Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

Reg No: GOAENG/2020/79967 VOL: 5 | ISSUE : 191 PANAJI | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026 | Pages-8 RS. 10/-

Panaji, Goa's prime coastal villages command top land rate of Rs 25,000 per sq m

*New minimum rates for 2026-27 notified across five talukas; stamp duty valuations to vary according to zoning, plot size and land use

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has introduced a revised schedule of minimum property valuation rates for 2026-27, placing Panaji and several prominent coastal villages in Bardez in the highest category at Rs 25,000 per square metre.

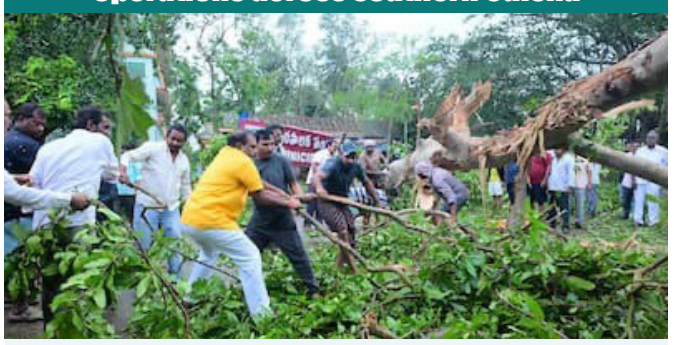
The revised benchmarks cover five talukas — Pernem, Bardez, Tiswadi, Salcete and Mormugao — and have come into force following a notification issued by the Department of Revenue on October 28.

The rates have been fixed under the Goa Stamp (Determination of True Market Value of Property) Rules, 2003. They will serve as minimum valuation benchmarks for calculating stamp duty and registration charges, although the actual valuation will depend on factors such as the property's location, zoning classification, size and permitted land use.

CONTD TO PAGE 06

Cyclone Arnab Devastates Odisha: 3 Dead, Thousands Affected by Floods and Landslides

Heavy rainfall inundates hundreds of villages as rescue teams launch large scale relief operations across southern Odisha



Team Goemkarponn

BHUBANESWAR: Cyclone Arnab has triggered severe flooding and landslides across southern Odisha, claiming at least three lives, including that of a nine month old baby, and leaving thousands of people affected. Continuous heavy rainfall has caused rivers to overflow, inundated hundreds of villages and damaged roads and bridges across Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts. The cyclone, initially expected to have a greater impact on Andhra Pradesh, changed its course and caused extensive damage in Odisha. Nearly a dozen landslides were reported in the affected districts. In one incident in Kandhamal, a couple and their infant son died after a landslide struck the area. The state government announced financial assistance of ₹4 lakh for each deceased person's family. More than 23,000 people have taken shelter in relief camps, while many others remain stranded in flooded areas. Around 50,000 people have been severely affected in Ganjam, followed by 30,000 in Gajapati and 12,000 in Kandhamal. Large Scale Rescue and Relief Operations The state government has deployed four helicopters belonging to the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard to deliver food packets to flood affected areas of Ganjam.

CM Sawant urges Goans to participate in Census 2027

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has urged the people of Goa to actively participate in Census 2027 under the campaign slogan 'Our Census, Our Development', stressing that public cooperation is essential to ensure accurate data for the state's development. Sawant announced that the self-enumeration process will be conducted from November 16 to November 30, followed by the regular enumeration exercise from December 1 to January 4. Speaking on the occasion of the Run for Unity programme, the Chief Minister congratulated participants for taking part in spreading awareness about Census 2027. He described self-enumeration as a simple process and appealed to all Goans to come forward and participate in the exercise.

Goa delegation to meet Solicitor General Tushar Mehta in Delhi on Monday

Ramesh Tawadkar, Narendra Sawaikar and Speaker Ganesh Gaonkar to join delegation ahead of challenge to High Court order

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Saturday said that a delegation of Goa officials, led by Minister Ramesh Tawadkar, will travel to Delhi on Monday to meet Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

The delegation will also include NRI Commissioner Narendra Sawaikar and Goa Legislative Assembly Speaker Ganesh Gaonkar.

The meeting with the Solicitor General is scheduled ahead of the state's move to challenge the High Court's decision concerning the Census Commission of India's notification.

Sawant said the delegation would discuss the legal aspects of the matter with Mehta before proceeding with the challenge to the High Court's decision.

The proposed Delhi visit is part of the state government's efforts to seek legal advice and determine the next course of action in the matter.

DGP Alok Kumar reiterates zero-tolerance policy in minor sexual assault case

Legal and departmental action initiated against Crime Branch PI and other accused, says DGP

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Director General of Police (DGP) Alok Kumar said the police department follows a zero-tolerance policy towards misconduct, stating that both legal and departmental action have been initiated against the Crime Branch Police Inspector (PI) and others accused in the sexual assault of a minor.

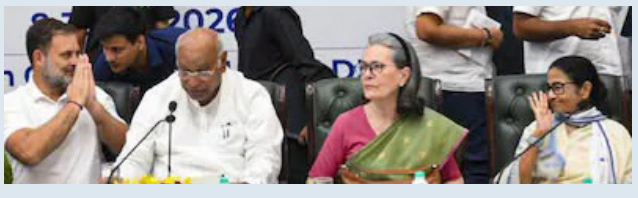
Kumar said the department would not tolerate any form of misconduct and stressed that appropriate action was being taken in connection with the case.

He added that proceedings had been initiated at both the legal and departmental levels against the accused.

'Our Last Hope Is With You': Delhi Traders Urge INDIA Bloc Leaders to Postpone November 1 Rally

Traders warn that traffic restrictions could disrupt festive business worth ₹12,000 crore daily across major Delhi markets

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Delhi traders have approached senior INDIA bloc leaders, including Akhilesh Yadav, Mamata Banerjee, Tejashwi Yadav and Uddhav Thackeray, seeking their intervention to postpone the Congress rally scheduled for November 1 at Ramlila Maidan. The traders fear that traffic congestion during the peak Diwali shopping season could severely affect commercial activity across central and Old Delhi. The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) has urged Opposition leaders to persuade the Congress to reschedule the rally until after November 10 or 11. The association estimates that around 20 major wholesale and retail markets could face disruption, putting daily business worth ₹10,000 crore to ₹12,000 crore at risk.

ST POLITICAL RESERVATION: A TEST OF GOA'S POLITICAL WILL AHEAD OF 2027

The demand for four Assembly seats for the Scheduled Tribe community is not a political favour but a question of fair representation. The government's decision to approach the Supreme Court is welcome, but the real test will be whether it delivers beyond promises.

Goa's demand for political reservation for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community has once again entered the legal and political spotlight. With the state government deciding to approach the Supreme Court following the Bombay High Court's interim order, the issue is no longer confined to courtrooms. It has the potential to become one of the defining political questions ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

The question is simple: Will Goa finally deliver political representation to a community that has been demanding its rightful place in the state's legislative decision-making, or will the issue once again become another election promise that disappears after the polls?

The ST community constitutes a sizeable section of Goa's population. Its demand for four reserved seats in the Legislative Assembly cannot simply be dismissed as an unreasonable political demand. Representation in a democracy is not merely about numbers. It is about ensuring that communities which have historically remained on the margins have a meaningful voice in governance.For decades, Goa's tribal communities have raised concerns over land rights, access to education, employment opportunities, cultural identity and socio-economic development. While successive governments have announced welfare schemes and made political assurances, adequate representation in the Assembly remains an unresolved question.

This is precisely why political reservation matters. A community cannot be expected to depend indefinitely on the goodwill of political parties or the occasional support of individual legislators. It must have an institutional mechanism through which its concerns find a permanent place in the legislative process.

The demand for four seats must therefore be examined seriously, based on the constitutional framework, population data and the applicable delimitation process. It is not enough for political leaders to endorse the demand from public platforms. The government must establish its legal and constitutional basis and pursue it with urgency.

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant's decision to approach the Supreme Court is a necessary step. The meeting attended by Speaker Dr Ganesh Gaonkar, Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar, Advocate General Devidas Pangam and representatives of the ST community indicates that the government recognises the political sensitivity of the issue.

However, announcements and meetings are not victories. The government must demonstrate that it has a sound legal strategy and is prepared to pursue the matter without allowing procedural delays to derail the process.

The decision to send Tawadkar to New Delhi to meet Solicitor General Tushar Mehta is significant. But the community will judge the government not by whom its ministers meet, but by what tangible progress follows.

The timing is particularly important. With the 2027 Assembly elections approaching, the ST reservation issue could influence political alignments, electoral strategies and voter sentiment across Goa. Parties cannot afford to ignore a community whose demand for political empowerment has remained unresolved for so long.

The BJP-led government may believe that taking the matter to the Supreme Court will reinforce its commitment to the ST community. But it must also recognise that the community will expect results, not another round of assurances. If the legal process moves forward decisively, the government could gain considerable political goodwill. If it gets caught in delays and uncertainty, the same issue could become a major point of criticism.

The Opposition, too, must decide where it stands. Political reservation should not become an issue that parties support only when it is convenient to attack the ruling government. Congress, AAP, Goa Forward Party and other political formations must make their positions clear. The community deserves a united political commitment rather than competing election-time promises.

At the same time, the judiciary must be allowed to examine the constitutional and legal questions independently. Political urgency cannot override due process. The government must ensure that its case is built on sound constitutional grounds and that the proposed reservation follows the prescribed legal mechanism.

There is also a larger question that Goa must confront. Can a state that prides itself on social harmony and inclusive development continue to leave a sizeable indigenous community without the political representation it has been demanding? Development cannot be measured merely through roads, bridges and government schemes. It must also be measured by who gets a seat at the decision-making table. The ST community is not asking for charity. It is asking for representation, participation and a fair opportunity to shape the future of Goa.

The 2027 elections may well become a referendum on how seriously political parties take this demand. The government has made its move towards the Supreme Court. Now it must translate its political commitment into legal action and a credible outcome.

Four seats may be a demand, but representation is a democratic right. Goa cannot afford to make tribal political empowerment another election slogan.

The decision to send Tawadkar to New Delhi to meet Solicitor General Tushar Mehta is significant. But the community will judge the government not by whom its ministers meet, but by what tangible progress follows.

The timing is particularly important. With the 2027 Assembly elections approaching, the ST reservation issue could influence political alignments, electoral strategies and voter sentiment across Goa. Parties cannot afford to ignore a community whose demand for political empowerment has remained unresolved for so long.

The BJP-led government may believe that taking the matter to the Supreme Court will reinforce its commitment to the ST community. But it must also recognise that the community will expect results, not another round of assurances. If the legal process moves forward decisively, the government could gain considerable political goodwill. If it gets caught in delays and uncertainty, the same issue could become a major point of criticism.

OPED

WHEN WILL A GOAN BE ELEVATED TO INDIA'S SUPREME COURT?

By Adv. Aires Rodrigues

Judges of the Supreme Court of India are selected by a five-member collegium headed by the Chief Justice of India and comprising the four most Senior Supreme Court Judges. The Supreme Court Judges are selected from amongst the Chief Justices of the High Courts across India. The Collegium can also select outstanding Advocates from the Supreme Court Bar to be appointed as Supreme Court Judges.

A Goan has never risen to be a Supreme Court Judge. But three Goans with outstanding legal knowledge and integrity rose to be High Court Chief Justices. Late Justice Gurudas Datta Kamat was Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court from 1-7-1996 to 04-01-1997, Justice Ferdino Rebello went on to be Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court from 26-06-2010 to 30-07-2011 and Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak rose to be appointed as Jharkhand High Court Chief Justice on 02-01-2026 and is due to retire on 27th November this year. All indications are that Justice Mahesh Sonak will very sadly also not make it to the Supreme Court.

On this issue it is worth mentioning that a flamboyant Goan Senior Advocate was for long aspiring and lobbying to be a Supreme Court Judge through his personal friendship and connection with some Judges. And in 2019, I had that inevitable hard task of writing a detailed representation with laid out facts to the then Chief Justice of India and all the other 32 Supreme Court Judges, drawing their attention to the acts of omission and commission over the years by the said burly Advocate who was craving to be a Supreme Court Judge. My communication to the 33 Judges in the Supreme Court may have cost me around Rs 4000 by way of postage charges but it gave the Honourable Supreme Court Judges documented and pointed reasons as to why that Senior Goan Advocate's name should not be considered for the coveted post of a Supreme Court Judge.

One of the charges against the said Senior Advocate was that he lavishly and pompously celebrated his 50th birthday at a 5-star resort in coastal North Goa which was all publicly funded. The task of raising those huge funds was entrusted to the local Sarpanch who made the dance bars, matka agents and all involved in illegal business bell the cat. Perhaps this one grave unprecedented misdeed itself laid to rest the aspiration of that Senior Advocate who was dreaming to be a Supreme Court Judge.

Pointing out that it would be the darkest day in the history of the Indian Judiciary if that Advocate was appointed as a Supreme Court Judge, in my humble representation I cautioned that if a person like him is allowed to occupy the August Chair as Judge of India's highest Temple of Justice, the Supreme Court would be reduced to a den for fixing matters – and become a trader's paradise. I respectfully pleaded that it would be an irreversible Judicial catastrophic blunder which under no circumstances should be allowed as the integrity and sanctity of the Supreme Court is paramount and has to be preserved at all cost. Thankfully, what would have been a Judicial tragedy was timely averted. Some may hold me guilty for pre-empting a first Goan from being a Supreme Court Judge, but had not the Almighty given me the strength to step in, posterity would never have forgiven me for not alerting the Supreme Court Collegium.

We will have to wait longer to see a first Goan become a Supreme Court Judge but so be it rather than having an unworthy person deviously working his way there. On the other hand, the good news is that Supreme Court Judge B.V.Nagarathna is due to become the first woman Chief Justice of India on September 24th next year, though for only a very brief tenure of just 46 days. She is known for expressing her views with openness and outspokenness and for adopting a broad progressive approach to constitutional and legal interpretation. Did all these qualities which were also possessed by our three Goan distinguished Jurists who became High Court Chief Justices come in their way and obstruct their elevation to the Supreme Court?

Printed and Published by Rupali Suraj Nandrekar for M/s Daily Scoops Media Pvt Ltd. Published from H.No 5/56, Donwado, Saligoa, Bardez, North Goa, Goa – 403511 and Printed from H.No 5/56, Donwado, Saligoa, Bardez, North Goa, Goa – 403511. Editor Suraj Arjun Nandrekar (responsible under the PRB Act)

Goemkarponn
TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART
PANAJI | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026

Goa government to approach Supreme Court over ST political reservation

■ CM Pramod Sawant chairs high-level meeting; delegation led by Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar to meet Solicitor General Tushar Mehta in New Delhi

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant chaired a high-level meeting to discuss the issue of political reservation for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community in the Goa Legislative Assembly, following the interim order passed by the Bombay High Court at Goa. The meeting was attended by Goa Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr. Ganesh Gaonkar, Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar, Advocate General Devidas Pangam, BJP Goa President Damu Naik, Adv. Narendra Sawaikar and prominent leaders and representatives of the ST community. During the meeting, participants held detailed discussions on the legal implications of the High Court's interim order and the steps required to safeguard the political reservation rights of the ST community.

It was unanimously decided to approach the Supreme Court and pursue all necessary legal measures to protect the process of granting political reservation to the Scheduled Tribe community in the Goa Legislative Assembly.

As part of the immediate course of action, a delegation led by Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar will travel to New Delhi to meet Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta. The delegation will discuss the legal course of action and further proceedings before the Supreme Court.

HC sets deadlines for major overhaul of Panaji traffic management

■ ANPR cameras to be upgraded to detect illegal parking; authorities directed to improve pedestrian facilities and step up traffic enforcement

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a significant intervention to address traffic-related problems in the capital, the High Court has directed various government departments and civic authorities to implement a series of measures aimed at improving road discipline, easing congestion and making pedestrian movement safer along D.B. Marg and surrounding areas.

The directions form part of a suo motu public interest litigation initiated in 2023 over traffic management in Panaji. As part of the surveillance measures, Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL) and the state government have been asked to upgrade the existing Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera system along Dayanand Bandodkar Marg within five months. The enhanced system will have to identify vehicles parked in unauthorised areas automatically, apart from detecting red-light violations and failure to wear seat belts. The Traffic Cell has been instructed to act against offenders. The court observed that the present camera network, installed at Kala Academy, Ferry Wharf, Custom House and Divja Circle, does not provide adequate coverage.

MMC plans comprehensive fire insurance cover for all markets

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: In the aftermath of the devastating fire at the New Model Municipal Market in Vasco, the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) is planning to introduce a comprehensive fire insurance scheme covering all markets under its jurisdiction, with traders expected to contribute towards the premium through flexible payment options, including daily instalments. MMC Chief Officer Siddhivinayak Naik said he had already moved a note proposing the scheme, which aims to provide financial protection to traders against fire-related losses without placing the entire burden of compensation on the public exchequer. Naik said the council was already providing comprehensive fire insurance coverage for festivals such as Saptah and now intended to extend a similar arrangement to municipal markets. He said every trader would be encouraged to contribute towards the insurance premium and could even make daily payments, similar to a savings arrangement, ensuring financial security.

House gutted in fire at Canacona, Tawadkar assures new home under Shramdham

■ Elderly woman Laxmi Komarpant loses house and belongings in Thursday morning blaze at Tembewada-Palolem

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: An elderly woman's house at Tembewada-Palolem was completely gutted in a fire on Thursday morning, resulting in extensive damage to the house and household belongings.

The house belonged to Laxmi Komarpant, who was asleep inside when she realised that a fire had broken out. She raised an alarm, following which neighbours rushed to the spot and attempted to douse the flames by pouring water.

However, due to the intensity of the fire, the fire brigade was summoned. After strenuous efforts, firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control, but not before substantial damage was caused.

Household items, including a cupboard, refrigerator and various electrical appliances, were completely destroyed in the fire.

On Friday morning, Canacona MLA and Minister Ramesh Tawadkar visited the site to assess the damage and expressed concern over the incident. He assured Komarpant that a new house would be constructed for her under the government's 'Shramdham' scheme.

Goa Govt Orders High-Level Inquiry Into Vasco Fire, Report Sought Within Seven Days

■ Secretary (Revenue) tasked with fact-finding probe into massive blaze; inquiry to fix accountability, examine firefighting preparedness and identify lapses in emergency response

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has ordered a high-level fact-finding inquiry into the massive fire that broke out in Vasco on October 28, causing extensive loss of property, with the inquiry report to be submitted within seven days. In an order issued on October 30 by the Department of Home (General), the government appointed the Secretary (Revenue) to conduct a detailed investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident and assess the effectiveness of the response by the authorities. The inquiry will scrutinise the preparedness of the concerned authorities to tackle fire emergencies, the availability and adequacy of firefighting equipment and infrastructure, and the effectiveness of emergency response mechanisms. It will also reconstruct the sequence of events, establish the timeline of the incident and examine how long the respective authorities took to respond. Coordination among the various departments and agencies involved in firefighting and emergency operations will also come under the scanner.

Second bail plea rejected in Honda murder case; accused allegedly killed brother with coconut tree trunk

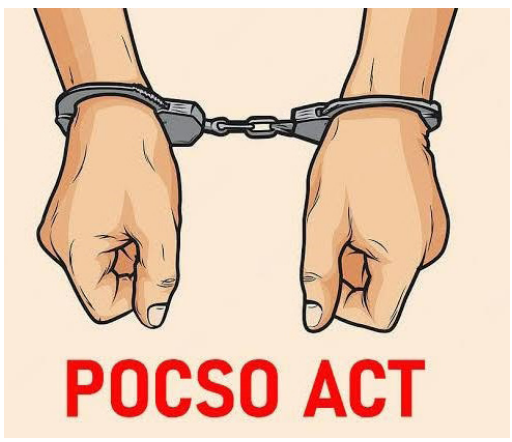
Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: The Mapusa Additional Sessions Court has refused bail to Ganesh Gaonkar for the second time in a murder case involving the death of his younger brother, Dinesh Gaonkar, following an alleged assault at their family residence in April 2026. In rejecting the application, the court took into account the nature of the allegations and the possibility that witnesses could be influenced if the accused were released.

Police inspector booked under POCSO Act for alleged sexual assault on minor in Goa

Old Goa Police register FIR against Crime Branch PI Vikas Deykar and another accused; woman allegedly facilitated the incidents

Team Goemkarponn



OLD GOA: Old Goa Police have registered an FIR against Police Inspector Vikas Deykar, attached to the Crime Branch Police Station, and Ranjini Palyekar in connection with allegations of sexual assault on a minor girl.

According to the complaint, Deykar allegedly sexually assaulted the minor at the Crime Branch premises in Ribandar on two occasions — July 25, 2026, and October 27, 2026. The second accused, Ranjini Palyekar, allegedly facilitated the incidents.

Old Goa Police Station has registered FIR No. 132/2026 under Sections 75, 127, 49 and 61(2)(a), read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, along with Sections 10 and 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Further investigation into the case is underway at Old Goa Police Station.

IRBN constable injured in stone attack while chasing accused in Margao; man arrested

*Police constable sustains head injuries during pursuit near Aquem; apprehends accused with help from members of the public

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: An IRBN constable sustained bleeding head injuries after allegedly being attacked with a stone by a man while attempting to detain him near Aquem in Margao. Despite being injured, the constable continued the pursuit and managed to apprehend the accused with the assistance of members of the public. Margao Town Police have arrested Sameer Khan (28), son of Mehboob Khan and a native of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, in connection with the incident. According to police, the incident took place on October 30 at around 7.45 pm when Police Constable Saiesh Kavlekar, attached to the IRBN and deputed at Margao Town Police Station, was performing picket duty near KRC Station, Aquem. While patrolling in the vicinity of Ganga Wines Store, the constable intercepted Khan, who was allegedly carrying three mobile phones. When questioned about the ownership of the devices, the man reportedly turned aggressive, got into a scuffle with the constable and fled towards Victor Hospital. During the chase, the accused allegedly picked up and hurled a stone at the pursuing constable, striking him on the head and causing bleeding injuries.

Illegal laterite stone extraction detected in Quepem

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: A case has been registered against unknown persons for allegedly carrying out illegal extraction of laterite stones from four different locations at Naquerim village in Quepem taluka.

According to a complaint filed by Shyam Sawant, Geologist with the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Panaji, the illegal activity was detected prior to October 29, 2026, at around 10.50 am.

The complaint states that unknown accused persons allegedly extracted laterite stones from four pits at different locations using a diesel-operated horizontal stone cutter machine fitted with a blade, without obtaining the necessary licence or permit from the competent authority.

The accused persons allegedly transported the extracted laterite stones to an unknown destination, thereby committing theft of State Government resources for personal gain.

Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Sudan Bhosle of Cuncolim Police Station.

Chapora restaurant booked for violating noise pollution norms

GSPCB complaint leads to case over alleged music played beyond permissible hours

Team Goemkarponn

CHAPORA: A case has been registered against the owner/manager of Chapora Lane by Welcome Restaurant at Chapora for allegedly violating noise pollution regulations by playing music beyond the permissible time limit.

According to the complaint filed by Sanjeev Joglekar, Senior Environmental Engineer of the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB),

Saligao, the violation was detected prior to October 19, 2026, at the restaurant located on Chapora Lane near Welcome Restaurant, Chapora, Bardez.

The complaint states that the accused, being the owner/manager of the establishment, allegedly contravened the provisions of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, by playing music beyond the permitted hours.

The complaint was lodged on October 29, 2026, at 7.16 pm.

Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Sahil V. Warang.

Woman alleges holiday company cheated her of Rs 1 lakh in Arpora

Promotional scratch card leads to holiday package presentation; company director's settlement cheque allegedly bounces

Team Goemkarponn

ARPORA: A woman from Ramnagar, Karnataka, has lodged a complaint alleging that she and her husband were cheated of Rs 1,00,230 by representatives of GOII Vacation Private Limited through a holiday package scheme.

According to the complaint, lodged on October 29, 2026, at 8.43 pm, the

incident dates back to September 7, 2026, when an unidentified male marketing representative of the company allegedly approached the complainant through a promotional scratch card activity at TNK, Arpora, Bardez.

The representative allegedly induced the complainant and her husband, Mohammed Nayaz Ulla, to attend a holiday package presentation at Lemon Tree Hotel, Arpora.

During the presentation, accused Badriddin Kamal Khan, a sales representative of GOII Vacation Private Limited, allegedly used high-pressure sales tactics and misleading information to induce the couple to purchase a holiday package.

Following the presentation, the complainant allegedly paid a total of Rs 1,00,230 towards the package. The amount included Rs 67,000 through an ICICI Bank credit card, Rs 28,230 through a YES Bank credit card and Rs 5,000 in cash.

Man booked for unlawful entry into restricted INS Hansa area

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: A man from Jharkhand has been booked for allegedly unlawfully entering and loitering inside the restricted defence area of INS Hansa at Dabolim. According to a complaint lodged by Akshay, Lieutenant Commander, INS Hansa, Dabolim, the incident occurred on October 29, 2026, at around 6 pm at the Centre Gate of INS Hansa. The accused, identified as Akash Tullu Urao, a resident of Hatia, Jharkhand, allegedly entered.

Goa Transport Department issues advisory on e-challan verification and payment

Motorists urged to use authorised government portals for challan verification and payment to avoid fraudulent links

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Transport, Government of Goa, has issued a public advisory urging motorists and the general public to verify their electronic traffic challans (e-challans) and make payments only through authorised government portals and applications.

The Directorate of Transport and Goa Police are issuing electronic challans for traffic violations across the state in accordance with the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, and the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Emphasising the importance of safe and secure transactions, the department has cautioned citizens against accessing fraudulent websites and unverified payment links. Motorists have been advised to check their challan status and complete payments exclusively through official government platforms to avoid falling victim to online fraud.

For e-challan verification and payment, citizens can access the national portal at https://echallan.parivahan.nic.in or https://echallan.parivahan.gov.in. The Goa-specific portal, https://echallan.goatransport.gov.in, is also available for the purpose. Citizens can additionally visit https://gova.goa.gov.in for various state government services. For assistance, motorists can contact the national e-challan helpline at 0120-4925505 or write to the Goa e-challan support email at support@goaechallan.com.

AI-powered robots, trained dogs and 75 lifesavers to ensure athlete safety at IRONMAN 70.3 Goa

Drishti Marine to deploy advanced rescue technology, Paw Squad canines and emergency response teams for the swimming leg at Miramar beach on November 1

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: AI-powered robots, specially trained rescue dogs and a team of 75 lifesavers will be deployed to ensure the safety of triathletes participating in IRONMAN 70.3 India, scheduled to be held at Miramar beach in Goa on November 1.

The three-tier safety arrangement for the opening swimming leg of the endurance event has been put in place by Drishti Marine, the state government-appointed lifesaving agency responsible for preventing drowning incidents and responding to emergencies along Goa's coastline. The event is expected to attract participants from more than 30 countries.

According to Navin Awasthi, Chief Executive Officer of Drishti Marine, the agency will deploy 75 lifesavers along with five jetskis, surfboards, two jeeps and two boats, which will remain on standby to respond to emergencies during the event. Three canines from its specially trained Paw Squad will also be stationed at Miramar beach for the 1.9-km swimming leg. In addition to its regular rescue teams, Drishti Marine will deploy its state-of-the-art artificial intelligence-powered safety systems, AURUS and TRITON, for the event.

Goan cashew nut shell liquid explored for advanced defence applications

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a significant research development highlighting the potential of Goa's natural resources in advanced engineering applications, Gaurish Samant has successfully completed his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Goa University.

Samant pursued his doctoral research under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Rajesh Suresh Prabhu Gaonkar. His thesis, titled "Development, Characterisation and Statistical Analysis of Natural Fiber Reinforced Cashew Nut Shell Liquid Matrix Composite", explores the development and evaluation of sustainable composite materials using locally available Goan cashew nut shell liquid and natural fibres.

The research examines the properties and performance of these composites, with a focus on their potential applications in lightweight ballistic protection systems, an area of growing importance in advanced defence technology.

Temple land regularisation bid at Xeldem sparks questions under Mhaje Ghar scheme

Devasthan committee and Mahajans question alleged illegal sub-leasing of Shree Sateri Devalaya property; seek clarity on how occupants gained possession

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: The proposed regularisation of houses on land belonging to Shree Sateri Devalaya at Xeldem under the Mhaje Ghar scheme has come under scrutiny, with the Devasthan Committee and Mahajans questioning the circumstances under which private individuals allegedly came to occupy the temple property.

A hearing concerning land bearing Survey No. 172/2 was held on Tuesday at the Deputy Collector's office in Quepem. As per the details raised during the proceedings, the temple land had reportedly been leased to certain individuals, who subsequently sub-leased portions of the property to other persons. The alleged sub-lessees have now approached the authorities seeking regularisation of their houses and the land under the Mhaje Ghar scheme.

North Goa administration reviews preparedness for 2027 Assembly elections

Collector Surendra Naik chairs meeting with nodal officers; focus on manpower, expenditure monitoring, law and order and MCC compliance

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The North Goa district administration has stepped up preparations for the 2027 Goa Assembly elections, with Collector and District Election Officer (North Goa) Surendra Naik chairing a review meeting with nodal officers to assess election preparedness across the district. The meeting was attended by Additional Collector-II Akshay Potekar, Deputy Collector Safal Shetye and officials from the North Goa Superintendent of Police's Election Office. The review focused on key operational arrangements required to ensure smooth, transparent and fair conduct of the elections. Discussions were held on assessing polling staff requirements and manpower deployment to ensure seamless voting operations. The meeting also reviewed plans for setting up dedicated Expenditure Monitoring Teams, Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams to ensure strict monitoring during the election process. On the law and order front, officials discussed the review of arms licences, tracking habitual offenders and keeping surveillance on history-sheeters to maintain peace and security.

Two hotels burgled at Chaudi in Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Two hotels, Mangesh Hotel and the adjacent Nilesh Hotel, were burgled at Chaudi, Canacona, early Thursday night after thieves allegedly entered the establishments by breaking through their rooftop shutters.

Nitin Kenkare, owner of Mangesh Hotel, said the thieves stole around Rs 9,200, mostly in coins, which had been kept aside for the hotel's next day's operations.

However, the thieves reportedly failed to find anything of value at the neighbouring Nilesh Hotel.

Once Called ISRO's 'Naughty Boy', GSLV Rocket Successfully Launches NVS-03 Navigation Satellite

Midnight launch strengthens India's NavIC system, advances indigenous navigation technology and supports the goal of 'One Nation, One Time'

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's space programme achieved a significant milestone on Friday night as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the NVS-03 navigation satellite aboard its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV-F18, from Sriharikota at 11:51 pm.

The mission is an important step towards strengthening India's indigenous Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) system, which provides positioning, navigation and timing services for civilian and strategic applications.

ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed that the satellite had been placed precisely into its intended elliptical orbit. The mission also brings India closer to its ambition of achieving "One Nation, One Time" through reliable, indigenous navigation and timing infrastructure.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated ISRO on the achievement, highlighting the satellite's enhanced capabilities and its contribution to self-reliance in critical technologies.

NVS-03 is the third satellite in the second generation of India's Navigation Satellite Series and the twelfth spacecraft associated with the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System. It is designed to strengthen the existing constellation, improve reliability and expand the capabilities of NavIC, India's alternative to the American Global Positioning System (GPS).

NavIC was developed to provide independent navigation services across India and approximately 1,500 kilometres beyond its borders. The system offers standard positioning services for civilian users and restricted services for authorised strategic applications.

However, the programme has faced challenges in recent years, with failures involving atomic clocks affecting the operational capabilities of several satellites. These clocks are essential for precise positioning because even tiny timing errors can affect navigation accuracy.

NVS-03 carries an indigenous atomic clock alongside procured clocks, marking progress towards reducing dependence on foreign technology for critical satellite components. The second generation of navigation satellites is also introducing the L1 frequency, expanding compatibility with devices and applications such as smartphones, transportation and aviation. The mission carries additional strategic importance following concerns over gaps in India's navigation infrastructure. A fully operational NavIC constellation is essential for strengthening national security, military operations and critical services.

With NVS-03 in orbit, the constellation is supported by four navigation satellites, while further launches, including NVS-04 and NVS-05, are expected to help modernise the network and move it towards its planned seven satellite configuration.

The launch also highlights the progress of the GSLV Mk II, once nicknamed ISRO's "naughty boy" because of its history of failures and technical challenges, particularly involving cryogenic propulsion. Continued engineering improvements have enhanced the rocket's reliability and performance.

Standing nearly 50 metres tall and weighing approximately 420 tonnes at liftoff, the launch vehicle successfully delivered another crucial mission. The successful deployment of NVS-03 marks another step in India's efforts to build a dependable, self reliant navigation system and strengthen its strategic capabilities in space.

Rafale Marine Lands on INS Vikrant on First Attempt, Marking Major Boost for Indian Navy

India begins carrier integration trials for Rafale M fighter jets ahead of the planned induction of 26 aircraft from France

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A Rafale Marine fighter aircraft successfully landed on board India's indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant on October 29 on its maiden attempt, marking a significant milestone in efforts to strengthen the Indian Navy's carrier based combat capabilities.

The landing took place during ongoing trials aboard INS Vikrant and marked an important step towards operationalising the naval variant of the Rafale fighter jet for Indian Navy operations.

The trials are aimed at evaluating the aircraft's suitability for carrier operations and completing the modifications required to operate from India's indigenous aircraft carrier. Earlier testing activities involving the Rafale Marine were conducted in Goa.

India has signed an agreement with France to procure 26 Rafale Marine aircraft, with deliveries expected to be completed by the end of 2028 or early 2029. The acquisition is intended to strengthen the Navy's air combat capabilities and improve its ability to operate across maritime theatres.

The agreement, signed on April 28, 2025, is valued at approximately Rs 63,000 crore. It includes 22 single seat fighters and four twin seat aircraft, along with pilot training, flight simulators, weapons, essential equipment and long term maintenance support.

Manufactured by French aerospace company Dassault Aviation, the Rafale Marine is specifically designed to operate from aircraft carriers. The aircraft is already in service with the French Navy. India's acquisition will make the Indian Navy an international operator of the naval variant.

The agreement also includes additional equipment for Rafale aircraft operated by the Indian Air Force. In line with the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, it provides for the transfer of technology to support the integration of indigenous weapons in India.

The Indian Navy currently operates two aircraft carriers, INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya. The Rafale Marine fighters are intended to operate from both vessels, strengthening the Navy's ability to protect its carrier groups and conduct operations over the sea.

The aircraft will undertake a range of missions, including air defence, maritime strikes, reconnaissance and attacks against targets on land.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Panaji, Goa's prime coastal villages command top land rate of Rs 25,000 per sq m

Among the urban centres, Panaji has been placed at Rs 25,000 per sq m. Margao follows at Rs 20,000, while Mapusa has been assigned Rs 18,000 and Vasco Rs 15,000 per sq m. The municipal areas of Pernem and Cuncolim have a benchmark of Rs 8,000 per sq m. Several prominent locations in Bardez feature in the highest valuation bracket. Anjuna, Candolim, Calangute and Assagao have each been assigned Rs 25,000 per sq m. The benchmark stands at Rs 20,000 for Reis Magos and Rs 18,000 for Siolim. Guirim, Penha-de-Franca, Salvador-do-Mundo and Pilerne have been placed at Rs 15,000 per sq m. In Pernem, Morjim, Mandrem, Arambol and Querim carry a minimum rate of Rs 15,000 per sq m. The corresponding figure for Tiracol is Rs 12,000, while Mopa has been placed at Rs 15,000. Dhargal and Tuem have lower benchmarks of Rs 6,000 and Rs 7,000, respectively. Bambolim is among the highest-valued locations in Tiswadi, with a rate of Rs 25,000 per sq m. Durgawado and Bainguinim have been assigned Rs 20,000, while Corlim, Calapur, Chimbel and Ella fall within the Rs 13,000-Rs 15,000 range.

Nitin Nabin Hosts Diplomats from 50 Countries for Diwali Celebrations at BJP Headquarters

■ BJP chief highlights cultural diplomacy and global cooperation as leaders discuss Viksit Bharat 2047 at party meetings

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: BJP National President Nitin Nabin hosted heads of mission from 50 countries and around 90 senior diplomats at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Friday for a Diwali Milan Samaroh aimed at strengthening India's diplomatic and cultural ties with countries across the world.The gathering celebrated

India's cultural heritage and festive traditions while promoting friendship, mutual understanding and international cooperation. Union ministers and senior BJP leaders also attended the event. The celebration reflected the Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which conveys the message that the world is one family. The event was intended to strengthen goodwill and people to people connections between India and the participating countries. The BJP's Foreign Affairs Department highlighted the importance of showcasing India's cultural traditions through such interactions and building stronger relationships with the international community.

Amit Shah Challenges Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav to Parliament Debate on Voter Rolls

■ Home Minister accuses Opposition of avoiding parliamentary discussions as Congress postpones CEC Gyanesh Kumar protest over SIR

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday challenged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav to debate the controversy surrounding electoral rolls in a special session of Parliament. His remarks came ahead of the Congress led INDIA bloc's planned protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists. Addressing the Uttar Pradesh BJP state executive committee meeting in Lucknow, Shah said the BJP was ready to discuss the issue in Parliament and had nothing to hide. He accused the Opposition of disrupting parliamentary proceedings instead of engaging in debate. Shah alleged that Rahul Gandhi preferred protests on the streets over discussions inside Parliament. He also cited the BJP's electoral victories in Haryana, Maharashtra, Bihar, Delhi, Puducherry, Assam and West Bengal, arguing that the Opposition had begun questioning the electoral process after facing defeats. The Congress had initially planned a mock Parliament session before renaming the event a public impeachment of the Election Commissioner.

'No Chief Justice Can Risk Annoying the Bar': CJI Surya Kant on Retired Judges' Appointments

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has recalled how opposition from bar associations prevented the Supreme Court from reviving the practice of appointing retired judges as ad hoc judges in High Courts, highlighting concerns over the loss of valuable judicial experience.

The CJI said the initiative was considered when he served on a bench headed by former Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde. The proposal aimed to bring experienced retired judges back into judicial service to help utilise their expertise.

However, the initiative failed to gain momentum after bar associations began passing resolutions opposing the appointments. The Supreme Court observed that no Chief Justice could risk antagonising the bar, pointing to the influence of such opposition on the implementation of the proposal.

Assam's Vulnerable Areas Safe After Bhutan Glacial Lake Outburst, Officials Say

■ Slight rise in Sankosh River water levels triggers concern along Assam and West Bengal border, but no flooding reported in Assam

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Residents living along the Sankosh River near the Assam and West Bengal border were gripped by fears of flooding on Thursday evening following reports of a glacial lake outburst flood at Bhutan's Shintaphu Lake. However, authorities in Assam have confirmed that vulnerable areas remain safe, with no flooding or waterlogging reported.

The incident triggered concern

in several localities, including Surendrapur, Khokchaguri, Ghaksa, Jaraguri, Borogopa and Bagmara Tapu in Assam. In neighbouring West Bengal, residents living along the river, including those in Kumargram, were evacuated to safer locations as a precautionary measure.

Kokrajhar District Commissioner Pankaj Chakravarty visited areas near the Sankosh River on Friday, accompanied by former MLA Jiron Basumatary, to assess the situation and review the potential impact on nearby settlements.

J&K Police Bust Jail Linked Terror Financing Network, Arrest 10 in Shopian

■ Investigation uncovers alleged LeT and TRF funding channels used to support jailed operatives and smuggle smartphones into prisons

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Police have busted an alleged jail linked terror financing network connected to Lashkar e Taiba (LeT) and its proxy, The Resistance Front (TRF), in Shopian district of South Kashmir, arresting 10 suspected terror associates.

The investigation began with an examination of

suspicious financial activities linked to terror operations. By analysing online transactions across multiple payment platforms, investigators traced money trails running through several layers and uncovered an alleged network involved in collecting and transferring funds to terrorists and their associates lodged in different prisons.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Owais Shafi Naikoo of Saidpora Bala, Shopian; Tajamul Ahmad Shah of Rawalpora, Shopian; Moiz Iqbal and Imdad Yousuf Ganie of Chitragam Kalan; Saqib Zahoor Wani and Liyaqat Nazir Lone of Murran, Pulwama; Aamir Ahmad Ganie of Armolah, Pulwama; Firdous Thokar of Nadigund, Trenz; and Mohd Hanief and Kaju of Check Haria, Kathua.

According to the initial findings, the network allegedly focused on raising money to support active terrorists and high value terror associates lodged in prisons, rather than financing only operatives working on the ground.

Investigators found that the suspects were allegedly collecting money from members of the public under false pretences.

Golden Jackals, Crocs RF and Mayurbhanj Dominate Day 1 of Goa 7s Rugby Season 3

■ Golden Jackals lead Men's Group B, Crocs RF top Group A, while Mayurbhanj make a perfect start in the women's competition

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Golden Jackals, Crocs RF and Mayurbhanj emerged as the leading teams on the opening day of Season 3 of the Goa 7s Rugby Tournament on Friday, delivering impressive performances across the men's and women's group stage matches.

In Men's Group A, Crocs RF finished the day at the top with eight points after registering two wins and a draw. They began their campaign with a 19-19 draw against Mayurbhanj before securing a commanding 28-0 victory over Puffins RC. Crocs RF then defeated Dahod Thunder 19-12 to strengthen their position at the top of the standings. Puffins RC finished second with six points, recording victories over Dahod Thunder 19-14 and Mayurbhanj 7-5. Dahod Thunder ended the day in third place with five points, while Mayurbhanj collected four points.

Harshad Shadish, Lakshya Rajesh Crowned Under 19 Champions at All India Junior Badminton Tournament in Goa

■ Karnataka's Shadish and Rajesh win singles titles as five champions emerge at Navelim's eight day badminton championship

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Karnataka's Harshad Shadish and Lakshya Rajesh claimed the Boys' and Girls' Singles Under 19 titles respectively as the Yonex Sunrise G.H. Raisoni Memorial All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament 2026 concluded at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium in Navelim on Friday. Ninth seed Harshad produced a composed performance to defeat Maharashtra's Rutva Sajwan 15-8, 15-10 in the boys' singles final. In the girls' singles, second seed Lakshya staged an impressive comeback to overcome top seed Nakshatraa Jairaj of Tamil Nadu 10-15, 15-11, 15-9 and secure the championship. The eight day tournament brought together some of the country's leading Under 19 shuttlers across five events, with a total prize purse of ₹8 lakh. In the Boys' Doubles final, Mizoram's Sainunmawia Sailo and Puducherry's Harishragavendiran Vaithianathan fought back after losing the opening game to defeat Telangana's Sai Siddharth Rayaprolu and Andhra Pradesh's Charan Ram Thippana 9-15, 15-13, 15-7. Karnataka's Suhina Roy and Tamil Nadu's Krithya Siva Sankar captured the Girls' Doubles title with a straight game victory.

BCCI Makes Late Squad Change as Auqib Nabi Joins India for First Three New Zealand ODIs

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has made a late change to India's squad for the first three One Day Internationals against New Zealand, bringing fast bowler Auqib Nabi into the team from the beginning of the series. Nabi was initially selected for the fourth and fifth ODIs but has now been included in the squad for the opening three matches as well. The five match series is scheduled to begin on November 4. The Jammu and Kashmir pacer recently impressed during India A's four day match against New Zealand A in Lincoln, picking up six wickets across the two innings. His performance has strengthened his prospects of contributing to the senior team's bowling attack during the upcoming series. Nabi made his ODI debut last month against the West Indies in Guwahati. However, his first appearance in the format proved challenging, as he conceded 84 runs in 8.5 overs.

Three Goa University Weightlifters Qualify for All India Inter University Championship

■ Iram Irshad Khatri, Sakshi Haldankar and Sakshi Gawandi secure top eight finishes at West Zone Championship

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Three athletes from the Goa University women's weightlifting team have qualified for the All India Inter University Weightlifting Women Championship 2026-27 after delivering impressive performances at the AIU West Zone Inter University Championship in Gujarat.

The championship was held at Sankalchand Patel University in Visnagar, Mehsana, on October 27 and 28, with Goa University's athletes competing against participants from universities across the West Zone.

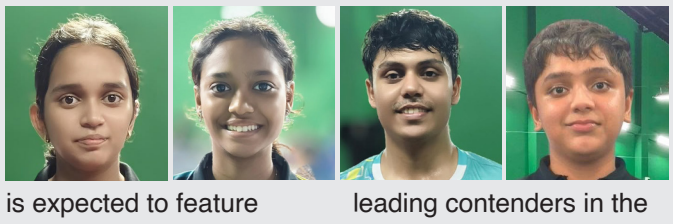
Iram Irshad Khatri led Goa's campaign with a fifth place finish in the 86 kg plus category, recording a total lift of 140 kg. Sakshi Haldankar secured sixth position in the 77 kg category with a total lift of 172 kg, while Sakshi Gawandi finished eighth in the 86 kg category after lifting a combined 102 kg.

Their top eight finishes earned all three athletes qualification for the national level championship, scheduled to be held at KISS University in Odisha from December 4 to 7, 2026.

Chandan Caro, Ishita Colaso, Wesley Do Rosario to Lead Star Field at Goa Table Tennis Tournament

■ Over 200 players to compete at the Aura Panjim Gymkhana All Goa Major Ranking Tournament from November 1 to 4

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Goa's leading table tennis players, including Chandan Caro, Ishita Colaso, Wesley Do Rosario and Urvi Surlakar, will headline the Aura Panjim Gymkhana All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament 2026, scheduled to be held at Panjim Gymkhana, Campal, from November 1 to 4. Powered by Aura Builders and Developers, the four day tournament is expected to feature more than 200 players competing across various age groups and the men's and women's categories. Several prominent paddlers are set to challenge for honours, with Rishan Shaikh, Ruhaan Shaikh, Yug Prabhu, Vedant Wagle and Ashank Dalvi among the leading contenders in the boys' and men's sections. In the girls' and women's categories, Neeza Kamat, Sachi Dessai, Aarna Lotlikar and Tisha Shaikh will be among the players to watch.

The tournament will also provide a platform for Goa's emerging talents to demonstrate their skills and compete against their peers. In the Boys' Under 9 category, Urvansh Pathak, Yajat Keny and Ronan Menezes Gama are among the promising young players expected to make an impression.

Ronisha Sakhardande, Spruha Kamat and Swara Gude will be among the young contenders in the Girls' Under 9 category, highlighting the growing pool of talent in the state.

Deep Kasvankar's fighting 48 and Anuj Yadav's 40 go in vain as Odisha bowlers seal victory in the Under 23 four day contest

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa suffered a 125 run defeat against Odisha in the Colonel C.K. Nayudu Trophy Elite Under 23 four day cricket tournament at the Goa Cricket Association ground in Sanguem on Friday. Chasing a target of 321 runs, Goa were bowled out for 195 in 67.4 overs in their second innings. Resuming the fourth day at 3 for 2, Goa struggled against Odisha's disciplined bowling attack and lost wickets at regular intervals.