



Over 91% Enumeration Completed in Goa Ahead of 2026 Electoral Roll Revision

■ Draft rolls to be published on December 16; 1 lakh electors marked ASDD after field verification.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has completed the enumeration process for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls 2026, with 91.55% of Enumeration Forms collected and digitised, election authorities said on Saturday. The revision is being carried out with January 1, 2026, as the qualifying date, following a revised schedule issued by the Election Commission of

India (ECI) on November 30. Out of a total 11,85,034 electors as on October 27, 2025, 10,84,956 Enumeration Forms (EFs) were collected, while 1,00,078 electors (8.45%) were marked as ASDD/uncollectable cases after due field verification by Booth Level Officers (BLOs), including a minimum of three site visits. According to the official breakup, 25,574 electors were found deceased, 29,750

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	North Goa District	South Goa District	State Total
Total number of Booths before rationalization	819	906	1725
Total number of new Booths to be created	01	07	08
Total number of Booths to be deleted	00	02	02
Total number of Booths after rationalization	820	911	1731

Cabinet Approves CoalSETU Policy, PM Modi Says It Will Boost Energy Security

■ New Coal Linkage Framework Aims to Cut Imports, Improve Supply and Ease Business.

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet has approved the CoalSETU policy, a new framework designed to strengthen India's energy security by improving domestic coal availability and reducing reliance on imports. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the policy would enable seamless, efficient and transparent utilisation of coal while supporting economic growth and



Ease of Doing Business. CoalSETU, short for Auction of Coal Linkage for Seamless, Efficient and Transparent Utilisation, introduces

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Lionel Messi Event Organiser Arrested After Chaos Erupts at Kolkata Stadium

■ Mismanagement Sparks Anger, Police Action and Arrest.

New Delhi: The much-anticipated Kolkata leg of Lionel Messi's G.O.A.T. Tour descended into chaos on Saturday after thousands of fans failed to get a clear glimpse of the football icon at the Yuva Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium), despite paying premium ticket prices ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹25,000. Messi arrived at the venue at around 11:15 am but

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Embassy Push Speeds Up Process to Bring Birch Nightclub Owners Back to India

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Intensive coordination between the Indian Embassy in Bangkok and Thai authorities has set in motion the return of the Luthra brothers, owners of the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub, who were recently detained in Phuket. Sources said the brothers were taken into custody after a formal



request from the Indian Embassy, following which Thai immigration officials began processing the case under local laws to

facilitate their deportation to India. A police team from Goa has already arrived in Thailand, while

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Goa Remembers Manohar Parrikar on Birth Anniversary, Leaders Recall His Visionary Legacy

■ CM Pramod Sawant, Union minister and BJP leaders pay homage at Miramar memorial.

Team Goemkarponn

MIRAMAR: The Goa government today paid heartfelt tributes to former chief minister Manohar Parrikar on his birth anniversary, with political leaders cutting across party lines remembering his contribution to the state's development and governance. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, accompanied by Union Minister



Shripad Naik, BJP Goa President Damodar Naik, party leaders and government officials, paid floral

tributes at Parrikar's memorial at Miramar Beach. Members of the Parrikar family, **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

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When Loose Talk Becomes a Liability

Th Political parties survive not just on ideology or numbers but on coherence. In that sense, the warning issued by Goa BJP president Damodar "Damu" Naik to party leaders to avoid harming the party's image is less about authoritarian control and more about an organisation struggling to contain the damage caused by its own undisciplined voices. The real issue here is not the party. It is the conduct of certain leaders who appear to confuse public posturing with responsible politics.

In any ruling party, especially one governing a sensitive and economically fragile state like Goa, public statements carry weight. Words spoken casually by senior leaders do not remain personal opinions. They become political signals, administrative distractions and, at times, convenient ammunition for opponents. When such remarks hint at corruption, illegality or administrative failure without evidence or follow-through, they create uncertainty without accountability.

That is not courage. It is carelessness. The recent spate of comments by some BJP leaders, linking governance failures to alleged corruption in Goa's tourism belt, must be viewed through this lens. Goa has just witnessed a tragic nightclub fire that exposed serious lapses in enforcement and safety norms. This was a moment that demanded sobriety, coordination and responsible leadership. Instead, what followed were loosely framed allegations aired in public, giving the impression of a government at war with itself. There is a difference between raising concerns through institutional channels and performing outrage in front of microphones.

Leaders who truly want reform push for action, inquiries and corrective measures. Leaders who speak first and think later often leave behind confusion rather than solutions. By choosing the



There is a difference between raising concerns through institutional channels and performing outrage in front of microphones. Leaders who truly want reform push for action, inquiries and corrective measures. Leaders who speak first and think later often leave behind confusion rather than solutions.

By choosing the public stage over internal accountability, some leaders have weakened the very administration they are part of. Naik's intervention, therefore, should not be read as an attempt to suppress dissent but as a reminder of collective responsibility. A ruling party cannot function if every leader runs his own narrative. Governance demands coordination. Discipline is not an attack on democracy. It is a prerequisite for it.



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A ruling party cannot function if every leader runs his own narrative. Governance demands coordination. Discipline is not an attack on democracy. It is a prerequisite for it. What is worrying is the growing tendency among certain politicians to use public criticism as a shield. Once a statement is made, any attempt at clarification or accountability is portrayed as victimisation.

This culture of political freelancing may serve individual egos, but it does little for governance. In fact, it erodes public trust. Citizens are left wondering whether leaders are serious about reform or merely distancing themselves from potential fallout. Goa's political environment is already volatile. Tourism, the backbone of the state's economy, is under constant scrutiny for regulatory lapses and safety concerns. In such a climate, irresponsible statements from within the ruling establishment can cause real harm. Investors hesitate. Tourists worry. Officials become risk-averse. None of this helps the state.

The BJP, as an organisation, has built its strength on structure and hierarchy. That structure exists precisely to prevent chaos and contradiction. Leaders who ignore this framework undermine not just the party but the stability of governance itself. Internal mechanisms exist for a reason. Using them is not weakness. It is maturity. There is also a moral obligation that comes with power.

Leaders cannot claim insider knowledge of wrongdoing and then stop at soundbites. If there is evidence of corruption or illegality, it must be pursued relentlessly through lawful means. Anything less reduces serious issues to political theatre. Naik's warning should ideally serve as a course correction. It is a call for restraint, not silence. Debate is healthy, but it must be purposeful. Criticism is valid, but it must be responsible.

The public does not benefit from leaders who speak without strategy or accountability. Goa needs governance that is steady, credible and focused. That requires leaders who understand that discipline is not the enemy of transparency. Uncontrolled speech, especially from those in power, is not bravery. It is a liability the state can ill afford.

EDITOR'S SPEAK

Goa Deserves Straight Answers, Not Rhetoric

Welcome back to Goa, Arvind Kejriwal, the self-styled master of clean politics and governance by algorithms. As you arrive ahead of the Zilla Panchayat elections, Goans have some pointed questions that deserve clear answers, not slogans or selective silence. First, there are allegations raised by Paul Lobo of Cavelossim, a founder member of the Aam Aadmi Party in Goa. These are not charges coming from political rivals but from within the party's own early ranks. Goans would like to know why these concerns have not been addressed transparently and why internal dissent in AAP often ends in silence or sidelining. Second, the Swati Maliwal episode and the so-called Sheesh Mahal bungalow controversy in Delhi cannot be brushed aside as media invention. A party that claims moral superiority must be willing to explain how power is exercised behind closed doors and how public money is justified in the name of governance.

Third, serious questions remain about the alleged ₹45 crore liquor scam and claims that funds were routed through hawala to finance election campaigns, including in Goa. If AAP prides itself on honesty, it must clearly state where this money went and how it was used. Claims of noble intentions are not substitutes for accountability. Finally, Goans have not forgotten the India Against Corruption movement. What became of Anna Hazare? Was that movement genuinely organic, or was it politically choreographed with backing from established power centres? This is not about party loyalty. It is about truth. Goans have been misled often enough. If AAP seeks trust, it must earn it with honest answers. Enough is enough.

-Shridhar Kamat, Margao

Resignation That Speaks Louder Than Rhetoric

Ramrao Wagh's decision to resign as vice president of the Aam Aadmi Party in Goa ahead of Arvind Kejriwal's visit deserves to be seen for what it is. A moment of political clarity. It takes courage to step away after realising that the promises made to Goa do not match the intentions being pursued. The truth is often bitter, but it cannot be ignored forever. Across India, there is growing recognition that AAP was built on a carefully crafted narrative during the India Against Corruption movement. The involvement of Anna Hazare, Arvind Kejriwal, Kiran Bedi and others gave the movement moral weight, but what followed was a political transformation that many original supporters did not sign up for. That is precisely why principled leaders like Prashant Bhushan and others chose to leave AAP rather than compromise their values.

Events in recent years have only deepened these doubts. The Sheesh Mahal controversy and the disturbing allegations surrounding the treatment of Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal raise serious questions about internal culture and accountability within the party. These are not minor issues that can be dismissed as political propaganda. They strike at the very foundation of the values AAP claims to represent. Closer home, when a founder member of AAP Goa, Paul Lobo, raises allegations against his own party, it is convenient to label them as lies. But why would insiders repeatedly speak out if everything was as clean and transparent as claimed? The electoral losses suffered by Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia in Delhi also suggest that voters are beginning to see through the narrative. Ramrao Wagh's exit should serve as a warning. Goa must think carefully before embracing a party whose actions increasingly contradict its words. Say no to misleading politics dressed up as reform.

-Loyola d'Cruz,

Cyber Crime Police Crack 2 Major Fraud Cases in Goa

■ Fake Investment Scam and Illegal Call Centre Busted.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Cyber Crime Police Station, Goa, has detected two major cyber fraud cases, leading to multiple arrests in connection with a fake investment scam involving ₹69.75 lakh and the operation of an illegal international call centre in Old Goa. In the first case, registered as Crime No. 24/2025 on August 13, 2025, the Cyber Crime Police arrested a 62-year-old man from Kerala for his involvement in a fake investment scam that duped a resident of Porvorim of ₹69.75 lakh. The accused allegedly impersonated a reputed investment firm using a WhatsApp number and



a fake trading application named "360-ONE-HNW," luring the victim with promises of high returns. The complainant was falsely informed that his investment had grown to ₹5 crore and was asked to pay a service fee to release the profits, resulting in substantial financial loss. Following a detailed technical and financial investigation,

police arrested Prasantha Bose A, a resident of Kalamassery, Ernakulam. Investigations revealed that ₹46 lakh was credited to his bank account at the first layer, which was later routed to multiple associate accounts. Police further found that the same account was linked to 23 other cyber fraud cases across several states, involving a total fraud amount of ₹2.10 crore. The accused has been produced before the court and remanded to police custody. In the second case, the Cyber Crime Police conducted a late-night raid at Bainginium, Old Goa, on December 12, 2025, and busted an illegal call centre targeting citizens of the United States.



Birch by Romeo Lane Fire Probe Widens

■ Panchayat Role, Financial Links Under Scanner

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The investigation into the deadly Birch by Romeo Lane fire incident has entered a crucial phase, with Goa Police expanding the scope of the probe to examine administrative lapses, financial trails and the role of local authorities, even as efforts continue to bring key accused to India. Police sources said the deportation process of the Luthra brothers is actively underway, with Goa Police working closely with central agencies to expedite their return. Investigators believe their questioning is vital to establish the sequence of decisions taken before the fire and to identify possible violations of safety norms. In a significant development, the Sessions Court at Mapusa has issued notices on anticipatory bail applications filed by Arpora Panchayat Sarpanch Roshan Redkar

and Secretary Raghuvir Bagkar. Police have sought time to submit a detailed reply, signalling that the probe is now closely scrutinising the panchayat's role in clearances, oversight and compliance. The matter will be heard on December 16 at 2.30 pm. Meanwhile, custodial interrogation of accused Bharat Kohli has been extended by six days, indicating that investigators are following multiple leads. Police sources said the extension was sought to confront the accused with documentary evidence and statements already recorded. More than 50 statements of officials, workers and victims have been recorded so far, reflecting the scale of the inquiry. Authorities said the investigation is focusing not only on the immediate cause of the fire but also on systemic failures that may have contributed to the tragedy.

CM Sawant Says Invisible Opposition Reflects BJP's Ground Strength in Rivona

■ CM highlights Mhaje Ghar scheme, welfare initiatives while taking swipe at rivals at ZP corner meeting.

Team Goemkarponn

RIVONA: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Saturday took a sharp jibe at the opposition, saying the public's inability to even name rival candidates was a clear indication of the ruling BJP's growing grassroots strength and the opposition's weak connect with voters. Addressing a corner meeting of a Zilla Panchayat



candidate at Valkini in the Rivona constituency, Sawant remarked that not knowing the names of opposition

candidates was "a good sign", adding that the enthusiastic gathering resembled Minister Subhash Phal Dessai's Assembly election meeting for 2027. Highlighting his government's welfare initiatives, the Chief Minister said that soon after he assumed office, several Goans approached him after receiving court notices for demolition of their houses declared illegal.

Mandrem Resort Event Exposes "Corruption Cartel" in Goa: AAP

■ AAP Goa president Amit Palekar alleges illegal permissions, fire safety lapses under BJP rule.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa president Amit Palekar on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Goa government, alleging the existence of a "corruption cartel" and accusing the administration of allowing illegal activities that endanger public safety. Palekar claimed that a resort in Mandrem is hosting an event in an illegal structure without mandatory permissions, including a Fire No Objection Certificate



(NOC), putting the lives of unsuspecting people at risk. He alleged that the resort had earlier defied the Tourism Department and was even fined, yet continues to operate with impunity. "Despite repeated violations, this is being allowed right under the nose of authorities, who

appear helpless due to powerful influence," Palekar alleged, adding that the BJP government had failed to learn any lessons and had completely lost control over the administration. Taking a swipe at Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, the AAP leader said the situation reflected a breakdown of governance. He remarked that the popular slogan "Go Goa Gone" had become a reality under the present government, asserting that nothing would change except "money changing hands".

Cortalim MLA demands immediate crackdown on illegal scrapyards after major Verna fire

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: A huge fire at a scrapyard in Verna on Friday afternoon prompted Cortalim MLA Anton Vas to demand an immediate, state-wide crackdown on illegal scrapyards, warning that such unauthorised units pose "grave risks" to surrounding institutions and nearby residents. Vas, who rushed to the site at Quelossim after receiving a phone call, said he found no clarity on how the scrapyard was functioning or how the fire started. "I reached here from Vasco the moment I got the call. I tried to



understand how the scrapyard caught fire, but there's no clarity on the existence of this scrapyard in the first place," he said. "The owners themselves claim they were not present when the incident occurred. This is a very large scrapyard and the fire was massive." He said preliminary information indicated that the scrapyard was functioning

without approvals. "I am told the scrapyard was operating without permissions and that the Quelossim panchayat had already sought its demolition. But the PWD and electricity department did not turn up on the day of demolition, leaving the action pending," Vas said, questioning how such a large facility could continue operations "without anyone's knowledge." Vas also highlighted the unusual activities being carried out within the scrapyard. "Apart from scrap, people here were rearing hens and even goats.

4 Booked for Cheating Woman of Rs.12.86 Lakh on Pretext of Veterinary College Admission

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco Police have registered an FIR against four persons from Maharashtra for allegedly cheating a Vasco resident of ₹12.86 lakh by promising admission for her son in a veterinary college. The case has been registered as Vasco Police Station Crime No. 97/2025 under Section 420 read with 34 of the Indian Penal Code, based on a complaint filed by Deepmala Kamble, a resident of Mangoor Hill, Vasco. According to the complaint, between August



2023 and the present, at Vasco, the accused — Neha Kamble, Uttam Kamble, Suhasini Kamble and Akash

Dange, all residents of Maharashtra — allegedly induced the complainant to pay ₹12,86,000 on the pretext of securing admission for her son at Krantisinh Nana Patil College of Veterinary Science, Maharashtra. Police stated that despite receiving the amount, the accused neither arranged the admission nor returned the money, thereby dishonestly cheating the complainant of ₹12.86 lakh. Further investigation is in progress and is being carried out by PSI Plato Carvalho of Vasco Police Station.



5 Booked for Illegal Sand Extraction at Kudshe Riverbank in Sattari

Team Goemkarponn

VALPOI: Valpoi Police have booked five persons for illegal extraction of river sand from the bank of River Kudshe at Sattari on Wednesday evening. The case was registered at 9.15 pm on December 11

based on a state complaint filed by Police Constable Sarvesh Pawar (39), PC-B No. 6325, attached to Valpoi Police Station. According to police, the incident occurred at around 6.15 pm at the riverbank in Kudshe, Sattari.

Trader Cheated of Rs.1.08 L. in Fake Payment Scam at Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Canacona Police have registered a case of cheating after an unknown person allegedly duped a local trader of ₹1.08 lakh by posing as an engineer of a construction firm and showing a fake payment message. The complaint



was filed by Ganpatlal Choudhri, a resident of Canacona. According to police, the incident occurred on November 29, 2025, at around 6.10 pm at the complainant's shop located opposite the KTC bus stand near Bhavani Electronics, Chaudi, Canacona.

1 Booked for Breaking GTDC Seal, Illegal Operation of Restaurant at Miramar

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered Crime No. _ late Wednesday night against Ashok Nayyar and others for allegedly breaking the official seal of the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) and illegally operating a restaurant at Miramar. The case was registered at 11.46 pm on December

11 under Sections 223, 329(3), 329(4), 324(5) and 334(1) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, based on a complaint filed by Kuldeep Arolkar, Managing Director of the Goa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Paryatan Bhavan, Patto, Panaji. According to the complaint, prior to December 11, the accused persons, acting



with common intention, allegedly broke open the seal affixed by GTDC officials on the main door of the restaurant premises located at TNK, Miramar Residency, Miramar, Tiswadi, and

criminally trespassed into the premises. Police said the accused restarted restaurant operations without the knowledge or permission of the Tourism Department.

Mapusa Scooter Rider Dies After Crashing Into Car Door at Dattawadi

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: A 28-year-old scooter rider lost his life in a tragic road accident at Dattawadi, Mapusa, in the early hours of Friday after allegedly crashing into the open door of a parked car. The incident occurred around 5.30 am when the accused, identified as Suharsh Shekhar Bhartu (38), a resident of Dattawadi, Mapusa, reportedly parked his Punto

car (GA-03-Y-1366) on the side of the one-way road leading from Dattawadi to the Maruti Temple without taking proper care and caution. Police said the accused negligently left the right rear door of the car open. As a result, Bharat Damodar Halki (28), a resident of Peddem, Mapusa, who was riding an Activa scooter (GA-03-AB-4460) towards the Maruti Temple, rammed into the open door. He

fell onto the road and sustained serious injuries. Following the impact, the Activa scooter skidded forward and collided with a Suzuki Avenis scooter (GA-03-BD-2225), ridden by Shyamrao Madhukar Nagvekar (52), with his wife Saarita Shyamrao Nagvekar (49) as the pillion rider. Both residents of Bastora, Bardez, were about to leave the spot when the collision occurred.

Russian National Booked for Illegal Stay in Goa; Case Registered at Mandrem

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: Mandrem Police have registered an offence against a Russian national for illegally staying in Goa without valid travel documents. The case was registered at 10.34 am on December 12 based on a complaint filed by PSI Archana Sharma, attached to Mandrem Police Station. The accused has been identified as Volodin Aleksei (39), son



of Alexander, a Russian national presently residing at Mandrem, Pernem, Goa. According to police, on December 9 at around 5.00 am, during routine patrolling near Cottage Super Market, New Wada, Morjim, Pernem, the accused was traced in connection with Crime No.

109/2025 registered under Sections 281, 125(a), 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Sections 134(a) (b) of the Motor Vehicles Act. Upon interrogation, police found that the accused was staying illegally in India without valid travel documents, possessing an invalid visa and passport, thereby contravening Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

Fatorda Double Murder: Accused Convicted, Sentencing Arguments on Dec 17

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: In the Chandrawada-Fatorda double murder case, South Goa Additional Sessions Judge Pooja

Kavalekar has convicted accused Ravinkumar Sada and Akash Ghosh. Arguments on their sentencing will be held on December 17. The incident took place on March 8,

2021, when the accused, along with a juvenile accomplice, murdered Miguel Miranda and his mother-in-law Catarina Pinto. The accused were staying as tenants at



Miguel's house and also worked as labourers under him. A dispute over wages led to the crime, which the prosecution proved with strong evidence and testimonies of 24

witnesses. The case was investigated by then Fatorda PI Kapil Naik. The juvenile accused is being tried separately in the Juvenile Justice Court.

Winter Chill Fails to Slow Down ZP Candidates' Campaign Trail in Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Despite the onset of chilly December evenings, Zilla Panchayat candidates in Canacona remain undeterred, intensifying their campaigns across the remote and forested villages of the taluka. With limited days left before the elections, candidates are braving cold nights to reach voters through door-to-door visits and corner meetings. In Poinguinim, B.J.P candidate Ajay Lolienkar has been actively campaigning with the support of Minister and Canacona



MLA Ramesh Tawadkar, holding corner meetings and door-to-door visits in villages like Khotigao, Gaondongrim, and Poinguinim. The campaign

is backed by local BJP leaders and panchayat representatives, with the exception of a few absent members from Gaondongrim.

Kejriwal Slams BJP Government at Xeldem Rally, Backs AAP ZP Candidate James Fernandes

Team Goemkarponn

Xeldem: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal launched a sharp attack on the Pramod Sawant-led BJP government while addressing a large public meeting in Xeldem in support of AAP's Zilla Panchayat candidate James Fernandes. The meeting witnessed a massive turnout, reflecting strong public support for AAP and its candidate in the constituency. Kejriwal alleged that the BJP government in Goa was functioning as a "hafta vasoli sarkar," claiming that no work was carried



out without bribes or extortion. Referring to the Arpora nightclub incident, he said establishments lacking permissions were allowed to operate due to alleged collection of hafta, leading to corruption and misgovernance. He further alleged that criminals were openly threatening people, party workers and ordinary Goans, and questioned whether Goa was the

BJP's personal property, asserting that the state belongs to its people. Calling upon Goans to rise against what he described as "gundaraj," Kejriwal appealed to voters to defeat the BJP to restore peace, safety and dignity in the state. He said the AAP was not afraid of intimidation and would continue to stand firmly with the people of Goa.



BJP Takes Strong Lead in Penha de França Zilla Panchayat Campaign

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: With just eight days remaining for the District Panchayat elections, BJP candidate Sandeep Salgaonkar has emerged as a strong frontrunner in the Penha de França Zilla Panchayat constituency of Porvorim. Salgaonkar has undertaken extensive door-to-door campaigning across key areas including Alto Torda, the Housing Colony, Kawlekar Supermarket

area, Journalist Colony, Vijaynagar, among others. As part of his outreach, he has also conducted nearly 20 corner meetings so far. The impressive turnout at these meetings reflects an enthusiastic response from voters. Addressing supporters, Salgaonkar said he has successfully completed the first round of campaigning and noted that a growing number of supporters are actively joining his campaign, providing fresh energy and motivation.

Asnodkar Confident of Victory in Succor Zilla Panchayat Constituency

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: After touring various parts of Succor and interacting with voters through a series of corner meetings, BJP Zilla Panchayat candidate Amit Asnodkar has expressed confidence of victory in the forthcoming Zilla Panchayat elections. Asnodkar said he



personally met voters in Aradi, Kharre, 20-Point Colony, and in areas of the Saligao and Calangute

constituencies that fall under the Succor Zilla Panchayat jurisdiction. He added that his

campaign is focused on ensuring the overall development of Succor. Tourism Minister and local MLA Rohan Khaunte has also actively joined Asnodkar's campaign, meeting voters and participating in several corner meetings held at Maina Chapel, Kadamba Road, Joshwaddo Ganesh Temple area, Vadde,

Goan Student Poet Represents Goa at Hashtag Kalakar National Poetry Competition

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goan student poet Fiana Cael Gonsalves has been selected for the national-level poetry competition organised by Hashtag Kalakar, where her poem "Be The Change" has advanced to the jury-



and-audience voting stage. She represents Goa as the only Goan participant among contestants from across India and abroad, marking a significant milestone in her creative journey. Fiana, a law student from Goa Velha, currently studies at V.M.

Salgaocar College of Law, Miramar. Beyond poetry, she is also a talented painter and an avid sports enthusiast with a love for football and badminton. She has excelled in athletics as well, winning in both long jump and triple jump events.

Merciana Vas receives overwhelming response during Cansaulim campaign

Team Goemkarponn

Independent candidate Merciana Vas, wife of Cortalim MLA Anton Vas, received tremendous support from residents across several areas of Cansaulim during her door-to-door campaign on Saturday. The campaign witnessed a warm and enthusiastic response, with people turning up in large numbers to interact with her

and express confidence in her leadership and development-oriented approach. Vas campaigned extensively across Cansaulim carrying her election symbol and was accompanied by panch members and the Sarpanch of Cansaulim panchayat. The presence of local panchayat representatives added strength to the campaign, reflecting grassroots-level support for her candidature.



Residents welcomed her warmly, held discussions on local issues and acknowledged the development initiatives undertaken in the constituency in recent years. Speaking to residents during the campaign, Merciana Vas said she was deeply encouraged by the trust and affection shown by the people. "The love and confidence people have placed in me is my biggest strength."

'Not Going to Wait': Aviation Minister Says India Will Build Its Own Aircraft

■ Government Pushes Made in India Manufacturing as Global Supply Bottlenecks Hit Airlines

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The government is working on an ambitious plan to develop aircraft that are fully built in India, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu told Parliament, underlining a shift toward long term self reliance in the aviation sector. He said India cannot afford to remain dependent on global manufacturers and will move decisively to create a domestic aircraft manufacturing programme.



Speaking in the Lok Sabha, the minister said the vision is to ensure that India has its own Made in India aircraft. He noted that while the country has made major strides in aviation over the past decade, the availability

of aircraft has emerged as the biggest constraint to growth. According to him, the government is not prepared to wait indefinitely for foreign manufacturers to meet India's rapidly expanding needs.

IndiGo Says Customer Compensation to Cross Rs 500 Crore After Flight Disruptions

■ Airline Begins Review of Cancelled Flights and Stranded Passengers From Early December.

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: IndiGo has announced that it expects to pay more than Rs 500 crore in compensation to passengers affected by large-scale flight cancellations and severe disruptions earlier this month. The airline said the payments will cover customers whose flights were cancelled within 24 hours of departure and those who were left stranded at select airports across the country. The airline stated that it is currently identifying flights

where passengers faced serious inconvenience on December 3, 4 and 5. Once this review is completed, IndiGo plans to directly contact impacted customers in January to facilitate the compensation process. The carrier emphasised that its aim is to make refunds and compensation transparent, simple and hassle-free. IndiGo said its immediate priority is to complete all pending refunds for affected passengers. According to the airline, a majority of refunds have already been processed,



and the remaining transactions are expected to be credited shortly. The company added that refunds and compensation are being handled with urgency to minimise further inconvenience to customers.

India Expedites Business Visas for Chinese Professionals Amid Improving Ties

■ India reduces administrative vetting to issue Chinese business visas within four weeks, aiming to boost trade and professional collaboration amid improving bilateral ties.

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India has moved to fast-track business visas for Chinese professionals, cutting down administrative vetting and

aiming to issue approvals within a month. The measure comes as part of efforts to restore economic and diplomatic engagement between the two countries. Officials indicated that

a previous layer of administrative scrutiny has been removed, reducing the processing time for business visas to less than four weeks. The change is expected to

benefit Chinese companies operating in India, including electronics and solar manufacturing firms, which faced delays in bringing in technicians during stricter visa regimes. China's

foreign ministry welcomed the development, calling it a "positive action" to enhance people-to-people exchanges and signaling a willingness to continue dialogue with India.



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Over 91% Enumeration Completed in Goa Ahead of 2026 Electoral Roll Revision

were untraceable or absent, 40,473 had permanently shifted, 2,008 were already enrolled elsewhere, and 2,273 cases fell under other categories, such as refusal to submit or sign enumeration forms. The BLOs held meetings with Booth

Level Agents (BLAs) across all polling parts on December 10 to share and discuss the ASDD lists before finalisation. Minutes of these meetings have been uploaded on the websites of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and District Election Officers

(DEOs). Subsequently, DEOs met representatives of political parties on December 12 to share the final ASDD lists, followed by a state-level meeting on December 13, where the CEO briefed recognised political parties on the revision process.

Goa Remembers Manohar Parrikar on Birth Anniversary, Leaders Recall His Visionary Legacy

including his sons Utpal and Abhijat, were also present. Speaking to reporters, Sawant described Parrikar

as a visionary leader whose decisions laid a strong foundation for Goa's progress. He said Parrikar's

tenure was marked by a clear focus on infrastructure growth and human development, adding that

the present government continues to implement projects inspired by his vision.

Cabinet Approves CoalSETU Policy, PM Modi Says It Will Boost Energy Security

a dedicated window within the existing Non Regulated Sector linkage framework. The policy allows coal linkages to be allocated through auctions on a long term basis for any industrial use, including exports. Under the new system, any domestic buyer requiring coal can participate in the auction process, expanding access beyond narrowly defined end use sectors. The Cabinet

decision follows a review of existing coal supply arrangements for non regulated users. The objective is to ensure faster utilisation of available coal reserves and address growing energy demand without increasing dependence on imported coal. The policy also aligns with broader reforms in the coal sector that opened commercial mining without end use restrictions.

Lionel Messi Event Organiser Arrested After Chaos Erupts at Kolkata Stadium

for barely 20 minutes. He was scheduled to take a full lap of the stadium; however, the plan was cut short as crowd anger escalated. Heavy security

presence and the close proximity of dignitaries around Messi reportedly blocked the view for spectators in the stands, triggering widespread

frustration. As tempers flared, some fans allegedly began throwing chairs and bottles, forcing organisers to escort Messi out of the stadium for his safety.

Embassy Push Speeds Up Process to Bring Birch Nightclub Owners Back to India

Indian agencies are completing the required documentation.

Officials indicated that, if formalities are completed on schedule,

the brothers could be repatriated within the next few days.

An emergency travel document is expected to be issued, as their Indian

passports have already been revoked.

Even as diplomatic efforts continue overseas, the investigation in Goa has gathered pace.

Delhi Air Quality Reaches 'Severe'; GRAP-3 Anti-Pollution Measures Activated

■ Worsening Winter Smog Triggers Health and Mobility Concerns in Delhi.

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality deteriorated sharply on Saturday, prompting authorities to invoke GRAP-3 anti-pollution measures. Early morning readings recorded an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 390, classified as 'very poor,' while several localities, including Wazirpur (AQI 443) and Jahangirpuri (AQI 439), entered the 'severe' category. Under GRAP-3, non-essential construction, demolition, stone crushing, and mining activities are suspended. Older diesel goods vehicles are barred from entering the city, schools up to Class 5 shift



to hybrid learning, and offices in Delhi-NCR are allowed to operate with only 50% staff. Environmental experts attribute the worsening air to stagnant winds, vehicular emissions, industrial activity, and crop residue burning

in neighbouring states. Health specialists warned that prolonged exposure to such pollution could trigger asthma attacks, reduce lung function, stress the cardiovascular system, and cause eye and throat irritation. Delhi Airport issued an

advisory, noting that all flight operations are normal, but low-visibility procedures remain in effect. Friday had also seen heavy smog across the city, with the AQI at 386, particularly affecting areas like Ghazipur and Anand Vihar.

Wars Are Won by Purposeful Action, Not Rhetoric: CDS Anil Chauhan

■ Chief of Defence Staff Urges Readiness and Discipline as New Officers Join During Operation Sindoor.

New Delhi: Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan delivered a firm message on the nature of modern warfare while addressing newly commissioned officers at the Air Force Academy in Dundigal. Speaking at the Combined Graduation Parade of the Autumn Term in December 2025, he said conflicts are not decided by slogans or symbolic gestures but by clear intent, disciplined planning and purposeful action, a remark widely seen as a pointed message to Pakistan. General Chauhan stressed that empty rhetoric has little value on the battlefield. He said genuine military strength flows from professionalism, institutional discipline



and the ability to execute decisions decisively. Referring to recent regional developments, he noted that several parts of the world continue to suffer from instability driven by weak institutions and reactive decision making. Such fragility, he observed, often results in prolonged insecurity and conflict. Contrasting this environment, the Chief of Defence Staff highlighted India's institutional resilience.

Mamata Banerjee's Seat Sees 4 Times More Voter Deletions Than Suvendu Adhikari's Nandigram

■ Mamata Banerjee's Constituency Records Nearly Four Times More Deletions Than Nandigram.

New Delhi: Fresh data from the Election Commission has revealed sharp contrasts in voter deletions across West Bengal, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Bhabanipur constituency emerging as one of the most affected seats. Bhabanipur recorded almost four times more deletions than Nandigram, the constituency of Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, adding political intensity ahead of the release of draft electoral rolls. According to constituency-wise figures released after the conclusion of the Special Intensive Revision process, Bhabanipur saw 44,787 names removed from its voter list of 2,06,295 as of January 2025. In comparison, Nandigram registered 10,599 deletions out of 2,78,212 voters. The deletions



were categorised under standard grounds including deaths, relocation, untraceable addresses and duplicate entries, with election authorities maintaining that uniform criteria were followed across the state. Despite the attention on Bhabanipur, it did not top the list statewide. The highest number of deletions was reported in Chowringhee in north Kolkata, where 74,553 voters were struck off. Other constituencies with large-scale deletions included Kolkata Port with 63,730 removals,



Ballygunge with 65,171, Behala East with 53,036 and Behala West with 52,247. Several of these seats are held by senior Trinamool Congress leaders who have historically won by comfortable margins. BJP-held constituencies also saw notable deletions, though generally fewer than the highest figures in Kolkata. Asansol South recorded 39,202 deletions, while Siliguri saw 31,181 names removed. Both seats carry political significance due to their electoral margins and regional importance.

"India an Important Partner": US Lawmakers Move to End Trump Tariffs

■ House Resolution Targets Emergency Powers Used to Impose Duties of Up to 50 Percent on Indian Imports.

New Delhi: A group of United States lawmakers has introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives seeking to roll back tariffs imposed on Indian imports under President Donald Trump's national emergency declaration. The move reflects growing concern in Congress that the duties are unlawful, economically damaging and harmful to the long term partnership between the United States and India. The resolution aims to terminate the emergency declaration that enabled the imposition of steep tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

If adopted, it would rescind the additional duties placed on Indian goods in August 2025, including a secondary surcharge that pushed



total tariffs on several products to as high as 50 percent.

Lawmakers backing the measure argue that the tariffs have disrupted supply chains, raised costs for American consumers and placed unnecessary pressure on domestic industries. They have also warned that the duties undermine one of Washington's most important strategic and economic relationships at a time when cooperation with India is seen as critical in the Indo Pacific region. Supporters of

the resolution have highlighted the deep trade and investment ties between the two countries.

Several US states maintain strong economic links with India through manufacturing exports, technology partnerships and investments by Indian companies that support thousands of American jobs. According to the lawmakers, the tariffs effectively act as a tax on American households and businesses already grappling with higher prices.

“Flexibility Should Come After 1 st. 6 Overs, Not At The Top Order” Former Stars Urge Changes for India’s T20I Batting

■ Former Stars Question Roles as Team Struggles in South Africa Series.

New Delhi: Former Indian cricketers have expressed concern over the current T20I batting setup, focusing on vice-captain Shubman Gill and captain Suryakumar Yadav, with Gautam Gambhir weighing in on strategic concerns. Mohammad Kaif suggested that Shubman Gill may need a break from the ongoing five-match series against South Africa.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, Kaif noted that Gill has struggled with consistency in the middle-order, often



attempting aggressive strokes but getting caught or mistiming deliveries. “Even vice-captains have been dropped before. If it is in the team’s interest to rest Gill and try other options, there is nothing wrong with it,” Kaif said.



He also criticized what he sees as unequal opportunities for players, pointing out that others, like Sanju Samson, have not been given enough chances despite strong performances. India’s T20I captain, Suryakumar

Yadav, is under scrutiny for a prolonged slump in form. Former India batter Aakash Chopra highlighted that Yadav has scored only 227 runs in 20 innings since November last year, averaging 13.35, with minimal impact at the top of the order. “You are the captain and a top-order batter. Scoring runs consistently is vital, especially with the T20 World Cup approaching,” Chopra said, stressing the need for Yadav to regain form ahead of the 2026 tournament in India and Sri Lanka.

World Championship Remains Top Goal, Says Praggnanandhaa

■ Indian Grandmaster Welcomes New Chess Tour but Backs Classical Title’s Primacy

New Delhi: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has made it clear that the traditional World Chess Championship will continue to hold the highest importance despite the introduction of the new Chess World Championship Tour. The upcoming tour, set to begin in pilot mode next year and become a full annual event from 2027, is designed to crown an overall champion across



fast classical, rapid and blitz formats. However, Praggnanandhaa believes the classical World Championship will remain the ultimate benchmark in the sport.

3 Goa Boxers Selected for IIS JSW Bellary National Training Camp

■ Veer Rana, Ayan Ali and Vignesh Kholkar to Attend 14 Day Junior and Youth Boxing Programme.

New Delhi: The Goa Amateur Boxing Association has announced the selection of three promising boxers to attend a national level training camp at the IIS JSW facility in Bellary. Veer Rana, Ayan Ali and Vignesh Kholkar will take part in the 14 day Junior and Youth Boxing Camp scheduled from December 14 to December 29, with all hospitality arrangements provided to the participants. The selection marks an important step in the development of the young boxers, who



have shown consistent performance and potential at the state level. Ayan Ali currently trains at the Government High School in Porvorim, while Veer Rana and Vignesh Kholkar train at RCC Peddem under the guidance of

Sports Authority of Goa coach Nilesh Khanolkar. In addition to the three selected boxers, Siddhi Mandrekar of RCC Peddem and Raunak from RCC Salvador do Mundo were also shortlisted for the camp.

Kolkata Welcomes Messi After 14 Years With Grand Statue Unveiling

■ Football Icon’s Return After 14 Years Sparks Euphoria, Then Frustration Among Fans.

New Delhi: Lionel Messi’s much awaited return to India began in Kolkata on Saturday with the unveiling of a towering 70 foot statue celebrating the Argentine legend. The event marked the opening of his GOAT Tour of India and was held amid high anticipation at the Yuva Bharati Krirangan and at Lake Town, where the statue has been installed by the Sree Bhumi Sporting Club. The statue depicts Messi holding the FIFA World Cup trophy, symbolising his historic triumph at the 2022 World



Cup. Crafted from iron and completed in a record 40 days, the installation has drawn widespread attention and is being described as the tallest statue of the footballer anywhere in the world. Messi virtually unveiled the

structure after giving prior consent, with organisers saying he and his team expressed satisfaction after viewing it. Messi arrived in the city early in the morning, triggering scenes of excitement across Kolkata.

Czech Champion Petra Pastorova to Headline 15th SKF Goa River Marathon

■ Record 6,000 Runners Expected as Women Make Up 28 Percent of Participants.

New Delhi: The 15th edition of the SKF Goa River Marathon will see Czech Republic’s celebrated long distance runner Petra Pastorova as its marquee attraction when the race is held at Chicalim on Sunday, December 14.

One of the most accomplished marathoners from her country, Pastorova brings international prestige to Goa’s largest road running event. A six

time national marathon champion, the 48 year old athlete has an impressive career record. She clocked her personal best of 2 hours 36 minutes and 44 seconds in the full marathon distance of 42 kilometres in 2013, and followed it up with a strong 2 hours 42 minutes and 45 seconds earlier this year. Her endurance credentials include participation in ultra distance events such as



the 50 kilometre race at the Hyderabad Masters in 2023 and the 100 kilometre event at the Bengaluru Masters in 2024. Expressing enthusiasm ahead of the race, Pastorova said she is visiting Goa for the first time and is eager to experience both the course and the atmosphere of the event.

She is expected to be the biggest draw in the full marathon category. This

year’s marathon is set to be a record breaking one, with 6,000 runners registered across various categories. Notably, women account for 28 percent of the total participants, marking a significant milestone for the event and highlighting the growing participation of women in distance running. The theme for the 2025 edition is “Pace for Peace”, reflecting an effort by the organisers to promote a

message of harmony and unity at a time of global conflict and uncertainty. The race has also attracted a strong international presence. Foreign runners from countries including Russia, Australia, the United States, Israel, Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland, France and the Czech Republic will be part of the field, adding to the event’s global appeal.