

shorttakes

KARNATAKA TOURIST BOOKED FOR DRIVING SUV ON CALANGUTE BEACH



**CALANGUTE:** A tourist from Bengaluru, Karnataka, was booked by Calangute Police on Friday for illegally driving his Mitsubishi Pajero sports car on the beach. The incident came to police attention at around 6.30 pm when the vehicle got stuck in the sand, and the driver, identified as Somnath Hanumaiah, sought assistance to remove it. The vehicle has been impounded, and the driver is set to be produced in court on Saturday.

LENTEN OPERETTA AT PILAR MONASTERY TODAY AT 7 PM

**PANJIM:** Society of Pilar will organise Lenten Operetta, Jivitchem Jivit Uzvaddacho Uzvadd at Pilar Monastery, on April 5, at 7 pm. The operetta will be musical with lights and sound. The entry is free.

RESTRICTED WATER SUPPLY

Due to interconnection of 900mm via MS transmission main at Dabolim junction, there will be restricted water supply to entire Mormugao taluka i.e Cortalim, Dabolim, Vasco and Mormugao constituencies and part of Nuvem constituency, part of St Andre constituency on April 7 and 8.

power shutdown

**MARGAO:** On April 5, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are opposite Sanrit hotel, Kismat restaurant, opposite Railway station road, near Jama Masjid, hotel Nandini, near Bata showroom and surrounding areas.

**PONDA:** On April 5, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Panditwada and surrounding areas.

**CURTORIM:** On April 5, from 8 am to 3 pm. Pandicol will be affected areas.

# Ponda market fish vendors to operate from basement parking from Saturday

PMC agrees to demands of vendors, allots space according to their requirement

Team Herald

**PONDA:** The fish vendors from the Ponda market who had initially resisted the move of the municipal council to shift them to a new place have finally agreed to relocate their businesses to the basement parking area of the New Market Complex.

The issue was sorted out after a meeting they had with Ponda Municipal

Council (PMC) Chairperson Anand Naik, the Chief Officer, the Municipal Engineer, and other municipal inspectors.

PMC has decided to demolish the existing fish market due to its deteriorating condition. However, fish vendors had initially refused to shift, citing concerns over essential amenities such as water and electricity connections. Following their protest, a joint

meeting was convened, chaired by Naik, to address their grievances.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Naik confirmed that the vendors' concerns would be addressed by the end of the day, ensuring a smooth transition to the basement parking area. "They will be allotted spaces according to their requirements," he assured.

Additionally, Naik emphasised that subletting of



fish vending spaces by local vendors would not be tolerated.

Advocate Rahul Shet, representing the fish vendors, confirmed their willingness to relocate, stating, "PMC has agreed to our demands, and

we are ready for the shift." He also highlighted that subletting of fish selling spaces leads to financial losses for genuine vendors and urged PMC to take strict action against the practice.

With the vendors prepared to move, the demolition of the old fish market is set to proceed, making way for the construction of a modernised fish market for Ponda's traders and customers.

# Goa-IDC hosts AI workshop to empower SMEs

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Goa Industrial Development Corporation (Goa-IDC), in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, successfully hosted the Empowering SMEs through AI Innovation workshop under the AI for India 2030 initiative. The event convened industry leaders, academia, civil society and government representatives to discuss AI's strategic impact and co-develop responsible governance frameworks.

The AI for India 2030 initiative seeks to drive AI adoption across industries, particularly among SMEs, which contribute over one-third of India's GDP



and play a crucial role in employment and entrepreneurship. A key highlight of the event was the introduction of the AI Playbook for SMEs, a framework guiding businesses in leveraging AI for productivity, innovation, and global competitiveness.

Distinguished speakers included Pravimal Abhishek, MD, Goa-IDC; Purushottam Kaushik, Head, C4IR India; Ayushi Sarna, AI

and Data Policy Specialist, C4IR India; Harsh Sharma, AI and ML Lead, C4IR India and Sambhav Kela, Fellow, Boston Consulting Group.

With participation from 30 SMEs across Goa, the workshop focused on: Assessing AI readiness and digitisation in SMEs, exploring high-impact AI solutions tailored to industry needs, addressing challenges in AI adoption, defining the government's

role in digital transformation.

Pravimal Abhishek emphasised Goa-IDC's commitment to leveraging technology for industrial efficiency. The Ease of Doing Business platform now streamlines processes like plot allotments and transfers, reducing bureaucratic steps significantly. Additionally, the newly launched Online Building Plan Ap-

proval System (OBPAS) is set to expedite construction approvals.

"Goa-IDC prioritises AI integration to enhance industrial productivity and competitiveness," he stated. "AI can revolutionise SMEs by fostering innovation and efficiency, enabling them to scale and compete globally."

Purushottam Kaushik highlighted the significance of cross-sector collaboration in AI adoption. He praised Goa-IDC's openness to partnerships, stressing that AI must reach grassroots businesses, including small enterprises in remote regions.

An interactive session led by Ayushi Sarna engaged participants through live polls, gathering insights on

industry challenges and AI applications. Representatives from electronics, packaging, logistics, and manufacturing sectors, including Smart Link, Kineco Group, and SAIS Service Private Limited, attended. Notably, nearly 30% of respondents were involved in exports, underscoring AI's potential to streamline compliance and optimise supply chains.

The workshop underscored the importance of collaboration between government, industry leaders, and technology experts in shaping AI policies. Insights gathered will inform future initiatives, ensuring SMEs benefit from AI integration while maintaining ethical standards.



# April 5: A tribute to India's shipping heritage and economic strength

National Maritime Day is observed annually on April 5 to honour India's maritime heritage and recognise the vital role of the shipping industry in the nation's economic development. The day commemorates the maiden voyage of SS Loyalty on April 5, 1919, a landmark event in India's maritime history that marked the beginning of self-reliance in international shipping. First celebrated in 1964, the occasion pays tribute to India's entry into global shipping with the launch of SS Loyalty, the first Indian-owned vessel operated by The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd. The ship's historic

**MARITIME HISTORY OF INDIA**

- Indus Valley Civilization (2500 BCE): Lothal, an important port city, had a well-planned dockyard, indicating India's early engagement in sea trade.
- Maurya and Gupta Empires: Indian merchants expanded trade routes across the Indian Ocean, reaching Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.
- Chola Dynasty (9th-13th Century): The Cholas had a powerful navy and established trade relations with regions like Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Cambodia.
- Colonial Era: European powers, including the Portuguese, Dutch, French, and British, controlled maritime trade, leading to the rise of modern ports like Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata.
- India's rich maritime legacy continues to influence modern shipping, trade policies, and naval strategies, making the sector an essential part of national development.



**CONTRIBUTION OF INDIAN MARITIME SECTOR**

- The Indian maritime sector plays a crucial role in the country's economic growth and development. Here are some key contributions and initiatives:
- Ports: India has 13 major and 200 non-major ports.
- Handling Capacity: Annual capacity of 1,200 million tonnes of cargo.
- GDP Contribution: 5% of India's GDP (Ministry of Shipping 2020).
- Trade: 95% of trade by volume, 70% by value.
- Foreign Exchange: \$690 billion in seaborne trade (2019-20).
- Employment: 14 million jobs, with growth through Sagarmala.

journey from Mumbai to London was a bold step towards breaking British dominance in maritime trade. National Maritime Day acknowledges the contributions of seafarers, shipbuilders, and port authorities, who play a crucial role in sustaining the country's trade and commerce through maritime routes. India's maritime sector remains a key pillar of the economy, handling over 95% of the country's trade by volume and 70% by value. With a 7,500 km coastline, 12 major ports, and over 200 minor ports, India continues to expand its influence in global shipping and logistics. Efforts are focused on enhancing port infrastructure, increasing investments in shipbuilding and coastal shipping, and promoting sustainability initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and support green shipping.

The theme for National Maritime Day 2025 has not yet been announced, but each year's theme highlights sustainability, technological advancements, and safety in shipping operations. The official announcement is expected closer to the

event. Celebrations across the country include award ceremonies, where the prestigious 'NMD Award of Excellence' is conferred on individuals who have made significant contributions to India's maritime sector. Educational programmes are conducted in schools and colleges to raise awareness about India's maritime history and career opportunities in the shipping industry. Workshops and conferences bring together policymakers, industry leaders, and experts to discuss maritime advancements and future challenges, while port visits allow the public to understand the functioning of India's maritime sector firsthand.

The government has launched several initiatives to modernise the maritime sector and enhance global competitiveness. The Maritime India Vision 2030 aims to develop port infrastructure, shipbuilding, and digitalisation in the industry. The Sagarmala Programme is focused on port-led development, reducing logistics costs, and boosting coastal trade. Additionally, India is taking significant steps towards environmentally friendly maritime practices, including the introduction of low-emission vessels and eco-friendly port operations. Shore power systems are also being implemented to cut carbon footprints in ports.

As India prepares to celebrate National Maritime Day 2025, the occasion serves as a reminder of the nation's rich shipping legacy and its commitment to strengthening the maritime sector for future growth.

**NUSI MARITIME ACADEMY**  
(Unit of NUSI/ITF Trust for Indian Seafarers)

wishes all the Seafarers on the occasion of **62<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL MARITIME DAY**

**GOA MARITIME OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

GMOA  
Warm wishes To All Goan Seafaring Community  
**HAPPY 62<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL MARITIME DAY**

**HAPPY 62<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL MARITIME DAY!**  
We salute all the Seafarers, Mariners & Coast guards who have served the Indian Maritime sector with dedication & staunchness.

**Capt. Venzy Viegas**  
MLA Benaulim Constituency

**SEA SCAN**

**WISHES ALL THE SEAFARERS & THEIR FAMILIES A HAPPY MARITIME DAY**

**Sea Scan Maritime Foundation**  
VERNA: Plot No. L-47 A, B, C, Phase II E, Verna IDC - GOA 403722. Mob: 8384997979; 9607001686; 0832 2783248; 0832 2783249 Email: scanacad@gmail.com  
CHICALIM: Airport Road, Chicalim, Goa 403711 Ph: 0832 2541244; 2541250, 9822132034; 7030183153 email: seamarinefoundation@gmail.com  
seascanmaritime.in | seascanmarine.in