



GOA NIGHTCLUB INFERNO: OWNERS ON THE RUN, LOC ISSUED

Five Staffers Arrested; Owners Booked For Culpable Homicide

The management expresses profound grief and is deeply shaken by the tragic loss of lives resulting from the unfortunate incident at Birch.

In this hour of irreparable sorrow and overwhelming distress, the management stands in unwavering solidarity with the families of the deceased as well as those injured, and conveys its heartfelt condolences with utmost sincerity.

The management further affirms that it shall extend every possible form of assistance, support and cooperation to the bereaved and affected individuals, as they navigate through this period of immense anguish and adversity.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI:Goa Police has issued a Look Out Circular (LOC) against nightclub owners Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra of Birch by Romeo Lane, a day after a catastrophic fire at the Arpora club killed 25 people and injured six. Officials said the duo left Goa shortly after the incident and are suspected to be attempting to flee

the country. Airports and police stations nationwide have been alerted, and a police team has been dispatched to New Delhi to trace and arrest them. The Luthra brothers, along with event organisers, have been booked under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, including culpable homicide and endangering life. Five arrests have already been made. Senior staffers Rajiv



Modak, Priyanshu Thakur, Rajveer Singhania, and Vivek Singh were taken into custody on Sunday, followed on Monday by the

RGP–Congress Alliance Officially Over?

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI:The political alliance between RGP and Congress has officially come to an end, RGP Chief Manoj Parab confirmed.



Goa Police Nab Accused in Rs 11 Crore LSD Seizure Case Following LOC

Team Goemkarponn

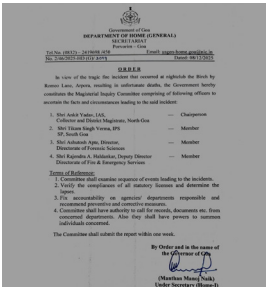
SIOLIM: Siolim-based police successfully apprehended Vineesh Y. K., an absconding accused involved in a major LSD seizure case, following a Look Out Circular (LOC) issued by the ANC Police Station. The accused, a native of Kerala, is implicated in ANC PS Crime No. 13/2025 under sections 20(b)(ii)(B), 22(C), 8(c) read

with 29 of the NDPS Act, 1985, involving the seizure of 110.70 grams of LSD liquid valued at Rs. 11.07 crore. Vineesh was detained on December 7, 2025, at Bangalore Airport by the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) acting on the active LOC. A team from ANC Police Station traveled to Bangalore, obtained transit remand, and successfully brought the accused back to Goa.

Goa Govt Sets Up Magisterial Inquiry Committee to Probe Arpora Fire Tragedy

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government today issued an order constituting a four-member Magisterial Inquiry Committee to investigate the devastating fire at Birch by Romeo



Lane in Arpora, which claimed multiple lives and triggered concerns over regulatory lapses. According to the Home Department's notification, the inquiry panel will be chaired by North Goa

17 IndiGo Flights Cancelled from Goa Today Amid Operational Glitches

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa witnessed significant disruption in air travel as IndiGo faced operational issues, leading to the cancellation of a total of 17 flights across the state's airports on Monday.



Cancelled services included PNQ–GOI 919, GOI–AMD 6419, BOM–

GOI 567, GOI–BOM 5297, HYD–GOI 743, GOI–HYD 744, BLR–GOI 194, GOI–BLR 249, BOM–GOI 357, GOI–BOM 648, DEL–GOI 2028, GOI–DEL 2029, DEL–GOI 2603, GOI–DEL 5153, and BLR–GOI 6168,

Terror Hideout Raided in J&K's Doda Forest, Rifle and 22 Bullets Recovered

Police recover arms in operation aimed at strengthening regional security.

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Special Operation Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted a successful raid in the Bhalara Forest area of Doda district on Sunday, recovering a rifle, two magazines, and 22 live bullets. The operation, carried out under the supervision of SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta, was based



on specific intelligence inputs. Authorities said the seizure is a significant step

UP Government Cracks Down on Rohingya and Illegal Bangladeshi Residents, CM Yogi Tells Centre

Chief Minister emphasises vigilance, law and order, and action against illegal migrants.

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced strict action against Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals living illegally in the state, urging residents to remain vigilant. In a social media post, he stressed that ensuring the safety of the state, maintaining social harmony, and upholding



law and order are the government's top priorities. "Strict and decisive action has been initiated against Rohingya and Bangladeshi

infiltrators illegally residing in the state. I appeal to the vigilant public to verify the identity of any individual

Nightclub Inferno Exposes Goa's Culture of Neglect

The fire that tore through a packed nightclub in Goa has left twenty-five people dead, including twenty members of the staff who were simply trying to finish their shifts and go home. The scale of the loss has shocked the country, yet the deeper shock is how predictable this tragedy was. The blaze did not come out of nowhere. It grew out of years of lax enforcement, careless decision-making and a tourism economy that treats safety as an optional extra. If Goa wants to honour the dead, it must confront the long list of failures that allowed this inferno to unfold.

Goa has long built its brand around nightlife. Clubs compete for the most dramatic lighting and the most crowded dance floor. Tourists accept noise and chaos as part of the experience. Behind the glamour is an industry that often operates on thin margins and thinner oversight. Too many establishments function with outdated clearances. Fire extinguishers are placed to meet paperwork requirements rather than to stop an actual fire. Exit routes turn into storage corners or are blocked with furniture to squeeze in more paying guests. Everyone in the system knows this. Inspectors know it. Owners know it.

Politicians know it. The only people who do not know it are the unsuspecting visitors who trust that a licensed venue has earned that licence honestly. In the aftermath of the fire, investigators have already pointed to faulty wiring and overcrowding. Both are routine hazards in the nightlife business. Both are deadly when paired with delayed evacuation. None of this is new. We have seen the same pattern in banquet halls, wedding venues and hospitals. We mourn, committees form, file notes accumulate, and within months everything returns to the way it was.

This time Goa cannot hide behind familiar excuses. The state depends on tourism not just economically but culturally. It markets itself as a place where people can relax without fear. That promise rings hollow when a place meant for celebration becomes a furnace. The government must explain why its inspection mechanism failed. It must clarify whether the club had received warnings and why they were ignored. It must show the public that the law is more than a collection of polite suggestions. Nightclub owners must also face an uncomfortable truth. They have built thriving businesses on ambience, sound and spectacle. But they have often treated safety as a burden rather than a responsibility.

The dead are remembered only when the next disaster forces their names back into the headlines. This time Goa cannot hide behind familiar excuses. The state depends on tourism not just economically but culturally. It markets itself as a place where people can relax without fear. That promise rings hollow when a place meant for celebration becomes a furnace. The government must explain why its inspection mechanism failed. It must clarify whether the club had received warnings and why they were ignored. It must show the public that the law is more than a collection of polite suggestions. Nightclub owners must also face an uncomfortable truth. They have built thriving

businesses on ambience, sound and spectacle. But they have often treated safety as a burden rather than a responsibility. Many claim that installing alarms, sprinklers or additional exits will disrupt design or raise costs. That argument collapses when weighed against the image of workers and guests trapped in smoke-filled rooms. If an establishment cannot guarantee a safe environment, it has no right to remain open. The deaths of twenty employees underline a deeper injustice.

The backbone of Goa's tourism industry is a workforce of migrants and contract staff who rarely have the power to challenge unsafe conditions. They work long nights, accept poor accommodations and often remain quiet even when they notice hazards. When a fire erupts, they are the first in danger because they are closest to the kitchens, service areas and electrical panels where sparks turn into flames. Their deaths are not accidents. They are the result of a culture that treats their safety as expendable. If anything good can come from this tragedy, it must be genuine reform. Inspections should be unannounced and uncompromising.

Licences must be suspended at the first sign of negligence. Penalties must hurt enough to change behaviour. Investigations must be transparent and free of political interference. Above all, leaders must accept that responsibility begins before a disaster, not after one. A nightclub is supposed to be a place of escape. Music, lights and rhythm draw people together for joy. It should never become the site of their final moments. The families of the twenty-five victims deserve more than compensation. They deserve the truth. They deserve accountability. And Goa deserves a future where a night out does not end in smoke and silence.

EDITOR'S SPEAK

Inferno at Arpora Exposes Collapse of Governance

-By Carlos Alvares Ferreira

The devastating fire at Club Birch by Romeo Lane in Arpora, which claimed at least 25 lives and possibly more, is a grim reminder of how far our systems have decayed. While the cause of the fire must be identified, it cannot become a convenient shield to hide the larger questions. How did a club that reportedly had no construction licence operate openly. Why was it allowed to function even for a single day. A demolition order and an appeal do not automatically grant the right to run a business. Permissions to operate in any structure, legal or illegal, require scrutiny. Which authorities cleared these operations. On what documents. And was money paid along the way. This is not the first time appellate authorities have issued mechanical stay orders without proper reasoning. Such orders often allow illegal establishments to continue business for years while cases drag on. The pattern is familiar and troubling. It suggests a system where rules are bent, enforcement is selective and officials look the other way. Fire safety is another area where responsibility ends with issuing an NOC. A certificate means little if there is no follow through.

Who checks compliance. Who ensures that exits are clear, equipment is functional and safety norms are honoured. Inspections should not begin only after a tragedy. Owners, operators and government departments must all be held accountable, not just the most visible faces after a disaster. The Chief Minister has announced an inquiry, but a probe limited to the cause of fire will fall short of what the public deserves. The state must answer whether similar illegal establishments will be sealed and whether political connections will continue to protect violators. Anything less will further erode trust. Images circulating online show the club standing almost in the middle of a water body. If this is accurate, the questions grow sharper. How did such construction begin. Who permitted it. How many departments ignored their own rules. No illegal outlet can operate without political blessing, from bottom to top. The public must also reflect on the tone of the official response.

The Tourism Minister described this tragedy as an "episode", a choice of words that shows a disturbing lack of sensitivity. The DGP initially spoke of a cylinder blast, raising doubts about the information given to him and the competence of those passing it on. Now there are reports of an electric pyro gun triggering the blaze. The shifting explanations reveal confusion rather than clarity. The Panchayat, Excise and Fire Departments all had responsibilities they failed to uphold. If the Panchayat is aligned with the ruling party, the Government cannot distance itself from these failures. Goa has seen enough of internal inquiries that end up protecting the powerful. That is why I demand a judicial inquiry by a retired judge. Goa cannot afford such tragedies. This was not just a fire. It was a collapse of governance. And it is time the administration wakes up before more lives are lost.

Old Goa Bungalow: SC Appoints Rtd. Judge In Fact Finding Committee

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Supreme Court has appointed retired Additional Sessions Judge Edgar Fernandes to lead a fact-finding committee in the ongoing dispute over a controversial bungalow constructed near a protected heritage precinct in Old Goa.

The appointment comes while hearing a set of Special Leave Petitions concerning allegations of illegal construction near the heritage zone. The



fact-finding panel has been tasked with verifying the original structure, evaluating the current construction, and reviewing all documents submitted by the respondents.

The committee has

been directed to submit its report within four weeks. The Supreme Court observed that a fresh inspection was necessary, citing the earlier inspection report dated February 2, 2024.

3 Goa Officials Suspended Over Alleged Lapses in 2023 Licensing of Fire-Hit Nightclub

Team Goemkarponn

The Goa government on Sunday suspended three senior officials for their alleged role in permitting the Arpora nightclub—where a devastating fire killed 25 people in the early hours of the same day—to begin operations in 2023. The blaze, which tore through the premises and turned deadly within minutes, claimed the lives of five tourists and 20 staff members, prompting a sweeping administrative response. According to a senior government officer, action has been initiated against Siddhi Tushar Harlankar, who served as Director of Panchayats at the time; Dr. Shamila Monteiro, then Member Secretary of the Goa State Pollution Control Board; and Raghuvir Bagkar, who was Secretary of the Arpora-Nagoa Village Panchayat



during the period in question.

The trio is accused of enabling the nightclub—Birch by Romeo Lane—to commence operations last year despite alleged procedural lapses. Meanwhile, police have questioned Roshan Redkar, the current sarpanch of Arpora-Nagoa, who had issued the trade licence to the establishment. Investigators are examining the chain of approvals that allowed the nightclub to operate, as part of a broader probe into regulatory failures leading up to the tragedy.

Arpora Tragedy Becomes Political Flashpoint as Revolutionary Goans Question State's Safety Record

Team Goemkarponn

ARPORA: The blaze at an alleged unlicensed nightclub in Arpora, which claimed 25 lives, has triggered a political storm with the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) sharply criticising the state government's enforcement record. In a statement issued on Sunday, the party alleged that the tragedy exposed "serious lapses"



in regulatory oversight and raised questions about how the establishment continued operating without mandatory permissions. The RGP said the incident

has left several families shattered and has reignited long-standing concerns over unchecked nightlife operations, drug availability and unsafe

commercial structures. It added that while ordinary citizens face prolonged procedures to obtain basic licences, some high-profile establishments appear to function with ease despite lacking clearances. The party claimed that such issues have been repeatedly flagged over the years but remain largely unaddressed, allowing illegal and unsafe venues to proliferate.

Constable dies on duty at Vasco police station; sources indicate possible heart attack

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: A 39-year-old senior constable, Gaurish Satardekar, a resident of Headland Sada, died while on duty at the Vasco police station on Monday morning, leaving colleagues and family in deep shock. Satardekar, attached to the SB Branch, had reported to duty as usual and was interacting with staff moments before



he suddenly began to feel unwell. According to sources, Satardekar stepped out for a routine walk around the police station and appeared to experience discomfort soon after.

Goa SDMA Issues Strict Safety Advisory to Nightlife Venues After Tragic Fire That Killed 25

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In the wake of the devastating nightclub fire that claimed 25 lives, the Goa State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) has issued a sweeping advisory mandating strict compliance with fire, electrical, and structural safety norms across all nightlife and hospitality establishments in the State. Invoking Sections 22(2)(h), 22(2)(i) and 24 of the Disaster Management



Act, 2005, the SDMA has directed nightclubs, bars, restaurants, event venues, and similar establishments to immediately strengthen safety measures and adhere to all norms prescribed by competent authorities. According to the advisory, all venues

must maintain a valid Fire NOC and follow every condition laid down by the Fire Services Department. Establishments have been instructed to strictly enforce authorized occupancy limits, prominently display maximum capacity, and prevent overcrowding.

Arpora-Nagoa Sarpanch Roshan Redkar Quits BJP, Vows to Take on Party Candidate in 2027

Team Goemkarponn

ARPORA: Arpora-Nagoa Sarpanch Roshan Redkar, after being detained and questioned for over five hours, publicly announced his resignation from the BJP and promised to challenge the party's candidate in the 2027 Calangute Assembly elections. His statement drew loud applause from hundreds of villagers gathered outside the Anjuna Police Station. Redkar, who had earlier

issued a demolition notice against the controversial Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub, accused the ruling party and local leaders, indirectly targeting Calangute MLA Michael Lobo, of causing him "distress and harassment." He emphasized that the nightclub was operating without a valid construction licence, prompting the panchayat to issue a demolition order following a formal resolution. "Licences were being renewed routinely over the years,



but upon discovering the absence of a construction permit, I consulted the panchayat members and took the necessary action," Redkar explained. Once seen as a close ally of Lobo, Redkar has recently had a falling out with the MLA, resulting in multiple confrontations.

Four Birch by Romeo Lane managers sent to 6-day police custody in Arpora fire case

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: In a major development in the Birch by Romeo Lane fire tragedy that killed 25 people in Arpora, four senior managers of the establishment have been remanded to six days of police custody after Anjuna Police registered Crime No. 154/2025 under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The offence was



registered at 9:36 am on December 7, 2025, based on a state complaint by PSI Navneet Goltekar,

who stated that the club's owners, partners, event organisers and managing staff had recklessly

organised a fire show on the night of December 6 without fire safety equipment, emergency exits or basic precautions, fully aware that such negligence could trigger a fatal accident. The club was also found operating without mandatory permissions and licences. The massive blaze resulted in the death of 25 people and injuries to several others, including tourists and staff.

26-year-old Taleigao resident dies in self-accident

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police on Sunday registered an Unnatural Death case (UD No. 96/2025) under Section 194 of the BNSS after receiving a wireless message from GMC Bambolim reporting that an unidentified male, aged around 40 years, had been brought dead by EMRI 108 following a vehicle accident at Odxem, Taleigao. During the enquiry, police established the identity of the deceased as Basu Kadri, age 26, son of



Raju Kadri of Camra Bhat, Taleigao. His father informed police that Basu had met with a self-accident while riding his white Activa scooter (GA07AM7871). A separate motor vehicle accident case, Panaji PS MV Accident No.

Fascino scooter stolen from New Vaddem residence in Vasco

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco Police have registered a case of theft after a Fascino scooter worth around ₹48,000 was reported stolen from New Vaddem. The complaint, filed by Sudesh Naik, states that the vehicle was parked at his residence and was

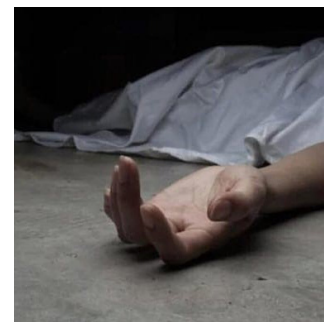
found missing sometime between 9:30 am on December 3 and 7:00 am on December 4, 2025. Police said an unknown accused is involved in the theft, and further investigation has been handed over to HC Rajesh Bhandodkar (5938) of Vasco Police Station.

Pune tourist found dead in washroom of Mandrem resort; UD case registered

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: Mandrem Police have registered an Unnatural Death case (UD No. 52/2025) under Section 194 of the BNSS after a Pune-based tourist was found unconscious in the washroom of a beach resort and later declared brought dead at District Hospital, Mapusa.

Police said they received a call from the hospital on Sunday, following which LPSI Archana Sharma and staff visited the casualty ward and were informed by the on-duty police that the deceased, Naveed Shaikh, 40, son of Naseer Ahmed Shaikh and a resident of Kondhwa Khurd, Pune, had been brought in by his friends.



Enquiry revealed that Naveed had travelled to Goa with friends and was

found lying unconscious inside the washroom of Oceano Beach Resort. He was shifted to District Hospital, Mapusa, where doctors declared him brought dead. Mandrem PI was briefed, a wireless message was issued to PCR Panjim/Porvorim, and the SDM Pernem was informed. Further enquiry is underway.

3 booked for impersonation and forging power of attorney to sell Chandor property

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Fatorda Police have registered a case following a complaint by Alvaro Gregorio Boni Antao of Chandor, alleging that his late father was deceived and his family property fraudulently sold through a forged power of attorney. According to the complaint, on 11 December 2019 at the Office of the



Civil-cum-Sub Registrar in Margao, accused Antonio Antao of Chandor impersonated the complainant and,

acting in furtherance of a common object with Candito Andre Kennedy D'Costa of Guirdolim and Francisco Fernandes, allegedly misled the complainant's father, Ferdinando Antao, during a late-night visit to his residence. Antonio allegedly posed as Ferdinando's son and obtained his signature on a forged power of attorney, which was then executed before a notary.

2 Held in Panaji for Running Matka Gambling Operations

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police on Sunday registered an Unnatural Death case (UD No. 96/2025) under Section 194 of the BNSS after receiving a wireless message from GMC Bambolim reporting that an unidentified male, aged around 40 years, had been brought dead by EMRI 108 following a vehicle accident at Odxem, Taleigao. During the enquiry, police established the identity of the deceased as Basu Kadri, age 26, son of Raju Kadri of Camra Bhat, Taleigao. His father informed police that Basu had met with a self-accident while riding his white Activa



scooter (GA07AM7871). A separate motor vehicle accident case, Panaji PS MV Accident No. 151/2025, has already been registered. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Mahesh Naik. Panaji Police registered two separate gambling cases after arresting two individuals who were allegedly caught red-handed accepting matka bets in public areas within the city.

Riva Beach Resort Booked for Erecting Illegal Wedding Stages on Mandrem Beach

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: Mandrem Police registered an offence against the owners and the General Manager of Riva Beach Resort, Mandrem,

following a complaint filed by Kedar A. Naik, Director of Tourism, Government of Goa. According to the



complaint, between 17 November 2025 and 2 December 2025, the resort allegedly erected an illegal stage

setup for a beach wedding on government land—specifically the public beach area—without obtaining mandatory permission from the Department of Tourism.

Store room gutted as massive dry grass fire breaks out at Wadi Talaulim hills

Team Goemkarponn

TALAUIM: A major dry grass fire broke out on Sunday evening at Wadi Talaulim hills near Ramani Ground, Ponda, causing a store room shed named Sheti Kotaro to go up in flames and resulting in estimated losses of around ₹1.5 lakh. The incident occurred at around 6:30 pm, following which personnel from the Ponda Fire Station rushed to the spot and battled the blaze



for nearly an hour and a half with assistance from local residents. Locals said the area has increasingly become a hotspot for weekend

liquor parties, where unidentified individuals reportedly discard half-burnt cigarettes, often sparking fires in the dry grass. Residents added that after the monsoon, the grass on the hills dries up and is usually harvested by farmers as fodder for cattle, but such irresponsible behaviour is putting the area at risk. In an attempt to prevent similar incidents, locals had already cleared dry grass around Ramani Ground to safeguard local sportspersons.

Quepem man found dead outside Margao hotel

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Fatorda Police initiated an Unnatural Death enquiry on Sunday morning after a middle-aged man was found lying unresponsive near Chatrapati Hotel, opposite the KTC bus stand in Margao. Police received a call at around 9:00 am from ASI Dilkhush Velip of Margao Town Police Station, following which a team visited the



spot and found a male aged between 40 and 45 years lying in an open area. The individual was shifted to South Goa District Hospital by 108 emergency services, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Health Minister Praises Team for Safe Transfer of Twin Neonates

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane has lauded the exemplary efforts of medical teams involved in the critical transfer of twin sick neonates from Goa Medical College & Hospital (GMCH) to SSK Hospital, Oros-Kudal. "Deeply appreciate the exemplary efforts displayed during the critical transfer of twin sick neonates. Despite the seriousness of their condition, the team ensured a safe and seamless transfer under continuous ventilatory support, with close clinical monitoring throughout the journey," said Minister Rane. He added, "Such professionalism and commitment in managing



neonatal emergencies reflect the high standards upheld by our emergency medical services. My heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated team whose unwavering focus and expertise continue to save lives when it matters the most." The successful transfer highlights the coordination and expertise of Goa's emergency medical services, ensuring timely and effective care for vulnerable patients even under high-risk conditions.

Dismiss corrupt, incapacitated BJP Government: LoP Yuri Alemao

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao demanded that the Governor should dismiss this corrupt government, which allowed the Arpora club to operate without permissions, leading to the tragic loss of 25 lives due to its negligence. After visiting the burn survivors



at Goa Medical College along with Quepem MLA Altone D'Costa, Alemao attacked BJP Government for creating such crisis by allowing illegalities in the state. "Despite demolition

order from panchayat, this night club was operating with the blessings of this corrupt Government. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and his cabinet colleagues should come clear on this," Alemao said. "It is extremely painful and heartbreaking day for Goa. Such tragedies happening in Goa are inconceivable. I share the pain and

grief of the families who lost their kith and kin," Alemao said. Cuncolim MLA said that the loss of the families is irreparable. "The government should immediately declare and pay compensation to families on humanitarian grounds," he said. "These are clear signs of the total collapse of governance in the state."

Massive Torch March Held in Bicholim Demanding Justice in Vasantl Salelkar Death Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: T BICHOLIM: A massive torch march was taken out this evening across Goa by social activists demanding justice in the Vasantl Salelkar death case. The march



began from Vasantl's residence and culminated at the Bicholim Police

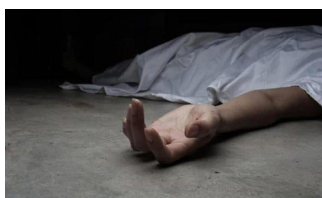
Station. Activists gathered in large numbers alleging that Vasantl's death

by electrocution was suspicious and demanded a thorough investigation. They also highlighted earlier complaints of harassment and assault that Vasantl had reportedly faced at her residence prior to her death.

18-year-old waiter found dead at Kadamba Plateau

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Old Goa Police registered an Unnatural Death case late Saturday night after an 18-year-old waiter was found hanging in the bathroom of his accommodation near Sambhar Restaurant at Kadamba Plateau. Police received a call at around 11:23 pm from Shaun Araujo, owner of Sambhar



Restaurant, informing that the staffer, Jaya Malik, son of Sania Malik and a native of Gajapati district, Odisha, had allegedly died by suicide inside the flat located next to the restaurant

where he stayed. Police conducted a scene of occurrence panchanama in the presence of two respectable panch witnesses, after which the body was shifted to the GMC Morgue at Bambolim for preservation. Efforts are underway to contact the deceased's family. Further inquiry is being carried out by LPSI Laureen Sequeira.

Police Register Case Against Former Anjuman Society Committee Members

Team Goemkarponn

MAINA: Maina-Curtorim Police have registered a case against former members of the Anjuman Society's executive committee, including former President Asharaph Pandiyal, former President and Chairman Zameer Ahmed, former Manager and executive member Hussain Kalholi. According to the police,



the action follows a complaint filed by teacher

Nafiasa Shaikh, who alleged that the accused threatened her, abused her, and pressured her to give a false statement. She also claimed they attempted to remove her from her job. Police have booked the accused under BNS Act 351(2) read with Section 3(5). Officers said the investigation is currently underway and further action will be taken based on the findings.

Celebrate the joy of Christmas in the skies with Akasa Air's festive special meal

National: Café Akasa, the onboard meal service of Akasa Air, has introduced its fourth edition of the Christmas Special Meal, crafted to celebrate the warmth, joy and indulgence of the holiday season. The offering features delights inspired by Goan cuisine, including delicious Roast Chicken Pie paired with a Mocha Bebinca and a beverage of choice. Available exclusively throughout December across the Akasa Air network, this festive offering can be easily pre-booked via Akasa Air's website www.akasaair.com or mobile app. Bringing together the quintessential flavours of Christmas with a Goan twist, the festive meal captures the familiar comfort of



holiday dining while introducing a light, coastal charm. The curation combines the richness of classic Christmas favourites with the warmth of regional flavours, creating a wholesome, indulgent feast that feels both nostalgic and refreshing. Thoughtfully curated to evoke the joy, togetherness, and celebratory spirit of the season, the meal ensures that travellers can

experience the Christmas magic in the air. Since launching operations in August 2022, Akasa Air has been committed to offering specially curated meal options that reflect regional specialties associated with various celebrations. From Makar Sankranti to Valentine's Day, Holi, Eid, Mother's Day, International Yoga Day, Monsoon season, Navroz, Onam, Ganesh Chaturthi, Dussehra,

Diwali, Children's Day and Christmas, Café Akasa continues to enhance the flying experience with festive meals. The airline also offers a pre-selection of cakes on its regular menu for flyers who want to celebrate the birthdays of their loved ones in the skies. Café Akasa's frequently refreshed menu is thoughtfully curated to include a variety of gourmet meals, snacks, and refreshing beverages to ensure there is something to cater to a wide range of dietary and culinary preferences. The menu offers 45+ meal options, including fusion meals, appetisers with a regional twist, and decadent desserts, all exclusively curated by reputed chefs from across India.



IndiGo Refunds Tickets Worth Rs 610 Crore as Operations Improve

■ Airline performance steadies as government oversight speeds recovery across the aviation network.

New Delhi: IndiGo has reported a significant improvement in its operations, with the airline expecting to run more than 1,650 flights today compared to 1,500 the previous day. According to the latest update, 137 of its 138 destinations are now active and on time performance has risen to 75 percent, a substantial recovery from 30 percent a day earlier. The airline reiterated that passengers with bookings until December

15 will receive full waivers on cancellations and rescheduling. Refunds and baggage reconciliation are being processed at an accelerated pace. IndiGo said it is working continuously to restore normal operations and asked travellers for patience as recovery efforts continue. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken several rapid measures to stabilise the situation following the airline's operational breakdown.

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GOA NIGHTCLUB INFERNO: OWNERS ON THE RUN, LOC ISSUED

arrest of Bharat Kohli, who handled the daily operations of Romeo Lane, in Delhi. Of the 25 fatalities, 20 were staff members and five were tourists. In his first public statement since the tragedy, owner Saurabh Luthra said the management was "deeply shaken" and expressed

"profound grief" at the loss of lives, adding that the nightclub stood in "unwavering solidarity" with the families. He said the management would extend "every possible form of assistance, support, and cooperation" to those affected. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant termed

the incident unprecedented for Goa.

"From my preliminary inquiry, it appears the fire started on the upper floor. Because the doors were very congested, some people managed to escape, but once the fire intensified, others could not get out.

Goa Govt Sets Up Magisterial Inquiry Committee to Probe Arpora Fire Tragedy

Collector Ankita Yadav, IAS, and will include South Goa SP Tikam Singh Verma, IPS, Ashutosh Apte, Director of Forensic Sciences, and Rajendra A. Haldankar, Deputy Director of Fire & Emergency Services. The committee has been tasked with examining the complete sequence of events leading

to the incident, verifying statutory licences and compliance status, and identifying any lapses by agencies or departments. It has also been empowered to summon officials, call for records, and recommend preventive and corrective measures. The government has directed the committee to submit its report within

one week, signalling an urgent push to establish accountability and address systemic failures that may have contributed to the tragedy. Copies of the order have been forwarded to the Chief Minister's Office, the Director General of Police, and other concerned authorities for immediate action.

UP Government Cracks Down on Rohingya and Illegal Bangladeshi Residents, CM Yogi Tells Centre

before employing them," CM Yogi stated.

He added that state security is a shared responsibility, and prosperity can only

grow when safety is guaranteed. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak reinforced the government's position, saying that illegal

migrants will be sent to detention centres, removed from electoral rolls, and face legal action.

He also criticised the

Samajwadi Party, claiming that its leadership has lost public trust and predicting setbacks for the party in the 2027 Assembly elections.

RGP-Congress Alliance Officially Over?

Speaking to the media, Parab stated that the party had honored all alliance talks and kept its commitments, but recent developments have made continuing the

partnership impossible. "We have respected the alliance discussions fully, delaying our candidate announcements to avoid harming the alliance.

Terror Hideout Raided in J&K's Doda Forest, Rifle and 22 Bullets Recovered

toward bolstering security in the region and preventing potential misuse of the weapons by anti-social or anti-national elements. Further

investigation is underway to determine the source of the arms and identify those responsible for concealing them. The operation highlights

the Jammu & Kashmir Police's continued commitment to maintaining peace and public safety in Doda.

17 IndiGo Flights Cancelled from Goa Today Amid Operational Glitches

GOI-BLR 6163. Meanwhile, Manohar International Airport saw eight flights cancelled due to the same operational challenges. Affected

flights included services to Hyderabad (6E 6124, 6E 945), Mumbai (6E 2133, 6E 596), Nagpur (6E 122), Rajkot (6E 154), and Bengaluru

(6E 901, 6E 6308). Passengers were advised to check with IndiGo for rescheduling options and updates on operational services.

'Vande Mataram Inspired Freedom Movement, But Symbolises More': PM Modi in Lok Sabha

■ Prime Minister recalls song's historic role and enduring significance on its 150th anniversary.

New Delhi: C New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday highlighted the enduring significance of 'Vande Mataram' in India's freedom struggle, calling it the mantra that inspired the nation during moments of crisis. Speaking in the Lok Sabha during a special session commemorating the 150th anniversary



of the patriotic song, he described it as a source of energy and motivation for generations of Indians.

Addressing Parliament, PM Modi said the discussion was a "proud moment" and emphasised

the importance of collective reflection on the song's legacy. He recalled that during challenging periods, including the Emergency, 'Vande Mataram' served as a rallying cry, energising citizens even when many were imprisoned. "Vande Mataram" played a crucial role in India's freedom movement," the Prime Minister said.

Israel Calls on India to Classify Hamas as Terror Group, Warns of Expanding Hamas-LeT Links

■ Israeli officials cite expanding Hamas-LeT cooperation and rising regional threats.

New Delhi: Israel has urged India to formally classify Hamas as a terrorist organisation, expressing growing concern over the group's efforts to rebuild its capabilities in Gaza and strengthen ties with regional extremist networks. According to Israeli officials, Hamas' expanding cooperation with Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Iran-



backed proxies poses a rising security risk for both nations. A senior official from Israel's foreign ministry stated that Israel

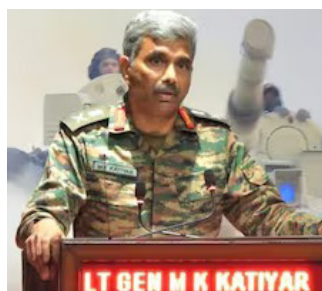
has already designated Lashkar-e-Taiba as a terrorist entity and hopes India will take reciprocal action by listing Hamas as

well. The request aligns with previous appeals from the Israeli Defence Forces, who argue that such a designation would reinforce counterterrorism cooperation between the two countries. IDF representatives emphasised that the move would send a strong message and ensure no Hamas-linked operatives gain access to Indian territory.

Army Must Not Lower Guard as Threats Persist on Both Fronts, Says Western Command Chief

■ Lt General Manoj Kumar Katiyar underscores continuous vigilance against China and Pakistan.

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Lashkar-e-Taiba and Iran-backed proxies poses a rising security risk for both nations. A senior official from Israel's foreign

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CEO says IndiGo is steadily restoring operations with improved flight schedules and rising punctuality

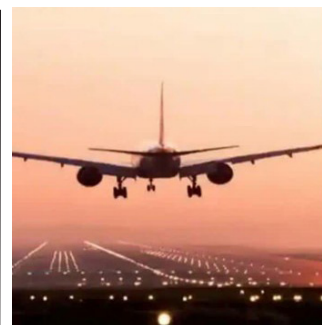
■ Lt IndiGo Operations Recover as CEO Says Airline Is "Getting Back".

New Delhi: IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers has assured employees that the airline is steadily returning to normal operations following several days of widespread disruptions marked by mass cancellations and delays. In an internal video message shared from the airline's operational control centre, he said IndiGo is expected to



operate around 1,650 flights on Sunday as systems continue to stabilise. The airline, which typically runs about

2,300 flights a day, saw its schedule severely impacted in recent days. On Friday, operations dropped to just over 700 flights, before improving to about 1,500 on Saturday. Elbers said the airline's On Time Performance is projected to reach about 75 percent on Sunday, reflecting ongoing efforts to enhance coordination and restore reliability.



सत्यमेव जयते

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

DGCA Issues Show-Cause Notice to IndiGo CEO After Widespread Flight Disruptions

■ Regulator cites inadequate preparedness for new pilot duty norms as cancellations surge nationwide.

New Delhi: India's aviation regulator has issued a show-cause notice to the CEO of IndiGo after a week of severe operational disruptions that left thousands of passengers stranded and forced the airline to cancel nearly a thousand flights in a single day. The intervention is among the strongest actions taken by the DGCA in recent years amid growing public frustration over cancellations and long delays. The regulator said the crisis stemmed from IndiGo's failure to prepare for the rollout of revised Flight Duty Time Limitations for pilots, a policy notified months earlier and implemented from November 1.

According to the notice, inadequate planning for the new duty and rest requirements led to crew shortages, a breakdown in scheduling and large-scale disruption across its extensive network. The DGCA stated that the airline did not make necessary arrangements to manage the transition, resulting in violations of duty-time regulations and passenger-care requirements. It added that the airline did not ensure timely information, assistance or facilities for affected passengers during the chaotic period. The notice holds the CEO responsible for the lapse, stating that effective operational readiness and passenger support fall under his oversight.

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli Set to Return to Vijay Hazare Trophy; BCCI Clarifies Participation Is Voluntary

■ Board emphasizes duo's decision to play domestic cricket to maintain ODI form

New Delhi: Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are poised to make a return to the Vijay Hazare Trophy, India's premier domestic one-day tournament, as both star batsmen aim to maintain their form in the limited-overs format. While Rohit had confirmed his availability earlier, reports now indicate that Kohli has also agreed to participate. Contrary to speculation, the Board of Control for Cricket



in India (BCCI) has clarified that neither player was mandated to feature in the

tournament. A BCCI official stated that the decision to play was entirely the

players' own and not directed by the board. Coaching staff, including head coach Gautam Gambhir, have consistently encouraged senior players to engage in domestic cricket during breaks from international duties. This approach saw both Kohli and Rohit feature in the Ranji Trophy following India's disappointing tour in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia.



MCC Royals and MCC Masters Secure Wins in Thrilling T20 Matches

New Delhi: The MCC 11 T20 cricket tournament saw two exciting encounters at the MCC Ground, with MCC Royals and MCC Masters emerging victorious in their respective matches. MCC Royals defeated MCC Knights by 23 runs, while MCC Masters beat MCC Warriors by four wickets. In the first match, batting first, MCC Royals posted a competitive 169 for 8 in 20 overs. Key contributions came from Samrudh Bharne (34), Vijay (27), and Siddhit Raiturkar (37). For the Knights, Dinesh Pai impressed with 3 wickets for 16 runs, while Vikram Gaitonde took 2 for 25. Chasing 170, MCC Knights were restricted to 146 all out in 18.5 overs despite notable innings from Ameet Kakode (30), Kapil D.S. Borker (35), and Siddharth Ghanekar (38). Royals' bowlers held firm,

with Aditya Prabhugaonkar leading the attack with 3 for 13, supported by Chirag Naik (2/20) and Shailesh Redkar (2/27). Prabhugaonkar was named Man of the Match for his impactful performance. In the afternoon fixture, MCC Warriors set a target of 150 for 8 in 20 overs, with top scores from Govind Lotlikar (35), Vasudev Kundaiker (37), and Vikas Shetty (40). MCC Masters chased down the total in 17.4 overs, finishing at 150 for 6, anchored by strong innings from Vishwesh Kamat (35), Sudhir Kenkre (31), and Vikrant Prabhu (35). Warriors' Raghuvir Kuncolienkar took 2 wickets for 44 runs, while Lotlikar and Shetty claimed one each. Vikrant Prabhu was awarded Man of the Match for his key contribution with the bat.

Simranpreet Kaur Wins 25m Pistol Gold; Aishwary Tomar and Anish Bhanwala Claim Silver at ISSF World Cup Final

■ Indian shooters shine in Doha as country adds 6 medals to its tally

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entirely the players' own and not directed by the board. Coaching staff, including head coach Gautam Gambhir, have consistently encouraged senior players to engage in domestic cricket during breaks from international duties.

Gill Replaces Sanju Samson as Opener Ahead of T20 Series; Captain Suryakumar Yadav Explains

■ India aims for stability in batting combinations ahead of T20 World Cup

New Delhi: Ahead of the five-match T20I series against South Africa, India's captain Suryakumar Yadav clarified the decision to promote Shubman Gill to the opening slot, replacing Sanju Samson, while emphasizing continuity in the playing combinations. With Gill returning from a short injury layoff, he is set to open alongside Abhishek Sharma, while Suryakumar himself will bat at number three. Speaking at the pre-match press conference, the skipper said, "We don't



want to change too much in terms of combinations. The focus is on the style of cricket we want to play; beyond that, nothing major will be altered." Addressing Samson's move down the order to number five, Suryakumar added, "Sanju is capable of opening and has performed well in that role. Shubman

played ahead because he deserved the spot, but Sanju will continue to get opportunities. Flexibility is key; everyone must adapt to the team's needs." The captain highlighted that having versatile players like Samson and Gill is an advantage, giving the team multiple options in batting roles.

Goa Emerges Champion With a Historic Win at the Odisha National Wheelchair Cricket Championship 2025

■ State team lifts CM's Trophy at the Odisha National Wheelchair Cricket Championship 2025

New Delhi: Goa recorded a landmark achievement by securing the CM's Trophy at the Odisha National Wheelchair Cricket Championship 2025, held from 29 November to 3 December. The tournament brought together six strong teams from Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra, showcasing the rapid rise of wheelchair cricket as a competitive adaptive sport in the country. The final proved to be a gripping contest, with Goa delivering a commanding



all-round display against Chhattisgarh. The standout performance came from Niklesh Pednekar, who struck an unbeaten 65 runs that anchored the team's successful chase. His effort played a pivotal role in sealing the championship and has been widely acknowledged as a defining highlight of

Goa's campaign. On their return to Goa, the players were greeted with an enthusiastic reception. The State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, Guruprasad Pawaskar, along with Taha Haziq, Secretary in the same office, welcomed the team at the railway station.