Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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Azossim-Mandur Land Row Escalates: Serious Questions Raised Over 1.15 Lakh Sqm Communidade Land Deal

Political leaders and villagers demand accountability over alleged irregularities in tenancy records, question the role of government officials and seek protection of community land

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Custodian, Joint Mamlatdar and other officials allegedly involved in granting tenant status to Dodamandi. He has further demanded that the officials responsible be named in the FIR and face criminal proceedings if their involvement is established. The controversy has also brought into focus the long-pending tenancy claims of



Azossim-Mandur villagers. Residents claim they have been struggling for nearly 30 years to secure tenancy rights over their village land, yet question how Dodamandi could allegedly obtain tenant status over such a vast stretch of Communidade property within just four months.

They have sought clarity on the procedures followed and whether the same standards were applied to all applicants. Former St Andre MLA Francisco Silveira has alleged irregularities in the inclusion of Dodamandi's name as a tenant in the Form I and XIV records covering nearly 1.15 lakh square metres. He has urged Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to initiate strict action against the officials concerned and ensure that any wrongdoing is investigated.

PANAJI: Serious questions are being raised over the alleged grant of tenancy rights to Sadiq Dodamandi over nearly 1.15 lakh square metres of Communidade land in Azossim-Mandur, with villagers and political leaders demanding an impartial investigation into the matter and accountability from the government machinery. Mohan Dhond has demanded the immediate suspension of the

NFF flags alarming pollution in 11 Goa rivers, seeks action against casino vessels

Fishing body alleges untreated sewage discharge, demands independent water testing and strict action against polluters

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Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) accountable for the deteriorating situation, alleging that ineffective enforcement of environmental regulations and questions over the credibility of pollution monitoring have allowed river pollution to worsen.

PANAJI: The National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) has raised serious concerns over alarming levels of pollution in 11 rivers across Goa, alleging that high concentrations of faecal coliform bacteria and the unchecked discharge of untreated sewage are threatening aquatic ecosystems and the livelihoods of traditional fishing communities.

NFF General Secretary Olencio Simoes has held the

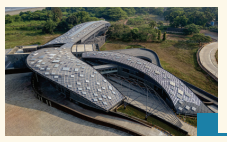
From Cracking Codes To Riding Waves, Who Says You Need To Leave Goa For Higher Education.

ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY OF GOA

Issued by Department of Information and Publicity Government of Goa



Expanding Facilities for Engineering
The NIT Goa with upto 50% reservation for Goan students and its new dedicated campus at Cuncolim has opened up new opportunities in engineering education.



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आमचें गोंय विकसित गोंय
वचनपूर्ती

Arresting Touts Is Not Enough: Goa Needs the Fear of Law

The arrest of 19 alleged touts by Calangute Police during a night patrol on November 21 may look like another successful enforcement operation. The police have announced the arrests, the accused have been produced before the SDM Court and remanded to seven days of judicial custody. The department has also proudly declared that 841 touts have been booked this year. But there is one uncomfortable question that deserves an answer: What happens after the arrests?

If the same people return to the streets, beaches and tourist hotspots after a few days, what exactly has the police action achieved? If touting continues despite hundreds of arrests, is the enforcement mechanism really working, or has arresting touts become a routine exercise that produces headlines without delivering lasting results?

Goa does not need statistics of arrests. It needs results.

The figure of 841 touts booked by Calangute Police in a single year should not necessarily be celebrated as a policing achievement. It should also be seen as an indication of how deeply illegal touting has penetrated one of Goa's most important tourism belts. If hundreds of people are being booked and the problem persists, something is seriously wrong with the way the system deals with this menace. The issue is not whether the police are conducting patrols or making arrests. They are. The issue is whether these arrests translate into deterrence. A few hours or days in custody, followed by release on bail or payment of a fine, may do little to discourage someone who sees touting as an easy way to earn money. If the financial gains from misleading tourists outweigh the consequences of getting caught, the business will continue. There is a fundamental difference between making an arrest and enforcing the law effectively. The police can pick up 19 people in one night, but unless there is a mechanism to identify repeat offenders, investigate their activities and ensure meaningful legal consequences, the same exercise will have to be repeated next week.

The consequences are being borne by ordinary Goans and tourists.

For tourists, the first interaction with Goa often happens at the airport, railway station, taxi stand, beach or marketplace. Imagine arriving in a destination expecting hospitality, only to be surrounded by unauthorised agents promising accommodation, transport, water sports or other services. Some may quote unreasonable prices, misrepresent services or direct visitors towards establishments that offer them commissions. What should be a pleasant holiday can quickly turn into an unpleasant experience.

> ***Police stations in tourist belts should maintain records of repeat offenders and identify networks operating behind illegal touting. Enforcement must also extend to those who employ, encourage or financially benefit from such activities. Simply picking up individuals from the streets will not dismantle an organised network, if one exists.***
>
> ***The authorities must also examine whether the existing legal provisions are adequate and whether coordination between the police, tourism department, transport department and local bodies is effective. Authorised service providers should be clearly identified, and tourists should have accessible channels to report harassment.***

For Goans, the damage is even more personal. Tourism is not merely an industry that generates revenue. It supports thousands of local families, businesses, taxi operators, restaurant owners, shack operators and small entrepreneurs. When illegal touting flourishes, legitimate businesses suffer. Those who follow regulations, pay taxes and operate within the law are forced to compete with an informal network that often functions without accountability.

More importantly, the image of Goa takes another beating.

The government repeatedly speaks about promoting Goa as a safe, quality tourism destination. Millions are spent on tourism campaigns, international roadshows and promotional events. But what is the value of such campaigns if visitors are harassed the moment they step into popular tourist areas? Tourism cannot be built on advertisements alone. It depends on the experience visitors carry home.

The government and police must therefore move beyond routine arrests. There must be a clear distinction between first-time offenders and habitual touts. Repeat offenders should face stronger action under applicable laws. Their activities must be documented, cases properly investigated and prosecutions pursued so that arrests do not end as mere formalities.

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The authorities must also examine whether the existing legal provisions are adequate and whether coordination between the police, tourism department, transport department and local bodies is effective. Authorised service providers should be clearly identified, and tourists should have accessible channels to report harassment.

Calangute cannot be allowed to become synonymous with touting, harassment and unchecked commercial exploitation. The same applies to Baga, Candolim, Anjuna and other tourist destinations across Goa. The police deserve credit for taking action. But the department must also be judged by what happens after the cameras and headlines disappear. How many of those arrested have been convicted? How many are repeat offenders? How many illegal operations have actually been shut down? These are the figures that matter.

Goa's tourism industry cannot survive on periodic crackdowns. It needs sustained enforcement, accountability and a justice system that sends a clear message that breaking the law has consequences.

The question is simple: If 841 people have been booked in Calangute alone, why are touts still operating with apparent confidence?

Until that question is answered, every fresh arrest will remain just another number in a police press release. And the people paying the price will continue to be Goans and the tourists who come here expecting a safe and welcoming destination.

Goa does not need more arrests for the sake of statistics. It needs a system where the fear of breaking the law is stronger than the temptation to violate it.

EDITOR SPEAKS

BISLERI WATER CONTROVERSY: CONSUMER SAFETY MUST REMAIN A TOP PRIORITY

The clarification by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) that only one batch of packaged drinking water manufactured at Bisleri International's Goa plant was found non-compliant is important. However, the incident should serve as a reminder that food safety authorities must maintain strict and continuous vigilance over packaged drinking water sold in the state.

The affected batch was tested in October 2025 and, according to the FDA, is no longer available in the market. A prosecution case has also been filed in court in connection with the sample. While these steps indicate regulatory action, consumers deserve clear information about food safety violations and the action taken against manufacturers. The FDA's intensified surveillance, including the analysis of more than 80 packaged drinking water samples since April 2025, is a welcome development. Such inspections should cover all brands and manufacturers without exception. Regular testing is particularly important because packaged drinking water is widely consumed by residents and tourists across Goa.

At the same time, authorities should ensure that test results are communicated promptly and accurately to avoid unnecessary panic or confusion. A finding involving one batch should not automatically create doubts about every product manufactured by the company. Equally, no violation should be treated lightly merely because the affected batch is no longer available.

Consumer confidence depends on transparency, accountability and effective enforcement. The FDA must continue its inspections, publish relevant findings and ensure that manufacturers comply with prescribed safety standards. Access to safe drinking water is a basic public concern and must never be compromised.

- Savio Naik, Mapusa, Goa

RGP MEMBERSHIP ROW: TRANSPARENCY AND ORGANISATIONAL PROCEDURES MATTER

The Revolutionary Goans Party's decision to declare Tukaram Bharat Parab's purported joining unauthorised and invalid has brought attention to the importance of following established procedures within political organisations.

According to the party's order dated November 23, the announcement of Parab's induction on November 22 was not approved by the competent authority. RGP has stated that it had neither received a formal membership application nor processed his joining through the prescribed organisational process.

Every political party has its own constitution, rules and internal mechanisms. These procedures must be respected by office-bearers, members and supporters alike. Public announcements regarding membership or organisational decisions should not be made without the necessary authorisation, as they can create confusion among party workers and the public. At the same time, political organisations must ensure that their decisions are communicated clearly and transparently. When a public announcement is subsequently declared invalid, the reasons and relevant procedures should be explained to avoid speculation and unnecessary controversy.

This episode also highlights the need for discipline and accountability within political parties, particularly those seeking to build their organisational presence. Internal disagreements and procedural questions should be addressed through established channels rather than public confusion. Political credibility depends not only on public statements and electoral performance but also on how organisations function internally. Respect for rules, clarity in communication and accountability in decision-making are essential for maintaining public confidence.

- Nilesh Dessai, Ponda, Goa

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DAY 05

TUE, 24 NOV 2026

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)

OPEN FOR ALL

Cinemela 2026 at Kala Academy

Children Special Screening
08:30 AM - Gattu
10:15 AM - Chhutkan Ki Mahabharat

Contemporary at Kala Academy
03:00 PM - Kapuskonda

Nostalgia
06:00 PM - Dil To Pagal Hai

PICTURE TIME

Indian Panorama
Laalo – Krishna Sada
Sahaayate(Feature)
The Great Grand Superhero
Aliens Ka Aagman(Feature)
Pili Channe(Feature)
Baapya(Feature)
Shiksha(NonFeature)
Abhal-Vriksh(NonFeature)
Win(NonFeature)
Kathar Katha(NonFeature)

Masterclass
The Thin Borders Between the Reality and Fiction

Goan Film
Bapo Kale

Open Air Screening

Miramar Beach
How to Train Your Dragon @ 7 Pm

Vagator Beach
Natsamrat @ 7 Pm

Ravindra Bhavan (Margao)
Mukkam Post Bombilwadi @ 7 pm

OPEN FOR ALL






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, tātāki 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 The banker to every Indian, Wellness Forever Chemists, TUCKIT, SAFA SA Film Academy, ARENA Design your space, Dakshin Stories, Envision, AK Entertainment, New India Assurance, Pernod Ricard India

Our Supporters: P.W.D Public Works Department, GSIDC, Ravindra Bhavan Margao, Imagine Panaji, Kala Academy Goa, GOA 60, 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.

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PANAJI | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2026

Calangute Police Arrest 19 Touts During Night Patrol; 841 Booked This Year

All 19 accused remanded to seven days' judicial custody; police intensify crackdown on illegal touting activities to protect tourists

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CALANGUTE: In a continued crackdown against illegal touting activities, Calangute Police apprehended 19 persons allegedly involved in touting during a night patrol conducted on November 21, 2026, under the jurisdiction of Calangute Police Station.

According to a press release issued by North Goa Police, the operation was led by Calangute Police Inspector Laxi Amonkar. All 19 persons were arrested under Section 170 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, and produced before the SDM Court, which remanded them to seven days of judicial custody. Police stated that Calangute Police Station has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards illegal agents and touts who allegedly cheat tourists by offering fraudulent or unauthorized services, thereby causing harassment to visitors and affecting Goa's image as a tourist destination.

The police further revealed that a total of 841 touts have been booked by Calangute Police Station during the current year. Regular enforcement drives are being conducted at beaches, parking areas, marketplaces and other tourist-frequented locations to identify and take action against those involved in illegal touting activities.



Vasco Flat Rental Scam: Prime Accused Arrested in Uttar Pradesh

Noor Ahmed alias Ahmed Noor, accused of cheating around 250 investors of crores of rupees, traced and arrested by Vasco Police

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VASCO: In a major development in the multi-crore flat rental and leasing fraud case that allegedly left around 250 people cheated, Vasco Police have arrested the prime accused, Noor Ahmed alias Ahmed Noor, from Uttar Pradesh on November 23. Ahmed, who was operating as a property broker in Vasco, had allegedly gone underground after securing bail in the case registered in 2022. His arrest comes following sustained efforts by the police to trace him after he reportedly failed to remain available for further legal proceedings. According to the allegations, the accused cheated nearly 250 people of crores of rupees through a fraudulent flat rental and leasing arrangement that reportedly began around 2018. He allegedly collected amounts of at least Rs 5 lakh from individual investors by promising long-term lease agreements, eventual ownership of flats and assured monthly returns. Investigators suspect that Ahmed deliberately kept investors away from the actual owners of the flats, enabling him to continue collecting money under the pretext of arranging rental and leasing agreements. The accused was earlier arrested in September 2022 near the Nepal border by the Goa Police Economic Offences Cell and Crime Branch after allegedly fleeing the state following the registration of the case.



Miscreants Damage House and Vehicle in Late-Night Attack at Benaulim

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BENAULIM: Unknown miscreants allegedly damaged a house and a vehicle in a late-night incident at Benaulim on November 22, 2026, causing an estimated loss of Rs 10,000 to the complainant. According to the complaint lodged by Cruz Antonio Menino Fernandes, a resident of Benaulim, the incident occurred at around 2.30 am at his residence. The unknown accused persons allegedly arrived in a vehicle and threw glass bottles at the house, damaging its wooden and glass door. At the time of the incident, the complainant and his wife were present inside the house. The act allegedly endangered their lives and personal safety. The accused persons thereafter allegedly knocked over the complainant's vehicle, causing further damage and wrongful loss estimated at approximately Rs 10,000. Colva Police Station has registered an offence in connection with the incident.



Priests celebrate the first novena Mass in honour of St Francis Xavier in front of the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa on Tuesday. The feast of St Francis Xavier, patron saint of Goa, will be celebrated on December 3 in Goa and across India, as well as in various parts of the world.

Photo Rozario Estibeiro

Man Dies in Road Accident at Borda; Two Others Injured

Rider succumbs to serious head injuries at SGDH Margao; Aprilia rider shifted to GMC for treatment

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MARGAO: A fatal road accident was reported at Borda, Margao, on Sunday, November 22, 2026, after an Aprilia scooter allegedly rammed into a Honda Activa, resulting in the death of the Activa rider and injuries to two others. According to the police, the accident occurred at around 8.14 pm opposite Kundaikar Wine Store, Borda. The accused Aprilia rider, identified as Sujal Naik, a resident of Kirbhatt, Nuvem, was proceeding from Holy Spirit Church towards Bolshe Circle when he allegedly drove in a rash and negligent manner and dashed against a Honda Activa scooter while it was crossing the road. Due to the impact of the collision, the Activa rider, identified as Ketan Kamat, a resident of Calconda, Margao, fell on the road and sustained serious head injuries. The pillion rider, Ashok Kamat, sustained minor injuries. All three persons were shifted to South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for medical treatment. However, Ketan Kamat succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

75-Year-Old Woman Dies After Scooter Accident at Sirvoi

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QUEPEM: A 75-year-old woman lost her life after sustaining injuries in a road accident behind Someshwar Temple at Sirvoi, Quepem. The deceased has been identified as Savitri Redkar, a resident of Sirvoi. According to information received, on November 22, 2026, at around 10.40 pm, Casualty Police at South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, informed Quepem Police that Savitri Redkar had succumbed to injuries sustained in a road accident.

57th IFFI Opens Today in Goa With 'Stories Without Borders' Theme

Nine-Day Film Festival to Showcase Over 150 International Films From 86 Countries; Grammy Award-Winner Ricky Kej to Headline Opening Ceremony

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PANAJI: The 57th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opens in Goa today, November 20, bringing together filmmakers, artists, delegates and cinema enthusiasts from across the world for nine days of cinematic celebrations. Organised under the theme 'Stories Without Borders', the festival will continue until November 28, celebrating international cinema, cultural diversity and creative exchange through film screenings, musical performances and industry-related activities.

The grand opening ceremony will be held at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Goa, featuring musical presentations, cultural performances and ceremonial proceedings.

The ceremony will be attended by Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant and prominent personalities from the Indian film industry, including MP Ravi Kishan, filmmaker and festival director Ashutosh Gowariker, Madhur Bhandarkar and Aanand L. Rai.

One of the major highlights of the opening ceremony will be a symphonic orchestra presentation titled 'A World of Cinema Through Music' by three-time Grammy Award-winning composer Ricky Kej.



'Rahma' and 'The Farm' Bring Powerful Stories of Motherhood, Compassion and Animal Rights to IFFI 2026

Filmmakers Faysal Soysal and Elif Eda explore parenthood, human connection, empathy and the sanctity of life through two moving international films

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Stories of motherhood, compassion, human vulnerability and the sanctity of life took centre stage at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) as filmmakers behind two international films, *Rahma* and *The Farm*, shared their creative journeys and the powerful messages underlying their works. Showcased under the International Cinema section, the two films explore different yet interconnected themes, encouraging audiences to look beyond their personal struggles and recognise the pain, aspirations and experiences of others. The press conference was attended by Faysal Soysal, director and writer of *Rahma*; Elif Eda, director and writer of *The Farm*; and Emre Pekçakır, cinematographer of *The Farm*.

Directed by Faysal Soysal, *Rahma* follows Meryem, an archaeologist whose longing to become a mother remains unfulfilled despite multiple surgeries and unsuccessful IVF treatments. As her hopes begin to fade, she considers surrogacy in Georgia, despite her husband İbrahim's reservations. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she encounters Rahma, a nine-year-old Syrian orphan struggling to survive on her own.



'Aquí' and 'The Huntress' Put Human Emotions and the Pursuit of Justice at the Heart of IFFI 2026

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PANAJI: Two contrasting films exploring the complexities of human relationships, emotions and the pursuit of justice took centre stage at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, as filmmakers Tiago Guedes and Suzanne Andrews Correa shared insights into their respective films, *Aquí* and *The Huntress (La Cazadora)*. Addressing the media during the festival, the directors highlighted how cinema can connect audiences across cultures and geographical boundaries by placing human emotions at the centre of storytelling. While *Aquí* is a dystopian drama screening in the International Competition section, *The Huntress* is a Spanish-language thriller inspired by real-life violence against women in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Directed by Tiago Guedes, *Aquí* is adapted from J. M. Coetzee's Jesus trilogy and presents a dystopian society where people begin their lives without memories of the past, while conformity and social control shape their existence.

'Pagla Ghora' and 'Ohh My Dog' Explore Human Conscience and Unconditional Love at 57th IFFI

Filmmakers Sekhar Das and Amit Rai highlight the universal appeal of rooted storytelling, themes of guilt and redemption, and the extraordinary bond between humans and animals

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Two contrasting yet emotionally compelling stories took centre stage at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), as the Bengali film *Pagla Ghora* and the Hindi feature *Ohh My Dog*, featured in the Indian Panorama section, explored the deeper dimensions of human relationships, conscience and unconditional love.

At a press conference in Goa, filmmakers Sekhar Das and Amit Rai, accompanied by Bengali actress Gargee RoyChowdhury and producer Dr. Prabir Bhaumik, shared insights into the themes, creative journeys and inspirations behind their respective films.

Assamese Cinema Witnessing Strong Resurgence, Says Filmmaker Antara GG Choudhury at IFFI 2026

Director's Assamese feature 'Surjyamukhi' explores the lasting consequences of human choices, highlighting the growing creative energy and opportunities in regional cinema

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Assamese cinema is witnessing a strong resurgence, with regional filmmakers increasingly bringing compelling stories to wider audiences, said filmmaker Antara GG Choudhury at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

Speaking at a press conference organised by the Press Information Bureau on her Assamese feature film *Surjyamukhi*, Choudhury shared insights into the film's narrative, creative inspiration and the changing landscape of regional cinema.

The film follows a boy named Utpal and revisits his life after a gap of 40 years, exploring how human choices shape lives and leave lasting consequences. *Surjyamukhi* had its world premiere at IFFI in Goa on November 22.

Speaking about the film, the director said her fascination with the sun has been a recurring influence on her artistic endeavours. She said she was drawn to the simplicity of the narrative and the compelling central character of *Surjyamukhi*.

Highlighting the film's universal appeal, Choudhury expressed confidence that its themes would resonate with audiences across diverse backgrounds.

She also spoke about the changing landscape of Assamese cinema, pointing to renewed creative energy and growing opportunities for regional filmmakers.

Expressing gratitude to IFFI for providing a platform to showcase regional cinema, Choudhury described the experience of presenting her film at the prestigious festival as a wonderful feeling.

Mormugao Seafarer Who Survived Hormuz Tanker Attack Set for Return to Goa

Minister Sankalp Amonkar visits family of 24-year-old Dilesh Teli, assures assistance for early repatriation after Oman Embassy prepares travel documents

Team Goemkarponn



MORMUGAO: Minister Sankalp Amonkar on Monday visited the family of 24-year-old Dilesh Chandrakant Teli at Jetty, Mormugao, and assured them of all necessary assistance to facilitate his safe and early return to Goa after he survived an attack on an LPG tanker in the Strait of Hormuz.

Amonkar said he had spoken to NRI Commissioner Adv. Narendra Sawaikar, who had taken up the matter with the Central Government and the Oman Embassy to expedite the repatriation of Dilesh and other Indian seafarers affected by the incident.

The minister further informed the family that he had received an email from Sawaikar stating that the Oman Embassy had prepared the necessary travel documents for the safe return of Dilesh and 22 other seafarers who had jumped into the sea after their vessel came under attack.

Dilesh was working as an assistant trainee engineer aboard the Panama-flagged LPG tanker *Tara Gas*. He had joined the vessel in April 2026 and was scheduled to return home in January 2027. His family had even planned his homecoming around the wedding of his elder sister, Chaitali, scheduled for February.

However, the family's happiness turned into anxiety after the vessel came under attack in the Strait of Hormuz.



Agonda gets first sarpanch from ST community

27-year-old Ramnath Velip unanimously elected as fourth sarpanch of current term

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Agonda village has elected its first sarpanch from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community, with 27-year-old Ramnath P. Velip unanimously chosen as the fourth sarpanch of the current term on Monday.

Velip, a first-time panch member representing Ward No. 7 (Karashir-Moll), has created history by becoming the first member of the ST community to occupy the top post in Agonda Village Panchayat. The post fell vacant after the previous incumbent, Nilesh Pagui, submitted his resignation, paving the way for the election of a new sarpanch. Following the last panchayat elections, Agonda Village Panchayat, comprising seven members, had unanimously elected Fatima Rodrigues as sarpanch, with four of the elected panch members belonging to the Catholic community. Rodrigues subsequently handed over the baton to Preettal Fernandes, who became one of the youngest sarpanches of the village. However, following a political fallout, Fernandes was removed through a no-confidence motion, after which Nilesh Pagui was elected as the third sarpanch of the current term. In a significant political development, Deputy Sarpanch Karuna K. Phaldesai, former sarpanches and panch members Fatima Rodrigues and Nilesh Pagui, along with Canisha Fernandes, rallied behind Velip.



Kedar Naik Distributes Goa Government's 'Double Engine' Report Card to BJP Karyakartas in Saligao

Team Goemkarponn

SALIGAO: Saligao MLA and Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) Chairman Kedar J. Naik distributed the Goa Government's 'Amche Goem, Viksit Goem – Vachanpurti' Double Engine Report Card to BJP karyakartas at the party's Saligao head office. The report card outlines the government's vision, commitments and development initiatives under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant. The initiative aims to create greater awareness among Saligao residents and party workers about the government's work, development agenda, schemes and reported achievements. Speaking on the occasion, Naik called upon party karyakartas to actively share information about the government's initiatives and achievements with the public and contribute towards the vision of a 'Viksit Goem'.

Goa Youth Congress Launches 'Yuvancho Sarkar' Campaign, Releases Charge Sheet Against BJP Government

Outreach drive to cover all constituencies; suggestions from youth to be incorporated into Congress manifesto for 2027 Assembly Elections

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Youth Congress has launched its 'Yuvancho Sarkar' campaign under the Goy Rakhonn Abhiyaan, alongside releasing a charge sheet alleging failures of the BJP government during its 15 years in power in Goa. The charge sheet highlights several issues, including unemployment, the alleged disappearance of government schools, land conversions, alleged recruitment scams, drug menace, women's safety, healthcare shortages, incomplete infrastructure projects and financial accountability. Through the campaign, the Youth Congress aims to highlight concerns affecting Goans, particularly the younger generation, and seek public suggestions on governance and development priorities. As part of the initiative, Youth Congress workers will undertake a door-to-door outreach campaign across Goa to collect suggestions, feedback.

Goa Cyber Crime Police Set Up Awareness Stall at IFFI 2026; SP Jivba Dalvi Warns Against Online Frauds

Awareness drive highlights investment scams, malicious APK files and 'digital arrest' frauds; public urged to report financial cybercrime immediately

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The Goa Cyber Crime Police have set up a special awareness stall at the ongoing 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to educate citizens and visitors about cybercrime and online fraud. Superintendent of Police (Cyber Crime) Jivba Dalvi said public awareness is among the most effective ways to prevent cybercrime. While the department has conducted awareness programmes in schools and colleges across Goa, the IFFI stall is aimed at reaching a wider audience, including local residents, domestic tourists and international visitors. Dalvi cautioned the public against investment frauds, which continue to affect people, particularly senior citizens. Fraudsters often lure victims with promises of doubling their investments within a month and display fake charts showing exaggerated returns. For instance, they may claim that an investment of ₹50,000 has grown to ₹1.10 lakh or that ₹50 lakh has increased to ₹80 lakh.

Viresh Led-RGP Declares Tukaram Bharat Parab's Purported Joining Unauthorised, Null and Void

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PANAJI: The Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) has declared the purported joining of Tukaram Bharat Parab into the party as unauthorised, invalid and null and void ab initio, through an official order issued on November 23 by State President Shavina Naik Shirodkar in consultation with the National President.

Passport Birthplace Error Stops CJP Spokesperson Saurav Das From Travelling to UK

Chennai Passport Office issues show cause notice, asks Das to respond within seven days and avoid international travel until further instructions

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NEW DELHI: Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) chief spokesperson Saurav Das was stopped from travelling to the United Kingdom after an error in his passport regarding his place of birth came to light during immigration checks at Delhi airport.

Das was scheduled to travel to London on November 23 to participate in an event involving students from prestigious universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, the London School of Economics and the University of Edinburgh. He later shared a video from the airport, alleging that the government was preventing him from attending the event and speaking about the cockroach movement. The issue reportedly arose because his passport incorrectly mentions Chennai as his birthplace. Following the discovery, the Regional Passport Office in Chennai initiated proceedings to impound the document and issued a show cause notice to Das on November 23, the scheduled day of his departure. The passport office has directed him to submit his explanation within seven days. The notice also reportedly advises him against using the passport for any travel until he files his response.



India-EU Trade Deal Likely to Be Signed in December, FTA May Take Effect by Mid-2027

Landmark agreement expected to boost exports, create jobs and expand opportunities for Indian businesses and professionals across Europe

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NEW DELHI: India and the European Union are likely to sign their long-awaited Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in December 2026, with the landmark pact expected to come into force by mid-2027. The agreement aims to strengthen economic ties, boost trade and create employment opportunities in both regions. European Union Ambassador to India Jean-Eric Paquet indicated that preparations for the signing are progressing, with both sides currently working on technical details following the successful conclusion of negotiations in January this year. A high-level visit to Europe is also expected around the signing. The European Commission submitted its proposal for signing the agreement to the European Council in September. European ministers will now provide the necessary approval before the formal signing can take place. Following the signing, the agreement will undergo scrutiny by the European Parliament, which must grant its approval before the FTA can become operational.



Sheikh Hasina Announces December 16 Return to Bangladesh After Two Years in India

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NEW DELHI: Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has announced December 16 as her proposed date to return to Bangladesh after spending more than two years in India. The date coincides with the country's Victory Day, marking the end of the 1971 Liberation War against Pakistan. This is the first time Hasina has specified a date for her return after repeatedly indicating that she intends to come back to her homeland. The announcement could further intensify political and legal tensions in Bangladesh, where her Awami League party remains banned. Hasina has asked the Bangladeshi government to arrange air travel from New Delhi to Dhaka through the country's national carrier, Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

India Needs $2 Billion in Annual Investment to Become a Major Global Space Power

New report estimates $34-37 billion funding requirement by 2036, highlighting the need for greater private investment and institutional financing

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NEW DELHI: India will need around $2 billion in private investment every year to expand its space economy and strengthen its position in the global space industry, according to a new report titled Space Economy 2036: The India Blueprint. The study estimates that the country will require investments of $34-37 billion between 2026 and 2036 to achieve its long-term space ambitions. Released at the India International Space Conclave in New Delhi, the report highlights that while India has made considerable progress in rocket development, satellite launches and space exploration, access to large-scale financing remains a major challenge. India's space economy was valued at approximately $8.4 billion in 2022-23, accounting for nearly 2 per cent of the global market. The country has set an ambitious target of developing a $44 billion space economy by 2033, including $11 billion in exports. According to the report, government funding could contribute around $14-15 billion towards the projected investment requirement.

Telangana to Host India's Largest State-Led Global Summit in December, Over 1,000 Companies Expected

Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026 to showcase investment opportunities, technology, education and industrial growth across an 80,000-square-metre exhibition space

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NEW DELHI: Telangana is preparing to host India's largest state-led multi-sector global exhibition, with the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026 scheduled to take place from December 7 to 9 at the Young India Skills University campus in Bharat Future City. The three-day event will cover an exhibition area of approximately 80,000 square metres and is expected to attract more than 1,000 companies from various industries.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed officials to ensure comprehensive preparations for the international gathering, which aims to position Telangana as a major destination for global investments, industrial development, technological innovation and entrepreneurship.

Russia Seeks Stronger Healthcare Partnership With India, Proposes Exchange of AI and Medical Technologies

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NEW DELHI: Russia has called for stronger healthcare cooperation with India, emphasising the exchange of medical technologies, artificial intelligence (AI) systems and best practices to address common healthcare challenges faced by both countries. Nikolay Vladimirovich Rubtsov, Deputy Head of the Department of Health of the City of Moscow, highlighted the potential.

Panjim Gymkhana Unveils Satish Timblo Trophy for All Goa U-16 Inter-School Cricket Tournament

■ Eight top school teams from North and South Goa to compete from December 1 to 16 in a 40-over tournament aimed at strengthening grassroots cricket

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PANAJI: Panjim Gymkhana has unveiled the Satish Timblo Trophy 2026 and team jerseys for its All Goa Inter-School Invitational Under-16 Cricket Tournament, scheduled to be held from December 1 to 16 at the Panjim Gymkhana grounds.

The tournament will feature eight selected school teams, with four each from North and South Goa. The participating schools from North Goa are Mandrem High School, Mushtifund High School, Saraswat Vidyalaya and Progress High School. South Goa will be represented by GVM's High School, Almeida High School, Bhatikar High School and Vidya Mandir School. The draw for the tournament was also conducted during the unveiling ceremony.

The competition will follow a 40-over format, with teams divided into North and South groups.

Shubman Gill Calls for Saliva Ban Reversal, Says Bowlers Need More Support in Test Cricket

■ India captain questions COVID-era restriction after Wellington Test draw exposes challenges of maintaining the cricket ball

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NEW DELHI: India captain Shubman Gill has called for the International Cricket Council (ICC) to reconsider its ban on using saliva to shine the cricket ball, arguing that the restriction makes life increasingly difficult for bowlers, particularly on slow and unresponsive pitches.

Gill raised the issue following India's drawn first Test against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve in Wellington. The five-day encounter witnessed just 24 wickets falling, while both teams accumulated a massive 1,327 runs. India posted 720 for nine, recording the highest innings total in Test cricket played in New Zealand.

Despite the Basin Reserve traditionally being known for its pace and bounce, the surface offered little assistance to fast bowlers. It became increasingly slow and difficult as the match progressed, allowing New Zealand to finish their second innings at 239 for five and secure a draw.

Gill explained that maintaining the condition of the ball becomes particularly challenging under such circumstances. He believes players should once again be permitted to use saliva, a practice prohibited during the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce the risk of infection. According to Gill, the ball tends to lose its hardness after 25 to 30 overs, making it difficult for bowlers to generate movement when saliva cannot be used to maintain its shine.

New Zealand captain Tom Latham acknowledged that the ball became softer during most stages of the match.



Goa U-17 Boys and Girls Shooting Teams Ready for 70th National School Games

■ Five girls and eight boys to represent Goa at the national competition scheduled from November 24 to 26 in Mandrem

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PANAJI: Goa's Under-17 boys' and girls' shooting teams are ready to compete in the 70th National School Games 2026-27, scheduled to be held from November 24 to 26 in Mandrem, Goa. The sports kits for both teams were distributed during a function held on November 23 at Campal, Panaji, ahead of the national-level competition. The ceremony was attended by Dr Ajay Gaude, Director of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Goa; Deepesh Priolkar, Member Secretary of the Goa Football Development Council (GFDC); Dr Vivek Pawar, Deputy Director, Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs; and Raju Pawar, Assistant Director, Sports Authority of Goa, along with other team officials.

The Goa U-17 boys' team comprises Pawan Singh, Sainath Jaganath Chari, Omkar Ajay Prabhugaonkar, Mohammad Alkhmar Junaid Alam, Mayank Shailesh Morgaonkar, Sarthak Lalaji Pagi, Prathamesh Pradeep Kalokhe and Vidit Arora.

The girls' team will be represented by Muskan Mondal, Fiza Khan, Samiksha Sajulo Mayekar, Snidhi Rajendra Pirankar and Preksha Preetesh Chatim.

RSB Chennai and C.S. Delhi Storm Into All India Civil Services Football Final in Goa

■ Chennai defeat RSB Kochi 3-1, while Delhi thrash Goa 5-0 as Ajay Singh scores a sensational hat-trick

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PANAJI: RSB Chennai and C.S. Delhi secured their places in the final of the All India Civil Services Football Tournament 2026-27 after registering victories in their respective semifinal matches at Atal Stadium, Cujira, Santa Cruz, on November 23.

In the first semifinal, RSB Chennai defeated RSB Kochi 3-1 in a match that saw an improved second-half performance from the Chennai side. The teams remained goalless at half-time before Chennai took control after the break.

S. Nandhakumar opened the scoring for RSB Chennai in the 53rd minute, giving his team the advantage. Chennai continued to build on their momentum and eventually secured a 3-1 victory, booking their place in the title clash. The second semifinal witnessed a dominant performance from C.S. Delhi, who defeated the Goa team 5-0 to claim the remaining final spot. Delhi went into the half-time break with a 1-0 lead before producing an impressive attacking display in the second half.

Ajay Singh emerged as the standout performer, scoring a brilliant hat-trick with goals in the 34th, 68th and 71st minutes. Mahip Adhikari added to the tally in the 55th minute, while Rupesh Kaushal scored another goal in the 56th minute to complete Delhi's commanding victory.

The results confirmed RSB Chennai and C.S. Delhi as the two finalists of the tournament, setting up the final showdown for the championship.

The All India Civil Services Football Tournament 2026-27 is being organised by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Goa, with Atal Stadium serving as the venue for the competition.