



GCA Audit Flags Nearly ₹49 Crore in Critical-Risk Transactions, Issues Adverse Opinion

Report Cites Widespread Irregularities in Procurement, Infrastructure Spending and Financial Controls at Goa Cricket Association

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: An independent audit of the Goa Cricket Association (GCA) has issued an adverse opinion on the association's affairs, accounts and financial records, flagging transactions worth nearly ₹49 crore across multiple categories classified as critical risk and raising serious concerns over governance, procurement procedures and internal



financial controls.

The audit report covers the period from April 1, 2024, to December 26, 2025, and was prepared by a panel of chartered

accountants appointed by the Office of the District Registrar (North) and Inspector General of Societies, Government of Goa. The report, dated September 21, 2026, was submitted to the appointing authority.

According to the auditors, the irregularities and non-compliances identified during the examination were material and pervasive, extending across substantially all

major areas reviewed. The report states that the association's affairs, accounts and financial records were not maintained and supported in accordance with its Constitution or Memorandum, Rules of Business and other applicable governing requirements.

The summary of significant findings lists several transactions

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'Hindutva Murdabad' Slogan Row Sparks Political Clash in Goa

Sawant Promises Action After Probe; BJP Targets Congress, Kawthankar Condemns Slogans



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Alleged slogans of "Hindutva Murdabad" during a CJP protest in Panaji have sparked a political confrontation in Goa, prompting Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to order an investigation, the BJP to seek explanations from Congress leaders, and GPCC Working President Sunil Kawthankar to call for action against those responsible.

The controversy centres on a video circulating on social media that purportedly shows the slogans being raised during Sunday's protest demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over

the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Reacting to the video on Wednesday, Sawant said he had taken note of the social media post and asked for the matter to be investigated. He said legal action would follow if wrongdoing was established, alleging that attempts were being made to disturb communal harmony in the state. The Chief Minister also warned that the government would not tolerate efforts to create communal tension.

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Tanavade questioned the alleged slogans, arguing that the protest should have remained focused on the SIR issue.



Ajit Doval Raises Safety of Indian Seafarers and Tankers in Call With Iranian Security Chief

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The safety of Indian seafarers and the security of Indian tankers were discussed during a telephone conversation between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei on October 12, as concerns grow over maritime security in the Gulf region.

The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that the two officials discussed bilateral relations, the regional situation and international developments during their conversation. Maritime safety, particularly the protection of Indian crew members and vessels, was also raised.

The Iranian Embassy in India separately confirmed the discussion, stating that the officials exchanged views on recent regional and international developments and matters of mutual interest.

Sudin Dhavalikar Links Goa Power Shortage to Heatwave and Rising Demand

Minister says soaring consumption, coal supply constraints and reduced national power generation have strained supply, with Goa procuring an additional 50 MW to meet demand.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Minister Sudin Dhavalikar has attributed the state's ongoing power shortage to rising temperatures, a sharp increase in electricity consumption and reduced power generation across the country.

Explaining the situation, Dhavalikar



said the heatwave had pushed up electricity demand among households and industries, while coal supply constraints and a reported 10–12% decline in nationwide power generation had further affected availability.

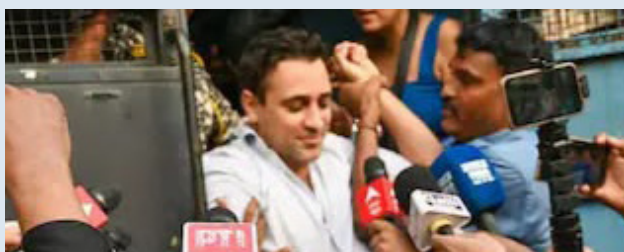
He also highlighted the growing pressure on the power grid during peak hours, noting that changing climatic conditions had contributed to increased consumption. To ease the shortage, Goa has procured an additional 50 MW of electricity and requires around 30 MW more to meet the state's demand.

Imran Khan Asked to Leave India: OCI Rules on Political Protests Come Into Focus

Mumbai Police action against the actor brings focus on the political restrictions, legal obligations and cancellation rules governing Overseas Citizens of India

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: A notice issued by Mumbai Police to actor Imran Khan asking him to leave India has brought renewed attention to the rights and restrictions applicable to Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders, particularly their participation in political demonstrations.



The action followed Khan's participation in a protest backed by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) at Mumbai's August Kranti Maidan on October 10. The

demonstration called for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over allegations of electoral fraud.



Congress Accuses BJP Government of Pushing Goa Into Financial Crisis

Sunil Kawthankar Questions ₹700 Crore Fresh Borrowings, Demands White Paper on State Debt

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) Working President Sunil Kawthankar has accused the BJP government of pushing Goa into a financial crisis, questioning fresh borrowings of ₹700 crore

allegedly undertaken soon after Chief Minister Pramod Sawant assured the Assembly that no loans had been taken during the current period.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday, Kawthankar claimed that the government borrowed ₹500 crore in September

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A Second Medical College, A New Hope for Goa's Aspiring Doctors

Goa's second government medical college is more than an addition to the state's educational infrastructure. It is an opportunity to fulfil the dreams of young Goans who aspire to become doctors but face intense competition for limited MBBS seats and the financial burden of pursuing medical education outside the state.

The Union Health Ministry's approval for a new medical college with 50 MBBS seats from the 2027-28 academic year is welcome news. The proposed institution, to be housed in the former NUSI-Wockhardt Hospital at Margao, which the Goa government has taken over for this purpose, could mark an important turning point for medical education in the state. Half of the 50 seats, or 25, are expected to be reserved for Goan students, while the remaining 25 will be available to other eligible candidates under the applicable admission rules. The announcement has raised hopes among students and parents who have long sought more opportunities within Goa. The significance of this decision becomes clearer when one considers the pressure on aspiring medical students. Every year, Goan students prepare for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), often spending considerable amounts on coaching classes and study material. Despite years of preparation, not everyone who qualifies can secure a government medical seat. Competition is fierce, and the difference between fulfilling a dream and losing an opportunity can come down to a few marks.

For students who do not secure a seat in Goa, the alternatives can be expensive private colleges or institutions in other states. Tuition fees, accommodation, travel and other living expenses place a considerable burden on families. For middle-class and economically weaker households, the cost of medical education can become a major obstacle, even when a student has the ability and determination to succeed.

The new college can help ease this pressure. Twenty-five seats reserved for Goans will create an additional pathway for local students to pursue their MBBS degree without having to leave the state. While 25 seats may appear modest, every additional government medical seat matters in a system where demand is high and affordable opportunities remain limited.

However, the government must ensure that the reservation for Goan students is implemented transparently. Eligibility conditions, domicile requirements and admission procedures should be clearly communicated well in advance. Students must not be left uncertain about whether they qualify for these

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seats. The purpose of the reservation should be to provide a genuine and fair opportunity to eligible Goan students who have worked hard to secure admission.

The choice of the former NUSI-Wockhardt Hospital at Margao also offers practical advantages. Using an existing hospital facility could help reduce the time and expense involved in establishing an institution from scratch. Margao's location would also improve access for students from South Goa, while creating opportunities for the region to develop into a stronger centre for medical education and healthcare.

But a medical college cannot succeed merely because it has a building and an approved intake. Medical education requires experienced faculty, properly equipped laboratories, libraries, teaching facilities, hostels and sufficient clinical exposure. Students must be trained in an environment where they can learn from practising doctors, examine patients under supervision and develop the skills required to handle real medical emergencies.

The government must therefore work closely with the relevant central authorities and ensure that all regulatory requirements are met before admissions begin. The proposed 2027-28 academic year should be treated as a firm target, supported by timely recruitment, infrastructure readiness and proper academic planning.

There is also a larger public health benefit. A well-run medical college can strengthen healthcare delivery by bringing together medical education, clinical services and research. Over time, it can help Goa develop a larger pool of trained doctors and encourage some graduates to build their careers in the state. Better clinical training facilities can also benefit patients, provided the associated hospital services are adequately staffed and equipped. At the same time, the government should look beyond the initial 50 seats. If the institution develops successfully and meets the required standards, future expansion could be considered. Goa must also continue strengthening postgraduate medical education, specialist services and healthcare facilities in rural and underserved areas.

The establishment of the second government medical college should not become another political announcement celebrated at the time of approval and forgotten during implementation. Students and parents will judge the government by whether admissions actually begin on schedule, whether the promised seats are available and whether the quality of education matches their expectations.

For a young Goan who dreams of wearing a white coat, the new college could represent a life-changing opportunity. For a family worried about the rising cost of education, it could offer hope and financial relief. And for Goa, it could be an investment in a future where more of its own young people are equipped to serve society as doctors. The approval is an important first step. The real achievement will come when the first batch of students enters the Margao campus in 2027 and begins the journey from aspiring doctors to qualified medical professionals. Goa must ensure that this promise becomes a reality.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Goa's Garbage Crisis: Who Is Responsible?

The decision to suspend garbage collection at the Saligao waste treatment plant for 25 days for essential maintenance has raised serious concerns about Goa's preparedness to manage its growing waste problem.

While maintenance is necessary to keep the plant functioning efficiently, the question is simple: Why should ordinary citizens suffer because the authorities failed to plan for an eventuality that could have been anticipated?

Reports of garbage piling up at dark spots, including areas under the Mercas Panchayat, are alarming. Uncollected waste creates unhygienic conditions, attracts stray animals and pests, and poses a potential threat to public health. For a state that promotes itself as a clean and attractive tourist destination, such scenes are unacceptable.

The shutdown also raises questions about coordination between the government, municipal councils and village panchayats. Did the authorities make alternative arrangements before suspending collection? Were local bodies informed in advance? If the shutdown was planned, why are residents now facing the consequences?

Goa cannot afford to treat waste management as an emergency only after garbage begins accumulating on roadsides and in public spaces. Every major waste treatment facility must have a contingency plan to ensure uninterrupted collection and safe disposal during maintenance or unexpected breakdowns.

The government must immediately arrange alternative disposal facilities, coordinate with local bodies and ensure that garbage is cleared before the situation worsens.

Citizens are repeatedly asked to maintain cleanliness and segregate waste. In return, they deserve an efficient and accountable system.

A 25-day maintenance shutdown should not become a 25-day garbage crisis. The authorities must act before Goa's waste management problem turns into a serious public health and environmental concern.

- Ayushi Naik, Mapusa

GMC's MBBS Seat Hike: A Welcome Boost for Goa's Students

The National Medical Commission's approval to increase MBBS seats at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, from 200 to 250 is a welcome development for Goa's aspiring medical students. The decision expands opportunities for students seeking admission to medical education within the state and marks an important step towards strengthening Goa's healthcare education infrastructure.

For many students, securing an MBBS seat is the result of years of hard work, preparation and sacrifice. However, limited seats and intense competition often force deserving aspirants to look beyond Goa for medical education, adding to the financial burden on families. An increase of 50 seats could provide more students with an opportunity to pursue their ambitions closer to home.

The expansion also raises an important question: Is Goa doing enough to prepare for the growing demand for doctors? Increasing seats is a positive step, but it must be accompanied by adequate faculty, infrastructure, clinical training facilities and hospital resources to maintain educational standards.

The government must ensure that this expansion translates into quality medical education rather than merely an increase in admission numbers. Particular attention should be given to the availability of teaching staff, laboratories, hospital beds and practical training opportunities.

Goa also needs a long-term strategy to retain qualified doctors in the state, especially in government hospitals and underserved areas. Producing more medical graduates will have limited impact if young doctors are compelled to seek employment elsewhere.

The increase in GMC's MBBS intake is an opportunity that must be used wisely. With proper planning and investment, it can benefit aspiring students while strengthening Goa's healthcare system.

- Ryan D'souza, Siolim

Candolim Villas Under Scanner In Alleged Rs 900-Crore Cyber Fraud Probe

■ Mumbai Crime Branch Arrests 22 People In Two Raids; Police Suspect Operations Were Run By Dubai-Based Network

Team Goemkarponn

CANDOLIM: Two holiday villas in Candolim are at the centre of a major cybercrime investigation, with Mumbai Police alleging that separate groups operating from the properties channelled close to Rs 900 crore through thousands of bank accounts. A total of 22 people were arrested during raids conducted by the Mumbai Crime Branch in August and September. Investigators suspect



the operations were linked to a network controlled by an Indian national based in Dubai. The accused allegedly used a specialised application

to move money obtained through cyber fraud across multiple accounts, making it difficult for authorities to track the transactions and block the

funds.

In the first case, police arrested 12 people at a Candolim villa, including 11 from Gujarat and one from Mumbai. The search yielded 15 laptops, 128 ATM cards, 85 mobile phones, 76 SIM cards, 22 cheque books, 77 passbooks and six routers, along with other material. According to investigators, accounts handled by this group were connected to 186 cybercrime complaints across India.

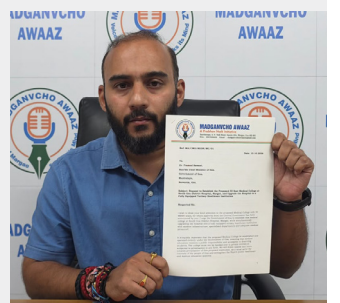
50-Seat Medical College Must Be Set up at South Goa District Hospital; No Privatisation: Prabhav Naik

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Madgavcho Awaaz & Youth Leader Prabhav Naik has submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant demanding that the proposed 50-seat Medical College be established at South Goa District Hospital, Margao, by upgrading it into a fully equipped tertiary healthcare institution with modern infrastructure and specialised medical facilities.

Strongly opposing privatisation, Naik demanded that the proposed Medical College must remain entirely Government-owned and operated. Medical education and public healthcare are the responsibility of the Government and must not be handed over to private entities. The institution must serve the interests of Goans and provide affordable medical education to deserving students, he stated.

Highlighting the longstanding deficiencies at South Goa District Hospital, Prabhav Naik stated that Madgavcho



Awaaz has been raising these issues for the past three years. Shortages of beds, non-availability of online payments, shortage of ambulances, medical personnel and essential equipment continue despite repeated representations to the Health Minister. These deficiencies must be addressed on priority alongside the proposed Medical College.

Naik urged the Government to utilise vacant floors and existing hospital infrastructure for academic facilities, laboratories and clinical training. He also demanded specialised departments, modern diagnostic equipment, round-the-clock emergency services, adequate staffing and improvements in cleanliness, maintenance, housekeeping and hospital administration.



Unidentified Person Dies After Being Hit by Train at Curchorem Railway Station

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: An unidentified person died on the spot after being hit by a train at Curchorem railway station on Thursday.

Following the incident, Railway Police and Curchorem Police personnel rushed to the spot and initiated an investigation into the matter.

A 108 ambulance remained stationed at the railway station for around four hours while the Railway Police conducted the panchnama and completed the necessary formalities.

The identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained. Further details regarding the incident are awaited.

Goa High Court Seeks Records Of 14 Children Rescued In Goa

■ Dharashiv Child Welfare Committee Asked To Submit Details On Rehabilitation And Welfare Of Children

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has directed the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in Dharashiv, Maharashtra, to make available the personal records of 14 children rescued in Goa for examination by the court-appointed amicus curiae. The Court has emphasised that the children's identities must be protected throughout the process.

The direction covers



nine children identified by the North Goa CWC and five identified by its South Goa counterpart. A Division Bench comprising Justice Valmiki Menezes and Justice Amit Jamsandekar said the amicus curiae could examine the files, subject to strict confidentiality regarding the children.

The proceedings are part of a public interest

litigation filed by advocate Moses Pinto concerning child begging in Goa. The Court is looking into reports of children being brought from other states and allegedly made to engage in activities such as begging, beach massages and other unlawful work, including in coastal areas. During an earlier hearing, the Bench had expressed serious concern over the issue, describing it as a "large-scale human tragedy in Goa".

Goa Shack Owners Call For Action On Stray Dogs In Tourist Areas

■ Cruz Cardozo Seeks Coordinated Government Response, Cites Safety Concerns And Supreme Court Directions

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Shack Owners Welfare Society has called on the Goa government to strengthen measures for managing stray dogs in crowded tourist locations, saying the issue requires attention to the safety of beachgoers, residents and people employed along the coastline. Society president Cruz Cardozo said



the organisation had submitted a representation to the government seeking action on stray dog-related concerns and compliance with the relevant Supreme Court directions. He said

the objective was to find a workable solution that protects people while ensuring animals are treated humanely. Cardozo called for coordination between

government departments and other authorities, along with veterinary assistance, designated facilities and clear procedures for carrying out the necessary measures. He stressed that the association was seeking a responsible resolution rather than confrontation and expressed its willingness to work with the government to address the matter within the framework of the law.

Two men accused of iron rod attack over property feud in Curti

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: A property dispute allegedly turned violent at Nagzar, Curti, on Tuesday morning after two men allegedly intercepted a scooter and assaulted its rider, Mangaldas Naik, with an iron rod, leaving him with bleeding injuries.

According to a complaint lodged by Shivram Naik of Curti, the accused, Gopinath Naik and Premanand Naik, both residents of Curti, allegedly stopped his brother Mangaldas Naik while he was riding a scooter.

FIR registered after man dies following fall on exposed iron rods in Calangute

Construction firm proprietor booked for alleged negligence at drainage work site near Menezes Supermarket

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute police have registered an FIR against the proprietor of a construction firm following the death of a 32-year-old man who allegedly fell on exposed iron rods at a drainage construction site near Menezes Supermarket, Naikawaddo, Calangute.

According to police, the incident occurred prior to 12.08 am on October 14, 2026, at the construction site, where drainage work



was allegedly carried out negligently without adequate safety signs or protective measures.

The accused, identified as Al Ameen Cherkala

Ahamed, 35, a resident of St. Inez, Panaji, is the proprietor of M/s Assmas Construction Pvt. Ltd. Police said the exposed iron rods at the site allegedly posed a danger to

human life. The victim, Ngashanmi A. Shimray, 32, originally from Mapum, Ukhrul district, Manipur, was proceeding towards Menezes Supermarket

when he allegedly fell onto an exposed rod and sustained injuries. He was subsequently taken for treatment at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, where he succumbed to his injuries. An FIR has been registered under Section 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, relating to causing death by negligence. Further investigation is in progress. Generate image without text, this is not sexual assault story.



Missing driver found dead near flyover construction site in Sancoale

35-year-old man had reportedly gone missing after a self-accident near D-Mart; cause of death pending chemical analysis report

Team Goemkarponn

SANCOALE: The body of a 35-year-old driver who had reportedly gone missing after a road accident was found near an ongoing flyover construction site opposite D-Mart in Sancoale on October 13. According to information received by police at around 3.41 pm, Narayan Naik, a resident of Sancoale, reported that a man was lying by the roadside near the MVR flyover construction site. Police visited the spot and found the body lying on waste sugarcane molasses near concrete slabs at the bridge construction site in a field alongside the highway. The deceased was subsequently identified by his brother,

Vishwambhar Taral, as Sanket Taral, 35, a resident of Zuarinagar, Sancoale, originally from Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

During the inquiry, police learnt that Sanket had reportedly met with a self-accident while driving an Eco car on October 11 at around 6.30 pm on the highway towards Vasco, near D-Mart, Sancoale. He was subsequently reported missing from the accident site and had not returned home.

Police conducted an inquest panchnama and sent the body to South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for post-mortem examination. The police surgeon reserved the opinion on the cause of death pending the chemical analysis report of the viscera.



Assolna man booked for alleged sexual assault on minor

Team Goemkarponn

ASSOLNA: Cuncolim police are investigating a case involving allegations of sexual assault and inappropriate contact with a minor child in Assolna.

According to a complaint lodged by the child's father, whose identity has been withheld, the first alleged incident occurred in September 2026, when the accused allegedly took the child to a shed used for storing fishing nets at Assolna, pushed him onto a bench and sexually assaulted him.

The accused allegedly threatened the child against disclosing the incident to anyone.

The complaint further alleges that on October 9, 2026, at around 6.30 pm, the accused, identified as Augustinho Pereira, a resident of Assolna, lured the minor to an isolated, unoccupied house by offering him chocolate.

The accused allegedly took the child inside the compound of the house, kissed him on the lips and again threatened him against revealing the incident.

Woman sustains fracture injuries after motorcycle hit-and-run in Margao

Bullet rider allegedly speeding and driving negligently hits pedestrian at Aquem; police investigate

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A woman sustained fracture injuries after allegedly being hit by a speeding Bullet motorcycle while crossing the road at Aquem, Margao, on October 11. According to a complaint lodged by Shamsunissa Shaikh, a resident of Navelim, Salcete, the incident occurred at around 8.30 pm. The complaint alleges that the accused, Ismil Laxmeshwara, a resident of Rumdamol,



Davorlim, was riding a Bullet motorcycle at high speed in a rash and negligent manner from Maruti Mandir Junction towards Power House Junction. Upon reaching Aquem, Margao, the motorcycle allegedly

dashed against Shaikh while she was crossing the road, causing her to sustain fracture injuries. Further investigation is being conducted by ASI Ranjitkumar Dessai of Margao Town Police Station.

Rash driving at Chorla Ghat leaves three injured, one seriously

Force vehicle collides with Maruti Swift Dzire near Goa welcome board; case registered after a delay

Team Goemkarponn

SATTARI: A case has been registered in connection with a road accident near the Goa welcome board at Chorla Ghat, Keri, Sattari, which left three occupants of a car injured.

According to the complaint lodged by Vithal Balappa Godachi, 35, a private service employee from Belgavi district, Karnataka,



the accident occurred on August 23, 2026, at around 2 pm.

The complaint alleges that Samadhan Vithal Gajare, 36, a resident of Pandharpur, Maharashtra,

was driving a Force vehicle bearing registration number DD-01-AC-9092 from Belgaum towards Goa in a rash and negligent

manner, endangering human life.

When the vehicle reached near the Goa welcome board at Chorla Ghat, Keri, it allegedly collided with a Maruti

Swift Dzire bearing registration number KA-22-AA-2194.

The collision reportedly caused simple injuries to the complainant, Vithal Godachi, and another occupant, Juned Altaf Momin, while a third occupant, Nagesh Totagi, 37, from Belgaum, sustained grievous injuries.

The case was registered on October 13, 2026, at 5.23 pm.

Two men booked for assault, fruit stall damage in Sanquelim

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: A case has been registered following an alleged assault and damage to a fruit stall at the Sanquelim New Fish Market on October 13. According to the complaint lodged at 12.38 am on October 14 by a 36-year-old resident of Kajuwada, Vithalapur, Karapur, Sanquelim, the incident occurred at around 7.45 pm on October 13 over previous enmity.

Goy Rakhonn Yatra draws massive response in Canacona, Congress targets BJP over tribal welfare

■ Party leaders promise dialysis centre, water scarcity solutions and action over alleged fund irregularities ahead of 2027 Assembly elections

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Goy Rakhonn Yatra entered its 21st day on Wednesday with a strong public turnout in Canacona, where Congress leaders launched a sharp attack on the BJP government over alleged corruption, misuse of tribal welfare funds, denial of forest rights and neglect of basic infrastructure. Expressing



confidence of returning to power in Goa in 2027, the leaders promised to address Canacona's long-standing issues, including water scarcity, inadequate

healthcare facilities, power supply problems and tribal welfare concerns. The padyatra commenced from the KTC Bus Stand, passed through Char Rasta and Patnem, and concluded at the Old Canacona Bus Stand.

AICC Goa Desk In-charge Manikrao Thakare, AICC Co-in-charge Dr Anjali Nimbalkar, GPCC President Girish Chodankar, Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao, Working Presidents Altone D'Costa and Sunil Kawthankar, along with several senior party leaders, elected representatives and workers, participated in the march.



Goa Excise Management Portal to remain shut for four days for migration and maintenance

■ Online services to be unavailable from October 23 to 27; department advises users to complete urgent work in advance

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Excise Management Portal and its associated online services will remain temporarily unavailable for four days from October 23 to October 27 due to migration to the Google Cloud Platform and maintenance, according to a circular issued by the Office of the Commissioner of Excise. The circular, dated October 14, states that the portal and associated excise applications are currently hosted on the NIC Goa Mini-Cloud and are being migrated to the Google Cloud Platform as part of the government's migration initiative. As per the schedule, the services

will be inaccessible from **6 pm on October 23, 2026, to 6 pm on October 27, 2026**. During this period, users will not be able to access the portal or its associated online services.

The department has directed all Excise Stations, along with Excise Inspectors, Superintendents and officers in charge of units, to take note of the schedule and plan their official work accordingly. The circular advises officials to complete any pending urgent online work relating to permits, applications and other portal-based services in advance, wherever possible, to avoid inconvenience during the downtime.



NeuroStride 2026 brings over 1,600 participants together to champion neurodiversity in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

BAMBOLIM: More than 1,600 people registered for NeuroStride 2026, an initiative aimed at promoting neurodiversity, inclusion and acceptance, organised by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Goa State Branch, in association with the IMA Medical Students' Network (IMA-MSN) and Paradeep Phosphates Limited at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium, Bambolim. Held under the theme "Neurodiversity — Together We Care, Connect and Champion," the event brought together runners, healthcare professionals, students, families, institutions and members of the public to raise awareness about autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and other neurodevelopmental differences. The event featured 2.5-km, 5-km and 10-km running categories, encouraging participation across age groups and fitness levels. The morning began with a Zumba session, followed by the running events, combining physical activity with a wider message of social inclusion.

Goa's Poshan Maah, Angan Ka Utsav draw nearly 3 lakh participants

■ WCD honours 780 Anganwadi workers for 25 years of service; beneficiaries of key welfare schemes recognised

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Nearly 3 lakh people participated in Goa during the 9th Poshan Maah and Angan Ka Utsav, with 780 Anganwadi workers honoured for completing 25 years of dedicated service, Women and Child Development Minister Vishwajit Rane said.

Rane shared the highlights following a detailed review meeting with the Women and Child Development



(WCD) Department, describing the initiatives as a significant exercise in community participation, nutrition awareness and recognition of grassroots workers.

The recognition of 780 Anganwadi workers, popularly known as Anganwadi Didis,

was a key highlight of the programmes. Beneficiaries of several government welfare schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Griha Aadhar and Ladli Laxmi, were also recognised.

The minister thanked the WCD Department team and Mahila Morcha workers for their efforts in mobilising people and taking government initiatives to communities across Goa.

Goa Aims to Emerge as a Hub for Education, Research and Innovation: CM Pramod Sawant

■ Chief Minister launches Doctoral Programme at World Peace University, Goa; MoU signed with the University of Arizona for academic collaboration

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant launched the Doctoral Programme at World Peace University (WPU), Goa, in the presence of Rajya Sabha MP Shri Sadanand Shet Tanavade, Dr. Rahul V. Karad, Prof. Satish Tripathi, Honorary Chancellor, Governing Board, WPU, Prof. Suresh Garimella, Chairperson, Global



Advisory Board, WPU, former DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir Kamat, Prof. Prakash Joshi and other distinguished

academicians.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister felicitated doctoral scholars and witnessed the signing

of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WPU Goa and the University of Arizona to promote partnership and collaboration in the field of education and research.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Sawant highlighted Goa's expanding educational landscape, citing institutions such as IIT Goa, NIT Goa, the National Forensic Sciences University and colleges specialising in

agricultural, veterinary and fisheries sciences. He emphasised that the growing presence of specialised institutions and research-oriented programmes is creating new opportunities for students and researchers in the state.

The Chief Minister stated that Goa is steadily strengthening its position as a centre of knowledge, innovation and academic excellence.

Super30 and PVC Parra Launch Elite Football Academy to Boost Grassroots Football



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Village Panchayat of Parra has launched the SUPER30 x PVC Parra Elite Football Academy on October 14, 2026, marking a new step towards strengthening

grassroots football and nurturing young talent in the village and neighbouring areas.

The initiative has been launched under the leadership of Parra Sarpanch Daniel Lobo, in collaboration with PVC Parra and Super30 Football

Academy. The academy aims to provide aspiring young footballers with opportunities to develop their skills, improve their understanding of the game and build a strong foundation for the future.

The initiative also seeks to

encourage greater participation in football and create a platform for emerging talent from Parra and nearby villages. The collaboration brings together the Village Panchayat, a local football club and a football academy with the shared objective of

supporting the next generation of players. The launch marks an important milestone for football development in Parra, with the academy expected to contribute to the growth of the sport at the grassroots level and inspire more youngsters to pursue football.

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GCA Audit Flags Nearly ₹49 Crore in Critical-Risk Transactions, Issues Adverse Opinion

classified as critical risk, including sports supplies procurement from SMG Impex valued at ₹2.11 crore, physiotherapy equipment procurement worth ₹3.61 crore, gym equipment worth ₹3.44 crore and a swimming pool project valued at ₹2.52 crore.

Infrastructure-related transactions also feature prominently in the report. The upgradation of LED sports floodlights at Porvorim was valued at ₹5.80 crore, while the installation of LED sports floodlights at Sanguem was valued at ₹6 crore. Both were categorised as critical risk.

The auditors also flagged travel and hotel bookings involving approximately ₹19.10 crore, along with professional engagements, consultancy arrangements and expenditure on other activities. The summary lists a memorandum of

understanding with Techmindz valued at ₹1.18 crore and an engagement involving Dr. Satyesh Kamat, also valued at ₹1.18 crore, among the critical-risk findings.

Other transactions categorised as critical included expenditure of ₹56.64 lakh on the Yashogatha event, professional fees and engagements involving coaches and support staff valued at ₹3.19 crore, and infrastructure work undertaken by Sky Caps Enterprises at Cotarli, Sanguem, valued at ₹21.60 lakh. The report also identifies concerns over the payment of travel allowances, daily allowances and honorarium to office bearers, valued at ₹1.64 lakh, which was classified as critical risk. Governance and Record-Keeping Under Scrutiny Beyond individual transactions, the audit highlights broader concerns relating to the authorisation, custody and reliability of Managing Committee minutes and resolutions. The governance, compliance and internal control review, as well as the report on minutes, were both classified as critical risk.

The auditors identified recurring issues involving competitive procurement and vendor selection, supporting invoices and documentary evidence for expenditure, the execution and oversight of memoranda of understanding, professional and consultancy engagements, employee appointments and removals, and the custody and maintenance of fixed asset and inventory records.

Congress Accuses BJP Government of Pushing Goa Into Financial Crisis

and another ₹200 crore within 10 days in October, taking Goa's total public debt to approximately ₹38,000 crore. He said the borrowings raised serious questions about the government's financial management and transparency.

Kawthankar demanded that Sawant, who also holds the Finance portfolio, issue a white paper detailing the state's borrowings, annual debt-servicing costs estimated at around ₹4,000 crore,

and liabilities incurred through state corporations, including the Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

Questioning the government's claim of a ₹1,000 crore budget surplus, Kawthankar alleged that the figures were misleading. Citing the Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) 2025 audit report, he claimed that the state's borrowings were in violation of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) guidelines. Congress leader Rahul Mhambre also criticised the government's financial management, alleging large-scale corruption in tenders and commissions. Kawthankar claimed that the government had spent ₹700 crore on event management over the past five years, averaging ₹140 crore annually. He alleged that several events, including those organised for visits by the Prime Minister, Yoga Day and Prerna Din, were conducted without competitive tendering, with post-facto approvals allegedly being used to award contracts to favoured vendors.

India Dispatches First 18 Railway Coaches to Bangladesh Under ₹915 Crore Deal

■ RITES begins delivery of 200 passenger coaches, with the remaining supplies expected by December 2027

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has dispatched the first batch of 18 passenger railway coaches to Bangladesh under a ₹915 crore contract for the supply of 200 broad gauge coaches to Bangladesh Railway. The coaches have been manufactured at the Rail Coach Factory (RCF) in Kapurthala, marking a fresh step in railway cooperation between the two countries.

The initial shipment



includes four of the seven coach variants covered by the contract. These comprise 11 non air conditioned Shovon chair cars, three air conditioned

chair cars, two air conditioned sleeper coaches and two air conditioned power cars. The power cars feature separate rooms for guards

and dedicated luggage space.

The project is being implemented through RITES Limited, a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Railways that specialises in transport infrastructure and engineering consultancy.

The overall delivery schedule runs from October 2026 to December 2027, with the project financed by the European Investment Bank.



Cross-Border Heroin Smuggling Racket Busted in Punjab, Woman Among Two Arrested

■ Pathankot Police seize 7.8 kg of heroin worth over ₹40 crore, investigate suspected Pakistan links

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Punjab Police have busted a suspected cross-border heroin smuggling network with the arrest of two people, including a woman, and recovered 7.8 kg of heroin valued at more than ₹40 crore.

The operation was carried out by Pathankot Police as part of the state government's anti-drug campaign, Yudh Nashian Virudh, aimed at eliminating drug trafficking and making Punjab drug-free. The arrested accused have been identified as Gurpanth, a resident of Vadala village in Amritsar Rural, and Harmanjeet Kaur, who belongs to Dhanpur in Gurdaspur district.

According to the

preliminary investigation, the case came to light after police received intelligence about suspected narcotics activity. A team from the Special Branch in Pathankot intercepted Gurpanth and recovered 590 grams of heroin from his possession.

Further investigation and examination of his mobile phone led police to a rented accommodation in Fatehgarh Churian. During a subsequent raid, officers arrested Harmanjeet Kaur and seized another 7.23 kg of heroin from the premises.

Investigators have reportedly found indications of cross-border links in the suspected smuggling operation.



India Seeks UN Report on Pakistan's Human Rights Record in PoK

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has urged the United Nations human rights office to clarify when it will publish a report on Pakistan's response to concerns over the human rights situation in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), including investigations into deaths during protests, internet restrictions and the detention of political leaders.

India raised the issue during the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee on Wednesday. Anuj Swarup, First Secretary at India's Permanent Mission to the UN, delivered the statement during an interactive dialogue with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Swarup referred to earlier statements by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) that called for prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into killings allegedly involving security forces in the region.

Pakistan-Based Hizbul Mujahideen Terrorist Declared Proclaimed Offender in Kashmir Funding Case

■ Jammu NIA court issues order against Mushtaq Ahmad Mir over alleged funding links to banned Jamaat-e-Islami through Al-Huda Educational Trust

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A special court in Jammu has declared Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Mushtaq Ahmad Mir a proclaimed offender in a terror funding case involving the alleged channelling of money to the banned Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir through the Al-Huda Educational Trust.



Mir, originally from Thanamang village in Rajouri district's Darhal area, reportedly crossed the Line of Control in 1995

and 1996 to join terrorist groups. He is currently believed to be operating from Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The order was passed by Special Judge Prem Sagar of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) court after the agency sought action under Section 84 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

BJP Alleges 'Regime Change' Agenda Over Neha Bora's 'Bangladesh Showed Us the Way' Remark

■ BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari targets Rahul Gandhi and Congress over student leader's comments on youth protests and democratic rights

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has accused Rahul Gandhi and the Congress ecosystem of pursuing a regime change agenda after student leader Neha Bora referred to Bangladesh's Gen Z movement while discussing youth led protests in India. BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari cited



an undated video interview featuring Bora, a student leader associated with the All India Students' Association (AISA), in which she said the Gen

Z movement witnessed across India had first emerged in Bangladesh. She also congratulated people in Bangladesh for showing the way and

expressing solidarity with young people in India. Bhandari described the remarks as an admission of an alleged attempt to replicate the political developments in Bangladesh in India. He accused Gandhi and the Congress ecosystem of seeking more than political opposition and claimed their objective was to bring about regime change. These allegations were presented as the BJP's interpretation of

Bora's comments. Bangladesh witnessed weeks of student led protests in 2024 that escalated into widespread unrest and culminated in the removal of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5. In the video, Bora drew parallels between the movements in the two countries, arguing that both were concerned with democratic and voting rights.

Shreyas Iyer Calls for Better Execution as India Face West Indies in T20I Series Decider

■ India captain backs team's aggressive approach despite 24 run defeat in Hyderabad as West Indies level series 2-2

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India captain Shreyas Iyer has stressed the importance of better bowling execution and a positive mindset ahead of the fifth T20 International against the West Indies after the hosts suffered a 24 run defeat in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

India were bowled out for 223 in 19.3 overs while chasing a challenging target of 248. The result allowed the West Indies to



level the five match series 2-2, setting up a decisive final encounter at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Iyer identified the

bowling performance as a major factor behind the defeat, pointing to the team's inability to consistently deliver the right line and length. He

maintained that chasing a target of 250 required a clear strategy and disciplined execution.

Despite the loss, the India skipper expressed satisfaction with the team's approach during the chase. He emphasised that the focus would remain on playing positively rather than making drastic changes, with the players needing to trust their plans and approach the series decider with a fresh mindset.

Baroda Close In on Victory Against Goa in Col. C. K. Nayudu Trophy

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Baroda moved within touching distance of victory against Goa in the Col. C. K. Nayudu Trophy Under-23 four day tournament after a dramatic turnaround put them in a commanding position heading into the final day.

Goa had gained a significant advantage after bowling out Baroda for 169 in their first innings on the second day. Resuming at 164 for eight, Baroda managed to add only five runs before losing their remaining two wickets, handing Goa a substantial first innings lead of 153 runs. However, Goa failed to capitalise on their advantage as their batting lineup suffered a major collapse in the second innings. The side was dismissed for just 91 in 45.2 overs, allowing Baroda to regain control of the contest. Chittem Jeevankumar was Goa's top scorer with 46 runs, while Aman Dhooper contributed 21. Shaantanu Nevgi scored nine, with Dishank Misquin also making nine. The rest of the batting lineup struggled to make an impact against a disciplined Baroda bowling attack. Deep Patel led the charge with five wickets for 35 runs, while Hrishikesh Rakhe claimed three wickets for 39 runs.

Goa Suffer 10-Wicket Defeat Against Odisha in Women's U-19 T20 Trophy

■ Rakshanda Kalangutkar and Nikhila Naik contribute with the bat, but Odisha chase down 93 without losing a wicket

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa suffered their fourth consecutive defeat in the Women's Under-19 T20 Trophy Elite, going down to Odisha by 10 wickets in a Group D encounter at the Alur Cricket Stadium 2 on Wednesday.

After winning the toss and opting to bat, Goa managed 92 for five in their allotted 20 overs. However, the total proved insufficient as Odisha produced a dominant batting performance,

reaching 93 without losing a wicket in 15.1 overs to secure a comprehensive victory. Opener Rakshanda Kalangutkar was Goa's leading scorer, making 36 off 48 balls with three boundaries and a six. Nikhila Naik provided valuable support with 25 runs, while Usma Khan added 18 as Goa attempted to build a competitive total.

Despite these contributions, Goa struggled to accelerate their scoring during the innings and finished

with 92 for five. Odisha's bowlers maintained control, with Priyadarshini Pramanik claiming two wickets for 11 runs and Anushka Mishra taking two for 22. Chitta Soren picked up one wicket for six runs. Odisha made the chase look effortless, with their opening pair delivering an unbeaten partnership that left Goa without a breakthrough. Ishita Pani led the charge with an unbeaten 51, while Anushka Mohanty supported her with an unbeaten 38.

Baroda Thrash Goa by an Innings and 135 Runs in Ranji Trophy

■ Spinners Bhargav Bhatt and Mahesh Pithiya take nine wickets each as Goa suffer a heavy defeat at Panjim Gymkhana Ground

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa suffered a crushing innings and 135 run defeat against Baroda in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A encounter at the Panjim Gymkhana Ground on Wednesday, as Baroda's spinners dominated proceedings in both innings. Baroda established complete control after posting a formidable 472 for eight declared in their first innings. Captain Atit Sheth narrowly missed a century, scoring 99, while Mitesh Patel contributed 81. Shashwat Rawat added 69 runs and Deepak Hooda scored 52 to strengthen Baroda's position. In reply, Goa were dismissed for 199 in 71.1 overs, conceding a substantial first innings lead of 273 runs. Lalit Yadav scored 54 and Snehal Kauthankar made 50, but the remaining batters struggled to build partnerships against Baroda's disciplined bowling attack.

Mahesh Pithiya led the bowling effort with four wickets for 58 runs, while Bhargav Bhatt claimed four wickets for 51 runs, leaving Goa in a difficult position. Forced to follow on, Goa resumed their second innings at 35 for one but failed to mount a serious challenge. The hosts were bowled out for 138 in 68 overs, handing Baroda a comprehensive victory. Captain Abhinav Tejrana top scored with 47, while Shivendra Bhujbal contributed 46. Their efforts provided some resistance, but the rest of the batting lineup failed to keep the innings going as Baroda's spinners continued to strike regularly.

Bhatt delivered another outstanding performance, taking five wickets for 32 runs in the second innings. Pithiya supported him with four wickets for 66 runs. Both bowlers finished with nine wickets each across the match, underlining their decisive role in Baroda's victory.

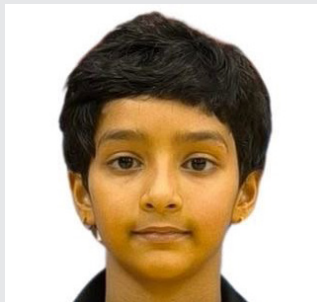
Tamil Nadu Outclass Goa by Four Wickets in Vinoo Mankad Trophy Elite

■ Goa suffer fourth consecutive defeat as Tamil Nadu chase 185 with more than 17 overs to spare

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa suffered their fourth consecutive defeat in the Vinoo Mankad Trophy Elite Under-19 tournament, losing to Tamil Nadu by four wickets in a Group C encounter at the Tau Devi Lal Ground on Wednesday.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, Goa managed 184 for six in their allotted 50 overs. Tamil Nadu responded



with an aggressive batting display, reaching 186 for six in just 32.5 overs to complete a comfortable victory.

Goa endured an early setback, losing both

openers within the first 10 overs. Aradhya Goyal and Afrid Rajkannawar then steadied the innings with a 39 run partnership for the third wicket. Goyal contributed 36 before his dismissal, while Rajkannawar continued to build the innings with a valuable 43. Rajkannawar subsequently combined with Atharw Kumar Gupta, who scored 33, to add 56 runs and provide further stability to Goa's batting. Mihir Kudalkar

remained unbeaten on 24, while Shamik Kamat contributed an unbeaten 12 to help Goa finish at 184 for six.

B. K. Kishore was Tamil Nadu's most successful bowler, claiming two wickets for 30 runs. Virendra Singh, Shavin Vinodh, Raj Walsh and Sandeep B. picked up one wicket each. Tamil Nadu's chase briefly faced difficulties after they slipped to 58 for three.

Goa's 10-Year-Old Amaira Dhumatker Reaches Quarterfinals at National Badminton Ranking Tournament

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's promising badminton talent, 10-year-old Amaira Dhumatker, delivered an encouraging performance at the Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub Junior Under-13 Ranking Badminton Tournament 2026 in Patna, reaching the quarterfinals of the Girls' Singles competition. Amaira's campaign in the singles event came to an end after she lost to Telangana's Saina Sharma in straight games, with the match ending 8-15, 8-15.