



BJP Retains Lead but ZP Verdict Signals Grassroots Discontent

■ Congress Gains as Vote Share Tells a Mixed Story

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) remained the single largest force in the Zilla Panchayat elections, winning 29 seats and topping the vote share chart with 2,50,149 votes, accounting for 40.63 per cent of the total votes polled. However, the results mark a clear setback for the ruling

party, with its seat tally slipping from 33 in 2020. Even with alliance partner Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP), the BJP-led combine could muster only 32 seats, still short of the BJP's standalone performance five years ago. The erosion was most evident in six constituencies — Aldona, Sirsaim, Betqui-Khandola,

Davorlim, Guirdolim and Khola — where the BJP failed to retain seats it had earlier won. All but one of these seats were captured by the Congress, which emerged as the principal beneficiary of the BJP's decline. Betqui-Khandola was won by an independent



candidate. Two of these defeats proved particularly embarrassing for the ruling party, as they came in constituencies represented by sitting BJP MLAs Nilkhant Halarnkar and Govind Gaude. The

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Birch Fire Case: Two Managers Granted Bail, GM's Plea Rejected

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: The Mapusa Additional Sessions Court has granted conditional bail to Priyanshu Thakur and Rajveer Singhania, two managers arrested in connection with the Arpora nightclub fire case. However, the court rejected the bail application of Vivek Singh, the General Manager of the establishment.

The arrests were made following investigations into the deadly fire that broke out at the 'Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub in Arpora on December 6, claiming 25 lives. Police have alleged negligence and lapses in safety management at the premises.

In a major development, Goa

Police have initiated the process to obtain a Blue Corner Notice against British national Surinder Kumar Khosla, one of the accused in the December 6 nightclub fire that claimed 25 lives. The process is being undertaken through Central agencies, a senior police officer confirmed on Saturday.

According to police, Khosla was present in Goa at the time of the incident but is believed to have fled to the United Kingdom the following day. "We have begun the formal procedure to secure a Blue Corner Notice to trace and bring him back from the UK. Required documentation is being processed through Central

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"Eight Planes Were Shot Down": Trump Repeats Claim of Halting India Pakistan War

■ India rejects former US president's assertion, says de escalation followed bilateral military channels

New Delhi: Former United States president Donald Trump has once again claimed that he played a decisive role in stopping a military conflict between India and Pakistan, asserting that his intervention prevented what he described as a potential nuclear

war between the two neighbours. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Trump said the situation had escalated rapidly before being brought under control. Trump claimed that multiple conflicts were resolved during his leadership and placed



India and Pakistan among them. He

said the confrontation was intensifying, with "eight planes shot down", and warned that it was close to becoming a much larger war. According to him, his actions helped prevent catastrophic consequences and saved millions of lives.

Bhutebhat locals catch burglar red-handed, hand him over to Vasco police

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Alert residents of Bhutebhat on Tuesday caught a burglar red-handed after noticing suspicious activity at a bungalow whose occupants had been out of station for the past few days.

Sources said a woman from the neighbourhood noticed unusual movement inside the bungalow and immediately informed her son. The son then alerted neighbours and nearby residents, who quickly gathered at the spot and surrounded the house.

Sources further said that a group of five burglars had entered the bungalow. While four of them managed to flee through the rear door with stolen articles, one suspect was caught by locals while attempting



to escape from the first floor using a ladder. The residents overpowered the accused and restrained him until the police arrived.

The bungalow reportedly belongs to a Bhutebhat resident who had been away for several days. The accused, who was later handed over to the Vasco police, is believed to be a resident of Margao. Police sources said it was not

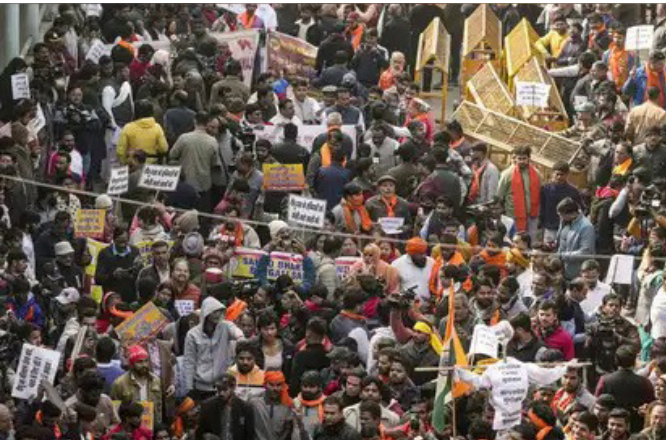
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Protests Target Bangladesh High Commission Following Mob Lynching Incident

New Delhi: A large protest took place outside the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi following the killing of a Hindu man in Bangladesh, triggering heightened security and diplomatic attention. The demonstration was organised to condemn the lynching of Dipu Chandra Das and to protest what participants described as

continued violence against Hindus and damage to religious sites across the neighbouring country. Security was significantly tightened in the Chanakyapuri area as protesters gathered near the diplomatic premises. Multiple layers of barricades were installed, and police along with paramilitary personnel

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Vasco Police Station Trace Missing 16-Year-Old Girl Following Swift Investigation

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: In a swift and successful operation, the Vasco Police have safely traced a 16-year-old minor girl who was reported missing from the vicinity of Government High School, Mangoor Hill, on December 16,

2025. Following a formal complaint by the girl's father, a case was registered under Section 137 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 and Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act. Under the



guidance of PI Vasco Shri Vaibhav D. Naik and PI Shri John Fernandes, a specialized team led by PSI Mayur Ketan Sawant, along with PC Venkatesh and LPC Apurva Chodankar, was

immediately dispatched to Delhi to pursue specific leads. By leveraging a combination of technical surveillance and human intelligence gathered from local informants, the team successfully located and secured the minor.

The minor girl was

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Arrogance, Alibis and the Collapse of Goa

The arrogance of power is usually associated with ruling parties.

In Goa today, it defines a party that is nowhere near power. The Congress, battered and humiliated in the Zilla Parishad elections, has responded not with introspection but with denial. At the centre of this collapse stands GPCC president Amit Patkar.

The Zilla Parishad results were unambiguous. The BJP won 32 seats. Congress managed just 11. This was not a national election fought on ideology or charisma. It was a local body contest where alliances, organisations and ground level coordination decide outcomes. Congress failed comprehensively on every count. There is no escaping the fact that this failure flows from the decisions taken by the state leadership.

The most damaging of these decisions was the breakdown of alliances. The rupture with the Revolutionary Goans Party was entirely avoidable. Goa's political reality is fragmented. No opposition party can afford the luxury of ego-driven politics. Alliances are not signs of weakness. They are instruments of survival. By breaking ties with RGP, Congress ensured vote division in several constituencies, handing the BJP an easy advantage.

Even more puzzling was the complete absence of any serious attempt to work out an understanding with the Aam Aadmi Party. Whether Congress likes it or not, AAP has carved out a space for itself in Goa. Pretending it does not exist is not a strategy. It is self-deception. The refusal to engage only helped the BJP consolidate.

After presiding over this defeat, Patkar's statement that the BJP's downfall has begun is not just tone deaf,

"This episode exposes a deeper malaise within the Goa Congress. Under Patkar, the party has become synonymous with groupism. Long-standing workers complain of exclusion. A small coterie makes decisions. Ticket distribution has alienated local leaders. The organisation functions less like a democratic political party and more like a closed private company."

Congress is not a startup that can be run by a single CEO with money and messaging. It is a mass political organisation that survives on collective leadership, ideological clarity and grassroots unity. When workers feel ignored, and factions thrive, defeat becomes inevitable."

it is insulting to Congress workers. A party that loses a Zilla Parishad election by such a margin has no credibility in declaring victory narratives. Workers who fought on the ground know the truth. Booths were weak. Cadres were demoralised. Coordination was missing. Empty bravado does not erase these facts.

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Congress is not a startup that can be run by a single CEO with money and messaging. It is a mass political organisation that survives on collective leadership, ideological clarity and grassroots unity. When workers feel ignored, and factions thrive, defeat becomes inevitable.

The attempt to highlight the eight seats won in South Goa as a success only reinforces the leadership's disconnect from reality. South Goa was Congress's stronghold. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, the Congress GFP alliance had won decisively there. The real question is not why Congress won eight ZP seats, but why it lost the rest in a region it had recently dominated. That erosion should alarm any serious leadership. Instead, it is being brushed aside.

This is not about personal attacks or vendetta politics. It is about accountability. Political parties earn credibility when leaders accept responsibility after defeat. They lose relevance when leaders deny reality and cling to power.

If Amit atkar believes his strategy was sound, he should place it before the party openly. He should allow a genuine internal review. He should listen to dissent rather than suppress it. If he cannot do that, stepping aside would be an act of responsibility, not weakness.

Goa does not lack voters dissatisfied with the BJP. What it lacks is an opposition that is united, grounded and honest with itself. Until the Congress leadership sheds its arrogance and reconnects with its workers, the Zilla Parishad result will not be a warning. It will be a pattern.

OpEd

"Your Aadhaar is Not a Xerox Machine."

By Vaman Sakhalkar

Let me paint a picture we have all been in: You need to submit a PDF for a bank form, insurance claim, or that one government portal that still runs on Internet Explorer. The file is 6 MB. The portal says "Max 500 KB". You panic, Google "reduce PDF size online", and land on the first shiny website that pops up (iLovePDF, SmallPDF, whatever-PDF). Two clicks later, your Aadhaar, PAN, passport, and a selfie of you holding the Aadhaar are happily flying to some server in who-knows-where.

Congratulations, your entire identity is now chilling with strangers faster than you can say "OTP sent". We laugh about it. "Arey yaar, everyone does it." Yes, and everyone also shares WhatsApp forwards about Bill Gates giving away money. Same energy.

In an age where your Aadhaar number + DOB gets sold for ₹50 on Telegram groups, we are surprisingly chill about uploading the motherlode to random websites just to save 30 seconds. And whose fault is it?

A little bit ours, mostly the system's.

The government and banks have made it so painful to submit a document legally that the illegal feels like mercy. Want to compress a PDF without uploading? Good luck finding an offline tool that actually works on your phone.

Here's the joke: We treat Aadhaar like it's a visiting card.

Hotel receptionist: "Sir, ID proof?"

Us: "Here, take my entire existence in 300 dpi."

They scan it, save it on a computer that probably runs Windows 7 and has a password of "admin123", and we sleep peacefully knowing the motel now has better KYC on us than LIC.

And the cherry on top? Every year, the same bank, the same mutual fund, the same insurance company asks for fresh KYC. Bro, you already have my Aadhaar, PAN, face scan, fingerprint, blood group (okay, maybe not), but nothing has changed except my weight. Why am I doing KYC more often than I visit a dentist?

Insurance companies boast about AI that detects fraud in milliseconds, but can't figure out that "Rahul Sharma living at Flat 404, Milroc" in 2023 is probably the same guy in 2025. Meanwhile, the fraudsters are editing PDFs in Canva and laughing.

We have built the world's most ambitious biometric ID system, linked it to everything from rations to mutual funds, and then made the process of using it legally so frustrating that people happily commit mini data-suicide every day.

What we can do right now.

Do's: Always use a masked Aadhaar when sharing your Aadhaar number. It takes just a couple of seconds on the UIDAI website or app, and it hides your real number.

Store and share official documents through DigiLocker. Yes, the app feels slow and looks like it's stuck in 2012, but your documents stay safely on government servers.

When a hotel or anyone asks for ID proof, just show the original. Let them note down the number if needed. You're not required to give a photocopy or scan unless it's an official police check.

If a bank or company asks for fresh KYC and nothing in your details has changed, politely ask them to pull the information from DigiLocker or the Aadhaar system. Many will do it.

Don'ts: Never upload your Aadhaar, PAN, or passport to any online PDF tools, no matter how convenient they seem.

Never send your Aadhaar or other KYC documents over WhatsApp, not even to agents or people you trust. Never agree to unnecessary repeated KYC. If your address, name, or details are the same, question why they need fresh documents every year. We Indians invented zero, yoga, and butter chicken. Surely we can invent a system where submitting a PDF doesn't feel like selling a kidney on the dark web. Till then, stay safe, stay offline, and remember, your Aadhaar is not a pamphlet. Stop

Forged Health Certificate Used for Birch Nightclub Licence; FIR Registered

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: A health certificate submitted to obtain the initial trade licence for the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub was found to be forged, leading Mapusa Police to register a fresh FIR against the company operating the establishment, officials said on Monday.

The company is owned by the Luthra brothers, with Gaurav Luthra, Saurav Luthra and Ajay Gupta listed as directors.

The alleged forgery surfaced during proceedings of the magisterial inquiry committee appointed by the State government to investigate the fatal fire at the nightclub. While scrutinising documents submitted by the establishment to secure statutory clearances, the committee flagged serious



discrepancies in the health certificate produced by the operators.

According to officials, the document was allegedly fabricated in 2024 by scanning and reproducing a health certificate containing the name and signature of the local health officer.

The Health Officer attached to the Candolim Primary Health Centre, Dr Roshan Nazareth, informed the inquiry committee that he had never issued any health certificate to the company running the Birch by

Romeo Lane nightclub.

Further examination revealed that the same certificate was allegedly used not only to obtain the trade licence but also to secure an excise licence and other statutory approvals required for the operation of the establishment.

Following these findings, the Excise Department initiated an independent probe. After verifying the document's authenticity, the department concluded that the certificate was forged and subsequently filed

a formal complaint with Mapusa Police.

Confirming the registration of the case, Mapusa Deputy Superintendent of Police Wilson D'Souza said an FIR has been lodged against the company in which the Luthra brothers and Ajay Gupta are directors.

All three accused are currently in judicial custody in connection with the Birch by Romeo Lane fire incident. Police said further investigation is underway to ascertain the extent of the forgery and the specific roles played by those involved. The latest FIR adds to the series of criminal cases linked to the nightclub, as authorities continue to probe the circumstances surrounding the deadly fire and the alleged use of forged documents to obtain licences and permissions.



ZP Verdict Endorses NDA Governance, Review Needed in MLA Seats: CM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the Zilla Panchayat election results reflect public endorsement of the BJP-led NDA government and its development agenda, while conceding that the party will undertake a detailed post-poll review in constituencies where it failed to retain or improve its performance despite having sitting MLAs.

Addressing a press conference, Sawant said the NDA has secured a clear majority in both North Goa and South Goa Zilla Panchayats, attributing the outcome to voter confidence in the "double-engine" government and the sustained grassroots efforts of the party organisation.

"Both Zilla Panchayats are now under the NDA. I thank the people of rural Goa for placing their trust in the BJP and the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Sawant said, while acknowledging the role played by party workers, MLAs and ministers during the campaign. The Chief Minister said the mandate validates the government's development-oriented governance and its long-term vision, including the Viksit Goa 2037 roadmap. "People have accepted our policies, governance and commitment to development," he said.

However, Sawant admitted that the BJP lost some seats by narrow margins, including in constituencies represented by sitting MLAs.

ZP Results Only a 'Trailer'; 2027 Will Show Real Picture: Vijai Sardesai

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Calling the Opposition alliance's performance in the Zilla Panchayat elections a mere "trailer," Goa Forward Party president Vijai Sardesai on Sunday said the real test will come in the 2027 Assembly elections, provided the Opposition goes to the polls with clear strategy and coordination.

Sardesai dismissed claims that the Goa Forward Party had pulled off any political feat in Raia or Davorlim, saying the party's role was limited to channelising widespread public anger against the BJP. He said voters in both constituencies had rejected what he described as the BJP's long-used policy of division during elections.

He said that if the Opposition alliance



forms the government in 2027, it would make a serious push to empower Zilla Panchayats by devolving more powers and responsibilities. As part of this plan, he said the Rural Development Agency (RDA) department could be brought under the control of the Zilla Panchayat bodies.

Declining to comment on the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) and its leader Manoj Parab, Sardesai said he did not wish to respond to "pranks." He also apologised to the people of Fatorda for having earlier aligned with the RGP leadership in the constituency.

Congress Celebrates Gains in Goa Zilla Panchayat Elections – A Step Towards Reclaiming the State

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Indian National Congress in Goa is thrilled to announce our strong performance in the 2025 Zilla Panchayat (ZP) elections, marking a significant victory for the people of Goa who are increasingly turning away from the failures

of the BJP government. With Congress securing key seats across the state, we have built on our momentum from recent elections and demonstrated that the tide is turning.

In the 2020 ZP elections, Congress won just 4 seats but this year we have increased



our tally to 9 seats amid ongoing counting, showcasing our growing support base, particularly in South Goa. This

improvement follows our resounding victory in the South Goa Lok Sabha seat in 2024, where the people of Goa sent a clear message against the BJP's mismanagement, corruption, and neglect of local issues like unemployment, environmental degradation, and rising costs of living.

BJP Sweeps Penha de França, Succoro ZP seats with Massive 10,426-Vote Margin

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) registered a resounding victory in both Penha de França and Succoro Zilla Panchayat constituencies under the Porvorim Assembly segment, defeating the Congress by huge margins and securing a combined lead of 10,426 votes.

In Penha de França, BJP candidate Sandeep Salgaonkar defeated



Congress nominee Eldric D'Souza by 4,739 votes. Salgaonkar polled 7,511 votes, while D'Souza managed 2,772 votes. Revolutionary Goans

Party (RG) candidate Rohan Dhavade received 547 votes. Of the 11,155 votes cast, 10,956 were valid and 199 were rejected.

Salgaonkar, Asnodkar Thank Voters

Reacting to his victory, Sandeep Salgaonkar said the BJP's win was the result of extensive door-to-door campaigns and corner meetings. He described the mandate as unprecedented and credited the development works carried out in Porvorim under the leadership of Minister Rohan Khaunte.

Rash Driving Incident in Margao Leaves Several Vehicles Damaged, Two Injured

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A case of rash and negligent driving has been registered at Margao Town Police Station following an accident at Khareband on December 20, 2025, at around 8.20 pm.

According to a complaint lodged by HC 5290 Prasanna Prabhugaonkar, the accused driver, Anand Reddy, a resident near Maria Hall, Benaulim, originally from Uttar



Pradesh, was driving a Tata Tiago EV in a rash and negligent manner, endangering human life.

While proceeding from Rawanfond junction

towards Benaulim via Khareband road, the car allegedly dashed into a Tata V-30 mini pick-up moving in the same direction. After the

initial collision, the Tiago EV went on to ram into multiple vehicles parked in front of Raviraj Café at Khareband, Margao. As a result, two occupants of the Tata Tiago, including the driver, sustained bleeding injuries. The accident also caused damage to two cars, three scooters, and one mini pick-up.

Further investigation in the matter is being carried out by HC 5290 Prasanna Prabhugaonkar of Margao Town Police Station.

Three Arrested for Attempt to Murder in Canacona; Counter FIR Also Registered

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Canacona police have arrested three persons in connection with an attempted murder case reported from Fulamol on December 21, 2025, even as a counter-complaint has also been registered in the same incident.

According to a complaint lodged by Dhav Zore, a resident of Fulamol, the incident occurred at around 11.50 am when the accused—Janu Zore, Bombo Zore and Deepak Zore, all residents of Fulamol—allegedly assaulted his brother, Madhu Zore, with the intention to kill him

The accused were reportedly armed with a crowbar (parai) and a koita and, acting with common intention, struck Madhu Zore on the head with the crowbar and cut his left hand with the koita, besides assaulting him with kicks and fist blows, causing grievous bleeding injuries.

All three accused have been arrested in the said crime. Further



investigation in this case is being carried out by PSI Vishal Velip of Canacona Police Station.

Meanwhile, a counter-complaint has also been registered in connection with the same incident. As per the complaint filed by Janu Zore, r/o Fulamol, Canacona, it is alleged that on December 21, 2025, after 11.30 am at Fulamol, the accused Madhu Zore assaulted him on his left leg and left hand with an iron crowbar (parai).

Based on this complaint, Canacona Police have registered FIR No. 79/2025 under Section 118(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Act, 2023. Further investigation in the counter case is being conducted by ASI Rohidas Gaonkar of Canacona Police Station.

Elderly British Woman Found Dead at Homestay in Cavelossim

Team Goemkarponn

CAVELOSSIM: An unnatural death case has been registered following the death of a 78-year-old British national at a homestay in Mobor, Cavelossim.

According to police, at around 11.27 pm on December 21, 2025,

Colva Police received information from the Cavelossim Police Outpost that a woman was found lying unresponsive on a bed at Fernandes Home Stay Guest House, Khandi, Mobor, Cavelossim. On receiving the information, police alerted the 108 ambulance service. The ambulance



staff examined the woman and declared her dead. The deceased was later identified as Ann Stone (78), a British citizen, who was staying at the

said guest house. Police conducted a scene of occurrence panchanama, following which the body was shifted to the District Hospital, Margao, for further medico-legal formalities. Further enquiry in the matter is being carried out by LPSI Raksha Naik of Colva Police Station.

Man Found Dead at Ponda, Police Register Unnatural Death case

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: An unnatural death case has been registered at Ponda Police Station following the death of a 48-year-old man who allegedly died by suicide at Pattantaly, Ponda, on December 22, 2025.

Police informed that at around 7.06 am, information was received from Alliston Fernandes, a resident of Curti, Ponda, stating that his uncle, Anthony Santos Fernandes (48), a resident of Pattantaly, Ponda, had hanged himself from a ceiling fan using a bedsheet as ligature material.

On receipt of the information, police rushed to the spot and contacted the 108 ambulance service. The ambulance staff examined the victim and declared him dead.

During the course



of enquiry with family members, it was revealed that the deceased had been working in Australia since 2007 and had recently returned to Goa on December 6, 2025.

He was reportedly suffering from mental depression related to work and was undergoing medical treatment for the same.

Police conducted a scene of occurrence panchanama, and the body was later preserved at the South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for further medico-legal formalities.

Further enquiry in the matter is being carried out by PSI Sushant Gaonkar of Ponda Police Station.

School Van Driver Arrested in Porvorim for Alleged Molestation of 6-Year-Old Girl

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: The Porvorim Police have arrested a 47-year-old school van driver for the alleged molestation of a six-year-old girl.

The incident has sparked significant concern among parents in the Porvorim-Sucorro area regarding the safety of children using private

school transport.

The accused has been identified as Allabaksh Saiyyadabade, a resident of the 20-point area near Rastoli Devasthan, Porvorim. According to police reports,

Saiyyadabade was employed as a driver for a private Maruti Suzuki Eco van used to transport children to and from school. Details of the



Case The arrest took place on December 21, 2025, following a formal complaint. The police allege that the accused used his position of trust as the child's regular

transport provider to commit the offense during the pickup or drop-off routine.

The Porvorim Police have officially registered the case as Crime No. 101/2025. The accused faces charges under several stringent sections of the newly implemented Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the POCSO Act.

Cong-GFP Student Alliance Wins Goa University Students' Council After 15 Years

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: After a gap of 15 years, the Congress—Goa Forward Party (GFP) student alliance has returned to power at the Goa University Students' Council, defeating the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in what the Congress described as a victory of unity, democracy and progressive values.



Welcoming the outcome, Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) Media Department Chairman Amaranth Panjikar termed the result a historic mandate by students against divisive

politics and political interference in educational institutions. He said the alliance of the NSUI, the Congress students' wing, and the Goa Forward Students' Wing had prevailed due to unity and

sustained grassroots effort.

"This victory once again proves that nothing is impossible when democratic forces stand united. The students of Goa University have sent out a strong message by rejecting divisive politics and choosing unity, democracy and progressive values," Panjikar said in a press statement issued on Tuesday.

Drishti Marine Lifesavers Rescue Four From Drowning, Aid Swedish Tourist Stung by Jellyfish

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Drishti Marine lifesavers rescued four persons from drowning incidents along Goa's coastline over the weekend, provided first aid to a Swedish tourist stung by a jellyfish, and successfully traced three missing children at different beaches.



At Arambol sweetwater lake, a 27-year-old man from Gujarat, who had entered the lake with a group of seven, found himself in difficulty

after wading into water nearly two metres deep. Lifesaver Namdev Velnekar swiftly responded using a rescue tube and safely brought the man to the shore. The victim was reported to be in stable condition. At Baga beach, a family comprising two women aged 45 and 19, and a 16-year-old boy, ventured into deep waters

despite repeated warnings from lifesavers. Unaware of a strong rip current, all three were pulled into deeper waters. Lifesavers Saurav Kumar and Chandrashekhar, using rescue boards, along with Nand Kishor armed with a rescue tube, carried out a coordinated rescue operation and brought all three safely ashore.



Merciana Vas wins Cortalim ZP seat by 1,858 votes

Team Goemkarponn

CORTALIM: Independent candidate Merciana Vas secured a decisive victory in the Cortalim Zilla Panchayat constituency, defeating Congress candidate Sandra Rodrigues by a margin of 1,858 votes in the elections held on Sunday.

The result marked another setback for the Congress in Mormugao taluka, as campaign issues raised during the poll process, including double tracking of railways and other civic concerns, failed to convert into votes. Vas, the sitting ZP member, managed to retain her seat with a comfortable margin, maintaining steady leads in several key pockets of the constituency.

Cortalim saw a three-

cornered contest, with Merciana Vas contesting as an independent, Sandra Rodrigues representing the Congress, and Angelina Teles of the Revolutionary Goans Party also in the fray. However, as counting progressed, the contest narrowed down to a straight fight between the Congress and the independent candidate, with the RGP finishing a distant third.

The advantage for Vas became clear in the very first round of counting. She polled 2,834 votes, while Rodrigues secured 1,484 votes, opening up a substantial lead of 1,350 votes. RGP candidate Angelina Teles managed 679 votes in the opening round and remained well behind the frontrunners.

Fit For Life Inter-School Swimming Championships Conclude at Sangolda

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The two-day Fit For Life Inter-School Swimming Championships, organised by Fit For Life in association with The Ardee School, concluded on Sunday evening at The Ardee School campus in Sangolda.

The championship saw participation from over 75 schools and more than 200 young swimmers



from Goa, Belgaum, Bangalore, Hubli, Mysore and Kolhapur. Young athletes competed across multiple age groups and categories, displaying

strong competitive spirit, discipline and sportsmanship throughout the event.

The valedictory function was held in the

evening with Hon'ble Minister Shri Digambar Kamat gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Mr Yogiraj Kamat attended as Guest of Honour. Addressing the gathering, the dignitaries congratulated the participants and organisers for successfully hosting a large-scale inter-school sporting event and encouraged students to pursue sports alongside academics.

Adv Carlos Congratulates Aldona, Sirsaim Congress Winners; Laments Split in Oppn Votes

Team Goemkarponn

ALONDA: Aldona Congress MLA Adv Carlos Alvares Ferreira on Monday congratulated Congress candidates Maria Menezes and Nilesh Kambli on their victories in the Aldona and Sirsaim Zilla Panchayat constituencies respectively, while expressing concern over the division of opposition votes that, he said, benefitted the BJP across Goa.

Maria Menezes emerged victorious from the Aldona ZP constituency with a margin of 274 votes, unseating the BJP which had held the seat until now. Adv Carlos described the win as "especially sweet" as it marked the defeat of the ruling party in his home constituency. He also congratulated Nilesh Kambli, who won the Sirsaim ZP seat, a constituency represented in the Assembly by BJP



MLA and minister Nilkanth Halarnkar. Two villages of the Aldona Assembly constituency — Nachinola and Moira — fall under the Sirsaim ZP segment.

"You have to remember that in our constituency, it was a BJP seat. We unseated the BJP. There was a personal campaign carried out against me. Besides, there were other players in the fray who took the opposition's vote. Despite all this, we have secured a victory," Adv Carlos said.

However, the Congress MLA lamented the split in opposition votes, which he said resulted in the BJP's overall success in the Zilla Panchayat elections.

BJP wrests Sancoale ZP seat as newcomer Sunil Gawas scripts decisive victory

Team Goemkarponn

SANCOALE: The Bharatiya Janata Party stamped its authority in the Sancoale Zilla Panchayat constituency with newcomer Sunil Mahadeo Gawas registering a comfortable victory in one of the most keenly watched contests of the elections. With as many as eight candidates in the fray, Sancoale witnessed a crowded battlefield, but the BJP machinery, led by Power Minister Mauvin Godinho, ensured a clear



outcome in its favour.

Counting trends made the result evident early in the day. The first round itself gave the BJP a commanding advantage, which it managed to protect through subsequent rounds, ultimately winning the seat by a margin of 1,902 votes. Candidates

arrived at the counting centre in the morning amid high anticipation, but the numbers steadily tilted in favour of Gawas as the rounds progressed.

The opening round, covering the politically significant Chicalim and Dabolim areas, proved decisive. Gawas polled

2,819 votes, while Congress candidate Vasant Sahadev Naik managed 1,371 votes, giving the BJP an early lead of around 1,448 votes. The round underlined the organisational strength of the BJP in these pockets, with sustained ground-level campaigning by Chicalim sarpanch Kamla Prasad Yadav and deputy sarpanch Aishwarya Korgaonkar, both of whom actively mobilised support for the party in Dabolim and surrounding areas.

INC, BJP shares 1 each of the 2 ZP seats in Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Congress (INC) and BJP shared one each of the two ZP seats at stake in Canacona, with saffron brigade loosing much at odds Khola (23) with a slender margin of just 52 votes, while retaining BJP's prestigious Poinguinim(23) with a satisfactory margin over 858 votes.



In a three-cornered fight which incidentally reduced to one-to-one fight between BJP and INC (with AAP's candidate struggling to

reach 250) BJP's Tejal Pagi could garner only a slender margin of just 105 votes in 1st of the two rounds of counting with conceding lead to

Congress candidate at Betul-Naqueri VP, but reclaiming lead with a big margin in VP Khola booth and parts of Agonda VP booths.

PERNOD RICARD INDIA LAUNCHES SEAGRAM'S XCLAMAT!ON IN GOA

Goa: Pernod Ricard India announces the launch of Seagram's Xclamat!on in Goa, marking the company's most ambitious innovation in 30 years. Seagram's Xclamat!on is India's singular brand portfolio having five distinct spirit categories, Whisky, Vodka, Gin, Rum, and Brandy, all at a uniform price point, in the premium admix segment.

The brand is strategically positioned in a sizeable white space at the entry-level premium price segment, catering to India's rapidly growing young adult consumer base. The target consumer is 26 – 30 years. These consumers are effortless statement makers and gravitate towards what's distinct. They connect in tribes and when they get together in mixed gender gatherings, everyone has a different preference of beverage. That explains the growth of categories beyond Whisky, such as Gin, Vodka, Rum and Brandy.

With over 20 million consumers entering the legal drinking age category annually, Xclamat!on addresses an unmet market need for quality spirits at accessible premium pricing.

The brand's proposition, "It's time for Xclamat!on", positions it as a catalyst that transforms ordinary moments into extraordinary experiences, for India's new generation of consumers.

Jean Touboul, CEO, Pernod Ricard India, said, "For over three decades, Pernod Ricard India has been at the forefront of shaping the country's premium spirits industry."

Xclamat!on is a brand born from deep consumer insight, designed for India's next-gen consumer who seeks both premium quality and variety for mixed-gender social occasions. Xclamat!on is boldness, innovation, and celebration in a bottle.



The launch marks our first unified brand spanning five spirits categories — whisky, vodka, gin, rum and brandy — in the premium admix segment that is poised to outpace industry growth in the

next decade. Xclamat!on is not just a brand, it is a blend of the finest Indian spirits crafted with global know-how for an exceptional taste.

Xclamat!on's "World Crafted for Exceptional Taste" BTL philosophy is based on the range delivering exceptional taste at a very sweet price point. The unified brand spans five categories, each crafted to deliver unmatched value with distinct design, taste and positioning. The whisky is made from Speyside's Scotch malts matured in dual cask, blended with Indian grain spirits to give a smooth indulgence. The brandy depicts a perfect mixture

of Indian and French grape, matured in French Limousin cask to give a refined palate. The rum offers a recherché of India jaggery rum and aged Jamaican spirit, crafted in copper steel pots to give a bold taste. The vodka is a unique rhythm of Indian terroir, trickle filtered with Russian moonstone technology to give unmatched purity. The gin rises from the infusion of the natural flavors of the juniper berries from Germany with mixed botanicals of India to give 7 distinct flavors.

Xclamat!on is more than just a brand; it is a statement of boldness, innovation, and celebration. Its bold "!" mark shape is more than a design choice; it's a psychological trigger - humans are hardwired to pause and look twice when confronted with the "!" symbol, giving Xclamat!on unmatched stopping power in crowded retail environments.

From carol bells to countdown cheers: Here is Goa's must-do festive year-end guide

Goa: As the most magical time of the year approaches, get ready to soak in the festive cheer with unforgettable nights of sparkle, celebration and high-spirited energy across Goa. From beautifully decked venues echoing with Christmas melodies and warm festive vibes, to glittering floors and exhilarating midnight countdowns, Goa's Christmas and New Year season is all about coming together to celebrate joy with friends and family.

This New Year, through its campaign, BookMyShow is inviting you to "Take Resolutions You'll Actually Keep". Keep it simple: make just one resolution you'll actually stick to. Enjoy New Year's Eve at the celebration of your dreams, as you find your curated pick. With the city buzzing with experiences across rooftops, dance floors, festive carnivals and luxe parties, now is the perfect time to sort your Christmas and New Year's Eve plans. Whether you're looking forward to a cosy Christmas celebration or can't wait to ring in the New Year with electrifying parties across the city, BookMyShow has handpicked the most exciting events for you.

1. NYE 2026
SINQ NYE 2026 is Goa's ultimate New Year's Eve party at SINQ Nightclub, featuring pulsating DJ sets, aerial performers, fire dancers, premium open bar and gourmet buffet to make your countdown to 2026 a legendary celebration at SINQ Night Club, Goa on December 31, 2025

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Protests Target Bangladesh High Commission Following Mob Lynching Incident

were deployed to manage the crowd and prevent any breach of security. Despite these arrangements, some demonstrators were seen attempting to move past police barriers, with reports indicating that at least two layers of barricading were breached before authorities regained control. Protesters carried banners and placards and raised slogans



Grab your tickets on: BookMyShow

2. New Year Neon 2026 – Neon Eve
Experience a dazzling New Year's Neon Night 2026. This vibrant event promises a glow-in-the-dark celebration with neon lights, electrifying music and an energetic crowd. Perfect for friends and party lovers looking for a unique and high-spirited way to welcome 2026. Enjoy themed cocktails, lively beats from renowned DJs and a dynamic atmosphere that will light up your night. at Foxoso La Alphonso Beach Resort and Spa: Goa on December 31, 2025

Grab your tickets on: BookMyShow
3. LPK Waterfront New Year's Eve 2026
Ring in 2026 with an unforgettable New Year's Eve celebration at LPK Waterfront. Set against the picturesque backdrop of Candolim's backwaters, this iconic venue offers a blend of luxury, music and a vibrant party scene. Perfect for those seeking a premium experience with a live DJ, exquisite food and a celebratory ambiance. Dance under the stars and toast to a magnificent new year at one of Goa's most enchanting destinations at LPK Waterfront Candolim, Goa on December 31, 2025
Grab your tickets on: BookMyShow
Plan your year-end bash now, only on BookMyShow, India's leading entertainment destination.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

BJP Retains Lead but ZP Verdict Signals Grassroots Discontent

results point to the party's inability to translate Assembly-level influence into Zilla Panchayat victories, highlighting a disconnect between leadership and voters at the grassroots level, where local issues often outweigh state or national narratives.

The BJP also faced disappointment in Colvale, represented by sitting MLA Nikhant. Although the Colvale ZP seat had never formally been with the BJP, the party was widely seen as being in a strong position to wrest control this time. Its failure to do so underlined organisational weaknesses and ineffective local mobilisation. Sitting ZP member Kavita Kandolkar,

wife of former BJP MLA Kiran Kandolkar, retained the seat.

Admitting that the results were a setback, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the party would undertake a detailed assessment and take corrective steps going forward.

In contrast, the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party appeared to have held its ground. After contesting independently in 2020 and winning three seats, the regional party retained all three seats in the current elections. While this provided numerical stability to the BJP-led alliance, it also underlined that the BJP's losses were not offset by gains from its partner. The vote share

figures present a nuanced picture. The Congress, despite finishing a distant second in overall votes with 1,16,565 votes (18.93 per cent), converted its support effectively in constituencies where the BJP lost ground, enabling it to register key victories. Among regional players, the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) polled 56,331 votes (9.15 per cent), while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) secured 32,995 votes (5.35 per cent). The Goa Forward Party (GFP) followed closely with 30,573 votes, accounting for 4.96 per cent of the total vote share.

Political observers noted that while the BJP's dominant vote share reflects its continued statewide influence, the

fragmentation of the opposition vote among Congress, RGP, AAP, GFP and independents shaped constituency-level outcomes. At the same time, the Congress's ability to capitalise on BJP's local setbacks allowed it to punch above its overall vote share.

A comparison with the 2020 Zilla Panchayat elections is telling. Then, the BJP had secured a commanding 33 seats on its own, reinforcing its dominance across rural and semi-urban Goa. Five years later, the reduced tally suggests voter dissatisfaction over local governance, delivery of basic services and representation — areas where Zilla Panchayats play a critical role.

Bhutebhat locals catch burglar red-handed, hand him over to Vasco police

immediately clear whether he is a habitual offender.

Vasco police took custody of the accused and have begun further investigation to trace

the remaining suspects and recover the stolen property. Police are also verifying whether the gang is involved in similar theft cases reported in the area.

Vasco Police Station Trace Missing 16-Year-Old Girl Following Swift Investigation

thereafter safely brought back to Goa and, following due legal formalities, was reunited with her family. The Vasco Police have commended the prompt and coordinated efforts of the team involved in ensuring the safe return of the minor.

“Concluded In Record Time”: India–New Zealand Free Trade Pact Finalised In Nine Months

■ Piyush Goyal highlights faster negotiations, women led teams, and expanding ties with developed economies

New Delhi: India has successfully concluded negotiations for a free trade agreement with New Zealand in a record span of nine months, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced on Monday. Describing the timeline as exceptional, the minister said trade negotiations with developed economies typically take much longer to conclude.

Highlighting India's growing efficiency in trade diplomacy, Goyal noted that the country has previously completed negotiations with the United Arab Emirates in just 88 days. The India–



New Zealand agreement, he said, stands out as another example of India's ability to engage swiftly and effectively with global partners. The minister also underlined a notable aspect of the negotiations, stating that the agreement was largely finalised by women officers, with most of the negotiating tracks led by women. The chief negotiator for the pact was a joint secretary in the commerce ministry,

reflecting increasing leadership roles for women in high level economic diplomacy. Goyal described the agreement as the seventh free trade pact concluded under the current government. Since 2014, India has finalised trade agreements with Mauritius, the UAE, Australia, the United Kingdom, Oman, the European Free Trade Association bloc, and New Zealand. Among these, the agreements with the UK and New Zealand are yet to be implemented, while the others are already operational. Emphasising the strategic significance of these deals, the

minister said all recent trade pacts have been signed with developed economies that have higher per capita incomes than India. According to him, this reflects India's focus on strengthening trade partnerships with countries whose economies complement India's growth rather than directly competing with it.

Goyal further noted that the New Zealand agreement is India's third trade pact with a member of the Five Eyes grouping, which includes the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

2 J&K Men Arrested In Arunachal For Alleged Spying Activities

■ Total arrests rise to five as police probe alleged espionage links with Pakistan

New Delhi: Arunachal Pradesh Police have arrested two more men from Jammu and Kashmir in connection with an alleged espionage network accused of passing sensitive information to handlers based in Pakistan. The latest arrests took place in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, taking the total number of accused in the case to five. The two newly arrested individuals have been identified as Aijaz Ahmed Bhat and Bashir Ahmad Ganai. They were brought to Arunachal Pradesh and are currently in police custody as investigators continue to widen the probe. The arrests were made on December 18 following



sustained surveillance and intelligence inputs pointing to their involvement in collecting and sharing classified information from different parts of the border state. According to senior police officials, preliminary investigations suggest that the accused were actively gathering sensitive details and transmitting them to contacts operating from across the border. Forensic examination of seized materials is currently underway, and further disclosures are expected as the investigation progresses.

“Our First Responder Role”: India Announces \$450 Million Aid for Cyclone Hit Sri Lanka

■ Reconstruction package includes concessional credit, grants, and long term recovery support

New Delhi: India has announced a USD 450 million reconstruction and assistance package for Sri Lanka to support recovery efforts following the widespread devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah. The commitment was conveyed during high level engagements in Colombo, reinforcing India's position as a first responder and its long standing partnership with the island nation.

The assistance package was communicated by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is visiting Sri Lanka as the Special Envoy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During meetings with Sri Lanka's leadership, he handed over a letter from the Prime Minister outlining India's support and commitment to rapid reconstruction. The focus of discussions was on ensuring swift and effective delivery of the pledged assistance.

The package includes USD 350 million in concessional lines of credit



and USD 100 million in grants. It is being finalised in close coordination with the Sri Lankan government to align with priority recovery needs. India has described the initiative as a natural extension of its Neighbourhood First and Mahasagar policies, aimed at supporting close partners during times of crisis.

India's response began immediately after Cyclone Ditwah made landfall with the launch of Operation Sagar Bandhu. The relief mission saw the deployment of naval and air assets, including aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and other naval vessels carrying essential supplies. Indian Air Force helicopters operated across affected areas for over two weeks, supporting relief and evacuation efforts.

“Will Deal With It”: Rahul Gandhi Says Raising Doubts Over Polls Is Not Enough

■ BJP hits back after Congress leader flags institutional bias and electoral concerns during Berlin address

New Delhi: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has said that merely questioning the integrity of elections is insufficient and that the Opposition must actively build mechanisms to counter what he described as the misuse of institutions in India. His remarks were made during an address at the Hertie School in

Berlin and have triggered a sharp political response from the Bharatiya Janata Party.

In his speech, Gandhi claimed that India's institutional framework is under sustained pressure and has been turned into a political tool to benefit the ruling party. He alleged that investigative agencies and enforcement bodies are



selectively used against political opponents, while

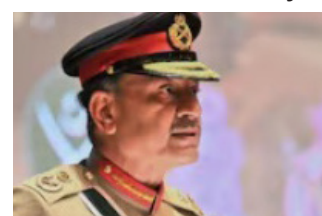
leaders aligned with the government remain untouched. According to him, this imbalance has created an environment where institutions are no longer performing their intended neutral role.

Gandhi further argued that the Congress views institutions as national assets built over decades, not as instruments of political control.

“90% Indigenous Technology”: Asim Munir's Claims on India Clash Face Scrutiny

■ Evidence contradicts Pakistan Army chief's assertions after Operation Sindoor

New Delhi: Pakistan's Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, has stirred controversy with claims that Pakistan relied on “90 per cent indigenous technology” during recent hostilities with India following Operation Sindoor, and that its forces successfully destroyed multiple advanced Indian military assets. The remarks were made while Munir was promoting an arms deal involving the sale of JF-17 fighter jets to Libya's Libyan National



Army. In a widely circulated video, Munir asserted that Pakistan's military showcased domestically developed technology during the conflict and used it to neutralise Indian Rafale, Su-30, MiG-29, Mirage 2000 aircraft and even the S-400 air defence system. These

statements, however, are not supported by verifiable evidence and have been challenged by multiple independent assessments.

There has been no confirmed proof of any Indian Rafale or other frontline fighter jets being shot down, nor any damage to the S-400 system. Satellite imagery, debris analysis, and open source intelligence have consistently failed to substantiate Pakistan's claims. No neutral defence analyst or international

observer has verified the losses cited by Munir.

Indian authorities have also flagged repeated attempts to circulate misleading content related to the conflict, including misidentified images and fabricated narratives aimed at exaggerating Pakistan's battlefield success. Claims regarding destroyed Indian aircraft have been publicly debunked, with experts clarifying that visuals shared online did not correspond to Indian platforms.

BCCI to Review Indian U-19 Asia Cup Final Performance After Heavy Loss to Pakistan

■ Board plans detailed discussions with Mhatre-led squad following 191-run defeat

New Delhi: India's U-19 cricket team, featuring star IPL talents like Vaibhav Suryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre, endured a disappointing end to the Asia Cup after losing the final to Pakistan by a massive 191-run margin. Despite an unbeaten run through the group stages, India could not match Pakistan's imposing total of 347 for 8, highlighted by Sameer Minhas' blistering 172 off 113 balls, including 17 fours and nine sixes.

Chasing such a formidable target proved too much, as India's top order was dismantled by Pakistan's pace trio—Ali Reza (4/42), Mohammad



Sayyam (2/38) and Abdul Subhan (2/29)—leaving India all out for 156 in just 26.2 overs. Suryavanshi contributed 26 runs, while Mhatre, representing Chennai Super Kings, managed only 2.

Following the loss, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

has decided to undertake a comprehensive review of the team's performance. During an online Apex Council meeting on December 22, members agreed to go beyond the standard post-tournament report submitted by team management. Detailed

discussions are expected with head coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar and captain Ayush Mhatre to examine strategic decisions and overall execution during the tournament.

The final also saw tense moments on the field, with Mhatre and Suryavanshi reportedly involved in a heated exchange with Pakistan players. It remains unclear whether this incident will be included in the upcoming review.

The Indian U-19 squad is now shifting focus to the Under-19 World Cup scheduled for January-February 2026.



Gautami Parit to Captain Goa U-19 Girls Netball Team at 69th SGFI National Games

■ DSYA deutes boys and girls squads for School National Games from December 25 to 29

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Goa, has deputed the Goa Under 19 boys and girls netball teams to participate in the 69th SGFI School National Games. The national level championship will be held in Mangalore, Karnataka, from December 25 to December 29, 2025.

Both teams will represent Goa against top school teams from across the country, as part of the School Games Federation of India calendar. The selection reflects the state's continued focus on promoting netball at the youth level and providing competitive exposure to emerging talent.

The Goa boys Under 19 team will be led by captain Shuban Naik. The squad includes Prajwal

Prabhu, Chinmay Desai, Kiran Devar, Advay Salelkar, Bhoopender Kashyap, Krunal Gaude, Sanket Kadam, Parth Desai, Raju Barona, Yeshwant Rawool and Tanush Gowda. The team will be coached by Sandeep Shetkar, with Amey Phadte serving as manager.

The Goa girls Under 19 team will be captained by Gautami Parit. The selected players are Sejal Netalkar, Akshara Dongre, Palak Kedar, Rushanka Dangui, Shrunkla Holkar, Aastha Shahapurkar, Vaibhavi Gawas, Dikshita Singh, Priyanka Fernandes, Rakhi Giri and Poonam Gunjal. The coaching responsibilities have been entrusted to Pratish Naik, while Megdaline D'Costa will accompany the team as manager.

“Winning Starts for 18 Juners and United Brothers” at ACL Season 7

■ Advocates Cricket League opens at Chicalim with close contests and standout performances

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The seventh season of the Advocates Cricket League got underway on Sunday at the SAG ground in Chicalim, with 18 Juners and United Brothers beginning their campaigns with impressive victories in their opening matches. The tournament once



again brought together members of the legal fraternity, blending competitive cricket with camaraderie and

sportsmanship.

In the opening match of the day, 18 Juners secured a 15 run win over Lotlikar Lions. Batting

first, 18 Juners posted 144 for 9 in their allotted 20 overs, with Viraj Tar top scoring with 37 runs, while Abhay Rivonkar and Sahish Mahambrey contributed useful knocks. In reply, Lotlikar Lions were restricted to 129 for 9 despite efforts from Aditya Naik, who scored 29, and Prashant Borkar with 25.



“Champions Crowned at Bambolim”: Goa University Athletics Meet Concludes

■ GVM's Farmagudi and Dnyanprassarak Mandal's Assagao top men's and women's events at 38th inter collegiate championship

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa University's 38th Inter Collegiate Athletics Championship for men and women concluded with strong performances and new records, as colleges from across the state competed at the S A G Athletics Stadium in Bambolim. The three day championship was held from December 16 to 18 and witnessed participation from around 900 athletes representing 46 colleges affiliated with Goa University.

GVM's Gopal Govind



Poy Raiturcar College of Commerce and Economics, Farmagudi, Ponda emerged overall champions in the men's category, while Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre, Assagao secured the overall women's title. The event highlighted the

depth of athletic talent at the collegiate level and drew enthusiastic support throughout the competition.

The championship was inaugurated by the Director of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Goa, who attended the opening ceremony as chief guest. Over three days,

athletes competed across track and field disciplines, with several standout performances resulting in records being rewritten.

Three meet records were broken during the championship. In the women's 400 metres hurdles, Riddhi Sawant of Dnyanprassarak Mandal's

College, Assagao clocked an impressive 1 minute 12.02 seconds. The men's 4x400 metres relay record was set by GVM's G P P R College, Farmagudi, with a timing of 3 minutes 32.98 seconds. In the men's hammer throw, Bhosle Rudra of Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College,

Assagao established a new mark with a throw of 37.71 metres. Individual excellence was also recognised, with Vishal S Das of VVM's Shree Damodar College of Commerce and Economics, Margao named Best Athlete in the men's section.