



Parsekar's Possible BJP Return Sparks Political Buzz in Goa

■ Jit Arolkar Says BJP's Internal Decisions Are Its Own Matter, While Sadanand Shet Tanavade Welcomes Former Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar Back to the Party

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Speculation over former Goa Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar's possible return to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has sparked fresh political debate in the state, particularly over its potential impact on Mandrem and the BJP's alliance with the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP).

The speculation gained momentum after Mandrem MLA Jit Arolkar was seen presenting a bouquet to senior BJP leader Nitin Nabin in the presence of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Rajya Sabha



MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade. The interaction triggered questions about the political equations in Mandrem and the possibility of Parsekar rejoining the BJP.

Reacting to the developments, Arolkar

said the BJP's internal decisions were its own matter and dismissed suggestions that he was concerned about Parsekar's possible return. He reiterated his commitment to the MGP and expressed confidence

in his party's leadership. Clarifying his interaction with Nabin, Arolkar said it was merely a courtesy meeting and had nothing to do with influencing decisions regarding BJP membership or leadership. He maintained that the BJP's leadership was responsible for deciding who could join the party. Meanwhile, Tanavade welcomed the possibility of Parsekar returning to the BJP, citing his contribution to strengthening the party's organisation in Goa. He pointed out that Parsekar had served two

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High Court Reserves Order on Interim Stay of Goa's ST Constituency Readjustment Act

Order Expected Thursday on Plea Challenging Constitutional Validity of 2025 Law; Petitioner Seeks Halt to All Readjustment-Related Actions

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court has reserved its order for Thursday on a plea seeking interim relief against the implementation and operation of the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Act, 2025.



The interim application has been filed as part of a petition challenging the constitutional validity of the legislation. The petitioner has sought a stay on the

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Dr. Pramod Sawant
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PHARMA



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MSMEs

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When Medicines Become a Gateway to Drug Abuse

The alleged sale of Tapentadol 100 mg tablets without prescriptions at a medical store in Betalbatim raises a disturbing question about the regulation of medicines in Goa. If the allegations brought to light by a recent investigation are substantiated, this is not merely a case of one shop allegedly violating the rules. It could point to a larger failure in the monitoring of medicines that carry a risk of misuse.

The incident began when a reporter noticed a man behaving suspiciously near the railway tracks in Betalbatim. The subsequent investigation allegedly led the team to a medical store, where the shop owner was questioned about the source of the tablet. According to the reporter's account, the owner initially denied the allegation but later allegedly acknowledged selling the medicine for around Rs 500. He refused to speak on camera, and the shop was subsequently closed.

These are serious allegations that require an impartial investigation. The claims must be independently verified, and the medical store owner must be given an opportunity to respond. However, the circumstances described are sufficient to demand answers from the authorities responsible for regulating pharmaceutical sales. Tapentadol is a prescription opioid painkiller used to treat certain types of moderate to severe pain. It acts on the central nervous system and can cause dependence, misuse and potentially life threatening respiratory depression, particularly when taken inappropriately or combined with other substances. It is not an ordinary tablet that should be sold casually without medical supervision. The danger lies in the possibility that medicines intended for legitimate medical treatment may find their way into the hands of people seeking their intoxicating effects. When this happens, the consequences extend beyond individual users. Families suffer, public spaces become vulnerable to substance abuse, and law enforcement agencies are left dealing with problems that could have been prevented through effective regulation. A prescription cannot be treated as a formality.

Medicines with the potential for dependence are subject to specific regulatory requirements. Pharmacies have a responsibility to verify prescriptions, maintain appropriate records and comply with the conditions governing the sale of scheduled medicines. Drug control authorities, meanwhile, must ensure that these requirements are followed in practice and not merely on paper.

If a pharmacy is selling prescription medication without the required authorisation or documentation, the authorities must establish how frequently this has happened, who

If a pharmacy is selling prescription medication without the required authorisation or documentation, the authorities must establish how frequently this has happened, who purchased the medicines and whether the supply chain has other links. An isolated transaction and a sustained pattern of unauthorised sales require different levels of investigation. Neither should be ignored.

The report also raises allegations that the activity may have continued for several years and that the shop had regular customers, including people from outside Goa. These claims should not be accepted as established facts without corroboration. Nor should the mention of people from the Northeast become an excuse to stigmatise any community. The issue is the alleged supply of potentially misused medication, not the identity or geographical origin of customers.

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What matters is whether medicines

were sold in violation of the law and whether any organised network was involved.

The Goa Directorate of Food and Drugs Administration must take the lead in examining the allegations. The relevant records, prescriptions, purchase invoices and stock registers should be scrutinised. If violations are established, action must follow in accordance with the law. Where evidence points to a wider drug distribution network, the police and other appropriate agencies must investigate the connections. There is also a larger question about enforcement. Inspections cannot be limited to routine visits or checks conducted after a controversy becomes public. Authorities need risk based inspections, proper verification of pharmaceutical records and effective coordination between drug inspectors and the police. Complaints from citizens and credible media investigations should trigger timely verification rather than disappear into official files.

At the same time, the response must go beyond raids and suspensions. People who misuse prescription medicines may need medical treatment, counselling and rehabilitation. Preventing access to medicines through illegal channels and helping people overcome dependence must go hand in hand.

Goa has spent considerable time debating its drug problem, particularly its impact on tourism, public safety and young people. Yet the focus often falls on street level users and visible drug consumption. The alleged misuse of prescription medicines demands equal attention because the supply may originate from places that are expected to provide legitimate healthcare.

A medical store is entrusted with public health. That trust cannot be compromised by the pursuit of profit. If the allegations in Betalbatim are proved, the consequences must be serious enough to deter similar violations elsewhere.

The authorities must establish the facts, identify any illegal supply chain and explain what safeguards are in place to prevent a recurrence. The investigation must be transparent, evidence based and free from selective enforcement. The central question is simple: if prescription medicines are allegedly reaching people who misuse them, where is the regulatory system failing? Betalbatim must not become another case that attracts attention for a few days before fading from public memory. The allegations deserve a thorough investigation, and the findings must lead to corrective action. Public health cannot depend on a reporter discovering what the regulatory machinery may have failed to detect.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hardeep Singh Puri's Energy Vision Can Strengthen India's Security and Keep Fuel Affordable

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's emphasis on energy security, affordable fuel and diversified supplies at the 29th Energy Technology Meet in Goa highlights the importance of preparing India for its growing energy needs. At a time when global uncertainties can affect fuel prices and supply chains, strengthening domestic capabilities and exploring alternative energy sources must remain national priorities.

India's dependence on imported energy makes diversification essential. Expanding domestic oil and gas exploration, improving LPG supply resilience and investing in emerging technologies can help reduce vulnerabilities and ensure more reliable access to energy for households and industries.

Initiatives such as Samudra Manthan, aimed at boosting offshore exploration, and GOBARdhan, which promotes compressed biogas production, demonstrate the potential of combining traditional energy development with alternative fuels. If implemented effectively, these programmes could support domestic production, create employment and encourage investment in new technologies.

The Energy Technology Meet also provides an important platform for researchers, industry leaders and policymakers to work together. Technologies such as green hydrogen, sustainable aviation fuel, carbon capture and biofuels could play a significant role in reducing emissions while meeting future energy demand.

However, innovation must move beyond conference discussions and research presentations. The real challenge lies in commercialising viable technologies, ensuring transparent implementation and making cleaner energy solutions affordable and accessible.

Goa's hosting of this national-level event also offers an opportunity to strengthen its role in energy-sector discussions and technological collaboration.

India needs an energy strategy that balances affordability, reliability, environmental responsibility and long-term self-reliance. The priorities outlined by Hardeep Singh Puri deserve sustained attention, with measurable outcomes that benefit consumers, industry and the country's future.

- Nigel Fernandes, Vasco da Gama

Energy4Good Technology Centre: Pramod Sawant's Push for Industry-Ready Goan Youth

The inauguration of the ₹1.10 crore Energy4Good Technology Centre at Government Polytechnic Bicholim marks a welcome step towards strengthening technical education and improving employment opportunities for Goa's youth. Supported by Siemens Energy India Limited under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, the facility reflects the value of partnerships between industry and educational institutions.

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant's emphasis on bridging skill gaps is particularly relevant at a time when young graduates need more than academic qualifications to compete in an increasingly technology-driven job market. Practical training, hands-on experience and exposure to industry standards can help students develop the confidence and competencies employers seek.

The establishment of the first centre of its kind at a government polytechnic in Goa is an encouraging development. Such facilities can make technical education more meaningful by connecting classroom learning with real-world requirements. They can also help students from ordinary families access better career opportunities without having to depend entirely on expensive training programmes outside the state.

Siemens Energy India Limited deserves appreciation for investing in the potential of Goa's young people. The initiative also demonstrates how corporate social responsibility can contribute to long-term community development when investments are directed towards education and employability. However, the success of the centre will depend on how effectively it is used. The government and institute authorities must ensure regular training programmes, updated equipment, industry interaction and measurable outcomes in terms of student placements and skill development.

Chief Minister Sawant's vision of Viksit Goa 2037 and Viksit Bharat 2047 requires a skilled workforce capable of meeting future industrial and technological demands. The Energy4Good Technology Centre can contribute meaningfully to this goal if it delivers sustained benefits.

Investing in skills is investing in Goa's future, and this initiative deserves continued support.

- Dylan Fernandes, Bicholim

ED Arrests Mumbai Man in ₹2.6 Crore Goa Cyber Fraud Probe, Suspects 'Lien-Fixer' Role

■ Agency Claims Accused Arranged Bribes to Release Around 100 Frozen Bank Accounts; He Was Intercepted at Mumbai Airport Amid Alleged Attempt to Leave India

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Goa, has arrested Mumbai resident Rashesh Bharatkumar Upadhyay, also known as Rashesh Shah, in an investigation into an alleged ₹2.6 crore digital arrest scam targeting a couple from Goa. Investigators suspect he acted as an intermediary for a wider cybercrime network, allegedly

arranging payments to



secure the release of bank accounts frozen during fraud investigations.

The ED alleges that Upadhyay coordinated

cash transfers through

angadiyas—informal couriers used to move money—to help restore access to nearly 100 bank accounts linked to the network's agents. In one

alleged transaction, he reportedly acknowledged arranging a payment of more than ₹60 lakh. The agency believes

these arrangements enabled the network to access funds suspected to have originated from cybercrime. He is the seventh person arrested in the case and has been remanded to ED custody. According to investigators, his alleged responsibilities included negotiating bribe amounts, coordinating cash collection and directing payments to facilitate the release of frozen accounts.



Goa Tribal Body Sets October 31 Deadline for Strategy on ST Political Reservation

■ UTAA Plans Statewide Mobilisation if Reservation Remains Unresolved Ahead of 2027 Polls; Calls on CM Sawant to Step Up Engagement With Election Commission

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The United Tribal Associations Alliance (UTAA) is preparing to intensify its campaign for political reservation for Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities in Goa, with a meeting scheduled in Margao on October 31 to decide its response if the issue remains unresolved before the 2027 Assembly elections.

UTAA chief Prakash Velip has called on Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to continue pressing the Election Commission of India (ECI) for action, maintaining that the state government must remain involved until

the matter reaches a conclusion.

Velip said UTAA does not have direct access to the ECI and therefore expects the Chief Minister to take up the community's concerns with the Commission. He also claimed that some information needed by the ECI had not been furnished by the government. The organisation is still hopeful of progress within the next month, he said. Advocate John Fernandes, a UTAA leader, warned that the community would resist any outcome that prevents STs from securing political reservation in the 2027 elections.



CEO Review Finds No Proof of Wrongful Voter Transfers Between Curtorim and Fatorda

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A review of electoral records by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Goa, has found no supporting evidence for claims that voters were illegally shifted from Curtorim to Fatorda. The preliminary findings indicate that 31 electors were registered in Fatorda in 2017 after their applications were approved through the established process.

The inquiry was ordered following a complaint filed on October 16 by Fatorda MLA and Goa Forward Party president Vijai Sardesai. He alleged that more than 50 voters had been moved from Curtorim to Fatorda despite continuing to be associated with their original house numbers.

The report revisits the controversy raised during the 2017 Special Summary Revision (SSR), when the GFP had questioned the transfer of 53 voters between the two constituencies.

Goa Looks to Central Asia as Mopa Receives First Winter Charter From Kazakhstan

■ Arrival of 177 Passengers From Almaty Signals Fresh Push to Expand Goa's International Tourism Markets

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa is looking to strengthen its tourism links with Central Asia as Manohar International Airport at Mopa received its first charter flight from Almaty, Kazakhstan, for the Winter 2026–27 season on Monday, bringing 177 passengers to the coastal state.

The arrival marks the beginning of seasonal charter operations at Mopa for the winter period and highlights the growing



importance of international air connectivity in Goa's efforts to attract visitors from overseas markets.

While charter flights to Goa through other airports have already begun for the season, the arrival from Almaty

represents the first charter operation of the winter season at Manohar International Airport, providing fresh impetus to the state's outreach in Kazakhstan and

the wider Central Asian region. Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte said the arrival was an encouraging development as Goa prepared to welcome international visitors during the winter months.

Court Grants Rajat Naik Interim Anticipatory Bail in Mandrem Tourist Assault Case

■ Protection Extended Until November 2; Pernem Court to Pronounce Order on Prashant Parsekar's Bail Plea on October 28

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Rajat Naik, a Mandrem resident accused in a case involving the alleged assault and robbery of a tourist from Gujarat, has secured interim anticipatory bail from the Mapusa Additional Sessions Court. The temporary relief will continue until November 2, when the matter is scheduled to come up for its next hearing.



In a separate development, the Pernem Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court has reserved its decision on

the bail application filed by Prashant Parsekar, who has been arrested in connection with the same incident. The court

is expected to deliver its order on October 28.

The alleged incident occurred around 12.45 am on October 21 at a restaurant in Mandrem. According to the police complaint, Rohan Bist, 30, who hails from Vadodara in Gujarat, was at the restaurant when a disagreement over a financial transaction allegedly led to a confrontation.

The FIR alleges that Naik seized Bist by the

collar and forcibly took him outside the establishment. Police further claim that Naik and Parsekar threatened and verbally abused the tourist before the confrontation escalated into a physical attack.

According to the complaint, Naik allegedly used a wooden stick and a knife to assault Bist, while Parsekar is accused of hitting him with a beer bottle and a stone.

Fatorda Police Arrest 51-Year-Old in POCSO Case Involving Minor Girl

■ Accused remanded to 10 days in judicial custody; case registered under BNS, POCSO and Goa Children's Act

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Fatorda Police have arrested a 51-year-old man in connection with an alleged sexual assault and stalking case involving a 13-year-old girl in Chandrawado, Ambaji, Fatorda.

According to police, Fatorda Police Station registered FIR No. 59/2026 at 11.43 pm on October 26, following a complaint lodged by the victim's family. The complaint alleged that



the accused, identified as Mohammad Ziaul Shaikh, a resident of Ayub Manzil, Chandrawado, Fatorda,

sexually assaulted the minor on October 23 and subsequently engaged in a series of acts that caused her fear and distress.

As per the complaint, the accused allegedly followed the girl on his motorcycle, wrongfully restrained her on a public road and insisted that she accompany him to a hotel. He is also alleged to have pressured her at a school bus stop and repeatedly knocked on the door of her residence while

looking for her.

Police said the alleged incidents occurred between October 23 and October 26 in the Chandrawado area of Ambaji, Fatorda.

The case has been registered under Sections 74, 75, 78 and 126(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, Sections 8 and 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act, 2003.



Cansaulim Man Cheated of ₹4.5 Lakh in Germany Job Fraud

■ Cuncolim Police Register FIR Against Alleged Recruitment Agent for Promising Overseas Employment

Team Goemkarponn

CUNCOLIM: Cuncolim Police have registered a case against a man accused of cheating a Cansaulim resident of ₹4.5 lakh by allegedly promising him an employment opportunity in Germany.

According to the complaint lodged by Julius Andrew Mesquita, a resident of Cansaulim, the alleged fraud took place between June 26 and July 31, 2026.

The accused, identified as Ralph Menezes, reportedly operating from Office No. 252 in Sarzora, Chinchinim, allegedly posed as a recruiting agent and induced the complainant to transfer

₹4,50,000 through different modes of payment on the pretext of arranging a job in Germany.

However, after receiving the money, the accused allegedly stopped responding to the complainant's calls, failed to provide the promised employment opportunity and did not return the amount. Following the complaint, Cuncolim Police registered an FIR under Crime No. 59/2026 under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), relating to cheating. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Sahil S. Pagui of Cuncolim Police Station. Further details are awaited.



Mapusa Police Arrest Two in Ganja Case, Seize 1.2 Kg of Cannabis

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Mapusa Police have arrested two persons in connection with a narcotics case after seizing 1.2 kg of suspected ganja, estimated to be worth ₹1 lakh, during a raid near the New KTC Bus Stand in Mapusa. The raid was conducted between 12.30 am and 3 am on October 27 at an open field near the bus stand, following prior information. The police apprehended Manjunath Raju Kaundar, 46, a resident of Indira Nagar, Chimbél, Tiswadi, with the suspected contraband. During the investigation, police interrogation allegedly revealed that Salim Abdul Nadaf, 31, a resident of Khadpawado, Cuchelim, Mapusa, was the source of procurement and supply of the seized substance. Police said the investigation had uncovered a suspected link involving criminal conspiracy and abetment. Mapusa Police Station has registered Crime No. 145/2026 under Sections 20(b)(ii)(B) and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Cables Worth ₹5.50 Lakh Stolen from Lift Control Company in Khandepar

■ Ponda Police Investigate Theft at Lift Control Private Limited's Main Plant

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Unknown persons allegedly stole cables worth ₹5,50,888.92 from the premises of Lift Control Private Limited at Khandepar, Ponda, in the early hours of October 3, 2026.

According to the complaint lodged by Satish Shridhar Keni, director of Lift Control Private Limited, the theft occurred between 1 am and 5 am on October 3 at the company's main plant



in Khandepar.

The stolen cables had reportedly been kept in an open area behind the company's premises. The accused persons allegedly removed the

cables, causing a loss estimated at ₹5.50 lakh to the company. Further investigation in the case is being conducted by PSI Krishna Gawas of Ponda Police Station.

Goa Cyber Crime Police Arrest Ulhasnagar Man in ₹27.54 Lakh Online Investment

■ ₹12.61 Lakh Frozen and Secured for Possible Restoration to Victim

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Cyber Crime Police have arrested a 47-year-old man from Ulhasnagar in Thane district of Maharashtra in connection with an alleged online investment fraud amounting to ₹27.54 lakh. The police have also frozen and secured ₹12,61,330.01 linked to the fraud for possible restoration to the victim.

The case was registered at the Cyber



Crime Police Station under Crime No. 91/2026, under Sections 318(4), 319(2) read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya

Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 66-D of the Information Technology Act, following a complaint filed by Joaquim Colin, who was allegedly cheated through a fraudulent online investment scheme.

During the investigation, police traced the financial transactions and identified the accused as Ramesh

Rajaram Varude, 47, a resident of Ulhasnagar, Thane, Maharashtra. According to the police, the accused was a beneficiary of ₹8 lakh from the fraudulent transactions.

Acting on crucial investigative leads, a dedicated team of Goa Cyber Crime Police travelled to Maharashtra, traced the accused and arrested him on October 27. He was subsequently brought to Goa for further investigation.

67-Year-Old Labourer Dies After Falling from Height While Cleaning House in Vagator

Team Goemkarponn

VAGATOR: Anjuna Police have registered an offence against a 67-year-old house owner following the death of a daily-wage labourer who allegedly fell from a height while carrying out cleaning work at a house in Mendonsa Wado, Vagator, Bardez.

According to police, the offence was registered at 8.49 pm on October 26, 2026, based on a complaint lodged by Police Sub-Inspector Navneet Vinod Goltekar of Anjuna Police Station.

Goa's ATF VAT Cut to 7% May Boost Air Connectivity, but No Immediate Fare Relief: TTAG

■ Tourism body says reduction from 15% will ease airline operating costs and support flight expansion, benefiting Goa's tourism

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's decision to halve Value Added Tax (VAT) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) from 15 per cent to 7 per cent is expected to ease airlines' operating costs and strengthen air connectivity to the state, though passengers may not see an immediate reduction in airfares, the Travel and Tourism Association

of Goa (TTAG) said on



Tuesday.

Welcoming the revised tax rate, which came into effect on October 24, TTAG thanked the state government for

the initiative, stating that lower fuel costs could make airline operations more economically viable and support Goa's tourism-dependent economy.

In a statement, the association said aviation fuel accounts for a significant share of airline operating expenses, making the tax reduction a

potential relief for carriers refuelling in Goa.

TTAG said improved cost conditions could help airlines sustain and expand services to the state, which depends heavily on air connectivity to attract domestic and international tourists.

"As a premier domestic and international holiday destination, Goa relies heavily on accessible air travel.



Zuarinagar Cyclone Shelter Toilets Non-Functional, Congress Demands Anton Vas's Resignation

■ Cortalim Congress leader alleges delays in repairs despite available funds; seeks free use of premises until basic facilities are restored

Team Goemkarponn

ZUARINAGAR: Cortalim Congress leader Mahesh Nadar has demanded the resignation of Cortalim MLA Anton Vas as chairman of the Zuarinagar cyclone shelter home committee, alleging that delays in repairing non-functional toilets have caused inconvenience to women and children using the premises for various functions. Nadar submitted a representation to the Sancoale Panchayat secretary on Tuesday, seeking time-bound repairs and improved maintenance of the facility. He had earlier raised the issue in the media. According to Nadar, he was informed

that the responsibility for maintaining the cyclone shelter premises rested with the committee headed by Vas, while the panchayat had no role in collecting fees for functions held at the venue. He said the panchayat had taken up the matter with the shelter home committee following his media statements. The panchayat secretary, who also serves as the committee's member secretary, had reportedly issued notices and convened a meeting on October 15 to discuss the issue. Nadar claimed that the panchayat had clarified that it did not receive any financial benefit from the fees collected for events at the shelter home.



Hardeep Puri Stresses Energy Security, Affordable Fuel and Supply Diversification at Goa Meet

Team Goemkarponn

BETUL: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday emphasised the importance of strengthening India's energy security, ensuring affordable fuel supplies and diversifying energy sources while inaugurating the 29th Energy Technology Meet (ETM) 2026 at the ONGC Advanced Training Institute in Goa. Puri inaugurated the three-day event, which brings together policymakers, industry leaders, researchers and technology experts to explore solutions to India's evolving energy requirements, with a focus on innovation and the commercialisation of emerging technologies. During a fireside chat with journalist Palki Sharma Upadhyay on the opening day, the Minister discussed key priorities for the energy sector, including energy security, affordability, the energy transition and diversification of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supplies.

₹1.10 Crore Energy4Good Technology Centre Inaugurated at Bicholim Polytechnic

■ CM Pramod Sawant says Siemens Energy-backed facility will bridge skill gaps, boost employability and expand career opportunities for Goa's youth

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: The Energy4Good Technology Centre, a ₹1.10 crore industry-supported facility aimed at strengthening practical skills and employability among students, was inaugurated at Government Polytechnic Bicholim on Tuesday. Established by Siemens Energy India Limited under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, the centre is



the first of its kind at a government polytechnic in Goa. It seeks to bridge the gap between technical education and industry requirements by providing students with practical training and industry-relevant competencies.

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said the facility would help address skill gaps among students, strengthen industry-academia collaboration and improve their access to employment and better career opportunities.

Margao Church Moves Survey Court to Protect Religious Structures in Hospicio Land Dispute

■ Fabrica seeks distinct survey identities for chapels, convent and adjoining properties, challenging blanket transfer of Hospicio land to health department

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The land dispute surrounding Hospicio hospital has taken a fresh turn, with the Fabrica of Holy Spirit Church, Margao, seeking legal protection for several religious structures located within the hospital complex before the authorities finalise the property records in favour of the Directorate of Health Services (DHS). Fr



Domingos Noronha, parish priest of Holy Spirit Church and president of the Fabrica, has approached the Court of the Inspector of Survey and Land

Records (ISLR), Margao, requesting separate survey numbers for the chapels, convent and associated areas claimed by the Church. The intervention

comes as the DHS seeks confirmation of the entire Chalta No. 4 in its name. Noronha has urged the court to consider the Church's objections before taking a decision that could cover the religious properties within the larger Hospicio complex. The structures identified in the application include the chapel containing the tomb of Fr Antonio João de Miranda, a smaller chapel on the north-eastern side, a convent on the

south-eastern side and religious structures near the TB Hospital. The Church has also sought separate identification of the surrounding land and access areas associated with these properties. In his submission, Noronha maintained that the government's takeover of Hospicio's hospital operations did not necessarily establish ownership of every structure and movable asset on the premises.

BuzzBallz brings a taste of Diwali with limited-edition Rasmalai flavour

■ Inspired by a much-loved Indian dessert, the limited-edition Rasmalai flavor is designed for gifting and celebrating



Team Goemkarponn

BENGALURU:

BuzzBallz, the easy-to-drink flavored alcoholic beverage known for its brightly colored, ball-shaped packaging and bold 15% ABV with unique flavours, is adding a festive twist to its India line-up with the launch of BuzzBallz Rasmalai - the first Rasmalai-flavoured ready-to-drink alcoholic beverage in the market. Inspired by the beloved Indian dessert, this limited-edition release brings the warmth and spirit of Diwali to BuzzBallz's signature easy-to-drink format.

Inspired by the richness of festive sweets and the joy of Diwali celebrations, BuzzBallz Rasmalai has a distinctive flavour

of kesar, pistachio and cardamom with a smooth, indulgent taste. At 15% ABV and best served chilled, it brings the signature POP. SIP. BUZZ. experience in a ball. "Diwali is a time for connectedness, catching up with friends and family, and sharing something sweet," said Jess Scheerhorn, President, BuzzBallz. "Desserts are an integral part of these celebrations, and BuzzBallz Rasmalai takes inspiration from a well-known treat to offer adult consumers a fresh way to explore a familiar flavour. It reflects our approach to India: listening to local tastes and creating something distinctive that consumers can discover and enjoy." Presented in the brand's signature

180-ml ball-shaped pack, BuzzBallz Rasmalai will be available at licensed alcohol retail stores rolling out late October across Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra, priced between ₹100 and ₹120, depending on the state. With 15% ABV, the limited-edition offering will be available while stocks last.

"BuzzBallz' Rasmalai helps keep celebrations simple. It's ready-to-drink format means there's no need for glassware, mixing or extra ingredients, leaving you more time to spend on what matters most: spending time with loved ones," added Scheerhorn. With this festive release, BuzzBallz continues to expand its flavour offering in India, bringing its "Pop. Sip.

Buzz." personality to a new, locally inspired expression. Follow @ BuzzBallz_india on Instagram to stay up to date on future BuzzBallz news and happenings across India. About BuzzBallz

Since its founding in 2009, BuzzBallz has been a leader of innovation and originality in the ready-to-drink cocktail industry. The #1 selling single serve premixed cocktail brand in the U.S., BuzzBallz's iconic round shape and bold, bar-strength offerings are perfect for today's grab and go lifestyle. Offering over a dozen unique and interesting flavors, BuzzBallz is on a mission to reinvent happy hour, one ball at a time. Learn more at: www.buzzballz.com

Ai+ Smartphone Announces Price Hike of Across Select Models from November 15

■ Despite the prevailing industry challenges, Ai+ Smartphone remains committed to delivering a strong price-to-experience proposition for Indian consumers

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: Ai+ Smartphone today announced a price hike across select models in its smartphone portfolio, effective November 15, 2026. As cost pressures persist, particularly in price-sensitive segments, Ai+ Smartphone has continued to evaluate their impact while working to maintain affordability for consumers. However, with input costs remaining elevated, the company has undertaken another measured pricing adjustment to maintain a sustainable balance between affordability and product experience. With prices set to increase by up to ₹3,000, now is the best time for consumers to purchase their preferred Ai+

smartphones at current prices, before the revised pricing comes into effect.

Under the revised pricing, select variants of the Ai+ Pulse 2 FE, Pulse 2, Nova 2 5G, Nova 2 Neo 5G, Nova 2 Power 5G, Nova 2 Pro 5G and Nova 2 Ultra 5G will see price increases ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹3,000. The Ai+ NovaFlip 5G will remain unchanged at ₹49,999.

Despite the prevailing industry challenges, Ai+ Smartphone remains committed to delivering a strong price-to-experience proposition for Indian consumers. The company will continue to monitor component costs and market dynamics while maintaining its focus on accessible technology, dependable performance and long-term consumer value.



Price Reset hits
Ai+ Smartphone
from
15th November

High Court Reserves Order on Interim Stay of Goa's ST Constituency Readjustment Act

Act's implementation until the main petition is finally decided. The petitioner has also urged the court to restrain the respondents from initiating or carrying out any exercise, administrative steps or other actions aimed at readjusting Assembly constituencies under the challenged law. The court's order, expected on Thursday, will determine whether interim protection is granted while the

broader constitutional challenge remains pending.

Parsekar's Possible BJP Return Sparks Political Buzz in Goa

terms as the BJP's state president and said leaders who had contributed to the organisation were welcome to return. Tanavade further clarified that any decision regarding Parsekar's induction would be taken by the BJP's state and central leadership. He also reiterated that the MGP remained an alliance partner of the BJP.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

"20 Markets, 20 Traders, 20 Minutes": Delhi Traders Challenge Rahul Gandhi Over November 1 Rally

■ CTI offers to withdraw opposition if Congress leader can prove the INDIA bloc rally will benefit businesses during Diwali

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A Delhi traders' association has offered Rahul Gandhi 20 minutes to convince representatives of 20 major markets that the Congress led INDIA bloc's November 1 rally at Ramlila Maidan will benefit their businesses. The association has also demanded that the gathering be postponed



until after Diwali if it is likely to cause commercial losses. The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI), led by chairman Brijesh Goyal, has written to Gandhi seeking a meeting

with traders operating within a five kilometre radius of the rally venue. The association said it would withdraw its opposition and welcome the event if the Congress leader could explain how the expected gathering of around 10 lakh people would attract customers and increase sales. However, if the

discussion establishes that the rally could disrupt business during the festive shopping season, the traders want Gandhi to defer it in the public interest. Ation stressed that it wanted dialogue rather than confrontation, seeking an opportunity to present the concerns of businesses that depend on customer movement during Diwali.



Imran Khan Gets Relief as Centre Assures Bombay High Court of No Coercive Action Till November 2

■ Actor challenges FRRO's October 28 deadline to leave India following detention during Mumbai protest

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: Actor Imran Khan has received temporary relief after the Centre assured the Bombay High Court that no coercive action would be taken against him until November 2 over a notice directing him to leave India by October 28. The High Court adjourned the hearing on Khan's petition challenging the departure notice issued by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Mumbai. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Justice Advait Sethna is hearing the matter, which will come up again on November 2. Khan approached the court on October 17,

challenging the order directing him to leave the country. He has sought the cancellation of the notice and a stay on its implementation while the petition remains pending. The case stems from a protest held at Mumbai's August Kranti Maidan on October 10 in solidarity with demonstrations in Delhi. The protest was organised in support of demands for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Khan was briefly detained during the Mumbai demonstration. He has maintained that he did not participate in the protest and has no connection with the organisers.



"Jammu Cannot Be Ignored": Omar Abdullah Cabinet Reshuffle Sparks Row Over Regional and Hindu Representation

Team Goemkarponn

JAMMU: The latest cabinet reshuffle by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has triggered a political controversy over regional representation, with Jammu district left without a minister and Hindu representation reduced to a single member in the nine member council. Following Tuesday's changes, seven ministers are from the Kashmir Valley, while Jammu division has two representatives, both from the Pir Panjal region of Rajouri and Poonch. Eight of Jammu division's 10 districts, including Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar and Reasi, have no representation in the cabinet. The reshuffle has renewed concerns over the political balance between the two regions, particularly because Jammu city and Srinagar have traditionally played significant roles in the Union Territory's political structure.

India Raises LPG Output to 55,000 Tonnes a Day, Expands Imports to 41 Countries Amid Hormuz Crisis

■ Hardeep Singh Puri says domestic cooking gas supplies remained uninterrupted despite disruptions in Gulf shipments

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India increased domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) production and diversified its import sources to manage supply disruptions linked to the Strait of Hormuz crisis, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Tuesday.

The country raised daily LPG production from 34,000 metric



tonnes to 55,000 metric tonnes while expanding the number of supplier countries from 27 to 41. The measures helped maintain uninterrupted cooking gas supplies despite disruptions

affecting shipments from the Gulf region.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 29th Energy Technology and Innovation Meet, Puri stressed the importance of preparedness in dealing with unpredictable geopolitical developments. He highlighted advance planning, higher domestic output and coordination across the energy supply chain as key factors in managing the disruption.

'Rage Against E20 Was a Paid Campaign': Nitin Gadkari Defends Ethanol Blending

■ Union Minister says E20 petrol has operated in millions of vehicles, promises strict action on highway defects and faster travel through infrastructure

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has dismissed the criticism surrounding E20 petrol as a "paid campaign", defending the government's ethanol blending programme and highlighting its potential to reduce India's dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Speaking at an industry event on



Tuesday, Gadkari said concerns over petrol containing 20 per cent ethanol had generated significant controversy in recent months. His remarks came a day after

the government amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, to permit flex fuel vehicles designed to operate on blends containing up to 100 per cent ethanol, known as E100.

Gadkari said more than 20 crore two wheelers and over three crore petrol cars had been operating on E19 and E20

fuel blends over the past three years. He noted that there was no verified evidence of widespread engine failures or vehicle breakdowns directly linked to ethanol blending.

The introduction of E20 petrol had drawn criticism from opposition parties and consumer groups, particularly over concerns about its compatibility with older vehicles not specifically designed for higher ethanol concentrations.

India's ethanol blending programme began with a pilot project in 2001, with E5 fuel introduced in 2006. Blending levels subsequently increased as production capacity, infrastructure and regulations developed.

Gadkari also addressed concerns over highway conditions, saying he had recently reviewed around 700 to 800 projects following complaints about damaged roads.

Deep Kasvankar's Six Wickets Help Goa Bowl Out Odisha for 199 in C.K. Nayudu Trophy

Goa reach 65 for 1 at stumps on Day 1, with Sarthak Bhike and Shaantanu Nevagi building an unbeaten partnership

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa made a promising start to their Colonel C.K. Nayudu Trophy Elite Under 23 four day match against Odisha, bowling out the visitors for 199 on the opening day at the GCA ground in Cotarli, Sanguem, on Tuesday. In reply, Goa reached 65 for 1 in 27 overs at stumps, trailing by 134 runs.

Off spinner Deep Kasvankar led Goa's bowling attack with an outstanding spell, claiming six wickets for 36 runs in



15.2 overs to put the hosts in a commanding position.

After winning the toss, Odisha elected to bat and began positively through openers Ayush Sutar and Panakala Sasanka. The pair added 82 runs for the first wicket in 18.2 overs,

with Sutar scoring 39 and Sasanka contributing 53.

Kasvankar broke the opening partnership by dismissing Sutar, triggering a collapse that saw Odisha slip to 112 for 5. The visitors struggled to build substantial partnerships as Goa's bowlers maintained pressure through the middle overs.

Aashirwad Swain scored 33, while Arpit Mohanty added 22. Sayed Ahmed remained unbeaten on 23 to help Odisha move closer to

the 200 run mark before the innings ended at 199 in 59.2 overs. Anuj Yadav provided valuable support to Kasvankar, taking two wickets for 49 runs, while Rahul Vishwakarma claimed one wicket for 44 runs. Goa's reply suffered an early setback when opener Malhar Naik was dismissed for a duck in the fourth over. However, Sarthak Bhike and Shaantanu Nevagi steadied the innings with a composed, unbeaten partnership of 60 runs for the second wicket.



Shaheen C. K. Shines With Double Win as Goa Begins Main Draw Campaign at All India Junior Badminton Tournament

Goan shuttler wins in mixed and men's doubles, while Sufiya Shaikh advances in women's singles at Navelim

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's Shaheen Cherkala Kunjuttu delivered an impressive performance at the Yonex-Sunrise G.H. Raisonni Memorial All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament 2026, securing victories in both mixed doubles and men's doubles as the main draw began at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium, Navelim. Partnering Jesicca Neyi Saring of Arunachal Pradesh, Shaheen defeated Karnataka's Armaan Khan and Vibhava Kedalasara Raghavendra 15-12, 15-13 in the mixed doubles Round of 32. He continued his

winning run in men's doubles, joining fellow Goan Aswin Mannambalath to beat Gujarat's Bhashy Pathak and Parth Puri 15-8, 6-15, 15-11 in a closely contested encounter. Goa's Sufiya Shaikh also progressed in women's singles after overcoming Kerala's Aagamya Jayan 15-9, 11-15, 15-11 in the Round of 64. However, Dimple Revankar could not get past Delhi's Sakshi Rana, losing 8-15, 10-15. In men's singles, Aarush Pawaskar faced a challenging opening-round encounter against Arunachal Pradesh's Samuel Tamang, who holds a junior world ranking of 48.

Vidarbha Close In on First Innings Lead Against Goa as Shorey, Malewar Hit Fifties

Dhruv Shorey and Danish Malewar share an unbeaten 93 run stand after Nachiket Bhute takes five wickets

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Vidarbha moved closer to securing a first innings lead against Goa after reaching 217 for 3 in 74 overs on the second day of their Ranji Trophy Elite match at the VCA Jamtha Stadium in Nagpur on Tuesday. Goa, who resumed their first innings at 204 for 8, managed to add only 16 runs before being bowled out for 220 in 93.5 overs. Yash Kasvankar remained unbeaten on

63 off 212 balls, hitting five boundaries in a patient knock. Vidarbha pacer Nachiket Bhute led the bowling effort with five wickets for 48 runs. Vidarbha also suffered an early setback in their reply when Vasuki Koushik dismissed Satyam Bhojar for two. However, Aman Mokhadde and Ravikumar Samarth steadied the innings with a 58 run partnership for the second wicket. Mokhadde contributed 39 before falling to Ruthvik Naik,

while Samarth continued to anchor the innings. He added 60 runs for the third wicket with Dhruv Shorey, taking Vidarbha to 124 for 3 before being dismissed for 53. Goa then struggled to make further inroads as Shorey and Danish Malewar combined effectively to take control of the innings. The pair shared an unbeaten 93 run partnership for the fourth wicket, bringing Vidarbha within touching distance of overtaking Goa's first innings total. Shorey

remained unbeaten on 63, while Malewar supported him with an unbeaten 51. Their partnership helped Vidarbha reach 217 for 3 at stumps, just three runs behind Goa's total, with seven wickets still in hand. For Goa, Koushik finished with two wickets for 27 runs, while Naik claimed one for 27. Vidarbha will to complete the first innings lead when play resumes, while Goa will need early breakthroughs to prevent the hosts from building a substantial advantage.

High Court Warriors Beat Legal Smashers to Win Goa High Bar Association Table Tennis Title

Champions seal a thrilling 3-2 victory in the final as 13 teams compete at Porvorim Gymkhana

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: High Court Warriors clinched the Goa High Bar Association Table Tennis Tournament title after defeating Legal Smashers of Mapusa 3-2 in a closely contested final at Porvorim Gymkhana.

The tournament featured 13 teams representing the legal fraternity from across Goa. After an engaging series of group stage



matches and knockout encounters, High Court Warriors emerged victorious in a thrilling final to lift the championship trophy. Tanisi Kirtani and Gaurish Agni played

crucial roles in the champions' title winning campaign, delivering key performances to help their team overcome a determined Legal Smashers side. They

received valuable support from Sarvesh Kamat Malyekar, Iftikar Agha, Dattaprasad Lawande and Ajit Kanthak.

The final showcased the competitive spirit

of both teams, with High Court Warriors managing to secure the decisive points and seal the title by a narrow margin. The trophy was presented by veteran table tennis ambassador and businessman Vero Nunes. The ceremony was attended by Goa High Bar Association President and Senior Counsel Zilman Pereira, guest of honour Ajit Ghantkar and other dignitaries. The tournament provided members of the legal

fraternity with an opportunity to showcase their sporting abilities while strengthening professional relationships beyond the courtroom. With participation from 13 teams, the event highlighted the growing interest in table tennis among legal professionals in Goa. It also encouraged fitness, sportsmanship and camaraderie among members of the legal community.