Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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Sawant Defends SIR, Says Portuguese Passport Holders Cannot Vote; Rules Out Need For Political Defections

CM Claims No Formal Objections Were Filed Through Official Channels During Voter Verification; Says Leaders Joined BJP Willingly Due To Governance And Political Stability

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has defended the ongoing electoral roll revision process in Goa, claiming that individuals holding Portuguese passports or nationality are not entitled to voting rights in India. Responding to allegations surrounding voter list discrepancies, Sawant said Booth Level Officers (BLOs) followed established procedures while verifying voters and issuing notices to individuals found to be non-residents.

He said some people identified during the verification held Portuguese nationality, while others were residing in Gulf countries without updating their residency details. Sawant maintained that eligible residents could apply for inclusion in the electoral roll through Form 6. He also claimed that political parties had designated Booth Level Agents to raise objections, but no formal grievances had been filed through the prescribed channel.

On political defections, the Chief Minister said the BJP did not need to bring leaders from other parties into its fold, claiming that those who joined did so willingly after witnessing the government's development work, governance delivery and political stability.

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Sawant Confident Supreme Court Will Overturn HC Stay On Goa ST Reservation

CM Reiterates Government's Commitment To Securing ST Political Reservation In Goa By 2027; Centre To Challenge High Court Order



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PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has expressed confidence that the Supreme Court will overturn the Bombay High Court's interim stay on the process of identifying and notifying ST population figures for political reservation in Goa.

Sawant said the Government of India will challenge the High Court's decision before the Supreme Court. He added that the Goa Government and the ST Association have also filed intervention applications in the matter.

Reiterating the government's commitment to the issue, the Chief Minister said every possible effort would be made to ensure political reservation for Scheduled Tribes in Goa by 2027.



Indian Navy Rescues All 20 Crew Members From Pirated Vessel Azini in 48-Hour Operation

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NEW DELHI: The Indian Navy successfully rescued all 20 crew members aboard the pirated fishing vessel Azini following a carefully coordinated 48-hour operation in the Arabian Sea, more than 3,000 km from Mumbai.

The operation was completed on November 2, with naval forces locating and intercepting the vessel before securing the safe release of the crew from heavily armed pirates. The mission also involved timely support from the Indian Air Force, highlighting the coordination between the two defence services in tackling maritime security threats.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Indian Navy personnel for successfully completing the challenging rescue mission, praising their operational preparedness and ability to respond swiftly to threats across the region.

He highlighted the force's efforts in tracking down the vessel, carrying out the interception and ensuring the safe release of all crew members despite the presence of heavily armed pirates.

ANC Arrests Two Bihar Natives in Ponda; 7.187 Kg of Ganja Worth ₹7.18 Lakh Seized

Raid Conducted at KTC Bus Stand; Case Registered Under the NDPS Act, Further Investigation Underway

Team Goemkarponn



PONDA: In a major crackdown on drug trafficking, the Anti-Narcotic Cell (ANC) of Goa Police arrested two persons from Bihar and seized 7.187 kg of suspected ganja, valued at approximately ₹7,18,700, during a raid at KTC Bus Stand, Ponda, on November 3, 2026.

The operation was conducted between 1.22 am and 4.59 am near the Sulabh Sauchalaya at KTC Bus Stand, Ponda, based on specific prior information. The raid was led by PSI Sanket Naik, along with ANC personnel and two panch witnesses.

The arrested accused have been identified as Rahul Kumar (28), a resident of Ehiapur, Ahiyapur, Muzaffarpur, Bihar, and Amit Kumar (31), a resident of Saghar Sultanpur, Bhagwanpur Hat, Siwan, Bihar

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Eight Holiday Dates Hit Sunday in Goa's 2027 Calendar

Independence Day, Ganesh Chaturthi and Goa Liberation Day among holidays affected; employees may miss out on additional breaks

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PANAJI: Holiday planning in Goa for 2027 could come with some disappointment for employees, with several important festivals and national occasions falling on Sundays, reducing opportunities for extended weekend breaks. The Goa government has notified the holiday calendar for 2027, outlining public, special, restricted, commercial and bank holidays across the state. Among the notable public holidays falling on Sundays are Independence Day (August 15), the second day of Ganesh Chaturthi (September 5) and Goa Liberation Day (December 19). The list of restricted holidays also includes several Sunday observances, including Onam on September 12, Bhaubij on October 31 and Guru Nanak Jayanti on November 14. Milad-un-Nabi, listed as a special holiday, also falls on August 15, coinciding with Independence Day. Meanwhile, a number of other important occasions fall on Saturdays. These include May Day on May 1, Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, Dussehra on October 9 and Christmas on December 25.

High Court Directs Police Protection For MPA To Secure Demolished 'Murgao Cha Raja' Site

South Goa SP And Bogda Vasco Police Inspector Asked To Deploy Personnel On Wednesday For Fencing Of Land; Compliance Report To Be Taken Up On Thursday

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PANAJI: High Court has directed the South Goa Superintendent of Police and the Bogda Vasco Police Inspector to provide adequate police personnel to the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) on Wednesday morning to secure the land where the illegal shed, popularly known as 'Murgao Cha Raja', was demolished.

The police deployment will facilitate fencing of the area to prevent any further unauthorised occupation or activity.

The matter has been listed for Thursday to review compliance with the court's directions.

Gujarat ATS Arrests International Drug Smuggler Salim Dola in ₹438 Crore Methadone Factory Case

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested alleged international drug smuggler Salim Ismail Dola in connection with a major narcotics manufacturing case involving a secret factory in Vadodara district. He was taken into custody on October 31, 2026, for questioning over the illegal drug operation uncovered in Sindhrot village in December 2022.

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Can ₹20 Lakh Put a Price on 25 Lives?

When negligence destroys families, compensation cannot become a convenient settlement for accountability. The Birch by Romeo Lane tragedy demands justice, not merely a cheque.

Twenty-five people went to work or sought a night of entertainment. They never returned home. Twenty-five families were plunged into grief, and many others were left to deal with injuries after the devastating fire at Birch by Romeo Lane in Arpora on December 6, 2025.

The Bombay High Court has directed nightclub owners Saurabh Luthra and Gaurav Luthra to pay interim compensation of ₹20 lakh to each victim's family. But a question refuses to go away: Is ₹20 lakh enough for an innocent life lost? And, more importantly, what is enough to compensate for negligence that costs human lives?

There is no amount that can replace a son, a daughter, a husband, a wife or a parent. No cheque can restore the laughter that once filled a home. No financial settlement can give children back their parents or parents the opportunity to grow old with their children.

Yet compensation is necessary. Families need to survive, debts must be paid, children must be educated and futures must be rebuilt. The issue is not whether the victims deserve compensation. They unquestionably do. The issue is whether compensation reflects the magnitude of the loss and whether those responsible are made to answer for it.

Twenty lakh rupees may appear substantial on paper, but consider the reality of a family that has lost its sole earning member. Rent, education, medical expenses, household necessities and outstanding loans do not disappear with the funeral. For a family dependent on the deceased, the loss is not confined to one terrible night. It can mean decades of financial insecurity, emotional trauma and uncertainty.

Can ₹20 lakh sustain a family for the next twenty or thirty years? Can it compensate children for growing up without a parent? Can it account for the unpaid care, guidance and emotional support that the deceased would have provided throughout their lives?

The answer is obvious.

Human life cannot be reduced to a compensation figure calculated for administrative convenience.

However, the debate must go beyond the amount awarded. The court's direction for interim compensation should not be mistaken for a final valuation of the victims' lives. Families must retain the opportunity to seek further compensation based on actual loss, future earnings, dependency, medical expenses and the circumstances of each death.

But even a much larger compensation package would address only one dimension of justice.

The more disturbing question is how such a tragedy was allowed to happen in the first place.

A nightclub is not merely a commercial establishment selling food, drinks and entertainment. It is a place where people gather with the reasonable expectation that they can leave alive. Fire safety, lawful construction, emergency exits, crowd management and compliance with licensing conditions are not optional formalities. They are basic obligations.

If these safeguards are ignored, compromised or inadequately enforced, the consequences can be catastrophic. And when a disaster exposes such failures, the responsibility cannot end with the owners of an establishment alone. Every relevant authority whose duties, decisions or omissions contributed to the tragedy must face appropriate scrutiny.

Licences cannot be treated as pieces of paper that legitimise unsafe premises. Inspections cannot become routine exercises designed merely to complete official files. Regulations mean nothing if violations are tolerated until a fire, collapse or other disaster exposes their consequences.

Goa, which welcomes millions of visitors every year, must take this lesson particularly seriously. Tourism cannot be built on commercial expansion while public safety is treated as an inconvenience. The lives of workers, residents and tourists must carry greater weight than the profits of an establishment or the influence of its operators.

There must be a transparent investigation into the chain of responsibility, followed by prosecution wherever criminal negligence is established. Those found guilty must face consequences proportionate to their actions. Compensation cannot purchase immunity, and financial settlements must never become a substitute for criminal accountability.

The government must also examine whether existing safety inspections, licensing procedures and enforcement mechanisms are adequate. If officials failed in their duties, accountability must extend to them as well. Selective action against a few individuals while the wider system escapes scrutiny would be an injustice to the victims.

Ultimately, the question is not whether ₹20 lakh is a large or small sum. It is whether the response to the loss of 25 lives is serious enough to prevent another family from experiencing the same devastation.

A society that calculates compensation but fails to prevent repeat tragedies has learnt very little from its dead.

The victims deserve more than money. They deserve dignity, justice, accountability and a system that does not allow their deaths to become another forgotten headline.

No amount is enough to compensate for a life.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Respect for Women in Politics Must Be Non-Negotiable

Women have every right to participate in politics, lead organisations and express their views without facing personal attacks or disrespectful language. The controversy surrounding the alleged remarks made by expelled RGP member Ajay Kholkar against party State President Shavina Naik Shirodkar brings an important issue into focus: the need to maintain dignity and respect in public discourse. Political disagreements are part of democracy. Leaders can be questioned, decisions can be criticised and differences of opinion can be expressed. However, criticism should remain focused on policies, decisions and political positions rather than descending into personal remarks that undermine an individual's dignity. The response by RGP women leaders, led by Zilla Panchayat representative Trupti Bakal, also highlights the importance of women standing together against disrespect in public life. At the same time, allegations must be addressed through facts and due process. Public apologies and accountability should follow a fair assessment of what was said and the circumstances surrounding it.

-**Melissa Fernandes,** Cuncolim, Goa

Vasco Market Fire Relief: A Timely Response Must Lead to Complete Rehabilitation

The devastating fire at Vasco Municipal Market left several traders facing enormous financial losses and uncertainty about their livelihoods. For families who depend on these shops for their daily income, the incident was not merely the destruction of property but a sudden disruption of their economic security. The disbursement of ₹1.39 crore in the first instalment of assistance within five days of the October 29 fire is a significant step towards helping affected traders recover. The government's assurance that all 145 affected shops will receive compensation, along with the promise of a second instalment covering at least 50 per cent of assessed losses, offers some hope to those struggling to restart their businesses. The announcement that temporary market structures will be erected at the same location within a month is equally important. Traders have built their customer base and livelihoods around this market over the years. Rehabilitating them at their original location can help restore their businesses and preserve the market's economic character. However, timely announcements must translate into timely implementation. The government and municipal authorities must ensure that the temporary structures are safe, properly equipped and provided with essential facilities such as electricity, water, sanitation and fire safety arrangements.The affected traders deserve continued assistance until they are fully back on their feet. The administration must maintain regular communication, ensure fair assessment of losses and avoid unnecessary delays in releasing the remaining compensation.

-**Daniel Fernandes**,Vasco da Gama, Goa

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Vasco fire-hit traders get ₹1.39 crore relief within five days; all 145 shops to be compensated

Temporary market structures to be erected at the same location within a month; second instalment to cover at least 50% of assessed losses

Team Goemkarponn



VASCO: In a major relief to traders who lost their shops and merchandise in the devastating Vasco Municipal Market fire, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday disbursed the first instalment of financial assistance amounting to ₹1.39 crore to 103 claimants covering all 145 affected shops, within 120 hours of the October 29 blaze.

The initial assistance was disbursed through cheques, with individual relief ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh, depending on the claims verified by the scrutiny committee. The government has assured that all 145 affected shops will receive compensation, irrespective of whether an individual trader owned or operated multiple units.

Sawant said the government would release the next instalment of assistance after assessing the actual losses suffered by the traders. He assured that the second instalment would cover at least 50 per cent of the assessed losses, providing further financial support to help traders rebuild their businesses.

The administration received 145 applications covering 145 affected shops.



Goa HC Orders Statewide Audit Of Panchayats Over POSH Compliance

Director Of Panchayats Asked To Verify Staff Strength And Identify Panchayats Yet To Set Up Internal Committees

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has directed the Directorate of Panchayats to carry out a detailed verification of staffing records across all village panchayats in the state after questions were raised over the implementation of workplace sexual harassment prevention rules.The direction came after the Court found that the information submitted by the Director of Panchayats did not clearly establish which local bodies were required to have Internal Committees under the POSH Act, 2013, and which would come under the Local Committee mechanism. The issue gained significance during the hearing when petitioner Sharlet Fernandes, who argued her case personally, challenged the reported staff strength of Majorda-Utorda Village Panchayat. She produced details indicating that the panchayat had at least 15 workers, including those hired on a contractual basis. As per the POSH Act, workplaces with 10 or more employees must establish an Internal Committee to deal with complaints of sexual harassment. The Court noted that the staffing details presented by Fernandes, if verified, could indicate non-compliance by the Majorda-Utorda panchayat.



Goa CM witnesses celebration of Konkani at World Konkani Music Mega Convention

Team Goemkarponn

MANGALURU: Goa Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant witnessed the glory of Konkani at the First World Konkani Music Mega Convention, organised to celebrate 40 years of Mandd Sobhann and the rich cultural legacy of the Konkani language. The Chief Minister congratulated Mandd Sobhann, its President Shri Louis J. Pinto, Dr Ronald Colaco and the entire organising committee for bringing together this historic celebration of Konkani music and heritage. Dr Sawant highlighted that 53 teams from Goa are participating in the extraordinary endeavour, which features over 6,789 singers across 300 teams, performing more than 4,500 Konkani songs in a continuous 12-day, 12-hour and 12-minute singing marathon. The initiative marks a first-of-its-kind attempt to secure a Guinness World Records title. He stated that Goa and Karnataka share a deep cultural bond, with Konkani serving as a common thread connecting communities, traditions and generations.

Goa HC Takes Up Anjuna Coastal Construction Issue, Seeks Replies From Michael Lobo And Officials

PIL Alleges Sand Dune Removal, Unauthorised Structures And Procedural Lapses In CRZ-III No Development Zone

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The legality of construction activities in a restricted coastal stretch of Anjuna is now before the Bombay High Court at Goa, following a petition alleging violations of environmental regulations and lapses by local and state authorities. The Court has issued notices to the concerned departments as well as Michael Lobo, named as a private respondent in the case. The petition, moved by Anjuna-based activist Desmond Alvares, concerns development on land covered by Survey Nos. 354/1, 340/0 and 340/1.

These properties fall within the CRZ-III No Development Zone, where construction is subject to specific coastal regulations. One of the principal objections raised in the petition is that the development allegedly carried out at the site does not correspond with the permission granted by the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority in January 2025. While the approval reportedly covered temporary wooden installations, the petitioner claims that the site now has structures supported by cast-iron columns and concrete foundations.

Political Insecurity Overrides Public Health: Prabhav Naik

Team Goemkarponn



MARGAO: Youth Leader Prabhav Naik strongly criticised the sudden cancellation of the joint site inspection scheduled to investigate the long-standing Comba sewage menace, stating that public health concerns cannot be pushed aside for political or administrative considerations.

He recalled Health Minister Vishwajit Rane's assurance that there would be no politics when it comes to public health and basic infrastructure.

Prabhav Naik pointed out that although the inspection notice issued by the Urban Health Centre, Margao, was dated 30 October 2026, it was emailed to him only on 2 November 2026. Shockingly, within just a few hours, another email followed, informing him of the cancellation of the inspection scheduled for 3rd November 2026 at 11 a.m. at Comba. He questioned the abrupt cancellation and why no alternative date had been announced despite the urgency of the Comba sewage issue.

Taking a strong political dig, Prabhav Naik stated that the "Bad Man of Margao", who betrayed God and the citizens, is now feeling the heat and making desperate attempts to save his own skin.

He warned that political insecurity and one-upmanship must not be allowed to override the health and well-being of the people.

Prabhav Naik asserted that Madganvcho Awaaz will neither be intimidated nor silenced by such desperate attempts to derail the issue. He emphasised that the campaign is driven by the genuine concerns of Comba residents, protection of the sanctity of their wells and the urgent need to eliminate the sewage menace through a permanent solution.

Prabhav Naik appealed to Health Minister Vishwajit Rane to intervene personally, ensure that the joint inspection is rescheduled without further delay and direct the authorities to take concrete corrective measures. He warned that public health must prevail over political insecurity and affirmed that Madganvcho Awaaz will relentlessly pursue the matter until the people of Comba get justice.

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PANAJI | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

FDA destroys 141 kg of food products worth ₹39,800 in Margao

Early morning inspection targets interstate food consignments; milk, kharvas and fried onions detained over licensing and labelling violations

Team Goemkarponn



MARGAO: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) conducted an early morning inspection drive in Margao, targeting food products being transported through interstate vehicles, and destroyed a total of 141 kg of food items worth ₹39,800 in the interest of public health.

Sharing the details, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said that protecting the health and safety of every Goan remains the government's priority. During the inspection, the FDA team detained 25 packets of milk worth ₹5,000 and 36 kg of kharvas valued at ₹10,800.

The products were allegedly transported without a valid Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licence and mandatory label declarations.

Additionally, two unclaimed bags containing 80 kg of fried onions, valued at ₹24,000, were also detained due to the absence of mandatory labelling. According to the minister, a total of 141 kg of food products with a combined value of ₹39,800 was destroyed to safeguard public health.

Rane further stated that surveillance at interstate entry points would continue to ensure that only safe, properly labelled and compliant food products reach consumers across Goa.



Missing 20-year-old found dead in river at Savoi-Verem

Body of Sairaj Naik, missing since October 29, recovered with help of Fire Services and locals; autopsy confirms drowning

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: The body of a 20-year-old youth who had been missing since October 29 was recovered from a river at Savoi-Verem in Ponda on November 2. The deceased has been identified as Sairaj Naik (20), a resident of Priol, Ponda.

His body was identified by his father, Mangaldas Naik. According to police, at around 10.58 am on November 2, Margao Police Control Room received a phone call informing them that the body of an unidentified male person was floating in the river at Savoi-Verem.

Upon receiving the information, police proceeded to the spot, where personnel from the Fire and Emergency Services were also present.

With the assistance of Fire Services personnel and local residents, the body was successfully retrieved from the river. During the subsequent inquiry, the deceased was identified as Sairaj Naik, who had reportedly been missing since October 29, 2026. Police conducted an inquest panchanama and sent the body to South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for post-mortem examination.

The police surgeon conducted the autopsy and certified the cause of death as "Drowning in water". Following the post-mortem examination, the body was handed over to the family members for the final religious rites.



Uzbek National Arrested In Arambol With 50 Fake US Dollar Notes

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: Mandrem Police have registered a case against an Uzbekistan national for allegedly possessing and attempting to circulate counterfeit US dollar currency notes at Famafa Hotel in Arambol, Pernem.

According to the police complaint, the incident took place on October 31, 2026, at around 11.30 pm at Famafa Hotel, Arambol. The accused has been identified as Davlatbek s/o Tokhir Ugli Kodirov, a national of Uzbekistan.

The complaint was lodged by Salvador Matians Fernandes, a resident of H.No. 454, Khalchawado, behind Narayan Temple, Arambol, Pernem.

Police said the accused was allegedly found in possession of 50 US dollar notes of $100 denomination, suspected to be counterfeit.

He was also allegedly found handing over the fake currency notes to members of the public for exchange, despite allegedly knowing that the notes were counterfeit.

37-year-old man dies after consuming grass-killing chemical in Goa

Panaji Police register unnatural death case after patient succumbs at GMC; PSI Nitin Naik conducts further inquiry

Team Goemkarponn



TALEIGAO: A 37-year-old man from Taleigao succumbed while undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, after allegedly consuming a grass-killing chemical.

The deceased has been identified as Shrikrishna Naik (37), son of Ravindra Naik, residing at Municipal Quarters, Camra Bhat, Taleigao, Caranzalem, Tiswadi, Goa.

According to Panaji Police, the incident came to light on November 2, 2026, following the receipt of Wireless Message No. 8843/26, referring to an earlier message dated November 1, 2026, informing the police about the death of the patient under MLC No. 26/8857.

PSI Nitin Naik of Panaji Police Station visited Ward No. 142 at GMC and conducted an inquiry, during which it was revealed that the patient had consumed a grass-killing chemical.

Following the information, Panaji Police registered Unnatural Death (UD) Case No. 70/2026 under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) on November 2, 2026, at 2.56 pm.

AAP Goa Slams BJP Over Rising Sexual Assault Cases Against Minor Girls, Demands Fast-Tracked Justice

Mamata Naik-Maben Questions Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's Accountability as Home Minister, Seeks Strict Action and Proper Investigation

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa Women's Wing President Mamata Naik-Maben has strongly questioned the BJP government over the safety of children in Goa following two serious cases involving allegations of sexual assault against minor girls. She questioned how children could feel safe when individuals entrusted with protecting them are themselves accused of such serious crimes.

Referring to the alleged sexual assault of a 16-year-old girl by Crime Branch Police Inspector Vikas Deykar and the case involving a 32-year-old Bal Rath driver accused of sexually assaulting multiple schoolgirls, Naik-Maben questioned whether proper background checks and verification were conducted before appointing individuals to positions involving the safety of children.

She also raised serious concerns over the circumstances in which the minor girl was allegedly called to the police station late at night.

Questioning the absence of a woman police officer, she asked why the girl was summoned at such an hour and why a woman officer was not present during the interaction.

Naik-Maben questioned Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, who also holds the Home portfolio, on the accountability of his government in ensuring the safety and protection of children in Goa.

SALKAR WARNS MMC OVER DANGEROUS BUILDINGS; CHIEF OFFICER SAYS NOTICES ISSUED TO 38 STRUCTURES

Vasco MLA warns officials of accountability if negligence leads to loss of lives; MMC claims seven buildings demolished and action initiated against 54 identified structures

Team Goemkarponn



VASCO: The issue of dilapidated and dangerous buildings in Vasco has triggered a war of words between Vasco MLA Krishna Daji Salkar and Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) Chief Officer Siddhivinayak Naik, with the MLA warning civic officials of serious accountability in case of any tragedy, while the Chief Officer maintained that the municipality had already initiated action against unsafe structures. During an inspection and review of the issue on Monday, Salkar strongly criticised the MMC for allegedly failing to take timely action against dangerous buildings and directed the Chief Officer to immediately issue notices to owners of unsafe structures and initiate necessary proceedings. Expressing particular concern over the severely dilapidated buildings opposite Vasco Police Station, Salkar said the structures posed a serious threat to thousands of people visiting the police station and moving through the area daily.

"It is a calamity waiting to happen. I cannot understand why even a single notice has not been issued to the owner of this building. It is the duty of the Chief Officer to act.



Firecracker sales shifted to Dev Damodar Trust area following Vasco market fire

Authorities relocate Diwali stalls behind vegetable market; vendors to obtain Fire NOC and follow safety guidelines

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: In the wake of the devastating fire at Vasco's Sunday Market, firecracker vendors have been directed to shift their Diwali stalls to the Dev Damodar Trust area behind the vegetable market, with authorities deciding against permitting fireworks sales anywhere within the Vasco open market area.Vasco MLA Krishna Daji Salkar inspected the proposed site on Monday along with officials and other stakeholders to assess the arrangements and safety measures required for setting up Diwali shopping stalls.

The decision to relocate the vendors comes amid heightened safety concerns following the recent fire that gutted several shops at the Sunday Market. Salkar said the fire tragedy had highlighted the need for stricter safety precautions, particularly while dealing with highly inflammable materials such as firecrackers. He said allowing fireworks sales close to the fire-affected market could create another serious safety risk, prompting the authorities to identify an alternative location.

He instructed the municipality and the electricity department to make necessary arrangements at the proposed site, including adequate lighting and other basic facilities for vendors.



Goa Police holds meeting with rent-a-car and rent-a-bike operators

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PANAJI: Goa Police held a meeting with rent-a-car and rent-a-bike operators on November 2, chaired by the Director General of Police, Goa. The meeting was attended by around 50 representatives of rental agencies from across the state, along with officials from the Transport Department and senior Goa Police officers.

The meeting aimed to strengthen coordination between the Police, the Transport Department and rental vehicle operators, with various issues concerning the sector discussed by the stakeholders.

On the issue of private vehicles being rented out without authorisation, Goa Police assured the operators that strict action would be taken against those found violating the rules.

Goa Police also offered to develop a digital platform to capture customer details in accordance with the permit conditions prescribed by the Transport Department. The stakeholders agreed to use the proposed platform to authenticate documents submitted by customers hiring rental vehicles.

Sunday Market repairs to begin after structural stability report: Salkar

Vasco MLA says public safety will remain paramount; affected vendors to be accommodated at their original locations

Team Goemkarponn



VASCO: Repair and reconstruction work at the fire-ravaged Vasco Sunday Market will begin only after the administration receives the structural stability report, Vasco MLA Krishna Daji Salkar has said, stressing that public safety will not be compromised.

Salkar said the administration was awaiting the structural assessment of the fire-affected market, following which a decision would be taken on whether the existing structure could be retained with necessary repairs or would require modifications.

He pointed out that the structure must be capable of safely bearing the combined load of around 100 vendors, 200 to 300 visitors at any given time, along with the goods and stocks stored by traders.

"We will get the stability report, after which we will decide how to go about with the market and where to accommodate the vendors. We do not want yet another tragedy, and taking any decision without assessing the structural capacity could be a big risk," Salkar said.

Ferreira demands arrest of PI, woman booked in minor assault case

Aldona MLA questions government's response and raises concerns over women's safety and alleged protection within the police force

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Aldona MLA Adv. Carlos Alvares Ferreira has demanded the immediate arrest of Police Inspector Vikas Deykar and Ranjini Palyekar, both booked in connection with the alleged sexual assault of a minor girl, and questioned why Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who also holds the Home portfolio, has not ordered their arrest.

Reacting to the case, Ferreira alleged that the incident reflected the BJP government's handling of sensitive matters concerning women's safety. He claimed that the alleged offence took place inside a police station and further alleged that CCTV cameras had been blocked. He questioned why no action beyond the reported suspension of the inspector had been taken.

"Is he well-connected? Is he a blue-eyed boy in the police force? Has he got the backing of the Home Minister?" Ferreira asked, alleging that the accused could be receiving protection from influential people within the police force and political circles.



He questioned whether anyone was apprehensive that the accused might reveal information implicating police personnel or politicians. Ferreira also asked why the BJP Mahila Mandal had remained silent and called on Chief Minister Sawant and Director General of Police Alok Kumar to act.

The Aldona MLA drew a comparison with the case involving journalist Tarun Tejpal, who was charged with molesting a woman.

PM Modi Inaugurates Pune Metro Pink Line, Unveils Infrastructure Projects Worth ₹21,800 Crore

The 23-km corridor will connect the Hinjewadi IT hub with Shivajinagar, while the proposed second phase will significantly expand Pune's metro network.

Team Goemkarponn



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated Pune Metro's Line 3, popularly known as the Pink Line, and launched several infrastructure projects worth approximately ₹21,800 crore through video conferencing. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also attended the programme.

Built at a cost of more than ₹8,300 crore, the 23-kilometre Pink Line connects Maan to the District Court Metro station. The corridor will provide direct metro connectivity between Pune's Hinjewadi IT hub and Shivajinagar, making daily travel easier for thousands of IT professionals and other commuters.

The new line is expected to strengthen public transportation, reduce dependence on private vehicles and help ease traffic congestion across the city. It will also connect with the existing metro network, improving access to major residential and commercial areas while helping reduce vehicular emissions.

Modi also laid the foundation stone for Phase II of Pune Metro, which is estimated to cost around ₹13,500 crore. The expansion will include four corridors: Lines 2A, 2B, 4 and 4A, substantially extending metro connectivity across the city.

Lines 2A and 2B will cover a combined distance of approximately 12.75 kilometres. Line 2A will connect Vanaz with Chandani Chowk, while Line 2B will extend from Ramwadi to Vitthalwadi, strengthening the existing east-west metro network.

Line 4 will span around 25.52 kilometres, connecting Kharadi with Khadakwasla. Line 4A will cover 6.12 kilometres between Nal Stop and Manik Baug.

The proposed corridors will connect important locations such as Kharadi, Magarpatta, Hadapsar, Swargate, Manik Baug, Nanded City, Pune Cantonment and Warje.

The eastern extension towards Vitthalwadi is expected to improve access to the rapidly developing residential, commercial and IT centres of Kharadi and Wagholi.

Interchange facilities at Swargate, Nal Stop and Kharadi Bypass will connect the expanded metro network with existing services and intercity bus facilities, supporting smoother travel across Pune.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Sawant Defends SIR, Says Portuguese Passport Holders Cannot Vote; Rules Out Need For Political Defections

He expressed confidence that the BJP would secure a clear majority in the 2027 Assembly elections on its own merit.

Taking a swipe at the opposition, Sawant challenged its leaders to engage in a factual debate on governance and development, saying he was ready to debate anywhere, including Ramlila Maidan in Delhi.

The Chief Minister also defended the government's development record, claiming Goa had achieved nearly 12% economic growth and improved its position from seventh to third in NITI Aayog's sustainability index. He expressed confidence that the BJP would return to power in 2027, citing infrastructure expansion and welfare delivery.

ANC Arrests Two Bihar Natives in Ponda; 7.187 Kg of Ganja Worth 7.18 Lakh Seized

During the raid, Rahul Kumar was allegedly found in possession of a black polythene bag containing 7.187 kg of suspected ganja, concealed inside his blue-coloured backpack. The contraband was seized following a duly conducted search and seizure panchanama.

In connection with the seizure, ANC Police Station registered Crime No. 21/2026 under Sections 20(b)(ii)(B) read with Section 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, against both accused. Both have been arrested, and further investigation is underway.

The operation was conducted under the supervision and guidance of Superintendent of Police, ANC, Shri Harishchandra Madkaikar, GPS; Shri Ashish Shirodkar, SP, holding charge of DySP, ANC; and Police Inspector Shri Sagun Sawant of ANC.

Goa Police's Anti-Narcotic Cell reiterated its commitment to taking strict action against drug trafficking and dismantling drug supply networks

Gujarat ATS Arrests International Drug Smuggler Salim Dola in 438 Crore Methadone Factory Case

During the earlier raid, authorities seized approximately 88 kilograms of illegal drugs valued at nearly ₹438 crore and arrested 10 people. Investigators subsequently identified Dola as a wanted accused who was allegedly managing his drug operations from outside India.

As he was reportedly staying abroad, Gujarat Police sought international assistance through Interpol and secured a Red Notice to help locate him. After sustained efforts, the ATS finally secured his custody to investigate his alleged role in the Sindhrot factory case.

Why Sikkim Held Its First Yak Festival in a Village Just 13,500 Feet High Near China Border

Gnathang hosted Himalayan yak herders to promote traditional livelihoods, strengthen conservation and support economic activity in remote border settlements.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The remote Himalayan village of Gnathang in eastern Sikkim recently hosted the state's first Yak Festival, bringing together herders from across the region to discuss the future of an occupation deeply rooted in mountain communities. Located at an altitude of around 13,500 feet near the India-China border, the village provided a setting to highlight both the importance of yak rearing and the challenges threatening its survival.

Herders from Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh participated in the gathering. Discussions focused on shrinking grazing grounds, unpredictable weather, conservation concerns and declining interest among younger generations in continuing the traditional occupation.

Holding the festival in a border village also reflected the Centre's efforts to strengthen remote settlements through the Vibrant Villages Programme. The initiative aims to improve infrastructure, encourage tourism and create livelihood opportunities in villages along the international boundary, helping residents remain in strategically important areas.

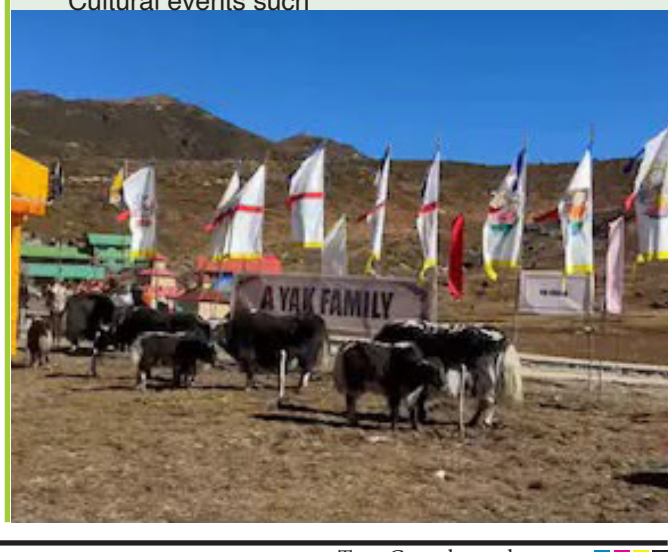
Cultural events such as the Yak Festival are expected to attract visitors while promoting local traditions and products. Yak milk, dairy products and fibre could also offer additional income opportunities for herding families.

However, participants stressed that protecting the traditional occupation remains the biggest priority. Around 400 to 500 yaks were brought to the festival, while stalls showcased yak-based products and traditional practices.

Herders highlighted how changing weather patterns have disrupted seasonal grazing routines. Unexpected snowfall and untimely rainfall often make it difficult to move animals between pastures. Conservation concerns have also increased as natural grasslands continue to deteriorate.

Officials estimated that nearly 40 per cent of grasslands had been lost or affected, reducing the availability of grazing areas. The growing preference among educated young people for alternative professions has further weakened the traditional workforce.

Participants called for improved pasture management, scientific research and better processing and marketing of yak products to make herding financially sustainable.



"You Cannot Occupy a Site Indefinitely": Supreme Court's Strong Remark on Right to Protest

Top court seeks responses from Centre and others over Jantar Mantar protests, highlighting the need to balance peaceful demonstrations with citizens' right to livelihood.

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday observed that no individual or organisation can occupy a designated protest site indefinitely, stressing that even locations permitted for demonstrations must have a clearly defined time limit.

The observations came during a hearing on the large-scale protest held at Jantar Mantar in central Delhi last month and a subsequent demonstration at Ramlila Maidan organised by Opposition parties and other groups against the Election Commission of India.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a bench that also included Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, emphasised that protest sites must remain accessible to everyone and cannot be occupied permanently by a particular group.

"You cannot occupy a site for all times to come. There are other protesters also. Where will farmers or lawyers go? Everyone has a right to protest," the Chief Justice observed.

The court was hearing petitions, including one filed by trader organisations seeking restrictions on protests during the festive season due to their impact on commercial activities.



"Any Attack on Security Forces Is Unacceptable": Tripura CM Vows Strict Action After Smugglers Assault 3 BSF Jawans

Three BSF personnel injured in an attack at Ashabari, with alleged smugglers attempting to snatch their firearms and vandalising a government vehicle.

Team Goemkarponn

AGARTALA: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Monday strongly condemned an attack on three Border Security Force (BSF) personnel by a group of alleged smugglers in the Ashabari area of Boxanagar and directed authorities to take strict action against those responsible.

The incident took place on Monday morning, triggering tension in the locality. The attackers allegedly assaulted the BSF personnel and attempted to snatch their firearms. A government vehicle was also vandalised during the confrontation.

Reacting to the incident, Saha described the assault as unacceptable and stressed that violence against security personnel must be dealt with firmly under the law.

In a statement shared on social media, the Chief Minister expressed concern over the attack and said security forces deserved the highest level of respect and protection.

He directed the concerned authorities to act swiftly, identify those involved and ensure that the accused were brought to justice.

According to details of the incident, the alleged smugglers scattered in different directions during the pursuit. However, BSF personnel managed to apprehend one suspected smuggler, identified as Hefzur Rahman, approximately 400 metres from the location of the attack.



"No Decision on Dam Construction": Pema Khandu Assures Siang Protesters of Open Dialogue

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has assured residents protesting against the proposed 11,200 MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project that their concerns will be addressed through transparent discussions and meaningful public consultation. He clarified that neither the state nor the central government has taken a decision to begin dam construction.

In an open letter issued on Monday, Khandu addressed the protesters as his "beloved Adi brothers" and acknowledged the anxiety surrounding the proposed hydropower project. He stressed that the land, homes, livelihoods and cultural identity of the local community would remain central to the government's considerations.

The Chief Minister said the government would proceed only after taking into account the aspirations and interests of affected residents. He also acknowledged that conflicting information about the project had created uncertainty among families, elders and young people.

"It Can't Be Spilling Out Like This in Public": Nirmala Sitharaman Urges Tata Leaders to Settle Boardroom Dispute

Finance Minister calls for an amicable resolution as differences over Tata Sons' listing and chairman N Chandrasekaran's continuation intensify.

Team Goemkarponn



New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged the leadership of the Tata Group to resolve its internal differences privately, stressing that the dispute between Tata Sons and Tata Trusts carries significant importance for the Indian economy and should not become a public confrontation.

Speaking in Mumbai on Monday, Sitharaman described the matter as delicate and said resolving it would require business understanding, mutual respect and cordiality among the leaders involved. She also highlighted the Tata Group's global reputation and its contribution to India's economy.

She refrained from indicating whether the government would intervene or facilitate discussions between the two sides. Instead, she called on the leadership to engage directly and restore normalcy within the conglomerate at the earliest.

Sitharaman pointed out that the Tata Group has investments across several important sectors, making its stability crucial to the country's economic interests.

"Don't Travel by Air": Supreme Court Rejects Urgent Plea Over Skyrocketing Diwali Airfares

The petitioner claimed domestic ticket prices had surged by 700 per cent and sought a cap on fares during festive periods.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has refused an urgent hearing on a petition seeking restrictions on steep domestic airfares during the Diwali festive season, with Justice Vikram Nath responding to the plea by saying, "Don't travel by air."

The petitioner approached the court seeking intervention against what was described as arbitrary and excessive pricing by private airlines during festivals, holidays and emergencies. The plea alleged that domestic airfares had increased by as much as 700 per cent compared with normal rates.

The petitioner's counsel argued that air travel had become an essential service and that unreasonable fare increases violated Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law. However, the bench



declined the request for an early hearing and proceeded to take up the next case.

The matter is already pending before the court. In October, the Centre informed the bench that administrative approval had been granted for new aviation rules under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024, aimed at regulating airfares.

The rules were expected to be published within two weeks.

The court had directed the government to place the proposed rules before it ahead of the next hearing scheduled for November 16.

Meanwhile, airlines are facing rising operating expenses, particularly due to higher aviation turbine fuel prices.

Shubman Gill Confirms India's Top Four for New Zealand ODIs, Says Middle Order Will Be Flexible

■ India captain reveals batting plans ahead of the five-match series, with KL Rahul and Axar Patel set to adapt according to match situations.

Team Goemkarponn



AUCKLAND: India captain Shubman Gill has confirmed the team's top-four batting combination for the upcoming five-match ODI series against New Zealand, while indicating that the middle order will follow a flexible approach depending on match conditions.

The series begins in Auckland on November 4, with Gill leading India in the first three matches. Vice-captain Shreyas Iyer will take charge of the final two ODIs in Mount Maunganui after Gill leaves the squad to prepare for the upcoming two-Test series.

Speaking ahead of the opening match, Gill confirmed that he, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer will occupy the top four positions in the batting order.

However, the captain indicated that India could experiment with the fifth and sixth positions. KL Rahul and Axar Patel are expected to share these responsibilities, with the team considering the opposition and match situation before deciding their batting positions.

Gill explained that the top four consist entirely of right-handed batters, making Axar's left-handed batting an important option. Rahul could also be promoted depending on the requirements of the innings.

Meanwhile, Gill dismissed concerns surrounding his previous neck discomfort, confirming that he had completed his preparations without experiencing any problems. He revealed that he had batted for nearly one and a half hours and completed fielding practice comfortably.



Future Champions Goa 2026: First Edition to Provide Platform for Young Badminton Players

■ Tournament to feature four age groups across boys' and girls' singles and doubles categories, encouraging emerging badminton talent in Goa.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The first edition of Future Champions – Goa 2026 is set to provide an exciting platform for young badminton players to showcase their talent and compete across multiple age groups. The tournament will feature four age categories: Under-11, Under-13, Under-15 and Under-17, giving aspiring players an opportunity to test their skills against competitors in their respective age groups. In the singles events, competitions will be conducted in all four categories for both boys and girls. The doubles events will feature Under-13, Under-15 and Under-17 competitions for boys and girls. The eligibility criteria have been defined according to players' dates of birth. For the Under-11 category, participants must have been born on or after January 1, 2016. The Under-13 category is open to players born on or after January 1, 2014, while those born on or after January 1, 2012, are eligible for Under-15. The Under-17 category will accommodate players born on or after January 1, 2010.



Anaya, Vanlalhriatpuii, Ashank and Aarish Storm Into U-11 Finals at Goa Table Tennis Tournament

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Anaya Shukla and Vanlalhriatpuii in the Girls U-11 category, along with Ashank Dalvi and Aarish Shaikh in the Boys U-11 section, booked their places in the finals of the Aura-Panjim Gymkhana All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament 2026. The tournament, powered by Aura Builders and Developers, is being held at Panjim Gymkhana, Campal, under the aegis of the Goa Table Tennis Association. In the Girls U-11 quarter-finals, Anaya Shukla secured a comfortable 3-0 victory over Tasha Mehta, while Tvisha Kotkar defeated Sanaz Shaikh 3-2 in a closely contested encounter. Vanlalhriatpuii registered a 3-0 win against Swara Gude, and Shaurya Dessai overcame Claire George 3-1 to complete the semifinal line-up. The semifinals witnessed two contrasting contests. Top seed Anaya continued her impressive run with a convincing 3-0 win over Tvisha Kotkar. Vanlalhriatpuii, meanwhile, produced a determined performance to defeat second seed Shaurya Dessai 3-2 and secure her place in the title clash.

Shreya Parab, Shikha Pandey's Fighting Stand Goes in Vain as Goa Suffer Second Consecutive Defeat

■ Bengal secure an eight-wicket victory after Richa Ghosh and Tanushree Sarkar produce an unbeaten 122-run

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Goa suffered an eight-wicket defeat against Bengal in their Group A encounter of the Senior Women's T20 Trophy Elite tournament at the C.K. Pithawala Ground in Surat on Saturday, despite impressive batting performances from Shreya Parab and Shikha Pandey.

Batting first, Goa posted 147 for six in their allotted 20 overs. However, Bengal comfortably chased down the target, reaching 148 for two in 19.2 overs, with Indian international Richa Ghosh and Tanushree Sarkar leading the charge.

Goa had a difficult start, losing three wickets for just 26 runs. However, Shreya Parab and Shikha Pandey revived the innings with a crucial 103-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

Shreya played a composed innings of 69 off 60 deliveries, while Shikha provided valuable support with 47 runs off 37 balls, striking five boundaries and a six. Their partnership helped Goa recover from the early setbacks and reach a competitive total.

Poorva Bhaidkar added a late flourish with an unbeaten 10 off just four deliveries to take Goa to 147 for six.

Golden Jackals Crowned Goa 7s Season 3 Champions After Thrilling Finale in Benaulim

■ Kerala Wolfpack and Hurricane Storm also clinch titles as the international rugby tournament concludes with exciting contests across three categories.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Golden Jackals emerged as the Men's 7s champions at the third edition of the Goa 7s International Rugby Tournament, which concluded with an action-packed finale at the SAG Ground in Benaulim.

The final day witnessed intense competition across the Men's 7s, Women's 7s and Mixed Touch categories, with teams delivering impressive performances to secure top honours.

In the Men's 7s Cup Final, Golden Jackals defeated BIRD (British and Indian Rugby Development) to lift the championship trophy.

Dahod Thunder from Gujarat claimed the Bowl title, while Hyderabad-based Black Archers won the Plate category. Crocs Rugby Foundation finished third in the competition.



The Women's 7s category saw Kerala Wolfpack emerge as champions after an impressive campaign, with Mayurbhanj finishing runners-up. Crocs RF secured third place.

In the Mixed Touch competition, Hurricane Storm from Qatar defeated CyberX RC to win the Cup title. BTR Stormers claimed the Plate championship after overcoming Dragons RC, while BTR Broncos finished third. All Dreams secured the Bowl title.

Individual awards were also presented to the Most Outstanding Players in the Men's 7s, Women's 7s and Mixed Touch categories, recognising their exceptional contributions throughout the tournament.