



Colvale Central Jail: Projects on Paper, Questions on the Ground

■ Government records list a series of infrastructure, welfare and rehabilitation projects at Colvale Central Jail. But questions remain over their present operational status, expenditure, utilisation and maintenance.

By Suraj Nandrekar

PANAJI: Government records and successive Economic Survey reports list several development and welfare initiatives at Colvale Central Jail, including a biogas plant, sewage treatment plant, water harvesting system, solar power installations, video conferencing facilities, and rehabilitation-oriented units. However, the present status and actual utilisation of several of these projects raise questions that merit a project-wise public disclosure by the authorities.

The issue is not merely whether a project was announced or sanctioned. The more important question is whether it was completed, commissioned, maintained and is still delivering the intended benefit.

The Economic Survey reports have recorded initiatives related to prisoner rehabilitation, education, skill development and other facilities at the central jail.

HIGHLIGHT BOX

COLVALE CENTRAL JAIL: KEY PROJECTS AND QUESTIONS



Biogas Plant

- Recorded in Economic Survey reports from 2015-16 and 2016
- Intended for cooking using gas generated from waste

Question: Is it operational today and how much gas does it generate?

300 KLD STP

- ₹5 crore provision in 2021-22 budget documents
- ₹1 crore provision mentioned in 2022-23 documents

Question: Was it constructed, commissioned and made operational?

Water Harvesting

- Project and preliminary study recorded in earlier govt. reports

Question: How much water is currently harvested, stored and utilised?

Solar Power

- 100 kW rooftop plant reported in 2018
- 125 kWp grid-connected rooftop solar PV project announced in 2024

Question: What is the present generation, consumption, grid export and actual saving?

Video Conferencing

- 2025 tender records show ₹2.14 crore project cost
- 51 individual cubicles plus larger-capacity facilities
- Government IT agency records project as completed and handed over

Question: What was the final expenditure and current utilisation?

Rehabilitation Units

- Spice grinding machine provided through CSR funding
- Sanitary pad manufacturing machine also recorded

Question: How many prisoners are trained, what is the production and are the units still functioning?

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DISCLOSE

- Sanctioned amount
- Actual expenditure
- Tender
- Work order
- Contractor
- Completion certificate
- Inspection report
- Audit report
- Current operational status
- Reasons for non-functioning or incomplete projects

The 2024-25 Economic Survey, for instance, records that a spice grinding machine was provided through CSR funding and operated by women prisoners. It also refers to a sanitary pad manufacturing machine.

But government documentation of a project does not by itself establish its continuing

success. The present operational status, production, utilisation and maintenance records need to be established.

Biogas plant
One of the older initiatives is the biogas plant. The 2015-16 Economic Survey recorded that a biogas plant had been installed at the jail, with the gas

generated from waste intended for cooking. The 2016 report also referred to a biogas plant in the kitchen block.

The key questions now are whether the plant remains operational, how much biogas it currently generates, who maintains it and how extensively it has been used in recent years.

₹5 crore provision for 300 KLD STP

Another significant project is the proposed 300 KLD sewage treatment plant.

Budget documents provided for the design, construction, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of a 300 KLD STP at the Colvale Central Jail. The 2021-22 explanatory memorandum showed a budget provision of ₹5 crore, while the 2022-23 documents again referred to the 300 KLD STP, with a provision of ₹1 crore.

The crucial question is whether the project was actually constructed and commissioned.

If it was completed, the authorities need to

disclose its location, operational capacity, daily treatment levels and maintenance arrangements. If it was sanctioned but not completed, the reasons for the delay or non-completion also need to be placed in the public domain.

Water harvesting

Water conservation has also featured in government records concerning the jail. Earlier Economic Survey reports referred to the initiation of a water harvesting project, including preliminary inspection and preparation of a draft report.

Subsequent reports included water harvesting and conservation among welfare-related initiatives.

But the present system requires verification. How much water is being harvested? What is its storage capacity? How much is actually being utilised? What was the expenditure on the infrastructure?

These are basic performance indicators for any public project.

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Actor Nana Patekar died of heart attack, autopsy confirms

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PANAJI: Actor Nana Patekar, 75, died due to an acute myocardial infarction following thrombosis of the left main coronary artery secondary to atherosclerotic occlusive coronary artery disease, according to the post-mortem report issued by a panel of doctors at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, on Thursday. The panel, comprising Police Surgeon Dr Pannag S Kumar, Assistant Professor Dr Kedareswar Narvekar and Lecturer Dr Peter Rodrigues, conducted the post-mortem examination and certified the cause of death as natural. According to the police enquiry, Panaji Police Station received information from Manipal Hospital, Dona Paula, at around 5.30 am on October 8 that Patekar had been brought dead to the hospital. An unnatural death (UD) case, numbered 62/2026, was registered under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

Cabinet Approves Phase 2 of Tourism Master Plan, Grants 50% Rent Relief to Shopkeepers

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PANAJI: The Goa Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, has approved Phase 2 of the state's Tourism Master Plan, extending the engagement of KPMG Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd. for the preparation of Goa's Tourism Master Plan and Tourism Policy.

The approval marks a key step in the state's efforts to develop a comprehensive framework for tourism growth and guide future policy decisions and development priorities.

Excise Job Scam: CM Sawant Warns of Strict Action, Says SP Won't Be Spared if Involved

■ Chief Minister says police are probinsible, trace their links and seize their property; urges people not to fall for fake job offers

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PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has warned of strict action against anyone found involved in the alleged Goa excise job scam, making it clear that even a Superintendent of Police (SP) will face action if found complicit in the case. "Our police team is investigating the matter in detail. We will put the person behind bars, trace his links and seize



all his property. If the SP is involved, strict action will be taken against him," Sawant said. The Chief Minister said the police were conducting a detailed investigation to establish the facts, identify those behind the alleged scam and trace their connections.

Cash-for-jobs scam: Girish demands probe into alleged BJP links, seeks Sawant's removal

■ Goa Congress president questions alleged political connections, fake Excise Commissioner appointment order and calls for a comprehensive investigation

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PANAJI :Goa Pradesh Congress Committee president Girish Chodankar demanded a comprehensive and impartial investigation into the alleged cash-for-jobs scam, questioning the reported links of individuals associated with the BJP and calling for the immediate removal of Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant.

Chodankar raised questions over the



reported involvement of Pooja Naik, Deepashri Gawas, Shridhar Kerkar Satarkar of Priol and Ajit Shankwalkar of Panaji, who is reportedly an active BJP karyakarta. He questioned whether the alleged political connections indicated a wider network operating behind the scam.

"Why do BJP links keep surfacing with every new arrest? Is this merely a coincidence, or does it point towards a larger network that the investigating agencies must uncover?" Chodankar asked.

He said the people of Goa deserved to know whether the alleged scam was confined to individual acts or involved a wider network of intermediaries and politically connected persons.

Kejriwal's Freebie Politics: Will Goans Buy the Promise?

Arvind Kejriwal is back in Goa with a familiar political formula. Promise free electricity, financial assistance for women, free bus travel, health insurance and better facilities, and asks voters to trust the Aam Aadmi Party with their future. With the 2027 Assembly elections approaching, the AAP national convenor has unveiled six guarantees, including 300 units of free electricity, Rs 3,000 monthly assistance for every woman, Rs 10 lakh health insurance for every family and free bus travel for women. He has also promised round-the-clock electricity, a sports ground in every village and the scrapping of Section 39A of the Town and Country Planning Act.

On paper, these promises sound attractive. Who would refuse cheaper electricity, financial security, better healthcare and affordable transport? But elections are not won merely by announcing benefits. The real question is whether these guarantees are financially sustainable, practically deliverable and backed by a credible plan. Goans must ask whether Kejriwal is offering a genuine development agenda or simply repackaging election carrots.

Delhi should have taught voters an important lesson. The AAP built its political identity around subsidised electricity, water, education and healthcare. These initiatives helped it establish a strong support base, particularly among lower-income households. Yet, after governing Delhi for a decade, the party suffered a major electoral defeat in February 2025, winning just 22 of the 70 Assembly seats while the

"Delhi should have taught voters an important lesson. The AAP built its political identity around subsidised electricity, water, education and healthcare. These initiatives helped it establish a strong support base, particularly among lower-income households. Yet, after governing Delhi for a decade, the party suffered a major electoral defeat in February 2025, winning just 22 of the 70 Assembly seats while the BJP secured 48.

That defeat does not mean every welfare scheme was a failure. Nor does it prove that free electricity or public services are inherently wrong. It does, however, expose the limits of assuming that subsidies alone can guarantee political success. Voters also judge governments on governance, accountability, infrastructure, corruption allegations and their ability to deliver beyond campaign promises.

Kejriwal now wants Goans to believe that the same formula can transform Goa. But Goa is not Delhi. It has its own economic structure, geographical challenges, employment concerns and environmental pressures. Its tourism industry, mining sector, traditional occupations and local businesses need policies designed for the state, not a campaign template imported from another region."

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The most striking promise is Rs 3,000 every month for every woman. That amounts to Rs 36,000 annually for each beneficiary. Even before considering the cost of free electricity, bus travel and health insurance, the government would need to identify a reliable source of funding. How many women would qualify? What would be the total annual expenditure? Would the scheme be universal or subject to conditions? Most importantly, what existing expenditure would be reduced, if any, to pay for it?

These are not hostile questions. They are basic questions of public finance. Kejriwal has reportedly argued that Goa has a cash-rich government and that the issue is political will rather than money. But a government's finances cannot be assessed through slogans. Public money is already committed to salaries, pensions, healthcare, education, infrastructure and debt obligations. Every new recurring scheme must be assessed against these responsibilities.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Drug-Free Goa: Why Are Drugs Still Easily Available? By Suraj Nandrekar

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant is right to warn youngsters about the dangers of drug abuse. His advice to avoid bad company, resist peer pressure and refuse drugs offered by friends is sensible. Addiction can destroy careers, damage families and push young people into desperate situations. But while the Chief Minister tells youngsters to stay away from drugs, a more uncomfortable question demands an answer from his government: If drugs are such a serious threat, why do they continue to be available in Goa?

Awareness is important, but awareness alone cannot solve a problem that requires effective policing, intelligence gathering, investigation and accountability. Telling youngsters not to accept drugs from friends addresses only one part of the problem. It does not explain how those friends obtain the drugs in the first place, who supplies them, how the distribution networks operate and why the trade continues despite repeated claims of action.

Goa has long struggled with the problem of narcotics, with concerns frequently raised about drug availability in tourist areas, nightlife establishments and among sections of the younger population. Every time the issue surfaces, the familiar response follows. Political leaders appeal to parents, teachers and youngsters to remain vigilant. Awareness campaigns are announced, and the government reiterates its commitment to making Goa drug-free.

But where is the corresponding evidence of a sustained crackdown on the supply chain?

Youngsters do not manufacture drugs in their bedrooms. Substances offered to them for free must come from somewhere. Someone procures them, someone transports them, someone distributes them, and someone makes money from the trade. If the government wants to stop addiction at its source, it must identify and dismantle these networks rather than placing the burden primarily on young people to protect themselves.

The Chief Minister's warning about friends offering drugs for free deserves particular attention. Such offers can be a way of introducing first-time users to substances, with the possibility of creating future customers. But this raises an obvious question. Where is the enforcement machinery that should be identifying those who target vulnerable youngsters? Are investigations reaching the people who finance and organise the trade, or are authorities concentrating mainly on the easiest cases to detect?

The government must answer these questions with facts, not slogans.

How many narcotics cases have been registered in recent years? How many arrests have resulted in convictions? How many major suppliers and alleged traffickers have been prosecuted? What action has been taken against repeat offenders? And what steps are being taken to prevent drugs from reaching educational institutions and places frequented by young people?

Arrests and seizures are important, but they are not sufficient measures of success. The public needs to know whether enforcement is disrupting supply networks and reducing the availability of drugs. Without transparent data, claims of progress remain difficult to assess.

There must also be a distinction between those who profit from trafficking and those who suffer from addiction. Young people struggling with substance dependence need accessible treatment, counselling, rehabilitation and family support. Addiction should not be addressed solely through punishment. At the same time, those who exploit vulnerable youngsters for profit must face effective legal action.

Parents, schools, colleges and community organisations have an important role in prevention. However, they cannot replace the responsibility of the police and the government. No awareness campaign can succeed if drugs remain readily accessible in the environment where young people live, study and socialise.

Sawant has repeatedly spoken about the goal of a drug-free Goa and India. That is a worthy objective, but achieving it requires more than appeals from public platforms. It requires professional investigation, intelligence-led policing, accountability for failures and a coordinated approach involving law enforcement, health services and educational institutions.

The Chief Minister is right to tell youngsters to be careful about their company. But the government must also demonstrate that it is keeping a close watch on those supplying the drugs.

Youngsters must learn to say no to drugs. The government must explain why drugs are reaching them in the first place. Until that question receives a convincing answer, the promise of a drug-free Goa will remain just that: a promise.

NGT Halts Implementation of Mormugao Port Deepening Clearances Until November 2

■ Tribunal seeks clarification on environmental studies, dredging risks and questionable approval conditions before allowing the project clearances to take effect

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PUNE: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has temporarily barred the implementation of environmental and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearances issued for the Mormugao Port Trust's channel-deepening project, directing that the approvals remain non-operational until November 2, when the



matter will be heard again.

The direction was issued by the tribunal's Western Zone Bench in Pune on September 26, while hearing an interim application filed by

Rupesh Shinkre and another appellant challenging the clearances granted on July 21, 2025. The bench comprised

Judicial Member Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh and Expert Member Dr. Sujit Kumar Bajpayee.

The challenge raises questions about the adequacy of

pollution assessments, the environmental consequences of large-scale dredging and the inclusion of conditions in the clearances that may not relate to the project.

A key issue before the tribunal is whether the environmental assessment adequately considered pollution from the handling of coal, coke and other metallurgical ores at the port.

Vijai Sardesai Says 'Country Is at War With Its Own Citizens' Over SIR, Joins Protest at Azad Maidan

■ GFP MLA alleges BJP leader K. Annamalai asked party MLAs about minority voter deletions; Sardesai, Amit Palekar and Valmiki Naik join protest demanding CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation

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PANAJI: Goa Forward Party (GFP) MLA Vijai Sardesai has strongly criticised the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the exercise has raised serious concerns over the deletion of voters, particularly those belonging to minority communities.

"Country is at war with its own citizens over SIR," Sardesai said, expressing opposition to the electoral roll revision exercise.

Sardesai also alleged that BJP leader K. Annamalai, who was in charge of the SIR exercise in Goa, used to ask BJP

MLAs how many minority voters had been deleted from the electoral rolls. The allegation raises questions about the conduct and intent of the revision exercise.

Sardesai, along with Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Amit Palekar and Valmiki Naik, joined protesters at Azad Maidan in Panaji opposing the SIR exercise. The demonstrators demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Police arrived at Azad Maidan as the protest continued, with personnel moving to detain demonstrators opposing the electoral roll revision.



Dead dolphin calf washes ashore at Agonda beach

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CANACONA: A dead dolphin calf washed ashore at Agonda beach on Friday afternoon, drawing the attention of locals and visitors.

The carcass was found behind the village church and was first noticed by several people, including Lamani hawkers who frequent the beach for their trade.

The dolphin, believed to be a calf, was reportedly found in an advanced stage of decomposition. Dolphins are a popular attraction among tourists visiting the coastal belt, with boat rides organised during the tourist season to offer visitors a glimpse of the marine mammals as they leap out of and dive back into the sea.

Following the discovery, life-saver personnel reached the spot in a patrol jeep. According to sources, they retrieved the carcass with the assistance of beach-cleaning staff and buried it in a pit dug in the upper stretch of the beach sands.

Adv Carlos Ferreira Slams BJP Govt Over Continuing Cash-for-Jobs Scams

■ Congress MLA questions alleged Rs 27-lakh payment for Excise Commissioner's post and demands action against influential people linked to recruitment fraud

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Congress MLA Adv Carlos Ferreira accused the BJP-led government of presiding over a series of scams and questioned why alleged cash-for-jobs frauds continued to surface in Goa, citing a case in which a man reportedly obtained a fake appointment letter for the post of Excise Commissioner. Ferreira said the latest



allegations had raised serious questions about the functioning of the government and the progress of investigations into recruitment-related frauds. He alleged that people were being lured with promises of government employment in exchange for large sums of money. "The only

thing we hear are newer and newer levels of scams being propagated during the rule of the present BJP government," Ferreira said, questioning why the cash-for-jobs controversy had continued for months.

Referring to the case, Ferreira alleged that a man had paid Rs 27 lakh to an individual identified as Sankhwalker, who allegedly provided him with an appointment letter for the post of Excise Commissioner.

Manoj Parab Raises Concerns Over 'Kannada Is More' Slogan and Vote-Bank Politics in Goa

■ Former RGP member alleges political silence over community rights, illegal settlements and possible future demands for reservation and greater representation for Kannadigas in Goa

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PANAJI: Former Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) member Manoj Parab has criticised Goa's political establishment over what he describes as its silence on the #KannadalsMore slogan, alleging that vote-bank politics is preventing



leaders from openly addressing concerns related to illegal settlements, regularisation and community rights. In a strongly worded statement, Parab alleged that political parties were balancing promises to

different sections of voters to protect their electoral interests. He claimed that while some residents were being approached with assurances regarding the regularisation of settlements, other voters were being offered promises concerning government jobs, land protection and religion. Parab said the RGP had

previously questioned illegal settlements and alleged vote-bank politics without prioritising electoral considerations. He expressed concern that many Goans remained focused on development promises and religious identity while overlooking issues relating to Goa's linguistic and cultural identity.

Shubham Komarpant issues ultimatum over non-repair of CHC Canacona lift

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CANACONA: Social worker and youth leader Shubham Komarpant is all set to launch an indefinite agitation demanding the immediate repair of the non-functional lift at the Community Health Centre (CHC), Canacona, which has been causing hardship to more than 120 dialysis patients and their families. Komarpant, in an intimation submitted to the Deputy Collector, Canacona, on Friday, stated that the lift used by dialysis patients.

Goa Job Scam: Retired Serviceman, Children Allegedly Cheated of ₹52 Lakh

■ Panaji police probe alleged government job fraud involving forged Excise Department and Chief Minister's Office appointment orders

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PANAJI: A retired serviceman and his two children were allegedly cheated of a total of ₹52 lakh by a man who promised them government jobs using forged appointment orders purportedly issued by Goa government authorities.

Panaji Police registered a second offence on October 8, 2026, at 11.41 pm following a complaint by Anil Talekar, 63, a retired



serviceman residing at the police quarters in Porvorim. The accused, Ajit Shankwalkar, a resident of Taleigao, allegedly operates a

shop behind the Old Secretariat in Panaji.

According to the complaint, the accused allegedly induced Talekar and his children, Manoj Talekar and Manisha Talekar, by promising them government employment. To support the claims, he allegedly prepared

and handed over forged government appointment orders purportedly issued by senior Goa government authorities.

One forged order, bearing No. 1712/26/ADM dated September 24, 2026, purported to be issued under the authority of the Commissioner of Excise, Additional Commissioner of Excise-I and Director of Administration in the name of Ashvin Chandru A, Commissioner of Excise, Government of Goa.



Canacona Man Loses ₹1 Lakh in Alleged Job Visa Scam

■ Unknown accused allegedly dupes job seeker with fake Cruz Vacancies offer and disappears after receiving UPI payment

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A man from Canacona has allegedly been cheated of ₹1,00,230 by an unknown person who promised him a job through Cruz Vacancies and collected money under the pretext of processing and visa charges.

According to the complaint filed by Niraj Painginkar, the incident occurred between January 29 and January 30, 2026, while he was near Loyola School in Margao.

The complainant alleged that an unknown person falsely represented that he had been selected for a job

through Cruz Vacancies and asked him to pay money towards processing and visa expenses.

Believing the offer to be genuine, Painginkar allegedly transferred ₹1,00,230 through UPI. However, after receiving the payment, the accused allegedly refused to refund the amount and stopped responding to the complainant.

The alleged fraud resulted in financial loss to the complainant, who was deceived by the promise of employment.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Swadesh Dessai of Margao Town Police Station.



Parra Resident Cheated of ₹2.83 Lakh in Cyber Fraud

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PARRA: A 59-year-old resident of Parra in Bardez has allegedly been cheated of ₹2,83,956 in a cyber fraud involving unauthorised transactions from his bank account.

According to the complaint filed by Joao Fernandes, a resident of Fondaçwado, Parra, an unknown accused allegedly contacted him on October 4, 2026, at around 7.26 am and, through deception and intimidation, induced circumstances that led to unauthorised financial transactions.

The accused allegedly withdrew or transferred a total of ₹2,83,956 from the complainant's bank account, causing him financial loss.

An offence was registered on October 8, 2026, at 7.02 pm following receipt of Cyber Crime Police Station FIR No. 0-353/2026, dated October 6, 2026, under Section 318 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. The identity of the accused is not yet known. Further investigation is in progress under PSI Amey Naik.

Thieves Break Into Raia House, Make Off With ₹2.5 Lakh Cash and Imported Items

■ Unknown accused allegedly force open gates and kitchen window of a residence in Salcete; Maina Curtorim Police investigate

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RAIA: An unknown accused allegedly broke into a house at Raia in Salcete and decamped with ₹2.5 lakh in cash and other imported possessions.

According to the complaint filed by Arusha Pearl, a resident of Navelim, Margao, the theft occurred between 6 pm on October 6 and 11 am on October 8, 2026.

The complainant stated that the unknown accused allegedly gained entry by



forcing open the main and rear gates before breaking open a kitchen window to enter the premises.

The accused allegedly stole cash amounting to ₹2.5 lakh along with other

imported items before fleeing the scene.

Further investigation is being conducted by LPSI Veronica Coutinho of Maina Curtorim Police Station.

Mumbai Man Allegedly Duped Through Dating App, Extorted of ₹95,000 and Gold Valuables in Goa

■ Anjuna Police register case against two named women and five unidentified accused over alleged honey-trap, assault and blackmail at Baga villa

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ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered a case against two named women and five unidentified persons for allegedly luring a 61-year-old Mumbai resident to Goa through a dating app, assaulting him and extorting cash and valuables worth lakhs of rupees.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred around 12.30



am on December 10, 2025, at Villa Vitamin-C in Baga, Arpora, Bardez. The complainant, a resident of Vile Parle (East), Mumbai, alleged that accused Chaitali Laxman Kshirsagar came in contact with him through

the Tinder dating app and subsequently induced him to visit Goa by booking a villa at the said location.

The complainant alleged that while they were staying at the villa, Kshirsagar called another named accused, Kavya Sharma, along with an unidentified woman. They allegedly attempted to undress themselves

and the complainant, following which two unidentified men and another woman entered the villa.

The group allegedly threatened to implicate the complainant in a POCSO case, assaulted him and forced him into obscene acts. They also allegedly took obscene photographs and videos of him and threatened to circulate the material to extort money and valuables.

Old Goa Police Crack Key Link in Sawantwadi Murder Case, Help Trace Two Accused

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OLD GOA: Old Goa Police played a crucial role in cracking a key link in a murder case registered in Sawantwadi, helping identify the victim and trace two accused in a joint operation with Sawantwadi Police.

The deceased was identified as Azim Khan, a native of Uttar Pradesh who worked at a shawarma and shakes café near the dargah in Old Goa.

Goa to deactivate ration cards after six months without ration collection

■ Beneficiaries must complete e-KYC and verification within three months to retain their cards

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Ration cardholders in Goa who do not collect their monthly foodgrain quota for six consecutive months will face temporary suspension of benefits under a new measure introduced by the Civil Supplies Department.

The policy, implemented from October 1 under the SMART Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS), follows the Targeted



Public Distribution System (Control) Amendment Order, 2025, and directions issued by the Centre. As per the department's notification, officials will identify ration cards without a recorded

ration collection transaction for six consecutive months on the 21st of each month. The cards flagged during this exercise will be deactivated from the first day of the subsequent month. Although such cards will continue to appear in the system, their holders will not be able to collect ration during

the suspension period. The department will also stop allocating foodgrains against these cards until the required procedures are completed.

Families affected by the action will have three months from the date of deactivation to complete e-KYC for every household member and undergo the prescribed verification. Those who fail to meet the requirements within this period risk having their ration cards deleted from the system.



Congress Mounts Attack on BJP at Vasco Rally, Promises Coal-Free Mormugao by 2027

■ Goy Rakhonn Yatra draws strong participation as Congress targets BJP over coal pollution, rising debt, Dabolim Airport concerns and alleged voter deletions

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: The Congress-led 'Goy Rakhonn Yatra' drew strong public participation in Vasco on Friday, with opposition leaders launching a multi-pronged attack on the ruling BJP ahead of the 2027 Goa Assembly elections. Reaffirming the party's commitment to safeguarding Goa's identity and environment, Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Girish Chodankar pledged to make Mormugao taluka free from chronic coal pollution if Congress comes to power. Addressing the gathering, Chodankar urged voters to defeat

the BJP in the 2027 Assembly elections, citing Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar as an example of standing firm against political pressure. He also levelled allegations against Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in connection with the cash-for-jobs controversy and alleged that police had destroyed crucial evidence.

Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao targeted local BJP MLAs Sankalp Amonkar and Daji Salkar, along with Minister Mauvin Godinho, accusing them of pursuing divisive politics and failing to address civic issues, including garbage management.



Former MMC Chiefs Back Congress Yatra, Urge Voters to 'Send BJP Home'

Team Goemkarponn

CHICALIM: In a notable political development in Mormugao, former Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) chairperson Leo Rodrigues and former vice-chairperson Ramchandra Kamat, both longtime BJP supporters and associates of former minister Milind Naik, publicly extended their support to the Congress-led 'Goy Rakhonn Yatra' at Chicalim on Friday evening.

The two former municipal leaders attended the rally and voiced their dissatisfaction with the BJP government in Goa, urging voters to bring about a change in government in the 2027 Assembly elections.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the yatra, Rodrigues, who said he had supported the BJP for two decades, expressed disappointment over the party's governance in the state. He said the Goy Rakhonn Yatra had struck a chord with the public by raising concerns over the alleged exploitation of Goa and the need to protect its identity.

Teachers, Parents Attend Curtain Raiser of 4th Bulbul Children's International Film Festival

■ Five-day festival to be held at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, from October 12 to 16

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The curtain raiser programme for the 4th edition of the Bulbul Children's International Film Festival (BCIFF), organised by the Department of Information and Publicity, Government of Goa, received an overwhelming response from school teachers, parents and members of the public at the Conference Hall of



Ravindra Bhavan, Margao. The programme was attended by Minister for Public Works Department Digambar Kamat, prominent film producer and actor Damodar (Damu) G. Naik, and Director of Information and Publicity Abhir Hede. Kamat's

continued support for the festival reflects a commitment to creating opportunities for children to dream, discover and grow, irrespective of their backgrounds. Along with the support of Damu Naik, this initiative aims to bring Goan families and communities together through a celebration of children's happiness, imagination.

Godinho chairs meeting on Vasco-Bogmallo bus service

■ Additional Kadamba buses planned to improve connectivity and address commuters' concerns

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Transport Minister and Dabolim MLA Mauvin Godinho chaired a joint meeting at the Village Panchayat Chicolna-Bogmallo to review issues faced by commuters travelling on the Vasco-Bogmallo bus route and discuss measures to improve public transport services.

The meeting was attended by the



Sarpanch and Panch members of Village Panchayat Chicolna-Bogmallo, the Managing Director and officials

of Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL), Regional Transport Office (RTO) officials, Traffic Police

personnel, including the Police Inspector, private bus operators and affected commuters.

Godinho heard concerns raised by residents regarding the availability and regular operation of buses, service frequency and the difficulties faced by passengers travelling between Vasco and Bogmallo. Following the discussions, the Minister directed the concerned authorities to take

immediate steps to improve the service. It was informed that the second Kadamba bus, which had not been operating on the route recently, would resume service from Friday.

He also directed officials to make arrangements for introducing a third KTCL bus on the route at the earliest to improve connectivity and reduce the inconvenience faced by commuters.

Kotak Securities rebrands its retail business as Kotak Neo; Unifies Investing, Trading and Wealth Solutions

■ Integrates its digital and relationship-based offerings to serve the evolving needs of aspiring Indians

Team Goemkarponn

GOA: Kotak Securities Limited today announced rebranding of its customer-facing identity as Kotak Neo creating a unified and future-ready investment ecosystem. Kotak Neo is a reflection of a fundamental shift in how customers engage with financial markets today, seeking greater choice, seamless digital experiences and access to expertise, all in one place.

The transition follows a multi-year transformation of Kotak Securities, marked by significant investments in new technology stack, product innovation, research and customer experience to address the evolving needs of India's investors and traders. The move brings the business under a single customer-facing identity, combining digital capabilities with research expertise and relationship-led engagement.

Speaking on the launch, Shripal Shah, Managing Director & CEO, Kotak Neo, said "Investors' needs have continued to evolve. Today, they are not thinking only in terms of individual products like stocks, mutual funds or derivatives. They are looking at the bigger picture of how to build wealth, diversify their portfolios and participate in different opportunities across the economy. But meeting all these needs often means dealing with multiple platforms,



providers and advisors. With Kotak Neo, our aim is to bring more of that journey together within a single ecosystem."

A key differentiator for Kotak Neo is its ability to combine digital convenience with human expertise.

Its digital-first platform sits alongside Kotak's nationwide branch and partner network, research capabilities and relationship managers, giving customers the flexibility to engage through technology or human expertise depending on their needs.

As part of this evolution, Kotak Neo is broadening its wealth management proposition through Kotak Neo Private Client Group and Connect Plus by Kotak Neo, catering to investors and

distributors, respectively. Kotak Neo Private Client Group combines open-architecture solutions, complemented by the Group's product manufacturing strengths and institution-grade research capabilities to help individuals and families build, manage, and preserve wealth across life stages.

Connect Plus by Kotak Neo empowers distributors with a comprehensive suite of wealth management products including mutual funds, equity broking, insurance, PMS, AIF offerings, alongside a range of other wealth management solutions.

Rooted in a culture of innovation across design, technology and product development, the company also offers

advanced capabilities such as algorithmic trading, strategy tools, theme-based stock baskets, MF portfolio analyser and Neome, an AI powered assistant to access and explore Kotak's research insights. Through its integration with the broader Kotak ecosystem, customers can now also access a wider spectrum of banking, investing and wealth-management solutions through a connected financial experience.

The Kotak Neo brand represents the customer-facing retail business of Kotak Securities Limited. Kotak Securities Limited will continue to be the legal entity, with no change to existing customer accounts, products, services or governance framework.

Ai+ Smartphone Drops Big Billion Days Pricing Across the Nova and Pulse Series

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Ai+ Smartphone today announced festive pricing for the Nova and Pulse series on Flipkart's Big Billion Days 2026. Starting at ₹8,999*, the lineup brings clean design, lasting power, and everyday performance — built in India, powered by NxtQuantum OS.

Nova and Pulse are designed for how people actually use their phones: long days, clear cameras, smooth displays, and prices that stay within reach. From Pulse 2 to Nova 2 Ultra, and NovaFlip for those who want something new, every model is a reason to upgrade — not a compromise.

The Nova and Pulse series: Pulse 2 — ₹8,999 · 6000mAh · 50MP AI camera, Pulse 2 FE — ₹8,999* · MediaTek G81 · 50MP, Nova 2 5G — ₹11,999 · 6000mAh · 50MP AI · dual 5G, Nova 2 Neo 5G — ₹12,999 · Dimensity 6300 · Sony IMX582, Nova 2 Power 5G — ₹15,999* / ₹16,999* · 7000mAh · dual-colour design, Nova 2 Pro 5G — ₹16,999* / ₹17,999* · Dimensity 7100, Nova 2 Ultra 5G — ₹18,999* · 1.5K AMOLED · IP68 · Dimensity 7400, NovaFlip 5G — ₹49,999 · foldable · dual AMOLED · 50MP

*Including bank offers. Offers valid while stocks last. Available for a limited period on Flipkart during Big Billion Days 2026.

Ai+ NOVA SMARTPHONE | **BIG BILLION DAYS**

SALE IS LIVE

Model	Price
Pulse 2	₹8,999
Pulse 2 FE	₹8,999*
Nova 2	₹11,999
Nova 2 Neo	₹12,999
Nova 2 Power	₹15,999*
Nova 2 Pro	₹16,999*
Nova 2 Ultra	₹18,999*
Nova Flip	₹49,999

Available on **Flipkart**

*Including bank offers

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Colvale Central Jail: Projects on Paper, Questions on the Ground

Solar power

Solar power is another area where the records show both earlier and newer initiatives.

In 2018, reports indicated that a 100 kW rooftop solar plant had been installed at the jail and was being prepared for grid

connectivity. In 2024, the government announced a new 125 kWp grid-connected rooftop solar PV plant along with solar street lighting.

The status of both installations needs to be clarified. The authorities should disclose installed capacity, actual generation, internal consumption, power exported to the grid and the savings achieved.

Video conferencing facility

The video conferencing project raises

a separate set of questions concerning expenditure and utilisation.

While some claims have put the project cost at around ₹4 crore, the available 2025 tender records show a quoted project cost of ₹2.14 crore for video conferencing cubicles on the first and second floors of the Chakkar Block. The tender included interior work, furniture, electrical works and a DG set.

According to information from the Goa

government's Info Tech Corporation, the project has been completed, commissioned and handed over for use. It includes 51 individual video conferencing cubicles along with other larger-capacity cubicles.

Therefore, the issue here is not whether the project exists. The questions are about the final expenditure, payments made after the tender, technical and construction approvals and, importantly, how extensively the facility is currently being used.

CJP Founder Abhijeet Dipke Detained From Flight Ahead of Delhi Protest

■ Delhi Police detain Abhijeet Dipke and two CJP members at the airport as security restrictions intensify ahead of the planned Jantar Mantar demonstration

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke was detained by Delhi Police after arriving in the national capital on Saturday morning, hours before the party's planned protest at Jantar Mantar against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Police personnel entered the Air India flight carrying Dipke and detained him along with fellow CJP



members Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka. The incident unfolded inside the aircraft, where Dipke livestreamed the proceedings on Instagram. The video showed a heated exchange between the CJP members and police personnel. Questioning

why officers had entered the aircraft before passengers could disembark, Dipke challenged the personnel to arrest them, declaring that they were not afraid.

The three leaders were subsequently taken from the airport to an undisclosed location.

Dipke had travelled from Mumbai to Delhi to lead the demonstration demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner

Gyanesh Kumar over alleged electoral irregularities and concerns surrounding the SIR exercise. CJP Condemns Detention of Its Leaders The CJP condemned the detentions, alleging that the police action was intended to prevent its leadership from reaching the protest venue. The party described the incident as an infringement of freedom of movement and demanded the immediate release of Dipke, Das and Ranka.



"We Presented Our Memorandum": Rahul Gandhi Meets President Murmu as BJP Accuses Congress of 'Malicious Politics'

■ INDIA bloc seeks CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over alleged electoral irregularities as Delhi tightens security ahead of October 10 Jantar Mantar protest

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the INDIA bloc had submitted a memorandum to President Droupadi Murmu, raising concerns over alleged irregularities in electoral rolls and the voting process.

The meeting has triggered a political confrontation, with the BJP accusing the Opposition of using the issue to advance its political agenda. The delegation included

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah and other leaders of the Opposition alliance. The memorandum reportedly sought the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over allegations linked to electoral processes and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

After the meeting, Rahul Gandhi said the President had asked the delegation to provide



Dhruv Rathee Detained From Gurugram Home Ahead of CJP Protest

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: YouTuber Dhruv Rathee was reportedly detained by Delhi Police at his Gurugram residence in Sector 56 on Saturday morning ahead of the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) planned protest at Jantar Mantar.

Rathee had urged people to join the October 10 demonstration demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over alleged electoral irregularities and concerns surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. According to reports, around 50 police personnel gathered outside his residence late Friday night. Officers reportedly entered the house at 7:48 am after his mother opened the door and took him into custody.

Rathee Criticises Security Restrictions

On Friday, Rathee criticised extensive security measures in Delhi, including reported Metro station closures, train cancellations and internet restrictions.

"Stop Peddling Lies and Falsehoods": India Slams Pakistan at UN Over Jammu and Kashmir

■ India reaffirms Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of the country, accusing Islamabad of misusing the United Nations platform

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has strongly criticised Pakistan at the United Nations, accusing Islamabad of spreading false claims about Jammu and Kashmir and misusing the international forum to advance its political agenda. New Delhi reiterated that the Union Territory remains an integral and inalienable part of India. The



response was delivered by Member of Parliament Mahima Kumari during a Right of Reply at the United Nations General Assembly's Fourth Committee, which deals with special political and decolonisation issues. Her statement came after Pakistan's representative

raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir during a discussion on decolonisation. India expressed concern over what it described as Pakistan's continued attempts to use the UN platform to spread misinformation about the region. New Delhi maintained that such statements misrepresent the situation and reiterated its longstanding position on Jammu and Kashmir.

Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal and Pinarayi Vijayan Detained During Delhi Protest

■ Opposition leaders taken into custody near Jantar Mantar amid demonstrations demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Several prominent Opposition leaders, including Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal and former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, were detained in Delhi on Saturday as they attempted to join protests against the Election Commission. Banerjee was detained along with



five Trinamool Congress MPs, including Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen, after police stopped them from proceeding towards the protest site near Jantar Mantar. She subsequently staged a demonstration

at a bus stop in the South Avenue area, sitting with a bandage over her mouth as a mark of protest. Speaking from inside a police bus, Banerjee accused the authorities of mistreating Opposition leaders and declared that the INDIA bloc would continue its fight to strengthen the voice of the people. Kejriwal was also detained after

attempting to leave his residence to join the demonstration. Delhi Police personnel had been deployed around his home earlier in the day amid heightened security arrangements in the capital. Former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Communist Party of India (Marxist) MP John Brittas were among those taken into custody and transported to a detention facility at Chhatrasal Stadium.

BJP Sweeps Assam and Bengal Bypolls, Vijay's TVK Scores Wins in Tamil Nadu

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The 2026 by-election results have delivered significant political victories across Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, highlighting shifting electoral dynamics and providing a fresh test for the parties that formed governments following the recent Assembly elections.

In West Bengal, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) registered decisive victories in Nandigram and Rejinagar.

Abhinav Tejrana Named Captain as Goa Announce 16 Member Ranji Trophy Squad

■ Dinesh Mongia to lead the coaching staff as Goa prepare for the upcoming domestic cricket season

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Cricket Association has announced its 16 member squad for the upcoming Ranji Trophy campaign, appointing Abhinav Tejrana as captain as the team prepares to represent the state in India's premier domestic first class cricket tournament.

Tejrana will lead a



squad featuring a mix of established players and emerging talent. The team includes Suyash Prabhudesai, Manthan

Khutkar, Lalit Yadav, Snehal Kauthankar, Shivendra Bhujbal, Koushik V, Shubham Tari, Ruthvik Naik, Darshan

Misal, Yash Kasvankar, Amulya Pandrekar, Deepraj Gaonkar, Rajshekhar Harikant, Mohit Redkar and Felex Alemao. The squad will be guided by former India cricketer Dinesh Mongia, who has been appointed head coach. Krishna Rao will serve as bowling coach, while Prakash Mayenkar will oversee senior men's coaching and cricket operations.



Sanju Samson Answers Critics With Ranchi Fifty: "I Am Taking the Blame on Myself"

■ India wicketkeeper opens up about his lean patch, selection pressure and responsibility after scoring a half century against West Indies

Team Goemkarponn

RANCHI: Indian wicketkeeper batter Sanju Samson has addressed the criticism surrounding his recent performances, emphasising personal responsibility and the unpredictable nature of T20 cricket after producing a fighting half century in the T20I against the West Indies in Ranchi. Samson, who was named Player of the Tournament at the T20 World Cup, had endured four consecutive low scores across recent appearances, including the one off T20I against Japan, the Asian Games

and the opening match of the series against the West Indies. His lack of runs had raised questions about his place in the playing eleven, particularly with young batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi waiting for an opportunity. Reflecting on his return to form, Samson explained that professional cricketers must continue preparing, training and practising regardless of their recent results. He stressed that players can control their preparation and effort, but cannot always determine the outcome in a format as unpredictable as T20 cricket.

Baroda Crush Goa by Nine Wickets in Women's Under-19 Trophy Elite

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Baroda Under-19 women secured a commanding nine wicket victory over Goa in the Women's Under-19 Trophy Elite cricket tournament at the Alur Cricket Stadium in Bengaluru, producing a clinical bowling performance before completing a rapid run chase.

After winning the toss and electing to bowl, Baroda kept Goa's batting lineup under pressure throughout the innings, restricting them to 81 for six in their allotted 20 overs. Usma Khan was Goa's leading scorer with 34 runs, providing the main resistance against Baroda's disciplined bowling attack. Joya Meer contributed 22 runs, while Muskan Sab added 10. However, Goa struggled to build substantial partnerships and failed to post a challenging total. Vidhi Parmar led Baroda's bowling effort, claiming three wickets for 14 runs. Akshara Tiwari also made an important contribution, taking two wickets for 14 runs to prevent Goa from accelerating during the closing overs. Chasing a target of 82, Baroda made their intentions clear from the outset, attacking the Goa bowlers and racing towards victory in just 5.4 overs.

"Only Openers Are Permanent": Gautam Gambhir Defends India's Flexible Batting Order After Dube's Failure

■ India head coach backs Shivam Dube's promotion to No. 4 despite a seven run outing as West Indies complete record chase in Ranchi

Team Goemkarponn

RANCHI: India head coach Gautam Gambhir has defended the decision to promote Shivam Dube to No. 4 in the second T20I against the West Indies, insisting that flexibility in the batting order remains a key part of the team's strategy in the shortest format. Dube was sent in ahead of captain Shreyas Iyer, who had scored a century in the opening match of



the series. However, the move failed to deliver the desired result, with Dube managing just seven runs off 10 deliveries as India lost momentum during the middle overs. India eventually posted an imposing 249 for five, but

the West Indies chased down the target in 18.3 overs, winning by six wickets and levelling the five match series 1-1. The defeat brought renewed attention to the decision to change the batting order. Speaking after the match at the JSCA Stadium, Gambhir explained that Dube had been used in a similar role on several occasions, including during the T20 World Cup and in matches before the tournament.

SAG Lift Inaugural Inter-Government Football Tournament Title After Penalty Shootout Thriller

■ Sports Authority of Goa defeat GIDC 5-4 on penalties after an exciting 1-1 draw in the final at Atal Stadium, Cujira

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Sports Authority of Goa (SAG) emerged champions of the inaugural Inter-Government Autonomous Bodies Football Tournament after defeating the Goa Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) 5-4 in a penalty shootout at Atal Stadium, Cujira, Santa Cruz, on October 9, 2026.

Organised by SAG



on October 8 and 9, the two-day tournament concluded with an exciting final played under floodlights. Both teams displayed determination and attacking intent, but neither could secure

victory during regulation time, forcing the contest into a penalty shootout.

The final ended in a 1-1 draw, with Dr. Ajay Gaude scoring a superb header for SAG, while John Paul D'Silva

found the net for GIDC. With the teams unable to break the deadlock, the championship was decided from the penalty spot.

SAG held their nerve in the decisive moments, converting their opportunities to secure a 5-4 shootout victory and lift the inaugural trophy. The triumph marked a memorable achievement for the SAG team in the first edition of the competition. Individual

Awards Recognise Top Performers The tournament also recognised outstanding individual performances across both teams. John Paul of GIDC was named Best Striker, while SAG's Ramesh Priolkar received the Best Defender award. GIDC goalkeeper Shashank Verma was adjudged Best Goalkeeper for his performances during the competition.