



## High Court Clears Goa's Revised Inheritance Law Favouring Surviving Spouses

■ Bench Says Amendments To Goa Succession Law Are Constitutionally Sound And Applicable In Pending Inheritance Disputes

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court has upheld recent amendments to Goa's succession law that place a surviving husband or wife higher in the line of inheritance when a person dies without leaving a will.

A Division Bench of Justice Bharati Dangre and Justice Ashish S. Chavan ruled that the amendments introduced in 2022 and 2023 to the Goa Succession, Special



Notaries and Inventory Proceedings Act, 2012, are legally valid and do not violate constitutional guarantees of equality under Article 14.

The Court held that the State Legislature had

the authority to revise the order of intestate succession and said the decision to give preference to a surviving spouse immediately after descendants was based on a reasonable legal

principle. The Bench observed that Goa's unique matrimonial property framework, particularly the system of shared marital assets, gives the spouse a distinct and elevated status compared to other relatives.

The judges clarified that inheritance rights begin the moment a person dies, as provided under the law. However, in cases involving several heirs, the specific share of

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## Health Department Sounds Dengue Alert Ahead of Monsoon



■ Citizens Asked To Eliminate Stagnant Water As Goa Steps Up Surveillance, Fogging And Prevention Measures

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** With the onset of the monsoon drawing near, the Health Department has issued a strong public appeal to prevent water stagnation and remain vigilant against dengue and chikungunya, warning that even small pockets of stagnant water can trigger mosquito breeding and increase the risk of outbreaks.

As part of intensified preventive efforts across Goa, health authorities have launched fogging

operations, surveillance drives, awareness campaigns, and door-to-door inspections aimed at containing the spread of mosquito-borne diseases before the rains intensify.

Dr. Vidya Parab, Health Officer at Urban Health Centre Panaji, stressed that mosquitoes responsible for spreading dengue do not breed only in dirty water. She cautioned that flower pots, tyres, buckets, coolers, and other containers holding stagnant clean water can become

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## "Choose Geography or History": Army Chief's Sharp Warning to Pakistan Over Terror Support

■ General Dwivedi Reiterates India's Tough Stand One Year After Operation Sindoor

**New Delhi:** Upendra Dwivedi has issued a strong warning to Pakistan, stating that continued support for terrorism against India could have serious consequences for the neighbouring country's future.

Speaking one year after Operation Sindoor, General Dwivedi said Pakistan would have to decide "whether they want to be part of geography or history" if it continued to harbour and support terrorist groups targeting India. The remarks are being viewed as one of the strongest public military statements made since the cross border operation carried out in 2025.

The Army chief made the comments while responding to a question regarding how the Indian Army would react if circumstances similar to those that triggered Operation Sindoor emerged again. Reaffirming India's



position on cross border terrorism, he stated that any continued backing of terror activities by Pakistan would force difficult choices upon the country.

Operation Sindoor was launched by India following the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025. The military operation, conducted on May 7, 2025, targeted terrorist infrastructure located in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

During the first phase of the operation, Indian forces struck nine locations linked to terrorist activities. Indian authorities maintained at the time that no Pakistani military facilities were targeted during the initial strikes, with the focus

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## "Free Trade Pact Gives Fresh Momentum": PM Modi Arrives In Netherlands To Boost India-Europe Partnership

■ Prime Minister to hold high-level talks on trade, semiconductors, clean energy, defence and emerging technologies during Netherlands visit

**New Delhi:** Narendra Modi arrived in the Netherlands on Friday evening as part of his broader European diplomatic outreach aimed at expanding India's strategic and economic engagement with key partners across the continent.

The Prime Minister landed in Amsterdam ahead of a packed schedule of bilateral



meetings and community interactions. In a message

shared after his arrival, Modi highlighted the

growing momentum in India's relationship with Europe, especially after the India European Union free trade agreement discussions accelerated trade and investment opportunities.

He said the visit comes at an important time for strengthening cooperation in sectors such as semiconductors, clean energy, water

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## Goa Notifies 4 Lakh Sq Metres As No Development Zone

■ Old Goa Archaeological Belt And Mangrove Stretch From Four Pillars To St Cruz Brought Under NDZ Protection

**Team Goemkarponn**

**OLD GOA:** The Town and Country Planning Department has notified nearly four lakh square metres of land, including ecologically and archaeologically sensitive areas in Old Goa and St Cruz, as No Development Zone (NDZ), TCP Minister Vishwajit Rane announced on Friday.



According to the minister, the notified areas include around 1.02 lakh square

metres falling within the archaeological zone at Old Goa and approximately 3.37

lakh square metres of mangrove stretch extending from Four Pillars to St Cruz.

The notification has been issued under subsection (1) of Section 39 (A) of the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Act.

The move is aimed at safeguarding environmentally and historically

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# When Students Begin To See Death As Escape, Society Has Already Failed

Another student is dead. This time, a BITS Goa student, reportedly the seventh such suicide linked to the institution in recent years. Around the same time, another young life in Goa was lost after the cancellation of the NEET examination shattered months, perhaps years, of preparation and hope. Two different circumstances, two different students, but one disturbing question binds them together: what exactly are we doing to our young people?

India today celebrates academic achievement with the intensity of a national obsession. Marks have become identity. Ranks determine self worth. Entrance exams are treated like life sentences disguised as opportunities. Behind every topper's photograph splashed across coaching institute hoardings are thousands of students silently collapsing under unbearable pressure.

What is unfolding across campuses and competitive exam systems is no longer an isolated mental health issue. It is a structural crisis.

Students are growing up in an environment where failure is portrayed not as a temporary setback but as personal collapse. A child preparing for NEET or JEE often sacrifices adolescence itself. Friendships shrink. Sleep disappears. Anxiety becomes routine. Families invest life savings into coaching centres that market success like a lottery ticket. When examinations are postponed, cancelled or surrounded by uncertainty, the emotional fallout is devastating because these students are conditioned to believe their entire future rests on a single result.

The tragedy is not only that students are dying. The tragedy is that many no longer see alternatives beyond success or death.

Educational institutions frequently respond after every suicide with familiar statements about counselling support and internal committees. But if seven students linked to one premier institution have died over time, serious questions must be asked. Are campuses truly equipped to identify emotional distress early? Are students treated as human beings or merely as performers in a high pressure academic machine? Has the culture of relentless competition quietly normalised suffering?

Mental health support in many institutions remains

*“Students are growing up in an environment where failure is portrayed not as a temporary setback but as personal collapse. A child preparing for NEET or JEE often sacrifices adolescence itself. Friendships shrink. Sleep disappears. Anxiety becomes routine. Families invest life savings into coaching centres that market success like a lottery ticket. When examinations are postponed, cancelled or surrounded by uncertainty, the emotional fallout is devastating because these students are conditioned to believe their entire future rests on a single result.*

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reactive instead of preventive. Counsellors are either too few, inaccessible or treated as symbolic requirements rather than central support systems. Many students fear seeking help because vulnerability itself is seen as weakness in hyper competitive environments.

The problem begins much earlier than college.

Parents, schools and society collectively create impossible expectations. Children are taught to fear failure before they even understand life. A teenager scoring 85 percent is made to feel inadequate because someone else scored 95. Social media amplifies the pressure further, constantly showcasing curated success stories while

hiding emotional breakdowns behind closed doors.

We must also confront the cruelty embedded in India's entrance examination culture. One examination often decides years of effort. A technical glitch, policy confusion, leaked paper or sudden cancellation can emotionally devastate students who have invested everything into preparation. The system rarely acknowledges the psychological burden it imposes.

Yet public discussion after every student suicide remains painfully shallow. We mourn briefly, trend hashtags for a day and then move on until the next death arrives. Institutions protect reputations. Coaching centres continue advertisements. Politicians promise inquiries. Nothing fundamentally changes.

Where are we heading as a society if our brightest young minds increasingly associate existence with performance metrics?

Education was supposed to expand possibilities, build confidence and nurture human potential. Instead, it is becoming a conveyor belt of exhaustion, anxiety and emotional isolation. Students today are more connected digitally than ever before, yet many feel profoundly alone. They are surrounded by competition but starved of reassurance.

This crisis demands far more than counselling cells and helpline numbers. India needs a cultural shift in the way success, ambition and failure are understood. Schools must actively teach emotional resilience alongside academics. Parents must stop treating children as extensions of unrealised dreams. Institutions must reduce toxic academic environments instead of glorifying burnout as discipline.

Most importantly, young people must repeatedly hear a truth society rarely tells them loudly enough: no examination, no semester and no career setback is greater than life itself.

Every student suicide is not merely a personal tragedy. It is evidence of collective failure. A society that produces brilliant engineers and doctors while simultaneously pushing its students toward despair cannot call itself truly educated.

Until we begin valuing mental wellbeing as seriously as marksheets, these deaths will continue to haunt classrooms, campuses and families across the country. And each time, we will ask the same question too late: could this have been prevented?

## EDITOR SPEAKS

### Dr Ketan Bhatikar: A Life of Service Cut Short Before Its Biggest Political Moment

Suraj Nandrekar

For many people in Goa, Dr Ketan Bhatikar was never defined by politics alone. He was known first as a physiotherapist who devoted himself to social work and public service long before electoral success came within reach. His sudden death following a snakebite near the Goa Karnataka border has left behind a sense of disbelief, especially in Ponda, where he had emerged as one of the most accessible and grounded young leaders in recent years.

At just 38, Bhatikar had already built an emotional connection with people that many politicians struggle to create over decades. His work extended far beyond party offices and election campaigns. Whether it was helping patients, organising assistance for families in distress or remaining available to local residents at odd hours, he earned a reputation as someone who genuinely cared for people without expecting political returns.

A trained physiotherapist, Bhatikar was deeply involved in community outreach and welfare activities. Those close to him often said he treated social work not as a political strategy but as a responsibility. Even during intense political battles, he remained focused on helping ordinary people. That commitment became most visible after the cancellation of the much anticipated Ponda bypoll last month. While political uncertainty surrounded the constituency, Bhatikar returned to social work almost immediately the next day, continuing public interactions and welfare activities without pause.

The cancellation itself was a major turning point in Goa politics. Bhatikar was widely seen as the clear favourite to win the bypoll following the death of former minister Ravi Naik. Many in Ponda believed the election would have marked his formal arrival as a major political force in the state.

That expectation had not emerged overnight. In the 2022 Goa Assembly elections, Bhatikar had come agonisingly close to defeating Ravi Naik, losing by just 77 votes in one of the state's closest contests. Despite the narrow defeat, the result transformed him into a powerful grassroots figure. Instead of disappearing after the loss, he strengthened his public engagement and expanded his work among local communities, further deepening his support base.

Bhatikar's political journey was also closely linked with the Maharashtra Gomantak Party and its senior leaders Sudin Dhavalikar and Deepak Dhavalikar. He was regarded as a close confidant of the Dhavalikar brothers and shared a strong personal bond with them over the years. Even after parting ways with the MGP during the Zilla Parishad elections, the relationship remained intact. Political differences never appeared to affect the personal trust and affection they shared. What made Bhatikar stand out was his ability to remain approachable despite growing political stature. Young workers admired him because he stayed connected to the ground. Residents trusted him because he listened. In an age where politics often appears driven by spectacle and confrontation, he represented a quieter model of leadership centred on personal relationships and public service. His death has left behind more than a political vacuum. Goa has lost a young leader who was on the verge of a defining moment in his career, but who remained rooted in social work even as power seemed within reach.

For many in Ponda, Dr Ketan Bhatikar will be remembered not for the elections he contested, but for the people he stood beside in their everyday struggles. That, more than any political milestone, became the foundation of his legacy.

# Goa Mining Industry Must Prioritise Safety During Revival: Council

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** As mining activities gradually resume in Goa after years of disruption, the Mines Safety & Productivity Council of Goa, Sindhudurg and Kolhapur has called for the industry's revival to be centred around strong safety practices and responsible operations.

The issue was highlighted during the valedictory programme of the 42nd Mine Safety Week hosted by Fomento Resources in Goa.

Speaking at the event, Council Vice-President Dheeraj Kumar Jagdish said the restarting of mining operations presents an



opportunity to rebuild the sector with greater emphasis on worker safety, environmental responsibility and technological advancement. He stressed the importance of following statutory safety standards and adopting modern systems to ensure sustainable mining practices.

The Goa mining

industry had witnessed a prolonged slowdown over the past decade following legal and regulatory hurdles. However, with fresh auctions and operational clearances, mining activities have begun resuming in phases across the State.

Officials at the programme noted that no mining accidents had been reported in

Goa during the past year, describing it as a positive sign for the sector's transition back to operations.

During the event, authorities also released a Mine Safety Report and reiterated the need for continuous awareness and monitoring to maintain safe working conditions in mines. Director General of Mines Safety Ujjwal Tah emphasised the importance of achieving "Zero Harm" in mining operations and encouraged the industry to move towards environmentally sustainable and safer mining methods with reduced dependence on explosives and hazardous practices.

# Goa May Witness Early Onset Of Monsoon This Year

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa could receive the southwest monsoon earlier than usual this year, following indications from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) that the monsoon is likely to reach Kerala ahead of schedule.

According to weather forecasts, the monsoon is expected to arrive over Kerala around May 26, nearly a week before its normal onset date of June 1. If the system continues to advance at the present pace, Goa may also experience the arrival of monsoon rains earlier than normal.

Meteorological officials have indicated that conditions remain favourable for the further advancement of the



monsoon over the Arabian Sea and adjoining regions.

Goa has already been witnessing intermittent pre-monsoon showers, gusty winds and overcast skies over the past few days, bringing temporary relief from the summer heat.

An early monsoon is expected to benefit the agricultural sector and improve water availability across the State. At the same time, authorities are likely to intensify preparedness measures for heavy rain, waterlogging and weather-related emergencies during the coming weeks.



# High Court Stays Look Out Circular Against Ex-UAE Army Personnel

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Bombay High Court at Goa has granted interim relief to a former UAE Army personnel by staying the Look Out Circular (LOC) issued against him in connection with a sexual assault case registered by Anjuna police.

The order was passed by Justice Jitendra Jain of the Vacation Bench while hearing a petition filed by the accused seeking quashing of the LOC.

During the hearing, the court was informed that the petitioner is presently residing in Dubai and intends to travel to Goa on May 22 to cooperate with the ongoing investigation.

The High Court observed that the LOC would prevent the accused from entering India and complying with

earlier bail conditions directing him to join the investigation. Considering this, the court temporarily stayed the LOC and directed authorities at all ports of entry, including Goa airport, not to detain him on the basis of the circular.

The matter has been scheduled for further hearing on June 16.

The case pertains to allegations made by a woman who claimed she was sexually exploited on the promise of marriage. According to the complaint filed with Anjuna police, the accused and the complainant had come in contact through a matrimonial platform, following which he allegedly established a physical relationship with her during a visit to Goa before later refusing to marry her.

# Goa Court Acquits Nigerian National In Cocaine Case Citing Investigation Lapses

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** A Goa court has acquitted a Nigerian national in a cocaine-related case registered in 2014 after pointing out serious shortcomings in the police investigation and gaps in the prosecution's evidence.

While delivering the judgment, the court noted

that the investigating agency failed to properly establish the handling and custody of the seized narcotics, raising doubts about the reliability of the evidence produced before the court.

The accused had been booked under provisions of the NDPS Act in connection with alleged possession of

cocaine. However, during the trial, the court found procedural inconsistencies and deficiencies in the investigation, which weakened the prosecution's case.

Observing that criminal charges must be proved beyond reasonable doubt, the court extended the benefit of doubt to the accused and ordered his



acquittal.

The ruling also underlined the importance of strict compliance with legal procedures in narcotics investigations, particularly in matters involving seizure, documentation and preservation of evidence.

# Supreme Court Closes Ketan Bhatikar's Plea Challenging Cancellation Of Ponda Bypoll

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** A day after the death of Goa Congress leader Ketan Bhatikar following a snakebite incident, the Supreme Court on Friday closed the proceedings on his plea challenging the cancellation of the Ponda Assembly by-election.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta abated the proceedings after being informed that Bhatikar had died on Thursday night after allegedly being bitten by a snake while travelling towards Dandeli village in Karnataka.

Bhatikar, 38, was the Congress candidate



for the Ponda Assembly constituency and had approached the apex court against the Bombay High Court's order quashing the bypoll.

During the hearing, advocate Abhishek Jebraj, appearing on behalf of the deceased leader, requested the court to leave the larger question of law open while closing

the proceedings. The bench recorded the submissions of both sides before disposing of the plea.

The Goa bench of the Bombay High Court had on April 8 quashed the Election Commission of India's notification for the Ponda by-election, which was scheduled for April 9.

The bypoll had been necessitated following

the death of sitting BJP MLA Ravi Naik on October 15 last year.

The High Court had ruled that the by-election notification violated provisions of the Representation of the People Act as less than one year remained for the term of the current Goa Legislative Assembly, which is set to expire on March 14, 2027.

The petition before the High Court was filed by two registered voters from the constituency, who argued that the winning candidate would have served only around nine months as MLA since the election result was scheduled to be declared on May 4.

## Postmortem Confirms Neurotoxic Snake Bite As Cause Of Ketan Bhatikar's Death

■ Autopsy Reveals Cerebral And Pulmonary Edema Following Snake Bite Near Anmod Forest Area

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** The postmortem examination conducted on Congress leader Dr. Ketan Bhatikar has confirmed that his death was caused due to complications arising from a neurotoxic snake bite, Collem Police said.

According to police, the 40-year-old Ponda resident was brought dead to PHC Pilliem, Dharbandora, in the early hours of May 15 after he was allegedly bitten by a snake near Anmod in



Karnataka.

During enquiry, police learned that Bhatikar was returning from Dandeli to Ponda along with a friend in a private car when they halted near the forest check post at Anmod

for a short break. Police said Bhatikar's mobile phone accidentally fell to the ground and while attempting to pick it up, he was allegedly bitten on his right wrist by a reptile.

He was rushed to PHC Pilliem, Dharbandora, where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Police later conducted the inquest panchanama and referred the body to South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for postmortem examination.

The police surgeon

who conducted the autopsy certified the cause of death as "cerebral and pulmonary edema consequent to neurotoxic snake bite poisoning," confirming that the venom had severely affected the brain and lungs.

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

Further enquiry was conducted by PSI Rohan Naik of Collem Police Station.

## 22-Year-Old Worker Found Dead At IDC Cuncolim Company Premises

■ Police Register Unnatural Death Case; Deceased Identified As Delhi Native Residing In Cuncolim

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** Cuncolim Police have registered an unnatural death case following the death of a 22-year-old man who was allegedly found after a suicide attempt inside a company premises at IDC Cuncolim in Salcete.

According to police, a phone call was received on May 14 at around 5:50 pm from Brijmohan Sharma informing that a person had allegedly committed suicide by hanging inside Vedanga Infratech company at IDC Cuncolim.

Police personnel rushed to the spot and found a 108 ambulance already present at the location. Upon entering the room, officers noticed a man lying unconscious on the ground in a supine position.

The victim was immediately shifted to South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao,



in a 108 ambulance, where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

During enquiry, the deceased's cousin, Ratan Singh, identified him as Vishal Lakhan, aged 22 years, presently residing in Cuncolim and originally from Narela, Delhi. Police said the deceased was reportedly a chronic alcoholic.

Police conducted the unnatural death occurrence panchanama and inquest panchanama over the body. The body has been preserved at SGDH Margao for further medico-legal formalities.

Further enquiry is being carried out by PSI Sahil Pagui of Cuncolim Police Station.

## Uttar Pradesh Native Found Dead In Rented Room At Canacona

■ Police Register Unnatural Death Case After Man Allegedly Dies By Suicidem

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** Canacona Police have registered an unnatural death case after a 43-year-old man was found dead in his rented room at Ponsulem, Canacona, on Thursday morning.



According to police, a call was received from the 108 ambulance

service at around 11:17 am informing that a male person had allegedly died by suicide inside his rented premises.

Police visited the spot and identified the deceased as Pramod Kumar Paliwal, aged 43 years, presently residing

at Ponsulem, Canacona, and originally from Butrara in Uttar Pradesh.

During the enquiry, police found that the deceased had allegedly died by suicide by hanging himself in the bedroom using a green nylon saree as ligature material.

## Two Booked For Extortion, Arson And Death Threats In Taleigao

■ Accused Allegedly Set Fire To Complainant's Car Parked Outside House

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Taleigao police have registered a case against two persons for allegedly demanding money, issuing death threats and setting a car on fire outside a residence at Chincholem, Taleigao.

According to police, the complaint was lodged on May 14 at around 6:05 pm by Antonio Cruz, a resident of Chincholem, Taleigao.

Police said the incident took place on May 12 and May 13 at around 1:45 am, when the accused, identified as Ronny D'Souza from St. Inez, Panaji, and Akash Mudraj from Tiswadi, allegedly demanded money from the complainant.

Upon refusal, accused Ronny D'Souza allegedly threatened

the complainant with dire consequences and threatened to kill him, police said.

The complaint further stated that accused Akash Mudraj allegedly intentionally set fire to the complainant's Skoda Fabia car bearing registration number GA-07-E-7783, which was parked outside the house close to where the complainant and his family

members were asleep. Police said the act created the possibility of the fire spreading to the house, thereby endangering the lives and property of the family. The accused also allegedly damaged the same vehicle using a tool, causing further loss to the complainant. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Mahesh Naik.

**BOOKED**



## Man Booked For Knife Attack, Death Threat And Assault In Nuvem

**Complainant Alleges Accused Bit His Hand During Scuffle**

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** Maina Curtorim Police have registered a case against a Nuvem resident for allegedly threatening to kill a family, attacking two persons with a knife and biting the complainant during a scuffle. According to police, the complaint was filed by Grayson Mazarello, a resident of Nuvem, regarding an incident that occurred on May 14 at around 9:40 am at Nuvem. Police said the accused, identified as Mahender Singh Rawat of Nuvem, allegedly threatened to kill the complainant's family over previous enmity.

## FRRO Goa Deports Nine Foreign Nationals In May 2026; Seven More Overstayers Detected In Mandrem

■ Russians, Ukrainian And South African National Among Those Found Overstaying During Enforcement Drive

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) Goa has deported nine foreign nationals during May 2026 as part of its continued crackdown on overstaying foreigners, while a fresh enforcement drive in Mandrem on Thursday detected seven more overstayers.

According to FRRO Goa, the drive conducted on May 15 in Mandrem led to the detection of five Russian nationals, one Ukrainian national and one South African national allegedly overstaying in the country. Authorities said necessary legal action has been initiated against them.

FRRO Goa further stated that the nine foreign nationals deported so far in May 2026 include five

Ugandan nationals, three Russian nationals and one Nigerian national. Officials said the deportations followed sustained legal and administrative action, and proposals for blacklisting under appropriate categories have also been initiated.

The

agency informed that since January 2026, a total of 27 overstaying foreign nationals of various nationalities have exited the country.

During 2025, FRRO Goa deported or facilitated the exit of 120 overstaying foreign nationals, including 29 Bangladeshi nationals.

The operation was carried out through

the efforts of PI FRRO Devendra under the close monitoring of SP/DySP FRRO Shri Braz Menzes and under the overall supervision of SP FRRO Arshi Aadil, IPS.

FRRO Goa reiterated its commitment to taking firm and lawful action against overstaying foreign nationals while safeguarding the interests of genuine and law-abiding foreign visitors in Goa.

The agency also advised hotel owners, guest house operators, homestay providers, landlords and other accommodation providers to ensure timely and accurate submission of C-Forms/Form III for foreign nationals staying at their premises, warning that failure or delay in reporting could attract legal consequences.

**DEPORTED**

# CM Sawant Urges Farmers To Adopt Sustainable, Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** CM Pramod Sawant has called upon farmers and agricultural stakeholders in Goa to adopt sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices to protect the State's fragile ecosystems and strengthen the agriculture sector.

In a statement, the Chief Minister said Goa has always lived in harmony with nature and stressed that the agriculture sector must now lead the way towards a sustainable future.

Referring to the



vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sawant highlighted the importance of the "4 R's" in farming — Right Source, Right Dose, Right Time and Right Place — while

also aligning with the Prime Minister's seven appeals aimed at promoting environmental responsibility and sustainable development. Sawant urged farmers

to reduce dependence on chemical inputs and promote the use of natural fertilisers prepared from organic waste. He also encouraged the cultivation and consumption of naturally grown produce to make Goa a model state for organic and sustainable farming. The Chief Minister said sustainable agriculture was essential for building a "Swayampurna" and "Viksit" Goa and called for collective efforts to preserve the environment while ensuring long-term agricultural growth and food security.



## Councillors oppose move to hand over animal shelter to private operator

Team Goemkarponn

**MORMUGAO:** Sharp exchanges and heated discussions marked the meeting of the Mormugao Municipal Council during a special meeting on Friday as several councillors strongly opposed a proposal to hand over the existing PFA animal shelter to a new private operator and instead demanded that additional funds be sanctioned for the present facility.

The issue triggered lengthy discussions during the council meeting, with councillors maintaining that the current party managing the shelter has been functioning satisfactorily despite financial constraints. Members stated that the shelter has been providing proper care and treatment to stray animals and argued that replacing the operator would only create unnecessary

complications. Several councillors demanded that the civic body allot an additional ₹5 lakh towards maintenance, sanitation and other operational expenses of the shelter so that the existing management can continue functioning effectively. Councillors also pointed out that cleanliness and upkeep at the shelter could be improved further if adequate financial assistance is provided by the council. Ward councillor Shraddha Mahale Shetye opposed the appointment of any new private party to manage the facility and said local residents have been facing hardships due to the functioning of the shelter in a residential locality. She stated that concerns regarding safety, foul smell and inconvenience to nearby residents have repeatedly been raised before the authorities.

# Goa Shipyard Hosts National Dengue Day Awareness Programme In Vasco

Health Officials Stress Community Participation To Prevent Mosquito Breeding And Dengue Spread

Team Goemkarponn

**VASCO:** The Directorate of Health Services under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), in collaboration with Ayushman Arogya Mandir – Urban Primary Health Centre Vasco and Goa Shipyard Limited, organised a National



Dengue Day awareness programme on Friday at the Goa Shipyard auditorium in Vasco. The programme was

held under the theme "Community Participation for Dengue Control: Check, Clean, Cover" with the objective of

spreading awareness on dengue prevention and encouraging citizens to actively participate in keeping surroundings free from mosquito breeding. Chairman and Managing Director of Goa Shipyard Limited, Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay, attended the event as chief guest, while Edna Molina Dias e Rane was the guest of honour.

## Elderly Woman Dies In Lift Mishap At Building In Margao

Team Goemkarponn

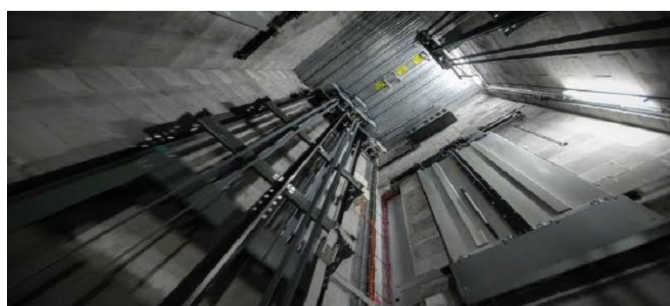
**MARGAO:** A 70-year-old woman died in a tragic lift mishap at a residential building in Margao.

According to information received from the hospital, the victim, identified as Marcia Rosa Pacheco, a resident of Chandravaddo, Fatorda, was brought dead to the casualty ward at around 10:10 pm.

Preliminary enquiry revealed that the

deceased had gone to meet a friend at Reliance Park, Calva. Police said the woman allegedly opened the lift gate and entered before the elevator had reached the floor. During the incident, the lift reportedly moved and struck her, causing her to get trapped inside. She sustained fatal injuries in the mishap.

Margao police have taken up further investigation into the incident.



# South Goa Gets Dedicated Paediatric Intensive Care Unit For Critically Ill Children

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Victor Hospital inaugurated South Goa's dedicated Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), strengthening access to advanced critical care services for children across the region.

The facility was inaugurated in the presence of Chief Guest Digambar Kamat, Minister for Public Works, Captain of Ports & Legal Metrology and MLA of Margao Constituency, along with Guest of Honour Vijai Sardesai.

Addressing the gathering, Kamat lauded the vision of late Victor Albuquerque and said Victor Hospital had



consistently expanded specialised healthcare services in Goa over the years. He described the launch of the PICU as another landmark achievement that would greatly benefit children and families in South Goa.

Sardesai said the addition of a dedicated paediatric intensive care facility was a proud

moment for the hospital and the Albuquerque family, adding that Victor Hospital had earned the trust of Goans through its healthcare services and continued commitment towards patient care.

The newly launched PICU is designed to provide specialised intensive care for infants, children and adolescents

requiring continuous monitoring, respiratory support and emergency intervention. Unlike adult ICUs, PICUs are tailored specifically to paediatric physiology, medication requirements and the emotional care needs of children and their families.

The unit is equipped with advanced paediatric critical care infrastructure including ventilators, High-Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC), CPAP/BiPAP respiratory support systems, multiparameter monitors, infusion and syringe pumps, paediatric crash carts, central oxygen and suction systems, portable imaging support and trained paediatric intensive care staff.

# Centre Imposes Petrol Export Duty As Crude Oil Surge Triggers Fresh Fuel Tax Changes

■ Government cuts levy on diesel and aviation fuel exports while introducing Rs 3 per litre duty on petrol shipments

**New Delhi:** The Centre on Friday revised its windfall taxation structure on fuel exports by imposing a fresh export duty on petrol while reducing existing levies on diesel and aviation turbine fuel amid continuing volatility in global crude oil prices.

According to a notification issued by the Finance Ministry, a special additional excise duty of Rs 3 per litre has now been imposed on petrol exports. This marks the first such levy on petrol exports since tensions escalated in West Asia earlier this year.

At the same time, the government reduced the export duty on diesel



from Rs 23 per litre to Rs 16.5 per litre. The levy on aviation turbine fuel was also lowered from Rs 33 per litre to Rs 16 per litre. The revised rates will come into effect from May 16.

The ministry clarified that the road and infrastructure cess on exports of petrol and diesel would remain nil. It also stated that there would be no changes in the duty structure for petrol and diesel meant

for domestic consumption, ensuring that retail fuel supplies within the country remain unaffected for now.

India first introduced the windfall tax regime on fuel exports in March following the sharp rise in crude oil prices triggered by the escalating conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran. The government had initially imposed export duties on diesel and aviation fuel to discourage excessive overseas shipments and maintain adequate domestic fuel availability.

The tax rates have undergone multiple revisions in recent months in response to fluctuations

in global energy markets. Export duties on diesel and aviation fuel were sharply increased during April as crude oil prices surged above the USD 100 per barrel mark before being gradually reduced in subsequent reviews.

Officials said the revised structure aims to balance domestic fuel security with changing international price trends. The move is also intended to prevent exporters from taking disproportionate advantage of global price differences while ensuring sufficient supplies remain available within India during the continuing geopolitical uncertainty in West Asia.

## India's Forex Reserves Rebound Sharply, Climb Nearly \$7 Billion In A Week

■ Gold holdings drive major rise as country's foreign exchange reserves approach \$697 billion mark

**New Delhi:** India's foreign exchange reserves registered a strong recovery during the week ending May 8, rising by USD 6.295 billion to reach USD 696.988 billion, according to fresh data released by the Reserve Bank of India on Friday.

The sharp increase comes after the reserves had declined by USD 7.794 billion in the previous reporting week amid volatility in global financial markets and pressure on the rupee.

India's forex reserves had earlier touched a record high of USD 728.494 billion in late February before geopolitical tensions in West Asia triggered fluctuations in crude oil prices and increased pressure on emerging market currencies. The Reserve Bank of India had intervened in the currency market through dollar sales to stabilise the rupee during the period of uncertainty.

According to the latest data, foreign currency assets, which form the largest component of India's reserves, increased by USD 562 million to USD 552.387



billion. These assets reflect the impact of movements in major international currencies such as the euro, pound and yen against the US dollar.

A major contributor to the latest jump was the increase in gold reserves. The value of India's gold holdings surged by USD 5.637 billion during the week to reach USD 120.853 billion, significantly boosting the overall reserve position.

The country's Special Drawing Rights, or SDRs, with the International Monetary Fund also recorded an increase of USD 84 million, taking the total to USD 18.873 billion.

Meanwhile, India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund rose marginally by USD 12 million to USD 4.875 billion during the reporting week.

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## High Court Clears Goa's Revised Inheritance Law Favouring Surviving Spouses

each claimant becomes final only after inventory and partition proceedings are completed.

Based on this interpretation, the Court concluded that the 2023 amendment — which was made effective from December 21, 2016 — cannot be treated as illegally retrospective. The Bench noted that the law protects rights that had already been conclusively settled while allowing the revised succession rules

to apply in pending cases where distribution of shares had not yet been finalised. The Court also referred to succession principles under the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 and the Indian Succession Act, 1925, observing that both laws similarly accord a preferential position to widows and widowers over several other categories of heirs.

During the hearing, petitioners had argued that the amendments overturned Goa's long-

standing succession structure inherited from the Portuguese Civil Code and unfairly affected the rights of siblings and parents in inheritance matters. One of the petitions was filed by Xavier Agnelo Minguel Jose Gracias, who claimed entitlement to his deceased brother's estate under the earlier succession rules. Another challenge came from the parents of Late Siddesh Shantaram Chanekar, who contended that,

under the previous law, parents ranked ahead of a surviving spouse where there were no children.

Rejecting these arguments, the High Court ruled that changes in legislative policy cannot be invalidated merely because they alter an earlier legal arrangement or disadvantage certain heirs. The Bench ultimately upheld the amended succession framework as constitutionally sustainable.

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## Goa Notifies 4 Lakh Sq Metres As No Development Zone

sensitive zones from developmental activities and preserving Goa's ecological and heritage-rich areas.

The Old Goa region is home to several protected heritage monuments of national importance, while the mangrove belt between Four Pillars and

St Cruz plays a vital role in maintaining coastal ecology and biodiversity.

Officials said the NDZ notification will restrict construction and other development activities within the identified areas in order to ensure long-term conservation and protection.

## Health Department Sounds Dengue Alert Ahead of Monsoon

breeding sites within days. The Health Department has urged residents to routinely inspect homes and surroundings, clear stagnant water, maintain cleanliness, and use mosquito protection measures to reduce the risk of infection. Officials also appealed to citizens not to ignore symptoms such as fever, severe body ache, headache, or fatigue and to seek immediate medical attention if symptoms appear. Calling dengue prevention a collective responsibility, the department said community participation will be critical in preventing outbreaks during the monsoon season and safeguarding public health across Goa.

## "Free Trade Pact Gives Fresh Momentum": PM Modi Arrives In Netherlands To Boost India-Europe Partnership

management and advanced technologies. Modi also confirmed that he would hold talks with Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof and meet King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima during his stay. The discussions in The Hague are expected to focus on deepening collaboration in trade, investment, agriculture, defence, maritime cooperation and digital innovation. Both countries are also likely to explore partnerships in climate action, green hydrogen projects and resilient supply chains as India continues to strengthen ties with European

economies.

Officials view the Netherlands as one of India's most significant economic partners in Europe. The bilateral relationship has expanded steadily through strong investment flows and growing commercial exchanges. Rotterdam, Europe's largest port city, continues to play a crucial role as a gateway for Indian exports entering European markets. The Prime Minister is also expected to address members of the Indian diaspora, one of the largest Indian communities in mainland Europe.

## "Choose Geography or History": Army Chief's Sharp Warning to Pakistan Over Terror Support

remaining strictly on terror infrastructure. The tensions between the two countries escalated briefly following the operation before easing after a ceasefire understanding was reached on May 10, 2025. General Dwivedi's latest remarks underline India's continued emphasis on maintaining a firm security posture against terrorism and cross border militant activity. The comments also come amid ongoing regional security concerns and heightened focus on counter terrorism operations along the border.

# “Not 1 Gram Will Pass”

## Amit Shah Calls For Global Crackdown On Narco Networks

■ Home Minister urges nations to unite against drug cartels, warns world has limited time to stop irreversible damage

**New Delhi:** Amit Shah on Friday issued a strong warning over the growing global narcotics crisis, calling for urgent international cooperation to dismantle drug cartels and prevent what he described as irreversible damage within the next decade.

Speaking at the RN Kao Memorial Lecture 2026 in New Delhi, Shah said the fight against drugs could no longer be treated as an isolated law enforcement issue and must instead be addressed as a major



global security challenge linked to terrorism, organised crime and geopolitical instability.

Addressing diplomats, security officials and representatives from over 40 countries, Shah stressed that fragmented approaches would fail against highly organised international narcotics

syndicates operating across borders. He urged nations to work together on a binding legal framework that would ensure uniform definitions of banned substances, common penalties for trafficking offences, smoother extradition processes and real-time intelligence sharing.

The Home Minister said inconsistencies in international drug laws were allowing criminal networks to exploit loopholes and expand operations. According to Shah, without coordinated

global action, the consequences would become far more difficult to reverse in the coming years.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Drug-Free India by 2047, Shah said Indian agencies had already prepared a roadmap to break drug syndicates and strengthen border enforcement under a strict zero-tolerance policy.

He declared that India would not allow even a single gram of narcotics to enter the country or be routed through its territory.



## NCR's 90 Minute Connectivity Revolution Is Redefining Growth

■ Expressways, Rapid Rail and Metro Expansion Drive Real Estate, Logistics and Economic Boom Across NCR

**New Delhi:** The National Capital Region is undergoing a dramatic transformation as a network of new expressways, rapid rail systems and metro expansions significantly reduces travel time between Delhi and surrounding cities. Areas that once felt distant are now connected within a 90 minute travel radius, reshaping patterns of development, investment and economic activity across the region.

Cities and towns such as Meerut, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Sohna, Baghpat and Alwar are rapidly emerging as growth centres as improved connectivity attracts residential projects, industries, logistics hubs and tourism related investments. Among the major infrastructure projects driving this shift is the Dwarka Expressway, which has become one of NCR's fastest growing residential corridors. Property values

along the stretch have reportedly tripled over the last five years, reflecting strong investor confidence and rising housing demand.

The Delhi Mumbai Expressway and Urban Extension Road II have further improved mobility towards destinations such as Alwar and Bhiwadi, while reducing travel congestion within Delhi itself. Faster road networks are also helping businesses by lowering logistics costs, improving delivery efficiency and boosting warehousing activity across industrial belts. High speed rail connectivity has added another dimension to NCR's changing geography. The operational Delhi Meerut RRTS has reduced travel time between Delhi and Meerut to under an hour, significantly increasing the attractiveness of residential and commercial developments in the corridor.

## “Those Who Want To Leave Can Go”: Mamata Signals TMC Rebuild After Crushing Poll Defeat

■ Trinamool Congress chief asks party workers to regroup and revive the organisation after dramatic electoral setback

**New Delhi:** After suffering one of its biggest electoral setbacks in recent years, Mamata Banerjee has called on party leaders and workers to rebuild the organisation from the ground up, while making it clear that those wishing to leave the party are free to do so.

At a meeting held at her Kalighat residence on Friday, attended



by several Trinamool Congress candidates and the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, Banerjee struck a

defiant tone despite the party's heavy defeat in the recently concluded assembly elections.

She urged party workers to reopen damaged offices, repaint them, and reconnect with grassroots supporters. Banerjee reportedly said she was willing to personally participate in rebuilding efforts if required, while insisting

that the Trinamool Congress would continue to fight and would not surrender after the loss.

The election results marked a dramatic reversal for the party, which was pushed from the treasury benches to the opposition. Out of 294 assembly seats in the state, the TMC secured victory in only 80 constituencies.

## India Begins Massive Offshore Energy Hunt Across Bay of Bengal

■ Modi Government Plans Multi Basin Seismic Survey to Search for Major Oil and Gas Reserves

**New Delhi:** India is preparing for one of its largest offshore energy exploration exercises in recent years as the government moves ahead with an extensive oil and gas survey across multiple regions in the Bay of Bengal. The ambitious project is aimed at identifying untapped hydrocarbon reserves beneath the seabed and strengthening the country's long term energy security.

The exploration initiative is being planned by the Directorate General



of Hydrocarbons and will cover major offshore basins including Bengal Purnea, Mahanadi, Krishna Godavari, Cauvery and the Andaman region. Bids for the project were floated on May 14 as part of the government's broader push to expand domestic energy production.

## “Not An Inch’: Supreme Court Cracks Down on Mining in Aravali Region”

■ Apex Court Refuses Any Activity Until Fresh Scientific Review Defines Protected Hills

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court of India has taken a firm stand against mining in the Aravali region, declaring that no activity will be permitted in the ecologically sensitive zone until a fresh scientific framework and definition of the hills is finalised.

A bench led by Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi stated during the hearing that the court would not allow “even an inch” of the Aravali region to be used for mining or any other purpose until it



is fully satisfied with the recommendations of a newly proposed expert committee.

The court's observations came months after it stayed an earlier judgment that had accepted a controversial 100 metre elevation criteria for defining the Aravali hills. Environmental groups

had strongly opposed the definition, arguing that it could leave large portions of the region vulnerable to mining and ecological destruction.

During the proceedings, lawyers representing mining lease holders sought permission for the process of granting and renewing leases to continue, even if final approvals were delayed. However, the bench rejected any relaxation and maintained that no activity would be allowed

until the scientific review is completed. Highlighting the environmental damage caused by illegal mining over the years, the Chief Justice remarked that the issue had escalated because of the influence of a “powerful mining lobby”. Describing the Aravalis as the green lungs of north western India, the court stressed the importance of protecting the fragile ecosystem before permitting any development or extraction activities.

# Kohli's Strong Message Puts Spotlight on BCCI's 2027 World Cup Plans

■ Star Batter Makes His Position Clear Amid Growing Speculation Over ODI Future

**New Delhi:** Virat Kohli has delivered a powerful and direct message regarding his future in One Day Internationals, making it clear that he does not intend to spend the final phase of his career repeatedly proving his value to selectors and team management.

Speaking during a podcast linked to Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Kohli addressed ongoing speculation surrounding his possible participation in the 2027 ICC ODI World

Cup. The veteran batter stated that he would rather receive clarity from the very beginning than continue in an uncertain environment where his place is constantly questioned.

Kohli stressed that if the management feels he is no longer required, he would prefer to be informed directly instead of being pushed into a situation where he has to justify his worth repeatedly. His comments have once again highlighted the delicate relationship between senior players and

the selection system within Indian cricket.

After retiring from T20 Internationals following India's 2024 World Cup triumph and later stepping away from Test cricket, Kohli now features only in the ODI format for India. With limited ODI fixtures in the international calendar, discussions regarding the future of senior players have become more prominent ahead of the 2027 World Cup in South Africa.

Despite concerns over age, Kohli remains one

of India's most consistent performers in the format. Last year, he scored 651 ODI runs at an average above 65 and registered three centuries. He has already added another hundred this year, reinforcing his credentials as one of the country's premier white ball batters.



## Amaira Shines for Goa with Brilliant Main Draw Victory at U 13 Nationals

■ Michael Mare Joins Home Charge as Goa Players Battle India's Best at Navelim

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Panaji:** Goa's young shuttlers produced spirited performances as the main draw action began on the third day of the Yonex Sunrise Under 13 National Ranking Badminton Tournament at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium in Navelim.

Amaira Dhumatker emerged as the standout performer for the hosts with an impressive straight games victory over Sri Pravya Ponnaganti

of Andhra Pradesh. Displaying excellent control and composure, Amaira sealed a hard fought 21 to 16, 22 to 20 win to advance in the girls singles category. She continued her strong run in the girls doubles event as well, teaming up with Shreeya A. Rao of Karnataka to register a commanding 21 to 7, 21 to 11 victory against Arayana Chaudhary of Uttar Pradesh and Lavya Anika Patel of Uttarakhand.

Goa also celebrated a



determined performance from Michael Mare, who fought through a demanding three game contest to overcome Shresth Kumar of Uttar Pradesh. Michael claimed the match 21 to 18, 14 to 21, 21 to 14 in an entertaining encounter that drew loud support from the local crowd.

## Goa Men Storm into Quarterfinals at Lacrosse Federation Cup

■ Strong League Performances Power Goa into Quarterfinals in Himachal Pradesh

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Panaji:** Goa's men's team delivered an impressive performance at the 3rd Lacrosse Federation Cup in Himachal Pradesh, reaching the quarterfinals after a dominant run in the league stage and showcasing the growing strength of the sport in the state.

Led by captain Moshe Devappa and guided by player cum head coach Mangesh Pawar, Goa opened their campaign in



commanding fashion with a convincing 5 0 victory over Jammu and Kashmir. Siddharth Desai scored once, while Sarvam Deulkar struck twice. Mahesh Kandkura and Swapnil Desai also found

the net as Goa completely controlled the contest.

The team continued its excellent form in the second pool match, overpowering Pondicherry 7 0 with another dominant attacking display.

## GCA to Scout Emerging U 19 Fast Bowlers and Left Arm Spinners in Margao

■ Under 19 Cricketers to Attend Special Selection Session in Margao on May 19

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Panaji:** The Goa Cricket Association has announced a dedicated selection session for emerging fast bowlers and left arm spinners in the Under 19 boys category. The trials are scheduled to take place on May 19, 2026, at 9:00 AM at the MCC Ground in Margao.

The initiative aims to identify and nurture promising young bowling talent from across Goa, with a special focus on pace

bowlers and left arm spin specialists. Eligible players aspiring to represent the state at higher levels will get an opportunity to showcase their skills before the selectors during the one day assessment session.

According to the eligibility criteria, players participating in the trials must be born on or after September 1, 2007. The association has advised interested cricketers to complete the registration process in advance through the official GCA website.

## GFDC Ambelim Created History by Producing an International Player

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Panaji:** The Goa Football Development Council Ambelim centre successfully organised a three day Football Festival 2026 from May 12 to 14 at the Ambelim Sports Complex, bringing together young footballers from across multiple age groups in a vibrant celebration of grassroots football.

The festival featured competitions and activities for children in the Under 6, Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, and Under 14 categories. Participants were honoured with trophies and medals



at the conclusion of the event, recognising their enthusiasm and performances during the festival.

Addressing the closing ceremony and kit distribution function, GFDC Member Secretary and Chief Guest Fransquinha Oliveira highlighted the remarkable journey of the Ambelim centre over the last 12 years. She said the

centre has consistently produced talented boys and girls who have represented Goa at national level tournaments.

She noted that despite challenges during the COVID 19 pandemic, the centre continued its mission of nurturing young footballers and building a strong grassroots football culture. Oliveira also stated that the Ambelim

## Three Day Football Festival Celebrates Grassroots Talent and Youth Development

centre achieved a major milestone by becoming the first grassroots centre to produce an international football player, reflecting its commitment towards player development.

She further pointed out that several trainees from the centre have represented reputed local clubs such as Ambelim Sports Club and Youth Welfare Association, while others have gone on to play for prominent teams including FC Goa, Salgaocar FC, Sporting Clube de Goa, Dempo Sports Club, Sesa Football Academy, and South Goa United.