



Goa to Vote for Zilla Panchayats on Dec 20; MCC Comes Into Force Statewide

Counting of votes on December 22.

Sr. No	Stages of Election	Date
1	Receipt of Nominations (7 days except 3 rd December being public Holiday and 7 th December being Sunday)	1 December 2025 (Monday) To 09 December 2025 (Tuesday) 10 am to 1 pm
2	Scrutiny of nominations	10 December 2025 (Wednesday) 10 am onwards till scrutiny is complete
3	Withdrawal of candidature	11 December 2025 (Thursday) 10 am to 2 pm
4	List of Contesting candidates	11 December 2025 (Thursday) After 2 pm
5	Date of Poll	20th December 2025 (Saturday) 8 am to 5 pm
6	Date for Counting of votes	22nd December 2025 (Monday) 8 am till counting is completed

Sr. No	Name of the Zilla Panchayat	Women	OBC	SC	ST
1	North Goa	9	7	1	1
2	South Goa	10	6	0	5

Name of the Zilla Panchayat	Male	Female	Other	Total
North Goa Zilla Panchayat	213529	225948	3	439480
South Goa Zilla Panchayat	206902	222253	2	429157
Total	420431	448201	5	868637

Sr. No	Name of the Zilla Panchayat	Polling Booths
1	North Goa Zilla Panchayat	658
2	South Goa Zilla Panchayat	626
	Total	1284

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The State Election Commission (SEC) today announced the schedule for the 2025 Zilla Panchayat (ZP) elections for North and South Goa, confirming that polling will take place on December 20, with counting of votes scheduled for December 22. With the announcement, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has come into immediate effect across all ZP jurisdictions, excluding municipal areas and the Corporation of the City of Panaji. Both districts—each divided into 25 constituencies—will go to the polls on the same day. The SEC has adopted the Goa Legislative



Assembly electoral roll updated till October 1, 2025, placing the total number of eligible voters at 8,68,637 across the state. The Commission has also finalised reservations for seats, issuing a corrigendum on November 22. North Goa has seats reserved for 9 Women, 7 OBC, 1 SC, and 1 ST

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MLA Kedar Naik Rejects Claims Linking Him to Trawlers Seized in Maharashtra

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Saligao MLA Kedar Naik has dismissed reports suggesting that two Goan trawlers seized by Maharashtra Fisheries officials are connected to him, insisting that neither vessel is owned by him nor registered in his name. Naik said his family has traditionally been involved in the fishing business, but stressed that he has distanced himself from daily operations after entering politics. According to him, the four trawlers his family owns were leased out to other operators,



and the allegations are part of an attempt by the opposition to tarnish his image. Maharashtra authorities on Thursday intercepted two Goan trawlers for allegedly fishing within the state's territorial waters using

banned LED lighting systems. Officials said the action was taken for breaching maritime boundaries and deploying prohibited equipment that poses a risk to marine ecosystems. Speculation had surfaced that one of the detained vessels might belong to a Goa BJP legislator, adding a political dimension to the enforcement action. Fisheries officials have begun a detailed probe to determine full ownership records and to crack down on the use of illegal LED fishing gear, which has been flagged as environmentally harmful.



J&K High Court Rules Cross-LoC Trade With PoK as Intra-State Under GST

■ The Court was hearing writ petitions filed by traders who had engaged in barter/supply transactions with people across the LoC during 2017-2019.

New Delhi: The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has ruled that trade across the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) qualifies as intra-state trade under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act, as PoK is legally considered part of the territory of the former state of Jammu & Kashmir. The bench, comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar, was hearing writ petitions filed by traders who had engaged in barter and supply transactions with counterparts across the LoC during 2017-2019. The petitioners had challenged show-cause notices issued by tax authorities demanding

GST, disputing the territorial and supply classification of their transactions. The court noted, "It is not disputed that the area of the state presently under de-facto control of Pakistan is part of the territories of Jammu & Kashmir. Therefore, the location of suppliers and the place of supply of goods were within the then State of J&K (now UT), and the cross-LoC trade in question constituted intra-state trade." The bench dismissed the petitions, directing the traders to seek remedies available under the CGST Act of 2017 rather than approaching the court. The petitioners had argued that trade routes

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Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar Stress Unity Ahead of Karnataka Assembly Session

■ Siddaramaiah said the two leaders had reviewed preparations for the 2028 Assembly elections and upcoming local body polls.

New Delhi: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday sought to put to rest speculation about internal rifts within the state Congress, asserting a united front ahead of the upcoming Assembly session and 2028 elections. Meeting over breakfast, the two leaders emphasised that there are no differences between them and reaffirmed their commitment to following



the directives of the party high command. Addressing a press conference after the informal breakfast meet, Siddaramaiah said the discussion was aimed at clearing "month-long confusion" and reviewing preparations for the 2028 Assembly elections and upcoming local body polls, which he described as "very important" for the party. He reiterated that just as

they had worked together to bring Congress to power in 2023, the same spirit would guide their approach moving forward. Siddaramaiah clarified that reports of MLAs visiting Delhi to discuss ministerial positions following rumours of a cabinet reshuffle did not indicate dissent. "Some of them spoke to me and told me why they went to Delhi. Whatever the high command says, we will go by that," he said. He

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Why Goa's Zilla Parishad Polls Matter More Than Their Powers

The announcement of the Zilla Parishad elections for December has pushed Goa into an early political season. In theory, this poll decides who will occupy fifty seats in district bodies that hold limited executive authority and even less financial power. In practice, it has become an important political rehearsal. Every major party treats it as a preview of the 2027 Assembly race and a chance to measure its organisational strength across the state. Even though the Zilla Parishads do not drive major development, the results often shape the messages and momentum that carry forward into larger contests. The State Election Commission has begun its usual preparations. Polling teams are being finalised, and the administrative machinery has been mobilised. What stands out this time is not the process but the political landscape in which the process unfolds. Each party sees an opportunity to mark territory long before the Assembly campaign begins. This raises the stakes for a poll that ordinarily stays low on the public radar. The ruling party and its long-standing ally enter the contest from a position of comfort. They have the advantage of a strong grassroots network built over years of sustained activity. Their booth-level teams rarely switch off, and their district committees remain active even between elections. Despite the constant noise on social media, the organisational presence of this front in the villages remains significant. For them, the Zilla Parishad poll is a chance to demonstrate that they retain control of the political map. A solid performance allows them to argue that the public is not swayed by online sentiment and that their hold on voters is steady. The Opposition walks into this cycle in a very different mood. It wants to project unity but has struggled to maintain coherence even before the campaign begins. On Diwali eve, three parties announced a joint front promising coordination and renewed energy. The Congress, Goa Forward and the Revolutionary Goans Party spoke of a shared purpose. The Aam Aadmi Party found itself left out of this grouping. It has attempted to make inroads in several pockets but still lacks consistency at the booth level. Within days of the alliance announcement, one of the partners signalled that it may rethink its alignment and look instead at the excluded party. This shift may be part of the usual bargaining that precedes elections, but it also highlights an uncomfortable reality. The Opposition has not settled its questions of trust or leadership, and time lost in uncertainty is hard to regain.

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Goans Party spoke of a shared purpose.

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rely heavily on small-scale mobilisation. They demand the kind of persistent door-to-door campaigning that only a stable network can deliver. Candidates need their partners to be on the same page. They need clarity on who controls which pockets. When that clarity disappears, the first few weeks of canvassing become scattered. Even a committed candidate can find himself or herself working with mixed signals. That can weaken the Opposition before the real fight even begins. For the ruling side, this is an ideal moment to project confidence. It knows that the Opposition is distracted by negotiations and internal disagreements. A strong showing will help it claim the upper hand well before 2027. It will also reassure its own workers who sometimes worry about criticism that surfaces online but does not always translate into voter behaviour. For its ally, this poll becomes a chance to reassert relevance at a time when political space outside the dominant party has narrowed. For the voter, the significance lies not in the formal powers of the Zilla Parishad but in what these polls reveal about the parties seeking to represent them. Goans understand that Zilla Parishad members do not shape large development projects. Their influence is limited, and their decisions are often overshadowed by state departments. Yet the elections expose which leaders remain rooted in their constituencies and which parties still have the discipline needed for ground-level politics. They help identify emerging rivalries and new alliances that may grow in importance by 2027. This election will not decide the direction of governance in Goa. What it will reveal is which side has begun to build momentum and which side still needs to find its footing. The winds of Goa's politics can shift suddenly, but as things stand, the race opens with clarity on one side and uncertainty on the other. December's results will give the first hint of whether that balance is about to change.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Heavy-Handed Approach to Meter Shifting

Your recent report on the electricity department's plan to begin disconnecting households that failed to shift their meters deserves a sharper examination than it received. The decision affects thousands of families across Goa, yet the coverage stops at repeating the official line without questioning whether disconnection is an excessive response to what is essentially an administrative lapse. When only a minority of consumers manage to complete a task even after months of notice, it usually signals a deeper problem. Many residents have voiced concerns about physical barriers such as meters placed on unsafe heights or installed years ago inside areas that now require structural changes to access. Others face the simple challenge of finding workers to carry out the shifting. These realities should not be dismissed as indifference. They point to gaps in planning and communication that deserve scrutiny. The report could also have questioned how these inaccessible installations came to exist in the first place. If meters were originally placed inside locked premises or at spots that now pose a risk to line staff, the department shares responsibility for the legacy infrastructure. It is neither fair nor constructive to shift the entire burden onto consumers without acknowledging that the system itself created part of the problem. The threat of blanket disconnections appears heavy-handed when one considers the impact on senior citizens, single-resident households, and low-income families. A power cut may push them into hardship, especially when some genuinely lack the means or physical ability to organise relocation. The department's intention to improve safety and billing is reasonable, but the manner of enforcement should match the ground reality. Your report would have been stronger had it included voices from affected residents, expert opinion on alternatives, or questions about whether a graded penalty system was considered. A public service issue of this scale warrants more than a simple relay of government warnings. Journalism plays its most vital role when it asks uncomfortable questions. In this case, the public deserved a fuller picture and a more critical look at whether disconnections are the most humane or effective solution.

-Denzil Fernandes, Siridao

A Self-Inflicted Wound for the Opposition

The Goa Forward Party's decision to induct former Congress MLA Isidore Fernandes has created yet another avoidable rift within an already fragile Opposition. Vijai Sardesai's attempt to downplay the move by saying Fernandes will not be considered for a 2027 ticket does little to calm the unrest. If anything, it highlights the party's confused political instincts. At a time when the Opposition is struggling to build a united front, GFP has chosen a step that directly undermines the trust it seeks from its prospective allies. Both the Congress and the Revolutionary Goans Party reacted sharply because the message was unmistakable. Sardesai cannot speak of Opposition unity and then embrace a figure whom those very allies view with suspicion. Consistency matters in politics, especially when alliances depend on it. The justification that the induction was done merely to boost a Zilla Parishad candidate exposes a narrow, tactical mindset.

If a party prioritises short-term manoeuvring over broader credibility, it weakens its own claim to principled politics. The Opposition cannot hope to challenge the ruling front if its own ranks behave like a collection of competing fiefdoms. This episode may appear minor, but it reinforces a deeper problem. Unity cannot be built on shifting signals and contradictory actions. The GFP's move has given voters and allies one more reason to doubt whether the Opposition is capable of presenting a coherent alternative in 2027.

-Shraddha Naik, Thivim

GWMC Floats Tender for Statewide Highway Garbage Clearance Drive

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Waste Management Corporation (GWMC) has kicked off the process to select a contractor for a major Statewide initiative to clear litter from national highways, State highways, and district roads. The government-backed move aims to address growing piles of roadside waste and restore Goa's reputation as a clean and attractive tourist destination. As per the tender documents, the waste-collection work has been split into three zones — North (129 km daily), Central (155 km daily), and South (135 km daily). The appointed contractor will be tasked with clearing garbage within a 10-metre radius on both sides of the roads, segregating wet and dry waste, and transporting the collected material to authorised treatment



facilities at Saligao, Cacora, or the biomedical waste plant at Kundaim. The tender lays down several technology-driven requirements: GPS-enabled pickup vehicles, GPS-linked ID wearables for workers, and QR-coded collection bags that will allow GWMC to track the origin and volume of waste. A dedicated mobile app will enable real-time supervision of ground operations. Staffing and logistics norms have also been specified — at least one worker for every 4 km stretch of road and

one covered pickup vehicle for every 35 km. A quick response team must also be kept on standby for emergency waste removal. To enforce compliance, the government has proposed stiff penalties: ₹5,000 for each uncleared black spot, ₹1,000 per km per day for skipped cleaning, and ₹2,500 for any garbage or leachate spilled during transport. Officials said the tender includes strict financial and operational eligibility criteria to ensure only competent agencies

take up the work. "This is not just about cleaning highways; it's about bringing transparency and accountability into waste management," a senior GWMC official said. The ambitious project is expected to drastically improve the cleanliness of Goa's major roads, which often bear the brunt of waste dumping during tourist season. Authorities hope that the tech-enabled monitoring and tough enforcement framework will set a new standard for maintaining public spaces in the State.

Goa Reports 200 Road Accidents and 18 Deaths in October 2025

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa witnessed a total of 200 road accidents in October 2025, resulting in 18 fatalities and over a hundred injuries, according to official district-wise accident data. Of the total incidents recorded, 17 were fatal, 23 grievous, 49 minor, and 111 non-injury accidents, indicating a continued concern over road safety across the State. In North Goa, authorities reported 96 accidents, including eight fatal cases which led to nine deaths. The district also recorded 13 grievous injuries and 35 minor injuries. Meanwhile, South Goa registered 104 accidents, with nine of them being fatal, claiming nine lives. Additionally, 12 persons sustained grievous injuries, while 55 were left with minor injuries. Statewide, the data shows that two-wheeler



users remain the most vulnerable, with riders accounting for nine of the deaths and pillion riders for three. One driver, four pedestrians, and one cyclist also lost their lives during the month. No passenger deaths were reported. The accident statistics highlight the pressing need for strengthened enforcement, improved road engineering, and enhanced public awareness to reduce fatalities, particularly among vulnerable road users such as riders, pillion riders, and pedestrians. Authorities are expected to review the trends and take corrective measures in the coming weeks to improve road safety across Goa.



High Court Bars Mid-Process Changes in PG Medical Admissions

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has directed that the admission process for postgraduate medical courses at Goa Medical College (GMC) for the 2025–26 academic year must be conducted strictly under the rules that were in force as of November 3, 2025, effectively preventing any mid-process amendments to the reservation policy. In its order, the Court instructed the State of Goa, the Public Health Department, GMC,

and the Directorate of Technical Education to complete the entire admission and counselling process for PG medical degree and diploma courses without altering the existing Admission Rules, 2024, and without effecting any changes to the reservation scheme that has been operational since 2023. The ruling ensures stability and fairness in the ongoing admission cycle, safeguarding students from policy changes introduced after the process had already begun.

Vijai Sardesai Backtracks After Backlash Over Isidore Fernandes Induction

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Forward Party (GFP) chief and the party's sole MLA, Vijai Sardesai, sought to contain the political fallout after drawing criticism for inducting former Congress MLA Isidore Fernandes into the party. Addressing the media in Panaji, Sardesai clarified that Fernandes would not be considered for a GFP ticket in the 2027 Assembly polls. He said



the decision to welcome Fernandes was taken purely with an eye on strengthening the chances of GFP's Zilla Panchayat candidate from Canacona,

Prashant Naik. Despite the clarification, the induction has stirred a storm within the Opposition space. Both the Congress and the Revolutionary Goans Party

(RGP) — parties Sardesai had earlier expressed interest in joining forces with to take on the BJP — have reacted sharply. The episode has put GFP in a tight spot, with its prospective allies questioning Sardesai's consistency and trustworthiness. The controversy now hangs over the Opposition's efforts to project a united front, even as Sardesai attempts to limit the political damage.

Airgun Firing at Podoshe; Police Recover Cartridge, One Suspect held

Team Goemkarponn

Valpoi: An airgun firing incident was reported at the Housing Board area in Podoshe, Valpoi, triggering concern among residents. Responding to the call, Valpoi Police reached the site and recovered a cartridge from the spot.

Police have arrested one suspect in connection with the



firing and taken him into custody

for interrogation. This is the second such incident in the area within a month. In the earlier case, a worker was injured after being struck by an airgun shot, creating fear among locals and raising questions over safety in the neighbourhood. Police are probing whether the two incidents are linked and are increasing vigilance in the area to prevent further disturbances.

Youth Arrested With 5.4 kg of Ganja Near Colvale Jail Access Road

Team Goemkarponn

Colvale: A narcotics raid conducted by Colvale Police on Thursday (27 November 2025) led to the arrest of a 19-year-old youth found in possession of a substantial quantity of suspected ganja. The offence was registered at 4:31 pm based on a state complaint filed by PS Dattaraj Rane of Colvale Police Station. Acting on specific and reliable



information, police launched a raid between 11:40 am and 2:00 pm near the entry point of the service road along NH-66 leading to Central

Jail, Colvale. During the operation, the accused — Govind Kumar, son of Ramesh Kumar, 19, native of Beebalsar, Jalore, Rajasthan —

was allegedly found with 5.400 kg of dried greenish leafy substance with flowering and fruiting tops, suspected to be ganja. The seized narcotics are valued at approximately ₹5,50,000. The substance and other articles were attached under a panchanama. The accused was placed under arrest at 4:31 pm on the same day. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Ramchandra L. Satelkar.

Man Caught Accepting Gambling Bets in Old Goa; Arrested

Team Goemkarponn

Old Goa: Police registered an offence on Friday (28 November 2025) after a man was caught red-handed accepting gambling bets in a public place near the Old Goa petrol pump. The complaint, filed by ASI Anil Dessai of Old Goa Police Station, states that at around 1:15 pm, the accused — Sitaram, 56, son of Ladu Gawas,



resident of Housing Board, Corlim, Tiswadi — was found taking gambling bets from members of the public in an open area. Police seized ₹780 in cash, a writing pad with carbon papers, and a ballpoint pen from his possession.

Passenger Arrested for Stealing Laptop From Bus in Pernem

Team Goemkarponn

Pernem: Police on Friday (28 November 2025) arrested a 41-year-old man for allegedly stealing a laptop from a commuter aboard a Mapusa–Pernem passenger bus. The offence, registered at 2:00 pm under Section 305 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, was based on a complaint filed by Kshitij K.C., 23, a civil engineer residing in Vasco. According to the complaint, at around 9:40 am near Malpe, Pernem, the accused — K. Vasanth, son of Karpan, resident of Chintamani village, Thichinapalli, District Trichy, Tamil Nadu —



allegedly committed theft of the complainant's bag containing an ASUS ROG laptop (Model G5131C-HN023WS, Serial No. N8NRKD014223317) valued at approximately ₹1,10,000. Police placed the accused under arrest at 3:55 pm, and he has been lodged in the Pernem Police Station lockup. Further investigation is being conducted by HC Dinesh Kavlekar (7284) of Pernem Police Station.

Pillion Rider Injured After Royal Enfield Rider Rams Activa Near Ambaulim

Team Goemkarponn

Quepem: Quepem Police have registered an offence based on a state complaint filed by ASI Santosh Naik in connection with a rash and negligent riding incident that took place on 25 November 2025 near Kalimoda, opposite

the Ambaulim bus stop. According to the complaint, the accused — Prashanth Kangralka, resident of Padamoll, Sirvoi, and rider of a Royal Enfield motorcycle — was allegedly riding in a rash and negligent manner while travelling from Ambaulim towards Cuncolim. At around



10:00 am, he reportedly rammed into an Activa scooter moving in the same direction. Due to

the impact, the pillion rider of the Activa, Sebastiana Carvalho of Ambaulim, Quepem, sustained injuries to her head and other parts of her body. The accused rider also suffered injuries in the collision. Further investigation is underway with ASI Santosh Naik of Quepem Police Station.

Case Registered in Ponda for Alleged Sexual Exploitation Under False Promise of Marriage

Team Goemkarponn

Ponda: Police have registered an offence based on a complaint alleging sexual exploitation under the false promise of marriage. According to the complaint

(name withheld to protect identity), between 15 October 2024 and the present date, the accused — Gaurav Kapileshwari, resident of Mestawada, Curti, Ponda — allegedly engaged in sexual intercourse with



the complainant after promising marriage, a promise he later failed to honour. The case has been registered at Ponda Police Station, and further investigation is being carried out by LPSI Anjali Dhulapkar.

Motorcycle Stolen From Near KTC Bus Stand in Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

Canacona: Police have registered a case after a motorcycle was stolen from an open area near the KTC Bus Stand in Canacona on 3 November 2025. The complaint, filed by Laxman Prabhu Gaonkar of Poinguinim, states that between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, an unknown person allegedly committed theft



of his Hero Passion Pro motorcycle, valued at approximately ₹20,000, for personal gain.

Further investigation is being conducted by ASI Anand Naik of Canacona Police Station.

Man Arrested for Assaulting Taxi Operator and His Uncle in Arpora

Team Goemkarponn

Arpora: Anjuna Police on Friday (28 November 2025) registered an offence after a violent altercation near a resort in Arpora left a 62-year-old man seriously injured. The complaint, filed by Narayan Morajkar, 33, a taxi operator from Tambudki Waddo, Arpora, states that at around 9:00 am, the accused — Anuj Shirodkar, 32,



businessman, resident of Gorbhat Waddo, Arpora — allegedly attacked the complainant's uncle, Tukaram Narayan Morajkar, with a metal koita, causing a deep cut injury to his right palm.

When the complainant confronted Shirodkar, he was allegedly punched on the face, abused in foul language, and threatened with death, reportedly over a dispute involving the accused's former girlfriend. Following the complaint, Anjuna Police registered Crime No. 152/2025 under Sections 118(2), 115(2), 352, and 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.

FDA Cracks Down on Unlicensed Operations in Arambol; Rs 85,000 in Penalties Imposed

Team Goemkarponn

Arambol: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) carried out a verification surveillance drive in Arambol on Friday (28 November 2025), revisiting premises that had been inspected earlier this month. During the operation, officials found

that several units which had been directed to halt operations had resumed business without obtaining the required licence. total of eight establishments were inspected during the drive. Of these, five were compounded with penalties under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act. The penalty



amounts ranged from ₹5,000 to ₹20,000, adding up to a total of ₹85,000, officials confirmed. The FDA stated that it will continue surveillance and enforcement checks across the coastal belt of Pernem to ensure compliance with food safety norms and to curb unlicensed operations.

Transport Minister Reviews Traffic Diversions At Dabolim Flyover Work Site

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho convened a review meeting with officials of the NHAI, MVR, and PWD (Roads) at the New Vaddem office to assess the traffic diversions necessitated by the ongoing flyover construction at Dabolim. During the meeting, the Minister directed all concerned departments to ensure strict, coordinated,



and efficient traffic management so that commuters can move safely and without inconvenience while construction progresses. He emphasised the need for clear signage, smooth diversions, and close inter-departmental communication to minimise disruptions.

Speaker Participates In Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference In Barbados

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly, Ganesh Gaonkar, participated in the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) held in Bridgetown, Barbados. The conference, themed "The Commonwealth: A Global Partner," brought together parliamentary leaders and experts from member nations to discuss modern



governance challenges and ways to strengthen democratic institutions. Shri Gaonkar stated that the discussions at the CPC were practical, forward-looking and focused on non-political, people-centric governance. He noted

that many insights shared at the conference are relevant to Goa and can support steady improvements in public service delivery and legislative functioning. Delegates emphasized the importance of strong institutions, highlighting the need for performance benchmarks, better support systems for members, and quality training for newly elected representatives.

DIP Bids Farewell To Senior Photographer Silvestre Estibeiro On Superannuation

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Department of Information and Publicity (DIP) bid farewell to its senior photographer, Shri Silvestre S. Estibeiro, on his superannuation after an illustrious 37 years of service. An alumnus of the Goa College of Art, Altinho, Shri Estibeiro specialized in Applied Art and began his career as a Bromide Printer before rising to



the position of Senior Photographer. Over the years, his work earned him recognition from several media bodies. He was felicitated by the Phonda Patrakar Sangh and Antruz Patrakar Sangh, Ponda in 2014,

and in 2024 he received the 'Patrikar Mitra' award from Quepem Sanguem Parrikar Sangh, Curchorem, for his contribution to journalism. Among his major professional assignments were coverage of the three Expositions of St Francis Xavier, the 2014 Lusofonia Games, and the 8th BRICS Summit in 2016, along with several key events of State importance.



Academic Resource Room Launched at St Xavier's High School, Moira

Team Goemkarponn

Moira: St Xavier's High School, Moira, in collaboration with the PACT Foundation, has inaugurated a dedicated Academic Resource Room aimed at strengthening inclusive learning and holistic student development.

The new facility was opened in the presence of Auxiliary Bishop Simiao Purificação Fernandes, PACT Foundation Founder Dr Ashwin Fernandes, Headmistress Noreen Dias and School Manager

Fr Alexander Pereira. The ceremony included prayers, the blessing of the facility, the unveiling of a marble plaque and ribbon cutting. Students presented a prayer dance and monologue to mark the occasion.

Bishop Fernandes, in his address, used the acronym SFX—Space, Fostering and 'Xtra'—to highlight the purpose of the new room.

He said the space was created to inspire curiosity, nurture learning and support every child's growth.

Thousands of Devotees, Leaders Converge in Canacona for Historic Partagali Math Celebrations

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Unprecedented security and protocol arrangements were enforced on Friday as thousands of devotees, religious leaders and political dignitaries from Goa and across the country gathered at Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math to celebrate the Sardha Panchashatamanotsava, marking 550 years of the historic Math. Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the landmark occasion, unveiling Asia's tallest 77-foot bronze statue of Prabhu Shri Ram.

He also inaugurated the Ramayana Theme Park Garden, launched a 3D Projection Mapping



show, and released a special postal stamp and commemorative coin. All roads leading to Partagali Math wore a vibrant festive look, adorned with billboards and banners depicting the Math's lineage of Swamis, the Prime Minister and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. Security was heightened ahead of the Prime Minister's scheduled 3.05 pm arrival, with personnel taking charge of the main entrance on the old NH-66 at Partagali junction.

Over 480 traffic police and hundreds of security personnel were deployed across the taluka and inside the Math complex.

Despite the main gate opening at 8 am, devotees, Mahajans and invitees faced delays due to stringent checks at multiple layers of security. Among the dignitaries in attendance were Governor Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Union Minister Shripad Naik, Sports

Minister Ramesh Tawadkar, PWD Minister Digambar Kamat, Math Committee Chairman Shrinivas Dempo and Chief Postmaster General Amitabh Singh.

Shrimad Vidyadheesh Teerth Swamiji personally accompanied the Prime Minister around the premises, explaining the historic and spiritual significance of the Math's sacred sites. With large crowds expected, parking zones were set up at distant locations, from where people were ferried in KTC buses and other vehicles to the main gate. Only invitees carrying valid ID and passes were permitted entry, after which they were transported on buggies and minibuses to the venue.

Goa Tourism Showcases State's Offerings at Romania B2B Tourism & Hospitality Networking Event

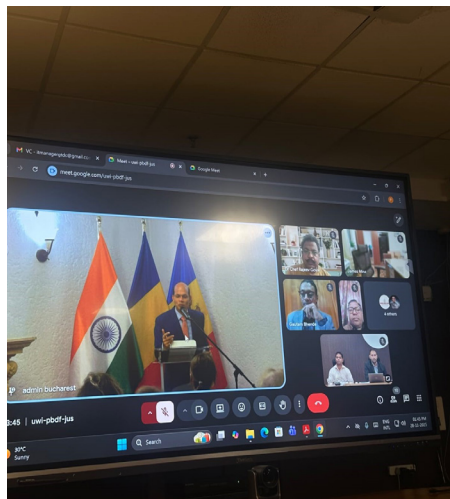
Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, virtually participated in the B2B Tourism & Hospitality Networking Event organised by the Embassy of India in Romania on Thursday. The event brought together key stakeholders from both nations' travel and hospitality sectors to strengthen bilateral cooperation and expand market linkages in tourism. Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte said the participation reflects Goa's growing international outreach. "Goa continues to strengthen its position on the global tourism map through meaningful international partnerships. Engagements like the Romania B2B Networking Event allow us to showcase Goa's cultural richness, regenerative tourism vision, and world-class experiences to new markets," he said, adding



that the state looks forward to building long-term ties with Romanian travel partners. Director of Tourism Kedar Naik highlighted the potential of Romania as an emerging source market. "Our participation in this forum reflects Goa's commitment to diversifying its international outreach. Romania is a growing source market with strong potential, and today's interactions laid the foundation for deeper collaboration," he said. A virtual presentation on Goa's tourism offerings was delivered by Pravinkumar

Faldessai, Senior Manager, GTDC, who showcased the state's beaches, heritage sites, hinterland experiences, wellness tourism, and festivals. Jayesh Kankonkar, Assistant Director Tourism, was also present. The event opened with remarks by Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania, who emphasised the need for stronger tourism and cultural linkages between the two countries. Romanian tour operators and travel companies attended the event in person at the Embassy, exploring opportunities in



India's expanding tourism and hospitality sector. Discussions focused on building robust travel partnerships, promoting diverse tourism circuits, and enhancing tourist exchange between India and Romania. The networking forum served as a platform for constructive dialogue, strengthened business connections, and reaffirmed shared goals for sustained tourism growth. The Embassy expressed optimism about continued collaboration to further expand India-Romania tourism opportunities.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Goa to Vote for Zilla Panchayats on Dec 20; MCC Comes Into Force Statewide

constituencies, while South Goa has 10 Women, 6 OBC, and 5 ST reserved seats. A total of 1,284 polling booths will be set up—658 in North Goa and 626 in South Goa. Voting will be conducted via ballot paper, and each candidate will be allowed a maximum expenditure of ₹5 lakh. To ensure fair and efficient conduct of elections, the Commission has appointed 15 General Observers and 15 Expenditure Observers, in addition to deploying flying squads and Static Surveillance Teams to enforce the MCC. The

Police Department will deploy adequate force across both districts to maintain law and order. Nominations will be accepted from December 1 to 9, followed by scrutiny on December 10 and withdrawals on December 11. The final list of contesting candidates will be published the same day after 2 pm. The SEC stated that it is fully prepared to conduct peaceful, transparent, and efficient elections for all 50 Zilla Panchayat constituencies, which will be contested on party lines with scope for independent candidates.

J&K High Court Rules Cross-LoC Trade With PoK as Intra-State Under GST

such as Islamabad-Uri and Rawalakot (PoK) to Chakkan-da-Bagh (Poonch) were part of a barter system, with no currency exchange, and had treated cross-

LoC trade as zero-rated sales, exempt from GST. The court, however, held that the statutory framework treats these transactions as intra-state trade, upholding the tax authorities' classification.

A US\$ 125 bn food services market by 2030, with the organized segment growing at 2x of the unorganized segment: Swiggy's How India Eats 2025 edition in partnership with Kearney

National: Swiggy's "How India Eats" 2025 report, in partnership with Kearney, forecasts India's food services market to cross \$125 billion by 2030, with the organized segment growing 2x faster than the unorganized segment. The report highlights the evolving food habits of Indian consumers, with the organized segment expected to drive over 60% of the overall growth in food services and overtake the unorganized segment. The Indian consumer is experimenting more, with 20% growth in unique cuisines ordered per customer and 30% growth in restaurants ordered from per customer. Late-night meals are growing ~3x faster than dinner, with healthy



meals growing 2.3x faster than overall orders. The report also points to the rediscovery of India's rich culinary heritage, with hyper-regional cuisines like Goan, Bihari, and Pahari growing 2-8x faster than mainstream cuisines. Global cuisines are also becoming increasingly popular, with Korean, Vietnamese, and Mexican cuisines seeing growth indices of 17x, 6x, and 3.7x. Boba Tea and Matcha Tea have seen an 11x and 4x surge

in search volumes, respectively, in the last five years. Commenting on the report, Mr. Rohit Kapoor, CEO, Swiggy Food Marketplace, said is, "In a span of just over a decade, the industry has seen disproportionate evolution. Expectations on speed are being shaped by quick commerce; for instance, our 10-minute food delivery service Bolt contributes over 10% of platform orders. On one hand, consumers are demanding affordability

in familiar cuisines like Indian and Italian, and on the other hand, adopting Matcha and Boba Tea like never before. And our restaurant partners are keeping pace, with QSRs and cloud kitchens projected to grow at a CAGR of 17%+, nearly 1.5x of organized food services growth. I am really excited to see what the next decade has in store for all the stakeholders in this dynamic space."

Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar Stress Unity Ahead of Karnataka Assembly Session

also accused the BJP and JD(S) of spreading false rumours about leadership changes, warning that any attempts at a no-confidence motion would fail given Congress' majority in the Assembly. Shivakumar echoed the Chief Minister's message of unity, highlighting the collective effort behind Congress' success in the 2023 elections. He stressed that the state unit would continue to follow the party high command's directives and reiterated that there are no internal factions. "We will strengthen the party to come back to power in 2028," he added, outlining the party's long-term vision. The breakfast meeting, where the two leaders shared

Karnataka's traditional breakfast of upma, idli, and kesari bath, symbolised the thawing of tensions and a renewed focus on governance. Siddaramaiah shared a photo of the breakfast meet on X, describing it as a brief but productive discussion on the state's priorities and future strategy. The meeting comes a day after Congress high command intervention aimed at resolving internal friction, with Siddaramaiah inviting Shivakumar to meet following the directive. Since Congress' 2023 victory, tensions have periodically resurfaced, with Shivakumar's supporters occasionally pushing for a leadership change.

Amit Shah Promises India Will Be Naxal-Free, Outlines Security Milestones

■ Amit Shah attends the 60th All India Conference of Director Generals in Raipur. PM Modi to chair, focusing on Viksit Bharat, security, and innovation in policing from Nov 28-30.

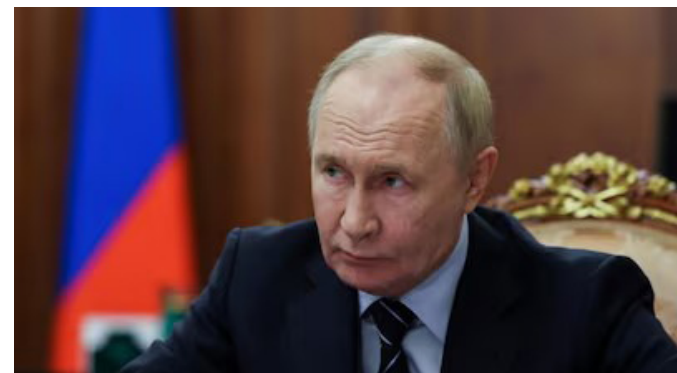
New Delhi: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, inaugurating the three-day 60th Directors General of Police/Inspectors General of Police (DGsP/IGsP) Conference in Raipur, asserted that India is on track to eliminate Naxalism nationwide before the next such conference. The event, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from November 28-30, focuses on security, policing innovation, and the vision of a Viksit Bharat. Addressing senior police officials, Shah highlighted the government's sustained efforts against internal security threats. Under the Modi administration, 586 fortified police stations have been established over the last seven years, reducing Naxal-affected districts from 126 in 2014 to just 11 today. "We are confident that India will be completely free



from Naxalism before the next DGsP/IGsP conference," he said. Shah stressed that the government has provided lasting solutions not only for Naxalism but also for security challenges in the North-East and Jammu & Kashmir. Highlighting legislative reforms, he noted that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) have been strengthened, three new criminal laws enacted, and robust legislation introduced to combat narcotics and fugitives, paving the way for India's policing to become among the most

modern globally. Referring to anti-terror measures, Shah lauded the Centre-State coordination in operations against the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), citing nationwide raids and arrests as key examples. He emphasized that security forces are systematically tackling extremism, radicalisation, and narcotics by focusing on precise intelligence, clear objectives, and coordinated action. The Home Minister called for a "360-degree attack" on organised crime and narcotics, urging state police forces to work closely with the Narcotics

Control Bureau (NCB) to dismantle drug networks operating at local, national, and international levels, ensuring that criminal masterminds are brought to justice. It had declined to impose year-round restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan, stating that long-term and sustainable steps are more important than emergency curbs. Recent satellite-based assessments show Delhi ranking as the most polluted among 33 states and Union Territories, with its annual mean PM 2.5 concentration reaching 101 micrograms per cubic metre.



Vladimir Putin to Visit India on December 4-5 for 23rd Annual Summit

■ Russian President Vladimir Putin will be in New Delhi for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit.

New Delhi: Russian President Vladimir Putin will undertake a state visit to India on December 4-5, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed on Friday. The visit, at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will coincide with the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit in New Delhi. During the two-day visit, President Putin is scheduled to hold talks with PM Modi. President Droupadi Murmu will receive him and host a banquet in his honour. The MEA stated that the summit will provide an opportunity for both nations to review progress in bilateral ties, strengthen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership, and exchange views on regional and global issues

of mutual interest. This will be Putin's first visit to India since 2021, following his meeting with PM Modi on September 1 this year at the SCO Summit in Tianjin, China. The Kremlin has described the visit as a key moment for Russian-Indian relations, noting that it will allow discussions across a broad agenda, including political, trade, economic, scientific, technological, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation, as well as deliberation on international and regional developments. Russian state news agency TASS highlighted the significance of this engagement in furthering the countries' particularly privileged strategic partnership.

Operation Sagar Bandhu: India Airlifts Relief to Cyclone-Hit Sri Lanka

■ India sends 27 tonnes of relief and over 80 NDRF personnel to Sri Lanka under Operation Sagar Bandhu after Cyclone Ditwah caused widespread devastation.

New Delhi: In a swift humanitarian response, India launched Operation Sagar Bandhu to aid Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah caused widespread devastation, including floods, landslides, and power outages. On Saturday, the Indian Air Force airlifted 21 tonnes of relief material, accompanied by over 80 NDRF personnel and eight tonnes of emergency equipment to support rescue and relief operations in the island nation. Two IAF aircraft, a C-130 and an IL-76, departed from



Hindon Air Base late Friday night. The C-130 carrying essential rations, sanitary supplies, and emergency equipment landed at Bandaranaike International Airport, Colombo, around 1:30 am, where officials from the Indian High Commission and the Sri Lanka Air Force received

the consignment. This followed the first tranche of aid sent on Friday via the Indian Navy's INS Vikrant and INS Udaigiri. The assistance underscores India's Neighbourhood First policy, with the IAF stating, "India stands firmly with Sri Lanka in this hour of need." Sri Lanka's Disaster

India, US Sign Rs 7,995 Crore Deal for Navy's MH-60R Seahawk Helicopter Support

■ MH-60R, manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corporation, is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state of the art avionics and sensors.

New Delhi: India and the United States have signed a Rs 7,995 crore contract for a five-year follow-on support package for the Indian Navy's fleet of 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters, strengthening operational readiness and long-term maintenance capabilities. The agreement, signed under the US Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program, ensures comprehensive sustainment support for the fleet, including provisioning of spares, support equipment,



training, technical assistance, component repairs, and periodic maintenance inspections. The defence ministry highlighted that these facilities will be developed in India, reducing dependence on the US while promoting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision and enabling participation of MSMEs and other

Indian firms in indigenous product and service development. The MH-60R Seahawk, manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corporation, is an all-weather maritime helicopter equipped with advanced avionics and sensors capable of performing multiple roles, including anti-submarine warfare.

Aakash Chopra Criticizes Selectors for Fast-Tracking IPL Stars into Test Cricket

■ The former India cricketer said that players are being fast-tracked into Test cricket despite not playing enough games on the domestic circuit.

New Delhi: Former India batter Aakash Chopra has strongly criticized the team management for handing Test caps to players based primarily on their IPL and white-ball performances, rather than sufficient domestic experience. His comments came in the wake of India's surprising Test series whitewash against South Africa at home. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Chopra argued that while exceptions exist, most players should spend at least two to three seasons in first-class cricket before being considered for the longest format. Highlighting the recent series, he noted that players like Sai



Sudharsan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, and Dhruv Jurel received opportunities despite limited domestic exposure. Chopra compared them to established Test debutants, pointing out that Yashasvi Jaiswal had played 15 first-class games, Shubman Gill 20–22 matches, whereas Sudharsan had only 29 games, Reddy even

fewer, and Jurel just 15. Devdutt Padikkal, with 31 matches and consistent domestic performance, has not been given as many opportunities despite better preparation. Chopra said, "Most of these players are being picked on potential, promise, and IPL exploits rather than being fully ready for Test cricket." He stressed that fast-tracking

players without adequate first-class experience can create adaptability issues under pressure. "Even exceptions like Jaiswal and Gill took time to find their feet in tricky conditions. If players are given proper domestic exposure for 2–3 seasons, they enter Test cricket well-prepared," Chopra added. The former cricketer urged selectors to prioritize consistent first-class performance over IPL fame. "If a player consistently scores runs or takes wickets over several seasons, giving them a Test cap makes sense. Otherwise, players may struggle, and it's not their fault—they simply aren't ready," he concluded.



Morkel Backs Gaikwad, Says He'll Make India Proud if Given Chance

■ Gaikwad is part of India's squad for the upcoming three-match ODI series against South Africa.

New Delhi: Ruturaj Gaikwad has made a return to the Indian cricket squad after more than a year, as the team prepares for the three-match ODI series against South Africa. The 28-year-old right-handed batter from Maharashtra, who captains Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League, has been selected as a backup opener in Shubman Gill's absence. Gaikwad has played

six ODIs for India so far and has scored a total of 115 runs. Although he is unlikely to start ahead of Yashasvi Jaiswal in the first ODI scheduled for Sunday, November 30, in Ranchi, his recent performances have strengthened his case for inclusion in the playing XI. In three unofficial ODIs for India A earlier this month, Gaikwad scored a century and a half-century against South Africa A.

Goa Assert Dominance With 52-Run Win Over Chandigarh

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa delivered a powerful all-round performance to secure a 52-run victory against Chandigarh in their Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy encounter at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Friday. The team combined resilient batting with disciplined bowling to register their first win of the season. Batting first, Goa put up 173 for 6 in 20 overs after recovering from a challenging start. The innings was shaped by a remarkable knock from Lalit Yadav, who struck 82 off 49 deliveries. His innings, filled with confident strokeplay, featured six boundaries and four sixes. Coming in when the team was struggling at 35 for 4, he steadied the innings and then shifted gears to propel Goa to a competitive total. Lalit found crucial support from Deepraj Gaonkar, who added 28 off 21 balls in a 50-run stand for the fifth wicket. Darshan Misal contributed 18 off 17 balls, helping push the

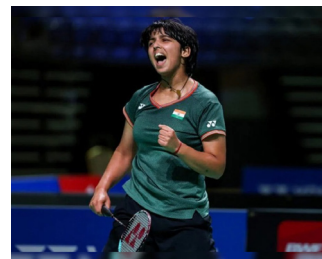


score past the 100 mark before Lalit accelerated in the final overs. Goa added 54 runs in the last 22 deliveries, giving the team strong momentum heading into the break. Chandigarh's bowlers had early success, with Sandeep Sharma and Jagjit Singh Sandhu taking two wickets each, while Rahul Singh chipped in with one. Defending the total, Goa's bowlers dominated from the outset. V Koushik produced an exceptional spell, claiming 3 for 12, and Arjun Tendulkar matched him with 3 for 17. Their early breakthroughs left Chandigarh reeling at 10 for 4, including the dismissal of key batter Manan Vohra for zero.

Syed Modi International: Tanvi Sharma, Unnati Hooda, Kidambi Srikanth Advance to Semifinals

■ Tanvi Sharma crushed Hong Kong's Lo Sin Yan Happy in straight games to storm into the semifinals while Unnati Hooda and Kidambi Srikanth also made their way into the final four.

New Delhi: Indian shuttlers continued their impressive run at the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament in Lucknow on Friday, with Tanvi Sharma, Unnati Hooda, and Kidambi Srikanth advancing to the semifinals. In women's singles, 16-year-old Tanvi Sharma powered past Hong Kong's Lo Sin Yan Happy in straight games, 21-13, 21-19, in just 38 minutes. Tanvi, who had earlier defeated former world champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan, will face fifth-seeded Hina



Akechi of Japan in the semifinals. Akechi had beaten third seed Sung Shuo Yun 21-8, 21-15 in her quarterfinal match. Unnati Hooda also booked her spot in the last four after a hard-fought victory over compatriot Rakshitha Sree Santosh R, winning 21-15, 13-21, 21-16. She will meet fourth-

seeded Neslihan Arin of Turkey, who overcame India's Isharani Baruah 21-19, 13-21, 21-15 in the other quarterfinal. In men's singles, seasoned campaigner Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the semifinals as his opponent Priyanshu Rajawat retired at 21-14, 11-4. Srikanth will clash with Mithun Manjunath, who defeated Manraj Singh 21-18, 21-13. In another men's singles quarterfinal upset, Singapore's top seed Jason Teh went down 19-21, 21-12, 20-22 to Japan's Minoru Koga,

who will now face Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan in the semifinals. In women's doubles, top seeds Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly secured a semifinal berth after defeating fifth seeds Bengisu Ercetin and Nazlican Inci 21-15, 21-16. Treasa Jolly will also compete in the mixed doubles semifinals alongside Hariharan Amsakarunan, following their 21-18, 21-14 quarterfinal win against Australia's Andika Ramadiansyah and Nozomi Shimizu.

MCC Knights Secure Confident 5-Wicket Win Over MCC Thunder

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: MCC Knights earned a well-deserved 5-wicket win against MCC Thunder in their MCL 11 T20 encounter at the MCC Ground in Margao. Chasing a target of 167, the Knights displayed discipline and steady

intent to cross the finish line in 19.3 overs. Batting first, MCC Thunder posted 166 for 8 in their allotted 20 overs. The innings was shaped by key contributions from Dr Pawan Rane, who struck 39 off 23 balls, along with 29 runs each from Dr Rohan Badve and Ved

Mahambre. Their efforts kept the scoreboard moving despite regular breakthroughs from the Knights. Shaunil Sawardekar led the bowling performance for the Knights with an effective spell of 2 for 23. Kapil D S Borker, Vipul Kalekar and Vinay



Sambari supported by picking up a wicket apiece, helping restrict Thunder from accelerating further in the closing overs. In response, the Knights built their chase on a series of composed