



VIRAL VIDEOS ON DRUGS, PROSTITUTION ROCK GOA

Opposition slams BJP govt after clips on drugs in Calangute and alleged solicitation in Baga go viral

Trigger Political Storm Over Law Enforcement

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Two viral videos within a span of a week have rocked Goa, triggering a political storm and raising serious questions about law enforcement, governance, and the state's image as a leading tourist destination. The first video, reportedly shot in Calangute, features a foreign national alleging that drugs are being sold openly "under the nose of police." In the video, the individual goes a step further, claiming that law enforcement authorities are complicit in

allowing such activities to continue unchecked. The clip spread rapidly across social media platforms, drawing widespread attention and sparking outrage among citizens.

Even as the controversy around the first video was yet to subside, a second clip surfaced—this time from Baga—allegedly showing a foreign national soliciting clients on a public street. The visuals, which quickly went viral, intensified scrutiny over policing and public order in Goa's most frequented tourist belt.

The back-to-back

Calangute Drug Allegation Video

- Foreign national alleges open drug sale in Calangute
- Activities happening in full public view
- Accuses police of being complacent
- Outrage over narcotics control

POLICE COMPLICITY?

Baga Solicitation Video

- Foreign national in public solicitation in Baga
- Flagged by Vijai Sardesai
- Debate on law enforcement & public order
- Concerns over Goa's tourism image

TOURISM & SAFETY CONCERNS

emergence of these videos has provided fresh ammunition to opposition parties, who have accused the government of failing to maintain law and order. Goa Forward Party leader Vijai Sardesai was among the first to react, flagging the Baga video on social media and terming it "shocking and unacceptable." "If such activities are happening openly in prime tourist areas like Baga and Calangute, it clearly indicates a serious breakdown of law enforcement. The government must answer

whether it has lost control on the ground," Sardesai said. Targeting the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, he further questioned the state's governance priorities. "Goa's reputation is being compromised. We cannot allow illegal activities to flourish while authorities remain passive. This is not the image Goa should project to the world," he added.

Other opposition leaders also joined the chorus, demanding immediate clarification and action from the Home Department and Goa Police.

Vijai Alleges Voter Deletions, Lack of Transparency in Delimitation Process

■ Fatorda MLA questions SIR exercise, reservation data and SEC role ahead of civic polls.

- ✓ 4,500 Voters Deleted in Fatorda
- ✓ No Ward-wise SC/ST/OBC Data Published
- ✓ Lack of Clarity in Reservation and Delimitation Decisions
- ✓ Inadequate Addressing of Objections Raised
- ✓ Questions SEC Independence and Transparency

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PANAJI: Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai has raised serious concerns over the electoral process ahead of the upcoming municipal elections, alleging large-scale voter deletions and a lack of transparency in delimitation and reservation planning. Sardesai claimed that nearly 4,500 voters in his constituency have been removed from the electoral rolls without any clear explanation, terming the development as a potential case of disenfranchisement. He further alleged that the deletions appear to have disproportionately impacted areas where

opposition support is strong. The MLA also questioned the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, pointing out that there is no publicly available ward-wise data on Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) populations. According to him, in the absence of verified demographic data, it remains unclear how reservation decisions for municipal wards are being determined. Raising concerns over the delimitation process, Sardesai said that objections based on the principle of geographical continuity have not been adequately addressed.

Illegal Firearm Angle Deepens Probe in Tanvi Ghadi Murder Case

■ Police focus on source of unlicensed weapon as Shwet Gawde remanded for questioning.

Team Goemkarponn

SANGUEM: The investigation into the killing of Tanvi Ghadi in South Goa has taken a serious turn, with police focusing on the use and origin of an illegal firearm allegedly involved in the incident. The accused, Shwet Gawde, was arrested earlier and has been remanded to police custody for further interrogation as

What We Know...

- Gun used was illegal & unlicensed
- Tracing source & supply chain
- Victim shot in the neck, died
- Negligence? Was gun loaded?
- Charges under Arms Act
- Forensic & ballistic tests
- Witness statements recorded

investigators attempt to

trace how he procured

the unlicensed weapon. Officials said the firearm used in the shooting was not registered, raising concerns about illegal arms circulation in the state. According to police sources, the victim sustained a fatal gunshot injury during a gathering at a residence in Sanguem. While initial accounts suggested the possibility of negligence, investigators are now

CONTD TO PAGE 06...



India Resumes Iranian Oil Imports After Seven-Year Gap Under US Waiver

Tankers arrive at key ports as refiners take advantage of temporary policy window

New Delhi: India has received shipments of Iranian crude oil for the first time in seven years, marking a significant development in its energy trade amid a temporary

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

"Fire Safety Is a Shared Responsibility of Every Citizen," Says CM Sawant

■ Paying tribute to firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty, Sawant lauded their courage and dedication.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Emphasising that fire prevention cannot be left solely to authorities, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday said fire safety is a collective responsibility of industries, institutions and citizens across the state. He was speaking at the National Fire Service Day programme held at



the Fire Force Training Ground at St Inez in Panaji, organised by the Directorate of Fire and

Emergency Services. Chief Secretary V Candavelou attended as Guest of Honour, along with senior officials and fire personnel. Paying tribute to firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty, Sawant lauded their courage and dedication. He said their selfless service in protecting lives and property deserves the highest respect.

Careless Hands, Fatal Consequences: A Life Lost in Sanguem

The death of 20-year-old Tanvi Ghadi in Sanguem is not just another tragic headline. It is a stark reminder of how casually handled danger can turn fatal in a matter of seconds. What should have been an ordinary gathering among friends has instead left a family grieving, a young life cut short, and a community asking difficult questions about responsibility and awareness.

According to initial reports, Tanvi, a resident of Sanquelim, died after being struck by a bullet allegedly fired unintentionally by her friend Sweth Gaude, a 23-year-old crane operator from Bicholim. The rifle, authorities say, was being handled casually when it discharged. That single moment of negligence has now spiralled into irreversible loss.

At the heart of this incident lies a deeply troubling issue: the normalization of carelessness around firearms. Guns are not props. They are not objects to be passed around lightly or handled without training and discipline. Every firearm, whether licensed or otherwise, carries with it an inherent risk that demands respect. When that respect is absent, tragedy becomes a matter of probability, not possibility.

There is also a human dimension that cannot be overlooked. Two young lives now stand altered forever. One has been lost. The other faces the weight of legal consequences and the psychological burden of having caused irreversible harm, even if unintentionally. It is easy to frame this as an accident. But accidents, especially those involving lethal weapons, are rarely without preventable causes.

The law will take its course. The police

Goa is not a region commonly associated with gun violence. That is precisely why this incident feels even more jarring. It exposes a gap not just in enforcement, but in awareness.

How did a firearm end up in a casual social setting? Was it legally owned? Were basic

safety protocols understood by those present? These are not

procedural questions alone. They are

questions that speak to a broader culture of complacency.

investigation will piece together the sequence of events. Accountability, in legal terms, will be determined. But beyond the courtroom, there is a larger societal reckoning that must follow. This incident should compel authorities to revisit how firearm ownership is regulated, monitored, and,

importantly, educated.

Licensing a weapon should not be treated as a routine administrative process. It must be accompanied by rigorous training, periodic reviews, and strict accountability. More importantly, there needs to be a sustained public conversation about firearm safety. Awareness cannot be reactive, triggered only after tragedy strikes. It must be proactive and persistent.

Equally important is the role of individuals. Responsibility does not end with obtaining a license. It begins there. Safe storage, restricted access, and a clear understanding of handling protocols are basic expectations, not optional practices. The idea that a firearm can be brought into a casual gathering and handled freely points to a dangerous disregard for these fundamentals.

There is also a cultural aspect that deserves scrutiny. In many settings, especially among younger groups, there can be a misplaced sense of bravado associated with handling weapons. This needs to be challenged. A firearm is not a symbol of status or thrill. It is a tool designed with a singular, serious purpose. Treating it otherwise is a risk that no one can afford.

For Tanvi Ghadi's family, these conversations come too late. Their loss is permanent. But for the rest of society, this moment must not pass as just another news cycle. It must become a point of reflection and change.

If there is any lesson to be drawn from Sanguem, it is this: negligence around lethal weapons is never minor. It is never harmless. And it is never without consequences. The cost, as this tragedy shows, can be a human life.

EDITOR SPEAKS

A Brave Attempt, A Double Tragedy: Lessons from Canacona's Drowning

By Suraj Nandrekar

The recent drowning tragedy in Canacona, which claimed the lives of two young siblings, is a deeply distressing reminder of how quickly moments of innocence can turn into irreversible loss. An eight-year-old boy lost his life in the water, and in a heartbreaking turn, his 17-year-old sister, who tried to save him, also succumbed to her injuries at Goa Medical College and Hospital. What remains is not just grief, but a profound sense of helplessness and questions that demand attention.

At one level, this is a story of courage. A sister saw her younger brother in danger and acted on instinct, driven by love and urgency. There was no hesitation, no calculation of risk. In that moment, she did what many would hope to do for a loved one. Yet, it is precisely this instinctive response that makes such incidents so tragic. Without the knowledge or means to ensure safety, even the bravest efforts can end in disaster. This incident underlines a critical gap that often goes unnoticed until it is too late. Water bodies, whether rivers, wells, or even seasonal streams, are a part of everyday life in many parts of Goa. They are familiar, almost routine. But familiarity can breed a dangerous sense of comfort. The risks remain constant, even when they are not visible. The circumstances reported suggest that the young boy got into difficulty in the water, and the sister attempted a rescue but also got into distress. This is not an uncommon pattern. Across the country, a significant number of drowning deaths occur when untrained individuals attempt to rescue someone in trouble. What begins as a single emergency quickly escalates into multiple casualties. There is an urgent need to rethink how communities approach water safety.

Awareness cannot be limited to warnings or signboards. It must be rooted in practical knowledge. Basic swimming skills, understanding water currents, and simple rescue techniques can make a crucial difference. Even knowing what not to do in such situations is as important as knowing what to do. Local authorities and community organisations have a role to play here. Schools, in particular, can become spaces where children are taught not just academic lessons but life-saving skills. Structured programmes on water safety, even at a basic level, could prevent tragedies like the one in Canacona from repeating. Beyond education, there is a pressing need for better safeguards around known water bodies. Many such locations lack even the most basic precautions—no warning signs, no barriers, no lifeguards, and no emergency response systems. Identifying high-risk spots and ensuring minimum safety infrastructure could go a long way in reducing such incidents. Even simple measures, such as community volunteers trained in rescue and first aid, could make the difference between life and death in critical moments. Parents and guardians, too, must be part of this conversation. Awareness begins at home. Children should be made aware of the dangers associated with water, especially in areas where supervision is limited. Encouraging caution without instilling fear is a delicate balance, but one that must be attempted. This tragedy also highlights a broader reality. In emergencies, instinct often takes over, but instinct without preparedness can be dangerous.

Teaching people how to respond safely—using tools like ropes, sticks, or flotation devices instead of direct physical rescue—can prevent a second life from being lost while trying to save another. For the family, no measure of reform will undo what has happened. Their loss is immeasurable. But as a society, the responsibility lies in ensuring that such incidents do not fade into memory without meaningful action. This is not merely an unfortunate accident. It is a reminder of vulnerabilities that exist in plain sight. The loss of these two young lives must compel us to act, to educate, and to prepare better.

7 Held in Late-Night Cyber Fraud Raid at Karmali Call Centre

■ Accused posed as loan agents targeting US citizens; devices worth ₹23 lakh seized.



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PANAJI/TISWADI: In a major crackdown, the Cyber Crime Police Station conducted a late-night raid at a rented bungalow in Karmali, Tiswadi, busting an illegal call centre operation and arresting seven persons involved in an international cyber fraud racket.

The raid, carried out between 11:30 pm on April 13 and 4:00 am on April 14 under the supervision of SP Cyber Crime Raju Raut Dessai, led to the

seizure of laptops, mobile phones and other digital equipment collectively valued at approximately ₹23 lakh.

The arrested accused have been identified as Jay Vijay Acharya (Malad East, Mumbai), Yogesh Mali, Rishab Dipakkumar Shah, Ashutosh Yogesh Pratap, Thakkar Parth Bharabhai, Adrian Kinsten Mariasevan and Nilesh Satish Singh.

Police said the accused were operating a fake call centre, impersonating

What We Know...

► **Major Cyber Crime Bust:** Goa Cyber Crime Police raided an illegal call centre in Karmali, Tiswadi.

► **Late-Night Operation:** Raid conducted between April 13 (11:30 pm) and April 14 (4:00 am).

► **Seven Arrested:** Accused from different locations, including Mumbai, taken into custody.

► **International Fraud Racket:** Targeted US citizens posing as loan agents.

► **Fake Company Used:** Operated under the name "Payday" to lure victims.

► **Modus Operandi:** Promised instant loans, then cheated victims into paying via gift cards (Sephora, Apple, Xbox, etc.).

► **Seizures Worth ₹23 Lakh:** Laptops, mobile phones, and digital equipment confiscated.

► **Police Team:** Led by SP Cyber Crime Raju Raut Dessai, with PI Deepak Pednekar and team.

► **Organised Setup:** Rented bungalow used as a full-fledged call centre.

► **Further Probe On:** Police suspect more links and possible arrests ahead.

representatives of a loan company under the name "Payday."

They allegedly targeted citizens in the United States, luring them with promises of instant loans

and then cheating them into making payments via gift cards such as Sephora, Macy's, Green Dot MoneyPak, Apple Gift Cards, Razer Gold and Xbox.

Sawant Hails Women's Reservation Bill as Landmark Reform

■ CM says 33% quota will boost representation, strengthen inclusive governance.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday hailed the Women's Reservation Bill as a historic reform, stating that it will significantly enhance women's participation in India's democratic institutions. The legislation provides for 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, and is being seen as a major step towards strengthening gender equality in political decision-making.

Sawant said the move would empower women by creating greater opportunities for leadership and active involvement in governance. He also lauded Narendra Modi for spearheading the initiative, calling it a reflection of the government's commitment



to inclusive development and social justice. The Chief Minister noted that the reform aligns with the vision of Dr B. R. Ambedkar, emphasising equality, justice, and empowerment. He said the Bill carries forward these constitutional ideals by ensuring women receive adequate representation in governance. Highlighting its broader impact, Sawant said increased participation of women in leadership roles would strengthen governance and contribute to balanced decision-making across sectors such as education, health, economy, and public welfare.



House Burgled in Canacona; Valuables Worth ₹50k Stolen

Team Goemkarponn

Canacona: A house burglary has been reported in Canacona, with unknown persons decamping with valuables worth ₹50,000, police said.

According to the Goa Police, the incident occurred between 10:00 hrs on March 22 and 11:30 hrs on March 25, when the accused allegedly broke open the lock of the rear door of a house belonging

to Menino Fernandes and gained forcible entry.

The culprits reportedly stole a gold-coloured wristwatch of the Citizen brand and a pair of gold earrings, which were kept inside a cupboard.

Police have registered an offence under Sections 331(3), 331(4), and 305 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Ramdas Doifode of Canacona Police Station.

Panaji Court Denies Bail to Two Accused in Alleged Zuari Bridge Gangrape Case

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: A Fast Track Special Court in Panaji has rejected the bail applications of two accused in an alleged gangrape case reported from beneath the Zuari bridge last month, citing



the gravity of the charges and the early stage of the investigation. The court observed that the victim's

testimony is yet to be recorded and held that granting bail at this stage would be inappropriate.

According to the complaint, a 21-year-old woman alleged that she was befriended at Bambolim beach before being taken to a secluded

location, where she was allegedly sexually assaulted after being made to consume alcohol. The court also took note of medical findings indicating injuries and said that further evidence, including DNA reports, is still awaited.

Goans Oppose Smart Meter Rollout, Demand Public Consultation First

■ Civil groups raise concerns over health, privacy, costs; question ₹899 crore project viability

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Strong opposition is mounting in Goa against the state government's proposed rollout of smart electricity meters, with civil society groups demanding public consultation before any implementation. At a meeting held in Margao,

activists and concerned citizens voiced serious reservations over the project, citing potential health risks, data privacy issues, job losses, and escalating costs. The gathering underscored the need for transparency and wider public engagement before proceeding with the installation of smart

meters. Dr Darell D'Souza highlighted concerns over radiation exposure, claiming that emissions from smart meters could be higher than those from smartphones. He also pointed to gaps in existing legal safeguards governing such technology. Former bureaucrat Elvis



Gomes questioned the financial rationale of the project, noting that the government plans to spend approximately ₹899 crore to install around 7.5 lakh meters despite the current system functioning reliably.

Ajgaonkar Slams Jit, Pravin; Defends 25-Year Record of Development

■ Babu Ajgaonkar says public trust built on consistent work, dismisses allegations as politically motivated.

Team Goemkarponn

Pernem: Babu Ajgaonkar Defends Track Record, Says Public Trust Built on 25 Years of Development Work. Former minister Babu Ajgaonkar has strongly defended his long political career, stating that his electoral success over the past 25 years is rooted in consistent development work and public trust rather than political rhetoric.

Addressing criticisms from opponents, Ajgaonkar said he had been actively working in public life long before many current leaders entered politics. He claimed that his focus throughout his tenure as a councillor and MLA has remained on delivering tangible development



rather than making empty promises. He asserted that his constituency has repeatedly supported him in elections because of his visible work on the ground, particularly in infrastructure and employment. "People vote based on development, not money or influence," he said, adding that his record reflects consistent service to the public. Responding to suggestions that he step aside from active politics, Ajgaonkar said such remarks do not

reflect the people's sentiment. He maintained that voters continue to expect experienced leadership and sustained development, especially from those who have served for decades.

He also rejected allegations raised by political opponents regarding land-related issues and administrative decisions, calling them politically motivated. According to him, development projects undertaken during his tenure were carried out

transparently and with public support. Ajgaonkar further claimed that employment generation has been a key priority in his work and that many local youth have benefited from initiatives undertaken during his tenure. He said that his political journey has been built step by step through repeated public approval. He added that attempts to discredit his work will not change public perception, as voters are aware of who has delivered results and who has only engaged in criticism.

Reaffirming his commitment, Ajgaonkar said he will continue to serve the people as long as public support remains, emphasising that "true politics is measured by work, not words."



Goa CM Pays Tribute to Dr Ambedkar, Lays Foundation for Ambedkar Bhavan

■ Pramod Sawant reiterates focus on education and welfare schemes at Ambedkar Jayanti event in Panaji

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Pramod Sawant on Monday paid tributes to B. R. Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary at a function held at Dr. Ambedkar Park.

The programme was organised by the Directorate of Social Welfare in collaboration with the Goa State Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation. On the occasion, the

Chief Minister virtually laid the foundation stone for 'Ambedkar Bhavan' at Porvorim, stating that the facility would be completed within a year and dedicated to the public on the next Ambedkar Jayanti.

Extending his greetings on the occasion, Sawant reaffirmed the government's commitment to the ideals of Dr Ambedkar, highlighting his emphasis on education as a key instrument of empowerment.



Strict Regulations for Stalls Approved Ahead of Shree Lairai Devi Jatra

■ Two-phase plan, safety conditions, and regulated layout to manage large crowds at Shirgaon.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The North Goa District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has issued an order detailing the approval and strict regulation of stalls for the upcoming annual Shree Lairai Devi Jatra, scheduled to begin on April 21, 2026, at Shirgaon. To manage the expected high footfall, the Authority has approved a two-phase plan for the erection of stalls. In the first phase, stalls from A1 to A10 and B1 to B16 in Zone I, along with D1 to D9 in Zone III, will be permitted from April 21. This approval is subject to specific safety conditions,

including reducing the width of stalls opposite the Homkhand area from 6 metres to 5 metres.

Additionally, 15 stalls proposed along the approach road to the parking area will be shifted back by 1.5 metres to ensure a clear access and exit route for emergency vehicles.

In the second phase, stalls comprising C1 to C9 in Zone I, and E1 to E8 and F1 to F8 in Zone III, will be allowed from April 22. However, these stalls can only be erected after 10:00 am, considering the large congregation during the Homkhand ritual, which concludes in the early hours of the morning.

FDA Drive in Bardez Cracks Down on Food Safety Violations

■ 4 units shut, 200 kg food stock destroyed; ₹50,000 fine imposed on wholesaler.

Team Goemkarponn

BARDEZ: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) carried out a surveillance drive across Calangute and Canca-Verla on April 13, inspecting multiple food businesses and initiating strict action against



violators.

A total of six food establishments—including manufacturing units, restaurants, retailers



and wholesalers—were inspected, out of which four were directed to suspend operations until compliance with food



safety norms is ensured. During the drive, around 150 kg of misbranded food items such as farsan and pulses, along with 50 kg of paneer, were confiscated and destroyed for lacking proper labelling. The total value of the destroyed stock was estimated at ₹1 lakh.

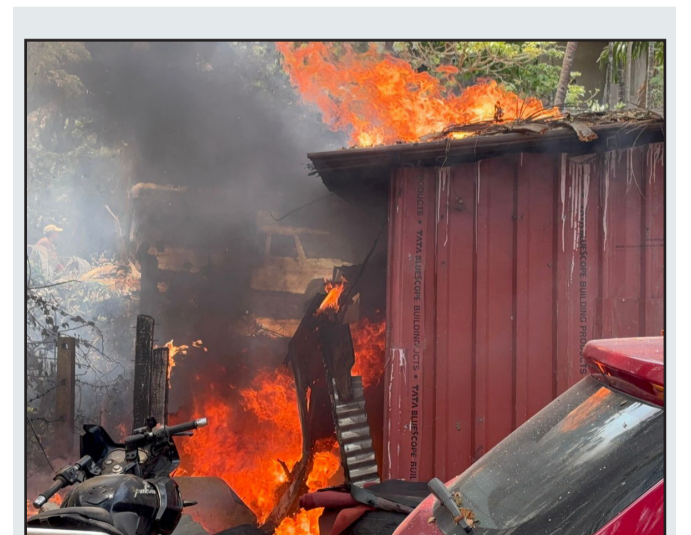
Goa CM Flags Rising Drowning Cases, Calls for Public Vigilance

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has expressed concern over rising drowning incidents in Goa, especially involving children and tourists at unsafe water bodies. He urged parents to ensure strict supervision of children and avoid visiting restricted or "No Swimming Zone" areas marked by authorities. The Chief Minister also urged



parents to be vigilant and strictly prevent children from visiting unsafe water bodies like streams and rivers. He said he feels deeply saddened whenever such drowning deaths are reported, stressing that parental responsibility is crucial in avoiding such tragedies.



Fire breaks out at a garage near Bholanath Hall in Ponda; swift response by fire brigade brings blaze under control, preventing major damage and saving several vehicles.

Ambedkar Statue Inaugurated at Mandrem's Chopde Circle

■ MLA Jit Arolkar says installation reflects commitment to equality, social harmony.

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: A statue of Dr B. R. Ambedkar was inaugurated at Chopde Circle in Mandrem in a well-attended function on Tuesday, with Mandrem MLA Jit Arolkar leading the ceremony. The event drew local residents, community representatives, and public officials, who gathered to pay tribute to Ambedkar's contributions to the Indian Constitution and his lifelong advocacy



for social justice and equality. Addressing the gathering, Arolkar said Ambedkar's ideals remain highly relevant in contemporary society and should continue to

guide governance and public life. He noted that the installation of the statue is not merely symbolic but serves as a reminder to uphold constitutional values.

The MLA highlighted that development initiatives in the constituency are being undertaken with a focus on inclusivity, ensuring benefits reach all sections of society. He added that honouring Ambedkar's legacy requires sustained efforts to promote equal opportunities and dignity for all citizens. Local residents welcomed the installation, describing it as a significant landmark and a source of inspiration for future generations.

Career Awareness Drive Held at Canacona School to Guide Class X Students

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A career guidance programme aimed at helping Class X students make informed academic and professional choices was organised at Shree Mallikarjun Higher Secondary School, drawing enthusiastic participation from students

SO, WHAT IS CAREER AWARENESS?



and staff.

The session focused on emerging career opportunities, professional courses, and real-world industry insights.

Guest speakers Rodney Fernandes and Dhaval Gandhi addressed the gathering, encouraging students to explore diverse career paths

beyond conventional options.

They highlighted the importance of awareness, planning, and informed decision-making in shaping future careers. The programme sought to create awareness about new-age career avenues while motivating students to pursue their goals with clarity and confidence.



Drishti Marine Lifesavers Rescue 6 From Drowning

■ Trace 4 Missing Children; 1 Injured by Glass Litter Assisted.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Drishti Marine lifesavers rescued six persons from drowning, traced four missing children, and provided medical assistance to one injured beachgoer along Goa's coastline over the weekend.

At Ashwem Beach, two women from Pune, aged 23 and 24, were rescued after losing balance in the water. In a separate incident at the same beach, a 20-year-old man from Taleigao was saved after being carried into deeper waters by a flash rip current. At Calangute Beach, a 27-year-old man from Hyderabad was rescued after being caught in a strong rip current. He was assessed on site and found to be stable. At Baga Beach, a five-year-old girl from Karnataka who had gone missing was located

and safely reunited with her father. At the same location, a 35-year-old man from Maharashtra sustained a deep cut on his foot after stepping on broken glass. Lifesavers administered first aid and handed him over to emergency services. From January 2026 till date, 10 beachgoers have been injured due to glass litter on Goa's beaches, including three foreign nationals and seven Indian citizens. At Colva Beach, two missing children—a four-year-old girl from Vasco and a five-year-old girl from Sanvordem—were traced and reunited with their families after due verification. A double rescue was carried out at Betalbatim Beach, where two women aged 16 and 38 from Cortalim were brought safely ashore after struggling in the water.



Suyog Shigmotsav Mandal Emerges "Romtamel Champions 2026" with Record Participation Across Goa

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Suyog Shigmotsav Mandal has secured the prestigious title of "Romtamel Champions 2026" after an exceptional run in this year's Shigmotsav competitions, marking one of its most successful seasons to date.

The mandal participated in a record 18 Romtamel competitions across Goa, the highest by any group this year. In several instances, the team competed in two events on the

same day, maintaining a consistently high standard of performance. The group clinched First prizes at Cortalim, Calangute, Curchorem, Mapusa, Sankhali, Porvorim, Cuncolim, Pernem and Ponda. It secured Second prizes at Panaji, Margao, Bicholim, Vasco, Mandrem and Sanguem, along with a Third place at Dharbandora and Fourth places at Shiroda and Valpoi.

Overall, the mandal's tally stands at 9 First, 6 Second, 1 Third and 2 Fourth prizes.



Stella Maris Chapel to Be Elevated to Church Status on April 15

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Archdiocese of Goa and Daman will witness a significant milestone with the elevation of Stella Maris Chapel to the status of a Church on April 15, 2026. The solemn ceremony is scheduled to take place at 5 pm at Miramar and will be presided over by Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão. The event is expected to be attended by members of the clergy, dignitaries, and parishioners, and will include special liturgical celebrations and prayers.

Sanvordem Truck Owners Seek Relief as Mining Transport Set to Resume

■ Operators urge Goa government for waiver on long-pending fitness dues ahead of iron ore movement restart

Team Goemkarponn

SANVORDEM: Truck owners in Sanvordem have renewed calls for government support as iron ore transportation prepares to resume in the region. At a meeting of the Sanvordem Truck Owners Association held locally, members discussed the upcoming



movement of ore by Fomento Resources from Kudgali to Sanvordem Junction. The association said its members are ready to restart operations

immediately, noting that many trucks have remained off the road for nearly 15 years following the prolonged suspension of mining activity in Goa. Association president Valab Dalvi appealed to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to introduce a one-time waiver on pending fitness renewal charges.

Goa Police Promotes 4 ASIs to PSI Rank

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Police has promoted four Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) to the rank of Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) with immediate effect, according to an official order.

The order, issued by the Office of the Director General of Police, stated that the promotions were carried out based on the recommendations of the Police Establishment Board.

The officers promoted are Krishna G.S. Desai,

Suresh N. Patil, Mohini R. Dessai, and Vinay S. Khot.

Following their elevation, the officers will be placed in the PSI rank under Pay Matrix Level-6, as per applicable government norms.

Digital Empowerment Drive Takes Root in Mulgao with Women-Centric Training Launch

■ MDSY initiative aims to bridge the digital divide and build essential skills among rural women.



Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A focused step towards strengthening digital inclusion was marked with the launch of a training programme under the Mahila Digital Sashaktikaran Yojana in Mulgao, Bicholim. The initiative is designed to equip women with essential digital skills and expand their participation in an increasingly technology driven world.

The programme reflects ongoing efforts to promote inclusive access to digital resources across Goa, with a special emphasis on empowering women in rural areas. By providing structured

learning opportunities, the initiative seeks to bridge the digital gap and enable participants to confidently use technology in their daily lives.

The inaugural session was conducted by the Info Tech Corporation of Goa Ltd., which is responsible for implementing the scheme. The event was attended by local representatives and community members, highlighting strong grassroots involvement and support for the initiative.

A key component of the programme is the Cyber Saksharta course, which introduces participants to the fundamentals of digital literacy. The

training covers essential skills required to navigate online platforms, access digital services and build confidence in using technology. Sessions are being conducted through Citizen Service Centres and IT Knowledge Centres, ensuring accessibility at the local level.

Village Level Entrepreneurs are playing a crucial role in delivering the training and guiding participants throughout the process.

Their involvement ensures that the programme reaches women at the grassroots, making digital education more accessible and practical.

The launch saw enthusiastic participation from women in the locality, reflecting a growing interest in acquiring digital skills. The structured training programme is expected to provide participants with practical knowledge that can support personal development and open new opportunities.

This initiative highlights a continued commitment to inclusive growth by ensuring that women are not left behind in the digital age. By fostering awareness, confidence and skill development, the programme aims to create a more digitally empowered and self-reliant community.



A Pitch Is About Sounding Certain, Not Just Smart

■ Goa's startup ecosystem highlights the importance of clarity, structure and passion in winning investor confidence.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: As Goa's startup ecosystem continues to expand, aspiring entrepreneurs are being encouraged to sharpen one of the most critical skills for success, the ability to pitch their ideas effectively. With hundreds of recognised startups emerging across the state, the focus is now shifting from just innovation to clear and compelling communication.

Pitching remains a crucial step for founders seeking funding, partnerships or market entry. While innovative ideas form the foundation of any startup, the ability to explain those ideas with clarity often determines whether they gain traction or fade away. For many first time entrepreneurs, presenting their vision can be challenging, but it is an essential part of the journey.

Efforts to strengthen this aspect of entrepreneurship are being driven through structured programmes aimed at building practical skills. One such session, held in Panaji, guided startup founders on crafting concise one minute pitches that clearly communicate their business vision. Participants were trained to avoid common pitfalls such as overloading presentations with technical details, failing to define their target audience, or lacking a clear value proposition.

The session introduced a structured approach to pitching, focusing on key elements such as a strong opening, identifying



the problem, presenting the solution, highlighting uniqueness, showcasing progress, and clearly stating expectations from investors. Founders were also advised to tailor their pitch depending on the audience, whether addressing investors, government bodies or potential customers.

Interactive exercises allowed participants to present their ideas within strict time limits, helping them refine both clarity and confidence. Many founders noted that the experience not only improved their communication skills but also helped them build valuable connections and gain new perspectives on business strategy.

Mentors emphasised that beyond structure and content, passion plays a defining role in a successful pitch. A founder's belief in their idea, when communicated effectively, can leave a lasting impression on investors. Ultimately, pitching is about telling a meaningful story, one that reflects purpose, clarity and conviction, while connecting with those who can help turn ideas into reality.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Illegal Firearm Angle Deepens Probe in Tanvi Ghadi Murder Case

examining whether the accused was aware that the weapon was loaded at the time of the incident. The illegal weapon has become central to the probe, with police working to identify its origin, supply chain, and

whether others were involved in its acquisition or possession. Authorities are also looking into possible violations under the Arms Act, in addition to the murder charge already registered against the accused. Sources

indicated that forensic analysis, including ballistic examination and other technical evidence, will play a key role in establishing the sequence of events. Statements from those present at the gathering are also being

recorded to piece together the circumstances leading up to the shooting. The case has drawn attention to concerns over the presence of unlicensed firearms and lapses in monitoring their movement.

India Resumes Iranian Oil Imports After Seven-Year Gap Under US Waiver

waiver granted by the United States. The move comes as Indian refiners act swiftly to utilise the limited window, which is set to expire on April 19. According to shipping data, two very large crude carriers carrying Iranian oil have docked at Indian ports. The Iran-flagged vessel Felicity has arrived at Sikka Port on the western coast, while the Curacao-flagged tanker Jaya has reached a port in Odisha

on the eastern coast. Each of these carriers is capable of transporting up to two million barrels of crude oil, indicating a substantial volume of imports. India, the world's third-largest importer and consumer of crude oil, had halted Iranian oil purchases in May 2019 following pressure from the United States. The latest development signals a temporary shift, allowing refiners to source oil from Tehran once again under

relaxed restrictions. State-run Indian Oil Corporation is reported to have secured a shipment carried by the tanker Jaya.

Additionally, Reliance Industries, which operates the world's largest refining complex, has also been permitted to procure Iranian crude through multiple vessels, including Felicity and others flagged under different jurisdictions. Several of these tankers are older vessels and are currently

under United States sanctions, highlighting the complexities surrounding the transaction.

Despite this, Indian refiners appear to be leveraging the waiver to diversify supply and manage energy needs. The resumption of Iranian oil imports, even if temporary, reflects the evolving dynamics of global energy markets and India's efforts to balance geopolitical constraints with domestic demand.

“They Couldn’t Finalise It”: JD Vance Explains Collapse of Iran Talks

■ US says Iranian team lacked authority as Washington signals openness for fresh negotiations.

Washington: JD Vance revealed that recent talks between the United States and Iran in Pakistan failed to produce a breakthrough because the Iranian delegation did not have the authority to finalise any agreement. Speaking after the discussions, Vance stated that the negotiating team present at the talks was unable to conclude a deal independently and would need approval from senior leadership in Tehran. This limitation, he indicated, was a key reason why



the negotiations ended without any concrete outcome.

He noted that the United States had clearly outlined its expectations and non-negotiable conditions during the discussions. Despite the

setback, Washington remains open to continuing dialogue and is awaiting a response from Iran regarding the terms that were presented.

Vance also highlighted that the US is willing to

move towards normalising relations if Iran meets the required conditions.

He reiterated that the next step now depends on Tehran’s decision, signalling that the responsibility lies with Iran to advance the process. The talks, held in Islamabad, were seen as a significant diplomatic effort amid ongoing tensions in the region.

However, the absence of decision-making authority within the Iranian delegation prevented any immediate progress.



Nitish Kumar Chairs Final Cabinet Before Exit

■ Bihar Chief Minister set to step down after dissolving council of ministers.

Patna: Nitish Kumar chaired his final cabinet meeting on Tuesday, marking the end of his tenure as he prepares to step down from office. The veteran leader recommended the dissolution of the council of ministers, a constitutional step required before formally submitting his resignation to the Governor. During the brief meeting, Kumar informed his cabinet colleagues about his decision and reflected on his years in office. In a short address, he highlighted the key initiatives and governance efforts undertaken since he first assumed power in 2005. He stated that he had done his best during his tenure and expressed confidence that the incoming government would continue the work, adding that his guidance would remain available in the future. Kumar, who is currently a member of the Rajya Sabha, is expected to meet the

Governor later in the day to formally submit his resignation. The move signals a significant political transition in Bihar, bringing an end to one of the state’s longest-serving leadership periods. His tenure has been marked by multiple political shifts and alliances, along with a focus on development schemes and administrative reforms. Over the years, Kumar has played a central role in shaping Bihar’s political landscape, often influencing broader national dynamics as well. The decision to step down follows internal and political developments, though the next course of action regarding leadership in the state is yet to be officially announced.

Attention now turns to the formation of a new government and the direction it will take in continuing governance and policy implementation.

“Daughters Cannot Wait Forever”: PM Modi Pushes Urgency on Women’s Quota

■ Letter to ‘Nari Shakti’ calls for faster implementation of long-pending political reservation reform.

New Delhi: Narendra Modi has emphasised the need to accelerate the implementation of women’s reservation in legislative bodies, stating that further delays are unjustified. In a message addressed to the women of India, he underlined the importance of ensuring their rightful representation in Parliament and state



assemblies. The Prime Minister highlighted that the proposal to reserve seats for women, expected to be

implemented from the 2029 general elections, has already received widespread support. He described the reform as a long-pending commitment that must now be realised without hesitation. Marking the birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar, Modi paid tribute to his contributions and reiterated the importance

of constitutional values in shaping inclusive governance. He noted that Ambedkar’s vision continues to guide efforts toward equality and representation in the country. In his message, Modi pointed to the growing role of women across sectors such as entrepreneurship, science, education and sports.

“You Treat Muslims Like Vote Bank”: Owaisi Targets Mamata in Fresh Political Attack

■ AIMIM chief accuses Bengal leadership of aiding BJP’s rise and neglecting minority welfare.

Kolkata: Asaduddin Owaisi launched a sharp attack on Mamata Banerjee, accusing her of strengthening the Bharatiya Janata Party in West Bengal while failing to address the concerns of the Muslim community. In a strongly worded statement, Owaisi alleged that Banerjee had historically played a role in enabling the BJP’s early political growth. He referred to past political developments, questioning her alliances and decisions during key periods when the BJP



began gaining ground nationally.

The AIMIM leader also criticised what he described as a “use and discard” approach towards Muslims, claiming that the community is treated as a vote bank rather than being given meaningful development



opportunities. He raised concerns over the lack of economic initiatives, including the absence of industrial projects that could benefit minority populations. Owaisi further expressed frustration over criticism directed at his party for contesting elections in the state.

Focus on Indian Safety as Jaishankar Engages Kuwait, Singapore Amid Crisis

■ Diplomatic outreach intensifies as US blockade of Iranian ports heightens regional tensions.

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held key discussions with his counterparts from Kuwait and Singapore as tensions escalated in West Asia following the implementation of a United States blockade on Iranian ports. During his conversation with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the focus remained on the evolving regional situation and the safety of the Indian community residing in Kuwait. The well-being



of Indian nationals in the Gulf continues to be a priority as geopolitical uncertainties rise. Jaishankar also spoke with Singapore’s Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, where both leaders exchanged perspectives on the ongoing conflict in West Asia and its broader

global implications.

The discussions reflected growing international concern over the potential economic and security impact of the crisis. The diplomatic outreach comes shortly after talks between Iran and the United States concluded without a resolution.

“Hungry and Motivated” Debutants Shine as Ishan Leads SRH to Big Win

■ Captain’s blistering knock and fearless young pacers end Rajasthan’s winning streak.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Ishan Kishan praised his young bowlers for their fearless approach after a dominant win over Rajasthan Royals in the IPL 2026 clash at Uppal Stadium. The match turned into a memorable outing for two debutant pacers, Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain, who delivered stunning performances to seal the victory. Leading from the front, Ishan powered his side to a strong total of 216 for 6 with a commanding 91 off just 44 balls. His



aggressive innings, filled with boundaries and sixes, laid the foundation for a challenging target. He received valuable support from Heinrich Klaasen, who scored 40, and Nitish Kumar Reddy, who added a quick 28. Defending the total, Hyderabad’s pace attack made an immediate

impact. Praful Hinge struck early, dismantling Rajasthan’s top order in the opening over and leaving them reeling at 9 for 5. His remarkable spell of 4 for 34 on debut set the tone for the innings. Sakib Hussain complemented the effort later, claiming 4 for 24 and

ensuring the opposition never recovered. Despite a fighting partnership between Donovan Ferreira, who scored 69, and Ravindra Jadeja, who contributed 45, Rajasthan were bowled out for 159, falling well short of the target. After the match, Ishan highlighted the importance of giving opportunities to young players, noting their hunger and preparation throughout the season. He credited their hard work and willingness to learn from experienced teammates and coaches as key factors behind their success.



Lolien Tigers Clinch Title with Gritty 9-Run Win in Floodlit Final

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Lolien Tigers emerged victorious in a closely fought contest, defeating Young Maratha to lift the inaugural Chetan Manju Desai Leatherball T20 Cricket Tournament trophy at the GCA Cricket Ground in Mashem. After winning the toss and electing to bat, Lolien Tigers posted a modest total of 103 runs, getting bowled out on the final delivery of their 20 overs.

Despite the low score, the team displayed resilience and determination in defending their total under floodlights. Young Maratha began their chase with intent but faced consistent pressure from the Tigers’ bowling unit. The innings saw moments of promise, yet wickets at regular intervals prevented them from building momentum. They eventually finished at 94 for 9 in their allotted 20 overs, falling short by 9 runs in a gripping finale.



St. Anne's Agonda Create History with First State Football Title for Canacona

Team. Goemkarponn

CANACONA: St. Anne’s Institute, Agonda etched their name in history by securing Under-17 Girls State Championship after a gripping final against Asagaon Union High School at the Dramapur grounds on Monday. The match opened with intensity as St. Anne’s took an early lead through Gwyneth Fernandes, setting the tone for a competitive encounter. The team maintained composure and control

through the first half, displaying disciplined play and strong coordination. After the break, Asagaon Union responded swiftly, equalising within minutes and shifting the momentum. Both sides continued to press for a winner, but despite several attempts, neither team could break the deadlock, ending regulation time at 1-1. The championship was ultimately decided through a tense tie-breaker, where St. Anne’s Institute demonstrated remarkable calm under pressure.

Dempo Seal Final Spot with Commanding Chase in Decisive League Round

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The fifth and concluding round of the Goa Premier Division League wrapped up on Sunday, confirming Chowgule Sports Club and Dempo Cricket Club as the top two teams progressing to the final. Chowgule finished at the top with 21 points, while Dempo secured second place with 15 points. The much-anticipated final is scheduled from April 15 to 17 at the GCA Academy ground in Porvorim, to be played under lights with a pink ball. Dempo booked their place in the final with a solid five wicket win over Panjim Gymkhana. Batting first, Panjim Gymkhana were bowled out for 143, with Soham Panvikar contributing



51 and Afridsab adding 27. Dempo responded strongly, posting 266 in their first innings, powered by a fine century from Snehal Kavthankar who scored 119, supported by Aaditya Kota’s 61. Abhinandan Thakur stood out for Panjim with a five wicket haul. In their second innings, Panjim Gymkhana showed resilience, scoring 270 runs. Ishaan Gadekar made 56, while Soham Panvikar remained unbeaten on 53. Vijesh Prabhudesai chipped

in with 35. Chasing a target of 148, Dempo reached 149 for 5, with Abhinav Tej Rana, Aaditya Kota and Sarthak Bhiye contributing crucial runs. Despite Shadab Khan’s four wickets, Dempo comfortably completed the chase. In another match, Salgaocar Cricket Club’s first innings total of 351, highlighted by Yash Kasvankar’s 121, was surpassed by Geno Sports Club, who scored 385 to gain a first innings lead. Vikas Singh,

Manthan Khutkar and Nihal Surlkar played key roles for Geno. Salgaocar managed 243 for 8 in their second innings, with Amulya Pandrekar unbeaten on 50. Nihal Surlkar impressed with six wickets, but the match ended in a draw due to time constraints. The league stage concluded with closely contested matches, setting up an exciting final between two of the tournament’s most consistent sides.

Shree Damodar Dominates Final to Lift Salcete Zone Crown

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Shree Damodar High School delivered a confident all-round performance to claim the Salcete zone title in the Under-14 President’s Cup inter-school cricket tournament, securing an eight-wicket victory over Bhatikar High School in the final held at S.K.



Ground, Molcornem on Sunday. After being put in to bat, Bhatikar High School put up a competitive total of 126 for 3 in their 25

overs. The innings was anchored by Ayush Gaonkar, who played an impressive knock of 60 runs off 51 balls, striking boundaries with ease

and maintaining a steady scoring rate. He was well supported by Sanch Naik, who contributed a patient 50 off 80 deliveries, ensuring stability in the

middle order. Despite their efforts, Shree Damodar’s bowlers kept things under control, with captain Rumaan Mulam leading from the front by claiming two wickets for 30 runs. Affan Shaikh also chipped in with a wicket to restrict the opposition. In response, Shree Damodar approached the chase with confidence

and composure. They comfortably reached the target, scoring 129 for 2 in just 21.2 overs. Usman Ghani played a match-winning innings, remaining unbeaten on 67 off 60 balls. His knock, which included a series of well-timed boundaries, ensured there were no hiccups during the chase.