



Govt Awaits Key Travel Document to Bring Back Luthra Brothers From Thailand

■ Passport cancellation leaves duo detained; deportation held up until India issues Emergency Travel Certificate.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The repatriation of Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra — wanted in connection with the Goa nightclub fire that claimed 25 lives — has hit a procedural hurdle, with Thailand unable to deport the brothers until India issues an Emergency Travel Certificate (ETC), senior officials confirmed.



The Luthras, who had travelled to Thailand before the incident, were detained by Thai immigration authorities after the Indian government revoked their passports under the Passports Act. The cancellation, carried out to prevent any onward travel to a third country, left them without valid identification

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

BJP-MGP Alliance to Continue for 2027 Assembly Polls: Dhavalikar

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) president Deepak Dhavalikar on Thursday confirmed that the long-standing BJP-MGP alliance will remain intact for the 2027 Goa Assembly elections. Dhavalikar said the partnership, first formalised in 2012, has endured because both parties share a common

ideology and political outlook. He expressed confidence that the alliance would continue to yield electoral success, including in the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections scheduled later this month. He asserted that the BJP-MGP combine is well-positioned to win seats in both North and South Goa, and that cooperation between the parties remains strong.

Starlink Explores Goa Entry to Boost Digital Infrastructure: CM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday announced that the Goa government has held preliminary discussions with Starlink, SpaceX's satellite-internet division, on the company's

CONTD TO PAGE 06...



Mexico Hits India With 50% Tariffs. This Will Be Most Impacted Sector

Team Goemkarponn

DELHI: After the United States, Mexico has decided to impose tariffs as high as 50 per cent on the import of select goods from India and other Asian

nations that do not have a trade deal with Mexico City. The move comes at a time when Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum's government is under immense

CONTD TO PAGE 06...



Regulator Suspends Four DGCA Inspectors Assigned to IndiGo Oversight

■ Action follows continuing nationwide disruptions as IndiGo struggles with large-scale cancellations.

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has suspended four of its Flight Operations Inspectors who were responsible for monitoring

IndiGo, amid the continuing disruptions that have affected thousands of passengers across the country. The action follows days of flight cancellations and delays that triggered

CONTD TO PAGE 06...



Major Fire Erupts at Verna Scrapyard; Cause Yet to be Determined

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: A major fire broke out at the Verna Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) area today afternoon, reportedly at a scrapyard,

CONTD TO PAGE 06...



Widespread Illegal Laterite Quarrying Sparks Major Environmental Crisis in Camona-Cavrem

Team Goemkarponn

CAVREM: A large-scale ecological crisis is believed to be unfolding in the forested belt of Camona-Cavrem in the Sanguem constituency, Quepem taluka, where dozens of unauthorised

laterite quarries are reportedly operating without any oversight. Residents allege that nearly 42 illegal laterite extraction sites are functioning deep inside the forests, continuing unabated due to a

CONTD TO PAGE 06...



BJP Seeks Clarification From Lobo, Parulekar Over Corruption Remarks; Action Likely

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: BJP Goa president Damu Naik said the party has asked MLA Michael Lobo and former tourism minister Dilip Parulekar to explain their

CONTD TO PAGE 06...



If Birch Happened on a Casino, the Toll Would Be Unthinkable

The horrific blaze at Birch by Romeo Lane in Delhi that killed twenty five people was a reminder of how quickly entertainment spaces can turn into death traps when safety rules are ignored. The tragedy unfolded in minutes. The owners reportedly fled. The building had violations. And the young lives lost exposed a familiar truth. In India, public safety is often treated as an afterthought until catastrophe forces it back into the headlines. If such a fire were to break out inside an offshore casino packed with several thousand people, the consequences could be unthinkable.

Goa's six offshore casinos float on the Mandovi River like glittering attractions, drawing crowds night after night. These vessels are essentially multi-deck, tightly packed commercial hubs that run around the clock. On weekends, they hold dense gatherings in confined interiors. Yet evacuation routes are limited. Emergency response on water is far slower than on land. And most importantly, the state has never publicly demonstrated that these floating structures can handle a major fire or mass emergency. This is not an argument against casinos as a matter of morality. It is an argument about risk, regulation, and the right of every individual to enter a public establishment without gambling with their life. Offshore casinos are licensed to operate, and many provide employment and contribute to the local economy.

But that is no substitute for strict oversight. What the Birch tragedy showed is that any place where crowds gather must meet the highest standards of fire preparedness. The question is whether Goa's casinos truly meet them. The glossy promise of luxury masks the fact that these are floating structures with all the vulnerabilities that come with operating on water. Firefighting equipment on board is only as good as the training of the personnel and the frequency of drills. There is no room for error. Once smoke begins to

The people of Goa have the right to know. When tens of thousands of locals work on these vessels and thousands more visit them daily, secrecy becomes its own risk. The Birch tragedy showed how hollow safety claims can be when enforcement is weak and profit comes first. Goa cannot allow such complacency to build up on the Mandovi.

There is also the larger question of political accountability. Casino regulation has always been a sensitive subject in Goa, entangled in debate, lobbying and political hesitation. Legislatures spend more time arguing over casino locations, advertising rules and entry restrictions than over safety infrastructure. Fire safety rarely enters the conversation unless an accident forces the issue. This silence is dangerous.

fill enclosed decks, panic spreads, exits choke, and people are trapped in minutes. Firefighters cannot drive up. Ambulances cannot reach instantly. A blaze on a river vessel is a nightmare scenario.

What makes the situation more worrying is the opaque nature of compliance. How often do offshore casinos undergo mandatory fire audits? Are evacuation drills conducted with real passengers? Has the state disaster management authority carried out independent, surprise inspections? Do emergency response boats have the capacity to evacuate thousands from multiple vessels simultaneously? Most importantly, are these

reports made public? The people of Goa have the right to know. When tens of thousands of locals work on these vessels and thousands more visit them daily, secrecy becomes its own risk. The Birch tragedy showed how hollow safety claims can be when enforcement is weak and profit comes first. Goa cannot allow such complacency to build up on the Mandovi. There is also the larger question of political accountability. Casino regulation has always been a sensitive subject in Goa, entangled in debate, lobbying and political hesitation. Legislatures spend more time arguing over casino locations, advertising rules and entry restrictions than over safety infrastructure. Fire safety rarely enters the conversation unless an accident forces the issue. This silence is dangerous. The state must immediately conduct a full safety audit of all offshore casinos through independent agencies, not internal committees. It must test evacuation protocols in real time.

It must ensure that fire exits are not cosmetic features but functional, accessible routes. It must verify that onboard staff are trained for real emergencies. And it must publicise the findings so the public can judge whether these vessels are truly safe. Casinos have embedded themselves into Goa's economy and its nightlife. They are not disappearing overnight. But economic benefit cannot justify systemic neglect. A tragedy on the Mandovi would not only cost lives. It would shatter public confidence and leave lasting scars on a state already stretched by infrastructure pressures. The Birch fire exposed more than one restaurant's failures. It exposed a national attitude toward safety that is often casual until lives are lost. Goa still has time to learn from it. The state must choose transparency over secrecy, enforcement over convenience, and human life over commercial glamour. The stakes on the casino floor may be high, but the stakes outside it are far higher.

EDITOR'S SPEAK

The Nehru Gandhi Files

-By Sandeep Heble

Is Jawaharlal Nehru to blame for overturning the 1946 Congress mandate that had backed Sardar Patel for party president, or is Amit Shah missing the larger point? While Shah described the episode as "vote chori" and hinted that Nehru blocked Patel from becoming India's first Prime Minister, historical records point to a different story. The turning point lay in the internal Congress election of 1946, a contest whose outcome influenced leadership of the interim government and the future Prime Ministership. An honest reading of the documents shows it was Gandhi who stopped Patel from taking the post that the Congress rank and file had overwhelmingly endorsed. The evidence rests on two letters exchanged between Gandhi and Patel.

In them, Gandhi uses his moral authority to override the democratic preference of the Provincial Congress Committees and push for Nehru instead. There was no "vote chori" and no intervention by Nehru or the wider Congress leadership. It was a direct exercise of Gandhi's influence. In 1946, twelve of fifteen Provincial Congress Committees nominated Patel for the presidency. The remaining three abstained. Nehru received no nominations, largely because the understanding within the party was that he would take the post the following year.

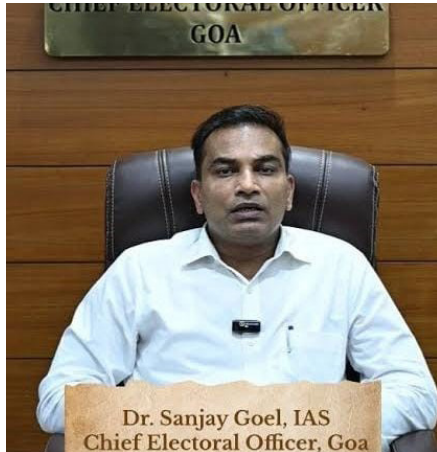
Despite this clear verdict, Gandhi privately wrote to Patel urging him to step aside, insisting that Nehru should lead. He argued that a contest would divide the Congress at a sensitive moment and that Nehru, with his internationalist outlook, would represent India more effectively. "I am quite clear in my mind that this is the best course in the interest of the country," Gandhi told Patel. Patel was stunned but accepted the decision without protest. "Your letter has made me very sad... Whatever you decide, I accept wholeheartedly. I withdraw my name," he replied, revealing his disappointment. After decades of championing democratic values, Gandhi's decision at this critical juncture placed personal preference above institutional consensus and cleared the path for Nehru to become Prime Minister. Nehru himself would later acknowledge the underlying truth in private. As recorded by his secretary M O Mathai, he remarked, "The people wanted Sardar, but Bapu wanted me." The episode has echoes of later moments in Indian politics, such as the Left Front's 1996 decision to block Jyoti Basu from becoming Prime Minister, which Basu later termed a "historic blunder." Yet Patel and Nehru did not allow the incident to affect their working relationship.

In the Interim Government and later in independent India's first Cabinet, they functioned with cohesion despite their contrasting styles. Patel backed Nehru on foreign policy and Kashmir, while Nehru fully supported Patel's efforts to integrate princely states and restore internal security. Their partnership can be compared to the Vajpayee Advani dynamic decades later. Despite Gandhi's intervention, both Nehru and Patel rose above the moment and helped steady a fragile nation. History should be debated, but with intellectual honesty, not weaponised for political ends. As for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, now in his third term, his government would do well to move past its fixation with Nehru and address the country's pressing challenges today.

1 Lakh ASDD Voters Identified for Deletion; 1.87 Lakh Unmapped Voters Asked to Prove Citizenship

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Chief Electoral Office has flagged nearly one lakh voters for removal from the upcoming draft electoral roll after they were categorised as absent, shifted, deceased or duplicate (ASDD) during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). With the deadline for submission and digitisation of enumeration forms ending on Thursday, officials have also identified around 1.87 lakh “unmapped” voters whose details could not be matched with past electoral records. These voters will now be required to establish proof of citizenship to remain on Goa’s rolls. CEO Sanjay Goel said that of the 11.85 lakh forms distributed during the revision exercise, 10.85 lakh were submitted and processed. Based on this scrutiny, the names



of the one lakh ASDD voters will be struck off in the draft roll scheduled for release on December 16. The list of such voters will be made available on the CEO’s website, displayed at District Returning Offices and posted at major public institutions. Goel said that BLOs made repeated visits to verify voter addresses, and many individuals were either not

found at their registered residences, had relocated permanently, had passed away, or confirmed they were already enrolled in another constituency. A major outcome of the verification is the discovery that about 15% of current voters roughly 1.85 lakh people could not be matched with entries in the 2002 electoral rolls. Neither their names nor their parents’ names were traceable in the older records, raising citizenship-related queries. These voters will remain listed in the draft roll for now, Goel clarified, but they must submit documents proving that their parents were Indian citizens as of 2002. Notices will be sent to them by the Assistant Returning Officers, detailing the schedule for hearings before Electoral Registration Officers, who will take the final call on whether these names should stay or be deleted.

Goa Showcases Itself as a ‘Model Eco-Classroom’ for India, Says CM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has positioned Goa as a “real-time environmental classroom” for the country, saying the State’s coastline, Western Ghats belt, river networks, and rich biodiversity offer daily lessons on balancing growth with ecological responsibility. In a message to participants of All India Juris Open 2025: Eco-Thinkers’ Fest, a national inter-law college event hosted by Govind Ramnath Kare College of Law, Margao, Sawant said the government’s development strategy is firmly rooted in sustainability. He noted that Goa proves economic expansion and ecological



protection can coexist when public participation and sound policy design come together. “Every major project is subjected to rigorous environmental vetting. We are steadily pushing green technologies, better waste-management systems and responsible tourism models,” the Chief Minister said.



AAP Won’t Affect GFP; BJP Using Money and Power to Divide Opposition: Vijai Sardesai

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Goa Forward Party (GFP) president Vijai Sardesai said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will not impact his party’s prospects in the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections, claiming AAP’s entry into Goa politics has been “systematic” and aided by defectors aligned with its national leadership. Sardesai accused the BJP of deploying money power, manpower and political influence to suppress the opposition. He questioned the ruling party’s “unusual and excessive interest” in ZP polls, stating that ZP members hold limited powers. “Big leaders, including Arvind Kejriwal, are suddenly showing

interest in these elections. Their intention is also to divide the opposition,” he alleged. Commenting on the recent Arpora nightclub fire incident, Sardesai claimed that “relatives of BJP leaders” are operating illegal nightclubs across Goa. He alleged that the tragedy has once again exposed the nexus between politicians and illegal nightlife activities. Responding to a prank video by Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) chief Manoj Parab, Sardesai dismissed him outright. “Manoj Parab is a prankster. He himself admitted it was a prank. He played a prank on Goan people, and there is no need to take him seriously,” he said.

Zuari Bridge Twin Towers, Restaurant Set for Completion by March 2031: Gadkari

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday that the ambitious twin observatory towers and restaurant project atop the new Zuari Bridge is slated for completion by March 31, 2031. Gadkari clarified that the Centre has not sanctioned the construction work for the towers or the revolving



restaurant. However, responding to a request from the Goa government, the Union government has issued an in-principle NOC allowing the State to lease government

land for the project. The facilities will include an observatory gallery, cafeteria and a non-revolving restaurant, all to be developed under the Public Private Partnership

(PPP) model. According to timelines shared by the State, the project is expected to be finished by 2031. The ground-breaking ceremony for the ₹270-crore venture was conducted by Gadkari on May 23. In 2023, the PWD signed a concession agreement with Zuari Observatory Towers, a subsidiary of Dilip Buildcon, for the construction of the twin towers and viewing galleries.

Tanavade Seeks Urgent Upgrades to Goa–Belagavi Highways, Flags Monsoon Vulnerability

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade on Thursday pressed the Centre to immediately intervene and upgrade the deteriorating Goa–Belagavi highway corridors, particularly the Anmod Ghat and Chorla Ghat stretches, which he described as essential arteries for both Goa and Karnataka. Raising the issue in Parliament, Tanavade said the two ghat



routes carry thousands of daily commuters along with truckloads of vegetables, fruits and other essential supplies. Several segments, he

warned, remain narrow, unstable and highly prone to landslides, leading to repeated shutdowns during heavy rainfall. He recalled that large

portions of Anmod Ghat caved in during the recent monsoon, forcing long closures that left travellers stranded with no feasible diversion.

The thick forest terrain and steep gradients, he said, make alternate connectivity nearly impossible. Tanavade stressed that Goa and Belagavi share deep social and economic ties ranging from healthcare and education to trade and family networks.

19-year-old hotel staffer dies after fall from height at Vagator hotel

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: A 19-year-old housekeeping attendant working at a Vagator hotel died on Tuesday evening after allegedly falling into a trench while on duty. Anjuna Police said they received a call from St. Anthony Hospital, Anjuna, at around 7:48 pm on December 10, informing them that Midul Miah (19), originally from Nakair, Fulbari, Gangarampur, Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal, and residing at Vagator Downtown Hotel,



had been brought in an unconscious condition following a fall from height. He later succumbed to his injuries during treatment. During preliminary enquiry, the deceased's

cousin Rased Ali informed police that Midul had been working as a housekeeping attendant at Vagator Downtown Hotel for the past three months. Around 7:10 pm, while on duty, he reportedly fell inside a trench from a height within the hotel premises. In connection with the incident, police registered Anjuna P.S. U.D. No. 59/2025 under Section 194 of the BNSS. Police later visited the scene, conducted a Scene of Unnatural Death Panchanama, and shifted the body to GMC Morgue, Bambolim.

Man booked for illegal hill cutting in Colomba, Sanguem

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM/SANGUEM: The Quepem Police have registered a case against a Sanguem resident for allegedly carrying out illegal hill cutting in Colomba village without mandatory permissions from the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department. The offence was registered following a

complaint by Vrinda Phal Desai, Planning Draftsman Grade-II and Deputy Town Planner at the TCP Department, Quepem. In her complaint, she stated that prior to October 22, 2025, at around 11 am, the accused Babaji Ladu Velip, resident of Sanguem, allegedly carried out unauthorised cutting of a sloping hill located in Colomba.

Romanian national booked at Mopa Airport for carrying prohibited satellite phone

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: A Romanian national was booked by Mopa Airport Police on Thursday for allegedly carrying a prohibited satellite phone without mandatory permission. According to police, Mopa Airport PS registered Cr. No. 52/2025 at 6.25 am on December 11 under Section 3 read with



Section 6(1A) of the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, following a complaint by SI/Exe Vipin Kumar

Gohar of CISF ASG Unit, Manohar International Airport. At around 3.02 am, during security screening at the international SHA, the CISF detected an Inmarsat satellite phone inside the handbag of the accused passenger Alexandru Liono (45), a Romanian national, who was scheduled to fly to Doha on Qatar Airways flight QR 523 at 4.10 am.

Man held for vandalising St Anthony statue, stealing cash at New Vaddem chapel

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco Police arrested a 30-year-old man for allegedly vandalising a statue of St. Anthony at a chapel in New Vaddem and stealing cash from the premises in the early hours of December 10. The case was registered following a complaint by Francisco Gonsalves, resident of New Vaddem, who



reported that around 1.15 am, an unknown male, aged between 30 and 35 years, damaged the statue at St. Anthony Chapel, causing losses estimated at ₹1 lakh, and stole

approximately ₹1,000 kept in the chapel. Based on the complainant's description and CCTV footage, police identified and interrogated the suspect, Navneet Singh, a resident of New Vaddem and originally from Punjab. During questioning, he allegedly confessed to vandalising the statue and committing theft, claiming he acted under the influence of

2 held in separate matka gambling raids in Old Goa and Bicholim

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA/BICHOLIM: Police in two different jurisdictions on Wednesday booked two individuals for allegedly accepting matka bets in public places. In the first incident, Old Goa Police registered Cr. No. 139/2025 at 10.59 pm on December 10 under Section 11(2)(a) of the Goa Public Gambling Act, following a complaint by ASI Chandrashekar S. Amonkar. At around 9.50 pm, the accused Mohammad Rafeeq Buwaji (34), resident of Indira Nagar, Chimbél, was allegedly caught red-handed accepting matka bets near Chaudhary Chicken Shop, Indira Nagar. Police seized ₹1,290 in various



denominations, along with other gambling articles from his possession. Further investigation is underway. In a separate case, Bicholim Police registered an offence on December 11 after LASI Vibhavari V. Gawas lodged a complaint stating that at around 12 noon, at Tikhazan-Mayem junction, the accused Babani Parwar (36), resident of Mulgao, was found accepting money bets from the public. Police seized ₹1,030 and other gambling materials from him. Further investigation is in progress.

Ambulance stolen from Shetye Vision Hospital parking lot in Mapusa

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: An ambulance parked at Shetye Vision Hospital, Dhuler, was allegedly stolen early Thursday morning, prompting Mapusa Police to launch an investigation. According to a complaint

filed by Intekhlo Abbas Shaikh (40), Administrator of Vision Hospital, the incident occurred on December 11 between 5.50 am and 6.08 am at the hospital's ground-floor parking area. Police said the accused, Pradeep Devu Khalap, a resident of



Pirna in Bardez, allegedly entered the parking lot and decamped with a white Maruti Eeco ambulance

(GA 03 AH 4250) valued at around ₹10 lakh. The vehicle, registered in 2022, carries chassis number MA3ERLF1S00A45178 and engine number G12BN1100268. Mapusa Police have registered an offence, and further investigation is in progress.

Driver booked for rash driving in multi-vehicle crash at Old Goa; two injured

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: The Old Goa Police have registered a case against a 32-year-old Breeza car driver for rash and negligent driving that led to a multi-vehicle collision, injuring two riders at Dhauji Road earlier this week. Old Goa



PS registered Cr. No. 138/2025 on December 10 at 7.11 pm under

Sections 281 and 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, based on a complaint filed by HC Rajan Upa Zalmi. According to police, the incident occurred on December 8 at around 9.45 am when the accused, Peter Gonsalves, resident of

Agacaim, was driving a Breeza (GA 07 P 3940) from Marcel towards Old Goa. Near Darya Deger Hotel, Dhauji Road, he allegedly drove in a rash and negligent manner and rammed into a Jupiter scooter (GA 07 AE 5878) from behind.

Arpora fire case highlights 'deep corruption under BJP', says Kejriwal

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday evening arrived in Goa for a three-day tour to campaign for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections, drawing a large crowd of supporters along with MLAs Venzy Viegas and



other party leaders at the airport. Addressing reporters, Kejriwal alleged that the recent Arpora fire incident, in which

25 people died, reflects "the scale of corruption that has taken root under the BJP's 13-year rule in Goa." He claimed that

the club involved in the tragedy was operating without construction permissions, without an operational licence and without mandatory fire-safety measures, despite repeated warnings. "Yet the club continued to run openly, which shows how deeply governance systems have been compromised," he said.



Goa strengthens international connectivity with new Dec. arrivals

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa is set to strengthen its international connectivity with a series of scheduled flight arrivals from Kazakhstan and Russia starting from the final week of December 2025. These services mark a positive step in expanding Goa's global outreach and offering travellers seamless access to the state during the peak travel season. Fly Arystan will operate two direct services from Kazakhstan. The first flight of the season from Almaty is scheduled to arrive on December 26, 2025 at 10:25 AM, followed by a flight from Astana arriving on December 30, 2025 at 19:40 PM. Both routes

are expected to bring in travellers seeking Goa's vibrant culture, festivals, and year-end experiences. Adding to this connectivity, Nordwind Airlines will operate two direct flights from Russia. The first arrival from Moscow is scheduled on December 30, 2025 at 11:55 AM, while a flight from Yekaterinburg is set to land on December 31, 2025 at 11:15 AM. These connections will further boost travel between Goa and major Russian cities. Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, said: "This international connectivity with a series of scheduled flight arrivals highlight the growing confidence global carriers have in Goa."

50 delegates from Goa to attend 'Sanatan Rashtra Shankhnad Mahotsav' in Delhi

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Around 50 delegates from Goa, representing various Hindutva-oriented organisations, will participate in the upcoming 'Sanatan Rashtra Shankhnad Mahotsav', scheduled to be held on

December 13 and 14 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The event is presented by the Save Culture Save Bharat Foundation and organised by Sanatan Sanstha, informed Satyavijay Naik, convenor of the Swagat Committee. Delegates from groups such as Bharat

Swabhimani, Hindu Yuva Shakti, Gomantak Mandir Mahasangh, and the Rashtrabhakt Adhivakta Samiti will represent Goa at the two-day Mahotsav, which aims to promote the message of a "world-welfare-oriented Sanatan Rashtra" and highlight themes of national



security, culture, and valour.

Manohar Rai Sardessai's poetry to lend literary charm to Christmas concert at Museum of Goa

■ Musicians at 'Concerto De Natal' to perform works inspired by Sardessai's legacy.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Iconic Goan poet Manohar Rai Sardessai will be at the heart of this year's Concerto De Natal, as his poetry is reimagined in song at a Christmas concert celebrating Goa's multicultural heritage. The event blends Konkani and Portuguese compositions with beloved English and French carols, presented in a festive concert format

that highlights the region's diverse musical traditions. The concert will be held at 7 pm on December 14 at the Museum of Goa (MOG), Pilerne, and will feature the release of a new Christmas carol composed by Oscar Castellino, set to one of Sardessai's poems, as a tribute to the celebrated writer. Also debuting is an original collaboration between Castellino and



Sardessai's son, Umesh. Among the poems being musically interpreted at the concert are Ball Jesus Zolmolo, Mari Matek Ballok Zala, and Jinnen Mhaka Sogle Dile.

Citizens' group urges Goa University to remove hoardings from campus road

Team Goemkarponn

TALEIGAO: A group of citizens led by former bureaucrat Elvis Gomes has urged Goa University to immediately remove commercial advertisements, posters and large hoardings fixed on electricity poles and the road median within the university campus precincts. The demand was placed in a formal representation submitted to Registrar Prof. Dhuri on Thursday, following a delegation meeting earlier in the day. In their letter, Gomes, along with Pradeep Padgaonkar and Melwin Fernandes of Citizens for Democracy Goa, expressed concern over what they described as the "proliferation" of commercial advertising



structures along the internal road that connects Dona Paula Circle to the Goa Medical College (GMC). The signatories recalled a similar complaint they had submitted on December 4, 2022, under the banner of the All India Professionals' Congress (AIPC), saying the issue had not only remained unresolved but had "escalated significantly". They pointed out that large billboards were now being mounted on the road median and even on electrical poles inside the campus.

Poinguinim GFP Candidate Showcases Alliance Unity: 'All is Well, We're Opening Our Account in Canacona,' Says Isidore

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Putting to rest all speculation over internal friction, the Congress-Goa Forward Party (GFP) alliance in Poinguinim displayed a rare show of unity on Thursday as GFP's ZP

candidate Prashant Naik appeared alongside former Dy. Speaker Isidore Fernandes and senior Congress leaders Janardhan Bhandari and Madhav Desai at a press meet in Chaudi. Declaring that "all is well," Isidore said the



Congress rank and file is actively campaigning for the alliance candidate in ZP Poinguinim (23). He added that the BJP's "revenge politics" in Canacona will backfire, first in the ZP polls and later in the assembly elections.

GFP leaders stated that door-to-door campaigning has been completed 100% in Loliem-Polem, 40% in Poinguinim, 45% in Gaondongrim and 50% in Khotigao with active involvement of Congress cadres.

Blenders Pride Fashion Tour Drives Fashion into the Fast Lane

■ The Tour accelerated into Jaipur with a dynamic showcase of motorcore, signalling Fashion's Next Move.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Blenders Pride Fashion Tour shifted gears in Jaipur, transforming into an intersection of high fashion and motorsport. Pushing boundaries, the Jaipur edition explored motorsports-inspired design, glamorous performance wear, and a high-octane fashion showcase, that marked 'Fashion's Next Move'—racing forward with speed and precision. In collaboration with Fashion Design Council of India



(FDCI), the showcase reimaged the runway into a high-speed circuit of style and power. Leading designers Namrata Joshipura and Abhishek Paatni reinterpreted high-octane motorcore aesthetics, transforming racing culture into statement-making fashion.

Bollywood star Harnaaz Sandhu commanded the runway as the finale showstopper, embodying the fusion of glamour and speed, while rap sensation Raftaar closed the night with an electrifying performance that matched the show's pulsating energy.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

5 Goa-based MSME Units Receive COSIDICI National Awards

■ Goa entrepreneurs shine at national MSME awards ceremony

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Five entrepreneurs from Goa were honoured with COSIDICI National Awards at the 11th award ceremony held in Visakhapatnam on December 5. The event was hosted by the Andhra Pradesh State Financial Corporation. The Council of State Industrial Development and Investment Corporations of India is the national federation of state level financial institutions that have supported MSMEs for more than five decades. Its annual awards recognise outstanding performance by entrepreneurs assisted by state agencies, with



winners selected by a jury appointed by the COSIDICI Executive Committee. The Goan awardees, all financed by EDC Limited, included Narainrao Santobarao Desai of Desai Concrete Castings who received the award for Best First Generation Entrepreneur. Gitanjali Desai and Govind Desai of Desai Beverages and Prabhanjan Sadanand Parsekar of Parsekar

Foods were recognised as Best Entrepreneurs. Dr Shweta Shriram Khandeparkar won the Best Woman Entrepreneur award, while Sweta Vishwaraj Mhalshekar of Siddhivinayak Occupational Health Services was honoured as Best Unit in the Service Sector. The awards were presented by Andhra Pradesh MSME Minister Kondapalli Srinivas.

Govt Awaits Key Travel Document to Bring Back Luthra Brothers From Thailand

documents, automatically rendering them illegal residents in Thailand.

Officials familiar with the case said the next step is crucial: the

issuance of an ETC, commonly called an outpass, by the Indian mission.

Under international norms, a country cannot

deport a foreign national who lacks a valid travel document unless their home country provides an alternative certificate. "The deportation is committed,

but the paperwork must be complete.

Thailand is waiting for India to send the travel certificate," an official source said.

BJP Seeks Clarification From Lobo, Parulekar Over Corruption Remarks; Action Likely

recent comments alleging corruption along the coastal belt, made in the aftermath of the Arpora nightclub fire that claimed 25 lives. Naik indicated that

disciplinary action would follow once their responses are received. Lobo and Parulekar had publicly accused authorities of allowing widespread

irregularities in the tourism sector, linking them indirectly to the conditions that enabled Saturday night's deadly blaze. Their remarks triggered internal

concern within the BJP. "I have heard what both of them said. We have sought clarifications for making such statements," Naik said.

Starlink Explores Goa Entry to Boost Digital Infrastructure: CM

proposed entry into the state to enhance digital connectivity. Sawant said he met Lauren Dreyer, Senior Business Operations Lead at Starlink, along with her team, in the presence of IT and Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte and senior officials. The talks focused on leveraging satellite-based internet services to strengthen Goa's digital backbone.

"We discussed Starlink's proposed entry into Goa to strengthen our digital infrastructure and enable high-speed, reliable connectivity across the State," the Chief Minister said. He added that Starlink's satellite services would significantly benefit remote villages, coastal and fishing communities, schools and health centres as part of the government's Digital Goa vision.

Mexico Hits India With 50% Tariffs. This Will Be Most Impacted Sector

pressure from Washington to curtail business with China, despite opposition from local business groups warning that higher tariffs will raise

costs. New duties have been imposed on imports of auto parts, light cars, toys, clothing, textiles, plastics, furniture, footwear, steel, household

appliances, leather goods, aluminum, paper, trailers, glass, soaps, cardboard, motorcycles, perfumes, and cosmetics.

Regulator Suspends 4 DGCA Inspectors Assigned to IndiGo Oversight

widespread concerns about the airline's operational management and regulatory oversight. According to officials familiar with the matter, the suspended

inspectors were part of the team that looks into critical aspects such as crew rosters, pilot duty hours, regulatory compliance and overall operational functioning.

Their suspension is linked to concerns that oversight gaps may have contributed to the crisis that has severely impacted passenger movement nationwide.

Widespread Illegal Laterite Quarrying Sparks Major Environmental Crisis in Camona-Cavrem

powerful nexus involving local authorities. According to villagers, the operations are allegedly being enabled by the area's Sarpanch and shielded

by a network of officials across multiple departments. They claim that personnel from the Forest Department, Police, Mamlatdar's office, Deputy Collector's office,

Mines Department, RTO, Traffic Police, Talathi and even the local Panchayat Secretary are complicit in allowing the illegal trade to flourish.

Major Fire Erupts at Verna Scrapyard; Cause Yet to be Determined

sending thick plumes of dark smoke into the sky. The exact cause of the blaze is yet to be determined.

Firefighting teams had been dispatched to the site and are working to bring the flames under control.

TTD Dupatta Scam Exposed: Synthetic Shawls Passed Off as Silk for a Decade

■ Over ₹54 crore loss estimated; political blame game erupts in Andhra Pradesh.

New Delhi: A major controversy has surfaced in Andhra Pradesh after revelations of large-scale fraud in the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam's (TTD) procurement of shawls and dupattas. Items supplied for nearly a decade as "pure silk" were allegedly found to be synthetic, triggering demands for a full-fledged investigation. According to TTD officials, shawls costing around ₹350 were billed at over ₹1,300, with



total supplies crossing ₹50 crore. A vigilance probe revealed that the so-called mulberry silk products were actually made of polyester. An estimated

loss of more than ₹54 crore is believed to have occurred between 2015 and 2025. Tests conducted at Central Silk Board laboratories confirmed

that the dupattas lacked authentic silk certification. TTD has requested that the matter be handed over to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for a detailed probe. The issue has reignited political tensions. Former TTD Chairman Bhoomna Karunakar Reddy criticised the current coalition government, accusing it of damaging Hindu sentiments and using the Tirumala temple for political attacks against the previous administration.

Meta India Appoints Aman Jain as New Head of Public Policy

■ Veteran policy strategist to join leadership team early next year.

New Delhi: Meta India has announced the appointment of Aman Jain as its new Head of Public Policy, entrusting him with shaping the company's policy strategy and engagements across the country. Jain will also serve as a member of Meta India's leadership team. He is expected to join early next year and will report to Simon Milner, Vice President of Policy for the Asia-Pacific region. According to the company, Jain brings over two decades of experience in public policy and business strategy, having worked with major global organisations and



the Government of India. He previously served in senior roles at Google India, including country head for government affairs and public policy. Most recently, he was Director of Public Policy at Amazon, where he led policy initiatives related to marketplace operations, competition, and technology.

BJP-Trinamool Clash Intensifies Over Smoking Allegations in Parliament

■ Saugata Roy denies vaping claim, says government should focus on Delhi's pollution crisis.

New Delhi: A political dispute has escalated in Parliament after the BJP sought disciplinary action against a Trinamool Congress MP accused of vaping inside the Lok Sabha chamber. The controversy comes a day after Saugata Roy was seen smoking in the open area outside Parliament, drawing sharp reactions from Union ministers. Roy, who appeared in a video holding a cigarette while being questioned by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Giriraj Singh, defended his action by stating he was not inside the building and therefore



not violating any rules. Speaking to reporters today, Roy accused the government of shifting attention away from Delhi's severe pollution levels.

Piyush Goyal Urges US to Finalise Free Trade Deal If Satisfied With India's Offer

■ Minister says Washington has received its "best ever" proposal; negotiations continue without fixed deadline.

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said the United States should proceed with signing the long-discussed free trade agreement (FTA) with India if it is satisfied with the proposal presented by New Delhi. Responding to comments from a senior US trade

official who described India's offer as the "best ever," Goyal said the positive reaction was encouraging. "If they are very happy, they should be signing on the dotted lines," he told reporters, while declining to disclose details of India's proposal. Goyal said five rounds of negotiations have taken



place so far but avoided giving a timeline for the signing of the agreement.

Centre Dismisses WHO Air Quality Norms as 'Guidance', Sparks Criticism Amid Rising Pollution

■ Centre Dismisses WHO Air Quality Norms as 'Guidance', Sparks Criticism Amid Rising Pollution.

New Delhi: In a move drawing sharp criticism, the Union government has reaffirmed that the World Health Organization's air quality guidelines are only "guidance documents" and not binding standards for India. The statement came from Minister of

State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. The clarification follows the release of the 2024 World Air Quality Report, which revealed that 13 of the world's 20 most polluted cities are in India. Meghalaya's

Byrnihat ranked as the most polluted globally, while Delhi remained the world's most polluted capital for the sixth year in a row. Singh argued that international assessments lack "official authority" and asserted that India's pollution standards must



reflect "local geography, socio-economic conditions, and even the immune power of its people." He defended the continued use of the 2009 National Ambient Air Quality Standards, which set India's annual PM2.5 limit at 40 micrograms per

cubic metre—a threshold unchanged for 16 years. In contrast, the WHO's 2021 guidelines recommend a much stricter annual PM2.5 level of 5 micrograms per cubic metre, eight times lower than India's standard.

Suryakumar Yadav Takes Responsibility After India's 51-Run Loss

■ Says He and Gill Should Have Given Better Start.

Mumbai: India captain Suryakumar Yadav has broken his silence following the team's 51-run defeat to South Africa in the second Twenty20 International, saying he and vice-captain Shubman Gill "could have given a good start" while chasing a target of 214 and acknowledging that India's top order faltered in a key phase of the innings. Asked about the loss, Suryakumar said that he and Gill needed to make the most of the early overs instead of leaving the middle order with too much to do. "I think



myself, Shubman, we could have given a good start because we can't rely on Abhishek all the time," he said, admitting that the team's chase never really got going after Gill was dismissed without scoring.

Suryakumar, who managed only a brief stay at the crease before departing for five, said he should have batted more responsibly after Gill's early exit. "I should have batted deeper after

Shubman got out," he said, underlining his own role in India's batting collapse. He pointed out that while the middle order made some efforts to steady the innings, the early loss of key batters left the team under constant pressure. "Some players did try to hold the innings together, but we couldn't put up the fight we needed," he added. Describing the defeat as a learning moment rather than a setback, Suryakumar said India must reflect on the performance and improve in the next match.



Fans Offered Rs 10 Lakh Meet and Greet

■ Opportunity During Lionel Messi's India Tour.

New Delhi: Lionel Messi's upcoming GOAT India Tour has generated massive attention, especially after organisers announced that fans will have the option to meet the football icon by purchasing a premium experience priced at around Rs 10 lakh. The tour, scheduled to begin this month, will take the Argentine star to multiple Indian cities for a series of events that include public

appearances, football-related programmes and fan interaction sessions. The meet and greet package will allow a limited number of supporters to interact with Messi and take photographs with him. The high price tag has sparked wide discussion among fans, with many expressing surprise while others see it as a rare chance to meet one of the greatest players in football history.

MCC Thunder Edge MCC Avengers to Claim Top Spot in MCL 11

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: MCC Thunder climbed to the top of the MCL 11 standings after a narrow two-wicket win over MCC Avengers in a T20 match at the MCC Ground in Margao. Ved Mahambre's steady all-around show earned him the player of the match award. Batting first, the Avengers posted 165 for 9 in 20 overs, with contributions from Venkatesh Nevagi



(24), Amod Borkar (35), and Vedant Naik (40). Thunder kept control through disciplined spells from Sudhir Shet, who took two for 22, and Sudesh Rane, who claimed two for 44.

Rivaba Jadeja's Remarks on Indian Cricketers Abroad Spark Controversy

■ Rivaba praises her husband's discipline but alleges that other players stray abroad

New Delhi: Rivaba Jadeja, wife of India all rounder Ravindra Jadeja and a minister in the Gujarat government, has stirred a controversy with comments she made about the conduct of Indian cricketers during overseas tours. In a video circulating online, she praised her husband for maintaining discipline



while travelling abroad for matches in places such as London, Dubai and Australia, saying

he has never indulged in any kind of vice and has always understood his responsibilities. In the same address, she claimed that several other Indian players engage in "wrong activities" when they are abroad, although she did not name anyone. The remark quickly drew widespread reactions on social media, with

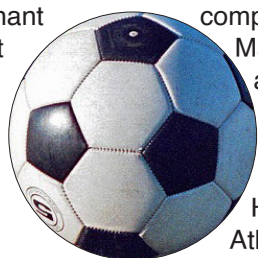
many questioning the implications of such a statement and the absence of specific details. Rivaba also said that her husband could have easily fallen into similar behaviour if he wished to, but chose not to because he is aware of the expectations placed on him. The comments have since become a major talking point online.

Big wins for Uttarakhand, RSB Mumbai and RSB Chennai All India Civil Services Football Tournament:

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Gujarat began the day with a 2-1 victory over Puducherry at the Santacruz Football Ground in the All India Civil Services Football Tournament. Madhu Rathaya and Lawrence Gamit scored for Gujarat. Ramchandran reduced the deficit for Puducherry.

Uttarakhand delivered the most dominant performance at the Santacruz venue with a 6-2 win over RSB Indore. Sushil Lajpal led the charge with five goals and Ravinder Bhandari added one. RSB Ahmedabad beat Haryana 4-1 on



the third day of the competition. Shashank Mangain scored a hat trick and Akshay Mall added another. Aman scored for Haryana. At the Athletic Stadium in Bambolim, RSB Cochin registered a 4-0 win over RSB Srinagar from Jammu and Kashmir.

Amaira Dhumatker Claims Historic Bronze for Goa at Mini National B'ton

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Amaira Dhumatker secured a landmark bronze medal in the Girls Under 11 singles at the Yonex Sunrise 4th Mini National Badminton Championships 2025, giving Goa its first singles podium finish at the Nationals in several years. She advanced to the semifinals after a hard fought win over Andhra Pradesh's Sri Adhya Reddy Kaduluri, rallying



to take the match 17-21, 21-17, 21-15. Amaira put up strong resistance in the last four before losing to Telangana's Saina Sharma 21-23, 9-21. In doubles, she and Komal Kothari

stretched Tamil Nadu's Iniyasri M and Kavanya Jothi NP to three games in the quarterfinals. Goa Badminton Association President Manoj Patil described the medal as a major moment for the state. Secretary Praveen Shenoy said Amaira has emerged as one of Goa's most promising young players and praised her consistency throughout the competition.