Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

Reg No: GOAENG/2020/79967 VOL: 5 | ISSUE : 195 PANAJI | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 | Pages-8 RS. 10/-

AI Watches Goa's Borders, But Who Is Watching the System?

Salary payment concerns among staff operating the border surveillance network raise questions over its reliability, maintenance and accountability

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's ambitious AI-powered border surveillance system, introduced to monitor vehicles entering and leaving the State, is facing questions over its operational efficiency following concerns about delayed salary payments to personnel responsible for running the system.

The pilot project was officially inaugurated on October 7, 2025, at the Mollen, Patradevi and Pollem border checkposts.



Subsequently, the system was extended to other border areas, including Keri and Dodamarg.

The primary objective of the project is to automate the verification and monitoring of vehicles entering and exiting Goa, strengthening surveillance and improving enforcement at the State's entry and exit points.

However, concerns over timely salary payments to employees operating the system have raised questions about how effectively the surveillance network can function if the personnel responsible for its day-to-day operations are not paid on time.

According to information available, the project is being implemented under a five-year Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Revenue Sharing Model.

Under the agreement, the revenue is distributed as follows:

- **55 per cent: Government of Goa**
- **5.5 per cent: Information Technology Agency of Goa (ITG)**
- **39.5 per cent: Mistotex Technology**

While a multi-crore arrangement has been

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KTCL Workers Serve Strike Notice, Threaten 24-Hour Bus Shutdown on November 12

Workers Demand Regularisation, Pending Pay Arrears, Better Salaries and Withdrawal of the New ETM System



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PANAJI: The KTC Drivers & Allied Employees Association has served a strike notice to the Kadamba Transport Corporation (KTC), announcing a 24-hour strike from midnight on November 12 over 18 pending demands.

The association has warned that Kadamba bus services across Goa will come to a complete halt if its grievances are not addressed.

Among the key demands are the regularisation of daily-wage and temporary workers, withdrawal of the new Electronic Ticketing Machine (ETM) system, payment of pending 7th Pay Commission arrears, and improved salaries and facilities for electric bus drivers. The workers have also demanded the restoration of Provident Fund (PF) benefits, recruitment of 300 new diesel buses, and provision of proper washrooms and restrooms for staff. The proposed strike could disrupt public transport services across the state, with commuters likely to face inconvenience if the dispute remains unresolved. The association has urged the corporation to address the workers' concerns before the proposed shutdown.



Govt Seeks Scientific Review of 153 Mining Leases in Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Areas

Team Goemkarponn

BENAULIM: Goa is seeking a scientific review of 153 mining leases located within eco-sensitive areas of the Western Ghats to assess whether eligible mineral resources can be opened for auction without compromising ecologically fragile zones. Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant, speaking at a conference of mining ministers and officials on reforms in the mining and coal sectors in South Goa on Thursday, said the state had taken up the matter with the Centre. Goa has sought a review of certain villages falling within the eco-sensitive areas through the applicable legal process. Highlighting the state's mining potential, Sawant said Goa aims to ramp up its annual mineral production capacity to 45 million tonnes through fresh mining operations and the handling of

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High Court Orders Inclusion of Paresh Salgaonkar and Five Family Members in Electoral Roll

Court Quashes Rejection of Form-8 Applications During SIR Drive; Rejects ECI's Plea to Stay Order

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court has quashed and set aside the decisions of the North Goa District Election Officer and the Goa Chief Electoral Officer rejecting the Form-8 applications filed by St. Cruz resident Paresh Salgaonkar and five members of his family during the Special



Intensive Revision (SIR) drive. Allowing the petition, the High Court has directed the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) to include the names of all six petitioners in the electoral roll. The court also rejected the Election Commission of India's (ECI) request to stay the order to enable it to challenge the verdict. The ruling comes after the six petitioners challenged the rejection of their Form-8 applications, seeking inclusion of their names in the electoral roll during the SIR exercise.

South Goa Records 1,142 Road Accidents Till October 2026; Fatalities Decline Marginally

Grievous accidents surge by 27.9% as overall road accidents rise 12% compared to the same period last year

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MARGAO: South Goa recorded 1,142 motor vehicle accidents between January and October 2026, marking a 12% increase over the 1,019 accidents reported during the corresponding period in 2025, according to a comparative analysis released by the South Goa Traffic Police. Despite the rise in road accidents, the district witnessed a marginal decline in fatal accidents, which dropped



from 102 in 2025 to 100 in 2026. The number of fatalities also decreased from 106 to 102 during the ten-month period. However, the rise in grievous accidents remains a major concern. Such accidents increased from 154 in 2025 to 197 in 2026, registering a significant rise of 27.9%.

"Your Chief Minister Cannot Be Drunk Every Evening": Rahul Gandhi Targets Bhagwant Mann Over Punjab Drug Crisis

Congress leader launches sharp attack on AAP government in Sangrur, questions Mann's leadership and promises a Punjab government independent of Delhi

Team Goemkarponn

SANGRUR: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has launched a sharp attack on Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, accusing him of consuming alcohol regularly while the state continues to struggle with the growing drug menace. The remarks came during a Congress



rally in Sangrur on November 4, marking the beginning of the party's campaign ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections.

Recalling his time in Parliament with Mann, Gandhi claimed that he had noticed the Chief Minister's drinking habits even during morning parliamentary sessions.

Goa's Youth Need Jobs, Not Just Skill Certificates

Skill development is essential to tackling unemployment, but the real test of the government's initiative will be whether trained Goans secure decent jobs, earn sustainable incomes and find opportunities in their own state.

Goa's announcement to skill and upskill 12,000 young people over the next 12 months is a welcome initiative. At a time when unemployment, lack of suitable job opportunities and the growing disconnect between education and industry requirements remain concerns, the government's decision to invest in skill development deserves attention.

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has promised 100 per cent placement support for candidates undergoing training under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana 2.0. The government has reportedly empanelled 24 institutes to conduct three-month and six-month courses in sectors such as tourism, hospitality, banking and retail. The courses will be offered at two locations in every taluka, with the government bearing the cost of training, uniforms and travel allowances.

The stated objective is ambitious. But Goa must ensure that the initiative does not become another government programme measured by the number of registrations, training sessions conducted or certificates distributed. Its success must be judged by the number of young people who actually secure employment and remain employed.

For years, Goa has witnessed a contradiction. The state has a growing tourism economy, pharmaceutical industries, manufacturing units, hospitality establishments, port-related activities and emerging business opportunities. Yet a significant section of local youth continues to struggle to find employment matching their qualifications and aspirations.

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This raises a fundamental question. Is Goa producing graduates and diploma holders with skills that employers need, or are educational institutions and training programmes preparing young people for a job market that no longer exists?

The government's initiative must address this mismatch.

The Chief Minister has rightly pointed out that government employment cannot be the only aspiration. This is an important message. No state can absorb every educated young person into government service. The private sector has to become an equally attractive employment destination.

However, telling young people to accept private employment is not enough. The government must work towards creating conditions where private employment offers dignity, financial security, career progression and reasonable working conditions.

A young Goan should not have to choose between remaining unemployed at home and accepting poorly paid employment outside the state. Equally, local industries and businesses must recognise the importance of recruiting and retaining Goan talent.

The skill development programme should therefore be designed in consultation with employers. Training must reflect actual vacancies and future workforce requirements rather than simply offering courses that are easy to organise. Tourism and hospitality may provide substantial opportunities, but Goa's ambitions should extend to pharmaceuticals, healthcare, logistics, shipbuilding, information technology, financial services, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing.

There is also a need to look beyond conventional employment. Entrepreneurship and self-employment must become important components of the state's skilling strategy. Not every trained young person will want to work for an employer. Some may have the ability to establish small businesses, provide specialised services or develop local enterprises if they receive the right support.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Kadamba Bus Strike Will Hit Common People

The proposed 24-hour strike by Kadamba Transport Corporation (KTC) workers on November 12 is a matter of serious concern for the people of Goa. While the demands raised by the KTC Drivers & Allied Employees Association deserve consideration, a complete shutdown of bus services will cause immense hardship to ordinary commuters.

Thousands of people depend on Kadamba buses every day, including students, senior citizens, daily wage workers and employees. A sudden disruption in public transport could leave many stranded and affect their daily activities.

The workers have raised several demands, including regularisation of temporary employees, payment of pending 7th Pay Commission arrears, restoration of PF benefits, improved salaries and better facilities for drivers and other staff. These issues cannot be ignored by the government or the corporation.

However, any industrial dispute involving a public transport service must be resolved through dialogue rather than allowing commuters to suffer. The government and KTC management should immediately hold discussions with the employees' representatives and find an amicable solution before November 12.

Public transport is an essential service, and its uninterrupted operation is vital for the common people. The government must act urgently to prevent the proposed shutdown.

- Ramesh Naik, Margao, Goa

Skill Development Must Lead to Meaningful Employment for Goan Youth

The state government's target of training and upskilling 12,000 Goan youth over the next 12 months, with 100% job placement support, is a significant step towards addressing unemployment in Goa. However, the real success of this initiative will depend on whether the training translates into sustainable employment.

The Rural Development Department has empanelled 24 institutes to provide three-month and six-month courses in tourism, hospitality, banking, retail and other sectors. Making training completely free, including course fees, uniforms and travel allowances, will encourage more youngsters, particularly those from economically weaker backgrounds, to participate.

The decision to include Class 8 pass candidates, SSC dropouts and ITI-trained youth is also welcome. Many youngsters possess practical abilities but lack the qualifications or specialised skills required by private employers. Such programmes can help bridge this gap.

However, the government must ensure that the promise of 100% job placement support is backed by genuine employment opportunities. Placement figures should be regularly monitored, and information about salaries, working conditions and job retention should be made public. Training candidates merely to complete enrolment targets will serve little purpose.

The private sector must also take responsibility by offering opportunities to locally trained candidates. Industries in pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, hospitality and shipbuilding should actively participate in campus recruitment and skill development. Government jobs alone cannot provide employment to every Goan youngster. Therefore, developing industry-ready skills and strengthening private-sector employment opportunities are essential for Goa's future.

- Anil Dessai, Mapusa, Goa

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

Court Directs FIR Against Two in Morlem Ancestral Land Case

Valpoi Police register case over alleged manipulation of government records to claim disputed properties; Magistrate calls for detailed investigation

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Valpoi Police have registered a criminal case against two residents of Morlem after the JMFC Court directed an investigation into allegations of fraudulent claims over ancestral properties using allegedly fabricated official documents.

The accused, Allauddin Umar Shah and Jamila Bi Shah of Kesarkarwada, Morlem, have been booked on charges relating to forgery, cheating and the alleged use of false documents as genuine.

The proceedings originated from a complaint by Amjad Shamsher Khan, 43, who accused the duo of using fabricated records to establish ownership claims over several land parcels in Morlem. After the police initially refused to register his complaint, Khan moved the Judicial Magistrate First Class Court under Section 175(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). According to the complainant's advocate, Anees Khan, the alleged fraud involved fabricated birth records of Allauddin Umar Shah and birth and death certificates relating to late Adamo Ali Xa, also known as Adam Ali Xa.

The disputed papers were allegedly submitted during inventory proceedings before the Civil Judge, Junior Division, at Valpoi to support claims over properties covered by Survey Nos. 10/1, 10/2, 10/3 and 11/3 in Morlem village.



CM Sawant Welcomes VISTAR Scheme, Expansion of Fast Track Courts

Says ₹4,371-crore initiative will strengthen data-driven governance, while 850 special courts will fast-track justice for women and children

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has welcomed two major decisions of the Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing them as significant steps towards strengthening governance and ensuring speedy justice.

Sawant welcomed the approval of the Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research (VISTAR), with an outlay of ₹4,371.10 crore for 2026–27 to 2030–31. He said the initiative will modernise India's statistical ecosystem through real-time data, digital transformation, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

The scheme's three components, covering comprehensive statistical operations, strengthening State and UT statistical systems, and the 8th Economic Census, will improve data availability down to district, Gram Panchayat and ward levels, enabling more accurate and evidence-based policymaking.

He also welcomed the Union Cabinet's decision to continue and expand Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) to 850 across the country to ensure speedy trials in rape cases and sexual offences against children.

High Court Halts Hot Mix Plant Operations in Dharbandora

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court has ordered a temporary stoppage of operations at an asphalt hot mix plant in Petkem, Dharbandora, after entertaining a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) questioning the legality of its establishment.

Notices have been issued to the State government and several other authorities and parties connected with the project.

The petition raises concerns over the plant's location close to residential homes and public institutions, alleging that its operations are affecting the environment and putting the health of nearby residents at risk.

According to the PIL, the facility, which has a production capacity of 120 tonnes per hour, is situated barely 25 to 30 metres from homes in Petkem hamlet, where members of the Dhangar community reside.The petitioners have argued that the plant does not satisfy the distance requirements prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules.

They claim that the facility is within the stipulated 500-metre limit from residential areas, schools and religious institutions, as well as the 200-metre limit from National and State Highways.

Goa Aided Schools to Distribute Free Sanitary Napkins to Girl Students

Education Department directs schools to procure pads at Re 1 each from Jan Aushadhi Kendras, with reimbursement of expenses and safeguards for students' privacy

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Girl students enrolled in government-aided schools across Goa will be provided sanitary napkins free of cost under a new directive issued by the Directorate of Education. Director of Education Bhagirath Shetye has instructed aided primary, secondary, higher secondary and special schools to immediately procure sanitary napkins from the nearest Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra, where each pad is priced at Re 1. Schools have been directed to calculate their requirements based on the number of eligible girl students. The prescribed estimate is two sanitary napkins per day for five days every month, with the annual requirement calculated over 12 months. The procurement expenses can be claimed from the respective Educational Zones, ensuring that schools do not have to bear the cost permanently. Institutions must maintain a consumables register recording the quantity of sanitary napkins purchased, distributed to students and available in stock.

Youth arrested for threatening public with koitas in Canacona

22-year-old accused escaped police custody on Tuesday night before being nabbed on Wednesday; shifted to Panaji hospital for medical examination and treatment

Team Goemkarponn



CANACONA: Canacona police arrested a 22-year-old youth on Wednesday for allegedly threatening his family members, villagers, motorists and police personnel with koitas (sickles) in both hands at Gulem in Canacona on Tuesday night.

The accused, identified as Sameer Chawan, allegedly created panic in the locality by first threatening his family members and subsequently brandishing koitas while stopping motorists on the public road and threatening to kill them.

According to sources, some alert residents attempted to intervene and calm the situation. However, the youth allegedly turned aggressive and tried to attack those present. Police personnel rushed to the spot following information about the incident, and one of them managed to apprehend the youth.

However, the accused reportedly managed to break free from police custody and escaped into nearby thick vegetation under the cover of darkness.

The incident triggered tension in the locality, with residents expressing concern over the possibility of the youth attacking unsuspecting members of the public. Some people reportedly threatened action against the family if the youth continued to remain at large.

Canacona Police Inspector Therron D'Costa also reportedly warned the family members that they could be taken into custody if the youth failed to surrender.

Suspended Crime Branch PI Vikas Deykar, Woman Arrested in Old Goa POCSO Case

■ Police cite inconsistencies in statements, lack of cooperation and possibility of witness tampering; custodial interrogation deemed necessary

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: In a significant development in the Old Goa POCSO case, police have arrested suspended Crime Branch Police Inspector Vikas Deykar (40) and Rajani Palekar (37), a resident of Vasco, following further interrogation in connection with FIR No. 132/2026.

According to the North District Police, both accused had initially joined the investigation after being served notices under Section 35(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.



However, during subsequent interrogation, investigators reportedly found material inconsistencies in their statements, with both allegedly failing to provide satisfactory explanations on crucial aspects of the case.

Police said their arrest was necessary in view of the material gathered during the investigation, their alleged involvement in the offence and the need for custodial interrogation.

The police also expressed apprehensions that the accused could influence witnesses or tamper with evidence if allowed to remain at liberty. Both accused were accordingly placed under arrest. Further investigation is underway.



Valpoi Police Register Forgery Case Against Couple Over Alleged Land Grab Using Fake Certificates

■ Birth and death certificates allegedly forged and submitted before Sattari court during inventory proceedings to claim four land survey numbers in Morlem

Team Goemkarponn

VALPOI: Valpoi Police have registered an offence against a couple from Morlem, Sattari, for allegedly forging birth and death certificates and producing them before a court in an attempt to grab landed property worth unspecified value.

The case was registered on November 3, 2026, following a complaint lodged by Amjad Shamsher Khan, a resident of Kesarkarwada, Morlem, pursuant to an order passed by the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Sattari, in connection with a criminal miscellaneous application.

The accused have been identified as Allaudin Umar Shah and his wife, Jamila Bi Shah, both residents of Kesarkarwada, Morlem.

According to the complaint, the alleged offences took place between 2017 and 2023 at Valpoi, where the accused, acting with common intention, allegedly fabricated or forged the birth certificate of Allaudin Umar Shah and the birth and death certificates of deceased Adam Ali Xa.

The allegedly forged documents were subsequently produced before the Court of the Civil Judge, Junior Division, Sattari, at Valpoi, as genuine documents during Inventory Proceedings No. 32/2017.



Panaji Police Crack Down on Illegal Betting, Two Arrested in Separate Raids

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have booked and arrested two persons in separate incidents for allegedly accepting bets in numerical figures at public places in Taleigao and St Inez on November 3.

In the first incident, police caught Rahamapulla Hangal (20), a resident of Valkeshwar Wado, Betim, allegedly accepting bets near Taleigao Market at around 4.25 pm. During his personal search, police recovered cash amounting to ₹1,340 in different denominations.

The complaint was lodged by Head Constable Sainath Vaigankar (HC 4462) of Panaji Police Station. The accused was arrested at 5.35 pm and released on bail ten minutes later.

In a separate incident, Shrikant Gawas (30), a businessman residing at Borim, Ponda, was allegedly caught accepting bets in numerical figures at around 5.40 pm opposite Patanjali Mega Store, St Inez. Police recovered ₹1,230 in cash in different denominations from his possession.

Anjuna Police Seize Suspected LSD Worth ₹1.40 Lakh in Assagao Raid, Delhi Man Arrested

■ 27-year-old accused allegedly found with 14 paper blots weighing 0.15 grams; police suspect drug consignment was meant for supply to prospective customers

Team Goemkarponn

ASSAGAO: Anjuna Police have arrested a 27-year-old man from Delhi after allegedly recovering suspected LSD worth approximately ₹1.40 lakh during a raid at Sonarkhed, Assagao, late Tuesday night.

The accused has been identified as Aakarsh Kamboj, originally from Rohini, Delhi, and presently residing at Dhuler, Mapusa.

According to police, acting on specific and reliable information, Anjuna Police conducted a raid near Cross, Sonarkhed, Assagao, between 9 pm and 11.40 pm on November 3.



During the operation, Kamboj was allegedly found in illegal possession of 14 paper blots weighing approximately 0.15 grams, suspected to contain the psychotropic substance LSD. The suspected contraband, valued at around ₹1.40 lakh, was allegedly concealed in a blue-coloured handbag and was reportedly intended for supply to prospective customers.

The suspected drug and other exhibits were seized under a duly conducted search and seizure panchanama.

Maina-Curtorim Police Arrest Truck Driver for Illegal Sand Transportation, Seize Tipper Worth ₹20.25 Lakh

■ Tipper loaded with 10 cubic metres of suspected illegally extracted river sand intercepted at Corjem, Curtorim; driver arrested

Team Goemkarponn

CURTORIM: Maina-Curtorim Police have arrested a truck driver for allegedly transporting illegally extracted river sand and seized a tipper truck along with its load, with the total value of the confiscated property estimated at ₹20.25 lakh. The action was carried out during an early morning operation at Corjem, Curtorim, on November 3, 2026, following a complaint lodged by Police Constable Anish Naik (PC 8336) of Maina-Curtorim Police Station. The accused has been identified as Valentino Fernandes, a resident of Nessai, Salcete. He was allegedly found transporting around 10 cubic metres of river sand in a tipper truck without any valid permission or authorisation. Police valued the seized sand at approximately ₹25,000, while the tipper truck is estimated to be worth ₹20 lakh.



Key Pardhi Gang Accused Arrested in Pernem Robbery Case; Police Secure 3-Day Custody

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: In a major breakthrough in the 2025 attack and attempted robbery of a taxi driver at Malpe in Pernem, Goa Police have arrested absconding accused Rahul Bhosale (28), allegedly a member of the Pardhi gang, who had been evading arrest in the case. Bhosale, a resident of Dhanegaon in Tuljapur, Dharashiv, Maharashtra, was earlier arrested by Sawantwadi Police in Maharashtra in connection with another criminal case and was in judicial custody.

FDA Conducts Early Morning Food Safety Drive in Bardez Ahead of Diwali, 15 Buses Checked

12 food establishments inspected during special surveillance operation; one manufacturing unit ordered to shut over unhygienic conditions

Team Goemkarponn



BARDEZ: In a special early morning surveillance drive ahead of Diwali, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) inspected food businesses and checked intercity buses to monitor the safety and quality of food products entering Goa and those manufactured within the state for the festive season. The operation covered various food business establishments, including bakeries and sweet manufacturing units, along with intercity buses suspected of carrying food consignments into Goa. During the drive, FDA officials inspected a total of 12 food businesses and checked 15 intercity buses. In a significant action, one food manufacturing unit was directed to suspend its operations after being found functioning under unhygienic conditions. The premises have been ordered to remain closed until the identified deficiencies are rectified and the required compliance is achieved. The surveillance drive was aimed at ensuring food safety standards, maintaining product quality and preventing the sale or distribution of unsafe food items during the Diwali festive season.



Goa MLAs Participate in Public Accounts Committee Conference in Keralam

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KERALAM: Goa MLAs Govind Gaude and Ulhas Tuenkar recently participated in the Conference of Chairpersons of the Public Accounts Committees (PACs) of Parliament and State and Union Territory Legislatures, held at the Keralam Legislative Assembly in Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam. The conference, organised by the Lok Sabha Secretariat in coordination with the Keralam Legislature Secretariat, brought together PAC hairpersons from Parliament and various State and Union Territory Legislatures to deliberate on strengthening legislative oversight, financial accountability and transparency in public administration. The central theme of the conference was 'Audit, Accountability and Good Governance – The Evolving Role of the Public Accounts Committee'.

MPA Begins Fencing at Sada Under Heavy Police Security Following High Court Directive

Bombay High Court Orders Police Protection to Secure Disputed Port Land; Fencing Work Expected to Take Two Days

Team Goemkarponn



VASCO: The Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) commenced fencing work at Sada, Mormugao, on Wednesday under heavy police security, following a Bombay High Court directive to secure the disputed port land where the shed popularly known as 'Murgao Cha Raja' was demolished. The operation began amid heightened security, with a large police contingent deployed at the site to prevent any untoward incident. South Goa Collector Egna Cleetus, IAS, Deputy Collector and SDM Mormugao Prataprao Gaunkar, Mamlatdar Pravinjay Pandit, senior police officers Nalasco Raposo and Gurudas Kadam, along with MPA officials, were present to oversee the operation. Through its November 3 order in Contempt Petition No. 21/2026, the High Court directed the authorities to provide effective police protection to the MPA to complete fencing of the disputed land situated at Chalta No. 1, P.T. Sheet No. 7, Vasco city.



MLA Sankalp Amonkar Gifts Complete Sound Systems to 32 Religious Institutions Across Mormugao

Initiative Covers Temples, Churches and Mosques, Aims to Promote Self-Sufficiency and Reduce Rental Expenses

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: In a move aimed at strengthening community institutions and promoting self-sufficiency among religious organisations, Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar on Wednesday distributed complete sound system sets to 32 religious institutions across the constituency, covering temples, churches and mosques. The sound systems, comprising microphones, mixers, amplifiers, stands and cables, have been provided to enable religious institutions to independently conduct ceremonies, festivals and other programmes without depending on rented equipment. Amonkar said the initiative was aimed at eliminating the recurring expense of hiring sound systems whenever religious institutions organised functions. He said the idea took shape during the distribution of musical instruments to temples on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. During his interactions with representatives of religious institutions, he realised that many of them regularly had to hire sound equipment for their programmes, despite organising several functions throughout the year. This prompted him to extend the initiative beyond musical instruments and provide complete sound system sets that could meet the long-term requirements of religious institutions.

'Dhartari', a Compilation of Dhillo Folk Songs, Released in Canacona

Sharmila Velip Documents Traditional Folk Songs to Preserve the Cultural Heritage and Unique Identity of the Tribal Community

Team Goemkarponn



CANACONA: A book titled 'Dhartari', a compilation of traditional folk songs associated with the Dhillo festival, compiled by Sharmila Velip of Bhars-Gaondongari village in Canacona taluka, was released on Sunday, November 1, at the Dhillya Maand in Bhars ward. Teacher Devendra Tawadkar was present as the chief guest and inaugurated the book release ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Tawadkar said the Dhillo festival is celebrated in only a few villages across Canacona, Quepem and Sanguem talukas. He explained that the women-centric festival is observed for 21 days, from Dussehra to Diwali.

During the festival, women from the village come together to create a Dhillo on the Maand (sacred platform) and perform various traditional folk dances in front of it every day. He said the festival plays an important role in fostering unity among village women and forms an integral part of the community's cultural existence, making its preservation essential.

Tribal researcher Devidas Gaonkar, who was also present, said women participating in the Dhillo festival develop the mental and physical strength to face various challenges. He expressed concern over changes being introduced to traditional customs in the name of reform, stating that such changes could have serious sociological and historical implications in the future.

Chowgule International School Announces Admissions for the Academic year 2027–28

Admissions are now open, with an international curriculum approach focused on inquiry-led learning, critical thinking and holistic development.

Team Goemkarponn



GOA: Chowgule International School (CIS), Margao, Goa, is now open for admissions for the academic year 2027-28. Applications are invited for Nursery through Grade 2, Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 8 and Grade 9 subject to seat availability.

Part of Chowgule Education Society (CES), which has a legacy of over six decades in education, CIS aims to combine academic rigour with inquiry-led learning, critical thinking and independent problem-solving. Its approach places emphasis on helping students understand concepts, ask questions and apply their learning to real-world situations.

Chowgule International School's learning approach draws on international educational frameworks, with an emphasis on inquiry, conceptual understanding and reflection. The school aims to encourage students to ask questions, make connections and engage with different perspectives, while developing independent thinking and a sense of responsibility.

Commenting on the importance of education in a changing world, Mr. Aditya Chowgule, Founder Director, Chowgule International School, said, "Education must prepare children not only to understand the world as it exists today, but also to respond thoughtfully to the changes that lie ahead. Alongside academic knowledge, students need the ability to question, think independently and adapt to new situations."

Guided by CES's philosophy, "Goan at Heart, Indian at Mind and Global in Outlook," CIS aims to nurture curious, reflective and responsible learners. The school's approach recognises that education extends beyond academic performance to include the development of skills, values and the confidence to navigate an evolving world.

Through its focus on inquiry, independent thinking and a global outlook, CIS aims to create a learning environment that gives students a strong academic foundation and the skills to approach new ideas, adapt to different situations and make informed decisions as they progress through their education and beyond.

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AI Watches Goa's Borders, But Who Is Watching the System?

put in place for an AI-based border surveillance network, the alleged salary payment delays have brought the human resource component of the project into focus.

The issue is significant because the government has entrusted this technology with monitoring vehicle movement across Goa's borders. While artificial intelligence can scan number plates, identify vehicles and generate surveillance data, trained personnel remain essential to operate the system, monitor its performance, address technical glitches and ensure regular maintenance.

This raises an important question: who will take responsibility if the system stops functioning because of operational or maintenance-related problems?

More importantly, if a vehicle enters Goa while the automated surveillance system is non-operational, how will authorities trace its movement and establish whether it entered during the period when surveillance was down?

Goemkarponn News had earlier highlighted an incident involving a Karnataka-registered vehicle that allegedly entered Goa with an improper number plate and fully tinted windows. Following the report, the Directorate of Transport initiated action in the matter. The incident had already raised questions about the effectiveness of vehicle monitoring and enforcement at Goa's border checkposts. The latest concerns over salary payments have added another dimension to the debate surrounding the reliability of the surveillance network. The government and the agencies involved must clarify whether employees are receiving their salaries regularly and what safeguards are in place to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the system. After all, border surveillance is not merely about installing cameras and deploying artificial intelligence. It is about ensuring that the entire network remains functional, accountable and effective at all times.

AI may watch Goa's borders, but without people to operate and maintain it, even the most advanced surveillance system risks becoming ineffective.

Govt Seeks Scientific Review of 153 Mining Leases in Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Areas

existing ore dumps.

At full capacity, these activities are expected to generate an estimated annual revenue of around Rs 4,000 crore and create 4,000 to 5,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities. However, the Chief Minister made it clear that increased mining activity would not come at the cost of environmental protection. "We will not tolerate any violations of environmental laws or prescribed mining conditions. Every operator must comply with environmental clearances, approved mining plans, pollution control requirements and all other statutory safeguards.

"No Automatic Extension": India Sets Firm Conditions for 2026 Ganga Water Treaty Talks With Bangladesh

New Delhi seeks fresh negotiations on the Farakka agreement, prioritising domestic water security and the interests of upstream states as the 30-year pact approaches expiry.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has taken a firm position on the renewal of the 1996 Ganga Water Sharing Treaty with Bangladesh, making it clear that the agreement will not be automatically extended on Dhaka's preferred terms. The 30-year treaty is scheduled to expire on December 12, 2026, setting the stage for fresh negotiations between the two neighbouring countries.

New Delhi is pushing for a new bilateral agreement that takes into account India's domestic water requirements, federal interests and the concerns of states dependent on the Ganga before addressing Bangladesh's demands for downstream water supplies. The original treaty was signed in 1996 during Sheikh Hasina's tenure as Bangladesh Prime Minister, when relations between the two countries were marked by greater political cooperation. However, the political situation has changed significantly. Under the current Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government led by Tarique Rahman, discussions surrounding water sharing have become increasingly contentious.

Political figures in Bangladesh, including National Citizen Committee leader Nahid Islam, have raised demands linking water-sharing arrangements with broader bilateral issues, including transit facilities. There have also been calls for public protests over the issue.

The changing political environment has prompted India to approach the negotiations with greater caution.

One of the major disagreements concerns the allocation of Ganga water during the dry season, when river flows decline considerably.

Bangladesh is seeking the restoration of a guarantee clause similar to the one included in the 1977 agreement. The proposed arrangement seeks to secure a fixed minimum downstream share of up to 80 per cent, even during periods of reduced water availability at the Farakka Barrage.

India, however, is resisting fixed minimum guarantees and favours a flexible, availability-based arrangement.



'Foreign Funding Fuelling Unrest': Centre Accuses CJP of Links With Overseas Donors and Pakistan

Government alleges foreign financial support behind protests in Delhi as police summon key members for questioning

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: The Centre has accused the satirical political group Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and its key members of receiving financial support from foreign organisations and overseas networks allegedly working against India's interests.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh alleged that the group's founder, Abhijeet Dipke, and strategist Ashutosh Ranka had links with overseas financiers. He claimed that Dipke had received money from US-based donors, while Ranka was allegedly paid by Pakistani politicians. The allegations have intensified the political confrontation surrounding CJP's recent protests in the national capital. BJP spokesperson Tuhin A Sinha alleged that the demonstrations were intended to create disorder in Delhi during the festive season and damage India's international image. He also accused CJP and the Congress of targeting constitutional institutions, particularly the judiciary, through their recent political activities.



"Avoid Secret Foreign Vacations": Kiren Rijiju Lists 7 Conditions for Rahul Gandhi to Help Congress Win More Seats

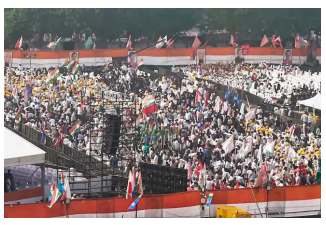
Parliamentary Affairs Minister takes a swipe at the Congress leader, urging him to respect Parliament, engage in debates and change his approach towards political opponents

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has launched a fresh attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, listing seven conditions that he believes could help the Congress improve its electoral performance and increase its representation in Parliament. Rijiju's remarks came amid an escalating political confrontation over Gandhi's repeated challenges to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for an open debate. Taking a sarcastic dig at the Leader of the Opposition, the minister shared a seven point checklist on social media.

Among his suggestions, Rijiju asked Gandhi to spend more time in India and avoid frequent secret foreign vacations. He also advised him to respect senior leaders and learn from their experience, describing it as an important Indian tradition.

The minister further urged Gandhi to stop associating with people he considers anti India and called on him to change his political approach towards the BJP, the RSS and Prime Minister Modi. Rijiju suggested that Gandhi should put an end to what he described as deep hatred towards the BJP, RSS and Modi.



Youth Congress Suspends 80 Office-Bearers for Missing INDIA Bloc Rally, Number May Reach 500

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) has suspended more than 80 office-bearers across several states for failing to attend the INDIA bloc rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on November 1. The organisation has also issued notices seeking explanations from those who remained absent despite receiving clear instructions to participate.

The number of suspended office-bearers could rise to 500 as the disciplinary process continues across states.

Around 60 office-bearers from Madhya Pradesh, at least 13 from Congress-ruled Himachal Pradesh and approximately 10 from Haryana have faced suspension. Similar action is being considered in other states.

The Youth Congress had directed all its national, state and district-level office-bearers to attend the rally and the march leading up to it.

"Maybe He Won't Run": Donald Trump Casts Doubt on JD Vance's 2028 Presidential Bid

Trump expresses uncertainty over his Vice President's political ambitions after Republican losses in the 2026 midterm elections, as Vance blames the Iran war for the party's defeat

Team Goemkarponn



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has expressed uncertainty over whether Vice President JD Vance will contest the 2028 presidential election, raising questions about the Republican Party's future leadership following its major setback in the 2026 midterm elections. Speaking to reporters at the White House on Wednesday, Trump said he had discussed several issues with Vance but was unsure about his plans for the next presidential race. "Maybe he won't run. I don't know who's going to run," Trump remarked, suggesting that several Republican leaders could enter the contest or that the vice president might decide against seeking the presidency. Vance has long been considered a potential successor to Trump and had previously indicated that he would make a decision about his presidential ambitions after the midterm elections. The uncertainty surrounding Vance's political future comes after he publicly blamed the ongoing US and Israel military campaign against Iran for the Republican Party's poor electoral performance.

Delhi Building Collapse: 2 Dead, Several Feared Trapped as Three-Storey Building Crumbles in Chawri Bazaar

Rescue operations underway in Old Delhi after an under-construction building collapsed; narrow lanes are making emergency access difficult

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: At least two people have died and several others are feared trapped after a three-storey under-construction building collapsed in Delhi's Chawri Bazaar on Thursday morning. One person has also been reported injured as rescue operations continue at the site.

The incident was reported around 9:50 am from Gali Sitara, near Chawri Bazaar Metro Station. At least six fire service units, including water tenders and rescue vehicles, were rushed to the location.



Visuals from the spot showed a portion of the building reduced to rubble, with debris scattered across a narrow lane surrounded by adjoining structures. The congested streets of Old Delhi have created difficulties for emergency personnel trying to reach the affected area. Vehicles parked along both sides of the lane have further restricted access.

Residents were seen moving their vehicles to clear the way for ambulances and rescue teams. Emergency personnel have had to walk several metres through the narrow passage to reach the collapse site and assist those affected.

Assam STF Busts Financial Fraud Network, Arrests Six; Pakistan Links Under Probe

Team Goemkarponn

GUWAHATI: The Assam Special Task Force (STF) has arrested six people for their alleged involvement in a financial fraud network operating through mule bank accounts. Investigators are also examining suspected links between the network and Pakistan based intelligence operatives. The arrests followed intelligence inputs about financial fraud activities allegedly being conducted through mule accounts, with possible connections to intelligence operatives.

'Withdrawal Would Hamper Team Strategies': IPL Impact Player Rule Set to Continue in 2027

■ Franchises prepare mini auction plans assuming the controversial rule will remain, despite criticism over its impact on the game

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The much debated Impact Player rule is likely to continue for the 2027 Indian Premier League season, with franchises already factoring its presence into their squad building and mini auction strategies. Although the IPL Governing Council has not formally communicated its decision to the ten franchises, teams are operating with the understanding that the rule will remain in place for the upcoming season.

Several franchises have reportedly based their trade discussions and auction preparations on the assumption that they will continue to have the flexibility of introducing an additional batter or bowler during matches. A last minute withdrawal could disrupt their plans, particularly for teams that have built their squads around the provision. The upcoming season will also be the final edition before the next mega auction cycle, making a sudden change to playing conditions particularly challenging for franchises. At least four teams have reportedly expressed concerns that removing the rule at this stage would significantly affect their strategies. Earlier this year, the IPL Governing Council sought feedback from all ten franchises as part of a broader review of the tournament's playing conditions.



Goa University Announces Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams for All India Inter-University Championship

■ Six athletes each will represent Goa University at the national championship scheduled to be held in Mangalore on November 7

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa University has selected its men's and women's cross country teams for participation in the AIU All India Inter-University Cross Country Men's and Women's Championship 2026-27. The national championship will be held at Mangalore University in Karnataka on November 7, 2026. A kit distribution and farewell function for the selected athletes was organised on November 4 at the Sports Section of Goa University. The programme was attended by Balachandra Jadar, Assistant Director of Physical Education and Sports at Goa University, and Chinmay Jalmi, Assistant Sports Officer. Betty D'Silva, who will serve as coach and manager of the women's team, and Dr Savio Leitao, coach and manager of the men's team, were also present. The women's team comprises Sakshi Kale, Fatima Braganza, Shalu Chauhan, Neha Velip, Disha Velip and Pradnya Gosavi. The men's team features Nikhil Gaude, Sonu Kumar Yadav, Sushant Gaonkar, Narayan Giri, Shankar Khushwaha and Rahul Bishnoi. Both teams will represent Goa University at the national-level competition, which brings together university athletes from across the country.

Goa Women Register Fourth Victory, Defeat Assam by Six Wickets in T20 Trophy

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa registered their fourth victory in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy Elite tournament with a convincing six wicket win over Assam in a Group A encounter at the C K Pithawala Ground in Surat on Wednesday. After winning the toss and opting to bat, Assam struggled against Goa's disciplined bowling attack, managing 99 for nine in their allotted 20 overs. Goa comfortably chased down the target, reaching 100 for four in 16.1 overs with 23 balls to spare. Experienced pacer Shikha Pandey delivered an outstanding performance with the ball, claiming four wickets for just 11 runs in her four overs, including a maiden. Her impressive spell earned her the Player of the Match award. For Assam, Rashmi Dey was the leading scorer with 43 runs off 36 deliveries, while Amontika Munda contributed 26. Sunanda Yetrekar also impressed with the ball for Goa, taking two wickets for 13 runs in four overs. Metali Gawander and Tejaswini Durgad picked up one wicket each. Shikha continued her excellent all round performance during the chase, remaining unbeaten on 38 off 30 balls, which included four boundaries and a six.

Goa Crush Bihar by an Innings and 177 Runs to Secure Dominant Ranji Trophy Victory

■ Snehal Kauthankar's 178 and a five wicket haul from Lalit Yadav power Goa to a comprehensive win with a bonus point at Panjim Gymkhana

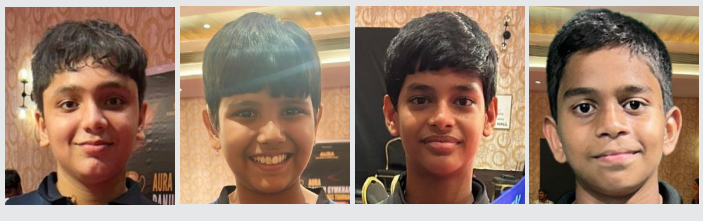
Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa produced a commanding performance to defeat Bihar by an innings and 177 runs in their Ranji Trophy encounter at the Panjim Gymkhana Ground on Wednesday, securing a bonus point in the process. Having enforced the follow on on the second day, Goa completed the emphatic victory on the third day with another disciplined bowling display. After winning the toss and electing to bat, Goa posted an imposing 397 runs in their first innings. Snehal Kauthankar was the standout performer, scoring a patient 178 off 282 deliveries. Captain Abhinav Tejrana provided valuable support with 73 runs, while Darshan Misal contributed 53 to strengthen Goa's position. Bihar's Suraj Kashyap was the most successful bowler, finishing with five wickets for 90 runs. Bihar struggled in reply and were dismissed for just 107 runs in their first innings. Goa's bowlers maintained pressure throughout, with Vasuki Koushik claiming three wickets for 12 runs and Yash Kasvankar taking three for 46.

Chandan Caro, Yug Prabhu Chase Double Crowns at Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament

■ Ishaan Colaso and Ruhaan Shaikh also storm into finals as title clashes take shape at Panjim Gymkhana

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Chandan Caro and Yug Prabhu will be competing for double titles at the Aura-Panjim Gymkhana All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament 2026, powered by Aura Builders and Developers, at Panjim Gymkhana, Campal.

Both paddlers have secured their places in the Boys U-19 final, while Chandan has also qualified for the U-15 title clash and Yug has entered the U-13 final.

In the Boys U-13 semi-finals, Yug defeated Kaushik Nair in straight games, winning 3-0 to book his place in the final. Ishaan Colaso also produced a dominant performance, overcoming Ashank Dalvi 3-0 to set up a title clash against Yug.

The U-15 semi-finals witnessed Chandan Caro getting the better of Yug Prabhu with a convincing 3-0 victory. In the other semi-final, Ruhaan Shaikh defeated Dhruva Kamat 3-1 to secure his place in the final against Chandan.

Goa Trail Himachal Pradesh by 217 Runs After Promising Batting Display in U-23 Clash

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa made a steady start in reply to Himachal Pradesh's first innings total of 370, reaching 153 for three at the close of the second day's play in their Col C K Nayudu Elite Under-23 four-day cricket encounter at the Goa Cricket Association Ground in Sanguem.

Goa trail by 217 runs with seven wickets remaining, keeping themselves in contention as the match progresses.