



Ponda Emerges as Key Battleground in MGP's Seat-Sharing Strategy

■ MGP eyes seven constituencies for 2027 polls; Sudin Dhavalikar's son's candidature from Marcaim to come up for discussion

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: The battle over constituency allocation within Goa's ruling alliance is beginning to take shape, with the Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP) laying claim to seven Assembly seats ahead of the 2027 elections. Ponda, where the party's candidate narrowly lost in 2022, is among the constituencies it intends to secure.

MGP leader and Power Minister Ramkrishna



"Sudin" Dhavalikar has made it clear that the party will pursue its claim over Ponda, along with Marcaim, Mandrem, Pernem, Bicholim, Priol and Shiroda. The demands are expected to feature in discussions on



the electoral arrangement with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Ponda remains politically significant for the MGP following the 2022 Assembly election, when its candidate Ketan Bhatikar lost to Ravi Naik



by only 77 votes. Both leaders have since died, leaving the constituency vacant and its political equations subject to change. Dhavalikar has questioned the suggestion that his party should relinquish its claim to Ponda. The constituency is one of several where the MGP hopes to

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Babush Monserrate welcomes Utpal Parrikar's return to BJP

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PANAJI: Minister Atanasio "Babush" Monserrate has welcomed the possibility of Utpal Parrikar returning to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), saying he believes Utpal should never have left the party in the first place.

Reacting to the possible move, Monserrate said the party's decision should be respected and that Utpal's return would be a welcome development. He emphasised that he had no objection to whatever decision the BJP leadership takes on the matter.

"Whatever decision the party takes, it is a welcome move. It is better late than never," Monserrate said.

He recalled his association with Utpal's father, former Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar, who brought him into the BJP after he had been associated with another

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Multiple Shops Burgled Overnight in Bicholim Market

■ Burglars break locks, smash cash counters and flee with daily collections; traders urge increased night patrolling

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: Multiple commercial establishments, including a saree shop and local bars, were reportedly burgled overnight in Bicholim Market, with unidentified persons making away with cash from counters. According to shop owners, the establishments had been



locked between 7.30 pm and 12.30 am, with the thefts coming to light the

following morning. The burglars allegedly broke door locks and smashed cash counters to steal the daily collections. Following complaints from traders, Bicholim Police visited the affected establishments, recorded statements and examined CCTV footage as part of the investigation.

'Free Kashmir' Slogans Found on Jamia Campus, Security Tightened Amid Student Protests

■ University removes controversial graffiti as police deployment increases and students continue hunger strike demanding restoration of elected union

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Security was tightened at Jamia Millia Islamia after slogans including "Free Kashmir" and "Free Sharjeel Imam" were found written on walls inside the university campus, triggering controversy amid an ongoing student agitation demanding

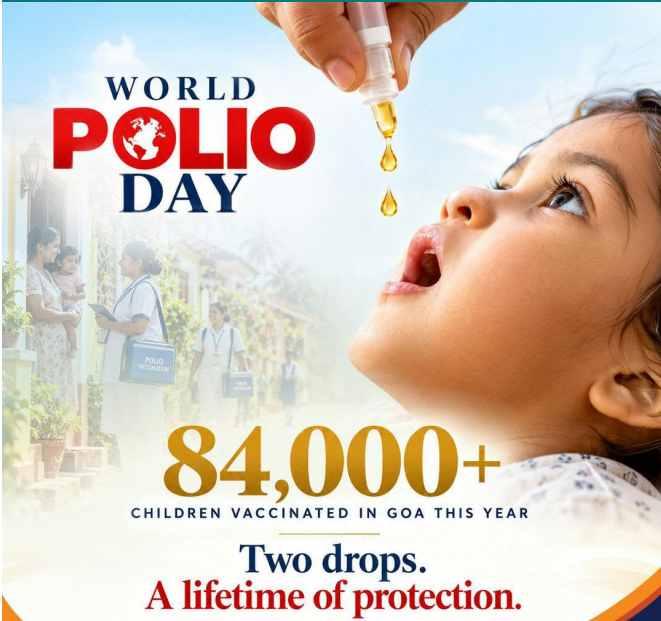


the restoration of the elected students' union. The walls also carried slogans targeting the Rashtriya Swayamsevak

Sangh (RSS), the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the university's Vice Chancellor.

Goa vaccinates over 84,000 children against polio this year

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane reaffirms the state's commitment to timely immunisation on World Polio Day, calling for a healthier, polio-free future



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has vaccinated more than 84,000 children against polio this year, reaffirming the state's commitment to protecting every child through timely immunisation, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said on the occasion of World Polio Day. Emphasising the importance of vaccination in safeguarding children's health, Rane said every dose brings Goa closer

to a healthier, polio-free future. He reiterated the need to ensure that every child receives timely immunisation to strengthen the state's public health efforts. "Two drops. A lifetime of protection. A stronger Goa," the message shared by the Health Minister stated, highlighting the importance of polio vaccination in preventing the disease and protecting future generations. World Polio Day is

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₹641 Crore Later, Porvorim Still Has Questions

The Porvorim flyover was supposed to be a landmark achievement in Goa's infrastructure development. Built at a cost of over ₹641 crore, the 5.15 km elevated corridor was expected to ease congestion, improve connectivity and bring relief to thousands of motorists who struggle daily with traffic between Panaji, Porvorim and Mapusa.

Instead, barely weeks after its inauguration, the government is planning additional ramps, preparing proposals and seeking funds from the Centre to address connectivity issues. What an irony! A project meant to solve traffic problems now requires further intervention to deliver the convenience people were promised.

The obvious question is: What was the hurry to inaugurate the flyover if the project was not fully ready to serve the public?

This is not a minor technical issue that can be brushed aside with assurances of future improvements. It goes to the heart of project planning, public expenditure and accountability. When hundreds of crores of rupees are spent on infrastructure, citizens have every right to expect that the basic requirements of design, connectivity and traffic management have been properly addressed before the project is declared complete. The people of Porvorim and surrounding areas endured years of construction, diversions, dust and traffic congestion. They accepted these inconveniences because they believed that the completed corridor would make their daily journeys easier. Instead, they are now being asked to adjust to another round of restrictions, road arrangements and possible construction work.

Will motorists have to endure more inconvenience while the government corrects problems that should ideally have been addressed before the inauguration? Will traffic congestion return to the very roads the flyover was supposed to decongest? And how much more public money will be required before the project functions as intended?

These questions demand answers.

Where did the planning go wrong?

Building an elevated corridor is not simply a matter of constructing pillars and laying a road above an existing highway. A project of this scale requires comprehensive planning, including entry and exit ramps, junction management, traffic flow assessments, pedestrian safety and integration with existing roads and bridges.

If additional ramps are now considered necessary, the government must explain why these requirements were not adequately incorporated into the original plan. Were the shortcomings overlooked by the consultants? Did the officials responsible for approving the design fail to anticipate traffic requirements? Were financial considerations responsible for leaving essential components out of the project? Or did the authorities proceed with the inauguration despite knowing that further work was necessary?

The public deserves clarity on these questions. It is entirely possible that traffic conditions after opening may reveal problems that could not be fully anticipated during planning. However, that possibility makes proper monitoring and transparent communication even more important. The government must distinguish

The people of Porvorim and surrounding areas endured years of construction, diversions, dust and traffic congestion. They accepted these inconveniences because they believed that the completed corridor would make their daily journeys easier. Instead, they are now being asked to adjust to another round of restrictions, road arrangements and possible construction work.

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between genuinely unforeseen challenges and deficiencies that should have been identified before the project was approved.

What it cannot do is treat every additional requirement as an ordinary extension of the project without explaining why it became necessary.

Who will pay for the mistakes?

The financial implications are equally concerning. The original investment was substantial. If additional ramps and associated infrastructure require further expenditure, the government must disclose the estimated cost, explain the funding arrangement and establish whether the additional work falls within the original project scope.

More importantly, responsibility must be fixed wherever negligence or inadequate planning is established.

Public funds are not the personal resources of the government. Every rupee spent on correcting avoidable mistakes

ultimately comes from taxpayers. The government cannot repeatedly announce large infrastructure projects, celebrate their completion and then return to the drawing board when practical problems emerge.

If consultants failed to provide an adequate design, their role must be examined. If officials approved an incomplete plan, their decisions must be reviewed. If contractors failed to meet the approved specifications, appropriate action must follow. Accountability cannot stop at the lowest level of the administrative chain while those responsible for major decisions remain untouched.

Was the inauguration more important than the outcome?

The episode also raises questions about the political culture surrounding infrastructure projects. Inaugurations are important public occasions, but they are not substitutes for completion, functionality and safety. A ribbon cutting creates a moment of celebration. A properly functioning road creates lasting public value.

There is a danger that governments become more concerned with announcing projects than ensuring that every essential component is ready for use. The pressure to showcase development can lead to premature celebrations, leaving citizens to deal with the consequences afterwards. The Porvorim flyover must not become another example of infrastructure being judged by the ceremony that marked its opening rather than by the quality of service it delivers. The government should publish a comprehensive technical assessment, clarify the reasons for the proposed additional ramps and provide a firm timeline for completing the necessary improvements. Until then, commuters deserve clear traffic arrangements that minimise disruption and prioritise safety.

The objective should be to make the corridor function efficiently, not to defend every decision taken in the name of completing it.

Goa deserves better

The Porvorim flyover remains an important infrastructure project, and its potential benefits should not be dismissed. But acknowledging its importance does not mean accepting deficiencies without scrutiny. Development is not measured by the amount of concrete poured, the money spent or the number of dignitaries present at an inauguration. It is measured by whether a project solves the problem for which it was conceived.

The people of Goa have every right to ask why a project costing over ₹641 crore needs further interventions so soon after opening. They also have the right to know whether the additional expenditure could have been avoided through better planning.

The government must stop treating these questions as inconvenient criticism. They are questions of public interest.

The real test of the Porvorim flyover is not whether it could be inaugurated on schedule, but whether it was ready to serve the people on the day it opened. If it was not, who made that decision, and who will be held accountable?

Goa does not need more hurried inaugurations followed by explanations. It needs competent planning, responsible execution and infrastructure that works from day one.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Goa's Touts: Plenty of Warnings, Where Is the Action?

By Suraj Nandrekar

Goa's Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte wants the police to explain where the touts operating across the state come from. It is a fair question, but it is also one that should have been answered long ago. Touts have been a persistent problem in Goa's coastal belt for years. Their presence is hardly a secret. Residents complain about them, tourists encounter them, businesses are affected by them, and the government repeatedly promises action. Yet the problem continues.

So, what exactly has the government been doing all this time?

The minister's frustration with the police is understandable. If touts are openly approaching tourists, soliciting customers and allegedly directing visitors towards unauthorised or illegal activities, the police cannot claim ignorance. The coastal belt is not an ungoverned territory. Police stations, intelligence networks and tourist police personnel exist precisely to prevent such activities and maintain law and order.

If the authorities know where the problem exists, why are they still asking where the touts come from?

The bigger question is whether the government lacks information or lacks the determination to act on it.

A problem that refuses to disappear

This is not the first time the Tourism Minister has spoken about the tout menace. He has repeatedly expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of visible results despite raising the issue with senior police officers. The recurrence of these complaints raises serious questions about enforcement.

Occasional raids, detentions and fines may create headlines, but they do not necessarily solve a persistent problem. If the same individuals return to the same locations after being penalised, the enforcement mechanism is clearly failing to produce lasting results.

The government must identify not only those approaching tourists but also the establishments and individuals who benefit from illegal solicitation. Touts rarely operate in isolation. There must be an investigation into where they direct customers, who pays them commissions and whether any illegal businesses are encouraging or financing their activities.

Merely removing a few individuals from the streets without investigating the larger network will achieve little.

Why blame the police only now?

The minister is right to demand accountability from the police. However, accountability must work both ways. The Tourism Department, local authorities, panchayats and other enforcement agencies must explain what they have done to address a problem that has remained on the public agenda for years.

If police officers have ignored complaints, failed to act against repeat offenders or allowed illegal activities to continue despite having sufficient evidence, departmental action is warranted. But if the government believes the existing enforcement mechanism is inadequate, it must ensure that the necessary resources, coordination and legal support are provided.

Public criticism of police performance cannot become a substitute for administrative action.

The government must also resist the temptation to turn this into a debate about whether the touts are Goans or outsiders. The origin of an offender is secondary to the offence committed. Every person operating illegally must face the law, irrespective of where they come from. Singling out people based on their state of origin will not address the institutional failures that allow illegal activities to flourish.

Goa's reputation is at stake

Tourism depends on trust. Visitors should be able to walk along Goa's beaches, explore its towns and enjoy their holidays without being harassed, misled or pressured into buying services. Residents, too, deserve public spaces that are safe and orderly.

The tout menace damages that experience and undermines the reputation Goa has built over decades. It also hurts legitimate tourism operators who follow the rules and depend on a fair business environment.

The solution is not another round of statements promising a crackdown. It is sustained enforcement, investigation of the networks behind illegal solicitation, action against repeat offenders and clear responsibility for officers who fail to perform their duties.

The Tourism Minister has asked where the touts come from. The government should now answer a more important question: Why do they continue to operate despite repeated warnings from the very people responsible for stopping them?

Goa has heard enough promises. It is time for results.

Shubham Komarpant Raises Questions Over Alleged Irregularities in Balram Education Society

RTI documents cited in press note raise concerns over school permissions, government grants, use of public premises and compliance with educational regulations

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Shubham Komarpant, under the banner of Justice for Canacona, has raised a series of questions over alleged irregularities in the functioning of Balram Education Society in Canacona, citing information obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The concerns relate to



school permissions, the existence and shifting of school premises, the release of government grants, the use of public buildings and compliance with regulations governing educational institutions.

According to the

press note, the Education Department granted permission to Balram Education Society to operate a school at Fulamol, Gaondongrim. However, Komarpant alleges that no school building or students were present at the location, despite the school reportedly being shown as operational on official records since 2008. The press note further

questions how permission was granted for Classes V to IX at Fulamol without a school structure allegedly existing at the site. It also raises concerns over the subsequent shifting of the school to Mashifond, Amona, for Class X, allegedly without obtaining the necessary permission from the concerned panchayats, as the two locations fall under different panchayat jurisdictions.



Goa plans revival of 20 abandoned laterite quarries with Rs 2 crore allocation

Biodiversity Board to explore eco-friendly restoration and regulated community activities at disused quarry sites

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Nearly 20 abandoned laterite quarries in Goa are set to be considered for restoration under a proposed initiative backed by a Rs 2 crore allocation from the North Goa District Mineral Foundation Trust (NGDMFT). The Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) is expected to prepare a rehabilitation plan aimed at making these neglected sites safer and exploring possibilities for their productive use. The proposal envisages assessing whether selected quarries can support activities such as regulated fishing, tourism and recreation, while taking

local environmental conditions into account. The funding provision follows an assessment by the Foundation's Project Management Unit, which examined options for rehabilitating abandoned quarry sites. The Biodiversity Board is expected to draw on its own expertise and seek specialised technical support wherever required. The proposed approach could offer an alternative to simply fencing off abandoned quarries, provided suitable safeguards are put in place. Each site will require an assessment of its ecological condition, water quality, structural safety and suitability for the activities being considered.



Velingkar Calls It 'Final Fight' For Marathi Official Language Status

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: Subhash Velingkar has described the campaign for granting Marathi official language status in Goa as a "final fight", urging supporters of the language to unite and use their voting power in the upcoming elections to press for their demand.

Addressing a gathering organised by the Marathi Rajbhasha Nirdhar Samiti in Bicholim, Velingkar accused successive Congress and BJP governments of neglecting Marathi and failing to fulfil the demand for its official language status.

He called upon Marathi supporters to stand together and make the issue a priority in the electoral process, emphasising the need for collective action to achieve recognition for the language.

The gathering also saw attendees take a collective pledge in support of the movement and resolve to participate in large numbers in the Marathi Maha Melava scheduled for November.

BJP's promises: Big on publicity, slow on delivery, says Vijai Sardesai

Goa Forward Party president alleges over 2 lakh applicants are still awaiting the promised ₹3,000 payment

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Goa Forward Party president and Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai has criticised the BJP government over the alleged delay in disbursing the promised ₹3,000 financial assistance, claiming that more than 2 lakh applicants are still waiting for the amount.

According to Sardesai, out of 3,06,396 applicants, only around 1 lakh have received the payment, leaving a large number of



beneficiaries awaiting the promised assistance.

Slamming the government over the delay, Sardesai said women do not need publicity stunts or grand announcements but timely delivery of the financial

assistance promised to them.

"Our sisters don't need publicity stunts and grand announcements. They need the money they were promised!" Sardesai said.

Accusing the BJP government of failing to honour its commitment, the Goa Forward Party president described the delay as a betrayal of public trust.

"This is not governance; it is a betrayal of trust," Sardesai said.

Goa sets fee structure for deposit refund scheme ahead of rollout

Businesses to pay charges based on packaging type and annual turnover as the state moves towards implementing the system

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Deposit Refund Scheme Authority has laid down the fee structure for businesses participating in the state's Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS), marking a step towards putting the packaging recovery mechanism into operation.

Two separate notifications cover the Reverse Collection Fee (RCF) and the Annual



System Participation Fee (ASPF). The charges apply to manufacturers, producers, importers and brand owners registering

for and participating in the scheme.

Under the reverse collection component, the notified rate is Rs

10 per metric tonne for glass, rigid plastic, flexible plastic, metal cans and liquid packaging boards, including Tetra Pak. Multi-layered packaging will attract a higher rate of Rs 12 per metric tonne. Applicable taxes will be charged separately.

The annual participation charge will depend on a company's turnover, with the authority prescribing four categories.

Businesses recording

an annual turnover of up to Rs 100 crore will pay Rs 10,000, while those earning above Rs 100 crore and up to Rs 250 crore will be charged Rs 25,000.

For entities with turnover exceeding Rs 250 crore but not crossing Rs 500 crore, the annual fee has been fixed at Rs 50,000. Companies with turnover above Rs 500 crore will have to pay Rs 1 lakh annually.

Man booked for alleged sexual assault of minor girl in Zuarinagar

■ Guardian's complaint alleges repeated sexual abuse between 2023 and September 2026, along with threats to kill the victim if she revealed the incidents

Team Goemkarponn

ZUARINAGAR: A man identified as Kamruddin alias Mohammad Dhuniya, a resident of near Birla Cross, Cortalim, has been accused of sexually assaulting a minor girl on several occasions between 2023 and September 2026. According to a complaint filed by the girl's guardian, the alleged incidents took place



at TNK in Zuarinagar, Sancoale. The accused allegedly disrobed the minor with the intention of outraging her modesty, touched her chest and subjected her to oral and anal sexual acts on multiple occasions. The complaint further alleges that the accused threatened to kill the girl and throw her into a jungle if she disclosed the incidents to anyone.



Gold and silver ornaments worth ₹1.9 lakh stolen from house in Quepem

■ Unknown accused allegedly broke open main door lock to enter house at Xeldem; Quepem police investigating

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: Gold and silver ornaments and a wristwatch worth approximately ₹1.9 lakh were allegedly stolen from a house at Chadegal, Xeldem, Quepem, on October 22.

According to a complaint filed by Simran Gawas, a resident of Xeldem, the theft took place between 9 am and 2.10 pm. An unknown accused

allegedly gained entry into the complainant's house by breaking open the lock of the main door and decamped with gold and silver ornaments and a wristwatch kept in an almirah.

The total value of the stolen property is estimated at approximately ₹1,90,000.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Somesh Prabhudessai of Quepem Police Station.



Woman grievously injured in truck-scooter collision at Arlem

Team Goemkarponn

ARLEM: A woman sustained grievous injuries in a road accident involving an Eicher truck and a TVS Scooty near Atithi Bar and Restaurant at Arlem, Salcete, on October 22.

According to a state complaint lodged by ASI Anant Gaonkar of Maina Curtorim Police Station, the accident occurred at around 2.13 pm when accused driver Mahammad Mirshad MK, a resident of Loutolim and a native of Karnataka, was driving an Eicher truck from Ponda towards Arlem.

Upon reaching near Atithi Bar and Restaurant, the driver allegedly drove in a rash and negligent manner and suddenly took a right turn without taking proper care and caution to enter the opposite lane, intending to reach a tyre puncture shop nearby.

During the manoeuvre, the truck allegedly hit a TVS Scooty travelling from Arlem towards Ponda. The rider, Vaishali Kudalkar, a resident of Manora, Raia, sustained grievous injuries in the collision.

Further investigation is being conducted by ASI Anant Gaonkar of Maina Curtorim Police Station.

Man abducted near Care Health Insurance office in Margao

■ Unknown accused allegedly abducted Alto Dabolim resident Ajay Shetgaonkar; Fatorda police investigating

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: An abduction case has been reported near the Care Health Insurance office in Margao on October 12, 2026, following a complaint lodged by a woman from Alto Dabolim.

According to the complaint, at around 5 pm, some unknown person(s) allegedly abducted her husband, Ajay Shetgaonkar, a resident of Alto Dabolim, with the intention of wrongfully confining him and keeping him in secret.

Further investigation



into the case is being conducted by PSI

Satvashil Devidas of Fatorda Police Station.

Scooter rider grievously injured in rickshaw collision at Xeldem

■ Rickshaw driver allegedly fled the accident spot without assisting injured woman or informing police; Quepem police investigating

Team Goemkarponn

XELDEM: A woman sustained grievous injuries after her Hero Pleasure scooter allegedly collided with an auto-rickshaw at Bharat Wada, Nagar, Xeldem, Quepem, on October 17.

According to a state complaint lodged by ASI Nagesh Gaonkar of Quepem Police Station, the incident occurred before 1.46 pm when the accused rickshaw



driver, Mahesh Naik, a resident of Avedem, Quepem, was allegedly

driving from Bharatnagar towards Quepem. The complaint states that the

driver entered the main road from the internal Aryan Valley road and took a right turn without giving any indicator or signal and without taking proper care and caution. As a result, the Hero Pleasure scooter ridden by Amita Gauns Dessai, a resident of Xeldem, Quepem, allegedly collided with the rickshaw. The rider fell onto the road and sustained grievous injuries.

Unidentified man found dead near Margao railway station

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: An unidentified man, aged approximately 55 to 60 years, was brought dead to the South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, on October 23, after reportedly being found lying near Gate No. 1 of Margao Railway Station.

According to information received from the casualty police at SGDH Margao, a phone call was received at around 7.50 am informing that the man had been brought to the hospital by a 108 ambulance.

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South Goa Sets
 November 30 Deadline
 for Bulk Waste Generator
 Registration
***Collector Eгна
 Cleetus Directs On-
 Site Verification
 of Unregistered
 Establishments as District
 Steps Up Solid Waste
 Management Enforcement
 Team Goemkarponn**

MARGAO: The South
 Goa District Administration
 has set November 30,
 2026, as the deadline for
 the on-site verification



and registration of
 unregistered Bulk Waste
 Generators (BWGs),
 stepping up enforcement
 of the Solid Waste
 Management Rules, 2026,
 in compliance with the
 directions of the Hon'ble
 Supreme Court.

The directive was
 issued by Collector
 and District Magistrate
 Ms. Eгна Cleetus, IAS,
 during a review meeting
 of the District Level
 Committee, attended by
 Deputy Collector Shri
 Bhiku L. Gavas and

representatives of various
 taluka administrations,
 local bodies and
 government departments.

Of the 385 Bulk Waste
 Generators identified
 in South Goa, only
 124 had registered on
 the Centralised Online
 Portal as per CPCB
 records dated September
 30, 2026. The District
 Magistrate directed the
 Special Cell to maintain
 separate online lists of
 identified and registered
 establishments, while
 Deputy Collectors were



Vasco to get new Balu Mama temple, MLA Krishna Salkar assures devotees

■ Temple expected to be ready
 before next Balu Mama Jayanti;
 hundreds participate in Kalash Yatra

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Balu Mama
 devotees in Goa,
 particularly in Vasco,
 have reason to rejoice
 as the port town is set
 to get a grand Balu
 Mama temple, with
 Vasco MLA Krishna
 Salkar assuring that the
 project will hopefully be
 completed before the
 next Balu Mama Jayanti.
 The assurance came
 on Friday morning as
 hundreds of devotees
 participated in the
 Balu Mama Kalash
 Yatra to commemorate
 Balu Mama Jayanti,
 marking the occasion
 with devotion and
 enthusiasm. Salkar
 said the number of Balu
 Mama devotees had

increased significantly
 in Goa, particularly
 in Vasco, and that
 the proposed temple
 would provide them
 with a convenient
 place to offer prayers
 without having to travel
 to Maharashtra. "Not
 everyone from Goa
 can travel to the main
 Balu Mama temple in
 Maharashtra. A grand
 temple in Vasco will
 give our devotees
 an opportunity to
 offer prayers and
 seek blessings here
 itself," Salkar said. He
 expressed hope that
 the temple would be
 completed before the
 next Balu Mama Jayanti,
 enabling devotees to
 celebrate the occasion
 at the new shrine.



Goa implements trade margin rationalisation for 137 anti-cancer medicines Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa
 State Price Monitoring
 and Resource Unit has
 implemented Trade
 Margin Rationalisation
 (TMR) for 137 identified
 non-scheduled anti-cancer
 medicines, marking a
 significant step towards
 making cancer treatment
 more affordable in the
 state. The revised prices
 will come into effect
 from November 9, 2026,
 and will remain in force
 until further orders. The
 National Pharmaceutical
 Pricing Authority (NPPA),
 under the Department
 of Pharmaceuticals,
 Ministry of Chemicals
 and Fertilizers, has
 recommended trade
 margin rationalisation
 for 137 non-scheduled
 anti-cancer medicines to
 improve the affordability
 of essential drugs for
 patients. Manufacturers
 of the identified anti-
 cancer medicines have
 been directed to submit
 revised Maximum Retail
 Price (MRP) details to the
 NPPA and the concerned
 State Drug Controller
 within seven days of the
 publication of the order in
 the Official Gazette.

Archaeology Department acquires 16th–17th century Kalbhairav sculpture from Mandrem

■ Original sculpture handed over by Sapteshwar Bhagavati Devasthan following idol replacement; department to undertake detailed study

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Department
 of Archaeology has
 acquired a 16th–17th
 century sculpture of
 Kalbhairav, handed over
 by the Committee of
 Shree Dev Sapteshwar
 Bhagavati Pramukh
 Panchayatan Devasthan,
 Mandrem, Pernem,
 following the replacement
 of the original idol with a
 new one.

The heritage sculpture
 was acquired by Dipika
 Gaonkar, Exploration
 Officer of the Department



of Archaeology, who will
 undertake a detailed
 study of the artefact to
 understand its historical
 and cultural significance.

Director of the
 Department of
 Archaeology, Dr Balaji
 Shenoy, said the
 department would carry
 out a detailed examination

of the sculpture as part
 of its efforts to study and
 preserve Goa's heritage.

Shenoy also appealed
 to people and temple
 committees to hand
 over sculptures and
 other objects of heritage
 importance to the
 department for research
 and documentation
 whenever old idols are
 replaced. The initiative is
 expected to help preserve
 valuable historical
 artefacts and facilitate
 further research into
 Goa's rich cultural and
 archaeological heritage.

Political Parties Consulted on Rationalisation of Polling Stations in South Goa

■ Meeting reviews proposals for changes in polling stations across six Assembly constituencies ahead of State Assembly elections

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A meeting
 with representatives
 of recognised political
 parties was held in
 Margao to discuss
 proposals for the
 rationalisation of polling
 stations in six Assembly
 constituencies of South
 Goa district ahead of
 the State Assembly
 elections.

The proposals,
 received from the
 Electoral Registration



Officers (EROs) of Ponda,
 Mormugao, Dabolim,
 Fatorda, Margao and

Benaulim constituencies,
 include the deletion
 and shifting of polling

Kamat, representative of
 the Goa Forward Party,
 along with the concerned

stations, as well
 as modifications
 and changes in
 the nomenclature
 of polling station
 sections. The
 meeting was
 attended by Shri
 Altinho Gomes,
 representative
 of the Indian
 National
 Congress, and
 Shri Durgadas

Electoral Registration
 Officers (EROs) and
 Assistant Electoral
 Registration Officers
 (AEROs). During the
 meeting, Collector and
 District Election Officer,
 South Goa, Ms. Eгна
 Cleetus, briefed the
 representatives of the
 recognised political
 parties on the various
 proposals received from
 the EROs concerning
 the rationalisation of
 polling stations across
 the constituencies.

Pt. Prabhakar Chari Sangeet Sammelan 2026 Begins today in Panaji

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Pt. Prabhakar Chari Sangeet Sammelan 2026 is happening today at Kala Academy, Goa, from 4 pm to 9:30 pm at Black Box Hall, Kala Academy.

It will bring together established maestros and talented artistes for a two-day celebration of Indian classical music and dance.

The festival will continue tomorrow, 25 October 2026, from 4:00 PM to 9:30 PM, with free entry for all music lovers and the public.

Organised by Pt. Prabhakar Chari Pratisthan and Swar Sanskruti Music Academy (SSMA), in association with Kala Academy, Goa, and the Directorate of Art & Culture, Goa, the Sammelan pays tribute to the legacy of the late Pt. Prabhakar Chari, a respected tabla player, academician and musicologist who made significant contributions to Goa's musical heritage.

The festival features two evenings of Hindustani classical music and dance, with vocal

and instrumental recitals, tabla performances, jugalbandi and classical dance presentations. The Sammelan offers audiences an opportunity

to experience the richness and diversity of India's classical traditions through performances spanning tabla, sitar, sarod, flute, santoor, harmonium,

everyone an opportunity to experience this celebration of Indian classical music and pay tribute to a distinguished musical legacy.

classical vocals, Kathak and Bharatanatyam.

The artistes featured in the Sammelan include Pt. Sudhir Nayak, Dr. Pravin Gaonkar, Swapnil Bhise, Dr. Rajesh Bhatkurse, Dr. Sapana Naik, Shantanu Gokhale, Rekha Madkaikar, Sarang Vechalekar, Aditya Apte, Neel Sonar, Sanket Khalap and Kaustubh Chari, accompanied by a team of accomplished musicians.

The public is invited to attend this musical festival today and tomorrow. Entry is free, offering

'The Problem Was Caused by You': Piyush Goyal Challenges Europe Over Climate Policies

■ Indian minister warns CBAM and high steel import duties could increase living costs and weaken industrial competitiveness

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has challenged Europe's climate policies, arguing that developed economies bear greater responsibility for the climate crisis and should not impose additional financial burdens on developing countries through trade measures.

Speaking during a question and answer session at the Berlin Global Dialogue 2026 on Friday, Goyal questioned the historical contribution of developed nations to global carbon emissions and criticised Europe's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and high import duties on steel. During the discussion, Goyal challenged the suggestion that all countries shared equal responsibility for the climate crisis. He pointed to India's share of the global population, approximately 17 per cent, while highlighting that the country contributes less than 3 per cent of global carbon emissions. He contrasted India's contribution with Europe's historical emissions and argued that developed economies had relied heavily on coal and other energy sources to fuel industrial growth and maintain low energy costs. Goyal warned that carbon related trade measures and steep steel import duties could increase production expenses, make industries less

competitive and push up the cost of living for European consumers. He also emphasised that India continues to expand its clean energy programme despite economic challenges, underlining the country's efforts to pursue growth while addressing environmental concerns. The minister invoked the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities under the 2015 Paris Agreement, which recognises that countries have different levels of responsibility and capacity in tackling climate change. He argued that developed nations had committed to providing \$100 billion annually in climate finance to support developing countries and vulnerable island nations. However, he expressed dissatisfaction over what he described as the failure to deliver the promised financial assistance. Goyal is visiting Germany and the Netherlands from October 22 to 27, accompanied by a delegation of around 100 Indian businesses and startups.

The visit aims to strengthen economic engagement and explore opportunities for trade and investment. His remarks highlighted India's continuing concerns over climate related trade restrictions and the need to balance environmental commitments with economic development and fair international trade.



Ponda Emerges as Key Battleground in MGP's Seat-Sharing Strategy

establish its position before negotiations with the BJP begin.

The party's demands also cover Priol and Shiroda, currently represented by BJP leaders Govind Gaude and Subhash Shirodkar, respectively. The allocation of these seats could become a contentious issue as both alliance partners prepare for the next election.

Before approaching the BJP leadership in New Delhi, the MGP plans to settle its position through meetings of its executive committee and general body. Dhavalikar has said the party will examine alliance-related matters, seat allocation and its broader electoral strategy through these internal deliberations.

The MGP's annual general meeting, scheduled for tomorrow, will also consider whether Dhavalikar's son should be fielded from Marcaim. The party will take a decision following the discussion.

Although the MGP wishes to continue its partnership with the BJP, Dhavalikar has stressed that the

expectations of grassroots workers will be an important consideration in determining the party's electoral course.

He has also clarified that constituency-sharing arrangements were not discussed during a recent meeting at Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's residence. According to Dhavalikar, his brother Deepak Dhavalikar attended the meeting at Sawant's invitation.

Goa vaccinates over 84,000 children against polio this year

observed annually to raise awareness about efforts to eradicate polio globally and to recognise the importance of vaccination in preventing the disease.

With more than 84,000 children vaccinated this year, Goa aims to sustain its immunisation efforts and ensure that no child is left unprotected against polio.

Rane reiterated the message of building a stronger Goa through healthy children, stressing that timely vaccination remains essential to protecting every child and maintaining progress towards a polio-free future.

Babush Monserrate welcomes Utpal Parrikar's return to BJP

political party.

Monserrate said that although differences had emerged between them at a later stage, those issues were separate from Utpal's political future. According to Monserrate, Manohar Parrikar played a significant role in building the BJP in Goa, and Utpal should have continued to remain associated with the party his father helped establish. He added that he had previously expressed the view that Utpal should return to the BJP, describing it as the political party to which he belongs. Monserrate clarified that he was not the person who needed to formally welcome Utpal back, nor did the party require his permission to make such a decision. "I am not the one who has to welcome him, nor does the party require my permission," he said, reiterating that the final decision rested with the party leadership. Responding to questions from reporters about the possibility of Utpal's return, Monserrate repeatedly maintained that the BJP should be allowed to make its own decision.

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'All 14 Indians Are Safe': India Confirms Dhow Incident Off Yemen Coast

Indian authorities seek contact with nationals in Hodeidah as efforts continue to support their well being and possible return home

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: All 14 Indian nationals aboard a dhow involved in an incident off the coast of Yemen are safe, India has confirmed, adding that efforts are underway to contact them and assess how best to support their well being and possible return to the country.

The incident came to light after reports emerged that the vessel had been involved in an encounter near Yemen's



Red Sea coastline. The circumstances surrounding the incident, including the source of the reported attack, have not been conclusively established.

The Indian government has been in contact

with various parties to verify the facts and circumstances. The 14 nationals are currently reported to be in Hodeidah, Yemen, where their safety has been confirmed.

Reports in Arab media attributed claims to a Houthi spokesperson that Saudi forces had targeted the Indian vessel near Yuqar Island and that Houthi forces were involved in rescuing those aboard. India has not independently confirmed

the source of the attack.

Meanwhile, India is continuing efforts to assist its nationals stranded in Saudi Arabia amid escalating regional hostilities. An Indian national was killed and three others were injured in separate attacks targeting a major airport and an oil field in the country on Wednesday.

Efforts are also underway to facilitate the return of Indian Umrah pilgrims stranded in Saudi Arabia.



Mumbai Rapido Driver Arrested Over Suspected Jaish-e-Mohammed Links, Radical Social Media Posts

Maharashtra ATS arrests 33 year old Mahim resident after tip off, seizes mobile phone and screenshots of alleged online activity

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested a 33 year old man from Mumbai over suspected links with the banned terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and allegedly provocative social media posts targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The accused, Mohammad Hasan Abu Sarmad Akhtar, a resident of Mahim, was apprehended near Mahim Metro Station following a tip off. He reportedly worked as a Rapido driver and sold perfumes. According to investigators, Akhtar allegedly used social

media platforms to circulate radical content, promote religious hostility and share audio recordings attributed to JeM chief Maulana Masood Azhar. The material reportedly included content related to the Babri Masjid, which was shared through a Telegram group named Indian Muslim. Investigators also found that Akhtar had subscribed to a Pakistani Telegram channel called IBN E Qasim. His activity on X and Instagram allegedly included provocative statements advocating jihad and comments interpreted as encouraging violence against the Prime Minister.



'Ultimate Call for Awakening': Thousands Stage Sound Protests Across Manipur

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Thousands of people across Manipur's five valley districts staged coordinated sound protests and marches on Friday evening, expressing anger over continuing violence, ongoing killings and the prolonged failure to restore normalcy in the state. The demonstrations turned tense near Kangla Fort in Imphal, where police fired tear gas shells and erected barricades to prevent protesters from moving towards Raj Bhavan, a high security zone located around 300 metres from the fort's western gate. No injuries were reported. Kangla Fort, the historic seat of political and cultural authority of Manipur's erstwhile kingdom, emerged as the main centre of the mobilisation. Thousands gathered inside the complex, marched through its premises and raised slogans against the government. Protesters banged utensils, beat drums and sounded vehicle horns to amplify their demands.

'People Like Him Will Come and Question It': Piyush Goyal on Bringing Indian Talent Back

Commerce Minister calls for policies to attract overseas scientists and researchers while balancing democratic principles

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal took a swipe at CJP leader Abhijeet Dipke while discussing ways to encourage Indian scientists, researchers and technology professionals working abroad to return to the country. Addressing Indian science and technology research students in Berlin, Goyal stressed the need to



talent while preventing the misuse of government support programmes. "If we do this, then people like Abhijeet Dipke will come and say that it was the government's job to fund the students, grant scholarships, so why

develop policies that could attract global Indian

should we do it on our own," Goyal said, arguing that policy decisions needed to be carefully calibrated to suit India's democratic framework. The remarks came in response to a question about whether India could introduce a programme similar to China's state sponsored initiatives aimed at bringing back leading scientists, researchers and technology experts from overseas.

Delhi High Court Rejects Neha Bora's Plea Against Peace Bond Notice

AISA president challenged the police notice issued after her participation in protests over alleged electoral fraud

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday rejected a petition filed by All India Students' Association (AISA) president Neha Bora challenging a police notice directing her to execute a peace bond following her participation in protests over alleged electoral fraud. Justice Subramonium Prasad pronounced the order



after hearing arguments from both sides. The notice, issued on October 17 by a special executive magistrate in New Delhi district, directed Bora to appear before the magistrate and furnish a

personal bond of ₹10,000 with one surety. Bora had challenged the notice on the grounds that it was ambiguous,

factually incorrect and violated her fundamental rights under Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution. Her petition argued that the notice did not provide sufficient material to establish the

likelihood of a breach of peace or specify the circumstances and period during which such a breach was anticipated. During the hearing, Delhi Police argued that preventive proceedings had been initiated in view of 12 alleged instances of violations involving Bora. The police also referred to a gathering where activists had raised demands for a change of government.

'Border Situation Gets Disturbed When China Deviates From Patrolling Patterns': Centre

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Friday said the situation along the India China border gets disturbed when Chinese forces deviate from established patrolling patterns, following remarks by Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director General Shatrughan Kapur about continuing face offs at multiple locations in Arunachal Pradesh.



Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar Reddy Power India To Thrilling T20I Chase Against New Zealand

■ India chased down 181 on a challenging Christchurch surface after Glenn Phillips and Bevon Jacobs rescued New Zealand with a 116-run partnership

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Tilak Varma and Nitish Kumar Reddy delivered match-winning performances as India chased down a target of 181 against New Zealand in the second T20I in Christchurch on Saturday.

India overcame early setbacks to complete the chase on a challenging surface, with Varma and Reddy playing crucial



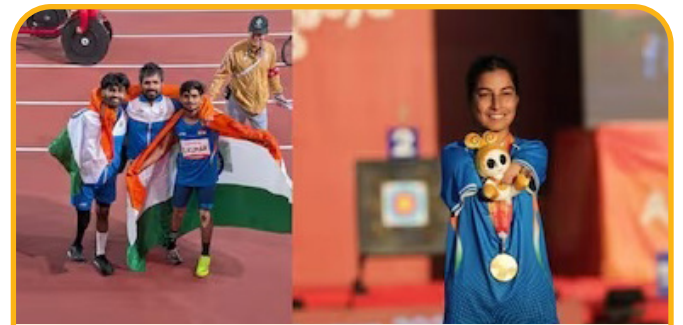
roles in guiding the visitors towards victory. Sanju Samson managed 14 runs, while young

batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was dismissed for just four, putting pressure on India's batting line-up early in the innings.

Earlier, New Zealand posted 180 for five after recovering from a difficult start. Arshdeep Singh led India's bowling effort with figures of two for 33,

helping restrict the hosts during the early stages of their innings.

New Zealand were in trouble at 41 for three inside the Powerplay before Glenn Phillips and Bevon Jacobs turned the contest around with a decisive fourth-wicket partnership. The pair added 116 runs, providing the foundation for the hosts to reach a competitive total.



India Create History With Record 114 Medals at Asian Para Games

■ 30 gold medals and nine titles on the final day power India to its best ever campaign, surpassing the previous record of 108 medals

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India ended its Asian Para Games campaign with a record 114 medals, including 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze, following a remarkable final day on Friday. The performance surpassed the country's previous best of 108 medals, achieved at the 2023 Hangzhou Games, despite India fielding a much smaller contingent this time. The 168 member Indian contingent secured nine gold medals on the final day, its highest single day tally of the competition. India finished fourth in the standings, although the final position remained subject to the outcome of Saturday's remaining events. Athletics emerged as India's biggest medal winning

sport, contributing 65 medals, 12 more than the tally recorded in Hangzhou. Badminton, shooting and archery also played major roles in the country's historic campaign. Paris Paralympic champion Nitesh Kumar defeated compatriot Pramod Bhagat 21-18, 21-16 to win the men's singles SL3 gold. Nitesh later partnered Thulasimathi Murugesan to claim silver in mixed doubles SL3-SU5. Games debutant Naveen Sivakumar secured the men's singles SL4 title after defeating Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan 21-9, 21-17. Thulasimathi added women's doubles SL3-SU5 gold alongside Manasi Joshi, with the Indian pair beating China's Yang Qiuxia and Xiao Zuxian 21-16, 21-13.

Bodhana Sivanandan, 11, Breaks 38-Year-Old Record To Become Youngest Female International Master

■ The Indian-origin English chess prodigy achieved the milestone with a final-round victory at the European Women's Chess Club Cup 2026

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Bodhana Sivanandan has made chess history by becoming the youngest female International Master (IM) at just 11 years old, breaking a record that had stood for 38 years and was set by Hungarian chess legend Judit Polgar.

The Indian-origin English player, who comes from Harrow in north London, secured the prestigious title following a strong performance at



the European Women's Chess Club Cup 2026. Her achievement also places her among the 10 youngest players ever to earn the open International Master title.

Representing She Plays to Win Lionesses, Sivanandan scored 5.5 points from seven games on the top board. Her final-round victory confirmed the

historic milestone and established her as the youngest female player to achieve the IM title. Sivanandan's tournament campaign featured several challenging encounters against experienced opponents. She narrowly missed a draw in her opening-round game against Russian Grandmaster Aleksandra Goryachkina before bouncing back with a third-round victory over Belarusian International Master Olga Badelka.

Ateendra Gaonkar Leads Goa's Challenge as Shaheen, Aswin, Sparsh and Vedh Advance

■ Goa shuttlers begin their campaign at the All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament in Navelim

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's Ateendra Gaonkar began his campaign with a hard fought victory at the Yonex Sunrise G.H. Raison Memorial All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament 2026, while Shaheen C.K., Aswin Mannambalath, Sparsh Kolwalkar and Vedh Lotlikar also progressed through the qualification rounds.

Competing in the Boys' Singles Under 19



category at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium in Navelim, Ateendra defeated Delhi's Vardaan Verma 16 14, 16 14 to secure his place in the next round.

However, several other Goan shuttlers

faced tough challenges. Soham Naik went down in a three game encounter against Madhya Pradesh's Medhansh Sharma, while Sudhanva Udupa fought hard before losing 11 15, 15 11, 15 11 to Odisha's Bhargav Daram Jeevitesh.

Owais Tahasildar and Shaurya Naik also put up determined performances but were unable to overcome Maharashtra's Yash Dhembare and Karnataka's Shreyas Chandrashekar, respectively. Aaryan Karpe and Viraditya Pai

Kane battled against their respective opponents, while Palak Ramnathkar made a spirited effort in the Girls' Singles Under 19 category before losing to Delhi's Sakshi Rana.

The qualification rounds began on Friday, bringing together junior badminton players from across the country for the eight day national championship, scheduled from October 23 to 30. Shaheen C.K., Vedh Lotlikar, Sparsh Kolwalkar and Aswin Mannambalath advanced through

walkovers, providing further encouragement for the Goa contingent.

Meanwhile, Arnab Ramnathkar, Raj Dhume, Pratik Naik Borkar, Neil Punjani Bakshi and Ritika Chelluri exited their respective events.

Organised with the support of the G.H. Raison Sports and Cultural Foundation, Nagpur, the tournament features Under 19 competitions across five events and offers a total prize pool of ₹8 lakh.