Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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Sawant Projects BJP's Return in 2027 on Goa's Development Record, Sets 2037 Growth Target

CM Highlights 12% Economic Growth, Mining Revival, Infrastructure Expansion and Welfare Schemes; Says He Is Ready for Debate With Opposition

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has expressed confidence that the BJP will return to power in Goa in the 2027 Assembly elections, maintaining that the government's development work, infrastructure expansion and welfare initiatives would form the basis of its electoral campaign.
He also challenged opposition leaders to engage in an open debate on governance and development, saying he was prepared to defend the government's performance on any platform, including Ramlila Maidan in Delhi.
Speaking about his eight-year tenure, Sawant said Goa's development under the BJP government, backed by the Centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was visible across sectors.
He pointed to the state's two international airports, improved railway infrastructure and major connectivity



projects as examples of the transformation taking place.
The Chief Minister also highlighted Goa's reported economic growth rate of nearly 12%, attributing it to expanding industrial activity, infrastructure investment and growing interest among businesses in setting up operations in the state.
Sawant said Goa had improved its position in NITI Aayog's sustainability index from seventh place when he assumed office to third after five years. He described the improvement as an achievement reflecting the government's focus on development across multiple sectors.

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PI Vikas Dayekar case under investigation; Ajit Shankhwalkar will be caught soon, says CM

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant says investigation into the alleged sexual assault of a minor involving Crime Branch PI Vikas Dayekar is underway; assures action in the Excise cash-for-jobs fraud case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has stated that the investigation into the alleged sexual assault of a minor involving Crime Branch Police Inspector Vikas Dayekar is currently underway. Reacting to the case, the Chief Minister said that the investigation is progressing and indicated that Dayekar would be arrested. On the Excise cash-for-jobs fraud case involving Ajit Shankhwalkar, Sawant assured that the accused would be traced and caught soon.



Shavina seeks women's support over alleged remarks by Ajay

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The controversy surrounding alleged vulgar remarks by Ajay Kholkar against RGP President Shavina Naik Shirodkar has escalated, with Shirodkar appealing to women across Goa to unite against what she termed an attack on women's dignity.

Shirodkar maintained that the issue should not be viewed as an internal RGP matter but as a larger question of respect and dignity for women. She urged women across political affiliations to come forward and condemn the alleged remarks.

Taking aim at the BJP Mahila Morcha, she alleged that it had failed to stand up for women's issues and was instead preoccupied with personal matters. She also alleged that the BJP was supporting the RGP led by Manoj Parab.

In a show of protest, Shirodkar, accompanied by RGP supporters, staged a demonstration near the Sai Baba Temple in Chimbel. Launching a sharp attack on Kholkar, she said, "We have to show Ajay Kholkar his place. We should beat him and slap him."

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Democrats Seize US Senate in Major Midterm Upset, Delivering Blow to Trump

Victories in Texas, South Carolina and North Carolina shift control of the Senate, ending the Republican majority and challenging Trump's political influence.

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Democrats have taken control of the US Senate following a series of significant victories in the 2026 midterm elections, dealing a major political setback to President Donald Trump. The party overturned Republican advantages in several traditionally conservative states while successfully defending key seats across the country. Democrats secured major victories in Texas, South Carolina and North Carolina, while retaining their Senate seats in Georgia and New Hampshire. The results mark a significant change in Washington's political balance, ending the Republican majority in the 100-member Senate.

High Court orders fresh elections for Shree Dev Bodgeshwar Temple Committee within three months

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: The Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court has directed fresh elections to the managing committee of the Shree Dev Bodgeshwar Temple within three months, following a petition challenging the conduct of the previous election. The court has also directed the appointment of an administrator to oversee the administration of the Devsthan and manage the temple's affairs until the election process is completed. Additionally, the High Court has ordered the removal of 254 names from the voters' list as part of the directions concerning the fresh election.

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Voters Missing From Draft SIR Rolls Can Reapply Through Form 6, EC Clarifies

Election Commission says previously registered voters will not face prosecution merely for seeking fresh inclusion, easing concerns over false declarations during the Special Intensive Revision.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has clarified that voters whose names are missing from the draft electoral rolls published during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) can apply for fresh inclusion through Form 6, even if they were registered voters in earlier electoral rolls.

In a letter dated November 3 addressed to Chief Electoral Officers of all states and Union Territories, the Commission stated that submitting Form 6 in such cases would not automatically amount to a false declaration or attract prosecution under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

The clarification comes amid concerns among previously registered voters who were reluctant to submit Form 6 because the application contains a declaration stating that they are seeking inclusion in the electoral roll for the first time.



The Commission explained that anyone whose name is absent from the draft electoral roll must apply afresh for inclusion, regardless of whether they were registered previously. It also directed electoral registration officers not to initiate legal action merely because an applicant had appeared in an earlier electoral roll before submitting Form 6 during or after the SIR exercise.

However, this protection applies provided the applicant is not already enrolled in another parliamentary or assembly constituency and fulfils the other legal requirements.

The clarification follows criticism of the SIR exercise, with the Congress dismissing the Commission's announcement as an attempt to avoid addressing fundamental concerns. The party alleged that the revision process was intended to exclude voters.

PANJIM NEEDS A BREATHER, NOT ANOTHER FESTIVAL

From IFFI and Lokotsav to food festivals, commercial exhibitions and casino tourism, every major event seems to find a home in the capital. But who is thinking about residents, traffic congestion, emergency services and the city's carrying capacity?

Panjim is slowly becoming a city that cannot breathe. Every few weeks, another festival, exhibition, cultural programme or mega event takes over its roads, grounds and public spaces. What is projected as a celebration of tourism, culture and economic activity is increasingly turning into a nightmare for ordinary residents.

The question needs to be asked: Why must every major event be organised in the capital city?

From the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) and Lokotsav to the Cashew Festival, Mango Festival, consumer exhibitions and countless commercial events, Panjim has become the default destination for almost everything. Now, with Oktoberfest Goa exposing the city's inability to handle multiple large gatherings, the warning bells are ringing louder than ever.

Councillor Jack Sukhija's demand to move mega events away from the DB Ground stretch at Campal deserves serious consideration. His concerns are not merely about traffic inconvenience. They are about public safety, emergency access and the right of residents to move freely in their own city.

What happened during the Oktoberfest weekend should serve as a wake-up call for the government, the Corporation of the City of Panaji, traffic police and event organisers. Roads were clogged, residential access was affected and ambulances reportedly struggled to make their way through the traffic. This is not a minor inconvenience that can be dismissed as an occasional consequence of hosting successful events.

> *An ambulance stuck in traffic is not simply a traffic management failure. It can become a matter of life and death.*
>
> *Imagine a patient battling a medical emergency, waiting for an ambulance that cannot reach the hospital because roads have been occupied by visitors attending a festival. Imagine a family trying to take an elderly person to hospital but finding its neighbourhood virtually inaccessible. Who will take responsibility if precious minutes are lost?*
>
> *The problem, however, is not limited to festivals and exhibitions. Panjim already witnesses a massive influx of tourists, particularly during weekends, many of whom head to the casinos operating along the Mandovi river. Casino tourism brings additional vehicles into the city, putting further pressure on an already strained road network.*

Haphazard parking has made matters worse. Vehicles are parked along roads, near junctions and in spaces where they obstruct the movement of other motorists. Traffic violations often go unchecked, leaving residents and commuters struggling to navigate the city's roads. During weekends, reaching certain parts of Panjim becomes an exercise in frustration.

Casino-related traffic is predictable. Weekend tourist congestion is predictable. Festival crowds are announced well in advance. Yet, where is the comprehensive traffic management plan? Why should residents suffer because authorities cannot coordinate parking, traffic movement and emergency access?

The government must stop treating Panjim as the only suitable destination for every festival and exhibition. Goa has several locations capable of hosting large gatherings. Margao, Ponda, Mapusa and other towns have grounds and public spaces that can be developed into event venues. Decentralising events would distribute tourism-related economic opportunities across the state while reducing pressure on the capital.

There must also be a distinction between events that genuinely require a central location and those that can easily be organised elsewhere. Does every consumer exhibition, food festival or commercial gathering need to occupy prime public spaces in Panjim?

The government must introduce a clear event policy based on the carrying capacity of each venue. Permissions for large gatherings should be linked to parking availability, road capacity, emergency access and public transport. Organisers must arrange parking outside congested areas and provide shuttle services.

The Smart City command and control centre was expected to improve traffic management through technology. What happened to that promise? If substantial public money has been spent on smart infrastructure, why are authorities still struggling to manage traffic during predictable events?

The proposed ropeway and planned luxury hotel at Miramar raise further questions about the capital's future traffic burden. More visitors and vehicles cannot be accommodated without a comprehensive mobility plan

Panjim is not merely an event destination. It is a living city. People work here, children go to school, patients travel to hospitals and families have homes here.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Political Defections and the Need for Accountability in Goa

The recent exchange between Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over allegations of "MLA chori" has once again brought the issue of political defections into the spotlight. While political leaders are entitled to defend their positions, the people of Goa deserve a transparent discussion on the larger question of elected representatives switching parties after receiving a public mandate.

The Chief Minister has stated that Congress legislators had voluntarily joined the BJP during an earlier round of defections and that the BJP was willing to welcome more legislators. Such statements may reflect the political position of the ruling party, but they also raise an important question: should party switching become an accepted feature of Goa's political culture?

When voters elect an MLA on a particular party's ticket, they place their trust in that party's promises, ideology and leadership. A change in political allegiance after the election can leave voters feeling that their mandate has been disregarded.

The anti-defection law was introduced to address political instability and discourage elected representatives from changing sides for political gains. Its purpose and effectiveness must remain central to any discussion on defections.

Instead of engaging in political challenges and personal exchanges, leaders across party lines should explain their positions and commit to respecting the voters' mandate. The people of Goa need stable governance, accountability and political integrity.

Ultimately, elections are not merely about winning seats. They are about earning public trust and respecting the responsibility that comes with it. Every elected representative must remember that the mandate belongs to the people, not to the individual.

-Prakash Naik, Pernem, Goa

AAP's 'Mhargai Mukti Yatra': Can Six Guarantees Free Goans from Mhargai?

The Aam Aadmi Party's announcement of the statewide 'Mhargai Mukti Yatra' from November 26 to December 19 brings an important issue to the forefront: the growing burden of mhargai (inflation) on ordinary Goan households.

Today, families are finding it increasingly difficult to manage monthly expenses. The rising cost of groceries, vegetables, electricity, healthcare, transportation and other essentials is putting pressure on household budgets. For salaried employees, daily wage earners, pensioners and small business owners, every additional expense matters.

AAP's six 'Amchi Goenkar Guarantees' seek to address some of these concerns. The proposals include free electricity, a waiver of pending electricity bills, ₹10 lakh health insurance for eligible families, ₹3,000 monthly assistance for women above 18 and free bus travel for women. The party claims these measures could help families save at least ₹15,000 every month.

The 'Mhargai Mukti Yatra' should also become an opportunity for AAP leaders to listen to people across Goa. The concerns of ordinary families must be understood before solutions are proposed.

Mhargai is not a political issue affecting only one section of society; it touches every household. All political parties must recognise this reality and present practical measures to reduce the financial burden on citizens.

Ultimately, Goans do not need promises alone. They need affordable essentials, accessible healthcare and genuine financial relief. The real success of any guarantee will be measured by the difference it makes in people's lives.individual.

-Rohan Naik, Mapusa, Goa

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Court Upholds Discharge of Birch Case Co-Accused in Arpora Resort Dispute

Sessions Court Rejects Developer's Challenge in Old Forgery Case, Finds No Grounds to Reopen Proceedings Against Surinder Khosla

Team Goemkarponn



MAPUSA: Surinder Kumar Khosla, who is also an accused in the Birch nightclub fire tragedy case, has retained his discharge in a separate criminal case relating to alleged manipulation of documents connected to Maizons Star Resort in Arpora. The North Goa Additional Sessions Court has refused to interfere with the trial court's decision, dismissing a revision petition filed by M/s Maizons Coastline Developers Pvt. Ltd.

The legal battle centres on the management and control of Maizons Star Resort, a property developed by the company with 107 units in 13 blocks. The dispute can be traced to a March 23, 2004 agreement between the developers and Khosla concerning the transfer of rights in the project. At that stage, 83 units had been sold through a rent-back arrangement, while 24 remained with the developers.

Differences between the parties eventually escalated into multiple legal proceedings. Among the allegations raised by the company was that Khosla had relied on a fabricated letter dated April 30, 2004, suggesting that possession and management of the entire resort had been transferred to him from the following day. The company alleged that this document was subsequently used to obtain official clearances and create a misleading impression before government authorities.



Goa Revises Electoral Rolls, Adds Five New Polling Stations in North Goa

One polling station in South Goa deleted; total number of polling stations across the state rises to 1,735

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Election Commission of India has announced the schedule for the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Photo Electoral Rolls with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date. As part of the preparatory exercise, polling stations across Goa have been rationalised to improve voter convenience, accessibility and ensure that polling stations are suitably located.

According to the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Goa, the rationalisation exercise has resulted in the creation of five new polling stations in North Goa district and the deletion of one polling station in South Goa district.

Following the exercise, the total number of polling stations in the state has increased from 1,731 to 1,735.

North Goa district, which previously had 820 polling stations, now has 825 following the addition of five new booths. The new polling stations have been established in the 18-Poriem Assembly Constituency and the 19-Valpoi Assembly Constituency.

In Poriem, the new polling stations have been set up at Government Primary School, Poriem (2nd Building), Government Primary School, Deulwada, Morlem, Government Primary School, Dhangarwada, Gonteli II, and Government Primary School, Bodanwada, Saleli. The fifth new polling station has been established at Government Primary School, Paikul, in Valpoi.



Mumbai Man Gets Bail in Goa Ganja Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A 49-year-old Mumbai resident arrested in connection with an alleged ganja possession case has secured bail from the Mapusa court, subject to conditions restricting his movement and requiring cooperation with the police investigation.

Danny Frank Braganza, a resident of Andheri East, was arrested by Saligao Police on October 28 during an anti-narcotics operation at Marra in Pilerne. Police had alleged that he was carrying ganja and registered a case against him under the NDPS Act. During the bail proceedings, defence counsel Advocate Salil Lawande maintained that the quantity seized was within the legally defined small-quantity limit of one kilogram.

He argued that with the seizure completed and the evidence already in police custody, keeping his client behind bars was no longer necessary.

The prosecution, however, raised objections, pointing to Braganza's residence outside Goa and expressing apprehension that he could evade the investigation, influence witnesses or interfere with efforts to identify the source of the suspected drugs.

Naval Sailor Dies in Scooter–Container Truck Collision at Polem

One sailor killed on the spot, fellow sailor critically injured; both were returning to Karwar after a beach outing in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A 23-year-old Naval sailor attached to INS Kadamba at Seabird, Karwar, died on the spot, while his fellow sailor sustained grievous injuries after their scooter collided with a container truck at Polem in Canacona late Monday night.

The deceased has been identified as Deepak Singh, a native of Sangrur, Punjab, who was riding the Aprilia



scooter. His pillion rider, Mahesh Kumar Dhaka, a native of Churu, Rajasthan, was seriously injured in the accident.

According to preliminary police investigations, the two were proceeding towards Karwar from Dapot-Mashem along NH-66 when, upon reaching near Bharat Petrol Pump at Polem in Loliem-Polem village, their scooter rammed into a container truck moving ahead in the same direction.

The impact threw both riders onto the road, leaving them grievously injured. They were immediately shifted to the Community Health Centre (CHC), Canacona, where the doctor on duty declared Deepak Singh brought dead.

Viresh Borkar serves ₹6 crore defamation notice on Ajay Kholkar, gives 3-day ultimatum

St. Andre MLA demands unconditional public apology over alleged defamatory remarks and financial allegations, warns of criminal proceedings and ₹6 crore damages

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: St. Andre MLA Viresh Borkar has initiated legal action against Ajay Kholkar by serving him a defamation notice over alleged defamatory statements, accusations of financial impropriety and derogatory remarks made through media and social media platforms.

In the legal notice, Borkar has strongly objected to allegations that he had allegedly received ₹3 crore from another political party,



terming the claims false, baseless and defamatory. He has also taken objection to the alleged use of insulting and abusive language, stating that the remarks were intended to tarnish his reputation and credibility as an elected representative.

The notice gives Kholkar **three days from its receipt** to issue an unconditional, unequivocal and public written apology and refrain from making further defamatory statements or allegations.

The notice warns that failure to comply with the demands could lead to criminal defamation proceedings, seeking punishment of up to two years' imprisonment, along with civil proceedings claiming **₹6 crore in compensation** for alleged damage to reputation, goodwill and public standing.

Goa Deports Four Foreign Nationals in Two Days

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: The Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRO), Goa, deported four foreign nationals within a span of two days for violations of immigration rules and criminal convictions. On November 4, three Russian men were deported to their home country after being found overstaying their tourist visas. Of the three, two had been convicted by a court, while the third had been lodged at a detention centre before being sent back.

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Overloaded Nepal-Bound Bus Detained in Mapusa With 147 Passengers Against 48-Seater Capacity

Passengers Heading Home for Diwali Allegedly Crammed Into Bus; Claims of Payments to Police Raise Questions Over Road Safety and Enforcement

Team Goemkarponn



MAPUSA: A Nepal-bound bus carrying 147 passengers was detained near Bodgeshwar Temple in Mapusa after authorities reportedly found it grossly overcrowded, with the vehicle having a seating capacity of just 48.

According to information received, the bus had departed from Mapusa Bus Stand carrying passengers heading to Nepal to celebrate Diwali with their families. The passengers, who reportedly work in Goa, are said to be from Calangute, Margao, Nerul and other constituencies across the state.

Passengers alleged that four to five people were accommodated on a single seat due to the excessive overcrowding. Some also claimed that they had paid around ₹4,000 each for the journey. In a serious allegation, passengers reportedly claimed that police personnel at various points along the route accepted payments of approximately ₹40,000 and allowed the overloaded bus to continue its journey. They further alleged that such practices have been continuing for nearly four years.

The incident has raised serious concerns over passenger safety, illegal overloading and the enforcement of transport regulations. The bus was eventually detained by police in Mapusa.



Porvorim Police Arrest 25-Year-Old in ₹1.94 Lakh APK-Based Cyber Fraud Case

Accused Held in Amravati, Maharashtra, for Allegedly Duping Senior Citizen Through Fake Goa Medical College Appointment App

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Porvorim Police have arrested a 25-year-old man from Amravati, Maharashtra, in connection with an APK-based cyber fraud case in which a senior citizen from Porvorim was allegedly cheated of ₹1.94 lakh.

According to police, a complaint was lodged at Porvorim Police Station on October 4, 2026. The complainant stated that while attempting to book an online appointment at Goa Medical College, he was contacted by unknown fraudsters who shared an APK file with him under the pretext of facilitating the appointment.

After downloading the APK file, ₹1,94,000 was fraudulently debited from his bank account.

Following the complaint, Porvorim Police registered a case under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and launched an investigation.

During the investigation, technical analysis revealed that the accused persons were allegedly operating from Amravati district in Maharashtra.

A police team comprising PSI Sitaram Malik and Constables Hemant Gaonkar and Bhikaji Parab proceeded to Amravati with the assistance of Amravati District Police and identified the suspects.

Following sustained interrogation and detailed technical analysis, Sumit Rajesh Ingole (25), a resident of Masanganj, Amravati City, Maharashtra, was brought to Goa and arrested in connection with the case.



52-Year-Old Employee Found Dead After Fall from Third Floor at Verna

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: A 52-year-old employee of an industrial unit at the Verna Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) was found dead on Monday night, November 2, following a fall from the third floor of the company building.

The deceased has been identified as Katari Srinivasu (52), a native of Andhra Pradesh who was residing at Galloy, Nuvem.

According to police, the incident came to light at around 8.51 pm when the Medical Officer of PHC Cansaulim informed Verna Police that Srinivasu had been brought dead to the health centre following a fall from height at the industrial premises.

Verna Police visited the health centre and conducted an inquest panchanama before shifting the body to South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for further medico-legal formalities.

Police subsequently visited the premises and conducted a scene panchanama with the assistance of the Forensic Team from the Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratory (DFSL), Verna. Necessary exhibits were also collected.

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

Anti-Narcotic Cell Conducts Late-Night Raid at KTC Bus Stand; Two Accused Booked Under NDPS Act

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: The Anti-Narcotic Cell (ANC) of Goa Police has arrested two persons from Bihar and seized 7.187 kg of suspected Ganja, valued at approximately ₹7,18,700, during a raid at the KTC Bus Stand in Ponda.

The operation was conducted on November 3, 2026, between 1:22 am and 4:59 am, near the Sulabh Sauchalaya at KTC Bus Stand, following specific prior information.

The raid was led by PSI Sanket Naik, along with ANC personnel and two independent 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.

During the search, Rahul Kumar was allegedly found carrying a black polythene bag containing 7.187 kg of suspected Ganja, concealed inside his blue-coloured backpack. The contraband was seized under 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.

Maina Curtorim Police Arrest Driver for Alleged Illegal River Sand Extraction

River Sand Worth ₹25,000 and Tipper Truck Valued at ₹20 Lakh Seized at Coriem, Curtorim; Total Seizure Worth ₹20.25 Lakh

Team Goemkarponn

CURTORIM: Maina Curtorim Police have arrested a 46-year-old tipper truck driver for allegedly transporting illegally extracted river sand at Coriem, Curtorim.

The case was registered on November 3, 2026, under Crime No. 91/2026, under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Section 21 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

According to the complaint lodged by Police Constable Anish Naik of Maina Curtorim Police Station, the incident took place at around 4:30 am on November 3 at Coriem, Curtorim. The accused, identified as Valentino Fernandes (46), a resident of Nessai, St. Jose de Areal, was allegedly found in possession of river sand extracted without lawful authority or a valid permit while driving a tipper truck bearing registration number GA-09-U-1249.



During the operation, police seized approximately 10 cubic metres of river sand valued at ₹25,000, along with the tipper truck valued at approximately ₹20 lakh.

The total value of the seized property is estimated at ₹20.25 lakh. The seizure was carried out under a panchanama.

The accused was arrested on November 3 at 7:18 pm.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Sherwin Da Costa of Maina Curtorim Police Station.

South Goa Collector Issues Fire Safety Advisory for Firecracker Sellers Ahead of Diwali

Shopkeepers and Vendors Asked to Follow Strict Safety Measures; Warning Issued Against Unsafe Storage and Handling of Firecrackers

Team Goemkarponn



MARGAO: The Office of the Collector and District Magistrate, South Goa, has issued a public advisory directing all shopkeepers, vendors and persons involved in the sale and storage of firecrackers to strictly follow fire safety precautions ahead of the upcoming Diwali celebrations.

The advisory, dated November 3, 2026, has been issued by Collector and District Magistrate Egna Cleetus, IAS, with the objective of preventing fire incidents and ensuring public safety during the festive season.

As per the advisory, firecrackers must be stored in cool, dry and well-ventilated areas, away from direct sunlight, heat sources and potential sources of ignition. Vendors have also been instructed not to store firecrackers near inflammable materials, LPG cylinders, cooking areas, electrical installations or open flames.

The Collector has emphasised that adequate and functional fire extinguishers and other firefighting equipment must be readily available at all premises dealing with firecrackers.



AAP to Launch Statewide 'Mhargai Mukti Yatra' Across Goa from November 26 to December 19

Party to Visit Constituencies and Villages to Hear Public Concerns; Six 'Amchi Goenkar Guarantees' Promised to Provide Financial Relief to Families

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will launch a statewide campaign titled 'Mhargai Mukti Yatra' from November 26 to December 19, covering constituencies, villages and different parts of Goa to interact with people and understand their concerns.

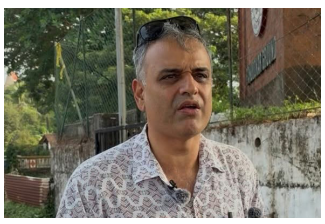
The yatra will commence on November 26, observed as Constitution Day, and conclude on December 19, Goa Liberation Day.

During the campaign, AAP leaders and party workers will travel across the state, meet residents and provide them with an opportunity to voice their concerns, particularly regarding the rising cost of essential commodities and the increasing financial burden on households.

The party said the initiative aims to understand the difficulties faced by ordinary Goan families in managing their monthly expenses and discuss possible solutions to provide financial relief.

As part of its outreach, AAP will highlight its 'Amchi Goenkar Guarantee', comprising six guarantees, five of which are directly aimed at addressing inflation and reducing household expenditure.

The first guarantee is the abolition of Section 39A, which the party claims will help eliminate a significant amount of corruption.



Move Mega Events Out of DB Ground After Traffic Chaos, Says Panaji Councillor Jack Sukhija

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Councillor Jack Sukhija has called for large-scale commercial events to be shifted out of the iconic DB Ground stretch at Campal, stating that the city's congested roads and residents can no longer bear the traffic pressure and crowds generated by mega events organised within Panaji.

Addressing a media briefing on Tuesday, following the massive traffic gridlock during Oktoberfest Goa on November 1, Sukhija said the DB Road stretch was not equipped to handle large gatherings that bring hundreds of people and vehicles into an already congested part of the city.

He pointed out that the traffic chaos had blocked access to residential areas and public roads, with even ambulances reportedly unable to pass through.

Describing the stretch as a dangerous road, Sukhija said, "The DB stretch has become a killer road. Several people have lost their lives here because of its narrowness, vehicle speeds and traffic conditions. My humble appeal is that no more mega events should be held here when alternatives are available."

Kushavati District Collector Reviews Revenue Matters at Monthly Meeting

Gurudas S. T. Desai Directs Revenue Officers to Ensure Time-Bound Disposal of Pending Cases and Effective

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: District Collector of Kushavati, Shri Gurudas S. T. Desai, GCS, chaired the monthly review meeting of Revenue Officers on November 3, 2026, at the Mathany Saldanha Administrative Complex, Goa.

The meeting was attended by Additional Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Sub-Divisional Officers, Mamlatdars, Joint Mamlatdars,



Inspectors of Survey and Land Records, Sub-Registrars-cum-Civil Registrars, the Administrator of Communidade, representatives of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and Goa Electronics Limited, along with other senior officials.

During the meeting, the District Collector reviewed the progress of various revenue-related matters, government schemes and administrative initiatives.

Key issues discussed included the progress of Mhaje Ghar Yojana, implementation of the 20-Point Programme, regularisation of unauthorised constructions, structures on Government and Communidade lands, and matters relating to existing structures as of 1972.

FDA Inspection Drive in Bardez: Two Food Units Ordered to Shut Over Unhygienic Conditions

Expired and Unlabelled Food Products Worth ₹33,700 Destroyed; Six Food Businesses Inspected During Surveillance Drive

Team Goemkarponn

BARDEZ: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) conducted a surveillance drive across Bardez taluka, inspecting six food businesses, including farsan manufacturers, online food delivery stores, sweet marts and a chicken slaughter unit.

During the inspection, two establishments were directed to suspend operations due to unhygienic conditions. The premises have been ordered to remain shut until the identified deficiencies are rectified and the required standards are complied with.

The FDA team also destroyed expired, improperly labelled and unhygienically stored food products. According to the itemised details provided, the seized and destroyed



stock included:10 kg of peanuts valued at ₹1,000, 140 kg of roasted chana valued at ₹14,000 and 110 kg of mixture valued at ₹18,700.

The total quantity destroyed was 260 kg, with an estimated value of ₹33,700.

Officials said the surveillance drive will continue across various areas to ensure compliance with food safety standards.

The FDA has appealed to all food business operators to strictly follow the prescribed food safety and hygiene norms, warning that failure to comply could result in suspension of their licences.

The inspection team comprised Food Safety Officers Amit Mandrekar and Darlane Diukar, along with staff member Sandeep Shelke, working under the guidance of Director Shweta Dessai.

Democrats Take Control of US Congress: What the Midterm Results Mean for India

From trade tariffs and H-1B visas to defence cooperation, a Democratic majority could influence several key aspects of India-US relations.

Team Goemkarponn



WASHINGTON: Democrats have taken control of both chambers of the US Congress following major victories in the 2026 midterm elections, marking a significant political setback for President Donald Trump. The party gained five Senate seats and secured more than half a dozen additional House districts, shifting the balance of power in Washington.

The election results reflect growing public dissatisfaction with Trump's second term, particularly over rising living costs, trade tariffs and the US military conflict with Iran, which has contributed to higher fuel prices. Voters have also expressed concerns about the administration's economic policies and the need for stronger congressional oversight of presidential decisions.

For India, the change in congressional leadership could have important implications across trade, immigration, defence and diplomatic relations.

What Democratic Control Means for India

With Democrats controlling both chambers, the party will have greater influence over legislation, government funding, investigations and oversight of the Trump administration. However, foreign policy will largely remain under presidential control, with Trump retaining executive authority and the power to veto legislation.

Trade and Tariff Policies

Trade remains one of the most important areas for India. The United States is a major destination for Indian exports, making changes in American tariff policies particularly significant for Indian businesses.

In February, both countries announced a framework for an interim trade agreement under which Washington proposed an 18 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods. However, the US Supreme Court subsequently struck down Trump's use of emergency powers to impose global tariffs, bringing the applicable baseline rate down to 10 per cent.

Despite discussions between the two governments, a comprehensive India US trade agreement remains pending. A Democratic controlled Congress could increase scrutiny of tariff decisions and push for greater debate over the administration's trade policies.

H-1B Visas and Immigration

The election outcome could also affect Indian professionals working in the United States, particularly those dependent on H-1B visas.

Democrats may increase scrutiny of immigration restrictions and challenge certain proposals backed by Republicans. However, congressional control alone will not automatically change existing visa rules or reverse Trump's immigration decisions, including the $100,000 fee announced for new H-1B applications last September.

Defence and Strategic Relations

India's strategic partnership with the United States could also feature in congressional discussions. A Democratic majority may influence defence funding, military cooperation and broader diplomatic priorities through legislative oversight.

However, existing cooperation is unlikely to change immediately, as major foreign policy decisions will continue to involve the White House. Ultimately, Democratic control of Congress gives the party stronger political leverage but does not guarantee an immediate change in US policy towards India. The extent of its influence will depend on legislative margins, Senate procedures and Trump's willingness to negotiate with the opposition.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Sawant Projects BJP's Return in 2027 on Goa's Development Record, Sets 2037 Growth Target

He also spoke about the Vibrant Goa Summit, launched in 2019 to reposition the state as an investment destination beyond its traditional tourism identity. According to Sawant, the initiative has brought together representatives from more than 50 countries and around 500 international delegates, along with local businesses. The government, he said, is prioritising industries that are environmentally sustainable and will not encourage polluting red-category industries. Tourism, hospitality, shipbuilding, pharmaceuticals, electronics manufacturing and information technology are among the sectors being promoted. Addressing the resumption of mining, Sawant said the 2012 shutdown had severely affected families and businesses dependent on the sector. Coming from a mining belt, he said he had personally witnessed the economic difficulties faced by mining-dependent households.

High Court orders fresh elections for Shree Dev Bodgeshwar Temple Committee within three months

The directions came following a petition filed by former committee president Anand Bhaidkar, who had challenged the conduct of the earlier managing committee election.

Shavina seeks women's support over alleged remarks by Ajay

Meanwhile, Kholkar launched a counterattack against St. Andre MLA Viresh Borkar, challenging him to provide evidence for the allegation that ₹24 lakh had been stolen from the RGP account. Kholkar even challenged Borkar to inspect his house if the accusation was true.

Addressing the controversy over his alleged remarks against Shirodkar, Kholkar said, "It was her mistake, not mine." He further questioned Borkar's political standing, invoking the support of the ST community in his election and declaring, "We, the people of the ST community, made you an MLA." He went on to issue a political warning, stating, "I will end your political career."

"Bullet Train to Guwahati Approved": Himanta Biswa Sarma Announces Major Rail Connectivity Boost for Northeast

Centre clears extension of proposed high-speed rail network to Guwahati, but detailed surveys, a separate railway corridor and technical challenges remain.

Team Goemkarponn

GUWAHATI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has welcomed the approval to extend India's proposed bullet train connectivity to Guwahati, describing it as a major development for Assam and the entire Northeast. However, he clarified that several technical, logistical and construction-related issues must be addressed before the ambitious project can move forward.

Sarma said the approval marked an important first step towards connecting the Northeast with the national high-speed rail network. The project will require detailed surveys, decisions on technology and the construction of an entirely new railway corridor.

One of the biggest challenges will be developing the railway line through the strategically important Siliguri Corridor, popularly known as the Chicken's Neck. This narrow stretch connects the Northeast with the rest of India and measures approximately 22 kilometres at certain points, with some sections narrowing to around 16 kilometres.

The Chief Minister said the presence of an existing national highway and railway line through the corridor would make construction particularly challenging. Authorities will have to examine whether the bullet train track can pass underground or be constructed above ground.

He also clarified that bullet trains cannot operate on conventional railway tracks and require a dedicated high-speed railway corridor. Depending on the technology and construction method selected for the Siliguri stretch, the overall project cost could increase substantially, potentially reaching two to three times the estimated investment.

Sarma revealed that the proposal had initially encountered difficulties. However, following discussions with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and his request to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approval was eventually secured to include Guwahati in the proposed high-speed rail connectivity plan.

The Chief Minister said he would hold further discussions with the Railway Minister during his next visit to New Delhi to understand the proposed route and technical requirements.

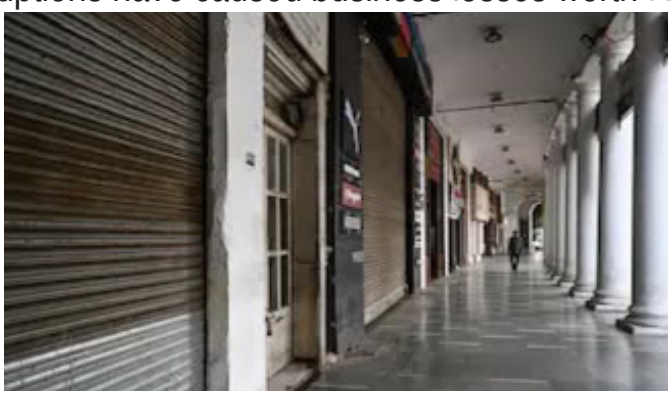
He credited the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister for supporting the initiative, while stressing that detailed planning, surveys, technology selection and execution arrangements are still pending.



"No More Protests Till Bhaiya Dooj": Delhi Traders Demand Ban on Rallies Until November 11

CTI urges Delhi Police to restrict demonstrations at major commercial locations, claiming protests and traffic disruptions have caused business losses worth Rs 14,000 crore.

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Delhi's traders have demanded a temporary ban on rallies, sit-ins and protest marches at major locations across the national capital until November 11, the day of Bhaiya Dooj, citing massive financial losses during the ongoing festive shopping season. The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI), in a letter dated November 3, urged Delhi Police Commissioner to prevent demonstrations at prominent locations, including Connaught Place, Jantar Mantar, Ramlila Maidan, India Gate, Rajghat, Delhi Gate and other parts of Central and Old Delhi.The traders' organisation expressed concern over repeated traffic disruptions and demonstrations throughout October, claiming that businesses had suffered estimated losses of approximately Rs 14,000 crore between October 1 and November 1. According to CTI, protests and marches at Jantar Mantar, Connaught Place, Patel Chowk and Janpath disrupted commercial activity, affecting retailers, hotels, restaurants and transport operators.The organisation estimated that businesses lost around Rs 3,000 crore between October 1 and October 30 due to these disruptions. It further claimed that the November 1 mega rally at Ramlila Maidan alone resulted in losses of approximately Rs 11,000 crore across different sectors.



Ra Ga Renews Debate Challenge to PM Modi, Sitharaman Hits Back: 'Parliament Is the Venue'

Finance Minister questions leader's commitment to debate, while JD(U) asks him to accept Shah's offer of a special session on SIR and EVMs.

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The political face-off between the Congress and the BJP intensified as Rahul Gandhi renewed his challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a public debate, prompting sharp responses from Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the BJP's ally Janata Dal (United).

The latest exchange followed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's challenge to Gandhi to participate in a debate on issues including the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and alleged infiltration. Shah had also offered to convene a special session of Parliament to discuss these matters.

Sitharaman questioned why Gandhi was demanding a debate with the Prime Minister outside Parliament when the Lok Sabha already provided a platform for such discussions. She pointed out that Gandhi, as Leader of the Opposition, had the opportunity to raise these issues in the House.

She also questioned his approach towards parliamentary institutions, arguing that demanding answers should come with a willingness to listen to responses and face scrutiny. She urged him to present facts and participate in meaningful discussions within Parliament.



2 Grenades, 12 Pistols and Heroin Seized as Punjab Police Bust 3 Smuggling Networks, 11 Arrested

Team Goemkarponn

AMRITSAR: Punjab Police have busted three illegal arms and drug trafficking networks in Amritsar, arresting 11 people, including two juveniles, and recovering two hand grenades, 12 sophisticated pistols and 310.10 grams of heroin.

The crackdown has exposed suspected links between local criminal networks and foreign-based handlers who allegedly supplied illegal weapons and narcotics through drone-based consignments.

Preliminary investigations indicate that the accused were connected to gangsters operating from abroad, who allegedly coordinated the movement of weapons and drugs for distribution among criminal elements in Punjab.

Police investigations have also revealed that the recovered firearms were allegedly being used to target houses and commercial establishments through firing incidents. Such attacks were intended to intimidate victims and pressure them into meeting extortion demands.

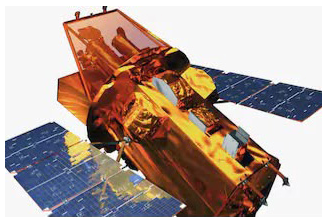
NASA Telescope to Crash Today: Mumbai, Hyderabad Among Cities Within Potential Debris Zone

The 1.5-tonne Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory is expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere on November 4, with NASA warning that parts of India could fall within its broad re-entry zone.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A retired NASA space telescope weighing approximately 1.5 tonnes is expected to plunge back into Earth's atmosphere on November 4, raising questions about the possibility of debris reaching the ground. Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai are among the Indian cities located within the broad geographical zone identified for its potential re-entry.

The Neil Gehrels



Swift Observatory, originally known as the Swift Gamma-Ray Burst Explorer, was launched on November 20, 2004. The spacecraft was initially designed for a two-year mission but continued operating for nearly 22 years, making significant contributions to space research.

According to NASA's projections, the telescope was expected to re-enter the atmosphere at approximately 2 pm IST on November 4. However, the estimated timing carries an uncertainty window of around 11 hours.

Most of the spacecraft is expected to burn up due to the extreme heat generated during atmospheric re-entry. Nevertheless, certain stronger components could survive the process and reach Earth's surface.

"Stop Manufacturing Lies": AAP Hits Back at BJP Over Stubble Burning Allegations in Punjab

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa accuses Punjab government of encouraging farm fires to worsen Delhi's pollution, while AAP alleges BJP is twisting facts to target farmers and police.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A fresh political confrontation has erupted between the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over stubble burning in Punjab, with both sides trading accusations over the worsening air pollution in Delhi.

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa accused the AAP government in Punjab of deliberately encouraging stubble burning to increase pollution levels in the national capital. He alleged that Punjab Police personnel were setting agricultural fires themselves and subsequently registering cases against unidentified individuals to create an impression that action was being taken against farmers.

At a press conference, Sirsa presented a video purportedly showing farm fires and claimed to have copies of 271 FIRs registered in different Punjab districts. He alleged



that more than 1,000 incidents had taken place and accused the Punjab government of misleading the public about the situation.

Sirsa further claimed that the alleged activities were intended to create difficulties for Delhi and questioned the Punjab government's handling of agricultural fires.

The AAP strongly rejected the allegations, accusing the BJP of deliberately misrepresenting a photograph showing officials extinguishing a stubble fire. The party maintained that the image was being presented out of context to suggest that Punjab Police personnel were encouraging farm fires.

Virat Kohli Creates History, Becomes First Batter to Score 13,000 ODI Runs at No. 3

■ The Indian batting superstar reaches the unprecedented milestone in just 251 innings, leaving Ricky Ponting second on the all time list.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELH: Virat Kohli added another remarkable achievement to his illustrious career by becoming the first cricketer in world cricket to score 13,000 runs while batting at number three in One Day Internationals.

The 37 year old achieved the historic milestone during India's opening ODI against New Zealand at Eden Park in Auckland. Kohli needed just 12 runs before the match to reach the landmark and completed it with his 13th delivery, during the seventh over of India's chase of 186 runs.

The achievement further strengthens Kohli's position among the greatest batters in ODI history. He reached the 13,000 run mark in just 251 innings at an outstanding average of 61.55. His record at number three also includes 48 centuries and nearly 70 half centuries.

Kohli has now extended his lead over former Australian captain Ricky Ponting, who occupies second place on the list with 12,662 runs from 330 innings at number three. The two remain the only batters in ODI history to have crossed the 10,000 run mark at this position.

Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara follows Ponting with 9,747 runs, while South Africa's Jacques Kallis occupies fourth place with 7,774 runs. New Zealand's Kane Williamson, Pakistan's Babar Azam and England's Joe Root complete the top seven.

Kohli has also enjoyed an impressive run in ODI cricket in 2026. Before the New Zealand series, he had accumulated 552 runs in nine innings at an average of 69.

His performances included two centuries and three half centuries, with his highest score being an unbeaten 139 off 88 deliveries against the West Indies.

The latest milestone adds another historic chapter to Kohli's career and highlights his extraordinary consistency in the 50 over format.



Goa Women Clinch Thrilling Eight-Run Victory Over Chhattisgarh in Senior Women's T20 Trophy

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's senior women's cricket team registered an important eight-run victory over Chhattisgarh in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy Elite tournament at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium in Surat on Monday.

Defending a modest total of 112, Goa's bowlers delivered a disciplined performance to restrict Chhattisgarh to 104 for nine in their allotted 20 overs. The win marked Goa's third victory in five matches in the tournament.

After winning the toss, Chhattisgarh elected to field and managed to bowl out Goa for 112 in 19.1 overs.

Tejaswini Durgad and Shikha Pandey were Goa's leading contributors with 27 runs each, while opener Purvaja Verlekar provided a useful contribution of 22. Poorva Bhaidkar also added 12 runs to help Goa reach a competitive total.

For Chhattisgarh, Preeti Yadav and Aanshi Agarwal claimed three wickets each to restrict Goa's batting lineup.

Chasing 113 for victory, Chhattisgarh struggled to establish partnerships against Goa's disciplined bowling attack. Srishti Sharma and Kriti Gupta scored 28 runs each, while Shivani Krishna contributed 22, but their efforts were insufficient to take the team across the finish line.

Goa's bowlers maintained control throughout the chase, with Shreya Parab leading the attack. She produced an impressive spell of three wickets for 14 runs in four overs.

Poorva Bhaidkar supported her well with two wickets, while Sunanda Yetrekar and Tejaswini Durgad picked up one wicket each.

Shikha Pandey also played a crucial role with the ball, delivering an economical four-over spell without conceding a single boundary, finishing with figures of 0 for 10. Her all-round contribution earned her the Player of the Match award.

Goa's determined bowling effort ensured they successfully defended their total and secured another valuable victory in the tournament.

Brief Scores

Goa Senior Women: 112 all out in 19.1 overs (Tejaswini Durgad 27, Shikha Pandey 27, Purvaja Verlekar 22, Poorva Bhaidkar 12; Preeti Yadav 3/13, Aanshi Agarwal 3/29).

Snehal Kauthankar's Unbeaten 116 Powers Goa to 288/6 Against Bihar in Ranji Trophy

■ Goa recover from 54/4 as Abhinav Tejrana scores 73 and Kauthankar registers his 11th first-class century on the opening day at Campal.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Experienced batter Snehal Kauthankar produced a magnificent unbeaten century to guide Goa to a strong position against Bihar on the opening day of their Elite Group A Ranji Trophy encounter at the Panaji Gymkhana ground, Campal, on Monday.

Goa finished the day at 288 for six in 87 overs after recovering from an early batting collapse, with Kauthankar leading the fightback through a composed innings of 116 not out.

Celebrating his 31st birthday recently, Kauthankar registered his 11th first-class century, striking 12 boundaries and holding the innings together when Goa were under considerable pressure.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, Goa suffered an early setback as openers Suyash Prabhudessai (4) and Manthan Khutkar (1) were dismissed inside the first six overs. Shivendra Bhujbal (7) and Lalit Yadav (19) also departed cheaply, leaving the hosts struggling at 54 for four in 23.4 overs.

Captain Abhinav Tejrana then joined Kauthankar and played a crucial role in rebuilding the innings. The pair added 99 runs for the fifth wicket, combining cautious



batting with timely attacking strokes.

Tejrana scored an important 73 off 8 boundaries before his dismissal, providing Goa with much-needed stability.

Kauthankar continued his excellent innings and shared another valuable partnership of 73 runs for the sixth wicket with Yash Kasvankar, who contributed 28.

Following Kasvankar's dismissal, Darshan Misal joined Kauthankar in the middle. The experienced pair ensured Goa did not lose another wicket before stumps, putting together an unbeaten 62-run partnership for the seventh wicket.

Misal remained not out on 24, while Kauthankar finished the day unbeaten on 116, placing Goa in a promising position heading into the second day.

Goa made one change to their playing XI from the previous match, bringing in Heramb Parab in place of Shubham Tari.

Arjun Wadhwa's Unbeaten 125 Rescues Himachal, Reach 315/6 Against Goa

■ Akshay Vashisht contributes 74 as Himachal recover from 131/5 on Day 1 of the Col CK Nayudu Trophy Under-23 Elite Group clash at Sanguem.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Himachal Pradesh recovered from a challenging position to finish the opening day at 315 for 6 against Goa in their four-day Elite Group encounter of the Col CK Nayudu Trophy Under-23 cricket tournament on Tuesday.

After winning the toss and opting to bat at the Goa Cricket Association ground in Sanguem, Himachal Pradesh made a steady start but struggled as Goa's bowlers reduced them to 131 for 5.

However, Arjun Wadhwa produced a superb unbeaten century to turn the innings around. He remained unbeaten on 125 and built a crucial 145-run partnership with Akshay Vashisht, who scored an impressive 74.

The partnership helped Himachal recover from early setbacks and put the visitors back in control of the innings. Vashisht's dismissal did little to slow their progress as Wadhwa continued his resistance.

He then combined with Naunihaal Attalas, who remained unbeaten on 23, adding another valuable 39 runs to strengthen Himachal's position by the close of play.

For Goa, left-arm spinner Anuj Yadav was the leading wicket-taker with three wickets for 94 runs.

Vinayak Kunte, Deep Kasvankar and Mohit Yadav claimed one wicket each.

Himachal Pradesh reached 315 for 6 in 86 overs, with Wadhwa's unbeaten 125 emerging as the standout contribution of the day.

Brief Scores

Himachal Pradesh Under-23, First Innings: 315/6 in 86 overs (Arjun Wadhwa 125 not out, Akshay Vashisht 74, Arpit Singh 30, Arnav Jamwal 27, Naunihaal Attalas 23 not out; Anuj Yadav 3/94, Vinayak Kunte 1/65, Deep Kasvankar 1/89, Mohit Yadav 1/17).