

# 2027-WRITTEN ALL OVER SAWANT PRESENTS POPULIST BUDGET

▶ Sawant Announces Major Development, Social and Employment Initiatives.

▶ Unveils Rs 1,000+ Crore Development Push for Health, Housing, Employment, and Environment.

**Panaji, Goa:** Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant presented the Goa Budget 2026-27 in the Assembly on Friday, unveiling a host of initiatives aimed at boosting infrastructure, healthcare, employment, women empowerment, and environmental sustainability across the state. The budget, which integrates social welfare schemes with economic growth strategies, underscores the state government's focus on inclusive development.

### Healthcare Expansion and New Facilities

The government announced the construction of a 100-bed hospital at the Industrial Promotion and Housing Board (IPHB) complex, with completion targeted for December 2026. In addition, a day-care centre at the facility will begin operations as early as April 2026, marking a significant step towards improving medical accessibility for residents. Another major healthcare initiative is the establishment of an Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Medical College in South Goa. Half of the seats will be reserved for Goan students, reflecting

a commitment to increasing opportunities for local youth in the medical profession. The state will also see the launch of the National Institute of Speech and Hearing, strengthening support for persons with speech and hearing challenges. Furthermore, several welfare schemes, including enhancements to the Atal Asra Yojana and Griha Adhaar benefits, were announced to support vulnerable families and increase household income.

### Women's Empowerment and Safe Housing

A ₹100 crore allocation has been earmarked for setting up working women's hostels near major industrial estates, ensuring safe and convenient accommodation for women employed in the state. In addition, the Mhajo Flat Scheme was introduced to provide long-term apartment and flat owners with rightful ownership and deemed conveyance rights, resolving cases where contracts exist only between the builder and the landowner.

### Employment, MSMEs, and IT Incentives

The budget also

## Goa Budget 2026-27

- ▶ **Mhajo Flat Scheme** – Provides long-term ownership and deemed conveyance rights to apartment and flat owners where only builder-landowner contracts exist.
- ▶ **Griha Adhaar Benefits Enhanced** – Supports households with improved financial assistance to boost income and living standards.
- ▶ **Working Women's Hostels (Rs 100 crore)** – New hostels near industrial estates to provide safe accommodation for women employees.
- ▶ **100-Bed IPHB Hospital (Rs 45 crore)** – Hospital to be completed by December 2026 with day-care services starting in April.
- ▶ **ESI Medical College in South Goa** – 50% seats reserved for Goans to strengthen medical education and local opportunities
- ▶ **Divyang Kaushal Yojana & Divyang Ghar** – Skill training and employment support for persons with disabilities (18+).
- ▶ **Solar-Powered CCTV Cameras** – Installed in public places to curb littering and improve waste management.
- ▶ **Soft Loan Support for Barge Owners** – Helps barge owners linked to mining operations repair vessels and resume business.
- ▶ **Atal Asra Yojana Benefits Increased** – Financial assistance raised from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh for eligible families.
- ▶ **Kushavati District Development (Rs 500 crore)** – Major allocation for new district infrastructure and development projects.

highlights employment generation and support for local industry. A ₹5 lakh incentive will be given to new IT firms that hire at least 50% Goans, encouraging local employment in the technology sector. The Goa Investment Promotion Board approved 31 projects worth ₹1,117 crore last year, expected to create around

4,950 jobs. Support measures for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) were reinforced with soft loans for barge owners involved in mining operations, enabling them to repair barges and restart business activities. The government also upgraded the Employment Exchange into a

Model Career Centre, providing job seekers with digital platforms to access employment opportunities efficiently.

Plans for an e-market portal to promote MSMEs were highlighted as part of the state's broader economic strategy. Infrastructure Development and Utilities Water and electricity connections

development for South Goa, Rs 500 crore has been allocated for the development and infrastructure of the newly proposed Kushavati district, which will see enhanced facilities and

will be

provided to all houses built on private plots through the issuance of Emergency House Numbers, ensuring basic services for residents across Goa. The Deen Dayal Infrastructure Development Scheme received a boost of ₹15 crore, earmarked for panchayat ghars, market complexes, community halls, and other civic infrastructure. In a significant

administrative planning. Technology, Environment, and Safety Measures.

The state government announced the use of drones for coastal surveillance to curb illegal fishing and strengthen marine security. Stray cattle management will also be improved with the establishment of eight gaushalas.

## GOA BUDGET 2026-27: ₹30,195 CR EXPENDITURE

CM Pramod Sawant presents the Goa Budget 2026-27 with total expenditure estimated at ₹30,195 crore (7.21% increase) and total receipts projected at ₹29,181 crore. The state is expected to maintain a revenue surplus of ₹1,666 crore.

## GOA PER CAPITA INCOME TO TOUCH Rs 8.18 LAKH

Goa's GSDP per capita is projected to reach ₹8.18 lakh, while the state's GSDP is expected to touch ₹1.31 lakh crore in 2026-27; Goa continues to benefit from strong Central funding support: CM

## GOA EXPECTS Rs 2,957 CR CENTRAL AID

CM Sawant says Goa expects ₹1,357 crore as Central assistance under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and another ₹1,600 crore as special infrastructure assistance through an interest-free loan for 2026-27.

## With Elections Near, Opposition Must Make Every Minute of Assembly Session Count

With barely eight months left for the next Assembly election in Goa, the upcoming session of the Goa Legislative Assembly carries far greater political weight than a routine legislative sitting. For the seven Opposition MLAs, it may be the last meaningful opportunity to convince voters that they can stand up to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party government led by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

The numbers in the House are heavily tilted in favour of the government. With 33 MLAs backing the ruling benches, the BJP faces little risk of legislative defeat. But an Assembly session is not merely about passing bills or surviving votes. It is about scrutiny, debate and accountability. Even a small Opposition can shape public opinion if it uses the House effectively.

Several contentious issues are already waiting to be raised. Among them, the debate around Section 39A of the Goa Town and Country Planning Act is likely to take centre stage. The provision, which allows for the alteration of land use in certain circumstances, has triggered widespread concern among citizens, environmental groups and planners who fear it could open the door to arbitrary changes in land zoning. For a state as ecologically fragile as Goa, questions surrounding land use cannot be treated lightly. Similarly, projects such as the proposed Unity Mall and the tensions surrounding the Mirabag protest reflect deeper anxieties about governance priorities, transparency and public consultation. These issues have already entered public debate outside the Assembly. The legislature is the place where they must now be examined in detail.

This is precisely where the Opposition must rise to the occasion. Too often, legislative sessions in the past have been consumed by disruptions, slogan shouting, and members rushing into the well of the House. Such scenes may create momentary drama but rarely result in meaningful

*This is precisely where the Opposition must rise to the occasion. Too often, legislative sessions in the past have been consumed by disruptions, slogan shouting, and members rushing into the well of the House. Such scenes may create momentary drama but rarely result in meaningful accountability. When proceedings are repeatedly adjourned, the government escapes sustained questioning and public scrutiny.*

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The key lies in preparation and discipline. Opposition members must come armed with facts, documents and constituency level evidence. They must raise issues

that resonate beyond party politics. Concerns about land conversions, environmental protection, tourism management, infrastructure, employment and the rising cost of living affect people across the state. When these concerns are articulated clearly inside the Assembly, they become part of a wider public conversation.

Importantly, the Opposition must remember that political credibility is built through consistency. Voters are watching closely as the election approaches. They will judge not only the performance of the government but also the seriousness of those who seek to replace it. If the Opposition spends the session merely staging protests and forcing adjournments, the impression that there is no strong alternative to the ruling party will only deepen. On the other hand, if the seven MLAs demonstrate focus, persistence and clarity, they can punch far above their numerical strength. Governments with large majorities rarely fall because of votes inside the House. They stumble when uncomfortable questions begin to shape public opinion outside it. For Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and the Bharatiya Janata Party, the majority ensures control of the legislative agenda. But control does not eliminate the need for accountability. Serious debate strengthens democratic institutions and reassures citizens that their concerns are being heard. The coming Assembly session, therefore, is more than a routine legislative exercise. It is a test of how effectively democracy functions in Goa. The Opposition may be small in number, but if it uses the Assembly wisely, it can still challenge the government's narrative and bring critical issues such as Section 39A of the Goa Town and Country Planning Act into sharp focus.

With elections approaching, the stage is set. What remains to be seen is whether the Opposition chooses confrontation without substance or debate that truly holds the government to account.

### Editor Speaks

## India's Semifinal Win Shows Strength, But Also Reveals Reliance on Bumrah

By Suraj Nandrekar

India's gripping semifinal against England men's national cricket team in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 turned out to be everything a knockout contest should be. It was intense, unpredictable and filled with moments that swung the match back and forth. With more than 500 runs scored across the two innings, it was clearly a night built for batsmen. Yet in the end, it was the bowlers and fielders who quietly shaped the outcome. Among them, one figure stood taller than the rest. Jasprit Bumrah once again proved why he remains India's most dependable weapon in high pressure situations. In a match dominated by aggressive batting, Bumrah's spell brought control and clarity when the game threatened to slip away. His ability to execute yorkers, change pace and bowl with precision under pressure has become India's biggest advantage in the tournament. The concern, however, is that the team appears heavily dependent on him in the bowling department. When Bumrah is on song, the attack looks formidable. But when the burden of controlling the game falls repeatedly on one bowler, it raises questions about balance. To their credit, Hardik Pandya and Arshdeep Singh showed tremendous courage and heart in supporting roles. Both stepped up during crucial moments and helped India maintain pressure when England's powerful batting lineup threatened to take the game away. Yet there are still areas that demand attention. The performances of Varun Chakravarthy and Shivam Dube remain a concern. In a tournament of this magnitude, every over matters, and inconsistency from even one or two bowlers can tilt the balance. England's aggressive approach exposed these vulnerabilities, and stronger teams will certainly look to exploit them in the future. Fielding also played a decisive role in the semifinal. Two brilliant catches by Axar Patel stood out as turning points in the match. In a contest where runs were flowing freely, those moments of sharp fielding halted England's momentum and reminded everyone that tight matches are often decided by small margins. Leadership too deserves recognition. Captain Suryakumar Yadav showed remarkable composure throughout the contest. Leading in a high scoring semifinal is never easy, especially when the opposition continues to attack. Yet Suryakumar's calm presence and willingness to back his players reflected a captain willing to take responsibility in difficult moments. While the bowling department raises a few concerns, India's batting remains its biggest strength. The lineup has depth, power and the ability to accelerate at almost any stage of the innings. From top order stability to explosive middle order hitters, the batting unit appears capable of matching any side in the tournament. The only slight worry revolves around Abhishek Sharma. The talented opener has not yet found his best rhythm in the tournament. However, players of his calibre rarely remain quiet for long. With his natural strokeplay and confidence, he seems just one good knock away from rediscovering his touch. The semifinal ultimately underlined why knockout matches in T20 cricket are so compelling. Despite the avalanche of runs, the result hinged on discipline, fielding brilliance and the ability to stay calm under pressure. For India, the victory will bring confidence. But it also carries a quiet reminder. While the team's batting firepower makes it one of the most dangerous sides in the competition, the bowling attack cannot afford to rely too heavily on one man. Because in the unpredictable world of T20 cricket, even a magician like Jasprit Bumrah cannot do it all alone.

# Mirabag Protest Disrupts Goa Assembly, CM Orders Arrests

Security concerns raised as visitors' gallery protest leads to detention of four locals

Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** The first day of the Goa Legislative Assembly's Budget session on Friday witnessed a dramatic disruption when a group of locals staged a protest in the visitors' gallery over the Mirabag Bandara



project. The protest, which erupted shortly after proceedings

began, coincided with Goa Forward Chief Vijai Sardesai raising an Adjournment Motion on the issue, catching members off guard. Protesters, holding placards and shouting slogans, disrupted the proceedings, prompting marshals and security personnel to intervene.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant demanded the immediate arrest of the demonstrators, describing them as "terrorist-minded" and warning that future incidents could escalate to violence. He later moved a breach of privilege for further investigation.

## Speaker, CM on dialogue with villagers on Mirabag issue

**PORVORIM:** Goa Assembly Speaker Ganesh Gaonkar on Friday stated that the Mirabag Bandara issue has already been taken up with the state government, and a presentation will be made to the local villagers to address their concerns. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant added that he has personally discussed the matter with the local sarpanch, highlighting the government's efforts to engage directly with the community. The move comes in the wake of recent



protests in the Assembly visitors' gallery, ensuring that the voices of the affected villagers are heard while the project continues.

# Goa Sees Major Infrastructure Push with ₹7,500-Cr Projects Underway: Eco-Survey



## Highlights:

► ₹7,500-Crore Infrastructure Projects Underway Across Goa.

► Major Road and Highway Projects Aim to Ease Traffic

► Expansion of Mopa Airport to Boost Aviation Capacity

► Redevelopment of Government Infrastructure Planned

► Investment Approvals Expected to Create Thousands of Jobs

► Transport and Maritime Infrastructure Get a Push

Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Goa is witnessing a significant push in infrastructure development, with projects worth over ₹7,500 crore currently under implementation across the state, according to the Economic Survey 2025–26 presented ahead of the state budget. The survey highlights that 354 infrastructure projects

valued at ₹7,532.19 crore are presently underway, covering sectors such as roads, tourism infrastructure, transport, and public utilities. economic-survey-202526 A major focus remains on strengthening the road network. The Public Works Department is executing 17 road and highway projects worth ₹1,200.70 crore, including a six-lane

elevated corridor from Sangolda junction to Majestic Hotel in Porvorim along National Highway 66. The corridor is expected to ease congestion on one of the busiest stretches connecting Panaji with North Goa. Other key projects include the construction of a flyover at Dhargal on NH-66, vehicular underpasses at Naibag and Peddem, and a

foot overbridge near the Holy Shrine at Bambolim. The Assonora bypass along State Highway-1 is also part of the infrastructure upgrade aimed at improving traffic flow across the state.

## Shirodkar Defends Mirabag Project, Rules Out Compromise on Water Security

Minister warns against politicizing project, assures no homes will be submerged

Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** Goa's Water Resources Minister Subhash Shirodkar on Friday reaffirmed the government's commitment to the Mirabag Bandara project, stressing that water security will not be compromised. Addressing concerns over the project, Shirodkar said, "We are setting a precedent before the House and the public; no one can win elections like this. This issue is about water, and there will be no compromise." Shirodkar highlighted the sacrifices made by citizens for the Selaulim dam, describing it as



the lifeline of South Goa, and stated that the Mirabag project would continue along similar lines. Citing the Opa project, he asked, "Has it submerged anything?" to emphasize that development projects can be undertaken without harming communities. He also cautioned against politicizing the issue ahead of elections.

## Concerns Raised in Goa Assembly Over Safety of Goans in Gulf Amid Middle East Crisis

LoP Yuri Alemao seeks priority action; AAP's Venzy Viegas calls for special flight arrangements.

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The safety of Goans living and working in the Gulf countries was raised as a matter of concern in the Goa Legislative Assembly on Friday, as legislators urged the government to closely monitor the situation amid the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao brought up the issue during Zero Hour, stating that the escalating tensions in the region have created fear and anxiety



among families in Goa whose relatives are based in the Gulf. He stressed that ensuring the safety of Goans abroad should be treated as a top priority by the authorities. Alemao urged the government to remain vigilant and take necessary steps to safeguard the interests of Goans working in the affected countries.

## Questions Raised in Goa Assembly Over NEP Instructional Hours, School Safety

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**PORVORIM:** Concerns over the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) and the National Credit Framework (NCF) were raised in the Goa Legislative Assembly, with legislators seeking clarity on instructional hours, student workload,



and school infrastructure safety.

MLA Altone D'Costa asked the Education Minister to clarify the total instructional hours

mandated under the NCF and NEP, their distribution, and the steps being taken to ensure uniform implementation across schools in the state. He also sought details on whether safety audits of school buildings had been conducted and if any infrastructure failures had been reported over the past five years.

## Cruz Silva Raises Concern Over Scouting

**PANAJI:** Cruz Silva on Friday raised a Zero Hour mention in the Goa Legislative Assembly highlighting



growing concern among students, parents and educators over the non-allocation of periods for Scouting and Guiding under the National Education Policy 2020. Silva said the policy, which

has been implemented since the academic year 2024–25, has affected around 214 schools across Goa and nearly 50,000 student members involved in Scouting and Guiding activities.

## This Will Be BJP's Last Budget, Says LoP Yuri Alemao

**PANAJI:** Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao



on Friday claimed that the present budget would be the last budget of the BJP government in Goa, asserting that people of the state will not give the party another opportunity to govern. Addressing the media in Panaji, Alemao said that the people of Goa will "show the door" to the BJP for what he described as arrogance, anti-people projects and alleged attacks on democracy.

## Man Electrocuted While Playing Holi at Zuarinagar

■ 27-year-old dies after metal pipe touches high-tension wire.

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Zuarinagar:** A 27-year-old man died of electrocution while playing Holi at his residence in Zuarinagar on Tuesday afternoon. According to police, Verna Police received a phone call from Sub District Hospital (SDH) Chicalim at around 1:48 pm on March 4 informing that a person had been brought dead in a suspected case of electric shock. Police later identified the



deceased as Dileep Gaud (27), a resident of Birla, Zuarinagar in Sancoale and a native of Uttar Pradesh. During inquiry, it was revealed that Gaud was playing Holi at his residence and had lifted a metal pipe measuring

about 6.5 metres in length to connect it to a water tap. However, he allegedly failed to notice a high-tension electric wire overhead and the pipe came in contact with the wire. As a result, electric current passed through his body, leading to his death. Police conducted the inquest panchanama and the body has been preserved at the South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for medico-legal formalities.

## Pedestrian Injured in Rash Riding Accident at Zuarinagar

■ Motorcycle rider and pedestrian sustain injuries near BITS Pilani campus.

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Zuarinagar:** A pedestrian sustained injuries after being hit by a motorcycle allegedly ridden in a rash and negligent manner near Bharat Petrol Pump opposite the BITS Pilani campus at Zuarinagar on Monday evening. According to Verna police, the accident occurred on March 2 at around 7:50 pm when Prabhakar Dandwate, a resident of Sancoale and native of



Beed in Maharashtra, was riding his Bajaj Pulsar motorcycle from MES College towards Upasnagar. When he reached opposite Bharat Petrol Pump near the BITS Pilani campus, the

motorcycle allegedly dashed against a pedestrian, identified as Ranjan Nath, a resident of Zuarinagar in Sancoale and native of Assam, who was walking along the kuccha roadside in the same direction. Due to the impact, both the pedestrian and the motorcycle rider sustained injuries. The case has been registered on the complaint of ASI Sudhakar Jadhav of Verna Police Station.

## Man Booked for Trespass, Vandalism at Chinchinim House

■ Motorcycle, car and house window damaged; loss estimated at ₹60,000

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Chinchinim:** Cuncolim police have registered a case against a man for allegedly trespassing into a property, damaging vehicles and threatening a family at Chinchinim in Salcete. According to police, the complaint was filed by Donald D'Costa, a resident of Chinchinim. The incident reportedly occurred on February 23 at around 10:30 pm. Police said the accused, identified as Pramod Yadav (address not known), allegedly

criminally trespassed into the complainant's property and damaged a motorcycle and a Wagon R car belonging to the complainant's brother, Edgar Oswald Clodomiro Costa, which were parked outside the house. The accused allegedly behaved aggressively, banged the main door of the house and attempted to break it open. He also reportedly damaged the window of the house by throwing a laterite stone. Police further stated that the accused later brought a large laterite stone and damaged the Wagon R car, causing an estimated loss of around ₹60,000.



## Temporary Labour Shed Set on Fire at Vodlemol, Loss of ₹70,000 Reported

■ Curcholem police register case of mischief by fire; probe underway

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Curcholem:** Unknown persons allegedly set fire to a temporary wooden shed erected for labourers engaged in the construction of a football playground at Vodlemol, Kakoda, causing damage estimated at around ₹70,000. According to



police, the complaint was filed by Amit Chowgule, a resident of Kakoda, Curcholem and native of Belgaum, Karnataka.

The incident reportedly occurred between 8:30 pm on March 4 and 8:30 am on March 5. Police said the accused persons set fire to a temporary wooden structure that had been erected to accommodate labourers working on the construction of a football playground allotted by the Goa State Urban

Development Agency. The blaze also damaged galvanized metal sheets used in the structure. Curcholem police have registered a case of mischief by fire against unknown persons. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Pramod Tari of Curcholem Police Station.

## Rash Overtaking Leads to Triple Vehicle Collision in Canacona

■ 2 motorcyclists grievously injured, pillion rider sustains minor injuries.

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Canacona:** A rash overtaking attempt by a scooter rider resulted in a triple vehicle collision near the JMFC Court at Canacona on Monday evening, leaving two motorcyclists grievously



injured. According to Canacona police, the incident occurred on March 3 at around 6:10

pm when Sharmad Faldesai, a resident of Gaondongrim, Canacona, was riding his Ntorq scooter from Chaudi towards Gaondongrim. Police said that upon reaching opposite the JMFC Court near the T-road junction, the rider

allegedly attempted to overtake and in the process first dashed against a Hero Splendor motorcycle proceeding in the same direction. The scooter then collided with another Hero Splendor motorcycle coming from the opposite direction.

## Woman Alleges Assault, House Trespass by Group in Colva

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Colva:** Colva police have registered a case against ten persons following a complaint by a woman alleging house trespass, assault and outraging of modesty at her residence on Tuesday morning. According to police, the incident occurred on

March 4 at around 8:30 am when the complainant (name withheld) was present at her house within the jurisdiction of Colva Police Station. As per the complaint, the main accused, Franky Dias, allegedly broke



open the back door of the house and forcibly entered while holding a koita. He allegedly inappropriately touched the complainant's chest, pushed her, abused her in filthy language, threatened her to vacate the house and punched her on the chest.

## Scooter Rider Dies After Collision with Rent-a-Cab Car in Benaulim

■ Accident near St Anthony Chapel; victim succumbed to injuries at GMC

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Colva:** A scooter rider succumbed to injuries after a rent-a-cab car allegedly driven in a rash and negligent manner collided with his scooter near St Anthony Chapel

at Benaulim on Monday afternoon. According to Colva police, the accident occurred on March 3 at around 12:50 pm when a Swift rent-a-cab car driven by Prasanta Deka, a resident of Assam, was proceeding from



Colva towards Varca with three occupants. Police said that upon reaching near St Anthony Chapel at Benaulim, the car allegedly dashed against a Dio scooter whose rider was in the process of taking a U-turn.

# MMC asks businesses to renew trade licences by May 31

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MORMUGAO:** The Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) has directed all commercial establishments within its jurisdiction to renew their trade and advertisement licences for the financial year 2026–27 within the stipulated period to avoid penalties and legal action. According to a public notice issued by MMC on March 4, all businesses have been instructed to



complete the renewal process between April 1 and May 31, 2026. Licence holders have been asked to remit the applicable licence fees

along with advertisement tax, rent, house tax and occupation fees within the prescribed time frame at the municipal treasury. Municipal authorities have clarified that payments made after May 31, 2026 will attract interest and penalties as per the provisions of the municipal by-laws. Officials have urged all business owners to ensure timely payment of dues and renewal of licences to avoid complications later.

MMC has also cautioned that establishments operating without valid trade or occupation licences may face strict action. The council has warned that such violations could lead to enforcement measures, including the sealing of business premises. In addition, the council has informed that businesses which have shut down their operations must apply for cancellation of their trade licences.



## Man Found Dead in Decomposed State at Sirvoi House

■ 45-year-old reportedly lived alone; police register unnatural death case

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Quepem:** A 45-year-old man was found dead in a decomposed state inside a room at his residence in Borimol, Sirvoi, in Quepem taluka.

According to police, the information was received from Noel Rodrigues, a native of Bombay, Maharashtra, who reported that the body of his brother, Titus Maurice Rodrigues (45), was found lying in a room in a decomposed condition. Police visited the house at Borimol,

Sirvoi, and conducted a scene of unnatural death occurrence panchanama. During inquiry, the deceased's brother informed police that Titus Rodrigues was living alone in the house and was a habitual alcoholic. The body has been preserved at the South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for further medico-legal formalities. Further inquiry is being conducted by LPSI Joyce Carvalho of Quepem Police Station.

## Vasco MLA lays foundation stone for retaining wall near Gomateshwar temple at Sasmollem

**Team Goemkarponn**

**VASCO:** Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar on Thursday laid the foundation stone for the construction of a retaining wall at Gowdanagar near the Gomateshwar Temple at Sasmollem, taking up a long-pending demand of local residents aimed at preventing soil erosion



and ensuring the safety of houses in the area. The project, to be executed by the Water Resources Department (WRD), is estimated

to cost ₹25 lakh. The retaining wall is expected to strengthen the slope along the stretch and protect nearby properties from the risk of landslides,

particularly during the monsoon season when heavy rainfall often leads to soil erosion in the locality. Addressing residents at the site, Salkar said the work was being taken up after repeated requests from locals who had been raising concerns about the safety of their homes during the rains.



## Man Held with 1.38 Kg Ganja in Colvale Narcotic Raid

■ Police seize drugs worth ₹1.38 lakh; accused remanded to five days custody

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Colvale:** Colvale Police arrested a 48-year-old man and seized 1.38 kg of ganja worth approximately ₹1.38 lakh during a narcotic raid conducted at Colvale in Bardez on Tuesday night. According to police, the raid was conducted between 8:25 pm and 10:45 pm on March 4 by a team from Colvale Police Station led by PSI Ramchandra Satelkar at a spot behind the Dattatray Temple in the Housing Board area of Colvale, acting on specific

intelligence. During the operation, police apprehended the accused, identified as Sunil Tiwari (48), a resident of Wadeshwar Nagar, Cuchelim in Bardez and a native of Uttar Pradesh. Police said 1.380 kg of ganja was seized from his possession along with a mobile phone allegedly used during the commission of the crime. In this connection, Colvale Police have registered Crime No. 21/2026 under Section 20(b)(ii)(B) of the NDPS Act, 1985 on March 5.

## Shigmotsav 2026 Begins in Ponda, Heralding Statewide Cultural Celebrations

■ Grand parade marks start of 14-day festival across 19 centres in Goa

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Ponda:** The vibrant celebrations of Shigmotsav 2026 commenced in Ponda on Thursday, marking the beginning of a grand cultural festival that will unfold across 19 centres in Goa over the next 14 days. The Shigmotsav parade, organised by the Ponda Taluka Antruz



Shigmotsav Samiti in association with the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, began from Tisk-Ponda and drew a large turnout of locals and visitors.

The parade featured traditional Romtamel performances, folk dances, colourful fancy dress presentations and creatively designed floats depicting Goa's rich



traditions and mythological themes. The streets came alive with music, colour and enthusiastic participation by artists and cultural troupes from across the state.

## Decomposed Body of Man Found in Bushes Near Utorda Beach Resort

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Colva:** The decomposed body of a 29-year-old man was found lying in a bushy sandy area near a resort at Utorda, prompting an inquiry by Colva police. According to police, the information was received

from an unknown caller stating that a male person was lying in an unconscious and decomposed state in a bushy sandy area near a resort in Utorda. Police visited the spot and identified the deceased as Krishna Baraik (29), a resident of Pedda,

Utorda in Varca and a native of Jharkhand. Officials said the body was emitting a foul smell and had already begun decomposing when it was discovered. Police conducted a scene of unnatural death (UD) occurrence panchanama and an inquest



panchanama at the site. The body has been sent to the South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for preservation and further medico-legal formalities. Further inquiry is being carried out by PSI Prathamesh Mahale of Colva Police Station.

## “Children Introduced To Phones Too Early”: Goa Begins Consultations On Social Media Safety

■ Stakeholder meeting in Panaji discusses cyberbullying, digital addiction and regulatory safeguards for children.

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** A high level stakeholder meeting was held in Panaji to examine the growing impact of social media on children and to explore possible regulatory measures to enhance online safety. The consultation was organised by the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications of the Government of Goa and took place at Paryatan Bhavan in Pato. The meeting was chaired by Rohan A. Khaunte and brought together representatives from government departments, law enforcement agencies, the education sector,



industry bodies and technology stakeholders. Officials from the cyber crime unit, legal departments, educational institutions and business associations participated in the discussions. The deliberations focused on the theme “Impact of Social Media on Children and Regulatory Safeguards for Child Safety”. Participants highlighted growing

concerns related to excessive digital exposure among children, including increasing dependency on online platforms, declining attention spans, cyberbullying and access to inappropriate content. A concept note presented during the meeting outlined the key challenges posed by the rapid growth of social media use among young users. It also referred to



regulatory approaches adopted in other countries. However, it was noted that there is currently no single comprehensive global framework addressing the issue of children’s safety on digital platforms. Speaking during the discussions, Khaunte stressed the need for urgent action as more children gain early access to smartphones and digital platforms.



## “This Recognition Belongs to the People of Goa”: State Wins Global Honours at ITB Berlin 2026

■ Tourism leadership and destination strategy earn international awards as Goa promotes sustainable and experience driven travel.

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa strengthened its presence on the global tourism stage during its participation at the internationally renowned ITB Berlin 2026, where the state received significant international recognition for its evolving tourism strategy and leadership. The Goa Tourism Pavilion at the event was inaugurated by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in the presence of Ajit Gupte and senior officials from India’s tourism ministry, along with representatives from Goa Tourism and tourism stakeholders. The participation highlighted Goa’s efforts to position itself as a dynamic and sustainable global destination while strengthening partnerships with international travel markets. Officials and industry representatives from Goa engaged with global delegates and travel trade partners to showcase the state’s expanding tourism offerings. A key highlight during the event was the recognition received at the PATWA International Travel Awards

held alongside the trade fair. Rohan A. Khaunte was honoured with the “Tourism Minister of the Year for Innovation in Asia” award for initiatives aimed at transforming Goa’s tourism sector and expanding its global appeal. Goa also received the “Destination of the Year for Rejuvenation” award, recognising the state’s efforts to reposition itself through sustainable and regenerative tourism initiatives. The honour reflects Goa’s transition from being known mainly for its beaches to a diverse destination offering experiences linked to culture, spirituality, nature, adventure and wellness. Tourism authorities have been promoting the vision of “Goa Beyond Beaches”, focusing on creating a more balanced tourism ecosystem that benefits local communities while protecting natural resources. Key initiatives include the development of hinterland tourism circuits, promotion of spiritual tourism routes, expansion of eco tourism experiences and support for community led homestays and women run tourism enterprises.

## “AI Must Empower Citizens”: Goa Begins Work On Comprehensive Artificial Intelligence Policy

■ Stakeholders meet in Panaji to discuss governance, innovation and responsible adoption of emerging technologies.

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Government of Goa has initiated discussions on formulating a comprehensive Artificial Intelligence policy as part of its broader vision to position the state as a hub for emerging technologies. A stakeholder meeting was held at Paryatan Bhavan in Panaji to deliberate on AI governance, innovation and the roadmap for responsible adoption of the technology across



Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Govt of Goa initiated a stakeholder meet to deliberate the formulation of an AI Policy for Goa.

sectors. The meeting was chaired by Rohan A. Khaunte and brought together senior officials

from government departments, industry bodies, academic institutions and the

technology sector. Representatives from the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, state agencies, educational institutions and industry associations participated in the consultation, along with experts joining virtually. During the discussions, Khaunte highlighted that Artificial Intelligence is rapidly becoming a major driver of innovation, governance and economic growth.

## GCCI Welcomes People-Centric and Visionary Goa Budget 2026–27

Industry body praises focus on infrastructure, employment and sustainable growth

### Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** The Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) has welcomed the Goa Budget 2026–27 presented by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in the Goa Legislative Assembly, describing it as a people-centric,



inclusive and forward-looking budget aimed at

strengthening the state’s economy and improving the quality of life of citizens. Reacting to the budget, GCCI President Pratima Dhond said the budget outlines a comprehensive roadmap for Goa’s development with a balanced focus on

infrastructure, employment generation, industry growth, education and social welfare. The Chamber noted that the budget, with a total expenditure of ₹30,195 crore and a projected revenue surplus of ₹1,666 crore, reflects fiscal prudence while

simultaneously investing in long-term growth and development. GCCI particularly appreciated the government’s emphasis on infrastructure development, including investments in roads, water supply, electricity, sewerage and urban

development. It highlighted allocations such as ₹3,000 crore for National Highway projects, ₹1,897 crore for Public Works infrastructure and ₹1,009 crore for drinking water projects, which are expected to improve connectivity and public utilities across the state.

## US Grants Temporary Waiver For Russian Oil Purchases To Stabilise India's Energy Supply

■ Thirty day exemption allows Indian refiners to access stranded cargoes as Middle East tensions threaten global crude flows.

**New Delhi:** India has received a temporary 30 day waiver from the United States allowing refiners to purchase Russian crude that is currently stranded at sea. The decision offers short term relief for the country's energy sector as escalating conflict in the Middle East disrupts



global oil supply routes and raises concerns over

shipment security. The waiver permits transactions involving Russian crude that has already been loaded onto tankers but has not yet reached buyers. The measure aims to ensure that oil continues to circulate in global markets at a time when geopolitical tensions are affecting

shipping routes and supply stability.

One of the biggest concerns for India is the Strait of Hormuz, a vital maritime corridor through which a large portion of the world's crude oil exports passes. Nearly forty percent of India's oil imports move through this route.



## Indian Navy Mobilises Tarangini and Ikshak After Distress Call From Iranian Frigate

■ Training barque and survey vessel join international search effort after torpedo strike near Sri Lanka.

**New Delhi:** The Indian Navy quickly responded to a distress call from the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena after the vessel was hit by a United States torpedo off the coast of Galle on March 4. Acting swiftly, India deployed a long range maritime patrol aircraft and two naval ships to assist in the search and rescue operation coordinated by Sri Lanka.

The two vessels involved in the operation were INS Tarangini and INS Ikshak. Tarangini, which was already

operating in waters near the incident site, reached the designated search area by 1600 hours on the same day. Ikshak departed from Kochi soon after and continues to remain in the region as efforts to locate missing personnel continue. INS Tarangini is a three masted sailing barque commissioned in 1997. Built by Goa Shipyard Limited in Vasco da Gama, the vessel measures about 54 metres in length and carries an extensive arrangement of sails.

## "Russia Ready To Supply Oil To India": Envoy Signals Support Amid Energy Market Turmoil

■ Rising global prices and Strait of Hormuz tensions intensify concerns over India's energy security

**New Delhi:** Russia has reiterated its willingness to supply crude oil to India as global energy markets face renewed volatility due to escalating tensions in West Asia. The statement comes at a time when international oil and gas prices have surged sharply following disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, one of



the world's most crucial

energy shipping routes. The narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman carries nearly one fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments. Recent developments in the region have led to heightened uncertainty around tanker movements and energy supplies, pushing prices upward

and raising concerns for countries that rely heavily on imported fuel.

India is particularly vulnerable to such disruptions as it imports nearly 88 percent of its crude oil requirements and about half of its natural gas needs. A large share of these shipments typically passes through the Strait of Hormuz.



## Tamil Nadu's RN Ravi Appointed Bengal Governor After CV Bose Resigns

**New Delhi:** Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi has been appointed as the new Governor of West Bengal after CV Ananda Bose resigned. The change in the poll-bound state is part of an overall reshuffle under which nine states and Union Territories have got new Governors and Lieutenant Governors. Tamil Nadu, where assembly elections are due as well, also got a new Governor. The state will be an additional charge for RV Arlekar, the Governor of Kerala. Ravi's appointment was announced first by Bengal

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who accused the Central government of violating federal principles by making the appointment without any consultation with the state government. "Union Home Minister just informed me that Shri R.N. Ravi is being appointed as Governor of West Bengal. He never consulted with me as per the established convention in this regard. Such actions undermine the spirit of the Constitution of India and strike at the very foundation of our federal structure.

## "I Did It My Way": Nitish Kumar Steps Down After Two Decades Shaping Bihar's Politics

■ Veteran leader ends long tenure as Chief Minister after redefining governance, social alliances and electoral strategy in the state

**New Delhi:** Veteran politician Nitish Kumar has stepped down as Chief Minister of Bihar, ending a political chapter that spanned nearly two decades and significantly reshaped the state's governance and electoral landscape. His decision



follows another electoral victory for the Janata Dal (United) in December

2025 and precedes his expected transition to the Rajya Sabha. With his departure, the state is set to witness its first chief minister from the Bharatiya Janata Party, marking a notable shift in Bihar's political dynamics. Kumar leaves office after

serving ten terms as chief minister, a record that places him among the most enduring leaders in the state's history. Kumar's rise to prominence was rooted in his governance agenda, which he branded as "sushasan" or good governance.

## "Disruption In The Region Directly Impacts Oil And Gas Supply": Rajnath Singh Warns Amid West Asia Tensions

■ Defence Minister highlights growing strategic importance of oceans and calls for stronger defence capabilities in a changing global order.

**New Delhi:** India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has raised concerns about the impact of rising tensions in West Asia on global energy security, warning that disruptions in key maritime regions can



directly affect the supply of oil and gas. Speaking at the Maritime Conclave "Sagar Sankalp," Singh pointed to the evolving geopolitical landscape and the increasing strategic importance of

oceans. Referring to the ongoing tensions involving Iran, the United States and Israel, he said the current situation reflects a broader shift in global power dynamics and uncertainties in international relations.

## “How Much More Do We Need?” Suryakumar Yadav Reveals Chat With Harry Brook During Thriller

■ India edge England by seven runs in high scoring semifinal to reach second straight T20 World Cup final.

**New Delhi:** India captain Suryakumar Yadav admitted the final moments of the semifinal were nerve wracking as India narrowly defeated England by seven runs in a thrilling contest at Wankhede Stadium to secure a place in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final. The defending champions posted a massive total after being sent in to bat, finishing with 253 runs on the board. The innings was powered by an explosive knock from Sanju Samson, who smashed 89 runs from just 42 balls, striking seven sixes



and eight boundaries. His aggressive approach set the tone for India's innings. Valuable contributions also came from Shivam Dube with 43 runs, Ishan Kishan who added 39, while Hardik Pandya and Tilak Varma chipped in with quickfire knocks to push the total beyond

the 250 mark. Despite the huge score, the Indian captain revealed he remained unsure if it would be enough. During England's chase, he even shared a light moment with opposition skipper Harry Brook, asking him how many more runs India might have needed to feel safe.

## Saurashtra Edge Past Goa By 12 Runs In Women's U 23 One Day Tournament

■ Captain Tanaya Naik's fighting 84 and a 107 run stand with Presha Naik not enough as Goa fall short of 253 chase.

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Saurashtra Women's Under-23 Cricket Team secured a narrow 12 run victory over Goa Women's Under-23 Cricket Team in the Women's Under 23 Elite One Day Tournament match played at the Maharana Pratap College Ground on Thursday. Batting first, Saurashtra posted a competitive total of 252 for 5 in their allotted 50 overs. P. Bhambi laid a solid foundation at the top of the order, scoring 65 runs from 92 deliveries with six boundaries. Miloni



played a steady unbeaten knock of 56 from 73 balls, striking four fours, while Angel added a valuable 41 not out from 41 balls. Captain Hirva V also contributed 40 runs off 47 balls. A key highlight of the innings was the 76 run partnership between Bhambi and Miloni that helped stabilise the innings. Saurashtra also

benefited from 17 extras, including 16 wides, which added useful runs to the total. For Goa, captain Tanaya Naik was the most successful bowler, taking two wickets for 42 runs in eight overs. Metali Gawandar finished with figures of 1 for 43 in ten overs, while Harshita Yadav claimed one wicket for 51 runs in nine overs.



## Purvaja Verlekar's Unbeaten 103 Brings Pride To Goa Cricket

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa Cricket Association has congratulated Goan cricketer Purvaja Verlekar for scoring an impressive unbeaten century in the Senior Women's Inter Zonal One Day Trophy. Her standout performance came in a Women's List A match played at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 1. Purvaja produced a superb innings of 103 not out, displaying strong technique, composure

and determination at the crease.

The century marked an important milestone in her career and brought recognition to Goa's growing presence in women's cricket at the national level. Her innings reflected both patience and confidence, as she built the score steadily while maintaining control against the opposition bowling attack.

The knock played a crucial role in the match and highlighted her ability to perform on a larger stage.

## Zidane's All Round Brilliance and Pagi's Century Headline Opening Day of Inter Collegiate Championship

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa University Inter Collegiate Cricket Championship for Men 2025-26 began on March 5 with two exciting matches played at the Goa University Cricket Ground. In the opening match of the tournament, Narayan Zantye College of Commerce secured a



convincing 88 run victory over Goa Dental College and Hospital. After losing the toss and being asked to bat first, Narayan Zantye College posted an

impressive 191 for 9 in 17 overs. Ismail Zidane played a brilliant knock of 88 runs from just 42 balls, providing the backbone of the innings. Vishal

Kavlekar contributed 26 runs from 21 balls. For Goa Dental College, Daksh Mestri was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 4 for 18, while Utkarsh N claimed 3 wickets for 49 runs. In reply, Goa Dental College struggled to build momentum and were bowled out for 103 runs in 13 overs.

## Don Bosco College Secures Third Place at Goa University Women's Handball Championship

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The women's handball team of Don Bosco College, Panjim delivered a commendable performance to finish third at the Goa University Inter Collegiate Women's Handball



Championship held on

March 2 and March

4, 2026 at the Goa University Ground. The tournament featured participation from 20 colleges, creating a highly competitive atmosphere and displaying impressive levels of skill and sportsmanship.

## Don Bosco Engineering Clinches Women's Inter Collegiate Handball Title With Dominant Final Win

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Don Bosco College of Engineering, Fatorda emerged as the champions of the Women's Inter Collegiate Handball

Championship for the academic year 2025 to 2026 after a commanding performance in the final held at the Goa University grounds in Taleigao. The tournament, organised

by the university, took place on March 2 and March 4 and witnessed participation from colleges across the state. In the championship final, the Don Bosco Engineering

team delivered an impressive display of skill and teamwork to defeat Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim with a convincing scoreline of 14 to 4.

