Goemkarponn
TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART
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# Who Gets To Sign For RGP? CEO Office Attendance Register Sparks Fresh Leadership Row

## Shavina Shirodkar Questions Fairness At All-Party Meeting, While Ajay Kholkar Says He Signed Only As An RGP Member

**Team Goemkarponn**






**PANAJI:** The RGP leadership dispute took a fresh turn at the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) all-party meeting on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), with the attendance register emerging as the latest flashpoint.

Shavina Naik Shirodkar, president of the Viresh Borkar-led RGP faction, questioned the handling of the attendance process and called for equal treatment of both competing groups. She urged the CEO to provide a fair opportunity to both sides if there was any confusion over the party's leadership and authorised representation.

Meanwhile, Ajay Kholkar was permitted to sign the attendance register. Speaking to the media, he maintained that there is only one registered RGP party and clarified that he had signed the register only in his capacity as a party member.

Kholkar also said that RGP had submitted its counterpoints and objections during the meeting, which was convened to discuss SIR-related matters.

The contrasting positions have raised questions over how the two groups were represented at the CEO's office and whether signing the attendance register has any bearing on the

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## RGP Leadership Dispute: CEO Says ECI Will Decide Authorised Faction

### Two RGP Groups Attend All-Party Meeting; Goa CEO Clarifies Notices Were Sent To Officially Registered Party Address

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**PANAJI:** The leadership dispute within the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) came into focus at the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) all-party meeting held to discuss the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, with representatives of two RGP groups attending the meeting.

Clarifying the issue, the Goa CEO said notices for the meeting were sent to the address officially recorded with the office.

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## Only Two Staffers Present As Shirodkar Makes Surprise Visit To Bicholim WRD Office

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**BICHOLIM:** Water Resources Minister Subhash Shirodkar's surprise visit to the WRD office in Bicholim on Thursday morning raised serious questions over staff punctuality, after he found only two employees present at 9.30 am.

The Minister had visited the office to check whether employees were reporting for duty on time. The low attendance prompted him to express concern over the declining work culture in government offices.

Shirodkar said negligence and delays in public offices affect the delivery of essential services and ultimately hamper development. He stressed that employees must maintain discipline, adhere to official working hours and fulfil their responsibilities.

The Minister called for strict punctuality across government departments, warning that public service cannot suffer due to staff indiscipline.

## Goa Draft Electoral Roll Published, Net Addition Of 31,815 Voters

### Durgadas Kamat Calls SIR The Final Opportunity To Clean Up Electoral Rolls; Ajay Kholkar Says Only One Registered RGP Exists

**Team Goemkarponn**



**PANAJI:** The integrated draft electoral roll for Goa was published on November 12 following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), with a net addition of 31,815 voters, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Dr. Sanjay Goel, IAS, announced. According to the CEO, around 43,000 voters were added to the draft roll, while approximately 11,000 to 11,500 names were deleted. This resulted in a net increase of 31,815 voters. The period for filing claims and objections will remain open from November 12 to December 11. The final electoral roll is scheduled to be published on January 4, 2027, with January 1, 2027, set as the qualifying date.

Speaking after the all-party meeting convened by the CEO, Durgadas Kamat described the meeting as routine and termed the SIR exercise the final opportunity to clean up the electoral rolls.

## Dhavalikar Says Smart Meter Project's Future Depends On Legal And Contractual Review

### Power Minister says the government will not rush into scrapping the project despite Opposition demands, adding that the Chief Minister has already put the meter specifications on hold

**Team Goemkarponn**



**PANAJI:** Power Minister Sudin Dhavalikar has said the government needs to examine the legal and contractual obligations before deciding whether to discontinue the smart meter project.

He said Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has already put the smart meter specifications on hold. However, Dhavalikar maintained that any further decision would require a detailed assessment of the project's clauses and legal provisions. He said the government could not scrap the initiative merely in response to demands from the Congress or other political parties.

Defending the need for technological advancement, Dhavalikar said computerisation and Artificial Intelligence would play an increasingly significant

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## Goa Pradesh Youth Congress Seeks Urgent Police Action Over Rising Crimes Against Women

### Memorandum to Goa DGP highlights reported rape incidents in Mapusa, Canacona and Curchorem; demands time-bound investigations and stronger security measures




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**PANAJI:** The Goa Pradesh Youth Congress has urged the state police department to take immediate and decisive action over reported incidents of rape and sexual violence against women in Goa, expressing serious concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. In a memorandum submitted to the Director General of Police, Goa, the organisation highlighted reported incidents across Mapusa, Canacona and Curchorem over the past three days, beginning with Mapusa. It stated that the incidents, reported during the Diwali festivities, have raised serious concerns about the safety of women and children. Citing National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, the memorandum stated that Goa recorded 356 cases of crimes against women in 2024, compared to 286 cases in 2023, underlining the need for stronger preventive measures and urgent government intervention. The Youth Congress expressed concern that women and children were increasingly feeling vulnerable and insecure, and stressed that protecting their safety and dignity was a fundamental responsibility of the government.

# WHEN CHILDHOOD IS UNDER ATTACK, WHERE IS THE STATE?

There was a time when Goa took pride in being a place where children could play in neighbourhoods, families could walk without fear and communities looked out for one another. That sense of security was part of Goa's identity. Today, that confidence is being shattered by incidents that should outrage every citizen and shake the government out of its complacency.

What is happening to Goa?

The alleged sexual assault of a three-year-old girl in Mapusa on Diwali night was horrific enough to leave the state speechless. Before the shock could even settle, another four-year-old girl was allegedly raped in Canacona. Two incidents involving children of such tender ages within days are not merely isolated crimes to be condemned through routine statements. They demand a serious examination of Goa's policing, child protection mechanisms and the government's approach to public safety.

These are children who cannot understand the cruelty inflicted upon them, let alone defend themselves. Their childhood has been violated by people who should never have been allowed anywhere near them.

The Mapusa incident raises particularly disturbing questions. The child was allegedly taken into an abandoned building near Lohia Ground, where she was sexually assaulted. The incident reportedly occurred in a busy area during Diwali celebrations. People were around, yet the child remained vulnerable for a considerable period before she was discovered.

The subsequent investigation also exposed gaps in CCTV coverage around the location. How can a busy commercial town like Mapusa have abandoned structures and poorly monitored public spaces where such crimes can take place? Who is responsible for identifying and securing unsafe buildings? Why must the administration wake up only after a tragedy?

The arrest of the accused, a Karnataka native, is a welcome development. Similarly, the arrest of a Bihar native in connection with the Canacona case shows that the police have acted. But arrests cannot become the government's only measure of success. The larger question is why children are being exposed to such horrific situations in the first place. Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar's statement that 90 per cent of such crimes are committed by outsiders has added another dimension to the debate. There is certainly a need to examine the role of migrant workers and people entering Goa for employment, particularly when serious crimes are committed by individuals who have recently arrived in the state. The Canacona accused was reportedly a Bihar native who had arrived in Goa just two days before the incident. The Mapusa accused was also from outside Goa.

The government cannot afford to ignore the security challenges arising from an increasingly mobile workforce. Verification of workers, accommodation records and effective coordination between employers, police stations and local authorities are legitimate requirements. Goa must know who is entering its towns and villages, where people are employed and whether basic verification procedures are being followed.

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*However, blaming outsiders cannot become an excuse for avoiding the larger responsibility. Criminals do not acquire criminal tendencies merely by crossing a state border. Sexual predators can emerge from anywhere, including within our own communities. The identity of an accused is relevant to investigation, but it cannot replace a comprehensive child protection policy.*

However, blaming outsiders cannot become an excuse for avoiding the larger responsibility. Criminals do not acquire criminal tendencies merely by crossing a state border. Sexual predators can emerge from anywhere, including within our own communities. The identity of an accused is relevant to investigation, but it cannot replace a comprehensive child protection policy.

More importantly, the government must stop shifting the burden of safety onto parents. Following the Canacona incident, Tawadkar appealed to parents to remain vigilant and take greater responsibility for their children's safety. Parental vigilance is important, but should parents now be expected to guard their children every minute because public spaces have become unsafe?

A government exists precisely because citizens cannot individually provide security against every possible threat.

The statistics are equally disturbing. Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao has cited NCRB figures claiming that Goa recorded 13 rape and child sexual abuse cases per lakh population in 2024, the highest among states and more than three times the national average. He also pointed to a conviction rate of just 9.4 per cent in crimes against women and a large backlog of cases. These figures demand an official response rather than political counterarguments.

If the figures are accurate, Goa is facing a deeply entrenched problem. A high number of detected crimes combined with low convictions raises serious questions about investigation quality, prosecution and the speed of judicial proceedings.

The government must urgently strengthen child protection infrastructure. Functional CCTV networks, regular inspections of abandoned buildings, proper verification of workers, stronger police patrolling in vulnerable areas, child-friendly reporting mechanisms and more effective implementation of the POCSO Act must become priorities.

Fast-track courts must ensure that cases involving sexual offences against children are heard without unnecessary delays. Equally important is the provision of sustained medical, psychological and financial support to survivors and their families. Their identities and dignity must be protected at every stage.

The Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has taken suo motu cognisance of the Mapusa incident and sought a time-bound investigation. But commissions and committees cannot substitute for an administration that anticipates risks and prevents crimes.

Goa cannot continue selling itself as a safe destination to tourists while failing to guarantee the safety of its own children. Tourism promotion, infrastructure projects, festivals and political celebrations mean little if a three-year-old cannot be safe in a public place. This is no longer about political parties, outsiders or insiders. It is about the conscience of a society and the responsibility of a government.

Two children have allegedly suffered unimaginable brutality within days. Their suffering must not disappear from public memory once the headlines fade.

Goa must stop asking who is responsible for bringing crime into the state and start asking why its children are not being protected.

A society is judged not by the prosperity it displays or the tourists it attracts, but by how safely it allows its most vulnerable citizens to live.

On that count, Goa has some very uncomfortable questions to answer.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Repeated Child Abuse Cases Demand Stronger Protection and Police Vigilance

The emergence of another alleged sexual assault case involving a four-year-old girl in Canacona, within days of the disturbing Mapusa incident, is deeply concerning. These incidents should serve as a wake-up call for the government, police authorities and society.

While the arrest of a 24-year-old suspect in the Canacona case is a step in the investigation, the larger concern is how such crimes can be prevented. Children are among the most vulnerable members of society, and their protection must be treated as a priority rather than addressed only after an incident occurs.

The demand by social worker Shubham Komarpant to extend Pink Force patrolling to peripheral areas deserves serious consideration. Police vigilance should not be restricted to beaches, markets and prominent commercial locations. Residential neighbourhoods, isolated areas and villages also require regular patrolling.

At the same time, neighbourhood vigilance is equally important. Residents, landlords and employers must remain alert and report suspicious activities to the authorities without targeting individuals based on their background or place of origin.

The government must strengthen child protection mechanisms, ensure effective implementation of the POCSO Act and provide adequate support to survivors and their families. Schools, communities and local bodies should also conduct awareness programmes on child safety.

Political statements and assurances are not enough. What Goa needs is visible action, preventive policing and accountability.

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe environment. Protecting children must be a collective responsibility, and there should be zero tolerance for crimes against minors.

**- Milind Dessai,** Canacona, Goa

### Food Safety Cannot Be Compromised for Commercial Gains

The destruction of 2,450 kg of chicken by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) in Margao and Verna highlights the importance of strict food safety monitoring in Goa. At a time when consumers depend on markets and food establishments for their daily supplies, ensuring the quality and safety of food products must remain a priority.

The interception of 700 kg of chicken at Margao Railway Station, reportedly transported from Delhi without adequate temperature control, raises serious questions about the handling and transportation of perishable food products. Similarly, the destruction of another 1,750 kg at Verna over labelling and documentation deficiencies shows that compliance with food safety regulations cannot be taken lightly.

The FDA's action deserves recognition. However, such inspections should not be limited to occasional enforcement drives. Regular checks at railway stations, cold storage facilities, wholesale markets, restaurants and meat distribution centres are essential to prevent unsafe products from reaching consumers. Food business operators must understand that public health is more important than commercial profits. Proper storage, temperature control, transportation and documentation are basic responsibilities that cannot be ignored.

The government must also ensure that food safety regulations are implemented consistently across Goa. Consumers should have confidence that the food they purchase meets prescribed safety standards.

The destruction of thousands of kilograms of chicken is a reminder of the need for stronger monitoring and responsible business practices. Prevention must remain the priority, because protecting public health should never be compromised.

**- Rajesh Naik,** Margao, Goa

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# Panch accused of attempting to broker compromise in minor rape case, BJP seeks probe

## Canacona BJP Mandal alleges local panch tried to shield accused; demands impartial investigation and protection for victim's family

**Team Goemkarponn**



**CANACONA:** The alleged role of a local panch member in attempting to broker a compromise and shield the accused in the alleged sexual assault of a four-year-old girl at Shristhal has come under scrutiny, with the Canacona BJP Mandal demanding a thorough and impartial police investigation.Led by Mandal president Prabhakar Gaonkar, a BJP delegation petitioned Canacona Police Inspector Theron D'Costa, alleging that the panch member had attempted to facilitate a compromise in the heinous crime. The delegation urged police to investigate the alleged intervention of the elected representative and ensure that no individual is allowed to influence the investigation or protect the accused. The BJP Mandal also sought adequate protection for the minor victim and her family, stressing that they should not face any pressure or intimidation. Besides the alleged panch's role, the delegation called for intensified night patrolling, special police drives.



# HPCL, Goa Government Join Hands to Promote LPG-Powered Boats

## MoU aims to promote cleaner marine transportation, with potential fuel cost savings of up to 40% for fishermen and tourist boat operators

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and the Captain of Ports Department (CoPD), Government of Goa, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore the introduction of LPG-powered outboard motor (OBM) boats in Goa, marking a significant step towards cleaner, economical and sustainable marine transportation. The MoU was signed by Captain of Ports Goa, Octavio A. Rodrigues, on behalf of the Government of Goa, and Sashi Gupta, Chief Regional Manager, Goa LPG Regional Office, on behalf of HPCL. The signing ceremony was attended by Ports Minister Digambar Kamat and Srinivasa Nalli, Zonal Head – LPG, West Zone, HPCL, along with senior officials and other stakeholders. Under the initiative, HPCL will promote HP Dolphin, its LPG-based marine fuel solution, through an LPG retrofit system that allows suitable existing petrol-powered outboard motors to operate on LPG without requiring engine replacement. The technology is expected to offer a cleaner and more economical alternative for traditional fishermen and tourist boat operators. As part of the initiative, HPCL has conducted field trials of LPG-powered OBM boats at Canacona in South Goa in coordination with local fishermen.

# CAG seeks stronger safeguards following assault cases involving minor girls

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**PANAJI:** Calling for greater accountability in protecting children, the Catholic Association of Goa (CAG) has urged the state government to step up efforts to prevent sexual offences against minors following two disturbing incidents reported in Mapusa and Canacona. The association raised the issue at its monthly Executive Committee meeting, where members discussed the safety of children and the need for a stronger response from law enforcement agencies and the administration. CAG President Cyril Fernandes said the reported incidents involving two four-year-old girls had caused considerable concern and required serious attention from the authorities.
He also conveyed the association's support to the affected children and their families.

# All Sunday Market vendors to be accommodated in new structure by mid-December: Salkar

## New market structure to come up on available land within Sunday Market premises; tendering process to begin shortly

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**VASCO:** All vendors affected by the devastating fire at Vasco's Sunday Market will be accommodated in a newly planned market structure by mid-December, Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar said on Wednesday. Salkar said the new structure would be constructed on the available land within the Sunday Market premises, ensuring that no affected vendor is left out and that traders can resume their businesses at the earliest. He said the revised plan was finalised after consultations with traders and vendors, who were taken into confidence before the proposal was submitted to Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant for approval. "When we realised that we might not get structural safety clearance for the first floor of the market building affected by the fire, we discussed the matter with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and coordinated with GSIDC to work out an alternative arrangement.

# Panaji Ranks Third, Sankhali Named Goa's First Swachh City in Cleanliness Survey

## Both Goan urban local bodies earn national recognition under Swachh Survekshan 2025–26, with Panaji securing third place in its population category and Sankhali emerging as Goa's top-ranked city.

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**PANAJI:** Goa has secured recognition on the national cleanliness map, with Panaji ranking third among urban centres with a population of 20,000 to 50,000, while Sankhali Municipal Council has been honoured as the State First Swachh City under Swachh Survekshan 2025–26. The awards were presented by President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. Panaji secured the third position in its population category, behind Vita in Maharashtra, which topped the rankings, and Aska in Odisha, which secured the second position.

Mayor Rohit Monserrate received the award on behalf of the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP). CCP Commissioner Clen Madeira and Urban Development Secretary Yatindra Maralkar were also present. In another achievement for Goa, Sankhali Municipal Council was recognised as the state's first Swachh City under the survey. The award

# 29-year-old woman dies after consuming unknown substance at Valpoi CHC

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**VALPOI:** A 29-year-old woman from Dabem, Sattari, died while undergoing treatment at the Community Health Centre (CHC), Valpoi, on 10 November 2026.

According to information received, a phone call was received from CHC Valpoi at around 7 pm regarding the death of the woman, who was undergoing treatment in the casualty department.

# Himachal Pradesh Man Arrested With 67 Grams Of Suspected Charas In Siolim

## Anjuna Police seize narcotic substance worth approximately Rs 67,000 during raid near Football Ground

**Team Goemkarponn**



**ANJUNA:** Anjuna Police arrested a 27-year-old man from Himachal Pradesh for allegedly possessing 67 grams of suspected charas worth approximately Rs 67,000 during a raid near the Football Ground at Siolim, Bardez, on November 10.

According to police, Anjuna Police Station registered Crime No. 135/2026 under Section 20(b)(ii)(A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at 11.51 pm on November 10, 2026. The raid was conducted between 8.30 pm and 10.30 pm following specific information received by the police.

The accused has been identified as Manish, 27, son of Karnail Singh, a resident of Ward No. 1, Village Dhimla, Post Bakani, Tehsil Chamba, Himachal Pradesh.

During the raid, police allegedly found 67 grams of suspected charas in his illegal possession, valued at approximately Rs 67,000.

The accused was placed under arrest at 11.51 pm on November 10 in connection with the case.



# Truck Seized For Illegal Sand Transportation In Pernem; Driver Booked

## Mandrem Police register offence after allegedly catching truck carrying illegally extracted river sand worth Rs 8,000 at Agarwada-Chopdem

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**MANDREM:** Mandrem Police have registered an offence against a truck driver for allegedly transporting illegally extracted river sand worth approximately Rs 8,000 at Agarwada, Chopdem, Pernem, on November 11.

According to police, the offence was registered at 1.55 pm on November 11, 2026, based on a complaint lodged by Police Constable Madhu Shahaji Kambli, aged 41, attached to Mandrem Police Station.

The incident reportedly took place at around 5.10 am on November 11, when the accused, identified as Pappu Kumar Singh, 36, a resident of Banastari, Bhoma, Ponda, originally from Kheroun Deochanda Barhi, Hazaribag, Jharkhand, was allegedly found transporting illegally extracted sand from a river without obtaining permission from the concerned authorities.

Police stated that the accused, who was driving an Ashok Leyland truck bearing registration number GA-05-T-8993, had allegedly loaded the sand into the vehicle for clandestine transportation. The illegally extracted sand is estimated to be worth approximately Rs 8,000.

Further investigation in the case is in progress under PSI Abhishekh Chodankar of Mandrem Police Station.



# 26-Year-Old Mopa Airport Employee Found Dead At Warkhand

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**MOPA:** A 26-year-old employee of Mopa Airport was found dead near a roadside at Warkhand in Pernem on Wednesday, November 11, with police suspecting suicide.

The deceased has been identified as Mangesh Gajanan Raul, 26, a resident of Karmaliwada, Mopa, Pernem, who was employed in the Cargo Services department at Mopa Airport.

According to police, Pernem Police Station received a call from the Police Control Room (PCR), Panaji, at around 2.32 am on November 11, informing them that a man was found hanging from a tree beside the road leading from Mopa Airport towards Shemeche Advan at Warkhand.

Police rushed to the spot and identified the deceased. Preliminary enquiry revealed that Raul was on night duty from 7.30 pm on November 10 to 7.30 am the following day. He had reportedly left the airport premises at around 9.30 pm for his lunch break but did not return.

# 39-Year-Old Hotel Assistant Manager Found Dead In Dabolim

## Delhi native declared brought dead at Chicalim Sub-District Hospital; Vasco Police conduct inquest and further enquiry

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**DABOLIM:** A 39-year-old hotel employee was found dead inside his room at Athi Hotel, Dabolim, on Wednesday, November 11.

The deceased has been identified as Deepak Mohan, 39, a native of Dwarka, Delhi, and a resident of Bogmalo Beach Road, Issorcim. He was working as an Assistant Manager at Athi Resort, Dabolim.

According to police, information was received from the Medical Officer of Sub-District Hospital (SDH), Chicalim, at around 12 noon on November 11, stating that Mohan had been brought dead to the hospital by ambulance.

During preliminary enquiry, police learnt that the deceased was staying alone in a hotel room along with his pet dog and cat. On November 10, he reportedly went to sleep at around 10 pm. However, he did not wake up until 11 am the following day and failed to respond to repeated knocks on the door and phone calls.

At around 11 am, the hotel's cook, identified as Tara, reportedly entered the room through a rear sliding glass window and found Mohan lying unconscious on the bed.

# Missing Woman Traced Within 24 Hours, Reunited With Family In Canacona

## Canacona Police trace woman after suspected abduction near Chaudi Market; investigation underway

**Team Goemkarponn**



**CANACONA:** Canacona Police successfully traced a woman who had allegedly been abducted by unknown persons near Chaudi Market in Canacona on November 6, 2026, and reunited her with her family within 24 hours of registering the offence.

According to police, the offence was registered following a complaint lodged by her husband, a resident of Sadolxem, Canacona. The complainant stated that his wife had allegedly gone missing under suspicious circumstances near Chaudi Market, Canacona, at around 12 noon on November 6. It was suspected that unknown accused persons had abducted her. Following the registration of the case, Canacona Police initiated an investigation and successfully traced the woman within 24 hours. The woman was subsequently reunited with her family.

Further investigation in the case is being conducted by PSI Ramdas Doifode of Canacona Police Station.

# Govt to hold special revenue courts every Saturday to tackle land case backlog

## Government steps up efforts to speed up disposal of pending Mundkar, Tenancy, mutation and partition cases

**Team Goemkarponn**



**PANAJI:** In an effort to address the growing pendency of land-related disputes, the Goa government has decided to introduce dedicated Saturday hearings by Revenue Officers to accelerate the resolution of cases awaiting disposal. Under the new arrangement, special hearings will focus on pending Mundkar and Tenancy matters, particularly applications seeking purchase rights under the relevant laws. Cases linked to the Mhaje Ghar Yojana, along with mutation and partition proceedings, will also be taken up on priority. The decision comes in the wake of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's announcement during a public interaction under the Swayampurna Goa initiative on November 6. He had indicated that special courts would be organised to address delays in resolving revenue-related disputes. As part of the implementation, serving Revenue Officers will hold additional hearings every Saturday alongside their routine responsibilities. The arrangement is aimed at creating more opportunities for hearing pending matters and reducing the time taken for final decisions.

The government has specifically emphasised the need to expedite Mundkar and Tenancy purchase applications in accordance with the statutory timelines.



# Goa's First Veterinary College Set to Welcome Its Maiden Batch on November 16

## Institution Begins Academic Journey with 40 Students; Initial Four Batches to Have Only Goan Candidates

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa is set to enter a new phase in veterinary education with its first College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences scheduled to commence classes on November 16 for the academic year 2026-27.

The institution will begin its academic journey with 40 students in its first undergraduate batch, comprising 26 girls and 14 boys. All candidates have secured admission after qualifying the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

According to Dean Rajkumar Solomon, the Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme will span five-and-a-half years, including four-and-a-half years of classroom and practical instruction, followed by a compulsory one-year internship.

A notable feature of the new institution is that its first four batches will comprise exclusively students from Goa, despite the provision for a 50 per cent All India quota in veterinary colleges.

The college is also working towards providing students with practical training beyond the classroom. Arrangements are being developed through Memorandums of Understanding with institutions across the country to facilitate internship opportunities in veterinary hospitals, livestock farms, dairy plants, meat-processing facilities and zoos.



# Health Minister Vishwajit Rane Announces Destruction of 2,450 Kg of Chicken in Margao and Verna

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said that the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has intensified food safety inspections in Margao and Verna to prevent unsafe meat products from reaching consumers and protect public health across Goa.

During an inspection at Margao Railway Station, FDA officials intercepted a vehicle carrying 700 kg of chicken valued at ₹1,36,500. The consignment had been transported from Delhi in thermocol boxes without the required temperature control and had remained in transit for nearly 36 hours. The food business operator concerned gave an undertaking for the destruction of the entire consignment in the interest of public health.

# Help Desks Set Up Across South Goa for Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls

## Citizens Can Seek Assistance for Voter Registration, Corrections and Deletions; Claims & Objections to Be Accepted from November 12 to December 11

**Team Goemkarponn**



**MARGAO:** The Office of the Collector and District Election Officer, South Goa, has established dedicated Help Desks across all 16 Assembly Constituencies to assist citizens during the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Electoral Rolls. The initiative aims to provide prompt assistance regarding electoral roll queries, inclusion and deletion of names, corrections and other related services.

As per the schedule issued by the Election Commission of India, the rationalisation and rearrangement of polling stations and publication of integrated draft electoral rolls have already been completed. The period for filing claims and objections will be from November 12 to December 11, 2026, while the disposal of claims and objections will be completed by December 28, 2026. The final electoral rolls will be published on January 4, 2027.

# Arti Amit Patkar Demands Swift Action in Goa Sexual Assault Case

## SANGINI founder visits Curchorem Police Station, calls for fast-track investigation, strict legal action and comprehensive support for survivor

**Team Goemkarponn**



**CURCHOREM:** Arti Amit Patkar, wife of former Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Amit Patkar and founder of SANGINI – For Women. With Women., visited Curchorem Police Station today to personally follow up on a reported sexual assault case involving a 30-year-old woman.

During her visit, Patkar demanded a fast-track investigation, strict legal action against the accused and clear accountability from the authorities. She stressed that women's safety cannot be compromised and that assurances must be backed by concrete action. She also highlighted the need to ensure immediate medical care, professional counselling, emotional support and complete protection of the survivor's dignity, privacy and identity throughout the investigation. Emphasising the urgency of justice, Patkar said that the survivor must not be left to fight the battle alone and called for a sensitive and survivor-centric approach by the authorities.

"Justice must be swift. The survivor must not be left to fight alone. Our daughters must never have to grow up in fear," she asserted.

Raising concerns over women's safety in Goa, Patkar questioned who would take responsibility for ensuring the security of women and demanded answers, accountability and decisive action from the concerned authorities. She reiterated that protecting women, ensuring justice for survivors and holding perpetrators accountable must remain an uncompromising priority.

# India Overhauls Visa Rules: 9 Categories, 70% Shorter Forms to Boost Tourism and Business

## New framework introduces wider Visitor Visas, one year multiple entry medical visas and simplified provisions for foreign students, researchers and investors

**Team Goemkarponn**

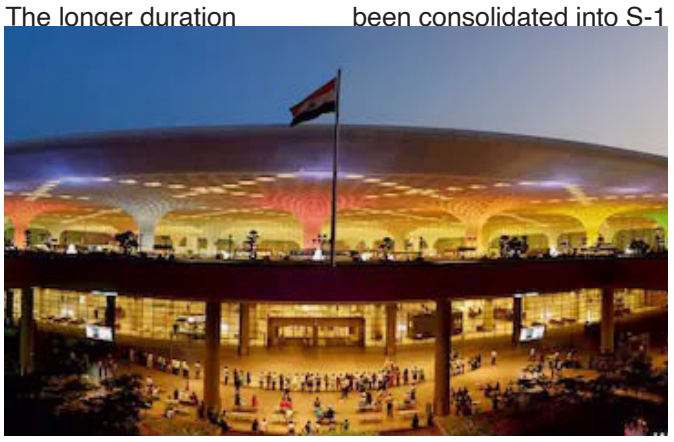
**NEW DELHI:** India has announced a major overhaul of its visa system, simplifying entry procedures for foreign nationals travelling to the country for tourism, business, medical treatment, education and research. The revised framework reduces the number of main visa categories from 13 to nine and sub categories from 49 to 23, while visa application forms have been shortened by 65 to 70 per cent.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has undertaken the exercise to make the visa process simpler, more accessible and aligned with international practices. The changes follow an earlier rationalisation carried out in October 2025.

Tourist Visa Replaced With Visitor Visa

One of the major changes is the replacement of the Tourist Visa with a broader Visitor Visa category. The new provision covers not only tourism but also short term business meetings, medical consultations, wellness retreats, yoga programmes and cultural or educational courses.

The Visitor Visa has two sub categories, V-1 and V-2. The V-1 visa will be issued for 30 days with multiple entries, while V-2 can be granted for one, five or 10 years, depending on eligibility. The longer duration



category also covers mountaineering activities.

Medical Visas Get One Year Multiple Entry Validity

The Medical Visa framework has been reorganised to make treatment in India more convenient for international patients. The M-1 category will cover conventional medical treatment, while M-3 will apply to treatment under AYUSH systems.

Both categories, including their electronic visa options, will have a default validity of one year with multiple entries. Separate attendant visas, M-2 and M-4, will be available for people accompanying patients.

The move is expected to support the government's Heal in India initiative by making repeated consultations and long term treatment easier for foreign patients.

Simpler Visas for Students and Researchers

Student Visas have been consolidated into S-1 and S-2 categories. The S-1 visa will cover school, undergraduate and postgraduate education, while S-2 will include research scholars, PhD students, visiting faculty, internships and academic exchange programmes.

Foreign students admitted through the Study in India portal may receive multiple entry e-S1 visas valid for up to five years or the duration of their course, whichever is shorter.

Business Visa Rules Streamlined

The Business Visa category has been divided into B-1 and B-2. The B-1 category will cover long term business activities and the establishment of industrial ventures, while B-2 will cover short term contractual assignments, conferences, sports, cultural performances and film shoots.

A dedicated provision has also been introduced for foreign technical experts, engineers and specialists working with Indian companies. Their activities may include installation, maintenance, quality checks, IT operations, training and technical support.

E-Visa Access and Implementation

India currently offers electronic visas to citizens of 172 countries across 13 sub categories. The government is updating its technology systems to implement the revised framework, with the new visa arrangements expected to become operational by the end of 2026.

The nine main categories under the revised system will be Business, Diplomatic, Work, Journalist, Medical, Official, Student, Visitor and Miscellaneous visas.

The Miscellaneous category will cover people of Indian origin and their families, dependents of foreign nationals holding long term visas, Afghan nationals seeking stay visas and other specified groups. The overhaul is expected to reduce paperwork, improve processing convenience and strengthen India's appeal as a destination for international tourism, healthcare, education and investment.

# Rs 3,230-Crore Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum Approved, Set to Become World's Largest Museum

## Historic North and South Block buildings in Delhi to be transformed into a landmark cultural institution, with first gallery expected to open in 2027

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the development of the ambitious Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum in New Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs 3,230 crore. The project will transform the historic North and South Block buildings into a world-class museum showcasing India's rich civilisational heritage.

The museum will be developed through the adaptive reuse of the iconic government buildings, preserving their architectural character and historical significance while giving them a new role as a public cultural institution.

Spread across a proposed built-up area of approximately 1,78,509 square metres, the museum is envisioned as the world's largest museum in terms of display area. It will present India's civilisational journey through an integrated narrative covering the country's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The project will feature thematic galleries, exhibitions and immersive experiences highlighting India's diverse traditions, knowledge systems, artistic practices and cultural achievements. Modern museum technologies, visitor-friendly facilities and international exhibition standards will also be incorporated.

The development will include gallery spaces, collection storage and conservation facilities, visitor amenities, landscaping, intelligent building systems and supporting infrastructure.

The project will be implemented in phases between the financial years 2026-27 and 2030-31. The first gallery, based on the theme of 'Adornment', is expected to open to the public in the North Block during the latter part of 2027.

Announced by Prime Minister Modi on May 18, 2023, the museum is intended to serve as a major national institution for cultural education, research and public engagement. It will cater to students, researchers, scholars, cultural practitioners and domestic as well as international tourists.

The museum is being designed to accommodate approximately one crore visitors annually. It is also expected to generate revenue through ticket sales, guided tours, food and beverage facilities, retail outlets, cultural events, venue rentals and digital experiences. The redevelopment offers an opportunity to preserve two of Delhi's most recognisable heritage buildings while transforming them into a major cultural destination.




...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

# RGP Leadership Dispute: CEO Says ECI Will Decide Authorised Faction

The CEO maintained that the responsibility for determining which group is authorised to represent RGP, including any dispute over its leadership, rests with the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The CEO made it clear that the Goa office does not have the authority to decide the party's internal leadership dispute.

# Who Gets To Sign For RGP? CEO Office Attendance Register Sparks Fresh Leadership Row

larger leadership dispute.

However, the CEO has clarified that the authority to decide which faction is authorised to represent RGP rests with the Election Commission of India (ECI), not the Goa CEO. Any correspondence received on the dispute will be forwarded to the Commission for its consideration.

# Dhavalikar Says Smart Meter Project's Future Depends On Legal And Contractual Review

role in the future. He stressed that Goa must keep pace with technological changes taking place across the country.

Addressing complaints over electricity bills, the minister claimed that the billing system had improved by nearly 99 per cent.

# India, Canada Push Free Trade Agreement Talks to Boost Bilateral Trade and Investment

## Piyush Goyal and Canadian Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu discuss CEPA, market access and new economic opportunities

**Team Goemkarponn**



**NEW DELHI:** India and Canada have discussed accelerating negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement aimed at strengthening bilateral trade, expanding investments and creating new economic opportunities between the two countries.

The discussions took place on Wednesday during a meeting between Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Canada's visiting Minister of International Trade, Maninder Sidhu, who is leading a Canadian delegation to India. Both ministers reviewed progress on negotiations for the proposed India Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and explored ways to strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries. A key focus of the discussions was the need to develop a balanced and mutually beneficial agreement that provides meaningful market access to businesses in both countries.



# PM Modi Urges Indian Media to Highlight Country's Success Stories at Diwali Milan

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged Indian media organisations to focus on highlighting the country's achievements and success stories, emphasising that positive developments across different sectors deserve greater attention.

Addressing journalists during the Diwali Milan programme at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, Modi said considerable work was already being done to showcase India's progress. He expressed confidence that the country would eventually achieve its goal of becoming a developed nation. The Prime Minister highlighted his government's achievements in poverty reduction, claiming that around 50 crore people had moved above the poverty line over the past 12 years. Referring to India's progress, he said poverty had been substantially reduced through government initiatives, marking a significant change from earlier political promises of eliminating poverty.

# "Farmers Are Our Top Priority": PM Modi Hails Cabinet Approval of Rabi Fertiliser Subsidy

## Centre approves Nutrient-Based Subsidy for the 2026-27 rabi season with an estimated budget of Rs 62,370 crore to ensure affordable fertilisers

**Team Goemkarponn**



**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday reiterated that farmers remain the government's highest priority as the Union Cabinet approved the Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for phosphatic and potassic fertilisers for the rabi 2026-27 season. Welcoming the decision, Modi said the government was committed to improving the lives of farmers despite challenging global circumstances. He emphasised that the subsidy would protect cultivators from fluctuations in international fertiliser prices and ensure the continued availability of essential agricultural inputs at affordable rates. The Prime Minister highlighted that the decision reflects the government's commitment to supporting the agricultural community and reducing the financial burden on farmers.




# Alert CRPF Jawan Foils Major Terror Attack in Kulgam Despite Being Injured

## Alert CRPF Jawan Foils Major Terror Attack in Kulgam Despite Being Injured

**Team Goemkarponn**

**KULGAM:** A quick response by an alert Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan prevented a major tragedy after terrorists launched an attack on a security check post in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district. Despite sustaining injuries during the firing, the jawan retaliated, disrupting the attackers' plans and forcing them to flee.

CCTV footage of the incident shows terrorists unleashing a barrage of bullets at CRPF personnel stationed at the check post. At least two attackers reportedly took cover behind a gabion structure before opening fire on the security personnel. They managed to escape after facing immediate retaliation.

Three CRPF personnel sustained injuries in the attack. One of the injured jawans continued fighting despite being wounded, demonstrating exceptional courage and alertness under fire.

The swift response was supported by an earlier intelligence alert about the suspected movement of terrorists in the area. Security assessments indicate that the attackers intended to inflict heavy casualties and trigger a major security incident. However, the immediate counterfire disrupted their operation.

# Man Arrested With Two Hand Grenades in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla

## Security forces recover one grenade during arrest and another from a concealed location in Tangmarg forest

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**SRINAGAR:** Security forces arrested a man and recovered two hand grenades from him in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday, triggering an investigation into the possible links and intended use of the explosives. The accused, identified as Ghulam Jeelani Reshi, was apprehended from the Baderkote forest area of Tangmarg in north Kashmir following suspicious activity. During the operation, security personnel recovered a hand grenade from Reshi's possession. Based on information provided by him during questioning, another concealed hand grenade was subsequently recovered from the forest area.

Following the recovery, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered at Tangmarg police station, and an investigation has been initiated. Investigating agencies are now examining the origin of the grenades, their intended use and whether the arrested individual had any connections with terrorist networks or other individuals involved in unlawful activities.

The investigation is also expected to establish how the explosives reached the forest area and whether they were being stored for a planned operation.

# BCCI Rules Out 12-Team IPL Expansion, No Decision Yet on Purse Hike Ahead of 2027 Auction

■ Devajit Saikia says the Board is focused on the IPL's 20th edition in 2027 and dismisses reports of an expansion to 12 teams as speculation

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**NEW DELHI:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has dismissed speculation about expanding the Indian Premier League (IPL) from 10 to 12 teams in 2028. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia clarified that the proposal has not been discussed, either formally or informally, within the Board. Speaking to the Press Trust of India (PTI), Saikia said there was no scope for an immediate expansion, adding that the BCCI's priority was to organise the 2027 edition of the tournament. The 2027 IPL will mark the tournament's 20th edition and is expected to be a major occasion for Indian cricket. Saikia described reports about the proposed expansion as speculative and said the Board was not considering any changes at this stage. No Confirmation on Increase in Team Purse Saikia also clarified that the BCCI has not taken any decision on increasing the team purse from Rs 125 crore to Rs 150 crore ahead of the next mega auction. He stated that the upcoming auction scheduled for December 16 will not be a mega auction and will mark the final year of the current cycle.

# Abhinav Bindra Seeks Clarity on IOA Election Rules, Makes Letter Public

■ Bindra Questions Inconsistency Between IOA Constitution and Election Rule

**Team Goemkarponn**



**NEW DELHI:** Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra has raised concerns over the election rules of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), questioning a possible inconsistency between the organisation's Constitution and the rules governing the election of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) representatives.

Bindra recently made public a letter dated October 31, which he had sent to IOA President PT Usha and CEO Raghuram Iyer seeking clarification on the issue.

According to Bindra, despite receiving an indication of which rules were being followed, his main concern regarding the constitutional provisions remains unanswered.

The election process involved preparing a list of 80 eligible sportspersons through a 10-tier eligibility system. Eight representatives, comprising four men and four women, were then elected to the IOA General Assembly. Bindra clarified that his concerns were not related to any individual candidate or his own decision not to contest the election. Instead, he emphasised the importance of transparency, fairness and accountability in sports administration. He also highlighted that strong institutional governance is essential for India's future sporting ambitions, stating that the credibility of sports organisations is as important as athletes' achievements. The SOM elections have attracted attention following PT Usha's fifth-place finish in the women's category. Anju Bobby George, Rani Rampal, Dola Banerjee and Saina Nehwal secured the four available positions.



# Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth Advance to Pre-Quarterfinals at Kumamoto Masters Japan

■ Indian shuttlers register impressive victories in men's singles; mixed doubles pairs bow out of the tournament

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Indian badminton stars Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the pre-quarterfinals of the Kumamoto Masters Japan 2026 after securing impressive victories in their respective men's singles matches on Wednesday.

At the Kumamoto Prefectural Gymnasium, Lakshya Sen defeated Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu Jen in straight games, winning 21-19, 21-18 in a 49-minute contest.

Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth also delivered a strong performance, overcoming Denmark's Rasmus Gemke in a thrilling three-game encounter. Srikanth recovered after losing the opening game to register a 18-21, 21-16, 24-22 victory in a match lasting one hour and eight minutes.

Lakshya Eyes World Tour Finals Qualification

Lakshya, who recently won the Hylo Open, has climbed eight places to 10th in the Race to the BWF World Tour Finals standings. He will be aiming to break into the top eight to secure qualification for the season-ending tournament, scheduled to be held in China from December 9 to 13.

The Commonwealth Games champion had reached the semifinals of the Kumamoto Masters last year before losing to Japan's Kenta Nishimoto.

# Three Goan Badminton Pairs Qualify for Badminton Asia Senior Championships 2026

■ Parag Chauhan, Kamlesh Kanji, Sandeep Fowker, Kapil Kanji, Tanaji Sawant and Pradeep Dhond to represent India at South Korea even

**Team Goemkarponn**



**PANAJI:** Three badminton pairs from Goa have qualified to represent India at the Badminton Asia Senior Championships 2026, scheduled to be held from November 16 to 22 in Gwangju, South Korea.

The qualifying pairs are Parag Chauhan and Kamlesh Kanji in the 45+ category, Dr Sandeep Fowker and Kapil Kanji in the 50+ category, and Tanaji Sawant and Pradeep Dhond in the 70+ category. All three pairs will compete in the doubles events of their respective age groups.

Their qualification follows impressive performances at the Yonex Sunrise 48th Indian Masters (Veteran) National Badminton Championships 2025-26, held in Goa in March. The national championship served as the qualifying benchmark for selection to the Asian tournament.

Among the three Goan combinations, Parag Chauhan and Kamlesh Kanji delivered the standout performance by securing a bronze medal. Dr Sandeep Fowker and Kapil Kanji, along with Tanaji Sawant and Pradeep Dhond, reached the quarter-finals, meeting the minimum qualification criteria for the continental championship.

The qualification marks an important achievement for Goa's Masters badminton players, who continue to demonstrate their competitive ability at the national level.

The Goa Badminton Association congratulated all six players on their selection and praised their commitment to maintaining fitness and competing at a high level.

The association also highlighted that several Masters players regularly participate in Senior Men and Women tournaments, where they compete against considerably younger opponents and often put up strong performances.

The players' dedication to fitness, discipline and competitive badminton was recognised as an inspiration for people across different age groups.