



Rahul Gandhi's visit will make no difference to Goa, says Pramod Sawant

■ Chief Minister counters 'corruption model' remarks, highlights Goa's development and criticises Congress leader over handling of Kunbi shawl

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant today hit back at Rahul Gandhi over his reported remarks describing Goa as a "corruption model", asserting that the state's development record speaks for itself and that the Congress leader's visit would make no difference to Goa. Responding to questions from reporters, Sawant said the focus should be on showcasing Goa's "development model" rather than



engaging in allegations of corruption. He cited the Swayampurna Goem initiative, the state's two airports and the development of Mormugao Port as examples of Goa's progress. The Chief Minister said leaders from across the country had



visited Goa to understand its development initiatives and self-reliance model. He maintained that the allegations made by Gandhi had no substance and advised the Congress leader to think carefully before making such statements. Sawant also criticised the handling of

a Kunbi shawl, which he described as a symbol promoted in connection with Goa's Scheduled Tribe community. Referring to an incident in which the shawl was reportedly removed and tossed aside by a person on stage, he said the manner in which it was treated had hurt Goans and would not be easily forgotten. Contrasting the incident with the Prime Minister's gesture, Sawant said the same shawl had been presented

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Canacona man duped of ₹3.65 lakh in fake tourism licence renewal scam

Fraudster impersonating Goa Tourism Department representative allegedly cheated tourism stakeholder through multiple Google Pay transactions



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CANACONA: A tourism stakeholder from Canacona has allegedly been cheated of ₹3.65 lakh by an unidentified person posing as a representative of the Goa Tourism Department under the pretext of renewing his tourism licences.

According to Canacona police, Sarvanand Konkarnkar, a resident of Kindlem, Canacona, received WhatsApp messages from an unknown person between October 8 and 12, 2026. The accused allegedly impersonated a representative of the Goa Tourism

Department and contacted Konkarnkar through two different WhatsApp accounts regarding the renewal of his tourism licences.

Konkarnkar, who reportedly jointly operates a couple of tourism huts and restaurants, believed the person to be genuine and followed the instructions received through the messages. He subsequently transferred a total of ₹3,65,000 through multiple Google Pay transactions. He later realised that the person claiming to represent the Tourism Department was an impostor and that he had been cheated.



Michael Lobo Says He Will Get BJP Ticket, Calls Calangute Rivals His Friends

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CALANGUTE: Calangute MLA Michael Lobo has expressed confidence in securing the BJP ticket for the 2027 Goa Assembly elections, declaring, "I will get the BJP ticket," while maintaining a cordial stance towards his political rivals. Reacting to Roshan Redkar's announcement of his intention to contest from Calangute, Lobo wished all his opponents the best, saying they were his friends and not enemies. He described the upcoming election as a political race rather than a personal battle. Responding to Redkar's challenge for a one-on-one debate involving him and his wife, Delilah Lobo, the MLA said the discussion should ideally be with someone of comparable political stature, preferably a former MLA from the constituency. Lobo noted that Redkar had expressed his desire to contest the elections, adding that a debate on development and politics could be held once the party tickets are finalised.

Damu Naik Targets Rahul Gandhi Over Mhadei Silence, Urges BJP Leaders to Exercise Restraint

■ Goa BJP Chief Questions Congress' Stand on Mhadei, Criticises Rahul Gandhi Over Cultural Respect, and Calls for Discipline in Party Statements

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PANAJI: Goa BJP president Damu Naik has questioned Rahul Gandhi's silence on the Mhadei issue, stating that the Congress leader should have clearly outlined his stand on the matter. Naik also criticised Congress



observers and central leaders, including Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, for allegedly remaining silent on an issue of importance to Goa. Accusing

Congress leaders of misleading the people, Naik said Goans are well-informed and understand the Mhadei issue, asserting that they cannot be taken for granted by visiting political leaders.

In another strong remark, Naik said Rahul Gandhi was not worthy of

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Three Suspects in Tiger Shroff Firing Case Arrested at Kota Railway Station

■ Accused allegedly linked to Lawrence Bishnoi gang fled Mumbai by train after the attack

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NEW DELHI: Three men allegedly involved in the firing incident targeting Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff have been arrested at Kota railway station in Rajasthan while travelling on the Pune Jaipur Express. The arrests followed a joint operation by the Rajasthan Anti Gangster Task Force and Kota City Police based on information provided by Mumbai Police. The three accused include



an 18 year old man and a minor from Haryana, along with a 22 year old man from Bihar who lives in Mumbai. They are suspected of having links to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Investigators believe two of them carried out the shooting, while the third helped facilitate their escape.

"Hard for India to Move Away From Russian Energy": Trump Administration Defends Sanctions Waiver

■ Marco Rubio says Washington needs 60 days to assess the economic impact of proposed sanctions and tariffs on countries buying Russian oil

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NEW DELHI: The United States has acknowledged that it would be difficult for India to immediately reduce its dependence on Russian energy, as President Donald Trump allows a 60 day period to assess the economic consequences of proposed sanctions and tariffs targeting countries



purchasing Russian oil.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the administration needed time to examine how the proposed measures would affect global markets and the American economy.

He noted that India had diversified its energy sources but continued to purchase substantial quantities of Russian oil because shifting suppliers could not happen overnight.

PROTEST IS A RIGHT, BUT HATE CANNOT BE THE MESSAGE

An FIR over alleged communal slogans at Azad Maidan is justified. The police must investigate fairly, identify those responsible and ensure that freedom of expression is not turned into a licence to insult religious beliefs.

In a democracy, the right to protest is fundamental. Citizens have every right to question the government, challenge public institutions, demand accountability and raise their voices against policies they consider unjust. But there is a line between dissent and deliberate provocation, and that line cannot be erased in the name of democracy.

The Goa Police have registered an FIR against unidentified protesters following allegations that communal slogans were raised during an October 11 demonstration at Azad Maidan in Panaji. The case invokes Sections 196 and 299 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, dealing with promoting enmity between groups and deliberately insulting religious beliefs with the intention of outraging religious feelings. The complaint alleges that certain slogans targeted a community and threatened communal harmony. These allegations must now be investigated on their merits.

The registration of an FIR is a necessary first step when a complaint raises a credible concern about possible criminal conduct. It is not a declaration of guilt, nor should it be treated as one. But refusing to investigate merely because the alleged offenders were participating in a political protest would set a dangerous precedent.

Democracy cannot become a shield for hate.

The central question is simple. If the purpose of the October 11 protest was to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, why should any participant resort to slogans that allegedly target a religious community? The organisers may have had their political reasons for holding the demonstration. They may disagree strongly with the government or the Election Commission. They are entitled to express that disagreement. But criticism of an institution and hostility towards a religion are two entirely different things.

A political protest should be judged by its demands, arguments and democratic purpose, not by its ability to provoke religious passions. When a gathering intended to raise questions about electoral processes becomes embroiled in allegations of communal sloganeering, the original

Goa has a long tradition of social coexistence, where people from different religious communities have lived, worked and celebrated together. This harmony must never be taken for granted. It depends on mutual respect, restraint and a willingness to disagree without treating fellow citizens as enemies.

Religious beliefs are deeply personal. No citizen should be expected to surrender those beliefs to accommodate political activism. Equally, no religion should be beyond legitimate criticism, historical examination or reasoned debate. The distinction lies between questioning ideas and deliberately provoking hatred against people because of their faith.

issue risks being overshadowed by a needless and divisive controversy.

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That distinction is essential to any mature democracy.

The FIR, therefore, deserves support as a step towards establishing the facts. The police must examine the videos circulating

on social media, verify their authenticity and context, identify the individuals who allegedly raised the slogans and determine whether their conduct meets the legal requirements of the offences invoked. Responsibility must be established through evidence, not political pressure or public outrage.

At the same time, the investigation must not become an excuse to intimidate peaceful protesters, journalists or political opponents. The Bombay High Court at Goa ordered the release of seven protesters detained during the October 11 demonstration, observing that their detention may not have been authorised. That judicial intervention is an important reminder that the police must operate within the law, even when dealing with a controversial protest.

The right to protest and the responsibility to preserve communal peace are not mutually exclusive. Both are essential to democracy. Supporting an investigation into alleged hate speech does not mean endorsing every police action taken against protesters. Similarly, defending civil liberties does not require anyone to turn a blind eye to potentially unlawful conduct.

The government must also resist the temptation to use the controversy for political point-scoring. If the allegations are true, those responsible should face the consequences prescribed by law. If the allegations cannot be substantiated, the investigation must say so. The identity, political affiliation or place of origin of any individual must not determine the outcome.

The organisers, too, have a responsibility to clarify their position and ensure that their platforms are not used to promote religious hostility. A political movement that claims to defend democratic rights must demonstrate equal respect for the rights and dignity of people who do not share its ideology.

Goa does not need imported political hostility, nor does it need homegrown attempts to exploit religious sentiment. It needs responsible leadership, an impartial police force and citizens who understand that disagreement is not a licence for contempt.

The FIR should not be the end of the matter. It should be the beginning of a fair, transparent and evidence-based investigation.

Protest without fear. Criticise without restraint. But do not turn dissent into hatred. That is the standard Goa must uphold, regardless of who is in the dock or which political flag is being waved.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Goa's Land, Identity and Future Must Remain in Goans' Hands

The conclusion of the Goy Rakhonn Yatra in Margao and the launch of the 'Gaon Rakhonn Abhiyan' have brought Goa's land, identity and environment back into the centre of political debate ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

The participation of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and senior party leaders has given fresh momentum to the campaign, which raises concerns about land conversions, unemployment, environmental degradation and alleged corruption. These are issues that deserve serious public discussion, regardless of political affiliations.

The question is simple: Who will protect Goa's interests if development comes at the cost of its people, natural resources and traditional way of life?

Goa needs investment and economic growth, but development cannot be measured merely by the number of projects or the money they generate. It must also be measured by the employment opportunities created for local youth, the protection of the environment and the quality of life enjoyed by ordinary citizens.

Allegations of corruption, financial mismanagement and irregularities in electoral processes must be examined through transparent investigations and appropriate institutional mechanisms. Political accusations alone cannot establish guilt, but neither should legitimate questions be ignored.

The launch of the Gaon Rakhonn Abhiyan must go beyond election rhetoric. It should encourage meaningful public participation, demand accountability from elected representatives and offer practical solutions to the challenges facing Goa.

Ultimately, protecting Goa cannot be the responsibility of one political party alone. Citizens, civil society organisations and elected representatives must work together to safeguard the state's heritage and future.

Goa belongs to its people. Its development must serve them, not displace their interests.

- Anna D'souza, Mapusa

Goa's Pharma Industry Must Create More Jobs for Goan Youth

Goa's pharmaceutical industry has emerged as a major contributor to the state's economy, with Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant highlighting its role at the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance Leadership Summit. According to the Chief Minister, Goa produces around 12% of India's medicines, contributes nearly 10% to the state's GDP and accounts for close to half of its merchandise exports, while providing employment to over 20,000 people. These figures underline the importance of the pharmaceutical sector to Goa's industrial growth. However, the bigger question is whether this economic strength is translating into enough skilled employment opportunities for local youth.

Goa has talented students graduating in pharmacy, biotechnology, chemistry and other scientific disciplines. Yet, opportunities for specialised research, advanced manufacturing and higher-level technical careers must continue to expand if young professionals are to build their futures within the state.

The Chief Minister's call for greater investment, advanced technology and stronger partnerships between pharmaceutical companies and educational institutions is encouraging. Such collaborations can help develop industry-ready skills, promote research and create better career opportunities.

However, attracting investment should not be the only objective. The government must also ensure that industrial expansion follows environmental safeguards, maintains high standards of worker safety and provides fair opportunities for qualified Goans.

As India moves towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, Goa has the potential to strengthen its position as a pharmaceutical manufacturing and research hub. This opportunity must be used to build a skilled local workforce and encourage innovation. Goa's pharmaceutical success should be measured not only by medicines produced and exports generated, but also by the number of Goan families whose livelihoods improve through this growth.

- Ayush Naik, Panjim

Foul Smell Still Detected at Bethora Industrial Units During Inspection

■ GHRC-Ordered Visit Finds Odour at United Spirits and United Breweries; Pollution Board Collects Wastewater Samples

Team Goemkarponn

BETHORA-NIRANKAL: Residents' concerns over foul odour from industrial units at Bethora-Nirankal remain in focus after a recent inspection found that an unpleasant smell could still be detected within the premises of United Spirits and United Breweries. The inspection team, however, noted that the odour appeared to have reduced.

The joint inspection was carried out on



the directions of the Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC), which is examining complaints about odour pollution allegedly affecting people in the area.

As recorded in the report dated September 23, the team did not observe any discharge from either unit into the Bethora nullah during its visit. Nevertheless, the smell had not disappeared entirely from the industrial premises.

Both companies informed the inspection team about steps being

taken to address the issue. United Breweries stated that it had outlined measures to control the odour within a specified timeframe.

United Spirits reported testing bio-enzymes and biological agents intended to control odour at selected points in its treatment system. It also said that barriers, netting and containment arrangements had been put in place to limit the spread of the smell due to wind.



Traditional fishers in Goa seek stronger safeguards against coastal development

■ Cavelossim consultation highlights threats to fishing livelihoods, demands stricter regulation of mechanised fishing and protection of community rights

Team Goemkarponn

CAVELOSSIM: Goa's traditional fishing communities have called for stronger legal protection of their livelihoods, citing pressure from coastal development, gaps in regulatory enforcement and growing damage to marine ecosystems.

The concerns were raised on Saturday during the first state-level consultation in Cavelossim to prepare the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for sustainable fisheries. Participants said weak implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) provisions and delays in finalising Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) were leaving fishing communities

increasingly vulnerable to losing access to their traditional spaces.

Fishers said tourism-related activities, infrastructure projects and port development were competing with their customary use of coastal land.

They also expressed concern over fishing practices and other activities at sea, including bottom trawling in restricted areas, dredging, water sports and the discharge of effluents, which they said were affecting marine resources.

Seeking corrective measures, participants called for stronger coastal regulation, tighter controls on destructive fishing methods and more effective enforcement of existing fisheries laws.



Sawant urges Goan entrepreneurs to leverage free trade agreements for global growth

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PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has urged Goan entrepreneurs, manufacturers and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to leverage India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to expand into international markets, stressing the need to strengthen the state's export ecosystem and turn local products into globally competitive brands. Addressing a state-level workshop on 'Leveraging the Free Trade Agreements', organised by the Directorate of Industries, Trade and Commerce, Government of Goa, in collaboration with the Office of the Additional Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Mumbai, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Sawant said Goa must capture its rightful share of India's expanding global trade opportunities. He highlighted India's growing engagement with international markets under the leadership of PM Modi, noting that trade agreements were creating opportunities for Indian businesses to access new markets and strengthen exports.

One dead, several injured as Tempo Traveller crashes into water tanker at Mungul

■ Fatal accident on Western Bypass near Fatorda as Tempo Traveller hits tanker watering roadside plants, reportedly loses control

Team Goemkarponn

MUNGUL: One person died and several others were injured after a Tempo Traveller rammed into the rear of a water tanker engaged in watering plants along the road divider on the Western Bypass at Mungul, near Fatorda.

According to information available, the Tempo Traveller hit the tanker from behind and



reportedly lost control following the collision, resulting in a serious accident.

One person succumbed to their injuries, while several others sustained injuries in the crash. The injured

were taken for medical treatment.

The incident also raised concerns over emergency response after reports from the accident spot indicated that an ambulance had reportedly not arrived even after 30 minutes.

Further details regarding the identity of the deceased, the number of injured persons and the circumstances leading to the accident are awaited.

BiofuelCircle Proposes ₹42 Per Kg for Used Cooking Oil in Goa

■ Firm Suggests Statewide Collection System Amid FDA Concerns Over Illegal Diversion and Unsafe Reuse

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: BiofuelCircle has proposed purchasing used cooking oil at ₹42 per kg in Goa as part of a plan to establish an organised collection network for hotels, restaurants, casinos and other food establishments. The initiative aims to ensure that discarded cooking oil is channelled through authorised routes



instead of being diverted for unauthorised reuse. The proposal has been submitted to the Goa

Energy Development Agency (GEDA) amid concerns raised by the Food and Drugs

Administration (FDA) about the possible diversion of used cooking oil into unregulated markets. Such practices could pose food-safety risks if waste oil is reused for cooking. BiofuelCircle has recommended appointing a single authorised agency to manage the collection and trading of used cooking oil across the state. The proposed system would be supported by a digital platform connecting food

businesses, registered collectors and biodiesel producers, with transactions tracked online. The company has suggested a pricing formula linked to the prevailing high-speed diesel price in Goa. The calculation would account for biodiesel pricing and deductions towards collection, aggregation, testing, storage, transportation and processing costs.

Bank of Baroda Reports ₹75 Lakh Loan Fraud in Margao

■ Three Kundaim residents accused of allegedly concealing prior mortgage on property used as collateral security

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A case involving an alleged loan fraud of ₹75 lakh has been reported in Margao, with three residents of Kundaim, Ponda, accused of allegedly obtaining credit facilities by offering a property as collateral security despite it having been previously mortgaged. According to the complaint filed by Ritesh Verma, on behalf of Bank of Baroda, Margao, the alleged offences took



place between 2014 and 2023 at the erstwhile Vijaya Bank branch in Margao, which merged with Bank of Baroda with effect from April 1, 2019. The accused have been identified as Uday

Naik, Urvashi Naik and Yuvaraj Naik, all residents of Kundaim, Ponda. They allegedly availed credit facilities amounting to ₹75,00,000 by offering a property as collateral security and creating an equitable mortgage, while representing that the first two accused were the lawful owners of the property. The complaint

further alleges that the accused concealed the fact that the property had already been mortgaged with EDC Ltd. for a loan availed by Pure Beverages and was subsequently sold at auction. By allegedly concealing the earlier mortgage and using the same title documents, the accused are suspected of inducing the bank to sanction the loan, resulting in an alleged wrongful loss of ₹75 lakh to the bank.



50-Year-Old Worker Dies After Wooden Plank Falls on Him at Zuarinagar Construction Site

■ Dabolim resident sustains fatal head injuries after plank falls from third-floor construction lift; police initiate inquiry

Team Goemkarponn

ZUARINAGAR: A 50-year-old construction worker died after a wooden plank fitted to a construction lift on the third floor of a building fell on him at a construction site near MES College, Zuarinagar, on October 17, 2026.

The deceased has been identified as Huchappa Sonakappa, a resident of Dabolim and originally from Karnataka.

According to police information, the incident occurred at around 8:40 am when the worker was walking inside the construction site for work. A wooden plank fitted to the construction lift on the third floor allegedly fell on him,

causing serious head injuries.

He was subsequently shifted to the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) at Chicalim, where the duty doctor declared him brought dead.

Police received information from the casualty department of SDH Chicalim at around 3:51 pm on October 17. Following this, police visited the hospital and conducted an inquiry into the incident.

An inquest panchanama was conducted, and the body was preserved at South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for further medico-legal formalities.

Further inquiry is being conducted by PSI Aditya Velip of Verna Police Station.



Margao Man Loses ₹4.20 Lakh in Suspected Online Banking Fraud

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A Margao resident has allegedly lost ₹4,20,100 in an online banking fraud after clicking on a suspicious link received through an SMS purportedly sent by the Bank of India regarding his pension.

According to Margao Town Police, a case has been registered under Cr. No. 118/2026 under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

As per the complaint filed by Andrew Joseph Fatima Pereira, a resident of Margao, the incident occurred between October 7, 2026, at 12 am and October 12, 2026, at 6:32 pm. The complainant allegedly received an SMS containing a suspicious link related to his pension. Upon clicking the link, applications identified as Clone Phone, Norton VPN and Clean Phone were installed on his mobile phone. These applications allegedly enabled unknown accused persons to gain unauthorised access to his Bank of India account.

Shuttering Plates Worth ₹9,000 Stolen From Dabolim Construction Site

■ Vasco Police register theft case; Rickshaw driver and unidentified persons named in complaint

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Shuttering plates worth ₹9,000 were allegedly stolen from the construction site of Venkata Rao Infra Projects Pvt. Ltd. at Dabolim, Vasco, on October 17, 2026.

According to the complaint filed by Vasant Prabhavalkar, a resident of Ponda and authorised signatory of Venkata Rao Infra Projects Pvt. Ltd., the incident occurred at around 5:30 pm at the



company's construction site.

The complaint alleges that unidentified persons, along with rickshaw driver Ashok Dandulkar, a resident of Chicalim and

originally from Karnataka, acted with a common intention to commit the theft of shuttering plates valued at

₹9,000.

Further investigation in the case is being conducted by Head Constable Devidas Palyekar (HC 6014) of Vasco Police Station.

Theft at Davorlim House; Gold Ornaments, Silver Worth ₹4.56 Lakh Stolen

■ Unknown accused break open main door lock and cupboards; Maina Curtorim Police investigate

Team Goemkarponn

DAVORLIM: A theft has been reported at a house in Davorlim, where unknown accused persons allegedly broke into the residence and stole gold ornaments, a silver bar and coins worth approximately ₹4,56,173.

According to the complaint filed by Ancy A., a resident of Davorlim, the incident



occurred between 5 pm on October 16 and 6:30 pm on October 17, 2026.

The accused allegedly gained entry into the house by forcibly breaking

open the lock of the main door. They then entered the bedroom, broke open the cupboards and stole the valuables.

Further investigation in the case is being carried out by PSI Ashitosh Naik of Maina Curtorim Police Station.

Hashtags: #GoaNews #Davorlim #TheftCase #MainaCurtorimPolice #CrimeNews #SouthGoa

Goy Rakhonn Yatra concludes in Margao; Rahul Gandhi targets BJP over land, jobs and corruption

■ Congress launches 'Gaon Rakhonn Abhiyan' to protect Goa's land, identity and environment ahead of 2027 Assembly elections

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Goy Rakhonn Yatra, organised by the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC), culminated in Margao on Sunday in the presence of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and senior Congress leaders, with the party launching the 'Gaon Rakhonn Abhiyan' to carry forward



its campaign for the protection of Goa's land, identity, environment and the rights of its people.

Addressing a large gathering, Rahul Gandhi

accused the BJP government of prioritising wealthy individuals and corporate interests over ordinary

Goans. Describing Goa as a paradise that must be protected, he raised concerns over land-related decisions, unemployment, environmental degradation

and the alleged exploitation of the state's natural resources.

Gandhi asserted that Goa belonged to its people and not to the Chief Minister or any BJP minister. He questioned the lack of adequate employment opportunities for Goan youth and stressed the need for quality education, accessible healthcare and sustainable development.



Maina-Curtorim Police Urge Schools to Report Suspected Abuse and Drug Use

■ Nine school counsellors briefed on student safety, suspicious activities and the need to report concerns promptly

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Maina-Curtorim Police have urged school counsellors to remain vigilant about students' safety and report suspected cases of abuse, drug use and other activities that could put children at risk. The advisory was discussed at a meeting attended by nine counsellors from schools falling under the jurisdiction of the Maina-Curtorim Police Station. The interaction focused on recognising warning signs among students and improving coordination between educational institutions and the police. Counsellors were

asked to pay attention to changes in students' behaviour, attendance patterns and conduct, as these could indicate underlying difficulties or possible risks to their well-being. The meeting also addressed concerns related to drug and tobacco consumption among students. Counsellors were briefed on identifying and reporting suspected substance abuse, along with suspicious individuals or activities in and around school premises. Child protection was another key focus, with particular attention to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) framework.



Micky Pacheco Revives UGDP, Announces Plans to Contest 2027 Goa Assembly Elections

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BENAULIM: Former Goa Tourism Minister Micky Pacheco has revived his association with the United Goans Democratic Party (UGDP) and joined the party as it prepares for the 2027 Goa Assembly elections. Pacheco has also become a member of the party's executive committee, which includes 11 other advocates, and the party is now awaiting approval for its two-leaves election symbol, popularly referred to as "Don Panam."

Pacheco announced that the UGDP intends to field candidates across Goa in the upcoming Assembly elections. He maintained that the party would not divide votes, arguing that several prospective candidates seeking Congress tickets could contest independently if denied nominations, potentially splitting the secular vote. Pacheco has decided to contest the 2027 Assembly elections from Nuvem on a UGDP ticket. His wife is also expected to enter the electoral fray, with Pacheco stating that the decision is intended to avoid dynasty politics.

Goa-Made Liquor Seized at Majali Checkpost; Accused Arrested Along with Car

■ Excise officials recover 28.750 litres of liquor and 2 litres of beer concealed in car's bonnet

Team Goemkarponn

KARWAR: The Excise Department seized Goa-made liquor being illegally transported in a Maruti Swift Dzire car travelling from Goa towards Karwar at the Majali checkpost. A total of 28.750 litres of liquor and 2 litres of beer were seized in the operation.

The accused was arrested, and the car



was also confiscated. The operation was conducted on the directions of the Joint Commissioner (Enforcement and

Inspection), Mangaluru Division, and under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Uttara Kannada district.

Congress rejects BJP's allegations against Rahul Gandhi over Kunbi shawl

■ Says Rahul Gandhi placed the shawl on the podium rather than throwing it away; questions BJP over alleged misuse of ₹4.40 crore in Prerana Din funds

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has rejected the Goa BJP's allegations that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi disrespected the traditional Kunbi shawl during his visit to Goa, accusing the ruling party of misrepresenting the incident to create a political controversy.

Responding to a



video circulated by the Goa BJP on social media, Panjikar clarified that

Gandhi had not thrown away the shawl but had placed it on the podium.

According to Panjikar, Gandhi handed over the shawl to him, saying, "This

is for you."

Panjikar accused the BJP of distorting the facts and attempting to create outrage over an incident that, according to him, involved no disrespect towards Goa's culture or tribal identity.

He further alleged that the controversy was an attempt to divert public attention from issues concerning the state government.

Goa's Twin Airports Could Turn the State Into a Major Pharmaceutical Logistics Hub

■ Mopa and Dabolim offer an opportunity to strengthen drug exports, improve cold-chain connectivity and reduce logistics costs as India expands its regional air cargo network.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's twin airports, Manohar International Airport at Mopa and Dabolim Airport, could play a growing role in India's pharmaceutical export network by providing faster cargo movement, specialised cold-chain facilities and improved access to international markets.

The Covid-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains and highlighted the importance of reliable transportation for temperature-sensitive products such as vaccines and essential medicines. For pharmaceutical manufacturers across western India, dependence on major metropolitan airports has often meant long road journeys, higher handling costs and delays before shipments can begin their international journey.

India's growing pharmaceutical industry has increased the need for a more decentralised air cargo network. Regional airports could help manufacturers move products closer to international freight connections while reducing pressure on established gateways such as Mumbai.



Goa has the potential to benefit significantly from this shift. The state has an established pharmaceutical manufacturing base, with industrial areas such as Verna and Tuem supporting production and related activities. Better integration between these industrial centres and the state's airports could strengthen Goa's position in the pharmaceutical supply chain. Dabolim has traditionally handled cargo within the constraints of its existing infrastructure and operational requirements. Mopa, meanwhile, offers an opportunity to expand cargo operations through dedicated facilities and temperature-controlled storage for pharmaceutical consignments.

Further investment in cargo terminals, refrigerated storage, customs clearance

and road connectivity would be essential to realise this potential. An integrated system could allow medicines to move more efficiently from manufacturing facilities to aircraft, helping preserve product quality throughout transportation.

The benefits could extend beyond pharmaceutical exports. A stronger regional cargo network could attract logistics companies, generate specialised employment in cold-chain management and support industrial investment. Reduced dependence on distant airports could also improve the competitiveness of local manufacturers.

The continued operation of both airports could support a complementary development model, with Mopa providing

opportunities for expanded cargo and international connectivity while Dabolim continues to serve southern Goa's established aviation needs. The two facilities could contribute to a more balanced economic framework that supports industry alongside tourism and hospitality.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has previously backed the continued operation of both airports, highlighting their potential to complement each other. The approach reflects a broader need to distribute aviation infrastructure and economic activity beyond major metropolitan centres.

However, turning Goa into a major pharmaceutical logistics hub will require sustained investment, efficient customs procedures, dependable cold-chain facilities and stronger links between airports and manufacturing clusters.

If these elements come together, Goa's twin-airport model could demonstrate how regional aviation infrastructure can strengthen India's pharmaceutical exports, improve supply-chain resilience and create new opportunities for industrial growth.

Centre Tells Meta to Review Algorithms to Prevent Public Disorder and Online Misinformation

■ MeitY asks Facebook and Instagram owner to curb misleading content amplification while protecting lawful expression

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Centre has advised Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, to review its recommendation and content ranking systems to prevent misleading information from being disproportionately amplified and to reduce the risk of public disorder, violence and other unlawful activities.

In an advisory dated October 10, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) asked the company to ensure that its algorithms do not expose users excessively to a single or limited set of narratives. It also urged the platform to promote a reasonable diversity of relevant and credible information. The advisory comes amid protests in Delhi by the Cockroach Janta Party and opposition parties demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. However, the government has not linked the advisory to any specific incident. The ministry expressed concern over photographs, videos, statements and graphics relating to ongoing public events being prominently displayed and recommended to users without sufficient context. It warned that

such material could create confusion, apprehension and disturbances to public order when presented misleadingly or amplified disproportionately.

Meta has been asked to provide adequate context for content depicting current events, particularly when its authenticity, date, location or circumstances are unclear. The government has also highlighted old or selectively edited visuals presented as current events, unverified claims about emergency measures and police action, and audio visual material that could incite violence. The advisory calls for stronger systems to identify, review and escalate potentially harmful content that gains significant reach through recommendation algorithms. It also directs Meta to cooperate promptly with law enforcement agencies and authorised government bodies in accordance with applicable laws and prescribed timelines. MeitY cited the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Information Technology Rules, 2021, emphasising the platform's responsibility to exercise due diligence. The company has been advised to implement the necessary measures immediately and inform the ministry about the action taken.



Damu Naik Targets Rahul Gandhi Over Mhadei Silence, Urges BJP Leaders to Exercise Restraint

the valour shown to him.

He emphasised that public figures must uphold dignity and respect elders, Goan culture and traditions. Naik also maintained that the Goy Rakhonn Yatra would not affect the BJP, adding that the state government is committed to protecting Goa's cultural heritage.

On statements made by BJP leaders, Naik said the party follows

its own process and stressed that everyone must exercise restraint in their public remarks. He cautioned that statements made without due consideration could have the opposite effect, urging ministers and party members to maintain discipline and responsibility in their communication.

Rahul Gandhi's visit will make no difference to Goa, says Pramod Sawant

to Narendra Modi, who continued wearing it throughout the programme and while leaving the venue.

He said this demonstrated the

importance the Prime Minister and other leaders attached to respecting Goa's culture and people.

Taking a further swipe at Gandhi, Sawant said brief visits, public appearances and waving to crowds were not enough, and challenged the Congress leader to explain the work carried out during Congress-led governments.

The Chief Minister said his government had made its report card publicly available, allowing people to assess its performance and development initiatives. Referring to Gandhi's political march, Sawant remarked that what was intended to be a yatra had turned into a jatra, describing it as a complete failure.

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"This Incident Should Never Have Taken Place": Omar Abdullah Seeks Action Over Attack on Srinagar Bound Bus

■ Luxury sleeper bus carrying around 40 passengers attacked with stones and bricks near Kurukshetra in Haryana

Team Goemkarponn

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has urged the Haryana government and police to take strict action against those responsible for an alleged attack on a Srinagar bound luxury sleeper bus near Kurukshetra, after its windows and taillights were damaged in stone pelting.



The bus, operated by Star World Ventures, was travelling from Delhi to Srinagar with around 40 passengers on board when the incident occurred late Friday night. The vehicle, registered in

Jammu and Kashmir, had stopped at Divine Star Dhaba in Haryana when it was allegedly targeted by a group of unidentified people. Abdullah raised the matter with Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and the Haryana Police, seeking action against the accused and measures to prevent similar incidents.

Calling the incident unfortunate, Abdullah

said it should never have happened. He expressed hope that the Haryana authorities would identify those responsible and ensure that such attacks were not repeated. The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister also assured the affected passengers of his government's support, adding that his office was in contact with the Haryana authorities and monitoring the situation.



India Bars Sugarcane Based Ethanol From 2026 to 27 Petrol Blending Tender

■ Oil companies seek 11 billion litres of ethanol as government prioritises sugar supplies and cuts maize based ethanol incentives

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has excluded ethanol produced from sugarcane juice, sugar syrup and B heavy molasses from its latest petrol blending procurement tender for the 2026 to 27 supply year, as the government seeks to protect domestic sugar availability while maintaining its nationwide ethanol blending programme. The tender, issued on October 16 by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) on behalf of state run oil marketing companies, invites bids for approximately 11 billion litres of ethanol for the supply period

from November 2026 to October 2027. The procurement is aimed at meeting the country's requirement for blending 20 per cent ethanol with petrol. The tender states that the government has directed that the diversion of sugar for ethanol production be reduced to zero during the 2026 to 27 supply year. Accordingly, bids for ethanol manufactured from sugarcane juice, sugar, sugar syrup and B heavy molasses have not been invited under the latest procurement process. Instead, oil marketing companies will accept ethanol produced from maize, broken rice, surplus rice procured by the Food Corporation of India.



"Holiday or Meeting His 'Chaos Collaborators'?" BJP Targets Rahul Gandhi Over Foreign Trip

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The BJP has targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his reported foreign trip, questioning his absence from India during Navratri and accusing him of avoiding political responsibilities. BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari took a dig at Gandhi in a post on X, claiming that the Congress leader was once again taking a break and enjoying a holiday. He also speculated whether Gandhi was meeting what he called his "chaos collaborators" abroad. Bhandari's remarks came a day after Gandhi accused the BJP leadership of orchestrating alleged electoral irregularities during a rally in Margao, South Goa, ahead of the 2027 Goa Assembly elections. At the rally, Gandhi alleged that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had implemented the alleged "vote chori", Union Home Minister Amit Shah had operationalised it, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had orchestrated the plan.

Violence Sweeps French Cities as Macron Promises Tough Action Against Rioters

■ Around 2,400 arrested as protests turn violent, with buildings torched, shops looted and two people reported dead

Team Goemkarponn

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron has called for calm and order after anti-government demonstrations across France descended into widespread violence, leaving two people dead and causing extensive damage to public buildings, businesses and streets.

In a televised address from the Elysee Palace, Macron condemned what he described as unrestrained violence and



said nothing could justify the destruction witnessed across the country. Police arrested around 2,400 people in several cities following clashes, arson and looting.

Macron warned that those responsible for damaging property and attacking public institutions would face

legal consequences. He also called for a clear distinction between demonstrators raising legitimate concerns and individuals engaging in criminal activities.

Videos circulating on social media showed shattered windows, burning bicycles, damaged shops and debris scattered across streets. In Limoges, protesters set fire to the historic City Hall, causing its roof to collapse and leaving the building close to being destroyed.

Ladakh Talks Hit Roadblock as Centre Seeks Fresh Dialogue on Constitutional Safeguards

■ Government explores Article 371 protections and a proposed elected body amid disagreement over Ladakh's political framework

Team Goemkarponn

SRINAGAR: The Centre has expressed its willingness to continue dialogue with Ladakhi representatives after negotiations over constitutional safeguards and the proposed political structure for the Union Territory encountered a roadblock.

The disagreement intensified after representatives of the



Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Front rejected a draft proposal presented by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

The leaders accused the Centre of backtracking on understandings reached during earlier rounds of negotiations.

The main point of contention is the proposed elected body for Ladakh and the extent of its powers. Ladakhi representatives have sought safeguards similar to those previously available under Article 370, arguing that parliamentary laws on certain subjects should not automatically apply to the region without the consent of the proposed elected body. Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish

Kundra said the demand raised questions about the extent of constitutional protection being sought. He maintained that Article 370 had already been abrogated and argued that its provisions could not simply be reintroduced through a new arrangement. The demand for protection under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution has also remained a major issue.

Super30 Football Academy Brings Players and Families Together for Beach Day 2026

■ Morjim event celebrates team spirit, friendship and the strong bond of the Super30 family

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Super30 Football Academy organised Beach Day 2026 at S2 Beach Shack in Morjim on October 18, bringing together players, parents, coaches and well wishers for an evening of fun, entertainment and togetherness.

The event featured music, food, exciting games and recreational activities, giving members of the academy an opportunity to relax, interact and strengthen



their bonds beyond the football field. The gathering created a lively atmosphere as players and

their families came together to celebrate the spirit of unity and friendship that forms an important part of the academy's culture.

Super30 Football Academy expressed its gratitude to S2 Beach Shack, Morjim, for hosting the event and thanked everyone who contributed to making Beach Day 2026 a success.

The celebration highlighted the academy's commitment to building a close knit community

that extends beyond football training and competitions. By bringing players, families and coaches together in an informal setting, the event provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships and create lasting memories.

Emphasising its family oriented approach, the academy reiterated that its identity goes beyond developing footballers, with a focus on fostering camaraderie, mutual support and a shared sense of belonging.

Arnav, Aaryan, Pragya and Avni Claim Double Crowns at Goa State Sub Junior Badminton Tournament

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Arnav Saraf, Aaryan Karpe, Pragya Audi and Avni Khyalia emerged as double crown winners at the Waman (Dada) Kelekar Memorial State Sub Junior Badminton Ranking Tournament 2026, organised by Ponda Shuttlers under the aegis of the Goa Badminton Association and the Sports Authority of Goa at Ponda. In the Boys U17 singles final, top seed Arnav Saraf defeated Sudhanva Udupa 15-10, 18-16 to secure the title. Arnav also teamed up with Shane D'Souza to claim the U17 boys' doubles crown, overcoming Sparsh Kolwalkar and Sudhanva 15-11, 15-11. Aaryan Karpe produced an impressive comeback in the Boys U15 singles final, defeating third seed Vishwa Parab 8-15, 16-14, 15-9.

Aaryan then partnered Ryllan Dsouza to win the doubles title, beating Samarth Sakhalkar and Vishwa 15-12, 15-10. Pragya Audi dominated the Girls U15 singles final, defeating Niharika Parwar 15-11, 15-11. She completed her double crown by teaming up with sister Saanvi Audi to win the Girls U17 doubles title.

East Bengal Begin ISL Title Defence With Dominant 4-0 Win Over Churchill Brothers

■ Dani Ramirez and Edmund Lalrindika score before substitute Bipin Singh strikes twice to seal a convincing victory for the defending champions

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Defending champions East Bengal FC began their Indian Super League title defence in impressive fashion, registering a commanding 4-0 victory over Churchill Brothers on Sunday. Dani Ramirez, Edmund Lalrindika and substitute Bipin Singh, who scored twice, found the net to give Antonio Habas' side a perfect start to their campaign.



East Bengal needed just two minutes to take the lead, with Ramirez producing a stunning free-kick from outside the penalty area. The midfielder unleashed a curling left-footed effort

that sailed into the top-left corner, leaving Churchill Brothers goalkeeper Sayad Kadir with little chance.

Churchill Brothers responded positively and created

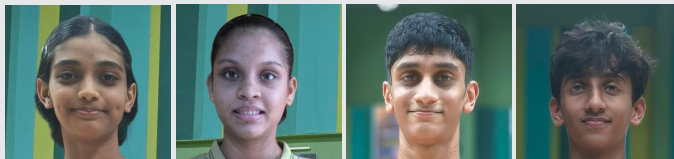
several opportunities to restore parity. The hosts threatened the East Bengal defence on multiple occasions and came close to scoring, even striking the woodwork.

Arnav Saraf, Sudhanva Udupa, Saanvi Audi and Dimple Revankar Enter U17 Finals at Goa State Badminton Ranking Tournament

■ Vishwa Parab, Aaryan Karpe, Pragya Audi and Niharika Parwar also advance to U15 singles finals in Ponda

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Top seed Arnav Saraf and Sudhanva Udupa will battle for the Boys U17 singles title, while Saanvi Audi and Dimple Revankar will compete for the Girls U17 singles crown at the Waman (Dada) Kelekar Memorial State Sub Junior Badminton



Ranking Tournament 2026 in Ponda.

Arnav defeated Linesh Virnodkar 15-10, 15-9 in the semifinals, while Sudhanva secured a 15-7, 15-11 victory over Atharv Sadaye. In the girls' category, top seed Saanvi

staged a comeback against Niharika Parwar, winning 14-16, 15-11, 15-9. Dimple booked her place in the final with a 15-12, 15-7 win over Anvitha Poojari.

The U17 doubles finals promise further

action. Arnav Saraf and Shane D'Souza will face Sparsh Kolwalkar and Sudhanva Udupa in the boys' doubles final. The girls' doubles title will be contested by sisters Pragya and Saanvi Audi against Arya Shinkre and Nidhi Nair. In mixed doubles, Arnav Saraf and Dimple Revankar will take on Sudhanva Udupa and Avni Khyalia.

Asian Para Games 2026: Mona Agarwal Wins Gold, Avani Lekhara Takes Silver in Historic Shooting Double

■ India celebrates a memorable opening day as its shooters secure a one-two finish, while Sheetal Devi equals the world record in para-archery

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India made a strong start to its Asian Para Games 2026 campaign, with Mona Agarwal winning gold and Avani Lekhara claiming silver in the women's 10m air rifle SH1 final. The historic one-two finish highlighted an impressive opening day for the Indian contingent. Mona produced a winning performance in the final, while Paralympic champion Avani secured the silver medal to complete a memorable result for India in the shooting competition. Earlier, Indian para-archer Sheetal Devi delivered

another outstanding performance by equalling the world record and setting a new Asian record in the women's compound qualification round. She scored 704 out of 720, surpassing the previous Asian record by six points and underlining her status as one of India's leading para-archery talents.

India also came close to securing a podium finish in the men's 10m air rifle event, where Swaroop Unhalkar finished fourth. Rakesh Nidagundi also represented India in the competition. In judo, Kokila assured India of a medal after reaching the final of the women's under-52kg category.

Smriti Mandhana-Led India Eye T20I Series Sweep Against Zimbabwe

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Indian women's cricket team will look to complete a 3-0 series sweep against Zimbabwe when the two sides meet in the third and final T20I in Raipur on Tuesday. With the batting unit regaining its rhythm, India will aim to carry their winning momentum into the match. Smriti Mandhana's first series as full-time captain began with an early scare in the opening T20I. Zimbabwe, playing first tour of India, reduced the hosts to 19/4 while defending a modest total of 114 on a slow surface.