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EDUCATION

Fonda: Goa CM Dr. Pramod Sawant hands over apprenticeship contracts under CM Apprenticeship Policy



Fonda: Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant handed over apprenticeship contract letters to trainees under the Goa Chief Minister Apprenticeship Policy at the Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir in Fonda.

During the event, eligible ITI apprentices were also issued SSC/HSSC equivalence certificates. In addition, three government institutions were awarded prizes for demonstrating outstanding participation in apprenticeship programs. Nine students who secured top positions at the national level in the All India Trade Test were also honoured.

The event was organised by the Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of Goa.

Attendees included Water Resources Minister Subhash Shirodkar, the Secretary for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Prasad Lolaykar (IAS), President of the Fonda Municipal Council, Veerendra Dhavalikar, President of Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir, Fonda, Ritesh Naik, Director of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Vinayak M. Kamble, and other dignitaries.

— sudesh mayekar

JOBS & CAREER

Goa Housing Board Releases Schedule for 2026 Assistant and Junior Engineer Exams



The Goa Housing Board (GHB) has officially published the schedule for the 2026 written examinations for Assistant Engineer and Junior Engineer positions. The notification, published on the Board's website, provides details on examination dates and exam centers.

Candidates are advised to review the schedule carefully, download the exam syllabus, and verify eligibility criteria before applying. The Board stated that the selection process will include an interview stage following the written examination and will be merit-based.

Interested candidates can visit the official website of the Goa Housing Board for more information or contact the recruitment department to inquire about the registration process and required documents.

ENTERTAINMENT

57th International Film Festival to be held in Panaji



The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has confirmed that the 57th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in Panaji, the capital of Goa.

The festival will showcase outstanding works of Indian and international cinema, featuring various screenings, retrospectives, and industry workshops at multiple locations in the city.

Organizers have expressed expectations of a large turnout of filmmakers, actors, critics, and audiences, which will further establish Goa as a major cultural hub for the film world.

Local authorities have prepared infrastructure and hospitality services to facilitate the travel of national and international delegates.

NATIONAL

Pollution monitoring to be stepped up in 11 industries in India



To address air and water pollution, the Indian government has announced plans to conduct quarterly inspections of 11 polluting industries. This initiative aims to strengthen environmental regulations and reduce the environmental impact of industries. The specific industries targeted for these inspections have not yet been publicly disclosed. The government is expected to release a detailed list of industries and inspection criteria in the coming weeks. This move is seen as a significant step toward addressing India's persistent pollution challenges.

ENTERTAINMENT

Assamese film critic unveils book on regional cinema at IFFI Goa



The book launch at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) marks a significant milestone in the study of regional cinema.

A prominent film critic from Assam shed light on the evolution and diversity of Indian regional films in the book, analysing their cultural impact.

The event was attended by film industry professionals, critics, and academics, who read excerpts from the book and discussed the subject.

This publication is expected to enrich the dialogue on the representation of regional voices in Indian cinema.

AGRICULTURE

Goa's challenges: Low agricultural output and water security



According to experts, Goa's agricultural sector faces significant hurdles, with low agricultural output and water security identified as primary concerns. These issues pose a serious threat to the state's food production and overall agricultural stability. A lack of adequate water resources for irrigation and a decline in soil fertility are contributing to lower productivity levels. Immediate attention and effective solutions are required to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Goa.

TRAVEL

Two more Goa beaches get Blue Flag certification after Baga and Calangute



The Goa Tourism Department announced that two additional beaches have received the prestigious Blue Flag certification, which recognises high standards of water purity, safety, environmental management, and facilities. Until now, only Baga and Calangute had achieved this standard, making this expansion of environmentally conscious options significant.

The newly certified beaches meet strict criteria, including regular water quality testing, waste recycling facilities, the presence of lifeguards, and accessible facilities for families and travellers with disabilities. Officials stated that this step aligns with the broader goal of promoting sustainable tourism and preserving Goa's natural coastline.

Travellers are advised to check the entry fees for these beaches in advance, as Blue Flag status often involves a nominal fee to support maintenance and service standards. Detailed fee information will be available on the official Goa tourism website and at beach entry points.

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Travellers are advised to check the entry fees for these beaches in advance, as Blue Flag status often involves a nominal fee to support maintenance and service standards. Detailed fee information will be available on the official Goa tourism website and at beach entry points.

Tourists are encouraged to visit these beaches for a better coastal experience due to their cleanliness, safety, and conservation efforts, thereby contributing to the conservation goals of the Blue Flag programme.

HEALTH

Statewide Inspection of Packaged Water to Be Conducted in Goa



The Goa Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched a statewide inspection of packaged drinking water. This decision follows concerns regarding potential contamination in certain water samples. The FDA aims to ensure the safety and quality of packaged water available across the state for consumers.

FDA officials will collect samples from various brands and locations throughout Goa. These samples will be sent to authorized laboratories for detailed testing. The results of the tests will be made public once the analysis is complete.

The FDA has urged consumers to remain vigilant and report any suspected cases of contamination to the relevant authorities.

Bromate found in Bisleri water batch; product withdrawn from market



Bisleri International has responded to recent concerns regarding bromate levels in a batch of its bottled water. The company stated that a re-test conducted by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) found that bromate levels were within the standard limits set by regulatory authorities. Nevertheless, Bisleri has proactively withdrawn the affected batch from the market as a precautionary measure. The company emphasised its commitment to providing safe and quality products and assured the public that it complies with all relevant food safety standards.

ENTERTAINMENT

6th edition of 'Creative Minds of Tomorrow' concludes at IFFI Goa



The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa concluded the 6th edition of 'Creative Minds of Tomorrow'. The initiative was organised as part of the festival's cultural programme, providing a platform for emerging artists to showcase their work.

Running alongside the main screenings, the programme featured various presentations, workshops, and screenings that highlighted innovative storytelling styles and new perspectives. Participants had the opportunity to interact with experienced filmmakers, critics, and curators, leading to discussions on trends in contemporary cinema.

News on AIR reported that the closing ceremony concluded without any issues, and the organisers expressed hope to nurture new voices in Indian and world cinema in future editions.

SARKARI YOJANA

Government launches solar energy scheme for 11 mining-affected panchayats



New Delhi – The government has announced a solar energy scheme for 11 panchayats that have been adversely affected by mining activities. Under the scheme, these rural bodies will receive financial assistance to install solar panels and related infrastructure, enabling homes and community facilities to access reliable, renewable electricity.

Officials stated that this initiative aligns with the national clean energy target and aims to mitigate the environmental and social impacts of mining. The use of solar energy is expected to help the panchayats reduce their dependence on erratic grid supply and lower electricity costs.

through existing rural development agencies, which will oversee site selection, procurement, and community training. While the government did not specify a detailed timeline, work is likely to commence by the end of this year.

Local stakeholders hope the project will create short-term employment during the installation phase and provide stable electricity for schools, health centers, and small enterprises in the long run, thereby supporting livelihoods in mining-affected areas.

CRIME

Four operators begin rebuilding burnt shacks



Four operators have started rebuilding shacks that were burned down in a recent fire. The operators are working to provide shelter to those who lost their homes in the blaze. An assessment of the damage caused by the fire and the number of affected shacks has not yet been released. Information regarding the cause of the fire is also pending.

ENTERTAINMENT

Prasar Bharati announces winners of 'Page Se Pitch Tak' script lab at IFFI 57



Prasar Bharati announced the winners of its first 'Page Se Pitch Tak' script pitching lab at a special ceremony held at the Kala Academy in Goa, as part of the 57th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The initiative, launched by Prasar Bharati Chairman Prashun Joshi, aims to provide a national platform for emerging writers to present and develop their scripts.

Experienced industry experts evaluated the pitches and selected the most promising ideas. The winners will receive mentorship, access to producer workshops, and the opportunity to present their scripts at future industry events.

Organizers stated that the lab will now be held annually, encouraging new storytellers across the country and strengthening the pipeline of original Indian content for cinema and digital platforms.

The ceremony concluded with a cultural performance, underscoring IFFI's role in bringing together creative talent and industry stakeholders.

Piligaon villagers block mine trucks over dust and noise pollution



Residents of Piligaon have protested against the impact of mining activities in their area. Citing dust and noise pollution generated by trucks, villagers have blocked the movement of these vehicles. The protest highlights growing concerns among local communities regarding the environmental and health consequences of mining operations.

BUSINESS

LPG distributors express fatigue over increasing paperwork



LPG distributors across the country have expressed concern that a surge in paperwork is overwhelming them. They state that the increasing number of forms, compliance checks, and record-keeping requirements is consuming time that could otherwise be spent on distribution operations.

Industry sources indicate that this paper burden is affecting delivery schedules and inventory management, as distributors struggle to balance regulatory obligations with customer orders. For small and medium-sized distributors, this additional administrative work is also increasing costs.

Distributors are urging officials to streamline documentation processes and adopt digital solutions. They believe that reducing paperwork will not only lighten their workload but also improve the efficiency of the LPG supply chain nationwide.

TRAVEL

Goa travel guide: 5 beautiful spots to visit from Mandrem to Chora before the year ends



Asianet Newsable has released a brief travel guide highlighting five enchanting spots along the route from Mandrem to Chora in Goa. The guide is designed for tourists who wish to explore less crowded yet attractive locations in the remaining months of the year.

Recommended destinations include pristine beaches rich in natural beauty, a mangrove-rich riverbank suitable for birdwatching, and a heritage village showcasing traditional Goan architecture. Additionally, the itinerary features a spice garden with guided tours and a historic church nestled among the hills.

visit, and nearby amenities are provided for each location, helping travelers plan short day trips rather than long journeys. This route-focused guide offers a balanced mix of relaxation, nature, and cultural experiences, appealing to both domestic and international travelers.

Tourists are advised to check local weather conditions and transport schedules, as sudden weather changes can occur in coastal areas during monsoon transitions. The guide emphasizes responsible tourism, urging visitors to respect local communities and fragile ecosystems while enjoying Goa's diverse beauty.

TECHNOLOGY

Goa CM: AI is revolutionizing film production



Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant recently highlighted the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on the film industry. He stated that AI is making filmmaking more accessible to a wider range of people and organizations. Sawant's remarks suggest a growing recognition of AI's potential to democratize film production and empower ambitious filmmakers.

BUSINESS

Bisleri Recalls Batch After Adulteration Found in Goa



The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has initiated an inspection of a specific batch of Bisleri bottled water produced in Goa. The company has confirmed that the affected batch has been recalled and is no longer available in the market. Bisleri has assured consumers that the issue is limited to this single batch and that other batches are safe for consumption. FSSAI continues its investigation to determine the cause of the problem.

POLITICS

Congress High Command Tells Goa Unit to Keep Alliance Options Open for 2027 Elections



New Delhi – The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has instructed the Goa State Congress Committee (GPCC) to keep alliance options open ahead of the 2027 assembly elections. The directive, issued through senior party officials, signals Congress's strategy to enhance its bargaining power in a fragmented political

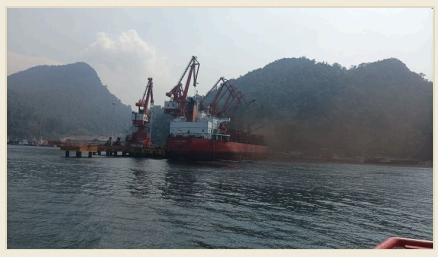
Goa is dominated by the contest between the BJP and the regional Aam Aadmi Party, while Congress has yet to establish a solid foothold. By maintaining flexibility on alliance options, the party may explore potential cooperation with the BJP, the Aam Aadmi Party, or smaller regional parties, depending on voter trends.

According to internal party sources, this move reflects Congress's national strategy of repositioning itself according to local dynamics rather than adhering to a single pre-determined alliance. No formal negotiations have been reported yet, and the GPCC will evaluate options in the coming months.

The AICC's guidance comes before the internal review of candidate selection and campaign strategy for the 2027 elections, underscoring Goa's importance as a potential swing state.

Analysts believe that an open alliance policy could expand Congress's appeal, but it may also dilute its ideological clarity, a balance the party will need to strike as the elections approach.

CPCB Issues Strict Norms for Water Discharge in Mining



The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued new directives to tighten water discharge and usage in mining operations across the country. The orders aim to prevent excessive groundwater depletion and ensure that water used in mining is treated and reused. Under the new standards, mining companies will require prior permission for water discharge exceeding prescribed limits and must submit regular monitoring reports to state pollution boards. The CPCB has also mandated the installation of real-time flow meters and the adoption of water recovery techniques to reduce reliance on fresh water. Industry bodies have assured compliance within the stipulated transition period, while officials have hinted at stringent penalties for violations.

Voice-Assist AI Labs for Students with Disabilities in Goa Classrooms



The Goa Education Department has announced plans to set up artificial intelligence (AI) labs with voice-assist capabilities in state schools. These labs aim to provide real-time auditory assistance to students with visual, hearing, or other disabilities, enabling them to engage more independently with digital educational content.

The initiative uses AI-based speech recognition and speech synthesis technologies to bridge the access gap in classrooms. Teachers will be trained to integrate voice-assist tools into the regular curriculum to ensure the technology complements existing teaching methods.

Implementation will begin in the upcoming academic session, starting with pilot installations in a few government schools before a wider rollout. This move is expected to improve learning outcomes for students with disabilities and establish a model for inclusive education in the region.

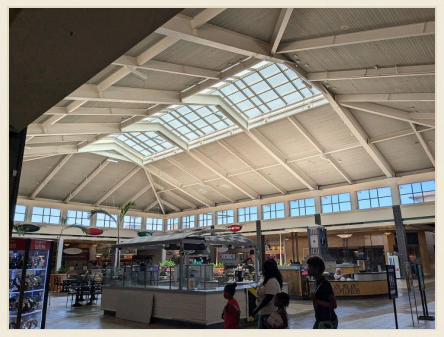
British Tourist Says Farewell After a Week in Goa



A British tourist spent a week in Goa and then returned to the United Kingdom. At the airport, she reflected on her memorable holiday, saying goodbye to the state while trying to hold back tears. She departed from Goa's airport, carrying memories of her trip as she returned home.

CRIME

Court Grants Bail to Person Arrested with 3.7 kg of Marijuana



An Indian court granted bail to a person who was in custody after 3.7 kg of marijuana was seized. The accused filed a bail petition, after which the judge granted him bail so that he would not remain in jail during the trial. The defendant is charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) for possession of a large quantity of marijuana, which carries a severe penalty. Lawyers argued that bail before trial was appropriate, and the court accepted this. The case will now proceed to the trial stage, where evidence of the seized marijuana will be presented by the prosecution. This report does not provide additional information about the accused’s identity, the location of the seizure, or the date of the next hearing.

Cheapest and Most Expensive Days to Goa from Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore in December



Planning a Christmas trip to Goa? Business Today analyzed the cheapest and most expensive days for flights to Goa from Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore in December. The report highlights the fluctuations in air travel costs during the holiday season, helping travelers make informed booking decisions. While the key dates and price differences are not listed in the lead, the analysis aims to guide travelers seeking the best deals for their Goa holidays.