



CM Sawant Warns Officials Against Keeping Files Pending Indefinitely

■ At Vigilance Awareness Week, Goa CM Calls For Faster Public Service Delivery, Greater Accountability And Corruption-Free Governance

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has directed government secretaries, heads of departments and senior officials to ensure that files are not kept pending indefinitely, stressing that the government machinery must function efficiently and remain responsive to the needs of the people. He said officials must take timely decisions, simplify administrative procedures and ensure



that citizens do not have to make repeated visits to government offices to get their work done. Addressing government officials during Vigilance

Awareness Week, Sawant emphasised that the primary responsibility of the administration is to serve the public and make governance accessible, transparent

and citizen-friendly. He urged officials to ensure that people leave government offices satisfied with the services received rather than frustrated by unnecessary delays and bureaucratic hurdles. The Chief Minister said laws and regulations should not be used as excuses to delay files or complicate routine administrative work. Instead, officials should apply the rules in a manner that facilitates public services and

EVM Testing Row: Goa CEO Dismisses Amit Palekar's Allegations As Baseless

Palekar Questions Vote Counting During EVM Trial; Sanjay Goel Says Machines Cleared First-Level Checking In Presence Of All-Party Representatives

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PANAJI: A controversy has emerged over the testing of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in Goa after Congress leader Amit Palekar raised concerns over alleged discrepancies in vote counting during a trial. Goa Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sanjay Goel has dismissed Palekar's statement as baseless, maintaining that the machines underwent First Level Checking (FLC) in the presence of representatives of all political parties.

Palekar claimed that during the calibration and testing of new EVMs in Goa, 15 votes were cast in favour of three different political parties, but the counting reportedly showed all votes going to a single party, with the total exceeding the number of votes actually polled. He questioned how such a



discrepancy could occur and sought clarification from the Election Commission of India.

The Congress leader also questioned whether software could be used to manipulate the results and raised concerns over the reported stoppage of the testing process. He called for transparency and an explanation from the election authorities regarding the alleged incident.

Responding to the allegations, CEO Sanjay Goel termed Palekar's statement baseless. He said the First Level Checking of the EVMs was carried out in the presence of representatives of



Rahul Gandhi Acquitted in Defamation Case Over 2018 Amit Shah Remarks

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NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been acquitted in a criminal defamation case over remarks made against Amit Shah, the then president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the current Union Home Minister, during a rally in Bengaluru in 2018. A Special MP MLA Court in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, pronounced Gandhi not guilty, ruling that his remarks did not amount to defamation. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha appeared in person before the court for the pronouncement of the judgment. The case dates back to 2018, when Vijay Mishra, who was then a BJP district vice president, filed a criminal defamation complaint against Gandhi. The complaint was registered under Sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code, which deal with defamation and its punishment.

Scrap Smart Meter Project Within 15 Days or Face Protest: Amit Patkar

■ Congress demands complete scrapping of the project as Chief Electrical Engineer Stephen Fernandes confirms installation for domestic consumers has been put on hold

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The smart meter controversy in Goa has intensified, with Congress leader Amit Patkar demanding that the government scrap the project within 15 days or face a protest at the Electricity Department. Patkar maintained that merely keeping the smart



meter project on hold was not enough and called on the government to either implement it or scrap it altogether. He demanded that the project

be scrapped within the next 15 days, warning that Congress would launch a protest at the Electricity Department if the government failed to act. The Congress leader also claimed that electricity bills of consumers who had installed smart meters had doubled, raising concerns over the impact of the project on domestic

Odisha on Red Alert as Cyclone Arnab Set to Hit Andhra Coast on October 28

■ IMD forecasts winds up to 140 kmph and extremely heavy rainfall, while Odisha deploys 225 rescue teams across vulnerable areas

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Odisha has sounded a red alert in five southern districts as Cyclone Arnab is forecast to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm and make landfall along the Andhra Pradesh coast on October 28, bringing extremely heavy rainfall, strong winds and the risk of landslides in parts of the state. The India



Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned that although the cyclone is expected to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam, Odisha will experience significant

weather disturbances, particularly in its southern districts. The weather system over the east central and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into a cyclonic storm by October 26, strengthen into a severe cyclonic storm on October 27 and become a very severe cyclonic storm before reaching the Andhra Pradesh coast the following morning.

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You Can Dismiss a Language, But Not the Votes Behind It

Goan politics cannot afford to dismiss the electoral influence of Kannada speaking voters and other migrant communities simply because they do not belong to the state's traditional political establishment.

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant may be right in suggesting that speaking Kannada alone will not help Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar win votes in Goa. But there is a larger political reality that the Chief Minister cannot afford to ignore. Language may not guarantee electoral success, but numbers, local influence and the ability to swing a closely contested election certainly matter.

The question is not whether speaking Kannada can win an election in Goa. The question is whether anyone can seriously deny the electoral influence of Kannada speaking voters and other migrant communities who have become an important part of the state's political calculations.

Every election brings its own arithmetic. Every constituency has communities whose collective voting choices can influence the outcome. In a state where several Assembly constituencies witness close contests, even a few hundred or a few thousand votes can determine who enters the Assembly and who is left wondering what went wrong. To suggest that a community's language or migrant background makes it electorally insignificant is to misunderstand the very nature of democratic politics.

Goa's political class knows this better than anyone else.

The arithmetic politicians cannot ignore

For decades, Goa's electoral politics has revolved around local identities, religious and caste equations, traditional loyalties, individual candidates and party affiliations. But the state's changing population has added another dimension to this complex calculation.

People from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and other parts of India have made Goa their home. Many have lived here for years, established businesses, raised families and become part of the local economy. They work in hospitality, construction, transport, retail, domestic services and several other sectors that keep Goa functioning.

Some are registered voters. Others are not. This distinction matters because residence alone does not confer voting rights in a constituency. Yet among those who are eligible and enrolled, community networks, workplace relationships and neighbourhood loyalties can influence voting patterns.

The Kannada speaking population, particularly in constituencies with a significant concentration of people originating from Karnataka, cannot simply be wished away from electoral calculations. Their votes may not automatically go to one party or candidate, but that is precisely what makes them politically significant.

A community does not need to vote as a single bloc to influence an election. It only needs to be large enough to alter the balance in a close contest.



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Political parties understand this. Candidates who publicly dismiss the electoral significance of migrants may privately spend considerable time cultivating their support. Meetings with community representatives, outreach programmes, local associations and personal visits during election campaigns are all part of the familiar political exercise.

The real question, therefore, is whether politicians are willing to acknowledge publicly what their electoral strategies already recognise privately.

The 2024 electoral awareness survey published by the Chief Electoral Officer of Goa itself noted that migrant populations in several villages were increasing and that some had become vote banks for candidates. <Cite refs=[["turn512186search12"]]]/> This is not merely political rhetoric. It is an electoral reality that deserves serious discussion.

The Kannada vote is not the whole story

Sawant's remarks also raise a larger question about the role of language in Goa's electoral politics. Konkani is the state's official language and an important pillar of Goan identity. There is nothing wrong with asserting its importance. Goa's cultural identity must

be protected, and political leaders from outside the state cannot assume that a speech in another language will automatically win local support.

But protecting Konkani and dismissing Kannada speaking voters are two entirely different things.

A voter does not cease to matter because he speaks Kannada at home. Nor does a family that migrated to Goa decades ago become politically irrelevant simply because its ancestral roots lie elsewhere. Many such families have contributed to Goa's economy for generations. Their children have grown up here, attended local schools and built their lives in the state.

The democratic question is straightforward. If they are eligible voters registered in Goa, their votes carry the same constitutional weight as those of every other voter.

At the same time, the migrant vote must not become an excuse to overlook concerns about illegal voter registration, duplicate entries or electoral malpractice. Every voter must be registered lawfully, and the Election Commission must ensure the integrity of electoral rolls. Respecting legitimate voters and protecting the electoral process are complementary responsibilities, not competing interests.

Kingmakers, but not permanent vote banks

The bigger mistake politicians make is assuming that migrant communities will vote as a single bloc. They will not necessarily do so. Their priorities differ, their political preferences evolve, and their support depends on issues that affect their daily lives.

Water supply, housing, employment, education, transport and security matter to migrant families just as they matter to other residents. A candidate who ignores these concerns cannot expect loyalty merely by addressing a community meeting in Kannada.

The same applies to the opposition. D K Shivakumar's decision to campaign in Kannada may help him connect with sections of the electorate, but language alone cannot substitute for a credible political programme. Voters will ultimately judge candidates on their promises, performance and ability to address local problems.

For the BJP, Congress, AAP and regional parties, the lesson is clear. No community should be taken for granted, and no community should be written off.

As Goa heads towards the 2027 Assembly elections, the migrant vote will inevitably become part of the political conversation. The challenge is to discuss its influence without turning electoral arithmetic into a contest over who truly belongs in Goa.

Sawant may be right that Kannada will not automatically win votes. But it would be equally misleading to suggest that Kannada speaking voters cannot influence the outcome.

The language of a campaign may attract attention. The language of politics, however, is numbers. And in Goa, every politician knows that a few thousand votes can make the difference between victory and defeat.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Mann Ki Baat in Marathi and Konkani: A Welcome Step to Bring Inspiring Stories Closer to Goans

The decision to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' available in book form, including Marathi and Konkani editions, is a welcome initiative that can help preserve and share inspiring stories from across India. Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant's announcement offers readers in Goa an opportunity to engage with the programme beyond its monthly radio broadcast.

Over the years, 'Mann Ki Baat' has highlighted the achievements of ordinary citizens, grassroots innovators, educators, social workers and individuals who have made meaningful contributions to society. Such stories can encourage young people to think creatively, develop a spirit of service and recognise that positive change often begins at the community level.

The availability of books in Marathi and Konkani is particularly significant for Goa. Language plays an important role in making knowledge accessible, and regional-language editions can help reach readers who may prefer reading in their mother tongue. Students, teachers and families could benefit from revisiting these accounts and discussing the ideas they present.

Sawant has also emphasised that 'Mann Ki Baat' should be viewed as a programme for the entire nation and not merely as a BJP initiative. Public-interest communication becomes more meaningful when people from different backgrounds can engage with its content and draw their own lessons from it.

However, the success of this initiative will depend on the quality, affordability and availability of the books. Libraries, schools and educational institutions could help make them accessible to a wider audience.

At its best, a collection of inspiring stories can motivate citizens to contribute to society in their own ways. Bringing 'Mann Ki Baat' into Marathi and Konkani book editions could be a valuable step towards making these experiences available to more Goans.

- Sandhya Chari, Saligao

AAP's Six Guarantees: Goa's Voters Deserve Promises That Translate into Action

The Aam Aadmi Party's grassroots campaign across Goa through its 'AAP Ki Chai' initiative highlights the importance of direct engagement between political parties and the people. At a time when households are dealing with rising living costs, healthcare expenses and concerns over welfare benefits, such conversations can help bring public issues into sharper focus.

AAP's six guarantees, including 300 units of free electricity, monthly assistance of Rs 3,000 for women, health insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh per family and free bus travel for women, are proposals that will attract public attention. The promises of sports grounds in every village and the repeal of Section 39A of the Goa Town and Country Planning Act also touch on issues that matter to different sections of society. However, voters must look beyond campaign announcements and examine how these proposals would be implemented. Political parties should explain the financial implications, eligibility criteria, funding arrangements and timelines involved in delivering their guarantees. Welfare measures must be sustainable and supported by clear plans rather than presented merely as attractive election promises.

The concerns raised by residents regarding delays in welfare assistance and difficulties accessing government schemes also deserve serious attention. The government must ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive their entitlements without unnecessary administrative hurdles.

AAP's constituency-level outreach provides an opportunity to listen to people, but the real test will be whether the party can present credible solutions and remain accountable for its commitments.

As Goa approaches the 2027 Assembly elections, voters should demand clarity, transparency and measurable results from every political party. Ultimately, good governance is not about how many guarantees are announced, but how effectively promises improve the lives of ordinary Goans.

- Ryan D'Costa, Vasco da Gama

BJP Government Under Fire Over Mandovi Sewage Crisis; Chodankar Demands Answers

■ GSPCB Report Finds Faecal Coliform Levels Nine Times Above Permissible Limits At All 22 Sampling Points

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Girish Chodankar has accused the BJP government of failing to address sewage pollution in the Mandovi estuary, demanding transparency and accountability following alarming findings by the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB).



According to the GSPCB's interim report submitted to the Bombay High Court at Goa, faecal coliform levels were nine times above permissible

limits at all 22 sampling points during monsoon sampling conducted in August. The findings have intensified concerns over sewage contamination in the Mandovi estuary and surrounding waterways.

Chodankar said the government could no longer ignore the pollution concerns repeatedly raised by Congress and questioned the lack of clear answers on the

measures being taken to prevent untreated sewage from entering water bodies.

He questioned the government's sewage management arrangements in the context of revenue generated by six casinos, which reportedly contributed ₹1,750 crore to the state over five years, averaging ₹350 crore annually.



Goa Sees Deadly Road Crashes; Three Lives Lost

■ 22-year-old Guirim youth among the victims; head-on collision on New Mandovi Bridge leaves two motorcycle occupants critical

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI/VERNA:

Goa has witnessed a series of serious road accidents, with three fatalities reported, raising fresh concerns over road safety across the state.

Among the victims was 22-year-old Mitesh Mohan Shet, a resident of Guirim, who died in an accident involving a military vehicle and a two-wheeler at Goa Velha.

In a separate incident, a head-on collision between a Triumph motorcycle and a Maruti Ertiga taxi on the New Mandovi Bridge left two motorcycle occupants critically injured on Monday, October 26. According to preliminary information received by the police, the accident occurred at around 3.23

am. The motorcycle, bearing registration number MH-03-DZ-9651, was travelling from Porvorim towards Panaji, while the Ertiga taxi (GA-04-T-8797) was proceeding in the opposite direction. The motorcycle was ridden by 22-year-old Kushagra Patale, a student from Mumbai, who was accompanied by another male occupant. Both sustained critical injuries and were shifted to Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim. The taxi driver, Rajkumar Kattimani, a resident of Sangolda, sustained minor injuries and was also taken to GMC.

Preliminary findings suggest that the taxi may have attempted to overtake by crossing into the opposite lane, while the motorcycle may have been travelling at high speed.



CM Sawant Accuses Congress Of Crossing Limits Of Political Discourse

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PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has criticised the Congress over alleged derogatory remarks targeting the family of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing the party of blurring the line between political opposition and personal abuse. In a statement, Sawant questioned whether Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge would defend what he described as a decline in political discourse. He alleged that after remarks targeting the Prime Minister's mother, Congress leaders had now made disrespectful comments about his father. Sawant said personal attacks against a leader's family were no substitute for earning public trust. He maintained that such remarks would not diminish the respect and confidence that millions of Indians place in Modi. The Chief Minister also attributed the Congress's approach to repeated electoral setbacks, arguing that political parties should focus on constructive politics rather than personal criticism.

GMC and SGDH to Get Critical Care Centres, Says Health Minister

■ Vishwajit Rane announces emergency centre within 30 days; Cath Lab and new specialist units planned to strengthen healthcare services in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Goa is set to strengthen its healthcare infrastructure, with critical care centres planned at Goa Medical College (GMC) and South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Health Minister Vishwajit Rane has announced. Rane said an emergency centre would be launched within the next 30 days as part of efforts to improve emergency response and patient care in the



state. The Health Minister also announced plans to establish critical care centres at GMC and SGDH, aimed at enhancing facilities for patients requiring specialised and intensive medical treatment. In another significant development,

a catheterisation laboratory (Cath Lab) is set to be started, further strengthening the state's capacity to provide advanced cardiac care. Rane further stated that the orthopaedic and neurology units at SGDH are expected to become operational before Christmas. The new facilities are expected to expand access to specialised treatment, particularly for patients in South Goa.

RGP Power Struggle Intensifies: Kholkar Dares Borkar, Parab Fires Back

■ 'Bring It On': Kholkar Challenges MLA To Act; Parab Questions Borkar's Threat As Party Authority Row Escalates

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The political confrontation within the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) has intensified, with Ajay Kholkar openly challenging MLA Viresh Borkar to take action against him and former party state president Manoj Parab hitting back at Borkar's remarks.

Taking to social media, Kholkar said he was ready to face



the consequences and dared Borkar to initiate action. He also alleged that Borkar could engage accountants and legal advisers using ₹3 crore received from Girish.

"Kupp warning zali... Bring it on... am waiting," Kholkar posted. Parab, meanwhile, questioned whether Borkar would also act against those who had slept on the footpath at

Patto and Azad Maidan. In a pointed Facebook response, he asserted that he remained active, writing, "Manoj Parab Jeeto Asaaa, moronk na," meaning that he was alive and had not disappeared. The exchange follows Borkar's statement that Kholkar had no authority to represent the party and that his attendance at a meeting at the Chief Electoral Officer's office was unauthorised.

Rupali Shankhwalkar's Anticipatory Bail Hearing Adjourned to Tuesday

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The North Goa Additional Sessions Court has adjourned the hearing on the anticipatory bail application filed by Rupali Ajit Shankhwalkar to Tuesday in connection with the alleged fake Excise Commissioner job scam.

During the hearing, Panaji police submitted that Rupali had appeared before the Investigation Officer and cooperated with the investigation pursuant to a notice issued under Section 35 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

Goa Cyber Crime Police Arrest Two In ₹39 Lakh Online Investment Fraud

■ Police secure ₹23.12 lakh of the defrauded amount; accused arrested in Pune district following technical and financial investigation

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Cyber Crime Police have arrested two persons from Maharashtra in connection with a fake online share investment fraud involving ₹39.01 lakh, and have successfully secured ₹23.12 lakh of the complainant's money.

The case was registered as Crime No. 92/2026 on October 3, following a complaint by a 60-year-old resident of Porvorim, who alleged



that he was cheated by fraudsters posing as investment advisers through a WhatsApp group named "A83 DI Wealth Growth Centre".

According to the police, the fraud took place between August 21 and September 28, 2026. The accused allegedly lured the complainant

with promises of attractive returns on online share investments and persuaded him to transfer a total of ₹39,01,047 into multiple bank accounts.

To gain his confidence, the fraudsters allegedly displayed fictitious profits through a fraudulent investment application. When the complainant attempted to withdraw his investment and purported earnings, they demanded further payments and subsequently stopped responding.



Odisha Man Arrested With 2.889 Kg Of Ganja At Margao Railway Station

■ Konkan Railway Police seize cannabis worth approximately ₹2.88 lakh during a narcotics raid on Platform No. 6; investigation underway

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Konkan Railway Police have arrested a 29-year-old man from Odisha after allegedly recovering 2.889 kg of ganja, valued at approximately ₹2,88,890, during a narcotics raid at Margao Railway Station.

The accused, identified as Deepak Ray, son of Mangalu Ray, a resident of Kartraka, Damadua, in Gajapati district of Odisha, was apprehended on October 24 during a raid conducted between 5 pm and 9.45 pm on Platform No. 6 of the railway station.

According to the police, the operation was led by PSI Roosevelt Fernandes of the Konkan Railway Police Station. The suspected narcotic substance was seized under a search and seizure panchanama.

Following the seizure, the police registered Crime No. 55/2026 at 11.37 pm on October 24 under Section 20(b)(ii)(B) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

The accused was arrested at 11.37 pm on the same day and is presently in police custody.



Two Men Booked For Assaulting 29-Year-Old Man With Wooden Stick And Chopper In Chimbhel

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CHIMBEL: Two men have been booked for allegedly assaulting a 29-year-old man with a wooden stick and a chopper near Subhadra Bar at Gavant, Chimbhel, in Tiswadi taluka.

According to the complaint lodged by Khutija, 57, wife of Hazarat Ali Hubballi and a resident of Indira Nagar, Chimbhel, the incident occurred at around 2 pm on October 24. The accused have been identified as Imran Hebballi, 35, and Dadapir Munafsab Hebballi, 26, both associated with Indira Nagar, Chimbhel. As per the complaint, the two accused allegedly acted with a common intention and assaulted the complainant's son, Mansoor Hazarat Ali Hubballi, 29, using a wooden stick and a chopper. The victim sustained serious injuries to his head, both hands, legs and other parts of his body. The complaint states that the alleged assault was motivated by previous enmity. The police registered an offence at 11.30 pm on October 24.

Three Arrested In Connection With Assault At Fatorda Bar

■ CCTV footage and witness assistance help Fatorda Police identify suspects in assault on 56-year-old Navelim resident; silver kada allegedly used in the attack seized

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: The Fatorda Police have arrested three persons in connection with an alleged assault on a 56-year-old man at Aloms Bar and Restaurant in Borda, Fatorda.

The case was registered on October 25 following a complaint by Cashmir Viana, a resident of Toleaulim, Navelim, regarding an assault that allegedly took place at around 2.35 am on



October 24.

Fatorda Police Station registered Crime No. 58/2026 under Sections 351(2), 352, 118(2) and 190 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Following the registration of the offence, an investigation team comprising ASI Durgesh Pawaskar, HC 5646 Rohan Naik and PC

7420 Anup Kavrekar was formed to detect the case. The team worked under the supervision and guidance of the Police Inspector, Fatorda Police Station, the SDPO Margao and the SP South Goa.

Woman Goes Missing From Employer's Residence In Raia, Suspected Abduction Reported

■ Complaint lodged after domestic worker reportedly left her workplace early morning; Maina Curtorim Police investigating

Team Goemkarponn

RAIA: A woman has been reported missing from her workplace at Bacbhat, Raia, following which a complaint raising suspicion of abduction by unknown persons has been lodged with the police. According to the complaint, the woman, whose identity has been withheld, had been working as a full-time domestic



help for the past seven to eight months at the residence of Adam Shaikh in Bacbhat, Raia. The

complainant, a resident of Rumbdamol, stated that on October 24, at around 7 am, he received

a phone call from Shaikh's wife informing him that his daughter had left the residence without informing anyone at approximately 6.30 am that morning. The complainant subsequently searched for his daughter at the houses of relatives and other likely locations but was unable to trace her. Suspecting that she may have been abducted by unknown persons, he approached the police.

Passenger Detained At Mopa Airport For Carrying E-Cigarette Concealed In Power Bank Box

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: The Mopa Airport Police have registered a case against a 35-year-old Mumbai resident after an electronic cigarette, allegedly concealed inside a power bank box, was detected during security screening at Manohar International Airport on October 25. According to the complaint lodged by Avinash Shukla, Sub-Inspector/Executive of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), attached to the CISF Unit at Manohar International Airport, the incident occurred at around 9 am in the SHA.

Ponjekars step up demand to remove CoP terminal structures

■ People for Panjim seeks demolition of cafeteria and amphitheatre, opposes any fresh private management tender for Mandovi riverfront facility

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: People for Panjim has urged the Goa government to dismantle the cafeteria and amphitheatre at the Captain of Ports (CoP) terminal on the Mandovi riverfront, while cautioning against any move to reintroduce the withdrawn tender for the facility's operation and maintenance. At a press conference on Sunday, members of the citizens' collective said



the structures had been built despite assurances reportedly given before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the

proposals for the cafeteria and amphitheatre had been abandoned. AAP Goa president Valmiki Naik, who is associated

with the collective and was among those who challenged the terminal project, welcomed the government's decision to withdraw the management tender. He, however, warned that the group would oppose any attempt to bring back a similar arrangement. Naik said the collective was prepared to return to court if the government made another attempt to hand over the facility's management to private operators.



AAP takes six guarantees to households across Goa

■ Party steps up constituency-level outreach, with leaders highlighting proposed welfare measures and concerns raised by residents

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has launched a series of grassroots interactions across Goa to familiarise people with its six guarantees, using informal neighbourhood gatherings to discuss the party's proposals and hear residents' concerns. The outreach drive, conducted under the banner of 'AAP Ki Chai', has taken party leaders to several constituencies. According to AAP representatives, conversations with residents have centred on household expenses, access to government assistance and the financial challenges faced by families. AAP Goa president Valmiki Naik said the rising cost of living had emerged as a recurring concern during these meetings.

He also questioned the delivery of existing welfare benefits, alleging that women continued to face difficulties in obtaining assistance under schemes such as Griha Aadhar. The party's women's wing president, Mamata Maben, who participated in outreach activities in Mormugao, said discussions had included access to Griha Aadhar and benefits linked to the Ujjwala Yojana. She claimed that some beneficiaries were experiencing difficulties receiving the assistance they expected. In Pernem, AAP vice-president Sunil Signapurkar said the interactions had provided an opportunity to explain the party's proposed measures and discuss its experience of governance in Delhi and Punjab.



Congress challenges Sawant to reject Kannadiga votes in Cortalim

Team Goemkarponn

CORTALIM: Congress leader Mariano Rodrigues has challenged Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to publicly state whether the BJP can afford to ignore Kannadiga voters in Cortalim, escalating the political row over the CM's "Yendu Gundu" remarks. Reacting on Sunday, Rodrigues said the Chief Minister must show respect for all Indian languages and citizens, regardless of their linguistic background. He accused Sawant of making remarks that, in his view, undermined the dignity of the office he holds. The Congress leader questioned the consistency of the Chief Minister's position on Kannada, pointing to his visits to Karnataka to campaign for the BJP. Rodrigues asked why Sawant addressed people in Kannada while seeking votes in the neighbouring state if he was dismissive of the language in other contexts.

RGP Leaders Submit Memorandum to Chief Electoral Officer Over Unauthorised Party Representatives

■ Viresh Borkar and Shavina Shirodkar seek verification of credentials of individuals attending election-related training programmes and meetings

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) National President Viresh Borkar and State President Shavina Shirodkar submitted a memorandum to the Chief Electoral Officer, raising concerns over the alleged participation of unauthorised individuals representing the party at election-related training



programmes, meetings and conferences.

Through the memorandum, the RGP leadership brought the issue to the attention of the election authorities

and sought to address the participation of individuals who, according to the party, have not been authorised to represent RGP at official engagements.

'Mann Ki Baat' To Be Available In Book Form, Says Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

■ Books to be published in Marathi and Konkani; 'Mann Ki Baat' is a programme for the entire nation, not just the BJP, says the Chief Minister

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', which highlights inspiring stories, innovative initiatives and achievements of ordinary citizens from across the country, will now be available in book form. The books will also be published in Marathi and Konkani, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant



announced. Emphasising the wider significance of the programme, Sawant said that 'Mann Ki Baat' was not merely a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) programme but

an initiative for the entire nation. He appealed to citizens from all walks of life to listen to the programme regularly and draw inspiration from it. The Chief Minister said

the programme brings important developments from the social, educational, cultural, scientific and other sectors to the public. It highlights the achievements of people from remote parts of the country, innovative ideas and initiatives that contribute to society. Referring to the programme's reach, Sawant noted that 139 episodes of 'Mann Ki Baat' had been broadcast so far. He said the

programme provides an opportunity for people of different age groups, from children to senior citizens, to learn about inspiring work being carried out across India. Sawant also said that he had been listening to 'Mann Ki Baat' regularly for the past 12 years. The knowledge, positive thinking and inspiring experiences shared through the programme, he added, offer valuable lessons for society.

Dayanand High School Chorao Launches First Interact Club to Promote Youth Leadership

■ Rotary Club of Panaji Central and Chorao Education Society join hands to encourage community service, leadership skills and student development



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Dayanand High School in Chorao, Goa, has established its first Interact Club in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Panaji Central and the Chorao Education Society, marking a significant step towards promoting youth leadership, community service and the holistic development of students.

The newly established club aims to provide students with opportunities to develop leadership qualities, strengthen their sense of social responsibility and contribute meaningfully to their school and the wider community. Students were formally inducted as members during the

charter and installation ceremony.

The Interact Club will serve as a platform for students to build essential life skills, including communication, teamwork, problem solving, decision making and project management. Members will participate in community service projects, environmental initiatives, awareness campaigns and other collaborative activities. These programmes are expected to encourage volunteering, nurture empathy and help students become confident and responsible citizens.

Capt. Xavier Colaco of Ganpat University, Goa, attended the ceremony as the chief guest and

keynote speaker. He delivered an informative session introducing students to the newly established GIME institute and highlighting career opportunities in the maritime sector. His address familiarised students with emerging professional pathways and encouraged them to explore opportunities beyond conventional fields of study. The ceremony was attended by Premanand Mahambre, Chairman of the Chorao Education Society; Yutika Kamat, President of the Rotary Club of Panaji Central; Tania Shirodkar, Club Secretary; and Nickton Dias, Past President, along with other Rotary Club members.

The initiative will

receive continued guidance and mentorship from the Rotary Club of Panaji Central, with support from Anne James, Headmistress of Dayanand High School, and Swapnil Raikar, Interact Club Advisor.

The establishment of the club reflects the shared commitment of the Chorao Education Society and the Rotary Club of Panaji Central to nurturing young talent through practical learning, leadership development and community engagement. It is expected to create opportunities for students to identify local needs, work collectively on solutions and develop the skills required to become future leaders.

Centre Explores New Legal Framework to Regulate OTT Content Amid Rising Complaints

■ Government weighs changes to existing laws as streaming platforms face over 1,000 monthly complaints over alleged obscenity and vulgarity

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Centre is examining ways to strengthen the legal framework governing content on over the top (OTT) platforms amid growing public demands for stricter oversight of streaming services. The Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and Information Technology are discussing possible legislative changes to address gaps in the existing regulatory system.

The government is considering whether to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952, or the Information Technology Act, 2000, or introduce a separate law specifically designed to regulate digital streaming content.

The move follows a steady increase in public representations seeking action against allegedly obscene, vulgar and objectionable material available on OTT platforms. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has reportedly received more than 1,000 representations every month over the past six months. A key concern is the difference between films screened in theatres and content released directly on digital platforms. The Central Board of Film Certification examines films intended for theatrical exhibition, while OTT content follows a separate

regulatory framework based primarily on content classification, platform compliance and grievance redressal.

Under the existing Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, streaming platforms must classify content into five categories: U, U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+ and A. The rules also require content ratings, parental controls for specified categories and age verification mechanisms for adult rated content.

The framework provides a three tier grievance redressal system. Platforms must first address complaints through their designated grievance officers, with unresolved matters eligible for escalation to self regulatory bodies and, ultimately, government oversight mechanisms.

Current discussions indicate that self regulation is likely to remain the first line of response, followed by grievance redressal and government intervention at the final stage.

The issue has gained further attention following concerns raised by a parliamentary committee in March 2026 over regulatory gaps affecting online media and OTT services. The government had also explored broader broadcasting legislation through the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill released for consultation in 2023.

CM Sawant Warns Officials Against Keeping Files Pending Indefinitely

improves ease of living. He stressed that administrative efficiency depends on the willingness of officers to resolve issues promptly while remaining within the legal framework.

Sawant observed that although around 90 per cent of government employees perform their duties sincerely, the negligence or misconduct of the remaining 10 per cent can damage the reputation of the entire administration. He called for greater accountability and closer

supervision to ensure that the conduct of a few does not undermine public confidence in government institutions. The Chief Minister also addressed the problem of pending files, instructing officials not to allow applications and official matters to remain unattended for months. If a matter falls outside an officer's jurisdiction or cannot legally be approved, the file should be rejected with appropriate reasons or forwarded without delay to the concerned secretary or minister. He said unnecessary delays in decision-making must be avoided at every level of the administration. Highlighting the response to the government's Sarkar Tumchya Dari programme, Sawant observed that the large number of

people approaching ministers during public outreach camps reflected the difficulties citizens face in getting their grievances resolved through local departmental offices.

EVM Testing Row: Goa CEO Dismisses Amit Palekar's Allegations As Baseless

all political parties, who signed documents confirming that the machines were functioning properly.

Goel further clarified that no internal testing had been conducted and that no one was permitted to carry out such testing.



17 Men Posing as Kuki Militants Arrested in Manipur, 24 Firearms Seized

Joint security operation at designated Sinai Camp raises questions over weapons, cadre verification and Suspension of Operations rules

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Seventeen men allegedly impersonating registered cadres of Kuki armed groups have been arrested during a joint security operation at Sinai Camp in Manipur, with security personnel recovering 24 firearms, explosives, ammunition and communication equipment. The operation was conducted on October 23 by Manipur Police, the Quick Action Team of the Central Reserve



Police Force and the CoBRA unit. Sinai Camp is a designated camp under the Suspension of Operations (SoO) arrangement, which has come under renewed scrutiny amid continuing tensions in the state.

According to police, the arrested men allegedly used false identities to pose as members of recognised armed groups. Eight claimed to belong to the Kuki National Army, while the remaining nine allegedly identified

themselves as members of the Kuki Liberation Army. All 17 were arrested following verification at the camp.

The seized items included 24 firearms, 38 magazines, a substantial quantity of ammunition, explosives, wireless communication equipment and other combat gear. A case has been registered under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Arms Act, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act and the Explosive Substances Act.



“Change Party Name to Samajwadi Yadav Parivar”: Owaisi Targets Akhilesh Yadav Ahead of UP Polls

■ AIMIM chief accuses the Samajwadi Party of sidelining Muslim representation and holds its government responsible for the displacement of thousands during the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has launched a sharp attack on Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, suggesting that his party should be renamed “Samajwadi Yadav Parivar” over alleged favouritism towards the Yadav community and inadequate Muslim representation. Addressing a rally in Kairana on Sunday, Owaisi questioned the changing political representation in constituencies such as Azamgarh and

Firozabad, alleging that members of Akhilesh Yadav’s family had replaced Muslim leaders in these seats. “Akhilesh Yadav, the name of your party should be changed from Samajwadi to Samajwadi Yadav Parivar,” Owaisi said, accusing the party of failing to adequately represent the interests of Muslims. The AIMIM chief also targeted Akhilesh Yadav over the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots, which took place when the Samajwadi Party was in power in Uttar Pradesh. Owaisi alleged that around 50,000 people were forced to leave their homes during the violence.



India, Rotterdam Ports to Digitalise Cargo Processes, Says Piyush Goyal

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India and the Port of Rotterdam are working towards digitalising port processes to speed up cargo evacuation, reduce ship turnaround times and improve logistics efficiency, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

Goyal made the announcement during his visit to the Port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands, where he met Port of Rotterdam Chief Executive Officer Boudewijn Siemons to discuss cooperation in modernising India’s port infrastructure and cargo handling systems. The initiative aims to introduce modern digital standards and improve coordination between Indian customs authorities and Rotterdam port officials. Faster cargo clearance and reduced waiting times for ships are expected to strengthen India’s logistics network and support growing international trade. Goyal highlighted the need to expand India’s port infrastructure despite significant progress over the past decade.

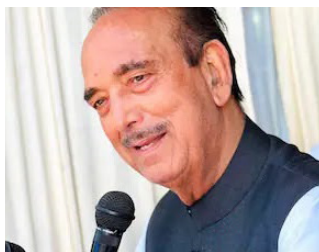
“I Respect Farooq Abdullah, But His Statement Is Incorrect”: Ghulam Nabi Azad

■ Azad rejects National Conference chief’s remarks on Pakistan and Kashmir, while BJP demands action over the controversial statement

Team Goemkarponn

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday criticised National Conference president Farooq Abdullah over his remarks on Pakistan’s role in the Kashmir issue, describing the statement as incorrect and rejecting the suggestion that Pakistan’s international interventions had helped protect the region.

Azad responded to Abdullah’s comments



he respected Abdullah but did not agree with his assessment. He also pointed to the situation in Pakistan occupied Kashmir, where residents have been protesting for their rights.

Expressing disagreement, Azad said

made during a party event in Budgam district on Saturday. Abdullah had claimed that Pakistan’s repeated raising of the Kashmir issue at international forums had helped keep the region safe.

Azad highlighted the contributions of successive Indian governments towards Jammu and Kashmir’s development since 1947, arguing that administrations led by different political parties had played a role in the region’s progress.

PM Modi Inaugurates ₹169 Crore RBI Data Centre and Cybersecurity Institute in Odisha

■ Jatni facility to support critical payment systems and strengthen India’s digital financial infrastructure

Team Goemkarponn

BHUBANESWAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) ₹169 crore data centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute at Info Valley II in Jatni, Odisha, marking a significant addition to the country’s digital financial infrastructure. Spread across 18.55 acres, the facility is designed to



support the RBI’s growing computing requirements and provide a secure, resilient, scalable and future ready technology ecosystem for India’s financial sector. The

foundation stone for the project was laid by then RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on March 22, 2023. The data centre will host mission critical payment and settlement systems,

along with other key initiatives of the central bank. It is expected to improve the reach, efficiency and reliability of digital financial services while providing a secure technological foundation for India’s increasingly digital economy. The accompanying Cybersecurity Training Institute will focus on specialised training, research and capacity building in cybersecurity and enterprise technology.

The institute is expected to strengthen expertise in protecting critical financial infrastructure against evolving digital threats. The location in Jatni was selected for its geographical stability, with the site considered less exposed to seismic activity and certain geopolitical risks. These factors are expected to support the continuity and security of critical financial operations.

WPL 2027 to Begin on January 14, Auction Scheduled for October 28

■ The fifth edition of the Women's Premier League will run until February 7, with franchises set to finalise player retentions ahead of the new season

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The fifth edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) will be held from January 14 to February 7, 2027, with the player auction scheduled for October 28, 2026, in Kochi. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the dates on Wednesday but did not reveal the host cities for the upcoming tournament. The five participating franchises will begin preparing



their squads for the new season, with the player retention deadline set for September 28.

Teams will have the opportunity to retain players from their existing squads before entering

the auction to strengthen their combinations for the competition. The WPL has emerged as a major platform for women's cricket, bringing together leading international and Indian players while

providing opportunities for emerging talent to compete at the highest level. Since its launch in 2023, the tournament has played an important role in expanding the reach and popularity of women's T20 cricket. In the 2026 edition, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, led by Smriti Mandhana, won their second WPL title. The tournament was staged in Navi Mumbai and Baroda, with RCB adding another championship to their growing record in the competition.

"Do Not Chase Anything, Just Be Yourself": India Coach's Message to Bhuvneshwar Kumar

■ Morne Morkel backs the veteran pacer despite an expensive T20I comeback, urging patience as he regains his rhythm after four years away from international cricket.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's bowling coach Morne Morkel has urged Bhuvneshwar Kumar to remain patient and focus on his natural strengths following an expensive return to international cricket after a four year absence. Despite the veteran pacer's disappointing figures in the first two T20Is against New Zealand, Morkel



expressed confidence in his experience and ability to rediscover his rhythm. The 36 year old earned his comeback after an impressive Indian Premier League 2026 season, during which he claimed 28 wickets in 16 matches to finish as the joint second highest wicket taker. He also played a significant role in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's consecutive IPL title triumphs in 2025 and 2026.

However, his return to the Indian team has not gone according to expectations. Bhuvneshwar conceded 49 runs without taking a wicket in the opening T20I before recording figures of 1 for 50 in the second match. Morkel acknowledged the pressure surrounding the pacer's comeback, highlighting the challenge of transitioning from domestic franchise cricket to the demands of international competition.



"Should've Maintained the Lead": PV Sindhu Reveals Where She Lost French Open Final Against An Se Young

■ The Indian shuttler finishes runner up at the Super 750 tournament after losing in three games to the world number one, but remains optimistic about her progress

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Two time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu believes there is considerable room for improvement despite reaching the final of the French Open badminton tournament, where she lost to South Korea's Olympic champion and world number one An Se Young on Sunday.

Sindhu fought hard before suffering a 21 16, 11 21, 12 21 defeat in the final of the USD 950,000 Super 750 tournament. The Indian shuttler started strongly, winning the opening game, but could not maintain her momentum

games and secure the title.

Reflecting on her performance, Sindhu acknowledged the positives from her campaign while admitting that she needed to improve in key areas. The former world champion, who won the Japan Open Super 750 in July, said reaching another major final was encouraging but highlighted the importance of continuing to develop her game. Sindhu identified the third game as a crucial turning point, particularly after she established an 8 5 advantage.

Aswin and Sufiya Advance at All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament in Navelim

■ Goa's mixed doubles pair secures a straight games victory, while local shuttlers face tough challenges in Under 19 matches

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's Aswin Mannambalath and Sufiya Shaikh advanced to the next round of the Mixed Doubles Under 19 event at the Yonex Sunrise G.H. Rasoni Memorial All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament 2026, defeating their opponents convincingly at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium in



Navelim. The Goan duo registered a 15-5, 15-7 victory over Roshan Pottimurthi of Andhra Pradesh and

Niranjanee Deshpande of Maharashtra in the second round to strengthen their campaign in the tournament.

However, Goa's players encountered mixed fortunes in the Boys' Singles Under 19 category. Sparsh Kolwalkar lost 15-7, 15-8 to Haryana's Ishan Nandal, while Aswin Mannambalath suffered a narrow three game defeat against Telangana's Rahul Sai Saindla. Aswin went down 15-10, 12-15, 15-11 after pushing his opponent through a closely contested encounter.

Goa also faced setbacks in the Boys' Doubles event. Sparsh Kolwalkar and Sudhanva Udupa lost 7-15, 4-15 to Maharashtra's Swarit Satpute and Abheek Sharma. Shane D'Souza and Arnav Saraf put up a determined fight against Delhi's Priyansh and Yash Sharma but eventually lost 15-12, 16-14, 11-15.

The tournament is organised by the Goa Badminton Association

in association with the North Goa District Badminton Association, under the aegis of the Badminton Association of India and the Sports Authority of Goa.

In other Under 19 qualification matches, second seed Manku Taku of Arunachal Pradesh edged Maharashtra's Raghavendra Yadav 15-11, 11-15, 16-14 in the Boys' Singles category.