Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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Goa wants change, but who can deliver it? Survey exposes Opposition's dilemma

Growing dissatisfaction with three-term BJP rule fails to translate into a clear alternative; fragmented Opposition, leadership deficit and voter uncertainty could shape 2027 electoral battle

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The political message emerging from Goa ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections is increasingly complicated: there is a growing appetite for change, but little clarity on who should bring it.

The latest survey captures this contradiction, pointing to mounting dissatisfaction with the BJP-led government while simultaneously exposing the Opposition's inability to emerge as a convincing alternative.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents favour a change of government, while 56.4 per cent have expressed dissatisfaction with the ruling dispensation. Yet, the BJP-MGP alliance continues to command the support of 34.3 per cent of respondents, making it the single most preferred political formation.

The findings suggest that the BJP is facing the consequences of prolonged incumbency, but the Opposition has not yet succeeded in turning public discontent into a decisive political advantage. The survey projects 16-18 seats for the BJP-MGP alliance and 14-15 for a Congress-led alliance, indicating that the next Assembly election could produce another closely contested verdict. A substantial undecided vote further complicates the picture.

The government's performance assessment reveals the scale of the challenge facing the ruling alliance.

Five Shristhal panchas revolt against Tawadkar-backed sarpanch

Major political setback to Tawadkar ahead of Assembly polls; Congress leader Chetan Desai credited with bringing five members together



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CANACONA: In what is being viewed as a significant political setback to BJP leader and Canacona MLA/ Minister Ramesh Tawadkar ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, five of the nine ruling members of Shristhal Village Panchayat, who had initially pledged their allegiance to the BJP and Tawadkar, have now revolted against his camp by moving a no-confidence motion against Sarpanch Sejal Purushottam Gaonkar.

The development is being seen as the first significant political strike by Congress leader and probable Congress ticket aspirant Chetan Manju Desai, who is reportedly instrumental in bringing the five panchas together against the existing panchayat leadership. The no-confidence motion, signed by Deputy Sarpanch Shivaraj Deshmukh and panchas Rajesh K. Velip, Dasharath S. Gaonkar, Rama J. Naik and Levia S. Naik, was submitted to the Block Development Officer (BDO), Canacona, on Friday, with a copy to the Shristhal VP Secretary. The panchas have cited the alleged failure of the Sarpanch to take members into confidence while conducting panchayat affairs, lack of development works in the village and her alleged absence from the panchayat office as reasons for moving the motion.



Calangute ground's future in court as community fights commercial use of sporting land

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Can a village's traditional sporting space be turned into a commercial facility at the expense of its community purpose? This question is now before the Bombay High Court at Goa, following a PIL over the alleged commercial use of a football ground in Calangute.

The legal challenge has been brought by the Calangute Association Sports and Cultural Organisation, which wants the land returned to sporting and recreational activities. The organisation contends that the present use of the property as a paid-parking area and tourist bus depot goes against the land-use protections applicable to it.

The dispute concerns approximately 21,800 square metres of land that, according to the petition, has been used by the Calangute community for football since the 1940s and 1950s.

North Goa PMLA Court grants conditional bail to Siddique in illegal

Accused was arrested by Enforcement Directorate on July 16 over alleged laundering of proceeds generated through sale of illegally grabbed land

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MAPUSA: The North Goa Special Court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) has granted conditional bail to Siddique alias Suleman Khan in a money laundering case being investigated by the Goa Enforcement Directorate (ED). Siddique was arrested by the ED on July 16 this year in connection with allegations of laundering proceeds of crime generated through the sale of illegally grabbed land.

The case relates to alleged financial transactions involving proceeds derived from the sale of properties that were reportedly grabbed illegally.

The ED had initiated action under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act as part of its investigation into the alleged proceeds of crime.

Manoj Parab announces return to Revolutionary Goans Party

RGP leader calls on supporters to unite as he prepares for an official return at a public gathering in Alto Porvorim on Sunday

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PANAJI: Manoj Parab has announced his official return to the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), calling upon his supporters, well-wishers and those who continue to believe in his leadership to stand united once again.

In an emotional message addressed to his supporters, Parab expressed gratitude for their unconditional support, encouraging messages, tears and unwavering faith in the mission during challenging times. Emphasising that the fight for Goa, Goenkars and the future of the motherland is far from over, Parab declared that a stronger chapter begins tomorrow. His official return to RGP will be marked by a public gathering scheduled for Sunday, November 22, 2026, at 3 PM at Sant Gadge Maharaj Hall, Alto Porvorim, Goa.

Congress Alleges ₹33.37-Crore Tribal Welfare Scam in Goa, Demands Independent Probe

RTI disclosures raise questions over ₹12.55 crore in expenditure; Panjikar alleges missing bills, questionable approvals and procurement violations

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PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has accused the BJP-led government of serious financial irregularities amounting to ₹33.37 crore in the Tribal Welfare Department, relating to the Prerna Din and 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Bhagwan Birsa Munda held in 2025.

Addressing a press conference, GPCC Media and Communication Department Chairman Amarnath Panjikar alleged that payments were released without proper supporting documents and that mandatory financial procedures were bypassed. Panjikar said ₹4,40,90,700 was paid for Prerna Din celebrations without the department providing proper bills, vouchers and supporting records. He alleged that Sean Ad Event Agency submitted expenditure statements without adequate documentation, which were subsequently approved through post-facto clearances.

Does the Forest Department Have Aadhaar Cards for Tigers?

When officials claim that a tiger spotted in Goa belongs to Belagavi, people have every reason to ask whether the state has developed a system of identifying the domicile of wild animals. Has the Forest Department conducted a census of tigers, or is this another attempt to brush aside uncomfortable questions about Goa's wildlife conservation?

There was a time when the sighting of a tiger in Goa would have been welcomed as a moment of pride. Today, it appears to have become an exercise in official explanations, with the Forest Department seemingly more interested in establishing where the tiger came from than addressing what its presence means for Goa.

The department has confirmed the presence of a tiger but claims that the animal is from Belagavi. One cannot help but wonder: Does the Forest Department have Aadhaar cards for tigers? Has the animal produced a residential certificate? Or has Goa already conducted such a detailed census that officials can identify the state of origin of every striped visitor?

The question may sound sarcastic, but the larger issue is serious. On what scientific basis has the department concluded that the tiger belongs to Belagavi? Was it identified through camera trap images, unique stripe patterns, radio-collar data or some other established wildlife monitoring technique? If there is scientific evidence, the department should place it in the public domain rather than expect people to accept a convenient explanation.

Wild animals do not recognise state boundaries. A tiger does not need permission to cross from Karnataka into Goa. The Western Ghats form a continuous ecological landscape, and wildlife moves across forests depending on food, water, habitat and territorial requirements. Tigers moving between Goa and neighbouring Karnataka is neither unusual nor surprising.

But that is precisely why the department's explanation raises more questions than it answers.

If the tiger has travelled from Belagavi, does that mean Goa has no responsibility towards it? Does its supposed origin make its presence in Goa less significant? More importantly, why is the department so eager to establish that the animal belongs elsewhere rather than examining whether Goa's forests can support a resident tiger population?

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The 2022 tiger census recorded five tigers in Goa. Their presence was officially documented. Therefore, the latest sighting cannot simply be dismissed as an animal belonging to another state. The department must explain the distinction between a transient tiger and a resident population through scientific evidence.

According to reports, the latest tiger has been identified as SKT-39 from the Sahyadri-Konkan corridor, with its home range extending across Maharashtra and Karnataka. If this identification is based on camera trap records and scientific tracking, there is nothing wrong with communicating it. However, identifying an animal's wider home range does not mean that Goa's forests are irrelevant to its survival.

This debate is bigger than one tiger.

Goa has witnessed several tiger deaths over the years, raising serious questions about habitat protection and human-wildlife conflict. Environmentalists have consistently demanded that the Mhadei region be declared a tiger reserve. The proposal has remained politically contentious, with the government resisting the demand.

The government cannot speak about protecting the Western Ghats, conserving biodiversity and preserving Goa's natural heritage while treating tiger sightings as an administrative inconvenience.

A tiger does not have to be born in Goa to deserve protection in Goa. If it enters our forests, the responsibility of the Forest Department is to ensure its safety, monitor its movement and protect the habitat that sustains it.

The department must answer some straightforward questions. What scientific evidence establishes the identity of SKT-39? How frequently has this animal been recorded in Goa? What monitoring arrangements exist in the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary? What steps have been taken to prevent conflict with villagers and livestock owners? And what is the government's long-term plan for protecting the tiger corridor?

The department's concerns about sharing sensitive wildlife locations are understandable. Revealing precise locations can put endangered animals at risk. But conservation cannot become an excuse for avoiding public accountability. Transparency and protection must go together.

Goa's forests are not administrative extensions of Belagavi, nor are tigers government property that can be assigned a permanent address.

Perhaps the Forest Department should spend less time establishing which state a tiger belongs to and more time ensuring that it survives wherever it is found.

Otherwise, the next time a tiger is spotted in Goa, people may genuinely wonder whether officials will ask it to produce its Aadhaar card before allowing it to enter the forest. A tiger's identity should be established through science, but its protection must never depend on its address.

EDITOR SPEAKS

OVERCHARGING ALLEGATION NEAR NAGOA CIRCLE: SHOPKEEPERS URGED TO FOLLOW MRP

The alleged sale of a cigarette packet for ₹250 despite carrying a printed Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of ₹240 near Nagoa Circle raises concerns about fair business practices and consumer rights.

According to the Goemkarponn reporter, when the shopkeeper was questioned about the additional ₹10, the response was allegedly aggressive and abusive. Such exchanges are avoidable and do little to build trust between traders and customers.

Consumers have the right to question prices and seek clarification when they are charged more than the printed MRP. Shopkeepers, in turn, have a responsibility to display prices clearly and follow applicable consumer protection rules.

The authorities concerned should look into the allegation and verify whether customers are being charged above the printed MRP at the establishment. If any violation is established, appropriate action should follow.

Goa welcomes visitors from across the country and abroad, but fair treatment of tourists must go hand in hand with fair treatment of local residents. No customer should feel that they are being made to pay extra simply because they are visiting a tourist destination.

Shopkeepers must conduct their businesses responsibly and respond respectfully when customers raise genuine concerns. At the same time, consumers should be encouraged to report suspected overcharging through the appropriate channels. Fair pricing and respectful conduct are essential for maintaining confidence in Goa's markets and tourism industry.

- Nilesh Prabhu, Calangute, Goa

GOA POLICE'S CYBER VIGIL 2.0: 24 ARRESTED IN MULTI-STATE CRACKDOWN ON CYBER FRAUD

Goa Police's Cyber Vigil 2.0 operation, which led to the arrest of 24 accused across 16 states, highlights the growing importance of coordinated action against cybercrime. With 43 police teams deployed, the operation demonstrates that cybercriminals cannot be allowed to escape investigation simply by operating beyond state boundaries.

The detection of 37 cybercrime cases involving fraud of approximately ₹8.22 crore is significant. However, the larger challenge is ensuring that investigations reach the people financing, organising and benefiting from these fraudulent networks.

The measures taken by Goa Police during 2026, including blocking 1,717 SIM cards, 722 social media handles and 814 fake websites, also reflect the need to disrupt the digital infrastructure used by fraudsters. The reported securing of ₹15.94 crore through lien marking and refund of approximately ₹1.94 crore to victims are important steps towards protecting public money.

Equally encouraging is the cyber awareness campaign, which reached nearly 8,100 people through 80 programmes between August and November. Such initiatives are essential, particularly for senior citizens, students and people who may be unfamiliar with evolving online fraud methods. However, awareness must translate into everyday caution. Citizens should never share OTPs, PINs or banking credentials, and suspicious transactions must be reported immediately through the national cybercrime helpline 1930 or the official portal.

Goa Police deserves recognition for taking the fight against cybercrime beyond the state's borders. The real test will be sustained enforcement, faster assistance to victims and stronger efforts to recover lost money.

Cybercrime requires constant vigilance from both law enforcement agencies and citizens. A safer digital society can only be built through continued cooperation and awareness.

- Savio Fernandes, Mapusa, Goa

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International Film Festival of India | NFDC cinemas of india | सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING | ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY OF GOA (GOVERNMENT OF GOA UNDERTAKING)

DAY 02

SAT, 21 NOV 2026

Open Air Screening

Miramar Beach
Natsamrat @ 7 Pm

Vagator Beach
Mukkam Post
Bombilwadi @ 7 Pm

Ravindra Bhavan (Margao)
The Wild Robot @ 7 pm

Cinemela 2026 at Kala Academy

Children Special Screening
08:30 AM - Bandu Boxer
10:15 AM - Baaja

Contemporary at Kala Academy
03:00 PM - Hanuman Ansh

Nostalgia
06:00 PM - Darr: A Violent Love Story

Gala Premeier
- Pushpak Viman (2 Episodes)
- Looking For Michael

Indian Panorama
Dhurandhar (Feature)
Thaai Kizhavi (Feature)
Becoming (Non Feature)

Master-Class & In-conversation Session
The Moral Universe of Parallel Cinema: 50 Years of Girish Kasaravalli

From Witness to Change: The Social Responsibility of Documentary Cinema

Goan Film
Ancessao







For more Information & Registration log on to **www.esg.co.in** and **www.iffigoa.org** | IFFI Helpline number **08326741717** (8.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.)

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Beverage Partner: Campa Bison
Lounge Partner: Xpanse Coffee, tataki Immersive Asian Dining
Airline Partner: Qatar Airways, fly91
Airport Partner: GOX Manohar International Airport, Goa
Radio Partner: Big FM
F&B Curation Partner: Hospitality AQ
Screening Partner: PVR INOX
Hydration partner: Laviss
Content Partner: prime video, Netflix, Story TV
Wireless & Surveillance Partner: Salgaonkar Studios

Technical Partner: Sony, SMPTE, QUBE, QUBE WIRE, pulz sound matters, MOVIEBUFF ACCESS, cinedubs

Licensing Partner: NOVEX, RMPL Feel the beat, IPRS, PPL

Associate Partner: SBI, Wellness Forever Chemists, TUCKIT, SAFA Film Academy, ARENA, Dakshin Stories, Envision, AK Entertainment, New India Assurance, Pernod Ricard India

Our Supporters: P.W.D Public Works Department, GSIDC, Ravindra Bhavan, Imagine Panaji, Kala Academy Goa, GOI, Corporation of the City of Panaji

Note: Delegates are required to enter the theatre before show start time to avoid reduction of their daily tickets quota.

Two FIRs, Two Versions: Police Probe Both Sides Of Karapur Clash

Villagers and Dhawaskar family trade allegations as investigation continues; one arrested in connection with assault case

Team Goemkarponn



BICHOLIM: With conflicting allegations emerging from both sides following the violent clash at Sarvan, Bicholim, police have registered two counter-FIRs and launched an investigation to establish the exact sequence of events.

The incident occurred on November 19, when a group of around 100 persons allegedly gathered outside the residence of Shubhangi Dhawaskar at Dhawaskarwada, Karapur, at around 6.30 pm. According to her complaint, the crowd accused her son Sushant Dhawaskar of abusing them and demanded that he be called out of the house. When Shubhangi informed the gathering that her son was not present and requested them to leave, some persons allegedly began abusing her.

The situation further escalated when around 10 to 20 persons allegedly forced their way into her house, some carrying iron rods and wooden sticks. During the incident, Ram alias Pappu Dhawaskar, who reportedly came forward to help and rescue her, was allegedly assaulted with a rod by Gauresh Ghadi, sustaining injuries to his head.

The confrontation intensified after around 30 to 40 local residents of Dhawaskarwada gathered near the residence to rescue her, resulting in a scuffle between the two groups. Two members of the Dhawaskar family and five persons from the villagers' group, including Gaurish Ghadi, sustained serious injuries.



Loutolim land filling inspection foiled for third time as Vijay Marine Services denies entry

Only three departments turn up for inspection; farmers allege mud filling has blocked natural water flow, causing damage to agricultural fields

Team Goemkarponn

LOUTOLIM: The inspection of alleged illegal land filling at a property owned by Vijay Marine Services in Loutolim was once again stalled after the company allegedly denied entry to complainant Bhanudas Gawade for the third consecutive time.

The inspection had been scheduled in the presence of officials from 12 different government departments. However, only officials from the Water Resources Department (WRD), Goa State Pollution Control Board and police turned up at the site.

According to complainant Bhanudas Gawade, Vijay Marine Services purchased agricultural land and subsequently filled it with mud, allegedly obstructing the natural flow of water in the area.

He claimed that the blockage has resulted in water accumulating in the fields of nearby farmers, causing damage to agricultural land and affecting farming activities.

Farmers have demanded the removal of the mud obstructing the natural water passage and restoration of the original water flow to prevent further flooding and damage to their fields.



Uttar Pradesh native goes missing after reaching Margao railway station

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MARGAO: A Uttar Pradesh native has allegedly gone missing after informing his neighbour that he had reached Margao railway station to board a train to his hometown, prompting Verna police to register an offence of suspected abduction. According to police, a complaint was lodged by Akash Manu Kumar Singh, a resident of Verna and a native of Uttar Pradesh. As per the complaint, on November 13 at around 7 pm, Singh received a phone call from his neighbour, Sujit Kumar Jaiswal, who informed him that he had received his payment and had reached Margao railway station to proceed to his native place in Uttar Pradesh. However, at around 11 pm, when Singh attempted to contact Jaiswal repeatedly, his mobile phone was found switched off. Unable to establish contact with him, Singh suspected that his neighbour may have been abducted by unknown persons and approached the police.

Two Georgian nationals arrested in mobile phone theft case by Mapusa police

Accused allegedly stole an Apple iPhone 18 Pro Max worth Rs 2.05 lakh from Sangeetha Mobiles near Mapusa Court; both have previous cases registered against them

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Mapusa police have arrested two Georgian nationals in connection with the alleged theft of an Apple iPhone 18 Pro Max worth approximately Rs 2.05 lakh from Sangeetha Mobiles near Mapusa Court. The arrested accused have been identified as Simoni Kokhreidze (50) and Kakha Sbhubladze (57), both residents of Siolim, Bardez. According to police, the case was registered at Mapusa Police Station vide Cr. No. 154/2026 under Section 305 read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. During the course of the investigation, both accused were apprehended by Mapusa police at Siolim. Police have also stated that accused Kakha Sbhubladze has previous cases registered against him at Calangute and Vasco police stations. These include Calangute Police Station Cr. No. 183/2013 under Section 380 read with Section 34 of the IPC, Calangute Police Station Cr. No. 191/2013 under the Foreigners Act.



Vasco man dies after scooter skids near D-Mart

35-year-old New Vaddem resident sustains fatal head injuries after losing control of his scooter; police suspect he was under the influence of alcohol

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: A 35-year-old man from New Vaddem, Vasco, died after the scooter he was riding skidded on the highway near D-Mart Shopping Complex on Wednesday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Sadashiv Vasant Harijan. According to Verna police, the accident occurred on November 19 at around 7 pm when Harijan was proceeding towards Verna on his Suzuki Access scooter. He reportedly lost control of the vehicle, causing it to skid and throwing him onto the road. He sustained serious head injuries in the fall.



He was rushed to the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Cansaulim, where the medical officer declared him brought dead.

During the police enquiry, family members reportedly informed police that Harijan was allegedly under the influence of alcohol before leaving home. He had reportedly wanted to take his children for a ride on his scooter, but his wife, Bhagerathi Harijan, refused permission as he was allegedly intoxicated.

An argument reportedly followed, after which Harijan left home alone on his scooter towards Verna.

Verna police conducted an inquest panchanama and subsequently shifted the body to South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for further medico-legal formalities.

Verna police have registered a case of unnatural death under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Carry Fernandes of Verna police station under the supervision of PI Anand Shirodkar and the guidance of Mormugao SDPO SP Gurudas Kadam.

IFFI 57 opens in Goa with participation from 86 countries, over 150 films

CM Pramod Sawant unveils vision to make Goa a comprehensive filmmaking hub; Ravi Kishan, Ashutosh Gowariker and Ricky Kej attend grand inaugural ceremony

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PANAJI: Goa has rolled out the red carpet for the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), with the nine-day cinematic extravaganza commencing on November 20 at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium.

The festival, being held from November 20 to 28, has brought together filmmakers, cinema personalities and film enthusiasts from 86 countries, showcasing more than 150 films under the theme 'Stories Without Borders'. Addressing the inaugural gathering, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant highlighted Goa's vision of becoming a comprehensive filmmaking hub, stating that the government wants the state to emerge as a destination where films are produced and completed.

He highlighted initiatives such as the Goa Film Shooting Act, 2021, the online single-window clearance system and financial assistance schemes for filmmakers. He also announced the vision of establishing a film city equipped with pre-production, post-production, visual effects (VFX) and film education facilities.

Sawant expressed hope that IFFI would inspire more young Goans to pursue filmmaking and take their stories to national and international audiences.



India premiere of Pawel Pawlikowski's 'Fatherland' opens 57th IFFI in Goa

Black-and-white historical drama explores post-war Germany through the journey of writer Thomas Mann and his daughter; film draws full house at INOX Panjim

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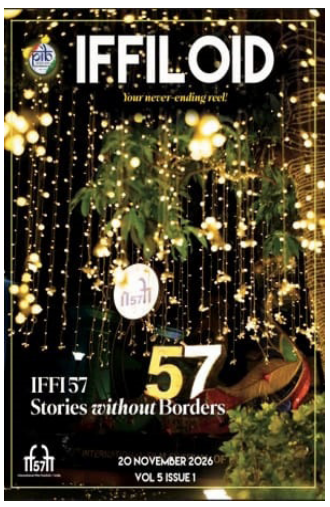
PANAJI: The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened in Goa on November 20 with the India premiere of acclaimed filmmaker Pawel Pawlikowski's *Fatherland (Ojczyzna)*, a historical drama that takes audiences through a divided Germany in the aftermath of the Second World War.

The nine-day festival, being held from November 20 to 28, began with the screening of the black-and-white film, which explores the political divisions, family relationships and historical complexities of post-war Germany at the dawn of the Cold War.

Directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker Pawlikowski, *Fatherland* received an enthusiastic response, with all screening halls at INOX, Panjim, witnessing a full house.

The film follows Nobel Prize-winning German writer Thomas Mann and his daughter Erika as they return to Germany in the summer of 1949, after spending 16 years in exile in the United States.

Travelling in a black Buick across a country still recovering from the devastation of the Second World War, the father-daughter duo journey from US-administered Frankfurt to Soviet-controlled Weimar.



IFFILOID newsletter launched at 57th IFFI by festival director Ashutosh Gowariker

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PANAJI: The daily festival newsletter IFFILOID has returned for the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), with Festival Director and acclaimed filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker launching Volume 5, Issue 1 in Goa on November 20.

Published by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the newsletter aims to bring audiences closer to the cinematic celebrations through daily updates, festival highlights and behind-the-scenes coverage. IFFILOID will feature engaging articles, photographs, programme schedules and updates on key events taking place during the festival. It will also cover cinematic showcases, interactions with filmmakers, film screenings and other festival activities.

WAVES Film Bazaar 2026 begins in Goa, marking two decades of global film industry collaborations

Five-day film marketplace brings together filmmakers, producers, investors and distributors; platform aims to connect Indian creative talent with international opportunities

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The 20th edition of WAVES Film Bazaar was inaugurated at Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon on November 20, marking two decades of promoting collaboration between the Indian and international film industries. Organised by the National Film



Development Corporation (NFDC) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the five-day marketplace brings together filmmakers, producers, writers, investors, distributors and other industry professionals to explore partnerships and take creative projects to global markets. Delivering the keynote address, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Chanchal Kumar highlighted the remarkable growth of Film Bazaar, which began in 2007 with 204 delegates.

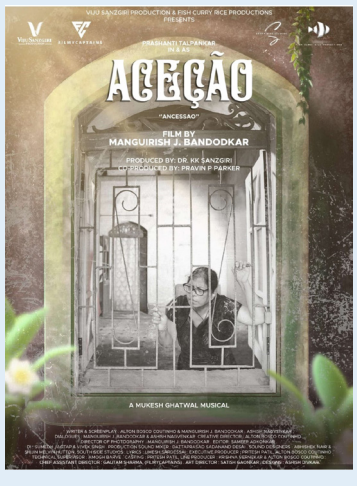
12 Goan films to showcase local stories at 57th IFFI

Konkani and Marathi films explore identity, family bonds and social realities; screenings scheduled at INOX Panjim from November 21 to 28

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's rich cultural heritage, social realities and everyday human experiences will take centre stage at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), with a special selection of 12 Goan films set to showcase local stories to national and international audiences.

The specially curated package comprises films in Konkani and Marathi, spanning feature films and short films that explore



themes such as family relationships, identity, childhood, loneliness, personal struggles and social realities. According to the Press Information Bureau (PIB), the films will be screened at INOX Panjim from November 21 to 28.

The selection includes *Ancessao*, directed by Manguirish J. Bandodkar, which explores an elderly woman's struggle with grief and conscience, and *Umesh*, directed by Vardhan Vijaykumar Kamat, which follows a forgotten local hero confronting his troubled past.

Other Konkani films include *Shakuntala* by Prasad M. Naik, a family drama exploring love, identity and tradition; *Purnata* by Shravan Kankonkar, which reflects on the continuity of life; and *Noise* by Suvidha Torgal Bakhle, which examines human behaviour and troubled relationships.

The Marathi film *Daryaa*, directed by Kishor Arjun, tells the story of a visually impaired boy with cerebral palsy who experiences the sea for the first time through an unexpected journey with his grandfather.

The selection also features *Perfect Shot* by Sankalp Sainath Parab, *Bapo Kale* by Krisha Raul, *Woodworm (Roto)* by Akhil Lotlikar and *Cheers!* by Anurag Verdekar.

The Marathi film *Medium Piece*, directed by Jay Amonkar, presents a quirky comedy-drama about a butcher whose attempt to entertain his chickens with a television leads to unexpected consequences.

Retirement Does Not Mean the End of Service: Porvorim's Jyeshtha Nagrik Manch Sets an Example for Goa

■ From weekly medical camps and free yoga sessions to social awareness programmes, senior citizens are building a healthier and more active community through collective service.

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PORVORIM: Retirement is often seen as the beginning of a quieter life, but a group of senior citizens in Porvorim has demonstrated that it can also mark the beginning of a meaningful journey of social service. Through healthcare initiatives, yoga sessions, educational programmes and community activities, Jyeshtha Nagrik Manch (JNM) has emerged as an inspiring example of how experience and commitment can bring positive change to society.

Established in January 2015, Jyeshtha Nagrik Manch was founded by a group of senior citizens who believed that retirement should not mean withdrawing from society. Instead, they envisioned using their experience, knowledge and skills to contribute to community development.

Registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, the organisation brings together retired government and private-sector employees, doctors, engineers, educationists, advocates, bankers and other professionals. Under the guidance of Dr. Narayan Hede and his dedicated team, JNM initially undertook school-based activities, including craft training, competitions, tree plantation drives and seed ball distribution across Goa. Over the years, healthcare and community well-being have become central to its activities.

Sunday Medical Camps Making Healthcare Accessible One of JNM's most significant initiatives is its weekly medical camp, which has been organised every Sunday since December 2017. Conducted between 8 am and 9 am at the Panchayat Library Hall in Nana Nani Park, Porvorim, the camp operates with the support of the Penha de França Panchayat.

Residents can access basic health services, including blood pressure monitoring, blood sugar testing, weight measurement and doctor consultations. Free medicines are also provided to economically weaker patients who cannot afford essential medication. During the financial year 2025-26, the organisation successfully conducted 50 weekly health check-up and consultation camps. The initiative has become particularly valuable for senior citizens, women and working individuals who find it difficult to schedule medical appointments during weekdays. With diabetes and hypertension becoming increasingly common, these regular check-ups encourage early detection, timely medical advice and greater awareness about preventive healthcare.

Free Yoga Classes Promote Healthy Ageing

Recognising the importance of prevention, JNM also conducts free yoga classes from Monday to Saturday between 5.30 am and 7 am under the theme 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing'.

The sessions include warm-up exercises, stretching, Surya Namaskar, various asanas, micro-exercises, pranayama, meditation and Om chanting. These activities promote physical fitness, flexibility, breathing capacity and mental well-being.

The organisation believes that healthy ageing is not simply about living longer but about enjoying a healthier, happier and more independent life.

A Year of Community Service and Awareness

During 2025-26, JNM expanded its outreach through several healthcare, educational, environmental and social initiatives. These included specialised mental and dental health check-ups, a multispeciality medical camp, a blood examination camp in association with Metropolis Laboratory and an eye check-up camp organised with the Penha de França Panchayat.

The organisation also conducted surgical camps with the assistance of Dr. Shailesh Hede and RG Hospital under Dr. Bhavesh Patel. An awareness lecture on caring for bedridden persons was delivered by Dr. Wisemen Pinto. Environmental activities included a tree plantation drive near the Housing Board Maruti Temple, while International Yoga Day was celebrated at Ramvadeshwar Temple. JNM also organised a digital elocution competition for students from Porvorim schools and an outing to Saarth Wellness Centre in Sawantwadi for its members. Monthly awareness lectures remain another important part of its activities. Subjects include healthy ageing, medication management, happiness, cyber fraud prevention and other issues relevant to everyday life.

11th Foundation Day Celebrates Togetherness

Jyeshtha Nagrik Manch celebrated its 11th Foundation Day on February 22, 2026, with a programme highlighting friendship, companionship and active ageing.

The celebrations began with a Power Laughter Yoga session conducted by an international team of facilitators from India, the United States and Canada. More than 75 participants took part in laughter exercises and physical activities. A musical programme featuring karaoke, organised with the assistance of Janki Creations, followed. Games and recreational activities added to the celebrations, with prizes presented to winners.

A special highlight was the felicitation of four elderly couples by Rohan A. Khaunte, MLA and Goa's Tourism and Information Technology Minister. The organisation also received financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh from the minister in recognition of its contribution to society.

A Community Model Goa Can Follow

Jyeshtha Nagrik Manch has demonstrated that meaningful community development does not always require substantial financial resources or elaborate infrastructure. A committed group of volunteers, the involvement of healthcare professionals and support from local authorities can make a significant difference. Its approach combines weekly medical camps, regular free yoga classes and monthly awareness lectures, creating a practical model that can be replicated in villages, towns and panchayats across Goa. Social organisations, community leaders, panchayats, municipalities and the state government can encourage similar initiatives to improve public health and strengthen community participation. The journey of Jyeshtha Nagrik Manch sends a powerful message: age is never a barrier to serving society. Through experience, compassion and collective effort, senior citizens can continue making valuable contributions to the community.

India's First Bullet Train to Begin Operations in 2027, Surat-Vapi Stretch to Open First

■ Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw says the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor is progressing steadily, with major construction milestones achieved and indigenous bullet train manufacturing underway.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's first bullet train service is expected to begin operations in 2027, with the Surat-Vapi section of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor scheduled to become operational first. The remaining stretches connecting the corridor to Mumbai will be opened in phases.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the timeline, highlighting the progress made on the ambitious infrastructure project. As of September, construction teams had completed 456 kilometres of pier work and 371 kilometres of viaduct construction.

Around six lakh noise barriers have been installed along a 299-kilometre stretch, while 9,300 overhead electrification masts have been erected across 206 kilometres of viaduct. Excavation work has also been completed for four mountain tunnels, while five kilometres of the 21-kilometre Maharashtra tunnel have been excavated using the mountain tunnelling method.

Civil construction has been completed at eight stations, with architectural finishing work currently underway. Development activities are also progressing at the three rolling stock depots located in Sabarmati, Surat and Thane.

One of the project's biggest engineering challenges is India's first undersea rail tunnel. The 21-kilometre tunnel in Maharashtra includes a seven-kilometre section passing beneath Thane Creek. Two tunnel boring machines, launched in July 2026 from Vikhroli and Sawli, are being used for the excavation. Each machine has a 13.6-metre cutterhead, weighs more than 3,000 tonnes and measures 96 metres in length.

Meanwhile, manufacturing of India's first indigenous bullet train sets is progressing. Integral Coach Factory and BEML are developing the B28 trainset, designed to operate at speeds of up to 280 kmph. Its first body frame has been completed and is undergoing structural testing, with track trials expected by mid-2027. A faster B35 trainset, designed for 350 kmph, is planned as the next development.

The project, initially announced in 2017, faced delays due to land acquisition and permission issues in Maharashtra, followed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Full-scale construction gained momentum in 2021.

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor is expected to significantly reduce travel time between the two major cities while introducing a new era of high-speed rail transportation in India.



'All Relationships Will Improve': Pakistan Minister Expresses Hope for Better India-Pakistan Ties

Musadik Masood Malik's remarks come amid renewed debate over Pakistan's participation in the SCO meeting in Delhi and India's stand on cross-border terrorism.

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NEW DELHI: Pakistan's Climate Minister Musadik Masood Malik has expressed optimism about the future of India-Pakistan relations, saying he believes ties across the region will improve despite ongoing political tensions.

Malik is in New Delhi to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting, marking his visit to India amid



strained bilateral relations between the two neighbouring countries.

Asked about the possibility of improving ties, Malik said he was hopeful that relationships across the region would move in a positive direction. He described the geopolitical situation as rapidly changing and stressed the need for countries to take a broader view of regional challenges. He also highlighted the importance of dialogue across different cultures and civilisations, suggesting that greater engagement could help advance regional cooperation. His remarks came as Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi reiterated that dialogue with Pakistan cannot resume unless it stops supporting terrorism. This remains India's stated position on engagement with Islamabad. Malik's visit has also triggered political criticism, with Opposition leaders questioning the government's decision to host a Pakistani minister while relations between the two countries remain tense.



'Absolutely No Change': India Reaffirms Firm Stand on Indus Waters Treaty Amid Pakistani Minister's Delhi Visit

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NEW DELHI: India has reiterated that there is no change in its position on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), firmly maintaining its stand amid the visit of Pakistan's Climate Minister Musadik Malik to New Delhi for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum.

India's Ministry of External Affairs clarified that the country's position on the treaty remains unchanged. The statement came as Malik participated in the opening day of the three-day forum, being held at the historic Purana Qila in Delhi.

The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is being jointly hosted by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of External Affairs. Malik arrived in New Delhi early Friday and attended the opening session in the evening. His participation comes amid continuing tensions between India and Pakistan following last year's military confrontation.

India Backs 'Safe, Speedy and Sustainable' Return of Rohingya Refugees After ICJ Genocide Verdict

New Delhi takes note of the landmark ruling against Myanmar and highlights its humanitarian assistance to displaced Rohingya people in Bangladesh and Rakhine State.

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NEW DELHI: India has reiterated its support for the safe, speedy and sustainable return of displaced Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, a day after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Myanmar committed genocide against the community during the 2017 military operations in Rakhine State. India said it had taken note of the landmark judgment and



maintained that the return of displaced Rohingya people to their homeland remained an important priority. The government highlighted its humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees living in camps in Bangladesh under Operation Insaniyat. India had provided relief supplies in five separate consignments and also supported the Rakhine State Development Programme in Myanmar to improve conditions for the displaced population. The ICJ, the United Nations' highest judicial body, delivered its verdict on Thursday, finding that Myanmar had violated its obligations under the Genocide Convention through its actions against the Rohingya community in northern Rakhine State during the 2017 clearance operations.



India Rejects Pannun's 'Baseless Lawsuit' as US Court Orders Summons for Ajit Doval

US court directs judicial documents to be sent through Delhi district courts to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and former RAW chief Samant Goel

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NEW DELHI: India has dismissed as baseless a civil lawsuit filed by Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in the United States, after a US court ordered the delivery of summonses to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Samant Goel. India reiterated its position that the allegations against the two senior officials were unfounded and rejected the legal proceedings. The US District Court for the Southern District of New York, in an order dated November 13, directed its clerk to forward the summonses and related judicial documents to designated courts in Delhi. The Patiala House District Court was identified for Doval, while the Dwarka and Tis Hazari district courts were named for Goel. The order requested the assistance of Indian courts in serving the documents as part of the civil proceedings pending before the US court. The court also noted that the standard procedure for serving the summonses through India's central authority under the Hague Convention had been attempted but was unsuccessful. It subsequently permitted an alternative method of service under Article 19 of the convention and relevant provisions of India's Code of Civil Procedure.

'Terrorism, Organised Crime and Drug Trafficking Must Be Eliminated': Amit Shah

Home Minister calls for stronger coordination between central and state agencies, intelligence-led investigations and action against terror financing at the sixth NIA Anti-Terror Conference.

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NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has called for a coordinated national effort to eliminate terrorism, organised crime and drug trafficking, stressing the need for stronger cooperation between central and state security agencies. The sixth Anti-Terror Conference organised by the National Investigation



Agency (NIA) concluded on Friday at DRDO Bhawan in New Delhi. The two-day event focused on cross-border terrorism and brought together senior police officers, central agency representatives and other security stakeholders.

The conference saw the participation of 40 Directors General and heads of state police forces and central agencies, along with 230 representatives from anti-terror investigation units across the country. Inaugurating the conference on Thursday, Shah reiterated the government's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism. He called for a whole-of-government approach to dismantle the entire terror network, including cross-border handlers, financial channels, organised crime connections and local support systems. The Home Minister highlighted the importance of preventive action by security forces to stop terrorist attacks. He also appreciated the efforts of central and state agencies in bringing back 303 fugitives from 36 countries. Shah released the NIA publication Fail-Safe Investigation, which contains checklists covering 50 important investigative procedures. The publication aims to reduce procedural, technical and legal errors while improving the quality of investigations and evidence presented during prosecution.

13th Test Century Makes KL Rahul Only Fifth Indian to Achieve Rare Overseas Feat

■ India opener becomes the fifth Indian to score Test centuries in all four SENA countries, completing a remarkable overseas milestone with his maiden hundred in New Zealand

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NEW DELHI: KL Rahul achieved a major milestone in his Test career after scoring his 13th century in the longest format during India's match against New Zealand on Saturday. The 34-year-old became the fifth Indian batter to score Test centuries in all four SENA countries: South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia. With his maiden Test hundred in New Zealand, Rahul completed a remarkable collection of centuries across these four challenging overseas destinations. He had previously scored hundreds in Australia, England and South Africa before adding New Zealand to the list. Rahul also became the eighth Asian batter to achieve this distinction, joining an elite group featuring Mohammad Azharuddin, Sachin Tendulkar, Saeed Anwar, Rahul Dravid, Younis Khan, Kumar Sangakkara and Virat Kohli. Interestingly, Rahul and former Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar are the only two batters among this group to have scored Test centuries in all four SENA countries while opening the innings. The latest century took Rahul's overall Test hundred tally to 13, with 10 centuries coming in overseas conditions and three on home soil. His ability to deliver consistently away from home has strengthened his reputation as one of India's dependable Test batters.

"Olympic Gold Can Make Hockey Players Brands Like Virat Kohli": Hardik Singh Sets Sights on LA 2028

■ Double Olympic medallist believes an Olympic gold medal could transform Indian hockey players into major commercial stars, highlighting the need for greater marketing and visibility for the sport.

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NEW DELHI: Indian hockey midfielder and double Olympic medallist Hardik Singh believes winning an Olympic gold medal at the 2028 Los Angeles Games could transform hockey players into major commercial brands, similar to cricket superstar Virat Kohli.

Despite winning consecutive Olympic bronze medals at Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024, Indian hockey players continue to struggle for the commercial recognition enjoyed by their counterparts in cricket.

Cricket remains India's biggest sporting attraction, with players such as MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli commanding significant brand endorsements. Dhoni continues to enjoy immense popularity despite being in the later stages of his playing career, while Kohli remains associated with around 25 active brands.

In comparison, Hardik, despite being regarded as one of the world's finest midfielders and having two Olympic medals to his name, has yet to secure major brand endorsements. However, the Indian star remains focused on his sporting responsibilities rather than commercial opportunities. He believes the team's Olympic achievements have already improved recognition for hockey and that greater commercial opportunities will follow. Former India goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh reportedly had around 10 to 15 brand associations before the Olympics.



Cricket Australia Throws Full Support Behind Pat Cummins Amid Renewed Sandpapergate Controversy

■ Board unanimously backs Test captain, rejects questions over his integrity as fresh allegations revive memories of the 2018 ball-tampering scandal

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NEW DELHI: Cricket Australia (CA) has publicly reaffirmed its support for Test captain Pat Cummins amid renewed controversy surrounding the infamous 2018 Sandpapergate scandal. The board has rejected allegations questioning Cummins' integrity after fresh claims suggested that the entire Australian team was aware of the ball-tampering plan during the controversial Cape Town Test.

The controversy resurfaced after former Australian batter Usman Khawaja claimed that the entire team knew about the plan to alter the condition of the ball during the 2018 South Africa tour. Cummins strongly denied the allegations during a lengthy press conference last week. However, the debate intensified after Cameron Bancroft publicly supported Khawaja's version of events. An investigation conducted by Cricket Australia following the incident had held only then-captain Steve Smith, vice-captain David Warner and Bancroft responsible for the ball-tampering incident. With questions emerging about Cummins' future as captain ahead of Australia's upcoming four-Test home series against New Zealand next month, the board moved to clarify its position.

Day 4 Football Results: NCT Delhi Score 10, C.G. Delhi Hit Nine in Dominant Wins

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PANAJI: Day 4 of the football competition witnessed an exciting display of attacking football, with several teams recording big victories and producing impressive individual performances.

NCT Delhi registered the biggest victory of the day, defeating UT Chandigarh 10-1. Mohit Kumar led the scoring with three goals, while Rohit and Jatin Bisht contributed two goals each. Abhinav Rawat, Aakash Malik and Mukesh C. also found the net. Deepak Sharma scored the consolation goal for Chandigarh.

C.G. Delhi delivered another dominant performance, defeating Gujarat Secretariat 9-0. Ajay Singh scored a hat-trick, while Rupesh Kaushal and Mohit Adhikari contributed two goals each.

Karnataka secured a convincing 5-1 victory over RSB Raipur. Venu Gopal starred with a hat-trick, while Chetan Ray scored twice. T. Venkatesh scored the only goal for Raipur.

RSB Bhubaneswar registered an 8-0 win against U.P. State. Arbin Lakra led the attack with three goals, while Prakash Yena added two. Gaurav Negi, Chetan K. Nayak and Krishna Das also scored.

RSB Mumbai produced an impressive 8-1 victory over Odisha Secretariat. Sanket A. Salekar and Shubham N. scored twice each, while Alachiket Palav, Saurav S. Patil, Sandesh and Shivay Kumar also contributed to the win. Kairav Naik was also listed among the scorers.

Lakshadweep defeated RSB Shimla 4-0, with Sedakathulla scoring twice. Jeifer Shereet added another goal, while an own goal by Mohit completed the scoreline.