



Travel Chaos: IndiGo Cancellations Hit Goa

Dozens of flights scrapped amid nationwide disruption, new duty rules and peak tourist season rush.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's air traffic has been thrown into turmoil as IndiGo cancelled a wide range of flights over the past two days, compounding a nationwide aviation disruption that has grounded more than 200 services across India. The cancellations have come at the worst possible time for the state, with December marking the peak holiday and tourist season, leaving thousands of visitors and locals scrambling for alternatives. IndiGo attributed the sweeping disruptions to a mix of technical issues, winter



schedule transitions, adverse weather conditions, air traffic congestion and the implementation of stricter Flight

The following flights are cancelled today.

- ▶ 6E5297 to Mumbai
- ▶ 6E366 to Bhopal
- ▶ 6E712 to Hyderabad
- ▶ 6E6449 to New delhi
- ▶ 6E374 to Hyderabad
- ▶ 6E281 to Ahmedabad
- ▶ 6E6428 to Jaipur
- ▶ 6E744 to Hyderabad
- ▶ 6E211 to Raipur
- ▶ 6E249 to Bengaluru
- ▶ 6E813 to Indore
- ▶ 6E6419 to Ahmedabad
- ▶ 6E2091 to New delhi



Government Monitoring IndiGo's Flight Chaos, Orders Swift Corrective Action: Aviation Ministry

■ Civil Aviation Ministry demands swift normalisation, better passenger support and tighter coordination across airports.

New Delhi: The government has stepped in to assess the escalating disruptions across IndiGo's network, with the Ministry of Civil Aviation stating that it is closely tracking the airline's recovery efforts and measures being taken to support passengers



until operations stabilise. The intervention follows days of widespread cancellations and delays that have left travellers stranded at major airports. A high-level meeting was convened by Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu with IndiGo's

SC Dismisses IRB's SLP, Upholds Seniority of 2002 Batch Goa Police Inspectors

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Supreme Court of India has dismissed the Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by IRB, effectively affirming the Bombay High Court at Goa's judgment that upheld the seniority of the 2002 batch of Goa Police Inspectors. With the



dismissal of the SLP, the apex court has brought an end to the long-standing dispute, ensuring that the

2002 batch Inspectors will retain their rightful seniority along with all consequential service benefits. The Goa Police was represented before the Supreme Court by Senior Advocate Atmaram N.S. Nadkarni, along with advocates Galileo Teles and Salvador Santosh Rebello (AoR).

SR. No.	ZP CONSTITUENCY	CANDIDATE
01.	Torxem	Keshav Kambli
02.	Latembarcem	Chhaya Naik
03.	Karapur Saravan	Raj Gaonkar
04.	Reis Magos	Pragati Sandeep Pednekar
05.	Curti	Minu Govind Gawde

AAP Goa Releases Fourth List of ZP Election Candidates

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa on Friday announced its fourth list of candidates for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections, further expanding its presence across key

constituencies in the state. According to the party's official announcement, five candidates have been finalised in this round. Keshav Kambli will contest from Torxem, while Chhaya Naik has been fielded from Latembarcem.

Putin Assures PM Modi on Ukraine Plan, Defends India's Russian Oil Purchases

■ Leaders discuss trade, energy and defence as India signals support for peace in Ukraine.

New Delhi: Russian President Vladimir Putin met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday during the opening of his two-day state visit, reaffirming Russia's intent to pursue a "peaceful settlement" in Ukraine. The two leaders discussed deepening economic and defence cooperation, as well as expanding trade



beyond energy and military equipment. A joint statement from Hyderabad

RGP Announces Second List of Candidates for ZP Elections 2025

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) on Friday issued its second list of candidates for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat Elections 2025 in Goa, expanding its presence across key constituencies in both North and South Goa. The announcement follows the party's ongoing



ing efforts to strengthen its

A Broken Alliance and a Broken Promise to Goan Voters

The collapse of the proposed RGP-Congress-GFP alliance for the upcoming Zilla Parishad elections is more than a political misstep. It is a revealing moment that exposes how fragile, short-sighted and personality-driven opposition politics in Goa have become. What was once projected as a united front against the ruling establishment has fallen apart even before the campaign could begin.

Instead of cooperation, what the State has witnessed is each party scrambling to protect its own turf, leaving voters to make sense of yet another fractured contest. The trouble began the moment Congress unilaterally released its candidate list. Despite weeks of public signalling that the three parties were working toward a joint strategy, the announcement came without any real consensus or coordination. RGP and Goa Forward were left blindsided. Their frustration was not just about seats, but about the lack of respect and consistency shown by a party that repeatedly calls for unity yet often acts alone. It reinforced an image that Congress struggles to treat allies as equals, especially in rural polls where local leaders carry immense weight.

Zilla Parishad elections may not create the same headlines as Assembly polls, but they shape everyday governance. They determine development priorities for villages, infrastructure maintenance and welfare delivery. When the Opposition approaches such an important election without clarity or coherence, it betrays the people it claims to represent. For many Goans seeking an alternative to the current leadership, the alliance offered a glimmer of hope. Instead, what they now see is political immaturity and an inability

Goa's political landscape has long been marked by shifting loyalties and sudden ruptures. Yet voters continue to hope that leaders will eventually rise above individual ambition. The failure of this alliance sends the opposite message. It suggests that unity is a slogan, not a strategy. It also signals that the Opposition remains more keen on positioning than on preparation, more committed to optics than to organisation.

If these parties genuinely wish to challenge the ruling establishment in the future, this episode should serve as a wake-up call. They must build alliances early, negotiate transparently and avoid unilateral moves that erode trust. More importantly, they must recognise that voters are tired of political squabbles. People want stability, seriousness and sincerity — qualities missing in this premature breakup.

to set aside egos for a larger purpose. The biggest casualty of this fallout will be the voter.

A split opposition guarantees divided votes. It hands an advantage to the ruling party even before the first rally is held. Instead of presenting a consolidated vision for grassroots governance, the Opposition has created an environment where choices are confusing and scattered. The parties have weakened their own prospects by

failing to agree on even the basics of partnership. This meltdown also raises deeper questions about the Opposition's credibility. Alliances are not public stunts. They require discipline, commitment and shared conviction.

They require leaders who can negotiate without theatrics and compromise without feeling threatened. What we have seen instead is an alliance built on fragile calculations rather than common purpose. When partnerships collapse this easily, people begin to doubt whether these parties can ever deliver stable governance if voted into power together. Goa's political landscape has long been marked by shifting loyalties and sudden ruptures. Yet voters continue to hope that leaders will eventually rise above individual ambition. The failure of this alliance sends the opposite message. It suggests that unity is a slogan, not a strategy.

It also signals that the Opposition remains more keen on positioning than on preparation, more committed to optics than to organisation. If these parties genuinely wish to challenge the ruling establishment in the future, this episode should serve as a wake-up call. They must build alliances early, negotiate transparently and avoid unilateral moves that erode trust. More importantly, they must recognise that voters are tired of political squabbles. People want stability, seriousness and sincerity — qualities missing in this premature breakup. The RGP-Congress-GFP alliance did not just fall flat. It collapsed under its own contradictions. And in that collapse lies a warning for the Opposition: unity cannot be announced in press conferences. It must be practised in action. Until then, Goans will continue to pay the price for the Opposition's inability to stand together.

EDITOR'S SPEAK

IndiGo's Cancellations Leave Goa's Travellers Stranded

The abrupt cancellation of multiple IndiGo flights serving Goa has once again exposed how vulnerable passengers are when airlines fail to manage disruptions responsibly. What unfolded over the past days was not a minor scheduling hiccup but a breakdown that left hundreds scrambling for alternatives, often with little information and even less support. For a state like ours, air travel is woven into daily life. Tourists rely on it, of course, but so do students, migrant workers, business travellers and families moving between cities. When flights vanish from the board at short notice, it is not only plans that collapse but also livelihoods and commitments. Goa's connectivity is its strength, and disruptions of this scale cause ripples far beyond airport terminals. While operational challenges do occur, the real concern here is the communication vacuum. Many travellers reported being notified late or receiving no proper assistance to rebook or seek refunds. This lack of transparency only deepens the frustration.

If an airline of IndiGo's size cannot anticipate crew shortages or technical issues, or at the very least convey them responsibly, it raises uncomfortable questions about planning and preparedness. Airlines enjoy the benefits of a booming aviation market. With that comes the obligation to treat passengers with basic fairness. Clear updates, accountable customer service and guaranteed alternative arrangements should be non-negotiable. Goa deserves an aviation ecosystem where travellers are not left stranded without answers. The latest episode is a reminder that airlines must value passengers as more than ticket numbers and must be held to a standard that reflects the trust placed in them every time someone steps onto their aircraft.

-Sneha Srivastava, Assagao

A Tourist Death That Demands Clear Answers

The sudden death of a UK national who collapsed on Candolim beach is a tragedy, but it is also a moment that demands clarity, not quiet speculation. As details remain scarce, many wonder whether this was a natural medical emergency or if a drug overdose or external factor played a role. Without official confirmation, the public is left guessing, which helps no one. Whenever a foreign national dies under such abrupt circumstances, the authorities must ensure a thorough and transparent investigation. That means a full post-mortem with toxicology, and timely disclosure of findings. Goa thrives on tourism, and with that comes a responsibility to uphold both visitor safety and public trust. Vague reports only create room for rumour. Clear facts prevent misconceptions from taking hold.

Goa's beaches are meant to be safe spaces, yet this incident highlights gaps that cannot be ignored. Emergency response must be quicker. Monitoring on busy stretches must improve. And communication from officials must be straightforward and consistent. If drug use or negligence is involved, the public deserves to know. If not, that too must be stated plainly. Tourists should not have to worry that tragedies will be brushed aside without answers. The credibility of our systems depends on how transparently we handle such incidents. For the sake of the victim, the victim's family and the thousands who visit our coastline every day, the State must offer clear information rather than leave citizens to speculate.

-Brendon Sequeira, Sanguem

HC: Foreign Nationals on Bail Cannot Be Kept in Detention Centres Indefinitely

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has ruled that foreign nationals who have been granted bail cannot be confined in detention centres for prolonged periods while their criminal trials are pending, as long as they comply with strict monitoring and reporting conditions. A Division Bench comprising Justice Sarang Kotwal and Justice Ashish Chavan delivered the verdict while disposing of a criminal writ petition filed by Mwanakombo



Fadhili Said, an accused in an NDPS case. Said had challenged the Foreigners Regional Registration Office's (FRRO) May 2025 order directing her detention, even though her visa renewal application

was already under consideration after her previous visa had expired. The Bench noted that trials often take considerable time, and keeping such individuals in detention centres indefinitely is

unjustified. Instead, the Court said, authorities can ensure their availability through controlled mechanisms such as granting an E-visa (Misc) and enforcing mandatory reporting norms. Referring to an earlier case — Okoro Emanuel Chimeuecheya alias Eze vs Union of India — the judges reiterated that foreigners on bail must not be kept in detention centres and should instead be monitored through verifiable addresses, functioning phone numbers, and scheduled check-ins with local police.



Konkan Railway rolls out second high-capacity Roro rake

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Konkan Railway has added a second Roll-on Roll-off (Ro-Ro) rake with an upgraded 57-tonne loading capacity, giving a further boost to freight operations along its route, a senior official said on Friday. The Ro-Ro service, which enables loaded trucks to be transported on railway wagons, continues to

serve as an economical and efficient logistics option for transporters using the coastal corridor. According to officials, the first rake with the enhanced capacity was introduced on November 5, 2025, followed by the second on December 3, 2025. Each rake includes 15 BRN wagons that can carry trucks up to 57 MT and 35 BOXN wagons with a limit of 50 MT.

HC Petition Against Chimbhel Unity Mall Licence Withdrawn; Matter Shifted to Panchayat Authority

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa closed the writ petition challenging the construction licence granted for the proposed Unity Mall project in Chimbhel, after the petitioner opted to withdraw the case following fresh action initiated before the Directorate of Panchayats. During the hearing, Advocate Dinesh Naik, representing the Chimbhel Village Panchayat, produced a notice dated December 2, 2025, issued in a revision petition pending before the Deputy

Director of Panchayats, North Goa.

The revision challenges the November 28 High Court interim order that had put on hold the Block Development Officer's direction compelling the Panchayat to issue the construction licence. Naik informed the court that petitioner Govind Shirodkar has already been named as Respondent No.2 in the revision proceedings before the Deputy Director. He added that both Shirodkar and the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) — listed as Respondent



No. 1 — had received hearing notices, with the matter scheduled for 4 pm on Thursday. In view of these developments, Shirodkar sought

permission to withdraw the High Court petition so he could participate in the proceedings before the Deputy Director of Panchayats.

The Bench allowed the request and disposed of the matter as withdrawn. Previously, the High Court had stayed the BDO's order directing the

Chimbhel Panchayat to issue the licence to GTDC. Shirodkar had argued that the BDO lacked jurisdiction to intervene in the Panchayat's decision, insisting that any challenge should have been routed through the Deputy Director or Additional Director of Panchayats. The licence had been earlier rejected by the Village Panchayat following a Gram Sabha resolution opposing the project. The State government had assured the court that it would proceed with the mall only after securing all statutory permissions.

Goa CM Reviews Porvorim Flyover Progress, Orders Service Lane Repairs Within A Week

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant chaired a high-level review meeting at Mantralaya to take stock of the ongoing work on the Six-Lane Elevated Corridor (Porvorim Flyover). The meeting was attended by Cabinet Minister Rohan Khaunte along with senior



government officials. The discussions focused on traffic diversion plans and the urgent need for repairs along the stretch. Sawant

issued directions to repair and restore the service lanes within a week to reduce inconvenience to commuters.

Autopsy Confirms Electrocution in Vasanti Salelkar Case; Activists Demand Deeper Probe

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: An autopsy conducted by a panel of doctors has confirmed that Vasanti Salelkar died due to electrocution in Karapur-Bicholim on Tuesday afternoon, putting to rest initial uncertainty surrounding her death. The procedure was carried out on



Thursday after persistent appeals from Salelkar's relatives and local social

workers. Once the medical examination was completed, the body was released to the family, who performed the last rites later in the evening. Bicholim Police Inspector Vijay Rane said the Goa Medical College dean submitted the panel's findings, affirming electrocution as the cause of death.

2 groups file cross-complaints over alleged assault, damage at Morjim resort

Team Goemkarponn

MORJIM: Two separate FIRs have been registered following a violent confrontation reported at La Gracia Resort in Morjim, Pernem, involving rival groups who have accused each other of assault, damage to property, and criminal intimidation. According to the first complaint, filed on 3 December 2025 at 23:22 hrs, Kamaljit, son of Tara Singh and resident of La Gracia Resort, alleged that on 1 December 2025 at around 15:30 hrs, accused persons identified as Sanjay K.R. Gupta, Rajiv Uppal, and around 30 unidentified individuals allegedly formed an unlawful assembly and trespassed into the resort premises. The group reportedly carried hockey



sticks, a gun, and wooden dandas, and allegedly damaged the resort's DVR, CCTV cameras, cars, and other property. The complainant further stated that the staff members were assaulted with wooden

dandas and threatened with dire consequences. Police have initiated further investigation. In a counter-complaint filed a few minutes later, at 23:26 hrs, Rajiv Uppal, associated with La Gracia Resort (SUV Hospitality), alleged that on the same day at around 16:00 hrs, Kamaljit Singh and other staff members of the resort formed an unlawful assembly and wrongfully restrained him and his companion from entering Room No. 201, which he claimed access to as per an agreement. Uppal stated that during a discussion over an ongoing court matter inside the resort's restaurant, the accused persons allegedly abused him in filthy language, pushed him, assaulted him with a wooden danda, and issued threats.

Man held with LSD worth Rs.7.9 lakh in Anjuna narcotics raid

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police arrested one person in the early hours of Thursday after he was allegedly found in possession of LSD valued at nearly ₹7.9 lakh during a narcotics raid near the Siolim football ground. According to the state complaint filed by PSI Navneet Goltekar, the raid was conducted on 4 December 2025 between 00:50 hrs and 03:40 hrs based on specific and reliable information. During the operation, police apprehended Sahil Manohar, son of Manohar Korgaonkar, a resident of Korgao, Pernem, and



originally from Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. Police stated that Sahil was found in illegal possession of 316 paper blots of suspected LSD, weighing 6.52 grams, valued at ₹7,90,000. The narcotics were allegedly recovered from a red Maruti Suzuki Baleno (GA-03-AF-5903) present at the site. Further investigation into the case is underway.

British national found dead at Candolim resort; no foul play suspected

Team Goemkarponn

CANDOLIM: A 54-year-old British national residing at a Candolim resort was declared dead on arrival at PHC Candolim on Wednesday evening, police said. According to police, the incident came to light on 3 December 2025 at 19:12 hrs after the



medical officer at PHC Candolim reported that Mr. Ian William Griffith, currently staying at Aldeia Santa Rita Resort, Dando, Candolim, had been brought in dead.

2 pedestrians injured after scooterist allegedly rides rashly at Dramapur

Team Goemkarponn

DRAMAPUR: A case of rash and negligent driving has been registered after two women pedestrians were injured in an accident at Dramapur on Monday evening. According to a state complaint filed by ASI Rosario Dias of Margao Town Police Station, the



incident occurred on 1 December 2025 at around 20:00 hrs when Dabi Akiva D'Silva, a resident of Dadaevado, Chinchinim,

was riding an Activa scooter from Chinchinim Junction towards Dramapur Junction. Police stated that upon reaching Bondorim, Dramapur, the rider allegedly drove the scooter in a rash and negligent manner, endangering human life, and hit two women who were walking along the left side of the road. The

victims were identified as Pascoela Fernandes and Carmina Fernandes, both residents of Pedda Wada, Ambelim, Assolna. As per police, Pascoela sustained grievous injuries, while Carmina suffered simple injuries. Further investigation is being carried out by ASI Rosario Dias of Margao Town Police Station.

Commuter alleges wrongful restraint near Khandola College; police probe underway

Team Goemkarponn

CANDOLIM: A **SANQUELIM:** A resident of Harvalem, Sanquelim, has lodged a complaint alleging that he was wrongfully restrained and threatened by a group of men near Khandola College, Marcel, Ponda. According to the complaint filed by Ishwar Sawant, the incident occurred on 14 November 2025 between 09:15 hrs and 09:30 hrs while he was travelling to his workplace in Panjim. Sawant stated that Revanasiddappa



Wrongful restraint

Prabhuling Mantagi along with three unidentified persons, acting with common intention, allegedly used an Ertiga car to block his path and restrain him. The complainant

further claimed that the unidentified individuals attempted to assault him before fleeing the spot. The case is currently under investigation by PSI Abhilash Naik of Mardol Police Station.

Unidentified man found dead after suspected drowning at Palolem Beach

Team Goemkarponn

PALOLEM: A man aged between 25 and 30 years was declared dead at CHC Canacona on Wednesday night after being brought in as a suspected drowning case from Palolem Beach. Police said that at 21:13 hrs on 3 December 2025, a call was received from the on-duty doctor at CHC Canacona informing that the man had been brought in by a Life Saver Rescue vehicle. During the enquiry, police spoke to Drishti lifeguard Gajanan



Velip, who reported that the victim was found floating in the sea at Palolem Beach. He was immediately transported to the community health centre, where doctors declared him brought

dead. The body has been preserved at SGDH, Margao, for medico-legal examination and identification. Further inquiry is being conducted by PSI Vishal Velip of Canacona Police Station.

We need to send clear message to protect Goa by defeating BJP: LoP Yuri Alemao

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Cuncolim MLA Yuri Alemao stated on Thursday that Goa's interests are his top priority, emphasizing the need to protect the state from the BJP, which is insensitive to the collapse of law and order and neglecting the common man's welfare. He was speaking during the meeting in Chandor. Cuncolim Congress Block President Asisz Noronha, Sanjay Velip and others



were present. Alemao said that BJP government is trying to divide people over caste and religions, hence everyone should be vigilant and defeat their

agenda by showing them door during election. "BJP is mocking people over coal issue stating they are winning seats despite such destructive

plans. If their candidates are won then they will feel that their Dadagiri is accepted by the public. Pollution is taking place in Goa due to coal transportation. This is not safe for our environment and our future," Alemao said. "We should send clear message from this constituency that we are here to protect Goa and oppose coal transportation. This is like second opinion poll, where we should work in the interest of the Goa."

TTE Rescues Missing 13-Year-Old on Mangaluru Express

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A 13-year-old boy who had gone missing from his boarding hostel was safely rescued on board the Mangaluru Express after a vigilant Konkan Railway staffer intervened. On December 4, Raghvendra Shetty, Head TTE of Train No. 12133, noticed the minor travelling alone in Coach S3 at Karwar. The child appeared confused and was unable to explain his journey, prompting the TTE to check his belongings, where he



found a school identity card. Shetty immediately contacted the school authorities, who confirmed that the boy had run away from his hostel. The child's mother, a domestic worker, was informed that he had been located and was safe.

2 File Nominations in Poinguinim; 1 A BJP Dissident

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Two candidates on Thursday filed their nomination papers for the Poinguinim Zilla Panchayat constituency, including a prominent BJP dissident. Former Poinguinim panch Diksha Dayanand Pagi and ex-Deputy Sarpanch Vipin Keshav Prabhugaonkar submitted their nominations as Independent candidates

NOMINATIONS



for the high-stakes seat. With the BJP already declaring former Loliem-Polem sarpanch Ajay (Ajit) Loliemkar as its official candidate, Prabhugaonkar ended his 23-year

association with the party before filing his papers before Returning

Officer Vipul Naik Gaunkar. His wife, panch Surekha Prabhugaonkar, and mother, former panch Shilpa Prabhugaonkar, also resigned from the BJP.

Mormugao Council launches 'Gandhigiri' drive to recover long-pending dues; prominent bank sealed

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: In a rare and attention-grabbing initiative, the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) on Thursday launched a 'Gandhigiri'-style drive to recover long-pending dues from commercial establishments across Vasco. MMC Chairperson Girish Borker and Chief Officer Siddhivinayak Naik personally visited several establishments, offered roses as gentle reminders, and urged them to clear



outstanding payments. The delegation also sealed multiple establishments including a prominent bank in the heart of Vasco after repeated reminders yielded no response.

The recovery team, which covered a range of businesses including banks, informed owners of their pending dues while handing out roses as symbolic appeals.

However, officials said sealing was unavoidable for those who continued to ignore repeated notices and refused to comply. Chief Officer Siddhivinayak Naik said the method had proven highly effective in the past. "I had tried this technique earlier when I was the Chief Officer of Margao Municipality, and it worked wonders. A ₹50 investment in roses had helped us recover nearly ₹50 lakh," he said. "We have now adopted the same approach in MMC."

Margao Congress leader Savio Coutinho slams MMC over waste mismanagement

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Congress Block Convener Savio Coutinho has launched a scathing attack on the Margao Municipal Council (MMC), alleging a complete failure in handling the city's waste management responsibilities. Questioning the relevance of the Council, Coutinho said MMC has



been left with virtually no core functions as major civic tasks have been outsourced or handed over to other agencies. He pointed out that wet waste is treated at the Cacora plant, dry

waste is handled by an agency in Nesai, major infrastructure projects are taken over by GSUDA, while the Margao municipal garden is maintained by the Forest Department and GSIDC.

Director of the Vatican Observatory, Fr. Richard D'Souza celebrates Feast Mass at St. Xavier's College

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: The Feast Mass of the College Patron Saint, St. Francis Xavier was celebrated on 4th December, 2025 by Rev. Fr. Richard D'Souza SJ, Director of the Vatican Observatory, Rome, who shared an inspiring message on hope, faith, and working together as a community to translate values into meaningful action. He urged



students to look beyond examinations, highlighting the role of education in building communication skills, critical thinking, and curiosity to face the larger challenges of life. The Programme that followed included

felicitation of the meritorious students of the Self Financed Departments of the 2024 - 25 batch, as well as felicitation of Faculty member Ms. Jaqueline Monteiro, on her retirement.

Direct Flights From Uzbekistan Resume, Strengthening Goa's Global Connectivity

■ Restored air link enhances tourism, cultural exchange, and international engagement.

PANAJI: Direct flights from Uzbekistan have resumed, reinforcing Goa's position as a sought-after international destination. The inaugural flight of the reinstated service arrived from Tashkent at Manohar International Airport, Mopa, on December 3, carrying 121 passengers on board an A-320 aircraft. Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte highlighted the significance of the restored connection, stating that it strengthens Goa's international connectivity and supports the state's efforts to expand into new global markets. "This



renewed link opens fresh opportunities for travel and engagement between our regions, making journeys more seamless," he said.

Director of Tourism Shri Kedar Naik noted that the resumption reflects the confidence global partners have in Goa's tourism

potential. He added that it enables visitors from Uzbekistan to experience Goa's culture, festivals, and unique attractions more easily, boosting both leisure travel and cultural exchange. The restored service is expected to facilitate smoother travel for tourists, enhance bilateral engagement, and create opportunities for future tourism collaborations. It aligns with Goa's ongoing initiatives to broaden its international reach through strategic partnerships and targeted global promotions, further solidifying the state's reputation as a premier travel destination.



Goa Youth Honoured Nationally for Pioneering Cyber Safety Initiatives

■ Allen Pauly Payappilly recognised for empowering citizens with digital security awareness.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's Allen Pauly Payappilly has earned national recognition for his outstanding contributions to cyber safety, receiving an Award of Appreciation from the Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Programme under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

As an ISEA Cyber Ambassador, Allen has led numerous Cyber Hygiene Practices Awareness

Workshops for students, professionals, and community groups across Goa. His work has been instrumental in equipping citizens with essential knowledge to navigate the digital space safely, reinforcing India's broader cybersecurity framework. The award was conferred at the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, during a high-profile event attended by directors of several ITs, MeitY officials, and representatives from CDAC Hyderabad.

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Travel Chaos: IndiGo Cancellations Hit Goa

Duty Time Limit (FDTL) rules. The new norms—effective from November 1—mandate 48 hours of rest for pilots every week, up from 36, and restrict night landings to two per week instead of six. The Federation of Indian Pilots said the airline struggled to reorganize rosters and flight schedules quickly enough, resulting in cascading cancellations. Goa witnessed numerous flights being scrapped across multiple rounds of announcements. The cancelled services included flights to Mumbai (6E5297, 6E205, 6E5143), Hyderabad (6E712, 6E374, 6E744, 6E206), New Delhi (6E6449, 6E2091, 6E6193), Ahmedabad (6E281, 6E6419), Bengaluru (6E249), Kolkata (6E162), Jaipur (6E6428), Indore (6E813, cancelled twice), Surat (6E418), Chandigarh (6E724), Raipur (6E211), and Bhopal (6E366). Several of these flights reappeared in repeat

cancellation lists, signalling prolonged operational instability. The sudden schedule collapse has caused significant distress for holiday travellers, many of whom had planned festive-season vacations or arrivals to coincide with Christmas and New Year tourism. Stakeholders say the cancellations have also affected hotel bookings, local transport operators and tourism-dependent businesses already grappling with unpredictable flight movements. Amid mounting passenger frustration, IndiGo has entered urgent discussions with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The airline announced temporary schedule adjustments for the next 48 hours and assured passengers that refunds or alternative travel options would be provided to minimise the fallout of the ongoing crisis.

RGP Announces Second List of Candidates for ZP Elections 2025

grassroots outreach ahead of the polls. In North Goa, the second list features seven nominees: Anil Harmalkar from Dhargal, Teotonio John Felix

Lobo from Socorro, Rohan Dhavde from Penha-de-Franca and Nilesh Gaonkar from Nagargao, all contesting in general categories. Women

candidates named include Anaya Candolkar (Deepa) from Calangute, Arlene Braganza from Reis Magos and Dipika Kankonkar from Chimbel.

Putin Assures PM Modi on Ukraine Plan, Defends India's Russian Oil Purchases

House highlighted the ongoing commitment to strategic partnership, with India maintaining a stance "on the side of peace." Addressing concerns over Western pressure, Putin questioned the fairness of US restrictions on India's

Russian oil imports. "The United States itself still buys nuclear fuel from Russia for its own power plants," he said. "If the US has the right to buy our fuel, why shouldn't India?" He emphasized that India's purchases of

discounted Russian crude are legitimate and called for a fair examination of the issue, including potential discussions with US leadership. India's crude imports from Russia are set to fall to a three-year low this month due

to US tariffs and tightened sanctions, but Putin described the decline as a minor adjustment. He stressed that overall trade, particularly in petroleum and crude oil, continues to run smoothly between the two countries.

Government Monitoring IndiGo's Flight Chaos, Orders Swift Corrective Action: Aviation Ministry

senior management. Top officials from the ministry, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and the Airports Authority of India were also present.

During the review, IndiGo outlined the reasons behind the ongoing crisis, citing challenges in crew deployment, the rollout of

updated Flight Duty Time Limitations regulations, and seasonal weather constraints.

The ministry noted that the revised duty limits

were introduced in phases as directed by the courts, aiming to strengthen fatigue management and improve overall flight safety.

IndiGo Grounds All Delhi Departures Till Midnight Amid Widespread Flight Chaos

Thousands of passengers stranded as staffing shortages and new duty rules trigger widespread cancellations.

New Delhi: Flight operations for the country's largest airline continued to unravel as all domestic departures from Delhi were halted until midnight, deepening the disruption that has stretched across several days. Conflicting updates added to the confusion, with airport authorities announcing a full-day suspension while separate regulatory sources indicated cancellations only until mid-afternoon. The uncertainty left passengers struggling for clarity amid soaring fares and extended delays. The crisis intensified after a severe shortage of ground staff at Delhi's Terminal 1 drew regulatory attention. This gap, coupled with a rapid build-up of passengers, highlighted deeper



operational challenges within the airline. On Thursday alone, around 550 flights were cancelled across multiple airports. This marked the highest single-day cancellation figure in IndiGo's history and underscored the scale of the disruption. By Friday, more than 500 additional cancellations had already been recorded, including the suspended Delhi services. Earlier in the week, over 200 flights were

scrapped on Tuesday and Wednesday. This pushed the total to nearly 1300 flights cancelled in just four days, with the airline cautioning that disruptions may continue until at least December 8. The airline acknowledged that it had underestimated the number of pilots required under recently implemented Flight Duty Time Limitations rules. These rules introduced longer mandatory rest

periods and further restricted the hours crew members could be on duty. Since the second phase of the regulations took effect in November, IndiGo has been unable to operate flights assigned under previous rosters because many pilots listed as available were no longer permitted to fly. The extensive network of overnight and long-hour flights operated by the airline has magnified the impact of these constraints. The new restrictions also limit the number of flights that can operate during night hours, creating additional bottlenecks. IndiGo has requested temporary relief from the regulations until February 2026 to allow time to recruit more pilots and restore regular schedules.



Rahul Gandhi Blames Centre's "Monopoly Model" for IndiGo Flight Disruptions

Congress leader criticises government as airline cancels hundreds of flights, leaving passengers stranded.

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday criticised the central government over the ongoing IndiGo flight disruptions, calling it the outcome of a "monopoly model" that hurts ordinary citizens. The party's Lok Sabha leader said that hundreds of flight cancellations over four consecutive days have caused widespread delays and inconvenience for passengers across India. "IndiGo fiasco is the cost of this government's monopoly

model. Once again, it is ordinary Indians who pay the price—in delays, cancellations and helplessness," Gandhi wrote on social media. He added, "India deserves fair competition in every sector, not match-fixing monopolies." IndiGo, India's largest airline, has been forced to cancel hundreds of flights due to crew shortages and challenges in implementing the second phase of Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) regulations.

India to Implement Nationwide Electronic Toll Collection Within a Year, Says Nitin Gadkari

Minister outlines plans to phase out manual tolls and enhance highway efficiency.

New Delhi: Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced on Thursday that India's current toll collection system will be replaced by a fully electronic system within the next year, providing a seamless travel



experience for highway users. Speaking during Question Hour in the

Lok Sabha, Gadkari noted that the electronic toll system has already been implemented at 10 locations and will soon be expanded nationwide. "This toll system will end. There will be no one to stop you in the name of toll.

PM Modi and President Putin Hold Key Summit at Hyderabad House After Ceremonial Welcome

Talks focus on defence, energy, trade balance and labour mobility as India-Russia strategic partnership marks 25 years.

New Delhi: Russian President Vladimir Putin began the second day of his state visit to India with a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, where he received a tri-services guard of honour in the presence of President Droupadi

Murmu. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior ministers and top defence officials attended the event, reaffirming the longstanding ties between the two nations. Earlier, the Prime Minister personally welcomed the Russian leader at the



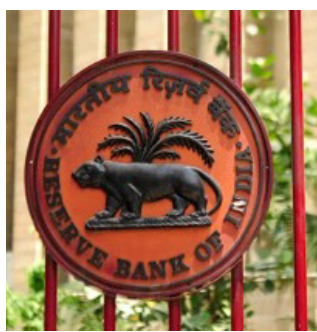
airport, setting the tone for a day of high-level engagements.

RBI Cuts Repo Rate by 25 Basis Points to 5.25% Amid Weak Rupee and Low Inflation

Rate reduction aims to boost liquidity, support growth, and ease borrowing costs.

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday, December 5, announced a 25-basis-point reduction in the repo rate, bringing it down to 5.25%. The decision comes as retail inflation hits historic lows and the Indian rupee continues

to weaken. The move was taken following the three-day meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), chaired by Sanjay Malhotra, held on December 3-5. With this reduction, cumulative repo rate cuts in 2025 now total 125 basis



points. Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation fell to 0.25% in October, well below the RBI's target range of 2% to 6%. After assessing the evolving macroeconomic environment and growth outlook, the MPC unanimously voted for

the reduction, effective immediately. The repo rate is the interest rate at which commercial banks borrow funds from the RBI against government securities. A lower repo rate reduces borrowing costs for banks, enabling

them to lend at cheaper rates, while a higher rate makes borrowing more expensive. The rate cut is expected to have an immediate impact on floating-rate loans, including home, auto, personal, and many MSME loans.

India Eye Series Triumph As South Africa Threatens Historic Win In Vizag

■ Must-win third ODI promises high stakes as teams go 1-1 in series.

New Delhi: India will turn to the experience of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma while relying on emerging talents to clinch the three-match ODI series against South Africa in the third and final encounter at Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Stadium on Saturday. With the series tied at 1-1, a repeat of errors seen in Raipur could hand South Africa their first ODI series win in India, making this a high-pressure fixture for the hosts. Kohli and Rohit, both in impressive form, are expected to lead the charge. Kohli has scored two centuries and a fifty in his last three innings, while Rohit has notched a



century and two fifties in his previous four matches. Their ability to perform under pressure remains critical for India, especially with younger players

like Ruturaj Gaikwad, who scored his maiden ODI hundred recently, and Yashasvi Jaiswal, who must overcome his struggles against

left-arm pacers. India's middle-order could see changes to strengthen the batting unit. Options include Tilak Varma, who provides both batting and spin options, or Rishabh Pant to bolster the lineup. Washington Sundar, who underperformed with both bat and ball in previous matches, may make way, while fast bowler Prasidh Krishna is also under scrutiny after conceding 85 runs in 8.2 overs in Raipur despite taking two wickets. Nitish Kumar Reddy is a potential replacement to add depth to India's bowling attack, particularly with the absence of Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah.



Drama and Grit: East Bengal vs FC Goa Final Promises High-Stakes Action

■ Super Cup Final Set: East Bengal to Face Ten-Man FC Goa After Thrilling Semifinals.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The stage is set for an exciting AIFF Super Cup final as East Bengal will take on FC Goa following dramatic semifinal victories on Thursday.

East Bengal secured a 3-1 win over Punjab FC, while FC Goa, playing the

full match with 10 men, edged past Mumbai City FC 2-1 in a contest marked by resilience and tactical discipline.

East Bengal started strong against Punjab FC, taking the lead in the 12th minute through Mohamad Bashim Rashid's first goal for the club.

3-Year-Old Sarwagya Singh Becomes World's Youngest FIDE Rapid Rated Chess Player

■ Madhya Pradesh prodigy sets record with 1572 Rapid Rating.

New Delhi: At just three years, seven months, and 13 days, Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, has become the youngest chess player in the world to earn a FIDE Rapid Rating. Listed at 1572 in the December rating update, Sarwagya's remarkable achievement comes at an age when



most children are still learning basic concepts,

making his feat all the more extraordinary. Introduced to chess by his parents as a way to reduce screen time, Sarwagya made his debut in competitive rapid chess at the 24th RCC Rapid Rated Cup in Mangaluru in September. In his very first tournament, he defeated a 1542-rated opponent.

SFA Senior Women's Team Makes Historic IWL Debut, Sparks Revival of Goan Women's Football

■ Dronacharya Awardee Armando Colaco hails achievement as a "Goan sunrise" for the sport.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has marked a historic milestone in women's football with the Sesa Football Academy (SFA) Senior Women's Team qualifying for the 9th Indian Women's League (IWL). This is the first time in three years that a Goan team will participate in the prestigious national tournament and only the fifth Goan side to do so,



joining Panjim Footballers (2019), Bidesh XI SC (2020), Sirvodem FC (2022), and Churchill Brothers (2023). SFA earned this qualification after finishing third in the IWL2, and

following the withdrawal of Indian Arrows, the team secured a spot in the 16-team event thanks to the persistent efforts of Dr. Caitano Fernandes, President of the Goa Football Association.

MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade urges renewed focus on Taekwondo and advanced support for emerging racket sports

■ Appeal highlights the need to revive Taekwondo training and strengthen Goa's sporting framework.

WPANAJI: Goa's long-standing reputation for sporting excellence received renewed attention as a call was made in the Rajya Sabha to revive and strengthen

key disciplines that have shaped the state's athletic identity.

The appeal focused on reinstating Taekwondo training at the SAI Training Centre in Goa

and expanding structured support for a range of rapidly growing racket sports.

During the discussion, it was highlighted that Taekwondo has been one



of Goa's most consistent medal-producing disciplines for more than three decades.

Local athletes have marked their presence at every National Games

since 1994 and continued to perform strongly at major events including the 2015 Kerala National Games and the 37th National Games hosted by Goa in 2023.