Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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Days After Vasco Market Blaze, Massive Fire Guts Scrap Yard At Kundaim

■ Over 10 fire tenders deployed as firefighters battle the blaze for more than six hours; difficult access and burning cable scrap hamper firefighting operations

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KUNDAIM: A major fire broke out at Saba Traders Scrap Yard in Kundaim during the early hours of today, gutting the premises and triggering a massive firefighting operation involving more than 10 fire tenders.

The blaze prompted an extensive response from the Fire and Emergency Services, with fire tenders from headquarters, Margao, Ponda, Old Goa, Mapusa and Bicholim rushed to the spot.

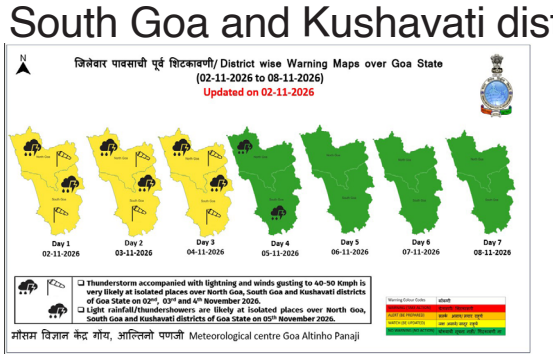
Firefighters battled the flames for over six hours, working to prevent the fire from spreading to nearby industrial units at the Kundaim Industrial Estate.

A single entry point to the scrap yard posed a major challenge for firefighting personnel, restricting access to the affected area. Two JCB machines were deployed to remove the scrap material, which largely comprised cables, to help firefighters reach the source of the fire. Fire personnel said the flames outside the premises had been doused. However, extinguishing the fire within the enclosed area was expected to take more time. The incident comes just days after a major fire at Vasco Sunday Market, raising fresh concerns over fire safety and emergency preparedness.

Thunderstorm warning for Goa till November 4; light rain likely on November 5

■ IMD forecasts lightning, gusty winds of 40–50 kmph at isolated places across North Goa, South Goa and Kushavati districts

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PANAJI: The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Meteorological Centre Goa, has issued a warning for thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds of 40–50 kmph at isolated places across North Goa, South Goa and Kushavati districts from November 2 to 4.

According to the district-wise warning forecast, thunderstorms with lightning and strong winds are very likely at isolated locations on November 2, 3 and 4. Residents have been advised to remain cautious during this period.

The weather department has also forecast light rainfall and thundershowers at isolated places across the three districts on November 5.

The district-wise rainfall forecast indicates a possibility of rainfall over parts of Goa during the

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Mardol Police Arrest Man in ₹3.09 Lakh Cyber Fraud Case

Accused Mohammad Imran Apprehended in Lucknow; Mobile Phone Worth ₹65,000 Purchased Using Cheated Money Recovered



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PONDA: Mardol Police have arrested a man identified as Mohammad Imran in connection with a cyber fraud case involving ₹3,09,020. The accused was apprehended from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, following a detailed investigation and technical surveillance.

The case was registered at Mardol Police Station under Crime No. 39/2026, dated August 10, 2026, under Sections 318(4) and 319(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

According to the complaint, a 45-year-old resident of Kundai, Ponda, was contacted on August 3 by an unidentified person impersonating a bank employee. The caller allegedly informed him that the reward points accumulated on his credit card could be redeemed and transferred to his bank account.

Believing the caller's claims, the complainant accessed a website as instructed and entered his personal details, credit card information and internet banking credentials.

Subsequently, ₹1,29,022 was fraudulently debited from his Axis Bank credit card, while another ₹1,79,998 was debited from his IndusInd Bank credit card without his knowledge or consent,

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Goa CM to Disburse Financial Aid to 106 Vasco Fire Victims on November 2

■ 106 eligible claimants operating 147 shops to receive assistance; 90 general merchandise traders, 15 handcart vendors among beneficiaries

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PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant will disburse financial assistance to 106 eligible shopkeepers, traders and other affected persons who suffered business losses in the major fire at the New Municipal Market in Vasco. The disbursement will take place on Monday, November 2, at 6 pm at the Conference Hall of the Mormugao Municipal Council in Vasco.



According to a press note issued by the Government of Goa, the assistance is aimed at providing immediate relief to traders who suffered losses in the fire and helping them resume their business activities.

CM Sawant Bats For Stronger NGO Support, Floats Annual Awards To Recognise 1,500+ Social Workers

■ Government to consider revising grant-in-aid schemes and improving honorariums for social welfare workers; CM calls for greater NGO participation in building Viksit Goa 2037

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PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has called for stronger government support to voluntary organisations and social workers, announcing that the government will consider revising existing grant-in-aid schemes and improving honorariums for workers engaged in community welfare activities. Addressing the Gomantak Seva Gaurav Puraskar ceremony, Sawant highlighted the contribution of more than 1,500 social workers and volunteers across Goa, who are working in areas ranging from childcare and elderly care to disability support, HIV awareness, animal welfare and environmental protection.

Recognising that several essential social services are delivered through NGOs, the Chief Minister said the government's role should be to provide financial and logistical support to organisations that undertake work requiring long-term commitment and

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

When Tourists Cross the Line, Goa Must Not Remain Silent

Goa has always welcomed tourists with open arms. Its beaches, hospitality, culture and relaxed way of life have made it one of India's most preferred holiday destinations. But hospitality should never be mistaken for helplessness, and the freedom enjoyed by visitors should never be treated as a licence to disrespect the state, its people or its institutions.

The recent controversy involving tourist Vani Makhija raises an important question: how far can a visitor go in publicly attacking Goa after allegedly being caught drunk driving and misbehaving?

Instead of addressing the circumstances that brought her into the spotlight, the tourist has taken to social media, questioning Goa Police, criticising Goan media and making statements that portray the state in a negative light. Her videos have triggered debate, but they also raise concerns about the growing tendency among some visitors to turn their personal encounters with law enforcement into public campaigns against the state.

Let us be clear. Every individual, including a tourist, has the right to question the police. If there has been misconduct, excessive use of authority or any violation of legal procedure, the person concerned has every right to seek justice. Goa Police must remain accountable, and no one should be above scrutiny.

But accountability cannot be a one-way street.

If a tourist is found allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol or behaving inappropriately, the law must take its course. The person cannot simply turn the episode into a social media controversy, question the integrity of the police and accuse the local media of wrongdoing without substantiating those allegations.

The role of the media in this episode also deserves attention. Goan journalists have a responsibility to report incidents that concern public safety, particularly drunk driving. When the media reports an incident involving tourists, it is not defaming Goa's visitors. It is performing its duty to inform the public.

> ***Defaming Goa, its police and its media after being caught allegedly violating the law is not a question of freedom of expression. It is an attempt to shift the focus from accountability.***

Criticising a report is legitimate. Questioning facts is legitimate. But branding an entire media fraternity as biased or irresponsible simply because it reports an incident is neither fair nor constructive.

What is equally disappointing is the apparent silence of the authorities. Where are Goa Police and the Tourism Department? Have they examined the allegations being circulated on social media? Have they verified the facts surrounding the original incident? Have they issued any clarification to prevent misinformation from spreading?

The Tourism Department cannot remain active only when it comes to promoting Goa as a destination. Protecting the state's reputation also requires responding to controversies that affect its image. Similarly, Goa Police must communicate clearly whenever its conduct is questioned.

If the tourist has made false or defamatory allegations, the authorities should examine them and respond through appropriate legal channels. If there is evidence of misconduct by any police personnel, that too must be investigated. The answer cannot be selective outrage or silence.

At the same time, authorities must understand that they cannot demand the removal of social media videos merely because they are critical or embarrassing. Any request for removal must be based on established legal grounds and follow due process. Freedom of expression must be protected, but so must the rights of individuals and institutions against demonstrably false allegations.

Goa's tourism economy depends heavily on its reputation. But that reputation cannot be protected by hiding uncomfortable incidents or silencing criticism. It must be protected through fairness, law enforcement and responsible conduct.

There is also a larger issue here. Tourism is an economic activity, not a surrender of local dignity. Visitors are welcome, but they must respect the laws, culture and people of the place they visit. Goans cannot be expected to tolerate unlawful behaviour simply because someone is a tourist or has a large social media following.

The message must be consistent: Goa welcomes everyone, but nobody gets special treatment.

The government must establish the facts, Goa Police must respond to legitimate questions, and the Tourism Department must demonstrate that protecting Goa's image is more than a promotional exercise.

Goa is not anyone's punching bag. It is a home to its people, a destination for millions and a state governed by the rule of law.

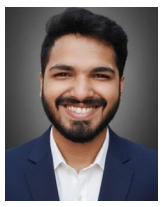
Come to Goa, enjoy its hospitality and experience its beauty. But do not mistake our hospitality for weakness. Respect Goa, its people, its police and its media.

OPED

When the Market Burns, Who Pays?

Vasco's fire was an inferno. The lessons for Goa are awareness, insurance and space.

By Vaman S. Sankhalker



On Wednesday night, the Vasco Sunday Market became an inferno. Hundreds of small shops selling clothes, bags, utensils and shoes, packed shoulder to shoulder, burned while their owners watched stock worth crores vanish. It happened just as Diwali approaches, when shelves are fullest and a year's hopes are stacked inside them. Our sympathies are fully with every trader who lost his livelihood. The cause is yet to be ascertained, and the Hon. Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has promised to see how best to compensate them, which is welcome.

But sympathy is not a plan. Two questions deserve an answer. If this were my shop, what would I get back? And why are hundreds of shops allowed to stand so tightly clustered that one spark can finish them all?

We love to call Goa Lord Parshuram's Bhumi, a land largely spared the floods, earthquakes and cyclones that batter other states. There is truth in that. But fire does not read scriptures. Barely an hour before the market blaze, a car accessories shop near Tilak Maidan was gutted, with a short circuit suspected.

The deeper problem is awareness. Ask a dozen shopkeepers in any Goan market, and most will say they have no cover, or that they bought a policy once and never read it. Many do not know that shop insurance can protect against fire, burglary, theft of stock and cash, broken glass and signage, and even loss of income after a shutdown. Nobody told them, and few asked.

Let me tell you about a factory fire in 2008 at Tuticorin, TN. The loss was ₹18.5 crore, and the insurer paid about three-fourths. The gap had nothing to do with the fire. The owner had insured his machinery at the 'depreciated value' in his books, not at replacement cost. A machine bought for ₹10 lakh, booked at ₹7 lakh and costing ₹12 lakh to replace, fetched just ₹7 lakh. Multiply that across a shop floor. A small extra premium would have covered it, but he learned this only while preparing the claim.

The moral: insurance is risk transfer, not tax reduction and not a formality. A policy that cannot rebuild what you lost is a comforting piece of paper.

So what does it take to insure a shop? Less than you fear. Typically you need:

- A filled proposal form and KYC
- Trade licence and GST registration
- Premises details: construction, area, use
- Stock statement or purchase invoices, plus a list of fittings and equipment
- Previous policy or claims history, if any

The premium depends on construction, the goods stored, location and the sum insured. For most shops it is a small fraction of a percent of the value covered, often less than the festival decorations. Get more than one quote, and ask which risks each policy includes, since packages differ.

Check three things before you sign:

- Value: insure stock at current replacement cost. Under-insurance can mean the insurer pays only a proportion, even on a partial loss.
- Income: a loss-of-profit add-on matters, because rent and salaries do not stop while the shutters are down.
- Fine print: read the exclusions before the fire, not after.

Stallholders in municipal markets: the building may not be yours to insure, but your stock, fittings and income are. Cover them.

Insurance repays a loss. Prevention avoids it. Goa needs to declutter its crowded markets, with gaps between rows, lanes wide enough for fire tenders, safe wiring, alarms, working extinguishers and trained staff. In a cluster, one careless shop endangers hundreds.

Forums like GCCI, Vibrant Goa and other trade chambers could make this a regular agenda item. We celebrate success stories there. We should also study disasters, so we do not repeat them.

Every shop here was built from scratch, with determination and hard work. That journey should not end in a single night. The golden rule: when in doubt, over-insure rather than under-insure.

(The writer is a young faculty at a Technical School in Goa)

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Calangute police crack villa robbery case; three alleged Pardi Gang members arrested in Madhya Pradesh

Interstate operation leads to arrest of three accused in connection with armed robbery at Calangute villa; police suspect involvement in organised property offences across states

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PORVORIM: Calangute Police have cracked a house robbery case involving an armed gang that allegedly broke into a villa at Calangute in the early hours of October 9, 2026, and arrested three accused belonging to the suspected interstate criminal group known as the 'Pardi Gang' in Madhya Pradesh. The case was registered under Cr. No. 140/2026 under Sections 309(4) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. According to police, the robbery took place at around 3.40 am at Villa No. 37, Orchard Villas, Porbowado, Calangute, Bardez. A group of four unidentified persons, with their faces covered, allegedly entered the villa through a kitchen window. Armed with a screwdriver, knife and slingshots, the intruders allegedly threatened and assaulted the occupants before decamping with cash. Following registration of the case, Calangute Police launched an intensive investigation. Police conducted a scene-of-offence panchanama, examined CCTV footage from the villa and surrounding establishments.

Health Dept Orders Joint Inspection of Comba Sewage Menace Following Prabhav Naik's Complaint

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MARGAO: Acting on a memorandum submitted by Madganvcho Awaaz and Youth Leader Prabhav Naik to Health and Urban Development Minister Vishwajit Rane, the Directorate of Health Services has scheduled a joint site inspection of sewage-affected wells, rainwater drains and sewage discharge in Comba, Margao, on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 11.00 a.m.

Prabhav Naik had submitted a memorandum highlighting the longstanding sewage menace in Comba. During the Government's Sarkar Tumchya Dari initiative at Margao on October 17, 2026, Naik personally briefed Minister Rane about the gravity of the situation and requested a site inspection. Responding promptly, the Minister immediately directed the concerned authorities to initiate action.

Pursuant to these directions, the Urban Health Centre, Margao, issued an official communication dated October 30, 2026, to the Chief Officer of Margao Municipal Council, General Manager of Sewerage & Infrastructural Development Corporation of Goa Ltd. and Prabhav Naik. The concerned authorities have been requested to attend the inspection, provide technical expertise and submit written comments for preparing a report to the Health Minister.

Prabhav Naik had raised serious concerns over repeated sewage leakages, suspected contamination of traditional wells and sewage flowing through rainwater drains into a nallah connected to River Sal. He emphasised that the wells, also used for religious purposes including Ganesh Visarjan, must be protected and demanded permanent corrective measures to safeguard public health and the environment.

Reacting to the development, Youth Leader Prabhav Naik stated, "I thank



Five persons booked for trespassing and threatening family over property dispute in Ucassaim

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UCASSAIM: Five persons have been accused of criminal trespass, wrongful restraint and criminal intimidation following a complaint lodged by Shekhar Shashikant Shetgaonkar, a resident of Punola, Ucassaim, Bardez, Goa. According to the complaint, the incident occurred on October 29, 2026, at TNK, Punola, Ucassaim, Bardez, where the accused persons allegedly trespassed into the residential premises of the complainant. The accused have been identified as Vishnu Shetgaonkar, Pratiba Vishnu Shetgaonkar, Vedhant Vishnu Shetgaonkar, Sarita Govekar and Anil Govekar, who are stated to be family members and relatives of the complainant. The complainant alleged that due to an ongoing property dispute and personal issues, the accused, acting with common intention, unlawfully entered his residence, wrongfully restrained him and his family members, preventing them from moving freely.

Motorcycle rider suffers fracture in collision with SUV at Comba

Rash driving allegedly leads to collision near Shivneri Building; rider sustains fracture injury to left leg

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MARGAO: A motorcycle rider sustained a fracture injury to his left leg after an SUV allegedly rammed into his two-wheeler at Comba, Margao, on October 27, 2026, at around 6.15 pm. According to the complaint lodged by ASI Santosh Gaonkar of Margao Town Police Station, the accused, identified as Aakash Raney, a resident of Baina, Vasco, was driving a four-wheeler in a rash and negligent manner, endangering human life. The incident occurred near Shivneri Building, Comba, when the accused allegedly took a right turn towards Khareband and dashed against an oncoming Java motorcycle. As a result of the collision, the motorcycle rider, identified as Bridion Fernandes, a resident of Nagmoddem, Navelim, sustained a fracture injury to his left leg. Further investigation is being conducted by ASI Santosh Gaonkar of Margao Town Police Station.

75-year-old woman allegedly assaulted by son and daughter-in-law in Salvador-de-Mundo

Complainant sustains injuries after being allegedly abused and assaulted with a spade handle; Porvorim police investigating

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PORVORIM: A 75-year-old woman was allegedly abused and assaulted by her son and daughter-in-law at Paithan, Salvador-de-Mundo, Bardez, on October 30, 2026, at around 10.30 pm.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred while the elderly woman was speaking to her elder daughter over the phone. At the time, the accused, identified as Bablo Gadkar and his wife Kritika alias Ranjeeta, allegedly abused her using filthy language and assaulted her with slaps, fist blows and kicks.

Further, accused Bablo Gadkar allegedly assaulted the complainant with the handle of a spade (danda), hitting her on the left hand and causing injuries.

The complainant, a resident of House No. 25, Paithan, Salvador-de-Mundo, is the mother of accused Bablo Gadkar and mother-in-law of accused Kritika.

Based on her written complaint, Porvorim Police registered an offence on October 31, 2026, at 5.03 pm.

Further investigation is in progress under the supervision of ASI Sandeep Ghodge of Porvorim Police Station.

Ponda police probe suspected abduction of youth from Usgao

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PONDA: Ponda Police have registered a case following a complaint by Jaganath, a resident of Tisca, Usgao, after his son went missing from home and failed to return. According to the complaint, the complainant's son left his residence on October 20, 2026, and has remained untraceable since then. The father has expressed suspicion that his son may have been abducted. In connection with the case, Ponda Police have registered Cr. No. 104/2026.

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PANAJI | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026

RGP discusses alliance talks, Section 39A and roadmap for 2027 Assembly election

Party reviews organisational structure, grassroots expansion and key issues concerning Goa at meeting in Porvorim

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PORVORIM: The Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) held an organisational meeting at Alto Porvorim Sports & Cultural Club on Sunday to review the party's organisational strength and prepare for the 2027 Goa Assembly elections. One of the key issues discussed during the meeting was the possibility of entering into an alliance. The party deliberated that any alliance decision should be guided by the interests of Goa and Goans, RGP's core values, political clarity and organisational strength. The party leadership will continue consultations before arriving at a final decision. Members also held a detailed discussion on Section 39A of the Goa Town & Country Planning Act. They were briefed on its provisions and implications, along with the need to increase public awareness and vigilance regarding land-use changes. The party reiterated its commitment to protecting Goa's land, environment and natural resources.

The meeting also reviewed the party's organisational structure, with emphasis on strengthening its grassroots network, expanding membership, improving constituency-level organisation and strengthening various organisational wings.



Sangini to launch in Curchorem as platform for women's empowerment

Initiative by Arti Patkar, supported by Amit Patkar, to focus on women's dignity, healthcare, financial independence and collective participation

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CURCHOREM: Sangini, a new initiative aimed at promoting women's empowerment, dignity, wellbeing and financial independence, will be launched on November 3, 2026, at 4 pm at Ravindra Bhavan, Curchorem. The initiative, spearheaded by Smt. Arti Patkar and supported by Shri Amit Patkar, seeks to provide women with a common platform to raise their concerns, access support and participate in programmes aimed at improving their lives. Announcing the initiative, Arti Patkar said Sangini would provide a more organised platform for her ongoing work in social welfare and women's welfare, with an emphasis on sustained engagement and greater participation by women in shaping activities according to their needs. Guided by the message "Bayle Khatir, Bayle Vangda" and the commitment "Where every woman is heard, supported and empowered", the platform aims to create an inclusive space where women can openly discuss their concerns, seek guidance and explore opportunities. Patkar said the initiative would focus on women's physical and mental wellbeing through health awareness programmes, medical camps and guidance from qualified professionals.



Passport Seva Kendra Panaji to shift to new premises at Pilerne from November 2

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PANAJI: The Passport Seva Kendra (PSK), presently located at Passport Bhavan, 13-A, EDC Complex, Patto Plaza, Panaji, will be shifted to new premises at Royal City of Joy, near Audit Bhawan, Pilerne, Bardez, with effect from Monday, November 2, 2026. According to the Department of Information and Publicity, the relocation of the existing co-located Passport Seva Kendra to dedicated premises is aimed at improving infrastructure and enhancing the quality of passport services provided to the public. All applicants who have scheduled appointments at the existing PSK Panaji on or after November 2 have been requested to visit the new PSK Goa at Royal City of Joy, near Audit Bhawan, Pilerne, Bardez, on their respective appointment dates and at the timings mentioned in their application receipts. However, the Regional Passport Office (RPO), Goa, will continue to function from its existing premises at Passport Bhavan, Patto Plaza, Panaji.

GFP's Adv. Ashma slams BJP over sexual assault allegations against Crime Branch PI, demands dismissal

Questions alleged political protection for accused officer; calls for termination from service and strict legal action

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FATORDA: Goa Forward Party (GFP) spokesperson Adv. Ashma has criticised the BJP government over the sexual assault allegations against a Crime Branch Police Inspector, questioning the government's response and demanding decisive action against the accused officer.

"Why is the BJP government shielding the PI? Is it because he was associated with the BJP cadre in Quepem? Does



political affiliation give an individual immunity from accountability, even in a case as serious as sexual assault?" questioned Adv. Ashma.

She alleged that the BJP's 'Beti Bachao' slogan was not being reflected in its actions, stating that the government's apparent reluctance to act decisively in such a serious matter raises questions about its commitment to women's safety and accountability.

Adv. Ashma demanded the immediate termination of the Police Inspector from service and called for strict legal action following a fair and impartial investigation.

620 NCC cadets participate in 5-km Unity Run in Pernem

1 Goa Naval NCC Unit celebrates Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with a run and national unity pledge

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PERNEM: Around 620 NCC cadets from various educational institutions across Goa participated in a 5-km Unity Run organised by 1 Goa Naval NCC Unit to mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) on October 31, 2026.

The programme was held with patriotic fervour at Sawalwada Multipurpose Indoor Stadium, Pernem, with the objective of spreading the message



of unity, solidarity and national integration among young citizens.

The celebrations commenced with the 5-km run, in which cadets participated enthusiastically. The run was followed by the administration of the National Unity Pledge, reaffirming the cadets' commitment to preserving the unity, integrity and security of the nation. The occasion also provided an opportunity to remember the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose birth anniversary is observed as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. Through such initiatives, 1 Goa Naval NCC Unit continues to inspire young citizens to uphold the NCC motto of "Unity and Discipline" and contribute towards building a strong, united and progressive India.

Archaeological Findings Put Old Goa Heritage Centre Project On Hold: Shekhawat

Union Minister Says Government Must Examine Unearthed Historical Remains Before Resuming Work; Goa May Feature In Centre's Plan For 50 Major Tourism Destinations

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PANAJI: The future of the proposed Heritage Interpretation Centre at Old Goa remains uncertain after excavation work at the site uncovered archaeological material, prompting authorities to suspend the project. Union Tourism and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the discoveries require detailed examination and that construction should not move ahead until their historical importance is properly established.

He indicated that shifting the proposed facility could be considered, but any such decision would rest with the Goa government after studying the archaeological findings and assessing their implications.The project has been a subject of concern among sections of the local community and political representatives, who have questioned its compatibility with Old Goa's historic landscape and skyline. On the broader tourism front, Shekhawat outlined the Centre's proposal to create 50 major tourist destinations across India with international-standard facilities. He said Goa could be considered for these developments depending on the proposals put forward by the State government.



Agonda Sarpanch Nilesh Pagi resigns, Ramnath Velip to take over

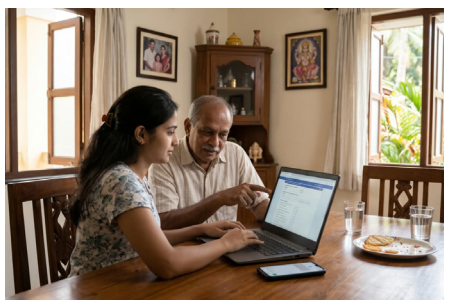
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CANACONA: Agonda Sarpanch Nilesh G Pagi has resigned from his post, citing personal reasons, and assured the Director of Panchayat (DoP) of his cooperation in ensuring a smooth transition of responsibilities to his successor, Ramnath Velip. Pagi's resignation letter, received by the DoP on October 30, 2026, stated that he was stepping down as Sarpanch of Village Panchayat Agonda on personal grounds, in accordance with Section 50(1) of the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994. Pagi, who assumed office on February 5, 2025, after unseating the then incumbent Preetal Fernandes, said, "Serving our beautiful village as Sarpanch is a great honour. I have stepped down from my position as Sarpanch as per my commitments, and the next Sarpanch will be Ramnath Velip." "I sincerely thank everyone who supported me, stood by me and trusted me throughout this journey.

Census 2027: Goa Opens Online Self-Registration From November 16 For Households

Residents Can Fill Census Forms From Home Until November 30; Door-To-Door Verification To Begin On December 1 Across The State

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PANAJI: Goa residents will get an opportunity to provide their household information digitally before the commencement of Census 2027, with the online self-enumeration facility scheduled to operate from November 16 to November 30.

The Directorate of Census Operations, Goa, has introduced the facility to allow households to complete the census questionnaire independently through the official portal, se.census.gov.in, before census officials begin physical visits.

The online exercise requires residents to select Goa, choose their preferred language and authenticate their mobile number through an OTP. They will then have to confirm their residential location and fill in the details requested in the questionnaire. After completing the submission, residents will receive an 11-digit Self-Enumeration Identification (SE ID). This reference number must be preserved and handed over to the enumerator during the subsequent household verification.



South Goa Advocates Demand Time-Bound Action On Land Survey Applications

Association proposes 14-day notice deadline, special clearance drives and digital tracking to address delays in partition, amalgamation and demarcation proceedings

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MARGAO: The South Goa Advocates Association has flagged prolonged delays in land-related proceedings and called for changes in the way survey applications are handled across government offices in the district.

In a memorandum submitted to the Directorate of Settlement and Land Records, the Association has proposed a series of measures aimed at reducing pendency and making the process less cumbersome for citizens and legal practitioners. One of its key demands is that respondents must receive notices within 14 days of an application being submitted for partition, amalgamation or demarcation. Association president Antonio Clovis Da Costa said the absence of timely action at the initial stage often holds up cases before they can proceed to hearings.

The Association has also recommended a uniform set of procedures for survey-related applications, along with special camps to take up accumulated cases and bring down the backlog.

Another proposal is to introduce an online facility through which applicants and advocates can follow the status of their cases.

RGP Women Leaders Condemn Alleged Derogatory Remarks Against State President Shavina Naik Shirodkar

Party demands public and unconditional apology from expelled member Ajay Kholkar within 12 hours

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PANAJI: The Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), led by Zilla Panchayat representative Trupti Bakal along with other women revolutionaries and party members, has strongly condemned the alleged derogatory and disrespectful remarks made by former party treasurer and expelled member Ajay Kholkar against RGP State President Shavina Naik Shirodkar.

The party stated that it has always stood for the dignity, equality and respect of women and would not entertain or provide any space for such behaviour or mentality within its organisation. It described personal attacks and derogatory remarks against women as unacceptable and contrary to the values and principles upheld by the party.

Calling upon its supporters and well-wishers to collectively reject such behaviour, RGP urged people to stand firmly for the dignity and respect of women in public and political life.

The party has demanded a public and unconditional apology from Ajay Kholkar within 12 hours for his alleged remarks.

RGP also clarified that Kholkar, having been expelled from the party, is not authorised to represent the Revolutionary Goans Party or speak on its behalf in any capacity. It further stated that any attempt to associate himself with the party or misuse its name and identity while making derogatory remarks against women is unacceptable.

Sacred Gautam Buddha Relics Return to Arunachal Pradesh After 13 Years

Tawang Monastery hosts the historic exposition, with the sacred relics set to travel to West Kameng and Namsai for devotees across the state.

Team Goemkarponn



ITANAGAR: Devotees in Arunachal Pradesh are getting a rare opportunity to pay their respects to the sacred relics of Lord Gautam Buddha, which have been displayed in the state for the first time in 13 years.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the special exposition at the historic Tawang Monastery on Saturday, marking the beginning of a programme that will take the revered relics to three districts, allowing devotees from different parts of the state to offer prayers.

The relics will remain at Tawang Monastery until November 7 before being shifted to West Kameng district, where they will be displayed from November 8 to 14. The final phase of the exposition will take place in Namsai from November 14 to 21.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Khandu acknowledged the support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Ministry of Culture in bringing the sacred relics to Arunachal Pradesh.

He highlighted the continued relevance of Lord Buddha's teachings of compassion, peace and coexistence, particularly at a time when conflicts and uncertainty are affecting several parts of the world. He also expressed gratitude to the 14th Dalai Lama for his blessings and greetings on the occasion. The Chief Minister read out a message from Prime Minister Modi highlighting India's efforts to preserve and promote its Buddhist heritage. These initiatives include the development of important pilgrimage destinations such as Bodh Gaya, Sarnath and Kushinagar, international Buddhist conferences and the return of the Piprahwa relics after more than a century. The occasion also witnessed the announcement of the Arunachal Buddhist Confederation, a new organisation aimed at bringing together the state's Mahayana and Theravada Buddhist communities under a common platform. Venerable Agadhamma, Chief Monk of Namsai Pariyatti Sasana Buddhist Vihara, has been appointed as its first president, while Thupten Kalden, Director of the Department of Karmik and Adhyatmik Affairs, will serve as Secretary General.

The Confederation is expected to seek affiliation with the International Buddhist Confederation to strengthen coordination among Buddhist institutions. Khandu also highlighted the Centre's proposed initiative to develop Buddhist heritage sites across the Northeast, noting its potential to preserve religious and historical landmarks while promoting spiritual tourism.

"280 Kmph, 557 Passengers": India's First Indigenous Bullet Train Promises Speed, Comfort and Advanced Technology

Manufactured at BEML's Bengaluru facility, the eight-coach high-speed train will feature modern passenger amenities, accessibility features and energy-efficient technology for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India is preparing to introduce its first indigenously designed high-speed bullet train, marking a major milestone in the country's railway manufacturing capabilities. The eight-coach train is being manufactured at the Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) facility in Bengaluru for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail corridor. Designed by Indian engineers to suit the country's climatic and operational conditions, the train will have a maximum test speed of 280 kmph and an operational speed of 249 kmph. The 202-metre-long train will accommodate 557 passengers and comprise four motor cars and four trailer cars. Its configuration will include seven standard-class coaches with 3x2 seating and one executive-class coach with 2x2 seating. Two dedicated seats will be available for persons with reduced mobility. The train will feature driver's cabins at both ends, equipped with an intelligent onboard control system to support communication and coordination with the operation control centre. Two eight-coach trains can also be coupled to operate as a 16-coach formation when required.

Passenger Comfort and Modern Facilities

The interiors have been designed to provide greater comfort, with spacious seating, generous legroom and wide windows offering scenic views. A sealed gangway connecting the coaches will allow passengers to move between compartments conveniently. Other facilities will include LED lighting, overhead luggage racks, dedicated storage for oversized baggage and individual power outlets for charging electronic devices. Modern bio-digester toilets will also be installed to minimise environmental impact. A dual-unit heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system in every coach will maintain comfortable temperature and humidity throughout the journey. Advanced Information and Accessibility Features Passengers will have access to LCD information displays providing updates in English, Hindi and regional languages. Automatic announcements, public address systems and Wi-Fi-based infotainment facilities will further improve the travel experience. Emergency communication units will be installed inside passenger compartments and vestibules to allow travellers to contact train crew members when required.



...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Mardol Police Arrest Man in ₹3.09 Lakh Cyber Fraud Case

resulting in a total financial loss of ₹3,09,020.

During the investigation, Mardol Police conducted a detailed inquiry and gathered technical evidence to trace the accused. Based on technical surveillance and investigation, Mohammad Imran was identified and apprehended from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

The accused has been remanded to five days of police custody. Police also recovered a mobile phone worth approximately ₹65,000, allegedly purchased by the accused using the cheated amount.

The police team involved in the operation was headed by PSI Anish Naik, along with Police Constables Yatin Gaonkar and Navin Gaude. The operation was conducted under the supervision of PI Yogesh Sawant, Mardol Police Station, and SDPO Ponda, under the overall supervision and guidance of the Superintendent of Police, South Goa.

CM Sawant Bats For Stronger NGO Support, Floats Annual Awards To Recognise 1,500+ Social Workers

personal dedication.

He cited the example of a palliative care facility in Ponda, for which the government sanctioned an annual grant of approximately ₹2 crore to support medical staff and operational expenses.

Sawant also said grant-in-aid schemes formulated nearly a decade ago need revision to reflect present economic requirements. Improvements in honorariums and allowances for library staff and Umeed training centre facilitators are also under government consideration.

Calling for the Gomantak Seva Gaurav Puraskar to become an annual event, Sawant urged NGOs to adopt digital technology, maintain transparent records and expand their activities into waste management, environmental protection and youth career counselling.

He said voluntary organisations would play an important role in achieving the vision of Viksit Goa 2037 and Viksit Bharat 2047.

Thunderstorm warning for Goa till November 4; light rain likely on November 5

initial days of the forecast period, with dry weather conditions expected from November 6 to 8.

The seven-day forecast, issued on November 2, covers the period from November 2 to November 8, 2026.

The IMD has advised people to follow weather updates and take necessary precautions during thunderstorms, particularly in areas exposed to lightning and strong winds.

Over 100 Students Detained in Delhi During Protest Against SIR Exercise

■ DISHA activists were marching towards Connaught Place demanding the cancellation of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls when police stopped them on Minto Road.

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: More than 100 students were detained by Delhi Police on Sunday while protesting against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the national capital.

The protest was organised by student organisation DISHA, which demanded the cancellation of the SIR exercise.

The students began marching from Minto Road towards Connaught Place as part of their demonstration. However, police personnel intercepted the protesters and prevented them from proceeding further.

Following the intervention, at least 100 students were detained by the police.

The demonstration came amid growing opposition protests against the electoral roll revision exercise, with several political and student organisations raising concerns over the process and demanding its withdrawal.



"Stay PM in Your Mock Parliament": Amit Shah Takes Dig at Rahul Gandhi Over Prime Ministerial Ambitions

■ The Home Minister targets the Congress leader's mock Parliament exercise, predicts further electoral setbacks for Congress and sharpens the BJP's campaign ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections.

Team Goemkarponn

CHANDIGARH: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday launched a sharp attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, questioning his political ambitions and leadership while asserting that the Congress would continue to face electoral setbacks.

Addressing a gathering in Chandigarh, Shah took aim at Gandhi's popular slogan, 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan', alleging that the Congress leader was spreading hatred rather than promoting love.

"Rahul ji, you will find nothing but hatred in your shop of love," Shah remarked.

The Home Minister also criticised Gandhi's mock Parliament exercise, suggesting that it was part of a political strategy to fulfil his ambition of becoming Prime Minister.

"Rahul Gandhi wants to become Prime Minister, and that is why he has found a new way by organising a mock Parliament. Rahul ji, you can continue to remain Prime Minister in your mock Parliament. Your dream of becoming the Prime Minister of the country, however, will not be fulfilled," Shah said.



"Gyanesh Kumar Will Go to Jail": Rahul Gandhi Alleges Vote Theft in 2024 Elections at INDIA Bloc Rally

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday intensified his attack on the Election Commission, alleging large-scale irregularities in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and declaring that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar would eventually be removed from office and face jail.

Addressing the INDIA bloc rally at Ramlila Maidan in Delhi, Gandhi accused the ruling BJP of manipulating electronic voting machines (EVMs) and voter lists to influence election results.

"This theft of votes is no ordinary theft. This is the theft of every voice of India. This is called treason," Gandhi said.

He alleged that voter list manipulation and the removal of names after the 2024 elections had affected the electoral outcome.

"Who Will Compensate Traders?" INDIA Bloc Rally Triggers Rs 11,000 Crore Business Loss Claim in Delhi

■ CTI alleges that market closures, transport disruptions and cancelled hotel bookings during the November 1 rally severely affected businesses across the national capital

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Delhi's business community has claimed losses worth approximately Rs 11,000 crore following the INDIA bloc rally at Ramlila Maidan on November 1, alleging that the political gathering disrupted commercial activities during the crucial festive shopping season. The Chamber of Trade and



Industry (CTI) estimated that retail and wholesale businesses suffered losses of around Rs 8,800 crore, with commercial activity coming to a standstill across several major markets in the national capital. According to the trade body, nearly 2.5 lakh of approximately three lakh shops in markets within a five kilometre radius of Ramlila Maidan remained closed. Areas affected included Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazar, Kashmiri Gate, Connaught Place, Karol Bagh, Paharganj, Chawri Bazar, Daryaganj and other prominent commercial hubs.

Five Killed in Manipur Violence: Two Bodies Recovered in Kangpokpi, Three Shot Dead in Noney

■ Recovery of two missing Kuki youths triggers protests, clashes and a district-wide shutdown, while three others are killed in a separate gunfire incident.

Team Goemkarponn

GUWAHATI: Five people were killed in two separate incidents of violence in Manipur, triggering fresh tensions in Kangpokpi and Noney districts. The recovery of two missing Kuki youths in Kangpokpi on Sunday sparked protests and clashes, while three Kuki men were killed in a reported exchange of gunfire in Noney district a day earlier.



The two victims recovered in Kangpokpi were identified as Paoginlal Hangsing and Tinginlun Chongloi, both aged 20. They had gone missing from Taphou Kuki village on October 28, prompting the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) to announce a shutdown across the district.

Their bodies were recovered during a joint search operation involving Manipur Police, CoBRA, CRPF, Assam Rifles and the Rapid Action Force. The operation was conducted in areas east of National Highway-2 along SP Road.

Following confirmation of their deaths, angry residents gathered at Kangpokpi District Hospital and later continued their protests near the Superintendent of Police's office. Security forces deployed tear gas shells to disperse demonstrators as tensions escalated.

Protesters also blocked National Highway-2, while shops and private institutions remained closed as part of the shutdown. CoTU subsequently announced that it would not claim the bodies until the government addressed its demands, including the immediate removal of Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho.

Ronan, Urvansh, Ronisha and Spruha Storm Into U-9 Finals at Aura-Panjim Gymkhana Table Tennis Tournament

■ The four young paddlers secured their places in the finals on an action-packed opening day of the All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament 2026 in Campal

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Ronan Menezes Gama, Urvansh Pathak, Ronisha Sakhardande and Spruha Kamat booked their places in the respective Boys and Girls Under-9 finals at the Aura-Panjim Gymkhana All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament 2026, which began at Panjim Gymkhana, Campal.

In the Boys U-9 category, Ronan fought hard to overcome Yajat Keny 3-2 in the quarter-finals, while Shiv Chopdekar registered a convincing 3-0 victory over Jagrav Sinha. Urvansh Pathak defeated Advith Rao 3-0, and Apoorva Neogi secured a 3-1 win against Anshuman Lokapure.

In the semi-finals, Ronan continued his impressive run with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Shiv. Urvansh also produced a strong performance, defeating Apoorva 3-1 to seal his place in the final.

The Girls U-9 category witnessed equally competitive action. Ronisha Sakhardande defeated Samaira Naik 3-0, while Swara Gude registered an identical victory against Kaitlyn Fernandes. Alessandra Fernandes overcame Lara De Souza 3-0, and Spruha Kamat defeated Ashvi Mungrey 3-1 in the quarter-finals.

Ronisha then secured a 3-1 victory over Swara in the semi-finals, while Spruha defeated Alessandra by the same margin to set up the Girls U-9 final.

Meanwhile, the Boys U-11 category also witnessed exciting quarter-final encounters. Ashank Dalvi defeated Urvansh Pathak 3-0, while Vardhan Verlekar overcame Ved Sanvordekar 3-1. Kedar Nair registered a 3-0 win over Ronan Menezes Gama, and Aarish Shaikh defeated Arjun Rane 3-0 to advance to the semi-finals.

The tournament is powered by Aura Builders and Developers and organised in association with the Goa Table Tennis Association.

Registration No: 23/GOA/78
Date of Reg: 03/07/1978

GOA BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Goa Basketball Association to Hold Annual General Meeting on November 22 in Dona Paula

■ AGM to discuss audited accounts, budget, new affiliations, committees and the upcoming basketball calendar

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Basketball Association (GBA) will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday, November 22, 2026, at 10.30 am at the International Centre, Dona Paula, Panaji.

All affiliated members of the association have been invited to attend the meeting, which will discuss several important administrative and organisational matters concerning the development and functioning of basketball in Goa.

The agenda includes confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM, presentation of the Annual Report for 2025-2026, approval of the audited statement of accounts and the annual budget for 2026-2027. Members will also deliberate on the appointment of an auditor, formation of various sub-committees and approval of the forthcoming calendar of events and activities. Other key matters scheduled for discussion include the affiliation of new member units, disaffiliation of inactive member units and online registration procedures. Additional matters may also be taken up with the permission of the Chair. Members wishing to raise any special business during the AGM have been requested to submit their proposals in writing to the Honorary Secretary at goabasketballassociation@gmail.com.

Goa's 10-Year-Old Amaira Dhumatker Creates History With U-13 National Badminton Gold in Mumbai

■ Amaira becomes the first Goan player to win gold at an All India U-13 National Ranking Tournament after a thrilling three-game doubles final

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Goa's 10-year-old badminton prodigy Amaira Dhumatker has created history by winning the Girls' Doubles U-13 title at the Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub Junior Badminton Ranking Tournament, held in Mumbai from October 27 to November 1, 2026.

Partnering Saina Sharma of Telangana, Amaira produced an impressive performance to clinch the title, defeating the third-seeded pair of Evelyn Priyank Chavali and Sri Pravya Ponnaganti of Andhra Pradesh in a closely contested three-game final. The winning combination prevailed 15-12, 9-15, 17-15 to secure the championship.

The victory marks a major milestone in Amaira's young badminton career, making her the first player from Goa to win a gold medal at an All India National Ranking Tournament in the Under-13 age category.

At just 10 years old, Amaira has already demonstrated her potential on the national stage. She had previously won a bronze medal at the U-11 National Championships last year, and her latest achievement represents another significant step in her sporting journey.

The Goa Badminton Association congratulated Amaira on her historic achievement. Association president Manoj Patil praised the young shuttler's dedication and performance, highlighting the commitment and sacrifices required from players and their families to compete at the national level.

He also called upon corporate organisations and business houses to support promising young athletes, particularly by helping them meet the financial demands of training and travelling for competitions.

Goa's 10-Year-Old Amaira Dhumatker Creates History With U-13 National Badminton Gold in Mumbai

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