



Feast of St Francis Xavier Draws Massive Devotee Turnout

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: T OLD GOA: Tens of thousands flocked to Old Goa in the early hours of Wednesday as the state celebrated the Feast of St Francis Xavier, its most iconic annual religious gathering. Pilgrims streamed into the Basilica of Bom Jesus from midnight, waiting for the first morning prayers at 4 am. The solemn high mass was led by Goa and Daman Archbishop Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao, accompanied by Auxiliary Bishop Fr Simiao Fernandes. This year's celebrations placed a strong spotlight on inclusion. The nine-day Novena that preceded the feast featured a special "Jubilee of Persons with Disabilities," which saw an overwhelming response.



Families and individuals with disabilities came together in large numbers, creating what organisers described as one of the most heartening moments of the Novena. During the concelebrated mass, Fr Maverick Fernandes who also delivered the homily — stressed the need to recognise different forms of disability and differentiate them from treatable mental health conditions. Church spokesperson Fr Rosario Walter D'Souza said Fr Fernandes used the occasion to call for a cultural shift within parishes and society. He urged the faithful to uphold dignity, adopt respectful language, ensure accessible spaces, and offer genuine participation to persons with disabilities so they are fully included in community life.

Truck Carrying 109 Cartons of Explosives Seized in Rajasthan

■ Over 100 cartons of gelatin sticks and detonators seized in Rajasthan mining area.

New Delhi: Rajsamand, Rajasthan: Rajasthan police seized a truck carrying 109 cartons of explosives, including 981 gelatin sticks, 93 detonators, and a safety fuse, and arrested two men **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**



Goans to witness final supermoon of 2025 on December 4

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's night sky is gearing up for a dazzling spectacle as the last supermoon of 2025 rises on December 4, offering skywatchers a bright and enlarged view of Earth's natural satellite. A supermoon takes shape when the Moon reaches perigee—its closest distance from Earth—at



the same time it becomes full. This alignment, scientifically known as syzygy-perigee, makes the **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

India Evacuated 28,000 Citizens From Conflict Zones in 3 Years, Says EAM Jaishankar

■ India Prioritises Safety of Overseas Workers Amid Global Crises, Says Jaishankar.

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday highlighted India's robust

efforts to safeguard its citizens abroad, revealing that the country has evacuated 28,000 people

from conflict zones over the past three years. Speaking at India's World **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**



Rahul Gandhi Extends Greetings to Goans on Feast of St Francis Xavier

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has extended warm greetings to the people of Goa on the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. He urged everyone to remember the Saint's legacy by standing together, protecting the vulnerable, and fostering a more inclusive and peaceful society.

Arvind Kejriwal Extends Greetings to Goans on Feast of St Francis Xavier

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal extended greetings to the people of Goa on the occasion of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. He said the Saint's compassion, courage, and boundless love should inspire everyone to care for the vulnerable and build a society grounded in unity, justice, and harmony.

Goa CM Extends Greetings on Feast of St Francis Xavier

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has conveyed his warm wishes to Goans on the Feast of St Francis Xavier, a celebration observed with deep reverence across the State. In his message, the Chief Minister said the annual feast is cherished not only in Goa but also by devotees worldwide. Extending a "happy feast" to those in Goa and the Goan community living elsewhere, he said the event reflects Goa's spirit of harmony as thousands come together in prayer. Dr Sawant noted that the novenas held in the days leading to the feast play an important role in spiritually preparing the faithful.

Yuri Alemao Extends Wishes on Feast of St Francis Xavier

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao extended his greetings on the occasion of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, offering prayers for peace, harmony, and the well-being of all devotees participating in the celebrations at Old Goa.

No Nexus, No Answers: The Job Scam That Still Haunts Goa's Youth

The announcement by the Goa Crime Branch that it has found no political or official involvement in the cash-for-jobs scandal linked to the BES21 recruitment episode lands with a dull thud. For many Goans who watched the case unfold with frustration, the statement feels less like closure and more like a reminder of how easily public trust can be dismissed. Hundreds of job-seekers came forward saying they were coaxed into paying for positions that later turned out to be either non-existent or completely outside the lawful recruitment process. Their stories painted a picture of anxiety, hope and manipulation. Yet the final word from investigators reduces the matter to a technical conclusion, leaving the core questions unanswered.

A job scam is never only about money. It is about the crushing of a dream. Most victims come from families that stretch their limited incomes to fund their children's education. When these young people enter a system that promises stable government work, they bring both ambition and responsibility. They often become easy targets for middlemen who operate in the grey zone between influence and crime. That is why such rackets find fertile ground in societies where public recruitment lacks transparency.

When these families pay lakhs, they don't pay for privilege. They pay for the assurance that the state will offer their child a future. The claim that no political nexus has been established in this case should not be read as a proclamation of innocence. It only shows that investigators did not find enough proof, not that the ecosystem of influence does not exist. A racket of this scale cannot flourish without networks. The public deserves clarity on who orchestrated the collections, who controlled the communication channels and how the money flowed. Saying that no officials or politicians were involved does little to

The claim that no political nexus has been established in this case should not be read as a proclamation of innocence. It only shows that investigators did not find enough proof, not that the ecosystem of influence does not exist. A racket of this scale cannot flourish without networks. The public deserves clarity on who orchestrated the collections, who controlled the communication channels and how the money flowed. Saying that no officials or politicians were involved does little to help job-seekers who are still waiting for accountability.

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help job-seekers who are still waiting for accountability. The investigation also raises a larger concern about the culture of recruitment in the public sector. Over the years, job scams have become frighteningly common across states. False promises, forged letters and manipulated merit lists slip into the system with ease. Each time such a case breaks out, authorities reassure people that strict action will be taken. Yet the pattern keeps repeating. This shows that the administrative machinery is not merely vulnerable but actively being exploited.

A state cannot claim to be serious about employment generation while allowing these breaches to persist. If the Crime Branch is confident

that it has ruled out political interference, it must still explain how an elaborate operation involving large sums of money prospered without the knowledge of insiders.

Job-seekers do not hand over money to strangers without some assurance that the person has access. Someone must have presented themselves as a link to the system. Someone must have created the illusion of legitimacy. These details remain unaddressed. Saying that the investigation is complete offers no comfort to people who feel they were abandoned by the very institutions meant to protect them. Criticism is not about doubting the intent of investigators. It is about demanding a higher standard of accountability. A state cannot simply announce that a scandal has no official roots and expect people to move on. The victims deserve an honest explanation of what went wrong. They deserve compensation or at least an official process through which their losses can be documented and acknowledged. More importantly, they deserve reforms that make future scams harder to execute. Recruitment should rely on digital tracking, public disclosure of selection criteria and independent oversight. If the government is serious about rebuilding faith, it must show that it is willing to confront the uncomfortable truth that fertile ground for such scams still exists.

The cash for jobs case is not just a criminal complaint. It is a story of broken trust. The state now faces a choice. It can treat the Crime Branch's statement as the end of the matter, or it can recognise that the damage runs deeper. People look to public institutions for fairness. When that fairness is compromised, even once, it echoes for years. The true test is not in closing an investigation but in rebuilding the credibility that has been eroded.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Celebrities Must Treat Cultural Symbols With Care

The controversy surrounding Ranveer Singh's remarks at the closing ceremony of IFFI 2025 deserves more than a passing apology on Instagram. What unfolded is not simply a case of a comment being "misinterpreted" as the actor now claims. It is a reminder of how casually influential personalities sometimes treat the cultural and religious contexts that shape the very films they celebrate. Kantara is not an ordinary commercial production. Its climactic moment, which Singh referred to in a manner many found flippant, represents a living tradition rooted in belief, ritual and identity. For communities for whom this is more than cinema, his reference did not sound like professional admiration. It sounded careless. When celebrities take the stage at a forum like IFFI, they are not just entertainers. They are public figures speaking during an event that carries cultural weight. Words chosen in haste can easily wound the people whose stories inspire Indian cinema.

Singh's apology, while welcome, arrives in a predictable format. The claim of being misunderstood has become a familiar shield for public figures who face backlash. But accountability requires more than posting a paragraph on social media. It demands reflection on why people felt offended in the first place. It demands an understanding that cultural symbols are not props for lighthearted banter. This incident should prompt IFFI organisers and celebrities to recognise the responsibility that comes with national platforms. Respect cannot be an afterthought. It must be the starting point.

-Dhiraj Siolkar, Siolim

Congress Leaves Allies Stranded Ahead of ZP Polls

The Congress party's unilateral decision to announce its list of candidates for the upcoming Zilla Parishad elections has once again exposed its shaky commitment to coalition politics in Goa. By moving ahead without consulting its alliance partners, the Revolutionary Goans Party and Goa Forward, the party has not only damaged trust but also undermined the very idea of collaborative opposition that it claims to champion. ZP elections may not carry the glamour of state polls, yet they are vital for grassroots governance. This makes coordination among allies even more important. Instead of strengthening the collective front against the ruling establishment, the Congress has sent a message that it prioritises its own calculations over the unity it often talks about. When partners are left in the dark, it is not merely a communication failure. It is a signal that alliances are treated as conveniences rather than commitments.

The Congress cannot expect loyalty from allies while denying them respect. RGP and Goa Forward entered the alliance believing that decisions would be made through dialogue, not diktats. By ignoring them at such a crucial moment, the party has weakened the opposition's credibility and left the field more fractured than before. Goa's political landscape is already marred by instability and frequent shifts. Parties that claim to defend democratic values must show that they can uphold them within their own alliances. The Congress now owes an explanation, not excuses, to both its partners and the Goan electorate.

-Nisha Fernandes, Taleigao

CB Turns Spotlight Back on Pooja Naik, Says Her Bribery Claims 'Baseless'

■ Probe Points to Large-Scale Fraud on Job Seekers.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Crime Branch has shut the door on sensational allegations made by cash-for-jobs accused Pooja Naik, concluding that her claims of paying ₹17.68 crore in bribes to a minister and two senior bureaucrats were not backed by a shred of evidence. Instead, investigators say the trail leads squarely to Naik herself. Addressing reporters on Tuesday, Crime Branch SP Rahul



Gupta said the inquiry showed Naik had "created an elaborate façade" to convince hundreds of job seekers that she had access to government recruitment networks. "Every document,

digital trail, and financial transaction examined so far points to only one conclusion — she duped aspirants by promising government jobs in exchange for money. No evidence whatsoever

links any government official to her story," Gupta stated. No FIR will be filed against the officials she named. Rather, the CB is now weighing legal options to recover the crores Naik allegedly pocketed. According to investigators, bank accounts belonging to Naik, her husband Purushottam, and their daughters saw transactions worth ₹8.06 crore between 2019 and 2024 — but none going to the officers she accused.

CM Sawant Rejects Pooja Naik's Claims, Supports Crime Branch Investigation

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has conveyed his warm wishes to Goans on the Feast of St Francis Xavier, a celebration observed with deep reverence across the State. In his message, the Chief Minister said the annual feast is cherished not only in Goa but also by devotees worldwide. Extending a "happy feast" to those in Goa and the Goan community living elsewhere, he said the event reflects Goa's spirit of harmony as thousands

come together in prayer. Dr Sawant noted that the novenas held in the days leading to the feast play an important role in spiritually preparing the faithful. He added that the celebration also becomes a homecoming for many Goans living abroad, who return to be part of the festivities with their families. He further greeted pilgrims who undertake the traditional walk to Old Goa, wishing that the feast brings renewed optimism, happiness, and blessings to every family in the State.



Only 1 ZP Nomination In 1st 2 Days

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Goa Forward Party (GFP) will unveil its candidates for the upcoming elections, a day considered auspicious due to Datta Jayanti, party leader and Chief Ministerial candidate Vijai Sardesai said. Speaking about the party's alliance with the Congress, Sardesai clarified that their partnership, in place since

2022, remains intact. "There have been no discussions about ending our alliance. If Congress wishes to break it, they will have to formally inform us," he stated. Addressing speculations about the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), Sardesai noted that the RGP met with GFP only once and subsequently began discussions directly with Congress, excluding GFP.

BJP Unveils Second Batch of 10 Candidates for Goa Zilla Panchayat Elections

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday announced its second list of nominees for the forthcoming Zilla Panchayat (ZP) elections in Goa, adding 10 more names to the roster. With this announcement, the

party has now finalized 29 candidates across the state. In North Goa, the new entrants include Manisha Santosh Korkankar (Arambol – Women's quota), Mahesh Manohar Govekar (Siolim), Subhash Krishna Morajkar (Aldona), Narayan Ladu Mandrekar



(Anjuna – OBC), Gauri Pramod Kamat (Chimbel – Women's quota), and Paulina Oliveira, also known as Francis Po (St. Lawrence – Women/

OBC). For South Goa, the candidates announced are Rupesh Ramnath Desai (Dharbandora), Rajeshree Rajesh Gaonkar (Rivona – Women/ST), Anjali Arjun Velip (Barcem – Women's quota), and Ajit, also referred to as Ajay Shantaram Lolyekar (Poinguinim).

Goa Forward to Announce Candidates on Datta Jayanti

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speculations about the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), Sardesai noted that the RGP met with GFP only once and subsequently began discussions directly with Congress, excluding GFP. "If an alliance is to be formed, all three parties should come together.

Daylight Break-In at Tuem: Burglar Escapes With Jewellery, Cash Worth Rs 4 Lakh

Team Goemkarponn

TUEM: A house in Tuem, Pernem, was hit by a daytime burglary on Tuesday, with the intruder making off with jewellery and cash valued at around ₹4 lakh. Police said the theft occurred around 10 am at the home of Anil

Sawant, which was empty at the time. Investigators believe the culprit forced open a safe using a coconut-husk-peeling tool and took three gold chains along with other ornaments and cash. The break-in came to light when Sawant's brother-in-law, who had been cutting



grass nearby, went to the house around 1 pm to store his machine. Finding the front door ajar, he alerted Sawant. The two stepped inside to discover the rooms turned upside down and the burglar long gone, apparently fleeing through the rear door. A team headed by Pernem DySP

Salim Sheikh inspected the house and began collecting evidence. Residents in the area told police that several migrant workers live along the same stretch and expressed suspicion that someone from the locality could be behind the theft, though police have not confirmed any leads yet.

Man Arrested For Online Sexual Harassment, Extortion Of Ex-Girlfriend

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Cyber Crime Police Station, Goa, has arrested a 34-year-old man for allegedly sexually harassing, blackmailing, and extorting his former girlfriend by misusing her private photos and videos. The case was registered on 28 November 2025 under Crime No. 43/2025, invoking Sections 75, 77, 79, 308 & 356 of the BNS, along with Sections 66-C, 66-E, 67 & 67-A of the IT Act. The complaint was filed by a woman from



Caranzalem, originally from Nepal. According to police, the accused — identified as Kuber Sunar, a waiter residing at Grant Palace Hotel, Dharwad, Karnataka —

allegedly used multiple mobile numbers and fake identities, including Oscar D'Souza, Subhash D'Souza, and Niranjana, to obtain the victim's private images while they were

in a relationship. After the relationship turned sour, the accused allegedly created fake Instagram and Facebook accounts under the name "Bhumi Dangaura" and circulated the woman's private photos and videos to her friends. Police said the accused also demanded sexual favours and extorted ₹35,000, which the victim transferred to two bank accounts via UPI. The harassment reportedly pushed the woman to the point of attempting to slit her wrist.



Rs 1.9 Lakh Cash Stolen From Shetty Eye Hospital Office In Fatorda

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Police are investigating a theft in which nearly ₹1,90,000 in cash was stolen from the Centre Head Office of Shetty Eye Hospital, Borda, Fatorda. The incident came to light after Prashant Naik, a resident of Fatorda, lodged a complaint stating that the theft occurred on 29 November 2025, between 2:20 pm and 3:10 pm.

According to the complaint, an unknown person gained unauthorised entry into the office premises and broke open a table drawer, making away with the cash. Fatorda Police have registered a case and initiated inquiry to identify the accused and trace the stolen money. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Sachin Maruti Patil of Fatorda Police Station.

31 Passengers Held For Unauthorised Alarm Chain Pulling On Patna-Vasco Exp

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: In a firm action to curb repeated incidents of unauthorised Alarm Chain Pulling (ACP), the Konkan Railway Railway Protection Force (RPF) apprehended 31 passengers, including the group leader, on Train



No. 12742 Patna-Vasco

Express on 1 December 2025. The Konkan Railway has been monitoring multiple ACP cases on this route, which often result in delays and create safety risks. To address the issue, the RPF conducted an ambush check between Madgaon and Thivim.

Punjab Tourist Dies After Accidental Fall From Hotel's 3rd Floor In Candolim

Team Goemkarponn

CANDOLIM: A 41-year-old tourist from Punjab died after accidentally falling from the third floor of a hotel in Candolim early Tuesday morning. Calangute Police registered UD No. 74/2025 under Section 194 BNSS

after receiving a PCR call at around 4:06 am on 2 December 2025, informing that a guest had fallen from an upper floor of the hotel. Police identified the deceased as Harinderjit Sharma (41), a resident of Ward No. 11, Jank Colony, PO Samana, District Patiala, Punjab. He had

reportedly come to Goa on a holiday trip accompanied by family and friends. Upon arrival at the scene, police found that Sharma had sustained fatal injuries from the fall. His body has been shifted to the GMC Morgue, Bambolim, where it has been preserved for post-mortem examination.

Group Assaults 2 Men Outside Bar In Sanvordem; 1 Booked

Team Goemkarponn

Sanvordem: A man was allegedly attacked by a group of assailants outside a bar in Sanvordem on Sunday night. Curcholem Police have registered a case after receiving a complaint from Joyson Fernandes, a resident of Curcholem. According to the complaint, the incident occurred on 30 November 2025 at around 9:00 pm at Bagicha Bar & Restaurant, Periudak, Sanvordem. The complainant stated that the accused, identified as Sainath Gaonkar of Dabal, Dharbandora,



initially confronted him, grabbed him by the neck in an aggressive manner and argued with him, threatening him in Konkani. Police said Gaonkar, along with around 10 unidentified accomplices, then allegedly assaulted Joyson and his friend Gaurav Hornekar.

Farmer From Karnataka Booked For Molesting Woman Tourist At Panaji Casino

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered a case against a 45-year-old man from Karnataka for allegedly molesting and sexually harassing

a woman inside a casino vessel anchored in the Mandovi River. The incident came to light after a woman from Bangalore, Karnataka, lodged a

complaint at around 12:55 am on 1 December 2025, stating that the accused had repeatedly approached, followed, and touched her inappropriately while she

was playing at Majestic Pride Casino. According to police, the harassment occurred on 30 November 2025 between 2 pm and 10 pm, and again on 1 December 2025 during the same time period.



Activa Scooter Worth Rs.1.1 L Stolen From Parking Area Near ISKCON Temple, Margao

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police have launched an investigation after an Activa scooter was reported stolen from an



open parking area near the ISKCON Temple. The complaint, filed by Sanjana Heganna, a resident of Benwaddo, Pajenol, Sanguem, states that the theft occurred

on 19 November 2025, between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. The scooter, valued at ₹1,10,000, had been parked in an open space when unknown person(s) allegedly stole it.

Colvale Police Nabs Prime Accused in Rs1.5 Cr Tivim Burglary; Insider Angle Emerges

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a major development, Colvale Police have apprehended a key suspect in the high-value ₹1.5 crore burglary that rattled a well-known family in Tivim, pointing strongly to an insider-driven operation. The arrested individual, identified as Kabir Pradhan, was reportedly a close associate of the family's grandchild and a regular visitor to the



residence. Investigators say he exploited his access and familiarity with the home to facilitate the theft, having prior knowledge of the large cash reserves kept inside.

During interrogation, Pradhan is said to have admitted his role and disclosed that the burglary was carried out with the help of another person who is currently on the

run. Police teams are now tracking digital footprints, phone communications and potential escape routes in an effort to locate the suspected accomplice. Although officers have declined to detail how the break-in was executed or the specific valuables targeted—citing the active investigation—they confirmed that ₹7 lakh has already been recovered. The search for the remaining amount is underway.

Residents oppose Dabolim flyover diversion through residential lanes

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Residents of Dabolim on Tuesday evening strongly objected to a proposed six-month diversion of traffic through narrow internal roads to facilitate ongoing works on the Dabolim Flyover project. The diversion, notified recently by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), triggered protests from locals who later approached the South Goa Collector seeking urgent intervention. Following their complaint,



the South Goa Collector directed a joint site inspection, which was subsequently held at Dabolim by Mormugao Dy Collector Bhagwant Karmali, Mamlatdar Pranvijay Pandit, officials of NHAI, Traffic DySP South, Vasco PI Alvito Rodrigues, RTO officials and a large group of residents.



Opposition in Disarray as Shailesh Pagui Enters ZP Fray in Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

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concerns on safety and congestion. Dy Collector Karmali told reporters that all factors would be assessed before a detailed report is submitted to the South Goa Collector. "A few days ago, the National Highway Authority of India issued a notification for a proposed road diversion at Dabolim to facilitate the flyover works. After the notification, some locals made a representation to the Collector South against the diversion. Following this, I was directed to conduct a site inspection along with other authorities and the PWD department," he said. He added, "The objection is primarily about safety concerns linked to traffic movement through narrow, congested residential lanes. This diversion was proposed for six months and only for one-way movement of light vehicles since heavy vehicles are already diverted via the Chicalim road near the airport.

Drishti Marine relaunches 'Sagar Safar' guided sea swim programme to boost ocean safety awareness

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's government-appointed lifesaving agency, Drishti Marine, has relaunched its guided sea-swimming initiative, Sagar Safar, a hands-on community programme aimed at helping locals and tourists build ocean confidence and understand essential



water-safety practices. Conducted daily at 11 am and 4 pm, the sessions

are held across six popular beaches—Baga, Calangute, Sinquerim and

Candolim in North Goa, and Benaulim and Colva in South Goa. The hour-long guided experience offers participants the chance to swim alongside trained lifesavers, learn about sea conditions, understand currents and flags, and familiarise themselves with safety protocols to help reduce drowning incidents along Goa's coastline.

NCPOR Commemorates Silver Jubilee with Release of Special Postage

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), an R & D institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, marked a historic milestone on Monday with the release of a Special Commemorative Postage Stamp celebrating its Silver Jubilee—25 years of pioneering contributions to polar and ocean research. The ceremony coincided with Antarctica Day, observed globally to commemorate the signing of the Antarctic Treaty (1959). The event was held at the Prithvi Auditorium,



NCPOR, Vasco-da-Gama, in the presence of distinguished guests, scientists, academicians, students and media representatives. Delivering the welcome address, Dr. Thamban Meloth, Director, NCPOR, reflected on the remarkable journey of the institution since its inception in 2000 as NCAOR, and its evolution

into today's National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research. He highlighted how, over 25 years, NCPOR has expanded India's scientific and operational footprint across Antarctica, the Arctic, the Southern Ocean, and the Himalaya, undertaking complex expeditions and contributing significantly to

global climate research.

Dr. Meloth noted that the release of the Commemorative Postage Stamp stands as a symbol of India's long-standing commitment to polar science and its growing leadership in understanding Earth's changing climate. He emphasised that Antarctica Day serves as an enduring reminder of the values of peace, science, and international cooperation enshrined in the Antarctic Treaty—principles that NCPOR continues to uphold through sustained scientific excellence and a strong national presence in the polar regions.

Indian Rupee Hits Record Low, Breaches 90 Against US Dollar

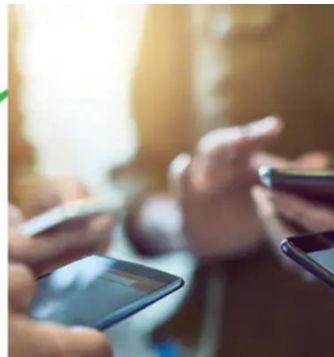
■ Weak Trade Flows, India-US Deal Uncertainty Drive Rupee to Record Low

New Delhi: The Sanchar Saathi app, designed to enhance mobile security and prevent fraud, recorded a ten-fold increase in downloads on Tuesday, rising from an average of 60,000 per day to nearly 6 lakh, according to Department of Telecom (DoT) sources. Even before the government's November 28 mandate to pre-install the app on all



new devices and push it to existing

phones via software updates, 1.5 crore users had already downloaded it. DoT officials said the surge reflects growing public interest in the app's features, which include IMEI verification, reporting stolen phones, and flagging fraudulent communications, while assuring that it does not access personal data beyond user-permitted actions.



Sanchar Saathi App Downloads Jump 10-Fold in a Single Day

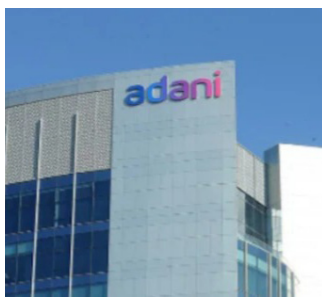
■ Fold Surge Highlights Growing Awareness of Telecom Fraud Protection

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Adani Group Plans to Invest \$15 Billion to Expand Airports in India by 2030

New Delhi: The Adani Group is planning a \$15 billion investment to enhance passenger capacity at its airports to 200 million annually over the next five years, sources familiar with the matter said. The move aims to support India's growing aviation sector and strengthen the company's position ahead of a planned public listing for its airports unit. The expansion includes new terminals, taxiways, and a runway at the Navi Mumbai airport, scheduled



to open on December 25. Capacity upgrades are also planned at Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow, and Guwahati airports. About 70% of the funding will come from debt over five years, with the remainder raised

through equity. India's air traffic is projected to more than double to 300 million passengers annually by 2030, and the Adani expansion, boosting overall capacity by more than 60%, will position the company as a key player in accommodating this growth. The plan excludes the 20 million capacity at Navi Mumbai and 11 million at Guwahati, opening this month. The upgrades target six airports leased by Adani during India's second privatization phase in

2020, previously managed by the state-run Airports Authority of India. India plans to privatize 11 more airports, combining less profitable facilities with successful ones. Adani Airport Holdings, India's largest operator by number of airports, along with GMR Airports, the largest by passenger traffic, are expected to lead the bidding. India is also developing a second airport in Delhi and aims to expand to 400 airports nationwide by 2047, up from 160 at present.

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Truck Carrying 109 Cartons of Explosives Seized in Rajasthan

in connection with the haul. Authorities believe the explosives, capable of causing damage within a 10-km radius, were likely being transported for mining activities, as the region has several marble mines. The seizure took place at a police blockade at Trinetra Circle, Rajsamand, following a tip-off.

The truck was driven by Bhagwat Singh and accompanied by Himmat Singh, both residents of Rajasthan. Neither could produce the required documentation for transporting the explosives.

The police have impounded the vehicle and registered a case, with a thorough

investigation now underway.

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Nathdwara, Shipra Rajawat, said, "Acting on an informant's tip, our team stopped the pick-up truck and recovered 100 cartons of explosive material, including 981 gelatin sticks, 93 detonators, and a 30-foot safety fuse.

The driver and his associate failed to produce the mandatory transport documents. They have been arrested, and the truck has been seized."

Authorities are continuing their probe to determine the intended destination and purpose of the explosives.

Goans to witness final supermoon of 2025 on December 4

Moon look noticeably bigger and more luminous, sometimes by as much as 14%. In Goa, the supermoon is expected to appear on the horizon at 5:22 pm and will remain visible

until 5:50 am the following morning. To help the public enjoy the event, the Association of Friends of Astronomy (AFA) Goa has organised free skywatching sessions across the state. No prior

registration is needed. In Panaji, enthusiasts can head to the public observatory at Junta House, while in Mapusa, the viewing will be hosted at the Saraswat College grounds in Khorlim.

Additional telescopes and guided observation points will also be available at Benaulim beach, Baina beach, and Art Park, Porvorim, giving residents multiple locations to take in the rare lunar display.

India Evacuated 28,000 Citizens From Conflict Zones in 3 Years, Says EAM Jaishankar

Annual Conclave 2025, Jaishankar emphasised that India cannot remain passive during international crises. "In the last three years, after Ukraine and other conflicts, we have brought back roughly 28,000 people from various conflict zones," he said. "For a country with millions working abroad, we cannot

afford to be impassive. The moment a crisis arises, our systems are mobilised to ensure the safety of our citizens." Jaishankar underscored Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hands-on approach in ensuring the welfare of Indians overseas. He noted that PM Modi often visits workplaces and camps abroad, particularly

in Gulf countries, setting the tone for government systems to prioritise citizen safety. The minister also highlighted the growing importance of global mobility in the economy, stressing that legal and formal mobility benefits both countries and workers. He warned that irregular migration can fuel crime and exploitation,

while structured mobility ensures better outcomes for individuals and nations. Jaishankar outlined key factors driving international mobility: demographic gaps, demand for talent, and varying social attitudes toward different types of work. "Today, mobility is an increasingly important factor in the international economy," he said.

India Denounces Pakistan's Claims of Overflight Delay for Sri Lanka Aid as 'Ridiculous'

■ MEA Calls Pakistan's Claim of Overflight Delay 'Misinformation'

New Delhi : India on Tuesday rejected Pakistan's assertion that New Delhi delayed overflight clearance for Islamabad's humanitarian aid mission to Sri Lanka, calling the claim "ridiculous" and labeling it misinformation. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal clarified that Pakistan submitted the overflight request at around 1 pm IST on December 1, 2025, for a humanitarian



assistance flight to Sri Lanka. "Given the urgency of humanitarian assistance, the Government of India processed the request expeditiously and granted

overflight permission the same day at 5:30 pm, as per the proposed itinerary," he said. Jaiswal criticised Pakistan for spreading "anti-India misinformation,"

pointing out a recurring pattern of inaccurate claims by Pakistani media and diplomatic channels. He cited recent false reports about India's participation in an Oxford Union debate as another example. India reaffirmed its commitment to assisting the people of Sri Lanka through all available means following Cyclone Ditwah, which has killed at least 355 people and left over 300 missing.

Government Clarifies: Sanchar Saathi App Won't Monitor or Track Users

■ DoT Clarifies Sanchar Saathi App Only Secures Mobile Identity, Doesn't Track Users.

New Delhi : Amid political backlash over the pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi app on all new mobile phones, the government on Tuesday clarified that the application will not track user activity or serve as a surveillance tool. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) emphasised that the app's only function is to secure mobile identities, without accessing or monitoring personal data. "Sanchar Saathi will come



pre-installed, but it will not watch you or act as a snooping mechanism. Its sole purpose is to protect mobile identity while respecting user privacy," the DoT said. The clarification comes after opposition leaders accused the government of introducing a "snooping tool" akin to Pegasus.

Putin's India Visit Focused on Economic Cooperation, Not Geopolitics: MEA

■ MEA Confirms Economic Ties, Trade Focus Ahead of Putin's Visit.

New Delhi : Ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India on December 4-5, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clarified that the discussions will primarily centre on economic cooperation rather than broader geopolitical issues involving Russia, India, and China. MEA officials highlighted the significant growth in bilateral trade and economic ties between India and Russia in recent



years. Key developments include agreements on skilled and semi-skilled manpower, which officials described as the "single-most important development" since Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's visit to Russia. Negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Eurasian countries have also begun, aiming to boost Indian exports in sectors such as pharma, marine, and consumer

PM Modi Urges Bengal BJP MPs To Keep SIR Drive Simple Ahead Of 2026 Polls

■ PM Modi stresses simplicity and transparency in voter verification process, urges Bengal BJP MPs to stay focused on party strengths ahead of 2026 assembly elections.

New Delhi : As West Bengal gears up for the 2026 assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has instructed BJP MPs from the state to ensure that the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) drive remains straightforward and transparent. Emphasising efficiency, the Prime



Minister stressed that the process should focus solely on including eligible voters and removing those who are ineligible, avoiding unnecessary

complications. During the meeting, PM Modi urged MPs to stay focused on party priorities and maintain confidence while preparing for the high-stakes polls. Without naming the Trinamool Congress or Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee directly, he highlighted the party's growth in the state—from

India Joins Elite Club After Successful High-Speed Rocket-Sled Test of Fighter Aircraft Escape System

■ DRDO successfully tests fighter aircraft escape system at 800 km/h in Chandigarh.

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have also begun, aiming to boost Indian exports in sectors such as pharma, marine, and consumer goods. Efforts are ongoing to facilitate rupee-ruble settlements and expand trade, including recent approvals for potato and pomegranate exports.

Raipur ODI Set for a Thrilling Battle as India Seek Series Edge

Team Goemkarponn

Raipur: India suffered yet another setback as they lost the toss for the 20th consecutive ODI, with South Africa opting to bowl first once again. Team India has retained the same playing XI, while South Africa made three changes, bringing in Temba Bavuma, Keshav Maharaj, and Lungi Ngidi. Amid ongoing discussions about India's team combination and dressing room dynamics, the focus will once again be on Virat



Kohli's form and Rohit Sharma's leadership as India aims to bounce back and secure the ODI series. Questions remain over the batting order, with Ruturaj Gaikwad struggling

at No. 4, Washington Sundar's shifting role causing uncertainty, and Harshit Rana's early breakthroughs offset by expensive overs later in the innings. India's bowling strength was highlighted

by Kuldeep Yadav's four-wicket haul, but South Africa staged a strong recovery. Marco Jansen's 70 and debutant Matthew Breetzke's 72 pushed the visitors to a competitive total, showcasing the narrow margin for India. With key South African players returning and unfamiliar conditions in Raipur, India faces a stiffer challenge in the second ODI, requiring balanced batting, disciplined bowling, and sharp fielding to stay in contention for the series.

Goa Outplays Madhya Pradesh With Dominant 7-Wicket Win

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa delivered a clinical all-round performance to defeat Madhya Pradesh by seven wickets in their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 clash at the Salt Lake JU Second Campus in Kolkata. Led by stellar half-centuries from skipper Suyash Prabhudessai and Abhinav Tejarana, the team successfully chased down a competitive target with nine balls to spare. Asked to bowl first, Goa



kept Madhya Pradesh to 170/6 in 20 overs. Arjun Tendulkar led the attack with a 3/36 spell, supported by Heramb Parab (2/27) and Koushik (1 wicket). For MP, Harpreet Singh Bhatia stood tall with an unbeaten 80 off 52, while Aniket Verma (34) and Rajat Patidar (29) added valuable runs.

ICC Reprimands India's Harshit Rana for Provoking South African Batter in Ranchi ODI

■ Harshit Rana Receives Reprimand and One Demerit Point for Level 1 ICC Code Breach After Dismissing Dewald Brevis

New Delhi: India fast bowler Harshit Rana has been officially reprimanded and handed one demerit point by the ICC for breaching Level 1 of the Code of Conduct during the first ODI against South Africa in Ranchi on Sunday. Rana's offense fell under Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct, which prohibits "using language, actions or gestures that disparage or could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon dismissal during an international match." The incident



occurred in the 22nd over of South Africa's innings when Rana, after dismissing Dewald Brevis, made a gesture toward the dressing room that could have incited the batter. This marks Rana's

first offense in a 24-month period. He accepted the sanction proposed by Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, avoiding the need for a formal hearing.

Goa Shines at U-19 2nd T10 National Championship, Girls Take Gold, Boys Secure Silver

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa showcased stellar performances at the U-19 2nd T10 Tennis Ball Cricket National Championship, held from November 28 to December 1, 2025, in Sujapur, District Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh. The Goa Girls' team emerged as champions, claiming the gold medal, while the Boys' team finished as runners-up, earning silver. Individual performances stood out as well, with Innit Pingle and Sanvi Pagi earning accolades as the tournament's best bowlers. Sandy Dsouza was named the best batswoman, and Sarmit Beg was recognised as



the best fielder. The teams were expertly guided by coaches Sharmila Bandodkar, Santosh Zore, and Sachin Kolekar, whose mentorship played a key role in the players'

success. T10TBCAG President Dayesh Vengurlekar congratulated all participants, praising their dedication, skill, and remarkable achievements on the national stage.



T20 Legends Set to Take Goa by Storm : Karthik, Marsh, Mishra Among Confirmed Players

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Legends Pro T20 League has unveiled another wave of cricketing icons set to feature in its inaugural season in Goa, running from 26 January to 4 February 2026 at the new 1919 Sportz Cricket Stadium. Dinesh Karthik, Shaun Marsh, Amit Mishra, Vinay Kumar, and Monty Panesar

have confirmed their participation, promising fans thrilling performances and a showcase of cricketing excellence. Dinesh Karthik, renowned for his match-winning finishing and dependable wicketkeeping, returns to the field after concluding his T20 international career in 2024. "Playing in front of passionate crowds in Goa and

sharing the field with former teammates and rivals is a special feeling. I hope fans enjoy the cricket as much as we do," said Karthik. Australia's Shaun Marsh, the first-ever Orange Cap winner in India's premier T20 league, brings his elegant batting style and consistent top-order performances to the tournament. "I've missed



the energy and warmth of Indian fans. The Legends

Pro T20 League is a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with the game and the people here," Marsh said. Veteran leg-spinner Amit Mishra, celebrated for three hat-tricks in India's top T20 competitions, expressed his excitement about this "second innings" in cricket. Vinay Kumar, noted for his precise bowling spells, highlighted

the competitive and fitness-driven nature of the league as a major draw. England's Monty Panesar, one of the most admired left-arm spinners, praised the passion of Indian fans and the thrill of playing alongside cricketing legends. The tournament will feature six franchise teams and a total of 90 legendary players.