



Vasco Market Inferno: Short Circuit or Man-Made Disaster?

■ Fire Safety Lapses Under Scanner

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: A suspected short circuit is believed to have triggered the massive fire that swept through Vasco's Sunday Modern Market late Wednesday night, gutting around 140 shops and causing extensive losses to traders just days before Diwali.

The incident has brought the market's fire safety preparedness under scrutiny, particularly following reports that several installed fire hydrants were non-



functional during the firefighting operation. The fire rapidly engulfed the densely packed commercial complex, destroying clothing, festive merchandise and other

goods stocked by traders for the Diwali season. Several shopkeepers had received fresh consignments from Mumbai and other locations earlier that day, making the incident

a major setback for businesses dependent on festive sales. Losses are feared to run into several crores of rupees.

While a short circuit is suspected to have caused the Sunday Market fire, the reported failure of fire hydrants has raised concerns over the maintenance of essential fire safety infrastructure.

In a congested market where shops are located close to one another, operational hydrants are critical to supporting firefighting efforts and

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107 Vendors Identified After Vasco Sunday Market Fire; Relief Process Underway

Mormugao SDM chairs review meeting with affected vendors; bank mandate forms distributed to facilitate financial assistance



Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: The authorities have identified 107 vendors affected by the fire at Vasco Sunday Market, with the process of providing financial assistance now underway. A review meeting was held with the affected vendors to discuss relief measures, documentation requirements and rehabilitation arrangements. The meeting was chaired by the Mormugao Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) in the presence of Chief Officer Sidhivinayak Naik, Police Inspector Vaibhav Naik, Market Vendors' Association President Manuel and General

Secretary Kevat.

During the meeting, officials informed the vendors that 107 affected persons had been identified so far. Bank mandate forms are being provided to the identified vendors to initiate the process of disbursing financial assistance. The affected vendors have been asked to submit the necessary documents along with the completed bank mandate forms to enable the authorities to process their relief claims. Officials are working to expedite the verification and documentation process to ensure that financial assistance reaches all eligible beneficiaries without unnecessary delay.



CM Sawant Orders Relief And Reconstruction After Vasco Market Fire

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has directed officials to expedite relief and rehabilitation measures for vendors affected by the Vasco market fire and ensure that reconstruction work begins at the earliest.

Speaking to reporters, the Chief Minister said a comprehensive review of the incident was conducted in the presence of senior officials, including heads of the Fire Department, Director General of Police (DGP) and Chief Secretary, along with the local MLA and District Collector. Sawant participated in the meeting virtually. The Chief Minister instructed officials to prepare a complete list of affected persons to facilitate the release of initial financial assistance on a fast-track basis.

He also directed the authorities to identify a suitable location for the rehabilitation of affected vendors and immediately initiate the process of rebuilding the damaged market.

Goa Government Exploring All Legal Options To Ensure ST Reservation Before 2027: CM

■ Pramod Sawant says government may approach Supreme Court; discusses issue with Union Home Minister Amit Shah

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant said the state government is exploring all possible legal options, including approaching the Supreme Court, to ensure Scheduled Tribe (ST) reservation in the Goa Legislative Assembly



ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

The Chief Minister said the government is also examining alternative legal avenues to overcome existing hurdles and ensure the implementation of ST reservation before the next Assembly elections.

Sawant further stated that he had personally

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Delhi Traders Warn of ₹12,000 Crore Business Loss, Urge Sonia Gandhi to Postpone INDIA Bloc Rally

■ CTI seeks rescheduling of November 1 Ramlila Maidan rally, citing Diwali shopping rush and fears of major traffic disruption

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Delhi's Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) has urged senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi to postpone the INDIA bloc's proposed rally at Ramlila Maidan on November 1, warning that the event could disrupt business worth ₹10,000 crore to ₹12,000 crore across 20 major markets in the national capital. The opposition INDIA bloc is scheduled to organise the 'Chalo Dilli' march to



demand the rollback of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. In its appeal, the traders' body called for the rally to be rescheduled until after Diwali, citing concerns over traffic congestion.

Bhutan Glacial Lake Flood Alert Raises Concerns for Assam and West Bengal

■ Authorities monitor vulnerable river basins amid reports of a glacial lake outburst and potential downstream flooding

Team Goemkarponn

GUWAHATI: Reports of a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) in Bhutan's Himalayan region have raised concerns about possible flooding in downstream areas of Assam and West Bengal. The reported event has highlighted the risks posed by sudden surges of water, sediment and debris flowing from high altitude



regions into river systems that cross international borders. Glacial lake outburst floods occur when water accumulated in glacial lakes is suddenly released following the failure of natural barriers, such as ice or moraine

dams. These events can cause rapid rises in river levels, threatening settlements, agricultural land, roads and other infrastructure downstream. In Assam, districts including Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang and Dhubri are among the areas identified as potentially vulnerable to changes in river conditions.

Vasco Fire: A Time for Relief, Not Political Drama

The devastating fire at Vasco Sunday Market has gutted more than 150 shops and establishments, destroyed goods purchased for the upcoming Diwali festival, and left hundreds of traders and their families in uncertainty. For many of these shopkeepers, this was not merely a place of business. It was their livelihood, their investment, their source of income and, in many cases, the result of decades of hard work.

The scale of destruction is enormous. Traders claim that goods worth crores of rupees, stocked in anticipation of the festive season, have been reduced to ashes. Two cars parked near an auto parts and car accessories shop behind Tilak Maidan Stadium were also damaged. The fire reportedly spread across three locations, raising serious questions about the circumstances that allowed the blaze to cause such extensive destruction.

But amid the tragedy, another disturbing spectacle unfolded. Instead of allowing the focus to remain firmly on rescue, relief and rehabilitation, the fire site became a stage for political confrontation.

Why?

Why should politicians turn up at a disaster site and make their presence a political event? Why should leaders engage in heated exchanges when hundreds of affected traders are struggling to comprehend the loss of their businesses? And why should the police be required to intervene in political arguments at a place where people need assistance, not theatrics?

There is nothing wrong with elected representatives visiting a disaster site. In fact, it is their responsibility to understand the suffering of constituents, assess the damage and ensure that the government responds. The Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao, Congress leader Girish Chodankar, Quepem MLA Alton D'Costa, BJP leaders and AAP representative Valmiki Naik have every right to visit the affected traders and seek answers.

However, there is a difference between visiting a disaster site to help people and arriving there to establish political ownership of a tragedy.

The reported confrontation involving Valmiki Naik and BJP leader Sadanand Shet Tanavade, which required police intervention, was unnecessary and insensitive. The affected traders did not need to witness political egos competing for attention. They needed assurances that their losses would be assessed fairly, that immediate assistance would be provided and that their businesses would not be abandoned.

The same applies to every political leader who visited the site. Yuri Alemao and Girish Chodankar could have raised their questions

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There is nothing wrong with elected representatives visiting a disaster site. In fact, it is their responsibility to understand the suffering of constituents, assess the damage and ensure that the government responds. The Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao, Congress leader Girish Chodankar, Quepem MLA Alton D'Costa, BJP leaders and AAP representative Valmiki Naik have every right to visit the affected traders and seek answers.

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without turning the location into a political battleground. Sadanand Shet Tanavade and Valmiki Naik could have exercised restraint. Nobody loses political relevance by maintaining dignity during a tragedy.

The priority should have been clear from the beginning: save lives, protect whatever property can still be saved, prevent further damage and provide immediate relief to those affected.

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant's visit and assurance of financial assistance are welcome. His direction for an investigation by the police and fire department is equally important. But assurances must translate into action. Traders cannot rebuild their lives on promises alone. The government must immediately conduct a transparent assessment of the losses, announce an interim relief package and establish a single-

window mechanism to help affected shopkeepers with compensation, documentation and rehabilitation. Those who have lost their entire stock, particularly goods purchased for Diwali, cannot be expected to wait indefinitely for bureaucratic procedures to move.

The government must also examine the fire safety arrangements in the market. Were adequate fire prevention systems installed and operational? Were emergency exits accessible? Were electrical installations periodically inspected? Were fire extinguishers and other safety equipment available? Did the authorities conduct regular safety audits?

A suspected short circuit, as claimed by the owner of the car accessories shop, cannot be treated as a conclusion. The exact cause must be established through a professional investigation. The fact that the blaze spread across three locations makes a detailed examination of electrical infrastructure, fire safety compliance and emergency response essential.

The review meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary must result in a time-bound rehabilitation plan, not another round of official discussions. The government must also consider temporary business spaces so that traders can resume operations while permanent arrangements are made.

Most importantly, accountability must follow. If negligence, faulty infrastructure or failure to enforce safety regulations contributed to the disaster, those responsible must face consequences. Goa cannot afford to treat every major fire as an unfortunate incident, issue assurances and move on until another tragedy strikes.

The Vasco fire is a human tragedy first and a political issue second. Opposition leaders have a legitimate role in questioning the government, and the ruling establishment must answer uncomfortable questions. But there is a time and place for political confrontation. A disaster site is not that place. Goa's politicians must understand that public service is not measured by who reaches the spot first, who gets more television coverage or who manages to dominate the political narrative. It is measured by what they do after the cameras leave. For the traders of Vasco, Diwali has arrived under the shadow of devastation. Their shops are gone, their investments destroyed and their immediate future uncertain.

They deserve compassion, financial support and a government that acts swiftly. They also deserve political leaders who know when to speak, when to question and, most importantly, when to stand aside.

Let Vasco rebuild before politicians start campaigning over its ashes.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Food Safety Must Begin with Accountability: FDA's Action in Thivim and Karaswada Is Welcome

Food safety is not merely a regulatory requirement; it is a matter of public health and consumer trust. The recent action by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) in Thivim and Karaswada deserves appreciation, particularly at a time when people increasingly depend on outside food services and packaged products.

The shutdown of a tiffin service at Auchitwaddo, Thivim, over unhygienic conditions sends a strong message that food businesses cannot compromise on basic sanitation. More concerning is the fact that the establishment had reportedly faced action earlier for similar violations. Repeat offences indicate that warnings alone may not be enough. Strict monitoring and appropriate penalties are necessary to ensure compliance.

The FDA's action against the chocolate manufacturing unit at Karaswada is equally important. A complaint about a metal fragment in a chocolate led to an inspection that reportedly uncovered defective moulds with loose and corroded parts, besides misleading labelling and incorrect manufacturing address details. The destruction of 140 boxes of chocolates worth approximately ₹40,000 was a necessary precaution to protect consumers.

However, enforcement should not end with inspections and destruction of unsafe products. Regular follow-up checks, transparent action against repeat offenders and greater awareness among food business operators are essential. Consumers must also be encouraged to report suspected food safety violations without hesitation.

The FDA officials involved in the surveillance drive deserve recognition for taking action in the interest of public health. Such enforcement must continue across Goa, including small eateries, tiffin services, manufacturing units and other food establishments.

Every Goan has the right to safe and hygienic food. Business interests cannot be allowed to take precedence over public health.

- Ryan Naik, Mapusa, Goa

Congress-RGP Alliance: Goa's Interests Must Remain at the Centre of Politics

Political alliances in Goa must be built around the interests of the people rather than merely electoral calculations. The recent meeting between senior leaders of the Congress Party and the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) is an opportunity to bring greater coordination to the opposition and place Goa-centric issues at the forefront of public debate.

Goa faces several pressing challenges, including environmental degradation, unplanned development, unemployment, infrastructure gaps and concerns over the protection of local identity. These issues require sustained political attention, clear policy positions and accountability from those who seek public support.

The Congress and RGP have different political backgrounds and organisational structures. However, their decision to strengthen cooperation could provide a platform for discussing common concerns. What matters now is whether this understanding translates into a meaningful agenda that addresses the everyday problems faced by Goans.

Any alliance must be transparent about its priorities, commitments and approach to governance. People should be able to understand what the parties stand for, what changes they propose and how they intend to protect the state's interests.

The leadership of both parties must also ensure that local voices, youth, farmers, workers, small business owners and community organisations are heard during the process. Political unity will have greater meaning when it is supported by public consultation and a clear commitment to Goa. Ultimately, the success of any political partnership should be judged by the issues it raises, the solutions it offers and the accountability it demonstrates to the people.

- Adrian Fernandes, Margao, Goa

Govind Gaude Urges Centre and Goa Government to Challenge HC Stay on ST Reservation

■ Priol MLA says due legal procedure must be followed to secure ST political reservation in Goa, stressing that the Union Government has the primary responsibility to address the issue

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Priol MLA Govind Gaude has urged the Centre and the Goa government to work together to challenge the High Court's interim stay on the notification of Scheduled Tribe population figures, a key step towards implementing political reservation for ST communities in the Goa Legislative



Assembly. Gaude said the governments must approach the Supreme Court to get the stay vacated and ensure that the process moves forward legally. Referring to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's

recent statement, he said efforts had been made to take up the matter with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and pursue the necessary legal action. Highlighting the sustained movement led by the United Tribal Associations Alliance (UTAA) for over 23 years, Gaude said the demand for political reservation had been pending for a long time and required coordinated action

by both governments. He cautioned against bypassing any legal procedure, saying procedural lapses could provide an opportunity to those opposing ST political reservation. Gaude stressed that while the Goa government also has a responsibility, the Union Government bears the larger share of responsibility in resolving the matter.



Goa tightens entry rules for live poultry consignments

■ Source-area certification made compulsory; birds without valid documents to be turned away at State borders

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a move to strengthen animal welfare and regulate the transportation of poultry, the Goa government has introduced mandatory certification for live birds brought into the State.

Under a new notification issued by the Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, every incoming poultry consignment must be accompanied by a certificate issued by the competent authority in the area where the birds originate. Shipments without the required certification will be refused entry into Goa.

The new directions have taken effect immediately and also apply to the transportation of live poultry within the State.

The certification must provide relevant details about the consignment, including its source, the health condition of the birds and their suitability for transportation, wherever applicable. The department has also made it clear that transporters must keep all statutory documents, permissions and related records readily available. These will have to be produced before authorised officials whenever required. Special emphasis has been placed on preventing cruelty during transportation.

Poultry must be carried under conditions that protect the birds from excessive crowding, physical injuries and unnecessary stress, while also reducing the possibility of disease spreading.



Kushavati DLC Reviews 40 Fresh Forest Rights Claims From Dharbandora

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, was held under the chairmanship of Kushavati District Collector Gurudas S. T. Desai. The meeting focused on examining and taking decisions on 40 fresh Forest Rights claims submitted by applicants from Dharbandora taluka. The committee examined the applications and deliberated on the claims in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and the applicable rules. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (IFS), South and Kushavati District, the Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Dharbandora, and the Member Secretary of the District Level Committee. The meeting forms part of the process of examining claims submitted under the Forest Rights Act, which provides a legal framework for recognising the forest rights of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

Santa Cruz Panchayat Member Lodges Police Complaint Against Sarpanch Jennifer De Oliveira Over Alleged ₹1.80 Lakh Loss

■ Complaint alleges irregularities in organising sports tournament at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium and wrongful financial gain to organisers

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: An elected member of the Village Panchayat of Santa Cruz, Inacio Domnic Pereira, has lodged a complaint with the Old Goa Police Inspector against Santa Cruz Sarpanch Jennifer De Oliveira and others, alleging that their actions caused an intentional financial loss of ₹1.80 lakh to the Village Panchayat while allegedly resulting

in wrongful gain to the organisers of a sports



tournament.

In his complaint dated October 29, 2026, Pereira stated that a message had been circulated across various WhatsApp groups announcing a sports

tournament at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium. However, the venue was incorrectly mentioned in the publicity material as "Panaji, Goa", despite the stadium falling within the jurisdiction of the Village Panchayat of Santa Cruz.

According to the complaint, on July 22, 2026, at around 4 pm, Pereira visited the Sports Authority of Goa office to verify the details.

South Goa DEO Holds Meeting With Political Parties On Special Summary Revision Of Electoral Rolls

■ Political parties urged to coordinate with BLAs and BLOs, publicise SSR schedule and encourage eligible voters to verify their names ahead of final publication on January 4, 2027

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A meeting with representatives of recognised political parties to discuss the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls was chaired by Ms. Egna Cleetus, IAS, District Election Officer (DEO), South Goa, in the presence of Shri Ramesh Gaonkar, Additional Collector-II, and Shri Bhiku L.



Gawas, Head Clerk Deputy Collector, South-I. The meeting deliberated on the SSR schedule, procedures, appointment and responsibilities of Booth Level Agents

(BLAs), verification of draft electoral rolls, submission of claims and objections, and voter awareness initiatives to ensure an inclusive and accurate electoral roll.

The key deadlines discussed included rationalisation and rearrangement of polling stations by November 2, 2026, publication of the integrated draft electoral rolls on November 12, 2026, and the filing of claims and objections from November 12 to December 11, 2026. The disposal of claims and objections is scheduled to be completed by December 28, 2026, while the final electoral rolls will

be published on January 4, 2027.

Emphasising the importance of coordination, the DEO highlighted the role of political parties, BLAs and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) throughout the revision process.

Political parties were urged to widely publicise the SSR schedule and encourage eligible electors to verify their names in the draft electoral rolls.

Vasco police register case against unknown accused in market fire

■ Several shops gutted in blaze at New Model Municipal Market; police suspect deliberate act

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco police have registered an offence against an unknown person in connection with the devastating fire that gutted several shops at the New Model Municipal Market, causing extensive damage to goods and other materials.

According to the complaint lodged by PI Vaibhav Naik of Vasco police station, the incident occurred at around 11.50 pm on October 28 at the



Sunday Market Complex in Vasco.

The complaint states that an unknown person allegedly set fire to a shop in the market complex,

following which the flames spread to several other shops within the premises. Shops belonging to different owners were completely gutted,

resulting in substantial financial losses.

The incident also allegedly endangered human life.

Vasco police have registered an offence under Sections 326(f), 326(g) and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, against the unknown accused.

Further investigation is being carried out by PI Vaibhav Naik under the supervision of Mormugao SDPO SP Gurudas Kadam.



Four named persons and six labourers booked for damaging house in Assolda

■ Complainant alleges property damage, theft of iron sheets and threats to kill her and family members

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: Quepem police have registered a case against four named persons and six unidentified labourers for allegedly damaging a house, stealing iron materials and threatening a woman and her family members at Assolda in Quepem.

According to the complaint lodged by a woman resident of Assolda, the incident occurred on October 12, 2023, at around 9.10 am.

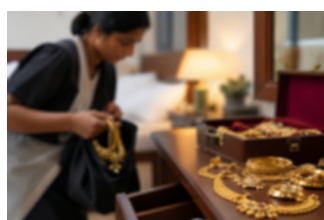
The complainant alleged that the accused, identified as Rosario Fernandes, Pascoal Fernandes, Joao Manuel Fernandes and Roman Fernandes, along with six

unidentified labourers, acting with common intention, damaged the tiled flooring of her house veranda, the outer wall and the iron sheets and iron tubes covering the house.

The accused allegedly used a cutter to cut the iron sheets and tubes before removing and stealing the materials.

When the complainant questioned them about their actions, the accused allegedly abused her in filthy language and threatened her and her family members with dire consequences, including death threats.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Harish Naik of Quepem police station.



Servant booked for allegedly stealing gold jewellery worth Rs 1.2 crore in Sangolda

Team Goemkarponn

SANGOLDA: Saligao police have registered a theft case against a domestic servant for allegedly stealing gold jewellery worth approximately Rs 1.20 crore from a residence at Sangolda in Bardez taluka.

According to the complaint lodged by Andrei D'Souza, a resident of Casa Antao, Alto Bella Vista, Sangolda, the alleged theft took place between August 23 and August 26, 2026.

The complainant alleged that the accused, identified as Hira Lamani, who was employed as a servant at her residence, committed theft of gold jewellery belonging to her and her mother.

The value of the stolen jewellery has been estimated at approximately Rs 1.20 crore.

The offence was registered by Saligao police on October 28 at 9.59 pm based on the complaint.

11 persons booked for trespassing and stone-pelting at house in Corgao

■ Pernem police register case after group allegedly damages roof tiles of complainant's house; loss estimated at Rs 5,000

Team Goemkarponn

CORGAO: Pernem police have registered an offence against 11 persons for allegedly trespassing onto a property and pelting stones at a house at Corgao in Pernem, causing damage to its roof tiles.

According to the complaint lodged by Prabhat Korgaonkar (65), a resident of Pethechawada, Corgao, the incident took place at around 12.45 am on



October 2 at House No. 569 in Corgao village.

The complainant alleged that the accused persons, acting with a common object and forming an unlawful assembly, criminally trespassed into his property bearing Survey No. 2/9 at Corgao.

The group allegedly pelted stones at the complainant's house, damaging its roof tiles and causing an estimated loss of Rs 5,000. The 11 persons named in the complaint include Prakash alias Paku Korgaonkar of Deulwada, Corgao, while the remaining accused are residents of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The offence was registered by Pernem police on October 29 at 3.49 pm.

Two Maharashtra men booked for illegal sand theft and transportation in Pernem

■ Pernem police register case over alleged theft of river sand worth Rs 50,000; two tipper trucks seized

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: Pernem police have registered an offence against two men from Maharashtra for allegedly stealing and illegally transporting river sand worth approximately Rs 50,000 in the Pernem area. According to police, the offence was registered on October 28 at 5.07 pm following a complaint lodged by PSI Jayprakash Jankar of Pernem police station. The incident reportedly



took place at around 2.45 am on October 28 near Goan Spice restaurant on the Naibag-Malpe Road at Poraskadem, Pernem.

The accused have been identified as Aniket Bandivdekar (27), a businessman from Niravde, Sawantwadi, and

Namdev Rawool (28), a driver from Talavade, Sawantwadi, both in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.

As per the complaint, the accused allegedly committed theft of river sand, classified as a minor mineral, from an unknown source and subsequently transported it in two Eicher tipper trucks bearing registration numbers MH-07-C-5389 and MH-04-HD-0732, respectively.

Mumbai man arrested with ganja worth Rs 27,500 in Pilerne

Team Goemkarponn

PILERNE: Saligao police have arrested a 49-year-old Mumbai resident for allegedly possessing ganja worth Rs 27,500 during a narcotics raid at Marra, Pilerne, in Bardez taluka. According to police, the offence was registered on October 28 at 9.36 pm following a complaint lodged by PSI Akshay Fatarpekar of Saligao police station. The raid was conducted between 5 pm and 6.30 pm on October 28 on the internal tar road at Marra, Pilerne.

FDA shuts down unhygienic tiffin service in Thivim; destroys chocolates worth Rs 40,000 in Karaswada

■ Surveillance drive uncovers repeat food safety violations at tiffin unit and defective chocolate moulds with misleading labelling

Team Goemkarponn

THIVIM The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Goa, conducted a surveillance drive in Tivim and Karaswada in Bardez, uncovering food safety violations at a tiffin service and a chocolate manufacturing unit. During the inspection at a tiffin service operating at Auchitwaddo, Tivim, officials found that the



food business was being run under unhygienic and unsanitary conditions. The unit supplies tiffins to various offices and construction sites.

According to the FDA, the establishment was a repeat offender and had been inspected and booked earlier for similar violations. The Food Business Operator (FBO) was directed to immediately stop all food business operations. Further action will be initiated under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, including

possible suspension of its licence. In another inspection, a chocolate manufacturing unit at Karaswada was reinspected following a complaint about a metal fragment allegedly found in a chocolate. During the inspection, officials found that the manufacturer was using defective moulds containing loose and corroded parts for chocolate production.



20 booked for trespassing into Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary; 16 mobile phones seized

■ Forest Department cracks down on unauthorised entry at Jalwane Waterfalls; seven iPhones among seized devices

Team Goemkarponn

SATTARI: The Goa Forest Department has booked 20 individuals from Karnataka and Maharashtra for allegedly entering the restricted Jalwane Waterfalls area of Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary without authorisation through Parwad APC.

In connection with the case, forest officials have seized 16 mobile phones, including seven iPhones. The Forest Department has issued a warning to tourists, trekkers and social

media content creators against entering restricted forest areas without obtaining the necessary permission.

Officials have cautioned that violations of wildlife protection laws and unauthorised entry into protected areas will invite strict legal action. The department has also warned against filming and circulating misleading content on social media concerning wildlife and prohibited forest areas, urging visitors to follow forest regulations and respect protected zones.



Archaeology Department acquires 17th-18th century sculpture from Honda

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Department of Archaeology has acquired a sculpture dating back to the 17th-18th century from Honda village in Sattari for further study and documentation.

Director of the Department of Archaeology, Dr Balaji Shenoy, said the department would study the sculpture's lithology and iconographic features to ascertain its historical and archaeological importance.

The acquisition was carried out by the department's archaeologist, Dipika Gaonkar, assisted by archaeology student Amey Kinjawdekar.

The department will undertake a detailed examination of the sculpture to understand its material characteristics, artistic features and historical significance.

Ponda freedom fighters oppose Diwali Bazaar at Kranti Maidan

■ Freedom fighters meet Ponda Municipal Council Chief Officer, urge authorities to preserve historic ground's sanctity

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Freedom fighters from Ponda have opposed the organisation of commercial bazaars at Kranti Maidan, raising concerns over the use of the historic ground for market activities.

Following a recent exhibition-cum-sale organised under the name of Diwali Bazaar, the freedom fighters gathered at the Ponda Municipal Council and met the Chief Officer to convey their



objections.

They made it clear that they do not want any bazaar or commercial marketplace to be organised at Kranti Maidan. However, they clarified that they have no objection to festive decorations and traditional Diwali-related activities,

provided these do not transform the historic venue into a commercial marketplace.

The freedom fighters emphasised that Kranti Maidan holds immense historical significance and that its dignity and sanctity must be preserved.

They urged the Ponda Municipal Council to take their concerns into consideration while deciding on future events and activities at the venue.

Kalatarang 2026 celebrates Goa's rich cultural heritage

■ Two-day cultural festival at Samaj Mandir, Loliem, witnesses participation of 480 artistes

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The two-day cultural festival Kalatarang-2026 concluded on a high note at Samaj Mandir, Tamnem, Loliem, showcasing Goa's rich traditions, artistic talent and cultural heritage through a vibrant display of performances by 480 participants.

Arts and Culture Minister and Canacona MLA Ramesh Tawadkar



graced the concluding ceremony of the festival, organised by Samaj Mandir, Tamnem, Loliem, in association with the Department of Art and Culture, Government of Goa, to mark the 41st anniversary of the institution.

The celebration

highlighted Goa's diverse cultural traditions and provided a platform for local talent. Such initiatives play an important role in preserving the state's cultural legacy while fostering unity and togetherness among communities.

The function was attended by Zilla Panchayat member (Poinguinim) Ajit (Ajay) Lolyenkar, Poinguinim Sarpanch Savita Tawadkar, Loliem-Polem Sarpanch Ratna, Deputy Sarpanch Pankaj Bandekar, panchayat members Mahesh Naik, Chandrakant Sudir, Nisha Chari and Prabhakar Gaonkar, SAG Treasurer Vinay Tubki and activist Vishant Gaonkar.

Venzy Viegas meets South Goa SP over alleged Rs 50 lakh overseas job scam

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Benaulim MLA Capt. Venzy Viegas, along with several alleged victims of an overseas job scam, met South Goa Superintendent of Police Akshat Ayush on Thursday, seeking action against a Margao-based woman accused of collecting around Rs 50 lakh from people on the promise of providing jobs abroad. According to the complainants, the woman allegedly collected money from several individuals by promising them overseas employment but failed to fulfil her assurances.

GOA 7s Season 3 to Feature 20 Teams in Three-Day International Rugby Festival

■ Benaulim to host international clubs and players from across the world from October 30 to November 1

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: GOA 7s International Rugby Festival Season 3 will bring international rugby action to Goa from October 30 to November 1 at the Sports Authority of Goa Ground in Benaulim. The three day tournament will feature 20 teams competing across the Men's 7s, Women's 7s and Mixed Touch categories, with matches scheduled from 9 am to 6 pm.

The festival has expanded from a two day event during its inaugural edition in Margao in 2024 to a three day competition this year. Fifteen of the 20 participating teams will travel from outside Goa, while around 50 Goan players and officials will be involved in the event.

Three international clubs from Qatar, the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka will participate, alongside players representing rugby playing nations including New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, France, Spain, Japan, the United States, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Russia.



The Men's 7s competition will feature Crocs RF, BIRD Rugby, Puffins RC, Golden Jackals, Calicut Titans, Mayurbhanj Foundation, Black Archers and Dahod Thunder RC. The Women's 7s category will see Crocs RF, Mayurbhanj Foundation, Kerala Wolfpack and Dragons RC compete.

The Mixed Touch

competition will feature Crocs RF, Hurricane Storm, BTR Broncos, BTR Stormers, CyberX RC, Dragons RC, All Dreams Foundation and Chennai Cubs.

Founded to help revive rugby in Goa following the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, GOA 7s aims to provide local players with opportunities to

compete against strong domestic and international opponents. Goa has participated in national level rugby tournaments annually since 2014 to 2015, with the festival seeking to strengthen the state's rugby ecosystem and create opportunities for emerging talent.

Crocs RF won the Men's title in Season 2, defeating Delhi Hurricanes 15 to 10 in the final.

Supported by Goa Tourism and the Goa Arts and Culture Department, the tournament also aims to promote Goa as an international sports tourism destination, attracting visitors and generating opportunities for local businesses.

The organisers also plan to conduct educational workshops for school students, physical education teachers and match officials to support the development of rugby in India. The long term vision is to establish GOA 7s as a leading destination within the international rugby sevens circuit, creating greater opportunities for Goan and Indian players and officials.

India's Extreme Poverty Falls From 27.1% to 2.6% in 12 Years: World Bank

■ An estimated 496 million people moved out of poverty between 2011 and 2023, with higher consumption, rising employment and expanded social support contributing to the decline

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has recorded a significant decline in poverty over the past 12 years, with the share of its population living in extreme poverty falling from 27.1 per cent in 2011 to 2.6 per cent in 2023, according to the World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief. The report estimated that around 496 million people moved out of extreme poverty during the period. Poverty measured against the lower-middle-income threshold of USD 4.20 per day, calculated using 2021 purchasing power parity (PPP), also declined substantially, from 57.7 per cent to 16.1 per cent. The World Bank described the reduction as one of the fastest declines in poverty globally, highlighting improvements in both monetary and non-monetary indicators. It attributed the progress primarily to stronger household consumption, increased employment, particularly among women, and expanded social assistance, including food subsidies. The downward trend is expected to continue, although at a slower pace. World Bank projections suggest that the poverty rate at the USD 4.20-a-day threshold could decrease from 14.2 per cent in 2026 to 12.1 per cent by 2028. The estimates are indicative and may change as fresh labour

market and economic data become available. India has also made progress in reducing multidimensional poverty, which considers factors beyond income. The report said the poverty rate measured through the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's Multidimensional Poverty Index fell from 53.8 per cent in 2005-06 to 16.4 per cent in 2019-21. The World Bank's own multidimensional poverty measure stood at 15.5 per cent in 2022-23. Despite these improvements, regional disparities and employment challenges remain significant. Around 57 per cent of India's poor population is concentrated in a contiguous belt stretching from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal. Expanding productive employment opportunities in these states will be important for sustaining further reductions in poverty. Employment increased by approximately 134 million people between 2017 and 2023, nearly twice the growth in the working-age population. Much of the increase came from rural women entering paid employment. However, the report pointed to concerns about job quality and opportunities for young people. Youth unemployment rose from 14.6 per cent to 15.9 per cent between the first quarters of FY26 and FY27, with rural young women particularly affected.

Vasco Market Inferno: Short Circuit or Man-Made Disaster?

containing the spread of flames.

The incident has therefore raised questions over whether the market's fire safety installations were being regularly inspected and maintained. A detailed assessment of the electrical infrastructure, hydrant network and overall safety arrangements will be crucial in establishing whether the disaster was solely the result of an electrical fault or was aggravated by shortcomings in fire safety preparedness.

Two other fire incidents were also reported in Vasco the same

night, one at a car accessories shop near Tilak Maidan and another in New Vaddem. A short circuit is suspected in the automobile accessories shop fire, while the cause of the New Vaddem incident remains unclear. No casualties were reported.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant visited the affected areas around 12.30 am and stated that the Sunday Market fire had been brought under control. He assured affected traders of necessary government assistance, including financial compensation.

With around 140 shops gutted and traders facing substantial financial losses, the incident has brought renewed attention to fire safety standards in crowded commercial establishments.

The findings of the investigation will be important

in determining the cause of the blaze and whether any lapses in safety preparedness contributed to the scale of destruction.

Goa Government Exploring All Legal Options To Ensure ST Reservation Before 2027: CM

discussed the matter with Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a meeting on Thursday.

"We are making every possible effort to ensure ST reservation for the 2027 Assembly elections," the Chief Minister said.



'Congress-Era Banking Favoured the Powerful': Nirmala Sitharaman Defends IDBI Bank Sale

■ Finance Minister accuses previous Congress governments of political interference and lending irregularities as Rahul Gandhi questions proposed stake sale

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has defended the NDA government's decision to divest its stake in IDBI Bank, accusing successive Congress-led governments of political interference in banking operations and financial mismanagement. Her remarks came in response to criticism from Leader of



Opposition Rahul Gandhi over the proposed sale of a controlling stake in the public sector lender to a subsidiary of Canada-based Fairfax Financial Holdings. In a post on

X, Sitharaman referred to controversies involving lending practices under previous Congress administrations, alleging that

political influence had affected credit decisions and that public sector bank employees had faced pressure to approve loans without following established procedures.

The Finance Minister specifically named large business groups, including Videocon, Winsome, ABG Shipyard and Kingfisher, alleging that IDBI Bank had extended loans to companies with links to Congress leaders. According to her, several of these loans subsequently turned into non-performing assets, resulting in significant financial losses for the bank.



BJP MP Manoj Tiwari Takes Yamuna Dip, Claims River Is Cleaner Despite Pollution Concerns

■ Tiwari credits the Rekha Gupta government with reducing pollution and challenges Arvind Kejriwal, while water quality data shows several stretches remain far above prescribed bathing standards

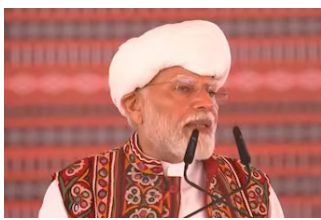
Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: BJP MP Manoj Tiwari took a dip in the Yamuna at Sonia Vihar ghat on Thursday, claiming that the river had become cleaner under the Rekha Gupta government. His remarks triggered a fresh political confrontation between the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), even as water quality readings indicate that significant pollution remains in several stretches.

Tiwari, who represents North East Delhi in the Lok Sabha, claimed that pollution levels had fallen by half over the past year due to the government's cleaning efforts. He also said devotees could once again celebrate

Chhath Puja in the river. Pointing to the presence of migratory birds, Tiwari argued that their arrival indicated an improvement in water quality. He claimed to have performed *aachman*, a ritual involving sipping water, at Sonia Vihar and said crocodiles could be present in the river, arguing that they inhabit clean water.

The BJP MP accused previous AAP governments of failing to clean the Yamuna and said the BJP had achieved substantial progress in a relatively short period. He claimed that half the river had been cleaned in around one-and-a-half years and that the remaining work would be completed over the next three years.



PM Modi Accuses Previous Governments of Misleading Farmers, Targets Opposition Over Iran War Rumours

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday accused previous governments of misleading farmers on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) issue, asserting that his government had consistently prioritised farmers' welfare, empowerment and financial security.

Addressing a public gathering in Banaskantha, Gujarat, during his two-day visit to the state, Modi said his government had taken several steps to strengthen agriculture and improve the financial position of farmers. He also reflected on his years in public service, stating, "It has been 25 years since I began serving you." The Prime Minister released the 24th instalment of the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi scheme, involving around ₹19,000 crore for farmers across the country. Describing farmers as *annadatas*, Modi said they were among the strongest pillars of India and that their welfare remained central to the government's policies.

India Puts AI and Maritime Security at Centre of UN Security Council Bid for 2028-29

■ New Delhi highlights cyber threats, safe shipping routes and technology access for developing nations ahead of next year's election

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has identified artificial intelligence (AI) and maritime security as key priorities in its bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2028-29 term, emphasising the need to use emerging technologies to strengthen global security and protect international shipping routes. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Harish



Parvathaneni, highlighted these priorities during a high-level Security Council debate on emerging technologies and maritime security. He stressed that technological progress should improve human security, expand opportunities and make international waters safer

rather than increase geopolitical tensions. India is contesting the election for a two-year non-permanent Council seat, with voting scheduled for June next year. It is competing against Tajikistan for the sole seat allocated to the Asia-Pacific Group for the 2028-29 term. Parvathaneni emphasised that protecting freedom of navigation and safeguarding commercial shipping were essential to international peace and economic stability.

ISRO's 'Smart Boy' Rocket to Launch Swadeshi Navigation Satellite NVS-03

■ GSLV-F18 mission aims to strengthen India's NavIC system with advanced technology and an indigenous atomic clock

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch its next generation navigation satellite, NVS-03, aboard the GSLV-F18 rocket, marking an important step towards strengthening India's indigenous satellite navigation system, NavIC.

The rocket is scheduled to lift off at



11.51 pm from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre

in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The mission will place NVS-03 into

Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit, from where the satellite will move towards its designated orbital position. NavIC, short for Navigation with Indian Constellation, is India's homegrown alternative to global navigation systems such as the American GPS, Russia's GLONASS, Europe's Galileo and China's BeiDou. The system is designed to provide positioning, navigation and timing services across

India and approximately 1,500 kilometres beyond its borders. The launch assumes particular importance as previous satellite and atomic clock failures have affected NavIC's operational capabilities. A reliable indigenous navigation network is considered essential for defence operations, commercial transportation, aviation, shipping, fisheries and disaster management.

Shaurya Mishra, Rahul Kadapakula, Dylan Thokchom and Ishita Negi Secure Bronze at Goa Junior Badminton Tournament

■ India's international junior shuttlers reach the podium as semi-final action concludes at the All India Junior Ranking Badminton

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: India's promising junior badminton players Shaurya Mishra, Rahul Kadapakula, Dylan P. Thokchom and Ishita Negi secured bronze medal finishes at the Yonex-Sunrise G.H. Raisoni Memorial All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament 2026, being held at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium in



Navelim.

The four shuttlers, who have represented India at international events, finished on the podium after losing their

respective semi-final matches across the singles, doubles and mixed doubles categories. In Boys' Singles Under-19, Karnataka's

ninth seed Harshad Shadish defeated Tamil Nadu's Neeraj Nair P. S. 15-13, 15-11 to enter the final. Maharashtra's Rutva Sajwan overcame third seed Shaurya Mishra of Madhya Pradesh 15-8, 5-15, 15-7 to secure his place in the title clash.

In Girls' Singles, top seed Nakshatraa Jairaj of Tamil Nadu defeated Delhi's Rishika Nandi 17-15, 16-14.



Goa's 10-Year-Old Badminton Star Amaira Dhumatker Storms Into Under-13 Doubles Quarter-Finals

■ Amaira and Telangana partner Saina Sharma upset eighth-seeded Karnataka pair in Mumbai tournament

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's 10-year-old badminton talent Amaira Dhumatker continued her impressive run at the Yonex Sunrise All India Sub-Junior Under-13 Badminton Ranking Tournament 2026, storming into the doubles quarter-finals alongside her partner Saina Sharma of Telangana.

The duo produced a strong performance to defeat the eighth-seeded Karnataka pair of Stuthi S. Shetty and Hanvittha K. A. in straight sets, winning 15-9, 17-15.

Amaira and Saina held their nerve in

a closely contested second game to seal the victory and secure their place in the last eight of the tournament.

The prestigious national ranking tournament is being held in Mumbai, Maharashtra, from October 27 to November 1, bringing together promising young badminton players from across the country.

Amaira's performance marks another encouraging step in her development as a young badminton player from Goa, as she competes against some of the country's emerging talents in the Under-13 category.

Goa Women Suffer First Defeat in Senior Women's T20 Trophy After Karnataka Chase

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa suffered their first defeat in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy Elite tournament, losing to Karnataka by four wickets in a closely contested match at the C.K. Pithawala Ground in Surat on Thursday. The result ended Goa's two match winning streak in the competition.

After winning the toss, Karnataka elected to field and restricted Goa to 142 for seven in 20 overs.

Harshita Yadav led Goa's batting effort with 36 runs, while Purvaja Verlekar scored 34. The opening pair laid a strong foundation with a 65 run partnership in 8.5 overs. Shreya Parab added 26 runs to keep the innings moving, while Divya Naik provided a late boost with an unbeaten 15 off just nine deliveries.

Karnataka's Shreyanka Patil was the standout performer with the ball, claiming five wickets for 18 runs. Ananya Hegde supported her well with two wickets for 18 runs, preventing Goa from finishing with a bigger total. In reply, Karnataka successfully chased down the target, reaching 143 for six in 19.5 overs to seal victory with one ball remaining.

Goa Suffer Innings Defeat Against Vidarbha in Ranji Trophy 2026-27

■ Dhruv Shorey's 168 and Harsh Dubey's four wicket haul power Vidarbha to a 27 run innings victory

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa suffered a comprehensive defeat against Vidarbha, losing by an innings and 27 runs in their Elite Group A Ranji Trophy 2026-27 encounter at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Jamtha, Nagpur.

After bowling Goa out for 220 in the first innings, Vidarbha produced a commanding batting performance to score 442 for eight before declaring, securing a massive 222

run lead. Goa struggled to overcome the deficit in their second innings and were dismissed for 195 in 76 overs.

Goa's first innings received valuable contributions from Yash Kasvankar and Darshan Misal. Kasvankar remained unbeaten on 63 off 212 deliveries, striking five boundaries, while Misal scored 51 off 108 balls, including five fours and a six. The pair added 104 runs for the seventh wicket to help Goa reach

220. Abhinav Tejrana contributed 30, while Lalit Yadav and Manthan Khutkar scored 22 and 16 respectively.

Nachiket Bhute led Vidarbha's bowling attack with five wickets for 48 runs, while Rajneesh Gurbani claimed three for 33.

Vidarbha responded emphatically with the bat. Dhruv Shorey struck a commanding 168, while Danish Malewar scored 56 and Ravi Kumar Samarth contributed 53.

Goa Slump to 3 for 2 Against Odisha in Colonel C.K. Nayudu Trophy

■ Shreyansh Bharadwaj's century and Sujal Singh's 69 put Odisha in command as Goa face a daunting fourth day

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa found themselves in serious trouble against Odisha in the Colonel C.K. Nayudu Trophy Elite Under-23 four day cricket tournament, ending the third day at a precarious three for two after conceding a substantial lead at the Goa Cricket Association ground in Sanguem.

After taking a first innings lead of 54 runs,

Odisha strengthened their position by declaring their second innings at 374 for six in 95.5 overs, setting Goa a challenging task. The hosts then endured a disastrous start in their chase, losing two wickets for just three runs in seven overs.

Odisha resumed their second innings at 51 for one but slipped to 84 for three before Shreyansh Bharadwaj and captain Sujal Singh turned the innings around with a

crucial 119 run partnership for the fourth wicket.

Bharadwaj led the recovery with an impressive 103, while Sujal scored 69 off just 75 deliveries, striking 11 boundaries. Their partnership provided the foundation for Odisha to build a commanding total.

Wicketkeeper batter Aashirwad Swain further strengthened Odisha's position with an attacking 88 off 92 balls. Syed Ahmad remained

unbeaten on 32, helping the visitors push their total to 374 for six before declaring.

For Goa, Anuj Yadav was the leading wicket taker with three wickets for 110 runs. Deep Kasvankar claimed two wickets for 88, while Vinayak Kunte finished with one wicket for 50 runs.

Goa's second innings began on a disastrous note as Malhar Naik was dismissed for a duck, suffering his second

dismissal without scoring in the match. Shaantanu Nevagi managed only two runs before departing, leaving Goa in deep trouble.

At stumps, Sarthak Bhike was unbeaten on one, while Vinayak Kunte had yet to open his account. Ashutosh Marandi and Abhishek Singh claimed one wicket each for Odisha to leave Goa facing an uphill battle heading into the final day.