



Presidential candidate Crin Antonescu casts his vote in the first round of the presidential election redo in Bucharest, Romania



Abba Naor, survivor of Dachau concentration camp, takes part in the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the prisoners of the camp, in Dachau, Germany



Czech Republics President Petr Pavel, (CL), welcomes his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the Prague Castle, Czech Republic



Firefighters work at the site of a plane crash in the Wood Ranch section of Simi Valley, California

allovertheworld



A couple takes a selfie on the Pont de Debilly pedestrian footbridge near the Eiffel Tower in Paris

China's Xi Jinping to pay official visit to Russia, alongside Victory Day celebrations

PTI, BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit Russia from May 7-10 to attend the Victory Day Parade in Moscow and hold "strategic communication" with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on a series of major international and regional issues, it was announced on Sunday.

This will be Xi's first visit to Moscow after Donald Trump took charge of the US Presidency. Xi last visited Russia in October 2024 for the BRICS Summit.

President Xi will pay a State Visit to Russia from May 7 to 10 and attend the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War in Moscow, a spokesperson of the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement in Beijing on Sunday.

President Xi will have "strategic communication" with President Putin on China-Russia relations

PUTIN SAYS HE HOPES THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN UKRAINE

AP, MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said in comments broadcast Sunday that the need to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine had not arisen and that he hopes it will not. In a preview of an upcoming interview with Russian state television, published on Telegram, Putin said Russia has the strength and the means to bring the conflict in Ukraine to a "logical conclusion." Responding to a question about Ukrainian strikes on Russian territory, Putin said: "There has been no need to use those (nuclear) weapons ... and I hope they will not be required." "We have enough strength and means to bring what was started in 2022 to a logical conclusion with the outcome Russia requires," he said. Putin signed a revamped version of Russia's nuclear doctrine in November 2024, spelling out the circumstances that allow him to use Moscow's atomic arsenal, the world's largest. That version lowered the bar, giving him that option in response to even a conventional attack backed by a nuclear power.

under new circumstances and on a series of major international and regional issues, the statement said, in an apparent reference to the pressure being mounted

by Trump on Putin to end the Ukraine war and his tariff war against China.

In Moscow, the Kremlin said that the two leaders would sign several

bilateral inter-governmental and inter-departmental documents during Xi's official visit from May 7-10 at the personal invitation of President Putin.

"During the talks, the main issues of further development of relations of comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction, as well as current issues of the international and regional agenda will be discussed," it said.

Russia had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Victory Day parade, but it was decided that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh would attend the event. However, Singh is also set to skip the Victory Day parade and his deputy Sanjay Seth is likely to represent India at the event.

The move to send the Minister of State for Defence to the May 9 ceremony comes amid increasing tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack.

Leaders of 20 countries, including Brazil, Venezuela and Vietnam, are expected in Moscow on May 9 for the Victory Day celebrations, marking the 80th anniversary of the Soviet victory over Germany in World War II.

China, Japan spar over their aircraft flying over disputed islands

PTI, BEIJING: China and Japan on Sunday exchanged diplomatic protests, accusing each other of violating their airspace over the disputed islands in the East China Sea.

Liu Jinsong, Director-General of the Asian Affairs Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, on Sunday lodged solemn representations to Yokochi Akira, chief minister of the Embassy of Japan here, regarding Japanese right-wing elements intruding into China's territorial airspace over Diaoyu Dao by piloting a civilian aircraft, the state-run Global Times reported.

Japanese news agency Kyodo quoted Japan's defence ministry as saying that a helicopter from a China Coast Guard ship violated Japanese airspace close to the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea on Saturday, making it the fourth airspace intrusion by Beijing.

The helicopter took off from one of the four Chinese coast guard ships that entered Japan's territorial waters around the Senkaku.

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TREMORS OF TRAGEDY FELT AT STAMPEDE SPOT LAST YEAR TOO

It is also looking into reports that a fight between two groups of devotees triggered the stampede, he said.

Despite the lanes leading to the temple being narrow, the temple committee had allowed shops to be set up on the route, adding to congestion, the official said.

Meanwhile, rituals were held at the Sree Lairai Devi temple as hundreds of devotees arrived on foot despite the temple committee appealing to them to stay away. Devotees walked at least two km to take part in a ritual where the goddess (her idol) 'visits' the houses of local residents.

The ritual follows a day after the 'homkhand' rite during which devotees walk on the embers of a big fire lit in the temple grounds.

Dinanath Gaonkar, president of the temple committee, said, "It was not possible to cancel the ritual. The incident on Saturday was unfortunate. Lives were lost. But we cannot stop the rituals. The temple committee had made an appeal to devotees to avoid visiting the village. The police have also placed barricades in Assonora to stop vehicles from entering the area."

Yet, many were seen walking to the village on Sunday. Stalls set up in the lanes around the temple too remained open.

A local resident said, "You cannot stop people from attending the festival, as Devi Lairai is a revered deity with devotees across Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka."

It may be recalled that in the wee hours of Saturday, a stampede broke out as thousands of devotees thronged the narrow lanes leading up to the temple. While six persons died, about 70 were injured.

The fact-finding committee on Saturday commenced its inquiry into the Shirgao stampede.

The committee started its work by visiting the site on Saturday.

Jacques said, "We are doing our homework. It is going to take a couple of days. We went to the site and saw what could be the probable reasons for the incident. We also met the temple committee members as well. The inquiry will go for a couple of days."

When asked whether the report will be completed and submitted by Sunday, Jacques said, "We are working on it because a lot of enquiries need to be done. The inquiry is still in the preliminary stage and we are doing our homework."

'CODE RED' SYSTEM IN HOSPITALS SOON: MINISTER

He said, "You don't need to wait for any department or individual to respond. Under this system, multi-disciplinary doctors are immediately engaged to ensure quick and necessary decisions."

Stating the system will be implemented in three phases starting with GMC, the minister expressed confidence that the "code red" mechanism will be helpful in dealing with emergencies more effectively.

"I told doctors that the government will immediately act on any demand for engaging specialists from any part of the country to treat the injured persons or backup systems needed to stabilise patients," he added.

Rane said, "Patients are responding positively to the treatment provided by the GMC doctors who have been very proactive after the incident occurred."

DEVOTEES STRUGGLED TO MAINTAIN FOOTING, BEGAN TO FALL, RECALL PODOCEM RESIDENTS

Gaonkar said, "Soon I saw people running. Initially fearing a fight, I went to investigate and, after not being able to find my companions, I saw Surya."

Gaonkar said, "I checked Surya's pulse and, feeling panicked, eventually helped get him into an ambulance to Mapusa. By the time I reached the main area, the crowd had thinned, and some bodies were still on the ground."

Vishranti Gaonkar said, "The administration should not have permitted so many stalls along the road and that the electricity connections should have been properly inspected."

Upon hearing about the incident, Archita Gaonkar said, "I rushed to the scene and saw police officers trying to move the bodies. The stalls lining the road clearly restricted the space available for people to move."

INJURED PERSONS RESPONDING TO TREATMENT, SAYS GMC

He reassured the public that the dedicated medical staff at the hospital are making every possible effort to provide the highest level of care to all patients.

Dr Patil noted that an additional patient with soft tissue injuries was admitted to the hospital on Sunday. This individual had initially returned home following the incident, likely due to the distressing circumstances, but later sought medical treatment at GMC after experiencing persistent pain. With this new admission, the total number of patients currently receiving treatment in GMC has gone up to 14.

Meanwhile, Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai visited the families of the deceased: Surya Nayekar in Podocem, Sattari; Yeshwant Kerkar in Madel, Tivim; and Master Aditya Kauthankar in Achutwado, Tivim.

The Governor was accompanied by local MLA Nilkant Halarnkar during his visits, highlighting the collaborative effort to offer support.

Speaking to mediapersons, the Governor conveyed his deepest condolences on behalf of the State.

He acknowledged the unprecedented nature of this devastating tragedy.

The Governor affirmed that the State government is addressing the immediate medical needs of the injured and other necessary arrangements for the affected.

Furthermore, the Governor stated that a formal inquiry has been ordered into the incident. He assured that all aspects of the stampede will be thoroughly and comprehensively examined to ensure accountability and to provide relief and closure to the affected families during this incredibly difficult time.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant also extended his support by visiting the family of the late Surya Nayekar. The Chief Minister announced a specific timeline for the disbursement of the announced compensation for the families of the deceased, stating that it will be provided on the 12th day following the tragedy.

He assured that any additional necessary assistance beyond the initial compensation would be provided to the grieving families. The Chief Minister highlighted the importance of streamlining the established processes for the Dhonds, who play a significant role in the zatra, as well as the administrative procedures involved in managing such large-scale events.

Finally, with regards to the ongoing investigation into the Shirgao tragedy, the Chief Minister indicated that the comprehensive report detailing the findings of the inquiry may require some time to be finalised, ensuring thoroughness and accuracy.

SIX-YEAR-OLD GIRL DROWNS WHILE PLAYING AT BAGA

At approximately 8.45 pm, a tourist contacted the police informing them that a body was found on the beach. The Tourist Police recovered Zoya's body about a kilometre away. Despite showing faint signs of life, immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) administered by the police proved unsuccessful in reviving her.

Zoya was swiftly transported by ambulance to the Candolim health centre, where doctors on duty pronounced her dead.

IF UNDER STRESS, NOW STUDENTS CAN TAKE EXAM LATER: BITS GOA

"Reaching out is not a sign of weakness. It is a courageous act of self-awareness and strength. If you are finding it difficult to cope, please speak up. Help is available, and you do not have to face this alone," the statement said.

A 20-year-old student of BITS Pilani's Zuarinagar campus in Goa, Krishna Kaseera from Lucknow, was found dead by suicide last week. This was the second such incident at the BITS Pilani Goa campus in the past three months. On March 5, 2025, 20-year-old student Atharva Desai was found dead in his hostel room.

SPACEX LAUNCH SITE APPROVED AS NEW CITY OF STARBASE

The billionaire's popularity has diminished since he became the chain-saw-wielding public face of President Donald Trump's federal job and spending cuts, and profits at his Tesla car company have plummeted.

SpaceX has generally drawn widespread support from local officials for its jobs and investment in the area.

But the creation of an official company town has also drawn critics who worry it will expand Musk's personal control over the area, with potential authority to close a popular beach and state park for launches.

Companion efforts to the city vote include bills in the state Legislature to shift that authority from the county to the new town's mayor and city council.

All these measures come as SpaceX is asking federal authorities for permission to increase the number of South Texas launches from five to 25 a year.

The city at the southern tip of Texas near the Mexico border is only about 3.9 square kilometres, crisscrossed by a few roads and dappled with airstream trailers and modest mid century homes. SpaceX officials have said little about exactly why they want a company town and did not respond to emailed requests for comment.

"We need the ability to grow Starbase as a community," Starbase General Manager Kathryn Lueders wrote to local officials in 2024 with the request to get the city issue on the ballot.

The letter said the company already manages roads and utilities, as well as "the provisions of schooling and medical care" for those living on the property.

SpaceX officials have told lawmakers that granting the city authority to close the beach would streamline launch operations. SpaceX rocket launches and engine tests, and even just moving certain equipment around the launch base requires the closure of a local highway and access to Boca Chica State Park and Boca Chica Beach.

Critics say beach closure authority should stay with the county government, which represents a broader population that uses the beach and park. Cameron County Judge Eddie Trevino, Jr has said the county has worked well with SpaceX and there is no need for change.

IT GLITTERS, BUT MAJORITY OF INFLUENCERS NOT STRIKING GOLD IN INDIA

Revenue remains heavily skewed towards top-tier creators who land brand sponsorships and attract high ad earnings. In India, ad revenues typically range between Rs 50-Rs 200 per 1,000 views — meaning even 1 lakh views might earn as little as Rs 5,500.

Despite these challenges, creators play a powerful role in shaping consumer behaviour. They currently influence over 30% of all consumer spending — an estimated \$350-400 billion — yet direct monetisation for creators generates just \$20-25 billion in value. This figure is projected to grow fivefold by 2030 as new monetisation models mature.

The report categorises creators into six distinct groups based on their influence and audience dynamics. Among them, 'Trust Ambassadors' — nano influencers with 10,000-50,000 followers — command strong engagement and are increasingly favoured by brands for their authenticity. Other key segments include niche experts, inquisitive conversationalists, hype-driving icons, mass reach disseminators, and elite trendsetters who reinforce brand loyalty through consistent messaging.

Encouragingly, brands are taking note. Currently, 10-20% of marketing budgets are allocated to influencer partnerships, and nearly 70% of companies plan to increase these spends significantly in the next 2-3 years.

However, future growth hinges on embracing under-explored monetisation avenues. Models such as virtual gifting, subscriptions, live commerce, and affiliate marketing are gradually gaining traction. Regional platforms, particularly in Tier 2 and 3 cities, are leading adoption in categories like entertainment, spirituality, and self-help — where audiences actively engage through microtransactions and live tipping.

MORE OBITS ON PG 10

ONE YEAR WITH THE LORD

In loving memory of **REMEDIOS DA CUNHA**

ULLEM BHAT, BATIM, GOA VELHA, TISWADI

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not Perish but have Eternal Life." John 3:16

"It's been a year since you left us, but the promise of Eternal life keeps our heart strong knowing that you are alive in the arms of our Lord Jesus!"

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Remedios on **Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7:00 am at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Batim, Goa Velha, Tiswadi**, followed by prayers and blessing at the grave, officiated by his Wife: **Ana Maria**, Son/Daughter-in-law: **Francisco / Biniva** and Grandson **Zephen & Family**.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

CALLED TO HIS HEAVENLY ABODE



Born: 04/05/1938

Died: 04/05/2025

JOHN AGOSTINHO VINCENTE FERNANDES

(Vanxim, Divar - Goa)

Beloved husband of **Dorothy Fernandes**. Father/Father-in-law of **Gregory, Judy/Denzil** and **Jelton/Kimberly**. Doting grandfather of **Rebecca** and **Nia**. Brother/Brother-in-law of **Late Crescy/Late Felix, Late Regina/Late Edward, Late Thomas Camilo/Effie, Late George**. Loving Uncle to nephews and nieces.

Funeral Cortage will leave his residence on **Tuesday, 6th May 2025 (TOMORROW)** to **St. Cristo Church, Vanxim, Divar, Goa** at 9:45 a.m. for Eucharistic celebration followed by burial.

Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation. ART TRICKS 8390897800

A LOVING FAREWELL



Born: 16 July 1945

Died: 4th May 2025

FRANK RODRIGUES

(Ex Salgaonkar Head Office, Vasco)

-: Sirlim - Band :-

Son of **late Roque Rodrigues/ late Josefina Viegas e Rodrigues**. Beloved husband of **Marcelina Lobo e Rodrigues**. Affectionate father/father-in-law of **Sheena/ Conrad, Sheville/ Joycee**. Dearest grandfather of **Skyilar, Rayden, Emma**. Loving brother/ brother-in-law of **Carma/ late Faustim, Antoneta/ late Pascoal, Virginia/ late Francis, Lucy/Hillary, late Elvis, Loveth**.

Passed away peacefully. Funeral cortage will leave his residence **Sirlim-Band** at **4:00 P.M. on Monday, 5th May 2025 (TODAY)** to **Our Lady of Marces Chapel, Sirlim** for Eucharistic Celebration, followed by burial.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Confidant Advtg. & Funeral Services, Margao. Ph. 9822302194

CLASSIFIED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

SITUATIONS VACANT

Required urgently housekeeping female staff for a guest house in colva beach. Salary 15000/- with 4 days off p.m. kindly call 9890044022 on office hrs 2025012856

Lathe Operator Required. Duty: 8 Hours Vedanga Infratech Cuncolim Walk In Interview 11:00 Am To 6:00 Pm Salary: 25000 + Bonus. Ph : 9813733377 2025012857

Wanted Office Boy cum Store keeper for plumbing store in Madel Margao. Qualification: 12th. Kindly whatsapp CV or call on 9579659905. 2025012858

Wanted for Liquor Supermarket / Wineshop in Colva and Margao Store incharge /Salesboys / Call whatsapp 9326103411 2025012860

Fitters, general helpers, plumbers, Electricians, Fire Alarm technicians, Diploma engineers required in Fatorda. 9822964206, gosafire@gmail.com. 2025012867

Wanted Restaurant manager, senior waiter & pan Asian chef for restaurant in Colva. Good salary for experienced. Contact ☑+91 7058992484 2025012886

SITUATIONS VACANT

Calangute: Manager Trainee / Senior, Receptionists (Male), Sweepers (Couples), Roomboys, Watchmans, Waiters, Carpenters, Welders, Bouncers, Accounts staff, Shoppers, Dhobbi WhatsApp 9822181294 2025012905

TOURS & TRAVELS

Luxury bus leaving for Konkani/ English retreat at Tabor Ashram, Kalyan on 17 May, 2025 From Goa: Margao- Panjim- Mapusa. Contact : Urbano 9833642847 2025012692

VEHICLES AVAILABLE

10 Rent-a-bike for sale, Panjim. Contact 9225903954 2025012679

VEHICLES WANTED

We buy all Car's & Bike's. Maruti, Toyota, Hyundai, Honda (Vintage Car's) etc, even accidental and scrap car's. Spot payment-8381027157 2025009929

Urgently Wanted Automatic Wagon R, Celerio or Alto in good condition. Model 2018 onwards. Only owners call. Urgently Contact: 9657970382 2025012662