, and exist freely. Director Kaizad Gustad expanded on this vision,



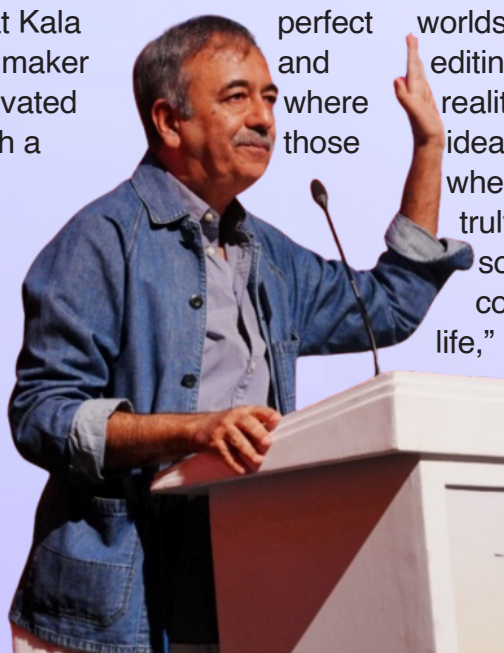
explaining that he wanted to craft a relatable love story that happens to feature transgender protagonists rather than a stereotypical "queer film." Years of research, close engagement with the queer community, and disciplined writing went into creating a narrative that feels truthful and

universal. Veer and Suruj Bring Representation to the Screen. Actors Veer Singh and Suruj Rajkhowa shared deeply personal reflections. Veer noted the absence of authentic representation during his own childhood and the hope to inspire others: "I want people like me to see me on screen and think, if this person can do it, I can do it too." Suruj highlighted the historic misrepresentation of queer characters in Indian cinema as caricatures or comic relief, emphasizing that 'Lala & Poppy' allows transgender characters to exist as humans first.

Raju Hirani at IFFI 2025: Writing, Editing, and the Heartbeat of Storytelling

M asterclass reveals how emotion, conflict, and editing shape unforgettable films

Lights dimmed at Kala Academy as filmmaker Raju Hirani captivated the audience with a masterclass on writing and editing. "Writing is Emotion Imagined, Editing is Emotion Experienced. The writer writes the first draft, the editor the last," he said,



emphasizing that while a film's theme is its soul, conflict is its oxygen. Hirani described writing as a realm of imagination, where perfect and where those worlds exist on paper, editing as the place reality transforms ideas. "A film begins when a character truly wants something, and conflict gives it life," he explained. He urged writers to draw from real-life experiences and weave exposition subtly, keeping the theme

alive throughout. Highlighting the editor's invisible yet pivotal role, Hirani explained that a single shot, placed differently, can change a story entirely. Quoting DW Griffith, he added, "A good editor plays with your emotion." He also stressed that compelling antagonists, who are as convinced of their truth as the protagonists, provide the story's tension and heartbeat.

Screenwriter Abhijat Joshi joined the session, sharing how real-life moments inspired 3 Idiots, reinforcing Hirani's message: authentic stories, strong desires, and conflicting truths create the most compelling cinema. By the end, writers, editors, and

cinephiles left inspired, reminded that filmmaking is a craft where emotion is imagined, experienced, and ultimately felt on screen.



'Wounds of Centuries Are Healing': PM Modi Marks Flag Hoisting Ceremony at Ayodhya Ram Temple

■ Prime Minister Calls the Moment a Historic Cultural Milestone for the Nation.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the flag hoisting ceremony at the Ayodhya Ram Temple as a defining civilisational moment for India, stating that the nation was witnessing the healing of historical wounds and the fulfilment of a centuries-old resolve. Addressing thousands of devotees gathered at the temple complex, he said Ayodhya had emerged as a powerful symbol of India's renewed spiritual and cultural awakening. The Prime Minister spoke of the profound emotions shared by millions of devotees, noting that



the atmosphere across the country was filled with a sense of gratitude and spiritual joy. He said the day marked the culmination of a long and difficult journey that had spanned centuries, calling it the completion of a sacrifice that had continued for generations. During the ceremony,

Modi emphasised the significance of the Dharma Dhwaj, describing it as a representation of collective endurance, unity and purpose. He stated that the flag reflected the struggles, aspirations and devotion that had shaped the cultural narrative surrounding Lord Ram, adding that its presence would continue to inspire future generations. Highlighting the unifying force of faith, the Prime Minister said the bond with Lord Ram was rooted in shared emotion rather than division. He noted that Ram's principles

of duty, compassion, courage and justice held timeless relevance, and should guide India's progress as it strives toward long-term national goals, including the vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. Modi said the global reverberation of Lord Ram's name reflected India's deep cultural roots and the enduring legacy of its spiritual traditions. He added that the transformation of Ayodhya and the completion of the temple represented a renewed affirmation of India's civilisational journey.



Indian Navy Commissions Indigenous Mahe-Class Anti-Submarine Vessel

■ New Shallow-Water Combatant Strengthens Coastal Defence And Advances Self-Reliance.

New Delhi: The Indian Navy is set to commission Mahe, the lead vessel of its Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on Monday. The ceremony, hosted by Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, will be presided over by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi. The induction of Mahe marks the arrival of a new line of homegrown

shallow-water combatants designed for agility, speed and coastal dominance. With over 80 per cent indigenous components, the vessel underscores India's growing capability in naval architecture, shipbuilding and advanced systems integration. Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, Mahe stands as a significant milestone in the country's drive toward greater self-reliance in defence production.



Air India Says Majority Of Crash Victims' Families Have Received Compensation

■ Interim Payments Released To 95 Percent Of Affected Families; Payout Process Continues.

New Delhi: Air India has announced significant progress in disbursing financial support to the families of those who died in the June crash of flight AI171. The airline confirmed that interim compensation has been provided to 95 percent of the affected families, while compensatory payments are also underway through a dedicated welfare trust. The London Gatwick bound Boeing 787 aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad on June 12, resulting in 260 deaths, including passengers, crew members and 19 people on the ground. Only one passenger survived the accident. In total, 180 families have been identified as directly

affected. According to the airline, each family is entitled to an interim payment of Rs 25 lakh. Additionally, the AI 171 Memorial and Welfare Trust is providing a compensatory payout of Rs 1 crore per family. So far, 70 families have received the full compensatory amount, payments are in progress for 50 families and documentation is pending for the remaining cases. The airline leadership reiterated its commitment to supporting those impacted by the tragedy and stated that assistance will continue until every case is resolved. The Tata Group established the welfare trust following the incident to manage long term support and compensation.

Merit Must Guide Admissions, Says Omar Abdullah Amid Controversy Over Vaishno Devi Medical College

■ Chief Minister Stresses Law Allows No Religious Bar On Entry.

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has reaffirmed that admissions to the newly established Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence must follow academic merit. His remarks come amid an escalating political row over the inclusion of Muslim students in the college's first batch. The Chief Minister stated that the institution was



created through legislation passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and that the law provides no scope for restricting admissions on religious grounds. He questioned the basis of the objections

being raised and reminded detractors that the university's founding legislation makes merit the only qualifying standard for entry. The issue has gained momentum after protests by several right wing groups in Jammu. The BJP has submitted a memorandum to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha demanding that the admissions of Muslim students be

reversed. These groups argue that because the college was set up by the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and funded through contributions from Hindu devotees, seats should be reserved exclusively for students who share the same faith. Opposition leaders have claimed that the public does not accept students from a particular community being admitted to the institution.

Ethiopia's Hayli Gubbi Volcano Erupts After Millennia, Ash Reaches India Amid Flight Disruptions

■ Aviation Authorities Issue Precautions as Plume Travels Thousands of Kilometres

New Delhi: A rare volcanic eruption in Ethiopia's Afar region sent a massive ash plume soaring up to 14 kilometres into the atmosphere on Sunday, marking the first recorded activity of the Hayli Gubbi volcano in nearly 12,000 years. Fast-moving winds carried the ash across the Red Sea and the Arabian Peninsula before it drifted

into parts of western and northern India, adding to concerns in regions already battling poor air quality. The ash cloud reached Delhi late on Sunday night, affecting several international flight operations. The India Meteorological Department reported that the plume was moving towards China and was expected to clear from

Indian skies by early evening. According to the agency, strong high-altitude winds transported the volcanic material over Yemen, Oman and the Arabian Sea before it neared the subcontinent. India's aviation regulator issued a detailed advisory, urging airlines to avoid volcanic ash-affected areas and adjust flight routes accordingly.



Airlines were instructed to report any encounter with suspected ash, including irregular engine behaviour or unusual odour inside aircraft cabins.

Stubbs Anchors South Africa's Charge as India Face Steep Chase of 549

■ Hosts Begin Mountainous Pursuit After Visitors Declare on Day Four.

New Delhi: India began their uphill pursuit of 549 with Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul taking guard after South Africa declared their second innings at 260 for 5 on the fourth day of the second Test in Guwahati. The visitors built their commanding position through disciplined batting led by Tristan Stubbs, who produced a determined 94 to keep India's bowlers at bay for most of the day. South Africa resumed the morning with a sizeable lead and were briefly checked by early breakthroughs. Ravindra Jadeja struck twice in quick succession and Washington Sundar added another wicket, reducing the innings to 77 for 3. Despite the pressure from India's spin duo, Stubbs and Tony de Zorzi steadied



the side with a composed 101-run partnership that shifted the momentum firmly back in their favour. De Zorzi played fluently and looked set for a half-century before falling for 49, missing the milestone by a single run. His dismissal brought only temporary relief for India as Stubbs continued to accumulate runs with unwavering focus. He found another reliable partner in Wiaan Mulder, adding 82 important runs

for the fifth wicket. Their stand frustrated India's attack, which struggled to break through on a surface offering gradual turn but demanding consistency. Stubbs' gritty stay finally ended when Jadeja bowled him, prompting the declaration at 260 for 5 after 78.3 overs. His effort, built on patience and precise shot-selection, ensured South Africa extended their advantage to a virtually insurmountable 549 runs.

With nearly two days left in the match, India face one of their most challenging chases in recent memory. Jaiswal and Rahul walked out under significant pressure, aware that a monumental batting effort is required to keep the contest alive. The closing session of the day marked the beginning of that daunting task, setting the stage for a test of resilience and application against a confident South African attack.



India Clinches Second Consecutive Women's Kabaddi World Cup Title

■ Clinical Performance in Dhaka Caps Unbeaten Championship Run

New Delhi: India's women's kabaddi team delivered an exceptional campaign to claim their second successive Women's Kabaddi World Cup title, securing a 35-28 victory over Chinese Taipei in the final held in Dhaka. The triumph reinforced India's dominance in the sport and highlighted the team's consistency and competitive depth throughout the tournament. India entered the championship as defending champions and demonstrated complete command from the

opening phase. They swept all their group stage matches with disciplined defence and sharp raiding combinations, establishing themselves as strong favourites for the knockout rounds. Their semifinal clash against Iran showcased the team's structure and balance across the mat, resulting in a convincing 33-21 win that propelled them into the final. Chinese Taipei also arrived in the title match unbeaten, having topped their group and overcome host nation Bangladesh 25-18 in the semifinal.

India Fall Short Against Belgium In 2-3 Thriller At Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

■ Late Fightback Not Enough As Belgium Edge Past India In Rain-Hit Clash.

New Delhi: India put up a spirited performance but fell narrowly to Belgium 2-3 in a rain-affected Sultan Azlan Shah Cup encounter in Ipoh, Malaysia. Despite a strong comeback attempt in the final minutes, India could not overturn Belgium's lead in their second match of the six-nation tournament. Belgium opened the scoring in the 17th minute through Roman Duvekot after sustained pressure in the Indian circle. India, who had defended well against two early penalty corners, relied on goalkeeper Pawan's sharp reflexes to stay in the contest through the first quarter. India returned with renewed energy in the second half and levelled the match in the 33rd minute when Abhishek finished a well-crafted



move. However, Belgium regained control soon after. Nicolas De Kerpel converted a penalty corner in the 45th minute to restore the European side's lead. Belgium extended their advantage moments later, with Duvekot striking again early in the fourth quarter. India refused to back down and struck in the 57th minute when Shilanand Lakra scored from a precise cross by Rabichandra Singh, reducing the deficit and setting up a tense finish. India continued to press forward in the final moments.

Legends Pro T20 League Prepares to Deliver a New Era of Cricket Entertainment

■ Goa Gears Up to Host the Inaugural Edition Featuring Global

PANAJI: The Legends Pro T20 League is set to launch its first edition in Goa next year, promising a premium cricketing spectacle that brings some of the sport's most celebrated names back into competitive action. Crafted as a global event aimed at elevating the legends cricket format, the league will feature

players known for their exceptional careers, including Shikhar Dhawan, Harbhajan Singh, Shane Watson and Dale Steyn. More than a nostalgic reunion, the tournament has been built as a platform that highlights the enduring

skill and charisma of legendary players. With multiple franchises, balanced squads and a structure designed to keep fans engaged throughout, the league aims to establish itself as one of the most anticipated annual cricket events

worldwide. The inaugural season will take place from 26 January to 4 February 2026 at the newly opened 1919 Sportz Cricket Stadium in Verna. All matches will be held at this single venue, creating an uninterrupted cricket festival atmosphere for visitors and fans following the action across the country.



Ishaan, Ashank, Aarish and Shreysht Secure Semi Final Spots at State Table Tennis Championship

■ Top Seeds Dominate Opening Day in U11 Boys Category.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The opening day of the Late Manohar Sawkar State Table Tennis Championship 2025 delivered an impressive showcase of talent as the top contenders in the U11 boys category booked their places in the semi finals. The event, staged at the Multipurpose Stadium in Fatorda,



marked a strong start with commanding performances from the highest ranked players. Top seed Ishaan Colaso set the tone early with two clinical wins that underlined his dominance. He began his

campaign by defeating Shiv Chopdekar 3-0 and followed it up with another assured 3-0 result against Aveer Shah in the quarterfinals. His consistent rhythm and attacking play ensured he moved into the last four

without dropping a set. Fifth seed Shreysht Rane also produced one of the most engaging runs of the day. He opened with a confident 3-0 victory over Ronan Menezes Gama, showcasing steady control in crucial rallies. In the quarterfinals, he delivered the biggest upset of the round by edging past fourth seed Kedar Nair in a tight 3-2 contest.