



Luthras Land in Delhi After Deportation From Thailand

■ Luthra brothers to be produced before court, later handed over to Goa Police.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI/DELHI: Gaurav Luthra and Saurabh Luthra, co-owners of the Goa nightclub 'Birch by Romeo Lane' where 25 people lost their lives in a devastating fire earlier this month, have arrived in Delhi after being deported from Thailand.

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Goa Police Take Custody of Luthra Brothers Following Thailand Deportation

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: T Panaji/ Delhi: Goa Police have taken custody of absconding accused Saurabh and Gaurav

Luthra upon their arrival in Delhi after being deported by Thai authorities. The brothers are wanted in connection with the tragic Birch by Romeo Lane fire incident. All necessary

legal formalities are being completed, and further investigations are underway in accordance with the law. Authorities have assured that additional updates will be issued in due course.

High Court tags another PIL with suo motu case on Birch fire

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: The High Court has clubbed a fresh Public Interest Litigation (PIL) related to the Birch fire incident with the suo motu PIL that was earlier initiated by the court in the matter. The suo motu proceedings were taken up by the High Court earlier this week following

the tragic fire incident. With the tagging of the new PIL, the court has decided to hear both petitions together to allow a comprehensive and coordinated examination of all issues arising from the case. The High Court has fixed January 12 as the next date of hearing for the tagged petitions. The move is aimed at streamlining



the proceedings and ensuring that all concerns connected with the Birch fire incident are addressed collectively, as the court continues to closely monitor the matter.

Goa Legislative Assembly Session from Jan 12-16, 2026

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: The Twelfth Session of the Eighth Legislative Assembly of the State of Goa has been summoned to commence on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 11.30 a.m., as

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18th Dec. 2025

Organised by
Department of Science, Technology & Waste Management,
Government of Goa

Cordially invites you to the inauguration of the prestigious science event

7TH MANOHAR PARRIKAR VIDNYAN MAHOTSAV 2025

at

S. Z. Qasim Auditorium, NIO, Dona Paula
from 9:30 am onwards on 18th December, 2025

At the hands of the Chief Guest

Dr. Pramod Sawant

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Goa

Shri. Atanasio Monserrate

Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Labour & Employment
Science, Technology & Waste Management, Government of Goa
as Guest of Honour

ITINERARY

18th December 2025 - Inauguration and Lectures

Inaugural Ceremony: 09:30 am - 10:35 am

Technical Session: 10:35 am - 1:00 pm

VENUE	SPEAKER
National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula	Dr. Kiran Kumar Former Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
	Dr. Anil Kakodkar Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, Govt. of India
	Dr. Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan Associate Professor, Department of Material Engineering, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
Manovikas High School, Margao	Prof. Ranganath Ramarao Navalgund Former Honorary Distinguished Professor, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bengaluru
	Dr. Josh Thomas Georgy Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Oncology, Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore
GVMs Dr. Dada Vaidya College of Education, Farmagudi, Ponda	Prof. M. Venkateshwarlu Vice Chancellor Tumkur University, Tumkur, Karnataka
	Prof. Meenal Kowshik Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani, K K Birla, Goa Campus
Govt. College of Arts, Science And Commerce, Quepem	Prof. Dipshikha Chakravorty Professor and Associate Dean, Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
	Dr. G. Srinikethan Former Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Karnataka
Harmal Panchakroshi High School, Harmal, Pernem	Prof. Vithal Tilvi Professor, Research, Development & Innovation, Goa State Higher Education Council (GSHEC)
	Dr. Vineet Aniya Principal Scientist, Chemical Engineering & Process Technology Department, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad
Lata Mangeshkar Kalangan, Canacona	Prof. Deepak Dhar INSA Distinguished Professor, International Center for Theoretical Sciences, Bengaluru
	Prof. Yogendra K Professor and Chairperson, Environmental Sciences, Kuvempu University, Karnataka
Govt. College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Sanquelim	Shri. Vijay Mohan Raj, IFS Managing Director, Karnataka State Forest Development Corporation Ltd
	Dr. Rakesh Tiwari Wenner-Gren Fellow, University of Uppsala, Sweden
BITS Pilani, K.K. Birla Goa Campus, Zuarinagar	Dr. Ravi Fernandes Head of Department Physical Chemistry, Professor Technical University of Braunschweig, Institute for Combustion Engines
	Dr. Vishnu Mahadev Iyer Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
Sadashiv Marathe Samaj Mandir (Gomantak Vidhyalaya), Tisk, Usgao, Dharbandora	Dr. Kingshuk Roy Assistant Professor, Research Institute for Sustainable Energy (RISE), TCG CREST, Kolkata
	Dr AK Shasany Director, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow

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A Rare Success Story for Law Enforcement

The deportation of the Luthra brothers from Thailand to face trial in India marks an important moment in a case that had begun to test public faith in the justice system. After a deadly fire at a Goa nightclub killed 25 people, the speed with which the accused left the country sparked outrage and a familiar fear. That yet again, accountability would be defeated by privilege, mobility, and time. Their return changes that narrative. By securing the deportation, the Goa Police have demonstrated that crossing borders does not guarantee immunity. In a country where high-profile cases often fade into delay and dilution, this outcome stands out not for its drama but for its persistence.

It signals that law enforcement, when determined, can follow through even when the trail leads outside the country. The tragedy itself was not an act of fate. It was the result of systemic neglect. Early findings pointed to serious lapses in safety norms, overcrowding, and regulatory failure. These are not rare in India's nightlife economy, particularly in tourist hubs where commercial interests frequently override enforcement. When the fire broke out, chaos followed. Lives were lost not only to flames but to locked exits, poor planning, and indifference to basic safety.

For grieving families, the shock of the incident was quickly compounded by anger when news emerged that the accused had flown out of India soon after. The optics were damaging, but more importantly, they reinforced a deeply rooted belief. Those with resources can outrun consequences, while victims are left navigating a slow and uneven system. That is precisely why this

It did not happen overnight. Cross-border action is rarely swift. It requires coordination between state police, central agencies, and foreign authorities. It requires paperwork, legal clarity, and sustained follow-up. The Goa Police kept the case alive, issued lookout notices, pursued legal routes, and ensured that the matter did not slip into procedural limbo. This was not a single bold stroke, but a series of deliberate steps that eventually closed the door on escape.

For Goa, the implications are significant. The state's economy depends heavily on tourism, nightlife, and entertainment.

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The Goa Police kept the case alive, issued lookout notices, pursued legal routes, and ensured that the matter did not slip into procedural limbo. This was not a single bold stroke, but a series of deliberate steps that eventually closed the door on escape. For Goa, the implications are significant. The state's economy depends heavily on tourism, nightlife, and entertainment. Over time, that dependence has created a tolerance for regulatory shortcuts. Licences are delayed,

inspections are uneven, and violations are often overlooked until disaster strikes. This case exposed the cost of that approach in the starkest possible terms.

By bringing the accused back, the police have sent a message that safety norms are not negotiable and that commercial success does not place anyone above the law. It is a rare assertion of authority in a sector where enforcement has too often been hesitant. Yet it is important to recognise that deportation is not justice. It is only a step toward it. The real test now begins in court. The investigation must be thorough and precise. Charges must be framed carefully, evidence must be pursued without bias, and the trial must move without unnecessary delay. Anything less risks undoing the credibility gained so far. There is also a broader lesson the state cannot afford to ignore. Punishing individuals after a tragedy is not enough. This case should force a serious review of how public venues are regulated and monitored. Fire safety, crowd control, and emergency preparedness cannot be treated as paperwork exercises. They are safeguards that determine whether people live or die. Public trust in the justice system is fragile.

Every time an accused appears to vanish, that trust erodes. Every time the law catches up, some measure of confidence is restored. The return of the accused in this case does not heal the loss suffered by families, but it does reaffirm a basic principle that often feels uncertain. That accountability does not end at an airport gate. For once, the system followed through. Now it must see the case to its rightful conclusion.

EDITOR'S SPEAK

Tear Them Down Before They Kill Again

The debate over illegal nightclubs and restaurants in Goa should no longer be framed as livelihood versus enforcement. It is a question of public safety and the rule of law. After repeated tragedies, near misses, and official warnings, the argument for decisive action is no longer theoretical. Illegal establishments have no place in a state that hosts millions of residents and visitors every year. Goa's tourism economy has long survived on relaxed oversight. Over time, this indulgence has turned into institutional neglect. Unauthorised structures, overcrowded venues, blocked exits, and ignored fire norms have become routine. Each disaster is followed by assurances of strict action. Each time, enforcement weakens once public attention moves on. This cycle has cost lives. Demolition of illegal establishments is not an attack on business. It is the enforcement of minimum standards. Those who operate without permissions do so knowingly. They endanger patrons while undercutting law-abiding operators who invest in safety and compliance. Allowing such venues to continue operating sends a dangerous message. That profit matters more than human life.

Targeted demolitions would also restore credibility to governance. Sealing premises, issuing notices, and imposing fines have failed to deter repeat offenders. Temporary closures are treated as a cost of doing business. Only an irreversible action will force compliance. If a structure is illegal, it should not be regularised after a tragedy. It should be removed. This moment demands political resolve. Enforcement cannot pause for peak seasons or bow to pressure from vested interests. Goa does not need more regret after preventable disasters. It needs fewer illegal doors open at night. Demolishing illegal nightclubs and restaurants is not extreme. Looking the other way is.

-Shane Rodrigues, Saligao

Why Cleaning Electoral Rolls Matters

The reported deletion of nearly one lakh names during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls has drawn concern, but it deserves to be seen in its proper context. Electoral rolls are not static documents. They must reflect present reality, not outdated records. Regular cleaning of voter lists is essential to protect the integrity of elections. Over time, rolls accumulate inaccuracies. People relocate, some pass away, and others are registered in more than one place. If these errors remain unaddressed, they open the door to impersonation, duplication and mistrust. A flawed roll undermines the principle of one person, one vote. In that sense, revision is not exclusion. It is correct. The scale of deletions may appear large, but large populations inevitably produce large numbers when audits are conducted seriously.

What matters is process. The Special Intensive Revision follows established rules, includes public notice and provides opportunities for objections and corrections. Citizens whose names were removed in error have avenues to seek restoration. That safeguard is critical and must be widely communicated. Clean rolls strengthen democracy. They ensure that genuine voters are not diluted by inaccuracies and that election outcomes are accepted as legitimate. Ignoring the problem for fear of backlash would be the greater failure. At the same time, transparency is essential. Authorities must clearly explain the criteria used and ensure that no eligible voter is disenfranchised through oversight or poor outreach. Vigilance, not suspicion, should guide public response. Electoral reform is often uncomfortable, but accuracy cannot be optional. A credible democracy begins with a credible voter list.

-Suhas Naik, Porvorim

Authorities Seal 'The Cape Goa' Over Major Safety Violations

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: In a continued enforcement drive following the deadly Arpora nightclub blaze that killed 25 people, authorities on Monday ordered the immediate sealing of the popular seaside establishment 'The Cape Goa' at Cabo de Rama in Canacona, citing serious safety violations and grave risks to public safety. The closure order was issued ex-parte by Maya Pednekar, Executive Magistrate and Chairperson of the Joint Enforcement and Monitoring Committee (JEMC), Canacona, without prior notice to the establishment. The decision, the



order stated, was taken in view of the imminent and immediate threat posed to human life and property.

"After examining the inspection report and materials placed before me, I am convinced that the risk is real, immediate and severe. The premises are being operated in a manner that endangers public safety, warranting urgent intervention to protect life and property," Pednekar said in her order. The action followed an inspection conducted by the JEMC at 'The Cape Goa', located at Kuddi, Cabo de Rama, on December 12 at around 12.25 pm. During the inspection, the committee found that the establishment was functioning in what it described as blatant violation of mandatory statutory safety norms.

GCZMA ruling clears Aldona bungalow tied to former Goa CS

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In an order that has triggered sharp debate over the future of coastal protection in Goa, the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has rejected a complaint alleging illegal construction within a No Development Zone (NDZ) in Aldona, effectively allowing a bungalow associated with former chief secretary Puneet Goel to remain untouched. The decision, issued in October, arose from a complaint filed by politician Trajano D'Mello,



who had accused the owners of a property bearing survey number 36/1 in Aldona village of violating Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms.

Calangute Notices Expose Licensing Gaps At Coastal Nightlife Venues

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Show-cause notices issued by the Calangute village panchayat to 17 restaurants suspected of running unauthorised club operations along the coastal belt have revealed extensive breaches of licensing and safety regulations, with the majority of establishments found to be operating without essential no-

objection certificates (NOCs) from statutory authorities.

Panchayat sources said an examination of documents submitted in response to the notices shows that only a limited number of establishments have secured all the necessary approvals, while most are deficient in one or more mandatory clearances.

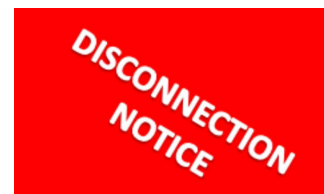
NOTICE

"Several venues have partial permissions. Some may have obtained fire safety clearance but lack consent to operate from the Goa State Pollution Control Board, while others are missing approvals from the Health Department or the Food and Drugs Administration," a senior panchayat official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

DHS issues disconnection notice to Mapusa Fish Market over public health nuisance

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: The Directorate of Health Services (DHS), Government of Goa, through the Urban Health Centre (UHC), Mapusa, has issued an Intimation of Disconnection to the Mapusa Municipal Council, warning of the imminent disconnection of water and electricity supply to the Fish Market Complex. According



to the notice dated 11 December 2025, the Health Department stated that despite earlier communications — UHC Mapusa Notice No. 1237 and Letter No. 1238 dated 15 November 2025 — the municipal authorities have failed to take adequate

measures to abate the public health nuisance at the fish market. The notice, issued under the provisions of Section 40(4-A)(ii) of the Goa Public Health Act, 1985 and Rules, 1987, states that if the nuisance is not completely stopped or removed, the Water Supply Department and the Electricity Department will be informed to disconnect services within seven days.

1-week Extension For Magisterial Probe Into Arpora Nightclub Fire

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The State government has allowed an additional week for the Magisterial Inquiry Committee, led by the North Goa Collector, to wrap up its investigation into the devastating fire at the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in Arpora that left 25 people dead. The four-member panel,



constituted on December 8, was initially instructed to complete the inquiry and submit its report within eight days.

Vijai Attacks BJP, Calls for 'Mhaje Club' Scheme; Says Defeating Party Begins with Salcete

Team Goemkarponn

MAYEM: Goa Forward Party president Vijai Sardesai launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of functioning as a "hafta party" and urging voters to reject it to safeguard democracy. Addressing a Zilla Panchayat election meeting in the Mayem constituency, Sardesai alleged that the BJP has become arrogant



and insensitive to public issues. He accused Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant of deliberately neglecting the long-

pending Mayem evacuee property issue and lacking the will to resolve it. Sardesai said the upcoming elections would give people an opportunity to demonstrate that democracy is still alive. Campaigning in Chinchinim for Congress candidate Julio Fernandes, Sardesai asserted that winning Salcete would mark the beginning of the end for the BJP in Goa. Reiterating his allegations against

senior BJP leaders, the Goa Forward chief claimed that illegal nightclubs and pubs across the State are being run with the involvement of individuals close to the ruling party. Taking a dig at the government, he sarcastically urged Chief Minister Sawant to introduce a 'Mhaje Club' or 'Mhaje Pub' scheme on the lines of the 'Mhaje Ghar' scheme, which aims to regularise illegal houses.

4 Rescued, 2 Missing Children Traced Along Goa Coastline During Weekend

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Drishti Marine lifesavers rescued four persons, including a mother-child duo from Tamil Nadu and a septuagenarian tourist from the United Kingdom, and successfully traced two missing children along Goa's coastline during the weekend. Arambol Beach: A 22-year-old man from Telangana, who had entered the sea in an intoxicated state along



with five friends, began drowning after failing to navigate the waters. Lifesavers Vishnu Kubal and Manoj Parab immediately responded using a surfboard and

rescue tube. With additional jet ski support, the victim was safely brought ashore. His condition is reported to be stable.

Mandrem Beach: A

mother and her 10-year-old son from Tamil Nadu were rescued after they were unable to return to shore while swimming. Lifesaver Dattaguru Korgankar used a rescue board, assisted by Sudhir Parab on a jet ski, to safely bring both ashore. Their condition was stable following the rescue.

Baga Beach: Drishti Marine lifesavers traced a missing five-year-old child from Pune after the parents reported the child missing.

British National Found Dead at Candolim Resort

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute Police reported that a 63-year-old British national was brought dead to the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Candolim, in the early hours of December 15, 2025. According to police, at around 1.43 am, Calangute Police Station received a call from the Medical Officer of PHC Candolim informing that Mr. Barry Mark Gerrard (63), a British national presently residing at Ruffles Beach Resort, Wadi, Candolim, Bardez,



Goa, was brought dead to the health centre. Police visited PHC Candolim and conducted an enquiry with the deceased's brother, Mr. Paul Mattias Gerrard (67), also a British national, who is presently staying at the same resort. During the enquiry, it was revealed that the deceased had been suffering from emphysema (lung-related illness) for several years.

Toddler Drowns in Pond at Benaullim

Team Goemkarponn

BENAULLIM: A tragic incident was reported from Toleband, Benaullim, where a one-and-a-half-year-old child lost his life after accidentally falling into a nearby pond while playing outside his house on Wednesday afternoon. The deceased has been identified as Irhan Sheikh. Colva police said the child's body was recovered from the pond, following which an unnatural death case was registered in connection with the



incident. The body has been kept at the South Goa District Hospital mortuary for post-mortem examination. According to police sources, the incident occurred between 11.30 am and 12 noon. Police later visited the spot and conducted a panchanama. Further investigation is underway under the guidance of Police Inspector Vikram Naik.

Driver Booked for Rash and Negligent Driving in Mapusa Accident

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Mapusa Police have registered a case based on a complaint lodged by HC 4839 Vijay N. Gadekar, attached to Mapusa Police Station, regarding a road traffic accident that occurred on October 7, 2025. According to the complaint, on October 7, 2025, at around 5.10 pm, the accused, identified as S. Siva Kiran Reddy, son of S. Srinivasa Reddy, aged 25 years, resident of Plot No. 48, Trimoorthy

Colony, East Marredpally, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, and also residing at C/o VR Commodities Private Limited, 9-30-4, Balamnagar, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, was driving a BMW car bearing registration number AP-39-JZ-0001. While proceeding from Dattawadi, Mapusa towards Ganeshpuri, Mapusa, the accused allegedly drove the vehicle in a rash and negligent manner, endangering



human life and without proper care and caution. Upon reaching near Appetite Bar and Restaurant, Housing Board, Mapusa, Bardez, Goa, the BMW car reportedly swerved to the extreme right side and first collided with an oncoming car bearing registration

number GA-04-C-6817, which was proceeding from Ganeshpuri, Mapusa towards Dattawadi, Mapusa. Due to the impact, the car GA-04-C-6817 further dashed against a roadside electricity pole. Thereafter, the BMW car allegedly continued ahead and collided with an oncoming scooter bearing registration number GA-07-Y-5460, which was also proceeding from Ganeshpuri, Mapusa towards Dattawadi, Mapusa.

Satellite Phone Seized at Mopa Airport; US National Booked

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: Mopa Airport Police have registered Crime No. 54/2025 under Section 3 read with Section 6(1A) of the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, in connection with the detection of a prohibited satellite phone at Manohar International Airport. According to police, the case was registered on December 15, 2025, at 5.49 am on the complaint of Rahul Kumar Prasad, Sub-Inspector (Executive), CISF ASG Unit, Manohar



International Airport, Mopa. The incident occurred earlier at around 2.20 am during security screening at the international SHA, when ATRS-B detected a satellite phone in the handbag of a passenger.

The accused has been identified as Jeffrey Allan Wilke (59), a United States national, resident of 2481 Perkins Lane W, Seattle, Washington, USA. He was scheduled to travel to Doha on Qatar Airways flight QR-523, seat number 2C, with a scheduled departure time of 4.10 am. During questioning, the accused failed to produce any licence or permission from the competent authority for possessing the satellite phone, which is prohibited in India.

GUSC Executive Polls Postponed at Last Min; ABVP, NSUI Protest at Goa University

Team Goemkarponn

TALEIGAO: The postponement of the Goa University Students' Council (GUSC) Executive Committee elections at the last moment triggered protests by student bodies on campus on Tuesday. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Goa, staged a protest at the office of the Director of Students' Welfare (DSW) after the university administration announced the deferment just ahead of the scheduled polling. ABVP said more than 60



of its University Faculty Representatives (UFRs) from across Goa had arrived at the campus to cast their votes, but were informed only at the last minute that the elections had been postponed. The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) also protested

the decision, objecting to the postponement being attributed to the model code of conduct. NSUI alleged that the ruling BJP was responsible for the delay, claiming the elections were deferred as the party "did not have the required numbers" in the council.

BJP Govt is in the pockets of Crony Capitalist: LoP Yuri Alemao

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Whilst campaigning for Davorlim Candidate, Congress leader Yuri Alemao on Monday said that the BJP Government is in the pockets of crony capitalists, who are actually running the government and doing illegalities in our State. Leader of Opposition Alemao was campaigning

for Congress Davorlim candidate for Zilla Panchayat election Mr. Florino Fernandes. Speaking to media persons, he said that the way crony capitalist are getting immunities in the state, it is clear that they are running this BJP Government. "These crony capitalist friends of BJP are running the Night Clubs without permissions. They are



doing all illegalities and this government is not taking action against

them. This resulted in the death of 25 persons at night club in Arpora,"

Alemao said. "With such acts, BJP is exposed. People are awakening to the need to protect democracy from Vote Chori and electoral malpractices by the BJP," he added. He said that the current government failed to fulfil the promises of employment and providing free LPG cylinders. "BJP Government suspended mining operations and now there is threat to the

tourism sector, where many middle-class families find their living. People should remember that this very BJP had promised unemployment dole in 2012, but failed to give it. They have even failed to give employment to our youths," he said. Alemao said that he is confident that people will vote against BJP to protect our Goa from further destructions.

Cansaulim underpass 90% complete, opposition spreading misinformation: Anton Vas

Team Goemkarponn

CORTALIM: Cortalim MLA Anton Vas on Monday morning asserted that the long-pending demand for a railway underpass project at Cansaulim was nearing completion, with nearly 90 per cent of the work already finished. He accused the opposition of deliberately misleading people by claiming that the project had been stalled. Vas was speaking to reporters during a campaign programme at Queeny Nagar, Sancoale, held in the presence of Cansaulim



Sarpanch Savio Pereira, Velsao Panch Jim D'Souza, ZP independent candidate Merciana Vas and several local residents. "The opposition is resorting to its usual tactics of misguiding the people by spreading rumours that work on the Cansaulim underpass has stopped. I appeal to citizens not to fall prey

to such misinformation. Almost 90 per cent of the project work has already been completed," Vas said. Explaining the current status, the MLA said that the culvert boxes had been successfully installed and clearance had been obtained from the comunidade for a 4 to 5-metre-wide footpath.

Retaining wall works at Desterro school launched after 2-year wait: Sankalp Amonkar

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: After remaining pending for nearly two years, the long-awaited works on the retaining wall at Desterro were launched on Monday morning by Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar, bringing relief to students and staff of Desterro High School. The project also includes safety-related infrastructure, beautification of the school premises and its surrounding areas. Speaking to reporters at the site, Amonkar said the project was being



taken up under the Public Works Department at an estimated cost of ₹19 lakh and was expected to be completed shortly. "This has been a long-pending issue for the Desterro school. The compound wall had collapsed around two years ago during the monsoon, and since then the safety

of students had become a serious concern," Amonkar said. "The Desterro Church parish priest and committee members had repeatedly approached me to take up this work, and considering the risk faced by the students, it was important to act without further delay."

GFP Fumes, Demands Action Against 2 Congress Leaders for Campaigning Against Poinguinim ZP Alliance Candidate

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Alleging breach of alliance discipline, the Goa Forward Party (GFP) has demanded strict disciplinary action against two Congress leaders for openly campaigning against the official Congress-GFP alliance candidate in the Poinguinim Zilla Panchayat constituency, warning that such actions are creating voter confusion and risking loss of alliance votes. Addressing a press conference, GFP leader Vikas Bhagat, flanked by Canacona Congress



Block President Abel Borges and Congress leader Janardhan Bhandari, alleged that Canacona Congress Mahila Block President Ursila D'Costa and South Goa District Organising General Secretary Gaspar Coutinho are canvassing for Congress rebel Daya Gaonkar, who is contesting

as an Independent candidate against the alliance nominee. Bhagat stated that both Coutinho and D'Costa are allegedly misleading voters by claiming that Independent candidate Daya Gaonkar is the Congress candidate and that a vote for him amounts to a vote for the Congress party.

Kavlekar Takes On D'Costa Over 'Flamboyant Gimmicks', Predicts Defeat of His ZP Candidates

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Claiming that BJP candidates in both Khola and Xeldem Zilla Panchayat constituencies are heading for a massive victory, former Deputy Chief Minister and BJP Vice-President Chandrakant (Babu) Kavlekar launched a sharp attack on his arch-rival and Quepem MLA Altone D'Costa, accusing him of resorting to "cheap and flamboyant gimmicks" after realising the inevitable defeat of



Congress candidates. Kavlekar said he is actively involved in four ZP seats Khola, Barcem, Xeldem and Guirdolim where Congress MLAs Yuri Alemao and Altone D'Costa hold influence. "The BJP is winning all four seats by huge

margins. It has been four years, but the Quepem MLA has never been on the field except for pretending. He has absolutely nothing to show in terms of development work," Kavlekar alleged. "He knows only how to criticise others."

Punjab Declares Amritsar, Anandpur Sahib, Talwandi Sabo as Holy Cities

■ State imposes restrictions to preserve religious sanctity in key Sikh sites.

New Delhi: The Punjab government has officially declared Amritsar, Sri Anandpur Sahib, and Talwandi Sabo (Sri Damdama Sahib) as Holy Cities, introducing comprehensive measures to maintain their religious sanctity. The announcement, approved by the Governor of Punjab, comes with directives for several state departments to enforce restrictions within the notified city limits. Under the new guidelines, the Department of Excise is tasked with prohibiting the sale and consumption of alcohol and related products in these areas. The Department of Health and Family Welfare will oversee bans on cigarettes, tobacco, and other intoxicants. Additionally, the Department of Animal Husbandry has been directed to restrict the sale and consumption of meat. Local authorities, including the Deputy Commissioners of Amritsar, Rupnagar, and Bathinda, along with the Department of Local Government, will ensure strict implementation of these rules. The notification, signed



by Additional Chief Secretary of Home Affairs Alok Shekhar, will be published in the official Gazette of Punjab. The move aligns with earlier plans announced by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who emphasized the importance of preserving the spiritual and cultural character of Sri Anandpur Sahib. Last month, Mann unveiled plans to develop the city as a heritage street, highlighting the collective responsibility of citizens to maintain its sanctity. The announcement followed a special session

of the Punjab Legislative Assembly held in Anandpur Sahib, part of the three-day commemoration of the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur. The Chief Minister reaffirmed that the historic towns would undergo transformation while preserving their religious and cultural heritage. This designation aims to safeguard the spiritual environment of these key Sikh sites while ensuring responsible tourism and community participation in maintaining their sanctity.

Indian Army Deploys Satellite Internet for Flood Relief in Sri Lanka

■ Cyclone Ditwah disruption met with high-speed connectivity via OneWeb satellites.

New Delhi: In an unprecedented move, the Indian Army has deployed satellite-based internet connectivity to support flood-affected regions in Sri Lanka, restoring critical communications in areas where terrestrial networks were destroyed. The initiative, part of India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission, Operation Sagar Bandhu, leveraged Eutelsat's OneWeb Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite network in partnership with Airtel. Cyclone Ditwah caused severe flooding across Sri Lanka, leaving communities isolated and communication channels down. To address this, the Indian Army deployed OneWeb terminals in remote areas, providing secure, high-speed, low-latency internet. This enabled 24/7 telemedicine consultations with Indian specialists, allowing timely diagnosis and treatment for injured and vulnerable populations. The connectivity also facilitated coordination among rescue teams, logistics planning, and operational updates, proving crucial for disaster response. Experts note that LEO satellites



offer rapid deployment and robust coverage, making them ideal for disaster zones where conventional infrastructure is unavailable. Neha Idnani, Regional Vice President for APAC at Eutelsat, highlighted the life-saving potential of maintaining reliable communications during crises. Despite the success of this deployment, large-scale satellite internet in India remains limited by regulatory restrictions. OneWeb currently operates under a testing license, while global providers such as SpaceX's Starlink await approvals. Analysts argue that expanded satellite broadband could transform connectivity for remote villages, border regions, and disaster-hit areas, but policy and security considerations have delayed broader adoption.

Operation Sagar Bandhu, launched on November 28, also included the dispatch of 53 tons of relief material, deployment of NDRF search-and-rescue teams, and evacuation of over 2,000 Indians and stranded foreign nationals using Navy and Air Force assets. This reinforced India's role as a first responder in the Indian Ocean region under its Neighbourhood First policy. As climate-related disasters increase, satellite internet is emerging as a critical tool for rapid-response relief operations. The Indian Army's collaboration with OneWeb and Airtel demonstrates the transformative potential of space-based connectivity in humanitarian missions, signaling a path forward for integrating technology into disaster resilience strategies.

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Luthra Land in Delhi After Deportation From Thailand

The two brothers were detained by Thai authorities in Phuket on December 11 following intervention by the Indian Embassy. Visuals showing them being escorted to Bangkok airport had surfaced earlier in the day. Sources said Thai officials accompanying the duo will formally hand them over to Indian authorities after completing procedural requirements. According to officials, the Luthra brothers will be produced before the Patiala House Court in Delhi for further legal

proceedings, after which they will be transferred to the custody of the Goa Police. The brothers had left India within hours of the December 6 blaze at their Arpora nightclub, which also left several others injured. At the time of the incident, they were reportedly in Delhi attending a wedding. An Interpol Blue Corner Notice was subsequently issued against them to trace their whereabouts. During earlier proceedings in a Delhi court, the Luthras had claimed that they travelled to

Thailand for "work-related reasons" and expressed willingness to return to India. The fire incident triggered widespread public outrage and brought alleged safety lapses at the nightclub under intense scrutiny. The Goa Police registered a criminal case on December 7 at the Arpora-Anjuna Police Station under sections 105, 125, 125(a), 125(b) and 287, read with section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Goa Legislative Assembly Session from Jan 12-16, 2026

per an order issued by the Governor of Goa on December 16, 2025. In accordance with Article 176(1) of the Constitution of India, the

Hon'ble Governor will address the Assembly on the opening day of the session at 11.30 a.m. in the Assembly Hall at Porvorim. The

address will outline the causes for summoning the House. Members of the Legislative Assembly have been requested to be present in the House

by 11.20 a.m. on the day of the Governor's address. After the Governor's address, the Secretary to the Legislature will lay a

copy of the address on the Table of the House, following which copies will be distributed to Members and others. The Twelfth Session will

comprise five sittings, scheduled from Monday, January 12, 2026, to Friday, January 16, 2026.

Gandhis Get Temporary Relief as Court Dismisses ED Money Laundering Complaint

■ Court rules money laundering complaint under PMLA not maintainable; Congress hails “truth prevailed”.

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Tuesday refused to take cognisance of the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) money laundering case against Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and five others in connection with the National Herald case. The Rouse Avenue Court observed that the agency's prosecution complaint under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was not maintainable because it was based on a private complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, rather than a registered First Information Report (FIR). The



court also noted that Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) had already registered an FIR in

the matter, making it “premature and imprudent” to rule on the ED's submission at this stage. While the court dismissed the complaint, it clarified that the ED can continue its investigation and may appeal the order. The Congress party reacted to the ruling by posting on X that “truth has prevailed,” asserting that the court found the ED's case to be without jurisdiction and lacking an FIR. The party described the decade-long prosecution as a politically motivated move by the Modi government against the principal opposition party.



India Pushes Preferential Trade Pact With Mexico to Shield Exports

■ Proposal aims to ease impact of sharp tariff hikes on Indian goods and protect key supply chains.

New Delhi: India has proposed a preferential trade agreement with Mexico as a swift response to steep import tariff increases that are set to affect a wide range of Indian exports. The move is aimed at providing relief to domestic exporters facing higher duties

after Mexico decided to revise its import regime for countries without free trade agreements. Mexico has approved an increase in most favoured nation import tariffs ranging from about 5 per cent to as high as 50 per cent on more than 1,400 product categories.

“Rich Poor Consumption Gap Rapidly Shrinking,” Sitharaman Tells Parliament

■ Finance minister highlights faster wealth gains among lower income groups and strong rural growth.

New Delhi: India's economic growth over the past decade has been broad based, with the gap between rich and poor steadily narrowing across both rural and urban areas, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Parliament on Monday. Citing consumption and asset ownership trends, she said lower income households are acquiring



wealth at a faster pace than higher income groups, reflecting a more inclusive growth pattern. Referring to India as the fastest growing major

economy, the minister said the country is expanding at a rate of 8.2 per cent, significantly ahead of the global average of 3.2 per cent. She noted that actual household consumption data shows the bottom 40 per cent of the population is gaining assets more rapidly than the top 20 per cent, leading to a sharp decline in inequality in asset ownership.

India Condemns Pakistan at UN, Reaffirms Sovereignty Over Jammu and Kashmir

■ Permanent Representative highlights terror sponsorship, political turmoil in Islamabad and suspension of Indus Waters Treaty.

New Delhi: India strongly rebutted Pakistan's claims over Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on “Leadership for Peace,” with Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni asserting that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are “an integral and inalienable part of India”



and “will always remain so.” Addressing Pakistan's “unwarranted reference” to the region, Parvathaneni criticised Islamabad

for its “obsessive focus on harming India and its people.” He also highlighted India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty, citing Pakistan's history of cross-border terrorism and repeated violations of the treaty over six decades. “India entered into the Indus Waters Treaty 65 years ago in good faith.

Priyanka Gandhi Leads Opposition to G Ram G Bill, Calls Renaming “Unnecessary”

■ Congress protests replacement of MGNREGA, raises concerns over funding changes and reduced rights.

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“Extremely Tragic and Heart Rending”: 13 Killed in Fiery Yamuna Expressway Pile Up

■ Dense fog triggers multi vehicle collision in Mathura as rescue teams rush to clear highway and aid victims.

New Delhi: At least 13 people lost their lives in a devastating road accident on the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura on Tuesday morning after a dense blanket of fog led to a massive multi vehicle pile up. The collision involved seven buses, a tempo traveller and several cars, some of which caught fire following



the impact, resulting in passengers being burnt to death. The death toll rose steadily through the

morning as rescue teams recovered bodies from the wreckage, revising the earlier figure of four fatalities to 13. Several others sustained injuries and were rushed to nearby medical facilities for treatment. Authorities confirmed that all the injured are now out of danger and receiving proper medical care.

India's T20 World Cup 2026 Squad Likely in Early January

■ Selectors set to name unified squad for New Zealand series and global tournament.

New Delhi: India's squad for the T20 World Cup 2026 is expected to be announced in the first week of January, with the selection committee likely to reveal the team alongside the squad for the five match T20I series against New Zealand. The upcoming series will serve as India's final international assignment before the World Cup, making it a crucial step in finalising combinations



and leadership roles. The squad chosen for the New Zealand T20Is is expected to be identical

to the one selected for the T20 World Cup, underlining the importance of the series

as a direct lead up to the global event. The World Cup is scheduled to be held from February 7 to March 8, with matches spread across five venues in India and three in Sri Lanka. India will begin their World Cup campaign on February 7 in Mumbai against the United States. Their second Group A fixture is slated for February 12 against Namibia at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi.

Big Spending Expected as IPL 2026 Auction Unfolds in Abu Dhabi

■ Cash rich franchises prepare for bidding battle as star names and emerging talent go under the hammer.

New Delhi: The Indian Premier League 2026 auction is set to take centre stage today in Abu Dhabi, with franchises gearing up for an intense bidding contest that could reshape team combinations ahead of the new season. With sizeable purses available and several high profile players in the mix, the auction is expected to produce record breaking deals and create a fresh set of cricketing millionaires.



Five time champions Chennai Super Kings enter the auction with a remaining purse of Rs 43.40 crore, giving them the flexibility to strengthen key areas of their squad.

RSB Cochin Crowned Champions After Dramatic Tie Breaker Final

■ Defending champions Central Secretariat Delhi edged out in tense All India Civil Services Football Tournament decider

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: RSB Cochin emerged as the new champions of the All India Civil Services Football Tournament after a nerve gripping final against Central Secretariat Delhi at the Athletic Stadium, Bambolim. Organised by the Government of Goa in collaboration with the Central Civil Services Sports and Cultural



Board, New Delhi, the tournament concluded with a thrilling finish that lived up to its billing. The highly anticipated final

remained goalless at the end of regular time, with both teams displaying disciplined defending and controlled attacking play.

Bhatikar Clinch Boys' Title as Manovikas Dominate Girls' Final

■ Thrilling finishes mark the conclusion of the Vishnu Sinai Dempo Memorial Inter School Table Tennis Tournament.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Vishnu Sinai Dempo Memorial All Goa Inter School Invitational Table Tennis Tournament concluded on a high note at the Indoor Stadium, Campal, with Bhatikar Model High School and Manovikas High School emerging champions in the boys' and girls' categories respectively. In a closely fought boys' final, Bhatikar



Model High School edged past Manovikas High School 3-2 after an intense contest that kept spectators engaged till the very end. The opening match saw Bhatikar's Yug Prabhu narrowly lose

2-3 to Ruhaan Shaikh, giving Manovikas an early advantage. Bhatikar responded swiftly as Chandan Caro delivered a convincing 3-0 victory over Ishaan Colaco to level the tie.

Harshita's Grit Not Enough as Goa Slip to 2nd. Straight Defeat

■ Uttar Pradesh recover from early wobble to secure five wicket win in Under 19 women's 1day tournament.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Under 19 women's team endured their second consecutive setback in the Under 19 Women's One Day Cricket Tournament after going down to Uttar Pradesh by five wickets at the Infipro Sports Club ground in Vadodara on Monday. Despite a

spirited batting effort led by captain Harshita Yadav, Goa were unable to defend a modest total as Uttar Pradesh completed the chase comfortably.

After winning the toss and choosing to bat, Goa showed improvement from their previous outing but struggled to build partnerships.

St Joseph Vaz College Clinch Inter Collegiate Cycling Men's Championship 2025-26

■ Strong team effort and podium finishes highlight competitive Goa University cycling event.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: St Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim emerged overall champions of the Goa University Inter Collegiate Cycling Men's Championship 2025-26, following an impressive performance at the event held on December 11 at Navelim. The championship brought together college cyclists from across Goa and



showcased endurance, strategy and teamwork over a demanding long distance course. Organised by Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim under the aegis of Goa University, the competition saw

participation from around 50 cyclists representing various colleges. The riders competed over a challenging 35 kilometre route that tested stamina and tactical awareness throughout the race. St Joseph

Vaz College secured the championship title through consistent finishes by their cyclists, while the host institution Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim claimed the runners up position.