



AAP Blames Congress for Collapse of Proposed Opposition Front

Palekar says lack of clarity, delayed candidate lists and infighting among partners made GOA alliance ‘impractical’ ahead of ZP polls



AAP SAYS CONGRESS RUINED OPPOSITION ALLIANCE BEFORE ZP POLLS

- ▶ No formal announcement of goa alliance even with 14 days left.
- ▶ Congress yet to declare full list of candidates.
- ▶ AAP calls goa alliance “unrealistic and unprepared”
- ▶ AAP to contest alone; will support some independents
- ▶ Palekar says goans want bjp defeated but don't trust goa alliance

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday

squarely blamed the Congress for pushing the much-talked-about alliance of like-minded

opposition parties into disarray, barely two weeks before the high-stakes Zilla Panchayat elections.

AAP Goa chief Amit Palekar said his party had intentionally kept **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

RGP Rolls Out First ZP Candidate List for 2025 Elections

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) on Thursday announced its first list of candidates for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat Elections 2025 in Goa, naming seven candidates for North Goa and five for South Goa. In North Goa, the party has fielded Narayan Shirodkar from Torxem (OBC), Jayanrdath Padolkar from Siolim (General), Pradnya Sawant from Colvale (Women), Cyprian Pereira from Sirsa (General), Minguell Queiroz (Michael) from Anjuna (OBC), Esperanca Braganca (Espy) from St. Cruz (Women-OBC) and Trupti Bakal from St. Lawrence (Women-OBC). In South Goa, the list includes Vinay Gaude from Betqui—

**RGP** REVOLUTIONARY GOANS PARTY
State Recognized Political Party
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Date: 04.12.2025

The Revolutionary Goans Party has decided to declare the following list of candidates for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat Elections 2025 in the State of Goa.

Press Release

Constituency	Name of the Candidate	Reservation
04- Torxem	Narayan Shirodkar	OBC
05- Siolim	Jayanrdath Padolkar	General
06- Colvale	Pradnya Sawant	Women
08- Sirsa	Cyprian Pereira	General
09- Anjuna	Minguell Queiroz (Michael)	OBC
14- St.Cruz	Esperanca Braganca (Espy)	Women (OBC)
18-St. Lawrence	Trupti Bakal	Women (OBC)

Constituency	Name of the Candidate	Reservation
02- Betqui - Candia	Vinay Gaude	General
04- Velim - Priol	Neeta Jalmi	Women
05- Queula	Vishvesh Naik	OBC
06- Borim	Harsha Borkar	Women
07- Siroda	Deepinti Shirodkar (Manila)	Women

The Revolutionary Goans Party appeals to all Goans to support these candidates.

Tukaram G. Manoj Parab,
President
Revolutionary Goans Party



Candola (General), Neeta Jalmi from Velim–Priol (Women), Vishvesh Naik from Queula (OBC), Harsha Borkar from Borim (Women) and Deepinti Shirodkar (Manila) from Siroda (Women). Announcing the list, party president Tukaram (Manoj) Parab appealed to Goans to extend support to RGP’s candidates in the forthcoming ZP polls.

IndiGo Struggles With Major Disruptions as Flight Cancellations Rise Across India

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: IndiGo is facing one of its most severe operational setbacks in recent years as widespread cancellations and delays continue to disrupt travel across major airports. More than 100 flights are expected to be cancelled today, adding to the 250 to 300 cancellations reported over the past two days. The aviation regulator has called the airline’s senior officials for a meeting to review the situation and assess its recovery measures. The airline attributed the crisis to multiple operational



challenges that emerged simultaneously, placing significant strain on its network. Technical issues, seasonal schedule shifts, adverse weather, heavy airport congestion and updated crew rostering rules contributed to the mounting delays. IndiGo

stated that the combined impact of these factors created a level of disruption that was difficult to foresee. To stabilise operations, the airline has adjusted its schedules for the next two days. It said these short-term changes are intended to improve punctuality and prevent further cancellations. Passengers affected by the disruptions are being offered alternative flight options or refunds as IndiGo works to restore normal services. The impact has been particularly visible at major airports. In Bengaluru, long delays triggered frustration among **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

RGP–Congress Alliance Wobbles After Rival Candidate Announcements

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Grand Opposition Alliance in Goa appears to be fraying, with Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Amit Patkar stating on Thursday that the alliance with the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) has “prima facie broken.” Patkar said the RGP’s decision to announce a candidate for the St Cruz Zilla Panchayat seat—currently held by Congress—has raised serious concerns. “Now he is asking for our sitting ZP ticket. In future, they may even ask for constituencies where we have our three MLAs,” Patkar said, questioning RGP’s intentions within the alliance framework. He added that RGP has also declared its candidate



for Shiroda, where the Goa Forward Party (GFP) is already campaigning for its own nominee, further complicating opposition coordination. Despite the tensions, Congress MLA Altone D’Costa said the party still wants a united front. “We want an alliance with RGP and also Goa Forward. Initially, the St Cruz ZP seat was discussed for RGP as Viresh Borker has strong support there. I don’t know what changed—it’s for the RGP president to decide,” D’Costa said.

CM: BJP Leaders Serve People, Not Personal Gain; Welfare Schemes Continue

Team Goemkarponn

CORLIM: During the BJP’s Zilla Panchayat campaign in Corlim, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant emphasized that

BJP leaders are “in politics to serve people, not make money,” highlighting the party’s commitment to governance over personal gain. He pointed to the party’s development



track record since 2012 and assured that all unauthorised houses under the Mhaje Ghar scheme will be regularised before the 2027 Assembly **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

Why Actors Must Think Twice Before Speaking on Sacred Traditions

The debate around whether actors should refrain from making certain statements has returned with force after Ranveer Singh apologised for mimicking a sacred sequence from Kantara at a public event. His explanation that he intended to praise the performance does little to change the larger issue. This moment is not only about one actor. It reflects a recurring pattern in the entertainment industry where enthusiasm slips into insensitivity and excitement overrides awareness. When performers step onto a public stage, they do not speak as private individuals. They represent an industry that projects Indian culture to millions. Their gestures and words travel instantly across platforms and often become the reference point for how traditions are understood.

sacred ritual or belief system is not a prop, and when it is handled casually, even without malice, the reaction from communities is swift because it strikes at identity and memory. It is easy for an actor to believe that admiration allows for imitation. In reality, the two sit on very different planes. This incident reminds us that intent does not cancel impact.

An apology can calm tempers but cannot reverse the brief distortion of something sacred. A ritual like the Daiva tradition carries weight because of its roots in community life, its spiritual meaning and the lived experiences of those who practice it. When such a ritual is recreated in a playful or exaggerated manner, it risks turning the profound into the performative. That transformation may last only a few seconds on a stage, but it lingers in how audiences reinterpret the tradition. Actors often face a dilemma.

They want to celebrate art, praise colleagues and entertain crowds. Yet the instinct to dramatise everything can sometimes do more harm than good. Admiration can

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be expressed through thoughtful words. It does not always require imitation. When performers feel compelled to act out scenes involving sacred figures or practices, they must pause and ask themselves whether they truly understand what they are reproducing. If the answer is uncertain, restraint is the safer choice.

There is also a growing tension between creativity and cultural sensitivity. Art has the freedom to challenge and reinterpret. But freedom in the realm of

faith is different. A religious or spiritual form is not an artistic creation but a living part of someone's identity. When a celebrity touches that space without context or understanding, the offence taken is not oversensitivity. It is a response to a boundary that many believe deserves respect.

The film industry itself should reflect on how it engages with traditions. Popular cinema has often borrowed from rituals without fully respecting their origins. This has created a pattern where audiences sometimes view sacred practices through the lens of entertainment rather than heritage. When an actor repeats that approach on a public stage, it reinforces the idea that everything can be recreated for applause. That is not the message a culturally diverse nation needs.

At the same time, the increasing scrutiny on public figures means that every action is magnified. What once may have passed without notice is now instantly judged. This is not necessarily a negative shift. Accountability is essential when influence is so vast. But it also means actors must adopt a greater sense of responsibility. They cannot rely on intent alone. They must anticipate how their words or gestures will be received by those for whom culture is not an abstract concept but a way of life.

The lesson from this episode is simple. Respect must guide expression. Admiration must not overshadow awareness. Actors do not need to be scholars of every tradition, but they must recognise the limits of performance when belief is involved. Silence or a sincere tribute may sometimes speak louder than a recreated moment. In a diverse society, sensitivity is not a burden. It is a form of maturity. And for public figures whose words carry more weight than they may realise, it is a responsibility they cannot afford to ignore.

EDITOR'S SPEAK

"My God Is Bigger Than Your God, Your God Is No God"

By Sandeep Heble

Why has modern India reduced God to a spectacle? When did we decide that faith must be taller, louder and flashier, even though spiritual depth has never depended on height or volume? Ours has always been a civilisation that astonished the world through its diversity and its ability to absorb and reinterpret ideas. Mark Twain, travelling through India in the nineteenth century, marvelled at its vastness, calling it the country of a hundred nations and a thousand religions. This civilisational wealth existed long before anyone spoke of India's "soft power".

Yet today we seem intent on shrinking it into a contest of size, where ever-growing statues or booming chants are treated as proof of belief. The frenzy for monumental statues, whether of Ram or Shivaji or any other figure, exposes an imagination that has shrunk rather than expanded. It resembles the tale of Archimedes building six holes for six kittens, only to find them all using the same one. Our statue-building spree carries the same purposelessness. It may create temporary pride, but it adds little meaning or cultural value. When one statue looks just like the next, the novelty dies and the message disappears.

This trend hurts even more when we recall what Hindu civilisation truly represents. It has never been a monolithic faith. It is a layered cultural universe with countless traditions, philosophies and regional identities. Savarkar's idea of Hindutva was framed as a cultural bond, not a narrow mould. The Supreme Court, too, famously described Hinduism as a way of life, an assimilation of ideas rather than a rigid code. This elasticity is what allowed the civilisation to survive and flourish through invasions, migrations and philosophical shifts.

Yet we now reduce it to slogans and structural grandstanding. Bigger has never meant deeper. It is an insecure political idea dressed up as religiosity. If anything deserves real celebration, it is the quiet creativity of India's villages, which continue to keep Hindu culture alive despite neglect. Look at Goa's Shigmo, where artists craft mythological scenes with colour, movement and imagination. These floats compete on storytelling, not on towering size. The same is true of the Ganeshotsav celebrations in villages across Goa, where idols are shaped from coconuts, grass, shells or recycled materials. Such devotion is rooted in imagination, not gigantism.

Real culture lives in stories, customs, crafts, cuisine, festivals and local histories. Yet successive governments have ignored this richness and chosen monumental symbolism instead. While France, Japan or Egypt invest in cultural tourism, India lets its greatest civilisations fade behind political noise. Paris alone attracts far more tourists than all of India combined. Thailand, much smaller, draws multiple times our visitor numbers. The world is not looking for large statues. It is looking for narrative, experience and beauty. India holds entire civilisations in its soil. But instead of building cultural ecosystems, we build height without meaning.

Even in Goa, the same groups that once resisted celebrating St Francis Xavier now recognise his global appeal. That shift shows what vision can achieve. Rather than pursuing gigantism, India should create cultural destinations that speak through depth and imagination. The Lotus Temple, Akshardham and the Vivekananda Rock Memorial attract people because they blend aesthetics with philosophy. They show what India can express at its best. To rediscover India, we must invest in its stories, its civilisations and its mystique. That is what once made the world look at us with wonder. It still can.

HC Quashes Govt Order in Mandar Surlakar Murder Convict's Premature Release Case; Directs Fresh Review

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has overturned the State government's order rejecting the premature release plea of Rohan Pai Dhungat, convicted in the 2006 murder of Mandar Surlakar. The Court held that the government failed to properly evaluate the recommendation of the State Sentence Review (SSR) Board before denying his application. A Division Bench of Justices Sarang Kotwal and Ashish Chavan has now asked the government to reassess Dhungat's plea within two weeks, strictly in accordance with the Goa Prisons Rules, 2006.

Calling the State's decision "erroneous and unjustified," the Court set aside the August 20, 2025



order and directed that Dhungat's application be reconsidered by giving appropriate weight to the SSR Board's findings. While the government may also look at the opinion of the trial court's Presiding Officer, the judges clarified that such a view cannot be the sole basis for rejecting the plea. The

Bench noted that the SSR Board had strongly endorsed Dhungat's premature release after reviewing his age at the time of arrest, the period he has already served, and his behaviour during incarceration. It highlighted that Dhungat had been granted parole or furlough 24 times without any negative reports and that authorities including the District Magistrate, Probation Officer, IPHB, and the Inspector General of Prisons had all recommended his release. The judges criticised the State for disregarding this "comprehensive evaluation" while issuing the rejection order. Dhungat, in his petition, had argued that the government had dismissed his plea mechanically, ignoring the SSR Board's favourable recommendation despite being required to consider it.

Vijai Reaffirms Push for Congress-GFP Tie-Up for ZP Polls

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Forward Party chief and Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai on Wednesday once again pressed for a pre-poll alliance with the Congress for the forthcoming Zilla Panchayat elections, arguing that opposition unity is crucial to avoid fragmentation of anti-BJP votes. Sardesai said the "next step lies with the Congress," indicating that the party must now respond to GFP's overture. He has repeatedly maintained that a joint front of opposition parties would give them a stronger footing and



prevent vote division in the local body polls. The GFP president reiterated that only a coordinated electoral strategy can effectively challenge the BJP in the upcoming ZP elections.

BJP Unveils Third List of Zilla Panchayat Candidates in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday rolled out its third slate of candidates for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat polls, finalising names across multiple constituencies in North and South Goa. The selections span general, OBC, ST and women's reserved

seats, as approved by the State Election Committee. In North Goa, the party has nominated Shrikrishna (Nanu) Ravindra Harmalkar for Dhargal, Raghoba Ladu Kambli for Torxem, Soniya Videsh Naik for the St Cruz women-OBC seat, Mahesh Anant Sawant for Karapur-Sarvan, and Kunda Vishnu Mandrekar for Maem.

Rise in Homestays, Rentals Spreading Out Tourist Footfall Across Goa: Lobo

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute MLA Michael Lobo on Wednesday said that the reason Goa appears less crowded despite high official tourism numbers is the rapid and largely unregulated spread of new accommodation options across the State.

Lobo explained that while tourist arrivals — domestic and foreign — have gone up, thousands of additional rooms have quietly entered the market in the form of



homestays, rental apartments, small guest houses and Airbnb listings. This, he said, has redistributed

visitors who once heavily concentrated in a few beach belts. He noted that many coastal households now rent out rooms or entire homes to travellers, further diluting footfall in traditional hotspots and creating the impression of lower tourist presence.

The MLA also stressed that improving civic discipline among both locals and domestic visitors is essential if Goa wants to attract more discerning, responsible tourists and maintain its reputation as a premium destination.

Stray Dog Attacks Russian Tourist at Colva Beach; Appeal Made for Government-Run Shelters

Team Goemkarponn

COLVA: A Russian woman was injured on Wednesday after a stray dog attacked her at Colva, reigniting concerns over the growing stray population along the popular beach stretch. The tourist, Zena, who is staying in Majorda, said she was on one of her routine visits to Colva—her favourite beach—when a dog suddenly lunged at her. She suffered injuries to her buttock and finger and



was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. Doctors administered an injection and advised her to return for additional doses. Speaking after the incident, Zena urged the

government to step in and set up dedicated shelters to house stray dogs, saying such facilities could help tackle the recurring menace along the coastal belt. She stressed that she does not endorse the killing of animals but believes structured shelters would offer a humane and effective way of managing stray dog numbers. Zena added that the authorities must act swiftly to ensure the safety of both locals and tourists who frequent the iconic Colva shoreline.

Court Orders Charges to Be Framed in 2022 St Cruz Attempted Murder Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Additional Sessions Court in North Goa has ordered that charges be formally framed against two men accused of attempting to kill a St Cruz resident in 2022. In a ruling delivered on December 2, Additional Sessions Judge Vijaya Ambre observed that sufficient material exists to prosecute Chetan Korgaonkar and Santosh Shetty for attempted murder, criminal trespass and common intention under the IPC, as well as relevant provisions of the Arms Act. According to the



prosecution, the incident unfolded on September 16, 2022, when the accused allegedly entered the complainant's rented room armed with a pistol and a sword. The first accused is said to have pointed the firearm at the complainant, but a scuffle broke out after the victim's

roommates arrived, prompting the duo to flee. The prosecution further states that while the complainant was on his way to the Old Goa Police Station to report the incident, the two men intercepted him again. At this point, Korgaonkar allegedly struck the victim with a sword, allegedly with the intention to kill. The court noted that a weapon recovery panchanama resulted in the seizure of the pistol and the sword based on Korgaonkar's disclosure. Witness statements also placed both men at the scene of the offence.

Woman dies of electric shock caused by damaged wire at Karapur home

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A 49-year-old woman from Karapur, Khotiwada, died after suffering a massive electric shock at her residence on December 2. Police said PSI Krishna Gawas and his team rushed to House No. 202, Kalasokatar, Karapur after receiving information around 12:58 pm that a woman had collapsed. Upon arrival, officers found Vasanti Salelkar, daughter of Ramu



Salelkar, lying near the back door of the house. Preliminary inquiry revealed that an insulated electrical wire, originally connected in one room, had been extended through a metal door

to power a bulb in the kitchen shed. The door had limited clearance, causing repeated friction on the wire over time. This resulted in damage to the insulation and exposed wiring that

came into contact with the metal door. When Vasanti attempted to open the door, she reportedly received a severe electric shock and collapsed. A Junior Engineer from the Sanquelim Electricity Department inspected the spot and confirmed the damaged wiring and live current exposure. Vasanti was declared brought dead at CHC Bicholim. Further investigation is underway under PSI Krishna Gawas of Bicholim Police Station.

UK national dies after collapsing on Candolim beach

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Police have registered UD No. 76/2025 under Section 194 of the BNSS after a 66-year-old British national collapsed and died at Candolim beach on Tuesday. At around 6:46 pm on December 2, Calangute Police received a call from the Medical Officer at PHC Candolim, informing them that a foreign national had been brought in dead. Police rushed to the health centre, where the doctor confirmed that the man had been brought by Drishti lifeguards from



Candolim beach. The deceased was identified as Mr. Stephen Patrick Pattison (66), a resident of Ashirwad Villa, Vaddi, Candolim, and a native of Liverpool, United Kingdom. His identity was confirmed by his civil partner, Mr. Anthony Bernard Walsh (66), who resides at the same address.

Minor girl injured after being hit by bus at Vales Junction

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco Police have registered a case after a minor girl was injured in a road accident near Vales Junction, Dabolim, on December 1. The complaint, filed by Meryl Colaco @ Branganza of Alto Dabolim, states that the incident occurred around 2:20 pm when the accused bus driver, allegedly driving rashly and negligently, was heading from the internal road at Vales Junction towards Landing Point.



As the bus reached Vales Junction, it reportedly struck the complainant's daughter, who was crossing the road to return home. The impact caused the child to fall, resulting in injuries to her left shoulder, right ear, head, and other parts of the body. Vasco Police said further investigation is being carried out by LHC Shradha Naik (5239).

Teenager injured in Banastari accident dies after 11 days of treatment

Team Goemkarponn

MARDOL: A 16-year-old boy who was injured in a road accident at Banastari on November 20 succumbed to his injuries after nearly two weeks of treatment, prompting Mardol Police to register U.D. No. 43/2025 under Section 194 of the BNSS, 2023.

Police said they received a call from APMC Police Station, Belagavi, on December 2 at 12:51 pm informing that Sagar Kariappa Kharnaik, a resident of Sarvana, Bicholim and native of Belgaum, Karnataka,



had passed away at KLES Hospital, Belagavi on December 1. During the inquiry, PSI Nitesh Kankonkar visited the hospital, and the body was shifted to SGD, Margao, for preservation. Investigations revealed that the accident occurred on November 20, 2025, around 10:30 pm, near Mahanadu

School at Muslim Wada, Bhoma-Ponda, when Sagar—riding a Splendor motorcycle—allegedly hit a pedestrian, Md Faiyaj Ansari (53), of Muslim Wada, a native of Bihar.

Both the rider and the pedestrian sustained injuries and were taken to PHC Betki, and later referred to GMC Bambolim. Sagar was

shifted by his family to KLES Hospital, Belagavi on November 24, where he died while undergoing treatment on December 1.

On December 3, police conducted an inquest panchanama, and an autopsy was carried out by the Police Surgeon, who certified the cause of death as “complications of traumatic brain injuries sustained in an alleged road traffic accident, characterized by brain edema, skull fracture, and early brain abscess/ meningitis leading to sepsis with pulmonary hemorrhage and inotrope refractory shock.”

Minor riding Jawa bike injures 2 in head-on crash at Phullamol

Team Goemkarponn

CURTORIM: Maina-Curtorim Police have registered Cr. No. 98/2025 under Sections 281, 125(a)(b) of the BNS and Sections 3 and 180 of the MV Act after a minor riding a motorcycle caused a collision at Phullamol, Sao Jose De Areal. According to the state complaint filed by ASI Anant Gaonkar, the incident occurred on November 29, 2025, at



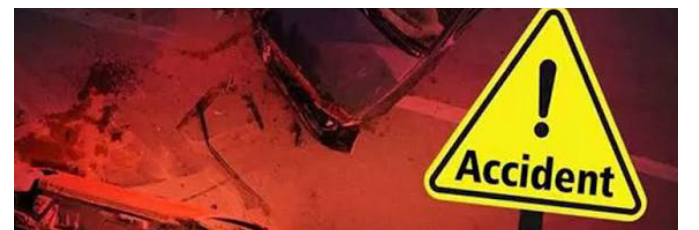
7:32 pm. The accused, Pradnya Jolapure of Mugali, Sao Jose De Areal, allegedly allowed her minor son to ride a Jawa motorcycle. The boy, reportedly driving

rashly and negligently, crashed into an oncoming Jupiter scooter. The impact caused grievous injuries to the pillion rider, Mobin Ansari of Nessai, Salcete (native of Bihar), while the scooter rider, Hasmusddin Ansari, also of Nessai, sustained simple injuries. The minor boy riding the Jawa was also injured. Further investigation is being conducted by ASI Anant Gaonkar of Maina Curtorim Police Station.

Rash driving at KTC Circle leaves woman grievously injured

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered a case after a 24-year-old woman rider suffered grievous injuries in an accident at KTC Circle last month. The FIR, filed on December 2 based on a complaint by Manuella M. L. Fernandes of Fontainhas, states that the mishap occurred on November 19, 2025, between 4:34 pm and



4:45 pm. Fernandes was heading from KTC towards Divja Circle on her Ather scooter (GA-07-AM-8160) when a Swift Dzire (GA-08-V-8759) allegedly driven rashly rammed into her at the junction. The collision left

her with serious injuries to her left leg, police said. FIR copies have been submitted to the JMFC, Panaji, and other senior officers. Further investigation is underway under HC Babu B. Madanwar (5717).

Women Voters Hold the Edge in Canacona's Khola and Poinguinim ZP Seats

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Women voters are set to play a decisive role in the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections in Canacona, where they outnumber male voters by 754 across the Khola and Poinguinim constituencies. A total of 30,966 voters from Canacona taluka and one village of Quepem taluka are eligible to cast their vote in the December 22 ZP polls. Of these, 15,860 are women and 15,106 are men, giving women a clear numerical advantage.



In the Poinguinim ZP constituency, voter strength stands at 16,820, comprising 8,131 male and 8,669 female voters. The constituency includes 31 polling stations across the panchayats of Poinguinim, Loliem-

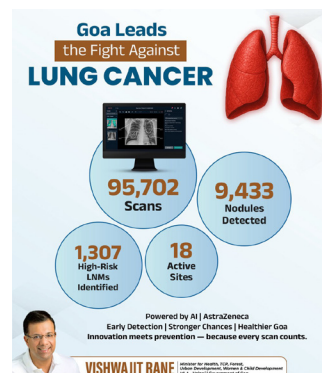
Polem, Gaondongrim and Khotigao. The Poinguinim seat is unreserved and open to the General category. The Khola ZP constituency has 14,146 voters, with 6,975 male and 7,171 female electors. The

constituency covers four panchayats—Shrithal, Agonda, Khola and Betul-Naqueri—and will have 22 polling stations. The seat is reserved for Women-OBC, further amplifying the influence of female voters. In a first-of-its-kind administrative setup, the election authorities have assigned dedicated officers solely responsible for conducting the ZP elections. Grade-I officer Vipul Naik Gaunkar has been appointed Returning Officer, while Canacona BDO Pranit Naik has been designated as the AERO for both constituencies.

Goa Crosses 95,000 Free AI Lung Cancer Scans, Says Health Minister Rane

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Health Minister Vishwajit Rane on Wednesday said that the state's mission to strengthen cancer care is progressing rapidly, with a major push on early detection and accessible health services for all Goans. Rane said that the government, in partnership with AstraZeneca and Qure.ai, has been conducting free AI-enabled lung cancer screenings across the state. "Our AI-powered screening programme ensures that every citizen receives state-of-the-art preventive care without any cost," he said. According to the minister, a total of 95,702 scans have been completed so far, helping



identify potential risks at an early stage and allowing timely medical intervention. He added that the initiative reflects the government's commitment to building a "healthier, more resilient Goa where no one is left behind." The programme, officials said, will continue to expand as part of the state's broader strategy to enhance cancer care and improve public health outcomes.



State Task Force Reviews Immunization Progress, Prepares for 2025 Pulse Polio Drive

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: H PANAJI: Secretary (Health) Yatindra Maralkar, IAS, on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the State Task Force Committee for Routine Immunization and the Pulse Polio Programme (National Immunization Day) 2025 to assess the progress of key public health initiatives.

The meeting reviewed the current status of routine immunization across Goa, the state's efforts toward Measles-Rubella (MR) elimination, and ongoing surveillance

activities. Officials also discussed preparations for the upcoming National Immunization Day, including logistics, manpower planning, and outreach strategies. Director of Health Services Dr. Rupa Naik, State Immunization Officer Dr. Uttam Desai, and other committee members attended the meeting.

Health officials said the state is focused on strengthening coverage and ensuring smooth execution of the Pulse Polio campaign early next year.

Curtorim MLA Felicitates Police, Activist After Father Gets 10-Year RI for Raping Disabled Daughter

Team Goemkarponn

CURTORIM: Curtorim MLA Reginaldo Lourenco on Wednesday honoured Maina Curtorim Police officials and women's rights activist Auda Viegas for their roles in securing the conviction of a man who raped his daughter with disabilities. A POCSO Court in Panaji on Tuesday sentenced the accused to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for repeatedly assaulting his daughter. During



the brief function, MLA Reginaldo presented commendations to activist Auda Viegas and Maina Curtorim PI Arun Desai, acknowledging

their coordinated efforts in ensuring a strong case that ultimately led to the conviction. Calling it a "model example" of collaboration,

Reginaldo said the case demonstrated how elected representatives, police officers and NGOs can work together to deliver justice in sensitive offences. "The police and Auda put in tremendous effort to ensure justice for the survivor. I truly appreciate their dedication," he added. Both PI Arun Desai and Auda Viegas noted that the MLA took personal interest in the matter even though the crime occurred outside his constituency.

Taxi Operators Protest After Sudden Enforcement of 2-Min Pickup Limit at Mopa Airport

Team Goemkarponn

CURTORIM: C MOPA: Tension erupted at Manohar International Airport, Mopa, on Wednesday after airport authorities suddenly began strictly implementing a two-minute window for passenger pickup and drop-off. Drivers who exceed the limit are being



fined ₹180, sparking sharp resentment among local taxi operators. The operators accused airport concessionaire GMR of "unfairly targeting"

them with what they called an impractical and punitive rule. The swift enforcement disrupted vehicular flow outside the terminal, resulting in

confusion, delays, and frustration for passengers and drivers alike. Demanding the immediate rollback of the penalty system, taxi operators urged the airport management to adopt a more realistic traffic-handling plan. They cautioned that they are prepared to escalate their agitation if the issue remains unaddressed.

Kotak Mutual Fund Annual Outlook 2026: Structural Trends to Drive Earnings Growth

Goa: Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd ("KMAMC"/ "Kotak Mutual Fund") today released its Market Outlook 2026, offering a comprehensive view of the macroeconomic environment and key investment themes expected to shape India's financial markets in the coming year. The report underscores opportunities across equities, fixed income, and thematic sectors, while highlighting global and domestic trends that investors should watch closely.

Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra AMC, said, "Equity returns in FY2026 are likely to be anchored in earnings growth, with India Inc expected to deliver double-digit growth in FY27. This strength is likely to attract foreign portfolio investors, supporting market liquidity. Midcaps are poised to outperform large and small caps, though the margin of outperformance may remain narrow. Gold and silver should continue to see upside, aided by sustained central bank buying. Investors are advised to moderate return expectations and adopt a balanced, diversified approach across asset classes to navigate evolving market dynamics."

Key Equity Investment Themes for 2026

1. Financial Services – Improving Growth and Profitability
Credit growth has started to pick up, indicating improved lending activity. This uptick is reflected in the rising Credit to Deposit Ratio. The healthy



credit growth is supported by strong fundamentals and improving capital adequacy. Return ratios remain healthy making the sector attractive for long-term investors. The narrowing gap between credit and deposit growth could ease margin pressures, supporting profitability.

2. Consumption Upcycle – Gaining Momentum
Consumption is set for a strong rebound, aided by rising incomes, GST reforms, and festive demand. Rural Income per capita has crossed the \$2000 mark¹, a key inflection point that typically drives higher discretionary spending, benefiting sectors like Autos. With India among the lowest penetrated markets for two-wheelers and passenger vehicles globally, rising aspirations, GST tax relief, benign inflation, and rural recovery would drive demand. Monthly sales trends already reflect this momentum, signalling a structural shift toward higher consumption and premiumisation.

3. E-commerce – Digital Acceleration
India's e-commerce market offers significant growth potential, driven by low penetration and increasing digital adoption. Overall penetration is expected to rise to 12–13%²

by FY30, with categories like electronics and beauty & personal care leading the surge. The market remains highly consolidated, with the top three players commanding nearly 80%³ share, creating a strong runway for scale and profitability as organized retail and premiumisation trends accelerate.

4. Healthcare Opportunities

Healthcare spending is rising with aging demographics and increasing chronic ailments. India has one of the largest old age populations⁴ and the same is expected to double over the next 25 years⁵. This structural shift would drive the growth in demand for healthcare services.

The Fixed Income Outlook:
With evolving market conditions, fixed income is set to play a meaningful role in portfolios by adding stability and helping manage risk. India's prospects of entering the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index have also strengthened, with a formal decision expected in January 2026 and potential inflows of around 25 billion dollars⁶. Supportive macro fundamentals, along with balanced demand and supply dynamics, continue to provide a constructive outlook for the bond market.

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AAP Blames Congress for Collapse of Proposed Opposition Front

its distance from the proposed Goa Opposition Alliance (GOA), arguing that the coalition never took proper shape and remained "impractical" and "poorly planned" from the start. The Congress, Goa Forward Party (GFP) and Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) had floated the idea of forming a united front for the December 20 polls, but no formal declaration has been made even as the election draws close. Palekar criticised

the Congress for its slow response and for failing to finalise its candidates, despite Goa having 50 Zilla Panchayat seats and polling day approaching rapidly. Highlighting internal contradictions, he said that alliance partners GFP and RGP have fielded candidates against each other in constituencies such as Shiroda in South Goa — a sign, he claimed, that the bloc lacked seriousness and coordination.

IndiGo Struggles With Major Disruptions as Flight Cancellations Rise Across India

passengers who reported limited communication and overcrowded terminal areas. Hyderabad experienced significant disruption as well, with more than 60 flights cancelled by early morning and several others affected by crew shortages. Chennai and Delhi also saw multiple cancellations, adding to the nationwide travel chaos. Routes to cities such as Kolkata, Goa, Pune and Delhi were among those affected. In Jammu and Srinagar, crew constraints and technical problems led to additional delays and cancellations. Passengers across various airports expressed their dissatisfaction as wait times extended for several hours, with many describing a lack of clarity from the airline. Social media platforms

saw a surge in complaints, with travellers highlighting prolonged delays and inadequate arrangements during the wait. IndiGo, which operates around 2,200 flights each day, acknowledged the large-scale disruption and apologised to customers. A key challenge has been a shortage of pilots and cabin crew following the implementation of revised Flight Duty Time Limitation norms, which mandate longer rest periods and stricter duty-hour regulations. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is reviewing the airline's November performance data, which shows more than 1,200 cancellations last month, including a significant number linked to crew availability and the new duty-time norms.

Andhra Pradesh Approves 480 Acres For Adani-Google AI Data Centre In Visakhapatnam

■ Massive 1 GW Facility To Be Built To Google's Global Standards, With Investment Exceeding ₹87,500 Crore

New Delhi: The Andhra Pradesh government has cleared the allocation of 480 acres of land across Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli districts for the development of a major AI data centre project. The land has been allotted to Adani Infra (India) Pvt Ltd, identified as the primary partner of Raiden Infotech India, a Google-affiliated company overseeing the project. Raiden Infotech had previously informed the state that several companies, including Adani Infra, AdaniConneX, Adani Power, Bharti Airtel, Nxtra Data and Nxtra Vizag,



were designated as official partners in the venture. The company requested that the parcels identified by the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation be transferred specifically to Adani Infra, subject to survey completion and formal handover. The state government approved the proposal following a cabinet

decision on November 28. The official order, issued on December 2, confirmed the land transfer for the establishment of a 1 GW data centre cluster designed to meet Google's global operational standards for services such as Search, YouTube and Workspace.

Raiden Infotech is

developing the project in phases, with planned investment exceeding ₹87,500 crore. Over time, the company is expected to receive around ₹22,000 crore in incentives under commitments previously made by the state government for the project. Raiden has also requested that its notified partners be authorised to access all incentives linked to the initiative. Data centre capacity is evaluated by power usage, and the proposed 1 GW facility in Visakhapatnam represents one of the largest of its kind in the region.

CM: BJP Leaders Serve People, Not Personal Gain; Welfare Schemes Continue

elections, providing relief to long-waiting families. Sawant also underlined ongoing welfare initiatives, including Griha Aadhar and Ladli Laxmi, which continue to provide monthly financial support to economically weaker

households across Goa. The CM framed these efforts as evidence that BJP governance prioritizes public welfare over personal enrichment, reinforcing the party's message of service-driven politics.

CM Rekha Gupta To Head New Committee Focused On Delhi's Clean Air Strategy

■ Government Announces Tough Measures To Curb Dust, Emissions And Illegal Road Work

New Delhi: The Delhi government has announced the formation of a new pollution monitoring committee to be led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. The panel will include scientists and environmental specialists and has been tasked with overseeing efforts to improve air quality in the national capital. The decision comes amid increasing concerns over deteriorating pollution levels across the city. During a review meeting, the Chief Minister directed key departments such as DDA, MCD and DMRC to maintain strict vigilance in their respective zones



and ensure full compliance with pollution control norms. Departments have been instructed to prevent any form of negligence, particularly regarding construction waste. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee has been authorised to take



immediate action if debris is found scattered on public roads. A significant decision announced after the meeting is a complete ban on road cutting without permission. Authorities stated that any unauthorised digging will lead to swift action,

including the filing of an FIR. Officials responsible for the affected area will be held accountable for violations. In addition to the state-level review, several measures were finalised during a separate meeting with the Union Environment Minister. The plan includes widespread water sprinkling on major roads and in surrounding regions to reduce dust dispersion. This initiative will involve coordination with nearby state corporations. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has been given a timeline of seventy two hours to identify and repair potholes across the city.



PM Praises Navy's Courage and Modernisation Drive on Navy Day

■ Prime Minister Praises Maritime Forces for Protecting India's Shores and Strategic Interests

New Delhi: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated two major urban development projects in Guwahati, marking a significant milestone in Assam's efforts to revitalise the Brahmaputra riverbank. The initiatives, developed under the Smart City Mission with a combined value of more than 327 crore rupees, aim to transform the area into a leading cultural and

tourism hub comparable to the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad and Mumbai's iconic Gateway of India precinct. The first project, the newly built 1.2 kilometre Guwahati Riverfront, introduces a modern public space designed to highlight the state's rich cultural legacy. The stretch features seven architecturally crafted gateways representing traditional Assamese motifs and artistic influences.

Trinamool MLA Suspended After Proposal To Build Babri Mosque Replica

■ Party Removes Humayun Kabir As Tensions Rise Over Plan For Structure In Murshidabad

New Delhi: The Trinamool Congress has suspended MLA Humayun Kabir after he announced plans to construct a replica of the Babri Masjid in Murshidabad. The decision followed internal concerns within the party, which had earlier cautioned him about making statements that could provoke social or political unrest. Kabir recently stated that he intended to lay the foundation stone for the structure on December 6 in Beldanga. His announcement triggered immediate criticism within the Trinamool leadership, which viewed the move as unnecessary and potentially divisive. Senior party leaders noted that he had been advised earlier to avoid remarks that could inflame communal sentiment. Sources indicated that Kabir is likely to resign from the party and launch his

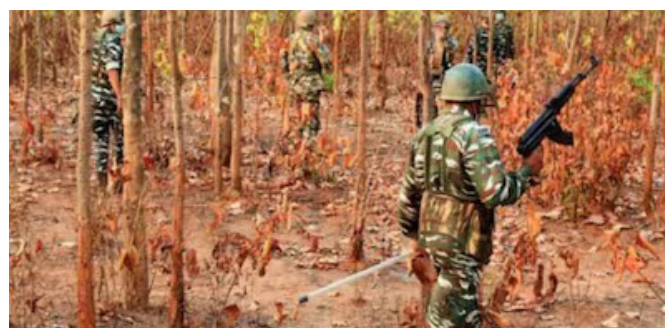


own political outfit while continuing with his plans for the replica. The development comes at a sensitive time, with the party maintaining that such initiatives are inconsistent with its stance on social harmony. Party leaders questioned the timing of the proposed event and expressed concern that it could deepen divisions within the region. Some leaders suggested that the move echoed broader political strategies aimed at creating polarisation. State authorities have also taken note of the situation.

Twelve Maoists And 3 DRG Personnel Killed In Intense Bijapur Encounter

■ Security Forces Recover Weapons As Operations Continue Across Bastar Region

New Delhi: A major exchange of fire in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Wednesday resulted in the deaths of at least twelve Maoists and three personnel from the District Reserve Guard. Two additional jawans sustained bullet injuries but are reported to be in stable condition following medical



attention. The encounter began around nine in the morning during a

coordinated search operation in the West Bastar Division. Teams

from the DRG units of Dantewada and Bijapur, along with the STF, CRPF and CoBRA, were participating in the mission when intermittent firing escalated into a heavy confrontation. The fallen personnel have been identified as head constable Monu Wadadi and constables Dujaru Gonde and Ramesh Sodi.

Piyush Goyal Advances CEPA Preparations In Talks With Canadian Minister

■ India To Send High-Level Trade Delegation To Canada Next Year

New Delhi: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held detailed discussions on the upcoming Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations during a meeting with Canada's Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development,

Maninder Sidhu. Following the talks, he announced plans to lead a high-level trade and investment delegation to Canada in the coming year to accelerate progress on the proposed agreement. Goyal noted that the meeting included broad conversations on the structure, objectives and overall roadmap for



the CEPA framework. He described the interaction as constructive, highlighting that both nations explored

the initial scoping needed to prepare for the next phase of negotiations. The engagement builds on the momentum of Minister Sidhu's visit to India last month, during which Canada reaffirmed its interest in deepening ties with Indian businesses and expanding collaboration with the private sector.

Ravi Shastri Issues Sharp Warning Amid Debate Over Kohli and Rohit's Futures

■ Former head coach urges support for senior duo as scrutiny intensifies

New Delhi: Ravi Shastri has delivered a strong message to those questioning or complicating the future of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in India's ODI setup. As discussions continue around their long-term roles, Shastri warned that undermining players of their stature is both unfair and unwise.

The former head coach, who worked closely with both during his tenure, made it clear that Kohli and Rohit deserve unwavering backing. Shastri described the pair as giants of the format and cautioned critics against creating unnecessary pressure around their positions. Without naming anyone, he suggested that certain individuals are stirring doubts, but hinted that such interference would not survive once the two senior batters regain full rhythm and focus. His remarks have been widely viewed as a



pointed reminder to the current selectors and team management. With Ajit Agarkar leading the selection committee, the ongoing conversations about the 2027 ODI World

Cup have intensified, especially as both players now feature only in the fifty-over format. Questions have also been raised over their match readiness due to

limited opportunities in the domestic circuit.

While Rohit has agreed to return to domestic one-day cricket to meet the board's requirements, Kohli initially declined before eventually accepting the selectors' request. Their recent form, however, has reinforced their value. Kohli has produced crucial innings in the ongoing South Africa series, and Rohit has shown consistency with a mix of solid starts and a century.

Shastri stressed that experienced players who have delivered for over a decade should be supported rather than doubted. He believes their presence continues to shape the dressing room and guide younger talents. His strong defence sends a clear signal that India's ODI plans must be built around stability and respect for proven performers, not speculation or internal unrest.



Harbhajan Singh Questions Calls on Rohit-Kohli Futures

■ Former spinner backs senior duo and urges better pitches at home

New Delhi: Harbhajan Singh has voiced disappointment over how the futures of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are being discussed, saying it is unsettling that influential decisions are coming from people who, in his view, have not achieved enough to judge two of India's greatest players. He backed both seniors to continue in ODIs until the 2027 World Cup, especially given their recent form against South Africa. Kohli has struck consecutive centuries, while Rohit has produced two fifties and a dominant unbeaten 121. Harbhajan praised the pair for setting high standards and guiding the next generation through their work ethic and consistency.

He said they remain crucial to India's success and continue to inspire younger players. The former spinner also criticised the quality of pitches used in recent home Tests, pointing out that excessively bowler-friendly tracks have contributed to India's decline, including a rare 0-2 home series loss to South Africa. He urged the need for more balanced surfaces that allow batters to build innings and help develop high-quality spinners. On the ILT20, Harbhajan appreciated the league's role in promoting cricket across the Gulf region, offering players from neighbouring countries valuable exposure alongside established international names.

Ruturaj Gaikwad Rises to No. four Challenge With Career-Best Century

■ A fluent 105 showcases his smooth transition from opener to middle-order anchor

New Delhi: Ruturaj Gaikwad delivered a commanding statement in the second ODI against South Africa by scoring his maiden century while adapting to the unfamiliar No. 4 position. The move came after Shreyas Iyer was sidelined due to injury, prompting the team management to hand Gaikwad a crucial middle-order role. Although his first outing at the position did not yield much, he responded decisively in the next match with a polished hundred that



highlighted both technique and temperament. Gaikwad acknowledged the trust placed in him and viewed the opportunity as a responsibility rather than

pressure. The transition from opening to batting deeper in the innings did not faze him, and he credited his experience in the fifty-over format for helping him settle into the role. His approach centered on pacing his innings, reducing dot balls and building partnerships, principles that remained consistent whether he opened or batted in the middle. His century, an impressive 105 off 83 balls, featured 12 boundaries and two clean strikes over the ropes.

Arjun Erigaisi Overcomes Viswanathan Anand To Win Jerusalem Masters Title

■ Young Grandmaster prevails 2.5–1.5 in tense final to secure major triumph

New Delhi: Arjun Erigaisi produced a composed and determined performance to defeat Viswanathan Anand in an all-Indian final and claim the Jerusalem Masters crown. The 22-year-old clinched the title after a gripping contest that began with two drawn rapid games before moving into blitz tie-breakers. Erigaisi seized the advantage in the first blitz game, capitalising on a strong position with the white pieces to take a crucial lead. The second



blitz encounter also saw him pressing for victory, but he eventually settled for a draw, which was enough to seal the match 2.5–1.5 and secure the championship. The win earned him USD 55,000, while Anand received USD 35,000 as runner-up.

Reflecting on the victory, Erigaisi acknowledged the difficulty of the path to the title, admitting that he faced several challenging moments across the event. He described both his semifinal match against Peter Svidler and the final against Anand as particularly intense. In the opening game of the final, he briefly lost control despite holding the advantage, but he managed to regain composure and continue fighting.