



## Bangladesh Gang Used Jungle Hideouts Silent Surveillance Before Goa Dacoities: Crime Branch

Accused monitored family routines, avoided mobile communication and stayed in secluded areas before targeting homes in Dona Paula and Mapusa

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa Crime Branch investigation into the 2025 Dona Paula and Mapusa dacoity cases has uncovered a chilling modus operandi allegedly adopted by a Bangladesh-based gang that carried out detailed surveillance of residential areas before striking.

Police revealed that the accused would stay in secluded jungle



patches and isolated areas near targeted localities for up to two days, carefully observing residents' sleeping habits, family movement patterns and possible entry points into homes before committing the crimes.

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▶ Five Bangladeshi nationals arrested in connection with the 2025 Dona Paula and Mapusa dacoity cases

▶ Accused were apprehended by Delhi Crime Branch while allegedly planning another dacoity and later brought to Goa by Crime Branch

▶ Gang allegedly entered India through

the Meghalaya border and operated across multiple states before reaching Goa

▶ Police say accused conducted detailed surveillance, stayed in jungle areas and monitored family routines before targeting homes

▶ Victims were allegedly assaulted and tied up while the gang fled with gold ornaments and valuables



## Goa Expands Worker Welfare Net With Death Compensation, New Labour Schemes

### CM Pramod Sawant Announces ₹50,000 Death Benefit, Injury Aid And Five New Welfare Initiatives For Workers

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Marking Labour Day celebrations in Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday announced a major expansion of welfare measures for workers, including enhanced compensation benefits for construction labourers and the launch of five new social support schemes.

Addressing a Labour Day programme in Dona Paula, the Chief Minister said the Goa government is committed to strengthening the social security network for workers and ensuring better financial protection for labourers and their families.

Under the Construction Welfare Board, the government will now provide compensation of ₹50,000 to the family of a worker in the event of a death under insurance coverage. Construction workers who suffer injuries will also receive one-time financial assistance of ₹25,000.

Calling the move an important step towards worker welfare, Sawant said the government aims to provide timely support to labourers facing hardship due to accidents and unforeseen situations.

Alongside the compensation measures, the Chief Minister unveiled five

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## “OCI System Goes Fully Digital”: India Revamps Rules for Overseas Citizens

### New Framework Simplifies Processes, Adds Transparency and Biometric Integration

**New Delhi:** India has introduced significant amendments to its citizenship framework, bringing major changes for Overseas Citizen of India cardholders. The reforms signal a clear shift towards a fully digital and more structured system aimed

at simplifying procedures and strengthening administrative oversight.

The updated rules, issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, are designed to streamline key processes such as registration, renunciation, and cancellation of OCI status. By reducing



paperwork and standardising procedures, the changes are expected

to make the system more efficient and user-friendly.

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## “We Will Ruthlessly Crush Drug Cartels”: ₹1,745 Crore Cocaine Haul in Mumbai

### 349 kg Consignment Linked to Global Network as Key Trafficker Brought Back to India

**New Delhi:** In a major breakthrough against international drug trafficking, authorities seized 349 kilograms of high-grade cocaine in Mumbai, with an estimated value of ₹1,745 crore. The operation marks one of the largest drug busts in recent times and highlights an intensified crackdown on narcotics networks operating across borders.

Union Home Minister



Amit Shah reaffirmed the government's firm stance against drug cartels, stating that efforts are underway to dismantle such networks through decisive

and uncompromising action. The seizure was described as a significant achievement, demonstrating a strategic approach where

investigators tracked a smaller lead to uncover a much larger international operation. The operation was carried out by the Narcotics Control Bureau, which coordinated closely with domestic intelligence units and global agencies. Officials indicated that the case reflects a broader “bottom to top” strategy aimed at identifying and dismantling entire supply chains rather than targeting isolated shipments.

In a parallel

development, authorities secured the return of a wanted drug trafficker, Mohammed Salim Dola, from Turkey under a coordinated international effort named Operation Global Hunt. He was detained upon arrival at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.

Dola, aged 59 and originally from Mumbai, had been evading law enforcement for years and was the subject of an Interpol Red Notice issued

in 2024. Investigators allege that he played a central role in a vast transnational narcotics network spanning regions in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

His criminal record reportedly includes involvement in multiple large-scale drug trafficking cases involving substances such as heroin, charas, methamphetamine, and synthetic drugs across Maharashtra and Gujarat.

# Goa Cannot Remain a Constitutional Exception Forever

It should never have required a High Court judgment to establish that Goa is part of India. Yet that is precisely the absurd constitutional moment the Bombay High Court recently confronted when a registrar refused to recognise a divorce decree issued by a Karnataka court, treating it as though it had emerged from foreign territory.

The ruling may have corrected one administrative error, but it has exposed something far more troubling: a lingering colonial mindset embedded within parts of Goa's legal machinery. At the heart of the controversy lies a dangerous confusion between preserving legal heritage and preserving legal isolation.

Goa occupies a unique place in India's constitutional landscape. Unlike most states, it inherited a Portuguese civil law system that continued after liberation in 1961. Over the decades, this distinct framework has often been celebrated nationally, especially by those advocating for a Uniform Civil Code. Goa is repeatedly showcased as proof that a common civil law regime can function in a deeply diverse country.

But beneath this political symbolism lies a far messier reality.

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*The Portuguese Civil Code that survives in Goa is not a polished model crafted for modern India. It is a colonial era legal structure layered with amendments, administrative adaptations, translation problems, and unresolved contradictions.* “

Goa is not a polished model crafted for modern India. It is a colonial era legal structure layered with amendments, administrative

adaptations, translation problems, and unresolved contradictions. Many of its provisions continue to coexist awkwardly with Indian procedural law. The latest controversy demonstrates what happens when institutions inherit old laws without fully integrating them into constitutional logic.

The registrar's reasoning was astonishing in its implications. By insisting that a Karnataka court decree required special recognition procedures under Portuguese procedural law, the official effectively treated an Indian court as external to Goa's jurisdictional universe. The problem was not merely technical misinterpretation. It reflected an institutional mentality that still sees Goa as legally exceptional in ways that border on constitutional absurdity.

This is not an isolated problem. Goa's legal system has long suffered from administrative neglect disguised as respect for tradition. Even decades after liberation, there have been repeated concerns about the absence of authoritative translations, inconsistent interpretation of Portuguese provisions, and lack of clarity among officials tasked with implementing them. Citizens often find themselves trapped between legal systems

## EDITOR'S SPEAK

### Goa's Drug Economy Is No Longer a Local Crime Problem

The freezing of assets worth Rs 3.78 crore in a Goa linked narcotics case should force an uncomfortable national conversation. What appears at first glance to be another high profile drug bust is actually a warning sign about the growing convergence of organised crime, financial networks, and the tourism economy in coastal states like Goa. The Narcotics Control Bureau's latest action, involving alleged drug syndicate operator Danish M and his associates, points to a pattern that India can no longer dismiss as isolated criminal activity. Investigators suspect links to networks associated with fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, while the accused allegedly operated across multiple cities before being tracked to a luxury resort in Goa. The symbolism is impossible to ignore. A state internationally marketed as a leisure destination is increasingly appearing in headlines connected to narcotics trafficking, money movement, and organised criminal activity. That should alarm both law enforcement agencies and policymakers. For years, Goa's drug problem has been treated with a strange mixture of denial and seasonal outrage. Every few months, authorities announce a major raid, a nightclub crackdown, or the arrest of foreign and interstate traffickers. Political leaders promise “zero tolerance.” Yet the ecosystem survives, adapts, and expands. The problem persists because the drug trade in Goa is no longer confined to beachside peddling or party circuits. It has evolved into a sophisticated underground economy tied to interstate supply chains, real estate, hospitality networks, and financial laundering mechanisms. The latest case demonstrates precisely that evolution. Authorities did not merely seize narcotics. They tracked bank accounts, vehicles, jewellery, property, and cash. That matters because organised narcotics operations are ultimately sustained not by drugs alone but by the ability to convert illegal profits into legitimate appearing wealth. The freezing of assets under SAFEMA and NDPS provisions signals recognition that the real battle is financial, not merely criminal. India's anti narcotics response, however, still remains disproportionately focused on seizures and arrests rather than dismantling the economic infrastructure behind trafficking. Headlines celebrate kilograms recovered, but much less attention is paid to how drug money enters businesses, hospitality ventures, luxury lifestyles, or informal investment networks. Criminal syndicates survive because they successfully integrate themselves into local economies while remaining socially invisible. Goa provides fertile ground for that invisibility. The state's tourism driven economy creates enormous volumes of transient cash flow, temporary populations, rented properties, nightlife activity, and seasonal employment. These conditions make

# NCB Freezes ₹3.78 Crore Assets In Goa Drug Syndicate Case

Kingpin With Alleged Dawood Link, Associate Booked Under NDPS And Safema Provisions

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** In a case suspected to have links to fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has frozen assets worth Rs 3.78 crore belonging to an alleged drug syndicate leader and his associate, months after their arrest at a luxury resort in Goa.

The Competent Authority and Administrator under the SAFEMA and NDPS Acts in Mumbai has confirmed the attachment of assets



valued at Rs 3,78,24,124 linked to Danish M, also known as 'Danish Chikna', and his associate Henna S. The assets include five bank accounts, an immovable property, cash, jewellery and two vehicles.

NCB Mumbai had earlier described the October 2025 arrests as a major breakthrough in

cracking a drug network. Danish M is believed to be the son of Yusuf Chikna, an alleged associate of Dawood Ibrahim. Officials said the accused had gone into hiding after a major drug seizure and were frequently moving across states to evade authorities. Based on sustained surveillance

and intelligence inputs, NCB teams tracked them to a resort in Goa, where they were arrested. The operation led to the seizure of 1.3 kg of mephedrone, the agency said. The case originated from a seizure of mephedrone from an alleged carrier, Nitin G, in Pune on September 18, 2025. Further investigation led to additional contraband being recovered from Henna's residence, during which another accused, M Z Shaikh, was arrested.

In a further



## Canacona Panchayats Honoured At National Panchayati Raj Day 2026

Poinguinim, Agonda Village Panchayats Receive Excellence Certificates

Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA:** Two village panchayats from Canacona taluka were honoured with Certificates of Excellence during the Viksit Goa Panchayat Sammelan held on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day 2026.

Village Panchayat Poinguinim received the Certificate of Excellence for achieving the highest score in Local Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs). The award was presented to Sarpanch Savita Ramesh Tawadkar by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in the presence of Panchayats Minister Mauvin Godinho.

Others present included Dy. Sarpanch Sunil Paingankar, panch members Satish Poinguinkar, Mahesh (Govind) Naik, Pravir Bhandari, Panchayat

Secretary Rajiv K Naik Gaunkar and other officials.

Village Panchayat Agonda was awarded the Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Commitment and Exemplary Performance in establishing and maintaining 'Best Waste Management Facilities'. The citation was received by Agonda Sarpanch Nilesh Pagi in the presence of Minister Mauvin Godinho and Panchayat Secretary Amol K Naik Gaunkar.

Notably, Agonda was earlier shortlisted as the only panchayat from Goa for the National Panchayat Awards 2023 in the 'Clean and Green' category. The village was recognised on World Environment Day 2024 by the Government of India for its achievements in waste management.



## HC Turns Down Bid To Re-Examine Child Witness After 5 Years

**PANAJI:** The Bombay High Court at Goa has refused an accused's request to recall a minor survivor for cross-examination, citing an unjustified delay of nearly five years.

Justice Amit Jamsandekar dismissed the plea filed by Shivanna Sajjan, observing that no reasonable grounds were provided for seeking to reopen the testimony at such a late stage.

The matter relates to a case registered on May 17, 2018, under Section 377 of the IPC, provisions of the Goa Children's Act, and relevant sections of the POCSO Act.

The court pointed out that the child had already deposed on December 6, 2018, in the presence of the accused's lawyer. However, the defence chose not to cross-examine the witness at that time.

The application to recall the witness was only filed on February 14, 2024. The court held that such a prolonged

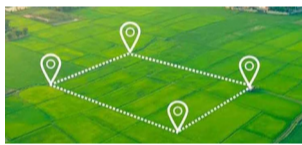
## TCP Finalises Conversion Of Four Land Parcels Into Settlement Zones

Margao Esic Hospital Directed To Return Rs 4.79 Lakh Within 60 Days With 8% Interest If Delayed

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Town and Country Planning Department has formally approved the conversion of four land parcels, together measuring 13,936 square metres, into settlement zones in the villages of Arrosim and Assagao.

Officials stated that the changes to the Regional Plan will remain dependent on the



outcome of Public Interest Litigation petitions that are presently pending before the High Court. In a separate development, the department has also cleared proposals for the conversion of nine more land parcels, with a combined area of 12,464 square metres, under

Section 39A of the TCP Act. The proposed zoning changes involve land located in Latambarcem, Assagao, Corgao, Torxem, Raia, Deussua, Sao Jose de Areal, Cuncolim and Xeldem. The TCP Department has called for suggestions and objections from the public, giving citizens a 30-day window to respond before the proposals are considered for final approval.

## Vasco court reserves bail order in Gautam Khattar case, decision on Saturday

Team Goemkarponn

**VASCO:** The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court at Vasco has reserved its order on the bail application of Gautam Khattar, with the verdict scheduled to be pronounced on Saturday at 10 am. The court will also decide on the extension of his remand, which is set to expire on May 2. Advocate Amey Prabhudessai, representing Khattar, informed that arguments from both sides have concluded after the



defence filed the bail plea and the police submitted their reply. He argued that continued police custody of Khattar is not necessary as the alleged offence is already documented through video evidence.

Prabhudessai stated that the police have collected Khattar's voice samples and forwarded them to forensic experts in Pune for analysis. He maintained that the case primarily hinges on

whether the statements in question were made by Khattar and whether they can be conclusively proven. "In such cases, where the material is already recorded and documented, there is little justification for prolonged custody. The forensic analysis will determine whether the voice matches, which is central to the case," he said.

He further contended that the custodial interrogation would not yield any additional benefit. The defence stressed that keeping

the accused in custody under such circumstances serves no meaningful purpose.

Meanwhile, the Crime Branch has opposed the bail plea, arguing that Khattar's release at this stage could adversely affect public order and communal harmony. The prosecution submitted that the voice analysis report is still awaited and claimed that the speech attributed to Khattar was not spontaneous but delivered with deliberate intent to disturb peace in Goa.

## Six Booked In ₹ 90 Lakh Startup Investment Fraud Case In Vasco

Complainant Alleges False Business Promises, Fund Misuse And Manipulated Financial Records

Team Goemkarponn

**VASCO:** Vasco Police have registered a cheating case against six persons in connection with an alleged Rs 90 lakh startup investment fraud linked to a technology company.

The complaint was filed by Santosh Mahale, authorised representative of Vishwas Warehousing and Trading Pvt. Ltd. and Shikargah Pvt. Ltd. According to police, the alleged offence took place between November



20, 2015 and the year 2019 at TNK, Vasco. The accused have been identified as Aruna Schwarz, Chief Executive

Officer of Khemeia Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Chennai; Revathy Ashok of Domlur Layout, Bengaluru, director of the

company; Sunil Koliyot of Arumbakkam, Chennai, director of the company; Chandu Nair, director of the company; S. Prabhu Kannan, representative of M/s P. Senthamarai Kannan; and Sanjay Jain, representative of M/s SPA Capital Advisors Limited. Police said the accused allegedly induced the complainant firms to invest in Khemeia Technologies Pvt. Ltd. by making false representations regarding a cloud-based technology products business.

## 21-Year-Old Woman Found Dead In Kapileshwari Temple Pond

Body Retrieved By Fire Force Officials After PCR Alert In Ponda

Team Goemkarponn

**PONDA:** A 21-year-old woman was found dead in the temple pond at Kapileshwari in Ponda on Tuesday evening, police said.

According to police, a phone call was received from PCR Panaji on April 29, 2026, at around 4:59 pm informing that a woman had jumped into the Kapileshwari pond.

During enquiry, police visited the spot where the body of the woman was traced in the temple pond waters at Kapileshwari.



With the assistance of Fire Force personnel, the body was retrieved from the pond.

The deceased was later identified as Sejal Tilve, 21, a resident near Bhagwati Temple, Queula, Ponda.

Police conducted the scene of unnatural death

occurrence panchanama and inquest panchanama at the site. The body has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for further medico-legal formalities.

Further enquiry in the case is being conducted by PSI Chetan Naik of Ponda Police Station.

## Calangute Man Dies In Self-Accident Near Socorro

Team Goemkarponn

**BARDEZ:** A 34-year-old man from Calangute died after meeting with a self-accident near Velankanni Chapel at Karrem, Socorro, police said.

According to police, a wireless message was received from the Casualty Police Cell of GMC Bambolim on April 29, 2026, at around 8:33 pm informing that the victim, identified as John Paul Fernandes, son of Joao Baptista Fernandes and resident of Gaura Vaddo, Calangute, had expired while undergoing treatment in Ward 120.



## Two Russian Nationals Booked For Illegal Stay In Arambol

Mandrem Police Register Separate Cases After Foreign Nationals Found Without Valid Visa Documents

Team Goemkarponn

**PERNEM:** Mandrem Police have registered separate offences against two Russian nationals for allegedly staying illegally in India without valid travel documents and visas during a patrol operation in Arambol. According to police, the first offence was registered on April 29, 2026, at around 6:30 pm based on a complaint filed by Police Sub-Inspector Laximan S. Dessai attached to Mandrem Police Station.

The accused, identified as Valeriia Osipova, 36, presently residing at Abha Guest House in Mandrem, was traced near Abha Guest House at Bhatwadi, Arambol during patrolling duty at around 5:45 pm. During interrogation, police found that she

was allegedly staying illegally in Goa without valid travel documents or visa, thereby violating Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

In another case registered at around 7:01 pm, Mandrem Police booked Ruslan Tsuriev, 36, a Russian national residing at Abha Guest House, Bhatwadi, Arambol, Pernem, for allegedly overstaying in India without valid visa documents.

Police said the accused was found near Abha Guest House at around 6 pm and during verification was unable to produce valid travel documents. Police have initiated further investigation to ascertain his activities and motive during the overstay period after informing him of the grounds of arrest.

## Jharkhand Native Dies After Fall From Height In Sao Jose De Areal

Team Goemkarponn

**CURTORIM:** A 31-year-old man originally from Jharkhand died after allegedly falling from a height at Sao Jose De Areal on Thursday, police said. According to police, a wireless message was received from GMC Bambolim on April 30, 2026, at around 4:46 pm informing that Rajendra Dungdung, 31, a resident of Savordem and native of Jharkhand, was brought dead to the casualty ward as a fall from height.



## Woman Booked For Assault And Property Damage In Candolim

Complainant Suffers Head Injury After Tea Cup Allegedly Hurlled During Dispute

Team Goemkarponn

**BARDEZ:** Candolim Police have registered an offence against a woman for allegedly assaulting a man and damaging household property during an incident at Orda, Candolim. According to police, the offence was registered on April 29, 2026, at around 9:49 pm based on a complaint

filed by Anil Pednekar, a resident of Orda, Candolim, Bardez.

Police said the accused, identified as Olga Vaz, also a resident of Orda, Candolim, allegedly damaged tea cups.



## Cross Complaints Filed After Violent Clash In Benaulim

Multiple Assault Allegations, Threats And Property Damage Reported separately At Colva Police Station

Team Goemkarponn

**MARGAO:** Colva Police have registered cross complaints following a violent clash between two groups at Benaulim on April 25, 2026, involving allegations of assault, criminal intimidation, unlawful assembly and property damage.

In the first complaint, Calvin Fernandes, a resident of Acsona,



Oddlem Bhatt, Benaulim, alleged that between 6:03 pm and 8:30 pm at Sernabatim Beach and later at Acsona, accused

Delroy Fernandes assaulted him by choking his neck and threatening to kill him and his mother.

# DHE Directs Colleges To Declare Semester I And III Results By May 8

■ Even Semester Results For Academic Year 2025-26 Released On SAMARTH Portal

Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** The Directorate of Higher Education has informed colleges across Goa that the Even Semester results for Semester I and III for the academic year 2025-26 have been declared on the SAMARTH e-Governance Portal.

In a circular issued by Director of Higher Education Bhushan K.

**RESULTS**

Savaikar, all colleges processing examination results through the SAMARTH portal have been asked to verify and publish the results for students immediately.

The Directorate stated

that any grievance or discrepancy related to the results should be brought to the notice of the Directorate of Higher Education and the concerned SAMARTH coordinators for prompt resolution.

All higher educational institutions have been directed to ensure that the results are declared to students on or before May 8, 2026, without fail.

# Komar pant Community To Hold Teachers Meet 2026 At Margao On May

**CANACONA:** Shri Sharadamba Krupa Komarpant Charitable Trust, a charitable organisation established in 2017 for the welfare and development of the Komarpant community and society at large, will organise "Teachers Meet-2026" at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, on May 17. The programme will feature discussions on the current education system, its advantages and challenges, along with the sharing of experiences and knowledge by teachers from the Samaj.



# Goa Crosses 1.27 Lakh Free AI-Powered Lung Cancer Screenings: Vishwajit Rane

■ Health Minister Says Initiative Strengthens Goa's Focus On Early Detection And Preventive Healthcare

**Panaji:** Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said Goa is steadily moving towards a healthcare system focused on early detection and preventive care through its AI-powered lung cancer screening initiative.

"In Goa, we are steadily advancing towards a future where early detection and preventive care are at the heart of our healthcare system," Rane said.

The Health Minister stated that the initiative, launched in partnership with AstraZeneca and

Qure.ai, has completed more than 1,27,836 free screenings across the state.

"Through our AI-powered lung cancer screening initiative, in partnership with AstraZeneca and Qure.ai, we have now completed 1,27,836+ free screenings, enabling timely diagnosis and better outcomes for our people," he said.

Rane added that the initiative reflects the government's commitment to ensuring advanced and affordable healthcare reaches every Goan.



# FDA Detains Unlabelled Products During Mapusa Bus Stand Inspection

**MAPUSA:** The Food and Drugs Administration conducted a surveillance drive at the Mapusa Bus Stand focusing on food safety and cold chain compliance. During the inspection, FDA officials observed a marked improvement in the handling and storage of temperature-sensitive products, noting that perishable goods were being maintained under prescribed storage conditions. Authorities said the stricter adherence to standard procedures indicated better compliance with food safety norms and improved handling practices by operators. During the drive, officials also detained several products that lacked proper labelling, stressing the importance of traceability and consumer safety. The FDA stated that regular monitoring and inspections at transport and distribution hubs will continue to ensure compliance with food safety regulations and safeguard public health.

# South Goa DM Imposes Penalties For Sale Of Sub-Standard Iodised Salt

■ Multiple Food Business Operators Fined Over Captain Cook Salt Quality Violations

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The District Magistrate of South Goa has imposed penalties on several food business operators for manufacturing and selling sub-standard Captain Cook iodised salt.

According to official information, a penalty of Rs 1.50 lakh has been imposed on Hindustan Unilever Limited, located at Salt City, Village Chopadva,



Taluka Bhachau, Kachch, Gujarat, for manufacturing and selling sub-standard iodised salt. A penalty of Rs 50,000 has also been imposed on Chotubhai Agencies, located at Udyamnagar Industrial Area, Ratnagiri,

Maharashtra. Similarly, Methani Enterprises of Gogal, Margao, has been fined Rs 50,000, while Rehman Traders General Merchant has been penalised Rs 5,000 in the matter.

In another case, a penalty of Rs 1.50 lakh has been imposed on Smt. Amita Ankush Shetkar, food business operator and vendor of Shantadurga General Store, along with Western India Sea Brines Pvt. Ltd.

# Miss India World Sadhvi Sail Receives Grand Welcome In Goa

■ Beauty Queen Says She Is Proud To Put Goa On Global Pageantry Map

Team Goemkarponn

**VASCO:** Sadhvi Sail received a grand welcome in Goa on Thursday following her achievement at the national beauty pageant, with supporters, family members and well-wishers gathering in large numbers to celebrate her return.

The Femina Miss India World winner was welcomed at Goa International Airport by Krishna Salkar, her



father and Satish Sail, along with relatives and supporters.

A large crowd, including children and youth, assembled outside the airport to greet the beauty queen. Sail later visited the Damodar

Temple and Sai Baba Temple to offer prayers before a celebratory procession was taken out in her honour.

Speaking to reporters, Sail said she felt "ecstatic" to represent Goa on a national and global

platform.

"I feel ecstatic to put the country's smallest but most loved state of Goa on the pageantry map. This is the first time someone from our state has achieved this for India, and I cannot describe the immense pride I feel when I wear 'India' across me," she said.

Sail said the warm reception she received in Goa was emotional and inspiring.

"Being welcomed with

so much love, seeing children waiting for me, and knowing I can inspire them — it is truly a dream come true. There is nothing more I could ask for. I only seek blessings and continued support as I prepare for the Miss World pageant," she added.

Reflecting on her journey, Sail said self-belief was her biggest challenge and credited her success to the support of family and friends.

# Goa's Summer Carts Are Full of Coconut Water, Kulfi, and Mangoes: Instamart Summer Trends 2026

Team Goemkarponn

**Goa:** In Goa, summer shopping is looking a lot like a beachside menu. Instamart's Summer Trends 2026 report shows consumers stocking up on coconut water, kulfi, mangoes, and cool drinks as temperatures rise across the state. In Central Goa, one user spent ₹11,672 on summer essentials alone, highlighting the city's blend of hydration, indulgence, and laid-back summer living.

Nationally, Instamart's Summer Trends 2026 report captures exactly how India orders its way through the heat, not just what's trending, but what's ritual. As temperatures climbed through March and April, demand in India surged sharply across categories, with top products growing up



to 300% week-on-week. Fruits, cold coffee, fizzy drinks, and popsicles saw rapid spikes, while cooling appliances like fans grew over 280% and sunglasses recorded a massive 650% YoY growth. India's Scorchingly Big Summer Baskets: Hyderabad's biggest summer cart crossed ₹11K with ice cream, mangoes, cool drinks, and buttermilk, Bengaluru's top summer spender crossed ₹11K on cold coffee, buttermilk, mangoes, ice cream, and dahi, Guntur's summer superfan spent ₹15,005, powered by energy drinks and rechargeable mini fans. A Central Goa user spent ₹11,672 stocking up on coconut water, kulfi, mangoes, and cool drinks.

Kolkata's top summer shopper spent over ₹10,600 on coconut water, mangoes, yogurt, and ice cream

Summer 2026 trends in quick commerce: Doodh ka Doodh, Dahi ka Dahi: Dahi is dominating summer baskets, nearly matching cold drinks and ice cream. Six of the top 10 items are curd-based, while watermelon, muskmelon, and other fresh produce continue to surge. The 9 PM Ice Cream Ritual: 9 PM is India's biggest ice cream moment, with demand more than doubling between 6–9 PM and rising further on weekends. Family-sized tubs lead the category, while chocolate accounts for nearly 1 in 4 ice cream orders. Beyond Metros, the Real Ice Cream Lovers Emerge: Bengaluru leads national ice cream

consumption, followed by Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Pune. Smaller cities like Central Goa, Thrissur, Thiruvalla, Nagercoil, and Manipal are seeing some of the highest orders per user.

Aam Paglu Season Is Here: Sindhu is currently India's most-ordered mango variety, ahead of Banganapalli and raw mangoes. Fastest growth is coming from Kozhikode, Madurai, Trichy, Vizag, and Nellore, while Bengaluru leads overall mango demand. From Cola to Craft: Jeera masala soda, cold coffee, and café-style coolers are moving mainstream. Jeera soda grew 900% in March, while cold coffee rose nearly 700%. Coconut water, buttermilk, lassi, and milkshakes also saw strong growth, with beverage demand peaking between 6–9 PM.

## “Average Salary Hike at 9%”: India Leads Global Appraisal Trends

### ■ Infrastructure and NBFC Sectors Drive Growth as Pay Becomes Performance Linked

**New Delhi:**

Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) will host “Purumentachem Fest” from May 1 to 3, 2026, at the Multiplex Courtyard, bringing together local artisans, entrepreneurs and food vendors to celebrate Goa's rich monsoon traditions.

India continues to stand out in the global job market, recording the highest average salary increase among major economies, with appraisals touching around 9 percent for 2026. According to a survey by Aon, this places India well ahead of countries like the United States, China, and the United Kingdom in terms of annual pay growth.

The report highlights that sectors such as real estate, infrastructure, non banking financial companies, and automotive are expected to offer the most competitive salary hikes. These industries are seeing strong demand for skilled professionals, leading to higher increments compared to the overall average. Manufacturing, energy, and FMCG sectors are also maintaining steady growth, while tech consulting appears to lag behind with comparatively lower increases. A notable trend emerging from the data is that junior level employees are receiving the highest average hikes, followed by mid level and senior professionals.

Companies are increasingly focusing on retaining early career talent, as replacing them often proves more expensive than rewarding them with better increments. Despite healthy salary growth, organisations are moving away from uniform pay hikes. Instead, compensation is becoming more closely tied to individual performance, skills, and business impact. Employees delivering higher value or possessing niche capabilities are more likely to receive above average increments, while lower performers may see modest increases. Another key shift is the growing importance of long term incentives such as employee stock ownership plans. Many professionals are now looking beyond immediate salary hikes and considering wealth creation opportunities linked to company growth. The survey also notes that employee attrition levels have dropped to their lowest in five years, suggesting a shift in workforce priorities. Stability, meaningful pay progression, and role clarity are increasingly valued over frequent job changes. Overall, the appraisal landscape in 2026 reflects a more strategic and differentiated approach, where salary growth is driven not just by market trends, but by performance, skills, and long term career alignment.



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## Bangladesh Gang Used Jungle Hideouts, Silent Surveillance Before Goa Dacoities: Crime Branch

According to investigators, the gang deliberately avoided the use of mobile phones and electronic communication to prevent police from tracing them through technical surveillance. Instead, members operated in small groups of two to three persons and used pre-decided meeting points such as railway stations, bus stands and beach areas to coordinate movements.

The revelations emerged during the preliminary interrogation of five Bangladeshi nationals arrested by the Goa Crime Branch after they were apprehended by the Delhi Crime Branch earlier this month. The accused are linked to two major dacoity cases reported in Dona Paula on April 20, 2025, and Ganeshpuri-Mapusa on October 7, 2025.

Police said the gang allegedly entered India through the Meghalaya border and travelled across states before reaching Goa. One of the accused, Noor Islam alias Nadim Khan, had earlier been lodged in Colvale jail and allegedly used his familiarity with Goa to help the gang identify affluent residential targets.

Investigators said the accused carried rods and knives purchased from local markets and used them to threaten residents during the robberies. After unlawfully entering bungalows, the gang allegedly assessed the internal layout, identified accessible rooms and tied up family members before fleeing with gold ornaments and valuables.

The five accused were brought to Goa on transfer warrants by a Crime Branch team led by PI Dattaguru Sawant and PI Kishore Ramanan after their arrest by Delhi Police. They were produced before JMFC Panaji and remanded to 11 days of police custody.

Goa Police said further interrogation is underway to recover stolen property, establish the source of

weapons and identify any additional local links that may have aided the gang.

## Goa Expands Worker Welfare Net With Death Compensation, New Labour Schemes

new welfare schemes targeted at improving the quality of life of workers across the state. These include a digital literacy programme for labourers, medical allowance support for elderly workers, financial assistance for competitive examination coaching, reimbursement of tuition fees for higher education, and premium coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY). Sawant said nearly 1.4 lakh workers have already registered with the Labour Department to access various government welfare schemes. He urged more labourers to enrol and assured that workers employed in a single company for more than 20 years would also be supported in the registration process. The Chief Minister further stated that online registration facilities through the Labour Department website have made the enrolment process easier and more accessible for workers across Goa.

## “OCI System Goes Fully Digital”: India Revamps Rules for Overseas Citizens

A central feature of the overhaul is the transition to a completely online system. Applications for Overseas Citizen of India status will now be processed electronically through a designated portal. Registrations may be issued either as a physical card or in a digital format known as e-OCI, with all records maintained electronically. The revised rules also bring clarity to provisions related to minors. It is now explicitly stated that a minor cannot simultaneously hold an Indian passport and a passport of another country.

# “No Dual Connections, OTP Delivery Now Mandatory”: New LPG Rules Come Into Force

■ Government Tightens LPG Framework Amid Energy Pressures and Rising Costs

**New Delhi:** India's cooking gas system has undergone a major overhaul with new LPG regulations coming into effect from May 1, 2026. Introduced by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the changes aim to streamline distribution, curb misuse, and ensure better targeting of subsidies during a period of global energy uncertainty.

A key reform is the ban on households holding both LPG and piped natural gas connections. Authorities have begun identifying such consumers, requiring them to surrender their LPG



connections if they already have access to PNG. This move is intended to prioritise LPG availability for households without piped gas access and to support the expansion of city gas networks. Tens of thousands of users have already complied, with more expected to follow.

New delivery and booking rules have also

been introduced, affecting customers of Indane, Bharat Gas, and HP Gas. Consumers will now need to authenticate deliveries using a one-time password, adding an extra layer of verification. In addition, the minimum gap between cylinder bookings has been increased to 25 days in urban areas and up to 45 days in rural

regions. Updated KYC compliance has also been made mandatory.

On the pricing front, commercial LPG cylinders have seen sharp increases over recent months. Since March, multiple revisions have significantly raised the cost of 19 kg cylinders, with cumulative hikes nearing ₹1,000 amid rising global fuel prices.

However, domestic LPG rates have been kept unchanged. The price of a standard 14.2 kg household cylinder remains steady, while petrol and diesel rates have also not been altered.



## “Entire Tiger Family Wiped Out in 9 Days”: Virus Suspected in Kanha Tragedy

■ Five Deaths Trigger Alarm Over Possible Canine Distemper Outbreak in Major Tiger Reserve

**New Delhi:** A serious wildlife crisis is unfolding at Kanha Tiger Reserve, where a tigress and her four cubs have died within a span of just nine days, raising concerns about a possible viral outbreak. The sudden loss of the big cat family has alarmed conservation authorities and prompted an intensive scientific investigation. The tigress,

identified as T-141, and her litter were found dead in different locations within the Sarhi range. The first cub was discovered on April 21, followed by additional carcasses over the next few days. By April 27, forest teams managed to locate the ailing tigress and her last surviving cub, shifting them to a quarantine facility in Mukki for treatment.



## Fake Court Orders Used to Free 16 Prisoners in Mizoram

**New Delhi:** In a shocking case of fraud and manipulation, 16 convicted prisoners were unlawfully released from a jail in Mizoram's Lunglei district over a period of four months using forged legal documents. The deception went unnoticed for weeks before authorities uncovered serious discrepancies during a routine review.

The issue surfaced when officials at the district and sessions court were unable to locate valid judicial records authorising the release of certain inmates. This raised immediate suspicion and prompted a deeper investigation, revealing that the releases had been carried out based on fabricated court orders.

According to police findings, the fraudulent activity began in January and continued undetected until late April.

## “Travel Time to Drop by 30 Minutes”: Mumbai-Pune Ex. way Missing Link Opens

■ High-Tech Project Set to Ease Traffic, Boost Safety and Transform Connectivity

**New Delhi:** The long-awaited Mumbai-Pune Expressway Missing Link project is set to open on May 1, marking a major milestone in Maharashtra's infrastructure development. Designed to improve travel efficiency between Mumbai and Pune, the new stretch is expected to significantly reduce both distance and journey time for commuters.

Developed by the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation, the project has been built at an estimated cost of ₹6,695 crore. The inauguration will be led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis along with Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The project is being seen as a landmark achievement in modern road engineering.

Once operational, the Missing Link will shorten the Mumbai-Pune route by approximately 6 kilometers and cut



travel time by 20 to 30 minutes. It allows vehicles to bypass the challenging Khandala Ghat section, which is known for sharp curves and accident risks. Authorities estimate that nearly 70 percent of traffic will shift to the new alignment, resulting in smoother flow and reduced fuel consumption.

A standout feature of the project is its advanced engineering design. It includes twin tunnels, with one stretching 8.92 kilometers, making it among the longest in Asia, and another measuring 1.75 kilometers. These tunnels are also among the widest globally, accommodating up to eight lanes and equipped with modern safety systems such as ventilation, lighting, and

emergency exits.

The project also features a 650-meter cable-stayed bridge across Tiger Valley, supported by towering pillars reaching up to 184 meters. Built to withstand extreme wind speeds, the bridge is one of the tallest of its kind in India. An additional 850-meter viaduct ensures seamless travel across the rugged terrain.

Connecting Khopoli to Kusgaon near Lonavala, the route enhances access to popular destinations like Lohagad Fort, Visapur Fort, and Karla Caves. Initially, only light vehicles will be permitted, while existing toll charges remain unchanged.

## “We Will Cross 226 Seats”: Mamata Banerjee Rejects Exit Poll Predictions

■ West Bengal Chief Minister Expresses Confidence as Tight Race Projections Spark Debate

**New Delhi:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has dismissed exit poll predictions suggesting a strong showing by the Bharatiya Janata Party, asserting that her party is set for a decisive victory in the 2026 assembly elections.

Speaking in Kolkata, Banerjee expressed unwavering confidence that the All India Trinamool Congress will secure more than 226 seats in the 294-member assembly. She even indicated that the tally could exceed 230, citing strong public support and record voter participation.

The state recorded an unprecedented voter turnout of over 92 percent, which Banerjee credited as a sign of the electorate's faith in her leadership. She thanked voters for participating in large numbers despite challenging conditions, including high temperatures and reported



instances of intimidation.

Criticising the exit polls, Banerjee alleged that many of the projections were part of an attempt to influence public perception and demoralise party workers ahead of the official results. Several forecasts have suggested either a narrow contest or an advantage for the Bharatiya Janata Party, intensifying political uncertainty in the state.

Despite the conflicting predictions, Banerjee maintained that the outcome would reflect the will of the people. She emphasised that voters had responded firmly through the ballot, countering attempts to undermine the state's political landscape.

# “Ball Touched the Ground”: RCB Question Umpiring Call After Heated IPL Clash

■ Catch controversy during Rajat Patidar’s dismissal sparks frustration despite Gujarat Titans’ convincing win

**New Delhi:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have spoken out after a contentious moment overshadowed their defeat to Gujarat Titans (GT), with the team expressing strong doubts over a crucial catch decision that turned the game’s momentum.

The incident occurred during the dismissal of RCB captain Rajat Patidar, when Gujarat’s Jason Holder completed



a low catch that was sent upstairs for review. After examination, the third umpire ruled it a clean take, but the decision did

not sit well with the RCB camp. Star batter Virat Kohli was visibly upset, even engaging in a heated discussion with an official

near the boundary line.

Following the match, senior pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar shared the team’s perspective, stating that replays shown on the stadium screen suggested the ball may have made contact with the ground before being secured. He indicated that players were hoping for a more thorough review, with additional camera angles considered before the final verdict was delivered.



## Shree Damodar High School Settles for Second After Final Defeat

■ Progress High School cruises to victory with dominant chase in Under 14 state final

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Panaji:** Shree Damodar High School from Margao finished as runners up in the Under 14 Boys Inter School State Level tournament, following a loss in the final against Progress High School at Mapusa Pedem.

After losing the toss and being asked to bat first, Shree Damodar High School struggled to build momentum throughout their innings. They managed to post a modest total of 77 runs for the loss of 8 wickets in their 20 overs. Despite a challenging batting display, a few players showed resilience at the crease. Usman Ghani emerged

as the top scorer with 26 runs, while Affan Shaikh added 16. Rumaan Mulam also contributed with a steady 15 runs, helping the team reach a defendable total.

Progress High School bowlers maintained tight control and consistently picked up wickets, preventing any major partnerships from developing. Sparsh and Param led the bowling attack with impressive performances, claiming three wickets each and putting constant pressure on the opposition.

Chasing a target of 78 runs, Progress High School approached the innings with confidence and composure.

## India Backed to Edge Crucial Quarterfinal Clash Against Chinese Taipei

■ Strong squad depth and recent form set the stage for a high intensity Thomas Cup knockout battle

**New Delhi:** India will aim to keep their title hopes alive as they prepare to face Chinese Taipei in a crucial quarterfinal encounter of the Thomas Cup Finals on Friday.

Having scripted history with their maiden triumph in 2022, India entered this edition with confidence and have shown promising form in the group stage. The team secured dominant



victories over Canada and Australia before narrowly going down to China in a closely fought tie, finishing second in Group A. Chinese Taipei, who

topped Group C, arrive as a strong and balanced unit despite never having won the title. Their lineup is spearheaded by Chou Tien Chen, supported by

Lin Chun-Yi and Chi Yu Jen, making their singles department particularly formidable. Lin, known for his attacking style, recently got the better of Lakshya Sen in a major final, adding further intrigue to the contest.

India, however, have plenty of positives to draw from. Youngster Ayush Shetty has been in excellent form, winning all his matches so far.

## “GMC Crowned Overall Champions at ADRENALIX 2.0”

■ Statewide Medical Sports Festival Brings Together Top Institutes in Goa

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Panaji:** The Goa Medical College Students Association successfully hosted its annual sports festival, ADRENALIX 2.0, on April 30, 2026, at Atal Stadium. The full day event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing various medical and nursing institutes across Goa,



competing in a wide range of sports and games. The tournament featured events such as cricket, football, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, chess, tug of war, and even esports

like BGMI, showcasing both athletic and strategic talent among participants. The competition remained intense throughout the day, with institutes battling for top honours across

categories. In cricket, Bhumika Nursing College secured first place, followed by Sai Nursing Institute and Goa Medical College (GMC). Goa Dental College (GDC) dominated football, finishing ahead of Sai Nursing Institute and GMC. Volleyball saw Bhumika Nursing Institute emerge victorious, while GMC clinched the tug of war title. In indoor sports,

GDC performed strongly in badminton, winning both men’s and women’s categories. GMC excelled in table tennis, taking first place in both men’s and women’s divisions.

Chess titles were split, with HPSM winning the men’s category and GDC topping the women’s section. INE secured victory in carrom, while GMC triumphed in the BGMI esports event. The

overall championship title was claimed by Goa Medical College, with Goa Dental College finishing as runners up, marking a strong all round performance by both institutions. The event was graced by Daji Salkar as the chief guest. Dr Ajay Gaude attended as the guest of honour, alongside Dhaku Madkaikar and other dignitaries.

