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ENTERTAINMENT

IFFI Launches 'Films About Films' Section to Spotlight Filmmakers' Stories



International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has added a new section called 'Films About Films' to its programme. This section is designed to present the lives, challenges, and creative processes of filmmakers. By shedding light on the storytellers behind the camera, IFFI aims to give audiences a deeper understanding of the art of filmmaking. Organisers have said that the initiative will include various short films, documentaries, and interview-based content, highlighting diverse voices in the industry. This addition reflects IFFI's ongoing efforts to broaden its cultural offerings and celebrate the craft of film production beyond conventional screenings.

TRAVEL

Goa Tourism Minister Calls for Re-review of Turtle Nesting Protection on 21 Beaches



Goa's tourism minister announced a plan to re-review the state's official turtle nesting protection list and include 21 additional beaches. Recent scientific surveys have highlighted several unprotected shores where Olive Ridley and Green turtles nest in significant numbers. Conservation organisations have demanded comprehensive protection given the fragile status of these marine species. The minister said the administration will work with the forest department, wildlife experts and local fishermen to finalise the expanded list. Officials aim to balance tourism development with the conservation of Goa's coastal biodiversity. If approved, the new designated areas may see restrictions on artificial lighting, construction and certain tourist activities during nesting season, in line with national wildlife guidelines. The proposal will be tabled in the state cabinet next week, after which a detailed implementation framework will be drafted.

NATIONAL

Tiger Seen in Goa's Mahadi Basin After Two Years, Demand for Wildlife Reserve Grows



The Forest Department confirmed that a tiger was photographed in the Mahadi Basin along the Mahadi River in Goa, marking the first confirmed sighting since early 2022. The image came from motion-sensor cameras set up as part of routine monitoring of the Western Ghats wildlife corridor. The Mahadi Basin, a sensitive part of the Western Ghats, is identified as a potential tiger habitat. No tiger sightings had been confirmed in the area for the past two years, and the new photos suggest that the corridor may still support tiger movements. Environmental groups and local communities have intensified calls for a dedicated tiger reserve encompassing the Mahadi catchment. They argue that legal protection would curb fragmentation, illegal logging, and poaching, enabling a sustainable tiger population. State officials said the Forest Department will review the data and consider proposals to expand the reserve status. In the meantime, additional camera traps and field surveys will be deployed to assess tiger numbers and health.

NATIONAL

Heritage Sites in India to Begin Cleaning from Mid-December



The Ministry of Culture has announced that starting mid-December, heritage sites nationwide will commence a comprehensive cleaning drive. The initiative aims to preserve and restore India’s historic monuments and buildings. Officials explained that the program will involve coordinated efforts from local authorities, conservation experts, and volunteers. Cleaning will focus on debris removal, stone façade cleaning, and minor structural repairs. The government has allocated funds for the project and will monitor progress through regular inspections. This cleaning effort is part of a broader strategy to boost heritage tourism and safeguard cultural heritage for future generations.

TRAVEL

ELIVAAS Launches Heliconia Bungalows in Goa



ELIVAAS, a prominent name in the hotel industry, has recently launched 11 Heliconia bungalows in Goa. These luxurious bungalows feature private pools, providing guests with a tranquil and indulgent holiday experience. Designed to blend modern amenities with traditional Goan architecture, the Heliconia bungalows offer travelers a unique and memorable stay. Goa, known for its scenic beaches and vibrant culture, is a popular tourist destination, and these new bungalows are expected to further enhance the state's appeal.

POLITICS

CJP Launches ‘What Does the Public Say’ Campaign in Goa on 22 November



The Chief Justice (CJP) announced that the public-relations campaign titled "What Does the Public Say" will commence in Goa on 22 November. The event, titled "Challa Kitem, Goa," aims to provide a platform for citizens to bring to light issues that affect their daily lives. Organisers invite people from all walks of life to submit complaints, suggestions or observations through designated channels, promising that each submission will be examined by relevant authorities. The initiative seeks to bridge the gap between the judiciary and the public, fostering greater transparency and accountability.

The campaign comes amid growing demands for citizen-centric governance, and officials believe that the feedback received will shape future policies. The CJP will be present at the inauguration, underscoring the importance of public participation.

After the launch, the campaign will run for several weeks, with periodic updates on the issues raised and actions taken. Citizens can file their concerns via a mobile app, website or local offices.

Stakeholders welcomed the move, saying that a direct feedback mechanism could help resolve long-standing grievances in the region.

KTCL Issues Notice Over Excess Fees at Mapusa Depot Parking



KTCL has issued a notice to the Goa Transport Authority alleging that parking fees at Mapusa Depot exceed the standard rates set by the state transport department. The notice calls for a detailed review of the fee system and requests a temporary suspension of current rates. Issued on Monday, the notice anticipates an official inquiry. KTCL stated its commitment to fair pricing and pledged full cooperation with authorities to resolve the matter. The transport department has yet to respond publicly, but officials are reviewing the allegations. Passengers and commercial drivers using Mapusa Depot are advised to keep receipts and report any discrepancies. KTCL's action is part of a broader effort among Indian transport agencies to curb consumer exploitation and ensure transparent fee structures.

TRAVEL

Goa Launches QR-Enabled Guide Featuring 507 Bird Species



Goa's tourism department, in collaboration with local wildlife NGOs, has issued a QR-enabled guide that includes 507 bird species. The guide features traditional illustrations alongside QR codes that, when scanned, provide audio recordings of each species' calls, information on habitat, behavior, and conservation status. The initiative aims to promote eco-tourism and raise awareness among residents and visitors. By pairing visual identification with authentic sound clips, the guide offers a more engaging experience for bird lovers, educators, and nature enthusiasts. Officials say the guide will be distributed at information centres, hotels, and in key bird-watching sites such as the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary and the Western Ghats, encouraging responsible birding and supporting local conservation efforts.

GCCI Praises Government's Decision to Allow 24-Hour Shopping



The government has issued a new rule allowing retailers to remain open 24 hours, aiming to boost consumer spending and extend business hours. This decision marks a shift from the long-standing daytime trading schedule. The Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) welcomed the move, stating it would give traders greater flexibility and could increase customer footfall during off-peak hours. GCCI also noted that extended hours could help small and medium enterprises recover from the recent economic downturn. Analysts believe 24-hour shopping could generate additional revenue for the retail sector, but careful planning will be required for logistics, security and staffing. The government has signalled that guidelines will be issued to ensure safety and compliance across all markets.

HEALTH

FDA Shuts Down Unauthorized Chicken Supplier



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted a surprise inspection of a poultry distribution unit after reports of unauthorized operations surfaced. The investigation revealed that the supplier had not obtained the required food-safety licence and had failed to meet hygiene standards.

Authorities seized several batches of chicken, collected samples for laboratory testing, and issued an immediate notice to halt all commercial activities. The FDA warned that further violations could lead to severe penalties, including criminal prosecution.

The action reflects the regulator's heightened vigilance to curb illicit food trade and protect public health. Officials said they will continue to monitor the supply chain to ensure that only licensed and compliant vendors operate.

CJP's Deepake, Das, Ranka to Organise Youth Meeting on 22 November



The CJP's team, led by Deepake, Das and Ranka, has announced a youth summit to be held on 22 November. The event will bring together students and young professionals from across the country to discuss contemporary civic issues and the role of youth in governance.

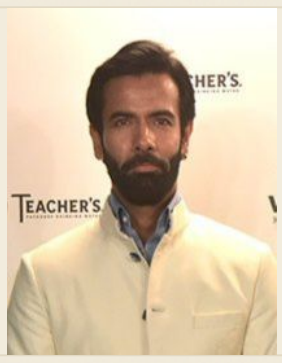
Organisers say the summit will feature panel discussions, interactive workshops and Q&A sessions with senior policymakers. Participants will have the opportunity to voice opinions on topics ranging from digital rights to environmental sustainability.

The meeting is part of a broader initiative to increase democratic participation among youth. Officials estimate that several hundred participants, including representatives from universities, NGOs and youth organisations, will attend.

The summit will be hosted at a prominent venue in the capital and will offer live-streaming options to reach a wider audience. Organisers urge all interested young citizens to register early, as space is limited.

TRAVEL

Denish Pandor Explains How Goa Turns Everyday Moments into Memories



Travel blogger Denish Pandor, known for his vibrant travel content, recently shared his experiences in Goa in a feature for The Times of India. He highlighted how Goa's relaxed atmosphere, beautiful beaches and lively local culture turn even the simplest moments into lasting memories. Pandor spoke of exploring coastal towns, savoring fresh seafood and enjoying sunset views without elaborate planning. His article underscores Goa's charm, where simplicity and natural beauty combine to create enduring impressions for visitors.

Congress Launches Water-Saving Campaign in Goa's Ponda



In the midst of a water crisis in Ponda, Goa, the Indian National Congress inaugurated the "Ponda Water-Saving Campaign." The announcement came as the area faced declining groundwater levels and frequent interruptions in water supply. The campaign's primary objectives are rainwater harvesting, repairing leaking pipelines and raising awareness about water conservation. Party representatives said local schools, resident welfare associations and the municipality would be involved to ensure collective effort. Congress leaders emphasized that the campaign's success would depend on active citizen participation and pledged periodic evaluations to monitor progress. The move reflects the party's commitment to addressing basic civic issues ahead of upcoming local elections.

ENTERTAINMENT

57th International Film Festival Opens in Goa with Grand Ceremony at Talagao Stadium



The 57th International Film Festival (IFFI) opened today at the Talagao Stadium in Panaji with a grand ceremony. The event was organized by the Goa government and the Film Federation of India and will present a selection of Indian and international films over the next ten days. The opening night featured screenings of award-winning films and the festival's flagship feature, drawing a large crowd of cine-enthusiasts and industry professionals. Key guests, including the Chief Minister of Goa, attended the program, reinforcing Goa's emerging identity as a cultural hub. The festival aims to promote intercultural dialogue and support emerging filmmakers.

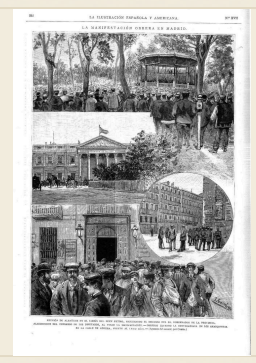
JOBS & CAREER

Goa Home Guard to Recruit 176 Personnel for 2026



The state of Goa has issued a recruitment advertisement for the Home Guard for the year 2026. A total of 176 positions are available for eligible candidates. The notice outlines eligibility criteria such as age, educational qualifications and physical standards. Interested applicants should consult the Jagran Josh portal for full details and submit their applications before the stipulated deadline. The recruitment aims to strengthen the Home Guard's capacity for disaster response and community assistance across the state.

Sewage Problems at Comba Wells Remain Unaddressed, Inspection Still Pending



Local residents have raised concerns over persistent sewage problems at the Comba wells, describing foul odours and overflow affecting nearby households. The municipal authority had earlier pledged an inspection to assess the situation, but the date for the visit has not been confirmed. Officials cite scheduling constraints, leaving the community without a clear timeline for remedial action. The lack of a rescheduled inspection has heightened anxiety among residents, who fear health hazards and property damage. Authorities are urged to prioritize the inspection and address the sewage backlog promptly.

SPORTS

Dempo Faces Tough Test Against Unbeaten Laizong



The I-League clash between Dempo Sporting Club and Laizong Football Club presents a significant challenge. Laizong have remained unbeaten this season and will enter the field with confidence, bolstered by a solid defensive record.

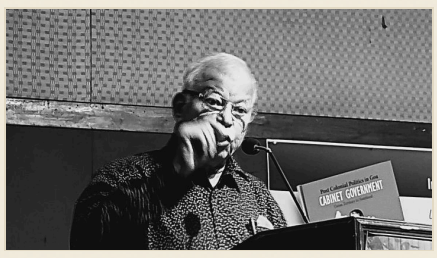
For Dempo, the match is crucial, as recent results have been inconsistent. A win or at least a draw could give the team the momentum it needs, whereas a loss would widen the gap in the league.

Both sides are likely to field strong teams, making the encounter a test of strategic discipline and resilience. Fans will watch to see whether Dempo can break Laizong's unbeaten run.

The match is scheduled at Dempo's home ground, giving the host team the advantage of familiar conditions. The outcome will affect the rankings in the second phase of the season.

Coaches, players and supporters all view the result as a determinant for the direction of their campaigns, making this fixture a key point on the I-League calendar.

Goa Minister Borkar Sends Legal Notice to State CEO over Address Dispute



Goa Minister Borkar has issued a legal notice to the state’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) regarding a dispute over the official address. In the notice, Borkar outlined his objections and demanded clarity on the issue. Specific points of the dispute have not yet been made public. Both parties indicate a willingness to resolve the matter through judicial processes, and the state authorities will keep a close watch. This move appears to transform an administrative disagreement within the Goa government into a legal action.

EDUCATION

GSCPCR to Activate Child Protection Committees Across Gujarat



The Gujarat State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (GSCPCR) has moved to operationalise child protection committees as part of its mandate to safeguard children. The commission indicated that these committees will be set up at district and local levels to monitor and address issues such as abuse, neglect, and exploitation of minors.

According to the GSCPCR, the committees will comprise representatives from government departments, civil society, and child welfare experts. Their role will include receiving complaints, conducting inquiries, and coordinating with law-enforcement agencies where necessary.

The activation of the committees is expected to create a structured framework for early intervention and prevention of child rights violations. The commission plans to roll out the initiative over the coming weeks, with training sessions for committee members scheduled shortly.

noting that a dedicated oversight mechanism can improve response times and ensure that children's voices are heard in matters affecting their safety and well-being.

TECHNOLOGY

Goa Cabinet Approves AI Policy 2026 and Five Major Schemes



In a cabinet meeting held in Goa, the state's first comprehensive artificial intelligence strategy, Goa AI Policy 2026, was approved. The policy lays out a roadmap for integrating AI into government services, industry and education, strengthening innovation and digital infrastructure. In the same session, ministers announced five flagship schemes to complement the AI agenda. While detailed outlines were not released, the schemes are expected to focus on skill development, startup incubation, research collaboration, digital literacy and infrastructure improvement. Officials say the joint initiative marks a step toward making Goa a regional hub for AI-driven development, attracting investment and creating new employment opportunities. The policy also emphasizes ethical AI use and data protection in line with national guidelines. Academics and private sector representatives welcomed the move, noting that a clear policy framework will accelerate project implementation and foster public-private partnership. The cabinet will now forward the policy and schemes to the finance department for budget allocation and to the legislative assembly for formal approval.

Van Seized for Sewage Dumping, Driver in Custody



Police stopped a commercial van and inspected it, discovering that it was illegally dumping sewage into public drains. Inspection confirmed that the vehicle had been transporting waste without permission. The van was seized immediately and the driver was taken into custody for violating environmental regulations. Further investigation will identify other parties involved and assess the volume of sewage dumped. The incident highlights the growing problem of illegal waste disposal in urban areas. The driver remains in police custody, and the case has been registered under relevant environmental and criminal provisions. This action aims to deter similar violations in the future and strengthen enforcement of waste-management laws. Local environmental agencies have been notified and a detailed examination of the seized van's documents will be conducted to trace the sewage source and any larger dumping network.

VIRAL & TRENDING

Tourist Raises Questions Over Goa Taxi Issues, Doubts State's 'Comfortable' Image



A tourist visiting Goa posted on social media about the difficulties of hailing a metered taxi, raising doubts about whether the state lives up to its 'comfortable' image. The traveler reported struggling to find a metered taxi, having to negotiate fares with drivers, and uncertainty about the correct rate. The post went viral, prompting many users to share memes, offer tips for finding reliable taxis, and spark a discussion about Goa's traditional image. While Goa remains a major tourist destination, the incident has prompted both locals and visitors to consider the need for greater transport transparency.

Dhurandhar, Becoming to open 9-day IFFI Goa; Spain named Country of Honour



The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is set to commence its 9-day schedule in Goa, featuring a significant lineup of films for the opening ceremony. The festival will kick off with the screening of two notable titles: 'Dhurandhar' and 'Becoming'. This selection highlights the festival's commitment to showcasing diverse cinematic narratives from the start of the event.

In a significant diplomatic and cultural gesture, Spain has been named the 'Country of Honour' for this edition of the festival. This designation underscores the strong cultural ties between India and Spain, allowing for a focused exploration of Spanish cinema and its artistic contributions during the festival days.

The event serves as a major platform for the film industry, bringing together filmmakers, actors, and industry professionals from across the globe. The choice of opening films and the honor bestowed upon Spain sets a high-profile tone for the upcoming days of screenings, discussions, and awards in Goa.

EDUCATION

Goa Government Approves Schemes to Digitise and Preserve Historic Manuscripts



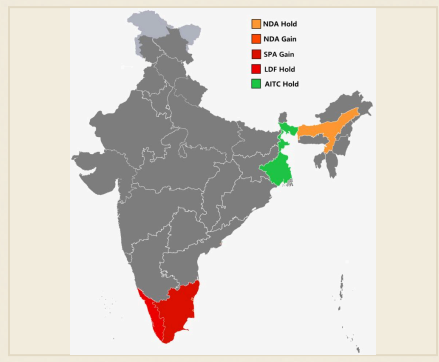
The Goa government has formally approved a set of schemes focused on the digitisation and preservation of the state’s historic manuscripts. The initiatives are intended to create digital copies of fragile texts held in libraries, archives and cultural institutions, thereby reducing the risk of loss due to deterioration.

agencies will collaborate with experts to catalogue, scan and store the manuscripts in secure digital repositories. The effort also includes measures to improve physical storage conditions, such as climate-controlled environments, to extend the lifespan of original documents.

Officials said the programmes will enhance access for researchers, scholars and the public, while protecting the cultural heritage embedded in these rare works. The schemes are part of a broader push to modernise heritage management across Indian states.

POLITICS

Winter assembly session scheduled for a single day on Dec 16



The state legislative assembly has announced that it will convene for a winter session on December 16. The session is slated to last only one day, a departure from the usual multi-day sittings that mark the winter calendar. Officials said the brief meeting will focus on pending legislative business and budgetary approvals that could not be completed earlier in the year. No additional dates have been scheduled, and the assembly will adjourn after the day's proceedings. The announcement was made through a press release issued by the assembly secretariat, confirming the date and the limited duration of the session.