



Damu Naik Signals Possible Return Of Laxmikant Parsekar And Utpal Parrikar To BJP

Goa BJP President Confirms Talks With Utpal Parrikar, Says Party Doors Remain Open For Senior Leaders Who Drifted Away

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa BJP President Damodar "Damu" Naik has expressed confidence that former Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar and Utpal Parrikar could return to the Bharatiya Janata Party, stating that the party welcomes leaders who share its ideology and are willing to strengthen the party.



Naik said the BJP has always kept its doors open to senior leaders and veteran party workers who may have distanced themselves due to grievances.



On Parsekar's possible return, Naik said it should happen, adding that there was no issue if the process took some time. He noted that Parsekar continued to share the

party's ideology and had attended ceremonies at the BJP's new Atal Bhavan. Regarding Utpal Parrikar, Naik confirmed that they had spoken once or twice and said the discussions would move forward. He reiterated that the party was ready to welcome anyone committed to its principles

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South Goa Advocates Warn of Bigger Agitation Over Mutation, Partition Delays

Association seeks accountability in revenue offices; says agents should be eliminated once the



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MARGAO: The South Goa Advocates Association has warned of a bigger agitation if the authorities fail to streamline the mutation and partition process and fix accountability for delays in revenue offices. At its extraordinary general body meeting, the association discussed the proposed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and decided to submit a fresh representation to the Collector, incorporating suggestions from its members. The advocates pointed out that the existing procedure did not establish clear

accountability for delays in mutation cases. They also questioned the provision requiring applicants to approach the same Mamlatdar to raise grievances, suggesting that complaints should instead be addressed directly to the Collector. Highlighting the extent of the backlog, the association said 210 mutation cases were disposed of by the Mamlatdar in half a day following its intervention. It questioned why these cases had remained pending for months or even years if they could be cleared within such a short period. The association also stressed the need

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Calangute Sarpanch Cracks Down on Street Vendors, Flags Wine Shops Operating at 7 AM

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CALANGUTE: The Calangute Panchayat has intensified action against street food vendors allegedly operating in unhygienic conditions and encroaching on footpaths, while the sarpanch has raised concerns over wine shops allegedly operating as early as 7 am and remaining open late into the night.

Speaking to the media, the sarpanch said the panchayat had conducted early-morning drives over the past several days at various locations across Calangute and Baga, targeting vendors selling idli, dosa, sambar, fruits and other food items from footpaths and public spaces.

The drives covered areas near Calangute Beach, Rajesh Cold Drink, Shahu Tea Stall, the Calangute football ground, Baga Road, Tito's

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Basilica of Bom Jesus to Remain Closed on October 26

Closure from 1 pm onwards due to a special religious service

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OLD GOA: The Basilica of Bom Jesus at Old Goa will remain closed to tourists and visitors from 1 pm (13:00 hrs) onwards on Monday, October 26, 2026, due to a special religious service.

According to a press release issued by the Rector of the Basilica of Bom Jesus, Fr. Jovito Ferdino D'Souza, S.J., the closure has been



necessitated by the participation of people in the special religious service. The Rector has requested all government

authorities, hotels, taxi operators, guides and tour operators to take note of the closure and inform visitors accordingly. The Basilica, which houses the sacred relics of St. Francis Xavier, is one of Goa's prominent religious and historical landmarks.

"Haven't Seen a Dime": Piyush Goyal Slams Developed Nations Over \$100 Billion Climate Finance Pledge

India's Commerce Minister questions Europe's climate record, citing historical emissions and inadequate support for developing countries

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BERLIN: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has criticised developed nations for failing to adequately honour their climate finance commitments, questioning the delivery of the promised \$100 billion annual support for developing countries under international climate agreements. Addressing a roundtable at the



Berlin Global Dialogue, Goyal highlighted the responsibility of wealthy nations for historical carbon emissions and called for greater financial and technological assistance to developing countries, particularly those facing significant challenges in transitioning to cleaner energy.

Fake Excise Job Scam: Ajit Shankhwalkar's Wife Seeks Anticipatory Bail As Police Hunt For Him

Rupali Named Co-Accused After Financial Scrutiny; Talekar Family Allegedly Paid ₹52 Lakh For Two Government Jobs

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PANAJI: With prime accused Ajit Shankhwalkar still absconding in the alleged fake government job scam, his wife Rupali Ajit Shankhwalkar has approached the North Goa Additional Sessions Court seeking anticipatory bail after being named as a co-



accused in the case. The court has issued notice to Panaji Police on her anticipatory bail application and directed the investigating officer to

file its say by October 26. According to officials, Rupali's name was added to the case following scrutiny of financial transactions allegedly linked to the fraud. She approached the court after receiving a police notice directing her to appear before the investigating officer for questioning.

MGP'S POLITICAL AMBITIONS: DOES IT CARE ABOUT THE LOCAL BJP LEADERSHIP?

The Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP) wants to have its cake and eat it too. It wants to remain an ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), enjoy the benefits of being in government and simultaneously stake claims to constituencies where local BJP leaders have their own political ambitions. The question is not whether MGP has the right to contest elections. It certainly does. The question is whether an alliance can survive when one partner appears determined to dictate terms to the other.

The latest political signals from MGP have raised precisely this question. With MGP leader Sudin Dhavalikar expressing his desire to contest from Ponda, a seat left vacant following the death of former minister Ravi Naik, the party appears to be preparing to negotiate from a position of strength. Its ambitions are reportedly not confined to Ponda. Priol, Shiroda and even Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant's Sanquelim constituency have figured in the discussion surrounding its electoral calculations.

There is nothing unusual about a political party seeking more seats before an election. Every party wants to expand its footprint. But political ambition must be balanced with political reality, particularly when the party in question is a junior partner in an alliance. If MGP believes it can claim constituencies where BJP leaders have established their presence without adequately considering the interests of the local leadership, it risks turning an electoral partnership into a contest for political survival.

MGP State President Deepak Dhavalikar has maintained that the alliance with the BJP is on track. Yet Sudin Dhavalikar's stated interest in Ponda raises an obvious question: on what basis is the party making its claim? Is it relying on a formal understanding with the BJP, or is it testing how much pressure the national leadership can exert on the state unit?

The distinction matters. An alliance is built on negotiations, mutual respect and an understanding of each partner's political strength. It cannot operate on the assumption that one party can simply demand constituencies and expect the other to accommodate it.

BJP Goa president Damu Naik has so far declined to comment on the issue. The silence may be politically understandable, but it does not resolve the underlying tension. Meanwhile, warnings from the Chief Minister's camp against MGP attempting political misadventures suggest that the matter is not as settled as the public assurances from the MGP leadership would have people believe.

The BJP's local leadership has every reason to be concerned. Party workers spend years building their organisation, strengthening their grassroots networks and establishing relationships with voters. When an alliance partner stakes a claim to a constituency, those efforts cannot simply be brushed aside to accommodate a political arrangement negotiated elsewhere.



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Sudin Dhavalikar's reported proximity to senior BJP leader Nitin Gadkari adds another dimension to the debate. A strong relationship with the national leadership is a political asset. However, such access should not become a means of bypassing or pressuring the state leadership. The BJP in Goa cannot expect its local leaders to remain silent while decisions affecting their political futures are negotiated over their heads.



Sudin Dhavalikar's reported proximity to senior BJP leader Nitin Gadkari adds another dimension to the debate. A strong relationship with the national leadership is a political asset. However, such access should not become a means of bypassing or pressuring the state leadership. The BJP in Goa cannot expect its local leaders to remain silent while decisions affecting their political futures are negotiated over their heads.

The experience of the 2022 Assembly elections is also worth recalling. The BJP and MGP did not contest that election under a formal pre-poll alliance. Their understanding emerged after the results, when political circumstances created an opportunity for cooperation. That

history demonstrates that the relationship between the two parties has often been shaped by electoral arithmetic rather than an unshakeable commitment to a common political programme.

This brings us to the larger question of ideology. On paper, the BJP and MGP share several political positions. But ideological compatibility alone does not explain the MGP's political journey. The party has demonstrated a willingness to work with different political formations when circumstances have favoured it. Between 2007 and 2012, Sudin Dhavalikar served as a minister in the Congress-led government. The party's political choices have therefore not always been dictated by ideological proximity to the BJP. There is nothing inherently wrong with a regional party changing alliances. Regional parties have their own constituencies, priorities and survival strategies. But voters are entitled to ask whether such changes are driven by a coherent political vision or simply by the pursuit of office.

For MGP, participation in government appears to be a central political objective. That may be a legitimate strategy, but it also exposes the party to criticism when its electoral ambitions seem to outweigh questions of principle, consistency and partnership.

The BJP, too, must decide what kind of alliance it wants. If it values MGP's support, it must negotiate fairly and recognise the smaller party's legitimate aspirations. But it must also protect the interests of its own workers and leaders. An alliance cannot become a mechanism through which local leadership is repeatedly asked to surrender ground to keep a partner satisfied.

Ultimately, Sudin Dhavalikar is entitled to seek an electoral contest in Ponda. MGP is entitled to demand seats. But neither entitlement automatically translates into a right to a BJP-held constituency or one where the BJP has strong political interests. Such claims must be settled through negotiation, not pressure.

The real test of the MGP-BJP relationship will be whether both parties can distinguish political ambition from political entitlement. If MGP wants to remain an ally, it must recognise that partnership involves compromise. And if the BJP wants to retain its credibility among its own cadre, it cannot allow the interests of local leaders to be sacrificed merely to accommodate a politically assertive ally. The question, therefore, is not whether MGP cares about its own electoral future. Every party does. The question is whether it cares enough about the partnership to respect the interests of the BJP leadership in Goa.

If every constituency becomes a bargaining chip and every alliance a route to power, the ideological common ground between the two parties will count for very little. In politics, alliances may be built on convenience, but they cannot endure indefinitely without trust. And trust is precisely what this seat-sharing tussle threatens to undermine.

EDITOR SPEAKS

ST Political Reservation: BJP Must Honour Its Promise to Goa's Tribal Community

The demand for political reservation for Goa's Scheduled Tribe community is an important issue of democratic representation and social justice. With the 2027 Assembly elections approaching, the state government must provide clarity on the progress made and the steps that remain before the reservation process is completed.

The enactment of the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Act, 2025, was an important step. However, legislation alone does not complete the process. The pending formalities, including the notification identifying reserved constituencies, must be addressed through the appropriate constitutional and legal procedures.

The Chief Minister should explain what the state government has completed, what remains pending and how the state and central governments are coordinating with the Election Commission. A realistic timeline would help end uncertainty and prevent the issue from becoming merely another political promise during election season.

Political reservation is not a favour to any community. It is about ensuring that historically underrepresented people have a meaningful voice in the institutions that shape their future.

Goa's tribal communities deserve more than assurances. They deserve transparency, accountability and concrete progress. The government must demonstrate its commitment through timely action so that the long-pending question of political representation receives the attention it deserves before the 2027 Assembly elections.

- Adrian Fernandes, Curchorem

Goa Cyber Crime Police and Banks Must Unite to Protect Citizens from Online Fraud

The Goa Cyber Crime Police's initiative to strengthen coordination with banking institutions is a timely and necessary step towards protecting citizens from the growing threat of financial cyber fraud. The meeting involving senior police officials, representatives of the Reserve Bank of India and the State Level Bankers' Committee highlights the importance of a coordinated response to online financial crimes.

Cyber fraudsters are becoming increasingly sophisticated, targeting people through fake investment schemes, phishing links, fraudulent calls and impersonation tactics. Many victims lose their hard-earned savings within minutes, while delays in reporting and investigation can make the recovery of money difficult.

The emphasis on faster investigations and improved cooperation between banks and the police is therefore welcome. Banks must have effective systems to identify suspicious transactions, respond quickly to complaints and coordinate with investigators to prevent further losses. Swift action during the crucial initial hours can make a significant difference in tracing funds and assisting victims.

However, prevention must receive equal attention. Authorities and banks should intensify public awareness campaigns, particularly for senior citizens and people unfamiliar with digital banking risks. Citizens must be educated never to share OTPs, PINs, passwords or banking credentials with unknown callers or through suspicious links.

The government should also ensure that cybercrime victims have access to a responsive reporting mechanism and receive timely updates on their complaints. Regular coordination meetings, clear communication channels and accountability for delays can strengthen public confidence.

Goa's digital progress must be accompanied by robust safeguards for financial security. Police action is essential, but banks, regulators and citizens must work together to prevent fraud before it happens.

- Michael Fernandes, Margao

Goa Schools Given Deadline To Upgrade Menstrual Hygiene Facilities

■ DoE Sets January 31, 2027, Deadline; Schools Risk Losing Recognition For Failing To Meet Requirements

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PANAJI: The Goa Directorate of Education has directed government and government-aided schools across the state to strengthen menstrual hygiene facilities, making January 31, 2027, the final deadline for compliance. Institutions that fail to meet the prescribed standards could face strict action, including the cancellation of their recognition or affiliation. As an initial step, school authorities



must assess the facilities currently available on their campuses and submit detailed reports to the department by October 30, 2026. Schools found lacking the necessary infrastructure will be required to address the shortcomings before the

final deadline. The department's requirements include setting up dedicated Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) corners where students can access essential items during unexpected menstrual emergencies. These corners should contain supplies such as spare uniforms, innerwear, disposable bags and other necessary materials. The measures are in line with

the Supreme Court's ruling in Dr Jaya Thakur vs Union of India, which highlighted the need to safeguard the dignity, health and equal educational opportunities of girl students. Schools must also ensure that boys and girls have access to separate, usable toilets with sufficient water. In addition, every institution must provide at least one clean, accessible toilet for students with disabilities, regardless of whether any such students are presently enrolled.



Goa High Court Dismisses Russian Family's Plea For Visa Extension

■ Court Rules Pending UNHCR Proceedings Do Not Automatically Protect Foreigners From Immigration Enforcement

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PORVORIM: The Bombay High Court at Goa has refused to grant relief to a Russian woman and her two daughters who sought permission to continue staying in India after their tourist visas expired. The court held that a pending application before the United Nations refugee agency does not, by itself, prevent authorities from taking action under Indian immigration laws. The petition was filed by Aleksandra Kuznetsova, who maintained that returning to Russia would pose safety

concerns because of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. She and her daughters arrived in India on October 8, 2024, on tourist visas that remained valid until October 7, 2025. During their stay, Kuznetsova approached the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on June 27, 2025, seeking asylum in Brazil, Ecuador or Paraguay. She subsequently requested permission to extend her stay in India, but the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) turned down her applications for visa extension and conversion.



Sudin Dhavalikar Recalls MGP Roots, Says BJP Alliance Decision Awaiting Party Deliberations

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PANAJI: Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) leader and Minister Sudin Dhavalikar has recalled his political journey, highlighting his association with the Jana Sangh, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the MGP, while maintaining that the party's stand on a possible alliance with the BJP will emerge after internal discussions.

Dhavalikar said he joined the MGP decades ago alongside leaders including Ravi Naik, Prashant Bhat and Vinod Nageshkar. He recalled that before joining the regional party, he had worked with the Jana Sangh and the VHP. When the Jana Sangh evolved into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he chose to align himself with the MGP.

Recalling the Marathi language agitation, Dhavalikar spoke about standing together with Ravi Naik and young activists from Bandora and neighbouring areas.

Sudin Dhavalikar Says ₹12.50 Per Unit Power Rate Is Only For Industries

■ Minister Clarifies Tariff Amid Power Shortage, Says Goa's Solar Capacity To Double By 2036

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PANAJI: Power Minister Sudin Dhavalikar has clarified that the electricity rate of ₹12.50 per unit is being charged to industries for commercial power consumption due to a shortage of electricity and does not apply to ordinary consumers. Addressing the media at Vidyut Bhavan in Panaji during the 'Sarkar Tumchya Dari' programme, Dhavalikar said the higher rate would remain applicable for 25 days,



with the remaining supply charged at ₹8.50 per unit. He urged people to avoid confusing industrial tariffs with rates applicable to other consumers, remarking that they should not "do mix bhaji" while discussing the issue. The minister also pointed to improvements in electrical safety, stating that

the number of electricity-related accidents had come down. He explained that executive engineers and assistant engineers are responsible for overseeing installations involving generators, solar systems and streetlights, as well as resolving associated concerns. According to Dhavalikar, complaints and grievances involving engineers and other Electricity Department personnel have also witnessed a decline.

Mickky Pacheco Announces Return to Benaulim for 2027 Goa Assembly Elections

■ Former Tourism Minister to contest on UGDP ticket, seeks renewed mandate from constituency that elected him three times

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BENAULIM: Former Goa Tourism Minister and former Benaulim MLA Francisco Xavier Mickky Pacheco has announced his decision to contest the 2027 Goa Legislative Assembly elections from Benaulim constituency on the ticket of the United Goans Democratic Party (UGDP).

Pacheco said Benaulim was where



his political journey began and where he first earned the trust of the electorate. He recalled that the people of the constituency had elected him three times, describing their

support as one of the greatest honours of his public life. "Benaulim is where my political journey began, where the people placed their trust in me, and where I am determined to return to serve them with renewed commitment," Pacheco said. The former minister said his decision followed encouragement and requests from residents who wanted him to return to Benaulim. He added that, after shifting his

political focus to Nuvem constituency, he had continued to follow the aspirations and concerns of Benaulim's people. Pacheco expressed the view that the constituency had not witnessed the level of development, attention and positive change residents had expected. He stressed the need for effective representation, accessible leadership and a stronger voice for local concerns. Outlining his priorities,

Pacheco said he would focus on strengthening local infrastructure, improving roads and civic amenities, creating employment and livelihood opportunities, protecting the interests of local residents, and promoting responsible development. He also emphasised the importance of preserving Benaulim's identity, community values, environment and heritage.

UK National Arrested in Goa; Narcotics Worth ₹2.94 Lakh Seized

■ Anti-Narcotics Cell conducts targeted operation in North Goa; hydroponic ganja, ketamine, LSD blotters and methamphetamine recovered

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PANAJI: The Anti-Narcotic Police Station (ANC), Goa, has arrested a 55-year-old United Kingdom national and seized narcotic substances worth approximately ₹2,94,500 in an operation conducted under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan. Acting on specific intelligence received on October 21, 2026, an ANC team led by PSI Dindayal S. Redkar conducted a targeted



operation in North Goa. During the operation and subsequent search, the police apprehended John Parkinson, a native of London, United

Kingdom, who was reportedly residing in Goa. The seized substances included hydroponic ganja, ketamine powder, LSD blot papers and methamphetamine. The combined estimated illicit-market value of the narcotics was assessed at approximately ₹2.94 lakh. Legal action has been initiated against the accused under Sections

20(b)(ii)(A), 22(a), 22(b) and 22(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The accused has been arrested, and further investigation is underway. The operation was conducted under the supervision and guidance of Harishchandra Madkaikar, GPS, Superintendent of Police, ANC; Gaurav Yadav, IPS, Additional Superintendent of Police, ANC; and Sagun Sawant, Police Inspector, ANC.



63-Year-Old Man Dies at GMC Bambolim; Paraquat Consumption Suspected

■ Sankhalim resident Pramod Fulari dies during treatment; post-mortem cites multi-organ failure with alleged history of paraquat consumption

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BAMBOLIM: A 63-year-old man from Sankhalim, identified as Pramod Fulari, died at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, following an alleged case of paraquat consumption. According to police information, a wireless message was received from the casualty police at GMC Bambolim at 3.01 am on October 22, informing authorities that Fulari, son of Ramnath Fulari and a resident of House No. 282, Sankhalim, had

died in Ward No. 125.

An inquest and post-mortem examination were conducted on the deceased. As per the autopsy report, the cause of death was attributed to multi-organ failure in a person with an alleged history of paraquat consumption.

Following the post-mortem examination, the body was handed over to the family members for the final religious rites. Further investigation is in progress with PSI Krishna Gawas of Bicholim Police Station.



Parking Dispute Motive Behind Knife Attack Reported in Zuarinagar

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ZUARINAGAR: A dispute over the parking of a goods rickshaw allegedly led to a violent attack involving knives, iron rods and stones near Kheni Godown in Zuarinagar, Sancoale, around midnight on October 22.

According to a complaint lodged by Himanshu Kaushal, the altercation began over an alleged road obstruction caused by a goods rickshaw parked by his family in front of their house. The complaint alleges that seven identified persons and three unidentified individuals formed an unlawful assembly and attacked the complainant, his family members and neighbours with deadly weapons. The complainant's brothers, Abhinav Kaushal and Abhishek Kaushal, and his father, Rambabu Kaushal, were among those who reportedly sustained serious injuries. The attackers also allegedly pelted stones at the house, damaging its windows.

Canacona Man Arrested for Alleged Murder of Chicken Shop Employee

■ Sanjay Naik allegedly killed with a sharp weapon at Mashem; accused Eduardo Manuel arrested, police investigation underway

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CANACONA: Canacona Police have arrested Eduardo Manuel, a resident of Mashem, in connection with the alleged murder of Sanjay Naik, a resident of Shelim, Loliem, Canacona.

According to the complaint lodged by Shekhar Naik, a resident of Loliem, the incident occurred on October 21, 2026, at around 3.47 pm at Mashem, Canacona.

The complaint states



that the accused allegedly assaulted Sanjay Naik with a sharp weapon, resulting in his death. The deceased was employed by the complainant and worked at his chicken shop.

Following the incident, police arrested Eduardo Manuel in connection with the case. The post-mortem examination of the deceased was conducted, after which the body was handed over to his family members.

Further investigation is being carried out by PI Therran D'C Costa of Canacona Police Station.

Man Arrested for Assaulting Co-Occupant at Calangute Guest House

■ Guest allegedly attacked in Room No. 101 at Savita Guest House; accused arrested, investigation underway

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CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have arrested a 22-year-old man from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, in connection with an alleged assault that left a co-occupant with serious bleeding injuries at a guest house in Naika Wado, Calangute, Bardez.

According to the complaint lodged by Samir Korgaonkar, 40, on October 22 at



2.52 am, the incident occurred at around 10 pm on October 21 in Room No. 101 of Savita Guest House, Naika Wado, Calangute.

The complaint alleges that two guests occupying the room, identified as Parmar Amitkumar of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and Keshav Mehra of Haryana, assaulted their co-occupant, Parmar Jaideep, who was also a guest at the establishment. The

accused allegedly acted with a common intention, causing serious bleeding injuries to Jaideep, before fleeing the scene.

Police arrested Amitkumar, son of Parmar Jagdishbhai, aged 22, a resident of Ahmedabad, on October 22 at 2.10 pm. The second alleged accused, Keshav Mehra, is also named in the complaint.

Further investigation is in progress under PSI Snehal Malik.

"ST Reservation Was BJP's Promise, Not the Election Commission's": Goa Congress

Goa Congress questions CM Pramod Sawant's accountability, demands a clear timeline for ST political reservation ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Congress has questioned Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's reported statement that the responsibility for providing political reservation to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community in Goa rests with the Election Commission of India. Amarnath Panjikar, Chairman of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee's Media and Communication Department, said the BJP



had repeatedly promised to secure political reservation for the ST community before the 2027 Assembly elections but was now shifting responsibility. "ST reservation was BJP's

promise, not the Election Commission's," Panjikar said, questioning the state government's accountability over the pending process. Panjikar pointed out that Sawant

had reportedly reiterated his commitment to ST political reservation on May 25, 2026. He also referred to the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Act, 2025, which came into force on August 6, 2026. While acknowledging progress in the statutory process, Goa Congress said the notification identifying the reserved constituencies remained a crucial step.



Goa Cyber Crime Police Meet Banks to Strengthen Cyber Fraud Prevention

Senior police officials, RBI and SLBC representatives discuss faster investigations, improved coordination and measures to curb financial cyber fraud

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Cyber Crime Police organised a coordination meeting with representatives of various banking institutions to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement agencies and banks, expedite cybercrime investigations and enhance preventive measures against financial cyber fraud. The meeting was chaired by Inspector General of Police Keshav Ram Chaurasia, IPS, and Deputy Inspector General of Police Ved Prakash Surya, IPS. Deputy General Manager of the Reserve Bank of India

(RBI), Krishnakumar S., and Assistant General Manager of the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), Carlos Rodrigues, were also present. Among the police officials attending the meeting were Superintendent of Police Jivba Dalvi (GPS), Assistant Superintendent of Police Shridevi B. V. (IPS), Police Inspectors Deepak Pednekar, Sujay Korgaonkar and Vidhyanand Pawar, and Lady Police Inspector Anushka Pai Bir. The meeting focused on strengthening coordination between banks and the police to facilitate quicker action in cyber fraud cases.



Cortalim Congress leaders condemn Zuarinagar attack, demand SIT probe

Team Goemkarponn

CORTALIM: Congress leaders Mahesh Nadar and Olencio Simoes have condemned the alleged attack on a family at Zuarinagar in Sancoale, demanding a thorough investigation and alleging that political patronage is allowing criminal elements to operate with impunity in the area. Cortalim Congress leader Mahesh Nadar called on the police to identify those allegedly backing criminal elements and investigate the circumstances contributing to the law and order concerns in Zuarinagar. "The police must find out who the real culprit is and who is backing these goons in Zuarinagar. Such incidents cannot be allowed to continue, and the people responsible must be brought to justice," Nadar said. He demanded that the investigation establish whether any individuals were shielding those allegedly involved in criminal activities and ensure that all those responsible were brought to justice.

BJP, Hindu outfits give police eight-day ultimatum over Zuarinagar attack

Protesters demand arrest of all accused in attack on Kaushal family, warn of possible law and order situation

Team Goemkarponn

ZUARINAGAR: Members of the Cortalim BJP Mandal, BJP Yuva Morcha, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Bajrang Dal, RSS and other Hindu organisations staged a mass agitation on Thursday, condemning the alleged attack on the Kaushal family at Zuarinagar in Sancoale. The protesters gave the police an eight-day ultimatum to arrest all those involved, warning



of a possible law and order situation if their demands were not met. The protesters questioned why Abhinav Kaushal, whom they described as a sincere person and a gau rakshak associated with the RSS, was allegedly targeted along with his family members. They

demanding the arrest of every person involved and called for a fair investigation into the incident. The protesters alleged that some of the accused had taken advantage of the family being rushed to hospital to approach the police station and file a counter-complaint, claiming that they too had been attacked. They further alleged that the individuals subsequently got themselves hospitalised to evade arrest.

Shree Mallikarjun College's Arya History Club Holds Investiture Ceremony

Event highlights student leadership, local history, cultural heritage and the objectives of NEP 2020

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Department of History of Shree Mallikarjun and Shri Chetan Manju Desai College, Canacona, organised the investiture ceremony of the Arya History Club on the college campus. State award-winning teacher Gaurish Vernekar was the chief guest for the occasion. The programme commenced with the lighting of the



traditional lamp, followed by the presentation of the Arya Anthem by the Arya Choir. Associate Professor Domitel D'Souza delivered the introductory address, outlining the objectives,

vision and activities of the club. He highlighted the relevance of its initiatives in advancing the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, supporting the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs), and revitalising Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) through the study and preservation of local history, heritage and traditions. College Principal Dr Rupa Chari welcomed the gathering and commended the Arya History Club for its innovative initiatives to promote historical awareness, cultural heritage, leadership development and student engagement.

PHC Candolim to be upgraded to community health centre

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The BJP government in Goa has approved the upgradation of the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Candolim to a Community Health Centre (CHC), Health Minister Vishwajit Rane announced.

The decision follows a request by Calangute MLA Michael Lobo and is aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure and improving access to medical services for residents and tourists across North Goa.

Goa Unveils AI Policy 2026, Launches Statewide Hackathon to Boost Innovation

■ Three year roadmap, Konkani AI model and Centre of Excellence announced at Goa AI Tech Conclave 2026

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has unveiled its AI Policy 2026 and launched a state hackathon as part of a major push to establish the state as a leading destination for responsible artificial intelligence and applied innovation in India.

The announcements were made at the inaugural Goa AI Tech Conclave 2026, organised by the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications at INOX Courtyard in Panaji. Held under the theme AI for People, Planet and Progress, the two day event brought together government representatives, technology companies, startups, researchers and students.

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant highlighted the importance of expanding AI education and developing the state's technology workforce. He proposed extending AI training programmes beyond Porvorim to other talukas, with the IT and Education departments working together to establish AI laboratories in educational institutions.

IT Minister Rohan Khaunte said the new



policy, covering 2026 to 2029, aims to position Goa as a responsible AI and applied innovation hub. Its five priorities include skill development, startup and industry growth, investment, governance and infrastructure, and the promotion of safe and ethical AI. The state also announced an IT Techno Centre in Porvorim, envisioned as a central hub for technology infrastructure, incubation facilities and collaborative workspaces.

Another major initiative is the Goa AI Hackathon, which will focus on using artificial intelligence to improve governance and public service delivery.

Goa is also working

with Digital India BHASHINI to develop a Konkani Large Language Model for local language applications in governance. Citizens, students and language experts will be encouraged to contribute linguistic data through the BhashaDaan initiative. The Granthika digitalisation platform will support the preservation and accessibility of historical, legal and manuscript collections.

The Department also signed a memorandum of understanding with BITS Pilani Goa to establish an AI Centre of Excellence. The event featured the launch of the Living Library of Goa Rural AI report and the felicitation

of 12 Drone Didis who completed foundational drone training.

The conclave also celebrated 10 AI trainees trained by TAWAI Studio, with participants securing employment opportunities, including a placement at McLaren Strategic Solutions.

The opening day featured industry discussions, startup pitches, skills workshops and 30 technology experience zones. The conclave continues with sessions on climate resilience and industrial transformation, strengthening Goa's ambition to expand its technology ecosystem and AI driven economy.

India Bhutan Border Gets Biometric E Gates as Gelephu Opens New Immigration Terminal

■ New facility aims to speed up border clearance as India advances ₹4,033 crore railway connectivity projects with Bhutan

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Bhutan has inaugurated a new immigration terminal at Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC), introducing automated e gates that allow eligible Indian and Bhutanese nationals to complete immigration clearance through biometric verification at the land border.

The terminal was inaugurated by GMC Governor Dashi Lotay Tshering and is part of the infrastructure being developed to support the city's expansion and growing cross border movement between Bhutan and India.

The biometric system verifies travellers' identities against their registered information, allowing eligible passengers to clear immigration without routine manual processing. The facility is expected to reduce waiting times and make border crossings more efficient, while retaining existing immigration checks. Travellers who have not registered their biometrics will continue to use staffed counters.

A nominal service fee is also expected to be introduced to support the maintenance of the terminal and the delivery of immigration services.

Initially, the facility will serve Indian and Bhutanese nationals who meet the applicable entry requirements. Arrangements for third

country nationals will be introduced at a later stage in coordination with the relevant Indian authorities.

The development comes alongside India's efforts to strengthen transport connectivity with Bhutan through two proposed railway links connecting Assam and West Bengal with Bhutanese towns.

The 69 kilometre Kokrajhar to Gelephu railway line and the 20 kilometre Banarhat to Samtse line are estimated to cost a combined ₹4,033 crore. The projects are expected to strengthen trade, tourism and people to people exchanges between the two countries.

The Kokrajhar to Gelephu line has been designated a Special Railway Project to accelerate approvals and land acquisition. India will finance railway works on its side of the border, while the Bhutanese section will receive support from the Indian government through the Ministry of External Affairs under Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan.

Gelephu Mindfulness City is a major development initiative envisioned by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. The special administrative region is progressing with plans for an international airport, spiritual landmarks and major investment projects.



Damu Naik Signals Possible Return Of Laxmikant Parsekar And Utpal Parrikar To BJP

and the country's progress. Acknowledging that senior leaders sometimes feel overlooked when new entrants join the party, Naik admitted that mistakes can happen while accommodating different aspirations. However, he stressed that neglecting experienced leaders was never deliberate. Naik also highlighted the need to balance the experience of senior leaders with the energy of younger workers, saying the next generation must carry forward the party's ideology and organisational

legacy.

South Goa Advocates Warn of Bigger Agitation Over Mutation, Partition Delays

to streamline the administration and eliminate the role of agents once the system becomes efficient, transparent and accessible to the public. It maintained that people should be able to complete mutation and partition procedures through a properly functioning administrative system without depending on intermediaries. Bar associations across South Goa have extended

support to the movement, while discussions are underway with their counterparts in Panaji, Mapusa and other areas to build wider support.

Calangute Sarpanch Cracks Down on Street Vendors, Flags Wine Shops Operating at 7 AM

Lane and Tibaiwaddo. According to the sarpanch, some vendors had also placed tables and chairs on footpaths, obstructing public movement. The panchayat has issued written notices to the vendors, and fines are being imposed. The sarpanch said goods were also being confiscated and disposed of as part of the enforcement action.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

“Gangster’s Land, Poor Families’ Homes”: Yogi Adityanath Highlights ₹15,233 Crore Property Action

■ Uttar Pradesh reports major action against organised crime, with 148 flats delivered and 1,200 more homes planned in Prayagraj

Team Goemkarponn

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s campaign against organised crime has resulted in reported property action worth ₹15,233 crore under the Gangsters Act since 2017, with the state increasingly using reclaimed land for affordable housing projects for economically



weaker families. The state’s approach combines property attachment, demolition of illegal structures and confiscation following legal proceedings. The cumulative value of

reported action has risen from ₹1,800 crore in August 2021 to ₹9,022.33 crore in March 2023, ₹11,841 crore in August 2023 and ₹14,246 crore by the end of 2024, reaching ₹15,233 crore by October 2026. However, the figures cover different stages of enforcement and do not represent properties

permanently transferred to the government in every case. Attachment places property under legal control pending proceedings, while final confiscation follows the applicable legal process.

Under the housing initiative, 148 flats have been completed and handed over to eligible families on specifically identified plots linked to criminal networks.



Terror Cave Hideout Busted in J&K’s Poonch, Six IEDs Recovered

■ Security forces uncover explosives and equipment during search operation in Mendhar’s Kasblari area

Team Goemkarponn

JAMMU: Security forces have uncovered a suspected terrorist hideout inside a natural cave and recovered six improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in the Kasblari area of Mendhar in Jammu and Kashmir’s Poonch district. The recovery was made during a search operation launched following specific intelligence inputs about suspected terrorist activity in the area. Troops searched the surrounding region and discovered a natural cave believed to have been used as a hideout by terrorists. During the operation, security personnel recovered six IEDs concealed in brown tape insulated containers, along with other equipment and materials suspected to be linked to terrorist

activities. The seized items included a 7.62 mm light machine gun magazine, a black bag, a combat pouch, an aluminium container, two power adapters with power sources and a tiffin box. Investigators are expected to examine the recovered materials to determine their intended use and whether the tiffin box could have been modified for use as an explosive device. The recovery has highlighted concerns over the use of natural caves and isolated forest locations by terrorists to conceal weapons, ammunition and explosives while avoiding detection by security forces. Dense forest areas and naturally sheltered caves can provide cover for storing supplies and planning activities away from populated areas.



Around 3,000 Stranded Indian Umrah Pilgrims Return From Saudi Arabia in a Week

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Around 3,000 stranded Indian Umrah pilgrims have returned from Saudi Arabia over the past week, as the government steps up efforts to bring back the remaining affected travellers through coordination with airlines and tour operators. More than 10,000 other pilgrims who had regular flight bookings also returned to India during the same period. Authorities are working to arrange travel for those still awaiting their return.

The Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General in Jeddah are closely monitoring the situation and providing assistance to affected Indian nationals. Emergency control rooms have been established at both diplomatic missions to offer round the clock support, while regular advisories are being issued to keep travellers informed. Community volunteers are also helping the diplomatic missions provide welfare assistance to those facing difficulties.

“Face Offs With China Still Continuing in Arunachal”: ITBP Chief

■ Shaurya commandos deployed for border preparedness as ITBP plans specialised training for all personnel by 2027

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Face offs between Indian and Chinese troops have occurred at several locations along the border in Arunachal Pradesh in recent days and are continuing, Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director General Shatrueet Kapur said on Thursday. Addressing personnel at an ITBP base in Alwar, Rajasthan, Kapur said the force had raised a new combat unit,



the Shaurya commandos, which had demonstrated its capabilities during the ongoing face offs involving China’s People’s Liberation Army (PLA) at multiple locations in Arunachal Pradesh. The commandos will be inducted into every border battalion,

strengthening the force’s operational capabilities and preparedness along the India China frontier. The ITBP chief’s remarks came in the context of routine deployment and operational readiness along the border, rather than referring to a specific incident. Established in 1962, the ITBP is responsible for guarding the 3,488 kilometre Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

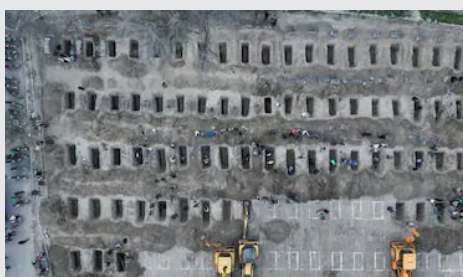
“Humans Pulled the Trigger, AI Helped”: Ex-CIA Chief on Iran School Bombing

■ David Petraeus says a human made the final targeting decision, amid questions over AI involvement in the deadly strike

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Former CIA director David Petraeus has said a human made the final decision to carry out the bombing of Shajarah Tayyebah Elementary School in Minab, southern Iran, while artificial intelligence assisted with targeting.

The strike reportedly killed at least 156 people, including children, raising serious



questions about the use of AI powered systems in military operations and the responsibility for errors involving civilian targets.

Speaking at the NDTV World Summit, Petraeus rejected the suggestion

that a machine independently made the decision to attack the school. He maintained that human judgement

remained central to the targeting process, even as AI tools were increasingly used to support military decisions. Petraeus acknowledged that mistakes had occurred in military operations

in the Middle East and Ukraine, stressing that people continued to make the final decisions to launch attacks. He also advocated developing systems that operate within clearly defined criteria and instructions established by humans.

His remarks come amid scrutiny of an earlier investigation into the bombing, which examined the role of the US military’s AI enabled targeting system, the

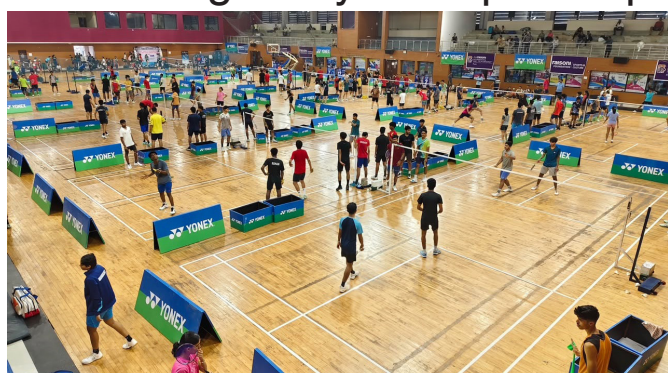
Maven Smart System, developed by Palantir Technologies. According to the investigation, US military planners had sought to identify strategic targets that could weaken Iran’s military capabilities at the beginning of the conflict. Some personnel within US Central Command reportedly relied heavily on AI tools to identify potential targets and plan initial attacks.

Goa Welcomes India's Rising Badminton Stars as National Junior Ranking Tournament Begins

■ Around 960 players from over 25 states and Union Territories gather at Navelim for the eight day championship

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa is set to host the Yonex Sunrise G.H. Raisoni Memorial All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament 2026 from October 23 to 30 at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium in Navelim, with around 960 players from across the country arriving to compete in the prestigious national championship.



Ahead of the opening day, young shuttlers were seen participating

in practice sessions at the indoor stadium as preparations gathered

pace for the eight day tournament.

Players representing more than 25 states and Union Territories have converged in Goa, bringing together some of India's most promising junior badminton talents. The field also includes several Junior India players expected to add further quality and competitiveness to the championship.



Ishan Kishan Ruled Out of 2nd T20I Against New Zealand, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Emerges as Replacement Option

■ Young batter could get an opportunity after Ishan suffers a right adductor strain during the series opener

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India have suffered a setback ahead of the second T20I against New Zealand, with wicketkeeper batter Ishan Kishan ruled out of the match due to a low grade right adductor strain. His absence has opened the door for teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to enter the playing XI.

The injury occurred during the opening T20I of the series, prompting the team management to make changes to the batting order. Tilak Varma and Shreyas Iyer were promoted ahead of Kishan, who usually

occupies the number three position.

India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak explained that the decision was influenced by Kishan's groin discomfort rather than a tactical experiment. The Board of Control for Cricket in India confirmed that its medical team would continue monitoring the batter's recovery.

Sooryavanshi has emerged as a strong contender to replace Kishan for the second match. Kotak indicated that the young batter could get his opportunity, depending on the team's requirements and medical assessments.

Candolim Football Academy Resumes New Season with Over 150 Young Players

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Village Panchayat of Candolim has resumed its football academy programme for the new season, attracting registrations from more than 150 young footballers from the village. The initiative, led by Sarpanch Blaize Fernandes in association with Super 30 Football Academy, provides completely free football coaching to children from Candolim, ensuring that aspiring players have access to quality sports training. The programme focuses on strengthening grassroots football by offering structured training, professional coaching and opportunities for young players to develop their skills. It also aims to instil discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship while creating a strong foundation for their future in the game. Super 30 Football Academy oversees the technical training and football development programme, helping young participants improve their abilities and prepare for opportunities to progress to higher levels of competition. The registration of over 150 children reflects the growing enthusiasm for football in Candolim and highlights the importance of providing accessible sporting opportunities to youngsters.

3 World Records Shattered as India Crosses 100 Medal Mark at Asian Para Games 2026

■ Mona Agarwal, Sandeep Kumar and Haney deliver historic performances on Day 5 in Aichi Nagoya

Team Goemkarponn

AICHI NAGOYA: India enjoyed a remarkable Day 5 at the 2026 Asian Para Games, breaking three world records and crossing the 100 medal mark after a series of outstanding performances across shooting, athletics, javelin, badminton and para archery. Mona Agarwal led India's medal charge by setting a world record score of 357.5 in



the women's 50m rifle three positions SH1 event. She secured her second gold medal of the Games, defeating China's Cuiping Zhang by 3.8 points in a dominant performance.

On the athletics track, Sandeep Kumar produced another record breaking display, clocking 52.28 seconds to set a new

world record in the men's 400m T44 event and claim gold.

His victory helped India cross the landmark 100 medal threshold at the continental competition.

Anahat Singh Creates History, Becomes First Indian to Reach PSA Gold Semifinal

■ The 18-year-old rallies past Egypt's Salma Hany in a five-game thriller at the Silicon Valley Open after stunning eight-time world champion Nour El Sherbini

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Indian squash star Anahat Singh scripted history at the Silicon Valley Open by becoming the first Indian player to reach the semifinals of a PSA Gold-level event.

The world No. 15 produced a remarkable comeback to defeat Egypt's Salma Hany, ranked 14th in the world, in a thrilling five-game encounter. Anahat



recovered twice from a losing position before

securing an 11-4, 8-11, 11-4, 2-11, 5-11 victory

to book her place in the last four. The 18-year-old displayed impressive composure and tactical maturity after struggling in the opening stages. Following a topsy-turvy start, she took control in the final two games, restricting Hany to just seven points across the fourth and fifth games combined.

Anahat admitted that the match was challenging, particularly because she had never

faced Hany before. However, she remained determined to fight back despite losing the opening game heavily.

She said she wanted to make a strong comeback and compete until the end, regardless of the result. The Indian youngster was delighted to have progressed further in the tournament and maintained her momentum after an emotionally demanding previous round.