



GCZMA Allows Review Plea of Carrick Bend Realty

■ Authority cites lack of show-cause notice before demolition order

■ Directs fresh notice and hearing, while holding due process was followed in Vaghani matter

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: After marathon hearings spread over two days and lasting nearly three-and-a-half hours, the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has partially reviewed its earlier demolition directions, allowing the review application filed by Carrick Bend Realty LLP while dismissing a similar



plea moved by Ajay Kumar Vaghani. In a detailed seven-page order issued late at night, the GCZMA ruled that Carrick Bend Realty LLP must be granted an opportunity of hearing, as no show-cause notice had been issued prior to the demolition directions passed on October 7,

2025. The authority held that the absence of such notice amounted to a procedural lapse, warranting reconsideration of the matter. Accordingly, the GCZMA permitted Carrick Bend Realty LLP to pursue its review application and directed that a formal show-cause notice be issued based on the site inspection report dated June 13, 2024. The firm has been asked to file a comprehensive

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Newly Built Ropeway Collapses During Trial Run in Bihar's Rohtas

■ Accident during test run causes panic and damages equipment

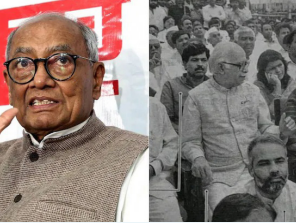
Rohtas (Bihar): A newly constructed ropeway in Bihar's Rohtas district collapsed during a trial run on Friday, officials and residents said, triggering panic among workers and onlookers as the cable car system, built to transport people across a river valley, gave way without any passengers on board. The incident occurred when engineers and technicians were conducting a dry run to test the strength and functionality of the ropeway ahead of its planned inauguration for public use. Eyewitnesses reported that one of the support cables snapped suddenly, sending the carriage and parts of the suspension system crashing to the ground. Although no passengers were present at the time, several workers and supervisors near the landing stations rushed to safety as alarm bells rang and parts of the structure fell. Local residents gathered around the site immediately after the collapse, expressing shock at the failure of the infrastructure project that had been touted as a landmark engineering achievement for the region. Officials said that initial assessments indicated structural failure in one of the key cable lines, but a detailed inquiry has been ordered to determine the exact cause

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Digvijaya Singh's Praise for BJP-RSS Organisation Sparks Political Controversy

Congress leader's remarks trigger sharp reactions across party lines

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh's comments acknowledging the organisational strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh have triggered a political controversy, drawing sharp reactions from leaders across party lines and reigniting debate over political strategy and party discipline. Singh, speaking during a public interaction, said the BJP and the RSS possess a strong and disciplined organisational structure that has helped them mobilise supporters effectively and achieve sustained electoral success. He remarked that the RSS's extensive network and structured functioning give the BJP an organisational



advantage, allowing it to remain connected to cadres at the grassroots level across the country.



Porvorim Road Closure Notice Issued

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Commuters travelling on the busy ODP road will face major traffic restrictions for two months as the North Goa District Magistrate, Ankit Yadav, IAS, has ordered the closure of key stretches from January 2 to March 2, 2026, to facilitate Phase-I infrastructure works. Invoking powers under Sections 115, 116 and 117 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and acting on the recommendation of the

Superintendent of Police (Traffic), North Goa, the District Magistrate directed the closure of the road stretch from P16 near the ODP road to P20 near Damini de Goa, as well as the stretch from P61 near Kadamba Restaurant to P55 near the O'Coqueiro junction. While the closures will restrict normal movement, the order mandates that one lane of the existing carriageway be kept open to allow vehicles travelling from Mapusa towards

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Magisterial inquiry report on Birch by Romeo Lane fire submitted to State govt

■ Panel flags regulatory failures, names lapses by authorities; 60 recommendations made to prevent repeat of tragedy that killed 25

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The magisterial inquiry committee probing the deadly fire at the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in Arpora has submitted its report to the State government, officially concluding its investigation into one of Goa's worst recent tragedies. Sources confirmed that the report squarely attributes the incident to serious shortcomings in regulatory oversight and non-compliance with safety norms. The fire, which broke out in early December, claimed 25 lives—20 of them staff members working at the nightclub and five



tourists. In the aftermath of the tragedy, the State government constituted a magisterial inquiry committee on December 8 under the chairmanship of the North Goa District Collector, directing it to complete the probe within seven days. The committee carried out a

detailed examination and submitted its findings on December 23, 2025. The report has since been forwarded to the Chief Secretary, paving the way for the government to decide on further action. As part of its mandate, the inquiry examined the origin and cause of the

fire, reviewed licences and permissions issued to the establishment, and assessed whether mandatory fire safety and other statutory norms were followed. Statements of officials, staff and other concerned individuals were recorded during the course of the investigation. The panel also mapped the role and accountability of various departments involved in granting approvals and monitoring compliance. Sources said the report exposes glaring lapses in the manner in which clearances were granted, with responsibility fixed on authorities who issued permissions despite evident deficiencies.

Justice Cannot Wait: The CJI Should Take Suo Moto Cognisance of Goa Fire

The tragic fire at a nightclub in Goa that claimed 25 lives is yet another grim reminder of how preventable disasters can turn into mass fatalities when safety norms are ignored, enforcement mechanisms fail, and institutional oversight is weak. While Chief Justice of India Surya Kant's condemnation of the incident underscores the gravity of the loss, the response must go beyond words of sorrow. The Supreme Court must take up the case suo moto, appoint an independent monitor — ideally a retired Supreme Court or High Court judge — to oversee the inquiry, and ensure that those responsible are held accountable without fear or favour.

India has witnessed similar tragedies in the past: stampedes in stadiums, nightclub fires, bridge collapses, and poorly regulated public venues. Time after time, judicial inquiries and official committees produce voluminous reports that are filed away, while perpetrators, whether building owners, bureaucrats, licence issuers, or enforcement officials, escape meaningful punishment. Victims' families are left with compensation but no closure. To break this cycle, the judiciary must step in decisively.

The Supreme Court's suo moto jurisdiction exists precisely for such situations where systemic failures lead to loss of life on a large scale, and where there is a clear public interest in robust judicial oversight. The fact that CJI Surya Kant has publicly condemned the Goa fire signals awareness at the highest level of the judiciary. Now that awareness must translate into action. A suo moto petition by the Supreme Court will not only fast-track justice but also send a clear message to authorities that lapses in public safety will no longer be tolerated.

Central to this process should be the appointment of an independent monitor, preferably a retired High Court or Supreme Court judge, to oversee the inquiry into the incident. This monitor must have the authority to review evidence, scrutinise the findings of police and administrative investigations, and ensure transparency at every stage — from the collection of evidence to the final accountability report. Independent oversight is crucial because official probes, left to internal mechanisms, often lack credibility and tend to shield powerful

"In cases like the Uphaar tragedy, the collapse of the PUNE STUDIO FIRE, or the AMRI Hospital fire in Kolkata, delays in justice compounded the grief of victims' families. Courts, when finally moved, delivered verdicts years later, long after public attention had shifted. A suo moto approach from the Supreme Court in the Goa case can preempt such delays, keep the spotlight on accountability and compel authorities to act decisively."

Judicial oversight is not merely about punishment; it is about deterrence and systemic reform. The Supreme Court's intervention should also aim to ensure that fire safety and public hazard regulations across the country are re-examined, updated and enforced strictly."

interests.

The nightclub fire in Goa demands answers to several urgent questions: Were fire safety rules followed? Was the establishment licensed to operate? Were emergency exits functional and accessible? Did local fire and police departments conduct timely inspections? Were any warnings issued to the management about safety hazards? If lapses are identified, why were they ignored and by whom? An independent judicial monitor can ensure that these questions are answered rigorously and honestly, free from political pressure or administrative inertia.

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Judicial oversight is not merely about punishment; it is about deterrence and systemic reform. The Supreme Court's intervention should also aim to ensure that fire safety and public hazard regulations across the country are re-examined, updated, and enforced strictly. Regulatory frameworks exist on paper, but enforcement is often lax, inspections are perfunctory, and penalties are weak. A judge-monitored inquiry can recommend not only individual culpability but also institutional reforms that prevent repetition of such calamities.

Critics may argue that judicial intervention intrudes upon the domain of the executive, but when executive mechanisms fail to protect citizens, the judiciary has both the right and responsibility to intervene. The Supreme Court has done so in the past, in matters ranging from environmental protection to custodial deaths and disaster management. The Goa nightclub fire, with its appalling loss of young lives celebrating a night out, unquestionably qualifies as a case warranting such intervention.

Families of the victims deserve answers, but more importantly, they deserve assurance that such a tragedy will not recur. The wider public — club-goers, families, workers in entertainment venues and residents of towns and cities — need to know that safety standards are not optional. When a society allows lax enforcement of safety regulations, it consigns its citizens to recurrent risks.

Chief Justice Surya Kant's condemnation was necessary, but it must be followed by firm judicial action. The Supreme Court should invoke suo moto powers, appoint a judicial monitor, and oversee the inquiry until its conclusion. Only a transparent, credible, and relentless pursuit of truth and accountability can provide justice to the victims and catalyse the systemic change India desperately needs.

In the aftermath of loss, legal oversight must fill the void left by administrative failure. Anything less would be a disservice to the memory of those who perished and to the principle of justice itself.

LETTERS

'A Victory Born from True Dedication and Care'

The recent Zilla Panchayat elections brought a beautiful mandate, with the BJP-MGP alliance winning around 32 of the 50 seats. This is more than a political success. It is a warm embrace from the people of Goa for a leader who genuinely puts them first. Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has been the driving force behind this victory. He works day and night without rest, travelling across villages, holding lively corner meetings, and listening patiently to every concern. Families shared their worries, farmers spoke of their struggles, and he responded with real solutions. Even when the opposition came together strongly, the people's trust in him prevailed, sending a clear message for the road to 2027.

On the ground, his initiatives have quietly yet profoundly changed lives. The Goa Staff Selection Commission has given thousands of young Goans fair chances at government jobs through honest, merit-based selection, restoring hope and confidence in the system. The Mhaje Ghar Yojana has brought joy to so many homes by regularizing ownership, giving families long-awaited security and pride. His vision for tomorrow excites the youth. Inviting Starlink executives shows his openness to new ideas, possibly bringing fast internet to remote areas first, helping students learn and businesses grow. When crime concerns rose, he acted firmly by strengthening police leadership, bringing in capable officers to keep our neighborhoods safe. This win feels warm because it comes from a leader who listens with his heart, works with sincerity, and dreams big for every Goan. Thank you, Dr. Pramod Sawant, for your selfless service.

- Vaman S Sankhalder, Harvalem

Birch fire inquiry report confirms What citizens already knew

The findings of the birch fire inquiry report, which place responsibility squarely on government departments, have come as little surprise to the public. For years, citizens have spoken about institutional failure, poor oversight, and corruption, and the report appears to merely formalise what has long been part of public discourse.

What is troubling is not just the confirmation of lapses, but the familiarity of the pattern. Committees are appointed, reports are written, blame is apportioned, and yet accountability remains elusive. Fires occur, lives are disrupted, public resources are damaged, and after the initial outrage fades, the system moves on with minimal consequences for those responsible. The birch fire was not an unforeseeable disaster. Warnings were issued, risks were evident, and preventive measures were either ignored or inadequately implemented. When an inquiry finally acknowledges departmental failures, it raises a basic question: why does action only follow catastrophe? More importantly, why do such reports rarely translate into meaningful reform or deterrence?

Corruption in this context is not limited to bribery or personal gain. It also includes negligence, apathy, and the casual disregard for public safety that thrives when officials know they are unlikely to be held accountable. Unless responsibility is fixed at the individual level and penalties are enforced, inquiry reports will remain exercises in damage control rather than instruments of change.

The public does not need more confirmation of what it already suspects. It needs transparency, time-bound action, and visible consequences. Otherwise, the next inquiry report will read much the same, following yet another avoidable tragedy.

- Santan Fernandes, Guirdolim

Goa Govt Extends Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption for Mining Vehicles Till Mar 2025

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Government of Goa has issued a notification exempting motor vehicles engaged in mining activities from the payment of motor vehicle tax for the period from October 1, 2020 to March 31, 2025.

The notification, issued by the Directorate of Transport, states that the exemption is granted under Section 11(2) of the Goa Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1974, and applies to vehicles registered on the portal of the Department of Mines (DoM).



As per the notification, the exemption is subject to the condition that the vehicles must remain in the possession and ownership of their respective owners and should not be used for

non-mining purposes.

In case the vehicles are found to be used outside mining activities, the owners will be liable to pay the applicable motor vehicle tax on a pro-rata basis.

The government has clarified that the exemption will not apply to vehicles that have already paid motor vehicle tax for the said period prior to the publication of this notification in the Official Gazette.

The notification will come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and has been issued with the approval of the Government of Goa.

The order has been signed by Director of Transport Kedar A. Naik, by order and in the name of the Governor of Goa.

Goa CM Reaffirms Zero-Tolerance Policy Against Drugs

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: The Government of Goa has reiterated its firm commitment to combating drug abuse, terming it a serious threat to society and particularly to the youth, during the 30-day Special Awareness Campaign on "Drug Abuse – Drugs: A Menace to Society" organised by the Goa State Legal Services Authority (GSLSA) under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

The campaign event was held at the Bombay High Court of Goa in the presence of the Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant, along with judges of the High Court, senior officials and dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant stated that drug abuse destroys lives, families and society at large, and poses a grave danger to young people, who are the strength of Goa. He asserted that the state government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards drugs and has significantly strengthened anti-drug laws, intensified surveillance and cracked down on drug dealers and trafficking networks.

The Chief Minister further highlighted improved coordination with central agencies, adoption of modern technology in enforcement



and strict action against offenders. He stressed that awareness campaigns, particularly at the school level, play a crucial role in preventing drug abuse before it takes root.

The government also lauded the efforts of GSLSA for conducting extensive school-level awareness programmes and placing emphasis on rehabilitation alongside enforcement. With the release of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as part of the campaign, authorities underlined the importance of a structured and coordinated approach in tackling drug-related issues.

The campaign aligns with the national Nasha-Mukt Bharat vision, reinforcing the message that the fight against drugs is a shared responsibility of the government, institutions and society.

The event underscored Goa's resolve to ensure that drugs do not destroy its social fabric, while combining strict enforcement with awareness, legal support and rehabilitation initiatives.

Unity Mall at Chimbel secures all NOCs and Licence

■ Set to boost employment and artisan opportunities

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Department of Tourism has officially commenced construction of the Pradhan Mantri Ekta Mall (Unity Mall) project at Chimbel only after obtaining all necessary No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the concerned departments along with the construction licence from the office of the Village Panchayat, Chimbel.

The project is fully compliant with statutory requirements and is located outside the buffer zone.



It is pertinent to note that the District Court has taken the construction licence on record, and no stay order has been issued, allowing the project to proceed.

The Unity Mall will create employment opportunities for the residents of Chimbel and surrounding areas. The project will

provide meaningful and sustainable work, helping to enhance livelihoods, foster financial independence, and support overall socio-economic growth.

In addition to employment, the project focuses on skill development and entrepreneurship. The project is part of the

Central Government's "One District, One Product" initiative and artisans and entrepreneurs will get a dedicated platform to showcase their products. This initiative will enhance tourism activities while strengthening the capacity of local talent to engage effectively in the modern economy.

Minister for Tourism, Rohan Ashok Khaunte, stated, "The Unity Mall is a landmark initiative that will provide meaningful and sustainable employment to the local community while empowering artisans and entrepreneurs. It



CJI Flags Drug Abuse as Major Threat to Youth, Calls for Collective Action in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant has cautioned that drug and substance abuse often begins innocuously through curiosity or peer pressure but eventually causes irreversible harm to individuals, families and society. Stressing that the nation's future rests on its younger generation, he urged youth to remain vigilant and actively reject drugs, warning that addiction creates a

deceptive sense of control before taking complete hold of lives. The Chief Justice was speaking in Goa at the launch of a 30-day drug abuse awareness campaign, initiated by the Bombay High Court Goa Bench in association with the Goa State Legal Services Authority. He said combating the drug menace requires a collective response, involving parents, educational institutions, legal authorities, government agencies and the public at large.

Birch Nightclub Case: Sessions Court Grants Interim Arrest Protection to Luthra Brothers Till Dec 30

Team Goemkarponn

Mapusa: The Additional Sessions Court in Mapusa has granted temporary protection from arrest until December 30 to Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra, co-owners of the nightclub Birch by Romeo Lane, in connection with a document falsification case registered against their firm, GS Hospitality Goa Arpora LLP.

The court has also issued notice to the investigating officer seeking a response in the matter.

The order comes amid parallel proceedings in the nightclub fire case. On the



same day, the Mapusa Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court extended the police custody of the Luthra brothers until December 29 in connection with the December 6 fire incident

at the club that claimed the lives of 25 people and left several others injured.

After the completion of ten days of police interrogation, the accused were produced before the JMFC court. The

Anjuna Police sought an additional four days of custody to recover original documents considered crucial to the investigation. The court granted the request after the accused assured full cooperation with the probe. The Luthra brothers were deported from Thailand on December 16, following which they were arrested in Delhi. A Delhi court granted a 48-hour transit remand, enabling their transfer to Goa. They were produced before the Mapusa JMFC court on December 17, which initially remanded them to five days of police custody.

Six Missing Children Traced, Six Rescued From Drowning on Goa Beaches on Busy Christmas Day

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Amid heavy Christmas footfall along Goa's coastline, Drishti Marine lifesavers had a hectic day on Wednesday, successfully tracing six missing children, rescuing six persons from drowning, administering first aid to jellyfish sting victims, and providing medical assistance to an injured foreign tourist.

At Arambol beach, a 33-year-old woman from Cunchelim near Mapusa waded into the sweetwater lake but encountered difficulty navigating the water at a depth of nearly three metres. Lifesaver Anna Malekar noticed her distress and promptly used a rescue tube to bring her to safety. In another incident at the same beach, a seven-year-old girl was found unaccompanied. Swift coordination between lifesaver Namdev Girap, tower staff and Drishti



Marine's vehicle patrol led to the child being reunited with her father and uncle after completing mandatory verification procedures. At Mandrem beach, two 23-year-old men from Hyderabad, who were part of a group of four, were suddenly pulled into deeper waters and were unable to swim back. Lifesaver Dattaguru Korgaonkar, assisted by Jatin Girap on a jet ski, rescued both men from approximately 70 metres offshore using a rescue tube.

At Morjim beach, a man and a woman from Mumbai experienced difficulty in rough sea conditions. Lifesaver

Pramod Mahale, assisted by Ketan Nagvekar on a jet ski, successfully rescued the pair using a rescue board.

At the crowded Baga beach, three children went missing in separate incidents but were safely traced by Drishti Marine lifesavers. A three-year-old boy from Nashik was located at another section of the beach by lifesaver Sujan Nagvekar and reunited with his family after verification. Later, a four-year-old boy from Bengaluru was traced by lifesaver Sajjan Mote, while a nine-year-old girl was found at a distant stretch of the beach by lifesaver Saurav Kumar,

with both children safely handed over to their families.

At Calangute beach, a three-year-old boy from Kolhapur, Maharashtra, went missing and was later found near the main entrance of the beach. Lifesaver Vinod Gaonkar ensured the child was safely reunited with his family following verification.

At Candolim beach, a seven-year-old boy from Punjab encountered difficulty while swimming and was rescued by lifesaver Vikash Salgaonkar using a rescue tube. In another incident at the same beach, a three-year-old girl from Mumbai went missing after wandering away.

Lifesaver Makhijul Mistri spotted the child and safely reunited her with her family. At Baina beach, a 20-year-old tourist from Jammu and Kashmir suffered a jellyfish sting while swimming.

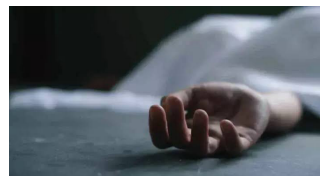
Man Brought Dead at SGDH Margao; Suicide by Pesticide Consumption Suspected

Team Goemkarponn

Margao: A 42-year-old man was found dead at the South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, on Wednesday night, with police suspecting suicide by pesticide consumption.

According to police, a phone call was received from the Casualty Police of SGDH Margao at around 8:54 pm on December 25, 2025, informing that a male person had been brought dead to the hospital after allegedly consuming pesticide.

During the enquiry, police identified the deceased as Shivanand Kanabaregi (42), a resident of San Jose De Areal, Curtorim. Preliminary investigation revealed that Kanabaregi had been suffering from tuberculosis for over a year. He was admitted to the TB Hospital, Margao, on November 28, 2025, and was discharged on December 15, 2025, after receiving necessary medical treatment. However, he continued to



remain under medication.

Police stated that the deceased was reportedly frustrated due to his prolonged illness, which is believed to have driven him to take the extreme step. An inquest panchanama was conducted over the body, following which it was sent for post-mortem examination. The autopsy conducted by the Police Surgeon stated that the cause of death has been kept reserved, pending the chemical analysis report of the visceral organs. However, the surgeon observed signs suggestive of copper poisoning.

After completion of legal formalities, the body was handed over to the family members for final religious rites. Further investigation in the matter is being carried out by PSI Sagar Kamat of the Margao City Police Station (MCPS).

Elderly Woman Found Dead at Gogol Apartment

Team Goemkarponn

Margao: A 73-year-old woman was found dead at her residence at Anuradha Apartments, Housing Board, Gogol, on Wednesday evening. Police have stated that the death occurred due to medical reasons.

According to police, at around 6:24 pm on December 25, 2025, a phone call was received from Gokul Ganguly, informing that a woman was found lying unresponsive on her bed at Anuradha Apartments, Gogol.

Police rushed to the spot and identified the deceased as Rekha Kavlekar (73), a resident of Anuradha Apartments, Housing Board, Gogol, Margao. The 108 ambulance staff who arrived at the scene declared her dead.

During enquiry, police recorded the statement of the deceased's niece, Ashtami Ganguly, a



resident of Gogol, Margao, who stated that the deceased was living alone and that family members were regularly providing meals and checking on her.

An inquest panchanama was conducted over the body, following which it was sent for post-mortem examination at the South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao. The autopsy conducted by the Police Surgeon certified the cause of death as "bilateral lobar pneumonia in a person with hypertensive changes in the liver and kidneys."

After completion of legal formalities, the body was handed over to the family members for final religious rites.



Ponda: Pedestrian Injured After Being Hit by Scooter at Bhoma

Team Goemkarponn

BHOMA: Based on a state complaint filed by HC 5566 Santosh Patil of Mardol Police Station, an accident occurred on 24/12/2025 at around 8:00 am at Kalimati, Bhoma, Ponda.

The accused, Sairaj Metri, resident near Sugar Factory, Dharbandora, was riding an Activa scooter from Ponda towards Panaji in a rash and negligent manner. Upon reaching Kalimati, Bhoma, he allegedly dashed into a pedestrian woman, Sarita Naik, resident of Madbhatwada, Bhoma, Ponda, while she was crossing the road.

Due to the impact, Sarita Naik fell on the road and sustained a fracture injury to her right leg. She has been admitted to GMC Bambolim for treatment.

Car driver allegedly assaults scooterist with knife after crash at Verna junction

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: A road accident at a three-road junction near Maharaja Hotel, Verna, on December 24 escalated into a violent confrontation after a car driver allegedly assaulted and threatened a scooter rider with a knife before fleeing the scene.

According to the complaint, Francis De Mello, a resident of Poriebhath, Verna, the



incident occurred at around 6 pm when a Swift Dzire car, travelling from Titan towards Verna, allegedly dashed into a scooter that was crossing the road. The impact caused the scooter rider and the vehicle to fall onto

the tar road, resulting in injuries to the rider.

De Mello alleged that after the collision, the car driver identified as Jogan L D'silva, a resident of Verna, parked his vehicle in the middle of the road and approached him holding a knife. The accused allegedly slapped De Mello and criminally intimidated him by threatening to kill him, before fleeing the spot along with the car.

Quepem Youth found dead at Avedem Residence

Team Goemkarponn

Quepem: A 29-year-old man allegedly died by suicide by hanging at his residence at Avedem, Quepem, on Friday morning.

According to police, at around 10:27 am on December 26, 2025, a phone call was received from Bhupendra Dessai, a resident of Avedem,



Quepem, informing that a person had committed suicide at his house.

Police rushed to the spot and identified the deceased as Aliston Fernandes (29), a resident of Qieneabhat, Avedem,

Quepem. Preliminary investigation revealed that Fernandes had allegedly hanged himself using a nylon rope tied to a ceiling fan inside his residence.

During the enquiry, police recorded statements of the family members, who informed that the deceased was suffering from mental health-related issues, which could have driven him to take the extreme step.

Almaty charter service begins for the season with first flight arrival at MIA, Mopa

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: Continuing the steady flow of international arrivals this tourist season, the first seasonal charter flight from Almaty, Kazakhstan, carrying 174 passengers operated by Fly Arystan, arrived at Manohar International Airport (MOPA) today at 10:25 a.m., further expanding Goa's international connectivity.

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, accorded a warm welcome to the arriving passengers with rose buds and a brass band performance outside the arrival area, offering visitors an introduction to Goa's hospitality and cultural warmth.



Speaking about the charter arrival, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Shri Rohan Ashok Khaunte, said, "Strengthening international air connectivity remains a key focus area for Goa's tourism development. By engaging newer source markets and supporting

seasonal charter operations, Goa continues to expand its global outreach in a planned and sustainable manner. The commencement of charter services from Almaty this season reflects growing international confidence in Goa as a destination and aligns with our efforts

to attract quality visitors while ensuring balanced and inclusive tourism growth across the State."

Highlighting the operational aspect, Director of Tourism, Government of Goa, Shri Kedar Naik, stated, "The arrival of the first charter flight of the season from Almaty marks an important addition to this season's international charter operations. Such services contribute to maintaining steady international tourist movement during the season"

The seasonal charter service from Almaty is expected to add further momentum to international tourist arrivals during the ongoing season.



CM Sawant pays tribute to Sahibzadas at Veer Bal Diwas event in Vasco

Team Goemkarponn

Vasco: Veer Bal Diwas was solemnly observed at the Gurudwara at Mangor Hill, Vasco, on Friday to commemorate the supreme sacrifice and fearless bravery of Sahibzadas Baba Jorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh, the younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. The event drew devotees and dignitaries who gathered to pay homage to the young martyrs whose courage continues to inspire generations.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant visited the Gurudwara along with Vasco MLA Krishna Daji Salkar, Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar and other dignitaries. The Chief Minister also participated in the langar and was seen serving food to devotees alongside the two MLAs, reflecting the spirit of seva associated with the occasion.

Speaking on the sidelines, Sawant said Veer Bal Diwas is being observed across the country following an

appeal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to honour the martyrdom of the Sahibzadas. "I have come to the Gurudwara at Mangor on behalf of the Goa government to pay tribute to Sahibzadas Baba Jorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh. Their bravery and sacrifice will always remain a source of inspiration, especially for today's youth," Sawant said.

He further said the observance reflected India's ethos of unity and harmony. "India is a peace-loving nation where people of different religions live together in harmony. This Gurudwara, the oldest in Mormugao taluka, stands as a symbol of that unity. The Gurudwara management has done commendable work in observing Veer Bal Diwas in a meaningful manner," the Chief Minister added.

The programme concluded with prayers and collective remembrance, as devotees reaffirmed the values of faith, courage and sacrifice embodied by the Sahibzadas.

Congress Alleges Mob Attack, Attempted Arson and Molestation in Porvorim; Demands FIR and Arrests

Team Goemkarponn

Porvorim: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) on Thursday alleged that an armed mob carried out a violent attack on a residence at Donwaddo, Salvador do Mundo, Porvorim, late on the night of December 22, and accused the ruling BJP of patronising criminal elements in the area.

Addressing the media through a press note, GPCC President Amit Patkar said the incident involved organised mob violence, attempted arson and the molestation of women family members. According to the complaint filed at the Porvorim Police Station, a large group allegedly armed with swords, iron rods and other weapons arrived at

the residence, burst high-intensity fireworks, hurled burning crackers at the compound gate and attempted to set the house on fire, while issuing death threats.

The Congress claimed that women members of the family were molested during the incident and that the attackers openly invoked the name of Porvorim MLA and Cabinet Minister Rohan Khaunte while threatening the family. The mob allegedly warned the family to silence Sanjeev Naik, former Sarpanch of Salvador do Mundo and President of the Bandhari Samaj, for speaking against the criminalisation of politics, participating in the Goa Against Goonda Raj movement, and demanding justice in the Rama Kankonkar assault case.



Protest forces shutdown of newly opened Shelim-Polem toll plaza

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The newly inaugurated e-challan toll plaza at Shelim-Polem in Canacona was forced to suspend operations on Tuesday following a strong public agitation over alleged system failures, wrongful issuance of e-challans and severe inconvenience to motorists.

Residents of Canacona along with JanaSena activists gathered at the toll naka and confronted the private operator and officials of Goa Electronics



Limited (GEL), alleging that the system was issuing hefty fines despite motorists possessing valid documents. The protest, held in the presence of police personnel and executive magistrates, led to the complete shutdown of the toll plaza, bringing immediate relief

to commuters travelling on the busy NH-66 stretch.

Motorists complained that the slow scanning process—taking over 30 seconds per vehicle—resulted in long traffic queues on both sides of the highway, causing mental and physical harassment.

'Nation First Was Atalji's Mantra,' Says Rohan Khaunte

Team Goemkarponn

Porvorim: Tourism Minister and Porvorim MLA Rohan Ashok Khaunte on Thursday said that former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a shining chapter in India's political, social and ideological history, whose guiding principle was always "Nation First." ng at the Atal Smruti Sammelan, organised by the BJP Porvorim Mandal at the Salvador do Mundo Panchayat Hall. BJP State President Damodar Naik, Penha de França Sarpanch



Sapnil Chodankar, Zilla Panchayat members Sandeep Salgaonkar and Amit Asnodkar, Porvorim Mandal BJP President Vineet Parab, Porvorim BJP In-charge Rupesh Kamat, and senior BJP leader Govind Parvatkar were present on the dais.

Describing Vajpayee as more than just a politician, Khaunte said

Atalji represented an ideology, a value system and a powerful source of inspiration. He added that Vajpayee was a rare example of dignified and respectful politics, earning admiration even from ideological opponents.

Khaunte said that from his student days, Atalji possessed a deep sense of service to the nation.



Daivadnya Samaj Margao, AGDBYA hold 16th blood donation camp

Team Goemakarponn

Margao: Daivadnya Samaj Margao, in association with the Akhil Gomantakiya Daivadnya Brahmin Youth Association (AGDBYA), organised its 16th blood donation and free medical check up camp on December 19, 2025.

The programme was held in the presence of

Daivadnya Samaj Margao president Ramakant Raikar and AGDBYA president Seema Rohit Vernekar, who welcomed the chief guests and attendees.

Dr Sudhir Shet, Director of Horizon and IJNHS Sunshine Hospitals, was the chief guest, while Dr Ravin Rego, Head of the Hospicio Blood Bank,

attended as the guest of honour.

Over 50 donors voluntarily donated blood at the camp, and many beneficiaries availed themselves of the free medical check up facilities.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Rego praised both organisations for sustaining such blood donation drives for the last 15 years. Dr Shet

highlighted the urgent need to build awareness about health insurance among the public.

The programme was compered by Pawan Rangnekar. Kishor Rivonkar proposed the vote of thanks, acknowledging the support of donors, guests, medical staff and volunteers in making the initiative successful.

Goa-Norway Roundtable Looks at Business and Talent Partnerships

■ IT Minister Rohan Khaunte-led Roundtable Explores Aligning Norwegian Businesses with Goa's Industry Needs

■ Engagement facilitated by Goa-based digital transformation firm Kilowott, enabling structured dialogue between Norwegian businesses and Goa's industry stakeholders

■ Discussions focused on Goa's growth potential across tourism, IT and allied sectors, and how Norwegian companies can align with local industry needs



Panaji: Goa's IT and Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte recently conducted a high-level roundtable with the Norway India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NICCI) business delegation, focussed on identifying business opportunities in Goa, understanding local industry requirements and exploring how Norwegian companies can align with on-ground necessities in Goa. During the roundtable, Khaunte

spoke about Goa's potential across tourism, information technology and allied sectors and the scope for collaboration between Goa and Norway.

The engagement was facilitated by Goa-based digital transformation firm Kilowott, which, with its strong presence in Norway, across the EU and in India., acts as a strategic bridge between the two economies, helping industries and institutions harness technology for

sustainable, measurable impact. The roundtable formed part of NICCI's wider Goa programme aimed at facilitating direct engagement between Norwegian businesses and Goan stakeholders.

Speaking about the engagement, Kilowott's co-founder Judah Fernandez said, "The programme also included a business networking session that brought together representatives from government, industry, business associations

and NICCI members from across India, enabling structured interactions with industry peers and partners across Norway and Goa" The NICCI delegation also signed MOUs with the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCII) President Pratima Dhond to promote bilateral trade between Goa and Norway, focusing on joint delegations, collaborative events and greater visibility for the two entities.



Tourism Dept signs MoU with Gomantak Ayurved Mahavidyalaya to boost wellness tourism

Panaji: The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Gomantak Ayurved Mahavidyalaya and Research Centre (GAMRC), Shiroda, to strengthen and promote wellness tourism in the State.

The MoU was signed at Paryatan Bhavan, Patto, in the presence of Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte. Also present were Director of Tourism Kedar Ashok Naik, Principal of GAMRC Dr Neelesh Pramod Korde, President of the Goa Council of Ayurvedic and Allied Indian Systems of Medicine Dr Sneha Bhagwat, Deputy Director AYUSH Dr Minal Joshi, Vice President Dr Dharmendra Desai and officiating registrar Dr Joy Periera. Under the agreement, the Department of Tourism and GAMRC will work

together to promote Ayurveda and yoga-based wellness tourism through customised wellness packages and joint marketing initiatives at the national and international level. The collaboration also includes plans to develop wellness tourism infrastructure such as Ayurveda and yoga centres at tourism properties, establish AYUSH information cells, create promotional material and undertake training, research and knowledge exchange programmes. Speaking on the occasion, Khaunte said wellness tourism was emerging as a key component of Goa's tourism landscape, adding that the partnership would help combine traditional knowledge systems with organised tourism development to offer authentic wellness experiences.

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Newly Built Ropeway Collapses During Trial Run in Bihar's Rohtas

of the accident. Engineers from the company that constructed the ropeway, along with state public works department officials, have been tasked with examining the broken components and reviewing safety protocols to understand why the system gave way during a routine trial.

The ropeway project, designed to boost tourism and improve connectivity across the rugged terrain of the Kaimur hills and river valley, had generated significant local interest and expectations in recent months. It was intended to reduce travel time, provide scenic views to visitors, and offer an alternative transport option for residents. The collapse during the pre-operational phase, however, has raised serious questions about the quality of

materials used, the oversight of construction practices, and adherence to safety standards during installation and testing.

State authorities said that there were no reported injuries as a result of the collapse, and no casualties have been confirmed. Rescue teams and technical staff remained at the site throughout the day to secure the broken cable segments and examine the ropeway infrastructure. Local police have cordoned off the area to restrict public access while engineers carry out inspections and begin the process of dismantling damaged parts.

Several workers at the site said that they heard a loud bang before seeing the cable give way, and that their immediate reaction was to retreat to safer ground.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

GCZMA Allows Review Plea of Carrick Bend Realty

reply addressing all alleged violations within one week. It has also been directed to serve copies of its reply on all complainants ahead of the next hearing scheduled for January 8, 2026. At the same time, the authority made it clear that the reopening of the matter did not amount to a clean slate, noting that the review

was being allowed strictly on procedural grounds. In sharp contrast, the GCZMA rejected the review application filed by Ajay Kumar Vaghani, observing that the demolition directions issued against him followed due legal process and left no scope for reconsideration.

The authority noted that a show-cause

notice had been issued to Vaghani as early as June 14, 2023, following which proceedings were initiated and multiple personal hearings were granted. Despite Vaghani's claim that the offending structures had been demolished, the GCZMA observed that compliance was never confirmed by the authority.

Porvorim Road Closure Notice Issued

Panaji. Heavy vehicles transporting essential commodities, however, will not be permitted to use the ODP road from the Mapusa side owing to the steep ascent along the route. To minimise inconvenience and ensure commuter safety, the administration has laid down a comprehensive set of conditions.

New Zealand Prime Minister Hails Free Trade Agreement with India

■ Calls It Gateway to 1.4 Billion Consumers

Wellington: New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has welcomed a comprehensive free trade agreement with India, describing it as a significant economic milestone that opens access to a market of 1.4 billion consumers and strengthens ties between the two countries.

Luxon said the pact marks an important step in expanding trade and investment opportunities, particularly for New Zealand's exporters in key sectors such as dairy, meat, seafood, wood products and wine. He underscored the potential for the agreement to boost economic growth, create jobs and deepen bilateral engagement across a range of industries.



The Prime Minister noted that India's fast-growing economy and rising consumer demand present substantial opportunities for New Zealand businesses of all sizes. He highlighted that enhanced market access will help exporters seize opportunities in sectors where New Zealand has competitive advantages and can meet Indian demand for high-quality goods.

Officials said the agreement includes provisions to reduce or eliminate tariffs on a wide range of products over a phased period, offering greater price competitiveness for exporters. Luxon emphasised that this trade deal reflects shared interests in strengthening economic cooperation and building a resilient partnership that benefits both nations.

In addition to goods trade, the agreement is expected to facilitate increased collaboration in services, investment, technology and mobility. Luxon pointed out that these areas are critical for long-term economic linkages and will support deeper people-to-people connections, educational exchanges, and business ties.

The New Zealand leader expressed confidence that the deal would reinforce the country's strategic engagement with the broader Indo-Pacific region. He said it aligns with efforts to diversify trade relationships and reduce dependency on traditional markets, while fostering stability and mutual prosperity.



BJP, Shiv Sena Finalise Seat-Sharing in Around 200 BMC Wards as Mumbai Gears Up for Polls

■ Parties hold late-night talks to distribute seats ahead of crucial civic elections

Mumbai: The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena have nearly completed their seat-sharing arrangement for the upcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation elections, agreeing on allocations for approximately 200 of the 227 wards as the city prepares for voting scheduled in mid-January. The two parties, key partners in the Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra,

conducted extensive consultations and late-night discussions to finalise the seat matrix and candidate lists well ahead of the nomination deadline, as political maneuvering intensifies ahead of the high-stakes civic polls.

Alliance strategists said the talks focused on balancing electoral strength and organisational presence across Mumbai's diverse wards.



Operation Aaghat: Delhi Police Arrest Over 150, Seize Arms, Drugs and Illicit Liquor Ahead of New Year

■ Massive crackdown across South East district

New Delhi: Delhi Police launched a massive enforcement operation under the banner of Operation Aaghat ahead of New Year celebrations, arresting over 150 individuals and seizing illegal firearms, sharp-edged weapons, ammunition, narcotics including ganja, illicit liquor, cash, vehicles and other contraband in one of the most extensive pre-festive crackdowns in recent years. The operation was described by authorities as a proactive measure to disrupt criminal networks, curb organized crime, and prevent potential offences during the upcoming celebrations, when public gatherings, nightlife activity, and festive travel

typically increase across the national capital.

The operation was carried out across multiple locations in the South East district, with dozens of teams deployed simultaneously to ensure maximum coverage. Police carried out coordinated raids on known crime hotspots, areas frequented by habitual offenders, and premises suspected of storing or distributing illegal arms, liquor, and drugs. More than 1,000 individuals were questioned during the overnight drives, and several others were taken into preventive custody to pre-empt any potential law and order disruptions during New Year festivities.

Smog Returns to Delhi, Air Quality Deteriorates to 'Very Poor' Category

■ Heavy haze blankets the national capital, raising public health concerns

New Delhi: Dense smog returned to the national capital on Saturday as the air quality index climbed into the Very Poor category, prompting renewed public health concerns and heightening calls for heightened pollution control measures. Residents across the city woke up to a heavy blanket of haze that sharply reduced visibility and raised alarm among vulnerable groups,



including children, the elderly, and people with respiratory issues.

Monitoring stations recorded a significant

increase in particulate matter levels, with PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations surging well above safe limits. The deteriorating

air quality comes amid seasonal changes, lower wind speeds, and cooler temperatures, conditions that are known to trap pollutants close to the ground and contribute to smog formation. Areas across the capital experienced thick grayish smog through the morning and early afternoon, with visibility dipping to under a few hundred meters in some localities.

Mob Violence Forces Cancellation of James Concert in Bangladesh

■ Clashes Erupt During Faridpur School Anniversary Event, Dozens Injured

Faridpur (Bangladesh): A concert by veteran Bangladeshi rock musician James was cancelled on Friday night after violence erupted at the venue during anniversary celebrations of Faridpur Zilla School, leaving at least 20 people injured and triggering panic among attendees.

The concert was scheduled as part of the 185th anniversary programme of the historic educational institution and



was to be the concluding highlight of the two-day celebrations. James, popularly known as Nagar Baul, was set to perform before a large gathering of

students, alumni and local residents.

According to organisers and eyewitnesses, trouble began shortly before

the performance when a group of people described as outsiders attempted to enter the venue without permission. When security personnel and volunteers stopped them, the situation escalated rapidly, with the group allegedly throwing bricks and stones towards the stage and audience area.

Students present at the venue resisted the attackers and tried to protect the stage and event premises.

England Break Australia Drought with Four-Wicket Win at MCG

■ England end drought with dramatic Boxing Day victory in Melbourne

Melbourne: England chased down a target of 175 runs to beat Australia by four wickets inside two days in the fourth Ashes Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, ending an 18-match winless run in Tests on Australian soil and providing a rare triumph for the tourists in the 2025-26 series.

Sent in to bat on a pitch that offered significant movement for bowlers and under overcast conditions, Australia were bundled out for 152 in their first innings, with England's pace attack exploiting the conditions to great effect. Josh Tongue was in devastating form with the ball, claiming a five-wicket haul and becoming the first England bowler to take five at the MCG in more than two decades, as Australia's batting lineup faltered in the face of relentless pressure. England's reply in their first innings ended in a collapse as they were



dismissed for 110, with only a counterattacking 41 from Harry Brook providing resistance in difficult conditions. Australia then resumed their innings in the second session, reaching 4 for 0 by stumps on the opening day and establishing a 46-run lead.

On the second day, Australia's second innings yielded 132 before they were all out, setting England a target of 175 to win. England's chase showed resolve, with contributions from multiple batters, and despite the familiar volatility that had marked much of their tour, they held

their nerve to reach the total with four wickets to spare. The victorious runs saw England close out the match in emphatic fashion, celebrating a breakthrough win on Boxing Day that was greeted with jubilation from their players and supporters.

The match was marked by dramatic swings in momentum, with conditions that repeatedly challenged batters from both sides and led to a high number of wickets falling in short periods. A record crowd attended the Test, witnessing a rare spectacle in Ashes cricket as 20 wickets fell

on the opening day, an occurrence not seen at the MCG in more than a century and a testament to how testing the surface and conditions were throughout play.

England's success in chasing 175 was built on disciplined bowling in Australia's second innings and a measured batting effort in their pursuit. The win remains significant not only for ending their long drought on Australian soil but also for providing a morale boost in a series that Australia had already largely dominated. Despite this victory, Australia continued to lead the five-match series overall, having secured wins in the opening Tests and retained the Ashes before the conclusion of this fixture.

The chaotic nature of the Test, with frequent dismissals and fluctuating fortunes, drew widespread attention and commentary from the cricketing world. Observers highlighted

Shafali Verma's Explosive 79 Seals Series for India

■ Opener's fearless knock powers India to dominant T20I victory

Mumbai: Shafali Verma once again underlined her status as one of India's most destructive batters as her blistering unbeaten 79 powered India Women to a comprehensive series-clinching win against Sri Lanka Women in the third T20 International. Chasing a modest target, India completed the task with ease, winning by eight wickets and taking an unassailable lead in the series.

From the moment she walked out to bat, Shafali set the tone with fearless stroke play, dismantling the Sri Lankan bowling attack and ensuring the chase never drifted into uncertainty. Her innings was a mix of raw power and controlled aggression, showcasing her growing maturity in the shortest format.

India's chase began on an aggressive note, with Shafali taking charge in the power play. She found the boundaries regularly, punishing anything short or overpitched. Sri Lanka's



bowlers struggled to find consistency as Shafali dominated both pace and spin, using the crease effectively and picking her gaps with precision.

The opener raced to her half-century in quick time, bringing it up with a boundary that summed up her intent. While wickets fell at the other end, Shafali remained unfazed, continuing to dictate the tempo of the chase. Her shot selection was bold yet calculated, ensuring India stayed well ahead of the required rate throughout.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur provided steady support as Shafali went about her business. The pair ensured there were no hiccups, rotating strike when needed and accelerating whenever Sri



Victories for United Brothers and Lawyer Challengers

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: On the back of an 81-run partnership between Devanand Korgaonkar and Rahul Shet, United Brothers registered a 26-run victory over 18 Juners. Meanwhile, a powerful unbeaten century by Achit Shigwan guided Lawyer Challengers to a convincing 51-run win over Lotlikar Lions in the Advocates Cricket League 2025-26. Both matches were played at the Chicalim, Vasco ground.

Batting first, United Brothers posted 181 for 6 in their allotted 20 overs. Devanand Korgaonkar played a crucial knock of 50 runs, while Rahul Shet (40) and Raghu Parab (30) also made

valuable contributions. For 18 Juners, Viraj Tar was impressive with the ball, claiming four wickets. In reply, 18 Juners were bowled out for 155 in 20 overs. Kunal Nadkarni fought hard with 32 balls and 48 runs, but the other batsmen failed to provide support. For United Brothers, Ashish Dessai and Mylen D'Souza picked up two wickets each.

In the second match, Lawyer Challengers piled up a formidable total of 183 for 5 in 20 overs. Achit Shigwan produced a brilliant batting display, scoring an unbeaten 116 off 56 balls, including four fours and nine sixes. For Lotlikar Lions, Chetan Sangelkar took three wickets.

Goa hold nerve to beat Himachal Pradesh by eight runs in Vijay Hazare Trophy

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa registered their second successive win in the Vijay Hazare Trophy Elite tournament with an eight-run victory over Himachal Pradesh in a tense contest at the Jaipuria Vidyalaya Ground in Jaipur on Friday.

Put in to bat, Goa recovered from early setbacks to post a competitive 285 for nine in 50 overs before bowling Himachal out for 277 in 49.3 overs. Captain Deepraj Gaonkar starred



with a fine all-round performance, while Lalit Yadav struck a well-paced century and Suyash Prabhudesai contributed a crucial half-century.

Goa's innings began

shakily as the top order failed to settle, leaving the side struggling at 33 for three in the 10th over. Prabhudesai and Yadav then rebuilt the innings with a steady 90-run

stand for the fourth wicket. Prabhudesai scored 51 off 63 balls, hitting five boundaries, before falling with the score at 123.

Goa slipped again after the dismissal of Darshan Misal to 150 for five, but skipper Gaonkar counter-attacked decisively. Batting at No. 7, he smashed 71 off 48 balls, including six fours and two sixes, providing the momentum Goa needed. Yadav anchored the innings to complete a composed 104 off 126 balls.

Gauri Warriors clinch Imperial T20 League 2025 title

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Gauri Warriors emerged champions of the Imperial T20 League 2025, defeating Shree Mahalasa Sanskrutik Mandal in the final of the leather-ball cricket tournament organised by V Strikers Sports Club at the Shri Shantadurga Devasthan ground, Khandola.

The tournament was held from November 16 to December 21 and concluded in the presence of several dignitaries, including Goa Cricket Association president Mahesh Dessai, GCA vice-president Paresh Phadte, Betki-Khandola Sarpanch Dilip Naik, and V Strikers Club president Praviraj Haldankar.

