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THE GOAN

EVERYDAY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31, 2026 | 15 pages | PRICE ₹ 10 | PANAJI | MARGAO GOA | VOLUME XII, NO. 134 | RNI: GOAENG/2015/65729



Pg 15

Kiwi carnage ends India's winning run



Vasco inferno puts shop licensing under scanner

FOCUS ON MANDATORY FIRE-SAFETY COMPLIANCE

VIBHA VERMA
THE GOAN I PANAJI

A large number of establishments at Vasco's Sunday Modern Market Complex allegedly lacked basic firefighting equipment, with questions raised about whether the municipality verified mandatory fire-safety compliance before issuing or renewing trade licences.

The devastating fire that gutted the market on Wednesday night has brought the licensing process under the spotlight, particularly the municipality's responsibility to ensure that traders meet prescribed fire-safety requirements.

The scale of the market posed a major challenge for fire personnel battling the blaze for over four hours. The complex purportedly has two entry and exit points, with around 15-20 shops on the left side and more than 800 establishments on the right. Government sources confirmed to The Goan that narrow internal lanes hampered the movement of fire personnel and equipment, while fire officials also reported obstruction by some locals.

MMC plans fire insurance cover for all markets in jurisdiction

VASCO: In the wake of the devastating fire at the Vasco Sunday Modern Market, the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) is planning to introduce a comprehensive fire insurance scheme covering all markets under its jurisdiction, with traders expected to contribute towards the premium, including through daily payments.

MMC Chief Officer Siddhivinayak Naik said he had already moved a note proposing the scheme, which would provide financial protection to traders in the event of fire-related losses without placing the entire burden of compensation on the public exchequer.

» See pg 3

ON PAGE 3

CM promises fast-track relief, reconstruction for traders

Claims of 107 fire victims scrutinised

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant ordered an inquiry into the blaze as well as the fire rescue operations.

Official sources in the Home Department revealed that many vendors had allegedly failed to install even the basic firefighting equipment prescribed under the law. Five fire hydrants within the market were also reportedly non-functional.

A 2018 amendment to a notification under the Goa Fire Force Act prescribes minimum firefighting equipment for smaller establishments. Shops measuring up to 50 sq mts must install at least one 4 kg or 6 kg portable ABC dry powder extinguisher, or a 4.5 kg carbon dioxide extinguisher conforming to BIS 2190 standards. Establishments measuring above 50 sq mts and up to 100 sq mts must install two such extinguishers.

The notification, applicable till date, allows establishments in these categories to comply through self-declaration. "Owners or occupants must submit a declaration on Rs 100 non-judicial stamp paper to the respective licensing authority, confirming that they have installed the prescribed extinguishers and

›Continued on P9

Govt to challenge HC stay on ST quota process in SC

CM CONFIDENT OF QUOTA IN ENSUING POLLS

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The Goa government will approach the Supreme Court challenging the Bombay High Court's interim order staying the process of notifying the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in the State, a crucial step towards granting political reservation to the community in the Goa Legislative Assembly.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday to discuss the legal implications of the High Court's order and chart the way forward to safeguard the community's long-pending demand for political reservation.

The meeting was attended by Goa Legislative Assembly Speaker Ganesh Gaonkar, Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar, Advocate General Devidas Pangam, BJP Goa president Damu Naik, Adv Narendra Sawaikar and prominent leaders and representatives of the ST community.

"Following detailed deliberations, it was unanimously decided to pursue the matter before the Supreme Court and take all necessary legal steps to protect the process of granting political reservation to the ST community,'" CMO said in a press statement issued.

As part of the immediate course of action, a delegation

›Continued on P9

'Ideal to wait for 2027 data'

PANAJI: Sources in the Census Commission told The Goan that relying on the 2001 Census figures could cause injustice to the three communities- Kunbi, Gauda and Velip which were included in the ST category after that Census.

"From the 2011 data till now, there has been a vast change in the population. Ascertaining constituencies based on decade-old data would also not be correct. The authority might have to rely on provisional data, considering the population increase since 2011, or wait for the 2027 Census data, which is due in two months," the sources said.

Referring to a September 10, communication from the Census Commissioner to the Union Ministry of Law and Justice, the High Court while passing interim order had noted that the three communities were included in the ST list on January 8, 2003, after the 2001 Census had recorded only 566 ST individuals in Goa.

Life ›PG 6

CREATIVITY, CONTROVERSY AND THE QUESTION OF RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITY

THE ENDURING JOYS OF A LIFE FUELLED BY PASSION

GLOBAL GOENKAR page 8

Goan leads UK mission at business summit in Goa

Goan Chaplaincy UK hosts first Mando Festival in London

Chopper crash in Uttarakhand claims 6 lives

CHAMOLI: A helicopter carrying pilgrims from Badrinath crashed into a hillside in in Uttarakhand, killing all six persons on board as it lost contact minutes after it took off.

» See pg 9

26 DySP posts shifted from direct entry to promotions

MOVE FOLLOWS AGE LIMIT HIKE TO 40 LAST YEAR

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The Goa government has diverted 26 vacancies for Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) from direct recruitment to promotion, reversing course barely a year after raising the upper age limit for fresh candidates to 40 years to widen access to the posts.

The decision shifts these vacancies to serving police personnel eligible for promotion, while the government has reportedly separately retained 14 posts for direct recruitment. Significantly, the Goa Public Service Commission (GPSC), which had earlier objected to filling DySP posts through promotions, has agreed to the change through a letter dated October 21, 2026.

For this, Rule 7 of the Goa Police Service Rules, 2022 has been relaxed.

AS PER RECRUITMENT NORMS

- Existing quota: 40% direct recruitment, 60% promotion
- 2025 amendment raised direct recruitment age limit from 30 to 40 years
- Age relaxation up to 45 years for govt servants, notified categories
- Promotion quota covers PI with five years of regular service
- GPSC now agrees to quota diversion
- Move raises questions over future direct recruitment to DySP cadre

"In exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 42 of Goa Police Service Rules, 2022, the Government in consultation with the Goa Public Service Commission, hereby relaxes Rule 7 of the said Rules, for diversion of 26 vacancies from the direct recruitment quota to promotion quota for filling up the posts of Junior Scale Officer (Deputy Superintendent of Police), Goa Police Service," the notification stated.

In January this year, the government said it had begun the process of filling around 30 vacant DySP posts under the direct recruitment quota, with the Personnel Department moving the file for approval. Days earlier, the government promoted 19 DySPs to Superintendent of Police (SP).

›Continued on P9

PI booked for sexual assault on minor at Crime Branch premises

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

In a shocking case involving allegations of sexual assault within police premises, Old Goa Police registered an FIR against Crime Branch Police Inspector Vikas Deykar and a woman, Ranjini Palyekar, in connection with the alleged sexual assault of a minor girl.

According to the complaint, Deykar allegedly sexually assaulted the minor on two occasions, July 25 and October 27, 2026, at the Crime Branch premises in Ribandar. Palyekar has been named as the second accused for allegedly facilitating the offences.

According to a statement issued by the PRO, North Goa District Police, the case has been registered under Sections 75, 127, 49 and 61(2)(a), read with Section 3(5), of the BNS and Sections from the POCSO Act.

Census timeline drawn for States; notification issued

DATES OF REVISIONAL ROUND, SELF-ENUMERATION LISTED

PTI

NEW DELHI

Population census will be conducted across India, except in poll-going and snow-bound regions, from January 25 to February 28, 2027, the Census Commissioner announced on Friday.

According to an official notification, the reference date for the census shall be 00:00 hours of March 1, 2027.

In all States and Union territories, except Manipur (till further declaration), Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Ladakh and the snowbound non-synchronous areas of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, the conduct of the population census shall be undertaken from January 25, 2027, to February 28, 2027, a notification issued by Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Registrar General of India (RGI) and Census Commissioner, said.

The "revisional round" for the census will be held from March 1, 2027, to March 5, 2027, it said.

There will be an option for self-enumeration from January 10, 2027, to January 24, 2027, just before the start of house-to-house population enumeration, the notification said.

Assembly elections are due in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur early next year.

The census, the eighth since Independence, is being conducted in two phases: house listing and housing census, and population enumeration.

The decennial exercise, scheduled for 2021, was postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

The Union Cabinet approved Rs 11,718 crore for conducting the census, which will be the biggest headcount exercise.

The Centre has deferred house-listing operations for Census 2027 in Manipur, a notification issued by the RGI said last month.

India's last census was conducted in 2011.

THE CENSUS NOTIFICATION

- March 1, 2027, at 00:00 hours set as reference date
- Census period is from January 25 to February 28, 2027
- Citizens can complete self-enumeration from January 10 to January 24, 2027
- Revisional round set from March 1 to March 5, 2027

Apex court flags surge in rape cases after failed relationships

DISTINGUISHES DECEPTION FROM POST-BREAKUP REGRET

PTI

NEW DELHI

Concerned over the rising trend of filing criminal cases after the failure of relationships, the Supreme Court on Friday said that physical intimacy during good times cannot be branded as rape later just because the alliance soured or broke.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahdevan, which discharged a Kerala resident man of charges of rape and cheating, said there is a need to distinguish between cases where sexual consent is legally void from the very outset as it was obtained through deliberate deception and fraud, and where a person experiences retrospective regret for past consensual acts simply because of the end of a relationship.

"In such cases, physical intimacy that occurred during the currency of a functioning relationship cannot be retrospectively branded as an act of rape merely because the relationship soured and no longer subsists," the bench said.

Such reflections in hindsight on their own are unfortunate and cannot constitute a consensual relationship as a crime and set the gears of the criminal justice system into motion in a manner that deprives the accused of his liberty and reputation.

Panaji, coastal Bardez top govt's land rate chart

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The State government has notified minimum land rates for the financial year 2026-27 across five talukas, with Panaji and several coastal villages in Bardez among the areas carrying the highest base values of Rs 25,000 per square metre.

The new rates, notified by the Department of Revenue through an order dated October 28 covering Pernem, Bardez, Tiswadi, Salcete and Mormugao, have come into force.

The minimum values have been prescribed under the Goa Stamp (Determination of True Market Value of Property) Rules, 2003, and will serve as the base for determining the value of properties for stamp duty and registration purposes, subject to the applicable land-use zone, area and other conditions specified in the order.

Under the notified schedule, Panaji Municipal Area has a base rate of Rs 25,000 per sq m, followed by Mapusa at Rs 18,000, Margao at Rs 20,000 and Vasco at Rs 15,000 per sq m. Pernem Municipal Area has been assigned a base rate of Rs 8,000 per sq m, while Cuncolim Municipal Area is valued at Rs 8,000 per sq m.

Bardez, Anjuna, Candolim, Calangute and Assagao have been assigned base rates of Rs 25,000 per sq m. Reis Magos is valued at Rs 20,000, while Siolim has a base rate of Rs 18,000 per sq m. Guirim, Penha-de-Franca, Salvador-do-Mundo and Pilerne have rates of Rs 15,000 per sq m.

In Pernem taluka, Morjim, Mandrem, Arambol and Querim have been assigned rates

›Continued on P9

LAND RATES: THE GROUND REALITY

- New rates cover Pernem, Bardez, Tiswadi, Salcete, Mormugao
- Panaji has highest base rate at Rs 25,000 per sq m
- Margao: Rs 20,000 per sq m; Mapusa: Rs 18,000 per sq m
- Vasco: Rs 15,000 per sq m; Pernem Rs 8,000 per sq m
- Cuncolim municipal area has a base rate of Rs 8,000 per sq m
- Several coastal villages in Bardez also have high base values of up to Rs 25,000 per sq m
- Rates serve as base for calculating stamp duty, property registration charges
- Actual valuation depends on land-use zone, area, other conditions under notified order

Saxtti Masala

Guilherme Almeida

From football fields to political battlefields, Alemaos play on



It was a week when the Varca-based Alemao clan hogged the limelight, with the siblings making their presence felt in both sports and politics. Members of the Alemao family never tire of saying that politics and sports run in their blood. And, indeed, while Churchillbab Alemao's ladli, Valankabai, stormed her way into the saddle at the Goa Football Association, her cousin, Warrenbab Alemao, finally joined the Congress after the party leadership opened its doors to him this week. Wait and watch, as both Warrenbab and Valankabai have firmly set their sights on Benaulim and Navelim respectively. Adding to the family's political presence is their cousin, Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao, who is gearing up to seek re-election from Cuncolim. With three members of the Alemao family figuring prominently in Goa's sports and political arenas, all eyes will be on their next moves. The coming months could prove interesting. Watch this space!

Damu takes aim at Congress, but the past comes calling



BJP State President Damubab Naik came under the social media scanner this week following his attack on the Congress for allegedly selling Goa in the past. Damubab was immediately confronted on the social media with questions about the Congress tenure he was referring to. After all, most of the Congress Chief Ministers who ruled Goa in recent political history are either now part of the BJP or have their kith and kin closely associated with the ruling dispensation. His attack on the Congress has, indeed, left several questions unanswered.

Congress' Utpal gamble and the Ghar Vapasi question



Does the Congress leadership, including Leader of Opposition Yuribab Alemao, have anything to say about the reported discussions between the BJP leadership and Utpalbab Parrikar over the latter's possible Ghar Vapasi? The question has gained significance for a simple reason. The Congress leadership had attempted to make common cause with Utpalbab during the Corporation of the City of Panaji elections, despite strong reservations expressed by party workers over the proposed tie-up. This has only raised further questions about why the Congress leadership rushed to support the Utpal-backed CCP panel, knowing fully well that the son of former Chief Minister, late Manoharbai Parrikar, was unlikely to ever join the Congress. Any questions?

Girish's combative turn signals a new phase for Goa Congress



Goa Pradesh Congress Committee President Girishbab Chodankar was the talking point in Congress circles and beyond following his attempt to expose the BJP government. Perhaps, for the first time since taking over the reins of the organisation, Girishbab came before the media armed with facts and figures in a bid to corner the ruling dispensation. In the bargain, the GPCC came under the cynosure of all eyes, both within the party and outside, as its chief appeared to be adopting a more combative posture against the government in the run-up to the upcoming polls. You know why!

Will Vijai turn the 2 events into another show of Oppn unity?



The coming two weekends promise to keep Goa Forward chief Vijaibab in the spotlight on his home turf in Fatorda. He is set to launch the multi-crore People's Path – a beautification project at Old Market this Saturday, followed by the annual Shree Krishna Ved, or Narkasura competition, at the SGPDA grounds next Saturday. The Narkasura competition has, in the past, served as a platform for Vijaibab to bring opposition leaders together and project a show of unity. With election season approaching, the question doing the rounds is whether he has another such political gathering up his sleeve this year. Watch this space!

Three years after blaze, Margao markets still face safety gaps

DESPITE A CHANGE OF 4 CHIEF OFFICERS, FIRE SERVICES RECOMMENDATIONS REMAIN UNIMPLEMENTED; 15 HYDRANTS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

With as many as four Chief Officers having presided over the administration of the Margao Municipal Council (MMC), including incumbent Chief Officer Madhu Narvekar, a pertinent question being raised is whether any of them have personally inspected the Margao municipal markets to ensure implementation of the fire safety measures recommended by the Directorate of Fire Services following the December 26, 2023 fire incident at the New Market.

The question assumes significance as the Fire Services had submitted a comprehensive set of recommendations to the civic body in the aftermath of the blaze. These included not merely the installation and maintenance of fire hydrants, but also ensuring that entry and exit points in the markets remain unobstructed, imparting emergency response training to volunteers and taking other precautionary measures to prevent and tackle fire incidents.



The entrance of the Margao Municipal New Market.

Apart from the Chief Officers — Sankhwalkar, Ajit Panchwadkar, Melvyn Vaz and the incumbent Madhu Narvekar — questions are also being raised over whether municipal engineers and their subordinate staff have taken any concrete steps to implement the recommendations over the past three years.

Barring the installation of 15 fire hydrants around the New Market and Gandhi Market, several other recommendations appear to have remained unimplemented, raising concerns that the Fire Services' directions may have been reduced to little more than files gathering dust in the municipal building.

Even with regard to the newly installed fire hydrants, the Municipality is yet to arrange training for its workers and security personnel deployed at the two markets on their operation, including the use of fire hoses during emergencies.

Another crucial recommendation made by the Fire Services after the December 26, 2023 incident was that the MMC, being the licensing authority, should direct stallholders and shop owners to install two sets of fire extinguishers in their respective establishments.

DDMA's role under scrutiny as safety concerns persist

Questions are also being raised over the role of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in reviewing the fire safety preparedness of the Margao markets following the December 26, 2023 fire incident, particularly in view of the Authority's initial intervention to ensure compliance with basic fire safety requirements in the congested market areas.

The issue assumes significance against the backdrop of concerns that local bodies may turn a blind eye to violations of fire safety norms in public spaces, either due to administrative apathy or political considerations.

Sources point out that the DDMA has an important role to play in ensuring accountability when civic authorities fail to act. "Since the civic body may not be willing to crack the whip against encroachments or enforce fire safety guidelines due to political considerations, the role of the District Disaster Management Authority comes into play. It must remind the civic body of its responsibilities and invoke the relevant provisions of the Disaster Management Act, wherever necessary, to ensure compliance," sources said.

With fire safety in two of Margao's busiest and most congested commercial hubs are at stake, the larger question remains whether the authorities will move beyond assurances and paperwork to ensure that the recommended safeguards are actually implemented on the ground.



File photo of the December 26, 2023 fire incident at Margao's congested New Market.

A senior fire official has pointed out that the responsibility for implementing the recommended fire safety measures rests squarely with the local body.

"The markets are owned by the municipality. The MMC cannot shirk its responsibility in implementing the fire safety measures. If a major fire incident takes place, the local body will conveniently shift the blame on the Fire Services," the official said.

FIRE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS BY FIRE SERVICES TO MMC POST-DECEMBER 26, 2023 FIRE INCIDENT

Directional exit signs

Directional exit signs shall be installed at appropriate locations inside the market to guide people towards the exits. Prominent signs bearing the word EXIT in large letters shall also be installed and conspicuously displayed at all gates to facilitate the timely evacuation of occupants in the event of an emergency.

Exit requirements

a) Every exit, exit access and exit discharge shall be continuously maintained free from any obstruction or impediment to ensure their full use in the event of a fire or other emergency.

b) The internal passages in both markets shall provide a continuous means of egress to the exterior open space leading to a street.

c) Exits shall be clearly visible, and the routes leading to them shall be clearly marked with signboards to guide occupants through the market. The signs shall be illuminated and connected to an independent electrical circuit with an alternate power supply.

d) All internal passages in both New Market and Gandhi Market shall be kept free from obstructions to allow the movement of firefighting equipment into the markets during emergencies.

Fire team volunteers

A team of volunteers comprising shop owners shall be formed from the fire safety point of view. The team shall periodically check electrical fittings and the operation of fire extinguishers to ensure that fire protection measures within the market premises remain in working condition.

Basic training and awareness

The Municipality shall take the initiative to depute at least 15 representatives of the Shop Market Association and municipal employees at a time for training in the basic operation and handling of first-aid fire extinguishers for use during emergencies.

The Shop Market Association shall be encouraged to ensure adherence to the dos and don'ts in the market area and formulate a fire response team comprising traders to respond promptly to fire emergencies.

Fire action stickers indicating the steps to be taken in the event of a fire, along with emergency telephone numbers, shall be displayed at prominent locations. Shopkeepers, in consultation with the market associations, shall be instructed to display these stickers, with municipal employees emphasising the need for compliance.

Fire-retardant paint

All shop owners shall be instructed to paint the interiors of their shops with fire-retardant paint and provide fire curtains with a minimum fire resistance of one hour to prevent the rapid spread of fire within their premises.

Approach for fire appliances

Adequate clear passageways shall be provided at all gate entrances to allow fire-fighting vehicles to enter the premises. The width of each entrance shall not be less than 4.5 metres. If an arch or covered gate is constructed, it shall have a clear headroom of at least 5 metres.

The mandatory open spaces around New Market and Gandhi Market shall not be used for parking.

First-aid fire extinguishers

The Licensing Authority shall mandatorily instruct shop owners to provide a minimum of two first-aid fire extinguishers in each shop within the market premises as a fire safety precaution. These should preferably comprise one 4-kg ABC-type extinguisher for shop fires and one 2-kg CO2-type extinguisher for electrical fires.

Vasco fire jolts admin; Mapusa market safety inspection ordered

Officials, Fire Services inspect market; merchants flag blocked access routes, concerns over hydrant pressure

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MAPUSA

The devastating fire at Vasco's Sunday Market, which gutted over 140 shops and caused losses worth crores of rupees, appears to have finally set the administration into action, with district authorities ordering inspections of fire safety arrangements in markets across the State.

Acting on the directions of the North Goa Collector, Bardez Deputy Collector, accompanied by officials of the Fire and Emergency Services and Mapusa Municipal Council, inspected the Mapusa market to assess the availability and adequacy of fire safety facilities and identify potential hazards.

The inspection followed a meeting between the Mapusa Merchants Association (MMA) executive members and Mapusa Municipal Council Chief Officer Kaushik Desai, during which the traders submitted a memorandum seeking urgent measures to prevent a similar tragedy in Mapusa.

The association also met Mapusa MLA Joshua D'Souza and civic officials at the municipal council office to discuss preventive measures and the need to strengthen fire safety arrangements in the town's busy market areas.

MMA secretary Siddesh Raut said Mapusa market, with its large concentration of shops, traders and street vendors, could not afford to ignore the warning delivered by the Vasco fire tragedy.

He pointed out that designated access routes within the market, which were marked during road repairs, were frequently blocked by two-wheelers parked by vendors and other people, making it difficult for emergency vehicles to move through the congested market.



SAFETY CHECK

- Traders flag blocked emergency access routes
- Overnight storage of goods adds to congestion
- Merchants seek checks on hydrant functionality and water pressure
- Traders urge civic body to ensure clear passages
- Inspection must translate into corrective action

"Vendors and others are parking their two-wheelers in the middle of the marked access roads, thereby blocking the passage. We had marked the access routes when the roads were repaired, but the municipal council has failed to ensure that they remain clear," Raut said.

He also expressed concern that vendors leave their merchandise and belongings packed at their vending sites overnight, further obstructing access routes when the market is closed.

Raut urged the municipal council to ensure that vendors remove their goods at night and that the designated emergency passages remain unobstructed at all times.

Another major concern flagged by the association was the condition of fire hydrants in the market. Raut said the authorities should check whether the hydrants were functional and had adequate water pressure to enable firefighters to respond effectively in the event of an emergency.

Meanwhile, Joshua D'Souza said a meeting had been held with the Chief Officer, the municipal administrator and other officials to review the safety arrangements and ensure that such an incident was not repeated elsewhere.

"The Chief Minister and the district collectors have issued clear instructions to all officials, including the Mapusa Chief Officer and Fire and Emergency Services personnel, to examine and evaluate the fire safety facilities available in Mapusa," D'Souza said.

He assured that all necessary steps would be taken to safeguard traders, vendors and visitors to the market.

With the Vasco tragedy exposing the risks posed by congested market spaces, blocked access routes and inadequate emergency preparedness, the inspection has brought Mapusa's own fire safety arrangements under scrutiny.

The immediate challenge, however, will be to ensure that the exercise translates into corrective action on the ground rather than remaining another round of official inspections.

ST quota: All eyes on Davorlim meet as UTAA prepares to chart next course

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

All eyes are on the convention of Scheduled Tribe leaders at Davorlim, on the outskirts of Margao, on Saturday evening, convened by the United Tribal Associations Alliance (UTAA) to decide the future course of action over the delay in implementing political reservations for the tribal communities.

Ahead of the convention, the UTAA core team met in the city on Friday to take stock of the situation and is believed to have decided to pursue legal options as well as take the battle to the ground through awareness programmes.

PLAN OF ACTION

- Members of the core committee favour reaching out to the community across the 21 Assembly constituencies to mobilise people and take the agitation to its logical conclusion

Sources said a group of ST leaders also called on Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, where they are believed to have reiterated their demand for the implementation of political reservations in the upcoming elections.

The UTAA convention on Saturday is expected to unveil an action plan to take the movement for political reservations to its logical conclusion.

The UTAA core committee, which met on Friday, took stock of the prevailing situation, including the High Court's decision on the ST population, and discussed ways and means to take the movement forward.

Sources said members of the core committee favoured pursuing both legal options and reaching out to the community across the 21 Assembly constituencies to mobilise people and take the agitation to its logical conclusion. "UTAA will unveil its plan of action on Saturday after the convention. We are in the process of drafting resolutions which will guide the organisation," sources said.

Sal pollution: Inspections continue, action awaited

GSPCB collects fresh water samples at Khareband after sewage complaints

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

Even as a team of Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) has once again descended at the Khareband bridge to collect water samples from the river Sal to check pollution, questions have been raised whether the Margao Municipal Council has initiated any action against the unauthorised hutments in the locality contributing to the river pollution.

The GSPCB team has apparently come to collect the water samples after citizens from Benaulim complained of raw sewage discharge in the river, raising a stink near the Khareband bridge.



GSPCB staff collecting water samples from the River Sal near the Khareband Bridge after citizens complained of pollution by discharge of raw sewage. Santosh Mirajkar

Even as the GSPCB team told the media that the samples will tested in the laboratory to check the extent of pollution, Cavelossim Sarpanch Dixon Vaz demanded to know whether the Margao Municipal Council has initiated any action in the matter after the inspection held in April last.

Quoting the report filed by the Margao Health department, Vaz said the report has clearly stated that the Health Centre has not issued any NOCs for the unauthorised hutments on the banks of river Sal at Khareband. He said the report has further confirmed that the presence of the hutments has contributed to sanitation issues in the locality.

"We are going to call on the Margao Municipal Chief Officer to find out whether his office has initiated any action against the unauthorised structures and hutments based on the Health centre's report. Unless the concerned departments initiate action to curb pollution of the river Sal, the inspections will have no meaning and the findings will remain only on paper", he said.

He added: "Though I am resident of Cavelossim, the raw sewage discharged in the river Sal at Margao has contributed to the pollution of the entire river. Last time around, we had inspected the river at five points. We have not seen any visible action on the ground after the previous inspection".

VASCO MARKET FIRE

107 claims scrutinised; extra day granted to submit documents

AFFECTED TRADERS ASKED TO PRODUCE BILLS, INVOICES AND INVENTORY DETAILS

THE GOAN | NETWORK

VASCO

The scrutiny of claims submitted by persons affected by the devastating fire at the Vasco Sunday Modern Market began on Friday, with the committee examining the claims of 107 affected persons and granting them an additional day to furnish supporting documents.

During the preliminary verification, 50 claimants identified themselves as owners of their respective businesses, while the remaining claimants included those operating from rented premises and others running businesses through subletting arrangements. The scrutiny committee, headed by the Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mormugao, found that several claimants needed additional time to produce documents required to establish their ownership, tenancy, business operations and the extent of losses suffered in the fire.



The scrutiny process which was taken up at the Mormugao Municipal Council on Friday.

Following requests from the claimants, the committee has allowed them another opportunity to submit the necessary records on Saturday, October 31, from 10.30 am onwards at the Conference Hall of the Mormugao Municipal Council.

The affected traders have been asked to produce whatever supporting documents are available with them, including tenancy or ownership records, business registration certificates, purchase invoices, bills, stock details and inventory records to substantiate their claims.

In cases where documents were destroyed in the fire, claimants have been asked to submit an affidavit specifying the records lost or destroyed, along with details of their businesses. Such affidavits should be countersigned by the president or secretary of the authorised committee concerned, wherever applicable. The exercise is aimed at establishing the genuineness of the claims before further processing of financial assistance to the fire-affected traders.

With several businesses having lost their premises, merchandise and important records in the blaze, Saturday's exercise will provide another opportunity for affected traders to place the necessary details before the scrutiny committee.

MMC to work on Saturday, Sunday to expedite scrutiny of claims

VASCO: Mormugao Municipal Council Chief Officer Siddhivinayak Naik has said the council would continue working on Saturday and Sunday, with staff instructed to report for duty to facilitate the verification and scrutiny of claims submitted by traders affected by the Vasco market fire. He said the council was cross-checking the claims against its official database to establish the identity and status of the claimants.

"As per our records, there are around 133 hawkers and 16 shops in the market, but we have received 107 claims. We have created two categories — allottees and present occupiers — to simplify the verification process. Some claimants have reported losses of Rs 65 lakh, while others have claimed Rs 50 lakh. We have to cross-verify these claims, and the claimants have now been informed about the documents required," Naik said.

CM promises fast-track relief, reconstruction for traders

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

With 107 vendors identified as victims of the devastating fire at Vasco's Sunday Modern Market, the government has begun the process of extending financial assistance while working on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the market.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has assured affected traders that relief measures and reconstruction will move on a fast-track basis while directing officials to identify land for the rehabilitation of vendors and immediately mobilise the market rebuilding process. "I have asked them to give the list of affected vendors and ensure that initial assistance is paid to them on a fast-track basis. For rehabilitation, identify the land... The reconstruction of the market will be mobilised soon," Sawant said after chairing a high-level meeting with officials and representatives of the traders.

> I have asked them to give the list of affected vendors and ensure that initial assistance is paid to them on a fast-track basis. For rehabilitation, identify the land... The reconstruction of the market will be mobilised soon,"
> ***—Pramod Sawant,***
> Chief Minister

He also assured a detailed investigation into the fire, stating any delay in the process would be examined to ensure timely action.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary V Candavelou, South Goa Collector Egna Cleetus, Chief Officer Siddhivinayak Naik, PI Vaibhav Naik, Market Vendors' Association president Manuel and general secretary Kevat.

The authorities have identified 107 vendors affected by the blaze and initiated the process of disbursing financial assistance. A review meeting chaired by the Mormugao Sub-Divisional Magistrate was held with the affected traders to discuss relief measures and rehabilitation arrangements.

Officials informed the meeting that bank mandate forms were being distributed to the identified vendors to facilitate the transfer of relief funds. The traders have been asked to submit the required documents to complete verification and other processing formalities. "We are working to expedite the documentation so that eligible vendors receive financial assistance without unnecessary delay," an official said.

Market to be restored within a month: MLA

THE GOAN | NETWORK

VASCO

Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar on Friday said repair works at the fire-ravaged Vasco Sunday Modern Market would begin on November 1, with efforts to restore the premises and enable the traders to resume business by December 1.

The announcement has come as a major relief to around 140 vendors whose shops and stocks were destroyed in the devastating fire on Thursday, with traders now hoping to restart their businesses in time for the Christmas festive season.

"The repair works will begin immediately on November 1. Meanwhile, the process of verifying the losses suffered by individual vendors and assessing their claims for compensation has also commenced in parallel, so that the government can extend assistance to the affected traders," Salkar said.

He said Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had suggested temporarily relocating the affected vendors to another location so that they could continue their business. However, the vendors have expressed their willingness to wait for a month, provided they are allowed to resume business at the same location.

Salkar said Urban Development Minister Vishwajit Rane had personally spoken to the vendors' association and had also called him on Friday to ensure that the necessary letter was sent by the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) to the Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA), facilitating speedy completion of procedures and approvals.

Council moots fire insurance scheme for market traders

THE GOAN | NETWORK

VASCO

In the wake of the devastating fire at the Vasco Sunday Modern Market, the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) is planning to introduce a comprehensive fire insurance scheme covering all markets under its jurisdiction, with traders expected to contribute towards the premium, including through daily payments.

MMC Chief Officer Siddhivinayak Naik said he had already moved a note proposing the scheme, which would provide financial protection to traders in the event of fire-related losses without placing the entire burden of compensation on the public exchequer.

Naik said the council was already implementing comprehensive fire insurance for festivals such as the Saptah and wanted to extend a similar arrangement to its markets.

THE PROPOSAL

- Chief Officer Siddhivinayak Naik said traders would contribute towards premiums, potentially through daily payments
- The proposal aims to provide financial protection against fire losses without burdening the public exchequer
- The scheme would cover the Sunday market, vegetable and fruit markets

"I have been informed that there have been fire incidents in the markets in the past as well. We are the first and only civic body to have comprehensive fire insurance for festivals like Saptah. We now want to introduce a similar scheme for our markets, where every trader can contribute towards the premium. They can even make daily payments, like a savings arrangement, so that they can conduct their businesses without fear," Naik said.

He said the proposed coverage would extend to all markets under the MMC, including the Sunday market and the vegetable and fruit markets.

"We want to ensure that such losses do not have to be extended to the public exchequer. We hope to receive the cooperation of all vendors in implementing this scheme," he added.

Vasco traders shut shops in solidarity with victims

THE GOAN | NETWORK

VASCO

In a gesture of solidarity with traders who lost their shops and stocks in the devastating fire at the Vasco Sunday Modern Market, around 300 businessmen and shopkeepers from other markets in Vasco kept their establishments closed for half a day on Friday, extending support to their fellow traders during their hour of distress.



Traders from other Vasco markets kept their shops shut for half a day in solidarity with fire-hit vendors.

The traders said the decision was taken to convey that the affected Sunday market vendors were not alone in their struggle to rebuild their businesses and that the entire trading community stood together as one community.

"We felt extremely bad seeing the plight of the Sunday market vendors who lost their shops and their entire stocks in the fire. Many of them have invested their life savings into their businesses. As fellow traders, we could not simply watch them suffer. We wanted to express our solidarity and show them that we stand together as one community," said a trader.

The shopkeepers said they also planned to contribute funds from their own resources to help the affected vendors restart their livelihoods. They have appealed to the government to extend adequate financial assistance and expedite the restoration of the fire-ravaged market.

"We may be operating from different markets, but we are all part of the same trading community. Today, they are facing this tragedy, and tomorrow it could happen to anyone. We want to come forward and contribute whatever we can to help them get back on their feet," another trader said.

The traders said their collective gesture was intended not merely as a symbolic protest but as an expression of genuine concern for fellow businessmen who had lost their investments and source of livelihood in the fire.

Vendors pray for a fresh start

THE GOAN | NETWORK

VASCO

Vendors of the Vasco Sunday Modern Market, along with Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar, offered prayers at the Damodar Temple on Friday morning.

Speaking to media persons, the affected vendors have urged authorities to adhere to the one-month timeline, as reopening by December would give them an opportunity to rebuild their businesses during the crucial Christmas season.

The affected vendors said they had lost the crucial Diwali business season and suffered huge losses after the fire destroyed their shops and stocks.

However, they remain hopeful that the proposed December 1 reopening will give them an opportunity to rebuild their businesses and make up for at least some of their losses during the forthcoming Christmas festive season.

"We have lost Diwali, but we do not want to lose Christmas as well. We are willing to wait for a month if the authorities ensure that we can return to the same place and restart our businesses. Our only hope now is that the repair works are completed within the promised timeframe," said a vendor.

Salkar said the prayers were offered to thank God that despite the massive loss of stocks and the chaos that prevailed during the fire, there was no loss of life. He said the situation could potentially have led to a stampede.



The affected vendors, along with Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar, while offering prayers at Damodar Temple on Friday.

ST quota: BJP's tribal leaders pin hopes on centre for SC relief

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

Stung by the High Court's interim stay on the process of notifying Goa's Scheduled Tribe (ST) population, tribal leaders from the ruling BJP have pinned their hopes on the State and Central governments to challenge the order, while alleging that attempts are being made deliberately to obstruct political reservation for the community ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar and MLA Govind Gaude expressed anguish over the legal challenge, saying it was painful to see efforts being made to deny the community a constitutional right for which it has been waiting for over two and a half decades.

Tawadkar said Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had already spoken to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and that the government would seek an early challenge to the High Court order in the Supreme Court. "See, the matter is in court now. The Chief Minister has already spoken to Shah, and we will see that the order is challenged in the Supreme Court at the earliest and we manage to get a stay on the High Court order," Tawadkar said. "It is very unfortunate to see that our own people are against the ST community. Such things should not happen," he added.

> It is very unfortunate to see that our own people are against the ST community. Such things should not happen,"
> ***—Ramesh Tawadkar,***
> Tribal Welfare Minister

Gaude said it was the responsibility of both the State and Central governments to approach the Supreme Court immediately to seek vacation of the stay. "It is the responsibility of the State and Central governments to move the Supreme Court to vacate the High Court stay. This has to be done on an immediate basis," he said. However, Gaude cautioned that the legal process had to be followed in its entirety and that the government could not bypass established procedures. "On a court matter, we cannot comment more. We have to see that we do not bypass the process and ensure everything is followed as per law. We cannot bypass the procedure," he said.

Describing the developments as painful, Gaude alleged that the challenge was aimed at creating hurdles to prevent political reservation for the ST community. "It is very painful to see efforts being made to create hurdles to stop reservation for the ST community. It is done on purpose," he said.

KTCL to double discount on smart card to 20% from Nov 1

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

Days after Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced discounts on travel passes, the scheme will come into force from November 1, Sunday.

The Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL) on Friday stated it would double the discount on travel through its Smart Transit Cards from 10 per cent to 20 per cent with effect from November 1, while regular commuters who complete 250 days of travel within a year will qualify for a further enhanced discount of 30 per cent as a loyalty bonus.

CM Sawant had announced the revised benefits during KTCL's Annual Day celebrations, with the corporation seeking to encourage greater use of public transport and reward regular passengers.

To expand the scheme's reach, KTCL will organise seven-day enrolment and card-sale camps at major bus stands across the State from November 2. The camps will be held at Panaji, Mapusa, Sanquelim, Margao and Ponda bus stands, where KTCL officials will assist passengers with applications and card issuance. Commuters can also apply for Smart Transit Cards online, it said. KTCL said the enhanced discounts and enrolment drive aim to make bus travel more affordable and encourage commuters to use public transport regularly.

HC orders ANPR cam upgrades in Panaji within five months

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

The High Court of Bombay at Goa has directed the State government and Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL) to upgrade all existing Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras along Dayanand Bandodkar Road within five months to enable automatic detection of unauthorised parking.

The cameras currently detect seat-belt violations and red-light jumping but the upgraded system must also identify vehicles parked illegally. The Bench has further directed the Panaji Traffic Cell to take prompt penal action against violators. The direction follows the court's earlier orders to enforce a no-parking zone along the casino belt, from the petrol pump near Panaji Residency to Panaji Church.

Keep monitoring Bethora units to prevent foul odour: GHRC

Inspections find reduced odour, no effluent discharge

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) has recommended continued monitoring of industrial units at Bethora to prevent the recurrence of foul odour in the area, as successive inspections found an improvement in conditions after the units took measures to control pollution.

In its inquiry report released on Friday, the commission noted that the latest joint site inspection, conducted on October 26, found no discharge from United Spirits Ltd and United Breweries Ltd into the Bethora nullah and a reduction in foul odour. It then recommended that Goa



State Pollution Control Board, the Bethora-Nirancal-Conxem-Codari Village Panchayat and Directorate of Health Services continue monitoring the situation to prevent the odour from returning.

The first joint site inspection on August 5 found foul odour within the premises of the two units, after which the Bethora village panchayat issued a notice to United Breweries Ltd, directing the company to take steps to remove effluent treatment plant (ETP) sludge from its premises and the nullah, stop waste discharge into the waterway and address the foul odour and pollution. A subsequent joint inspection on September 23 found no discharge from either company into the nullah and recorded a reduction in foul odour. The companies had undertaken measures to control the smell, while the GSPCB collected treated water samples from the effluent treatment plant and sewage treatment plant.

The latest inspection on October 26 again found no discharge into the Bethoda nullah and a reduction in foul odour.

FDA shuts Tivim tiffin service

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MAPUSA

The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has stepped up its enforcement drive in Bardez, ordering a tiffin service supplying meals to offices and construction sites to suspend operations following repeated violations of food hygiene and safety norms.

In a separate action, the FDA destroyed around 140 boxes of chocolates valued at Rs 40,000 after an inspection of a chocolate manufacturing unit at Karaswada revealed serious lapses, including the use of corroded moulds and misleading labelling. The action against the tiffin service from a unit in Tivim followed repeated inspections during which officials reportedly found violations of prescribed hygiene standards. The service was directed to stop operations.

THE GOAN EVERYDAY

The best preparation for good work tomorrow is to do good work today
Elbert Hubbard

On poultry certificates and Goa's checkposts

The Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services' notification making transport certificates and health clearances mandatory for live poultry entering Goa was long overdue. At a time when overcrowded crates, diseased birds and unhygienic inter-state transportation remain serious concerns, especially when health has evolved as a crucial subject in the State, the move brings some much-needed accountability to an otherwise poorly regulated process.

By invoking the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the Mukhyamantri Swayampurna Goa Poultry Development Policy, 2025, the government has taken a step in the right direction. But a sound policy means little if it cannot be upheld on the ground. In Goa, enforcement at the borders has long been a weak link, with checkposts often appearing as mere passage points instead of being effective check points.

The problem, ultimately, is not just the absence of rules but the credibility of those entrusted with enforcing them. Checkposts have repeatedly faced flak over allegations of corruption. The Anti-Corruption Bureau's surprise raids at the Mollem and Patradevi excise checkposts during Vigilance Awareness Week offer a shining example. The exercise, which should have reinforced public confidence in the government's anti-corruption efforts, raised more questions than it answered. Unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 10,570 was found at Mollem and another Rs 2,500 at Patradevi. Yet, no immediate bribery cases were registered, and the matter appeared to end with mere questioning.

Leave alone the cash seized, contraband and illicit liquor have been passing through Goa's borders with complete ease. The Polem checkpost, in particular, has faced scrutiny after Karnataka authorities intercepted trucks carrying illegal consignments that had apparently travelled through border areas without being stopped by Goan officials. In one instance, liquor worth Rs 18.72 lakh was concealed beneath sacks of potatoes. In other cases, trucks carrying thousands of litres of illicit liquor were intercepted only after crossing into Karnataka.

Such incidents make a mockery of border checks. If heavily loaded commercial vehicles carrying large quantities of contraband can pass through Goa's checkposts without attracting attention, there is little reason to assume that officials will diligently examine veterinary certificates. Expecting rigorous enforcement under these circumstances would be wishful thinking.

That said, the new notification addresses a genuine gap. Until now, the entry of live poultry from neighbouring states lacked adequate checks, leaving local markets vulnerable to health risks. Making veterinary health certificates and transport clearances compulsory, while insisting on compliance with the Bureau of Indian Standards' IS 5238:2001 code, is a welcome move. It establishes a clearer trail of accountability for suppliers and transporters and gives authorities a mechanism to identify violations before poultry reaches local markets. The measure also complements the Food and Drugs Administration's recent market inspections and crackdowns by shifting some of the focus from detecting problems after the fact to preventing them at the point of entry.

Goa needs a watertight system that leaves no vehicle unchecked, regardless of who mans the checkpost. Body cameras, digital tracking of certificates and independent monitoring of border operations could make enforcement more transparent. The real test of this policy will not be the notification itself; it will be on what happens at the borders. If Goa is serious about protecting public health, it must begin by restoring integrity to the very checkposts expected to enforce these directives. Before streamlining the supply chain, the State government must get the border checkpoints in order.

OPEN SPACE ››

Government's bungling in the courts

High Court of Bombay at Goa's interim stay on the issuance of the notification estimating Goa's Scheduled Tribes (ST) population has dealt another setback to the long-pending demand for political reservation. The HC order has restrained the Census Commissioner from notifying Goa's estimated Scheduled Tribe population. The order could delay political reservation for the community before the 2027 Assembly elections. Bungling by the government has once again betrayed the original inhabitants of the State.

The Chief Minister's and BJP ministers' statements supporting reservation ring hollow when the State government's representations in the HC have resulted in a stalemate. The ST community's demand for reservation deserves clarity, accountability and speedy action, not political posturing and empty assurances. The future of Goa's original inhabitants cannot be held hostage to political convenience. Their legitimate demand for political representation must not be reduced to another unfulfilled promise, of which there is a long list.

VINAY DWIVEDI, Benaulim

Happiness paradox in age of social media

How excessive social media use, comparisons and digital pressures are influencing young people's happiness and mental well-being



›The author is a retired bureaucrat

DR SURESH SHANBHOGUE



The main theme of The World Happiness Report 2026 (WHR), titled 'Happiness and Social Media', is the relationship between social media use and well-being. The central argument is that social media should not be judged simply as good or bad, and its impact on happiness depends on how it is used, how much it is used and who is using it. The WHR raises a significant question: when digital platforms connect millions of people, are they strengthening human relationships or quietly undermining our well-being?

An important finding is the decline in life satisfaction among young people in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Western Europe. It finds evidence that heavy social media use is associated with lower well-being, particularly among adolescents. It suggests that the decline in youth happiness cannot be attributed to social media alone. Economic insecurity, educational pressures, loneliness, changing family relationships and other social factors may also play a role. The report recognises that the relationship varies considerably across regions and demographic groups. It observes that youth happiness has not declined everywhere. In most of the world's major regions, young people's life evaluations have either increased in absolute terms or improved relative to those of older adults.

The findings reveal a significant relationship between time spent on social media and life satisfaction. Among girls worldwide, those who used social media lightly, for less than an hour a day, reported higher average life satisfaction than those who used it heavily. Among boys, the relationship varied more across geographical regions. In Western Europe and English-speaking countries, the report finds that heavy use was associated with substantially lower life satisfaction, especially among girls. This does not mean that every teenager who spends several hours online is unhappy, or that every light user enjoys a satisfying life. The findings describe average patterns across groups, not those of individual users. The report also suggests that the relationship is not simply a matter of screen time. The nature of online activity matters. Digital communication, learning, news consumption and content creation can have different associations with well-being from passive browsing, recreational scrolling and prolonged engagement with social media feeds.

The WHR raises a significant question: when digital platforms connect millions of people, are they strengthening human relationships or quietly undermining our well-being?

The report cautions against the comparison trap. People generally share the most attractive versions of their lives online, such as holidays, achievements, celebrations, fashionable clothes, impressive homes and professional successes. Failures, financial worries, loneliness and ordinary disappointments are less likely to receive the same attention. Young users may consequently compare their everyday experiences with the most polished moments of other people's lives. Such comparisons can create a sense of inadequacy even when a person's real-life circumstances are perfectly reasonable. Girls may face particular pressures relating to appearance, body image and social acceptance. Influencer-driven content, especially when it promotes unrealistic beauty standards or material aspirations, can intensify these pressures. The problem is not that young people are inherently incapable of handling technology. Rather, adolescence is a period when identity, confidence and belonging are still developing. An environment that continuously supplies opportunities for comparison, judgement and public approval can make these developmental challenges more difficult. The report's findings support closer attention to the content young people encounter, not merely the number of hours they spend online.

Another valuable insight discussed in the report concerns the difficulty many people experience in disengaging from social media. Some young people continue using platforms partly because their friends and peers use them. They may fear missing conversations, social events, information or opportunities if they withdraw. Even when individuals feel that they spend too much time online, leaving may appear socially costly. An individual might prefer a world in which social media played a smaller role in everyday life, yet feel compelled to remain active because everyone else is there.

At the same time, Indian adolescents are not immune to cyberbullying, online harassment, unrealistic beauty standards, misinformation, compulsive scrolling or the pressure to maintain an attractive online identity. The international findings of the World Happiness Report should therefore be treated as a reason to investigate India's own experience, rather than as proof that the same effects occur with identical intensity in every Indian state or social group. India needs more systematic evidence on the relationship between digital habits and young people's life satisfaction, sleep, academic engagement, emotional health and real-world relationships. Such evidence should distinguish between different age groups, genders, socio-economic backgrounds, platforms and types of online activity. The objective should not be to portray technology as an enemy. It should be to ensure that the benefits of digital access are not undermined by patterns of use that damage well-being.

As a regulatory measure, age restrictions and stronger child-safety measures may be justified where risks are substantial. However, regulation must be informed by evidence, carefully designed and evaluated for unintended consequences. A blanket prohibition may reduce certain exposures while also limiting access to supportive communities, educational resources and legitimate communication. Digital platforms must also be made safer by design. These measures could include stronger protection against cyberbullying and exploitation, more effective privacy safeguards, age-appropriate settings, greater transparency about recommendation systems and limits on design features that encourage compulsive use. Schools can contribute through digital literacy programmes that teach students to recognise manipulative content, question unrealistic online portrayals, protect their privacy and maintain a healthy balance between online and offline activities. Parents need to do more than impose screen-time limits. They should encourage open conversations about online experiences and create opportunities for family interaction, physical activity, hobbies and friendships outside the digital world. Most importantly, adults must practise what they preach. A parent who constantly checks a phone during meals or conversations may find it difficult to persuade a child that real-world relationships deserve undivided attention. Ultimately, the goal should not be a world without social media, but a world in which social media serves people rather than people becoming captive to social media.

THE INBOX ››

Fire safety needs more than firefighting

Repeated fire tragedies across Goa highlight the Fire Services Department's lack of a proactive approach to prevention. Its role must extend beyond extinguishing fires to forming village-level disaster management committees. Despite the North Goa Consumer Protection Council's suggestion, officials dismissed the proposal, citing annual demonstrations. The Government should introduce monthly Fire Safety Weeks, similar to Road Safety Week. Raising household power loads to 5 kW without checking existing wiring also risks electrical fires. Proposals under Siolim-Marna panchayat's GPDP for fire extinguishers at public institutions and a hydrant near St Anthony's Church remain unaddressed. Will the Chief Minister intervene before another tragedy strikes?

GREGORY E DSOUZA, *Siolim*

Vasco needs urgent fire safety reforms

The two fires in quick succession in Vasco, culminating in a blaze that destroyed over 140 Sunday Market shops, are deeply shocking. With Diwali approaching, traders suffered losses worth crores after stocking seasonal goods. The incidents highlight the need for electrical safety, regular maintenance and strict fire safety enforcement. However, all incidents warrant a thorough investigation. Vasco's growing population and reported rise in crime also demand attention. Authorities must investigate criminal activities without discrimination and strengthen public safety. Given Vasco's importance as a port town with petroleum installations, stringent safety protocols are essential to prevent future disasters and protect livelihoods.

RONNIE DSOUZA, *Chandor*

Demanding accountability isn't drama

It was sad to witness the loss of property in the Vasco market tragedy. The BJP is attempting to portray the opposition's demands as politics and drama. The BJP would not have spared the INC and would have wreaked havoc while demanding resignations. The BJP's coordinated efforts to manufacture narratives are well known. News posts appear to be circulated in groups, prompting coordinated, abusive and unoriginal comments against the opposition. Paid bots are a different topic! Such tactics do work on online users, demoralising some while bolstering the BJP's perceived support. It's insensitive to attack Congress leaders after a tragedy that occurred under the BJP's watch at all levels of government. The BJP, the MLAs and the municipality must be held accountable. It's good that Damu Naik, who holds no government post, visited the site to take ownership of the tragedy on behalf of the BJP. They can start by compensating the victims.

ERROL MORAES, *Cuncolim*

Fire safety cannot wait for another tragedy

A devastating fire ripped through Vasco's Sunday market late Wednesday night, gutting around 140 shops, destroying goods worth several crores of rupees and leaving hundreds of traders facing an uncertain future just days before Diwali. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has verbally assured maximum possible financial assistance to affected traders. But when will it reach them, and will it be enough? Clearly, the government has learnt little from the Birch club fire at Arpora, which claimed 25 lives due to inadequate fire safety preparedness.

The double-engine government has funds for numerous 'nach-gaana' events throughout the year but apparently cannot ensure basic fire safety measures, maintain electrical installations or repair non-functional firefighting equipment in important markets. What does CM Sawant have to say after this latest tragedy? Goans now have every reason to remain fearful in their own state because this government simply does not care about them. Isn't that right, Mr CM?

JERRY FERNANDES, *Saligao*

Can a dissolved civic body shun its responsibilities?

The devastating Vasco Sunday Market fire raises questions about civic responsibility and accountability, particularly as the Mormugao Municipal Council stands dissolved pending fresh elections. Does the absence of an elected council mean residents and traders must be denied basic civic services and protection? Can the former chairperson and councillors simply wash their hands of responsibility? While the council is dissolved, its administration continues to function and collect fees and charges from traders. Essential services, safety measures and infrastructure must therefore be maintained. The authorities currently managing municipal affairs must ensure uninterrupted services, while former elected representatives must recognise their continuing moral responsibility during the transition. Residents and traders pay taxes, rents and fees not merely to occupy municipal spaces but also for essential services and safety. Vasco cannot be made to suffer because elections are pending. Accountability and safety standards must remain in place irrespective of whether the council is elected, dissolved or awaiting reconstitution.

ADELMO FERNANDES, *Vasco*

Send your letters to us at editor@thegoan.net. Letters must be 150-200 words and mention the writer's name and location

RNI: GOAENG/2015/65729. Printed and Published by: Sagar Lade on behalf of **Prudent Media (Goa) Pvt. Ltd. Printed at:** Elegant Offset Printers Pvt Ltd, Plot No 2/3/4, Thivim Industrial Estate, Karaswada, Mapusa, Goa. **Published at:** Second Floor, Fourth Estate (Kamat Metropolis), St Inez, Panaji 403 001. **Editor: Joel Afonso** (Responsible for selection of News under PRB Act). All Rights Reserved. Ph: (0832) 240 5950 or mail us at editor@thegoan.net
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Deficit rains, but Goa paddy losses lower than feared

HARVEST ALMOST COMPLETE; 15-20% DIP IN YIELD FORECAST; AROUND 30 FARMERS FILE COMPENSATION CLAIMS

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

Goa's kharif paddy farmers have weathered a difficult monsoon season, with the State government now expecting crop losses to be significantly lower than initially feared despite deficient rainfall linked to the El Niño phenomenon.

With harvesting nearly complete across the State, Agriculture Director Chandrahas Dessai said paddy yields are expected to decline by 15 to 20 per cent.

"Harvesting operations are complete to the extent of about 80 per cent," Dessai told The Goan. He said harvesting was yet to be completed in a few pockets of Quepem, Sanguem and Canacona talukas.

The delay was attributed to the late arrival of the monsoon, which pushed back sowing operations in these areas.

Agriculture officials had earlier expressed concern over the deficient monsoon and its impact on the State's staple kharif crop. However, preliminary field assessments suggest that the damage may be less severe than anticipated.

"We expect yields to drop but not by much. The department's estimation is that the yields may drop by 15% or at the most 20%," Dessai said.

The Agriculture Department has also begun receiving applications from farmers reporting crop losses due to inadequate rainfall. Around 30 applications have been submitted so far, according to Dessai.

"We will assess those applications and pay compensation after zonal officers quantify the yields of these farmers," he said.

The assessment comes against the backdrop of Goa's substantial kharif paddy cultivation area. Official agricultural data put the area under kharif paddy at 23,455 hectares last year, making it the State's largest seasonal crop by area.

Government records show that the area under kharif paddy has remained relatively stable in recent years, ranging between 22,500 and 24,500 hectares.

Despite the rainfall deficit, intermittent showers during critical growth stages appear to have helped the crop, preventing a sharper decline in yields.

Paddy cultivation remains central to Goa's agricultural economy and rural livelihoods, particularly in traditional farming belts across South Goa and parts of North Goa. Although an estimated yield decline of up to 20 per cent would still affect growers, officials believe the outcome will be considerably better than the worst-case scenarios anticipated earlier in the season.

The Agriculture Department is expected to complete its final assessment after harvesting concludes in the remaining areas and field officers submit crop-loss verification reports.

A SIGH OF RELIEF

- Goa's kharif paddy yields are expected to decline by only 15–20 per cent, much lower than initially feared despite deficient monsoon rainfall
- Around 80 per cent of harvesting is complete, with work pending in pockets of Quepem, Sanguem and Canacona due to delayed sowing
- The Agriculture Department has received around 30 crop-loss applications from farmers. Compensation will be considered after field officers assess the losses
- Goa had 23,455 hectares under kharif paddy cultivation last year, with the area remaining relatively stable in recent years
- Intermittent showers during critical growth stages appear to have helped limit the damage. The final assessment will follow the completion of harvesting

Hospitality sector told to tighten security

Hotels, clubs told to monitor staff

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

With tourist safety, illegal activities and cyber fraud emerging as key concerns across the tourism belt, Goa Police on Friday called on hotel, restaurant and club owners to strengthen security at their establishments, monitor staff conduct and promptly report illegal activities.

Director General of Police Alok Kumar chaired a meeting with tourism stakeholders from the coastal belt to improve coordination between the police and the hospitality industry and ensure public safety, law and order and responsible tourism.

The police stressed the need for greater accountability in security arrangements, including the installation of CCTV cameras, compliance with fire safety norms and monitoring of entry and exit points.

Stakeholders were also asked to ensure courteous behaviour by their staff, particularly bouncers, and adhere to prescribed noise limits.

The police called for better coordination with local police stations and the Traffic Police to manage tourist movement and respond promptly to incidents and law and order situations.

Cyber safety was another key focus, with the police advising hospitality operators to remain alert to fraudsters targeting tourists and customers through fake hotel booking offers.

Stakeholders were urged to immediately report illegal activities and maintain regular coordination with their respective police stations.

GOA GLORIOUS

Remembering Freedom Fighter Madhav Korde



Freedom fighter Madhav Shivram Korde, who contributed to the cause of Goa's Liberation, was born in Curti, Ponda, on October 29, 1931, to Shivram Vasudev Korde.

His legacy is preserved and showcased at the Sinquerim-based Aguad Interactive Museum: Goa – The Land, The Struggle, The People.

Educated in Marathi at the primary level and Portuguese at the secondary level, he became a member of the Azad Gomantak Dal (AGD) and worked under the leadership of Mohan Ranade from 1950. He made attempts to attack the Portuguese police outpost at Tambdi Mati and a butchery in Malla, Panaji. In 1954, he attacked the police outpost at Aldona with Mohan Ranade, Ramdas Chafadkar and Balkrishna Bhonsle.

He also participated in attempts to ambush Agente Casimiro Monteiro at Farmagudi and a Portuguese military patrol at Curti, Ponda. He later attacked the Pale mines and seized explosives. Arrested in August 1955 in connection with the assassination of Custodio Fernandes, he was tortured and sentenced to 22 years' rigorous imprisonment. On January 11, 1958, he escaped from jail with three others and proceeded secretly to Bombay. He later joined the Republican Party under Prabhakar Sinari and participated in attacks on Portuguese police outposts. From 1958 to 1961, he worked for the CID, Bombay, as a translator on the Goa border. On December 17, 1961, he guided the Indian Army towards Ponda. He was awarded the Tamrapatra by the Central Government in 1972.

Jharkhand man held for trespassing into INS Hansa

THE GOAN | NETWORK

VASCO

Vasco police have registered an offence against a man for allegedly entering and loitering in the restricted defence premises of INS Hansa at Dabolim without authorisation.

According to police, the incident occurred around 6 pm on October 29 near the Centre Gate of INS Hansa. The accused, identified as Akash Tullu Urao, a native of Hatia, Jharkhand, allegedly entered the prohibited area without lawful authority or permission and loitered on the premises.

The complaint was lodged by Akshay, a Lieutenant Commander at INS Hansa, following which Vasco police registered an offence under Section 329(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Plato Carvalho of Vasco Police Station under the supervision of PI Vaibhav Naik and the guidance of Mormugao SDPO SP Gurudas Kadam.

Romanian envoy visits Fatorda's People's Path



Ambassador of Romania to India Sena Latif walks along the newly developed promenade at Fatorda with MLA Vijai Sardesai on Friday evening. Santosh Mirajkar

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

Ambassador of Romania to India Sena Latif on Friday evening visited the newly developed People's Path promenade at Fatorda, accompanied by MLA Vijai Sardesai, ahead of its inauguration on Saturday. Impressed by the architecture and hospitality, Latif said India and Romania shared several similarities and expressed interest in exploring projects between Romania and Goa through people-to-people interactions.

"After coming here, I felt at home because of the hospitality and architecture. The project looks good and resembles a European city," she said.

Stretching 300 metres on either side from the KTC Bus Stand to Old Market Circle, the promenade celebrates Goa's identity, heritage and community spirit. Titled 'Fatorda's Goan Identity', it features 66 replanted coconut trees, a traditional humbro, laterite walls and murals. Attractions include 'Carpet of Joy', an installation using 60,000 upcycled plastic bottles by artist Dr Subodh Kerkar, and interactive art installations.

The two-day inauguration celebrations will feature cultural performances, live music, art installations, a farmers' market, food stalls and fire and juggling shows.

Two restaurants burgled in Canacona

THE GOAN | NETWORK

CANACONA

Burglars broke into two restaurants at Chavadi in Canacona and stole Rs 9,200 in cash from one of them.

According to reports, the burglars gained entry by breaking through the roofs of the establishments. Nitin Kenkre, owner of Mangesh Hotel, reported that Rs 9,200 was stolen from his restaurant, while nothing was taken from Nilesh Hotel.

Kenkre said the burglary could possibly have been prevented had police personnel been deployed during the night shift.

Following the recent major fire incident in Vasco, there are growing demands for police personnel to be deployed on night duty in Canacona as well.

Although police spoke to the restaurant owners regarding the incident, no formal complaint was lodged.

Kenkre reportedly explained that keeping the restaurant closed pending a police investigation could result in the prepared food going to waste.

Mapusa youth gets bail in NCB narcotics case

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MAPUSA

The District and Sessions Court at Merces has granted bail to 22-year-old Mapusa resident Prajyot Satyaprakash Varma in an NCB narcotics case registered under Sections 28 and 29 of the NDPS Act.

Varma argued that no narcotic substance was recovered from him and his arrest was based primarily on information provided by a co-accused. He contended that there was no direct recovery or independent evidence linking him to the alleged offence.

Section 28 deals with attempts to commit offences, while Section 29 covers abetment and criminal conspiracy under the Act.

Fishermen flag outside vessels near Goa coast

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

Traditional fishermen from Colva have raised concerns over fishing vessels from Maharashtra and Karnataka operating close to the Goa coastline over the past three days.

They claimed that a fleet from Malwan, Maharashtra, was spotted fishing in the area two days ago, while boats from Karnataka were seen close to the coast a day later.

Fisherman Domingo Rodrigues lamented that while vessels from outside the State were catching tonnes of sardines and other fish, the Fisheries Department remained conspicuously absent.

He demanded that the department clarify whether outside fishing vessels are legally permitted to operate close to the Goa coast. If not, he questioned its inaction against them.

"Fisheries officials are quick to question traditional fishermen over the nets and motors they use. However, large vessels from other States enter the five-nautical-mile zone and plunder marine resources, leaving traditional fishermen high and dry," he said.



Fishing vessels from outside Goa were found operating close to the Salcete coastline.

RGP factional war spills into election office meetings

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

The power struggle within the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), between MLA Viresh Borkar and former president Manoj Parab, has intensified, with rival factions clashing over the party's control on the ground and social media.

The latest controversy erupted after Parab-aligned members attended meetings convened by election authorities in North and South Goa as part of the Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls, including one chaired by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

Borkar had earlier attributed their participation to technical discrepancies, which he claimed had been rectified. However, party functionary Ajay Kholkar, who has been expelled by Borkar, alleged that Parab faction members continued attending official meetings.

Following the development, Borkar and other office-bearers reportedly approached election authorities seeking clarification, maintaining that the party's official email and contact details had been updated. They argued that Parab-aligned members no longer held official positions and were unauthorised to represent the party, adding that the names of recognised representatives had already been submitted to the authorities.

Kholkar specifically alleged that Sebestiao Fernandes, an RGP vice-president aligned with Parab, attended a South Goa meeting chaired by District Election Officer and Collector Egna Cleetus. The meeting discussed the revision schedule, appointment and responsibilities of booth-level agents, draft electoral roll verification, claims and objections, and voter awareness drives.

Manoj's possible comeback reignites power struggle

PANAJI: The power struggle within the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) has resurfaced, with a possible legal battle between lone MLA Viresh Borkar and former president Manoj Parab over control of the party and its 'football' election symbol. Fresh activity within Parab's camp has fuelled speculation about his return to politics months after he stepped down as party president. Senior leader Ajay Kholkar said workers have been urging Parab to return and lead the party. He added that Parab has responded positively and could make a major announcement around Diwali. "The party's organisational structure and future strategy will become clear within the next two to three days," Kholkar said. Parab added to the speculation on Thursday by sharing a photograph with Kholkar, former general secretary Vishwesh Naik and party leader Rohan Kalangutkar, captioned: "The real talks." Earlier this month, Parab accused Borkar's close associate Licio Roncon of creating divisions within the party, misleading workers and driving a wedge between Hindu and Christian members. He also alleged that Christian workers were selectively targeted for political gain.

House gutted in fire at Canacona

THE GOAN | NETWORK

CANACONA

A house belonging to elderly woman Laxmi Komarpant was completely gutted in a fire at Tembevada, Canacona, on Thursday night.

The incident occurred around 10.30 pm while Komarpant was asleep. On noticing the fire, she raised an alarm, following which local residents rushed to the spot and attempted to douse the flames with water. However, as the fire intensified, residents alerted the Canacona fire station. Fire personnel later brought the blaze under control.

Household belongings, including a cupboard, refrigerator and various electrical appliances, were destroyed in the fire. While the exact cause of the fire remains unknown, a short circuit is suspected to have triggered it.

On Friday morning, Tribal Welfare Minister and Canacona MLA Ramesh Tawadkar visited the site to assess the damage. He assured Komarpant that a new house would be constructed for her under the 'Shramdham' scheme.

Those accompanying the minister included Canacona BJP Mahila Morcha president Neetu Desai, Police Inspector Therron D'Costa and others.

IN SHORT ››

Goan researcher awarded PhD in Mechanical Engineering



PANAJI: Goan researcher Gaurish Samant has been awarded a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering by Goa University under the guidance of Prof Dr Rajesh Suresh Prabhu Gaonkar. His research focuses on developing sustainable composite materials using Goan cashew nut shell liquid and natural fibres. The materials have potential applications in the defence sector.

Tourism Minister visits Big Foot at Loutolim



PANAJI: Tourism Minister Rohan A Khaunte visited Big Foot, Loutolim, a cultural centre showcasing Goa's heritage and home to India's longest laterite sculpture. During the visit, Khaunte appreciated the efforts of Maendra Alvares in preserving and promoting Goa's traditional way of life. He described Big Foot as a unique tourism destination that offers visitors an immersive experience of Goan culture and traditions. He said the displays and experiences at the centre reflected the Goan way of life and encouraged tourists to include Big Foot in their itineraries.

Nandi Sammelan to be held in Goa on November 14



PANAJI: A Nandi Sammelan, as part of the preparations for the 100th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan, will be held at Dhempe College, Bambolim, on November 14. The initiative is part of a nationwide programme to organise 99 Nandi Sammelans to connect regional litterateurs with the national literary movement.

Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Mahamandal president Yogesh Soman announced this at a Snehmelaav in Panaji on Thursday. The 100th Sammelan will be held at Savitribai Phule Pune University from January 28 to 31, 2027. Gomantak Sahitya Sevak Mandal president Ramesh Vanskar expressed hope that the 101st Sammelan would be held in Goa, while Dr Kiran Thakur stressed collective efforts to promote Marathi literature.

TAG postpones condolence meet

PANAJI: The Tiatr Academy of Goa (TAG) has postponed its condolence meet scheduled for November 2, 2026, at the Conference Hall, Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, due to unavoidable circumstances. The meet was to pay tribute to tiatrists who passed away in Goa and Mumbai between 2020 and 2026. TAG will announce the revised date shortly.

Cunchelim Church to celebrate Golden Jubilee today



MAPUSA: The Church of Our Lady of Flight at Cunchelim will celebrate the golden jubilee of its elevation to an independent parish with a special Eucharistic celebration on Saturday, October 31, at 4 pm. Archbishop of Goa and Daman Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão will be the main celebrant, followed by a cultural programme. The parish attained independent status on October 30, 1977, when its chapel, earlier affiliated to St Jerome Parish, Mapusa, was elevated under the leadership of the late Fr José João Ramiro Mascarenhas. It was also dedicated to Our Lady of Flight (Nossa Senhora da Fuga). The Catholic community traces its roots to around 1594. A major renovation in 2019 preserved the church's original façade while adding a new wing.

Goa Jazz Academy launches student music label



PANAJI: The Guirim-based Goa Jazz Academy (GJA) has launched GJA Records, a music label dedicated to helping its students release their original compositions. The initiative completes the academy's learning model, enabling students to learn instruments, perform, write, record, produce and release music under the guidance of mentors. The label's first release is 'Circles', a jazz single written and performed by academy student Erika Shauna Pereira. According to GJA director Divya Gupta, Erika developed her songwriting and singing skills over two years before recording and producing the track. GJA director Karan Khosla said the academy was proud of her achievement. 'Circles', composed in the jazz form known as 'Rhythm Changes', is available on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube Music and other major platforms.

Illegal laterite quarrying causes ₹5 lakh loss to govt

MARGAO: Cuncolim police have registered an FIR against unknown persons for allegedly causing a loss of Rs 5 lakh to the government through illegal extraction of minor minerals at Naqueri. Machinery used in the illegal activity has also been attached as part of the investigation. Cuncolim police station in-charge PI Diego Gracias said the action followed a complaint lodged by officials of the Mines and Geology Department. A department team had found that illegal laterite stone quarrying was being carried out on the land. Police said the FIR had been registered against unknown persons and an investigation was underway to identify those involved.

THE GOAN EVERYDAY

Life

Share your story with us
If you have an interesting story to share or want us to highlight any issue that you think matters to Goans, send it to us at editor@thegoan.net

Social Saturday
Jealousy can sometimes hide behind jokes or sarcastic comments

Creativity, controversy and the question of religious sensitivity

From a Halloween promotion featuring a nun in Anjuna to a Christmas event advertised around Kamasutra and the alleged display of Lord Shiva's image at Sunburn, Goa has seen several event-related promotions and displays spark religious controversies. While a recent promotion by a Club in Anjuna for its October 30 to November 1 Halloween celebrations drew objections for featuring a nun wearing a cross alongside captions such as 'dark magic' and 'wicked energy', earlier incidents had also drawn criticism from religious groups and residents. The Christmas event, titled 'Tales of Kamasutra and Christmas Celebrations', scheduled for December 25–28, 2025, was eventually directed to be cancelled by the police following complaints. Similarly, the alleged display of Lord Shiva's image on LED screens at the 2023 Sunburn EDM Festival in Vagator prompted objections from some sections of the society.



The Halloween flyer that caused controversy due to its religious symbolism.

Creative boundaries

The latest controversy has once again raised questions about where creative expression ends, and religious insensitivity begins. The Halloween promotion drew objections from sections of the Catholic community, with residents questioning the use of a religious figure and symbols to advertise an entertainment event. While social media reactions have been divided, some defended the creative concept, with others pointing to the horror film series 'The Nun' as a possible inspiration behind the artwork. Following complaints, the matter reached the Anjuna Police Station, with a complaint seeking action against those allegedly involved in creating and circulating the advertisement. The club subsequently removed the post and issued an apology, stating that it had no intention of hurting any religious or cultural community.

A Halloween promotion featuring a nun has reignited debate over religious imagery in Goa's nightlife scene. As earlier controversies involving Christmas and Sunburn resurface, event organisers weigh creative expression against community sensitivities

Organisers' views

Against this backdrop, we speak to event organisers hosting Halloween celebrations across Goa to understand their views on the use of religious imagery in event promotions. An event organiser from Anjuna, who is also preparing to host a Halloween special, says she personally avoids using religious imagery in promotional material. "I personally never use any religious imagery or anything connected to religion on posters because they tend to come under people's feet and so on. Thus, I avoid that," she shares. However, she believes the intention behind the recent promotion may not have been to offend anyone. Having designed promotional artwork herself, she says she understands the designer's perspective. "Since even I design posters, I understand the designer's intention. While they may have crossed a line with the wording, I do not think it was done to hurt religious sentiments."

Residents' objections

While organisers may view such artwork as part of a creative concept, residents argue that certain symbols carry a significance that cannot be overlooked. Trisha Dias, a local from Anjuna, says the club's apology was necessary but does not take away from the concerns raised. "They apologised because they made a mistake. Just because we do not say much does not mean that anyone can come and say anything to us. They cannot just cross the line," she remarks. Pointing out that there were several other ways to promote a Halloween celebration, she adds, "There are so many ways they could have gone about it, yet they chose this. Well, they need to find something else to put up for Halloween."

Creative perspective

On the other hand, some in the event industry believe that promotional artwork should also be viewed in the context of the event it advertises. An event organiser from Nerul feels people should consider the creative concept rather than immediately interpret it as an attempt to disrespect a religion. "No one is looking to come and bad-mouth religion. There is an entire movie series on this with similar artwork released worldwide and in the western countries," he remarks. However, he acknowledges that organisers need to exercise caution when dealing with religiously sensitive imagery. The Anjuna-based event organiser also points out that Halloween has its own cultural associations with costumes, horror and the supernatural. "In the West, Halloween is a concept where they used to chase evil away. They also dress like that there," she notes.

Respecting sensitivities

As Goa's nightlife continues to attract different audiences and organisers look for newer ways to promote their events, such controversies highlight the importance of understanding the sensitivities of the place in which they operate. While creative expression is an important part of event promotion, it also comes with the responsibility of being mindful of the communities being represented. After all, attracting an audience should not come at the cost of offending one.

The enduring joys of a life fuelled by passion



ATIKA MODASSIR (OXON)

Okinawa, Japan is a flag bearer amongst "Blue Zones", areas where centenarians vibrantly live past 100. It turns out that in the Okinawan dialect, there's no word for retirement and their word for work is hataraku – meaning 'to serve community'. Rejecting retirement as an imposed construct, Okinawans believe that service need not finish with a job, rather it can take new expressions of contribution. By adopting a progressive lifestyle of enduring purpose, they steer clear of decline that creeps up with age and the loss of communal connection. Pondering if its ever too late for purposeful passion take new root, led me to Nascimento de Souza (Nasci) from Siolim, Goa. Having led a multinational as MD, chaired companies, headed the Employers' Federation of South India; at 98 years old; Nasci rediscovered his childhood delight of sketching; while continuing to pursue gardening, composting and cooking! A couple of years ago, when a mishap rendered his carpentry workshop– where he crafted gifts and toys for family– inaccessible, he reclaimed his lost passion for drawing, inspired by photographs from his birding groups. He has since devotedly sketched 108 birds in scrupulous detail, 42 of which featured at 'Once More, With Wonder', an exhibition of his sketches at the Museum of Christian Art.

Purpose that makes life worth living

Joining Nasci in a conversation with ornithologist Dr Minal Shirodkar put forth for me, two distinct and striking perspectives on dedicated purpose. Shirodkar's academic work on birds and Nasci's vivid sketches; both demonstrate how expression of service can evolve with time. The Japanese call this Ikigai. This spirit of benefaction finds expression in Galatians 6:9 – "Let us not become weary in doing good".

Age need not diminish our curiosity or purpose. Through a 98-year-old's rediscovered passion for sketching and a shared love of nature, we explore what keeps life meaningful

Love of creation

Biophilia – a "passionate love of life and of all that is alive" was a term coined in 1973 by Fromm, in his book 'The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness'. Sounded a fitting description of Nasci, he recollects fishing trips with his father as a child, enthralled by a kingfisher's dive from stillness to swiftness, in a split second. As an adult, Nasci invested weeks into winning the trust of a wild bluejay, till it finally perched on his palm. Showing up every single day to bond with a little creature, takes a genial soul with a great love of creation. It is this spirit of care echoes in Psalm 145:16 — "You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing."



Nascimento de Souza sketching 'Once More, With Wonder'

The art of attention and flow

Both sketching and ornithology, exemplify a mastery of active mindfulness–pausing and paying attention, beyond our preoccupations. Immersive hobbies help us achieve a state of flow, quietly bringing out the best in us on a daily basis, by restoring our attention and helping us to foster a spiritual connection. A reflection on this offered in Psalm 46:10– "Be still, and know that I am."

Inspiration

While admiring Nasci's sketch of a kingfisher that is native to Goa, Shirodkar shared how Nakatsu– an avid Japanese bird watcher and engineer analysed the geometry of its beak to unlock the formula to recreating the design of Japan's Shinkansen bullet train, making it aerodynamic enough to avoid a sonic boom. He leveraged biomimicry– the study of nature for resolving complicated engineering problems. Respect for nature brings lessons of perspective and moments of discovery if we care to look. Job 12:7– "But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you" echoes this insight.

Situational awareness

Developing a keen sense of observation heightens our awareness, providing us with understanding of our environment, and helping us thrive. Admiring a sketch of the Great Hornbill, which is one of the four varieties found in Goa, Shirodkar explained how its presence signifies the prevalence of ancient trees bearing natural large hollows; in which they nest– a reminder of how old trees are anchors of our ecosystem that must be protected. In 1 Kings 19:11–12, awareness is the bridge between Elijah's internal exhaustion and presence.

Hobbies infuse wonder for life

When I asked them how we can build passion for nature and sustain hobbies on a daily basis despite busy schedules and digital distractions, they recommended collecting and spending time in the great outdoors, seeking wildflowers, leaves and pebbles, stargazing, gardening and planting flowering plants to encourage birds and animals. It reminded me of the forgotten loves I harboured as a child- pressing dried flowers, making whistles with blades of grass, weaving palm leaves to fashion my self-styled apron, hunting for sea glass and playing I-spy on the beach. Psalm 104:24– "How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures" celebrates this very wonderment.

While aging changes the forms of how we contribute in life, it need not limit our passion and capacity to do so. Contributing to making the world a better place is a life-long privilege that need not fade, rather it becomes even more sacrosanct with each passing day.

(The author has four PG degrees and a career spanning education and global HR leadership)



Bob's Banter
By Robert Clements

More court than government..!

Most mornings, reading the newspaper, I wonder whether I have bought the legal supplement by mistake. The court has asked. The court has stayed. The court has directed. Somewhere between the weather forecast and the advertisements, I search for what the government has done without needing a judge to examine it afterwards.

I imagine a cabinet meeting. "What shall we announce today?" asks somebody. "Should we check whether it is constitutional?" ventures a nervous newcomer. There is an uncomfortable silence. "Young man," says a senior colleague, "we announce. Citizens object. Lawyers argue. Judges decide. Please do not disturb an established administrative procedure."

Of course, governments must govern, and courts must examine disputed questions. A policy being challenged does not automatically make it unlawful. But surely constitutional scrutiny should begin before the press conference, before the celebratory posters, and preferably before a citizen has mortgaged his peace of mind to afford a lawyer.

Our ministers promise allegiance to the Constitution and undertake to act according to it and the law. That is quite a commitment. It suggests some familiarity with the contents.

Perhaps the first year after election should include compulsory Constitution classes. No garlands until homework is submitted. No foreign study tour until the pupil can explain fundamental rights. Attendance must be personal. Sending an assistant with instructions to say, "Sir fully supports the syllabus," will result in another year of schooling.

"Today," says the teacher, "we shall discuss equality before the law." Several hands rise. "Does that include the opposition?" "Yes." "Critics?" "Yes." "People who did not vote for us?" "Yes." A troubled member reaches for his phone. "We may need an urgent meeting of the parliamentary party. This chapter has serious implications."

The examination should consist of practical questions. A citizen disagrees with you. Do you answer him, listen to him, or search for an obscure regulation under which his balcony becomes illegal? Give reasons. Candidates choosing the balcony must repeat the course, preferably from a classroom overlooking their own unauthorised extensions.

Think of the savings. Fewer avoidable disputes. Less public money spent defending decisions that should have been questioned at the drafting table. More court time for people waiting years for justice. And perhaps officials could spend their afternoons improving a policy instead of preparing explanations for why nobody noticed its obvious problems.

The Constitution allows government to function and gives citizens grounds to question its actions. Anyone seeking the privilege of office should welcome the discipline that comes with it. A chauffeur who regards traffic signals as personal insults is hardly reassuring to the passengers, however impressive his election victory.

So let us begin those classes. Put the Constitution on every representative's desk, open it, and ask the first question: "Have you read what you promised to uphold?" If the answer is no, hand him a return ticket to where he came from.

The country is suffering from this lack of legal education...!

bobsbanter@gmail.com

'Never-ending' cruise ends abruptly in Cambodia

A luxury cruise ship designed for a "never-ending" voyage has abruptly cut its journey short in Cambodia, leaving 200 passengers stranded. The Villa Vie Odyssey suspended operations on Oct 27 after its operator announced that soaring fuel costs, driven by the ongoing Middle East crisis, had made the trip financially unsustainable.

The US-based company behind the cruise, Villa Vie Residences, said it is currently helping passengers arrange disembarkation and temporary housing while it explores a financial restructuring. The vessel left Belfast in October 2024 on a nonstop world voyage.

SUDOKU

2			9	1		5	6	8
			2	5	4	1		
1						3		
3					9	6		
9	5	8		6	2			4
	7	4		3	8		1	
	8	1		4			2	6
			7			8		
		6	8	9	1			3

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

- Each row, column, and 3 by 3 square must have the numbers 1 through 9. These numbers can't be repeated in each row, column, and square.
- When solving an easy Sudoku, the first thing you should do is look for definites. Definites are numbers that are definitely going to be there. Starting at 1, draw imaginary lines through boxes in that 1's row and/or column. When there is only one box left in the 3x3 box, you know that is a definite.

3	7	4	1	6	8	9	2	5
1	5	8	9	2	7	6	3	4
9	2	6	5	4	3	1	8	7
6	1	2	8	3	5	4	7	9
4	3	7	2	9	1	8	5	6
5	8	9	6	7	4	2	1	3
2	4	3	7	8	9	5	6	1
7	6	1	4	5	2	3	9	8
8	9	5	3	1	6	7	4	2

- If you get stuck, go back alook at everything. That one number is usually all you need to get going again. If you still cannot find any solutions, start labeling every block with every number that could possibly go in that box.

Goans to face traffic disruptions in Belagavi on Statehood Day

SECURITY TIGHTENED IN K'TAKA CITY AHEAD OF TWIN NOV 1 EVENTS

THE GOAN | NETWORK

BELAGAVI

With Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations scheduled for Sunday, Belagavi is gearing up for a grand celebration of the state's formation day.

However, visitors travelling from Goa and neighbouring regions are likely to face major traffic disruptions as authorities have announced extensive restrictions on vehicular movement across the city. Anticipating massive crowds and day-long processions, the police have imposed restrictions on the entry of heavy vehicles and other traffic into key areas of Belagavi. Several major roads will remain inaccessible as thousands of people from across the district and neighbouring regions are expected to participate in the celebrations.

Meanwhile, tensions are running high following the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti's (MES) announcement to observe November 1 as Black Day (Kala Divas), continuing its longstanding protest over the demand for the merger of Belagavi and other Marathi-speaking border areas with Maharashtra. According to traffic arrangements announced by authorities, vehicular entry into the city will be restricted at Globe Theatre and Bogarves, where barricades will be erected to facilitate the smooth movement of processions carrying Goddess Bhuvaneshwari, revered as the presiding deity of Karnataka. Vehicles arriving from Goa and Karwar will be diverted at Globe Theatre through Club Road and Hanumannagar before connecting to Bauxite Road. Meanwhile, vehicles proceeding towards Dharwad and Bagalkote will be diverted from Goaves Circle.

The restrictions are expected to remain in force throughout the celebrations, and motorists have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly to avoid inconvenience.

Belagavi has taken on a festive appearance, with prominent streets, junctions and public spaces illuminated and decorated with colourful lights and traditional ornaments. According to authorities, the Rajyotsava processions are expected to commence around 11 am, drawing thousands of enthusiastic participants celebrating Karnataka's rich cultural heritage and linguistic identity.

MMC sanitation workers move HC over dues yet to be cleared

Court gives Chief Officer two weeks to reply to notice

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

The Margao Municipal Council (MMC) sanitation workers have once again approached the High Court, this time filing a contempt petition against Municipal Chief Officer Madhu Narvekar over the non-settlement of their arrears in full.

The petition has been filed by Domnic Furtado and 11 others, contending that the MMC has yet to clear their outstanding dues in full.

The High Court has ordered the issuance of notice to the Chief Officer, directing her to file a reply within two weeks of receiving the court notice and serve an advance copy on the petitioners.

CONTEMPT PETITION

- Margao Municipal Council sanitation workers have filed a contempt petition against Chief Officer Madhu Narvekar, alleging that their arrears remain unpaid in full
- The High Court has issued notice to the Chief Officer, directing her to file a reply within two weeks, with no routine extension permitted

The petitioners may file a rejoinder, if any, within two weeks thereafter, with a copy to be served on the respondent on or before January 18, 2027.

The Court has made it clear that if the MMC Chief Officer fails to file a reply, it will proceed with the matter without the respondent's affidavit in reply, treating the failure as a waiver of the right to file one.

The Court further stated that no extension would be granted for filing the reply. In exceptional circumstances, an extension may be considered subject to the payment of exemplary costs by the respondent.

The matter has been adjourned to January 18, 2027, when further directions will be issued, including the fixing of a date for the hearing and final disposal of the writ petition.

HOME Music Festival to debut in Goa this Dec

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

Goa is set to welcome a new large-scale music festival, HOME Music Festival, scheduled to make its debut at Vagator on December 29 and 30, following the exit of Sunburn EDM from the State, with the festival shifting to Mumbai.

Organised by Team Innovation, HOME Music Festival has announced a star-studded lineup featuring popular artistes Arijit Singh, Karan Aujla, DJ Chetas, Jasleen Royal and King, among others. The festival will also feature a special performance by Banjaare, along with performances by several other artistes and DJs. The organisers recently met Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte as part of their engagement with the State government ahead of the festival.

Announcing the festival on social media, the organisers described HOME as a dream that had evolved from years of late-night conversations into an ambitious music event in Goa. They said the festival would offer a world-class experience built around music, community and togetherness.

Worker electrocuted at Canacona CHC

CANACONA: A 33-year-old technician got electrocuted while repairing a lift at the Canacona Community Health Centre (CHC) on Thursday evening. According to sources, Sharana Basava, a native of Karnataka, was working on the second floor of the CHC building to repair the lift, which had been out of order for the past six months.

Canacona police said that Basava was brought dead to the Casualty of the CHC. Police enquiries revealed that Basava, along with two other persons, was working on the lift on the second floor when he accidentally came into contact with an electrical source and sustained an electric shock.

PSI Babu Dessai is conducting further investigation. *TGN*

Village Panchayat Moira
Attafondem, Moira, Bardez, Goa
Phone No: (0832)-2470344, e-mail: villagepanchayatmoira@gmail.com
Ref. No. VP/Moi/F/Quotation/2026-27/1682 Date: 30/10/2026

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS

The Sarpanch of V.P. Moira invites sealed Quotations on behalf of the V.P. Moira from the registered/ approved/ authorized suppliers/ manufacturers/ dealers/ Agencies/ contractors for supply of below mentioned items are as under:-

Item No.	Name of items and description
1.	Supply and installation of a fabricated cage for dog shelters. Size: length, breath and height.
2.	CCTV Cameras.
3.	Steel Cupboard Size: 77"X 36"X 19

Terms and conditions & other Particulars for the Quotations are as follows:-
1. The quotations should reach to this Village Panchayat office of Moira on **12/11/2026** up to 11:00 am and the timely quotations received will be opened on **13/11/2026** at 11:30 am. 2. The quotations should be submitted item wise in details separately. 3. The quotations received after the above stipulated date and time shall not be entertained. 4. The Panchayat reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason there of and the lowest quotation will be accepted. 5. For any query/details with regards inviting quotations the concern suppliers/ manufactures/dealers/ Agencies/ Contractors may contact Village Panchayat Moira.

Seal

Sd/-
(Mr. Sagar Rama Naik) Sarpanch
Village Panchayat Moira Bardez - Goa.

Government of Goa
Office of the Executive Engineer
Works Div. I, WRD, Porvorim - Goa.

Tender Notice. No.6-9/WDI/WRD/ASW/2026-27/e-20 Dt.26/10/2026

has been issued and the same are displayed on Website https://eprocure.goa.gov.in for participation.

DI/ADVT/1848/2026

ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY OF GOA
Maquinez Palace, Old GMC Precinct,
Campal, Panaji-Goa.
Ph no: 0832-2428111 | Email: info@esg.co.in
Ref no: ESG/26-27/IT/VideoBox/14782 Date: 30/10/2026

E-Tender

The Entertainment Society of Goa, Panaji, Goa invites E-Tender for the below mentioned work:-
"Supply of Souvenir boxes with inbuilt digital screen for the Entertainment Society of Goa"
If No Bid or Single Bid is received for the 1st call, the tender opening date shall be automatically extended by 7 days, with no further extension.
For participation in the above e-Tender please visit the website www.eprocure.goa.gov.in and for detailed advertisement please visit www.esg.co.in

Chief Executive Officer
Entertainment Society of Goa

Mormugao Municipal Council
Vasco-da-Gama - Goa
Tel. No.: (0832) 2512363
Email: co@mmcvasco.com, councilvasco@gmail.com
Website: www.goaulbservices.gov.in

No.MMC/CO/Order/2026-2027/325 Date: 29/10/2026

ORDER

Ref: Order No.SG-6-04-2026-CVS/256 dated 29/10/2026 issued by the Office of Collector & District Magistrate, South Goa District

WHEREAS, consequent upon major fire incident at New Modern Municipal Market. Vasco City on 28/10/2026 at 23.40 hrs. office of Collector and District Magistrate, South Goa District has issued aforesaid Order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023;
ANDWHEREAS. the District Magistrate, South Goa District has ordered the Sub- Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Mormugao, to cordon off the fire-affected premises situated at New Modern Municipal Market. Vasco City, Goa. together with the surrounding area falling within a radius of 50 meters measured from the outer boundary of the identified fire-affected property:
ANDWHEREAS, all members of the public. traders, vendors, customers and other persons are prohibited from entering or remaining within the cordoned-off area: ANDWHEREAS. it has been ordered to ensure that affected premises and property are protected against unauthorized interference:
NOWTHEREFORE. all the business activities within the aforesaid cordoned-off area should remain closed in the period specified in the aforesaid Order unless rescinded or modified earlier by the competent authority in accordance with Law.
This Order shall come into force with immediate effect. Given under my hand and the seal of this Office on this 29th day of October 2026.

Seal

Sd/-
(Siddhivinayak S. Naik)
Chief Officer
Mormugao Municipal Council

DI/ADVT/1847/2026

OFFICE OF THE MAMLATDAR TISWADI TALUKA, PANAJI GOA
Mutation Case No. COMP/ Mutation/112725/Panaji City
1) Anjali Arun Sardessai, R/o 633/1, Nandan, Law College Road, Miramar, Panaji, P.O. Caranzalem, Goa, 403002 ....Applicant
V/S
1. Satchidananda C.P. Colvalcar (Deceased) 2. Arun Shivaji Sardessai 3. Mohnish Arun Sardessai 4. Ratanbai Satchidanand Kolwalkar 5. Hemant Satchidanand. Kolwalkar 6. Sujata Ramanand Acharya ....Interested Party

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application received from Anjali Arun Sardessai R/o 633/1, Nandan, Law College Road, Miramar, Panaji, P.O. Caranzalem, Goa, 403002. Requesting to include the name of Anjali Arun Sardessai after delete ng name of Satchidananda C.P. Colvalcar from Holder Column of Form D under P.T Sheet No. 131 Chalta No. 2 of village Panaji City of Tiswadi Taluka as the applicants has acquired right on landed property, as per Inventory Proceeding Bearing Case No. 244/2024/B Dated. 23.09.2025 Before the Hon'ble Civil Judge Senior Division, B Court, Merces, Goa.
And whereas the notice in the Form X (Under rule 10) of the L.R.C. 1968 issued to the opponents at the last known address unserved back with postal remarks "Party Expired/ Return unserved/ Addressee Left without instruction/item returned unclaimed" unserved as the applicant does not know the detail addresses of the legal heirs of the opponents and their further addresses.
And whereas the applicant has prayed for substituted service, by publication of public notice on daily newspaper as required under order V rule 20 (1A) of C. P. C. 1908 as the applicant does not know the detail legal heirs of the deceased nor their addresses.
Now, therefore, if any person having any objection to the above said mutation entry are called upon and to submit their objection to me either orally or in writing within fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice.
Please note that if No Objection is received by me within said period of fifteen days, it shall be presumed that they agree to the mutation entry. The mutation will be certified on any other days after the above period is over.
Place:- Panaji
Date: 29/10/2026

Seal

Sd/-
(Dattaprasad Toraskar)
Mamlatdar of Tiswadi Taluka
Panaji-Goa

OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRAR CUM SUB REGISTRAR AND SPECIAL NOTARY (EX-OFFICIO) OF BARDEZ JUDICIAL DIVISION AT MAPUSA, GOA
NO.CRSR/BARDEZ/NOT/ 2433/2026
Dated:- 23/10/2026

NOTICE

Shri. Piedade Dias, Joint Civil Registrar -cum- Sub Registrar-II and Special Notary Ex-Officio of Bardez Judicial Division at Mapusa-Goa
In accordance with Sec. 346 (11) of the Goa Succession Special Notaries and Inventory Proceeding Act, 2012, it is hereby made public that by a Notarial Deed of Succession dated 9.10.2026 drawn by and before me Shri. Piedade Dias, Joint Civil Registrar-Cum- Sub Registrar II and Special Notary Ex-Officio Bardez at Mapusa at Page 70 onwards in the Notarial Book No.893 of this Office the following is recorded:
That on 17.01.2026 Jose Severiano Milagres Fonseca expired at Hospicio South Goa District Hospital, Margao-Goa, without any Will or his last disposition leaving behind him his sole universal and legal heirs his wife Mrs. Lucia de Santa Rita Pereira alias Lucia Santarita Fonseca. The said Jose Severiano Milagres Fonseca expired in the status of married to Mrs. Lucia de Santa Rita Pereira alias Lucia Santarita Fonseca, daughter of Fredy Piedade Pereira and wife of late Jose Severiano Milagres Fonseca, 67 years of age, widow, Indian National resident of House No.380, Shanti Sadan, Umbra, Salvador-Do-Mundo, Bardez, Goa, without having any issue out of the Said marriage. And besides the above mentioned heir Mrs. Lucia de Santa Rita Pereira alias Lucia Santarita Fonseca, there does not exist any other person or persons who according to law is competent to succeed, concur or compete to the inheritance of the foresaid deceased late Jose Severiano Milagres Fonseca.
Any person having objection to this deed may file in this Office within 30 days from the date of its publication.

Sd/-
(Piedade Dias)
Special Notary (Ex-Officio),
Bardez, Mapusa-Goa
Seal

OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRAR CUM SUB REGISTRAR AND SPECIAL NOTARY (EX-OFFICIO) OF TISWADI JUDICIAL DIVISION AT PANAJI, GOA
NO.CRSR/TISWADI/NOT/ 1136/2026
Dated: 29/10/2026

NOTICE

Sou. Shraddha Bhobe, Civil Registrar cum Sub Registrar and Special Notary (Ex-Officio) of Tiswadi Judicial Division at Panaji-Goa
In accordance with the Section **346 (11) of "The Goa Succession Special Notaries and Inventory Proceeding Act, 2012",** it is hereby made Public that by a Notarial Deed of Succession dated 28th October, 2026 recorded before me in Book No 773 of Notarial deeds at page 173 onwards the following is noted:-
That on 19.08.2023, Late Deepak Jaggannath Paibir alias Dipaca Poi Bir expired at Goa Medical College, Bambolim Goa. The said late Deepak Jaggannath Paibir alias Dipaca Poi Bir was married to Mrs. Archana D Pai Bir alias Archana Dipaca Poi Bir, whom he was married in first and only one marriage of both without any pre nuptial agreement and therefore under the general Communion of assets without will, gift deed or any other disposition of his estate and leaving behind only his wife without any children as moiety holder Mrs. Archana D Pai Bir alias Archana Dipaca Poi Bir who is legally qualified to concur, prefer, Succeed and compete in the state of the aforesaid deceased late Deepak Jaggannath Paibir alias Dipaca Poi Bir, and that besides her there is no other person or persons competent in law to succeed to the estates of the aforesaid deceased late Deepak Jaggannath Paibir alias Dipaca Poi Bir and besides her there does not exist any other person or persons who according to the prevailing law in force in the State of Goa may have a Legal Right of Succession or would prefer in the said Succession or would concur to the Inheritance left behind by said Deceased person.
Any person having objection to this deed, may file in this Office within one month from the date of its publication

Sd/-
(Smt.Shraddha Bhobe)
Special Notary (Ex-Officio)
Tiswadi, Panaji-Goa
seal

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(Erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated With IDFC Bank Limited)
CIN: L65110TN2014PLC097792 Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8 Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.

PUBLIC NOTICE
GOLD RE-AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE (ONLINE)

Notice is hereby given to the Below mentioned borrowers and the general public that the borrowers have availed loan facilities from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited by pledging Gold ornaments and despite repeated reminders and notices, the borrower has failed to repay the outstanding dues within the stipulated time under the facility. The following LANs were put up for auction in physical mode previously which did not prove successful. Accordingly, the Bank, in exercise of its rights, shall conduct a re-auction in online mode of the pledged gold or ornaments on **17-11-2026** for the recovery of its dues. Borrowers are hereby informed that this is the final opportunity to repay the entire outstanding dues along with the applicable relevant interest, charges and expenses before the auction date, failing which the pledged gold ornaments shall be sold.

LOAN ACCOUNT NO.	NAME OF BORROWER	BRANCH NAME
181759077	SHIVDAS YASHWANT BANDEKAR	GOA MAPUSA BRANCH

In the event of the auction any surplus amount is realized from this auction, the same shall be refunded to the concerned borrower and if there is any deficit/shortfall post the auction, the balance amount shall be recoverable from the borrower through appropriate legal proceedings. IDFC FIRST Bank has the authority to remove the following account from the auction without prior intimation. Further IDFC FIRST Bank reserves the right to change the Auction Date without any prior notice.
Auction shall be conducted online through its approved auction service providers through - **https://idfcegold.auctiontiger.net on 17-11-2026 from 12:00 pm to 02:00 pm.** and **http://gold.samil.in from 03:00 pm to 05:00 pm.**
Please note that, If the customer is deceased, all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to their nominee/legal heir.

DATE : 31-10-2026
PLACE: GOA

Sd/-
Authorized officer for
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **CAETANO CARDOSO**, R/o. H. No. 1100-B, Colleadongor, Raia, South-Goa, hereby change my name from **"CAETANO CARDOZO"** to **"CAETANO CARDOSO"**. Hereafter in all my dealings & documents, I will be known by the name **"CAETANO CARDOSO".**

Sandeep Ads

OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRAR CUM SUB REGISTRAR AND SPECIAL NOTARY (EX-OFFICIO) OF BARDEZ JUDICIAL DIVISION AT MAPUSA, GOA
NO. CRSR / BARDEZ / NOT / 2431 / 2026 Dated 23/10/2026

NOTICE

Shri. Piedade Dias, Joint Civil Registrar -cum- Sub Registrar-II and Special Notary Ex-Officio of Bardez Judicial Division at Mapusa, Goa
In accordance with Sec. 346 (11) of the Goa Succession Special Notaries and Inventory Proceeding Act, 2012, it is hereby made public that by a Notarial Deed of Succession dated 12.10.2026 drawn by and before me Shri. Piedade Dias, Joint Civil Registrar-Cum-Sub Registrar II and Special Notary Ex-Officio Bardez at Mapusa at Page 74 onwards in the Notarial Book No. 893 of this Office the following is recorded:
That late Mrs. Pamela Jane Cristovao Pereira Baptista alias Pamela Jane Baptista alias Pamela alias Pamela Jane Christopher expired on 27.08.2025 at Vision Hospital, Mapusa, Bardez, Goa, in the status of widow intestate that is without executing any Will or any other disposition in respect of her estates and leaving behind upon her death as heirs, her four children (1) Mrs. Ann Mary Eslinda Baptista alias Ann Mary Eslinda Pereira alias Annmary Eslinda Baptista E Pereira alias Annmary Eslinda Pereira, daughter of late Anthony Francis Baptista, aged 48 years, married to Mr. Trevor Anthony Pereira, son of Eric Paul Christopher Pereira, both resident of H.No. 7/49/A-16, Flat No.T-3, 3rd Floor, Sweethome Apartments, Rajwado, Mapusa, Bardez, Goa, (2) Mr. Neil Edultrudes Baptista, son of late Anthony Francis Baptista, aged 47 years, married to Mrs. Genevieve Suvarna alias Genevieve Baptista, aged 42 year, daughter of Madhu Suvarna, both resident of H.No. 243/2, Socolvaddo, Assagao, Bardez, Goa, (3) Mr. Denzil Luis John Baptista, son of Anthony Francis Baptista, aged 46 years, married to Ms. Ovina Leonita D'souza alias Ovina Leonita Baptista, daughter of Victor Paul D'souza, resident of H.No.103, Karaswado, Muddo, Tivim Industrial Estate, Mapusa, Bardez, Goa, (4) Mrs. Genevieve Joan Baptista alias Genevieve Joan Baptista e Torcato alias Baptista Genevieve Joan E alias Baptista Genevieve Joan, daughter of Anthony J. Baptista, aged 43 years, married to Mr. Russel Torcato, son of Franco Evaristo Juliao Torcato, both resident of Flat No. 103, Block No. C-1, Zion Square, Phase 1, Duler, Mapusa, Bardez, Goa, as her universal heirs and that there does not exist any other person/s who according to law in force may have legal right of succession or who would claim jointly with the heirs, a share of inheritance left of the said deceased late Mrs. Pamela Jane Cristovao Pereira Baptista alias Pamela Jane Baptista alias Pamela alias Pamela Jane Christopher.
Any person having objection to this deed may file in this Office within 30 days from the date of its publication.

Seal Sd/- **Piedade Dias**
Special Notary (Ex-Officio) Bardez, Mapusa, Goa

SUMMONS FOR SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES
(0.5, R 20(1-A))
IN THE COURT OF JUNIOR CIVIL JUDGE, QUEPEM

R.C.S. No. 81/2025/B

1. Mr. Milind Vasudev Gavas and anr. ...Plaintiffs
V/s
1. Mr. Joaquim Piedade Fernandes and ors. ...Defendants

To, Defendants:
1. Mr. Joaquim Piedade Fernandes, Son of Inacio Rosario Fernandes, 75 years of age, and his wife, 2. Mrs. Bazil Piedade Fernandes, wife of Joaquim Piedade Fernandes, 65 years of age, Both R/o H. No.15, Mobor, Cavelossim, Salcete, Goa. 3. Smt. Silvestrina Luis, wife of Late Menino Fernandes, 60 years of age, R/o H. No.15, Mobor, Cavelossim, Salcete, Goa. 4. Mr. Vallariano Lourente Menino Fernandes, son of late Menino Fernandes, 42 years of age, service, R/o H. No.15, Mobor, Cavelossim, Salcete, Goa. 5. Mr. Renaldo Clockson Menino Fernandes, son of late Menino Fernandes, 38 years of age, service, R/o H. No.15, Mobor, Cavelossim, Salcete, Goa. 6. Mr. Albert Menino Fernandes, Son of Late Menino Fernandes, 39 years of age, service, R/o H. No.15, Mobor, Cavelossim, Salcete-Goa. 7. Mr. Milagres Fernandes, Son of Inacio Rosario Fernandes, 68 years of age, R/o H. No.15, Mobor, Cavelossim, Salcete, Goa.

Whereas above named Plaintiffs have instituted a Suit against the defendants for Declaration and other relief under section 34 of Specific Relief Act 1963 (Copy of the plaint is enclosed herewith).

AND WHEREAS the summons sent to you at the last known address have returned back unserved endorsement "no one able to identify the said defendants". with

THEREFORE, the plaintiff has filed an application praying that you be served through substitute service that is by publishing the summons in the local daily circulated in the Goa State and this Court has passed an order granting the same.

You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person, or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit, or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such question, **on the 30.11.2026 at 2:30 pm,** to answer the claim and W.S. of the defence, if any within 30 days from the date of service of summons on defendant; and further you are hereby, directed to file on that day a written statement of your defence and to produce on the said day all documents in your possession or power upon which you base defence or claim for set-off or counter claim and where you rely on any other document whether in your possession or power or not, as evidence in support of your defence or claim for set off or counter claim, you shall enter such documents in a list to be annexed to the written statement.

TAKE notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 14th day of July, 2026.

Sd/-
(Sufala Dessai)
Head Clerk
By Order of the Court

Note 1. Should you apprehend your witnesses will not attend of their own accord, you can have a summons from this Court to compel the attendance of any witness, and the production of any document that you have a right to call on the witness to produce, on applying to the Court and on depositing the necessary expenses.
2. If you admit the claim, you should pay the money into Court together with the costs of the suit, to avoid execution of the decree, which may be against your person or property or both.
Note: "Incase of default of filing your memo of address, on the date and time mentioned above, your defence will be struckout.

Place : Quepem
Dt. : 30/10/2026

Seal

Sd/-
Superintendent
(By order of the comt)

Classifieds

SITUATION VACANT

Wanted Counter Sales Girls/ Boys Part time / full time for Shop at Margao, Goa. Call 9921411445 / 7030484944.

PREMISES AVAILABLE

Office Premises Available (Prime Area) in Panjim (35.35/ 34.45 sqmts.) Ground Floor/ Mezzanine. Opposite Tato's Cafe. Contact:8956505360/7559168419

Notice (O. V, RULE 20 (1A) CPC)
IN THE COURT OF THE IIIRD ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE SENIOR DIVISION, MARGAO.
E-mail id- cjsd3.margao.goa@gmail.com
Reg. Inv. Proceeding No. 141/2021/III

Shri. Aliston Jay Vales ... Applicant
V/s
Late Shri. Antonio Vales & Ors. ... Deceased

To,
Interested Party No.4: Smt. Aleixinha Vales, Wife of Late Shri. Manuel Vales, Resident of H No.4, Rucol, Dicarpale, Navelim, Salcete, Goa.
Interested Party No.7: Smt. Caetana Vales, Wife of Late Shri. Paulo Vales, Aged 67 years, Resident of H.No. 143/B, Dicarpale, Navelim, Salcete, Goa.

WHEREAS the above named Applicant has filed Inventory Proceeding against you in this Court for to Initiate Inventory Under Sec.375 of the Goa Successions, Special Notaries and Inventory Act, 2012 (Copy of petition may be collected from the office on any working day during office hours).

AND WHEREAS Notice sent to you through bailiff on the last known address has been returned unserved with endorsement that present address is unknown.

AND WHEREAS the Advocate for the Applicant has filed an application praying that you be served by way of publication in the local newspaper circulated and this Court is satisfied that this is a fit case for ordering such a service by publication in local English newspapers, circulating in the State of Goa.

NOW THEREFORE, notice is hereby given to you under Order V, Rule 20(1A) of the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, to appear before this Court either in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit, or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions on the **10th day of December, 2026 at 10.00 a.m.** to plead in matter, failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence, as the matter is fixed for your appearance.

TAKE notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

ALSO take notice that in default of your filing an address for service on or before the next date mentioned you are liable to have your defense struck off.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 27th day of October, 2026.

Seal

Sd/-
Superintendent
By Order of the Court.

State Bank of India SMEC, PANAJI,
2nd Floor Panaji Main Branch, D.B Road Panaji
Goa 403001 Te: 0832-2420337 Fax 2420229 Email: sbi.10290@sbi.co.in

TENDER NOTICE FOR SALE OF VEHICLE

Application invited for sale of vehicle which is under possession with State Bank of India through offline/E-auction. The details are as under:-

Branch & Contact	Description of the Vehicle	Type of registration	Registration No. & date of registration	Reserve Price	Earnest Money 10% (Rs)
Panaji Secretariat (Goa) Branch 9766001289	Tata Signa 4830 T BSVI 10*2 Truck	Commercial	GA-12-T-0618 / 01.01.2024	19,50,000/-	1,95,000/-

Terms and condition of sale: **1**. Auction is being held **on "AS IS WHERE IS" & "AS IS WHAT IS"** basis through offline / E-auction on **01.12.2026 at 11.00 a.m**. Intending purchaser/bidder is required to submit EMD by way of demand draft favoring State Bank of India on or before **27.11.2026 5:00 PM**. **2**. The person declared to be the successful bidder shall deposit 100% of sale price, less EMD deposited within seven days of the auction i.e. 08.12.2026. **3.** Auction will be conducted at SMEC Panaji, 2nd floor above SBI Panaji Main Branch, D B Road, Panaji 403001 on **01.12.2026 between 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM**. **4.** The Bank reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel/postpone the offer without giving any reason thereof. **5**. On the sale being confirmed against payment/deposit of the amount the vehicle sold will be delivered to the successful bidder in as is where condition. **6.** Unsuccessful bidders who have deposited EMD shall be entitled to have the deposit refunded without any interest immediately after the confirmation of the sale. **7**. Bank shall not be responsible or liable for any defects in the hypothecation and there is no warranty whatsoever. **8.** The bidders/Purchaser have to ascertain from RTO office such as Road/passenger Taxes dues etc. and parking charges payable before participating in the auction. Any due outstanding towards RTO/insurance company/any other authority is to be borne by the bidder. **9.** In the event of the failure of the successful bidder to deposit the balance amount of the bid on **08.12.2026**, the EMD deposited shall be forfeited to the Bank and the bid accepted shall stand cancelled automatically. **10**. The bidders may, if they choose, inspect the movables to be sold during the weekdays with prior appointment, contact no**. 8282944449**.

Place: Panaji
Date: 31.10.2026

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
State Bank of India

THE GLOBAL GOENKAR
Connecting The Goan Diaspora
THE GOAN EVERYDAY
8
log on to thegoan.net @thegoanonline Facebook.com/thegoan The Goan E-Paper (Playstore/IOS) Instagram.com/thegoanonline global@thegoan.net
Panaji | Saturday October 31, 2026

Goan leads UK mission at business summit in Goa

LUI GODINHO
THE GOAN | LONDON

Pamila Rodrigues, the first Goan lady Councillor elected to the Borough of Hounslow, has been leading a UK trade delegation to Goa for the Vibrant Goa Global Business Summit 2026.

The three-day summit from October 29 to 31 is being attended by international delegates, business leaders, and policymakers, as part of efforts to promote Goa as a global destination for business, innovation, entrepreneurship and investment.

When contacted, Rodrigues told The Goan that she along with the CEO of West London Chamber of Commerce Alan Rides, Mayor of Hounslow Ranjit Gill, prominent businessmen along with Dr Renu Raj, are attending the Vibrant Goa Global Business Summit.

"The UK delegation is here in Goa to promote the Goan businesses as well as to look for investment and promote Hounslow as a destination for Indian investors to do business and invest in Hounslow. We are keen to promote trade between India and UK," said Rodrigues.

"We had a meeting with the Mayor of Panaji, Rohit Monserrate, Curtorim MLA Aleixo Reginald Lourenco, officials from the Vibrant Goa Foundation, and former union minister Suresh Prabhu."


Hounslow Councillor Pamila Rodrigues along with a UK delegation at the Vibrant Goa Global Business Summit 2026.

"We are trying our best to make sure that the best of Goa meets the best of Hounslow and the people from both the places and the communities benefit from this union through business and through cultural and social exchange."

Rodrigues said a number of business meetings have been scheduled during their visit to Goa.

"We will have lot of business to business meetings with other delegates from different parts of the world, including Bahrain, US, and Africa. Our aim is to see how we can get more and more investments in Hounslow. Investments in Hounslow means generating new jobs, generating infrastructure, and it is a win-win situation for everybody involved to help with business technicalities," said Rodrigues.

"We are looking forward to a positive partnership between Hounslow and Goa as well as with other parts of the world. I want to make a difference to the lives of people and the Goan diaspora in Hounslow and across the UK."

"I also want to showcase Goa not just as a tourist destination, but as the next business destination."

Rodrigues said she is very happy to lead the trade mission to Goa from the Borough of Hounslow Council of London, given her close ties to Goa, where she hails from.

"I want businesses in Goa to come and start up business in Hounslow, likewise Hounslow businesses to invest in Goa, so that both Goa and Hounslow will benefit the best from each other," she added.

Hailing from Rachol-Goa, Pamila represents Hounslow Central Ward which includes the Hounslow High Street, making it one of the most economically and strategically significant wards in the borough.

She has been an active member of the Labour Party since 2022 and has played an instrumental role in representing and strengthening the voice of the Goan community within the Party. Professionally, Pamila has been serving as a Trainer with the London Borough of Hounslow since 2015, contributing to the development and training of council staff.

Goan football, culture comes alive in Ireland

THE GOAN | LONDON

For the very first time, the Goan Sports and Cultural Club (GSCC) Ireland organised a football tournament in Dublin on October 17, marking an exciting new chapter for Goan sports and community activities in Ireland.

A total of 12 teams participated in the tournament, with 11 teams representing different parts of Ireland and one team travelling from Wembley, UK.

A large crowd gathered to support the teams, with the cheering, enthusiasm, and friendly rivalry providing added excitement to the players, supporters, and everyone involved.

After the preliminary rounds, the two teams earning their places in the final were the Mixed Brothers and Cortalim Boys.

At the end of regular play, the score stood at 1–1. With neither side able to secure victory during normal play, the final went to a penalty shootout to decide the champions.

In the end, Mixed Brothers held their nerve and won the penalty shootout, securing the championship trophy.

When contacted, Milla Hancock Fernandes, a Goan community leader in Ireland, said this first-ever Goan football tournament in Ireland was special for a number of reasons.

"This was not just another football tournament; it was a celebration of our Goan identity, friendship, unity, and passion for the game we all love," said Milla.

"It was wonderful to see teams coming together from different places, united by their shared love of football. The participation of the Wembley boys made the occasion even more special, demonstrating that the Goan community's sporting spirit extends beyond borders."

"Every team came prepared to give its best. The players demonstrated determination, teamwork, commitment, and a genuine competitive spirit throughout the tournament. While every team wanted to lift the trophy, the event was also about building friendships, strengthening community connections, and creating memories that will last for years to come."

Acknowledging that football always produces a winner and a runner-up, Milla said the real victory is the opportunity to participate, compete, learn, and grow together as a community.

"What makes this event particularly special is that it could be the beginning of something much bigger for our Goan community in Ireland," explained Milla.

"Sport has a wonderful way of bringing people together. It connects generations, builds friendships, encourages healthy competition, and allows our community to maintain its cultural identity while living abroad."

"For our younger generation, events like this provide an opportunity to get involved in sport, develop their talents, build confidence, and remain connected to their Goan roots."

Milla said it was encouraging to see a team from Wembley travel over from the UK to participate.

"This is exactly the kind of community spirit we should encourage — reaching beyond geographical boundaries and bringing Goans together through sport and friendship. Hopefully, this first tournament will inspire more clubs and teams to participate in the coming years. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see future tournaments featuring even more teams from across Ireland, the UK, and different parts of Europe?"

"With the right support, planning, and enthusiasm, this event could grow into a major annual gathering for Goan football enthusiasts."

Milla praised the organisers, the Goan Sports and Cultural Club (GSCC) Ireland, for taking the initiative to organise this tournament.

"Organising a sporting event of this nature requires time, effort, teamwork, dedication, and the support of many people behind the scenes. Bringing 12 teams together and creating an occasion that attracts such a wonderful crowd is something to be proud of," said Milla.

"Well done to everyone who contributed to making this event possible — the organisers, participating clubs, players, supporters, and all those who helped make the day a success."



The two teams which played in the finals of the football tournament in Dublin.

United Goans of Fatorda organises fourth dine, dance in Wembley

THE GOAN | LONDON

The United Goans of Fatorda (UGF) United Kingdom organised its fourth annual dine and dance at St John's Community Hall, Wembley UK on October 10.

The event, which was hosted to celebrate the feast of the Our Lady of Rosary Church at Fatorda, was managed by UGF President Alvito Dias, General Secretary Bosco Ribeiro and Treasurer Lino Fernandes. A number of Fatordekars, along with fellow Goans, were present at the annual dine and dance.

The event started with a procession and a litany in Konkani, followed by the cutting of the celebration cake of Mother Mary.

There was a wide lineup of entertaining performances, which included DJ Rick Nicks, Polly de Cutorim and Shubert one-man band, as all musicians kept the crowd on the dancing floor. The event was compered by MC Anthony Miranda, who engaged the audience throughout the event.


The United Goans of Fatorda committee members [from L to R]: Treasurer Lino Fernandes, General Secretary Bosco Ribeiro, Member Jandira Ribeiro, Angela Fernandes, President Alvito Dias and Joint Secretary Anthony Miranda.

There were a variety of spot prizes, while the Rosary Queen contest was won by Diana Abreu from Portugal. Catering was provided by Alfred Camara.

Councillor Angela Joyce De Souza from Wembley Hill Ward and Councillor Hetal Jansali from Wembley Central Ward were felicitated by UGF General Secretary Bosco Ribeiro and Treasurer Lino Fernandes.

In her address, Joyce De Souza said she has been attending the feast all four years and felt it a privilege to be at the event every time. She praised the organising committee for its hard work in bringing the community together every year at the annual event.

"Events like this keep our community united. I would encourage everyone to tell their friends and family and come together to celebrate under one roof. The most important thing is that we support community events and support our local businesses. Let us support each other as one community and stand united," she said.

Councillor Hetal Jansali appreciated the organisers and the gathering for their dedication to keep Goan traditions alive and thriving in the UK.

"Please know that your local council stands by your side, supporting your initiatives and community spirit," said Jansali.

When contacted, UGF General Secretary Bosco Ribeiro said the UGF had provided support to the Our Lady of Rosary Church at Fatorda during its first annual dine and dance event.

"The UGF has plans for future programmes and they are being discussed by the committee. We will be working on plans to celebrate the fifth anniversary next year," said Ribeiro.

Goan Chaplaincy UK hosts first Mando Festival in London

LUI GODINHO
THE GOAN | LONDON

Around 225 singers and musicians from eight groups participated in the first-ever Mando Festival in the UK, which was organised by the Goan Chaplaincy UK in Hayes, West London on October 24.

Despite adverse weather conditions, hundreds of people attended the festival under the theme 'Bringing Goan Heritage to the UK' and were enthralled by different Mandos at the event, organised under the leadership of Fr Renato Andrade of the Goan Chaplaincy UK.

The event began with a prayer led by Fr Renato Andrade, setting a warm and spiritual tone for the occasion. The hosts then welcomed the audience with a captivating poem dedicated to the rich heritage of the Mando.

The two Masters of Ceremonies, Melivia Clemente and Zinaida Palmeira, introduced the history of the Mando. They described the Mando as a traditional Goan art form combining expressive song and dance, blending melodious Konkani lyrics, music and graceful movement.

They provided a brief introduction of each group along with a short description of each Mando before the performance. To further engage the audience and celebrate their roots, the hosts conducted interactive trivia about Goa, encouraging attendees to demonstrate their love and passion for their mother tongue Konkani.

Throughout the festival, the audience was introduced to the beauty of Mando. The performances highlighted its diverse themes, from romance and love at first sight to the deep ache of separation and the timeless traditions of Goa.



Filled with enchanting melodies, soulful Konkani music, and graceful traditional performances, the event provided a stage to nurture local musical talent, inspiring young performers while keeping both the rich, historic heritage of Goan music and a deep love for the mother tongue, Konkani, proudly alive.

Many of the youth and children were excited to participate in the Mando festival and expressed their love for Goa and Goan culture. They also thanked the Goan Chaplaincy for giving them a platform to showcase their talents and appreciated Fr Andrade for his missionary work in the UK.

The participating groups were presented gifts by the Goan Chaplaincy, while food and refreshments were provided by Manuel Catering.

The music ministry of the Goan Chaplaincy, who helped organise the festival, comprised experienced Goan Mando composers and singers who have won awards during Mando competitions at Kala Academy in Goa. The singers were Inacio Palmeira and Sheron Vaz, along with musicians Ajiton Estibeiro and Aldrich Fernandes.

The participants age ranged from the youngest violinist, Nolan Lobo, hailing from St Estevam and now residing in Wembley, to senior citizens from different parts of London.

The participating groups were the Londonchim Yatrekara group from Isleworth ('Sodanch Ravtelim Tuka'), the Noketram Hayesachim group from Hayes ('Iskolantlo Gupit Mog'), the Porzollit Noketram group from Hounslow ('Mhojea Mogachem'), the St Juzechim Motiam group from Wembley ('Natalam Ratrik'), the Goychim Mankam group from Hounslow ('Goa Purvozache'), the Swadik Nad group from Southall ('Don Tin Vorsam'), the Cranfordchim Kirnam group from Cranford ('Dhoriachea Lharari') and the Mando Mogi group from Hounslow ('Poilech Nodrek Mog').

'Goans need to maintain their heritage in UK'

Expressing his strong desire for Goans to maintain their heritage while living in the UK, Fr Renato Andrade of the Goan Chaplaincy UK felt the youth must be involved in order to maintain this Goan identity and continuity.

"A vibrant Mando festival was being organised for the first time in the UK to preserve and promote traditional culture for future generations. The festival celebrated the traditional Goan Mando, a musical form expressing love, romance, social life and the rich cultural heritage of Goa," said Fr Andrade.

"Our youth must be guided to promote Goan culture and language. I am also focused on bringing youth to the church, since the youth and children are pillars of the family and church."

Stating that the idea for the festival came to him while praying before the Blessed Sacrament, Fr Andrade said: "The inspiration one gets in prayer is the voice that comes from God."

"The participation was outstanding, with approximately 225 performers from 10 Goan Chaplaincy Mass Centres participating in the festival and nearly 600 people attending the event. The enthusiastic participation of young people highlighted the bright future of Goan music and culture in Britain."

Fr Andrade also appreciated the arrangements, generosity and support from all over the world.

"Alfred Camara from Hayes coordinated the stage decoration, management and sound. The event was live streamed, connecting Goans and admirers across Europe, America and India," said Fr Andrade.

"Admission was free, and food was served free of charge, reflecting the Goan community's generosity, hospitality and togetherness."

"The Goan Chaplaincy UK expresses its deepest gratitude and appreciation to Archbishop Richard Moth of the Westminster Diocese, Chaplaincy Incharge Bishop Paul McAleenan, Bishop Jim Curry, Archbishop of Goa and Daman Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão, Auxiliary Bishop of Goa Simiao Purificacao Fernandes, the Society of Pilar, Pilar Fathers in UK, the Chaplaincy committees, Music Ministry and all supporters."

Fr Andrade said the first-ever Mando festival was more than a cultural celebration, as it marked the beginning of a lasting legacy, uniting faith, music and Goan identity in the United Kingdom.

"The Goan Chaplaincy UK hopes to make the Mando festival an annual event, preserving Goan heritage while encouraging people to become ambassadors of Goan culture and evangelisers of the Gospel," he added.

Bhutan GLOF triggers flood alert in Assam, Bengal; 12K evacuated

NDRF, SDRF TEAMS MOBILISED AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

PTI

KOLKATA/GUWAHATI

West Bengal shifted 12,000 people living along the Sankosh in Alipurduar district to safety, while Assam closely monitored the situation in vulnerable areas of Dhubri and Kokrajhar districts after the river's water level rose following a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) in adjoining Bhutan, officials said.

Water level in the Sankosh, which forms the inter-state boundary between Assam and West Bengal, rose by nearly two feet since this morning after a glacial lake in Bhutan's Gasa region burst its banks on Thursday evening, unleashing a massive volume of water mixed with mud, rocks and debris into the downstream river systems, they said.

Nearly 7.4 million cubic metres of water surged out of the breached Shintaphu Lake in Bhutan into the Mo River, causing an increase in Sankosh's water level.

"We have shifted 12,000 people to safer areas as a precautionary measure. The situation is under control at present," an Alipurduar district official told PTI.

The incident triggered flood alerts in parts of north Bengal and Assam, with authorities keeping a close watch on the water levels of rivers flowing down from the Himalayan kingdom.



A glacial lake in Bhutan's Gasa region burst its banks on Thursday evening, unleashing a massive volume of water mixed with mud, rocks and debris into the downstream river systems.

Sikkim, which witnessed massive devastation and loss of many lives in a glacial lake outburst flood in October 2023, however, remained unaffected in this disaster.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel have been deployed in the affected areas in Alipurduar, while teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Civil Defence and local administration are also being mobilised to strengthen the emergency response, the official said.

"We are closely monitoring the water level and flow of the Sankosh River, while maintaining communication with officials in Bhutan to assess developments and obtain updates on the situation," he said.

There have been no reports of major damage or casualties in the Sankosh-adjoining Kumargram area of Alipurduar so far, he added.

Bhutan-originating rivers flowing through Jalpaiguri district, on the other hand, did not witness any water surge owing to the GLOF, another official said.

Block officials made precautionary announcements through public address systems at Banarhat on Thursday night following the GLOF alert as Bhutan-originating rivers flow through the area, prompting some people living near the rivers to shift to safer places.

"There has been no impact of the GLOF on the rivers flowing through Jalpaiguri," the district official said.

Alerts were sounded in Binnaguri, Banarhat and Nagrakata areas as the Kaljani, Torsha, Raidak, Diana and Sankosh rivers flow from Bhutan into the district.

West Bengal Water Resources Investigation and Development Minister Nisith Pramanik has urged people living near the Sankosh to evacuate.

"Everyone living in the catchment areas of the Sankosh River and all its connected tributaries has been asked to move to safer locations immediately to protect their lives," Pramanik said in a video message.

He said the administration was prepared to deal with any eventuality, with teams of the SDRF and NDRF kept on alert for rescue and relief operations.

Meanwhile, the Assam government was closely monitoring the situation following the GLOF, with vulnerable areas in Dhubri and Kokrajhar districts put on alert over possible downstream effects, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday.

He urged residents in vulnerable areas to remain alert, follow official updates and cooperate with local authorities.

INDIA bloc to conduct 'public impeachment' of CEC today

PTI

NEW DELHI

The INDIA bloc on Friday asserted that it stood united against vote theft and would hold a "public impeachment" of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on October 31, claiming that the countdown to the ouster of the poll panel chief was accelerating.

The opposition grouping announced that it had postponed its "public impeachment" of Kumar to Saturday due to rain on Friday. It invited common people, including the youth, women and students, besides members of civil society to participate in the protest march and public rally at Ramlila Maidan on Sunday.

The weekend protest is likely to give a fresh boost to the opposition protests against "vote chori", the SIR exercise and the CEC. The Opposition has held a series of protests on the issue and held marches and dharnas, besides meeting President Droupadi Murmu and filing a petition before the Supreme Court.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said "this is not multiple protests" but "one protest" and asserted that the entire Opposition stood united in protecting the votes of every Indian and in defending the Constitution.

BJP calls Rahul's claim of curbs on INDIA rally a lie

New Delhi : The BJP on Friday rejected as a "lie" Rahul Gandhi's claim that Home Minister Amit Shah is trying to stop people from coming to Delhi for the INDIA bloc's November 1 rally here and asked the Congress leader to stop misleading people by spreading falsehood.

Addressing a press conference here, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra also demanded that Gandhi show proof of his allegation.

The BJP's response came after Gandhi alleged that the home minister is "trying his best" to stop people from coming into Delhi to participate in INDIA bloc's November 1 rally here.

Addressing a press conference here, the leader of opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha said the INDIA bloc's "Chalo Dilli" march and rally here in Ramlila Maidan will be held on Sunday.

12-yr-old girl kills 4-yr-old boy over quarrel in MP

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MANDSAUR

Enraged by a woman's scolding during a quarrel over a chocolate, a 12-year-old girl allegedly killed her four-year-old son by pushing him into a water tank in Madhya Pradesh's Mandsaur district, police said.

The girl first pushed the child into the rooftop water tank and then covered it with a stone slab, causing his death, an official said on Thursday.

Mandsaur Superintendent of Police Vinod Meena told PTI Videos that the shocking incident took place on October 24 at Shamgarh in the district.

SC declines to extend SIR deadline in Keralam

PTI

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to extend the deadline for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Keralam, saying that there was no need for an extension as the process of correcting electoral records and seeking inclusion of voters remain open.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, however, permitted the petitioners to submit details of individuals who could not file their enumeration forms within the prescribed deadline.

The Election Commission has agreed to examine such representations and submit a report to the court.

During the hearing, the counsel for the petitioners submitted that several people had been unable to complete the enumeration process due to a shortage of time and sought an extension of the deadline.

FROM PAGE 1 ››

Vasco inferno puts shop licensing under scanner

know how to operate them safely," the source added.

This arrangement thus placed the responsibility for receiving the declarations and ensuring compliance on the licensing authority. In Vasco, the municipality issues the trade licences. "Since the market comes under the municipality, it is this licensing authority's responsibility to ensure that the prescribed fire-safety requirements are met. Under the self-declaration system, the authority must verify compliance rather than assume that the submission of a declaration alone is sufficient," the official said, adding, "Several traders did not even have the fire extinguishers. They had stacked loads of materials, including additional stock for the upcoming Diwali, but no safety measures in place."

Sources also said the current arrangement of self-declaration to the civic body followed an earlier directive issued during the tenure of then Collector Nila Mohanan, which required traders to obtain fire no-objection certificates (NOCs) while applying for or renewing trade licences. The directive was subsequently revoked after several traders raised objections.

Fire & Emergency Services Director Nitin Raikar remained unavailable for comment.

26 DySP posts shifted from direct entry to promotions

Under the existing recruitment framework, 40 percent of Junior Scale DySP vacancies fall under direct recruitment, while the remaining 60 percent go to promotion.

The decision comes barely a year after the government amended the Goa Police Service Rules to raise the upper age limit for direct recruitment to DySP posts from 30 to 40 years, with an extension to 45 years for government servants and other notified categories.

The 2025 amendment also established a structured promotion mechanism, reserving 60 percent of Junior Scale vacancies for Police Inspectors with at least five years of regular service.

The latest decision has raised concerns about the future of direct recruitment to the DySP cadre, particularly after the GPSC's recruitment exercise that resumed after a gap of 25 years ended in 2024 without completing the selection process.

The commission had shortlisted 62 candidates from around 2,500 applications after preliminary screening and screening examinations in October and November 2023. The recruitment advertisement, issued in August 2023, offered 28 posts -- 14 unreserved, eight for Other Backward Classes, four for Scheduled Tribes and two for Economically Weaker Sections. The selection process had reached the third level before the GPSC discontinued the recruitment drive.

Govt to challenge HC stay on ST quota process in SC

led by Tawadkar will visit New Delhi to hold discussions with Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta on the legal options available and the further proceedings to be initiated before the Supreme Court.

Sawant reiterated the State government's commitment to securing political reservation for the ST community, stating that the government had consistently pursued the long-pending demand with the Centre and would continue to make every possible effort to overcome legal hurdles.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's resolve to ensure that the community secures political representation in the forthcoming 2027 Goa Legislative Assembly elections.

"The Chief Minister emphasised that the government has consistently pursued this long-pending demand with the Central government and will continue to make every possible effort to overcome legal hurdles and safeguard the constitutional and political rights of the ST community," CMO said.

The High Court of Bombay at Goa on Thursday restrained the Census Commissioner from notifying or publishing Goa's ST population figures, holding that such figures cannot be determined on any basis other than the first official Census conducted after 2026.

Panaji, coastal Bardez top govt's land rate chart

of Rs 15,000 per sq m, while Tiracol is valued at Rs 12,000. Mopa has also been assigned a rate of Rs 15,000 per sq m. Dhargal and Tuem have base rates of Rs 6,000 and Rs 7,000 per sq m, respectively.

In Tiswadi, Bambolim has a base rate of Rs 25,000 per sq m, while Durgawado and Bainguinim are valued at Rs 20,000. Corlim, Calapur, Chimbel and Ella have rates ranging from Rs 13,000 to Rs 15,000 per sq m.

In Salcete, Margao Municipal Area has a base rate of Rs 20,000 per sq m. Navelim and Aquem are valued at Rs 12,000, while Nuvem has a rate of Rs 15,000. Among the coastal villages, Benaulim, Colva, Betalbatim, Sernabatim and Varca have base rates of Rs 15,000 per sq m. Majorda is valued at Rs 12,000, while Cavelossim and Carmona have rates of Rs 10,000.

In Mormugao taluka, Vasco Municipal Area has a base rate of Rs 15,000 per sq m. Cansaulim is also valued at Rs 15,000, while Velsao, Issorcim, Pale and Chicolna have rates of Rs 12,000 per sq m. Cortalim, Sancoale, Chicalim and Dabolim have base rates of Rs 10,000.

The government has clarified that the village-wise figures are base values applicable to the S1 settlement zone for areas up to 1,000 sq m. For areas up to 500 sq m in zones S1 to S4, the base rate will be reduced by 30 per cent.

The final applicable value will vary according to the property's zone and area. For plots up to 1,000 sq m, the rates are 100 per cent higher in C1, 75 per cent higher in C2, 50 per cent higher in C3 and 25 per cent higher in C4.

Agricultural land attracts reductions ranging from 60 per cent to 80 per cent, depending on the area. Orchard and forest land receives reductions ranging from 50 per cent to 70 per cent, while industrial, institutional, public and semi-public land attracts reductions of 40 per cent to 60 per cent.

The order also specifies that the minimum values will not apply to purchases by mundkars and tenants from landlords under the respective protective legislation. Agricultural tenanted land will be valued at 20 per cent of the prescribed minimum land value.

For land acquisition, the notified values will serve only as broad guiding factors and will not automatically determine compensation.

The order provides for reductions of 50 per cent for areas up to 1,000 sq m, 60 per cent for areas between 1,001 and 4,000 sq m, and 70 per cent for areas above 4,001 sq m, irrespective of zones.

The notification supersedes the earlier order and addendum of September 2024 and November 2025, respectively, while modifying the existing framework for minimum land values.

Six aboard helicopter killed in U'khand crash

PTI

CHAMOLI

A privately run helicopter carrying pilgrims from Badrinath crashed into a hillside in Joshimath in Uttarakhand on an overcast Friday afternoon, killing all six persons on board as it lost contact minutes after it took off for Dehradun, officials said.

According to administrative sources, the bodies of the pilot and the five pilgrims from Karnataka were found in the vicinity of the wreckage in Chai village. But due to darkness and the difficult terrain, the bodies will be brought back from the crash site on Saturday, they added.

The IMD had issued an 'orange alert' for Chamoli for Friday. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau will probe the crash and its team has already left for the site, a senior official of the agency said.

Additional District Magistrate of Chamoli, Vivek Prakash, said once the bodies will be brought to Joshimath town where post-mortem will be conducted on Saturday.

Chamoli Superintendent of Police (SP) Surjit Singh Panwar said the helicopter, operated by Trans Bharat Aviation, lost contact less than two minutes after taking off from Badrinath.

"The helicopter departed from Badrinath for Sahastradhara (Dehradun) at 13:12 pm. Shortly thereafter, at 13:14 pm, contact with the helicopter was lost near Joshimath and information regarding its disappearance was received from an Army post," he said.

The District Emergency Operations Centre (DEOC) said the helicopter was spotted by the Army's Signal Centre team in the Hathi Parvat area and "smoke was seen rising from the helicopter, and it was observed losing altitude rapidly".

The pilot was identified as Captain Himanshu Sabharwal (48) from Delhi. The other five deceased are H S Nataraja (51), Sudeer K (50), Arun Salunke (44), Prathapa Bachihalliy Ningarajan (41) and Shankargowda VB (39). Salunke was an inspector of Bengaluru Police's Central Crime Branch.

Election in Israel leaves govt formation uncertain

PTI

TEL AVIV

Israel's parliamentary election has left government formation uncertain, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc falling short of a majority and allegations of electoral fraud and foreign interference drawing pushback from election officials and the Shin Bet security agency.

Netanyahu's Likud-led bloc won 53 seats in the 120-member Knesset, Israel's parliament, while the opposition bloc secured 48. The two Arab-led parties won the remaining 19 seats, according to the final tally published by the Central Elections Committee (CEC) early Friday.

The opposition bloc comprises Gadi Eisenkot's Yashar party with 21 seats, Naftali Bennett's B'Yachad party with 12, Yair Golan's Democrats with eight and Avigdor Liberman's Yisrael Beytenu with seven.

The Arab-led Ra'am and Joint List parties won 11 and eight seats, respectively.

Turnout in Tuesday's election was 77.9 per cent, the highest in decades, with 5,716,665 votes cast, the CEC said.

IN THE COURT OF THE JOINT MAMLATDAR -IV OF SALCETE TALUKA, MARGAO GOA

Case No: JM-IV/TNC/NEG-DECL/TALAULIM/8/2026(New)
Case No: JM-IV/TNC/NEG-DECL/TALAULIM/2/2021(Old)

1. Smt. Priyanka Laxmiant Raikar Daughter of Mr. Mahadev Shirodkar 2. Shri. Laxmiant Raikar, S/o Anant Raikar Both resident of H. No. 122/H, Baga, Davorlim, Navelim Salcete 403707. **...Applicants**

V/S

1. Acencao Idalina Liberata Rebelo, Daughter of Sebastiao Mariano Rebelo,2. Mr. Justiniano Fernandes, Son of Late Mr. Joao Baptisto Fernandes And his wife3. Mrs. Theresa Fernandes, All R/o H. No. 36, 2nd Dando, Talaulim, Navelim, Salcete 403707.4. Salvador Lourenso, R/o Talaulim, Navelim.5. The Executive Engineer Works Div XIV- Water Resources Dept., Gogal, Margao.6. Joao Baptista Fernandes, R/o Talaulim, Navelim. **...Respondents**

PUBLIC NOTICE

To,
The Respondent No. 4 & 6.

Whereas Smt. Priyanka Laxmiant Raikar, D/o Mr. Mahadev Shirodkar, and another, both r/o H. No. 122/H, Baga, Davorlim, Nawelim Salcete Goa, has made an Restoration application dated 05/06/2025 to restore the above case.

And whereas, notice was sent to the above Respondents by registered A/D but the same has been returned back to this court by the postal authority with remarks as "Insufficient Address".

And whereas the Applicant No.2 has moved an application dated 05/08/2020 praying for substitute service by publishing the notice in the daily newspaper, as the last known address of the above Respondents is not known to them and the Court is satisfied that this is a fit case for substitute

Now therefore, notice is hereby given to the Respondent No. 4 & 6 mentioned hereinabove to appear before this Court on 30/11/2026 at 10.30 A. M. either in person or through a duly authorized agent.

Take note that in default of your appearance without just and reasonable excuse on the abovementioned date and time, the applications will be heard and decided in your absence.

Give under my hand and seal of this Court this the 27th day of October, 2026.

Sd/-
(Meghana Devanand Prabhu)
Joint Mamlatdar-IV,
Salcete, Margao-Goa.
Seal

OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT CARAMBOLIM, TISWADI-GOA

Ref No. VP/CAR/04/2026-27/ 1540 Date: 28/10/2026

E-TENDER NOTICE
(E-Tendering mode only)

The Sarpanch of V.P. Carambolim, Tiswadi-Goa, invites on behalf of Governor of Goa, online percentage Rate tenders from eligible Contractors of state PWD Goa, registered in appropriate class and categories for the following works.

Sr. No.	Name of work & location	Estimated cost put to tender in Rs (Excluding GST)
1	Construction of road from Garbage Shed to Sanil Pillai house, Riger, Ward No 9, VP Carambolim Tiswadi Goa under GIA Funds.	806547.75
2	Construction of road from Sanil Pillai House to Shrishal Totad house, Riger, Ward No 9, VP Carambolim Tiswadi Goa under GIA Funds.	806870.25
3	Construction of road Shrishal Totad to Amir Mulla House, Riger, Ward No 9, VP Carambolim Tiswadi Goa under GIA Funds.	807052.97
4	Construction of road Amir Mulla house to open Space, Riger, Ward No 9, VP Carambolim Tiswadi Goa under GIA Funds.	782517.96
5	Construction of road from Open Space to Vinod Haldankar house, Riger, Ward No 9, VP Carambolim Tiswadi Goa under GIA Funds.	806309.48
6	Construction of road from Vinod Haldankar house to open space, Riger, Ward No 9, VP Carambolim Tiswadi Goa under GIA Funds.	806681.23
7	Asphalting of road from the left side of Holy Cross Chapel to Satish Naik house at Riger, Ward No 9, VP Carambolim Tiswadi Goa under GIA Funds.	806301.00
8	Asphalting of road from Anthony Pires to Rukmini Niwas at Riger, Ward No 9, VP Carambolim Tiswadi Goa under GIA Funds.	804681.00
9	Asphalting of road from Rupesh Khauntekar house to Naresh Talekar house at Riger, Ward No 9, VP Carambolim Tiswadi Goa under GIA Funds.	806220.00
10	Asphalting of road from Nirmal Sai to Mahesh Haldankar house at Riger, Ward No 9, VP Carambolim Tiswadi Goa under GIA Funds.	806263.20
11	Asphalting of road from Prakash Gude to Nazrana Khan, Ward No 9, VP Carambolim Tiswadi Goa under GIA Funds.	803034.00

1. The last date of online application and submission is **10/11/2026 up to 11.00 hours.**
2. The date & time of opening of online tender is **12/11/2026 after 11.00 hours** in the office of V.P. Carambolim, Tiswadi-Goa.

For other details contact the VP Carambolim office, Carambolim Goa.
For participation and other details visit on e-tendering website:
https://eprocure.goa.gov.in

Seal
Sd/-
(Kusta O. Salelkar) Sarpanch, V.P. Carambolim, Tiswadi Goa

THE SPORTS AUTHORITY OF GOA
1st Floor Atal Stadium, Cujira St. Cruz Goa 403202
EMAIL: ed.tsag-goa@gov.in

TENDER NOTICE
(E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)
[https://eprocure.goa.gov.in]

Tender No. SAG/EE-ED/TECH/F.08/2026-27/2419; Dt:24/10/2026

The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE SPORTS AUTHORITY OF GOA (SAG) on behalf of Governor of Goa invites online percentage bids in TWO BID SYSTEM from the reputed Contractors.

Name of Work:- Illumination of Playground at Adwalpal in Bicholim Constituency. Est. Amount:- Rs.18,17,978.00

TENDER SCHEDULE

a) ONLINE SUBMISSION of Tender is 13/11/2026 upto 11:00 hrs.
b) The Tender will be OPENED on 16/11/2026 at 15:00 hrs.
For Detailed Tender Notice & for participation please Visit https://eprocure.goa.gov.in

DI/ADVT/1853/2026

VILLAGE PANCHAYAT ALDONA
P.O. Aldona, Bardez-Goa
Email : vpaldona12@gmail.com Contact No. (M) 9322462371 Website - vpaldona.goa.gov.in

Ref: VPA/2026-27/2667 Date: 30/10/2026

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

The Sarpanch of Village Panchayat Aldona, on behalf of the Village Panchayat Aldona, invites sealed quotations from Authorized Contractors for undertaking the work of Repair and Desilting of the Well situated at Santarxette, under Sy. No. 14/13 of Village Aldona, near the house of Shri Damu Satardekar, Bardez – Goa, for the financial year 2026–2027.

Schedule of Items

Sr. No.	Description of Work	Location
1	Repair and desilting of the existing well, including removal of accumulated silt, mud, debris and other unwanted materials, necessary repair works and allied works required to restore and maintain the well in proper condition.	Santarxette, Sy. No. 14/13, Village Aldona, near the house of Shri Damu Satardekar

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. The sealed quotation should reach the Office of the Village Panchayat Aldona on or before **10/11/2026 up to 12:00 p.m.** The quotations shall be opened on **12/11/2026 at 3:00 p.m.** onwards at the Village Panchayat Office, Aldona. **2.** The contractor shall inspect the site before submitting the quotation and shall acquaint himself with the nature and extent of the work to be undertaken. **3.** The quoted rates shall be inclusive of all materials, labour charges, machinery, tools and equipment, transportation, removal and disposal of silt/debris and all other incidental expenses, taxes and applicable GST required for the satisfactory completion of the work. **4.** The work shall be carried out as per the actual site requirements and to the satisfaction of the Village Panchayat Aldona. **5.** The lowest quotation shall be considered, subject to satisfactory compliance with the requirements of the work and approval of the Competent Authority. **6.** The contractor shall complete the work within the stipulated period as communicated by the Village Panchayat Aldona. **7.** Payment shall be released only after satisfactory completion of the work, subject to verification by the Village Panchayat Aldona. **8.** The expenditure towards the said work shall be met from the Panchayat Fund under the budget provision for F.Y. 2026–2027 under the head "**Public Works – Minor Works.**" **9.** The quotation notice is issued pursuant to the Resolution passed unanimously by the Village Panchayat Aldona regarding the repair and desilting of the well situated at Santarxette, under Sy. No. 14/13 of Village Aldona.

Sd/-
Shri. Ashwin De Souza, V. P. Sarpanch, V. P. Aldona

IN THE COURT OF THE JOINT MAMLATDAR -IV OF SALCETE TALUKA, MARGAO GOA

Case No: JM-IV/TNC/NEG-DECL/TALAULIM/7/2026(New)
Case No: JM-IV/TNC/NEG-DECL/TALAULIM/1/2021 (Old)

1. Smt. Priyanka Laxmiant Raikar Daughter of Mr. Mahadev Shirodkar 2. Shri. Laxmiant Raikar, S/o Anant Raikar Both resident of H. No. 122/H, Baga, Davorlim, Navelim Salcete 403707. **...Applicants**

V/S

1. Acencao Idalina Liberata Rebelo, Daughter of Sebastiao Mariano Rebelo,2. Mr. Justiniano Fernandes, Son of Late Mr. Joao Baptisto Fernandes, And his wife3. Mrs. Theresa Fernandes, All R/o H. No. 36, 2nd Dando, Talaulim Navelim, Salcete 403707.4. Mrs. Joaquina Conceicao Grasmila Fernandes, Widow of Benedito Filomeno Fernandes, R/o H. No. 111, Nagmodem, Navelim, Salcete Goa.5. Mrs. Martha Ida Fernandes, Widow of Eduardo Fernandes, R/o H.No.34/A, 2nd Dando, Navelim, Salcete Goa.6. Salvador Lourenso, R/o Telaulim, Navelim.7. The Executive Engineer Works, Div XIV-Water Resources Dept. Gogal Margao,8. The Executive Engineer, WD XIV(NH), Fatorda.9. Santana Antonu Fernandes, R/o Talaulim, Navelim. **...Respondents**

PUBLIC NOTICE

To,
The Respondent No. 6 & 9.

Whereas Smt. Priyanka Laxmiant Raikar, D/o Mr. Mahadev Shirodkar, and another, both r/o H. No. 122/H, Baga, Davorlim, Navelim Salcete Goa, has made an Restoration application dated 05/06/2025 to restore the above case.

And whereas, notice was sent to the above Respondents by registered A/D but the same has been returned back to this court by the postal AD but the sa authority with remarks as "Insufficient Address".

And whereas the Applicant No.2 has moved an application dated 05/08/2026 praying for substitute service by publishing the notice in the daily newspaper, as the last known address of the above Respondents is not known to them and the Court is satisfied that this is a fit case for substitute service.

Now therefore, notice is hereby given to the Respondent No. 6 & 9 mentioned hereinabove to appear before this Court on **30/11/2026 at 10.30 A. M.** either in person or through a duly authorized agent.

Take note that in default of your appearance without just and reasonable excuse on the abovementioned date and time, the applications will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court this the **27th day of October, 2026.**

SD/-
(Meghana Devanand Prabhu)
Joint Mamlatdar-IV,
Salcete Margao-Goa.
Seal

India's Sunshine Paradox: Why vitamin D deficiency remains a concern

Mumbai

In a month, 6 out of 10 patients aged 20-65 are reporting symptoms such as fatigue, muscle weakness, bone pain and frequent cramps due to vitamin D deficiency.

Feeling tired even after getting enough sleep, experiencing frequent muscle cramps, noticing increased hair fall, or having persistent bone and back pain? These symptoms may be associated with vitamin D deficiency and should not be ignored. The best source of this valuable vitamin is natural sunlight. Despite abundant sunshine in Navi Mumbai and across India, low vitamin D levels are more common among people than you think.

"Vitamin D, often called the sunshine vitamin, enables the body to absorb calcium, supports healthy bones and muscles, and also contributes to normal immune function. However, deficiency can occur if the body is unable to produce or receive enough of it." So, let's understand why this happens, how it affects children and adults, and what can be done to prevent and manage it.

Dr. Taarini Johar, Consultant Spine Surgeon, UMC Hospitals, Navi Mumbai Said, "Currently, a large number of Indians work in offices, tend to leave home early in the morning, and return after sunset. They spend around 9-12 hours in offices and also remain indoors. Still a majority of women in India are homemakers with very little outdoor activity. Many people have the fear of getting tanned and may avoid exposure to sunlight overall. The stigma of 'dark skin' runs deep. Extreme temperatures can be the reason. Understand that excessive heat can also discourage people from spending time outdoors, and this can mainly happen during summers. Children are unable to play outside and get enough exposure to sunlight due to school hours, tuition classes, indoor activities, and screen time. People with darker skin tones or higher body fat may need more time in the sun because melanin or fat tissue affects absorption. Moreover, know that even full-coverage clothing can limit the skin exposed to sunlight."

Dr Srisanat Rao, Orthopedic & Joint Replacement Surgeon, Zynova Shalby Hospital Mumbai Said, Vitamin D deficiency is commonly seen in a large number of Indians. In a month, 6 out of 10 patients aged 20-65 are reporting symptoms such as fatigue, muscle weakness, bone pain and frequent cramps due to vitamin D deficiency. The causes can be attributed to indoor lifestyles, limited outdoor activity. Timely testing and supplementation will be crucial for the patients to manage the deficiency. It is imperative for everyone to get enough sunlight in the morning, take supplements as per the doctor's advice, exercise daily and have fatty fish, egg yolks and fortified milk in the diet to prevent vitamin D deficiency. Having adequate vitamin D levels and supporting long-term bone and muscle health."



How does vitamin D deficiency affect children and adults?

"In children, if vitamin D deficiency is not tackled at the right time, then the child can be at risk of rickets, a condition that impacts bone development and causes joint pain, bone deformities, delayed growth, and even muscle weakness. Having the recommended levels of vitamin D is necessary for children during their period of growth. When talking about adults, understand that vitamin D deficiency can lead to osteomalacia, which means softening of the bones, bone pain, and muscle weakness. If the deficiency remains unaddressed for a long time, then it can also lead to poor bone health and fractures. Other symptoms of vitamin D deficiency can be depression, fatigue, low mood, hair loss, back pain, muscle cramps, difficulty climbing stairs, slower wound healing, and frequent infections," said Dr. Taarini Johar.

Vital tips to prevent and tackle vitamin D deficiency

"Vitamin D deficiency is often preventable and treatable. Spend about 10 to 15 minutes in the sun a few times a week. Expose your bare arms, legs, or face without sunscreen for a short time, since sunscreen blocks the UVB rays your skin needs. Aim for early morning or late afternoon when the sun is less harsh, and avoid burning. Get sunlight in the morning. A good tip is to wear comfortable, loose clothing that can be adjusted or folded over to expose more skin to sunlight. If deficiency is suspected in an individual, then the doctor will recommend a blood test to measure 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels along with a few more tests. Vitamin D deficiency can be managed with supplements (injectable/oral solutions/tablets/ capsules) and proper guidance. It is of utmost importance to note that Vitamin D supplements should never be taken without medical advice, as excessive intake can be toxic. So, the right treatment, dosage, and duration will be decided by the doctor. Vitamin D deficiency is preventable and treatable in children and adults. Hence, stay vigilant and take care of yourself," underscored Dr. Taarini Johar.

Achieving glowing and even-toned skin through natural remedies

Neeta Senacha

Achieving a radiant, luminous complexion and a balanced, even skin tone is a common skincare goal. While the market is flooded with synthetic brighteners and complex chemical formulations, many individuals prefer turning to natural remedies and holistic practices. True skin radiance is rarely achieved by quick fixes alone; rather, it reflects a combination of gentle topical care, proper nourishment, and consistent lifestyle habits that support skin health from the inside out.



Understanding skin unevenness and dullness

Before exploring natural solutions, it helps to understand what causes skin to lose its natural glow and develop uneven pigmentation:

Melanin overproduction: Sun exposure, inflammation, and hormonal fluctuations can trigger melanocytes (pigment-producing cells) to create excess melanin, leading to dark spots and hyperpigmentation.

Cellular build-up: As we age, the skin's natural cell turnover slow down. Dead skin cells accumulate on the surface, creating a dull, rough, and lifeless appearance.

Oxidative stress: Pollution, UV radiation, and poor diet generate free radicals that break down collagen and damage skin cells, diminishing natural vitality.

Dehydration and barrier disruption: When the skin barrier is compromised, moisture escapes, leading to dehydration, irritation, and an uneven texture.

Key natural ingredients for brightening and evening tone

Nature provides a rich array of botanical compounds equipped with vitamins, antioxidants, and gentle exfoliating properties:

- **Vitamin C-rich botanicals:** Ingredients like fresh lemon juice (used diluted and cautiously), amla (Indian gooseberry), and orange peel powder are packed with ascorbic acid, which inhibits melanin synthesis and brightens dark spots.
- **Natural alpha-hydroxy acids (AHAs):** Raw milk, yogurt, and citrus extracts contain mild natural acids that dissolve dead skin cells, encouraging gentle cellular turnover without harsh irritation.
- **Soothing anti-inflammatories:** Turmeric contains curcumin, a potent compound that reduces inflammation and hyperpigmentation while imparting a warm glow. Aloe vera soothes irritated skin and locks in moisture.
- **Hydrators and barrier protectors:** Raw honey acts as a natural humectant, drawing moisture into the skin while offering antibacterial and antioxidant benefits. Rosewater balances skin pH and calms redness.



Effective natural remedies and DIY treatments

Incorporating targeted natural treatments into a weekly routine can help revitalize and balance the complexion:



The turmeric and yogurt brightening mask:
How to make: Mix one tablespoon of plain Greek yogurt, half a teaspoon of organic turmeric powder, and a few drops of raw honey.
Why it works: Yogurt provides lactic acid for gentle exfoliation, while turmeric and honey calm inflammation and restore moisture balance. Apply for 15 minutes before rinsing with lukewarm water.

Papaya and honey enzyme exfoliant:
How to make: Mash ripe papaya pulp and mix it with a teaspoon of honey.
Why it works: Papaya contains the enzyme papain, which naturally breaks down dead skin protein bonds, acting as a gentle enzymatic peel for a smoother texture.

Sandalwood and rosewater paste:
How to make: Combine pure sandalwood powder with enough rosewater to form a smooth paste.
Why it works: Sandalwood has natural cooling and clarifying properties that help fade blemishes and even out skin tone, while rosewater hydrates and calms.



Holistic daily habits for long-lasting radiance

Topical remedies work best when supported by daily lifestyle choices that nurture the skin from within:

- **Consistent hydration:** Drinking adequate water throughout the day ensures that skin cells remain plump and efficient at flushing out toxins.
- **Antioxidant-rich nutrition:** A diet abundant in colourful fruits, leafy greens, and healthy fats provides essential vitamins (like Vitamin E and C) that protect skin cells from oxidative damage.
- **Prioritizing quality sleep:** During deep sleep, blood flow to the skin increases, and cellular repair peaks. Aim for consistent, restorative rest to prevent dullness and dark circles.
- **Daily sun protection:** UV exposure is the primary trigger for uneven skin tone. Utilizing natural mineral sunscreens or protective clothing is essential to preserve brightening results.

The menopause–heart connection: What changes after midlife?

Dr. Zakia Khan

Director – Interventional Cardiology, Fortis Hospital, Kalyan

Menopause may mark the end of menstrual periods, but it can also signal a new chapter in a woman's heart health. While hot flashes, disturbed sleep and mood changes often take centre stage during this transition, changes happening inside the body deserve equal attention. The period of midlife is associated with a risk of heart diseases, and it is essential to be informed about this and know how it can be reduced by actions of women.

Oestrogen has multiple functions in the organism prior to menopause: among others, this hormone affects cholesterol and vascular function. With approaching menopause, the level of oestrogen drops. Menopause itself does not cause heart disease; however, it happens together with a number of transformations, which gradually increase the cardiovascular risks. Other changes, including osteoporosis and sarcopenia (the gradual loss of muscle mass and strength), can also set in during this phase, affecting bone health, mobility and overall well-being.

First, there is a problem of shifting the cholesterol level. Some women have increasing LDL or bad cholesterol level, which results in fatty deposits within the arteries. Besides, blood pressure can become higher; changes in body structure make a person gain weight and especially abdominal fat. All these factors together with such as diabetes, smoking, physical inactivity, or cardiovascular disease in the family can lead to the development of the problem.

The significance of this change is that a lot of this happens without any warning. A woman may feel completely fine, but her cholesterol levels and blood pressure keep rising. Symptoms such as tiredness and difficulty sleeping associated with menopause might make it hard to identify between the two. Mental health concerns, including depression, may also contribute to cardiovascular morbidity and should not be overlooked when assessing a woman's overall health. However, although the above symptoms are not an indication of heart disease, they should not always be taken to be because of menopause.



Women must be especially observant of symptoms like chest pain, difficulty breathing, sudden perspiration, dizziness, or unexplained tiredness. Some women may also experience a pounding or racing heartbeat during menopause. While this can sometimes be associated with hormonal changes, persistent or recurrent palpitations should be evaluated by a doctor rather than automatically attributed to menopause. Heart attack symptoms in women can sometimes be less obvious than the familiar picture of severe chest pain. Discomfort may spread to the back, jaw, neck or arms, and some women experience nausea or shortness of breath. Sudden or severe symptoms require emergency medical attention. Midlife is therefore a useful opportunity to reassess heart health. Checking blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar regularly could allow early identification of risk factors that might cause complications. The screening frequency should be determined based on a woman's age and personal risk factors. Women with diabetes, high blood pressure, prior problems during pregnancy, or a family history of heart disease at an early age may require more frequent screenings. A woman's lifestyle choices could play a considerable role in the prevention of cardiovascular issues. Healthy eating habits, exercise, sufficient sleep, proper stress management, and no tobacco use are all key to having good cardiovascular health.

Weight management is also crucial. For women experiencing significant hot flushes, a pounding heart, mood disturbances or persistent sleep changes, discussing these symptoms with a gynaecologist may help determine whether hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is appropriate. Its benefits and risks should be assessed individually, considering the woman's medical history and cardiovascular risk factors. It is also recommended for women to talk to their doctors about their persistent menopausal symptoms and risks of developing heart disease, rather than turning to hormones or supplements.

Menopause is a natural stage in a woman's life and not a disease. Menopause serves as a cue for one to take heart health seriously, despite not being under any visible threat. Perhaps the most vital thing in life after fifty is for a woman to choose to no longer take her heart health for granted. Through early screenings and informed decisions, she can take the necessary measures to keep her heart healthy.

Understanding Dark Neck in Children: The insulin connection

Namrata Sharma

When parents notice a darkening around the back or sides of a child's neck—often resembling dirt, soot, or a smudge that simply will not wash off—it is entirely natural to attribute it to inadequate scrubbing, missed spots during bath time, or the everyday grime of an active child. However, in many cases, this visible skin change is a biological distress signal originating far beneath the surface. Known medically as acanthosis nigricans, this velvety, hyperpigmented condition is frequently one of the earliest and most reliable external indicators of an internal metabolic shift, pointing directly to an insulin imbalance in paediatric populations.

In a world where childhood metabolic health is increasingly impacted by modern diets and sedentary habits, recognizing this visual marker can serve as a vital early warning system for parents and caregivers, offering an opportunity to intervene long before more serious health complications take root.

What is acanthosis nigricans?

Acanthosis nigricans is not a skin disease in its own right; rather, it is a cutaneous sign reflecting an underlying metabolic or hormonal process.

Visual characteristics: The affected skin appears thickened, dark brown, grey, or black, often acquiring a distinct velvety, rough, or leathery texture.

Common locations: While it most frequently appears on the back and sides of the neck, it can also manifest in skin folds such as the armpits (axillae), groin, knuckles, elbows, and knees.

Misconceptions: It is completely non-contagious and painless. Because it closely mimics poor hygiene, a stubborn suntan, or dirt, it is frequently overlooked or misdiagnosed in its early stages.

The cellular mechanism: How insulin imbalance causes skin darkening

To understand why a hormonal imbalance darkens the skin, it helps to examine how the body processes glucose and insulin:

- **Insulin overproduction:** When a child's diet, genetics, or activity levels lead to frequent blood sugar spikes, the pancreas works overtime, producing excess insulin to help body cells absorb glucose.
- **Receptor overstimulation:** Chronically high levels of circulating insulin begin to spill over and bind not just to metabolic receptors, but to insulin-like growth factor receptors (specifically IGF-1 receptors) located within the skin cells, including keratinocytes and fibroblasts.
- **Cellular proliferation and pigmentation:** This unintended cross-activation signals skin cells to multiply rapidly and triggers an overproduction of melanin (the pigment responsible for skin colour), resulting in the characteristic thick, velvety, dark patches.



Key pointers for understanding the subject

Grasping the full picture of paediatric acanthosis nigricans requires looking beyond the skin surface to understand the broader metabolic landscape:

It is a messenger, not the root cause: Treating the neck topically with harsh scrubs, exfoliants, or bleaching creams will not work because the pigment originates from internal signalling, not surface dirt.

Insulin resistance is reversible: In children and adolescents, insulin resistance is largely functional and responsive to lifestyle interventions. Early detection allows the body to restore normal cellular sensitivity.

Not always tied to weight: While obesity is a primary driver, lean children can also develop acanthosis nigricans due to strong genetic predispositions, specific dietary habits, or underlying endocrine conditions.

A window of opportunity: Because this skin marker often precedes pre-diabetes or Type 2 diabetes by months or years, it serves as an invaluable early warning system that prompts preventative action.



Underlying causes and risk factors in children

While acanthosis nigricans can occasionally be linked to genetic syndromes, hormonal disorders, or certain medications, the vast majority of paediatric cases are tied to metabolic health:

- **Insulin resistance & paediatric obesity:** Excess body weight, particularly visceral fat accumulation, is the leading contributor to insulin resistance in growing bodies.
- **Dietary patterns:** Diets high in ultra-processed foods, refined carbohydrates, and sugary beverages cause frequent, sharp spikes in blood glucose and subsequent insulin demand.
- **Genetics and family history:** A family history of Type 2 diabetes or metabolic syndrome significantly increases a child's susceptibility to insulin imbalances.
- **Other endocrine conditions:** Less commonly, conditions such as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS)—which can begin manifesting in adolescence—or hypothyroidism may contribute to the imbalance.

When to see a doctor

Because a dark neck can sometimes signal more than simple lifestyle-driven insulin resistance, knowing when to seek professional medical evaluation is crucial. Schedule an appointment with a paediatrician if you notice:

Sudden onset or rapid spread: If the darkening appears very suddenly or spreads rapidly across the neck, armpits, or other areas over a short period.

Accompanying symptoms: If the skin changes are accompanied by unexplained fatigue, increased thirst, frequent urination, or sudden weight fluctuations.

Skin tags (Acrochordons): If the dark velvety patches are studded with tiny, flesh-coloured skin growths, which frequently accompany acanthosis nigricans.

Signs of early hormonal shifts: In adolescent girls, if the dark neck coincides with irregular menstrual cycles, rapid weight gain, or excess facial/body hair growth.

Lack of improvement: If lifestyle modifications do not lead to any lightening of the skin after a few months, warranting a comprehensive metabolic panel (such as fasting blood glucose, HbA1c, and fasting insulin tests).

Management and next steps

Restoring clear skin requires addressing the internal balance:

- **Professional screening:** Consult a paediatrician for formal diagnostic testing to check blood sugar and insulin metrics.
- **Nutritional adjustments:** Shift toward a balanced, whole-food dietary pattern rich in fiber, healthy fats, and lean proteins while reducing refined sugars and processed snacks.
- **Encouraging movement:** Incorporate regular, enjoyable physical activity to improve cellular insulin sensitivity naturally.

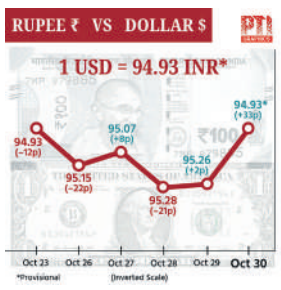
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Briefs

Services exports rise 7.2% to $39.3 bn in September

India's services exports increased by 7.2% year-on-year to $39.305 billion in September 2026, although the pace of growth slowed from 13.7% recorded in August, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India on Friday. The Reserve Bank of India's monthly data on India's international trade in services showed that services export receipts increased from $35.471 billion in August to $39.305 billion in September.However, the year-on-year growth rate moderated from 13.7% in August and 13.4% in July to 7.2% in September.

Rupee jumps 50 paise to close at 94.76



The rupee appreciated 50 paise to close at 94.76 against the US dollar on Friday, supported by a positive trend in domestic markets and a soft US dollar. Forex traders said both the currency and the bond market found additional support from softer crude oil prices and the inflow of foreign funds. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.21, then gained ground and touched an intraday high of 94.75 and a low of 95.28 against the American currency and finally closed at 94.76, registering a steep gain of 50 paise over its last close.

46% Indian households use digital payments

Around 45.6% of Indian households now use online shopping and digital payment channels to purchase at least one consumption item, indicating a growing use of digital transactions in household spending, according to a research report by the State Bank of India. However, the report noted that 54.4% of households still do not use digital payment modes for their purchases.

AU SFB probes potential data leak

AU Small Finance Bank on Friday said it is investigating a potential data leak involving vehicle loan customers, after a hacker group claimed to have breached the lender's cyber defences. "AU Small Finance Bank is investigating a potential data leak involving a software-as-a-service (SaaS) platform managed and hosted by Salesforce, which holds limited data relating to our vehicle loan customers. We reaffirm that the Bank's own systems remain unaffected and all banking services are operating normally," the lender said in a statement.

Pune hosts automotive tech expo

MOTOTECH 2026 Pune, a specialised automotive manufacturing conference and exhibition organised by OEM Update, is being held on Oct 30-31 at the Auto Cluster Exhibition Centre in Chinchwad, Pune. The expo will be held under the theme 'Factory of the Future for Next-Gen Mobility'.

SC appoints former judge Desai as mediator in RIL-govt gas migration dispute

The Supreme Court on Friday appointed former top court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai as sole mediator in a matter pertaining to the Krishna-Godavari basin gas migration dispute involving Reliance Industries and others.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi passed the order after it was informed that the parties have not been able to find a viable solution.

"The parties themselves have not been able to find a viable solution. We suggest, on their behalf, that former judge of this court Ranjana Prakash Desai be requested to act as mediator," the bench said. "We also request the learned mediator to have the assistance of two domain experts, as may be suggested by the parties, for the aforesaid purpose," the bench added. **-PTI**

BIG BOOST | Festive demand accelerates lending amid surplus liquidity

Bk credit growth outpaces deposits

PTI
NEW DELHI



Bank credit grew 17.94% on an annual basis to ₹232.54 lakh crore till Oct 15, outpacing the 16.6% growth in deposits, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

Bank deposits stood at ₹284.37 lakh crore as of Oct 15, 2026, compared to ₹243.88 lakh crore till Oct 17, 2025, growing at 16.6% year-on-year, data showed.

According to Reserve Bank of India data, bank credit stood at ₹232.54 lakh crore as of Oct 15, 2026, from ₹197.17 lakh crore on Oct 17, 2025, registering a growth of 17.94%.

The higher credit growth can be attributed to surplus liquidity in the banking system in the early part of October, along with the festive season in India. The banking system was flush with liquidity after huge foreign currency non-resident bank deposits garnered by banks under the Reserve Bank of India's concessional window.

Liquidity surplus in the banking system has ranged between ₹2 lakh crore and ₹4.5 lakh crore between Oct 1 and Oct 15, RBI data showed.

In August and September, system liquidity increased substantially due to the recent measures undertaken to attract capital inflows. As measured by the net position under the liquidity adjustment facility, system liquidity averaged a daily surplus of ₹5.9 lakh crore since the last monetary policy committee meeting in August 2026.

The average daily net absorption under the liquidity adjustment facility increased from ₹1.2 lakh crore in July 2026 to ₹5.8 lakh crore in August and further to ₹7.8 lakh crore in September.

Further, investments by the banks in central and state government securities rose 9.64% year-on-year to ₹77.32 lakh crore as of Oct 15, 2026, from ₹70.53 lakh crore till Oct 17, 2025.

Of the total, investments in the central government securities have a major portion, which increased to ₹77.12 lakh crore as of Oct 15, 2026, compared to ₹70.42 lakh crore a year earlier, RBI data showed.

RBI BOARD REVIEWS ECONOMIC RISKS

The Reserve Bank's central board on Friday deliberated on prevailing economic conditions and assessed potential risks to the economic outlook.

The 625th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India was held under the Chairmanship of Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

"The Board in its meeting deliberated on the prevailing economic conditions and associated challenges and evaluated the potential risks to the economic outlook," the RBI said in a release.

The Board reviewed the activities of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation and the activities of select central office departments of the RBI.

The Central Board took the integrity pledge as part of the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026. Deputy Governors, Swaminathan J, Poonam Gupta, Shirish Chandra Murmu, and Rohit Jain, attended the meeting. Other directors of the Board, Anuradha Thakur, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs; Anand Gopal Mahindra, Janmejaya Kumar Sinha, Syed Akbaruddin and Annie George Mathew, also attended the meeting.

PE/VC investments jump 45% to $7 bn in September

PTI
MUMBAI

Private equity and venture capital investments in India rose 45% to $7 billion in September, marking the highest monthly investment value in over two years, according to a report released on Friday.

September also emerged as the strongest month for private equity and venture capital investments so far in 2026, driven by the highest number of large-value deals recorded during the year. Investments were up 21% from $5.8 billion in August 2026, according to an EY-IVCA monthly private equity and venture capital roundup report. Private equity and venture capital investments in the July-September quarter of 2026 rose 46% year-on-year to $17.1 billion, compared with $11.7 billion in the year-ago period.

Fiscal deficit touch 42.1% of full-year target in H1



The government's fiscal deficit rose 24.7% on year to ₹7.144 trillion in the first six months of the current financial year, data released by the Controller General of Accounts on Friday showed. The fiscal deficit during April-September was 42.1% of the Budget estimate of ₹16.958 trillion for the whole year, up from 36.5% in the same period last year.

The Budget has pegged the fiscal deficit for 2026-27 at 4.3% of gross domestic product, or ₹16.96 trillion. The fiscal deficit target for the financial year 2027 will, however, be 4.5% of gross domestic product, based on the downward revision in India's nominal gross domestic product in the new series with the financial year 2023 as the base year.

The government's total expenditure rose 10.7% to ₹25.498 trillion during April-September, while total receipts increased 6.1% to ₹18.354 trillion. Capital expenditure rose 12.7% on year to ₹6.545 trillion in the first six months of the financial year 2027. The government has met 53.6% of its capital expenditure target for the financial year 2027.

Net tax revenues for April-September were ₹12.761 trillion, up 3.8% on year. The government's gross tax collections in April-September were up 6.1% to ₹19.799 trillion. Tax devolution to states increased 10.7% to ₹6.994 trillion during April-September. Non-tax revenues increased 3.1% to ₹4.807 trillion, primarily due to the Reserve Bank of India's surplus transfer of ₹2.87 trillion in May. **-Informist**

Forex reserves drop by $1.27 bn to $719.75 billion

India's forex reserves further dropped by $1.27 billion to $719.75 billion during the week ended Oct 30, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

The overall reserves had dropped by $5.01 billion to $721.02 billion in the previous reporting week ended Oct 16.

The reserves had touched an all-time high of $785.71 billion for the week ended Sept 4, driven by a heavy flow of currency as part of a special concessional swap for deposits from the diaspora through which banks raised a record sum of nearly $133 billion, but have been on a declining trend ever since.

Experts attribute the sharp decline in the kitty to deployment of the foreign currency non-resident bank resources and also to currency defence put up by the Reserve Bank of India through dollar sales. **-PTI**

No Tata truce, boardroom battle looms

Noel–Chandra talks inconclusive, ₹25,000 cr proposal takes centre-stage



An attempted rapprochement between Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata and Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran has ended without agreement, as fresh correspondence thrusts the conglomerate's governance differences towards a boardroom reckoning. According to media reports on Friday, their October 25 meeting, facilitated by Tata veteran NA Soonawala, failed to resolve disagreements over Tata Sons' listing, Chandrasekaran's tenure and minority shareholder Shapoorji Pallonji Group's exit options. Further dialogue was reportedly agreed.

The following day, Noel questioned procedures governing Chandrasekaran's reappointment at the September 17 board meeting, seeking recordings, minutes and voting records. The board had approved another five-year term beginning February 2027, reportedly despite Noel's dissent.

Fresh boardroom battle

On October 29, Noel sent two letters to company secretary Suprakash Mukhopadhyay, seeking presentations and board votes on November 26. One addresses SP Group's proposal to realise ₹25,000 crore through selective cancellation of part of its approximately 18.38% holding. Shares would be independently valued, with payments potentially staggered over 18 months. Shareholder consent, tribunal sanction and regulatory approvals would be necessary.

Regulatory crossroads

The other concerns Tata Trusts' proposal to merge wholly owned Tata Electronic Systems and Tata Consulting Engineers into Tata Sons, potentially strengthening its case to retain unlisted status. The regulatory stakes are considerable. In Sept, the RBI rejected Tata Sons' request to surrender its registration and directed compliance with requirements for upper-layer non-banking financial companies. Any restructuring would need regulatory examination; its success is not assured.

Leadership transition

Separately, Noel will retire as Trent chairman and director on November 11, becoming chairman emeritus the following day. Bahram Vakil will succeed him.

Noel remains chairman of Tata Trusts.

For India's largest corporate houses, November's board deliberations could test whether competing interests can be reconciled through institutional consensus rather than prolonged confrontation.

The high-stakes power struggle is poised to escalate into protracted legal and regulatory warfare. Boardroom friction will likely trigger court battles over trust bylaws, intense legal caveats surrounding the TVS family inheritance, and sharp regulatory showdowns regarding the mandatory public listing of Tata Sons or the proposed SP Group payout. **-FPJ News Service**

'FTAs to provide exporters' access to $85 tn economy; industry needs to expand footprint'

PTI
NEW DELHI

With India's trade pacts set to provide preferential access to its goods and services in countries with a combined gross domestic product of $85 trillion in the coming years, the industry should look beyond the huge domestic market and step out of its comfort zone to expand globally, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

Goyal said that before 2014, India had implemented free trade agreements with countries having an aggregate gross domestic product of $10 trillion. In the last four and a half years, the government has entered into nine trade pacts which covered 38 developed countries, having a gross domestic product of $60 trillion.

India is now negotiating seven to eight more agreements, which will add another $15 trillion, where India will get preferential access for its goods and services, the minister said at the 4th Edition Festival of Ideas.

Banks' investments up 9.5%

Growth in investments by scheduled commercial banks gained pace in the first half of Oct despite the impending festival season, according to data released by the RBI on Thursday. Investments rose by ₹681.18 bn from the last fortnight and 9.5% on year to ₹75.38 trillion as of Oct. 15.

India's 500 GW RE target hinges on LDES scale-up; FY28 viability gap funding key enabler: IESA report

India's target of achieving 500 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030 hinges on the rapid expansion of long-duration energy storage, with financial year 2028 viability gap funding serving as a critical enabler, according to a report released on Friday.

As the focus shifts from capacity addition to the optimisation and integration of renewable resources, scaling up long-duration energy storage is essential to support grid stability, renewable integration, and energy resilience on the path to net zero, the India Energy Storage Alliance said in a statement.

India's path to achieve 500 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030 now depends on scaling up long-duration energy storage technologies, according to a new report by the India Energy Storage Alliance in association with Customized Energy Solutions.

The report identifies the anticipated financial year 2028 viability gap funding framework as a key enabler for accelerating long-duration energy storage deployment and unlocking the full value of India's clean energy transition. **-PTI**

Sebi imposes ₹1 cr fine on CDSL

Securities and Exchange Board of India on Friday imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on Central Depository Services (India) Ltd for multiple compliance lapses, including failure to communicate reasons for rejection of pledge requests to the depository participants of both the pledgor and pledgee and shortcomings in disaster recovery drills.

Central Depository Services (India) Ltd has been directed to pay the penalty within 45 days, failing which recovery proceedings may be initiated. **-PTI**

Mkts rally for 2nd day amid buying in IT cos

PTI
NEW DELHI



Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for the second straight session on Friday, supported by robust buying in IT firms and earnings-driven demand in the Tata Group's retail arm Trent.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 308.49 points, or 0.42%, to settle at 74,459.53. During the day, it surged 591.55 points, or 0.79%, to 74,742.59.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 116.35 points, or 0.51%, to end at 23,053.10.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,335.7 points, or 1.82%, and the Nifty climbed 453.1 points, or 2%.

Indian equity markets extended their gains for the second consecutive session, with benchmark indices closing modestly higher despite persistent concerns over rising crude oil prices, said Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm.Sectoral performance remained mixed, with the IT sector emerging as one of the strongest performers as investors rotated into technology stocks amid an AI-related sell-off across Asian markets, Ponmudi added, noting that Trent was a standout individual gainer to lead the Nifty-50 gainers.

The BSE SmallCap Select index tumbled 2.09%, and the BSE MidCap Select index declined 0.63%. Among BSE sectoral indices, Focused IT surged 1.91%, IT 1.53%, Hospitals 1.05%, Healthcare 0.95% and Utilities 0.25%.

Regulator eases KYC norms for foreign investors

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday eased compliance requirements for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), extending the periodicity of Know Your Customer (KYC) reviews to up to eight years from the existing one to three years, in a move aimed at reducing the compliance burden and promoting ease of doing business.

Under the revised framework, the frequency of KYC reviews will depend on the risk category, type of FPI and its regulatory status.

CBI books Chandra Proteco, its directors in ₹210 cr bk fraud case

The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered an first information report against Chandra Proteco Limited and its directors in connection with an alleged bank fraud of ₹210.13 crore, the agency said on Thursday.

The Central Bureau of Investigation also searched multiple premises linked to the directors of Chandra Proteco in Prayagraj and seized financial documents, the agency said in a statement.

The agency registered the first information report on a complaint by Indian Bank against Chandra Proteco and its directors Ranjeet Gupta, Anilesh Gupta, Aparna Gupta, unknown public servants and unknown persons for cheating and offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, resulting in an alleged wrongful loss of ₹210.13 crore to five banks, including the complainant bank, a CBI spokesperson said in the statement.

The spokesperson said that the suspects entered into a criminal conspiracy, and obtained cash credit facility, term loan and letters of credit amounting to ₹541.46 crore from a consortium of six banks led by Indian Bank. **-PTI**

Shares of Equitas SFB plunge after CEO resigns

PTI
NEW DELHI

Shares of Equitas Small Finance Bank plunged more than 27% in the last two days after Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer P N Vasudevan resigned from his position over alleged conflict of interest.

The board of directors, at its meeting held on Thursday, took note of his resignation and agreed to the same, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

However, Vasudevan has agreed to continue in his role until his successor takes over, ensuring continuity in the bank's operations and long-term plans.

The board has advised its nomination and remuneration committee to identify and recommend suitable candidates, both internal and external, for consideration and approval. The appointment of the selected candidate will be subject to approval from the RBI and other applicable regulatory and statutory authorities, the bank said.

4 cos get Sebi nod for IPO

Four companies -- Atomberg Technologies, Ratnadeep Retail, construction and infrastructure firm GNI Infrastructure and liquid carbon dioxide (CO2) producer Punjab Carbonic -- have secured markets regulator Sebi's approval to raise funds through IPOs. Meanwhile, the draft IPO papers of WOG Technologies were withdrawn/returned on October 30, as per an update with Sebi.

India's poverty falls from 27.1% to 2.6%: World Bk

ANI
NEW DELHI



India lifted an estimated 496 million people out of poverty between 2011 and 2023, with the share of the population living in extreme poverty declining sharply from 27.1% to 2.6%, according to the World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief.

The report stated that the proportion of people living below the lower-middle-income poverty line of $4.20 per day, measured at 2021 purchasing power parity, also fell from 57.7% to 16.1% during the period.

Describing the progress as "one of the fastest poverty declines in the world", the World Bank said India had recorded improvements across both monetary and non-monetary measures of poverty.

The report attributed the decline mainly to strong consumption growth, rising employment—particularly among women—and expanded social transfers, including food subsidies.

Poverty is expected to decline further, although at a slower pace. The World Bank's projections indicate that the poverty rate at the $4.20-a-day threshold could fall from 14.2% in 2026 to 12.1% by 2028.

It cautioned that these are indicative estimates based on microsimulations and could change as new labour market and macroeconomic data become available.

'Banks must go beyond lending to unlock Bengal's industrial potential'

Banks should go beyond traditional lending and act as facilitators to connect businesses with financial resources and investment opportunities to unlock West Bengal's industrial potential, NITI Aayog vice-chairman Ashok Lahiri said in Kolkata on Friday. Lahiri said the sector could play a wider role in promoting investment by leveraging its extensive business networks, industry relationships and knowledge of potential projects. **-PTI**

Briefs

Aditya Birla Cap Q2 profit rises to ₹1,288 crore

Aditya Birla Capital on Friday reported a 38% jump in consolidated profit after tax to ₹1,288 crore for the September quarter of FY27, driven by strong growth across its businesses. The company had earned a profit after tax of ₹933.52 crore in the year-ago period. Its revenue from operations rose to ₹14,003 crore in July-September quarter of FY27 from ₹10,595 crore a year earlier, Aditya Birla Capital said in a stock exchange filing.

Dixon Tech's Q2 profit falls 49% to ₹344 cr

Dixon Technologies (India) Ltd on Friday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹344 crore for the second quarter of FY27, down 48.7% from ₹670 crore in the corresponding quarter last financial year. Despite the decline in bottom-line performance, the company's revenue from operations surged 46.7% year-on-year to ₹21,794 crore in the July–September quarter, compared with ₹14,855 crore a year earlier.

Sun TV Q2 PAT up 2.8%, revenue drops to ₹940.31 crore

Sun TV Network Ltd on Friday reported a 2.8% year-on-year rise in consolidated profit after tax to ₹364.59 crore in the September quarter of FY27. The company had reported a profit after tax of ₹354.69 crore in the July–September period a year ago, according to an exchange filing.

Fiberweb India Q2 PAT jumps 366% QoQ

Fiberweb (India) Limited on Friday reported a 366.02 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) surge in net profit to ₹1.27 crore for the second quarter ended September 2026. The company's total income rose 209.36 per cent sequentially to ₹30.99 crore in Q2 FY27, according to its unaudited financial results.

Zee Ent Q2 profit drops 40% to ₹45.6 cr

Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd on Friday reported a 40.4% year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit to ₹45.6 crore for the September quarter of FY27, on account of higher advertising and promotional spends and impact on advertising revenue.The company had posted a net profit of ₹76.5 crore in the July–September period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing.However, total income jumped 12.6% to ₹2,247.2 crore in the second quarter of the 2026–27 financial year from ₹1,995.6 crore in the corresponding quarter of the preceding fiscal.

Reliance Retail Q2 PAT falls 24.5% to ₹2,619 crore

PTI
NEW DELHI

Reliance Retail, the arm of Reliance Industries led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, on Friday reported a 24.5% decline in profit after tax to ₹2,619 crore in the September quarter.

Its profit after tax was ₹3,469 crore in the year-ago period.

Its gross revenue rose 6.43% to ₹91,716 crore from ₹86,169 crore a year earlier as the festive period shifted to the December quarter.

Revenue from operations of Reliance Retail Venture Ltd increased 5.78% to ₹80,220 crore in the September quarter of the financial year 2027. It was ₹75,836 crore in the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

Reliance Industries stated in its earnings statement that business performance was impacted by the shift in the festive calendar to the third quarter.

RIL Q2 profit jumps 40% on refining, digital gains; revenue hits record

PTI
NEW DELHI



Reliance Industries Ltd on Friday reported a 40.6% year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit to ₹25,548 crore for the September quarter of FY27, as stronger refining margins and growth in its digital business offset relatively subdued performance in retail.

The oil-to-telecom-and-retail conglomerate had posted a net profit of ₹18,165 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Earnings per share rose to ₹18.88 from ₹13.42, according to a stock exchange filing. Profit also increased sequentially from ₹20,946 crore in the April-June period of FY27.

Consolidated revenue rose 27.8% to ₹362,268 crore, and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization climbed 23.9% to a record ₹62,409 crore.

The latest profit also surpassed the previous quarter's ₹23,196 crore, making it a record for the country's largest listed company by market capitalisation.

The oil-to-chemicals business, which houses the company's oil refineries and petrochemical units, was the largest driver of growth, with earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization up 67.9% to ₹25,203 crore on revenue of ₹231,601 crore, up 44.2%. Supply disruptions tied to the West Asia conflict, including in the Strait of Hormuz, and attacks on refining infrastructure in the region and Russia pushed fuel cracks up 3.0 to 3.7 times from a year earlier. Dated Brent averaged $97 a barrel, up 40.6%.

The performance came despite disruptions in West Asia, higher crude premiums, and elevated freight costs. Reliance stated that its ability to diversify crude sourcing and optimise product placement helped it capture better margins. The company stated that the earnings were held back by higher crude premiums, elevated freight and insurance costs, special additional excise duty-related costs, and under-recoveries in domestic fuel retail.

"Our oil-to-chemicals business has delivered its best ever quarterly performance amid a highly volatile and challenging global environment. It is a sound testament to our operational resilience," said Executive Director Anant Ambani.

Jio Platforms' Q2 PAT rises 13.7% to ₹8,389 cr

Jio Platforms on Friday reported a 13.7% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹8,389 crore for the September 2026 quarter, driven by subscriber gains, higher realisations per user and healthy growth in digital services.

The digital and telecom company's consolidated revenue from operations rose 11.4% to ₹40,475 crore during the quarter under review, according to a regulatory filing. The September-quarter scorecard is the company's first since its stellar listing earlier this week, and the earnings briefing also marks the first time Managing Director Akash Ambani addressed investors on a quarterly results call.

Net profit attributable to owners of the company stood at ₹8,389 crore for the just-ended quarter against ₹7,379 crore in the year-ago period.

On a sequential basis, consolidated net profit rose 8% from ₹7,765 crore in the June quarter, while revenue from operations increased 3.3% from ₹39,173 crore.

The company's quarterly earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation increased 16.6% year-on-year to ₹21,879 crore, with EBITDA margin expanding 250 basis points to 54.1%. **-PTI**

JioStar Q2 PAT falls 13.2% to ₹1,147 crore

Media and entertainment platform JioStar reported a 13.2% decline in profit after tax to ₹1,147 crore in the September quarter of FY27, even as gross revenue rose 9.8% to ₹7,944 crore. JioStar reported a profit after tax of ₹1,322 crore and gross revenue of ₹7,232 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. Revenue from operations rose 10.1% year-on-year to ₹6,806 crore, according to the earnings statement of RIL. The revenue growth was led by strong growth in subscription revenue and digital entertainment advertising revenue, the company stated. **-PTI**

RELIANCE CONSUMER POSTS 1.6 TIMES REVENUE GROWTH TO ₹8,266 CR IN Q2

PTI
NEW DELHI

Reliance Consumer Products Ltd, the fast-moving consumer goods arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, reported revenue of ₹8,266 crore, a 1.6 times year-on-year increase in the September quarter, driven by strong traction in home and personal care, packaged food and daily essentials segments. In the first half of the financial year 2027, the company's gross revenue stood at ₹16,900 crore, up 1.8 times year-on-year, according to a Reliance Industries earnings statement. Reliance Consumer Products Ltd has achieved 80% of last year's total sales in just six months, the conglomerate stated.

BoB posts record high profit of ₹6,532 cr in Q2

PTI
MUMBAI

Bank of Baroda on Friday reported its highest-ever quarterly net profit of ₹6,532 crore, registering a growth of 35.8% in the second quarter of the 2026–27 financial year.

Its profit was ₹4,809.39 crore in the July-September period of 2025–26. The bank's net interest income in the quarter under review expanded by 9% to ₹13,026 crore, according to a stock exchange filing.

The lender's domestic advances were at ₹11,87,944 crore, a growth of 13.5% year-on-year, while global advances were ₹15,12,448 crore, growing by 18.3%.

The bank stated that its domestic deposits increased by 16.6% to ₹14,83,521 crore in September this year.

Global deposits grew 16.4% to ₹17,45,435 crore. The gross non-performing asset ratio improved to 1.78% in the second quarter of the 2026–27 financial year from 2.16% in the second quarter of the 2025–26 financial year.

The net non-performing asset ratio reduced by 20 basis points and stood at 0.37% in the second quarter of the 2026–27 financial year.

BEL Q2 PAT grows most in 3 quarters

Bharat Electronics Ltd reported better-than-expected earnings for the September quarter, with both the bottom line and top line beating analysts' estimates by a wide margin. The aerospace and defence company's net profit for July–September grew at its fastest pace in three quarters, supported by strong sales growth and a reversal in deferred tax.

The company's net profit for the September quarter rose around 20% on year to ₹15.41 billion, beating the Street's view of ₹13.86 billion. Revenue from operations rose 27% to ₹72.91 billion, higher than the ₹66.14 billion estimated by analysts. **-Informist**

IOC posts record quarterly profit of ₹21,630 crore

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation on Friday reported its highest-ever quarterly standalone net profit of ₹21,630 crore for the three months ended Sept 30, as a sharp improvement in refining margins more than offset losses on petrol and diesel sales and the burden of unpaid cooking gas liquefied petroleum gas subsidies.

The oil major's net profit of ₹21,630.03 crore, or ₹15.71 per share, in July–September—the second quarter of the 2026–27 fiscal year—compared with ₹7,610.45 crore, or ₹5.53 per share, in the corresponding period a year ago, according to a stock exchange filing.

The record quarterly earnings were equivalent to more than half of Indian Oil Corporation's highest-ever annual net profit of ₹39,619 crore, reported in the 2023–24 financial year. It compared with a loss of ₹2,661.37 crore in the preceding April–June quarter.

The strong performance came as higher refining margins boosted earnings from processing crude oil into products such as petrol and diesel. These gains helped offset losses on retail fuel sales, with pump prices remaining unchanged since the second half of May despite an increase in crude oil prices. **-PTI**

Sun Pharma Q2 profit declines 36% to ₹1,989 cr

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries on Friday reported a 36.36% decline in consolidated net profit at ₹1,988.53 crore for the September quarter, dragged down by a one-time expenditure related to the proposed acquisition of Organon and litigation expenses in the US.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹3,124.95 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal. Consolidated total revenue from operations in the second quarter of the current fiscal stood at ₹16,198.71 crore.

The rise in revenues was driven by an increase in formulation sales in India—up 17.3% to ₹5,552.3 crore.

Total expenses during the quarter under review were higher at ₹12,287.83 crore as compared to ₹10,780.62 crore a year ago, the company stated.

"Our performance during the quarter was driven by strong momentum in India, emerging markets and rest of world. Among key developments, Ilumya is now approved in the US for the treatment of adults with active psoriatic arthritis... Beyond dermatology, we strengthened our cardiovascular portfolio through the licensing of lerodalcibep, a PCSK9 inhibitor, for markets outside the US and China," MD Kirti Ganorkar stated. **-PTI**

GAIL's Q2 profit more than doubles; board approves GAIL Gas IPO

GAIL (India) Ltd on Friday reported a more than twofold jump in standalone net profit for the July–September quarter of the 2026–27 financial year, driven by strong performance in its natural gas marketing business and a recovery in gas consumption following disruptions linked to the West Asia conflict.

The company's profit after tax rose to ₹4,723.75 crore in the second quarter.

Revenue from operations increased to ₹47,301.03 crore in the second quarter of the 2026–27 financial year from ₹35,657.18 crore a year back.

Separately, GAIL's board has granted in-principle approval for the proposed listing of its subsidiary GAIL Gas Ltd through an initial public offering, potentially involving the sale of up to a 25% stake, subject to final board approval.

GAIL Gas is a 100% subsidiary of GAIL. It is into city gas distribution, retailing compressed natural gas to automobiles and piped natural gas to households and industries. GAIL's gas marketing business, its largest revenue contributor, recorded pre-tax earnings more than triple to ₹3,523.57 crore. The segment includes wholesale natural gas trading and distribution. The gas transmission business saw a 36% rise in pre-tax earnings. **-PTI**

Tata Motors acquires majority stake in Iveco

Tata Motors has acquired an 89.42% stake in Italian commercial vehicle maker Iveco Group, making it an indirect subsidiary of the Indian automaker following completion of the initial settlement of its tender offer. In a joint statement on Friday, the companies stated that TML CV Holdings B.V., an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Motors, acquired 238,157,212 common shares of Iveco, representing approximately 89.42% of its common share capital, net of treasury shares.

"Iveco Group has now become part of Tata Motors," the company stated.

The proposed acquisition is Tata Motors' biggest acquisition since it bought Jaguar Land Rover from Ford in 2008.

The settlement follows the completion of the acceptance period of the voluntary tender offer, under which Tata Motors offered €14.4 per share in cash for Iveco's common shares.

The acceptance period will reopen for five trading days from Nov 2 to Nov 6, 2026, allowing shareholders another opportunity to tender their shares. Settlement of shares tendered during this period will take place on Nov 13. **-PTI**

SJVN posts more than double PAT of ₹658 cr in Q2

State-owned SJVN Ltd on Friday stated that its consolidated net profit for the September quarter more than doubled year-on-year to ₹657.72 crore, mainly on the back of higher revenues.

The consolidated net profit was ₹307.60 crore in the quarter ended September 30, 2025, a regulatory filing showed.

Total income rose to ₹2,290.31 crore in the quarter ended September 30, 2026, from ₹1,078.29 crore in the same period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing. **-PTI**

INDIA'S ECONOMY POISED FOR ITS NEXT BIG LEAP: DR ARUN SINGH

In a conversation with Vivek Law on Simple Hai!, Dr Arun Singh, Chief Economist at Dun & Bradstreet India, discussed how geopolitical tensions, trade realignments, artificial intelligence (AI) and climate disruptions are reshaping the global economy. He said India could grow at 6.5% to 7% over the next two to three years, supported by demographics, investment and export diversification. However, stronger private investment, employment generation and technology adoption will be crucial to sustaining growth.

A Hyper-Disrupted World

Singh said economic cycles have always influenced growth, but disruptions are becoming more frequent. Geopolitical tensions, the Russia-Ukraine war, tariff disputes and technological advances are creating uncertainty. Faster information flows mean global developments affect businesses, markets and households almost immediately. However, information overload can also fuel market anxiety and speculative behaviour. He described this environment as a "hyper-disrupted world", requiring governments, businesses and individuals to adapt continuously.

Investment Drives Growth

Despite global uncertainty, Singh expects India's GDP to expand by 6.5% to 7% over the next two to three years.

He identified demographics, export diversification, household savings and improving investment rates as key strengths. Gross fixed capital formation has increased from around 7% to 12%, according to figures cited during the discussion. However, growth exceeding 7% will require stronger private investment and easing external pressures.

Singh stressed that investment expands productive capacity, generates employment and increases household incomes, supporting consumption and further economic expansion.

Cautious Monetary Policy

Singh said policymakers must balance inflation control with economic growth. He distinguished cost-push inflation, driven by rising input costs, from demand-pull inflation. India's inflationary pressures, he argued, are largely cost-driven, limiting the effectiveness of higher interest rates. Food inflation above 6%, as cited during the discussion, particularly affects rural households. Producers also face rising costs and pressure on margins.

Higher borrowing costs could discourage private investment. Singh therefore favoured a cautious "wait and watch" monetary policy approach, supported by stronger supply chains.

Rupee & Capital Flows

Discussing rupee weakness and foreign capital outflows, Singh highlighted India's dependence on imported oil, which accounts for around 85% of consumption. Global interest rate differences and shifting capital flows also influence currency movements. Although India does not face a fundamental balance of payments crisis, its trade deficit and volatile capital flows pose challenges. Singh called for reforms in infrastructure, business regulations and workforce skills to attract long-term foreign investment.

Technology & Innovation

Singh said India must improve its ability to commercialise innovation. Although India ranks sixth globally in patents, according to figures cited in the conversation, gaps remain in testing, prototyping and scaling technologies. These shortcomings could weaken competitiveness in strategic sectors such as semiconductors.

He urged businesses to invest in skills, innovation and AI adoption, warning that failure to embrace the fourth industrial revolution could undermine India's long-term competitiveness.

Employment Remains Critical

Employment remains a major structural challenge. Singh cited India's labour force participation rate at around 55%, with male participation near 75% and female participation approximately 33%.

He described this imbalance as operating the economy on "one engine".

Youth unemployment, cited at approximately 9.9%, highlights the gap between education and employment opportunities. Singh called for industry-focused training, stronger private investment and infrastructure development to generate sustainable jobs. He also emphasised shifting workers from lower-productivity agriculture towards manufacturing and construction.

Agriculture employs around 40% of workers but grows at approximately 3.6%, compared with manufacturing growth of around 9% to 12%, according to figures discussed.

Increasing women's workforce participation could significantly improve household incomes, consumption and overall economic productivity.

Changing Global Order

Against rising US-China tensions and shifting trade relationships, Singh said India must strengthen its position in emerging global growth centres.

Expanding trade partnerships, diversifying exports, reducing import dependence and modernising infrastructure will be essential.

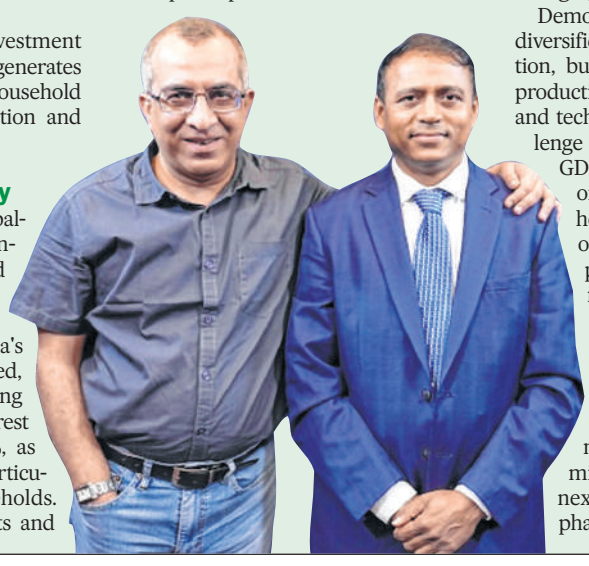
He cautioned against relying on outdated growth models without accounting for technological advances and geopolitical changes.

Without deeper reforms, India risks remaining within a 6.5% to 7% growth trajectory, restricting faster improvements in per capita income.

Beyond GDP Numbers

Singh's outlook reflects confidence in India's economic potential while recognising significant structural challenges.

Demographics, investment and export diversification provide a strong foundation, but sustained prosperity requires productive employment, improved skills and technological progress. India's challenge is not merely achieving higher GDP growth, but translating economic expansion into rising household incomes, wider employment opportunities and inclusive prosperity. How policymakers, businesses and workers respond to an increasingly disrupted global economy will ultimately determine India's next growth phase.



Scan QR code to watch video

PNB settles ₹43 lakh in claims in ₹35 cr Greater Noida fraud case

FPJ News Service
MUMBAI

Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Thursday assured customers that all genuine claims would be honoured following allegations of financial irregularities involving savings accounts and fixed deposits at its Greater Noida branch.

The public sector lender confirmed that it had already settled three customer claims totalling ₹43 lakh as of Wednesday.

The assurance came after account holders alleged that nearly ₹35 crore had gone missing from their deposits.

In an official statement, PNB said it had taken serious note of the complaints and was examining the matter on priority.

The bank said it was cooperating fully with the authorities while verifying the reported discrepancies and assessing their extent.

It also reiterated its commitment to protecting depositors and maintaining operational integrity.

PNB said it maintained a zero-tolerance policy towards fraud, financial irregularities and misconduct.

The lender added that those found responsible would face strict action under applicable rules and procedures. It also said it was continuously strengthening internal controls and monitoring systems to prevent similar incidents.

Central Bank of India inaugurates e-Lobby at Nariman Point branch



Central Bank of India has inaugurated an advanced E-Lobby at its Nariman Point branch in Mumbai to enhance customer convenience and promote digital banking services. The facility was inaugurated by the bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO), Shri Kalyan Kumar. The E-Lobby is equipped with customer-friendly facilities, including passbook printing and cash deposit services, enabling customers to carry out routine banking transactions conveniently. The initiative aims to reduce customers' dependence on branch counters, save time and improve the overall banking experience. The bank said the facility is part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen customer-centric services by providing modern, technology-enabled, secure and convenient banking solutions.

Namaste, Zombies

The undead have fastened their seat belts and are landing in India

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL



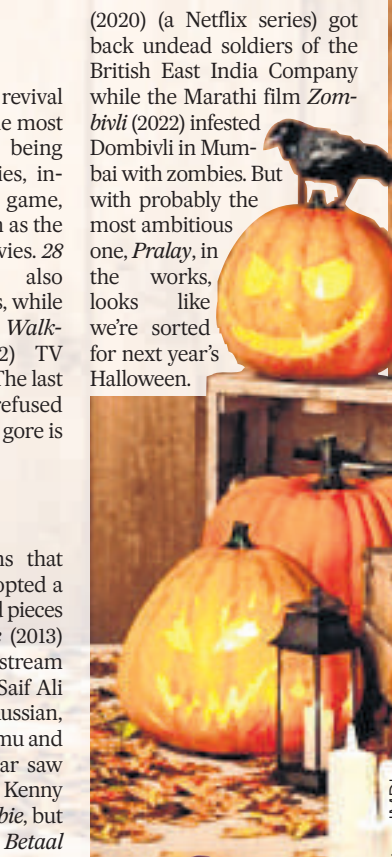
Milla in *Resident Evil*



Dawn of the Dead



Night of the Living Dead



Go Goa Gone

Kabir Singh Bhandari

Instead of focussing on the time tested *chudails* this Halloween, let's turn our attention instead to a rising force of the underworld - zombies. Seen as a regular fixture in Hollywood, slowly and steadily, these undead creatures are making these creatures in the film *Pralay*, slated for a 2027 release.

Directed by Jai Mehta, India's most ambitious zombie film yet is set against the backdrop of Mumbai, as humanity races against extinction. With Kalyani Priyadarshan making her Bollywood debut, it is produced by Ananya Birla's Birla Studios, Hansal Mehta and Sahil Saigal's True Story Films, and Ranveer Singh's Maa Kasam Films.

Infesting Hollywood

Adopting the undead in India could have come due to its massive success overseas, as it seems like over the last decade there has been an infestation of zombie movies in Hollywood. Being an ardent horror fan, I've watched most of these, and have quite a few lined up in my watchlist. The latest one I saw (rewatched) was *Dawn of the Dead* (2004), directed by Zack Snyder. Yes, the same Snyder who has directed *Justice League* (2017), *Man of Steel* (2013) and *300* (2006). It's an engrossing watch about a bunch of survivors who take refuge in a mall when the entire city has been overrun by zombies.

Romero's trilogy

One (almost) comprehensive list notes that at least 100 zombie movies were made in the last 13 years (horror's favourite number). However, Hollywood's tryst with this undead entity began with films like *White Zombie* (1932) and I *Walked With a Zombie* (1943), where magic controlled zombie servants. But it was George A. Romero who created the modern subgenre, starting off with *Night of the Living Dead* (1968), followed by *Dawn of the Dead* (1978, Snyder's was a remake), *Day of the Dead* (1985) and a few more.

The return

The early 2000s saw a revival of sorts, with one of the most successful franchises being the *Resident Evil* series, inspired from the video game, starring Milla Jovovich as the lead in at least six movies. *28 Days Later* (2002) also spawned a few sequels, while the long-running *The Walking Dead* (2010-2022) TV series hit the jackpot. The last one, however, I have refused to see till now because gore is something I detest.

The Bollywood connection

Nevertheless, it seems that Bollywood too has adopted a few zombies, in bits and pieces though. *Go Goa Gone* (2013) was India's first mainstream zombie comedy with Saif Ali Khan as the fake Russian, along with Kunal Kemmu and Vir Das. The same year saw the Kirti Kulhari, Luke Kenny starrer *Rise of the Zombie*, but that didn't do well. *Betaal* (2020) (a Netflix series) got back undead soldiers of the British East India Company while the Marathi film *Zombivli* (2022) infested Dombivli in Mumbai with zombies. But with probably the most ambitious one, *Pralay*, in the works, looks like we're sorted for next year's Halloween.

DON'T FORGET THE ALIENS

***Koi... Mil Gaya*'s (2003) Jadoo will soon have company with Akshay Kumar starrer *Samuk*, an upcoming alien survival thriller directed by Kanishk Varma and produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah. Hollywood creature-effects expert Alec Gillis, known for his work on the *Alien* and *Predator* franchises, is designing the film's creature.**

Photos: IMDb

Hyping up Shraddha Kapoor

Makers of *Eetha* couldn't stop gushing about the actress during film's trailer launch

Murtuza Iqbal

The much-awaited trailer of *Eetha* was launched on Friday at a grand event at Plaza Cinema in Dadar, Mumbai. It was attended by actress Shraddha Kapoor, director Laxman Utekar, producer Dinesh Vijan, actor Randeep Hooda, and music composer duo Ajay-Atul. ***The Free Press Journal*** was present there, and well, Dinesh, Randeep, and Ajay couldn't stop praising Shraddha's performance.

'Shraddha before and after *Eetha*'

At the start of the event, Dinesh came on stage and said, "Everybody here loves her, but I think you, as an actor, will be known before and after *Eetha*. Thank you so much for doing Eetha."

Further, when he was asked about the casting, Dinesh stated, "Only Shraddha can play this role, and when she came by, she told me the story of her *Aaji* (grandmother). She (Shraddha) was also in her phase of life where she wanted to give everything to the role."

He added, "I cannot tell you how proud I am. You have seen the dialogue in the end; that's just the tip of the iceberg. She has given an electrifying performance. You will know Shraddha Kapoor before Eetha and after Eetha."

Randeep praises his co-star

While talking about Shraddha at the event, her co-star Randeep said, "She has put in so much in this movie, and I could really see what Dino means 'before and after *Eetha*', and I was very glad to be a part of the movie with Shraddha."

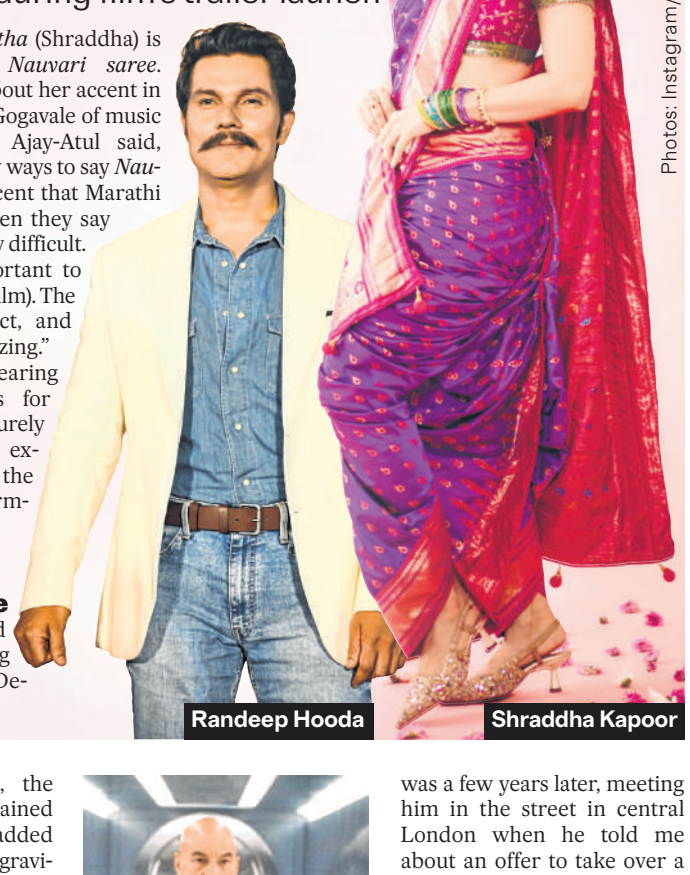
The 'perfect' accent

At the end of the trailer, there's a scene where *Eetha* (Shraddha) is talking about *Nauvari saree*. While talking about her accent in the scene, Ajay Gogavale of music composer duo Ajay-Atul said, "There are many ways to say *Nauvari*. But the accent that Marathi people have when they say Nauvari, it is very difficult. So, it was important to have her (in the film). The accent is perfect, and that sounds amazing."

Well, after hearing all the praises for Shraddha, we surely now have high expectations from the actress' performance in *Eetha*.

Eetha release date

The film is slated to hit the big screens on December 4, 2026.



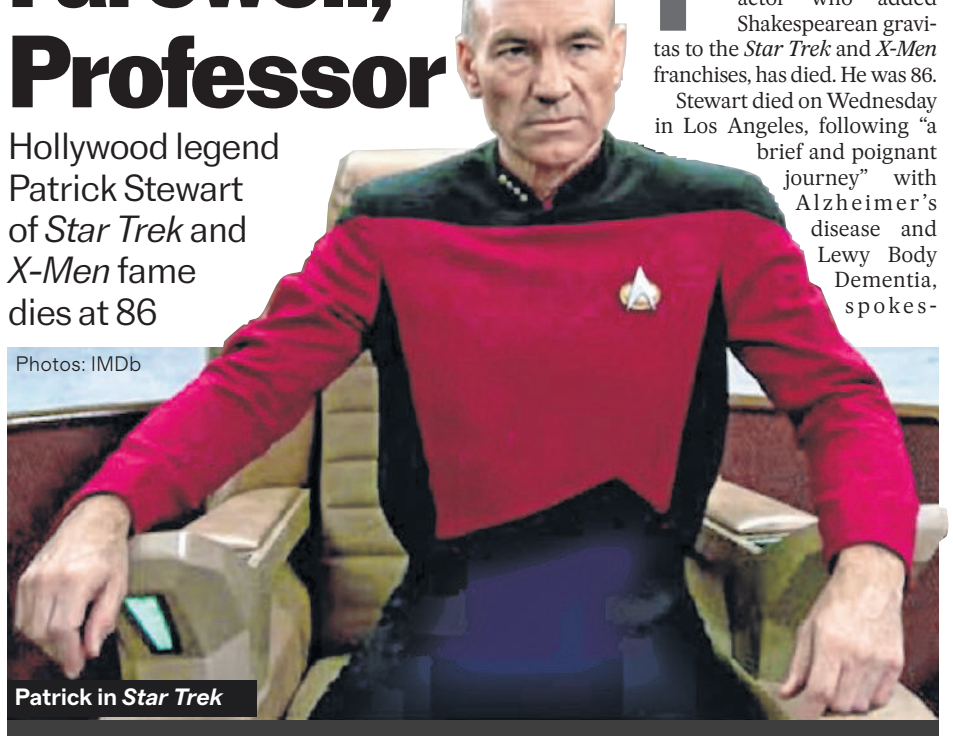
Randeep Hooda

Shraddha Kapoor

Photos: Instagram/Ashwini Sawant

Farewell, Professor

Hollywood legend Patrick Stewart of *Star Trek* and *X-Men* fame dies at 86



Photos: IMDb

Patrick in *Star Trek*



The actor in *X-Men*

Patrick Stewart, the classically trained actor who added Shakespearean gravitas to the *Star Trek* and *X-Men* franchises, has died. He was 86.

Stewart died on Wednesday in Los Angeles, following "a brief and poignant journey" with Alzheimer's disease and Lewy Body Dementia, spokesperson Kelly Bush Novak said. Stewart's diagnoses had not been previously disclosed.

While best known as Professor Charles Xavier and Captain Jean-Luc Picard from the *X-Men* and *Star Trek: The Next Generation* series and films, respectively, Stewart spent more of his career onstage than in the X-Mansion or on the USS Enterprise.

Celebs mourn loss

Ian McKellen posted on social media, "We first met as ambitious young actors with the Royal Shakespeare Company half a century ago but we weren't in the same productions. My first strong memory was a few years later, meeting him in the street in central London when he told me about an offer to take over a leading part in *Star Trek*. 'But Patrick think of your stage career in the UK. Do you really want to risk—getting lost in Hollywood for years and years?'. Well, he took the risk and thank goodness for us all that he did for not just his devoted Trekkies but film and theatre audiences, who marvelled at his using international celebrity to star in a string of cinema successes (*X-Men* of course) and in great classical plays by Shakespeare, Ibsen, Arthur Miller, Peter Shaffer, Pinter and Beckett at Stratford-upon-Avon, in London's West End and on Broadway."

McKellen added, "He wore his heart on his sleeve, which made him a man to rely on, to admire and in my case, love."

Meanwhile his *X-Men* costar Hugh Jackman shared a moving tribute on X. "We lost one of the greats of stage and screen today. And, in my book, a tremendous friend and man. I learned so much from him. I will miss you, Patrick Stewart, all of my days," Hugh wrote.

- **Stewart died just a few days after Walter Koenig, another *Star Trek* icon, who played Ensign Pavel Chekov on the original NBC TV show from 1966 to 1969.**
- **He married Brooklyn songwriter and singer Sunny Ozell in 2013, with the actor's *X-Men* co-star McKellen officiating. He is survived by two children, a daughter, Sophia, and a son Daniel from his first wife Sheila Falconer.**

Film & OTT Reviews

IN THEATRES



Photos: IMDb

The Fix
Director: Guy Moshe
Cast: Zachary Levi, Liam Neeson, Quincy Isaiah, Wes Chatham, Jake Choi, Augusto Aguilera, Elnaaz Norouzi
Where: In theatres near you
Rating: ★★½

Fires plenty of shots but misses the target

Guy Moshe's *The Fix* follows disgraced Special Ops leader Tucker (Zachary Levi), who reunites his former team to retrieve $25 million hidden in Tehran while rescuing an Iranian dissident. The convoluted mission delivers bursts of exciting action, but an avalanche of twists, political stereotypes and an excessive runtime dilute its suspense. Levi impresses as a physically convincing, emotionally troubled soldier, while Elnaaz Norouzi brings warmth and presence as Zara. Liam Neeson adds gravitas despite limited screen time. Larry Smith's cinematography lends visual polish, though uneven digital effects disappoint.

FPJ VERDICT: This watchable thriller loses its way amid its own intrigue.

— **Troy Ribeiro**



Sense and Sensibility
Director: Georgia Oakley
Cast: Daisy Edgar-Jones, Esmé Creed-Miles, Caitríona Balfe, Bodhi Rae Breathnach, Frank Dillane, Herbert Nordrum, George MacKay, Fiona Shaw
Where: In theatres near you
Rating: ★★½

Lead actors bring fresh passion to Austen's classic

Georgia Oakley's *Sense and Sensibility* revisits Jane Austen's classic with an earthy aesthetic and a greater emphasis on romantic yearning than social comedy. Daisy Edgar-Jones and Esmé Creed-Miles bring contrasting energies to Elinor and Marianne Dashwood, sisters navigating financial insecurity, heartbreak and society's matrimonial expectations. George MacKay adds understated charm, while the naturalistic cinematography and evocative score lend the period romance visual appeal. However, the sombre tone frequently suppresses Austen's wit, several supporting characters lack depth, and the adaptation struggles to distinguish itself from Ang Lee's celebrated 1995 version.

FPJ VERDICT: Thoughtful yet uneven, this retelling has its moments but rarely captivates.

— **Troy Ribeiro**



Wicker
Directors: Eleanor Wilson and Alex Huston Fischer
Cast: Olivia Colman, Alexander Skarsgard, Elizabeth Debicki
Where: In theatres near you
Rating: ★★★

Bawdy comedy that struggles with pacing

Eleanor Wilson and Alex Huston Fischer's *Wicker* is a bawdy fantasy comedy that skewers patriarchy through an unconventional romance. Olivia Colman's ostracised Fisherwoman commissions a husband made of wicker, whose kindness, sexual attentiveness and respect for his wife expose the inadequacies of the village's flesh-and-blood husbands. Colman and Alexander Skarsgård lend warmth and credibility to this delightfully absurd pairing, supported by Peter Dinklage's dry wit and evocative production design. However, a promising premise loses momentum, and the film sidesteps some intriguing questions about love and free will.

FPJ VERDICT: Wickedly amusing and socially perceptive, *Wicker* entertains more consistently than it explores.

— **Troy Ribeiro**

ON OTT PLATFORMS



Meethe Mein Kya Hai
Director: Radhika Bansal
Cast: Rohini Hattangadi, Ayesha Raza Mishra, Tarana Raja, Abhay Kaul, Gaurav Sharma, Dalai, Vikram Bakshi and others
Where: Netflix
Rating: ★★★

A sweet family drama with a preachy side

Meethe Mein Kya Hai may not bring anything new to the family-drama genre, but it has enough warmth, good performances by Rohini Hattangadi and Ritwik Bhowmik and a few funny moments. Yes, it gets preachy at times, and the predictable story could have been more engaging. However, if you are looking for something light to watch with your family during the *Diwali* holidays, this film is a suitable choice.

FPJ VERDICT: A pleasant one-time watch for those who enjoy family dramas. Grab some snacks, sit with your loved ones and give it a try.

— **Ria Sharma**



Akka
Director: Dharmaraj Shetty
Cast: Keerthy Suresh, Tanvi Azmi, Radhika Apte, Mahesh Manjrekar and others
Where: Netflix
Rating: ★★

Joke of a woman-centric bloodbath

Akka, directed by debutant Dharmaraj Shetty, explores a fictional matriarchal society in South India. While Keerthy Suresh and Tanvi Azmi deliver strong performances, weak storytelling, uneven acting, confusing editing and amateurish cinematography undermine its promising premise. Action director Sunil Rodrigues has done a fine job especially during the *ankam* fight sequence.

FPJ VERDICT: The series fails to sustain interest and is best skipped.

— **Noorulain Sayed**

Bengaluru FC snatch stoppage-time point

SUBSTITUTE VINITH VENKATESH STRIKES IN THE 93RD MINUTE AFTER SUNIL CHHETRI SETS HIM UP



PTI

GUWAHATI

Substitute Vinith Venkatesh struck in the 93rd minute as Bengaluru FC fought back to hold NorthEast United FC to a 1-1 draw in their Indian Super League encounter at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium here on Friday.

Jithin MS had put the hosts ahead in the 15th minute, finishing a fast break with a left-footed strike into the bottom-left corner after being set up by Gonzalez.

Bengaluru pushed for an equaliser, with Ashique Kuruniyan, Borja Martinez and Soham Varshneya creating opportunities, but goalkeeper Gurmeet Singh kept the visitors at bay. At the other end, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu denied Alaaeddine Ajaraie and Jithin as NorthEast went into the break with a 1-0 lead.

Bengaluru introduced Sunil Chhetri and Suresh Wangjam in search of a breakthrough, while NorthEast made changes of their own, including bringing on Parthib Gogoi and Redeem Tlang.

The visitors increased the pressure in the closing stages. Chhetri missed from inside the box after a Borja cross, while Manuel Iriondo headed wide from a corner.

NorthEast looked set to hold on for all three points, but Bengaluru found a late equaliser in stoppage time. Gurmeet collided with Eneko Satrustegui and spilled the ball, allowing Chhetri to collect possession and pick out Vinith inside the box. The substitute made no mistake, slotting the ball into the bottom-left corner to rescue a point for the visitors.

My plan is to start training in next couple of weeks: Neeraj

PTI



NEW DELHI

Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra says he plans to resume training and undergo rehabilitation in the next couple of weeks as his ankle injury, which ruled him out of the recent Asian Games in Japan, has improved significantly.

The 28-year-old javelin throw superstar, who won a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and a silver at the Paris Games in 2024, sustained the injury during training in August this year.

The setback brought an early end to his season, forcing him to miss the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games as well as the Diamond League finale.

He said he is much better now after consulting renowned orthopaedic surgeon Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala.

"My injury is much better now. I faced some issues initially in the first month and a half, but it has improved significantly," Chopra told Sports Authority of India (SAI) Media.

"I consulted Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala and he has advised that I can now resume training and begin proper rehabilitation. My plan is to start both in the next couple of weeks." Chopra said that he took complete rest as advised by his medical team.

ALL INDIA JUNIOR RANKING BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

Harshad Shadish and Lakshya Rajesh crowned champions

THE GOAN I NETWORK



PANAJI

Karnataka's Harshad Shadish and Lakshya Rajesh emerged champions in Boys' and Girls' Singles Under-19 respectively as the curtains came down on the Yonex-Sunrise G.H. Raisoni Memorial All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament 2026 at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium, Navelim, on Friday.

Ninth seed Harshad Shadish defeated Maharashtra's Rutva Sajwan 15-8, 15-10, while Lakshya Rajesh, seeded 2, staged an impressive comeback to overcome top seed Nakshatraa Jairaj of Tamil Nadu 10-15, 15-11, 15-9. The eight-day championship, organised by the Goa Badminton Association and North Goa District Badminton Association under the aegis of the Badminton Association of India and Sports Authority of Goa, was powered by the G.H. Raisoni Sports and Cultural Foundation, Nagpur, and featured the country's leading Under-19 shuttlers across five events with a total prize purse of 8 lakh.

In Boys' Doubles, Mizoram's Sainunmawia Sailo and Puducherry's Harishragavendiran Vaithianathan defeated Telangana's Sai Siddharth Rayaprolu and Andhra Pradesh's Charan Ram Thippana 9-15, 15-13, 15-7. Karnataka's Suhina Roy and Tamil Nadu's Krithya Siva Sankar clinched the Girls' Doubles title with a 15-12, 15-5 victory over Maharashtra's Sharayu Ranjane and Soyara Shelar. The Mixed Doubles crown went to Puducherry's Harishragavendiran Vaithianathan and Tamil Nadu's Krithya Siva Sankar, who edged Mizoram's Sainunmawia Sailo and Delhi's Ishita Negi 15-17, 15-13, 15-13 in a closely contested final.

Nagaland United stun Real Kashmir 3-1 on IFL debut

PTI

SRINAGAR

Debutants Nagaland United SC made an impressive start to their Indian Football League campaign, beating Real Kashmir FC 3-1 in the season opener at the TRC Stadium here on Friday.

JH Remlala gave the visitors an early lead in the third minute before Vanlalhriatzuala K doubled the advantage in the 21st minute.

Real Kashmir reduced the deficit through an own goal by Nagaland United captain Rohmingthanga in the 59th minute, but Vanlalhriatzuala struck again in the 74th minute to seal the win. He was later named Man-of-the-Match.

Nagaland United started on the front foot and took the lead when Remlala capitalised on a defensive lapse following Stephen Lalrinfela's long throw-in to score from close range.

The visitors continued to threaten on the counter and doubled their lead through a well-worked move in the 21st minute. Vincent Lalduhawma set up Vanlalhriatzuala on the right, and the forward finished superbly with a right-footed strike into the far corner.

Real Kashmir gradually grew into the contest and created a few chances before the break.

Dempo SC open IFL campaign on Sunday

THE GOAN I NETWORK

MARGAO

Dempo SC will begin their Indian Football League (IFL) 2026-27 campaign with a home fixture against FC Bengaluru United at the PJN Stadium, Fatorda, on Sunday. Kick-off is scheduled for 6.30 pm.

The Golden Eagles head into the new season with a young squad, built largely around players from the club's own development programme, and will look to make a positive start in front of their home supporters.

Entry to the match will be free for all fans. Supporters can enter through Gate No. 8 and will be accommodated in the West Upper Stand.

Dempo have urged supporters to turn up in large numbers and back the team as they begin their campaign.

Golden Jackals, Crocs RF and Mayurbhanj finish Day 1 on top

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The opening day of Season 3 of the Goa 7s Rugby Tournament witnessed an exciting series of encounters across the Men's and Women's categories on Friday, with teams producing competitive performances across the group-stage matches.

GOA 7s RUGBY



In the Men's Group A, Crocs RF finished the day at the top of the standings with 8 points after registering two wins and a draw.

They opened their campaign with a 19–19 draw against Mayurbhanj before recording a 28–0 victory over Puffins RC and a 19–12 win against Dahod Thunder. Puffins RC secured second place with 6 points, winning 19–14 against Dahod Thunder and 7–5 against Mayurbhanj. Dahod Thunder finished third with 5 points, while Mayurbhanj ended the day with 4 points.

In Group B, Golden Jackals emerged as the table toppers with a perfect record of three wins and 9 points. They defeated BIRD 14–12, Calicut Titans 21–7 and Black Archers 17–15 in a closely contested encounter. BIRD finished second with 7 points after registering victories over Black Archers (17–7) and Calicut Titans (12–0), while Calicut Titans secured 4 points. Black Archers rounded off the group standings.

In the Women's Group C, Mayurbhanj enjoyed an impressive outing, winning all three matches to finish at the top with 9 points. They began with a 24–12 victory over Kerala Wolfpack, followed it up with a 14–0 win against Crocs RF and defeated Dragons RC 28–5. Kerala Wolfpack finished second with 7 points after registering a commanding 38–0 victory over Dragons RC and a 22–0 win against Crocs RF. Crocs RF finished third with 3 points, while Dragons RC ended the day without a win.

SS Angle HSS felicitates 11 young sporting achievers

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

Shree Nirakar Education Society's S.S. Angle Higher Secondary School, Mashem, Canacona, felicitated 11 of its students for their achievements in sports and for representing Goa at various national-level sporting competitions held across the country.

The students were recognised for their dedication, talent and commitment in different sporting disciplines, including leather-ball cricket, tennis-ball cricket, Mallakhamb, netball and kabaddi.

Former bureaucrat Dr. Levinson Martins, former chairman of the Goa State Pollution Control Board, was the chief guest at the function, while Damodar Gaonkar, Principal of Government Higher Secondary School, Canacona, was the guest of honour. The programme was presided over by Prashant Naik, chairman of Shree Nirakar Education Society.



The students felicitated were Raj Bandekar, who represented Goa in a leather-ball cricket tournament in Bengaluru; Vedant Pagi, who participated in the All India Inter-Zonal Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament at Nagrota, Himachal Pradesh; Arnav Gaonkar and Gouresh Velip, who competed in the 33rd Junior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship at Agra, Uttar Pradesh; Ganadesh Gosavi, who represented Goa at the National School Games Mallakhamb Championship in Bihar; Adhvay Salelkar, who participated in the 69th National School Games Netball Championship at Mangaluru, Karnataka; Sanvi Pagi, who competed in the Senior National T-10 Tennis Ball Cricket Championship at Jagannath Puri, Odisha, and the U-19 Junior T-10 Tennis Ball Cricket Championship in Himachal Pradesh; Saira Sudhir, who participated in the Senior National T-10 Tennis Ball Cricket Championship at Jagannath Puri, Odisha; Jiya Chari and Siya Naik, who represented Goa at the National School Games Mallakhamb Championship in Bihar; and Pratiksha Velip, who participated in the 69th National School Games Kabaddi Championship at Kokamthan, Maharashtra.

IN SHORT >>

Goa U-17 boys team set for Nat School Games



PANAJI: The Goa U-17 boys football team was accorded a send-off at Campal, Panaji, on Friday ahead of its participation in the 70th National School Games 2026-27, to be held in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, from November 2 to 6.

The send-off ceremony was attended by Dr Ajay Gaude, Director of Sports and Youth Affairs (DSYA), Dr Vivek Pawar, Deputy Director of DSYA, Bruno Coutinho, Director of Coaching, Sports Authority of Goa (SAG), and other officials.

The 18-member squad comprises Kiaan Araujo, Kaushik Karmalkar, Lochlan Sousa, Reuben Barbosa, Nihal Vazarkar, Shiva Kumar, Elrad Braganza, Valito Pereira, Kaustubh Tari, Wesly Fernandes, Andreas Furtado, Crizman Correia, Samuel Rodrigues, Jaylen Gomes, Prajyot Gaocar, Amstrong Fernandes, Blaine Chukwulo and Uday Narse.

Shankar Falari will coach the team, while Gajanan Kambli will be the manager.

Fr Agnel SCC Paroda enter quarterfinals

MARGAO: Fr Agnel Sports and Cultural Club, Paroda, booked their place in the quarter-finals of the Navelim Villagers Union Trophy with a 2-1 victory over United Boys of Ambaulim at Rosary Grounds, Navelim.

Fr Agnel took a 2-0 lead in the first half through goals from Fedrich Fernandes in the 17th minute and Joel Furtado in the 25th.

United Boys of Ambaulim pulled one back through Royal Olivera, who converted a penalty in the 41st minute, but Fr Agnel held on to secure the win.

Dr Francis Lobo, chairman of Navelim Villagers Union, was present on the occasion.

Phezer Fernandes inspires St Anthony's Sports Club Assolda into semifinals

MARGAO: St Anthony's Sports Club, Assolda, edged past Nuvem Sports Club 2-1 to book their place in the semi-finals of the Fr Basilio Andrade Memorial Football Tournament, organised by Associação Académica de Majorda Utorda Calata at Musson Grounds, Majorda.

Phezer Fernandes was the architect of Assolda's victory, scoring the opener and setting up the decisive goal for Reagan Fernandes.

Assolda started positively, with Albino Gomes testing the opposition defence before goalkeeper Jackson was called into action to deny the Nuvem forward.

The breakthrough came when Sheldon Fernandes was fouled on the right, allowing Phezer to curl a low free-kick towards the far corner. Despite getting a hand to the ball, Nuvem goalkeeper Sharpil failed to keep it out.

Nuvem responded strongly and restored parity through Milroy, who latched on to Darwin's diagonal pass before beating Jackson.

The second half saw Phezer continue to trouble the Nuvem defence. He eventually made the difference with a fine run down the left before delivering a measured cross for Reagan to score from close range.

Nuvem pushed for another equaliser, but Assolda defended resolutely to preserve their lead and seal a place in the last four.

Cavelossim Panchayat Cup from Nov 23

THE GOAN I NETWORK

MARGAO

Santa Cruz Club of Cavelossim are set to organise the 24th Cavelossim Panchayat Cup Inter-Village Football Tournament from November 23, 2026, at the Fr Druston and Wellington Ground, Cavelossim.

The winners will receive a rolling trophy, a cash prize of Rs 60,000, a winners' trophy and other individual awards thatr are up for grabs. The prizes are sponsored by the Cavelossim Village Panchayat.

Interested teams can register their entries with the club's sports secretaries, Agnelo Passanha, Peter Cardozo or Glenn Gracias, on 7517494535, 9850538138 or 7774832132.

Chandan, Ishita, Wesley and Urvi to lead star-studded TT field in Panaji

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

Goa's leading paddlers, including Chandan Caro, Ishita Colaso, Wesley Do Rosario and Urvi Surlakar, will headline the field at the Aura-Panjim Gymkhana All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament 2026, powered by Aura Builders and Developers, to be held at Panjim Gymkhana, Campal, from November 1 to 4.



Urvi Surlakar | Ishita Colaso | Wesley Do Rosario | Chandan Caro

With over 200 players lined up to participate, the four-day Major Ranking tournament promises an exciting display of competitive table tennis. Other prominent contenders include Rishan Shaikh, Ruhaan Shaikh, Yug Prabhu, Vedant Wagle and Ashank Dalvi in the boys' and men's sections, and Neeza Kamat, Sachi Dessai, Aarna Lotlikar and Tisha Shaikh in the girls' and women's sections.

The tournament will also shine the spotlight on Goa's emerging talents, with Urvansh Pathak, Yajat Keny and Ronan Menezes Gama among the promising prospects in Boys U-9, while Ronisha Sakhardande, Spruha Kamat and Swara Gude will be among the young contenders in Girls U-9.

"Featuring competitions across U-9, U-11, U-13, U-15 and U-19 boys and girls, besides the Men's and Women's categories, the tournament will bring together established performers and the next generation of paddlers, offering them a valuable platform to showcase their skills and compete for ranking honours", stated Sudin Verenkar, Goa Table Tennis Association President.

Goa suffer 125-run defeat to Odisha

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

Goa suffered a 125-run defeat against Odisha in the Colonel C.K. Nayudu Trophy Elite (Under-23, four-day) cricket tournament at the Goa Cricket Association ground in Sanguem on Friday.

Chasing a target of 321, Goa were bowled out for 195 in 67.4 overs in their second innings. Resuming the fourth day at 3 for 2, overnight batsmen struggled against Odisha's disciplined bowling attack. Night-watchman Vinayak Kunte put up a determined fight, facing 101 deliveries and frustrating the opposition bowlers. However, Kunte and Jeevankumar (0) fell in the same over, leaving Goa reeling at 60 for 6.

Captain Aryan Narvekar (21) and Anuj Yadav (40) revived Goa's hopes with a 64-run partnership for the seventh wicket. However, both departed in successive overs, dealing a major blow to Goa's chances of saving the match.

Deep Kasvankar then scored a fighting 48, including six boundaries, and added 61 runs with Shivenn Borkar (14 not out) to delay Odisha's victory. However, their resistance was not enough to prevent Goa from suffering defeat. For Odisha, Sarthak Panda was the leading wicket-taker with four wickets in the second innings.

Earlier, Odisha scored 199 in their first innings, while Goa responded with 253 to take a 54-run lead. Odisha then declared their second innings at 374 for 6 to set Goa a target of 321.

Kiwi carnage ends India's winning run in Auckland

PHILLIPS' 107 AND DUFFY'S FOUR-WICKET HAUL POWER HOSTS TO 87-RUN ROUT

BRIEF SCORES

›**NEW ZEALAND 259 FOR 7** (Phillips 107, Bracewell 65, Mayank 3-48) **BEAT INDIA 172 FOR 9** (Tilak 35, Duffy 4-23, Santner 2-24, Fisher 2-40) **BY 87 RUNS**

PTI

AUCKLAND

Century-maker Glenn Phillips and fast bowler Jacob Duffy headlined the "complete performance" that New Zealand had been looking for as the hosts scripted a dominating 87-run victory over a vastly underwhelming India in the fourth T20 International here on Friday.

The Shreyas Iyer-led India have already won the first three T20Is to take an irreversible lead in the five-match series, but the result helped the Kiwis to finally register themselves on the score-line and make it 3-1.

Phillips' 49-ball 107 and his fifth-wicket alliance of 115 off a mere 41 balls with an equally bruising Michael Bracewell (65, 25 balls) carried the hosts to 259 for seven after being invited to bat. It was the highest T20I total against India by any team, and in reply, the visitors endured their first real collapse of the tour to end at an inadequate 172 for nine on a pitch that had a hint of extra bounce.

India needed a strong start to reach anywhere close to the target but Duffy (4/23) poured cold water over their ambitions, taking out both Sanju Samson (4) and Ishan Kishan (0) in the first over itself.

The team never really recovered from that disastrous beginning and the highest partnership that India could stitch on the day was a 46-run third-wicket stand between skipper Shreyas Iyer and Abhishek Sharma.

An unusually subdued Abhishek (27, 15 balls) fell to Matthew Fisher, lifting the pacer straight to New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner in the covers. Santner had stated a few days ago that the Black Caps were close to getting a complete performance in the high-scoring series.

Iyer (22, 11 balls) tried to give room to Adam Milne but the 143kmph delivery sneaked past his bat to rearrange the stumps.

Santner (2/23) too was his tidy self, never allowing the Indian batters any momentum in the post power-play overs. India were 61 for four after the power-play, and the chase only went pear-shaped from that point for them.

Earlier, Phillips (107, 49 balls) and Bracewell were the apostles of an aggressive approach from New Zealand.

After Tim Siefert (3) and Daryl Mitchell (24) succumbed to pacer Mayank Yadav, New Zealand found a foothold through the 59-run stand between Phillips and Finn Allen (31, 17 balls) for the third wicket. After Allen and Bevon Jacobs (7) went back in rather quick succession, Phillips and Bracewell tore into the Indian attack with a blistering array of shots.

Phillips used his brute power first against pacer Prince Yadav, collecting a six and a couple of fours. The right-hander was then even more brutal against Nitish Reddy.

Phillips, who reached his fifty in 31 balls, exploited the gentle pace of Reddy to optimum effect, carting him for a four and four consecutive maximums to score 32 runs in the 16th over.

The final six of that sequence over sight screen was glorious in its execution, a straight elbow giving his shot power and timing.

MATCH RUN

- Glenn Phillips smashed 107 off just 49 balls, including a 46-ball hundred, to power New Zealand to 259 for seven — the highest T20I total against India.
- Michael Bracewell hammered 65 off 25 balls, sharing a 115-run fifth-wicket stand with Phillips off just 41 deliveries as New Zealand plundered 85 runs in the final five overs.
- Jacob Duffy claimed 4/23, dismissing Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan in the opening over as India slumped to 172 for nine, suffering an 87-run defeat.



Pollard's MI coaching team takes shape with fresh appointments

Former players Uthappa, McClenaghan and Kulkarni return as franchise reshapes coaching setup

PTI

NEW DELHI

Five-time champions Mumbai Indians on Friday named former India batter Robin Uthappa as their batting coach while also announcing several other support staff appointments, completing a massive coaching overhaul ahead of the 2027 Indian Premier League season.

Apart from Uthappa, New Zealand's Mitchell McClenaghan was named the bowling coach, while former India fielding coach T Dilip was appointed in the same role and Dhawal Kulkarni was named development bowling coach.

The appointments mark a return to familiar colours for Uthappa, McClenaghan and Kulkarni, who previously represented Mumbai Indians as players. The trio will join new



head coach Kieron Pollard as part of a new-look coaching group that will seek to revive the side that won its last IPL trophy in 2020 and finished ninth in the season gone by.

A member of India's victorious squad at the inaugural men's T20 World Cup in 2007, the 40-year-old Uthappa had played for MI in the inaugural season of the league.

"From being part of our very first season to returning with a wealth of experience! Robbie brings a sharp understanding of the game, great communication, and the clarity to guide youngsters! Welcome back to the Paltan, Robin," MI posted on its X account.

Dilip, meanwhile, will join MI following a successful tenure with the India men's team, where he was a part of the coaching setup during triumphs at the 2024 and 2026 T20 World Cups and the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy.

Manisha becomes India's first-ever women's wrestling world champion

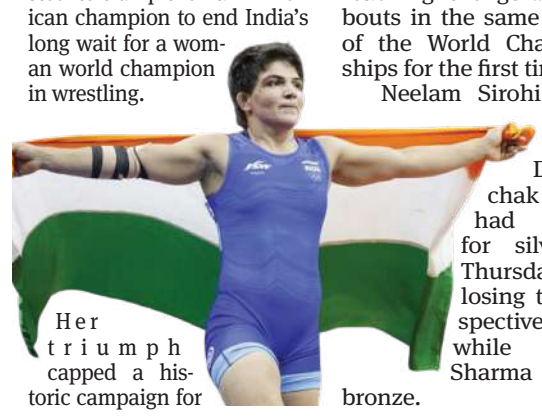
PTI

ASTANA

Manisha Bhanwala scripted history on Friday, becoming the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Wrestling World Championships and only the second wrestler from the country to achieve the feat after Sushil Kumar, who claimed the men's 66kg title in 2010.

Manisha clinched the women's 59kg gold with a sensational come-from behind 8-6 victory in the final against American Abigail Nette.

Manisha was trailing 0-6 but mounted a tremendous comeback, showing nerves of steel to trump the Pam American champion to end India's long wait for a woman world champion in wrestling.



Her triumph capped a historic campaign for Indian women's wrestling, with three Indian women reaching the gold medal bouts in the same edition of the World Championships for the first time.

Neelam Sirohi (50kg) and Kajal Dhochak (76kg) had settled for silver on Thursday after losing their respective finals while Tanmu Sharma won a bronze.

Roston Chase sparks Bangladesh collapse

AGENCIES

MIRPUR

West Indies captain Roston Chase ripped through Bangladesh's top order to leave the host reeling at 79 for six on the third day of the first Test in Mirpur on Friday.

Bangladesh held a 106-run lead at stumps, with concussion substitute Jaker Ali and Nayeem Hasan, both on 18, at the crease when bad light stopped play early.

Earlier, off-spinner Nayeem took four wickets to bowl West Indies out for 245, taking a lead of 27 runs after Bangladesh's first-innings total of 272.

West Indies resumed the day on 134 for four and continued to frustrate Bangladesh through a fifth-wicket partnership between Tagenarine Chanderpaul, who top-scored with 56, and Justin Greaves.

The pair added 65 runs before Shoriful Islam broke the stand, with Chanderpaul edging to second slip where captain Najmul Hossain Shanto took a sharp catch.

Bangladesh had to wait for another breakthrough as Greaves kept up the defiance with skipper Chase, who made an unbeaten 43 after being dropped on 27, for company.

Off-spinner Nayeem broke through by trapping Greaves lbw for 46 shortly before lunch, leaving West Indies at 213 for six.

Chase came out attacking, while Joshua Bishop contributed 15 before being stumped off Mehidy Hasan Miraz.

Rickelton, Mulder tons put Proteas in driver's seat

BRIEF SCORES

›**SOUTH AFRICA 329 AND 387** (Mulder 115, Rickelton 101, Ackerman 62, Starc 3-65) **LEAD AUSTRALIA 429** (Inglis 102, Carey 80, Renshaw 74, Harmer 4-104, Jansen 3-60) **BY 287 RUNS**

PTI

CAPE TOWN

Centuries by **Ryan Rickelton** and Wiaan Mulder lifted South Africa back into series contention against Australia on a day of batting domination in the deciding Newlands cricket test on Friday.

South Africa began day four only 40 runs ahead and four wickets down. But a compelling fightback led by wicketkeeper Rickelton, 101 off 219 balls, and allrounder Mulder, 115 off 221 balls, earned them a lead of 287. Mulder's dismissal in the day's last over ended South Africa's second innings at 387, setting Australia the entire fifth day to score 288 to win the three-test series which is tied at 1-1.

Australia has the record at Newlands for the highest successful fourth innings chase: 331 in 2002.

But world champion South Africa has the advantage of an increasingly turning last-day pitch and an attack featuring rested and in-form off-spinner Simon Harmer.

South Africa scored 329 in its first innings and Australia replied with 429, taking a 100-run lead. The host ended day three at 140-4 and scored 247-6 through three sessions, with Rickelton and Mulder batting together for nearly 54 overs, scoring 154 runs for the sixth wicket.



Abhishek's brace hands India 4-1 win over Japan

PTI

JALANDHAR

Striker Abhishek Nain scored a brace as five-time champions India beat Japan 4-1 to continue their winning juggernaut and register their third consecutive win at the men's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Friday.

India had earlier thrashed Bangladesh 13-0 before getting the better of China 5-2 in their first two matches, while Japan beat South Korea and Bangladesh 3-2 and 1-0 respectively.

Abhishek (11th, 51st minutes) scored two field goals, while skipper Harmanpreet Singh (47th) sounded the board from India's only penalty corner of the match. Vishnukant Singh (56th) also found the net with a field goal.

IN SHORT ››

Jemimah Rodrigues declares herself fit after recovering from hamstring injury

NEW DELHI: India top-order batter Jemimah Rodrigues on Friday announced that she had recovered from the hamstring injury she sustained in August and was raring to go for her next assignment. Rodrigues sustained the hamstring injury on August 3 while playing for English franchise Southern Brave in The Hundred.
The BCCI's medical team later ruled her out of the T20 Asia Cup in the UAE and the Asian Games in Japan. She also missed the just-concluded white-ball series against Zimbabwe at home. In an Instagram post, the 26-year-old declared herself fully fit after recovering from the injury. "Life Update: HAMSTRING HAS BEEN DECLARED FIT!!!!!!!! After 3 months of rehab. Now I can't wait to get going," she wrote.

PV Sindhu cruises into Hylo Open semifinals

SAARBRUCKEN: Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu continued her impressive run, cruising into the women's singles semifinals of the Hylo Open Super 500 badminton tournament with a commanding win over Germany's Amalie Schulz, here on Friday.
Sindhu will next face compatriot Anmol Kharb in the semifinals after the latter knocked out sixth seed Unnati Hooda in a hard-fought three-game contest.
The semifinal clash will thus ensure an Indian finalist in the women's singles event, with Sindhu and Anmol both eyeing a place in the title round. The former world champion Sindhu, who finished runner-up at French Open recently, needed just 27 minutes to get past Schulz 21-12, 21-10 and book her place in the last four.
Sindhu was in control throughout the contest, winning 42 of the 64 points played. She also won six consecutive points at one stage, twice as many as her opponent's best run of three points. The Indian made a strong start in the opening game and maintained her advantage to take it 21-12. She continued in the same manner in the second game, giving Schulz little room to fight back before closing out the match 21-10. Anmol prevailed 21-17, 18-21, 21-16 in a match that lasted one hour and eight minutes.

Dravid, Saina nominated by Sports Ministry to 2030 CWG Organising Committee

NEW DELHI: Former India cricket captain Rahul Dravid and Olympic medal-winning badminton great Saina Nehwal have been nominated by the Sports Ministry as athlete representatives in the proposed Organising Committee for the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad. The OC is expected to be headed by Gujarat's Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, who also holds the sports portfolio, and will have representation from the Indian Olympic Association, which is going to polls in December. It will also feature a Commonwealth Games Association of India representative in Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh. "Yes, Rahul Dravid and Saina Nehwal have been nominated to the proposed Organising Committee. Jinal Mehta and Ananya Birla are the two recommendations from the private sector," a Sports Ministry source told PTI.

Alexander Zverev's World No.1 ranking to be confirmed on Monday after Vienna win

VIENNA: Alexander Zverev will finally rise to be the No. 1 men's tennis player Monday when the next rankings are published. Zverev's win Thursday in Vienna to reach the quarterfinals of the Erste Bank Open fixed the specific date when he will claim the top ranking that already was assured by the end of the season.
"To have the feeling to be on the top of the world is amazing," Zverev said after beating Tallon Griekspoor 6-4, 7-5.
"It is different than winning a tournament or a title," the French Open and U.S. Open champion said, "but it's such a special feeling to know that the No. 1 is going to be next to your name when the new rankings come out." The 29-year-old Zverev will replace Jannik Sinner atop the rankings Monday regardless of his next results.

With three successive defeats, listless Goa's Ranji Trophy campaign for 2026-27 season stutters to early end

ROHIT BHANDIYE
THE GOAN | PANAJI

Goa's Ranji Trophy campaign for 2026-27 season is almost over. The team has lost all its three matches it has played so far this season.

It has been an overall poor performance by Goa. Both its batting and bowling departments have failed to deliver. There has been absolutely no consistency in the performance by Goan batters and bowlers. A few of them were good in one match, but miserably failed in the other two games.

None of Goa's top-order batsmen - Suyash Prabhudessai, Shivendra Bhujbal, Abhinav Tejrana, Snehal Kauthankar and Lalit Yadav showed any quality performance.

In six innings, the scores of Suyash, Shivendra, Abhinav, Snehal and Lalit were 100, 159, 144, 58 and 116 respectively.

MATCH RESULTS OVERVIEW

Team	Matches	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Quotient
Vidarbha	3	3	0	0	19	1.821
Baroda	3	2	0	1	17	2.197
Uttar Pradesh	3	2	0	1	16	1.869
Madhya Pradesh	3	1	0	2	13	2.36
Jammu and Kashmir	3	0	1	2	2	0.678
Pondicherry	3	0	1	2	1	0.579
Goa	3	0	3	0	0	0.495
Bihar	3	0	3	0	0	0.315

In bowling, it was a similar case with the bowlers failing to bowl out its opposition early.

Only young Yash Kasvankar impressed in the match against Uttar Pradesh wherein he picked up ten wickets, five wickets each in both the innings. This was Kasvankar's only second first-class match.

Before start of the season, much was expected from the Goan side. After all, former India international Dinesh Mongia was back as head coach of Goa. When Mongia was Goa's coach during 2024-25 season, Goa had won the Plate division (meant for lower-ranked teams) and qualified for Elite Group.

Morover, the preparation before start of the season seemed pretty good. Goa had played a bilateral series in Oman which involved 2 T20 and 3 ODI matches against the Oman side, a team which had participated in the 2026 T20 World Cup in India. Then Goa went to Bengaluru to play in the KSCA Trophy to play three four-day games against Karnataka, Vidarbha and Gujarat. After that, the Goan side went to Pune to play two games against Maharashtra.

But all those practice match preparations did not show the necessary results. In Ranji Trophy, when it mattered the most, Goa faltered. Goa's losses against stronger opponents like Baroda, Uttar Pradesh and Vidarbha exposed the weakness of its side.

Goa suffered innings defeat against Baroda and Vidarbha wherein the team lost by an innings and 135 runs and an innings and 27 runs respectively.

Against Uttar Pradesh, Goa could have easily won the match, but eventually ended by losing by 68 runs.

In Plate group against weaker opponents, Goa performs very well. But, in Elite group, against stronger opponents, the team struggles.

Goa will have to work really hard if its need to do well in its remaining four games against Bihar (Nov 2-5), Puducherry (Jan 17-20), Madhya Pradesh (Jan 24-27) and Jammu & Kashmir (Feb 1-4).

Even if Goa wins all its four remaining matches, it will be highly unlikely that the team will finish among two in their Elite Group A and qualify for the knock-out stage.

So far, it has been a forgettable Ranji season for Goa.

MATCH RESULTS OVERVIEW

Match	Opponent	Venue	Result
Match 1 (OcT 11–14, 2026)	Baroda	Panjim Gymkhana Ground, Panaji	Lost by an innings and 135 runs
Match 2 (Oct 17–20, 2026)	Uttar Pradesh	Green Park Stadium, Kanpur	Lost by 68 runs
Match 3 (Oct 26–29, 2026)	Vidarbha	VCA Stadium, Jamtha, Nagpur	Lost by an innings and 27 runs

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