Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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Sudin Predicts 50% New Faces In Goa Assembly After 2027 Elections

MGP Leader Says Voters Will Bring Political Change, With Half The Assembly Expected To Have New Faces

Team Goemkarponn

MARCAIM: MGP leader Sudin Dhavalikar has predicted that nearly 50% of the faces in the Goa Legislative Assembly will be new following the 2027 Assembly elections, expressing confidence that voters will bring about a significant change in the state's political landscape.

Speaking to reporters, Dhavalikar said the political developments over the next two to three months would become clearer and voters would take their decisions accordingly. He indicated that there was a growing public expectation for a change in political representation.

Emphasising the need for better leadership, Dhavalikar said simply bringing young faces into politics was not enough. He stressed that new entrants must have good values, character and conduct.

He also called for an end to commission-based politics and goondaism, asserting that people



involved in such practices should have no place in public life.

Taking a strong position against political defections, Dhavalikar said the MGP would not welcome leaders who frequently switch parties. He questioned the credibility of politicians who justify party-hopping in the name of development work, leaving it to voters to judge their intentions.

Dhavalikar said meaningful political and social change would ultimately depend on the voters, who would have an opportunity to make their choices in the 2027 Assembly elections.

Goa Recognises Transgender Community as Socially and Educationally Backward

Government includes transgender persons in state OBC list, making them eligible for reservation in education and public appointments

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Government of Goa has officially recognised the transgender community in the state as socially and educationally backward, paving the way for reservation benefits in educational institutions and public appointments.

The notification, issued by the Directorate of Social Welfare on November 10, 2026, states that transgender persons will be included in the State List of Other Backward Classes (OBC).

The decision has been taken in pursuance of the Supreme Court's judgment dated April 15, 2014, in the National Legal Services Authority versus Union of India case. The government also considered the educational and social conditions of the transgender community in Goa and the recommendations of the Goa State Commission for Backward Classes.

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Vijai Accuses Damu Naik of 'Divide and Rule' Politics, Says No Alliance Deal with Congress Yet

GFP Chief Denies Role in Removal of Ethel's Banner in Fatorda; Says Ball Is in Congress' Court Over Alliance

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FATORDA: Goa Forward Party (GFP) chief Vijai Sardesai has accused BJP leader Damu Naik of practising "divide and rule" politics during election years, alleging that money power and attempts to divide people are part of his political strategy.

Referring to his political opponents as "election-year mushrooms", Sardesai claimed that they were targeting him out of concern over the public response to his 'People's Path' initiative.

Reacting to the controversy over the removal of Ethel's banner in Fatorda, Sardesai denied any involvement and claimed that smart camera footage would establish that government officials had removed the banner as it was obstructing their work.

He also alleged that a four-page RTI application was filed by the husband of the Fatorda-Mardol BJP president at the instructions of Damu Naik.

On the proposed electoral understanding between the Goa Forward Party and Congress ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, Sardesai clarified that no formal alliance agreement has been reached so far.

He said he had conveyed his willingness to enter into an alliance with Congress and had also discussed the role GFP could play and the constituencies it would seek. However, he claimed that Congress had not responded to his proposal yet.

"The ball is in Congress' court," Sardesai said, adding that reports suggesting an alliance agreement between the two parties may have originated from Congress sources.

PoK Unrest Deepens: Deadly Security Crackdown Leaves Seven Dead As Protests

Violence in Pakistan-administered Kashmir intensifies amid demands for political representation, local rights and accountability

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Fresh violence and widespread protests in Pakistan-administered Kashmir have intensified pressure on the Pakistani government, bringing renewed attention to growing public dissatisfaction over political representation, local rights and Islamabad's handling of the unrest.

The latest confrontation has centred on Rawalakot, where security forces reportedly moved against protest camps associated with the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) between November 5 and 7.

The clashes reportedly left seven people dead and several others injured, further escalating tensions in the region. The developments have triggered concerns over the use of force



against protesters and the government's response to growing public demands.

The unrest reflects deeper grievances among residents, who have been raising concerns over governance, political participation and their rights in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

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"He Called Us Naxals": Rahul Gandhi Challenges PM Modi To Public Debate

Congress leader asks Prime Minister to debate who is anti-national and who is influenced by foreign forces

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has renewed his challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for an open public debate following the latter's controversial remarks describing certain ideological groups as "dimagi Naxals".

The Congress leader's challenge came a day after Modi warned that ideological supporters of Naxalism had infiltrated several organisations, including political parties, and were attempting to influence people against the Constitution and democracy.

Reacting to the Prime Minister's remarks, Gandhi referred to Modi's Diwali celebrations with Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district. He questioned whether the soldiers supported the Prime Minister's statements and





challenged him to debate the issue publicly.

In a post on X, Gandhi said the expressions of the personnel during the address suggested that they were unconvinced by the Prime Minister's claims. He reiterated his willingness to debate Modi on who was anti-national and who was being controlled by foreign forces.

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Goa Cannot Ignore the Outsider Crime Question Anymore

The sexual assault of a four-year-old girl has once again raised serious concerns about public safety in Goa. Minister Ramesh Tawadkar's claim that 90 per cent of such crimes are committed by outsiders demands attention, verification and urgent government action.

The horrific sexual assault of a four-year-old girl in Goa has shaken the conscience of the state. A child who should have been enjoying the innocence of childhood has instead become the victim of an unspeakable crime. The incident has understandably triggered anger, fear and outrage. But beyond the immediate demand for justice, it raises a larger and uncomfortable question that Goa can no longer afford to ignore: Is the state doing enough to monitor criminal elements entering and operating within its borders?

Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar has claimed that nearly 90 per cent of such crimes are committed by outsiders. His statement has brought renewed attention to an issue that has troubled Goans for years. While the figure must be supported by official crime statistics, the concern itself cannot simply be dismissed as prejudice against migrants.

Goa has always welcomed people from across India. Thousands of migrant workers have contributed immensely to its construction industry, tourism sector, hospitality businesses and economy. Their contribution is undeniable. But welcoming outsiders does not mean abandoning security checks, ignoring criminal backgrounds or allowing people to live and operate without adequate verification.

> *The distinction is important. The issue is not migration itself. It is the entry and presence of individuals with criminal intentions, particularly when weak monitoring systems allow them to remain undetected.*
>
> *If Tawadkar's claim is based on police records, the government must immediately release the relevant data. Goans have every right to know how many serious crimes, particularly sexual offences against women and children, have been committed by persons from outside the state. The figures must distinguish allegations, arrests and convictions. Only then can the government frame an effective response based on evidence rather than assumptions.*

However, the larger responsibility rests with the police and administration.

What has happened to the much-discussed tenant verification system? Are landlords consistently submitting details of tenants to the police? Are labour contractors maintaining proper records of workers brought into Goa? Are establishments employing temporary workers ensuring that their identities are verified? And most importantly, are the police conducting meaningful checks or merely collecting documents that remain buried in files?

These questions deserve immediate answers.

Goa is a small state with a rapidly changing population, driven by tourism, construction and employment opportunities. Thousands of people arrive for temporary work, while others settle here for longer periods. This movement is a normal part of economic activity. But without effective identification and lawful background verification, tracking individuals suspected of serious crimes becomes more difficult.

The government must strengthen coordination between police stations, landlords, labour contractors, employers and local bodies. Where legally permissible, criminal background checks and inter-state police coordination should become more effective. Those deliberately sheltering wanted offenders or providing false identity information must face appropriate legal consequences.

At the same time, no innocent worker or family should be harassed merely because they come from another state. The objective must be to identify criminals, not criminalise entire communities.

The latest incident also exposes worrying gaps in public safety. According to the reported police account, the child was found crying near a taxi stand, while the alleged assault occurred in the basement of a dilapidated building. Why are such isolated and abandoned premises accessible without adequate monitoring? Are CCTV cameras functioning in vulnerable public areas? Are police patrols sufficiently frequent?

These are not minor administrative concerns. They are fundamental questions about the safety of children.

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant and the Goa Police must ensure that the accused is identified and brought before the law without delay. The child must receive the best possible medical treatment, counselling and protection. The investigation must be handled sensitively, with every effort made to preserve evidence and secure justice.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Missing Girl Case in Nagoa Raises Concerns Over Women's Safety

The reported disappearance of a 19-year-old girl from Nagoa, Arpora, after she went to watch Narkasur celebrations in Saligao is a matter of concern. The incident highlights the importance of ensuring the safety of young women, particularly during festivals and public gatherings.

According to the complaint filed by her father, the girl left home with a friend on November 7 but did not return. The family has expressed suspicion of abduction, and Anjuna Police have initiated an investigation.

While the exact circumstances remain unknown, the police must make every possible effort to trace the missing girl at the earliest. CCTV footage from the route between Nagoa and Saligao, statements from friends and witnesses, and other available evidence should be examined thoroughly.

Festivals are meant to bring communities together and allow people to celebrate without fear. However, incidents involving missing persons remind us that public safety requires constant attention from law enforcement agencies as well as citizens.

The police should also keep the family informed about the progress of the investigation and ensure that the girl's privacy is respected.

I appeal to anyone who may have relevant information to cooperate with the authorities. The immediate priority must be to trace the young woman safely and establish the circumstances surrounding her disappearance.

-Rohan Kamat, Porvorim, Goa

Child Safety Must Be the Government's Highest Priority

The alleged sexual assault involving a three-year-old girl in Mapusa is deeply disturbing and raises serious concerns about the safety of children in our society. No child should ever have to suffer such an experience, and incidents of this nature demand urgent attention from both the authorities and the community.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has condemned the incident and assured strict action against those responsible. While such assurances are important, the government must ensure that they translate into concrete action and justice for the victim.

The police must conduct a thorough and time-bound investigation, collect all relevant evidence and ensure that the accused, if found guilty, face the full force of the law. The investigation and subsequent legal proceedings must also protect the identity, dignity and privacy of the minor.

Beyond this particular case, the incident should serve as a wake-up call for the state. Child protection cannot be limited to statements made after unfortunate incidents. There must be stronger awareness programmes, effective safety mechanisms and regular monitoring of places where children are particularly vulnerable.

Parents, educational institutions, local authorities and society must work together to create a safer environment for children.

The government must also strengthen child protection systems and ensure that victims and their families receive appropriate support.

Children are among the most vulnerable members of society. Their safety must never be compromised, and justice must not be delayed.

-Francis Fernandes, Mapusa, Goa

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Diwali Aftermath: Panaji Records AQI Of 174 As Pollution Levels Rise Across Goa

Several towns register unhealthy air quality, with Cuncolim witnessing severe pollution; Panaji ranks 163rd in global pollution index

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Goa is witnessing a worrying rise in air pollution following the Diwali festivities, with Panaji recording an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 174 on Monday night, signalling unhealthy atmospheric conditions.

The deterioration comes after two successive nights of firecracker celebrations across the State. While the timing coincides with the festive period, the exact reasons behind the increase in pollution have not been determined.

Figures published by AQI.in indicate that Goa's AQI was approximately 137 on Sunday. The subsequent rise to 174 in Panaji points to a further decline in air quality.

The pollution spike was not confined to the capital. Curchorem, Aldona, Anjuna, Assagao, Ponda, Sanquelim and Verna were among the locations reporting unhealthy AQI readings. Cuncolim registered severe pollution levels, while Canacona remained in the poor category.

Compared with other major cities, Goa's readings were relatively lower. Kanpur recorded an AQI of 542 and Delhi 446, both in the hazardous range. Bengaluru registered 234, categorised as severe, while Mumbai reported 183, falling in the unhealthy category.



Congress workers protest vandalism of Milind Prabhu's banners in Valpoi, demand accountability

Valpoi Block Congress Committee alleges banners were removed under police protection; demands impartial probe and action against those responsible

Team Goemkarponn

VALPOI: The Valpoi Block Congress Committee, along with supporters of Congress leader Milind Prabhu, staged a protest in Valpoi condemning the alleged tearing down and vandalism of banners belonging to their leader.

The protest reflected growing resentment among Congress workers, who alleged that the incident was a deliberate attempt to intimidate political workers and suppress their democratic right to express political support.

The protesters further alleged that the banners were removed and vandalised under police protection, raising questions about the role of the police and the impartiality of law enforcement authorities. They demanded an explanation from the concerned authorities and accountability for those responsible

Addressing the gathering, Congress workers strongly condemned the incident and warned that any further attempts to vandalise their banners or intimidate supporters would be met with a strong but lawful democratic response. They said they would pursue all appropriate legal remedies and approach the concerned authorities to safeguard their democratic rights and freedom of political expression.



Goa Road Accident Toll Climbs To 229; State Sees 297 More Crashes This Year

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PANAJI: Road accidents continue to take a growing toll in Goa, with the State reporting 2,268 crashes and 229 deaths between January 1 and November 8 this year. Compared to the same period in 2025, the latest figures reflect 297 additional accidents and 11 more fatalities, pointing to an increasingly concerning road safety situation.

A closer look at the traffic police data reveals that smaller accidents account for a significant share of the increase. Minor crashes rose from 360 last year to 516 this year, an increase of 43.3%. The number of people injured in these incidents also went up considerably, from 629 to 810.

The overall accident count has moved up from 1,971 cases during the corresponding period last year to 2,268 in 2026, representing a growth of approximately 15%. Fatalities have similarly increased, with 229 people losing their lives against 218 in 2025.

The rise is visible across other categories as well. Grievous accidents increased from 188 to 224, accompanied by an increase in grievous injuries from 235 to 282.

GSCPCR takes suo motu cognizance of alleged child sexual abuse in Mapusa

Commission directs police to conduct time-bound investigation; stresses medical care, counselling and protection of the minor's identity

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (GSCPCR) has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports concerning the alleged sexual assault of a three-year-old girl in Mapusa, expressing deep concern and anguish over the incident.

According to the reports, the accused allegedly abducted the minor girl, daughter of a balloon vendor, and took her to an abandoned building near Lohia Garden in Mapusa, where the alleged assault reportedly took place

Taking serious note of the incident, the Commission has directed the concerned police authorities to ensure a thorough, impartial and time-bound investigation and initiate strict legal action against the accused under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and other applicable laws.

The Commission strongly condemned all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation against children, stating that such incidents are deeply disturbing and underline the urgent need to strengthen child safety and protection mechanisms across Goa.

High Court orders immediate stoppage of work at Cavelossim site over alleged destruction of sand dunes

Authorities directed to secure disputed coastal property after PIL by two villagers alleges CRZ violations by Ashford SCDC Resorts LLP; matter to be heard again on November 11

Team Goemkarponn

CAVELOSSIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has ordered an immediate halt to all activities at a coastal property in Cavelossim, Salcete, after a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) raised concerns over the alleged destruction of sand dunes by developer Ashford SCDC Resorts LLP.

Passing interim directions during an urgent hearing, the vacation bench instructed the state government and several local and regulatory authorities to ensure that no further work is undertaken at the disputed site. The property must also be secured to prevent unauthorised entry.

The Court observed that the material placed before it, including photographs submitted by the petitioners, prima facie indicated damage to sand dunes on the land identified under Survey No. 99/2-E. It further noted that the alleged activity had reportedly continued despite notices issued earlier.



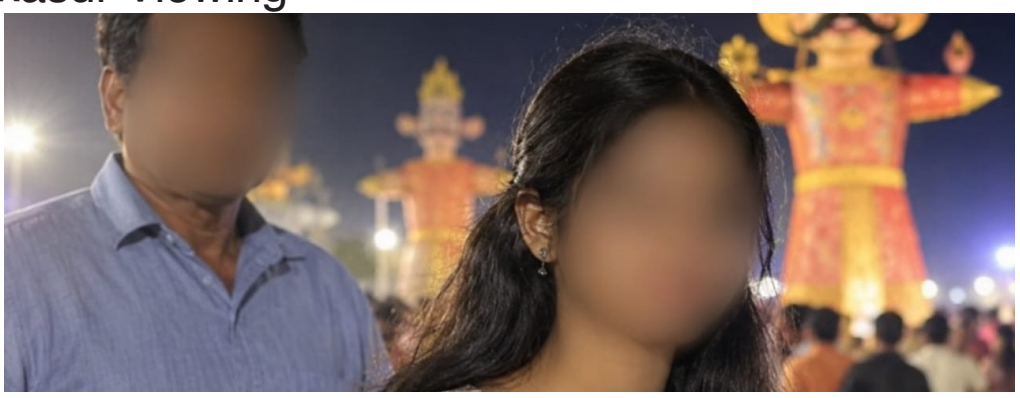
The bench also expressed prima facie concern over possible breaches of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, Goa's land development and building construction regulations, and provisions of the Goa Panchayat Raj Act

The directions have been issued to the South Goa Collector, Salcete Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Officer, Block Development Officer, Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA), Colva Police and Cavelossim Village Panchayat.

19-Year-Old Girl Reported Missing In Nagoa; Police Begin Investigation

Father Suspects Abduction After Daughter Fails To Return Home From Narkasur Viewing

Team Goemkarponn



ARPORA: A 19-year-old girl was reported missing from Nagoa, Arpora, Bardez, after she allegedly failed to return home following a visit to see Narkasur effigies at Saligao.

According to the complaint lodged by her 49-year-old father, a driver residing at Rauta Wado, Nagoa, the incident reportedly occurred on November 7, 2026, at around 9 pm.

The girl had reportedly gone along with her friend to see the Narkasur effigies at Saligao but did not return home thereafter. Her father suspected that an unknown person had abducted her by using force or deceitful means and taken her away without her consent.

The complaint was registered at 12.59 am on November 9, 2026. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Saish Kinlekar of Anjuna Police Station.



85-Year-Old Woman Found Dead On Building Terrace In Siolim

Missing Since November 7, Elderly Woman Found In Decomposed State; Police Suspect Accidental Fall

Team Goemkarponn

SIOLIM: An 85-year-old woman, who had reportedly been missing since November 7, was found dead on the open terrace of a building at Tarchibhat, Siolim, Bardez, on November 9.

According to police, Robot 17 staff received information from the Panaji Police Control Room at around 9.46 am on November 9, informing them that police assistance was required at Siolim.

Accordingly, PSI Amir Taral and LPC 8886 visited the spot at Tarchibhat, where they found the body of Mrs. Shevanta Mane, wife of Vithoba Mane, a resident of H.No. 928, Tarchibhat, Siolim, lying on the open terrace of K.B. Enclave building.

Her son, Narayan Mane, identified the body. He informed police that his mother had been missing since November 7 after leaving home without informing anyone.

The body was found in a decomposed condition. During preliminary enquiry, police suspected that the elderly woman may have accidentally slipped on a cement block placed over the plinth beam on the terrace, resulting in a fall and a head injury after hitting the beam.

The body was subsequently shifted to Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, by PC 8640 for preservation and post-mortem examination to complete the necessary medico-legal formalities.



56-Year-Old Man Found Dead Inside Flat At Dhuler, Mapusa

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MAPUSA: A 56-year-old man was found dead inside his flat at Mathew Apartment, Dhuler, Mapusa, on November 9, 2026, after police received information about a foul smell emanating from the residence.

According to police, a phone call was received from the Panaji Police Control Room at around 1.07 pm, informing that a caller had reported a foul smell coming from one of the flats at Mathew Apartment, Dhuler, Mapusa.

Following the information, PSI Dattaprasad Pandit, along with PC 8172, proceeded to the spot to verify the complaint.

Upon reaching the residence, police found Sanjeev Joseph Berta Pereira, aged 56, a resident of Dhuler, Mapusa, lying dead inside his flat.

Further arrangements were made at the spot, while police initiated an enquiry to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the death.

Further enquiry is in progress under the supervision of PSI Dattaprasad Pandit.

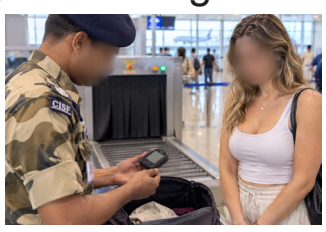
Foreign Woman Detained After GPS Device Found In Hand Baggage At Goa Airport

CISF Detects GPS Device During Security Screening At Dabolim Airport; Police Begin Investigation

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: A foreign woman was allegedly found carrying a GPS device without valid documentation during security screening at Goa International Airport, Dabolim, on November 8, 2026.

According to a complaint lodged by Lappasi Venkatraman Nagarajan, Inspector/Executive, CISF Unit, Goa International Airport, the incident occurred at around 4.32 pm at the Domestic Security Hold Area.



The GPS device was detected by XBIS Machine No. 04 while screening the hand baggage of the accused, identified as Skyler Sierra Storm, a resident of California, United States, who was presently staying at Vilmaris Breeze Hotel, Calangute.

The woman was scheduled to travel from Goa to Mumbai by an IndiGo Airlines flight, with an onward journey to Athens. Upon being questioned, she allegedly failed to produce any licence or valid documentation regarding the possession of the GPS device.

Further investigation in the matter is being conducted by PSI Kasim Shingangutti of Dabolim Airport Police Station.

Man Assaulted With Broken Beer Bottle In Marcaim; Suffers Neck Injuries

Police Book Case Against Marcaim Resident Following Late-Night Attack On Complainant's Husband

Team Goemkarponn

MARCAIM: A man sustained bleeding injuries to his neck after he was allegedly assaulted with a broken beer glass bottle at Wadal Wada, Marcaim, Ponda.

According to a complaint lodged by Pooja Gaude, a resident of Marcaim, the incident allegedly took place between 7 pm on November 7 and 3 am on November 8, 2026.

The complainant alleged that the accused, identified as Sahil Gaude, a resident of Marcaim, Ponda, assaulted her husband, Pandurang Gaude, with a broken beer glass bottle, causing bleeding injuries to his neck.

Further investigation in the case is being conducted by PSI Abhilash Naik of Mardol Police Station.



Goa traffic police record 8,399 violations in 38 days using body cameras

Canacona tops the list with 1,707 offences, followed by Ponda, Bicholim and Vasco; cameras are also being used to record parking violations

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The Goa Traffic Police recorded 8,399 traffic violations in just 38 days, averaging approximately 221 offences daily, through body-worn cameras between October 1 and November 7, 2026.

Initially introduced to improve transparency during traffic enforcement, the body-worn cameras are now also being used to document offences such as no-parking, dangerous parking and obstructive parking.

Among Goa's 18 traffic cells, Canacona recorded the highest number of violations at 1,707, followed by Ponda with 1,686, Bicholim with 1,617 and Vasco with 1,565.

SP Traffic Prabodh Shirvaiker said traffic personnel are required to wear body cameras while conducting patrolling, nakabandi and traffic enforcement duties.

The department currently has 235 body-worn cameras, including 100 additional units distributed in September.

The increased use of body cameras is aimed at strengthening accountability and transparency in traffic enforcement while enabling the police to document violations more effectively.



GFP Leaders Slam Government Over Law And Order, Demand Women's Police Stations In Every Taluka

Party Raises Alarm Over Crimes Against Women And Children, Questions Police Response And Demands Accountability

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Women leaders of the Goa Forward Party (GFP) on Monday launched a sharp attack on the State Government over what they described as a "total collapse" of law and order in Goa, alleging a rise in crimes against women and children and demanding urgent measures to restore public safety.

Addressing a press conference in Margao, GFP Women Forward leader Adv. Ashma Bi, party leader Dr. Renuka Dennis Da Silva and Margao Municipal Council (MMC) Councillor Pooja Naik expressed serious concern over recurring incidents of violence against women and minors. They referred to the recent alleged sexual assault of a four-year-old child, earlier brutal assault cases in Benaulim and incidents involving alleged misconduct by law enforcement personnel.

Adv. Ashma Bi said that the sense of safety once enjoyed by women in Goa had significantly deteriorated. She observed that women who earlier moved around freely even during late-night hours were now increasingly concerned about their safety, while parents feared allowing young children to venture even short distances from home.



Canacona ambulance driver discovers deceased youth is his 20-year-old son

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: In a tragic incident, an ambulance driver at Canacona Community Health Centre (CHC) was left devastated after learning that a 20-year-old youth brought dead to the hospital was his own son.

According to reports, the youth collapsed while watching a football match at Bhatpal in Canacona. He was immediately rushed to the Canacona CHC, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

At the time, his father, Sadanand Phadte, who works as an ambulance driver at the CHC, was preparing to transport another patient to the South Goa District Hospital in Margao.

While waiting for additional patient transfers, Phadte was informed that a young man had died in the casualty department. However, he was left shattered when he learnt that the deceased was none other than his own son.

The tragic incident has cast a pall of gloom over the area.

Women's Helpline 181 Is Only A Counselling Centre, Not An Emergency Helpline: DRAG

Disability Rights Association Of Goa Urges Women In Distress To Contact Goa Police, Seeks Inquiry Into Alleged Police Inaction In Dowry

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Disability Rights Association of Goa (DRAG) has strongly criticised the functioning of the Women's Helpline 181, alleging that it operates merely as a counselling centre rather than providing assistance during emergency situations.

In a press release issued on November 9, 2026, DRAG President Avelino de Sa urged women facing distress or immediate threats to contact the Goa Police helpline, claiming that Women's Helpline 181 does not provide emergency assistance or coordinate with the police.

Citing a recent case, de Sa said he had referred an educated woman with a disability to the helpline after she allegedly faced threats from her husband to assault her and her family. He claimed that the woman had repeatedly approached Ponda Police with complaints of dowry harassment, insults and mental torture but had received no effective response.

According to de Sa, the South Goa Centre Coordinator of Women's Helpline 181 informed him that the centre functioned only as a counselling facility and did not provide assistance during emergencies or coordinate with Goa Police.

Goan Marathi Short Film 'Medium Piece' Bags 13 Awards At International Tagore Film Awards In Kolkata

Jay Amonkar-Directed Film Wins Top Honours Across Multiple Categories, Bringing Recognition To Goa's Independent Cinema

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has made a mark on the national and international independent film circuit, with Marathi short film *Medium Piece*, directed by Goa-based filmmaker Jay Amonkar, winning an impressive 13 awards at the International Tagore Film Awards (ITFA) 2026 held in Kolkata.

The film received recognition across several categories, including Best Short Film, Best Director, Best Story, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematographer, Best Editor, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Marathi Film, Best Producer, Best Comedy Film and the prestigious Tagore Best Filmmaker Award.

Director Jay Amonkar received the Best Director honour along with the prestigious Tagore Best Filmmaker Award, while Vardhan Kamat won Best Actor and Sayali Bandkar was honoured with Best Actress.



Gaurav Gokhale received recognition for Best Cinematographer and Best Editor, adding to the film's impressive list of achievements.

Produced under the banner of Big Banner Entertainment & Media LLP, the film's success reflects the collective efforts of its cast and crew and highlights the growing recognition of independent Marathi cinema.

Medium Piece has also earned selections and recognition at several international film festivals, including the Bracciano Film Festival in Italy, Cinema Village Festival in New York and the International Film Festival in Budapest, Hungary.

The 13-award achievement at Kolkata marks a significant milestone for filmmaker Jay Amonkar and his team, while bringing pride and recognition to Goa's creative community and Marathi storytelling.

Delhi's Pollution Crisis: AQI Readings Differ Sharply As Residents Turn To Wearable Air Purifiers

Conflicting pollution data and rising demand for personal protection devices highlight the growing challenges of breathing in the national capital

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Delhi's worsening air pollution has raised fresh concerns over the accuracy of publicly displayed Air Quality Index (AQI) readings, even as residents increasingly turn to wearable air purifiers and other personal protection devices to cope with toxic air.

A ground report from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) office at Lodhi Road highlighted two contrasting aspects of the pollution crisis: significant differences in AQI readings across monitoring platforms and the growing popularity of portable air purification devices.

AQI Discrepancies Raise Questions

At the IMD office in Lodhi Road, pollution readings reportedly ranged between 342 and 377, placing air quality in the Very Poor category. However, public display boards managed by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) outside the premises showed considerably lower figures, including an AQI of 143, which falls under the Moderate category.

The difference has raised questions about the consistency and transparency of pollution monitoring in the capital. While dashboards maintained by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) reflected significantly higher pollution levels, the lower figures displayed publicly could create confusion among residents.

The discrepancy has also raised concerns over which readings people should trust when assessing their exposure to harmful air.

Wearable Air Purifiers Gain Popularity

With pollution levels remaining a major concern, residents are exploring alternatives to conventional face masks and indoor air purifiers. Some people have started using compact wearable air purifiers that can be carried around the neck while commuting or spending time outdoors.

These devices are marketed as ionisers that release negatively charged ions, which are intended to attach to airborne particles and encourage them to cluster and settle.

However, their ability to provide meaningful protection against dangerous fine particulate matter such as PM2.5 remains a subject of scientific scrutiny. Their effectiveness should not be assumed without independent testing.

Personal Protection Cannot Replace Pollution Control

The developments highlight the difficulties faced by Delhi residents as they struggle with deteriorating air quality. While wearable devices reflect growing demand for individual protection, they cannot replace large-scale pollution control measures.

Reliable monitoring, transparent AQI reporting and effective action against pollution sources remain essential to addressing the crisis.

For residents, the challenge is not only breathing cleaner air but also receiving accurate information about the pollution levels surrounding them.

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Goa Recognises Transgender Community as Socially and Educationally Backward

According to the notification, the community will be recognised as socially and educationally backward for the purpose of reservation under Article 15(4) of the Constitution and as backward under Article 16(4), which deals with public employment.

The notification was issued by the Directorate of Social Welfare by order and in the name of the Governor of Goa.

The move marks an important step towards improving access to educational opportunities and government employment for transgender persons in the state.

PoK Unrest Deepens: Deadly Security Crackdown Leaves Seven Dead As Protests Spread Across Pakistan

The Joint Awami Action Committee has emerged as a prominent platform for protests, bringing together groups demanding greater accountability and action on local issues.

The latest violence has intensified scrutiny of Islamabad's approach towards the region, with the spread of demonstrations highlighting the difficulty of containing public discontent through security measures.

The situation also raises broader questions about political representation and the relationship between Pakistan's federal government and residents of Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

With tensions continuing after the reported deaths, the government's response and efforts to address protesters' demands are likely to play a crucial role in determining whether the situation stabilises or escalates further.

"He Called Us Naxals": Rahul Gandhi Challenges PM Modi To Public Debate Over 'Dimagi Naxal' Remark

Gandhi also asserted that the Prime Minister would find it difficult to face security personnel after such a debate. He maintained that his challenge remained open, irrespective of the time or location.

What Did PM Modi Say About 'Dimagi Naxals'?

Modi celebrated Diwali with CRPF personnel at a camp in Karanpur, located in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, on Sunday.

Goa to Establish First AI Centre of Excellence in Panaji Through BITS Pilani Partnership

DITE&C signs three-year MoU with BITS Pilani Goa Campus to boost AI research, startups and technological innovation in the state

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa is set to establish its first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Panaji following a partnership between the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (DITE&C) and Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus.

The two institutions have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the centre on the first floor of the IT Hub at Altinho, Panaji. The initiative aims to strengthen Goa's technology ecosystem, promote AI-driven research and create new opportunities for startups and young innovators.

The MoU was exchanged by DITE&C Director Kabir Shirgaonkar and BITS Pilani Goa Campus Director Prof. Suman Kundu in the presence of Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant and IT Minister Rohan Khaunte during the Goa AI Conclave 2026.

Khaunte highlighted that Goa has successfully expanded its identity beyond tourism, emerging as a growing destination for technology, startups and artificial intelligence. He said the partnership would support the objectives of the Goa AI Policy 2026 and Goa AI Mission 2027 by bringing academic institutions, government resources and startups together to address challenges faced by the state.

Under the agreement, DITE&C will identify key challenges and provide relevant government datasets across sectors such as tourism, hospitality, fisheries, coastal and environmental management, and public health. BITS Pilani will lead collaborative research, develop prototypes and support pilot projects using artificial intelligence.

The partnership will also organise AI grand challenges, hackathons and training programmes to improve technological skills among government officials and local talent.

Additionally, AI-based startups will receive technical guidance, mentorship, computing resources, intellectual property support and connections with investors. Eligible startups will also be encouraged to register on the Goa State Startup Portal to access government incentives, funding opportunities and incubation support.

The three-year agreement will further facilitate knowledge exchange, joint research initiatives and funding applications to national institutions, including MeitY, IndiaAI Mission, ANRF and DST.



PM Modi Speaks With Zelenskyy, Reaffirms India's Support For Peaceful Resolution Of Ukraine War

■ India offers to play a constructive role in ceasefire efforts as Ukraine highlights New Delhi's proposal on energy and Black Sea security

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held a telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, reaffirming India's commitment to supporting diplomatic efforts to bring an end to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. The two leaders discussed the latest developments in the conflict and explored opportunities to strengthen bilateral cooperation between India and Ukraine. During the conversation, Modi reiterated India's human-centric approach to the crisis, stressing that the conflict must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. He also reaffirmed New Delhi's willingness to contribute to all initiatives aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement. The discussion assumes significance as India has recently submitted a proposal for a possible ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine. It was the first conversation between Modi and Zelenskyy since the proposal was put forward. Zelenskyy shared his assessment of the latest situation and highlighted the importance of India's involvement in international efforts to end the war.



After Modi-Zelenskyy Call, Jaishankar Holds Talks With Russia's Lavrov On Ukraine War

■ India's diplomatic outreach continues as New Delhi engages both Moscow and Kyiv ahead of fresh peace negotiations in Abu Dhabi

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday held a telephone conversation with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, with the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict featuring prominently in their discussions.

The conversation came just hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and reaffirmed India's willingness to contribute to diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the war.

The latest engagement highlights India's continued diplomatic outreach to both sides as international efforts to find a peaceful solution gather momentum.

Jaishankar and Lavrov discussed the conflict amid preparations for a fresh round of negotiations involving Russian, Ukrainian and American representatives in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The two-day meeting, scheduled to begin on Tuesday, is aimed at exploring ways to end the war, which is approaching its fifth year.

The upcoming negotiations follow earlier rounds of discussions this year that failed to achieve any significant breakthrough.

The diplomatic efforts also come after a localised ceasefire was reached last month around the Russian-occupied city of Oleshky in southern Ukraine.



Punjab Records 198 Fresh Stubble Burning Cases, Season's Tally Crosses 4,600

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Punjab has reported 198 fresh stubble-burning incidents, taking the total number of officially recorded farm fires this season to 4,657 and raising fresh concerns over worsening air pollution across northern India.

The latest figures have intensified the political confrontation between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), with Delhi's deteriorating air quality once again bringing the issue of agricultural residue burning into focus.

According to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), Tarn Taran has recorded the highest number of stubble-burning incidents this season, with 659 cases. Ferozepur follows with 621 incidents, while Sangrur has reported 508 cases.

The fresh incidents add to the growing challenge of controlling agricultural fires in Punjab, particularly as pollution levels continue to remain a major concern in Delhi and neighbouring regions.

'We Tested At NABL': Karnataka Minister Challenges Oil Firms Over E20 Petrol, Demands Discounted Fuel

■ Rizwan Arshad questions fuel testing methods used by oil companies, alleges excessive ethanol blending and seeks independent verification

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Karnataka Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Rizwan Arshad has intensified the dispute over E20 petrol, questioning the testing methods adopted by oil marketing companies and demanding that the Centre provide fuel at a discounted price.

Arshad maintained that the Karnataka government stands by its findings alleging that petrol samples contained more than the prescribed 20 per cent ethanol. He said the state would continue to challenge the Centre over excessive blending and conduct random inspections to ensure compliance with fuel standards.

Speaking about the controversy, the minister claimed that Karnataka had tested samples at a laboratory accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). He questioned the credibility of testing allegedly conducted by oil company officials using water-based hydrometers purchased online.

Arshad demanded that an independent third party conduct fuel testing through a transparent process, arguing that the state government had little confidence in the methods adopted by oil marketing companies.

DRDO Invites Private Firms To Develop AI-Powered Acoustic Drone Detection System

■ Indigenous technology aims to detect stealth and low-flying drones using advanced sound sensors and artificial intelligence

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India is taking another step towards strengthening its anti-drone defence capabilities, with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) inviting private Indian companies to jointly develop an advanced acoustic-based drone detection system.

The initiative aims to create an indigenous Acoustic-based Drone Detection (ADD) System capable of identifying unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), particularly low-flying micro-drones and autonomous drones that can evade conventional detection methods.

DRDO has issued an Expression of Interest (EoI) inviting eligible Indian system developers and manufacturers to participate in designing, assembling and manufacturing the technology.



Unlike conventional counter-drone systems that largely depend on radar and radio-frequency scanners, the proposed technology will use sound to identify aerial threats. This passive detection approach could prove particularly useful against drones operating without radio-frequency signals, making them difficult to track through traditional surveillance systems.

The system will use highly sensitive microphones and specialised parabolic reflectors to capture the acoustic signatures of approaching drones. The recorded sound will be converted into digital signals through a low-power Data Acquisition (DAQ) system.

India Take 2-0 Lead As Rain Forces Abandonment Of 3rd ODI Against New Zealand

Persistent showers wash out Hamilton clash without a single ball being bowled, leaving India in control of the five-match series

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India secured an unassailable 2-0 lead in the five-match ODI series against New Zealand after the third match was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to persistent rain at Seddon Park in Hamilton on Tuesday.

With India already winning the opening two matches, the washout ensured that the visitors retained their series advantage, with New Zealand left with only two remaining opportunities to level the contest.

Indian captain Shubman Gill won the toss for the third consecutive time and elected to bowl, hoping to continue his team's winning momentum. India also retained the same playing XI that featured in the previous two matches.

However, the weather had other plans as persistent showers disrupted proceedings throughout the scheduled match time.

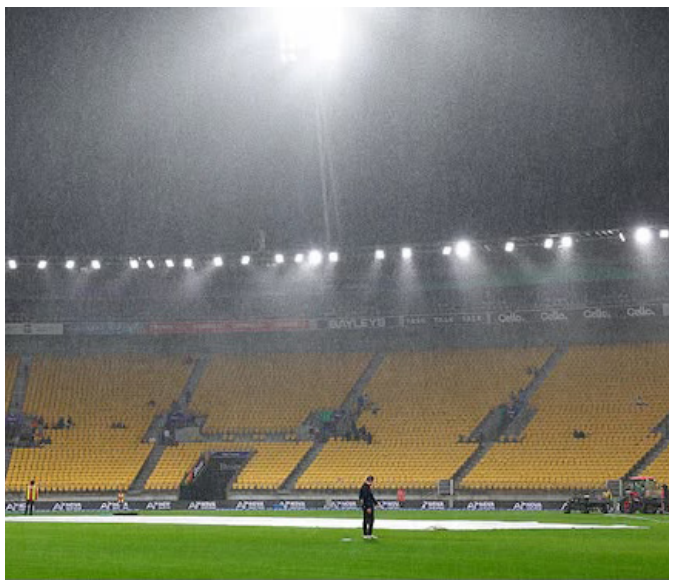
The ground staff initially prepared for a shortened 40-over contest, with covers being removed as conditions appeared to improve. However, rain returned before play could begin, forcing another delay.

With the weather showing little sign of improvement, the umpires eventually decided to abandon the match. The decision came with at least 70 minutes remaining before the local cut-off time of 7:50 pm for a 20-over-per-side contest.

The abandonment means India will head into the remaining two matches with a commanding 2-0 advantage and the series already secured.

The teams will now travel to Tauranga for the fourth and fifth ODIs, scheduled to be played on November 13 and 15 respectively.

India will look to finish the series strongly, while New Zealand will aim to bounce back and avoid a series defeat on home soil.



PT Usha Loses Key IOA Election, December 5 Presidency Battle Faces Uncertainty

The IOA chief fails to secure a place among four elected women Sportspersons of Merit, potentially complicating her bid for a second term.

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha has suffered a major setback after failing to secure election as one of the four female Sportspersons of Merit (SOM). The result has raised questions over her chances of retaining the top position in the IOA elections scheduled for December 5.

Four candidates were elected from a group of six. Legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George secured the highest number of votes, while Olympic medallist Saina Nehwal, former international archer Dola Banerjee and former Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal also made the cut.

Usha can still contest the presidential election if a National Sports Federation nominates her to the IOA General Assembly. However, she is not expected to receive one of the two available representatives' positions from the Athletics Federation of India.

Under the IOA Constitution, a presidential candidate must either be a Sportsperson of Merit or a member of the General Assembly. Usha became the first woman to lead the IOA in 2022 after being elected unopposed through the SOM route.

Earlier, Olympic medallists Gagan Narang, Vijender Singh and Yogeshwar Dutt, along with former table tennis player Kamlesh Mehta, were elected unopposed as the four male Sportspersons of Merit after eight candidates withdrew.

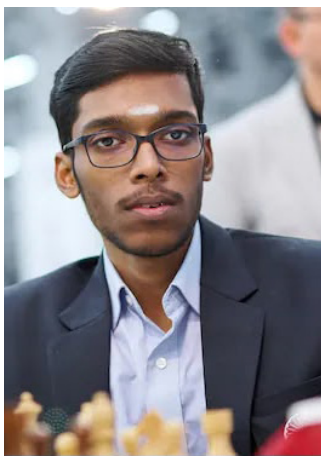
The eight elected SOM members, comprising four men and four women, will join the IOA General Assembly. They will be eligible to vote and contest the December 5 Executive Council elections. Two of them, one man and one woman, will also secure places on the Executive Council.

The election process was also marked by complaints over alleged campaigning. Usha objected to a WhatsApp message circulated under Banerjee's name that sought votes for the New Bharat Panel and listed four candidates with their ballot details.

Praggnanandhaa, Erigaisi And Vaishali Face Magnus Carlsen-Led Challenge At Budapest Chess Championship

Indian grandmasters prepare for a demanding multi-format contest featuring Fast Classic, rapid and blitz chess

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Indian grandmasters R Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and R Vaishali are set for a major test as they compete against some of the world's leading chess players at the Total Chess World Championship Tour pilot, beginning in Budapest on Tuesday.

The tournament features a star-studded 24-player field led by five-time world champion and World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen. The competition will test players across three formats: Fast Classic, rapid and blitz, with consistency and adaptability expected to play a crucial role.

World No. 7 Praggnanandhaa enters the tournament after an impressive season in which he became the first Indian to win both Norway Chess and the Grand Chess Tour title.

The 20-year-old defeated American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana 15-13 in the Grand Chess Tour final in St Louis, overturning a six-point deficit on the final day. He achieved the turnaround by winning both rapid games before holding his nerve in blitz.

Praggnanandhaa also finished runner-up at the Clutch Chess Champions Showdown in October, behind Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov.

Erigaisi Looks To Continue Consistent Form

World No. 12 Arjun Erigaisi will also be among India's leading contenders. The 23-year-old was part of India's silver-medal-winning team at the Chess Olympiad in Samarkand.

He recently represented Alkaloid at the European Club Cup in Montenegro, scoring five points from seven games with three victories and four draws.

Known for his aggressive approach, Erigaisi will face a demanding challenge against an experienced international field.

Lakshya Sen Eyes World Tour Finals Spot After Germany Triumph, Begins Japan Challenge

Indian shuttler needs a strong performance at the Kumamoto Masters and Hong Kong Open to break into the top eight

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Fresh from ending his difficult run with a title triumph at the Hylo Open in Germany, India's Lakshya Sen will look to carry his winning momentum into the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 tournament, beginning Tuesday.

The 25-year-old shuttler is aiming to strengthen his chances of qualifying for the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals, scheduled to take place in China from December 9 to 13.

Currently ranked World No. 13, Lakshya occupies the 10th position in the BWF World Tour rankings. He needs to break into the top eight to secure qualification for the prestigious tournament.

The eighth-seeded Indian will begin his campaign against Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu Jen, who is ranked World No. 24. Lakshya holds a 1-1 head-to-head record against his opponent.

A strong performance in Japan, followed by another good showing at next week's Hong Kong Open Super 500, could be enough to secure his place among the season's top eight players.

Srikanth, Malvika Lead India's Singles Challenge

Former World No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth will also compete in the men's singles draw. The Indian, who reached the US Open final in June, will face Denmark's Rasmus Gemke.

In women's singles, Malvika Bansod faces a difficult opening challenge against fifth seed and home favourite Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan.