



BIG WIN FOR CARAMBOLIM RESIDENTS

■ Stop-Work Order Issued to Carambolim Project After Villagers Flag Project

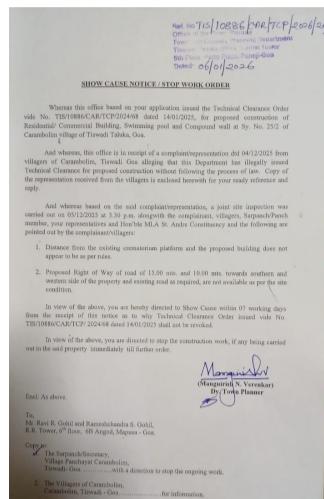
Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department has issued a show-cause notice along with a stop-work order to the proponents of a proposed residential-cum-commercial project at Carambolim in Tiswadi taluka, following complaints by villagers alleging violations of planning norms.

The notice, dated January 6, 2026, pertains to the technical clearance granted on January 14, 2025, for construction of a residential and commercial building,

swimming pool and compound wall at Survey No. 25/2 of Carambolim village. The action follows a complaint submitted by villagers on December 4, 2025, alleging that the clearance was issued without following the due process of law.

Based on the complaint, the TCP department conducted a joint site inspection on December 5, 2025, in the presence of villagers, the complainant, Panchayat representatives, project proponents' representatives and the MLA of St Andre constituency.



During the inspection, villagers pointed out that the mandatory distance from an existing crematorium platform

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Govt Will Not Compromise on Legal Compliance: Vishwajit Rane

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: A Show Cause Notice-cum-Stop Work Order has been issued in connection with the proposed residential-cum-commercial building, swimming pool and compound wall at Carambolim village in Tiswadi taluka, following serious concerns over site conditions and compliance with statutory norms.



Confirming the action, TCP Minister Vishwajit Rane said that the decision was taken after a joint site inspection conducted on the basis of a formal representation

received by the authorities. "Following the inspection, several issues relating to site conditions and compliance were recorded. Accordingly, all construction activity at the site has been ordered to be stopped with immediate effect until further orders," Rane stated.

The Town and Country Planning
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Accused On Four Day Remand As Honeytrap Espionage Probe Deepens

Agencies Investigate Possible ISI Link And Extent Of Sensitive Data Leak

New Delhi: A man identified as Sunil has been placed on a four day police remand as investigators intensify questioning to uncover the full scope of an alleged espionage case in Ambala. Officials are examining whether he acted independently or as part of a larger network, with further revelations expected during sustained interrogation.

Investigators suspect that the operation involved a sophisticated honeytrap allegedly run through a fake online identity.

PWD Submits ₹7,700 Crore Road Projects to Centre

■ Pledges Swift Action on Road Complaints

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa Public Works Minister Digambar Kamat said that road projects worth around ₹7,700 crore were submitted to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari during his recent visit to Delhi, along with former Chief Minister U.P. Parsekar. Most of the proposals were accompanied by detailed project reports (DPRs). Kamat also stated that 12 specific projects worth ₹102 crore were submitted to the Union Urban Development

Minister, who has assured a personal review of the proposals. The files have already been forwarded to the Finance Minister for further action. Highlighting ongoing maintenance efforts, Kamat added that all potholes on main roads have been cleared. He urged the public to report complaints via his mobile, promising resolution within 24 hours. "The condition of roads can win or lose elections," he said, stressing the importance of citizen feedback and prompt governance.

Oppn Criticises Goa Assembly Agenda, Calls for Focus on State Issues

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Ahead of the upcoming four-day Goa Assembly session, Opposition leaders have raised concerns over the agenda, calling for greater emphasis on pressing state issues. Opposition Leader Yuri Alemao, along with MLAs Vijai Sardesai, Adv Carlos



Ferreira, Altone D'Costa, Viresh Borkar, and Venzy Viegas, held a strategy meeting to discuss their

approach for the session. Alemao stressed that the Opposition should be

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Goa Govt Monitoring Heavy Metals in Caranzalem Fish: Fisheries Min

■ 2 Drones To Curb Illegal Fishing In Goa

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halankar has said that the government is closely monitoring reports of heavy metal accumulation in fish caught off Caranzalem beach. "The National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and Goa University are conducting continuous research on the matter,"



Halankar said, adding that the government will take appropriate action if the findings indicate any risk to public health.

The Minister's

statement comes amid growing concern over the safety of seafood consumed by coastal communities and residents in Goa.

The study noted that metals like iron, manganese, zinc, and copper were unevenly distributed across fish organs, with the kidney showing the highest

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Gharan Restaurant Gutted in Major Fire at Porvorim

■ Rs 25-30 lakh loss estimated

Porvorim: A major fire completely gutted Gharan Restaurant, located near Sai Service at Porvorim, in the wee hours of Tuesday, causing heavy financial losses to the owner.



The fire reportedly broke out at around 4.30 am, when the establishment was closed.

Fire tenders from the Porvorim Fire Station rushed to the spot immediately after receiving the alert. As the blaze intensified, additional reinforcements from the Fire and Emergency Services (FES) headquarters at St Inez were pressed into service.

After sustained efforts,

firefighters managed to bring the fire under control, preventing it from spreading to nearby structures.

However, by the time the flames were doused, the restaurant had been completely gutted, with furniture, kitchen equipment and interior fittings reduced to ashes.

The owner has estimated the loss at approximately ₹25 lakh. No casualties were reported in the incident. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, though a short circuit is suspected. Further investigation is underway.

Meanwhile, in a
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Goa Resignations Lay Bare AAP's Growing Pains

The exit of senior Aam Aadmi Party leaders in Goa is not just another episode of internal churn. It is a telling moment for a party that once claimed moral high ground by promising a new kind of politics. When a former state president, an acting president and key youth leaders quit together, the message is hard to ignore. Something fundamental is not working.

AAP entered Goa with ambition and confidence. It positioned itself as an alternative to established parties, arguing that voters deserved cleaner politics, internal democracy and accountable leadership. In the 2022 Assembly elections, it projected itself aggressively, even naming a chief ministerial face. But the promise has steadily faded. Poor electoral performances, capped by the recent Zilla Panchayat elections where the party barely registered a presence, have exposed the gap between rhetoric and reality.

Electoral losses alone do not usually trigger such high-profile exits. Parties lose elections all the time and regroup. What makes the Goa resignations significant is the reasoning offered by those who left. Their central complaint was not just about results, but about how decisions were taken. The allegation of excessive centralisation, of instructions flowing from the top without adequate consultation, strikes at the core of AAP's political identity.

"Electoral losses alone do not usually trigger such high-profile exits. Parties lose elections all the time and regroup. What makes the Goa resignations significant is the reasoning offered by those who left. Their central complaint was not just about results, but about how decisions were taken. The allegation of excessive centralisation, of instructions flowing from the top without adequate consultation, strikes at the core of AAP's political identity."

AAP was built on the idea that politics could be participatory and decentralised. Its early success in Delhi rested on the claim that ordinary workers and local leaders had a voice."

coordination, but it also tests a party's tolerance for internal debate. In AAP's case, the balance appears to have tilted too far towards control. The removal of a state president and the handling of dissent seem to have deepened mistrust rather than resolved differences.

Goa, in particular, is not a state where central templates work easily. Its politics is shaped by local networks, regional identities and shifting alliances. Success there requires patience, flexibility and deep engagement with grassroots realities. A rigid, centrally driven strategy risks alienating local leaders who understand these nuances

better than any national command.

There was also a strategic question that AAP never fully answered in Goa. Was it serious about building a long-term organisation, or was it chasing quick electoral breakthroughs? Contesting aggressively without building alliances or consolidating a base left the party isolated. When results failed to match expectations, accountability became a contentious issue. In such moments, the way leadership responds matters as much as the outcome itself.

The resignations should worry AAP beyond Goa. They raise uncomfortable questions about how the party handles disagreement across states. If leaders who invested time and credibility feel compelled to walk out rather than stay and fight internally, it signals a breakdown of trust. For a party that prides itself on being different from traditional outfits, this perception is damaging.

For voters, the episode reinforces a simple truth. Political alternatives are judged not only by what they promise during campaigns, but by how they function when under pressure. Internal democracy cannot be selective. It must survive defeats, dissent and disagreement. Otherwise, it risks becoming just another slogan. AAP still has an opportunity to course-correct. That would require honest introspection, not defensive posturing. Listening to departing voices, empowering state units and accepting that regional strategies cannot always be dictated from the centre would be a start. Political growth, after all, is not just about expanding territory but about nurturing trust within.

If the party treats the Goa episode as an isolated rebellion, it will miss the larger warning. If it treats it as feedback, however uncomfortable, it may yet preserve the credibility that once set it apart. Indian politics has space for alternatives, but only for those willing to practise internally what they preach publicly.

LETTERS

ADR IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) entails dispute-resolution mechanisms in which parties do not have to go through the long, drawn-out, cumbersome Court process. ADR provides an alternative to regular trial process in Courts and is therefore called Alternative Dispute Resolution. ADR mechanisms can include mediation, negotiation, arbitration, or conciliation. It could also involve client counselling. In recent years ADR has gained popularity being a more viable way of resolving disputes and is comparatively less expensive than court litigation.

It is laudable that our Goa's V.M. Salgaonkar College of Law in association with Infinitum 2026 is on 10th January hosting online (via Zoom) an International Conference of Alternative Dispute Resolution. I am eagerly looking forward to hearing those invaluable insights from the six Keynote speakers who have been global leaders shaping the future of Dispute Resolution.

While the Judiciary worldwide grapples with the huge backlog of cases, ADR is the viable way forward while Courts should only be the last resort.

- Aires Rodrigues, London

Reviving Goa's Green Glory

In an era where Goa's lush fields once formed the backbone of its economy before the rise of tourism and mining, it is heartening to witness a resolute revival under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant.

When unseasonal heavy rains wreaked havoc on crops recently, Dr. Sawant, personally invested in the agriculture portfolio, responded with decisive action. Through the Shetkari Aadhar Nidhi scheme, he ensured swift distribution of ₹3.68 crore in compensation to 3,950 affected farmers, providing timely relief and reaffirming the government's unwavering support for our hardworking tillers.

Most reassuringly, he stresses strengthening Farmer Producer Organisations to handle marketing and supply chains—so farmers' produce is taken care of from field to market, ensuring fair returns and reduced losses.

Yet, his vision shines far beyond mere compensation. CM Dr Pramod Sawant has passionately championed community farming and cash crops, breathing new life into neglected lands. In his own constituency, landmark initiatives like the ₹41-42 crore bandh in Amona to protect fields from saline intrusion, automated irrigation systems in Surla, and successful collective efforts in Cudnem stand as beaming examples to practical, on-ground success.

These efforts are yielding great results: fallow lands reclaimed, farmers empowered through cooperatives and Farmers Producers Organisations to market their produce effectively, and a shift towards sustainable, profitable agriculture.

Dr. Pramod Sawant's beaming commitment is not just restoring Goa's agrarian glory, it's igniting hope for a Swayampurna, prosperous Goa. Kudos to a leader who truly tills the soil of progress!

- Vaman Sankhalekar, Harvalem, Sanquelim, Goa

Canacona Congress Demands Immediate Relief Package for Farmers Affected by October Unseasonal Rains

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Alleging continued neglect of farmers who suffered heavy crop losses due to unseasonal rains in October 2025, the Canacona Congress has demanded the immediate disbursement of compensation to affected cultivators.

Canacona Congress Frontal Committees (CCFC), led by former



Assembly Congress candidate Janardhan Bhandari, met Canacona Zonal Agriculture Officer (ZAO) Mahendra Pagi

and questioned the delay in releasing compensation to farmers.

"It has been over two months now, yet

not a single farmer who suffered losses due to the October 2025 unseasonal rains has received any compensation or relief," Bhandari stated.

He recalled that unprecedented and unseasonal rainfall across Goa in October 2025 had severely damaged ready-to-harvest paddy fields in Canacona, causing significant losses to local farmers.

CM Reviews Veterinary College, Fisheries Sector Projects

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant chaired a high-level review meeting on the Veterinary College at Panaji with senior government officials, including Secretaries and Heads of concerned departments.

During the



meeting, discussions centred on meeting the June deadline for commencement of the Veterinary

College, fast-tracking completion of the campus, procurement of necessary equipment, establishment of the

veterinary hospital and clinical complex, and creation of required teaching and non-teaching posts.

The Chief Minister also reviewed key issues related to the proposed Fisheries College, including its affiliation with Goa University, availability of land, and transport connectivity.

Woman Tourist Injured After Two-Wheeler Plunges Off Unsafe Agonda Culvert Bridge

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A woman tourist riding a two-wheeler sustained serious injuries after plunging off the unsafe Agonda box culvert bridge on Monday night. The accident occurred when the tourist was attempting to cross the culvert bridge at Agonda. While riding across, the two-wheeler reportedly veered towards the extreme edge of the bridge and went over the unprotected wing wall, plunging into the waterless portion of the Agonda river during low tide.

The woman was found lying injured beside the damaged two-wheeler. Local residents, who rushed to the spot immediately after the incident, provided initial assistance and alerted emergency services. She was later shifted to the Canacona Community Health Centre (CHC) in a 108 ambulance for medical treatment.

Incidentally, the



two-wheeler fell over the side wing walls that were erected as retaining structures near the bridge abutments to support the approach roads. However, these wing walls lack proper protective railings.

The box culvert bridge, constructed about two years ago, was opened to traffic even before the completion of approach roads on both sides. Though wing walls and railings were installed later, they cover only limited portions of the bridge. Large sections of the bridge and approach roads remain unfinished and without adequate safety barriers.

Goa's tourism ecosystem does not revolve around Sunburn event: Khaunte

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte said Goa's tourism strategy does not hinge on any single event such as the Sunburn music festival, even as he assured strict action in the case of a woman tourist allegedly harassed during the event. Speaking to the media, Khaunte said Goa has successfully hosted a variety of festivals that attract both domestic and international visitors. He cited the recent Raponkaranche Festival as an example, stating that it drew tourists from across India and abroad. "Goa must come up with different ideas. We cannot depend only on one festival like Sunburn," the Tourism Minister said, underlining the need to diversify the state's tourism offerings. Reacting to comments by MLA Michael Lobo on the importance of Sunburn to Goa's tourism economy, Khaunte said Lobo was entitled to



his opinion. However, he stressed that while events are important, there must be zero tolerance for incidents that tarnish Goa's image or compromise tourist safety. His remarks come in the wake of a viral video showing the alleged harassment of a woman tourist during the Sunburn festival. Condemning the incident, Khaunte said any attempt to outrage the modesty of a woman would not be tolerated. "I have spoken to Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant regarding the incident. The Tourism Department has filed a police complaint and I am personally monitoring the matter. Strict action will be taken against the accused," Khaunte said. He added that individuals involved in such acts have no place in Goa.

Mungul Gang War Case Sent to South Goa Sessions Court for Trial

Team Goemkarponn

Margao: The Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Margao has formally sent the Mungul gang clash case to the South Goa Sessions Court, clearing the way for the commencement of trial proceedings.

Acting under provisions of Section 232 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, the Magistrate ordered all accused persons who are presently on bail to remain present before the Sessions Court on January 17, 2025, at 10 a.m. The court has directed that the Public Prosecutor attached to the Sessions Court be notified in advance regarding the scheduled appearance of the accused.

As part of procedural compliance, the Magistrate instructed court officials to immediately transfer all seized material evidence submitted by the investigating agency to the Sessions Court.

"I Gave My Time, Career and Family to the Party": Palekar

■ Relieving from president post was unacceptable: Amit Palekar

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Advocate Amit Palekar said he joined the Aam Aadmi Party inspired by its educated leadership and promise of clean politics, and worked tirelessly to build the organisation in Goa, including taking on the BJP at multiple levels. Describing his removal as Goa unit president and being singled out for blame as unacceptable, Palekar said he had done



nothing wrong against the party, even as his exit triggered a wider leadership crisis within AAP Goa.

Palekar resigned from the party's primary membership days after being removed as state

president following AAP's poor performance in the recent Zilla Parishad elections. He said his decision was rooted in self-respect and a growing disconnect between the party's founding ideals and its current functioning.

Operation Amanat: Lost Laptop Bag Safely Returned to Passenger

Team Goemkarponn

Karmali: In a prompt and efficient action under Operation Amanat, railway authorities successfully traced and returned a lost laptop bag to its rightful owner, reinforcing confidence in

the system's commitment to passenger assistance. On January 5, 2026, a passenger reported that he had accidentally left behind his laptop bag while travelling on Train No. 10103 at Thivim Railway Station.



Twenty-Two Rescued From Drowning, Two Missing Children Traced Along Goa Coast Over New Year Weekend

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Drishti Marine lifesavers carried out multiple rescue and assistance operations along Goa's coastline over the first weekend of 2026, rescuing 22 persons from drowning, tracing two missing children and administering first aid to five others. The incidents occurred as beaches across the state continued to witness heavy tourist



footfall following New Year celebrations.

At Arambol Beach, a 36-year-old Russian tourist was rescued from nearly 50 metres into the sea by lifesavers Vishnu

Kubal and Sandeep Mapankar using a rescue tube and jet ski.

At Mandrem Beach, first aid was provided to a person who sustained a scratch on the right leg while navigating a rocky stretch at Ashwem. The assistance was rendered by lifesaver Sudhir Parab.

At Morjim Beach, three tourists — two men from Delhi and a Russian woman — were saved in a triple rescue operation

by lifesavers Prathmesh Kubal and Babaji Naik using a rescue board and jet ski.

At Baga Beach, two separate rescue incidents were reported. A 25-year-old man from Karnataka was rescued using a rescue tube by lifesaver Mahesh Kamabli, while a 60-year-old Russian tourist was rescued by Ankur Choudhary and Sushant Gaonkar using a rescue board and jet ski.

South Goa Crime Figures 2025: Marginal Rise In Cases, Detection Improves

Team Goemkarponn

Margao: Crime in South Goa witnessed a marginal rise in 2025, while police succeeded in improving the overall detection rate, according to official comparative crime statistics

released for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025. As per the data, a total of 878 crime cases were registered in South Goa during 2025, slightly higher than the 865 cases reported in the corresponding period of

2024. Of these, 762 cases were detected, resulting in a detection rate of 86.79 per cent, an improvement over the 85.90 per cent recorded last year.

Serious crimes such as murder and attempt to murder remained largely



stable, with 12 murder cases and 13 attempt-to-murder cases reported in 2025, almost on par with 2024 figures. Rape cases, however, showed a decline, with 40 cases registered in 2025 compared to 44 in the previous year.



Best Tourism Village Awardee Khotigao Gets New Sarpanch

Team Goemkarponn

by Deputy Sarpanch Poonam Gaonkar.

The election was conducted by the Canacona Block Development Officer's office, with a deputed presiding officer overseeing the proceedings in the presence of the Panchayat Secretary. The presiding officer formally declared Jayesh Gaonkar elected unopposed,

making him the third Sarpanch of the current panchayat term.

Several panch members, including Deputy Sarpanch Poonam Gaonkar, former Sarpanch Anandu Desai, Panch member Krishna Velip, and others, were present during the election.

One Killed In Two-Wheeler Collision Near Bhoma Adcona

Team Goemkarponn

Ponda: A fatal road accident claimed the life of a scooter rider near the Bhoma Adcona Village Panchayat area in Ponda on the night of January 4, 2026.

According to a state complaint filed by HC 5407 Ritesh Rane of Mardol Police Station, the incident occurred at around 9.00 pm when the accused rider, Vishwajit Gaude, a resident of Kundai, Ponda, was riding a Hero Splendor motorcycle in a rash and negligent manner. Police stated that the accused endangered human life by failing to exercise proper care and caution while proceeding from Banastari towards Kundai.

When the motorcycle reached near the Bhoma Adcona Village Panchayat, it allegedly collided with an oncoming Vespa scooter that was travelling from Kundai towards Banastari. As a result of the collision, the scooter rider, Mukund Sarnaik, a resident of Madkai, Ponda, sustained



serious head injuries and was rushed to Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

Police conducted an inquest panchanama and the deceased's body was sent for post-mortem examination. The police surgeon who conducted the autopsy certified the cause of death as "head injury as a result of blunt force impact." Viscera samples have been preserved for toxicology examination. The body was later handed over to the family members for final rites.

Further investigation in the case is being carried out by PSI Nitesh Kankonkar of Mardol Police Station.



Minor Girl Reported Missing From Cortalim; Kidnapping Suspected

Team Goemkarponn

Cortalim: A case of a missing minor girl has been registered at Verna Police Station following a complaint filed by her mother, a resident of Cortalim and native of Bihar. According to the complaint, the minor girl left her residence on January 2, 2026, at around 5.00 pm without informing any family member and failed to return home thereafter.

After making efforts to locate her daughter, the complainant approached the police and expressed strong suspicion that a man identified as Rajiv Paswan, a native of Bihar who was reportedly friendly with the minor, may have kidnapped her from the lawful guardianship of her parents. Based on the complaint, police have initiated necessary legal proceedings and launched a search operation to trace the missing girl.

Appeal Made To Mamledar For Dialogue And Clear Guidelines On Bodgeshwar Jatra Rides

Team Goemkarponn

Mapusa: Amid concerns over the sealing of amusement rides at the ongoing Shree Dev Bodgeshwar Jatra in Mapusa, an appeal has been submitted to the Mamledar of Bardez Taluka seeking proactive dialogue and transparent guidelines to ensure the peaceful and safe conduct of the festival and other upcoming state jatras.

In a letter dated



January 5, 2026, addressed to the Mamledar, the signatories, identifying themselves as devotees of Shree Dev Bodgeshwar and

representatives of local stakeholders, expressed concern over the recent sealing of the giant wheel and other amusement rides.

ManoShobha Kaalotsav to Commence with English Play 'A Place with the Pigs'

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Second Sanjiv Prabhudesai Kaalotsav at ManoShobha Kalaghbar will commence with the staging of the acclaimed English play 'A Place with the Pigs' in Canacona.

The two-hour production is directed by Goa's eminent theatre personality Dnyanesh Moghe and features performances by Daegal



Godinho and Deepakshmi Moghe.

Written by renowned South African playwright Athol Fugard, the play is based on a true story and was first premiered in the United States in April 1987. The narrative follows the life of Pavel Ivanovich, a Russian soldier who deserts the battlefield during World War II and spends an astonishing 41 years hiding in a pigsty to escape punishment.



Dabolim Flyover Likely To Be Completed By December, Says PWD Min

Team Goemkarponn

Dabolim: PWD Minister Digambar Kamat said that the much-awaited Dabolim flyover project is likely to be completed by December, following a joint review meeting held in the constituency along with Minister Mauvin Godinho to address long-pending infrastructure and road-related issues.

Kamat was speaking to reporters after the meeting, which was held in the presence of newly elected Zilla



Panchayat member Sunil Gawas and other local representatives. The discussions focused on ongoing and proposed Public Works Department (PWD) works in Dabolim, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

flyover project, and road issues under Zilla Panchayat jurisdiction in Sancoale. The PWD Minister said he had visited Dabolim at the request of Minister Mauvin Godinho to personally review several pending

works. "Many projects have already commenced, while estimates for some others have been prepared. I have assured that approvals will be granted within eight days so that these works can also begin without delay," Kamat said. Referring specifically to the Dabolim flyover, Kamat said detailed discussions were held with NHAI officials and the contractor. "Several practical solutions to ease public inconvenience have been worked out.

Tawadkar Urges Registration of Traditional Shigmo Mandals to Avail Art & Culture Special Grants

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Art & Culture Minister Ramesh Tawadkar on Saturday urged Traditional Shigmo Mandals across Goa to register with the Directorate of Art & Culture at the earliest to avail Special Grants ranging between ₹1.5



lakh and ₹2 lakh for the purchase of Dhol-Tanse and traditional Shigmo attire. Addressing

the gathering after inaugurating Ekata Utsav-2026, an Exhibition-cum-Sale organised

by Ekata Yuva Sangh, Quepem, in association with the Directorate of Art & Culture, Government of Goa, at Bhagwan Mahaveer Government High School ground, Padi, Quepem, Tawadkar said the government is committed to supporting traditional cultural custodians.

Proud Moment For Goa As Vasco Girl Becomes Lone BSF Recruit From State

Team Goemkarponn

Vasco: Goa witnessed a moment of pride as Kumari Sneha Yadav from Vasco became the only candidate from the state to be selected for the Border Security Force (BSF), and is currently serving the nation along the India-Bangladesh border.

Sneha's achievement has brought joy to her family and the local community. Her mother, a devoted follower of Lord Kapreshwar, had taken a mannat praying for her daughter's selection in the BSF. With Sneha fulfilling her dream, the family believes their prayers were answered by the blessings of Lord Kapreshwar.

As a mark of gratitude, the family organised a kirtan, bhajan and seva at the Khapreshwar temple in Baina, Vasco. The spiritual gathering saw the participation of family members, relatives and



well-wishers.

Residents of Vasco and well-wishers have extended their heartfelt congratulations and blessings to Sneha Yadav, praying for her good health, courage and strength. They also wished her continued success and growth in her service to the nation, marked by dedication, honour, duty and humility.

Curtain Raiser Programme Of Children's International Film Festival Held At Margao

Team Goemkarponn

Margao: The Curtain Raiser Programme of the Children's International Film Festival (CIFF) 2026 was held today at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, through two dedicated sessions, drawing an overwhelming response from the education fraternity across Goa.

More than 550 participants, including Heads of Institutions,



teachers and PTA members from schools across the state, attended the programme, highlighting strong interest and support for the festival. The curtain raiser was graced by Minister for

Public Works Department, Shri Digambar Kamat; eminent film producer and actor Shri Damodar (Damu) Naik; Deputy Director of the Department of Education, Smt. Sindhu Prabhu Desai; Information

list dated December 26, 2025, was submitted, the meeting for the current week was held for the period from December 27, 2025 to January 1, 2026. During the meeting, the weekly list of Claims and Objections for the said period was shared with representatives of recognized political parties.

The Office further informed that all related documents, including weekly lists of Claims and Objections, acknowledgement copies and photographs, are being uploaded and published Assembly Constituency-wise on the South Goa Collector's official website.

These steps are being undertaken to ensure transparency, inclusiveness and accuracy in the preparation of electoral rolls.

Assistant, Department of Information and Publicity, Shri Siddhesh Samant; and Festival Directors Shri Bipin Khedekar and Shri Siddhesh Naik.

Both sessions followed an engaging and well-curated format, beginning with the screening of highlights from BCIFF 2025, offering attendees a glimpse into the festival's journey and its focus on meaningful cinema for children.

Fight For Goa's Asmitai Reaches Parliament As South Goa MP Tables Special Status Bill

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: In a significant move aimed at safeguarding Goa's identity, land and heritage, South Goa Member of Parliament Captain Viriato Fernandes has introduced a Private Member's Bill in Parliament seeking Special Status for the

state. The Bill was tabled during the recently concluded winter session of Parliament.

Addressing the media in the presence of Goa

Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) General Secretary Adv. Srinivas Khalap and District Presidents Shri Virendra Shirodkar and Shri Savio D'Silva, Captain Fernandes said the Bill was a decisive step to protect Goa's Asmitai (identity) at a time when the state faces unprecedented threats to its land, environment and culture.

"This Bill is born out of the love we hold for Goa and the responsibility we feel to protect it.



India Emerges As Largest Rice Producer, Surpasses China

■ Record output and new crop varieties mark a major milestone in the country's food security journey

New Delhi: India has emerged as the world's largest producer of rice, overtaking China with a record output of 150.18 million tonnes, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced in New Delhi. The achievement places India at the top of global rice production, ahead of China's output of 145.28 million tonnes, and underscores the country's growing strength in agricultural productivity.

The announcement was made at an event where the minister released 184 newly developed varieties spanning 25 crops, a move aimed at further boosting yields, resilience, and farmer incomes.

The new varieties have been developed through



sustained research and innovation in the agricultural sector, reflecting India's long-term focus on seed technology and crop improvement.

Highlighting the significance of the milestone, the minister said India's success in developing high-yielding and climate-resilient seeds has transformed the country from a food-deficient nation into a major global food supplier. He described the rise in rice production as unprecedented and noted

that India is now playing a critical role in supplying rice to international markets while maintaining robust domestic availability.

The minister also emphasised that the country currently holds adequate foodgrain stocks, ensuring national food security even as exports continue. He directed officials to ensure that the newly released seed varieties reach farmers without delay, stressing that timely access to improved seeds is essential for sustaining production gains and supporting rural livelihoods.

Since the crop variety notification process began in 1969, a total of 7,205 varieties have been officially notified in the

country. Of these, 3,236 high-yielding varieties have been approved in recent years, reflecting an accelerated push towards modernising Indian agriculture and improving farm productivity.

The 184 newly released varieties include 122 cereals, six pulses, 13 oilseeds, 11 fodder crops, six sugarcane varieties, and 24 cotton varieties, including 22 Bt cotton types. In addition, one variety each of jute and tobacco has also been introduced. Together, these releases are expected to strengthen crop diversity, enhance resistance to pests and climate stress, and reinforce India's position as a leading agricultural producer on the global stage.

Govt Will Not Compromise on Legal Compliance: Vishwajit Rane

Department has also issued a show cause notice to the project proponents, seeking an explanation as to why the technical clearance granted earlier should not be revoked. Reiterating the government's stand, Rane said development in Goa would be permitted strictly in accordance with the law. "Development in Goa will proceed strictly as per law. Any deviation from prescribed norms will invite decisive action. There will be no compromise on statutory compliance," the minister asserted.

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BIG WIN FOR CARAMBOLIM RESIDENTS

had not been maintained as per rules. It was also observed that the required right of way roads of 15 metres and 10 metres on the southern and western sides of the property, as shown in the proposal, were not available at site.

In view of these discrepancies, the TCP department has directed the project proponents to show cause within seven

working days as to why the technical clearance issued earlier should not be revoked. Pending a final decision, authorities have ordered that all construction activity at the site be stopped with immediate effect.

The order, issued by Deputy Town Planner Manguirish N. Verenkar, has been forwarded to the Carambolim Village Panchayat with directions

to ensure that the ongoing work, if any, is halted. Copies of the notice have also been sent to the villagers for information.

The development comes amid growing concerns among residents over large-scale construction projects in Carambolim, with locals demanding stricter enforcement of planning and environmental regulations.

protect marine resources. The Fisheries Department plans to deploy drones to curb illegal fishing, adding that several illegal trawlers from neighbouring states have already been seized.

He emphasized that these combined efforts aim to safeguard both public health and marine biodiversity.

Goa Govt Monitoring Heavy Metals in Caranzalem Fish: Fisheries Min

accumulation, followed by liver, gills, and muscles—raising concerns over long-term dietary exposure for coastal communities.

Responding to the findings, Halankar said the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and Goa University are conducting ongoing

research, and the government is closely monitoring the situation. "If the research confirms any harmful impact, the government will take appropriate action to ensure seafood safety," he stated. Halankar also underlined the need for stronger surveillance along Goa's coastline to

Gharan Restaurant Gutted in Major Fire at Porvorim

separate fire incident, the second floor of an under-construction hotel at Naikawado, Calangute, caught fire at around 6.30 am on Tuesday. Fire personnel rushed to the site and swiftly controlled the blaze before it could spread to other parts of the structure. No injuries were reported

in the Calangute incident as well. Fire officials said the damage was limited, and a detailed assessment is being carried out to determine the cause. The twin incidents have once again raised concerns over fire safety measures, especially in commercial establishments and construction sites.



Falling Oil Prices Set To Keep Inflation Well Below 3.4% In FY27

■ Lower Energy Costs Likely To Support Growth And Ease Price Pressures

New Delhi: India's inflation outlook is expected to improve significantly over the next financial year as global

domestic energy costs.

Technical indicators reinforce the outlook for continued moderation. Current Indian crude prices are trading below both short term and long term moving averages, pointing to a downward bias. Forecast models indicate that prices could ease to nearly 53 dollars per barrel by March 2026 and fall further to around 52 dollars by June 2026.

As India follows a dynamic daily fuel pricing mechanism, declines in crude prices are expected to gradually pass through to retail fuel prices. Historical trends show a moderate transmission to the fuel component of the consumer price index, which plays a key role in shaping headline inflation.

A projected correction of about 14 percent in crude prices during the final quarter of FY26 could exert notable downward pressure on inflation in FY27. Even with partial pass through, this moderation is expected to pull average inflation well below the 3.4 percent mark.

Additionally, softer oil prices may support the rupee by improving the trade balance. Currency appreciation could further dampen imported inflation, reinforcing the overall disinflationary trend and strengthening macroeconomic stability going into FY27.

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Oppn Criticises Goa Assembly Agenda, Calls for Focus on State Issues

given more time to speak and that key matters such as special status for Goa, the Birch Nightclub fire case, corruption, and illegal land conversions need urgent discussion. He also highlighted the environmental degradation in the state as a priority issue. Vijay Sardesai criticised the ruling BJP's agenda, alleging that Chief

Minister Pramod Sawant is more focused on "keeping Prime Minister Narendra Modi happy" rather than addressing local concerns. He added that the practice of BJP members filing private resolutions undermines the purpose of Private Members' Day, which is traditionally meant for the Opposition. Responding to the

session schedule, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that overall inputs on the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting should be provided by the Speaker. He confirmed that the Government has decided to discuss "Vande Mataram" in the session, with the debate scheduled for January 13.

Chenab Projects Put On Fast Track As Centre Signals No More Delays

■ Fast-tracked dams in Jammu and Kashmir signal strategic shift on Indus basin water management

New Delhi: India has moved decisively to accelerate four major hydropower projects on the Chenab river system, turning long discussed water strategy into on-ground execution in Jammu and Kashmir. The Centre has issued firm instructions to fast-track construction timelines, placing strong emphasis on delivery and operational readiness.

Under the revised schedule, the Pakal Dul and Kiru hydropower projects are to be



commissioned by December 2026. The Kwar project has been given a completion target of March 2028, while construction at the strategically sensitive Ratle dam has been

ordered to progress at an accelerated pace. The directive followed a two-day inspection by Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who reviewed multiple dam sites and

underlined that timelines would no longer be flexible.

The developments carry implications beyond power generation. The Chenab forms a critical part of the Indus basin, which supplies the majority of Pakistan's water needs. A large share of Pakistan's agriculture, dams, and canal networks depend on rivers that originate in India. As a result, infrastructure activity on the Chenab is closely monitored across the border.



Mining Vehicles Must Be GPS-Tracked, Says Uttarakhand High Court

■ Court Orders Integration With Ramanna Portal Amid Illegal Soapstone Mining Concerns

New Delhi: The Uttarakhand High Court has directed that all vehicles involved in mining operations must be equipped with GPS devices and integrated with the Ramanna Portal to enable real-time monitoring and data tracking. The observation was made during a hearing on damage caused to buildings and infrastructure due to soapstone mining in parts of Bageshwar district.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice G. Narendra and Justice Subhash Upadhyay was hearing a public interest litigation highlighting cracks in houses and other structures in several villages affected by mining activity. The court said GPS-based tracking would help authorities maintain transparency in mineral transportation and curb irregularities.

During the proceedings, the bench noted that integrating vehicle data with the Ramanna Portal would allow continuous surveillance of movement and timing. The court directed the state government to implement the tracking mechanism within one week and ensure strict compliance with existing mining regulations.

The observations followed the submission of a report by the Bageshwar District Mining Officer, which flagged serious discrepancies in transportation records. According to the findings, mining vehicles showed travel distances of around 55 kilometres being completed in 12 to 18 hours, a duration the court said was not practically feasible and indicated possible manipulation of records.

Pakistan Turned To Washington To Restrain India's Operation Sindoor

■ US Filings Reveal Intensive Lobbying Push During 2025 Military Escalation

New Delhi: New US government filings have revealed that Pakistan launched an intense lobbying campaign in Washington in an attempt to halt India's military operation, Operation Sindoor, following the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in 2025.

The disclosures show that Pakistani diplomats and defence



officials sought dozens of engagements with senior US administration

figures, lawmakers, defence officials, and influential media outlets

during the height of the conflict. The outreach was aimed at pressing Washington to intervene and curb India's military momentum.

Records indicate that more than 50 meetings and communications were pursued through emails, phone calls, and in person interactions, reflecting a coordinated diplomatic effort rather than routine engagement.

Sonia Gandhi Admitted To Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

■ Congress Leader Hospitalised For Routine Observation

New Delhi: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has been admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi as a precautionary measure. Sources said her condition is stable and there is no cause for concern.

She has been kept under observation by a chest physician due to a long standing issue of chronic cough. The admission is described as routine, especially given the impact of air pollution in the capital, which often aggravates respiratory conditions.

Sonia Gandhi was admitted on Monday



evening for regular medical evaluation.

Doctors are carrying out standard check ups, and no emergency treatment has been required.

The senior Congress leader, who turned 79 in December 2025, has undergone periodic health assessments in recent years. Hospital sources indicated that she is responding well and is comfortable.

"Elections Are The Only Way Forward": India Backs Nepal's Democratic Process

■ Ajit Doval Meets Prachanda As New Delhi Signals Support For March Polls

New Delhi: India has expressed strong support for Nepal's upcoming general elections, underscoring the importance of a democratic mandate to restore political stability in the neighbouring country. The message was conveyed during a high-level meeting in New Delhi between India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and former Nepal prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, widely known as Prachanda. The meeting took place late on January 4 and focused on Nepal's political transition following

months of uncertainty triggered by widespread Gen Z-led protests last year. Those protests ultimately led to the collapse of the KP Sharma Oli government, plunging the country into a period of instability. Against this backdrop, Nepal has announced general elections scheduled for March 5 as a pathway to political resolution.

During the discussions, Doval emphasised that elections are not merely a constitutional formality but a critical necessity to protect Nepal's democratic system. He conveyed India's view that a clear



electoral mandate is the most effective way to address the current impasse and ensure long-term national stability. The dialogue highlighted New Delhi's interest in a stable and democratic Nepal, rooted in institutional legitimacy and public consent. The meeting, hosted by Doval over dinner, served as an opportunity to assess the political

situation and reinforce the urgency of moving forward with the announced polls. The emphasis remained on democracy as the cornerstone of governance and the ballot box as the most credible mechanism to resolve political transitions.

Prachanda, who leads the Nepal Communist Party, responded by assuring that there is broad political consensus within Nepal in favour of holding elections. He indicated that major political parties are aligned on the need for polls and are not opposed to the electoral process.



Bangladesh Requests Time to Decide on T20 World Cup Matches in India

ICC Works to Resolve Bangladesh Concerns Ahead of T20 World Cup in India

New Delhi: The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has asked the International Cricket Council (ICC) for time to consult with its government before responding to a request to relocate its T20 World Cup matches from India. The ICC has been engaging with both the BCB and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to find a resolution as the tournament approaches in just a month.

Internal meetings were held by the ICC in Mumbai and Dubai on Monday, aiming to address the concerns while minimizing disruption to the event. Relocating Bangladesh's matches at this stage would present significant



logistical challenges, given the proximity of the tournament and ongoing preparations.

The ICC has indicated it is open to minor adjustments in the schedule and has assured Bangladesh of top-level security if the team continues to play its matches in India. A formal communication

from the ICC is expected soon, though no immediate decisions will be taken. The governing body is also preparing contingency plans in case relocation becomes necessary. Bangladesh is scheduled to play three of its four group-stage matches at Eden Gardens, with the fourth in Mumbai.

The team is part of Group C alongside England, West Indies, Nepal, and Italy. Any changes in the schedule could have a wider impact, particularly if Bangladesh advances to the Super Eights, and would also affect online ticketing, broadcasters, and traveling media.

Officials have cited the incident-free 2023 ODI World Cup during Pakistan's tour of India as a precedent for successfully hosting matches without disruption. While the ICC continues to encourage Bangladesh to play in India, the final decision will ultimately depend on discussions between the BCB, the BCCI, and the government.



Road to the 2026 Chess World Championship Begins With Candidates Line-Ups Finalized

Elite Players Clash in Cyprus for World Championship Spots

New Delhi: The stage is set for the next World Chess Championship, as the line-ups for the 2026 FIDE Candidates Tournaments have been confirmed following the completion of the qualification cycle. After its first North American edition in 2024, the tournament returns to Europe, with Cyprus selected as the host. Both events

will take place at the luxurious Cap St Georges Hotel & Resort near Paphos.

The Open Candidates Tournament promises an exciting mix of established grandmasters and emerging talents, determined by results across the 2024–25 FIDE Circuit, the 2025 World Cup, the 2025 Grand Swiss, and rating-based qualifications.

Lakshya Sen Moves Ahead, Malvika Bansod Exits Early At Malaysia Open

Sen Wins Tight Opener To Reach Second Round While Bansod Exits In Straight Games

New Delhi: India's top shuttler Lakshya Sen started the 2026 season on a strong note, advancing to the second round of the men's singles at the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament with a hard-fought victory over Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old from Almora, who won the Australian Open and

finished runner-up at the Hong Kong Open last season, took 70 minutes to secure a 21-16, 15-21, 21-14 win against world No. 21 Teh in an intense opening clash. Sen, ranked 13th globally and a bronze medallist at the 2021 World Championships, will next face either sixth seed Christo Popov of France or Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong.

In the women's singles, Malvika Bansod, making her return after a six-month break due to a left knee injury, was handed a straight-game defeat by seventh seed and former world champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand, falling 11-21, 11-21 in the opening round.

Later in the day, Ayush Shetty, last year's US Open Super 300



champion, is set to take on Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia, the Paris Olympics bronze medallist.

In men's doubles, the Indian pairing of experienced M R Arjun and 22-year-old Hariharan Amsakarunan will clash with Japan's Hiroki Midorikawa and Kyohei Yamashita, aiming to make a strong start in the tournament.

Neeraj Chopra Launches Own Management Firm, Ends Decade with JSW Sports

Neeraj Chopra Starts Vel Sports After Ending Decade-Long Partnership With JSW Sports

New Delhi: Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra has ended his ten-year partnership with JSW Sports and announced the launch of his own athlete management company, Vel Sports. Chopra, who has been represented by JSW Sports since 2016, described the collaboration as "defining," highlighting the shared growth and success that shaped his career.

"JSW Sports has played a defining role

in my journey, and I'll always be grateful for their support and vision," Chopra said, noting that the values guiding that partnership will continue to influence his next venture. JSW Sports CEO Divyanshu Singh expressed pride in the collaboration, praising Chopra's achievements as a reflection of their shared commitment to excellence.

During his tenure with JSW Sports, Chopra made history for Indian

athletics. He became the country's first Olympic gold medallist in track and field at Tokyo 2021, won gold at the 2023 World Championships, and secured an Olympic silver at Paris 2024, along with several podium finishes on the international stage. Both Chopra and JSW Sports described the split as amicable, marked by mutual respect and pride.

Chopra's return to competition, however, remains uncertain.



The javelin star is still recovering from a back injury sustained before last year's World Championships, which saw him finish eighth at the Tokyo 2025 edition. World Athletics vice-president and AFI spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla confirmed that Chopra has yet to decide when he will begin his 2026 season, emphasizing that his recovery and fitness will take priority.

Goa Aims for Strong Medal Performance at Khelo India Beach Games

State sends 32 athletes to compete across multiple disciplines in Diu

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa is gearing up for a promising medal run at the second edition of the Khelo India Beach Games, scheduled in Diu from 5th to 11th January 2026. The event officially commenced on 5th January, bringing together athletes from across India to compete in various beach sports.

The Goan contingent will take part in five disciplines: beach soccer, beach volleyball, sepak takraw, open sea swimming, and pencak silat. The state is targeting podium finishes in key events, including men's beach soccer, men's beach volleyball, women's sepak takraw, men's and women's pencak silat, and men's and women's swimming.

Goa is sending a

total of 32 athletes, supported by seven coaches and managers, to represent the state in these competitions. Officials have expressed confidence that the athletes' preparation and prior experience will help improve on last year's performance.

In the inaugural Khelo India Beach Games held in 2025, Goa finished 18th in the overall medal tally, securing three medals. The state had claimed silver in men's beach soccer and men's doubles sepak takraw, while earning a bronze in individual women's pencak silat. Building on that foundation, Goa hopes to achieve a stronger showing this year with multiple medal prospects across both team and individual events.



BEACH SOCCER

KHELO INDIA

GOA AIMS FOR STRONG MEDAL PERFORMANCE AT KHELO INDIA BEACH GAMES

STATE SENDS 32 ATHLETES TO COMPETE ACROSS MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES IN DIU

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Goa is sending a

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True Goemkar at heart

