

# Trawler seized off Chapora coast for LED fishing

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** In a joint operation, the Goa Fisheries Department and Coastal Police apprehended a fishing vessel Savitri (IND.GA.01.MM.421) equipped with approximately 22 massive LED lights for violating fishing regulations.

The trawler was intercepted 14 kilometres away from the Chapora coast on Sunday night.

The detained vessel was found equipped with high-capacity generators and an array of powerful LED lights - equipment strictly prohibited under fishing regulations due to

its devastating impact on marine ecosystems. Preliminary investigations suggest that Savitri was functioning as an auxiliary lighting vessel, providing illumination

## IN TROUBLED WATERS

for a larger fishing operation that managed to evade authorities during the raid.

The joint operation marks the first major seizure of a Goa-registered boat involved in the banned practice of LED fishing at sea.

Earlier instances have been of boats from other

States or LED lights found on boats parked at the jetty in the recent past.

Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar has vowed strong legal action against those responsible, stating that the government will not tolerate illegal fishing practices that threaten Goa's marine resources. "His seizure sends a clear message that we are serious about enforcing fishing regulations," Halarnkar told reporters.

Traditional fishermen have raised concerns about the Fisheries Department's stance in ongoing court hearings, where officials maintained that

## BANNED PRACTICE

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sel was functioning as an auxiliary lighting vessel, providing illumination for a larger fishing operation ■ The joint operation by Fisheries Dept & Coastal Police marks the first major seizure of a Goa-registered boat involved in the banned practice

generators aboard fishing vessels were not connected to LED light fishing operations. "The department has been claiming these generators have legiti-

mate uses and aren't for LED fishing," said a GRE representative. "But we've always known they're specifically installed to operate illegal LED arrays."

The enforcement action comes after sustained pressure from traditional fishing communities organized under the Goenchea Raponkarancha Ekvott (GRE). The group had submitted a formal complaint to the Fisheries Department on March 19, highlighting the widespread use of banned LED fishing equipment and its destructive consequences for fish stocks.

Traditional fishermen argue that LED fishing, which typically employs massive 60-150 KVA generators to power underwater lights, devastates juvenile fish populations and marine

habitats. The bright lights attract and trap entire schools of fish, including immature specimens, disrupting the marine food chain.

While authorities have not yet disclosed ownership details of the seized vessel or the exact quantity of fish recovered, fisheries officials confirm that investigations are continuing, with the possibility of additional arrests.

The incident has reignited debate about enforcement effectiveness, with fishermen calling for more frequent patrols and stricter penalties. Many argue isolated operations are in-

sufficient to curb banned fishing methods threatening Goa's marine biodiversity.

Authorities have assured intensified surveillance along Goa's coastline, particularly in areas known for illegal fishing activity.

This matter is also being monitored by the High Court who are expected to pronounce its judgment in the case where fishermen groups have complained about poor enforcement of the rules by the Fisheries Department and Coastal Police in combating illegal fishing practices and use of illegal fishing equipment too.

## Cabbies prefer self-employment to aggregator platform

Team Herald

**CALANGUTE:** Reiterating their opposition to the Transport Department's proposal to bring all tax- is under cab aggregators in Goa, most taxi owners on Monday said that they preferred to be self-employed.

Speaking during a meeting held at Calangute, activist Sudip Tamhankar said, "Most taxi owners are not interested in joining the cab aggregators and prefer to be self-employed. App-based taxi operations have been a failure in some foreign countries. We are open to new technologies, but the Transport Department should have open and transparent discussions with our stakeholders before going ahead with any new mechanisms."

"The Transport Department and Transport Minister had called us for meetings to discuss this issue, but it appears that they are not interested in resolving our issues. De-

Most taxi owners are not interested in joining the cab aggregators and prefer to be self-employed. App-based taxi operations have been a failure in some foreign countries. We are open to new technologies, but the Transport Department should have open and transparent discussions with our stakeholders before going ahead with any new mechanisms – Sudip Tamhankar, activist

spite our opposition they have announced new proposals to bring taxis under aggregators," he said.

Members of various taxi unions, rent-a-cab, rent-a-bike, rickshaw unions etc were present at the meeting.

## Severe water scarcity haunts Mollar-Nessai residents

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** As Goa celebrated World Water Day with much fanfare, the irony wasn't lost on residents of Mollar in Nessai, where a chronic water shortage has escalated into a full-blown crisis. While the government touts its 'Har Ghar Jal' initiative claiming water access for all, the ground reality here paints a starkly different picture - with households receiving water for barely an hour every two days, if at all.

The situation has become so bad that when water does flow through the pipes, it often comes in the dead of night when residents are asleep, leaving them with no opportunity to store it. "How can they claim 'Har Ghar Jal' when we haven't had proper water supply in months?" questioned a frustrated resident, pointing to their dry taps. "These campaigns mean nothing when our basic needs aren't met," he charged.

The crisis has forced families into impossible choices. Those who can afford it spend heavily on private water tankers, while others ration every drop carefully. Children go to school unbathe, workers face humiliation at their workplaces and household chores pile up endlessly. "This isn't just about inconvenience - it's about our dignity," says another resident, while speaking to the media after their visit to the Public Works Department (PWD).

Despite repeated complaints to local representatives including MLA Cruz Silva and MP Captain Viriato and mul-

tiplet petitions to the PWD, solutions remain elusive. A recent visit to the PWD office yielded familiar excuses - the decades-old pipeline system, designed for a fraction of the current population, simply can't meet demand. While officials acknowledge the problem, upgrades remain stuck in bureaucratic limbo.

As summer approaches, anxiety grows in Mollar-Nessai. "If this is our situation now, what will happen when temperatures soar?" asks a worried mother.

## ANAND UPTOWN

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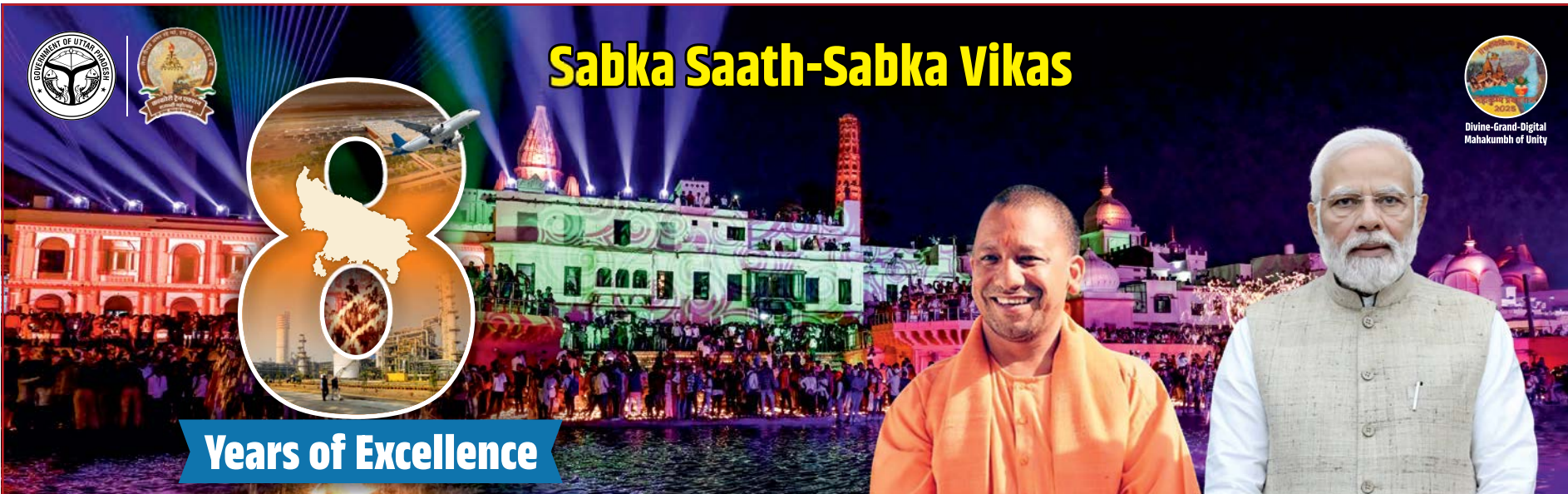
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- Free ration to 15 Crore individuals
- PM Matru Vandana assistance to 60 Lakh mothers
- Free electricity connections to 1.58 Crore households
- Free medical treatment up to ₹5 Lakh for 9 Crore people
- 9.57 Crore individuals with Jan Dhan bank accounts
- Gharauni certificates to 1 Crore families

## Nurturing Farmers, Cultivating Prosperity

- Inaugural Cabinet's First Decision: ₹36,359 Crore crop loan waiver, 94 Lakh farmers benefitted
- Foodgrain Production: Increased from 557.46 Lakh MT in 2016-17 to 668.39 Lakh MT (20% rise) in 2023-24
- Irrigation Capacity: Increased from 82.58 Lakh hectares in 2017 to 131 Lakh hectares, 976 projects completed
- Record Sugarcane Payment: ₹2.80 Lakh Crore paid since 2017, which is ₹66,000 Crore more than the total payments made in the last 22 years
- Sugar Mills: 3 new sugar mills, 6 mills revamped and expansion of 38 sugar mills
- Grain Procurement: Middlemen removed, ₹43,424 Crore disbursed for wheat procurement and ₹88,746 Crore for paddy procurement
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana : ₹80,000 Crore+ transferred to 2.86 Crore farmers
- 73,924 solar pumps installed under PM KUSUM Yojana

## Empowering Women, Elevating Nation

- 20% reservation for women in police force with 1.38 Lakh+ women secured Govt. jobs
- 1Crore+ women employed through 10 Lakh+ self-help groups
- Women Workforce: Increased from 14.2% in 2017 to 35.1%
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: Free LPG connections to 1.86 Crore families, along with free LPG cylinder refills during Holi and Diwali
- Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana : 22.11 Lakh girls benefitted
- Nirashrit Mahila Pension Yojana : 33.55 Lakh women benefitted
- Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana: 4.22 Lakh couples tied the knot, financial assistance increased from ₹51,000 to ₹1Lakh
- Increase in honorarium for Anganwadi workers and helpers, 3.73 Lakh women benefitted
- B.C. Sakhi: 39,000+ women facilitated transactions worth ₹31,626 Crore, earned ₹85.81 Crore dividends

## Creating Employment, Inspiring Youth

- Per capita income increased from ₹46,000 in 2017 to ₹1,24,000 in 2024
- Unemployment rate: 18% youth unemployed in 2016, now reduced to 3% in 2024
- Fair and transparent recruitment process: 8.5 Lakh+ government jobs, 3.75 Lakh+ contract jobs
- 2 Crore+ jobs in private sector and MSMEs, 2.54 Lakh+ jobs through ODOP scheme
- Employment to 2.27 Lakh+ youth under Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojana
- Aim to train 10 Lakh new entrepreneurs under Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan

## Driving Progress through Inclusive Growth

- 3,213 Annapurna Bhawans constructed, while work underway on 1,630 bhawans
- ₹708.49 Crore scholarships to 32,49,854 Scheduled Caste (Pre-Matric) students
- ₹9,662.25 Crore scholarships to 89,31,203 Scheduled Caste (Post-Matric) students
- ₹1,28,627.48 Crore scholarships to 62,79,519 Backward Class (Pre-Matric) students
- ₹7,62,524.03 Crore scholarships to 1,31,05,263 Backward Class (Post-Metric) students
- ₹221.95 Crore scholarships to 8,58,750 General Category (Pre-Matric) students
- ₹5,499.86 Crore scholarships to 48,13,347 General Category (Post-Matric) students

## Building a Healthier Future

- Ayushman Bharat : Free treatment up to ₹5 lakh for 9 crore people
- 80 medical colleges operational, MBBS seats increased by 11,300
- AIIMS in Gorakhpur and Raebareilly, and Atal Medical University in Lucknow
- Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH University in Gorakhpur
- 22,681 Arogya Mandirs



## Uttar Pradesh on the Fast Track to Development

- 6 expressways operational, 11 under construction, Uttar Pradesh will account for 55% of the country's expressway network upon completion of Ganga Expressway
- Expressway length increased by 491 kilometers till 2017 to 1,225 kilometers by 2024
- 32,000 kilometers+ new roads constructed, 25,000 kilometers of roads widened/strengthened
- Number of Airports increased from four till 2017 to 21 Airports till 2024, including 5 international airports
- India's largest Jewar Airport nearly complete, set to become the nation's biggest air cargo hub
- Inland waterway operational from Haldia to Varanasi, expansion work ongoing from Prayagraj-Ayodhya

## Zero Tolerance towards Crime

- Prior to 2017: Mafia and criminals unchecked, Post 2017: Rule of law, fear-free environment
- As per NCRB data, 84.41% reduction in dacoity, 77.43% reduction in robbery, 41.01% reduction in murder, 66.40% reduction in rioting, 54.72% reduction in abductions for ransom, 17.08% reduction in dowry deaths and 26.15% rape cases reduced
- 79,984 criminals booked under the Gangster Act, action taken against 930 offenders charged under NSA
- Seizure of nearly ₹3,000 crores worth property from mafia's illegal occupations, facilitating housing for the poor
- 222 notorious criminals killed in encounters, and 28,000+ wanted criminals sent to jail
- Police Commissionerate system implemented in 7 metropolitan cities, 18 Anti-Terrorism Squad units established
- 6 Special Security Force units formed, 3 Women PAC battalions set up
- Cyber police stations established in all districts, 11 Lakh+ CCTV cameras installed
- Response time of 112 Police Control reduced from 25.42 minutes in 2017 to just 7.24 minutes in 2024

## Powering Progress

- Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana: Free electricity connections to 1.58 crore homes
- 24-hour power supply to district headquarters, 22-hour at tehsil level and 20-hour power supply in villages
- 100% waiver on power bills of farmers with private tubewells
- 4000 MW capacity plant under the Green Energy Corridor in Bundelkhand
- Establishment of 53 compressed biogas/bio coal/bio diesel and bio ethanol plants

## Ensuring Basic Amenities, Enhancing Lives

- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana : Free ration to 15 Crore individuals
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana : 56 Lakh+ houses constructed
- PM SVANidhi Yojana : ₹3000 Crore+ loan to 1,80,000+ street vendors
- Har Ghar Jal Yojana : Access to potable tap water provided to 2.36 Crore+ families
- MGNREGA : Leads in providing 100 days of employment by generating 200 Crore mandays

## Nurturing Young Minds

- Construction of Atal Residential Schools in 18 divisional headquarters
- CM Model Composite Schools in 57 districts
- State Universities operational in Aligarh, Azamgarh, Saharanpur, Mirzapur, Balrampur, and Moradabad
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University in Prayagraj
- Sainik School, Forestry College, and NCC Training Academy in Gorakhpur
- Veterinary Science Colleges in Gorakhpur and Chandauli