



Goa Pushes Decriminalisation Drive, Drops Jail Terms in 28 Acts Under Jan Vishwaas Initiative

State aligns with Centre's reform model to ease compliance and replace punitive provisions with monetary penalties
Cabinet trims Sanad processing time from 60 days to 45 days under amended Land Revenue Code.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa government has advanced its legal reform agenda by approving sweeping changes under the Jan Vishwaas initiative, converting imprisonment clauses in 28 state Acts into monetary penalties. Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said the step mirrors the decriminalisation process



adopted by the Union Government, aimed at reducing compliance burdens and modernising regulatory frameworks. Sawant said the move is designed to make

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IMPORTANT CABINET DECISIONS...

- ▶ Compassionate appointment scheme amended to prioritise orphaned dependents
- ▶ Govt to prepare priority list of candidates who lost both parents.
- ▶ Road tax waived for iron ore transport trucks for fy 2025-26 & 2026-27.
- ▶ Road tax exemption valid till march 2027: cm
- ▶ Under jan vishwaas, 28 goa acts shifted from imprisonment to monetary penalties
- ▶ Goa follows government of india's decriminalisation process: cm.

Six Arrested in Baina Dacoity; Stolen Valuables Recovered: DGP

■ DGP Reveals That Suspect With Prior Family Ties Helped Plan Baina Dacoity

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Police have arrested six individuals from Maharashtra and Odisha in connection with the violent dacoity at a seventh-floor flat in



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HC Dismisses Petitions Challenging ZP Reservation; Elections Likely on Schedule

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has dismissed two petitions challenging the



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Gala premeier

- Claudia
- Manushya (Ep 1)
- Andhra King Taluka
- This Tempting Madness
- Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders

Open Air Screening

Miramar Beach

- Home Alone @ 7 Pm

Vagator Beach

- 12th Fail @ 7 Pm

Ravindra Bhavan (Margao)

- Sonic the Hedgehog @ 7 pm

In conversation

50 years of Sholay: Why 'Sholay' Still Resonates?

By Ramesh Sippy

Perspectives from Two Filmmakers!

By Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, Shekhar Kapur

Panel Discussion

New North East Cinema & Film Schools

By Reema Borah, Maharishi Tuhin Kashyap, Haobam Paban Kumar

Preserving the Classics:

The Journey of SHIVA

By Nagarjuna, CV Rao

Indian Panorama

- Aata Thambaycha Naay (F)
- Ta Dhom / Sarkeet
- A. R. M (F)
- Ummathat - The Rhythm Of Kodava
- Pokkhirajer Dim (F)
- The Bengal Files (F)
- Kesari Chapter 2 (F)

Restored classic

Calamity / Kalamita

Special Screening

- Susman
- Goa Marches On
- A Summer In Boujad
- Dr. Kotnis Ki Amar Kahani
- Geetanjali

International Competition

- Amrum
- Sham
- Moi qui t'aimais
- A Poet / Un Poeta
- My Fathers Shadow

DAY 8

CINEMELA

@ Kala Academy

- Banarasi Jasoos @ 8:30 am
- 12th Fail @ 10:00 / 10:15 / 10:30 am
- Gharat Ganpati @ 3:00 pm
- Teesri Manzil @ 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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Lounge Partner: Baile, Beverage Partner: XPRANSE COFFEE, Tea Partner: Bisleri, Airline Partner: Eastar, FLY91, Airport Partner: GOX, Inclusion Partner: State Commission for Persons with Disabilities - Goa, Radio Partner: BIG, Mobility Partner: KTCL, Technical Partner: SMPTE, QUBE, WIRE, SONY, MOVIEBUFF ACCESS, Content Partner: NETFLIX, SHORTSTV, amazon prime, Screening Partner: PVR, INOX, NOVEX, Licensing Partner: PPL, Cause Partner: UNICEF, Wireless & Surveillance Partner: Salazar Studio, P.W.D, GSIDC, Our Supporters: KALA ACADEMY, GOA, GOA, CICT ICET, Other Partners: ORA, SBI, Wellness Forever, Jio Star, KENYA GRANT, FUJIFILM, Hollifood, VARIETY, Canon, The Pioneer, SCREEN DAILY, CICT ICET

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

Goa's Unease Over Kannadiga Presence

The unease that many Goans express today regarding the Kannadiga presence in the state cannot be brushed aside as mere discomfort with migration. Goa has a long history of movement and exchange. Its identity has survived waves of settlement over centuries. Yet the growing strain between locals and sections of the Kannadiga community reflects a deeper clash of expectations, values and civic behaviour that calls for an honest examination rather than polite avoidance. Across Goa one increasingly hears frustration about how some newcomers choose to relate to the state. Locals often feel that many within the Kannadiga community show reluctance to engage with Goan culture or local life beyond what is economically necessary. The issue is not that people arrive from Karnataka. The issue is the perception that too many remain socially detached and form parallel networks and neighbourhoods that exist almost independently of the communities around them. This lack of integration becomes more visible when cultural differences are amplified rather than bridged.

Many Goans point to everyday incidents where there appears to be little effort to understand local customs, civic norms or even basic sensitivities of language. Public spaces, markets and workplaces become meeting grounds for these frictions. When people feel that their home is treated as an economic zone rather than a living community, resentment naturally follows.

It is worth clarifying that the word ghannti has long been part of Goan vocabulary and originally described people who crossed the mountain passes into Goa. It was never meant to undermine the legacy of Goans who played critical roles in the liberation struggle. Figures such as Maj Gen K P Candeth, Brig Sagat Singh, Tristao Bragança Cunha, Dr Rammanohar Lohia, Dr Juliao Menezes, Purushottam Kakodkar, Mohan Ranade,

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Figures such as Maj Gen K P Candeth, Brig Sagat Singh, Tristao Bragança Cunha, Dr Rammanohar Lohia, Dr Juliao Menezes, Purushottam Kakodkar, Mohan Ranade, Pundalik Gaitonde, Naguesh Karmali, Ravindra Kelekar, Telo Mascarenhas, Babu Naik, Haji Usman Ali Sayed, Sheikh Hassan Khan, Abdul Gafar Shaikh and Mohammed Hussain Khan were rooted in this soil long before the Portuguese era. Their connection to Goa is beyond question.

Pundalik Gaitonde, Naguesh Karmali, Ravindra Kelekar, Telo Mascarenhas, Babu Naik, Haji Usman Ali Sayed, Sheikh Hassan Khan, Abdul Gafar Shaikh and Mohammed Hussain Khan were rooted in this soil long before the Portuguese era. Their connection to Goa is beyond question. The current tension stems not from old labels but from new realities. Goa's rapid economic growth in sectors like real estate, construction and small trade has attracted steady inflows of workers and entrepreneurs. Many contribute significantly to the state's economy. Yet contribution alone cannot substitute for a sense of belonging. When

the social contract feels one sided, locals understandably worry that Goa's character is being diluted without reciprocal respect. This editorial is not an indictment of every Kannadiga living in Goa. Communities are complex and individuals vary widely in how they integrate. Many Kannadigas have embraced Goa wholeheartedly and become part of its social fabric. They participate in festivals, support local causes and understand the emotional weight that language and identity carry in a small state. Their presence proves that harmony is possible when effort flows both ways. But discomfort grows when others appear indifferent to that shared responsibility.

Goa has already seen how unchecked demographic change can alter neighbourhoods and disrupt longstanding cultural practices. People fear losing the distinctive rhythm of Goan life that balances openness with rootedness. They are not opposed to outsiders. They are opposed to feeling outnumbered in their own home. Goans who left for Belgaum once faced similar challenges in reverse. Yet they built their homes there through work and patience and did not displace anyone. This history should remind today's migrants that integration is a choice made every day, not a guarantee granted by arrival. Goa thrives when its residents, old and new, treat the state with respect and understanding. That means recognising that identity matters here. It means learning enough Konkani to navigate daily life, participating in local traditions and appreciating the history that gives this place its distinct voice. Criticism need not be hostility. It can be an invitation to engage. The concerns expressed by Goans today are real. They deserve attention, introspection and action. If those who come to Goa wish to build a future here then they must share responsibility for preserving the spirit of the land they now call home.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Railways' Illegal Encroachment on Goans' Land in Cansaulim

Residents of Cansaulim are once again facing the heavy hand of the Railways, which has moved ahead with what locals describe as blatant encroachment on private and comunidade land. This is not the first time the village has confronted such overreach, but the latest actions have crossed a line that Goans cannot afford to ignore. Landowners say that railway workers entered properties without permission, marked boundaries unilaterally and began clearing patches of land under the claim of maintenance and expansion.

No proper notices were issued and no consultation was held with affected families or local panchayat representatives. In a state where land is deeply tied to heritage, such conduct feels not just high handed but disrespectful. Cansaulim residents have repeatedly expressed concern about the Railways acting as though public interest allows them to bypass due process. Even government departments are expected to follow the law, seek consent and hold transparent discussions. Approaching development with secrecy and force only fuels distrust. The people of Goa have always cooperated with infrastructure that genuinely serves the public. What they cannot accept is the steady erosion of their rights under the banner of national projects. If agencies feel they can enter any field or backyard without accountability then they set a dangerous precedent for the entire state. The Railways must halt all activity in Cansaulim until the legal status of the land is clarified. Respect for Goans and their property cannot be optional. It is the foundation on which any development must stand."

- Maria Cruz, Sernabatim

Goa Government Scared of Notifying Tiger Reserve

The ongoing hesitation of the Goa government to notify a tiger reserve has become impossible to ignore. While officials offer shifting explanations, the public sees a clear pattern of reluctance driven more by political convenience than scientific reasoning or environmental responsibility. Goa's forests are under pressure from highways, railway expansion and mining interests. In such a fragile landscape, a tiger reserve would bring stronger safeguards, better monitoring and dedicated funding. Yet instead of embracing this opportunity, the government appears worried about the restrictions that would follow. This fear reveals where priorities lie. Protecting wildlife and ecosystems comes second to keeping various lobbies satisfied. Experts have already confirmed tiger presence in the state's wildlife corridors. The Centre has advised further protection. Conservationists have repeatedly warned that delaying the reserve will push these animals into shrinking pockets of habitat where conflict becomes more likely.

Despite this, the government continues to drag its feet, hoping the issue fades. The claim that a reserve will hurt local communities is misleading. Tiger reserves across the country show that benefits include improved livelihoods, better tourism management and greater national attention to protection. What people fear is uncertainty, not conservation itself. Clear communication and honest planning could resolve that. Goa cannot speak of sustainability while avoiding a decision that would secure its last remaining wild spaces. The government must overcome its political fear and act in the long term interest of the state. Future generations deserve forests that still have space for tigers.

-Shrikant Usgaonkar, Ponda

St Cruz Daylight Burglary Cracked; Police Nab Suspected Serial Housebreaker

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Barely a day after solving the Baina dacoity, Goa Police on Wednesday announced a breakthrough in the high-profile St Cruz burglary case with the arrest of 33-year-old Lokesh Suthar, believed to be a habitual housebreaker active across multiple States. According to police sources, Suthar was traced to Karnataka in a coordinated operation involving the Old Goa Police and the Crime Branch. He is accused of breaking into a residence at Ubo Dando, St Cruz, on November 14 and fleeing with cash and gold valued at around ₹25



lakh. He was detained in Karnataka and brought to Goa on a transit remand before being formally arrested. Investigators say Suthar is linked to more than 25 thefts and break-ins reported in Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka. He was presented before the JMFC in Mercas and handed over to police custody for 10 days. The St Cruz incident had unsettled the

neighbourhood after a lone intruder slipped into a locked flat in broad daylight and cleared out valuables within half an hour. On the same afternoon, an adjacent apartment was also targeted. Police, who had remained quiet during the early phase of the investigation, are now examining whether Suthar acted independently or is connected to a larger interstate burglary network.

HC Slams ED Over 'Unlawful' Custody, Lets Kenyan National Out on Bail

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has come down heavily on the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for the manner in which it picked up Kenyan citizen Newton Muthuri Kimani, ruling that he was kept in illegal custody from the moment he was stopped at Delhi's IGI Airport. The court has granted him bail, calling the agency's actions a clear breach of constitutional safeguards. Justice Valmiki Menezes found that Kimani's interception at the airport on December 8, 2023—triggered by an ED-issued Look Out Circular—was

effectively an arrest. Since the ED failed to produce him before a magistrate within 24 hours, the court said the detention violated Article 22(2) of the Constitution and the mandatory requirements laid down under the CrPC. As a result, the arrest itself was held invalid. Kimani was being probed for allegedly allowing his bank accounts and UPI QR codes to be used to collect payments linked to a prostitution ring operated by two other accused, who allegedly lured women to Goa under the promise of jobs in the hospitality sector. According to the ED, more than ₹21.2



crore moved through the accounts of Kimani and another suspect in the form of thousands of micro-transactions, with around ₹3.4 crore purportedly sent to Kenya via illegal hawala routes. Court records show that immigration officials detained Kimani at around 10.30 am as he attempted to fly to Nairobi.

Panel Clears JSW's Proposal to Use 65.97 Ha of Forest Land in Codli Mining Block

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Forest Department's project screening committee has given the initial nod for the diversion of nearly 66 hectares of forest land within the Codli iron ore mining lease at Dharbandora, which is currently operated by JSW. The Codli block—spread across 377.08 hectares—is Goa's largest mining lease. It was previously operated by Vedanta Ltd and Sociedade Timblo Irmaos Ltd, and portions of its forested areas have been used in earlier mining phases as well. As per



the details submitted by JSW, 65.97 hectares of the block fall under forest area, while the remaining 311.12 hectares are categorised as non-forest land. The committee, at its meeting last month, agreed to advance the proposal and forwarded it to the Deputy Conservator of Forests (South) for a

detailed examination. "The Committee has decided to process the proposal further and transmit it to the DCF (South) for evaluation. The DCF shall scrutinise the proposal once all undertakings and required documents are received from the User Agency," the panel recorded.

JSW had approached the department seeking permission to utilise the forested portion even before the lease agreement is formally executed. The proposal indicates that 33.98 hectares of the total block contain ore, while 343.10 hectares are non-mineralised. The site is estimated to hold 48.49 million metric tonnes of iron ore, plus around 2.68 million metric tonnes of dumps. While reviewing the project, committee members noted that the Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary is only 1.52 km from the proposed site.

Schools in Canacona to Remain Shut on Nov 28 Ahead of PM Modi's Visit

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Education has declared November 28 a holiday for all schools in the Canacona region due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Goa. An official circular issued by Director of Education Shailesh Zingade states that the decision was taken at a meeting led by the Chief Secretary, keeping in mind the heavy security deployment, traffic controls and other arrangements required for VVIP movement in the



area. As per the order, all government, aided and private primary, secondary, higher secondary and special schools in and around Canacona will stay closed for both students and staff on Friday. Institutions have also been instructed not to hold exams, academic programmes or any school-related events on the day.

Goa Women's Commission Speeds Up Case Disposal, Resolves 579 Matters Since 2023

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa State Women's Commission has reported notable gains in clearing its backlog and responding to women's grievances, having disposed of 579 cases between April 2023 and October 2025. The figures work out to roughly 19 cases resolved every month, signalling a push for quicker redressal under

the current leadership. In the same period, the Commission took up 1,194 matters for hearing and initiated suo motu proceedings in 14 instances. When Chairperson Ranjita Pai took charge in April 2023, the body had 322 pending cases. Of these, 312 have now been settled, while hearings continue in the remaining 10. At present, the Commission is working through 95



active cases, most of which involve domestic violence complaints lodged against husbands or relatives.

Other issues brought before the panel include sexual harassment,

emotional abuse, discrimination, and unfair treatment in workplaces and communities. Alongside its adjudicatory work, the Commission has also widened its outreach.

In the last 20 months, it has organised 80 awareness programmes across colleges, panchayats, and women's self-help groups. These workshops focus on legal rights, domestic violence

legislation, online safety, gender sensitivity, and health topics such as nutrition. In an effort to make hearings more accessible, the Commission has even travelled to meet complainants who could not appear due to illness or personal constraints. A total of 38 such on-site hearings have been held so far. A Commission official said Pai has laid particular emphasis

on cyber safety, with women and students being cautioned about digital scams and the risks associated with social media. "The aim is to ensure women feel secure at home, at work, and online," the official noted. The Commission has also scheduled a public hearing on November 29 at Zambaulim, to be held in partnership with the lawyers' collective.

Logistics officer booked for allegedly diluting 21,000 kg of UCO, cheating firm of Rs 21.63 lakh

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: A logistics officer employed with a private company has been booked for allegedly misappropriating and adulterating a massive quantity of Used Cooking Oil (UCO), causing a reported loss of over ₹21.63 lakh to his employer. In a complaint lodged at 6:41 pm on



November 25, Nikhil Rajiv Bhat, Pan-India Logistics Manager and Supply Chain Head of Munzer Bharat Pvt. Ltd., stated that accused Saquib Shaikh — a

logistics officer overseeing the company's Goa warehouse at Harvalem, Sanquelim — dishonestly dispatched 21,000 kg of UCO to the company's Mumbai warehouse after allegedly mixing large quantities of water to misrepresent the stock. The complaint further states that the material transported in tankers was later found to contain

nearly 90% water during quality testing. Shaikh also allegedly fabricated delivery notes to support the fraudulent dispatches. The company, headquartered in Navi Mumbai, estimated the loss at ₹21,63,000. Police have registered a case of cheating and criminal misappropriation, and further investigation is underway.

Two scooters stolen from Panaji in separate incidents

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Two two-wheelers were reported stolen in separate incidents from open parking spaces in the city, with both complaints lodged late on November 25. In the first case, Sanjay Sarmalkar of Lawande Sarmalkar Bhavan, Dr Shirgaonkar Road, lodged a complaint at 10:47 pm stating that his white Honda Activa HET (GA 07 M 1869) was stolen between 8:30 pm on November 17 and 8:45 am on November 18 from



the building's open parking area. In another incident, Nehal Parekh, residing near the Pharmacy College at 18th June Road, filed a complaint at 11:02 pm reporting the theft of his father's white Honda Activa (GA 07 M 5561).

Curtorim woman loses Rs 1 lakh after clicking fake Parivahan APK link

Team Goemkarponn

CURTORIM: A 20 September phishing scam left a Curtorim resident poorer by ₹1 lakh after she unknowingly installed a fraudulent APK file that gave hackers full access to her phone and bank accounts. According to the complaint filed by Latoya Krita Sequeira Carvalho, her husband had forwarded her an APK link that appeared to be related to the Parivahan app. When she clicked on the file around 6:36



pm, an unknown accused reportedly gained access to her device. The hacker then allegedly carried out two unauthorised transactions — ₹50,000 from her Bank of Baroda savings account and another ₹50,000 from her State Bank of India savings account — both used to purchase Amazon Pay gift vouchers.

4 Margao shops booked for selling counterfeit products

Team Goemkarponn

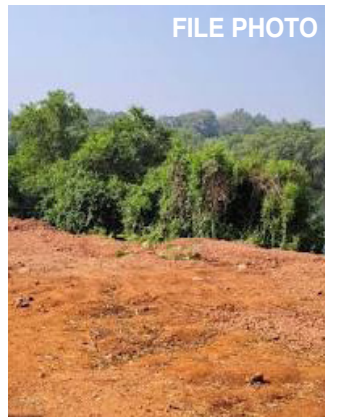
Margao: Police have registered offences against four shops in the city after a complaint by Kundan Beloshe, Investigation Officer of Griffin Intellectual Property Services Pvt. Ltd., revealed the sale and storage of counterfeit Bosch products. Acting on behalf of Robert Bosch GmbH, the complainant stated that React India Pvt. Ltd. had been authorised to carry out investigations into spurious products resembling genuine

Bosch items. During market surveillance conducted between October 18 and November 26, Beloshe identified counterfeit stock at Mahalaxmi Sales & Service on Power House Road, Mahaveer Sales & Service on Old Station Road, and Ashapura Sales & Service and Bharat Sales & Service, both located at Malbhat. Based on the findings, offences were registered against the shop owners for violating intellectual property rights and causing loss to both the

Illegal land filling detected in Chaudi; one booked

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Town and Country Planning Department has lodged a complaint against a Canacona resident for allegedly carrying out illegal land filling in Chaudi village without mandatory permissions. According to the complaint filed by Vinay Fal Dessai, Draftsman Grade-II with the TCP Department, the accused, Pratik Prakash Dessai of Ponsulem, undertook land filling activity in Chaudi prior to September 18 without



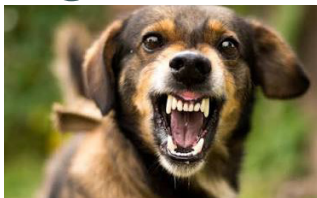
obtaining approval from the competent authority. Police have registered a case for the violation, and further investigation is being conducted by PSI Ajit Velip of Canacona Police Station.

Velim woman injured after neighbour's dog bites her; owner booked for negligence

Team Goemkarponn

VELIM: A resident of Caroi, Velim has been booked after his dog allegedly bit a woman

due to negligent handling. The complaint, filed by Leny D'Silva of Velim, states that on November 19 at around 7:30 pm, the accused, Cajephor



Pereira of Caroi, failed to take necessary precautions to control his dog, which was reportedly furious at the time.

As a result of the alleged lapse, the dog attacked and injured the complainant. Police have registered a case for negligence

conduct with respect to an animal. Further investigation is being carried out by ASI Laxman Velip of Cuncolim Police Station.

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Goa Pushes Decriminalisation Drive, Drops Jail Terms in 28 Acts Under Jan Vishwaas Initiative

the state's legal regime "less punitive and more facilitative," ensuring that minor procedural or technical violations no longer attract criminal prosecution. The government is expected to continue reviewing other Acts to identify sections that can be rationalised in a similar manner.

Alongside the decriminalisation measures, the Cabinet cleared several administrative decisions. These include an amendment to Section 32 of the Goa Land Revenue Code, reducing the time for issuance of Sanad from 60 days to 45 days; approval of

priority compassionate appointments for dependents who have lost both parents; and a road tax waiver for iron ore transportation trucks for FY 2025-26 and 2026-27, valid until March 2027.

Six Arrested in Baina Dacoity; Stolen Valuables Recovered: DGP

Chamundi Arcade, Baina, Vasco, which occurred on November 18, DGP Alok Kumar informed. A seventh accused is still at large,

and the search for him continues. Investigations revealed that one of the accused, who had previously worked at the Nayak family's shop,

played a key role in planning the crime using insider information. The family estimated their loss, including gold, silver, and cash, at around ₹35 lakh.

HC Dismisses Petitions Challenging ZP Reservation; Elections Likely on Schedule

reservation process for the upcoming Zilla Parishad elections. With the legal challenge cleared, the elections,

scheduled for December 20, are now expected to proceed as planned. The State Election Commission is likely to

announce the election schedule and implement the model code of conduct by the end of this month or early December.

Congress Block alleges obstruction during SIR awareness drive in Margao

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Margao Congress Block accused supporters of the local MLA of obstructing its door-to-door S.I.R. (Special Summary Revision) awareness campaign, claiming that attempts were made to prevent the team from educating residents about their electoral rights and responsibilities. Launching the campaign, Block Convener Savio Coutinho along with



party members and BLA representatives visited households in Azad Nagar, where several residents reportedly informed them that their acknowledgement copies were not returned by the Booth Level Officer (BLO).

As similar complaints emerged from multiple houses, the BLO of the area allegedly approached the team to justify the lapse, stating that he did not issue acknowledgement slips fearing that residents

may misplace them — an explanation Coutinho described as “unjustified and irresponsible.” According to Coutinho, the BLO also admitted that multiple-layer voter enrolments had taken place in Part No. 15.

Many houses in the area have been rented out, and while the original occupants have shifted elsewhere, their names remain on the rolls along with the new residents, he said.

Mapusa MLA reviews phased redevelopment plan for municipal market

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Deputy Speaker and Mapusa MLA Joshua De Souza on Wednesday chaired a detailed meeting to push forward the proposed refurbishment of the Mapusa Municipal Market, emphasising a people-centric and stakeholder-driven approach to the project. De Souza said the redevelopment would be undertaken in a phased manner to ensure minimal disruption to daily business while



incorporating suggestions from all stakeholders to create a vibrant, modernised marketplace. The meeting was attended by officials of GSUDA, Mapusa Municipal Council Chairperson Priya Mishal, Vice-Chairperson Prakash Bhiset, Chief Officer Chandrakant Shetkar, councillors, the Market Committee Chairman, market engineers and inspectors.

4-Day Konkani Film Festival to Debut in Canacona from December 7

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Canacona is set to host its first-ever 4-day Konkani Film Festival at Ravindra Bhavan from December 7 to 11, an initiative led entirely by local organisations without any government funding. The festival is being organised by Kala Chetana, Volvoi in association with Ranga Sangati, Canacona, with the aim of promoting Konkani cinema, nurturing local talent, and creating



a cultural space for film lovers in the taluka. Addressing the media, actor Rajdeep Naik, producer-writer Suchita Narvekar of Questao De Confusao, Ranga Sangati President Rajendra Gosavi, and Organising Chairman Umesh Tubki announced that the festival

will showcase a mix of hit films and award-winning shorts. Screenings will begin at 7.30 pm daily. The lineup includes Home Sweet Home (Dec 7), Home Sweet Home 2 (Dec 8), Questao De Confusao (Dec 9), Mortoo—shot in Khotigao village (Dec 10), and on the final day, four short films: Asecas (Toronto Film Festival award winner), Cucu, Salt, and Sadabahar, which highlights young Canacona talent.

Rumdamol Panch Member flags substandard roadwork, seeks urgent intervention

Team Goemkarponn

CRUMDAMOL: Panch Member Vinayak Volvoikar has raised serious concern over a road in Rumdamol that has been left dug up for nearly one and a half years, causing persistent inconvenience to residents. He said that although patchwork was carried out four days ago, the work was of poor

quality and failed to offer any real improvement. Volvoikar appealed to PWD Minister Digambar Kamat to intervene immediately and direct the contractor to complete the long-pending work without further delay. He added that if the contractor is unable to deliver work of acceptable standards, his licence should be cancelled. Highlighting the hazards



caused by the prolonged delay, he recalled that a child had suffered an electric shock during last year's monsoon due to exposed underground cables — a serious safety risk that demands urgent redressal.

41st All-Religions Prayer Meet to Be Held in Canacona on December 14

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The 41st All-Religions Prayer Meet, themed “Pormoshvorachea Mogan Ami Ek” (United in God's Love), will be held on 14th December at the Shri Gaitonde Mini-Sports Complex, bringing together spiritual leaders and followers from diverse faiths to pray for peace, unity and human harmony. Observed

annually, the prayer meet—now in its 37th year—draws participation from preachers and priests representing Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Jainism. Priests, nuns and members of the Brahmakumaris will lead prayers focused on World Humanism, Unity in World Peace, Unity in Diversity, and messages promoting harmony and integrity across religions.

AAP's Carol intensifies door-to-door campaign in Calangute

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Aam Aadmi Party's Calangute ZP candidate, Carol Fernandes, continued her grassroots outreach on Wednesday with a door-to-door campaign in Agarvaddo. She was accompanied by a team of young volunteers who actively engaged with residents during the visits. Carol highlighted the public welfare initiatives implemented by the Aam



Aadmi Party and appealed to voters to support her in the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections. Urging residents to back AAP's development-oriented vision, she requested them to vote for the party's broom symbol.

Road Improvement And Blacktopping Work Towards Pollem Beach Launched

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Stating that his primary goal is to strengthen all basic amenities across the Canacona constituency within the next one year, Minister and Canacona MLA Ramesh Tawadkar launched the road improvement and blacktopping works on the tourism-important Polem Beach road in Loliem-Polem village. “My single and most determined goal is to strengthen basic amenities in every village of the Canacona constituency, and we are fully committed to achieving this within the next one year. This road improvement is not only to encourage tourism but also to ease daily commuting for local residents,” Tawadkar said. The project



is expected to greatly reduce the strain caused by increasing traffic, enhance convenience for tourists, and significantly improve safety for local residents. The brief function was attended by Loliem-Polem Panchayat Sarpanch Nisha Chari, Deputy Sarpanch Pankaj Bandekar, former Sarpanch Pratija Bandekar, Panch members Chandrakant Sudhir, Ajay Lodayekar, Supriya Pagi, Canacona BJP Mandal President Prabhakar Gaonkar, Mandal workers Ashok Gaonkar and Vinay Tubki, along with local villagers.

GTDC to host world-renowned dance drama 'RAM' in Goa on Nov 29 & 30

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) has announced that Goa will host the world-famous dance drama

RAM later this month, giving Goans a rare chance to witness one of India's most celebrated cultural productions. The performances will be held at Ravindra Bhavan, Baina-Vasco

on November 29 and at Kala Academy, Panjim on November 30, 2025. GTDC Chairman Kedar J. Naik said Goa was privileged to host a production that has inspired audiences

across generations. “Our focus is to bring distinguished cultural experiences to our people and create opportunities that enrich our artistic and social fabric,” he said.

IFFI 2025: Global Filmmakers Celebrate Cinema's Universal Language



At IFFI, filmmakers from Bulgaria, Russia, and a Turkish–German–Bulgarian co-production highlighted how cinema transcends borders. Bulgaria's 'Axis of Life', directed by Atanas Yordanov, delves into philosophy and spirituality, drawing inspiration from India's rich traditions. Yordanov shared that the film resonates strongly with younger audiences and stressed that, despite technological advances like AI, human emotion and creativity remain irreplaceable. Russia's 'Transparent Lands', presented by Executive Producer Maksim Dobromyslov, examines themes of aspiration and migration, portraying the journey from small towns



to major cities in search of opportunities. Maksim emphasized Russia's growing influence in global cinema and invited audiences to explore contemporary Russian filmmaking. The Turkish–German–Bulgarian debut 'Those Who Whistle After Dark', directed by Pinar Yorgancıoğlu, follows a grieving family confronting existential crises and supernatural events. The film reflects the power of international collaboration and cinema's ability to foster empathy across cultures. Despite their diverse backgrounds, all filmmakers agreed that cinema is a universal medium, capable of connecting people, sharing stories, and celebrating the human experience across borders.

Eka Lakhani Reveals Costume Secrets at IFFI: WHEN FABRIC TELLS A STORY

At IFFI's session 'Costume and Character Arc: The Trendsetters of Cinema', acclaimed designer Eka Lakhani offered a masterclass on how costumes shape characters and narratives.



At IFFI's session 'Costume and Character Arc: The Trendsetters of Cinema', acclaimed designer Eka Lakhani offered a masterclass on how costumes shape characters and narratives. Sharing insights from films like 'Ponniyin Selvan,' 'OK Jaanu,' 'Sanju,' and 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani,' Eka explained how costumes reflect emotion, power, and personality. From Nandini's seductive authority to Arulmozhi Varman's serene



nobility, every look was tied to the character's inner world.



Eka highlighted her collaboration with directors



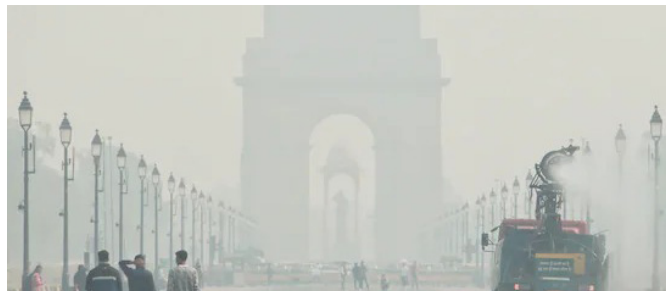
like Mani Ratnam, starting sometimes at the scripting

stage, and the importance of visual research, team coordination, and attention to audience sensibilities. Humour and improvisation, like creating Shraddha Kapoor's iconic shorts from cushion covers, also shape her process. Her takeaway: in cinema, costumes are more than decoration—they are narrative tools. Every stitch and colour communicates who the character is, often before they speak.

"No Single Cause, No Quick Fix" Supreme Court on Delhi's Air Crisis

■ Bench says problem has multiple causes and cannot be solved through "ceremonial"

New Delhi: The Supreme Court described Delhi's persistent air pollution crisis as a matter that affects every resident, expressing concern that the issue receives attention only during peak smog periods. Taking note of a submission calling the situation a health emergency, the Chief Justice questioned what immediate remedy the judiciary could realistically offer, asking what "magic wand" could clear the air in a single day. The bench acknowledged the urgency but said



the pollution challenge is complex, driven by multiple causes that require expert assessment. It stressed that effective solutions must come from domain specialists who can identify all contributing factors and propose sustainable measures.

The court observed that while problems have long been recognised, the lack of consistent implementation remains a major obstacle. Responding to concerns that existing plans remain only on paper, the bench noted that hearings on the issue often become

seasonal and said it intends to monitor the matter more regularly. The Chief Justice remarked that the judges themselves face the same air quality issues, adding that he felt unwell after an hour-long walk due to the pollution in the capital. The matter will be heard again on Monday. The court also recalled its earlier direction to the Commission for Air Quality Management to consider postponing outdoor sports events in schools across Delhi and the NCR to safer months.

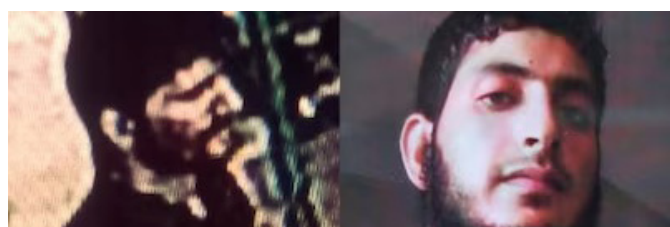


PM Modi Says India Will Build The World's Most Reliable Rocket Launcher

■ Vikram-I Unveiled As Skyroot Opens New Infinity Campus In Hyderabad

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled Vikram-I, India's first privately developed orbital rocket, during the virtual inauguration of Skyroot Aerospace's new Infinity Campus in Hyderabad. He described the milestone as a major step toward establishing India as a global leader in satellite launch systems and credited the country's

growing private space sector for redefining its technological capabilities. The Prime Minister said India has strengthened its reputation in space technology through credibility, innovation and capacity, applauding Skyroot founders Pawan Chandana and Bharath Daka for inspiring a new generation of engineers and scientists.



Muzammil Says Shaheen Is His Wife As NIA Widens Probe In Delhi Blast Case

■ Investigators Probe Financial Trail And Wider Kashmir-Based Network

New Delhi: A new development has emerged in the investigation into the November 10 Delhi car blast, with accused Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie informing investigators that co-accused Dr Shaheen Shahid is his legally wedded wife. He asserted that they were married in September 2023 at a mosque near Al Falah University, where a mehr

of approximately ₹5,000 to ₹6,000 was agreed upon under Sharia law. This disclosure is now being examined to understand Shaheen's alleged financial involvement in the activities of the module. The National Investigation Agency has made its seventh arrest in the case, taking into custody Soyab from Dhoul in Faridabad.

Hong Kong High-Rise Blaze Kills 55, Hundreds Missing; Three Arrested

New Delhi: At least 55 people have died and hundreds remain unaccounted for after a massive fire tore through seven high-rise residential buildings in Hong Kong's Tai Po district, officials said. The inferno, one of the city's deadliest in decades, began Wednesday afternoon at Wang Fuk Court, an eight-building estate undergoing maintenance, and quickly spread through the densely packed complex. Police have arrested three men in connection with the blaze, citing "gross negligence" after flammable materials, including foam packaging left during repairs, reportedly helped the fire



escalate uncontrollably. Authorities also conducted searches at a separate neighbourhood, seizing documents linked to the suspects. Firefighters battled the blaze through the night, though flames remained visible in some apartments early Thursday. Smoke and fire from the 31-storey blocks rose high into the sky, with debris and charred scaffolding falling onto nearby areas.



"Is Aadhaar Being Misused For Voting?" Supreme Court Seeks Clarification

New Delhi: The Supreme Court raised an important query on the role of Aadhaar in determining voter eligibility, observing that individuals who are not Indian citizens but have managed to obtain Aadhaar cards cannot automatically be treated as eligible voters. The court reiterated that Aadhaar is designed to facilitate access to welfare schemes and cannot be considered proof of citizenship.

A bench led by the Chief Justice, while hearing petitions against the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in several states, emphasised that Aadhaar is only one among multiple documents that may be submitted during voter registration. The court noted that if a name is removed from the electoral roll, the individual must be given proper notice and an opportunity to respond.

"Calling Everyone For Discussions" Kharge Moves To Settle Karnataka Leadership Rift

New Delhi: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge moved to address the growing leadership debate in Karnataka by convening a meeting of senior figures, underscoring that any decision will be taken only after full consultation. He confirmed that Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK

Shivakumar will participate in the discussions. Kharge said the party's central leadership will deliberate together before arriving at a final call, noting that the decision must reflect the collective view of the organisation. His intervention comes as speculation intensifies over friction between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. Shivakumar



added to the political buzz on Wednesday with a cryptic post on social media, where he emphasised the importance of keeping

one's word. The message was widely read as directed toward party leadership and appeared to hint at expectations surrounding earlier

commitments. The debate escalated further after senior MLA and former minister KN Rajanna stated that the Congress Legislature Party should decide the matter and even suggested dissolving the Assembly to seek a fresh mandate. He argued that if the party contests under Shivakumar's leadership and secures a majority,

he should serve a full five-year term. Rajanna, however, also expressed his personal preference that Siddaramaiah should continue as Chief Minister, while naming Dr G Parameshwara as another possible choice. Siddaramaiah dismissed the ongoing discussions as unnecessary, asserting that he remains focused on governance.

Rohit Sharma Returns To The Top As ICC Rankings See Major Shifts

■ Starc Achieves Career-Best Test Rating As Raza Claims New Milestone.

New Delhi: Rohit Sharma has reclaimed the number one position in the ODI batting rankings, leading a week of significant changes across all formats in the latest update of the ICC player standings. His rise comes after New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell dropped points following his absence from the final two matches of the recent series against the West Indies. Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza has also achieved a major career breakthrough by securing the top spot among T20I all-rounders for the first time. His consistent run in the ongoing tri-series involving Sri Lanka and Pakistan has strengthened his standing. In his most recent outing, he contributed a brisk 37 and delivered four



economical overs, further underlining his impact. Raza has been a regular presence in the top ten since the 2022 T20 World Cup, and his upward trend continues as he now holds second place in the ODI all-rounders list. Pakistan's players have made notable progress as well. Sahibzada Farhan has climbed eight places to reach fourth among T20I batters, while Babar Azam has risen five spots

to 29th after a recent half-century. Mohammad Nawaz has advanced to seventh among T20I all-rounders following steady performances in the tri-series. In the ODI format, several players have moved up. New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra has improved to 12th, Devon Conway has surged eleven places to 31st, and West Indies captain Shai Hope has moved to eighth following

his unbeaten century against the Black Caps. New Zealand's bowlers have also benefited, with Mitchell Santner now sixth and Matt Henry joining the top ten. The Test rankings have seen similar reshuffling. Australia's strong victory over England in Perth has pushed several players upward. Travis Head's decisive fourth-innings knock has lifted him to sixth among batters, while Mitchell Starc has jumped to fifth in the bowling list, reaching his highest career rating. England's Ollie Pope has climbed to 24th, and Bangladesh have enjoyed widespread gains after their win over Ireland, with Mushfiqur Rahim, Litton Das and Mominul Haque all moving significantly higher.

Javokhir Sindarov Becomes Youngest-Ever World Cup Champion

■ Teenager's remarkable triumph marks a new era in global chess.

New Delhi: Nineteen-year-old Javokhir Sindarov created a landmark moment in Goa by becoming the youngest player in history to win the FIDE World Cup. The Uzbek prodigy claimed the title after a tense tiebreak victory over China's Wei Yi in the 2025 final. Entering the event as the sixteenth seed, Sindarov advanced through a challenging field where several top contenders exited early. His path to the championship included a hard-fought semifinal win over compatriot Nodirbek Yakubboev, secured only after tiebreak games. By reaching the final, both Sindarov and Wei Yi earned qualification for the 2026 Candidates Tournament. The opening classical game saw Wei testing Sindarov with the



Petrov Defense, eventually steering the contest into a marginally favourable bishop-pawn endgame. Sindarov defended with precision, neutralising every threat until the players agreed to a draw after 50 moves. The title was decided in the rapid tiebreaks, where Sindarov's composure proved decisive. He outplayed Wei in the second 15' 10" game, securing the victory with confident and accurate play. The win earned him a prize of 120,000 dollars from the two million dollar prize pool.

"PM Modi Says India Ready To Celebrate A Historic Games" As Ahmedabad Wins 2030 Hosting Rights

■ Centenary edition awarded to India as preparations begin for a landmark sporting spectacle

New Delhi: India has officially secured the hosting rights for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, with Ahmedabad confirmed as the venue for the centenary edition. The announcement marks a major milestone for the country's sporting ambitions and reinforces its growing presence on the global stage.



and athlete development, positioning the nation as a prominent hub for major competitions. Commonwealth Sport also confirmed that the 2030 edition will feature between fifteen and seventeen sports. The organising team in Ahmedabad will work alongside Commonwealth Sport and international federations to finalise a dynamic programme that caters to global audiences while reflecting local enthusiasm for sport.

National leaders welcomed the decision, emphasising the significance of hosting such a prestigious international event. They highlighted India's expanding sports infrastructure and its readiness to deliver a world-class Games experience. The milestone comes after years of investment in facilities

Aarna, Tisha, Aayushi and Sachi Seal Girls U13 Semi-final Spots

■ Top contenders shine in a competitive day at the Late Manohar Sawkar Goa State Table Tennis Championship

Team Goemkarponn

Panjim: A strong field of young paddlers delivered an exciting display of skill and determination as four players secured their places in the Girls U13 semi-finals at the Late Manohar Sawkar Goa State Table Tennis Championship 2025. The tournament is being

held over a week and is jointly organised by the Goa Table Tennis Association and the Sports Authority of Goa. Top seed Aarna Lotlikar faced a stiff challenge but advanced with a hard-fought 3-2 win over seventh seed Kavyaa Khalap. Third seed Tisha Shaikh was in complete control during



her quarterfinal clash, registering a convincing 3-0 victory against fourth seed Gianna George. Second seed Aayushi Amonkar showed

remarkable resilience as she battled back from behind to edge out Kavya Mahambrey 3-2 in an intense and closely contested match.

Goa University Celebrates Sporting Excellence and Bids Farewell to Khelo India Contingent

■ University honours top-performing teams and extends best wishes for their national campaign

Team Goemkarponn

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