



## Goa Launches AI Policy 2026 to Boost Youth Skills and Startups

■ CM Sawant and IT Minister Rohan Khaunte unveil the policy at Goa AI Tech Conclave 2026; plan to introduce AI education after Class 12 and establish AI labs across talukas

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa has launched its AI Policy 2026, becoming one of the few states in the country to introduce a dedicated policy aimed at empowering youth through artificial intelligence (AI). Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant and IT Minister Rohan Khaunte unveiled the policy at the Goa AI Tech Conclave 2026 in Panaji. Calling it a proud



moment for the state, Khaunte said the initiative would contribute to the betterment of Goa's youth by creating opportunities in the rapidly growing field of AI.

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant stressed the need to make AI accessible to a wider section of society, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of taking artificial intelligence to the people. He said efforts should focus on expanding access to AI for skilling, startups and capacity building. Sawant also said the vision of the Goa AI Policy 2026 was turning

into action, with plans to teach artificial intelligence to students after Class 12 and prepare them for better job opportunities. He revealed that the initiative had begun on a trial basis in Porvorim. The Chief Minister suggested expanding the programme at the taluka level by involving AI experts and utilising existing infrastructure in colleges and higher secondary schools to

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## Road Closure at Bambolim on October 25 for Foot Over Bridge Work

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Vehicular traffic near the Athletic Stadium at Bambolim will be diverted during the early hours of October 25 to facilitate the erection of a foot over bridge (FOB) along National Highway 66. According to a notification issued by the Office of the District Magistrate, North Goa, the road closure and traffic diversions will be in force from \*\*1 am to 6 am on October 25, 2026\*\*, along the stretch from the Athletic Stadium, Bambolim, to Holy Cross, Bambolim. The notification, issued on October 21 by Additional District Magistrate Pravin Hire Parab, outlines alternative routes for light motor vehicles and heavy commercial vehicles travelling between Panaji and Agacaim. Light motor vehicles travelling from Panaji towards Agacaim can take the route from Mercedes Circle to Pilar Junction via Old Goa Road, or proceed from Mercedes Circle to Goa Velha via the Military Camp at Mercedes. Heavy commercial vehicles will be diverted from Mercedes Circle towards Margao via Old Goa and Ponda.

## Sudin Dhavalikar Questions Rewarding Party-Hoppers, Says Loyal Workers Must Get Priority

■ MGP Leader Calls For Political Discipline, Reaffirms Mandrem As Party's Seat Ahead Of Elections

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** MGP leader Sudin Dhavalikar has questioned the practice of giving election tickets to party-hoppers while sidelining loyal workers who have dedicated years to building their organisations. He called for greater discipline within political parties, urging them to prioritise committed grassroots



workers over leaders who frequently switch parties for political gains. Speaking to reporters, Dhavalikar said political parties must seriously

introspect before the upcoming elections and decide whether to reward leaders who switch parties repeatedly or recognise workers who have served their organisations for decades. He stressed that political discipline can be maintained only when parties demonstrate the will to take firm action against indiscipline and political opportunism.

## 'No More Jantar Mantar Protest Calls': CJP Leaders Vow Before Court After Release

■ Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka walk free after seven days in judicial custody, but inquiry into alleged breach of peace bond continues

### Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were released from judicial custody on Wednesday after giving an undertaking before a Special Executive Magistrate court in New Delhi that they would not call for protests at Jantar Mantar while its status as a designated protest site remains unchanged under the law. The two leaders had been in custody since



October 14 following a protest on October 13, when they climbed over the locked gates of Jantar Mantar and waved the national flag to oppose the site's denotification as a designated protest venue. In their written undertaking, both leaders pledged to maintain peace and public order and expressed faith in the judiciary.

## Tense Situation in Zuarinagar After Family Attacked With Knives, Rods

Several injured, house damaged in alleged assault; local representatives demand arrests and increased police patrolling



### Team Goemkarponn

**ZUARINAGAR, SANCOALE:** Tension prevailed in Zuarinagar, Sancoale, on Friday night after a family was allegedly attacked by a group of persons armed with knives, rods and stones, leaving several family members injured and their house damaged. One member of the family sustained a knife injury to the neck, while others, including women, were allegedly assaulted. Ward panch member and former Sancoale sarpanch Girish Pillai rushed to the spot after receiving information about the incident. The injured were initially taken to Cansaulim Hospital and later shifted to

Margao District Hospital for further treatment. According to family members, the incident occurred after they returned home following the Durga Puja visarjan and parked their vehicles on the road outside their house. A group of persons allegedly approached them, claiming that the parked vehicles were obstructing their movement, despite the road being open. When the family members approached the group to enquire about the objection, an argument allegedly broke out. The situation soon escalated, with the group reportedly hurling abuses and assaulting family members with rods,

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## Kuwait Flagged Tanker Hit in Strait of Hormuz, All 21 Indian Seafarers Safe

■ M/T AL DASMA was struck by an unknown projectile on October 21 as tensions rise over threats to commercial shipping in the strategic waterway

### Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** A Kuwait flagged oil product tanker carrying 21 Indian seafarers was struck by an unknown projectile while passing through the Strait of Hormuz on October 21. All Indian crew members and the remaining crew aboard the vessel were reported safe following the incident. The vessel, M/T AL DASMA, was transiting



the strategically important waterway when the incident occurred. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal confirmed the safety of the Indian seafarers and said authorities were closely

monitoring the situation. The minister said the government remained in contact with the ship management company to ensure the continued safety and well being of the crew.

# Let History Prevail, Let Shivaji Maharaj Be Honoured

The government's decision to explore the purchase of land for the statue at Sada is an opportunity to honour history, respect public sentiment and find a lawful solution.

Goa has every reason to welcome the state government's decision to explore the purchase of the land on which the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj stands at Headland Sada in Mormugao. The issue has generated considerable debate, but beyond the legal dispute over the land lies a larger question of historical memory, public sentiment and the place of one of India's most celebrated rulers in Goa's past.

In an affidavit before the Bombay High Court at Goa, Chief Secretary V Candavelou has stated that Shivaji Maharaj occupies a special place in the hearts and minds of Goans. He also referred to the Maratha ruler's historical role in challenging Portuguese colonial power and inspiring people during Goa's freedom movement. The government has justified exploring the purchase as a means of preserving public peace and preventing a possible confrontation.

This is a position that deserves consideration. Shivaji Maharaj is not merely a figure from Maharashtra's history. His military campaigns, administrative vision and resistance to colonial and imperial domination form part of the wider history of the western coast, including Goa. His legacy crosses modern state boundaries because history itself does not always respect the borders drawn on contemporary maps.

The proposed acquisition, therefore, should not be viewed simply as a government response to a local controversy. It can also be an opportunity to recognise a historical connection that continues to hold meaning for sections of Goan society.

History should unite, not divide

Goa's historical experience is complex. Centuries of Portuguese rule, resistance to colonial authority and the struggle for liberation have shaped the state's identity. Shivaji Maharaj's campaigns against Portuguese influence in the region, including his 1683 expedition into Goa, are part of this historical narrative. His legacy of courage, strategic thinking and political assertion continues to inspire people across generations.

For many Goans, the statue at Sada is a symbol of that legacy. It represents admiration for a ruler remembered for defending his people, building a strong administration and challenging powerful adversaries. Such sentiments cannot simply be dismissed as political mobilisation. They deserve to be understood in the context of the emotional connections people maintain with historical figures.

At the same time, respect for history must go hand in hand with

*The government's willingness to explore a purchase through mutual agreement offers a possible way forward. If the acquisition is legally permissible and financially justified, it could resolve the dispute without turning a historical symbol into the centre of a prolonged confrontation.*

*Public administration must be guided by both sensitivity and responsibility. A rigid approach that ignores genuine public sentiment can deepen divisions, while an emotional response that disregards legal obligations can undermine governance. The challenge is to find a balance between the two.*

respect for the law. The Mormugao Port Authority approached the High Court after the statue was erected on land it claimed belonged to the port. The court raised serious concerns about the alleged encroachment and the failure of authorities to prevent it. These concerns cannot be brushed aside merely because the structure commemorates a revered historical figure.

The government must therefore ensure that its proposed acquisition follows the law, receives the necessary approvals and is supported by a transparent assessment of the land's value and the public expenditure involved. A practical solution is better than confrontation.

The government's willingness to explore a purchase through mutual agreement offers a possible way forward. If the acquisition is legally permissible and financially justified, it could resolve the dispute without turning a historical symbol into the centre of a prolonged confrontation.

Public administration must be guided by both sensitivity and responsibility. A rigid approach that ignores genuine public sentiment can deepen divisions, while an

emotional response that disregards legal obligations can undermine governance. The challenge is to find a balance between the two.

The government should place the relevant details before the High Court, explain the source of funds and demonstrate why the acquisition serves a legitimate public purpose. The process must also establish that the proposed purchase does not amount to rewarding those responsible for any unauthorised occupation of public land.

This distinction is essential. Honouring Shivaji Maharaj is one matter. Endorsing encroachment is another. The two must never be confused.

A lawful acquisition, if approved, would allow the state to protect the statue's location while safeguarding the principle that government property cannot be occupied at will. It would also send a clear message that public sentiment can be accommodated without weakening the rule of law.

Let the legacy speak for itself

There is a larger lesson for Goa in this episode. Historical monuments and statues should be treated as opportunities for education, cultural engagement and public reflection, rather than instruments of political confrontation.

The statue at Sada could become more than a commemorative structure. With appropriate planning, the surrounding area could include historical information explaining Shivaji Maharaj's connection with the region, his campaigns and the broader political circumstances of the seventeenth century. Such an initiative would help younger generations understand history beyond slogans and political arguments.

The government must also ensure that the issue does not become a source of communal or regional antagonism. Shivaji Maharaj's legacy should be presented as a source of historical understanding and inspiration, not as a reason to question the identity or loyalties of any community.

Ultimately, the strength of a government lies in its ability to resolve difficult issues through dialogue, law and sound administration. The proposed purchase of the Sada land deserves a fair hearing on these principles. Goa can respect the authority of the courts, protect public property and honour a historical figure revered by many of its people. These objectives are not mutually exclusive.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's place in history was earned through courage, leadership and an enduring legacy. Preserving his memory in Goa is a legitimate aspiration. The responsibility now rests with the government to ensure that this aspiration is fulfilled through a process that is transparent, lawful and in the larger public interest.

## EDITOR SPEAKS

### Vishwajit Rane's Vision for Free Elderly Care Marks a New Chapter in Goa's Healthcare

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane's announcement that the Goa government plans to regularise free caretaker services for senior citizens is a welcome step towards building a more compassionate and accessible healthcare system. The proposal, announced during the 'Sarkar Anganwadi Ki Seva' programme in Saligao, recognises the growing need to support elderly residents who may require assistance with their daily activities.

As Goa's population ages, many families face difficulties in balancing employment, household responsibilities and the care of elderly parents. Senior citizens living alone or dealing with limited mobility can be particularly vulnerable. A properly designed caretaker service could provide meaningful relief to families while helping older residents maintain their dignity, independence and quality of life.

However, an announcement alone cannot address these challenges. The government must clearly explain how the scheme will operate, who will be eligible, how caretakers will be appointed and trained, and whether assistance will be available across all talukas, including remote villages.

The initiative must also establish a transparent system for applications, timely service delivery and grievance redressal. Caretakers should receive appropriate training in elderly care, hygiene, mobility assistance and emergency response. Their working conditions and responsibilities must be clearly defined to ensure reliable and safe support.

If implemented effectively, Goa's proposed initiative could become a valuable model for other states. But its success should not be measured merely by the distinction of becoming the first state to introduce such a service. It should be measured by the number of senior citizens who genuinely benefit from it.

Our elderly citizens have spent their lives contributing to their families and society. They deserve more than promises; they deserve dependable care, respect and security.

- Meenal Naik, Ponda

### Goa's Electoral Roll Revision Must Ensure Every Eligible Voter Is Counted

The Election Commission of India's announcement of the Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls in Goa ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections is an important step towards strengthening democracy. With the final electoral rolls scheduled for publication on January 4, 2027, the exercise must be conducted with transparency, accuracy and public participation.

The decision to rationalise polling stations, maintain a prescribed limit of 1,200 electors per polling station and improve accessibility is welcome. Voters should not have to travel unreasonable distances or face geographical barriers to exercise their fundamental democratic right. Equally important is ensuring that elderly citizens, persons with disabilities and residents of remote villages can access their designated polling stations without difficulty.

However, the success of this exercise will depend on how effectively the authorities identify and correct errors in voter records. Eligible voters must not be excluded because of administrative lapses, outdated information or difficulties in completing documentation. At the same time, duplicate and inaccurate entries must be addressed through a fair and verifiable process.

The publication of the draft electoral rolls on November 12, followed by the claims and objections period until December 11, provides an important opportunity for citizens to verify their details. The Election Department and political parties must actively create awareness so that voters understand the process and know how to raise objections or seek corrections.

Political parties should participate constructively in the October 23 meeting with the Chief Electoral Officer and ensure that concerns raised by citizens are addressed promptly. As Goa prepares for a crucial electoral year, an accurate and inclusive voter list is essential to free and fair elections. Every eligible Goan must have the opportunity to vote, and no genuine voter should be left out.

- Rohan Naik, Mapusa



# SGDH GETS A MAJOR HEALTHCARE BOOST

**Advanced Diagnostics and Specialised Services to Strengthen Healthcare Access in Goa**

In a significant step towards strengthening Goa's public healthcare infrastructure, Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant inaugurated a range of advanced diagnostic and specialised healthcare facilities at the South Goa District Hospital, Margao. The new facilities mark an important milestone in the Government's continued commitment to providing accessible, quality and modern healthcare to the people of Goa.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of Health Minister Shri Vishwajit Rane, PWD Minister Shri Digambar Kamat, Margao MLA Shri Ulhas Tuyekar and other dignitaries.

The newly inaugurated facilities include a Treadmill Test (TMT) Room, cardiology services and an MRI facility, expanding the hospital's capacity to provide advanced diagnostic support and specialised medical care. These additions are aimed at improving access to essential investigations, supporting timely diagnosis and strengthening the delivery of patient

care, particularly for residents of South Goa.

The expansion reflects the State Government's focus on developing a robust public healthcare system that combines modern medical technology, specialised services and improved access for citizens. By strengthening diagnostic capabilities at a major public hospital, the initiative seeks to make quality healthcare more accessible to people across the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant emphasised the importance of expanding specialist medical services and investing in healthcare infrastructure to meet the evolving needs of the population.

He stated that the development of specialised healthcare facilities, along with the expansion of nursing education and plans for an ESI Medical College, forms part of a broader vision to build a stronger and more comprehensive healthcare ecosystem in Goa.

The initiative aligns with the

State Government's vision of Viksit Goa 2037 and Viksit Bharat 2047, with healthcare infrastructure and medical education playing a vital role in the journey towards a healthier and more developed society.

With the introduction of advanced diagnostic facilities and the continued expansion of specialised services, the South Goa District Hospital is poised to play an increasingly important role in meeting the healthcare needs of the region.

The Government remains committed to strengthening public healthcare infrastructure, promoting modern medical services and ensuring that citizens have better access to quality treatment closer to home.

Advanced Facilities. Accessible Healthcare. A Healthier Goa. Government of Goa



**Department of Information and Publicity**

# Teacher accused of slapping minor student; mother alleges wrongful confinement at school

■ Six teaching staff named in complaint over alleged assault on 14-year-old and confinement of his mother at Harmal school

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PERNEM:** A complaint was lodged on October 20, 2026, at 7:46 pm by a 43-year-old woman from Tuem, Pernem, alleging that a teacher at Harmal Panchakroshi Higher Secondary School and Professional Studies, Harmal, slapped her 14-year-old minor son over a notebook-related issue, causing him



injuries. According to the complaint, the alleged incident involving teacher Pooja Arun Bhankar took place between April 7 and October 19, 2026, during the period mentioned in the complaint, between

1 pm and 1.45 pm. The complainant further alleged that after she raised the issue of the teacher's alleged negligence in the school's WhatsApp group, she was called to the school. There, six members of the teaching staff allegedly acted with common intention and wrongfully confined her in the school's control room by latching the door from both sides.

**Harmal Panchakroshi School Principal Denies Reports of Six Teachers Booked for Assault**  
**Team Goemkarponn**

**HARMAL:** Shambhavi Parsekar, Principal of Harmal Panchakroshi Higher Secondary School, has firmly denied recent unverified media reports claiming that six teachers from the institution have been booked for assault.



## 15 Booked for Alleged Trespass into Davorlim School

■ Mother's complaint alleges that the accused disturbed students and created an unsafe environment during regular classes; further investigation is underway

**Team Goemkarponn**

**DAVORLIM:** Police are investigating a complaint filed by a mother of minor children alleging that 15 persons formed an unlawful assembly and criminally trespassed into a school at TNK, Davorlim, while regular classes were in progress. According to the complaint, the accused allegedly attempted to disturb the complainant's children, who are students of the school, as well as other students. The group is also accused of frightening the children and creating an unsafe environment on the school premises. The complaint further alleges that the accused, having actual charge or control over the schoolchildren,

exposed them to circumstances likely to cause unnecessary mental or physical suffering. The persons named in the complaint are Asharaf Pandiyal of Davorlim; Shaikh Aslam of Gogol; Shaikh Javed of Aquem; Hussain Kalholi and Rafiq Hatimali of Mandopa; Sadiq Bhehathi and Mohammed Sadiq Dodmani of Rumdamol; Mehboob Makandar and Taj Makandar of Gogol; Maula Ali Shaikh of Chimbel; Sayed Siraj of Aquem; Shaikh Jina of Rumdamol, Davorlim; Kalil of Gogol; and Altaf Sayed and Kader Shah of Fatorda. Further investigation in the case is being conducted by LPSI Veronica Coutinho of Maina Curtorim Police Station.



## Three Shiroda Men Accused of Assaulting Minor Boy

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PONDA:** Three persons from Shiroda have been accused of assaulting a minor boy over a dispute concerning the non-payment of outstanding dues, according to a complaint lodged by the boy's father.

As per the complaint, the incident allegedly took place at around 10 pm on October 20, 2026, at Shiroda, Ponda.

The accused, identified as Gauresh Kothambikar, Shubham Kothambikar and Aniket Kothambikar, all residents of Shiroda, allegedly assaulted the complainant's minor son by slapping and punching him.

The alleged assault was reportedly triggered by an issue concerning the outstanding dues owed by the complainant.

Further investigation in the case is being conducted by PSI Rajasekhar Reddy of Ponda Police Station.

## Nandakumar Mahadev Apte Discharged by JMFC Valpoi Court in Podoshe Shooting Case

■ Court discharges Podoshe resident in connection with alleged shooting incident at Shriram Nagar, Sattari, reported around a year ago

**Team Goemkarponn**

**SATTARI:** In a significant development in the alleged shooting case reported at Shriram Nagar, Podoshe, around a year ago, Nandakumar Mahadev Apte, a resident of Podoshe, has been discharged by the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court, Valpoi, today.

Apte was facing proceedings in connection



with the alleged incident under Sections 125, 118 and 118(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Section 25(9) of the Arms Act. Advocate Shivaji

Desai represented Apte before the court, while Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) Ajay Halanakar appeared on behalf of the State. The court's decision marks a significant development in the case, which had drawn attention in the Sattari area following the alleged shooting incident at Shriram Nagar, Podoshe.

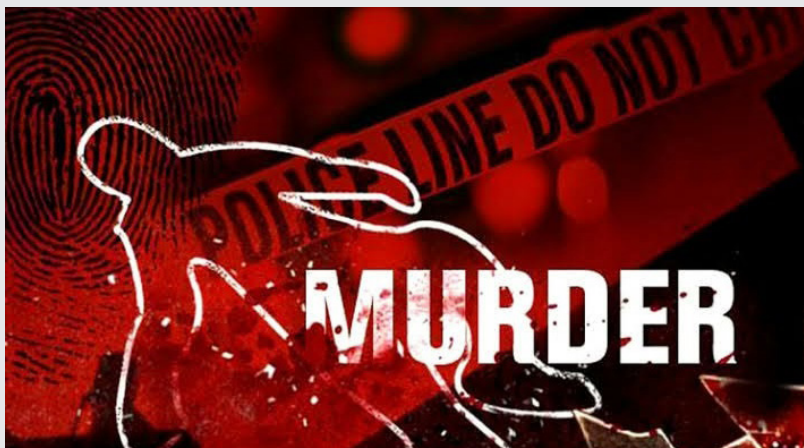
## Mashem Man Allegedly Murdered by Neighbour; Tension Prevails in Canacona

■ Locals Demand Arrest of Suspect, Allege Authorities Ignored Earlier Complaints About Threats and Weapons

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MASHEM:** A 32-year-old man, identified as Sanjay Naik, from Mashem in Canacona was allegedly murdered by his neighbour with an iron rod at a chicken centre in the locality.

Tension prevailed in the area following the incident, as a large number of locals gathered at the crime scene and outside the suspect's house,



demanding his immediate arrest.

Locals alleged that several complaints had

the incident, residents accused the authorities

previously been lodged against the suspect, reportedly supported by video evidence, over alleged attempts to attack people with a knife and a sword.

Expressing anger over

of negligence, claiming that despite the earlier complaints, the weapons had not been confiscated.

The incident has sparked concern among residents, who are demanding accountability and prompt action from the authorities. The allegations regarding previous complaints and the authorities' response are based on claims made by local residents.

# Chief Minister's Canacona Visit Postponed; Sarkar Tumchya Dari to Continue

■ Ministers to Address Public Grievances in Goa on October 22 and 23

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The scheduled visit of Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant to Canacona constituency has been postponed, with revised dates to be announced shortly. Despite the postponement, the Goa government's \*Sarkar Tumchya Dari\* public outreach initiative will continue on October 22 and 23, with ministers visiting designated venues across the state to interact with citizens and address public



grievances related to their respective portfolios. Departmental officers will accompany the ministers to facilitate the redressal of grievances and provide guidance to citizens on government services and related matters. On October 22, Transport

Minister Mauvin Godinho will be available at the Block Development Office (BDO) in Ponda, while Water Resources Minister Subhash Shirodkar will meet citizens at the Water Resources Department (WRD) office in Pernem. Both ministers will attend from 10.30 am to 12 noon. Power Minister Ramkrishna alias Sudin Dhavalikar will address grievances at Vidyt Bhavan, Electricity Department Head Office, Panaji, while Public Works Minister Digambar Kamat will be available at the

PWD office in Quepem during the same time. On October 23, Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte will meet citizens at the Village Panchayat office in Calangute from 10.30 am to 12 noon. Residents have been encouraged to visit the designated venues and raise concerns relating to the portfolios of the respective ministers. The presence of departmental officials is expected to facilitate direct interaction and help citizens obtain appropriate assistance from the concerned authorities.



## South Goa Accepts Polling Station Rationalisation Proposals in Five Constituencies

■ DEO Eгна Cleetus Holds Meeting With Recognised Political Parties Ahead of Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** South Goa District Collector and District Election Officer (DEO) Ms. Eгна Cleetus, IAS, convened a meeting with representatives of recognised political parties to discuss the rationalisation of polling stations as part of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the Photo Electoral Roll, with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date. The meeting was held in accordance with the schedule and guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India. During the meeting, proposals submitted by Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) for five Assembly constituencies — 21-Ponda, 24-Mormugao,

26-Dabolim, 31-Margao and 32-Benaulim — were placed for consideration. Following deliberations, the proposals for rationalisation of polling stations were accepted to facilitate convenient access for voters and ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process. Representatives of recognised political parties were also given an opportunity to present their suggestions and views on the proposals. Ms. Cleetus emphasised the importance of undertaking the rationalisation exercise in strict accordance with the Election Commission of India's guidelines, while prioritising voter convenience and ensuring effective management of polling stations.

## BJP and Congress Governments Neglected Diocesan Schools' Rent Assessment for Decades: Venzy

**Team Goemkarponn**

**BENaulim:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Benaulim MLA Capt. Venzy Viegas has accused successive



BJP and Congress governments in Goa of neglecting the rent reassessment of Diocesan schools for over three decades, leaving schools with rental allowances that do not reflect current market realities. Capt. Viegas held a meeting with Diocesan schools in the Benaulim constituency to discuss the long-pending issue of secondary school rent assessment and understand their concerns. He also offered assistance with the necessary documentation to facilitate reassessment.

Viegas pointed out that more than 30 years have passed since the last assessment, while schools have expanded and student enrolment has increased significantly. He said commercial and residential rents have risen substantially over the years, but the rental allowances provided to Diocesan schools have failed to keep pace with the changes.

## Marathi Official Language Movement in Goa Enters Final Phase: Subhash Velingkar

■ Committee Plans 1,500 Corner Meetings Across Goa, Major Public Gathering in Panaji Tentatively on November 29

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The movement demanding official language status for Marathi in Goa has completed 19 months and entered its final phase ahead of the Assembly elections expected in February, Subhash Velingkar said.

Velingkar stated that the committee plans to organise around 1,500 corner meetings across Goa over the next two months to intensify



its campaign. The committee also intends to seek support from gram panchayats and various organisations, besides holding a major public meeting in Panaji, tentatively scheduled for November 29.

He said that 120 of Goa's 180 gram

panchayats had previously passed resolutions supporting Marathi. He further claimed that 170 kirtankars, 366 litterateurs and 180 people associated with the cultural field had extended their support to the movement.

Velingkar asserted that the committee would continue its campaign without compromising on its principal demand for Marathi to be granted official language status in Goa.

## Goa Announces Schedule for Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls

■ Polling Station Rationalisation by November 2; Final Electoral Rolls to Be Published on January 4, 2027

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Election Commission of India has announced the schedule for the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Photo Electoral Rolls with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date, aiming to ensure accurate, updated, inclusive and error-free electoral rolls in Goa.

As part of the preparatory exercise, polling stations will be



rationalised in accordance with the Election Commission's guidelines to improve voter

convenience, accessibility and the overall efficiency of the electoral process.

The need for new polling stations will be assessed based on the prescribed limit of 1,200 electors per polling station, subject to the Commission's approval wherever required. Sections will also be

rationalised to ensure a more equitable distribution of electors. Efforts will be made to ensure that voters do not have to travel more than two kilometres or cross natural barriers to reach their designated polling stations.

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Goa, has scheduled a meeting with recognised political parties on October 23, 2026, at 12 noon to discuss the SSR schedule.

The participation and suggestions of political parties are expected to promote transparency and effective coordination among stakeholders.

According to the announced schedule, the rationalisation and rearrangement of polling stations will be completed by November 2, 2026, while the integrated draft electoral rolls will be published on November 12, 2026.

# From Medical College to High Court Bench, Ladakh Sees a Series of Historic Firsts

■ New institutions in healthcare, justice, education and local governance aim to bring essential services closer to residents of the Union Territory.

## Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Nearly seven years after becoming a Union Territory in October 2019, Ladakh is witnessing a series of institutional developments aimed at improving healthcare, education, access to justice and grassroots administration.

The region's vast terrain, harsh winters and scattered settlements have long made access to essential services difficult. Recent decisions, including approval for its first government medical college, the establishment of a dedicated High Court bench and the expansion of autonomous hill councils, mark important steps towards addressing these challenges.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has approved the operationalisation of Ladakh's first government medical college in Leh from the 2027 to 2028 academic year.

The institution is expected to create opportunities for local students seeking medical education while helping strengthen the region's healthcare workforce. The approval also allows phased recruitment against 103 sanctioned regular posts.

Two newly constructed buildings have been identified for use as the academic block



and students' hostel. The existing 200 bed Sonam Norboo Memorial Hospital, supported by around 60 experienced doctors, is expected to provide clinical training for students.

The initiative follows a request by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena to Union Health Minister JP Nadda for a one time relaxation of infrastructure completion requirements to enable preparatory recruitment.

Another major milestone came on October 18, 2026, with the inauguration of the Ladakh Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh by Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant.

The bench began its scheduled judicial sittings in October, with 75 Ladakh related cases listed for hearing. The development is expected to reduce the need for residents to travel to Jammu or Srinagar to pursue High Court proceedings.

Initially, sittings are scheduled twice a week, with digital facilities and legal aid expected to

improve access to justice.

The Ladakh administration promulgated the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Amendment Regulation, 2026, effective October 19. The regulation paves the way for autonomous hill councils across all eight districts, including the newly created Sankoo district.

The councils are intended to strengthen local representation and support district level development, infrastructure and public service delivery.

On October 16, the administration announced the creation of Sankoo as Ladakh's eighth district, alongside five new tehsils.

The move aims to decentralise administration and bring government services closer to communities spread across the region's challenging terrain. Its effectiveness will depend on adequate staffing, resources and functioning administrative offices.

The Centre has also approved campuses of IIT

Jammu and IIM Jammu in Leh. The proposed institutions could expand access to technical and management education, reduce geographical barriers for students and create opportunities for professional training.

Their long term impact will depend on infrastructure development, course offerings and operational timelines.

The Ladakh administration has launched the Ladakh Sanjeevani Seva initiative, flagging off 73 ambulances intended to serve 248 villages across the seven districts that existed at the time of the announcement.

The initiative aims to improve emergency medical transport in areas where difficult roads, high altitudes and severe winters can delay access to hospitals.

Together, these developments represent a broader effort to strengthen Ladakh's public institutions. From medical education and emergency healthcare to judicial access and decentralised governance, the focus is on reducing geographical barriers and bringing essential services closer to residents. The long term benefits will depend on effective implementation, adequate resources and the timely operationalisation of the planned facilities.

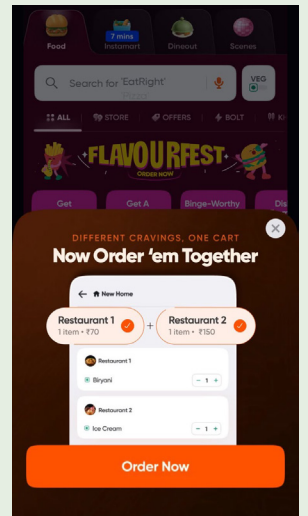
## This festive season, Swiggy launches Multi Restaurant Ordering: Reinvents Food Court Experience for Homes

### Team Goemkarponn

**NATIONAL:** Swiggy (Swiggy Ltd, NSE: SWIGGY / BSE: 544285), India's pioneering on-demand convenience platform, announced the launch of the Multi Restaurant Ordering feature on its app. Food is a personal choice and preferences tend to vary in a specific household or group. Multi Restaurant Ordering is designed to ensure users can order what they love to eat without any compromises. The feature allows the users to combine different cuisines, dishes and cravings from up to five restaurants and place an order at one go. In addition to a more seamless experience, Multi Restaurant Ordering feature also promises more savings for users as it eliminates the need for separate carts and checkouts, with multiple platform fees.

Whether it is family get-together, Diwali parties or long weekends, everyone at the table has different choices and preferences for food. With the Multi Restaurant Ordering feature, consumers can place orders for their favourite starters, main course and desserts from different restaurants together. The feature offers a food court experience in the comfort of your homes, where customers can build and hold multiple carts, compare them side by side, and order from up to five restaurants through a single payment, without repeating checkouts, OTPs or payment flows. Each restaurant's order is prepared and delivered independently and shows up as its own tab on one shared tracking screen.

Speaking on the launch, Sidharth



Bhakoo, Chief Business Officer, Swiggy Food Marketplace, said, "Food is the centerpiece of any celebration, but agreeing on a menu is always the hardest part. We are literally bringing the concept of a food court to your home. Multi-Restaurant Ordering is our solution to the ultimate dining dilemma. We're giving users the power to mix and match from their favorite restaurants or across a range of cuisines, whether it is pairing pizzas with biryani or combining sushi with local street food, all with a single checkout option. It's about delivering more choice, offering enhanced convenience, ensuring zero compromises, and the joy of everyone at the table eating exactly what they love and crave for."

Sharing a meal with loved ones often means balancing different tastes and giving up personal favourites to find something everyone agrees on. Consumer research conducted by Swiggy shows that 55% of users build two carts in a single session and 1 in 5 users place a second order within 30 minutes of their first. This may lead to abandoned carts or customers placing multiple orders at different times. The Multi Restaurant Ordering feature eliminates these challenges, serving as the perfect solution for multiple cravings.

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## Goa Launches AI Policy 2026 to Boost Youth Skills and Startups

establish AI labs.

The proposed initiative aims to broaden access to AI education and equip young people with skills relevant to emerging employment opportunities.

On the occasion, the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications signed a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) with BITS Pilani – K.K. Birla Goa Campus to strengthen AI development in the state.

The collaboration aims to promote AI research, support startups, enhance skill development and encourage practical applications of artificial intelligence.

The launch of the policy and the signing of the MoU mark a step towards developing Goa's AI ecosystem, with a focus on youth training, innovation, startup support and technology-driven growth.

## Tense Situation in Zuarinagar After Family Attacked With Knives, Rods

bottles and stones.

The violence intensified as more family members arrived, and knives were allegedly used during the assault. The family alleged that the group, reportedly comprising local residents, frequently gathered at an isolated spot surrounded by thick vegetation to consume alcohol and ganja.

# AAP, Congress Allowed Sewage Into Yamuna': Amit Shah Vows River Cleanup by 2029

■ The Union Home Minister announces 43 Delhi Jal Board projects worth ₹8,941 crore, focusing on sewage treatment, sewer networks and drinking water infrastructure

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday announced a time bound plan to clean the Yamuna, setting May 2029 as the target to restore the river's purity. He accused successive Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) governments of allowing sewage to flow into the river.

Shah made the



announcement while inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for 43 Delhi Jal Board (DJB) projects worth ₹8,941.22

crore in Dwarka. The projects aim to strengthen sewage treatment facilities, expand sewer infrastructure and improve drinking water supply across Delhi.

He said the BJP governments in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana had developed a coordinated roadmap to tackle pollution entering the Yamuna from the three states. Shah added

that more than 40 per cent of the planned work to control pollution had already been completed.

According to Shah, Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened a meeting with the Delhi government and the Ministry of Home Affairs within a month of the BJP forming the government in the national capital to establish a clear direction for the river's rejuvenation.



## Narco Terror Module Busted in Jammu, 804 Grams of Heroin Seized

■ Operation Sanjeevani exposes suspected cross border drone smuggling network as police recover heroin and opium in RS Pura sector

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Jammu Police have busted a suspected cross border narcotics smuggling module and seized 804 grams of heroin and 1.114 kilograms of opium in Jammu and Kashmir's RS Pura sector.

The consignment was allegedly dropped by a Pakistani drone in Talhar village of Arnia sector, exposing a suspected network linked to drone based drug trafficking. The recovery was made under Operation Sanjeevani as police intensified efforts to counter narcotics smuggling and the suspected narco terror network operating across the international

border. The investigation began on October 20 after Police Station RS Pura received information about the alleged consumption of narcotics by Sunny Kumar, 26, son of Tarsem Lal and a resident of Kotli Mirdian in Suchetgarh tehsil of Jammu district.

He was reportedly found near a ditch in his village. Police registered FIR No. 186/2026 under Sections 8 and 27 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and initiated an investigation into the matter. During questioning, investigators uncovered suspected links between Kumar and a narcotics smuggling module connected to a drone dropping incident.



## 'Dawood Lives in Pakistan, Just Like Bin Laden': India Slams UN Report on D-Company

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India has strongly criticised a United Nations report describing Dawood Ibrahim's D-Company as an "India based" criminal organisation, arguing that the description ignores key facts about the fugitive's history and location.

Raghoo Puri, First Secretary at India's Permanent Mission to the UN, raised the objection on Wednesday during the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. He challenged a report by Ben Saul, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

India expressed concern over what it described as repeated factual inaccuracies in reports prepared by special rapporteurs, arguing that such errors can undermine the credibility of the United Nations and damage its standing among member states.

## 'Jammu and Kashmir to Be Terror-Free by 2029': IGP Tejinder Singh

■ Security forces intensify anti-terror operations, target terrorist hideouts and overground worker networks, while stepping up action against narco-terrorism

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Jammu and Kashmir is targeting a terror-free future by 2029, with security agencies intensifying operations to dismantle terrorist networks and disrupt the support systems that sustain militancy across the region.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Tejinder Singh said the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, paramilitary



forces and other security agencies are working in close coordination to eliminate terrorist threats and strengthen security.

Anti-terror operations are continuing across the Jammu region, with a particular focus on

identifying terrorist hideouts, tracking overground workers and dismantling networks that

provide logistical support to terrorists.

Security forces have also been recovering weapons concealed or abandoned in the past as part of ongoing efforts to identify and neutralise potential threats.

## "Worse Than Delhi": Bombay High Court Slams Mumbai Authorities Over Rising Pollution

■ Court bans firecrackers on public roads and footpaths, orders strict enforcement and seeks compliance affidavits from civic and police chiefs by October 26.

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** The Bombay High Court has expressed serious concern over rising air pollution in Mumbai, questioning how the coastal city could experience pollution levels surpassing those of Delhi despite its sea breeze and open spaces.

On Wednesday, a bench of Justice Girish S Kulkarni and Justice



Neela Gokhale criticised the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and police for failing to enforce existing

directions aimed at controlling air and noise pollution during festivals.

The court imposed a ban on bursting firecrackers on public roads, streets and

footpaths, directing authorities to ensure strict compliance. The BMC Commissioner and Mumbai Police Commissioner have been asked to submit affidavits by October 26 detailing the steps taken to enforce the order. The bench also directed authorities to prepare a standard operating procedure for taking action against violators. A complete prohibition on bursting firecrackers was reiterated

for designated silence zones around hospitals, courts, schools and government offices.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the continued violations, the court observed that firecrackers were being burst on busy public streets without effective intervention. It also highlighted lapses in enforcing rules governing loudspeakers during religious and other processions.

# Anahat Singh Stuns Squash Legend Nour El Sherbini, Storms Into Chicago Open Quarter Finals

■ India's 18 year old squash star defeats her idol and eight time world champion 11-8, 11-8, 11-7 to register the biggest win of her career

## Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Indian squash sensation Anahat Singh produced a stunning performance at the PSA Gold level Chicago Open on Thursday, defeating top seed and eight time world champion Nour El Sherbini in straight games to reach the quarter finals.

The 18 year old, ranked World No. 15,



overcame the World No. 3 Egyptian 11-8, 11-8, 11-7 in a remarkable victory that marked the biggest achievement of her career so far. The result was particularly special for Anahat, who has grown up admiring El Sherbini and studying her performances.

Despite facing one of the most accomplished players in squash history, Anahat displayed

remarkable composure and tactical discipline. She controlled the pace of the contest, limited unforced errors and prevented her opponent from settling into her usual rhythm. Anahat had received encouragement from India's national coach before the match, reinforcing her belief that she could challenge the tournament favourite with a strong performance.



## Sheetal Devi Wins Third Medal With Gold at Asian Para Games 2026

■ Indian archer defeats Singapore's Nur Syahidah Alim 142-139 in a stunning comeback, while Suvarna Raj claims discus throw gold and Swati Chaudhary secures silver

## Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** India enjoyed a memorable fourth day at the Asian Para Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, with Sheetal Devi winning gold in the women's individual compound archery event after a thrilling comeback victory over Singapore's Nur Syahidah Alim.

Sheetal prevailed 142-139 to secure her third medal of the Games, adding another gold to her growing collection. She had earlier won the compound mixed team gold alongside Toman Kumar, with the Indian pair setting a world record of 1,402 points. She also secured silver

in the women's doubles event.

The latest triumph further highlighted Sheetal's outstanding campaign and strengthened India's performance in para archery. India's Day 4 campaign began on a winning note when Suvarna Raj clinched gold in the women's discus throw F54 event, providing another significant boost to the country's medal tally.

Swati Chaudhary also delivered a strong performance in para archery, winning silver in the women's W1 category. She fought hard against China's Cen Mengkan before going down 4-6 in the final.

# 'Greg Chappell Divided Team India': Harbhajan Singh On 2007 World Cup Exit

■ Former India spinner calls Chappell's coaching tenure one of the darkest periods in Indian cricket, alleging that dressing room divisions damaged team unity

## Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh has launched a strong criticism of Greg Chappell's tenure as India's head coach, accusing the Australian of creating divisions within the dressing room and damaging the team's unity during a difficult period in Indian cricket. Speaking on the Prakhara Gupta Podcast, Harbhajan described Chappell's time



in charge as one of the darkest chapters in the team's history. He also questioned the decision to appoint the former

Australian batter as head coach in June 2005. Chappell took charge after India finished runners up at the 2003 ODI World

Cup, losing the final to Australia. His appointment initially generated considerable excitement, with expectations that his experience would help the team featuring established stars such as Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid. However, his tenure became increasingly controversial amid reports of disagreements within the team and tensions involving senior players.

# FC Goa Beat Fortis FC 2-1 to Keep AFC Challenge League Hopes Alive

■ Chiki's 85th-minute winner seals crucial Group C victory after Fortis fight back, with Jorge Ortiz opening the scoring in Hawally

## Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** FC Goa secured a hard fought 2-1 victory over Bangladesh's Fortis FC in their AFC Challenge League 2026/27 Group C encounter in Hawally on Tuesday, bouncing back from their opening defeat with a decisive late goal.

Jorge Ortiz gave the Indian side an early lead before Rafayel Tudu equalised for Fortis in the 78th minute. Chiki then struck five minutes from time to seal all



three points for FC Goa. Goa started aggressively, with Muhammed Nemil

off Ananta Tamang and into the net. Ortiz continued to trouble the

firing wide following a quick counterattack. Their pressure paid off in the sixth minute when Udanta Singh delivered an excellent cross into the penalty area. Ortiz rose unmarked to head towards goal, with the effort deflecting

Fortis defence, shooting wide before forcing goalkeeper Sujana Perera into a save in the 14th minute. Sandesh Jhingan subsequently came close from the resulting corner, narrowly missing the left post. Fortis gradually found their rhythm and threatened in the 36th minute when Pa Omar Babou's long range attempt was saved by Lara Sharma. Essa Jallow then saw his header from Babou's cross blocked as Goa carried their narrow advantage into half time. After the restart, FC Goa

pushed for a second goal. Francisco Feuillassier set up Jhingan for a header in the 52nd minute, but Perera rushed off his line to clear the danger. The Fortis goalkeeper produced another important save in the 61st minute, denying Malsawmsanga KC's long range effort. Fortis eventually drew level in the 78th minute. Babou's incisive pass found Tudu, who shrugged off his marker before calmly finishing past Sharma.

Goa responded strongly and regained the

lead in the 85th minute. Feuillassier drove through the middle before releasing Chiki, who lifted the ball over Perera into the top left corner.

Fortis suffered another setback in the seventh minute of stoppage time when Jallow received a second yellow card for a foul on Udanta Singh and was sent off.

FC Goa will next face Kuwait's Qadsia SC on Friday, while Fortis FC take on Tajikistan's FC Regar TadAZ.