



Goa Gets New Medical College With 50 MBBS Seats From 2027-28

Goa's Medical Education Gets a Major Boost With New College and 50 MBBS Seats

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has approved a new medical college in Goa with 50 MBBS seats, starting from the academic year 2027-28.

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Health Minister J P Nadda for the approval, describing it as a wonderful Navratri gift



NEW MEDICAL COLLEGE

to Goa and a boost for aspiring medical students.

Sources said the new institution will initially offer 50 MBBS seats, with 50 per cent reserved for Goan students. The college is expected to expand opportunities for

local students seeking admission to medical courses and strengthen Goa's medical education infrastructure. The approval

also comes amid limitations on expanding the intake at Goa Medical College (GMC). With the National Medical Commission (NMC) currently restricting approvals beyond 150 seats per medical college,

GMC has reached its maximum permissible intake under existing guidelines and cannot expand further without substantial infrastructure upgrades.

"The government had moved a proposal in June last year to increase GMC's intake from 200 to 250 seats, but the proposal is yet to be considered due to infrastructure requirements. We were fortunate to receive approval for 200 seats," sources said.

Girish Chodankar Seeks Court-Monitored SIT Probe into Goa Job Scams, Demands CM's Resignation

Congress leader alleges links between cash-for-jobs and Excise scams, questions police inaction and seeks investigation into alleged fake government orders

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Girish Chodankar has demanded a court-monitored Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into all alleged job scams in Goa, alleging possible links between the cash-for-jobs scam and the alleged fake Excise Commissioner case. Chodankar raised



concerns over alleged forged signatures, fake government orders and the possibility of evidence being destroyed.

He questioned how Ajit Shankhwalkar, a suspect

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Chodankar Challenges Legality of SIR, Seeks Restoration of 1.39 Lakh Voters in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: GPCC leader Girish Chodankar has raised objections to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the draft voter list released by the Election Commission of India,

questioning their legality and constitutional validity.

Chodankar maintained that the electoral roll prepared as of January 1, 2025, and subsequently updated on January 6, 2025, should be treated

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06



'If You Respect the Constitution, Why Take to the Streets?' Piyush Goyal Targets Opposition

Team Goemkarponn

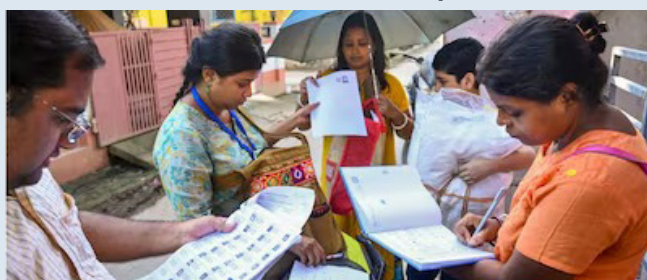
NEW DELHI: Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has criticised Opposition parties for taking to the streets to demand the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

'Absence From Draft SIR Roll Does Not Mean Deletion': ECI Tells Bombay High Court

Goa family challenges missing voter names as court reserves verdict on electoral roll dispute

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has told the Bombay High Court that the absence of a voter's name from the draft electoral roll prepared under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process does not automatically mean the name has been deleted. The submission came during a hearing on a petition filed by six members of a family from Goa's St



Cruz constituency, who alleged that their names had been omitted from the electoral roll during the revision exercise. After hearing arguments from the Election Commission and the petitioners, a bench comprising Justices Valmiki Menezes and Amit

Jamsandekar reserved its verdict. Representing the Election Commission, senior advocate Ashutosh Kumbhakoni argued that the SIR process involved preparing electoral rolls afresh through an intensive enumeration exercise.

Goa Police Defend Ban on CJP Gathering, Point to Earlier Azad Maidan Protests

Affidavit refers to a July demonstration involving references to Umar Khalid; High Court questions legality of detention of seven protesters



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Police have cited previous demonstrations at Panaji's Azad Maidan as part of their justification for refusing permission to a Cockroach Janata Party (CJP)-affiliated group to hold a protest on October 11. The police explanation, submitted before the High Court of Bombay at Goa, includes an incident in which a demonstrator allegedly displayed a placard mentioning jailed activist Umar Khalid.

The proposed demonstration was intended to seek the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Although the organisers applied for permission



on October 7, the North Goa District Magistrate rejected the request on October 9 after receiving an unfavourable recommendation from the district police.

In its affidavit, the police referred to two gatherings held at Azad Maidan in July amid demands for the resignation of then Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET examination controversy.

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Saligao's Garbage Crisis: A Lesson for Bainguinim Opponents

You cannot oppose every waste treatment plant in your backyard and expect someone else to live with your garbage.

Goa's garbage crisis has once again exposed the hypocrisy at the heart of the state's waste management debate. The decision of the Saligao waste treatment plant to suspend waste intake from eight local bodies for 25 days should serve as a wake up call for every village that has opposed the establishment of waste treatment facilities in its neighbourhood. It raises an uncomfortable but necessary question: if nobody wants a garbage plant near their home, where exactly should Goa's waste go?

For years, villagers from Old Goa, Corlim, St Cruz, Mercedes and Chimbél have opposed the proposed waste treatment plant at Bainguinim. Their concerns about odour, pollution, public health and the impact on their surroundings cannot simply be dismissed. Residents have every right to demand environmental safeguards, scientific waste processing, transparent monitoring and accountability from the government.

But there is a fundamental difference between demanding a safe waste treatment facility and opposing a project without accepting responsibility for the garbage generated by one's own village. The first is a legitimate democratic demand. The second is a recipe for a statewide environmental disaster.

The Saligao development brings this contradiction into sharp focus. When a facility stops accepting waste, the garbage does not magically disappear. It has to be stored, transported or diverted elsewhere. If alternative arrangements are inadequate, the consequences are borne by residents through overflowing bins, foul smells, unhygienic surroundings and the growing possibility of illegal dumping.

Who suffers when the system breaks down? Ordinary citizens, sanitation workers and communities that have little control over the decisions that brought the waste to their doorstep.

Not in my backyard, but somewhere else

Goa cannot solve its garbage problem through the politics of "not in my backyard". Every village generates waste. Every household contributes to the problem. Every municipality and panchayat has a responsibility to ensure that the waste it produces is collected, segregated, processed and disposed of safely.

Yet, whenever a treatment facility is proposed, opposition often becomes a battle to push the problem into another constituency. Villagers fear that their neighbourhood will become a dumping ground, while those who oppose the project continue to expect the government to find another location.

This raises a simple question for the opponents of Bainguinim: if the plant is unacceptable in your backyard, why should the people of Saligao bear the burden of treating your garbage?

Residents of Saligao are entitled to the same clean air, healthy surroundings and quality of life that people in Old Goa, Corlim, St Cruz, Mercedes and Chimbél demand for themselves. Their concerns cannot be treated as less important merely because a waste treatment facility already exists in their neighbourhood.

The people of Saligao did not create

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the waste management challenge of every local body whose garbage reaches the plant. Nor should they be expected to shoulder an unlimited burden simply because their village has a treatment facility.

The suspension of waste intake, even if temporary, exposes the vulnerability of a system that depends heavily on a limited number of centralised facilities. It also demonstrates why waste management cannot be reduced to the question of where a plant should be located. It must address how much waste is generated, how much is segregated, how efficiently it is processed and what happens when a facility cannot operate at full capacity.

Bainguinim cannot remain a political

football

The opposition to Bainguinim must now confront the practical consequences of its position. The proposed facility has remained contentious because of resistance from surrounding villages. But the Saligao situation demonstrates what happens when Goa fails to build and maintain adequate waste processing infrastructure across the state.

The irony is that the list of local bodies affected by the Saligao suspension includes Chimbél, Santa Cruz, Corlim, Old Goa and Mercedes, some of the very areas whose residents have opposed Bainguinim. According to the Times of India, the Saligao facility has reduced its daily processing capacity from 150 tonnes to 100 tonnes to accommodate essential maintenance, forcing eight local bodies to arrange alternative waste management for 25 days. <Cite refs=[["turn544869search0", "turn544869search2"]]]/>

This is precisely the vulnerability Goa must address. A plant undergoing maintenance should not push entire communities towards a sanitation crisis. Every local body must have a contingency plan, and the government must ensure that waste does not end up in open spaces, drains, fields or roadside dumping spots.

The government, too, must learn its lesson. It cannot expect people to trust waste treatment projects merely because officials describe them as scientific or environmentally safe. Independent environmental audits, public disclosure of monitoring reports, odour control, proper segregation and strict enforcement are essential. If Bainguinim is to move forward, the government must answer residents' concerns with evidence rather than political assurances.

But opposition leaders and village representatives must also demonstrate that they have a workable alternative. If they reject Bainguinim, they should explain where the garbage will be processed, how much it will cost and how their proposed solution will protect the environment. Protests alone cannot constitute a waste management policy.

Garbage does not respect village boundaries

Goa cannot afford to treat garbage as somebody else's problem. A household in Mercedes generates waste just as a household in Saligao does. A commercial establishment in Mapusa has the same responsibility as one in Calangute. The burden of managing that waste must be shared fairly, not transferred to communities that happen to host treatment facilities. The Saligao episode should therefore be a lesson, not an occasion to celebrate the inconvenience of others. Nobody should wish the stench of unmanaged garbage upon another village. But neither should any village assume that its opposition can make the problem disappear. The choice before Goa is stark. It can either develop a network of properly managed waste treatment facilities, supported by segregation at source and local processing, or continue allowing every proposed project to become a political and environmental battleground.

To those opposing Bainguinim, the question is simple: if not here, then where?

You cannot demand a clean neighbourhood while refusing to accept responsibility for the garbage you generate. Saligao's burden should not become Goa's permanent solution.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Digital Payments, Cyber Fraud and the Loss of Public Trust

By Suraj Nandrekar

When senior citizens lose their life savings to cybercriminals, the promise of a cashless economy begins to ring hollow. The answer is not to abandon technology, but to ask why those entrusted with protecting it are failing ordinary citizens. Every day, people wake up to news of another cyber fraud. A retired employee loses his pension savings. An elderly couple watches their lifetime earnings disappear from their bank account. A family discovers that money painstakingly saved for medical emergencies has been transferred to unknown accounts within minutes. For the victims, this is not merely a financial loss. It is the destruction of years of hard work, security and peace of mind. Goa, like the rest of the country, is confronting the growing threat of cybercrime. This raises an uncomfortable question: has the rush towards digital payments outpaced our ability to protect the people using them?

Some are now asking whether India should return to withdrawal slips, cheques and cash, abandoning digital payments altogether. The frustration is understandable. If technology makes transferring money effortless for legitimate users, it also offers criminals new ways to deceive, manipulate and rob them. When fraud happens, the victim often finds that recovering the money is far more difficult than losing it. But should Goa abandon digital payments altogether? That would be an extreme response to a serious problem. Digital transactions have made banking faster, reduced the need to carry large amounts of cash and brought financial services to people who previously had limited access. Reversing that progress would create its own difficulties, particularly for businesses, working people and those who depend on instant payments. Yet the opposite extreme, blindly celebrating every digital transaction as progress, is equally dangerous.

Convenience without security is no progress. The fundamental problem is not simply that people are using digital payments. It is that criminals have become adept at exploiting human trust, weaknesses in digital systems and gaps in enforcement. Fraudsters impersonate bank officials, threaten victims with fake legal notices, send malicious links, manipulate people through screen sharing and exploit their unfamiliarity with banking applications. In many cases, victims are persuaded to authorise transactions themselves, making investigations and recovery more complicated. Senior citizens are particularly vulnerable. Many have spent their lives trusting banks and institutions. They may not understand the technicalities of payment applications, digital lending or online fraud. Telling them to be more careful is not enough when criminals use sophisticated methods to create fear and urgency. The responsibility cannot rest entirely on the customer. Banks, payment platforms, telecom companies and law enforcement agencies must share responsibility for preventing fraud and responding quickly when it occurs.

Where is the deterrence? The effectiveness of Goa's cybercrime response deserves serious public scrutiny. Citizens need to know how many complaints are registered, how many cases are solved, how much stolen money is recovered and how many accused persons are prosecuted and convicted. Claims that cybercrime police have failed to solve even one case must be supported by official figures before being treated as established fact. But that does not diminish the need for transparency. If victims are repeatedly reporting fraud without receiving meaningful updates or recovering their money, public confidence will inevitably collapse. Time is critical in cyber fraud. The faster a victim reports a transaction, the greater the possibility of stopping or tracing the funds. The national cybercrime helpline, 1930, and the portal cybercrime.gov.in are important reporting channels. Banks must respond promptly to requests to freeze suspicious transactions, while investigators must follow the money across accounts and jurisdictions. The government must also strengthen cybercrime staffing, digital forensic capabilities and coordination between banks, payment intermediaries and police forces. Convictions and recoveries, not press conferences, should measure success. Bring back the cheque book, but not as the only answer. There is nothing wrong with retaining cash, withdrawal slips and cheques as alternatives. People should have the freedom to choose the payment method they trust. Senior citizens who are uncomfortable with digital banking should not be pressured into using applications simply because the government wants to promote a cashless economy. However, cheques and cash are not completely immune to theft, forgery or fraud. Returning to paper transactions will not eliminate financial crime. The objective must be to give people safer choices rather than replace one vulnerable system with another.

Banks should offer stronger transaction alerts, accessible fraud reporting, additional safeguards for unusually large transfers and practical assistance for elderly customers. Payment platforms must make reporting suspicious transactions simple. Where institutional failures contribute to fraud, accountability must be real.

Ultimately, a digital economy cannot survive on convenience alone. It must earn trust.

If citizens fear that one mistake or one deceptive phone call can wipe out their savings, digital progress becomes meaningless. The government must stop treating the expansion of digital payments as the sole measure of success and start measuring how effectively people are protected.

The real question is not whether Goa should return to cheques and withdrawal slips. It is whether the banking system and the police can restore public confidence before more innocent people lose their life savings.

Deficient October Rainfall, Anticyclonic Circulation Drive Goa's Rising Heat

■ Panaji Records 36.3°C As IMD Issues Yellow Warning For Hot And Humid Weather Till October 15

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa is likely to continue experiencing hot and humid weather until October 15, with maximum temperatures crossing 36°C and elevated humidity adding to the discomfort, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) Goa Director-in-Charge N. P. Kulkarni. Kulkarni said deficient rainfall during the retreating monsoon, coupled



with an anticyclonic circulation and moisture already present in the atmosphere, has contributed to the prevailing weather conditions across Goa and the Konkan belt. Panaji recorded a maximum

temperature of 36.3°C in October, while temperatures across the region have remained above normal over

the past few days. The combination of high temperatures and elevated relative humidity has made conditions particularly uncomfortable. The IMD has issued a yellow warning for hot and humid weather for October

13, 14 and 15, urging people to take precautions against the heat. Kulkarni advised residents to stay hydrated, wear caps when outdoors and avoid venturing outside during the peak afternoon heat. The weather conditions are expected to change from October 17, when light thundershowers are likely at isolated places across Goa's three districts. Until then, hot, humid and predominantly dry conditions are forecast to persist.

Establish New Medical College at South Goa District Hospital: Prabhav Naik

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: "The proposed Medical College with 50 MBBS seats must be established at South Goa District Hospital, Margao, by upgrading it into a fully equipped tertiary healthcare institution with modern facilities, specialist departments and adequate medical staff. This would benefit both medical students and patients across South Goa," stated Madganvcho Awaaz & Youth Leader Prabhav Naik. Reacting to Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant's announcement that the Central Government has approved the proposed 50 MBBS seat medical college, Prabhav Naik said this is an opportunity to upgrade South Goa District Hospital to tertiary status. The vacant floors of the existing government hospital should be utilised for the medical college. For the last three years, Madganvcho Awaaz has consistently raised concerns over inadequate healthcare facilities at the hospital and submitted memorandums to the Health Minister.



Shortages of ambulances, beds and medical staff continue to affect patient care and require urgent attention. Madganvcho Awaaz has also highlighted the absence of an online payment facility and stressed the need for effective hospital maintenance, proper housekeeping, cleanliness and efficient management to ensure a safe and patient friendly environment. The project must include modern diagnostic facilities, specialised departments, sufficient beds, round the clock emergency services, adequate ambulances and qualified medical personnel. Available floors should be assessed for academic facilities, laboratories and lecture halls, with existing space reorganised wherever feasible. Madganvcho Awaaz urges the Government of Goa to establish the medical college at South Goa District Hospital and prepare a time bound plan for its upgradation.



South Goa Collector announces reforms to speed up mutation cases in Salcete

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Collector, South Goa, has announced a series of administrative reforms to streamline mutation cases in Salcete taluka, following a meeting with the South Goa Advocate Association, which submitted representations highlighting various grievances related to mutation matters. The issues raised by the association were discussed, following which the Collector decided to introduce measures aimed at ensuring transparent, accountable and time-bound disposal of mutation cases. As part of the reforms, the existing Mutation Cell functioning under the Mamlatdar of Salcete will be dismantled. After the reallocation of staff and completion of the necessary administrative arrangements, an order will be issued to enable mutation files to be processed directly by the respective Joint Mamlatdars instead of being routed through the centralised cell. The move is expected to improve accountability, optimise manpower utilisation.

Two Maina Curtorim police officers reinstated after custody assault allegations

■ PSIs Sanket S. Naik and Gaurav G. Naik attached to South Goa District Police Reserve Line pending regular posting; departmental inquiry to continue

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Two police officers of Maina Curtorim Police Station, PSI Sanket S. Naik and PSI Gaurav G. Naik, have been reinstated into service with immediate effect following a recommendation by the Suspension Review Committee at its meeting held on October 1, 2026, and approval by the Director General of Police (DGP), Goa. The reinstatement comes



following a preliminary fact-finding inquiry into allegations that five youths, including a minor, were assaulted while in police custody. As per the order, both officers have been temporarily attached to the District Police Reserve Line, South, Margao, pending their regular postings by the Police Establishment Board. The order clarifies that their reinstatement

is without prejudice to the departmental inquiry pending against them. The decision regarding the period of their suspension, from June 12, 2026, until the day preceding their resumption of duty, will be taken while passing the final order in the departmental proceedings. The reinstatement does not conclude the departmental proceedings, which will continue in accordance with the applicable procedures.

Panaji Traffic Crisis: High Court Seeks Citywide Plan To Ease Congestion

■ Government Asked To Identify Crossing Points, Regulate Parking And Step Up Police Presence During Evening Rush Hours

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has asked the State government to draw up an integrated traffic management plan for Panaji, with a focus on pedestrian safety, illegal parking and congestion in busy areas during evening hours.

The direction came from a Division Bench of Justice Valmiki Menezes and Justice



Amit Jamsandekar while hearing a suo motu Public Interest Litigation on traffic problems in the capital. The court has asked the

government and Traffic Department to submit a detailed proposal by Monday. The plan is expected to cover the

road stretch from the Old Secretariat to the ferry point, with clearly marked pedestrian crossings, strategically positioned barricades, designated no-parking areas and additional traffic police at locations prone to congestion. The court noted that traffic pressure is particularly high between 6 pm and 9 pm. Casino-related traffic emerged as a key concern during the hearing.

FDA Seeks Price Controls, Digital Monitoring To Plug Loopholes In Goa's Used Cooking Oil Policy

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has called for tighter controls over the collection and disposal of used cooking oil in Goa, warning that weak enforcement and inconsistent purchase prices could allow the oil to be diverted into unauthorised channels. In its October 8 submission to the Goa Energy Development Agency (GEDA).

Canacona Man Loses Over ₹4.07 Lakh in Suspected E-Challan Link Fraud

■ Unauthorised UPI transfer reported after complainant opened a suspicious traffic challan link

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A resident of Canacona has reportedly lost over ₹4.07 lakh in an alleged online fraud involving a suspicious e-challan link and an unauthorised UPI transaction.

According to the complaint filed by Relson Miranda, the incident occurred between September 19 and September 23, 2026, at Agonda in Canacona. The complainant stated that



he received a message containing an e-challan link on his mobile phone on September 19 and opened the link four days later, on September 23.

Following this, he received a one-time password (OTP) message

from GoKwik. However, he claimed that he did not share the OTP with anyone.

Subsequently, the complainant received a text message from his bank informing him that ₹4,07,001.77 had been transferred to Mobikwik Systems Limited. On checking his bank's mobile application, he discovered an unauthorised UPI transaction that had

allegedly been carried out without his knowledge, consent or authorisation.

The complainant reported a wrongful loss of approximately ₹4.07 lakh as a result of the transaction.

The incident highlights the risks associated with suspicious links received through mobile messages. People are advised to verify the authenticity of e-challan notifications through official channels and avoid opening unfamiliar links.



Man Arrested for Accepting Gambling Bets in Bicholim

■ Police seize cash and gambling materials near Bank of India at Mayem

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: Bicholim Police arrested a 49-year-old man for allegedly accepting money bets from members of the public at an open public place near Bank of India, Ardhawada, Mayem, Bicholim, Goa.

According to police, the incident came to light on October 12, 2026, when Head Constable Anand Palkar (HC-6034) of Bicholim Police Station lodged a complaint stating that the accused, Parshuram Dattaram Naik, aged 49, a resident of House No.

713/37, Ardhawada, Mayem, Bicholim, was allegedly caught red-handed while accepting money bets.

Police seized cash amounting to ₹1,180 in various denominations, along with other gambling materials, from the accused's possession.

The accused was arrested on October 12 at 4.48 pm and was released on bail the same day at 5.09 pm.

Further investigation in the case is in progress and is being conducted by Head Constable Anand Palkar of Bicholim Police Station.



Decomposed Body of 46-Year-Old Man Found in Well at Mandrem

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: The decomposed body of a 46-year-old man was found floating in a well at Mandrem in Pernem, Goa, on Tuesday morning.

According to police, information about a male body floating in a well was received through a phone call from LPSI Sonali Harmalkar at around 10.33 am on October 13.

Upon observing the body, police noted that it was in an advanced state of decomposition. The deceased was subsequently identified by his brother, Pralhad Mandrekar, as his younger brother, Pradesh alias Pramod Manjrekar, aged 46, a resident of House No. 79, Askavado, Mandrem, Pernem, Goa.

Following a discussion with the Police Inspector of Mandrem Police Station, an unnatural death case (UD No. 43/2026) was registered under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

Further investigation into the incident is being conducted by LPSI Sonali Harmalkar.

Chhattisgarh Man Dies After Fall in Calangute

■ 38-year-old succumbs to injuries at GMC Bambolim; police suspect no foul play so far

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: A 38-year-old man from Chhattisgarh, identified as Lohari Biswas, has died after reportedly suffering a fall at Calangute.

According to police, a wireless message was received from the Casualty Police at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, on October 13 at around 11.10 am, informing them that Biswas, who was admitted to Ward No. 120 under



Medico-Legal Case (MLC) No. 26/8279, had died on October 12.

The deceased's body has been preserved at the GMC Bambolim morgue for further legal formalities. Police said that, during

the preliminary inquiry, no foul play was suspected in connection with the death. The inquest panchanama is awaited, and arrangements

are being made to conduct a post-mortem examination.

Further inquiry into the case is in progress and is being conducted by PSI Saieel Vaigankar of Calangute Police Station.

West Bengal Man Dies After Fall From Height in Goa

■ 34-year-old declared dead at GMC Bambolim; Agacaim Police register unnatural death case

Team Goemkarponn

AGACAIM: A 34-year-old man from West Bengal, identified as Mukul Vishwas, died after reportedly suffering a fall from height in Goa.

According to police, a communication was received from the Casualty Police (CP) at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, on October 12, informing them that Vishwas, registered under MLC



No. 26/8278, had been admitted following a fall from height.

Later the same day, police received another communication from GMC

Bambolim stating that Vishwas had died in Ward No. 120. Following instructions from the Police Inspector of Agacaim Police Station, an unnatural death (UD) case bearing No. 28/2026 was registered under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). Further inquiry is in progress under the supervision of Investigating Officer PSI Rushikesh Raikar.

Margao Father Lodges Complaint Over Alleged Kidnapping of Daughter

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A father residing in Margao has lodged a complaint alleging that his daughter was kidnapped at Navelim in Salcete on October 7, 2026. According to the complaint, the alleged incident took place between 5 pm and 5.15 pm, when Yeon Fernandes, a resident of Santimol, Raia, allegedly kidnapped the complainant's daughter. Further investigation into the case is being carried out by PSI Aanushka Parab of Margao Police Station.

Congress Alleges ₹4.40 Crore Irregularities in Prerana Din Expenditure

■ GPCC demands independent audit of bills for tribal welfare event held in Quepem, seeks accountability from BJP government

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has alleged financial irregularities in the expenditure incurred for the Prerana Din celebration held at Ambaulim in Quepem on May 25, 2026, claiming that ₹4.40 crore was reportedly spent on the single-day event. Addressing a press conference at Congress House in



Panaji, GPCC Media and Publicity Department Chairman Amarnath Panjikar questioned the expenditure claimed by the Directorate of Tribal Welfare under Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar. He alleged that several bills appeared

substantially inflated and demanded an independent audit to establish whether public funds had been utilised appropriately. Panjikar presented a list of expenditure items that, according to Congress, warranted scrutiny. These included ₹59.75 lakh for

food and refreshments, ₹33 lakh for transport, ₹28 lakh for audio-visual production, ₹24 lakh for media promotion and ₹22.50 lakh for printing and branding. Other amounts highlighted by the party included ₹18.50 lakh for an outdoor German pagoda, ₹7 lakh for sound arrangements, ₹6.50 lakh each for production and lighting, ₹5.50 lakh for a generator, ₹4.45 lakh for LED arrangements and ₹3.70 lakh for press conference arrangements.



Goa Launches Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Cell to Support Patients

■ Eligible residents can receive assistance of up to ₹2 lakh for major medical treatments, over and above DDSSY benefits

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has launched the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Cell at Mahalaxmi, Panaji, to help Goan families access financial assistance and guidance for major medical treatments. The initiative was launched in the presence of Health Minister Vishwajit Rane, the Chief Secretary, the Secretary (Health) and other dignitaries. The programme aims to ease the financial burden on families dealing with serious illnesses and specialised medical procedures. Under the scheme, eligible Goan residents can seek financial assistance amounting to 30% of the cost of a medical procedure or up to ₹2 lakh, as applicable.

The assistance will be provided over and above the benefits available under the Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana (DDSSY). Applicants can submit their applications online through the official Goa government portal at goaonline.gov.in, along with the required documents. Offline application forms will also be available at the Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation (DPSE). For further information and assistance, applicants can contact the toll-free helpline 14524. Chief Minister Sawant stated that the government remains committed to strengthening healthcare access across Goa through Goa Medical College, primary health centres, community health centres, district hospitals and super-speciality services.



North Goa Mining Trust Approves Major Development Projects for Mining-Affected Areas

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Governing Council of the North Goa District Mineral Foundation Trust (NGDMFT), chaired by the North Goa Collector, has approved a series of development initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure, education, healthcare, sanitation, agriculture, renewable energy and livelihood opportunities in mining-affected areas of North Goa. Among the major approvals are financial assistance for rooftop solar installations, additional agricultural subsidies, waste management infrastructure, educational facilities, healthcare upgrades and support for special schools. The Council approved ₹1.50 crore for supplementary assistance under a convergence scheme with the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. The initiative is expected to benefit around 500 households in mining-affected areas, offering assistance of ₹10,000 per kW, subject to a maximum of ₹30,000 per household and applicable eligibility conditions.

Kushavati District Steps Up Election Preparedness With Accessibility Measures and EVM Awareness Drive

■ District committee reviews plans for inclusive voting as EVM demonstrations begin ahead of Goa Assembly Elections 2027

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: In preparation for the Goa Legislative Assembly General Elections 2027, the District Monitoring Committee for Accessible Elections (DMCAE) of Kushavati District held its first meeting at the Mathany Saldanha Administrative Complex in Margao to strengthen accessibility measures for voters.

The meeting was chaired by Gurudas S.



T. Desai, Collector and District Election Officer, Kushavati District, in the presence of Paresh Faldessai, Nodal Officer for Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF), Kushavati, and other

committee members. The discussions focused on ensuring an inclusive, accessible and barrier-free electoral process, particularly for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and senior citizens.

MLA Carlos Ferreira Calls October 10 Protest Crackdown an 'Undeclared Emergency'

■ Aldona MLA condemns preventive detentions and restrictions, alleges violation of fundamental rights

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ALDONA: Aldona MLA and advocate Carlos Alvares Ferreira has strongly criticised the denial of permission for protests held on October 10, describing the alleged preventive detentions of political leaders, activists and citizens as an "undeclared Emergency". Ferreira alleged that several individuals were detained across



the country ahead of the planned protests, including non-political figures who were reportedly taken from their homes and aircraft, as well as political leaders who sought to support the movement. Questioning the legality of the reported actions, Ferreira said the detention of protesters,

alleged seizure of mobile phones, lack of information to family members, restricted access to lawyers and suspension of internet services amounted to an infringement of fundamental rights. He questioned the legal basis for detaining individuals in their home cities before they had reached New Delhi, particularly when the prohibitory orders were reportedly limited to the national capital. "Delhi was made a fortress from

its own people," Ferreira said, raising concerns over whether executive orders could be used to curtail citizens' constitutional freedoms. The MLA referred to Supreme Court observations on the right to peaceful protest, arguing that citizens were entitled to demonstrate against public authorities while remaining within the law. He maintained that the police had a responsibility to maintain public order while ensuring

that protesters' rights were respected. Ferreira also raised allegations concerning the presence of individuals in police uniforms without identification badges and others in plain clothes allegedly wielding batons during the protests. He questioned their identity, authority and role in the reported incidents, and called for accountability over the alleged use of force against young protesters.

Goa to Host India's First Edge City, Bringing 800 Global Innovators to Mandrem

■ Three week innovation programme will attract participants from over 60 countries, strengthening Goa's technology ecosystem and creative economy



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PANAJI: Goa is hosting India's first Edge City, a three week global innovation programme in Mandrem, North Goa, from October 11 to November 1, bringing together around 800 founders, scientists, engineers, investors, researchers and creators from India and more than 60 countries.

The initiative aims to strengthen Goa's position as India's creative capital by connecting international talent with local startups, entrepreneurs, businesses and institutions. It also supports the state's efforts to promote longer stays, attract investment and expand opportunities beyond conventional tourism.

Tourism and Information Technology Minister Rohan Khaunte said the initiative would help position Goa as a destination where

people can work, innovate, collaborate and develop new ideas. He highlighted the importance of attracting talent, investment and partnerships while safeguarding the state's culture, environment and local interests.

The programme will feature collaborative workspaces, research projects, workshops, hackathons, founder programmes and demonstrations across technology, science, culture and entrepreneurship. Key areas include artificial intelligence, advanced technologies, regenerative environments, holistic longevity and decentralised systems.

A major component is Ground Floor, a civic artificial intelligence research initiative that will connect international AI experts with Goan business

owners, government representatives, civic leaders and researchers. The programme aims to identify practical applications of AI for local businesses, public services and the wider economy.

Hacker House Goa and Hackathon will take place from October 28 to 31, bringing selected developers together for an intensive AI and cryptocurrency technology development programme. Founder residencies and an impact accelerator will also provide opportunities for startups to showcase their work and build partnerships.

The initiative complements Goa's Goa AI Mission 2027 and AI Policy 2026, which focus on developing artificial intelligence capabilities and supporting technology driven entrepreneurship. The Goa AI Tech Conclave 2026, scheduled for

October 22 and 23, will offer another platform for collaboration between government, industry, academia and startups.

Beyond technology, Edge City is expected to generate economic opportunities for accommodation providers, restaurants, transport operators, wellness businesses and other local services. Its focus on wellness, community building and sustainability also creates opportunities to connect Goa's traditional strengths with emerging global trends.

Through the programme, Goa aims to build stronger links between international innovators and local talent, encouraging entrepreneurship, investment and long term economic growth while expanding the state's identity beyond a conventional holiday destination.

US Ambassador Sergio Gor Visits Kolkata Durga Puja Pandals, Praises Festival's Spirit

■ Gor says the creativity of the pandals and warmth of the people helped him understand why the festival holds a special place in Bengal

Team Goemkarponn

KOLKATA: US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor visited Kolkata's Durga Puja pandals and expressed appreciation for the festival's vibrant celebrations, artistic displays and strong sense of community.

Sharing his experience, Gor said he was happy to be back in Kolkata. During his visit, he explored some of the city's decorated pandals, which are known for their elaborate designs, creative themes and cultural significance.

Gor said the experience helped him understand why Durga Puja is so special to the people who celebrate it. He also highlighted the warmth of the people and the atmosphere surrounding the

festivities.

Durga Puja is among the biggest annual celebrations in West Bengal, bringing together communities through traditional rituals, cultural programmes, artistic installations and public celebrations. Elaborately designed pandals and idols of Goddess Durga are central to the festival, with organisers often showcasing innovative themes and intricate craftsmanship.

The festival transforms Kolkata into a major cultural destination, attracting visitors who come to admire the pandals and experience the city's festive atmosphere.

Gor also extended his wishes to everyone celebrating Durga Puja, appreciating the enthusiasm and community spirit that define the occasion.



Girish Chodankar Seeks Court-Monitored SIT Probe into Goa Job Scams, Demands CM's Resignation

in the alleged fake Excise Commissioner case, could have been connected to the appointment and issuance of government job appointment orders without the support of influential individuals.

The Congress leader also alleged possible links between the alleged scams and the Chief Minister's

Office, calling for a comprehensive investigation to establish the facts and identify those responsible.

Questioning the Goa Police over the alleged delay in arresting Shankhwalkar, Congress demanded Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's resignation, alleging that the repeated involvement of people purportedly close to the Chief Minister in job-related controversies raised serious concerns. Chodankar urged the Chief Minister to step down, warning that the Prime Minister should remove him if he refused to resign.

He reiterated the demand for a

court-supervised SIT investigation into all alleged job scams to ensure accountability and prevent any interference with the probe.

Chodankar Challenges Legality of SIR, Seeks Restoration of 1.39 Lakh Voters in Goa

as the valid basis for conducting elections.

He alleged that drawing up a fresh draft list without complying with the prescribed legal requirements undermines constitutional principles.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

INDIA Bloc to Pause Daily Anti-SIR Protests During Festive Season, Rahul Gandhi Signals More Action

■ Opposition plans to continue its campaign against the Election Commission through legal challenges, coordinated protests and wider public mobilisation

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NEW DELHI: The INDIA bloc is preparing to scale back its daily protests against the Election Commission and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar during the ongoing festive season, but opposition leaders have indicated that their campaign will continue through other forms of political action. The decision



follows five consecutive protest marches in Delhi and a fresh legal challenge in the Supreme Court concerning the Special

Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the functioning of the Chief Election Commissioner. Opposition parties are

now considering a less frequent protest schedule as festivals, state election preparations and the difficulty of sustaining daily demonstrations affect mobilisation. At a meeting of INDIA bloc leaders convened by Rahul Gandhi, the alliance discussed ways to maintain pressure on the Election Commission without allowing the campaign to lose momentum.



'Partnership, Not Alliance': Jaishankar Explains India's Stand on US Ties Amid Tariff Tensions

■ India will continue pursuing shared interests with Washington while protecting its strategic autonomy as US trade and foreign policies evolve

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NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said India must assess its relationship with the United States in the context of Washington's changing global approach, emphasising that the two countries share a strong strategic partnership rather than a formal military alliance. His remarks come amid continuing differences between New Delhi and Washington over tariffs, trade negotiations and other bilateral issues. Despite these challenges, both countries continue to engage on areas of mutual interest,

including energy cooperation, regional security and broader strategic priorities. Jaishankar said the United States had changed the way it engages with other countries, making it necessary for governments to reassess their bilateral relationships. He stressed that this shift was part of a wider international development rather than a challenge faced by India alone. Jaishankar drew a distinction between India's strategic partnership with Washington and the formal alliances the United States maintains with certain countries.



'SIR Came After 2024, But Congress Kept Losing Elections': Amit Shah Targets Rahul Gandhi

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NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his allegations against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, arguing that the party's repeated election defeats began long before the exercise was introduced. Shah said the SIR process came into effect only after 2024 and questioned why the Congress had struggled electorally in several states for decades. He challenged Gandhi to examine the reasons behind the party's performance instead of attributing its losses to electoral roll revision. The Home Minister also predicted that the Congress would face another defeat in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, expressing confidence that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would return to power with a substantial majority. Responding to allegations that electronic voting machines had contributed to the BJP's electoral success, Shah pointed to elections conducted using ballot papers.

Modi, Carney Push to Finalise India-Canada Trade Deal, Target Double Trade by 2030

■ Leaders reaffirm commitment to conclude CEPA negotiations at the earliest opportunity as ties improve across trade, technology, energy and security

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney have reaffirmed their commitment to finalise negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) at the earliest opportunity, with the proposed deal expected to support efforts to double bilateral trade by 2030. The two leaders



discussed expanding cooperation between India and Canada across several sectors, including finance, defence and security, artificial intelligence and people-to-people exchanges. They

also agreed to maintain close contact ahead of Modi's planned visit to Canada in December. Both sides stressed the need to build on the recent improvement in bilateral engagement and advance negotiations on the proposed trade agreement. The ongoing Team Canada Trade Mission to India, led by Canadian International Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu, was also welcomed.

"Ladakh Is an Integral Part of India": New Delhi Rejects China's Territorial Claims

■ India standardises names of 28 strategic locations in Ladakh, including Gogra and Hot Spring, amid renewed objections from Beijing

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NEW DELHI: India has firmly rejected China's objections to its decision to standardise the names of 28 strategic locations and geographical features in Ladakh, reiterating that the Union Territory is an integral and inalienable part of the country. The move, formalised on October 2, includes several strategically important locations along the Line



of Actual Control (LAC), including Gogra and Hot Spring. The locations have been incorporated into the official Survey of India map as part of efforts to improve

geographical identification, administrative clarity and public awareness of the sensitive border region. India's Ministry of External Affairs maintained that

officially recording these locations would help ensure their accurate recognition. It also reiterated that objections from China would not alter India's established position on Ladakh's territorial status. Gogra and Hot Spring were among the major friction points during the military standoff between Indian and Chinese forces in eastern Ladakh in 2020. Both locations remain significant in the context of

border management and patrolling arrangements along the LAC. The 28 locations identified by India include high altitude peaks, mountain passes, glaciers, valleys, rivers and other geographical features. The list includes Alisha Giri, Brangsa, Chapchingal Pass, Kanishka Peak, Karun Pir, Kuksel, Martand Giri, Parpik Glacier, Skamri Glacier, Shachmirik Pass, Shkorga Valley and Zorawar Peak.

Denmark Open: PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen Suffer Shock First Round Exits

■ Kidambi Srikanth and Tanvi Sharma advance to the second round with hard fought victories in Odense

Team Goemkarponn

ODENSE: India's PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen suffered first round exits at the Denmark Open, while Kidambi Srikanth and Tanvi Sharma progressed to the next round with impressive victories in their respective singles events on Tuesday. Two time Olympic medallist Sindhu suffered a heartbreaking 21-13, 23-25, 19-21 defeat against Germany's Yvonne Li in a match lasting one hour



and five minutes at the SJF Bank Arena. Sindhu started strongly to take the opening game but could not maintain her advantage as Li fought back to secure victory in a closely contested

encounter. The former world champion entered the tournament after a mixed run of results. She won the Japan Open Super 750 title in July before reaching the quarterfinals of the Arctic Open last week, where she lost to Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon in three games. Lakshya Sen also bowed out in the opening round after losing 18-21, 21-13, 15-21 to third seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei. The match lasted one

hour and three minutes, with Sen recovering to win the second game before his opponent regained control in the decider. Srikanth provided a boost for the Indian contingent with a 22-20, 21-19 victory over France's Arnaud Merkle in a closely fought men's singles encounter lasting 46 minutes. The Indian will next face seventh seed Alex Lanier of France in the pre quarterfinals of the USD 950,000 Super 750 tournament.



Mohammed Siraj's Dip in Form Is Temporary, Says Former India Coach Bharat Arun

■ Workload and time away from cricket may have affected the pacer's rhythm, while Mohammed Shami's selection should depend on form

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Former India bowling coach Bharat Arun believes Mohammed Siraj's recent struggles are only a temporary dip in form, expressing confidence that the experienced fast bowler can return to his best by regaining his rhythm. Questions have been raised about Siraj's pace and effectiveness following his performances in the Test series against Sri Lanka and the recently concluded ODI series against the West Indies, which India won 2-1. Siraj has established himself as a dependable fast bowler, particularly in Test

cricket, and has taken on greater responsibility amid Mohammed Shami's absence and Jasprit Bumrah's injury concerns. Arun explained that fluctuations in performance are a natural part of professional sport and can affect both batters and bowlers. He also pointed to Siraj's time away from competitive cricket before the Sri Lanka series as a possible factor in his recent difficulties. According to the former bowling coach, players sometimes need time to overcome minor technical or rhythm related issues after an extended break.



Goa's Amaira Dhumatker Stuns Third Seed to Reach U-13 National Badminton Quarterfinals

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's rising badminton talent Amaira Dhumatker has stormed into the Girls' Singles Under-13 quarterfinals at the Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub Junior U-13 Ranking Badminton Tournament 2026 in Patna, delivering an impressive performance against some of the country's promising young players.

The 10-year-old showcased her talent and composure by winning three consecutive matches to reach the quarterfinals. She began her campaign with a convincing 15-7, 15-9 victory over Uttar Pradesh's Shinaya Srivastava in the Round of 64.

Amaira then produced one of the standout performances of her campaign by defeating third seed Stuthi S. Shetty of Karnataka 15-9, 15-7 in the Round of 32. The victory against a seeded opponent highlighted her growing confidence and ability to compete against higher-ranked players on the national circuit.

Goa Dominate Baroda, Take Commanding Lead in C.K. Nayudu Trophy Elite

■ Anuj Yadav shines with bat and ball as Goa reach 322 and reduce Baroda to 164 for eight in Vadodara

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa dominated the second day of their Colonel C.K. Nayudu Trophy Elite Under-23 four day match against Baroda at the BCA Stadium 'B' Ground in Vadodara on Tuesday, taking firm control of the contest.

Goa posted 322 all out in 117 overs in their first innings before restricting Baroda to 164 for eight in 52 overs at stumps. With a lead of 158 runs, Goa are in a strong



position with two days remaining. Resuming at 227 for four, Goa lost captain Aryan Narvekar for a well compiled 82. Wicketkeeper Chittem Jeevankumar continued his contribution, adding to his overnight score to



finish with 59. Goa subsequently slipped to 249 for six before Anuj Yadav steadied the innings with an unbeaten 49 off a determined knock featuring eight boundaries and a six. Anuj received valuable support from Rahul Vishwakarma, who scored 15 as the pair added 43 runs for the final wicket to take Goa past the 300 run mark.

Baroda Enforce Follow On as Goa Face Tough Fight

■ Goa trail by 238 runs with nine wickets remaining after being bowled out for 199 at Panaji Gymkhana

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa face an uphill battle to save their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A encounter against Baroda after conceding a massive first innings lead on the third day at the Panaji Gymkhana ground.

Replying to Baroda's declared total of 472 for eight, Goa were dismissed for 199 in 71.1 overs, falling 273 runs short. Baroda enforced the follow on, leaving Goa at 35 for one at stumps. The



hosts need to overcome a deficit of 238 runs on Wednesday, the final day, with nine wickets still in hand. Goa resumed their first innings at 5 for one but struggled to cope with Baroda's disciplined bowling attack. The hosts lost wickets at regular



intervals and slipped to 66 for four, allowing the visitors to tighten their grip on the contest. Snehal Kauthankar and Lalit Yadav then produced a determined recovery, combining for an 81 run partnership that offered Goa some hope

of reducing the deficit. Kauthankar scored a fighting 50, while Yadav contributed 54. Their efforts helped Goa move past the 150 run mark, but the lower order failed to build on the partnership as Baroda completed the dismissal for 199. Mahesh Pithiya led the visitors' bowling attack with five wickets for 58 runs. Bhargav Bhatt provided valuable support, claiming four wickets for 51 runs, while Rasikh Dar took one wicket.

Goa's second innings began poorly as Suyash

Prabhudessai was dismissed for just two runs. Shivendra Bhujbal and captain Abhinav Tejrana steadied the innings with an unbeaten partnership, reaching 13 and 14 respectively by the close of play. With only one day remaining, Goa must produce a determined batting performance to avoid defeat. Baroda, meanwhile, will aim to strike early and take advantage of their commanding position to secure a victory in the Elite Group A fixture.