Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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ANOTHER CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT ROCKS GOA

24-year-old arrested under POCSO Act; fresh incident sparks concern over child safety in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Barely days after a minor girl was allegedly sexually assaulted in Mapusa, triggering widespread public outrage, another disturbing case involving a child has come to light in Goa. A four-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted at Shristhal in Canacona, prompting the police to arrest a 24-year-old man in connection with the crime.

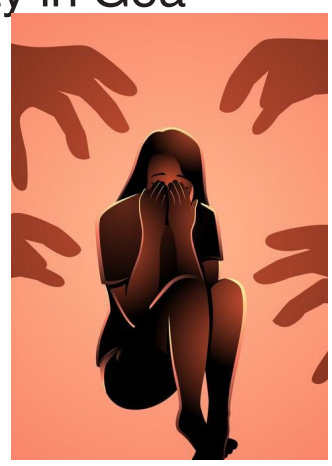
The accused, identified as Husain Isar, a native of Darbhanga, Bihar, was arrested by the Canacona police and booked under relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

According to sources, the accused was working at a fabrication unit in Shristhal and had reportedly joined the establishment only a few days ago. He was staying in the neighbourhood of the victim.

The police arranged for the child to undergo a medical examination before arresting the accused. Further investigation into the case is underway.

The latest incident has triggered fresh concerns over the safety of children, particularly in residential and peripheral areas, coming as it does so soon after the Mapusa case sparked anger and demands for stronger measures to protect minors.

Reacting strongly, Canacona social worker and youth leader Shubham Komarpant condemned the alleged assault and urged



the government to adopt a stringent approach towards crimes against children, demanding the harshest punishment for those found guilty.

Komarpant also called for the expansion of Pink Force patrolling to peripheral areas, pointing out that police vigilance should not be confined to beaches and market areas.

"Government must start Pink Force patrolling in peripheral areas too and not just beaches and markets. We citizens also have to be vigilant of suspicious people moving in and around our neighbourhoods," he said.

RGP leader Prashant Pagui also reacted angrily to the incident, taking a swipe at the government's development agenda and its proposed projects.

"Now, invite more migrants by bringing film city and other big projects in the name of development... but only for mission commission!" Pagui remarked.

With another disturbing case emerging within days of the Mapusa incident, questions are being raised over preventive policing, neighbourhood vigilance and the urgent need to strengthen safeguards for children across Goa.

Mapusa Sexual Assault: Karnataka Native Arrested

Pundalik Ghudge, reportedly a native of Dharwad in Karnataka, apprehended in Panaji nearly three days after the alleged assault on Diwali night

Team Goemkarponn



MAPUSA: Mapusa police have apprehended the suspected accused in the alleged rape of a four-year-old girl at Mapusa, with the suspect, identified as Pundalik Ghudge and reportedly hailing from Dharwad in Karnataka, being traced to Panaji. Further details of the arrest are awaited.

The arrest comes nearly three days after the shocking incident in which the child was allegedly sexually assaulted inside an abandoned building at Mapusa on the night of November 8, Diwali.

According to preliminary information, the accused allegedly took the girl, whose family survives by selling balloons, to the abandoned building and sexually assaulted her.

The child was later found injured and crying outside the premises by local residents, who came to her rescue.

She was initially rushed to the North Goa District Hospital and subsequently shifted to Goa Medical College (GMC) Hospital for further treatment.

Following the incident, police had launched an extensive search operation, deploying multiple teams to trace the suspect.

The case sparked widespread outrage across Goa, with citizens expressing concern over the safety of children and demanding stringent action against the perpetrator.

With the suspected accused now in police custody, further details regarding the arrest and the investigation are awaited.



Goa FDA Seizes 6,000 Kg of Chicken in Two Months; Minister Vishwajit Rane Warns of FIRs

Department Launches Crackdown on Illegal Meat Transportation, Warns Restaurants of Licence Cancellation for Procuring Meat From Unverified Sources

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PANAJI: The Goa Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has seized around 6,000 kg of chicken over the past two months as part of its crackdown on illegal transportation and sale of meat in the state. Health Minister Vishwajit Rane has warned that strict action, including FIRs and licence cancellation, will be initiated against those involved in the illegal trade.

Rane said the department had found instances of meat being transported into Goa without proper certification and documentation. He raised concerns over allegations that diseased poultry purchased at auctions in neighbouring states was being brought into Goa, mixed with other chicken and supplied to restaurants.

Stressing that food safety and public health remain the department's priority, Rane said the FDA has been directed to intensify inspections and trace the sources of such supplies. He said police assistance would be sought to identify those involved, register FIRs and establish where the meat is procured and to whom it is sold.

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'Fabricated and Malicious': India Rejects Khalistani Terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's US Lawsuit

New Delhi dismisses allegations against NSA Ajit Doval and former R&AW chief Samant Goel, asserting that legal notices must follow designated diplomatic procedures.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: AIndia has strongly rejected a civil lawsuit filed by Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in a US court, describing the allegations against senior Indian officials as fabricated, malicious and frivolous.

The lawsuit names National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Samant Goel in connection with an alleged conspiracy to assassinate Pannun on American soil.

India's response came after the US State Department confirmed that it had formally transmitted court issued summonses to the Indian government through diplomatic channels.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India firmly rejected both the allegations against its senior officials and the legal proceedings initiated in the United States.



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Woman killed after concrete mixer hits her at Sada Harbour

44-year-old Customs House worker dies at Chicalim hospital; driver flees scene, police trace his details

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SADA: A 44-year-old woman was killed after being hit by a concrete mixer vehicle at Harbour Road in Sada on Wednesday morning. The driver of the vehicle reportedly fled the scene following the accident.

The deceased has been identified as Shreedevi Reddy, a resident of Sada, who sustained grievous injuries in the accident at around 11 am. She was rushed to the Sub-District Hospital, Chicalim, where she succumbed to her injuries.

According to police sources, Reddy worked as a helper at the Customs House on Harbour Road and usually walked to and from work. The accident occurred while she was returning home after completing her duty.



Police rushed to the spot and initiated an investigation.

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CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: ARE WE WITNESSING A DEEPER SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CRISIS?

Two alleged sexual assaults involving little girls within a week should shake the conscience of every Goan. This is no longer just a crime story. It is a disturbing reflection of the society we have become.

There are moments when a news report leaves you angry, helpless and genuinely ashamed of the society we live in. The reports of a three-year-old girl allegedly being sexually assaulted in Mapusa, followed by another horrific incident involving a four-year-old in Shristhal, Canacona, within the same week, are precisely such moments.

One has to stop and ask: Is something seriously wrong with us as a society? Have we reached a stage where even the most basic expectation of childhood — the right to be safe — can no longer be guaranteed?

We are talking about children who cannot fully understand the world around them. Children who depend entirely on adults for protection. Yet, according to the reports, two little girls have allegedly been subjected to unimaginable violence within days of each other.

What kind of mentality allows an adult to commit such an act against a child? What kind of moral collapse does it take to destroy the innocence of someone who has barely begun to understand life?

This is not merely a question of criminality. It is a question of human conscience.

The Mapusa incident reportedly took place in an abandoned building near Lohia Ground on Diwali night. The subsequent incident in Shristhal has further intensified public anxiety. Police have arrested a suspect in the Canacona case, while the investigation into the Mapusa assault was still underway at the time of the initial reports.

Arrests are necessary. Investigations must be swift. The law must take its course. But we would be fooling ourselves if we believed that arresting two accused, or even securing convictions, would automatically solve the larger problem.

Where are we failing as a society?

There is an uncomfortable tendency to react to such incidents with outrage for a few days. Social media fills with angry posts. Political leaders issue statements. Citizens demand punishment. Television debates follow. And then, gradually, the outrage disappears until another child becomes a victim.

This cycle must end.

We also need to stop reducing this discussion to the question of whether the accused are locals or migrants. In the Shristhal case, the arrested suspect is reportedly a native of Bihar. Political statements have also attempted to attribute a large proportion of such crimes to outsiders.

"There is an uncomfortable tendency to react to such incidents with outrage for a few days. Social media fills with angry posts. Political leaders issue statements. Citizens demand punishment. Television debates follow. And then, gradually, the outrage disappears until another child becomes a victim. This cycle must end. We also need to stop reducing this discussion to the question of whether the accused are locals or migrants. In the Shristhal case, the arrested suspect is reportedly a native of Bihar. Political statements have also attempted to attribute a large proportion of such crimes to outsiders. But sexual violence is not defined by geography, language, religion or place of birth. A criminal must be held accountable for his actions, irrespective of where he comes from. Turning child protection into a debate about migrants risks diverting attention from the real issue: the safety of every child living in Goa. If we genuinely care about our children, our concern must extend beyond political narratives. There are questions that the government and law enforcement agencies must answer. How safe are public spaces after dark? Why are abandoned structures allowed to become potential sites of criminal activity? Are vulnerable families, including migrant workers and daily-wage earners, receiving adequate protection and support? Are police patrols, surveillance systems and emergency response mechanisms adequate? Equally important is the responsibility of society. We cannot remain passive spectators. People must be sensitised to recognise suspicious situations, report concerns and intervene safely when a child appears to be in danger. Communities must create environments where children are protected rather than left vulnerable."

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Equally important is the responsibility of society. We cannot remain passive spectators. People must be sensitised to recognise suspicious situations, report concerns and intervene safely when a child appears to be in danger. Communities must create environments where children are protected rather than left vulnerable.

But let us be careful not to blame parents or families for crimes committed by perpetrators. The responsibility lies with those who commit these acts. Society and the State must ensure that families are not left alone to protect children against dangers they cannot always anticipate.

The Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has already taken suo motu cognizance of the Mapusa incident and called for a thorough, impartial and time-bound investigation. Such intervention is welcome, but it must translate into sustained action, counselling, medical care and long-term rehabilitation for the victims.

The government must move beyond statements promising permanent imprisonment. Strong words make headlines; effective institutions protect children.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Manoj Parab's Return to RGP: Time Will Reveal the Political Road Ahead

The announcement regarding Manoj Parab's proposed return to the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) has generated interest in Goa's political circles. While the development has been welcomed by the party leadership, the lack of official communication means that several questions remain unanswered. Political parties often witness differences, disagreements and internal challenges. However, what matters most is the ability to resolve such issues through dialogue, clarity and mutual understanding. The statement that RGP is legally represented by its existing leadership and that notices have been issued against individuals allegedly claiming to represent the party also highlights the importance of resolving organisational disputes through proper legal channels. At the same time, political developments should not be judged merely on announcements or speculation. Until an official communication is received and the terms of any possible return become clear, it would be premature to draw conclusions. RGP has built its political identity around regional issues and the aspirations of Goans. Maintaining organisational unity and public confidence will be important as the state moves towards the 2027 Assembly elections. Ultimately, whether Manoj Parab rejoins the party or takes another political course will become clear in due time. For now, it is best to wait and watch rather than jump to conclusions.

-Dinesh Kamat, Mapusa, Goa

Digital Banking Must Strengthen Goa's Cooperative Banking Sector

The launch of a transactional mobile banking application by The Goa State Co-operative Bank Ltd. is a welcome step towards modernising banking services in Goa. At a time when digital transactions have become an essential part of everyday life, cooperative banks must also adapt to changing customer expectations.

The new application, offering NEFT/RTGS transfers, intra-bank transactions, balance enquiries, account statements and ATM/debit card services, will provide customers with greater convenience and reduce the need for frequent visits to bank branches.

The initiative also reflects the importance of bringing technology-driven banking services closer to ordinary citizens, particularly those who depend on cooperative banks for their financial needs. -Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's presence at the launch, along with Cooperative Minister Subhash Shirodkar, highlights the government's focus on strengthening the cooperative banking sector through digital initiatives. The bank should also conduct awareness programmes, particularly for senior citizens and customers who may not be familiar with mobile banking. Digital banking should not create a divide between technology-savvy customers and those who still depend on traditional banking services. Instead, it must make financial services more accessible to everyone. Goa's cooperative banking sector has an important role in supporting local communities and businesses. Embracing technology while maintaining customer trust will be key to its future growth.

-Francis Fernandes, Mapusa, Goa

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Goa Puts Second Tillari Canal Shutdown On Hold Until March 2027

Left Bank Canal To Continue Supplying Water This Year As Repairs Progress On The Right Bank Canal

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The Goa government has decided against taking the left bank canal of the Tillari irrigation project out of service this year, revising its earlier plan to suspend water flow through both canals for extensive maintenance. The next decision on shutting the canal will be taken in March 2027.

Water flow through the right bank canal was discontinued on October 20 to facilitate repair work. The left bank canal was expected to follow suit 15 days later, but the state has since informed Maharashtra authorities that its closure will be postponed.

The initial proposal, announced by Water Resources Minister Subhash Shirodkar earlier this year, envisaged stopping supplies through both canals from October 1 for around three months. The minister had cited the ageing condition of the infrastructure, which has reportedly suffered significant deterioration over the past three decades, especially in the Maharashtra section.

The shutdown schedule was later altered, with the authorities opting to undertake work on the right bank canal first. One of the factors behind the change was the delay in completing the pumping station at Sal. The facility is being developed as an alternative arrangement to maintain water supply to Bardez, Bicholim and Pernem while canal repairs are underway. Technical difficulties had prevented it from becoming operational by the original October 1 deadline.



Court Refuses Pre-Arrest Bail To Mesho D'Costa In Sanguem Municipal Case

Judge Observes That Allegedly Dumping A Dog's Carcass At Civic Office Could Hamper Public Officials' Work And Create Health Risks

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The South Goa Sessions Court has turned down Mesho D'Costa's request for protection from arrest in a case arising from an incident at the Sanguem Municipal Council, where he is accused of bringing a dead dog into the civic body's premises.

The case was registered by Sanguem Police following a complaint from the municipality's Chief Officer. D'Costa had approached the sessions court seeking anticipatory bail, but Additional South Goa Sessions Judge-2 Sudhir S. Shirgaonkar declined the relief.

In its order, the court viewed the alleged act as more than a mere disturbance, pointing out that bringing an animal carcass into an official premises could affect the functioning of municipal authorities and pose concerns from a public health perspective.

The judge also explained that under Section 121(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, prosecution does not necessarily depend on a public servant having sustained physical injury. The provision also covers conduct intended to prevent or discourage an official from carrying out their duties.

The complaint states that the incident occurred at around 12.30 pm on November 5, 2026, when D'Costa allegedly brought a dead dog, reportedly placed in a sack, into the municipal premises.
The court questioned the propriety of the alleged action and declined to shield the applicant from the legal proceedings arising out of the case.



Goa Government Turns To Citizens To Evaluate Digital Service Delivery

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: As Goa continues to move government services online, the State has launched a public feedback initiative to find out whether its digital platforms are meeting the needs of citizens.

The voluntary exercise, conducted as part of the Centre's National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2025, invites citizens to share their experiences while accessing government websites and availing services online.

The feedback will help assess various aspects of digital service delivery, including how easily users can access portals, find relevant information, submit applications and monitor their progress. Citizens will also be asked about delays in service delivery, grievance handling and the effectiveness of online alerts.

The assessment is being carried out across States and Union Territories to identify shortcomings in existing digital systems and understand what improvements are needed to make public services more accessible and efficient.

FRRO Traces Kazakhstan Woman And Three Children Overstaying In Goa

Movement Restricted, Deportation Proceedings Initiated Against Family; Comes Days After Five Other Foreign Nationals Were Detected Overstaying Their Visas

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: The Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Goa, has traced a Kazakhstan national who was allegedly staying in the State illegally since 2023 along with her three minor children without valid visas.

According to police officials, the FRRO has issued an order restricting the movement of the woman and her children. Deportation proceedings have also been initiated to send them back to Kazakhstan.



The latest detection comes less than a week after FRRO officials identified three Russian nationals and two Ukrainian nationals, including a minor, allegedly staying in Goa beyond the validity of their tourist visas.

The movements of these foreign nationals have also been restricted, with deportation proceedings initiated against them.

The successive detections have brought the issue of foreign nationals overstaying their permitted duration in Goa under the scrutiny of authorities.

AAP Targets Sawant Government Over Delay In Arresting Fake Job Racket Accused

Valmiki Naik Questions Month-Long Police Probe, Seeks Investigation Details Through RTI

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has stepped up its criticism of the Goa government over the continued absence of an arrest in the alleged fake government appointment letter case involving the post of Additional Excise Commissioner.

Speaking to the media outside Panaji Police Station, AAP Goa president Valmiki Naik questioned the police's inability to trace and apprehend Ajit Sankhwalkar, identified by the party as the main accused. He pointed out that nearly a month had passed since the case was registered, but Sankhwalkar was yet to be arrested.



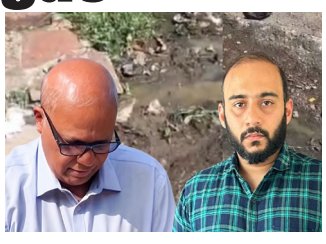
Once Again, Prabhav Naik Exposes Sewage Menace in Margao

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: When Margao MLA- Minister Digambar Kamat ruled out the Health Department's intervention in Margao's sewage leakage menace, he conveniently overlooked its serious public health implications. Here is an eye-opener from the shopkeepers of Margao, who have been suffering for months," stated Madganvcho Awaaz & Youth Leader Prabhav Naik. He released a video of overflowing sewage at a residential cum commercial complex at Margao.

Prabhav Naik today personally met shopkeepers along Varde Valaulikar Road, Margao, where overflowing sewage has been causing immense inconvenience for the past several months. Despite repeated complaints to the Health Department, Margao Municipal Council and concerned authorities, no concrete action has been taken to resolve the issue.

Highlighting the alarming public health situation, Prabhav Naik pointed out that dengue cases have already been reported in Aquem and other areas of Margao. At a time when preventive action against mosquito breeding and unhygienic conditions is crucial, the continued sewage overflow reflects gross administrative negligence. He personally contacted the Health Department, Municipal Authorities and Sewerage Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., demanding immediate intervention and a permanent solution.



Prabhav Naik recalled that following his representation to Health Minister Vishwajit Rane regarding the overflowing sewage in Comba, the Minister had ordered a joint inspection involving the Health Department, Margao Municipal Council and Sewerage Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. However, the proposed inspection was subsequently cancelled after Margao MLA Digambar Kamat reportedly intervened, maintaining that sewage leakage was an infrastructure issue and the Health Department had no role to play.

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Missing 19-year-old woman traced at Panjim bus stand, says she left voluntarily

Police register abduction case as per Supreme Court directions; search on for her male friend

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A 19-year-old woman, who was reported missing from Nagoa, Arpora, has been traced at the Panjim bus stand, North Goa Police said on Tuesday. The woman told police that she had not been abducted and had left with her male friend of her own free will.

According to police, a complaint was lodged by her 49-year-old father, a driver and resident of Rauta Wado, Nagoa, Arpora, stating that his daughter had gone with a friend to see Narkasur effigies at Saligao on November 7 at around 9 pm but had failed to return home.

Suspecting that an unknown person had abducted his daughter using force or deceitful means, the father approached Anjuna Police Station. Based on the complaint, Anjuna Police registered FIR No. 133/2026 under Section 138 of the Bharatiya Nyaya



Sanhita (BNS), 2023, at 12.59 am on November 9.

The woman was traced at the Panjim bus stand on Tuesday evening and brought to Anjuna Police Station. During questioning, she reportedly stated that she had not been abducted and had left voluntarily with her male friend. Police teams are searching for the friend as part of the investigation.



Three seriously injured as car rams into two-wheeler at Karapur

Major accident on Sankhali–Bicholim road; locals transport injured victims to hospital in Tata Ace after ambulance fails to arrive on time

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: Three persons travelling on a two-wheeler sustained serious injuries after an Alto car rammed into their vehicle at Karapur on the Sankhali–Bicholim main road.

The injured were initially shifted to the Sankhali Primary Health Centre and later referred to Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, for further treatment.

According to preliminary information, the Alto car was travelling from Sankhali towards Bicholim. After crossing the uphill stretch at Vitthalapur, the car reached a turn at Karapur, where the driver reportedly dozed off, causing the vehicle to veer off the road.

While attempting to bring the car back onto the road, the driver allegedly collided head-on with an oncoming two-wheeler. The impact was so severe that the two-wheeler was thrown to the opposite side of the road.

All three occupants of the two-wheeler sustained injuries. Preliminary information indicates that one suffered injuries to the face, another to the back and the third to the leg. The Alto car driver also sustained injuries to his hand.

Following the accident, local residents reportedly waited for an ambulance, but as it did not arrive for a considerable time, they took the initiative to shift the injured persons to the Sankhali Primary Health Centre in a Tata Ace vehicle.



Decomposed body of 68-year-old woman found floating in Zuari river at Sanvordem

Team Goemkarponn

SANVORDEM: The decomposed body of a 68-year-old woman was found floating in the Zuari river beneath Mirabag bridge at Sanvordem on November 9 evening.

According to police, a call was received at around 7.07 pm from Sanjay Naik, a resident of Mirabag, Sanvordem, informing them about an unidentified body floating in the river.

Police visited the spot and, with the assistance of Curchorem Fire Force personnel, fished the body out of the river. Upon verification, it was found to be that of a woman in a decomposed condition.

The deceased was subsequently identified as Neela Vernekar (68), a resident of near Miracle High School, Sanguem.

Police conducted the scene of occurrence and inquest panchanamas. The body has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for further medico-legal formalities.

Further enquiry is being conducted by PSI Pramod Tari of Curchorem Police Station.

Motorcyclist injured in collision with scooter at Dicarpale

Accident occurred after motorcycle allegedly turned onto main road without signalling; Maina Curtorim Police register case

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A 47-year-old motorcyclist sustained injuries after his Passion motorcycle collided with an Activa scooter near Fatima Church bus stop at Dicarpale, Salcete, on November 8.

According to the complaint lodged by ASI Sagar Mandrekar of Maina Curtorim Police Station, the accident occurred at around 10 am near Fatima Church bus stop.

The accused, identified



as Shridhar Redkar, a resident of Dicarpale, was allegedly riding his Passion motorcycle when he entered the main road from an internal road and took a right turn towards Rawanfond without giving any indication through a direction indicator or hand signal.

At the same time, Siddhi Haldankar, also a resident of Dicarpale, was proceeding on her Activa scooter from Margao towards Dicarpale. In the process, her scooter collided with the motorcycle, causing Redkar to fall on the road and sustain injuries.

Maina Curtorim Police have registered an offence in connection with the incident.

Further investigation is being conducted by ASI Sagar Mandrekar of Maina Curtorim Police Station.

Man booked for allegedly assaulting minor boy in Siolim

45-year-old woman files complaint alleging slaps, fist blows and threats against her minor son

Team Goemkarponn

SIOLIM: Anjuna Police have registered a case against a 47-year-old man for allegedly assaulting a minor boy at Oxel, Siolim, following a confrontation between the victim and the accused's minor nephew.

According to the complaint, the incident took place on November 5, 2026, at around 5 pm near Sakhleshwar Gumati, Ghubla Wado, Oxel, Siolim.

The complainant, a 45-year-old businesswoman and resident of Khorlim Garden, Old Goa, alleged that the accused, identified as Vivek Dhargalkar (47), a resident of Ghubla Wado, Oxel, assaulted her minor son by slapping and punching him on the face and head and kicking him.

The accused also allegedly abused the minor using filthy language and threatened him following a confrontation involving the minor victim and the accused's minor nephew.

Based on the complaint, Anjuna Police registered a case on November 10, 2026, at 12.05 am.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Amir Y. Taral of Anjuna Police Station.



FDA seizes 1,780 kg of chicken over labelling violations in Verna

Boneless raw chicken stock found without mandatory manufacturing and expiry details; entire seized quantity to be destroyed

Team Goemkarponn



VERNA: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) on Tuesday seized 1,780 kg of boneless raw chicken from Agarwal Cold Storage in Verna after detecting multiple labelling violations, including the absence of mandatory manufacturing dates, expiry details and information about the transporting company. The entire seized stock will be destroyed, officials said.

According to FDA officials, the raid was conducted following a complaint and a subsequent investigation into the transportation of chicken consignments into Goa.

An FDA official said the department had initially intercepted a chicken consignment that arrived by train at Margao railway station. Samples from the consignment were collected and sent for laboratory testing, with the results still awaited.

"After we started conducting raids on chicken consignments arriving by train, the brokers involved in this trade became alert and started transporting the stock by road. We subsequently received information about the movement of such consignments, informed our seniors and conducted a raid at Agarwal Cold Storage in Verna," the official said.



Min Khaunte lays foundation stone for new culvert at Vaddem Fields

Carrem Ward bridge to be rebuilt to restore farmers' access; project initiated within days of damage to existing structure

Team Goemkarponn

SOCCORO: Tourism Minister and Porvorim MLA Rohan A. Khaunte on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for the construction of a new culvert at Vaddem Fields in Carrem Ward, Socorro, aimed at improving rural infrastructure and providing better connectivity for the farming community.

The culvert serves as an important access route for local farmers involved in agricultural activities, including the transportation of farm produce and other essential requirements.

The need for reconstruction arose after the existing bridge was damaged when a Fire and Emergency Services vehicle used the route to reach Aldona during a fire emergency. Following an inspection by the Water Resources Department, immediate steps were initiated and construction work was taken up within a few days.

Speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony, Khaunte said that the vision of Viksit Goa, aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat, must include farmers and the agricultural community.

He said that although Porvorim is often perceived as an urban constituency, several areas continue to have a strong agricultural identity. He highlighted the role of the Farmer Club, established in 2008, in supporting the farming community.



Road to Madkaikar Wada in Surla dug up by JCB, villagers protest

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: Residents of Madkaikar Wada in Surla village, under the Sankhali constituency, have expressed strong resentment after a road used by villagers for daily commuting was allegedly dug up and blocked by a landlord using a JCB machine.

The closure has reportedly caused considerable inconvenience to residents, prompting villagers to meet Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant and seek his intervention to resolve the issue.

Addressing a press conference, residents of Madkaikar Wada said the road was an important access route connecting their locality to the main road. They claimed that the road had been developed with the support of the local panchayat and the constituency MLA. However, the landlord concerned allegedly objected to the road and subsequently had it dug up using a JCB, blocking access.

Political hoardings on Queeny Nagar traffic island raise safety concerns

Residents demand immediate removal, warn that obstructed visibility at accident-prone junction could endanger motorists

Team Goemkarponn



QUEENY NAGAR: The installation of political hoardings on the traffic island at Queeny Nagar circle has sparked safety concerns among residents, who have demanded their immediate removal, warning that the structures could obstruct motorists' visibility at the busy and accident-prone junction.

Former Velsao-Pale Panchayat member and social worker Roquezinho D'Souza, along with Velsao Panch Jim D'Souza and other concerned residents, have questioned the authorities over the continued presence of the hoardings, stating that traffic islands should not be used for political publicity at the cost of public safety.

Roquezinho D'Souza pointed out that motorists negotiating the busy junction require an unobstructed view of approaching vehicles to navigate safely. He questioned why the authorities had allowed the hoardings to remain despite the potential risk they pose to road users.

"Visibility of motorists should be the priority at such important junctions. Any structure that obstructs the view of drivers can create a dangerous situation, especially at an accident-prone circle. The authorities should not wait for an accident to happen before taking action," Roquezinho said.

Viriato Fernandes meets traditional fishermen at Colva, hears livelihood concerns

South Goa MP interacts with fishing community over challenges affecting traditional occupation; assures attention to their grievances

Team Goemkarponn



COLVA: South Goa Member of Parliament Captain Viriato Fernandes visited members of the traditional fishing community at Colva and interacted with them to understand the various challenges and concerns affecting their occupation and livelihood.

During the interaction, members of the fishing community highlighted several issues affecting their day-to-day fishing activities and the difficulties faced in sustaining their traditional livelihoods. They also raised matters requiring the attention and intervention of the concerned authorities to safeguard the interests of the fishing community.

Among those who participated in the interaction were Thomas Rodrigues, Maltan Silva and other members of the traditional fishing community, who presented their grievances before the MP.

Fernandes was accompanied by Benaulim Zilla Panchayat member Luiza Rodrigues and members of the Benaulim Block Congress, including Block President Keith Gracias, Warren Alemao, Santan Pereira and senior Congress leader and General Secretary Everson Vales, among others.

Emphasising the importance of traditional fishing, the Congress said that fishing is not merely a source of livelihood but an integral part of Goa's coastal heritage, culture and identity.

The party stated that the difficulties faced by traditional fishermen, who have sustained the occupation for generations, deserve serious attention and appropriate intervention.

Delhi May Witness Artificial Rain Today As AQI Remains In 'Very Poor' Category

IIT Kanpur aircraft on standby for cloud seeding operations as thick smog blankets the national capital

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Delhi could witness artificial rain on Wednesday as severe air pollution continues to affect the national capital, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 308, placing it in the 'very poor' category.

An attempt to induce artificial rainfall may be made if suitable clouds are spotted over the city. An aircraft equipped with cloud seeding technology is currently ready at IIT Kanpur and can reach Delhi within approximately an hour. Another aircraft is also on standby in the capital.

The operation will depend on cloud height, atmospheric moisture and weather conditions. Experts will assess the availability of sufficient moisture before deciding whether to proceed with the experiment.

With no immediate rainfall expected in Delhi, cloud seeding is being considered as an alternative measure to temporarily reduce pollution levels.

How Does Cloud Seeding Work?

Cloud seeding is a weather modification technique in which substances such as silver iodide and dry ice are introduced into suitable clouds to encourage precipitation. The process can be carried out using specially equipped aircraft, rockets or ground-based equipment.

Artificial rainfall can help settle airborne dust and pollutants, potentially providing temporary relief from deteriorating air quality. However, experts caution that the method cannot address the underlying causes of pollution and should not be considered a long-term solution.

Previous Cloud Seeding Experiments in Delhi

The Delhi government has previously explored artificial rainfall in collaboration with IIT Kanpur as an emergency measure during periods of severe pollution.

On November 5, reports indicated that two rounds of cloud seeding trials had been conducted near the Indira Gandhi International Airport over the preceding 15 days. These trials involved operations at approximately 30,000 metres.

The initiative was first introduced through a memorandum of understanding between the Delhi government and IIT Kanpur last year. However, earlier experiments conducted in October 2025 failed to produce rainfall.

The assessment attributed the unsuccessful attempts to insufficient moisture in the clouds, highlighting the importance of favourable atmospheric conditions for successful cloud seeding.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Goa FDA Seizes 6,000 Kg of Chicken in Two Months; Minister Vishwajit Rane Warns of FIRs

The Minister warned that restaurants found procuring meat from unverified sources could face seizure and cancellation of their licences after following due process. He also directed FDA officials to inspect restaurant storerooms and verify the source of meat stocks.

FDA officials said teams have been deployed at three entry routes, including Keri and Patradevi, to track the movement of meat into Goa. The department is also coordinating with the respective state FDAs through FSSAI to initiate legal action against suppliers at the source.

Rane said the department had also issued directions regarding the prescribed standards for meat packaging, transportation and storage, including maintaining the required freezing temperatures. He expressed concern that some consignments were being transported for nearly two days without adequate refrigeration or ice.

The Minister further directed officials to crack down on illegal slaughtering, roadside meat sales and establishments operating without the required permissions. He said unauthorised meat stocks would be seized and those involved could face arrest.

On the issue of meat being displayed in the open instead of being stored in deep freezers, Rane said the practice must stop and that strict enforcement would be carried out under food safety guidelines.

Woman killed after concrete mixer hits her at Sada Harbour

Although the driver had fled, subsequent inquiries with the contractor engaged in the road expansion work helped police obtain his details and Aadhaar card. Police are expected to apprehend him soon.

Further investigation will focus on the circumstances leading to the accident and whether negligence contributed to the tragedy.

Meanwhile, Goa Forward leader Nilesh Navelkar strongly criticised the government, alleging repeated negligence by the contractor executing road expansion works for the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA).

'Fabricated and Malicious': India Rejects Khalistani Terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's US Lawsuit

He also clarified that requests for serving judicial documents in India must be routed through the country's designated central authority, the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The US State Department confirmed that the documents were sent to the Indian Embassy in Washington DC on October 9, 2026, following the signing of a diplomatic note on September 30. The communication referred to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA), which governs the circumstances under which foreign governments and certain officials can face legal proceedings in American courts.

FICCI Warns India's Air Pollution Crisis Is Costing $95 Billion Annually

Over 2 million deaths linked to polluted air in 2023, with millions facing shorter lifespans and rising health risks

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's worsening air pollution crisis is not just an environmental concern but a major public health and economic emergency, with annual losses estimated at $95 billion, according to a report by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

The report, titled Clean Air, Healthy India, highlights the devastating impact of toxic air on human health, life expectancy and economic productivity. It warns that India can no longer afford to treat air pollution as a seasonal problem and calls for urgent action across government departments and industries.

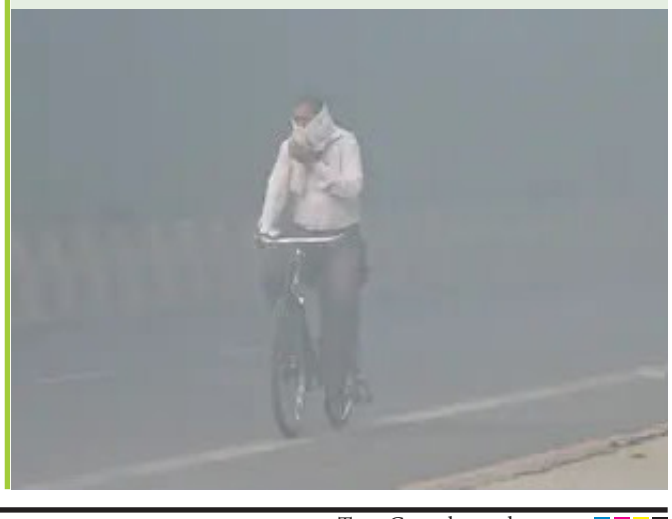
The findings reveal that more than two million deaths in India in 2023 were linked to air pollution. Exposure to polluted air is estimated to reduce the average life expectancy of Indians by approximately 3.5 years. More than 660 million people live in areas where fine particulate pollution exceeds national safety standards.

Air pollution is also placing an enormous burden on the economy. The report estimates that around 1.3 billion working days are lost every year due to pollution-related health problems. Productivity can decline by 8 to 10 per cent during periods of severe pollution, while the overall economic losses could reach $95 billion annually, equivalent to approximately 3 per cent of India's GDP.

The report explains that pollution cannot be controlled through city-level measures alone. In Delhi, local sources account for only around 36 per cent of PM2.5 pollution during winter and 26 per cent during summer. A significant share originates outside the city's boundaries, highlighting the need for coordinated action across entire regions.

The health consequences extend beyond respiratory illnesses. Exposure to PM2.5 particles, which can enter the bloodstream, is associated with heart attacks, strokes, neurological disorders, cognitive decline, pregnancy complications and premature ageing. Children, elderly people, outdoor workers and economically weaker communities remain particularly vulnerable.

FICCI has recommended a comprehensive approach involving stronger pollution monitoring, stricter emission controls, cleaner industrial technologies, dust management at construction sites, improved traffic systems and alternatives to crop residue burning.



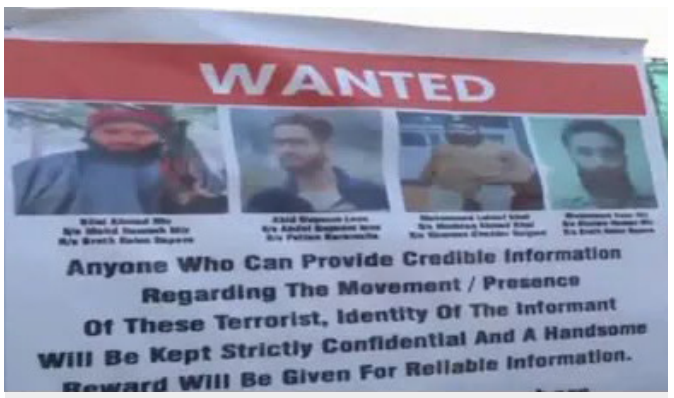
Hijack Threat Triggers Security Scare at Kolkata Airport Before Air India Flight Take-Off

Mumbai-bound aircraft moved to isolation bay after threatening message found on lavatory mirror

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: A hijack threat triggered a major security alert at Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport on Wednesday morning after a threatening message was discovered aboard a Mumbai-bound Air India flight shortly before take-off. The message, reportedly written on the mirror inside one of the aircraft's lavatories, warned of a possible hijacking. The discovery caused concern at the airport as the aircraft was preparing for departure. Following the discovery, the pilot immediately informed Air Traffic Control (ATC) about the threat. Security protocols were promptly activated, and the aircraft was moved to an isolation bay for a detailed inspection. Personnel from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), along with specialised airport security teams, launched an extensive search operation. Security personnel began examining different sections of the aircraft to ensure that no suspicious objects or potential threats were present. Meanwhile, police and security agencies have initiated an investigation to establish who was responsible for writing the threatening message and whether the warning was part of a deliberate attempt to disrupt flight operations. Investigators are also examining CCTV footage from various locations across the airport, along with available surveillance footage from inside the aircraft, to identify the person behind the message. The incident prompted heightened security measures at the airport as authorities continued their investigation and carried out checks to rule out any potential danger before allowing further operations involving the aircraft.



'Help Us Hunt Down Kashmir's Last Local Terrorist': J&K Police Issue Fresh Wanted Posters

Police renew manhunt for Lashkar operative Mohammad Lateef Bhat, with a ₹15 lakh reward still on offer

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir Police have intensified their search for the last surviving local terrorist in the Kashmir Valley by putting up fresh wanted posters across Srinagar's Lal Chowk and Pratap Park. The posters feature the photograph of Lashkar-e-Taiba operative Abdul Latief Bhat, also known as Mohammad Lateef Bhat, along with three other wanted terrorists.

The renewed campaign comes four months after police announced a reward of ₹15 lakh for information leading to Bhat's arrest. Security agencies have appealed to residents of Srinagar and other parts of the Valley to share credible information about the suspects' whereabouts and movements.

Authorities have assured informants that their identities will remain confidential and that suitable rewards will be provided for useful information.

Bhat, a resident of Kulgam district in South Kashmir, is accused of involvement in several terror-related incidents. These include the killing of a police officer in Anantnag and attacks targeting migrant workers in July 2026. He is believed to be associated with the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terror network. The ₹15 lakh bounty announced earlier remains in force.



'No Vote Mismatch or Rigging': Election Commission Rejects Claims Over 2024 Polls

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has rejected allegations of large scale vote discrepancies and possible rigging in the 2024 Haryana Assembly and Maharashtra elections, stating that the claims are based on a misinterpretation of official election data.

Addressing allegations of major gaps between votes polled and votes counted, the Commission clarified that several widely circulated figures referred to the total number of registered electors rather than the actual number of people who cast their votes.

In Haryana, the Badkhal Assembly constituency became a major point of discussion after claims suggested that 3.32 lakh votes had been polled but only around 1.58 lakh were counted. However, official records show that the constituency had 3,32,253 registered electors, of whom 1,60,553 actually voted, recording a turnout of 48.32 per cent. After accounting for rejected ballots and NOTA votes, 1,58,475 valid votes were recorded.

Kolkata-Sairang Express Derails in Assam, Five Coaches and Locomotive Overturn

Passengers Escape Major Harm as Rescue Operations Begin Near Digaru Railway Station; Minor Injuries Reported

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Five coaches and the locomotive of the Kolkata-Sairang Express derailed in Assam on Wednesday morning, triggering emergency rescue and relief operations. The train was travelling from Kolkata to Sairang in Mizoram when the accident occurred near Digaru railway station at around 6.54 am.

According to railway authorities, all passengers were safe following the incident, although a few sustained minor injuries. No major casualties were reported.

The derailment occurred while the train was attempting to give way to another train. During the process, the locomotive reportedly failed to control its speed, resulting in the engine and five passenger coaches going off the tracks.

Railway officials immediately launched rescue and relief operations after receiving information about the accident. Senior railway personnel and rescue teams reached the site to assess the situation and assist passengers.

Passengers were evacuated from the affected coaches and arrangements were made to transport them to their respective destinations through an alternative train. Railway teams also began assessing the damage caused by the derailment and taking necessary steps to restore normal train operations.

'Government Has Wide Powers to Retire Employees in Public Interest': Supreme Court

Top court upholds compulsory retirement of two Chhattisgarh government employees, clarifying that such decisions can be challenged only on specific legal grounds.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has reaffirmed that the government has wide powers to compulsorily retire employees in public interest, particularly when their continued service is considered detrimental to administrative efficiency.

The court observed that compulsory retirement can be used as an administrative measure to remove employees whose performance, integrity or overall service record does not meet the required standards. It clarified that employees cannot challenge such decisions simply by pointing out that another government servant with a similar service record was allowed to continue.

The bench noted that assessing an employee's efficiency, integrity, reputation, physical fitness and overall performance falls within the responsibility of the competent authority.



It also emphasised that the constitutional guarantee of equality cannot be used to demand similar treatment on the basis of an earlier administrative mistake.

The court observed that an error committed in one case cannot become a justification for repeating the same mistake in another.

However, the Supreme Court clarified that the government's power to order compulsory retirement is not absolute. Courts can intervene if the decision is unsupported by evidence, demonstrates a lack of proper consideration, is clearly arbitrary or unreasonable, or is influenced by mala fide intentions.

India Rejects USCIRF Remarks on Alleged Attacks Against Sikh Gurdwaras

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has strongly rejected remarks by two senior officials of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) alleging attacks on Sikh gurdwaras in the country, describing the organisation as biased and politically motivated.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal criticised the commission's comments, questioning its credibility and accusing it of selectively raising concerns about religious freedom in India while ignoring similar incidents in the United States.

'Pulling Out of ODIs Isn't Right': Dodda Ganesh Questions Gill and Rahul's Decision

■ Former India cricketer believes match practice would benefit Shubman Gill and KL Rahul more than net sessions ahead of the upcoming Test series.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Former India cricketer Dodda Ganesh has questioned the Indian team management's decision to withdraw Shubman Gill, KL Rahul and other Test specialists from the ongoing ODI series against New Zealand, arguing that playing competitive cricket would be more beneficial than early preparations through practice sessions.

Gill and Rahul are expected to leave the ODI squad after the first three matches to begin preparing for India's upcoming Test assignment. Their unavailability for the final two ODIs was confirmed when the squad for the New Zealand tour was announced.

However, Ganesh believes the decision deserves reconsideration, particularly because both batters have had limited opportunities to spend time in the middle during the series.

Rain interruptions have affected the opening matches, while the third ODI was completely abandoned without a ball being bowled. As a result, the two players have had very little match practice in the 50 over format.

Questioning the decision, Ganesh highlighted the importance of actual match exposure, suggesting that playing competitive cricket could provide better preparation than spending extended hours in the nets.



He also acknowledged the importance of red ball preparation but maintained that match situations offer a different level of preparation that cannot be completely replicated during training sessions.

Hardik Pandya Joins Punjab Kings for ₹18 Crore as Arshdeep Singh Moves to Mumbai Indians in Major IPL Trade

■ Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings complete a blockbuster player exchange ahead of the IPL retention deadline, with both franchises reshaping their squads.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Mumbai Indians have officially confirmed the high-profile trade involving Hardik Pandya and Arshdeep Singh ahead of next week's Indian Premier League (IPL) retention deadline. Hardik will join Punjab Kings for ₹18 crore, while left arm pacer Arshdeep Singh moves to Mumbai Indians on his existing ₹18 crore contract.

The development brings an end to weeks of speculation surrounding Hardik's future with Mumbai Indians. The all rounder will receive a pay hike from his previous salary of ₹16.35 crore as he begins a new chapter with Punjab Kings.

Arshdeep, meanwhile, returns to a familiar competitive environment at a different franchise after spending eight seasons with Punjab Kings. He made his IPL debut for the team in 2019 and gradually established himself as one of the league's leading left arm fast bowlers.

With 111 wickets in 96 IPL matches, Arshdeep is Punjab Kings' all time leading wicket taker. His arrival is expected



to strengthen Mumbai's pace attack alongside Jasprit Bumrah.

Hardik's second stint with Mumbai Indians, which lasted three seasons, produced mixed results. He scored 647 runs in 39 matches at an average of 21.53 and a strike rate of 147.82, while also claiming 29 wickets at an average of over 34.

Under his captaincy, Mumbai reached the playoffs in the 2025 season but finished ninth in both the 2024 and 2026 campaigns.

Arshdeep's move also means he will now share the dressing room with established Mumbai stars Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah.

The blockbuster exchange marks a significant development ahead of the upcoming IPL season, with both franchises looking to strengthen their squad combinations and improve their prospects in the tournament.

Super30 Football Academy Launches New Centre in Sangolda on November 14

■ New football coaching facility to offer structured training for boys and girls aged 5 to 14 years

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Super30 Football Academy is set to expand its grassroots football development programme in Goa with the launch of a new training centre at Sangolda Panchayat Ground on November 14, 2026.

The new centre will provide structured football coaching for boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 14, offering young aspiring footballers an opportunity to develop their skills in a professional training environment.

Training sessions will be conducted every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 5 pm to 6 pm. The programme will focus on developing essential football skills while encouraging discipline, teamwork and confidence among young players.

Through this initiative, Super30 Football Academy aims to make quality football coaching more accessible to children and strengthen the grassroots football ecosystem in Goa. The academy continues to focus on identifying and nurturing young talent by providing structured training and opportunities for children to develop their potential.

Admissions for the Sangolda centre are now open. Interested parents and children can also attend free demonstration classes to experience the coaching programme before enrolling.

The launch marks another step in Super30's efforts to expand its football development network and encourage greater participation in the sport among young children across Goa.

Goa to Send Two Athletes to Macau Marathon, Plans Two Major Sporting Initiatives

■ Multi-sport festival at Peddem and Olympic Sports Demonstration Clinic in Panaji planned before the end of 2026

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Goa Olympic Association (GOA) will send two athletes, Teddy Cardozo and Swezial Dsouza, to participate in the 2026 Galaxy Entertainment Macao International Marathon scheduled for December 6. The contingent will be accompanied by GOA Treasurer Jayesh Naik following an invitation from the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China.

Alongside the international participation, the association is preparing two major sporting initiatives before the end of the year to strengthen sports development and encourage greater participation across Goa.

The first initiative will be a two day multi-sport festival at Peddem, featuring disciplines such as badminton, table tennis, swimming, football, kabaddi, kho-kho, athletics, hockey and taekwondo, among other sporting activities.

The second initiative will be a one day Olympic Sports Demonstration Clinic in Panaji, specially organised for Physical Education Teachers from across Goa. The programme aims to familiarise teachers with different Olympic sports and encourage their promotion in schools.

These plans were discussed during the first Executive Council Meeting of the newly elected Goa Olympic Association, held in Panaji on November 10, 2026.

The meeting also finalised an annual activity calendar, which will include celebrations



of Olympic Day, National Sports Day and other important sporting occasions. The association will undertake initiatives to strengthen the Olympic movement and promote sports at the grassroots level.

The Executive Council also decided to amend the association's Constitution to align it with the Indian Olympic Association Constitution and the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.

During the meeting, GOA President Sadanand Shet Tanavade distributed participation kits to Teddy Cardozo and Swezial Dsouza ahead of their participation in the Macau Marathon. Secretary General Sandeep Heble, Treasurer Jayesh Naik and other Executive Council members were present on the occasion.