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TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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CM Sets Three-Day Deadline for Mhaje Ghar Regularisation, Warns Panchayats of Action

■ Pramod Sawant directs officials to issue Sanad and house regularisation certificates without procedural delays

■ Special Courts to fast-track land cases across all 12 talukas as government vows to defend Mhaje Ghar law up to Supreme Court

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PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has issued strict directions to Panchayats and municipalities to complete the regularisation of houses constructed before 1972 within three days, warning of action against officials who delay the process or violate government instructions under the Mhaje Ghar scheme.

In a move aimed at removing procedural hurdles, Sawant directed Deputy Collectors to issue Sanad certificates on the same day or the following day, while Panchayat Secretaries must issue house regularisation certificates without insisting on a Panchayat resolution or the Sarpanch's signature.

The Chief Minister said the government would not tolerate unnecessary delays in implementing the scheme and urged officials to ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive the required

Congress Raises Concerns Over 2026 SIR, Alleges Voter Deletions Across Goa

Girish Chodankar and AICC Observer Yashomati Thakur question the transparency of the electoral roll revision, alleging discrepancies and deletion of voters' names; Congress announces intensified 'Vote Choro, Desh Bachao' campaign across the state.



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PANAJI: The Congress has raised serious concerns over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the exercise could lead to the deletion of genuine voters' names and undermine the transparency of the electoral process.

Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Girish Chodankar alleged that the 2002 SIR was an inclusive exercise aimed at adding eligible voters to the electoral rolls, whereas the 2026 revision was intended to exclude voters by removing their names. He claimed that while the 2002 exercise was conducted by the Election Commission of India, the present exercise was effectively being conducted by the BJP.

AICC Observer and former Maharashtra Minister Yashomati Thakur also questioned the transparency of the SIR, alleging that her children's names had been deleted from the electoral rolls and that discrepancies were noticed in their dates of



Supreme Court Declines Tarun Tejpal's Plea to Suspend 10-Year Jail Term in Rape Case

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PANAJI: The Supreme Court has refused to grant relief to former Tehelka editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal, rejecting his application seeking suspension of his conviction and 10-year prison sentence in the 2013 rape case.

Tejpal had approached the apex court challenging the Bombay High Court's decision overturning his acquittal and finding him guilty of sexually assaulting a junior colleague at a luxury hotel in Goa.

Through his plea, Tejpal sought suspension of the conviction and sentence while his appeal against the High Court judgment remained pending. He also sought release on bail.

The prosecution opposed his request, maintaining that the evidence on record supported the High Court's findings and did not justify granting him interim relief.

FRO Goa deports four foreign nationals in two days; five more detained for visa violations

■ Three Russians and a Kenyan woman deported; special drive at Querim detects five foreign nationals overstaying their visas

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PANAJI: The Foreigners Registration Office (FRO), Goa, deported four foreign nationals, including three Russian men and a Kenyan woman, to their respective home countries over a period of two days for violating visa regulations. On November 4, 2026, FRO Goa deported three Russian male nationals who were found overstaying their tourist visas. Of the three, two had been convicted by the court, while the third was lodged at a detention centre.

Earlier, on November 2, a Kenyan woman was deported to her home country following her conviction by a court in a forgery case.

'Come To Parliament For Debate': Amit Shah Challenges Rahul Gandhi Over SIR Row

■ Home Minister says Centre is ready to convene a special Parliament session as political tensions rise over the Special Intensive Revision

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NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday challenged Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi to take his demand for a debate with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Parliament, reiterating that the government was prepared to convene a special session to discuss the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) issue.

Addressing a public rally in Karnal, Haryana, during the BJP's 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' campaign, Shah accused the Congress of repeatedly disrupting parliamentary proceedings and creating unnecessary chaos.

'Pralay Missile Successfully Tested': India Strengthens Defence Capabilities With Indigenous Quasi-Ballistic Missile

■ DRDO completes successful user evaluation trial off Odisha coast, paving the way for induction of the 150 to 500 km range missile

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NEW DELHI: India has successfully test-fired its indigenously developed Pralay quasi-ballistic missile off the Odisha coast, marking another major milestone in the country's defence capabilities. The missile was launched from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island on Thursday and successfully met all the objectives set for the trial.Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Pralay is a short-range, surface-to-surface missile designed to carry conventional warheads. It has an operational range of 150 to 500 kilometres and can carry payloads weighing between 500 kg and 1,000 kg.

The latest flight test was conducted at 11:10 am as part of user evaluation trials. Data collected through various monitoring systems confirmed that the missile performed successfully.

Vasco Market: Vendors Have Rights, But Public Safety Cannot Wait

MMC's 24-hour eviction notice raises questions about natural justice, but the bigger question is who will take responsibility if the fire-damaged structure collapses while people continue to access it. The Council must explain its delay and the sudden urgency.

The confrontation between vendors of Vasco's fire-ravaged New Modern Municipal Market and the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) has brought to the surface a larger question of administrative accountability. While the vendors are justified in opposing a 24-hour eviction notice, the municipal authorities must also explain why a building declared structurally unsafe has been allowed to become an issue of confrontation rather than one of immediate and systematic action.

The vendors are not wrong in demanding reasonable time. Many of them have already suffered enormous losses in the devastating fire. Their businesses have been affected, their incomes disrupted and whatever remains of their belongings is now at stake. Being asked to vacate within 24 hours, without adequate time to make arrangements or explore legal remedies, is understandably distressing.

Their argument that the principles of natural justice must be followed also deserves consideration. Administrative authorities cannot expect people to accept every decision without explanation or an opportunity to be heard. The Council must communicate its reasons, address legitimate objections and ensure that the affected vendors are treated with dignity.

But there is another side to this issue, and it is one that cannot be ignored.

What if the building collapses? What if a portion of the damaged structure gives way while vendors or members of the public are inside? Who will take responsibility for the consequences?

The structural stability assessment has reportedly raised serious concerns about the safety of the building. If the report establishes that the premises are unsafe, public access cannot continue merely because vendors need more time. The right to livelihood is important, but it cannot come at the cost of human life.

No municipal council, district administration or elected representative should take the risk of allowing people into a potentially dangerous structure. If an accident occurs, the same authorities will be questioned for failing to act despite having knowledge of the danger.

> ***MMC must also make the structural stability report public. Transparency is essential, particularly when an order directly affects the livelihoods of dozens of traders. The public should know the extent of the damage, the specific safety concerns and whether any part of the premises can be accessed under controlled conditions.***
>
> ***The Council must also clarify what arrangements are being considered for the displaced vendors. Eviction cannot be the end of the administration's responsibility, especially when these traders are already victims of a devastating fire. Their rehabilitation, alternative business arrangements and assistance in recovering their livelihoods must remain part of the larger response.***

This is precisely why the vendors' demand for time must be considered within the boundaries of public safety. They can be allowed to retrieve their remaining belongings, but only if qualified engineers certify that specific areas can be accessed safely and under supervision. If the entire structure is unsafe, access must remain prohibited until experts determine otherwise.

However, the more uncomfortable question is directed at MMC itself. Why has the Council delayed the matter to such an extent that it now finds itself issuing an abrupt 24-hour eviction notice?

When did the Council receive the structural stability report? When were its findings communicated to the vendors? What action was taken immediately after the fire? Did MMC examine the possibility of a phased evacuation, supervised retrieval of goods or temporary arrangements for the affected traders?

These are not unreasonable questions. They go to the heart of administrative responsibility.

If the building was unsafe, the Council should have acted immediately after receiving the technical assessment. It should have informed the vendors, explained the risks and prepared a clear evacuation plan. Instead, the sudden notice has created confusion, anxiety and the possibility of confrontation. An administration cannot remain inactive and then expect citizens to respond to an emergency deadline without questioning how the situation arose. MMC must also make the structural stability report public. Transparency is essential, particularly when an order directly affects the livelihoods of dozens of traders. The public should know the extent of the damage, the specific safety concerns and whether any part of the premises can be accessed under controlled conditions.

The Council must also clarify what arrangements are being considered for the displaced vendors. Eviction cannot be the end of the administration's responsibility, especially when these traders are already victims of a devastating fire. Their rehabilitation, alternative business arrangements and assistance in recovering their livelihoods must remain part of the larger response.

At the same time, vendors must recognise that legal remedies cannot become a reason to disregard an immediate safety threat. Courts can examine the legality of administrative decisions, but no legal battle can justify exposing people to a known structural risk.

This is not a battle between MMC and the vendors. It is a test of responsible governance.

The vendors deserve a fair hearing and humane treatment. The administration owes them transparency and accountability. But public safety must remain non-negotiable. MMC must act firmly where danger exists, but it must also answer for its own delay. It cannot shift the entire burden of an administrative failure onto people who have already lost so much.

The question is no longer simply whether vendors should vacate within 24 hours. The real question is why the Council waited until the last minute to act, and whether it is prepared to take responsibility if its delay or its decisions result in a tragedy.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mapusa Market Waste Crisis Highlights Need for Accountability

The garbage accumulation at Mapusa's wholesale fruit and vegetable market is a matter of serious concern. A market that caters to hundreds of traders, vendors, restaurant operators and consumers every day must maintain the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene.

The Goa Human Rights Commission's decision to initiate suo motu proceedings is significant, as it brings the issue before senior government and civic authorities. The notices issued to the Chief Secretary, Director of Municipal Administration, Mapusa Municipal Council Chief Officer, Goa State Pollution Control Board Member Secretary and North Goa Collector indicate the need for accountability across departments.

The accumulation of vegetable leftovers, spoiled fruits, plastic crates, thermocol packaging and other discarded materials not only affects the appearance of the market but also raises concerns about public health and environmental sanitation.

Markets are important public spaces, and their cleanliness cannot be treated as an occasional exercise. The authorities must ensure regular waste collection, proper segregation, timely disposal and adequate monitoring. There should also be a clear mechanism to hold agencies responsible when sanitation standards are not maintained.

The November 6 deadline set by the Commission should encourage authorities to come forward with concrete solutions rather than routine explanations. Equally important is ensuring that corrective measures are implemented and sustained.

Mapusa deserves a clean and hygienic market. The authorities must treat this intervention as an opportunity to address the problem permanently instead of waiting for another complaint.

- Sanjay Kamat, Porvorim, Goa

Vasco Market: Public Safety Cannot Be Compromised, But Vendors Deserve Justice

The confrontation between vendors of Vasco's fire-ravaged New Modern Municipal Market and the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) raises serious questions about administrative accountability and public safety. The vendors have every reason to seek reasonable time before vacating the premises. Having already suffered losses in the devastating fire, they are now facing uncertainty over their businesses, livelihoods and remaining belongings. A 24-hour eviction notice, without adequate arrangements or clear communication, understandably creates anxiety.

However, the larger concern cannot be overlooked. If a structural stability assessment has declared the building unsafe, allowing vendors and members of the public to continue accessing it could have serious consequences. What happens if a portion of the damaged structure collapses? Who will take responsibility if lives are lost?

The right to livelihood is fundamental, but public safety cannot be compromised. The authorities must ensure that any retrieval of belongings takes place only under expert supervision and after technical clearance.

At the same time, MMC must explain why it waited until the situation reached this stage. When was the structural report received? Why were vendors not informed earlier? What arrangements were made for their rehabilitation? These questions demand answers.

The Council must make the structural assessment public and provide affected traders with clear information about alternative arrangements and assistance.

This should not become a confrontation between authorities and vendors. It is a test of responsible governance. Vendors deserve dignity, transparency and a fair hearing, while the administration must ensure that no avoidable tragedy occurs.

- Vijay Naik, Vasco, Goa

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PANAJI | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026

Goa Introduces Historic Inter-District Transfer Policy for Collectorate Staff

Revenue Minister Atanasio Monserrate ushers in major administrative reform, opening transfer opportunities between North and South Goa Collectorates

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PANAJI: In a significant first for Goa's administrative system, the Revenue Department, under the leadership of Revenue Minister Atanasio Monserrate, has introduced an Inter-District Transfer Policy for employees of the North Goa and South Goa Collectorates, paving the way for staff transfers between the two districts.

The initiative marks a long-awaited reform, as Collectorate employees previously had no provision for inter-district transfers, unlike employees in certain other government departments where similar arrangements were already in place.

With the introduction of this provision, Collectorate staff will now have greater flexibility in their postings, allowing them to seek transfers between North and South Goa, subject to the applicable conditions and departmental requirements.

The move is expected to bring greater convenience to government employees while enabling the Revenue Department to manage its human resources more efficiently. It will also provide a wider scope for staff deployment, helping strengthen administrative coordination and the functioning of both district Collectorates.

The landmark decision reflects Revenue Minister Atanasio Monserrate's focus on addressing long-pending administrative issues and introducing reforms aimed at making the government machinery more responsive, flexible and employee-friendly.



Goa's Cancer Surveillance Drive Faces Hurdle as Private Hospitals Stay Out of Reporting System

Public hospitals have started furnishing cancer data, but the absence of reports from private healthcare institutions remains a concern for the proposed State-level registry

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PANAJI: The Goa government's plan to develop a comprehensive record of cancer cases across the State is yet to receive participation from private healthcare providers, leaving a significant portion of the medical sector outside the newly introduced reporting mechanism. Although government hospitals have started forwarding patient information to the Directorate of Health Services (DHS), private hospitals and other healthcare establishments are yet to submit their cancer-related records, raising questions over the reach of the initiative. The reporting system was introduced after the State government formally brought cancer under the notifiable disease category through a notification under the Goa Public Health Act. The objective is to create a consolidated record of cancer diagnoses and strengthen the government's ability to monitor the disease. Information has reportedly been received from Goa Medical College and the two district hospitals.



Saligao Waste Treatment Plant Targets November 15 for Complete Operational Revival

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SALIGAO: The Saligao waste treatment facility is preparing for a full operational comeback by November 15, following repairs to its biodigester and a disruption that affected waste processing for 25 days. The Goa Waste Management Corporation (GWMC) has worked out a step-by-step restoration programme to bring the facility back to its normal processing levels. The plan involves gradually increasing the quantity of wet waste received at the plant while allowing the repaired system to stabilise. The facility, which is designed to process 150 tonnes of wet waste daily, had been operating with a reduced intake of around 100 tonnes following technical difficulties with its biodigester. GWMC Managing Director Harish Adconkar confirmed that the maintenance work has been completed. The plant operator, Hindustan Waste Treatment Pvt Ltd (HWTPL), will now resume waste feeding in phases to ensure that the biodigester functions properly.

SEIAA Clears Rs 1.12 Crore Dispute Over Ayurveda Institute Project in Pernem

Goa environment authority accepts revised expenditure details of Dhargal campus, rules out additional turnover-based recovery and decides to close audit proceedings

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PANAJI: A financial dispute involving the construction of the All India Institute of Ayurveda campus at Dhargal in Pernem has been resolved, with the Goa State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) deciding that no further payment is required towards the disputed Rs 1.12 crore. The issue arose after the Accountant General's audit raised questions about the amount collected from the project authorities for commencing construction without obtaining environmental clearance in advance. The audit had calculated a higher financial liability and sought an explanation for the difference between the assessed amount and the Rs 23 lakh already deposited by the project authorities. Following the audit observation, SEIAA sought further clarification regarding the project's expenditure and the basis adopted for calculating the environmental violation charges. During the review, NBCC (India) Limited submitted that the expenditure incurred up to the relevant stage of the project was Rs 23 crore.

2.1 Tonnes of Chicken Consignment Intercepted at Margao Railway Station

Poultry associations and police intercept 24 boxes of chicken reportedly transported to Goa by train

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MARGAO: A consignment of approximately 2.1 tonnes of chicken, packed in 24 boxes, was intercepted at Margao Railway Station today by members of the Goa Poultry Farmers and Traders Association, along with representatives of other poultry associations and police personnel.

The consignment was reportedly brought into Goa by train, prompting members of the poultry associations to intervene and inspect the shipment at the railway station. Representatives of the Goa Poultry Farmers and Traders Association were joined by members of other poultry bodies during the operation, with police personnel also present.

The interception involved 24 boxes containing an estimated 2.1 tonnes of chicken. Further details regarding the source of the consignment, its intended destination and the subsequent action by authorities are awaited.

Goa High Court Says ECI Software Glitches Cannot Deny Voters Their Legal Rights

Six Santa Cruz Residents Get Relief After Court Overturns Rejection of Electoral Applications, Orders Restoration of Names Within 10 Days

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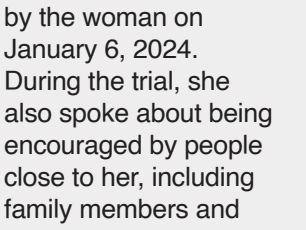


PANAJI: Election officials cannot refuse to process legitimate voter applications merely because the Election Commission of India's (ECI) software does not support the required action, the Bombay High Court at Goa has held, stressing that technical limitations cannot take precedence over electoral law. The ruling came in a 42-page judgment delivered by a Division Bench in a case involving six members of a family from Santa Cruz, whose names were left out of the draft electoral roll despite having applied for changes in their residential details. Setting aside the rejection of their applications, the High Court directed the concerned Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) to verify their residence and restore their names in Part 25 of the electoral roll within 10 days. The petitioners, led by Paresh Salgaonkar, had submitted Form 8 applications through their Booth Level Officer (BLO) on November 12, 2025. The applications were subsequently uploaded on December 8. However, when the draft electoral roll was released on December 16, the family's names were missing. Their applications were eventually rejected on January 21, 2026, two days after the deadline for filing claims and objections had expired.

Failed Interfaith Relationship Not Grounds for Rape Charge, Goa Court Acquits Bengal Man

North Goa Fast Track Court Finds No Proof of Fraudulent Marriage Assurance, Says Prosecution Failed to Establish Deception From the Beginning

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NORTH GOA: A relationship that ends because of family resistance cannot automatically be treated as sexual exploitation through a false marriage promise, the North Goa Fast Track Special Court has observed while acquitting a 24-year-old man from West Bengal in a rape case. The accused, Mainul Hasan Chowdhury, a resident of Barddhaman, was given the benefit of doubt after the court found insufficient evidence to establish that he had entered into the relationship with an intention to deceive the complainant. Chowdhury was taken into custody by Anjuna Police in March 2024 following allegations by a woman who had previously worked with him. The prosecution's case was that he had sexual relations with her on several occasions in December 2023 by allegedly assuring her of marriage. The two first came into contact during a video interview for a bartender's vacancy at a restaurant in Anjuna, where Chowdhury was working as a manager. The woman, then around 22 years old, arrived in Goa on December 2, 2023, and the two subsequently developed an intimate relationship while staying at a guest house. The relationship took a different turn later that month when the woman discovered her pregnancy. Following the disclosure to their employer, Chowdhury reportedly lost his employment and accommodation before leaving Goa, fearing legal consequences. An FIR was registered by the woman on January 6, 2024. During the trial, she also spoke about being encouraged by people close to her, including family members and colleagues, to initiate legal proceedings.



Margao Court Orders Return of Seized Phone, Questions Delay in Police Probe

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MARGAO: Questioning the delay in the investigation of an alleged sexual assault case, the Margao Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court has permitted an accused to take interim custody of his seized smartphone, subject to certain conditions.

The mobile phone had been taken into custody by Verna Police during the investigation of a case registered under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Seeking its return, the accused moved an application before the court through his lawyer, Adv. Savio Noronha. The defence produced documents establishing the applicant's ownership of the handset, a claim that was not challenged by the investigating agency.

The defence also questioned why the device had remained with the police for almost 30 days without being forwarded for forensic analysis.

Pedestrian injured after scooter rider hits him at Marcaim

Pandurang Naik sustains head injuries; undergoing treatment at GMC Bambolim

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PONDA: A pedestrian sustained head injuries after a TVS Jupiter scooter allegedly rammed into him at Caranzal, Marcaim, on November 2 at around 6 pm.

According to a complaint lodged by HC 6987 Rajesh Gaude of Mardol Police Station, the accused rider, Rahul Gaude, a resident of Kundaim, Mardol, was proceeding from Gaunem towards Marcaim when he allegedly rode the scooter in a rash and negligent manner.

On reaching Caranzal, Marcaim, the scooter allegedly hit Pandurang Naik, a resident of Ladewada, Marcaim, while he was crossing the road, causing injuries to his head.

Naik is undergoing medical treatment at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim.

Further investigation is being carried out by HC 6987 Rajesh Gaude of Mardol Police Station.

Garbage Pile-Up at Mapusa Sub-Yard Draws Human Rights Commission's Attention

GHRC Seeks Explanations From Top State and Civic Officials, Sets November 6 Deadline for Responses

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MAPUSA: Mounting concerns over the disposal of waste at Mapusa's wholesale fruit and vegetable market have prompted the Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) to initiate suo motu proceedings, seeking accountability from the authorities responsible for maintaining the premises. The Commission has called for explanations from five senior authorities, including the Goa Chief Secretary, the Director of Municipal Administration, the Chief Officer of Mapusa Municipal Council, the Member Secretary of the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) and the North Goa Collector. Notices have been issued directing them to submit their replies by November 6. The proceedings stem from a citizen's report drawing attention to the unhygienic state of the Mapusa Sub-Yard, an important trading centre that attracts wholesale buyers, small-scale vendors, restaurant operators and household consumers from across Mapusa and the surrounding Bardez region. The complaint points to an accumulation of market refuse across different sections of the premises, including areas used for the movement of goods and customers. Vegetable leftovers and spoiled fruit are reportedly being left unattended, while discarded packaging materials and other non-biodegradable items have added to the waste burden.

Vasco market vendors oppose 24-hour eviction notice, seek time for legal recourse

Vendors question abrupt deadline, cite lack of natural justice and seek protection from coercive action following adverse structural stability report

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VASCO: Vendors operating from the ground floor of the fire-ravaged New Modern Municipal Market in Vasco have opposed the Mormugao Municipal Council's (MMC) decision to evict them within 24 hours, demanding reasonable time to make alternative arrangements and pursue legal remedies against the order.The eviction notice, issued by MMC Chief Officer Siddhivinayak S Naik on November 3, directs the vendors to vacate the fire-affected building within 24 hours. The Council has initiated the action in compliance with directions from the South Goa Collector, following an adverse structural stability report on the damaged building. The notice also directs the Council to cordon off the premises and restrict public entry to prevent access to the unsafe structure. Assistant Engineers of the Electricity Department and the Department of Drinking Water have also been instructed to disconnect electricity and water connections to the building.



Salkar threatens defamation case against MMC Chief Officer, seeks vigilance probe

Vasco MLA alleges Siddhivinayak Naik misused his name while issuing notices to around 40 buildings, accuses him of creating panic among residents

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VASCO: Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar has threatened to initiate defamation proceedings against Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) Chief Officer Siddhivinayak Naik, accusing him of misusing his name while issuing notices to around 40 buildings and creating unnecessary panic among residents.

Salkar said his advocate would immediately initiate defamation proceedings against the Chief Officer. He also announced plans to approach Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant and seek a vigilance inquiry into Naik's conduct, along with stringent action against him. Expressing displeasure over the manner in which the notices were issued, Salkar said he had specifically asked municipal authorities to prioritise two buildings which he had personally found to be in a dangerous condition, instead of involving his name in notices issued to several other structures. "I feel sad that officers are issuing notices using my name. Regarding dilapidated buildings, I had mentioned that notices should be issued on top priority to Premavati Building, which is in a very dangerous condition, and Raghavendra Building at Baina, where I personally inspected the premises and found people living in extremely dangerous conditions," Salkar said.



South Goa Collector Makes Tenant Verification Mandatory, Orders Police Intimation Before Renting Properties

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MARGAO: In a preventive measure aimed at strengthening security and keeping track of people staying in rented and temporary accommodation, South Goa District Magistrate Egna Cleetus has made tenant verification compulsory across the district, directing landlords and accommodation providers to furnish tenant details to the local police before letting out their premises. The directive, issued on November 5 under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, follows a report submitted by the Superintendent of Police, South Goa, highlighting difficulties faced by investigators in tracing suspects who allegedly use fictitious names, residential addresses and telephone numbers while staying in hotels and rented properties. According to the police report cited in the order, verification of accommodation registers has, in several instances, revealed that the details furnished by occupants were false or misleading.

Kushavati District Announces Electoral Roll Revision Schedule, Final Voter List on January 4

24×7 Helplines Set Up Across Five Assembly Constituencies; Special Enrolment Drives to Be Held on Four Days in November and December

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MARGAO: The Office of the Collector and District Election Officer of Kushavati District has announced the schedule for the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls ahead of the 2027 electoral cycle, urging eligible residents to verify their voter details and ensure their names are included in the voters' list.

The revision exercise, being conducted by the Election Commission of India with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date, aims to update electoral records and ensure that all eligible citizens are covered.

As per the announced programme, the integrated draft electoral roll will be published on November 12, 2026. Citizens can submit claims and objections between November 12 and December 11, while the process of resolving these applications is scheduled to be completed by December 28.

Goa Inaugurates First MY Bharat Chapter at Bambolim Nursing Institute

Ten Students Appointed as Brand Ambassadors to Promote Youth Leadership, Volunteering and Nation-Building Initiatives

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PANAJI: Goa has launched its first MY Bharat Chapter at the Institute of Nursing Education, Bambolim, marking a new initiative to involve students in leadership, community service and nation-building activities.

The chapter was formally inaugurated in the presence of Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanawade. Dr. Wilson N. Fernandes, Principal of the Institute of Nursing Education, and Samyek Meshram, District Youth Officer, MY Bharat, North Goa, were also present.

The inauguration coincided with the organisation of the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament Programme, which was conducted around the theme 'One Nation, One Election'.

The newly established chapter is intended to provide students with opportunities to participate in volunteering programmes, develop leadership skills, gain practical experience and contribute to community-oriented initiatives. It will also serve as an institutional platform to connect young people with various programmes conducted under MY Bharat. Ten students have been selected as MY Bharat Brand Ambassadors to represent their institution and encourage greater participation among their peers. They are Flavina Maria D'Souza, Manuela Reena Fernandes, Kaushik Shailesh Naik, Udaya Kishor Shetye, Sahiba Khan, Lavash Sandeep Sankhalkar, Blaine Venita Almeida, Kushbu Abdul Shaikh, Joneza Pinto and Owais Hassan War.

Centre Extends Immigration Relief Deadline To December 31, 2024 For Persecuted Minorities

New rules cover six religious communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, while the CAA citizenship cutoff remains unchanged

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NEW DELHI: The Central Government has extended immigration related relief to members of six religious communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who entered India on or before December 31, 2024, after fleeing religious persecution or fearing discrimination in their home countries.

Under the amended Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, dated November 4, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from these three countries will be exempt from certain requirements involving valid passports, travel documents and visas.

The exemption covers individuals who entered India without valid documents as well as those whose passports or other travel documents have expired. However, beneficiaries will still need to obtain an appropriate category of visa to continue their stay in the country.

The latest decision extends the immigration protection period by 10 years beyond the December 31, 2014 cutoff prescribed under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The CAA provides a special route to Indian citizenship for eligible members of the six communities who entered India from these countries on or before December 31, 2014. Importantly, the revised December 31, 2024 deadline does not change the citizenship eligibility criteria under the CAA. Instead, it introduces a separate mechanism to address the immigration status of people who arrived in India between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2024.

This means eligible individuals who entered India during this period can receive relief from certain documentation requirements and seek legal permission to continue residing in the country. The amendment creates a clear distinction between citizenship eligibility and immigration protection. Those who arrived by December 31, 2014 and fulfil the remaining CAA conditions may qualify for the special citizenship pathway, while those arriving over the following decade can benefit from the revised immigration exemptions.

The decision provides relief to persecuted minorities whose legal status may have remained uncertain due to missing or expired travel documents.

While the government has retained the CAA's original citizenship deadline, the latest amendment significantly expands the immigration protection window for eligible minorities until December 31, 2024.

'Merchants Cannot Charge Customers': NPCI Defends New UPI MDR Rules In Supreme Court

NPCI says 96% of merchant transactions will remain unaffected, with charges limited to select high-value payments above Rs 2,000

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has defended the revised Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) framework for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions before the Supreme Court, clarifying that merchants cannot transfer the additional charges to customers.

In an affidavit filed on November 3, NPCI stated that UPI application providers cannot impose platform fees or additional charges on users for making payments. It also maintained that merchants are prohibited from passing on MDR charges, with violations attracting strict compliance action. Banks, Payment System Providers and Third Party Application Providers could face penalties, including termination of their UPI membership and payment facilities, if they fail to follow the prescribed rules. The response followed the Supreme Court's September 28 decision to seek replies from the Centre, NPCI and other parties on a petition challenging the introduction of MDR on specified person to merchant (P2M) transactions exceeding Rs 2,000. Defending the revised framework, NPCI argued that the new charges would affect only a small portion of merchant payments. Approximately 96% of P2M transactions would remain unaffected, either because their value is Rs 2,000 or below or because they involve merchants covered under the zero MDR policy.

Under the revised structure, MDR of up to 0.4% applies to eligible merchant transactions exceeding Rs 2,000. The charge is capped at Rs 300 for transactions of Rs 75,000 and above. Small merchants receiving monthly inward UPI credits of up to Rs 1 lakh will continue to remain exempt. Certain sectors, including railways, telecommunications, insurance, fuel and agricultural inputs, will attract a flat charge of Rs 5 on eligible transactions. Payments involving mutual funds, securities and stockbrokers will attract an MDR of 0.02%, subject to a maximum of Rs 300.

The revised pricing framework came into effect on October 15, ending nearly six years of completely free UPI payments for specified high value merchant transactions. Person to person transfers will continue to remain free. NPCI also argued that the revised charges were necessary to support the growing UPI ecosystem.



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CM Sets Three-Day Deadline for Mhaje Ghar Regularisation, Warns Panchayats of Action

certificates within the stipulated timeframe.

Reassuring officials over the legal status of the Mhaje Ghar scheme, Sawant said the government was prepared to defend the law up to the Supreme Court.

He clarified that only one matter concerning comunidade land had been challenged in court and expressed confidence in the government's position, asking officials not to allow the litigation to obstruct implementation.

Alongside the regularisation drive, the government has launched Special Courts across all 12 talukas to expedite land-related cases, including tenancy, mundkarial, partition, mutation and Mhaje Ghar matters. Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Mamlatdars and other officials will conduct hearings every Saturday beginning November 14.

Highlighting the significance of Goa's housing regularisation initiative, Sawant also said Maharashtra had enacted a law to regularise houses built on government land, following Goa's Mhaje Ghar model.

The government's latest directions signal a push to translate the Mhaje Ghar scheme into faster delivery of regularisation certificates, with accountability now placed on local authorities and revenue officials.

Congress Raises Concerns Over 2026 SIR, Alleges Voter Deletions Across Goa

birth. She cautioned that similar issues could affect other citizens and said the Congress would intensify its efforts to highlight alleged voter deletions across states.

Thakur further alleged large-scale voter manipulation, claiming that objections raised before the Election Commission were ignored.

She announced that the Congress would step up its 'Vote Choro, Desh Bachao' campaign across Goa through house-to-house outreach, district-level press conferences and booth-level awareness programmes.

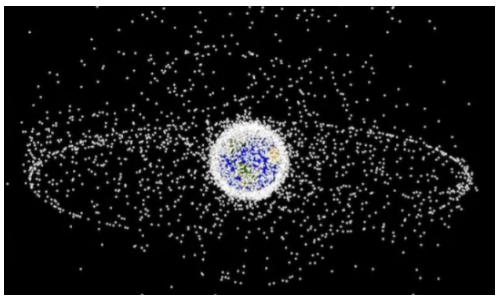
Appealing to the media to support the campaign, Thakur said the issue concerned the protection of democracy and citizens' constitutional rights.

The Congress leaders said they would continue raising concerns over alleged irregularities in the electoral roll revision and mobilise people across Goa to create awareness about voter registration and deletion-related grievances.

'Swachh Space By 2030': India Sets Ambitious Target To Clean Up Orbital Debris

■ With 129 trackable debris objects linked to its space missions, India is developing satellite servicing and removal technologies to make Earth's orbit safer

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: India has announced an ambitious plan to make its space activities debris free by 2030 under its 'Swachh Space' vision. The initiative aims to prevent the creation of new orbital debris while developing technologies to remove existing space junk and protect satellites operating around Earth.

Announcing the goal on November 5, Union Minister of State for Science Jitendra Singh highlighted India's growing capabilities in space debris removal. The initiative forms part of the country's broader Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM), which seeks to ensure that government agencies and private space companies adopt sustainable practices by the end of the decade.

According to government figures, India currently has 129 trackable debris objects in orbit linked to its space activities. These include 23 defunct satellites in Low Earth Orbit, 26 inactive satellites in Geostationary Orbit, 47 discarded rocket stages and 33 fragments generated following the breakup of a PSLV rocket body.

The challenge is significantly larger at the global level. Estimates indicate that more than 100 million pieces of human-made debris are circulating in Earth's orbit. These include inactive satellites, discarded rocket components and fragments created by collisions and explosions.



'567 Bank Accounts Frozen': J&K Police Arrest Nearly 2,000 Drug Peddlers In Major Crackdown

■ Police register over 1,500 NDPS cases, attach properties worth crores and recover Rs 1.10 crore in intensified action against drug trafficking

Team Goemkarponn

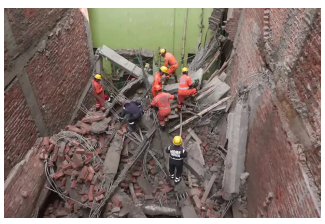
NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Police has intensified its crackdown on drug trafficking, arresting nearly 2,000 alleged drug peddlers, registering more than 1,500 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and freezing 567 bank accounts this year.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone, Sujit Kumar, shared the details on Thursday during his first press conference after taking charge of the position.

He said the police had also attached properties worth crores belonging to suspected drug peddlers and recovered approximately Rs 1.10 crore in cash as part of its efforts to dismantle the financial networks supporting the illegal drug trade.

According to Kumar, the 567 frozen bank accounts collectively contained around Rs 1.31 crore. The action is aimed at identifying and disrupting the financial channels used to fund drug trafficking activities.

The IGP appealed to young people and members of the public to actively participate in the fight against drugs and cybercrime. He encouraged citizens to share information about drug-related activities, assuring them that the identities of informers would remain strictly confidential.



'Owner Ignored Six-Month-Old Warning Before Delhi Building Collapse That Killed Two'

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A series of warnings and alleged construction violations preceded the collapse of a building in Old Delhi's Chawri Bazar that claimed two lives. Records of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) indicate that the property owner had been warned about the deteriorating condition of the structure six months before the incident. Despite the warning and a subsequent police complaint, unauthorised construction allegedly continued.

The first notice was issued on April 28 to the owner, Samiullah. The MCD directed him to strengthen the building under the supervision of a qualified structural engineer and submit a certificate confirming its safety. The advisory specifically permitted structural strengthening and did not authorise reconstruction. On June 15, Delhi Police informed the civic body about suspected unauthorised construction at the property in Gali Sheesh Mahal near Ajmeri Gate.

'No Change In Reporting Line': Election Commission Clarifies Seema Khanna's Role Amid Row

■ New work allocation order directs IT chief to route files through senior deputy election commissioner, while EC says the existing reporting hierarchy remains unchanged

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has clarified that there is no change in the reporting structure of its Director General of Information Technology, Seema Khanna, following a fresh work allocation order issued on November 4 amid an ongoing controversy over internal administrative arrangements.



Under the latest order, Khanna will route files relating to the divisions under her supervision through Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Pawan Kumar Sharma. The directive takes immediate effect and partially modifies an earlier office order dated September 23, 2025.

The Commission has maintained that the revised arrangement does not alter Khanna's position in the organisational hierarchy. Her reporting has always been through an officer at the Deputy Election Commissioner level.

'Hope You're Enjoying Delhi's Weather': Supreme Court Takes Dig at Pollution Crisis

■ Supreme Court questions the focus on stubble burning, highlights vehicle emissions and calls for better planning to tackle Delhi NCR's worsening air quality

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday expressed concern over the worsening air pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), stressing the need for stronger measures to address both stubble burning and pollution caused by vehicles and other local sources.



A three judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, along with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, began the hearing with a pointed remark about the city's pollution situation: "I hope you all are enjoying the weather in Delhi."

During the proceedings, the Chief Justice observed that repeated court orders were not necessarily leading to compliance, as violations continued despite judicial intervention.

Senior lawyer Aparajita Singh, assisting the court as amicus curiae, highlighted the severity of the pollution and said breathing the region's air was comparable to smoking 30 cigarettes a day. She also pointed out that air quality remained close to the severe category.Singh stated that stubble burning contributed around 14 per cent to Delhi's pollution levels but stressed that local pollution sources, including waste burning, also required urgent attention.

The bench questioned whether farm fires were being given too much attention while emissions from private vehicles and affluent households were being overlooked.

'We Stuck to Our Plan': Harmanpreet Singh Hails India's Composure After Historic 6th Asian Champions Trophy Title

India defeat Japan 4-1 in Mohali to complete a hat-trick of consecutive titles, finishing the 2026 campaign unbeaten with seven wins

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Indian men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh praised his team's patience, composure and discipline after India defeated Japan 4-1 in the Asian Champions Trophy 2026 final at the Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium in Mohali on Thursday. India staged an impressive comeback after conceding an early goal to secure their sixth Asian Champions Trophy title. Harmanpreet highlighted the team's ability to remain calm and follow its strategy throughout the match, regardless of the situation. He credited the players for maintaining their focus during difficult moments and delivering an outstanding performance in the final quarter, when India scored three goals to take control of the contest. India's record-breaking triumph also completed a hat-trick of consecutive titles, following their victories in 2023 and 2024. The defending champions enjoyed an unbeaten campaign, winning all seven matches in the tournament. Japan started strongly, with Kazumasa Matsumoto giving his team the lead in the third minute through an excellent backhand effort.

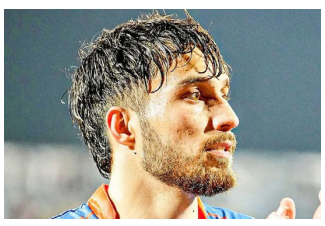


'Tanvi Patri Creates History': 15-Year-Old Becomes First Indian Woman to Win Youth Olympics Badminton Silver

Patri saves six match points in a thrilling final against world junior champion Zhang Yi Xin but narrowly misses out on gold in Dakar

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Indian badminton sensation Tanvi Patri created history by becoming the first Indian women's singles player to win a silver medal at the Youth Olympic Games. The 15-year-old narrowly missed out on gold after losing a thrilling final against reigning world junior champion Zhang Yi Xin in Dakar, Senegal, on Thursday. In an intense contest lasting one hour and 22 minutes, Tanvi went down 15-21, 21-13, 26-24 in a match filled with dramatic momentum shifts. Despite facing defeat, the young Indian displayed remarkable determination, saving six match points and creating three opportunities to seal the gold medal. Before Tanvi's achievement, Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy in 2010 and Lakshya Sen in 2018 had won individual silver medals at the Youth Olympic Games. Sen had also secured a mixed team gold medal as part of Team Alpha, which featured players from eight different countries. Tanvi started the final cautiously but gradually found her rhythm in the opening game. Trailing 3-5, she produced an impressive run of seven consecutive points to take a 10-5 lead. Her effective punch tosses and excellent control near the net helped her secure the opening game in 25 minutes.



India Beat Pakistan 3-2 in SAFF Championship 2026 as Suhail Ahmad Bhat Scores Brace

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Defending champions India began their SAFF Championship 2026 campaign with a thrilling 3-2 victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in a Group B encounter at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Thursday. Suhail Ahmad Bhat starred with two goals, while Manglenthang Kipgen also found the net to help India secure all three points. India dominated the first half, establishing a commanding 3-0 lead through an impressive attacking display. Srinagar-born forward Bhat opened the scoring in the 13th minute, giving India an early advantage. He struck again six minutes later, completing his brace in the 19th minute and putting Pakistan under considerable pressure. India continued to control proceedings and extended their lead in the 31st minute when Kipgen scored the team's third goal. The early attacking success gave the defending champions a comfortable three-goal cushion heading into the half-time break.

'Portugal Will Always Be In Me': Cristiano Ronaldo Announces Retirement From International Football

Portugal captain brings an extraordinary 23 year international career to an end after 234 appearances and 146 goals for his country.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Portuguese football legend Cristiano Ronaldo has announced his retirement from international football, bringing the curtain down on a remarkable career spanning more than two decades with the national team. The 234 time Portugal international confirmed his decision in an emotional video shared



on Instagram on Thursday. Ronaldo finishes his international career with 146 goals, making him one of the most prolific goalscorers in the history of the game. Addressing Portuguese supporters, the 40 year old said the time had come to hand over the iconic number seven shirt to the next generation. He reflected on the responsibility and privilege of representing his country for 23 years, describing the journey as one that changed his life forever. Ronaldo admitted that the decision was not easy, explaining that it was guided by both his mind and his heart.

Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja Set for India A Return, Rishabh Pant Ruled Out of 3rd Unofficial Test

Pant continues rehabilitation at BCCI Centre of Excellence, raising concerns over his availability for the upcoming two-Test series against New Zealand

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja are expected to feature in the third and final unofficial Test between India A and New Zealand A, beginning Saturday. However, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant has been ruled out as he continues his recovery from a side strain.



Pant is currently undergoing rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. His absence from the final fixture has also raised questions about his availability for India's upcoming two-Test series against New Zealand, with the opening match scheduled to begin on November 19.

While Pant remains unavailable, India are expected to strengthen their A squad with the inclusion of Bumrah and Jadeja. Their participation would provide valuable match practice ahead of the international Test assignments.

India T20I vice-captain Tilak Varma has already joined the India A squad in Lincoln as Pant's replacement. Dhruv Jurel will continue to lead the side, which also includes seam-bowling all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy.

Reddy was part of India's ODI squad until Wednesday but did not feature in the playing XI for the rain-affected opening match of the series. If Pant fails to regain full fitness before the Test series, Jurel is expected to take over wicketkeeping responsibilities for India.

Meanwhile, fast bowler Prasidh Krishna is also likely to play Saturday's fixture as he looks to regain match fitness following a hamstring injury. He has completed three weeks of rehabilitation and has received clearance to play across all formats.