Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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Colva Assault Raises Fresh Fears Of Gang Rivalry, Three Suspects Accused

Rasool suffers head and rib injuries in alleged roadside attack; supporters question police response to earlier Benaulim assault

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MARGAO: A violent assault in Colva has triggered fresh concerns over possible group clashes in the area, with supporters of the injured man questioning whether timely police intervention could have prevented the incident. The victim, identified as Rasool, was reportedly travelling on his motorcycle when three persons allegedly intercepted him and attacked him with iron rods and bottles. He fell on the road and sustained injuries to his head and ribs. He was later transported to the South Goa District Hospital on a scooter, with a cloth covering his injured head.

The incident has drawn attention because two persons suspected by members of the rival group are also allegedly linked to an assault on a man named Riyan outside a restaurant in Benaulim on November 8.

Rasool's friends and well-wishers subsequently assembled at the hospital, seeking justice and demanding strict action from the Colva police. They have also called for a response similar to the police crackdown following the Mungul gang war in August last year.

Advocate Mevlon said he would accompany the injured man's supporters to the Colva police station to file an FIR. He questioned the handling of the November 8 case, alleging that police had not acted promptly despite information about the accused and the alleged removal of a chopper.

Mevlon claimed that police intervention at the time could have averted the latest violence and demanded accountability.

Police are investigating the assault and examining whether it is connected to the earlier gang rivalry. The alleged involvement of persons linked to previous incidents is yet to be established through the investigation.

Sawant Vows Strict Action In Colva Youth Assault Case, Says Those Involved Will Be Jailed

Team Goemkarponn



MARGAO: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has strongly condemned the assault on a youth at Colva, assuring strict action against everyone involved in the incident.

Reacting to the case, Sawant said he would speak to the Superintendent of Police and ensure that the accused are brought to justice.

"I will speak to the SP. We will not tolerate such crimes. Everyone involved will be put behind bars, and such elements will be deported," the Chief Minister said.

Sawant's statement comes after a youth was seriously injured in an alleged attack involving an iron rod and a bottle at Colva, following which five persons were booked in connection with the incident.

The Chief Minister reiterated that such criminal activities would not be tolerated in Goa and assured firm action against those responsible.

Sawant Calls Journalists The Real Opposition, Says They Keep Democracy On Track

CM Pramod Sawant urges media to hold those in power accountable, appeals to youth to join journalism and highlights government initiatives for property rights and mining revival at National Press Day 2026 celebrations.

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PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant today described journalists as the real opposition in a democracy, stating that the media plays a crucial role in questioning those in power, highlighting public issues and ensuring accountability.

Addressing the National Press Day 2026 celebrations in Goa, Sawant said democracy cannot function merely by holding the Constitution or making claims about democratic values. He said journalists have an important responsibility to keep the government and other institutions on track by pointing out mistakes and bringing issues before the public.

"Even if a journalist

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Goa's first veterinary college gets ₹53 crore boost, new campus promised in two years

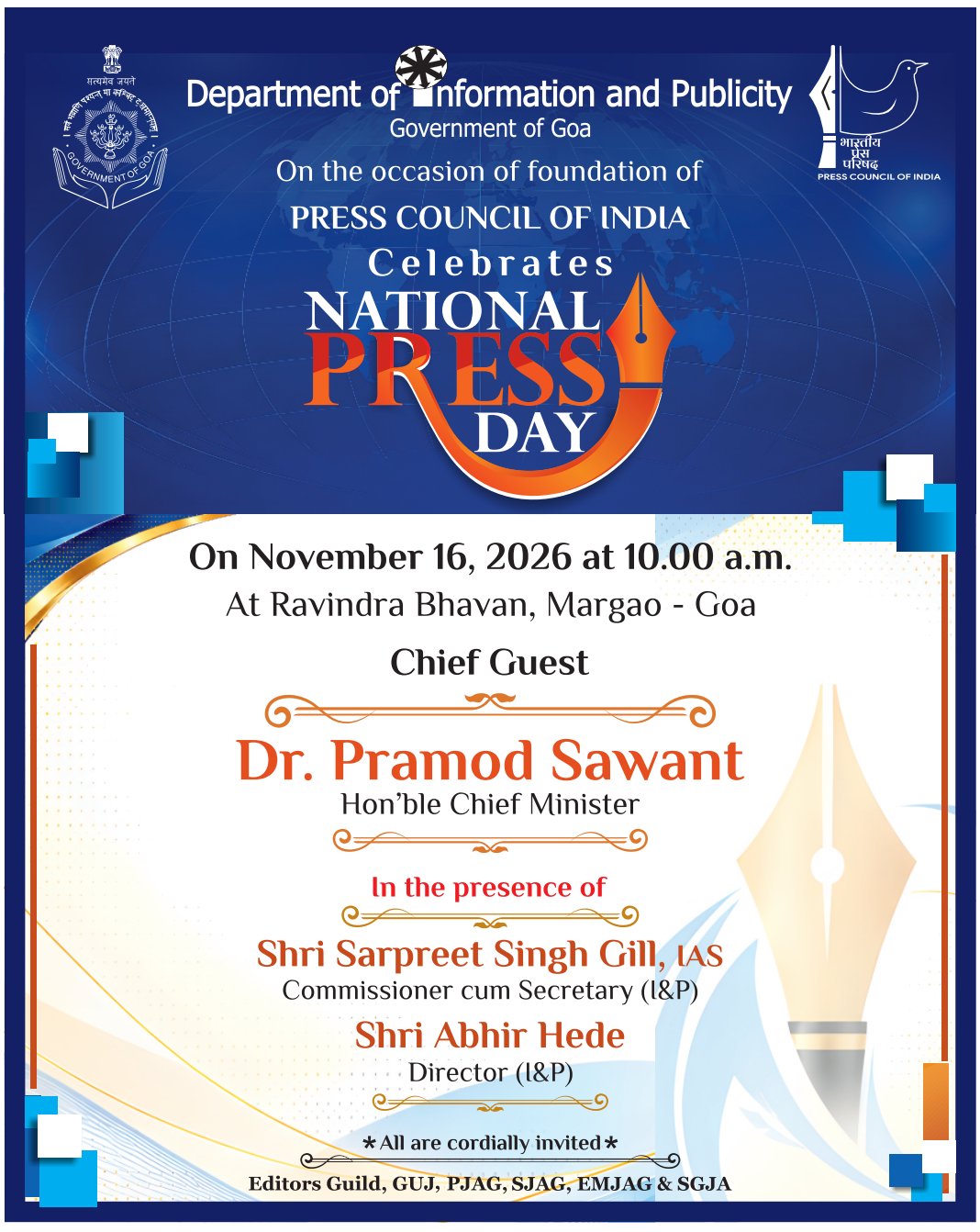
Sawant says 40 students enrolled in inaugural batch, with another 20-25 on waiting list; 25 acres at Codar earmarked for livestock facilities

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PONDA: Goa's first veterinary college is set for a major infrastructure expansion, with the state government sanctioning ₹53 crore for a new college building expected to be completed within two years, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced during the institution's first academic

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Goa's Changing Political Landscape: Is a Kannadiga MLA on the Horizon?

The growing political assertion of migrant communities in Goa is no longer something that can be ignored. The demand for representation by the Kannada community raises important questions about identity, electoral politics and the future of Goan political leadership.

The recent Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations at Sancoale may have been a cultural event, but the political message delivered from the platform deserves far greater attention. When Supreme Court lawyer Sandeep Patil called upon Kannadigas residing in Goa to stand firmly with the state on the Mhadei River dispute, while simultaneously urging the community to develop its own political leadership, it was more than an appeal for cultural unity. It was a statement about the changing political aspirations of a community that has become an important part of Goa's social and economic landscape.

Perhaps Goa should begin asking an uncomfortable but necessary question: Are we moving towards a situation where the state could elect a Kannadiga MLA?

The possibility cannot be dismissed. In fact, considering the growing population of people from outside Goa, particularly Karnataka, Maharashtra and other states, their increasing participation in the state's economic activities and their gradual social integration, such a political development may only be a matter of time.

Goa has traditionally been a state where political identities were shaped by language, regional belonging, village connections and community networks. Konkani identity, Goan heritage and local roots have played a significant role in determining electoral outcomes. But the state's demographic and social realities are changing rapidly.

Thousands of people from neighbouring Karnataka have made Goa their home. They work in construction, hospitality, transportation, trade, hospitality services and several other sectors. Many have lived here for decades. Their children are growing up in Goa, attending local schools and becoming part of the state's everyday social life. They are no longer merely a temporary workforce. Many are permanent residents with legitimate aspirations concerning their future.

It would therefore be politically naive to assume that this growing community will remain confined to economic participation without seeking political representation.

What Sandeep Patil said is significant because he has openly spoken about the need for a Kannadiga leader who can represent the community at higher political levels. This is an indication that the community is beginning to think beyond cultural celebrations and social organisations. It wants a political voice.

> ***The Mhadei reference at the Rajyotsava function is particularly interesting. Patil's appeal that Kannadigas should support Goa's interests on the river dispute is an attempt to underline that cultural identity and political loyalty need not be contradictory. A person can retain Kannada language and cultural traditions while standing with Goa on issues affecting the state's future.***
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> ***That message deserves recognition. Goa's fight to protect the Mhadei cannot be reduced to a linguistic contest between Kannadigas and Goans. It is an environmental, ecological and livelihood issue that concerns everyone who calls Goa home. The river is not the property of any political party or linguistic community. Its protection is a collective responsibility.***

There is nothing inherently wrong with that aspiration. Democracy allows every eligible voter to participate, contest elections and seek public office. A person's linguistic or cultural background cannot be a disqualification for political leadership.

However, the larger question is whether Goa's established political class has understood the changing realities.

For years, political parties have courted migrant communities during elections, often recognising their numerical strength only when votes are required. Their concerns about housing, employment, civic amenities, education and social security are rarely addressed with the same urgency as electoral calculations. Political representation, therefore, becomes a natural next step when communities begin organising themselves.

The Mhadei reference at the Rajyotsava function is particularly interesting. Patil's appeal that Kannadigas should support Goa's interests on the river dispute is an attempt to underline that cultural identity and political loyalty need not be contradictory. A person can retain Kannada language and cultural traditions while standing with Goa on issues affecting the state's future.

That message deserves recognition. Goa's fight to protect the Mhadei cannot be reduced to a linguistic contest between Kannadigas and Goans. It is an environmental, ecological and livelihood issue that concerns everyone who calls Goa home. The river is not the property of any political party or linguistic community. Its protection is a collective responsibility.

At the same time, Goa must be careful not to allow demographic changes to become an excuse for divisive politics. The issue is not whether a Kannadiga, Maharashtrian or someone from another community can become an MLA. The real question is whether the person elected understands Goa, respects its identity, protects its interests and remains accountable to its people.

A Goan MLA should be judged by commitment to Goa, not merely by ancestry or mother tongue.

But there is also a message for Goa's politicians. If established political parties continue taking local communities and their concerns for granted, new political leadership will emerge from spaces they have neglected. The growing assertion of the Kannada community should be seen in that context. Goa is changing. Its political landscape will change with it. The emergence of a Kannadiga MLA may no longer be an improbable political scenario.

The bigger concern is whether Goa's traditional political leadership is prepared for this transformation, or whether it will wake up only when the electoral arithmetic begins to change.

Cultural identity deserves protection. Political aspirations deserve democratic space. But above everything else, Goa's interests must remain paramount, irrespective of who occupies the corridors of political power.

Opposition Unity Cannot Be Built On Seat-Sharing Arithmetic Alone

Suraj Nandrekar

As Congress, GFP and RGP move towards an understanding for 2027, Goa needs to know whether this emerging alliance has a political vision or is merely an arrangement to defeat the BJP

Goa's opposition parties appear to have finally realised that fighting the 2027 Assembly elections separately could prove disastrous. Congress has begun discussions with the Goa Forward Party (GFP), negotiations with the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) are reportedly nearing conclusion, and there are renewed calls for a broader anti-BJP platform. On paper, this sounds promising. But bringing parties together is considerably easier than making them work together.

The question is not whether Congress, GFP and RGP can agree on how many seats each should contest. The real question is whether they can agree on what kind of government they want to offer Goa.

For too long, opposition politics in the state has revolved around personalities, electoral calculations and political survival. Parties come together when elections approach, announce their commitment to defeating the BJP and begin negotiations over constituencies. Once elections are over, contradictions surface, personal ambitions take precedence and unity becomes history.

Goa cannot afford another such experiment.

Congress, as the principal opposition force, must understand that an alliance cannot be built around its own electoral convenience. Its repeated failures in Goa, organisational weaknesses and history of defections have seriously damaged public confidence. It cannot expect smaller partners to surrender their political space simply because it believes it deserves the larger share of seats.

At the same time, GFP and RGP must recognise that an alliance is not a mechanism to secure a handful of constituencies or negotiate political relevance. It requires compromise, discipline and collective responsibility.

The statements emerging from the discussions are revealing. AICC Goa in-charge Manikrao Thakare has described the initial meeting with GFP as positive, while GFP president Vijai Sardesai has called it a good beginning. RGP MLA Viresh Borkar says negotiations with Congress are nearing finalisation, with his party having already submitted demands regarding seats and constituencies.

But where is the discussion on a common political agenda?

Goa faces serious challenges, from environmental destruction and unchecked construction to unemployment, deteriorating infrastructure, the drug menace and failures in public safety. These should form the foundation of an opposition alliance.

Will the proposed partners commit themselves to protecting Goa's rivers, forests and coastal areas? Will they promise transparent land-use policies and action against illegal constructions? Will they present a credible employment policy and address the failures in policing and governance?

Criticism of the government is not enough. Voters want to know what the opposition would do differently if given power.

Another major concern is leadership. Who will lead the alliance? Who will be its chief ministerial face? How will differences between partners be resolved? More importantly, will all parties remain committed after the election?

Congress must give an unequivocal commitment against defections. Voters have repeatedly witnessed elected representatives abandoning the mandate they received. Any opposition alliance that does not address this issue will struggle to convince people that it represents a genuine alternative.

Similarly, GFP and RGP must clarify whether their political positions are compatible beyond their common opposition to the BJP. An alliance cannot survive merely on a shared dislike of the ruling establishment.

Sardesai's appeal to the Aam Aadmi Party to join a common platform is significant. However, expanding the alliance simply by adding more parties will achieve little without clarity on objectives, leadership and seat-sharing.

The BJP may face public dissatisfaction on several fronts, but that does not automatically translate into votes for the opposition. The electorate must be convinced that the alternative is more capable, stable and accountable.

The 2027 Assembly election should not become a battle for political survival among opposition leaders. It should be an opportunity to restore public confidence in democratic accountability.

Goans are not looking for another arrangement of convenience or another collection of leaders negotiating their political futures behind closed doors. They want leadership that can stand together and offer a credible roadmap for the state's future.

Congress, GFP and RGP may be moving towards a seat-sharing agreement. That is a beginning, not an achievement.

The opposition must decide whether it wants to share power or share responsibility. Goa needs the latter. Without a common vision, credible leadership and an unwavering commitment to the people, this alliance will remain nothing more than an electoral understanding.

And Goa has had enough of political understandings that fail the people.

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ST Community Warns Of 2027 Poll Fallout If Political Reservation Is Denied

At Sanguem gathering, UTAA questions government's handling of court case and says community had to fund its own legal fight

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The demand for political reservation for Scheduled Tribes in Goa is set to remain a major issue ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, with ST leaders warning that the community will express its anger through the ballot if the demand remains unresolved. The warning came during a large community meeting convened by the United Tribals Associations Alliance (UTAA) at Vaddem in Sanguem. The gathering was held to determine the next steps after the High Court stayed the notification relating to the readjustment of constituencies for ST political reservation. Raising concerns over the



court proceedings, UTAA president Prakash Velip questioned why important population-related documents were not brought before the High Court. He claimed that this omission had weakened the community's position in the legal battle. Velip referred to demographic figures from 2013, which put the combined population of Goa's Gauda, Kunbi and Velip communities at 9.9 per cent. He said these figures had been officially communicated by the Census Commission to the Union Law Ministry. The UTAA president alleged that the relevant records were not adequately presented before the court, despite their importance to the community's demand for political representation.

UTAA leader Govind Shirodkar said the association had taken its fight to the Supreme Court by filing a Special Leave Petition (SLP). He pointed out that the legal proceedings had involved expenditure running into lakhs of rupees, met through contributions from community resources. The meeting brought together ST representatives to discuss the legal challenge and decide how to pursue the demand for political representation.

Film Bazaar

WAVES Film Bazaar Marks 20 Years With Five-Day Film Market In Goa From November 20

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PANAJI: Goa will host the 20th edition of WAVES Film Bazaar from November 20 to 24, 2026, as the film industry platform marks two decades of promoting cinematic collaboration, business opportunities and South Asian storytelling alongside the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

The five-day event will be held at Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon and will bring together filmmakers, producers, financiers, distributors, sales agents and festival representatives from India and abroad.

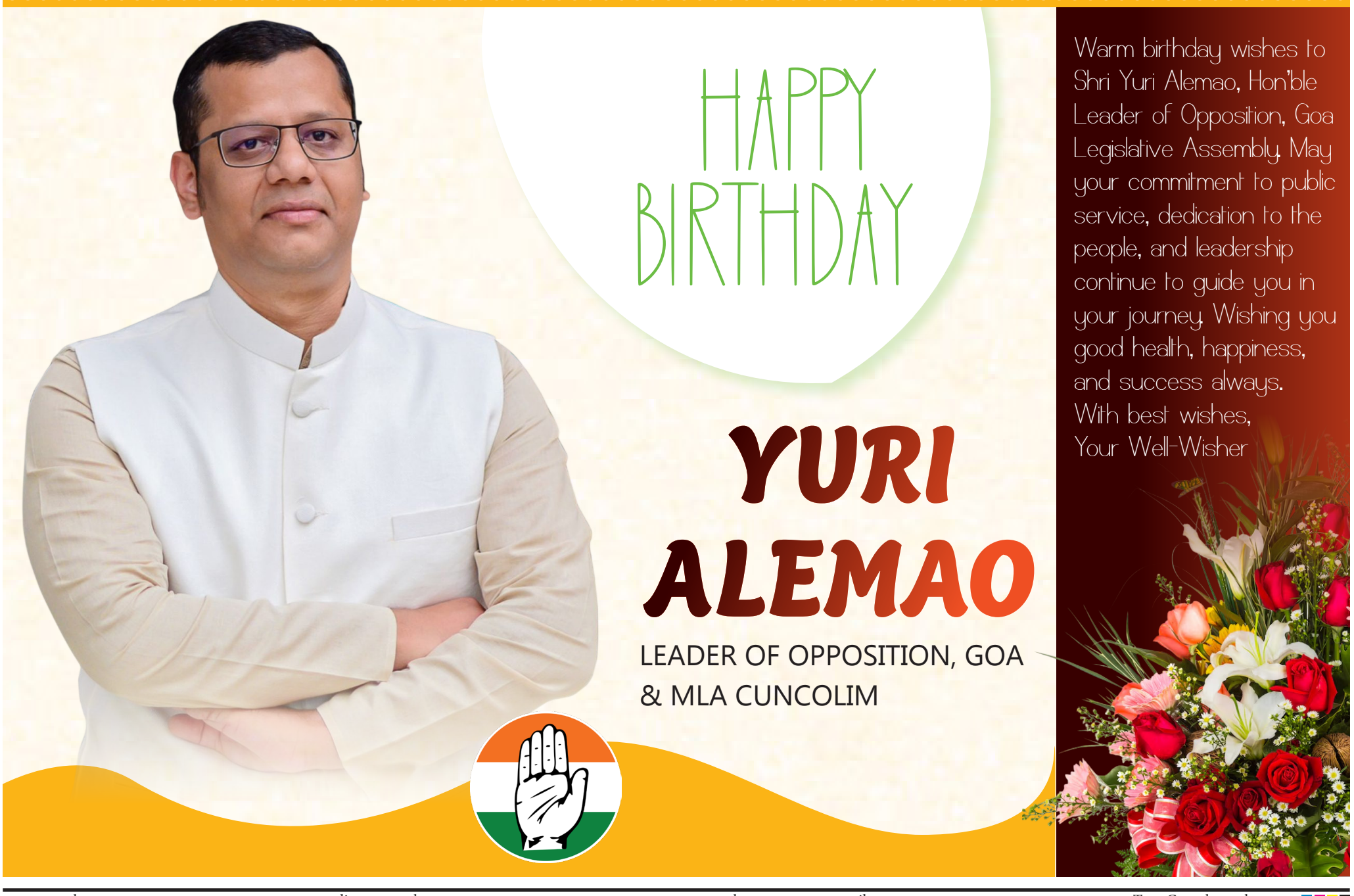


MoRTH Proposes Slashing Rent-A-Cab Fleet Requirement From 50 To Five Vehicles

Proposed 2026 scheme could open Goa's rental car business to smaller operators, but the state's ban on fresh licences remains a key hurdle

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PANAJI: The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed a major change to the Rent-A-Cab Scheme, reducing the minimum fleet requirement for operators from 50 vehicles to five. The move could allow smaller entrepreneurs to enter Goa's vehicle rental market, although its impact on the state will depend on the final rules and Goa's existing licensing restrictions. The proposed Rent-A-Cab Scheme, 2026, is intended to replace the existing framework introduced in 1989. Under the draft notification issued on November 6, operators would need to maintain a minimum of five motor cabs, with at least two vehicles stationed at each approved place of operation.



Two Kerala employees booked for alleged theft of Rs 4.30 lakh in Pernem

Cash, gold chain and advance payments allegedly stolen from employer's residence and business premises at Bhendale Vazari

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PERNEM: Pernem Police have registered an offence against two employees from Kerala for allegedly stealing cash, gold jewellery and other valuables worth around Rs 4.30 lakh belonging to their employer at Bhendale Vazari in Pernem.

The complaint was lodged by Siddesh Pratap Bhendalkar, a resident of Bhendale Vazari, following an alleged theft reported at his residence in Nana Shet Building on November 11, 2026, between 1 pm and 4 pm.

According to the complaint, one of the accused, identified as Ashik Anthony, was employed as a driver and allegedly stole cash amounting to Rs 45,000. The second accused, identified as Neha Anthony, who was entrusted with work at the complainant's paint and hardware shop, allegedly stole a gold chain with a pendant weighing approximately 20 to 30 grams, cash amounting to Rs 10,000 and an advance payment of Rs 75,000.

The complainant alleged that the two employees misappropriated his money and valuables by taking advantage of their employment and the trust placed in them. The alleged theft caused him a total financial loss estimated at Rs 4.30 lakh.

Pernem Police registered the offence on November 14, 2026, at 4.45 pm, based on the complaint.

Both accused are residents of Kerala. Police are investigating the alleged theft and the circumstances under which the complainant's property went missing.



Decomposed body of 35-year-old man found at Raia

Body identified as Bony Fernandes of Maina-Curtorim; police initiate further enquiry

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RAIA: The decomposed body of a 35-year-old man was found lying near Daman East at Raia in Salcete on Sunday, November 15, 2026.

The deceased has been identified as Bony Fernandes, a resident of Maina, Curtorim.

According to information received by police, Isidorio Rodrigues contacted the authorities at around 2.24 pm and reported that a male body was lying in a decomposed condition near Daman East, Raia.

Police personnel subsequently visited the spot and conducted a preliminary enquiry. During the investigation, the deceased was identified as Bony Fernandes, aged 35.

Following the discovery, the body was shifted and preserved at the South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for further medico-legal formalities.

Police have initiated an enquiry to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the death. The condition in which the body was found has also prompted further investigation into the case.

Further enquiry is being conducted by PSI Narayan Pinge of Margao Coastal Police Station (MCPS).



Panaji nurse alleges cheating over four gold bangles and cash

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PANAJI: A case of alleged cheating has been registered at Panaji against a Taleigao resident for allegedly cheating a staff nurse of four gold bangles and cash after promising to return them within a year. According to the complaint, the complainant, an adult woman employed as a staff nurse at the TB Hospital in St Inez, Panaji, is a resident of Balli Math, Mahalwado, Bais, Cuncolim, South Goa. The incident reportedly took place on August 20, 2024, between 11 am and 11.30 am at the TB Hospital, St Inez, Panaji. The accused has been identified as Prasad Dicholkar, a resident of Durgawadi, Taleigao, Tiswadi. As per the complaint, the accused allegedly approached the woman seeking financial assistance, claiming that he urgently needed money for loan-related purposes. He allegedly requested four gold bangles belonging to her along with some cash and assured her that the valuables and money would be returned within one year.

Scooter theft in Palolem; laptop, cash, passport and foreign currency reported missing

Canacona Police register FIR against Kerala man; stolen scooter allegedly contained belongings of two persons, including an Israeli national

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CANACONA: Canacona Police have registered an offence against a Kerala resident for allegedly stealing a Jupiter scooter containing laptops, cash, a passport and foreign currency worth thousands, belonging to two persons staying at Palolem.

According to the complaint lodged by Ravi Kurubar, a resident of Palolem, Canacona, originally from Hampi, Karnataka, the incident took place on November 13, 2026, at around 5 pm at Piccolo Hostel, Tembewada, Palolem.



The accused has been identified as Mohammed Farviz Firoz, a resident of Thalassery, Kerala.

As per the complaint, the accused allegedly stole a Jupiter scooter belonging to the complainant. The vehicle reportedly contained an HP laptop and cash amounting to Rs 8,000 belonging to Kurubar.

24-year-old migrant worker found dead in Quepem

Chhattisgarh native found dead in forest area at Naquerim; police register unnatural death case

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QUEPEM: A 24-year-old migrant worker from Chhattisgarh was found dead in a forest area at Naquerim, Quepem, on Saturday, November 14, 2026.

The deceased has been identified as Satte Sidar, a native of Chhattisgarh who was residing at his employer's house in Naquerim, Quepem.

According to information received by police, Suryakant Queloskar, a resident of Naquerim, alerted authorities at around 6 pm about a person found dead in the area.



Police personnel rushed to the spot and found the body of the young worker in a nearby forest area. An unnatural death case was subsequently registered. During the preliminary enquiry, police spoke to the owner of the rented premises and other workers who were staying there. They informed police that Sidar had arrived in Goa along with other labourers at around 2.30 am on November 14 for employment.

According to their statements, at around 9.30 am, the deceased had reportedly gone near an operating JCB machine and expressed an intention to end his life. Other workers intervened and prevented him from approaching the machine.

Ugandan woman arrested in Baga for allegedly staying illegally in Goa

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CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have arrested a 36-year-old Ugandan woman for allegedly staying in India without valid travel documents, including a passport and visa, at Baga in North Goa.

The accused has been identified as Grace Nakintu, daughter of Sselumpanise Henry, a Ugandan national who was residing at Baga, Calangute, in Bardez taluka.

Mandd Sobhann creates Guinness World Record with 12-day Konkani singing marathon

6,789 singers from 300 teams perform over 4,500 Konkani songs in Mangaluru, surpassing the previous world record and celebrating Konkani culture and heritage.

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MANGALURU: Konkani music has created history on the global stage, with cultural organisation Mandd Sobhann setting a new Guinness World Record through a continuous singing marathon lasting 12 days, 12 hours and 12 minutes. The record-breaking event concluded on November 15 at Town Hall in Mangaluru, bringing together thousands of Konkani singers in a celebration of the language's rich musical and cultural traditions. The First World Konkani Music Mega Convention, which commenced on November 3, saw the participation of 300 teams and 6,789 singers. Together, they performed more than 4,500 Konkani songs composed by over 250 composers. With the marathon crossing the 12-day, 12-hour and 12-minute mark, Mandd Sobhann surpassed the previous Guinness World Record of 11 days, 11 hours and 11 minutes.



Amonkar announces Umeed Centre for senior citizens in Mormugao within a month

Proposed facility to offer indoor games, newspapers and recreational activities; RMD dispensary to get additional doctors and nursing staff

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: Agriculture Minister Sankalp Amonkar has announced that a dedicated Umeed Centre for senior citizens will be established in the Mormugao constituency within a month, providing elderly residents with a space to socialise, relax and participate in recreational activities.

The announcement was made during a Senior Citizens Melava organised by Amonkar, which witnessed the participation of hundreds of elderly residents from across the constituency. The gathering featured games, entertainment and various activities aimed at bringing senior citizens together. Explaining the proposed facility, Amonkar said the Umeed Centre would be equipped with newspapers, indoor games and other basic amenities. It would provide a common space where senior citizens could spend their leisure time, interact with friends and engage in recreational activities. He assured that the centre would be inaugurated within the next month. Amonkar said ensuring the welfare of senior citizens remained an important responsibility and stressed the need to create opportunities for them to remain socially active and connected with the community.



Mandrekar confirms 2027 Siolim contest, keeps BJP ticket and Independent option open

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MAPUSA: Former Goa minister Dayanand Mandrekar has confirmed that he will contest the 2027 Goa Assembly elections from Siolim, but has stopped short of committing himself to the BJP, keeping open the possibility of entering the fray as an Independent.

The three-time former BJP MLA's announcement sets the stage for an interesting political contest in Siolim, where the BJP currently has Delilah Lobo as its sitting MLA.

Mandrekar said his decision to contest the next Assembly elections was the reason behind his resignation as chairman of the SC, OBC Finance and Development Corporation.

He indicated that stepping down from the government position was necessary as he prepares to return to active electoral politics.

While making his electoral intentions clear, Mandrekar maintained that he continues to share cordial relations with the BJP and its leadership.

Velsao family, panch and NGO join hands to help injured dog regain mobility

A family in Velsao has found a way to help its beloved dog regain mobility after an accident left both its hind limbs injured, with the support of Velsao Panch Jim D'Souza and an NGO.

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VELSAO: The dog came to the village during the Covid pandemic and gradually became part of a local family, who began feeding and caring for it. Over the years, the bond grew, and the animal became a much-loved member of the household.

An accident later left the dog with injuries to both its hind limbs, severely affecting its ability to move around. Concerned about its condition, the woman



of the house approached Velsao Panch Jim D'Souza for help. D'Souza contacted an NGO, whose representatives visited the family and assessed the dog's condition. The NGO initially suggested shifting the animal to a shelter in Bhopal for specialised care and further treatment.

However, the family was reluctant to part with the dog after caring for it over the years. Understanding their attachment, the NGO explored an alternative and arranged a customised wheelchair to help the animal move around despite its injuries. The initiative brought together the family, the local panch and the NGO to find a solution that would support the dog's mobility without separating it from the people it had come to know as its family.

Kannadigas in Goa should support state on Mhadei issue, says Supreme Court lawyer

Sandeep Patil urges Kannada community to build leadership and strengthen its representation at higher levels during Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations at Sancoale

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SANCOALE: Supreme Court lawyer Sandeep Patil has called upon Kannadigas residing in Goa to stand firmly with the state on the Mhadei river issue, stressing that the community should support Goa's interests while continuing to preserve its cultural identity.

Patil was speaking as the chief guest at the Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations organised by the Akhila Goa Kannada Mahasangh at Sancoale. Vasco MLA Krishna Daji Salkar, BJP Karnataka Cell convenor Murli Shetty and other dignitaries attended the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Patil said Kannadigas who had made Goa their home over the years should stand alongside the state on important issues concerning its interests, including the Mhadei river dispute. He also stressed the need for the Kannada community to develop its own leadership and ensure stronger representation at higher levels. Patil said the time had come for a Kannadiga leader to emerge who could represent the community and take its concerns to wider public and political platforms.

Meanwhile, Murli Shetty said Kannadigas settled in Goa had shared a long association with the state and continued to contribute to its social fabric. He maintained that the community had always supported Goa.

Clarifying his political position, Shetty said he was only a BJP karyakarta and had no political ambitions or aspirations for positions.

Can India Retain Its Top Aviation Safety Rating? US FAA Team Begins Crucial Audit

US aviation experts to assess DGCA's regulatory framework, technical workforce and safety oversight from November 16 to 20, with India's Category 1 status at stake

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NEW DELHI: India's aviation safety oversight is set for a crucial international evaluation as a team from the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) arrives on November 16 for a five-day assessment of the country's regulatory system.

The FAA team will conduct its assessment until November 20, focusing primarily on the effectiveness of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), including its regulatory framework, trained personnel and institutional capacity to ensure compliance with international aviation safety standards.

The DGCA has reportedly been preparing responses to approximately 200 questions as part of the exercise.

The assessment is particularly important for India as it seeks to retain its Category 1 rating under the FAA's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) programme. India regained this status in April 2015 after being downgraded the previous year.

What Will The FAA Examine?

The assessment will determine whether India's aviation regulator effectively implements safety standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The evaluation covers eight critical areas, including aviation legislation, operational regulations, the organisational structure of the regulator and the technical qualifications of safety inspectors.

The FAA will also examine the training and guidance available to inspectors, systems for licensing aviation personnel, aircraft certification procedures and oversight of airline operations.

Another important area will be safety surveillance, including the regulator's ability to identify violations, monitor compliance and ensure that deficiencies are corrected through appropriate enforcement measures.

The exercise is not an inspection of individual aircraft or airlines alone. It evaluates the overall regulatory system responsible for maintaining aviation safety.

Why India's Category 1 Status Matters

A Category 1 rating indicates that a country's aviation safety oversight authority meets international standards. It allows airlines from that country to expand services to the United States using their own aircraft and participate in codeshare arrangements with American carriers, subject to applicable requirements.

A downgrade to Category 2 could restrict Indian airlines from expanding their US operations and lead to increased regulatory scrutiny of existing services. For India's rapidly growing aviation industry, losing the rating could have commercial and reputational consequences. With passenger traffic, aircraft numbers and international connectivity expanding, maintaining a strong regulatory framework is increasingly important.

India Was Downgraded in 2014

India previously lost its Category 1 status in January 2014 after the FAA identified shortcomings in the DGCA's safety oversight capabilities.

The concerns included insufficient qualified flight operations inspectors, gaps in technical training and weaknesses in inspection and surveillance procedures.

India subsequently introduced corrective measures, strengthened the DGCA's technical workforce and addressed the identified deficiencies. Following a reassessment, the FAA restored the country's Category 1 rating in April 2015.

Yamuna Pollution Worsens at Three Key Locations in Delhi, BOD Levels Cross Safe Limits

DPCC report records rising faecal coliform levels at Wazirabad, Nizamudin Bridge and Asgarpur in September

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NEW DELHI: Pollution levels in the Yamuna river deteriorated at three key locations across Delhi in September compared to August, raising fresh concerns over the river's water quality, according to a Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) report.

The September assessment was based on water samples collected from seven locations along the river's stretch through the national capital. The testing covered parameters such as Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), dissolved oxygen, chemical oxygen demand, pH and faecal coliform to determine the extent of pollution.

The seven monitoring points included Palla, Wazirabad, ISBT Bridge, ITO Bridge, Nizamudin Bridge, Okhla Barrage and Asgarpur near Kidwali in Haryana.

According to the findings, three locations recorded deterioration, while two showed improvement and two reported no significant change.

BOD levels remained above the prescribed limit at several locations, ranging between 2 and 30 milligrams per litre (mg/l). The permissible limit is 3 mg/l. Higher BOD indicates greater organic pollution, often associated with sewage contamination.

The highest BOD level was recorded at ISBT Bridge at 30 mg/l, compared to 28 mg/l in August.

Among the locations showing deterioration, Wazirabad recorded an increase in faecal coliform from 1,100 to 1,300 Most Probable Number per 100 millilitres (MPN/100 ml). At Nizamudin Bridge, the level increased from 13,000 to 15,000 MPN/100 ml. Asgarpur recorded a rise from 36,000 to 38,000 MPN/100 ml.

However, Palla showed improvement, with faecal coliform levels declining from 1,400 to 1,100 MPN/100 ml. Okhla Barrage also recorded a reduction from 23,000 to 21,000 MPN/100 ml.

At ISBT Bridge, faecal coliform levels remained unchanged at 35,000 MPN/100 ml, while ITO Bridge continued to record 17,000 MPN/100 ml.

The report also highlighted high BOD and Total Suspended Solids levels in wastewater from several major drains across Delhi, pointing to continued sewage discharge as a major contributor to Yamuna pollution.



...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Sawant Calls Journalists The Real Opposition, Says They Keep Democracy On Track

writes something negative about me or portrays me in a bad light, I have never questioned why they did so, and I will not do so in the future either. It is their perspective, and I respect that," Sawant said. He added that he had always been willing to acknowledge his mistakes and step back whenever necessary.

Referring to veteran journalist Gurudas Sawal's book, the Chief Minister spoke about the government's initiatives to address long-pending property documentation issues through Mhoje Ghar, Mhoje Flat. He said several Goans whose houses were built before 1972 faced difficulties after their structures were demolished, leaving them without proper documents.

Goa's first veterinary college gets ₹53 crore boost, new campus promised in two years

session orientation programme.

Positioning the college as a future centre for veterinary education, animal healthcare and research, Sawant said the government had also earmarked 25 acres of land at Codar for livestock-related activities, in addition to the 16-acre campus at Curti, Ponda.

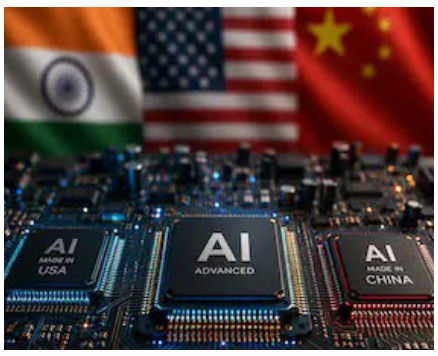
The announcement comes as the college begins its academic journey with 40 students in its inaugural batch, while another 20 to 25 candidates are reportedly on the waiting list, indicating considerable interest in veterinary education in Goa.

Addressing students and parents, Sawant said the establishment of the college was driven by the government's objective of making professional education accessible to Goan students within the state. Recalling his own experience of having to travel to Kolhapur to pursue BAMS after completing Class XII, he said he wanted to ensure that future generations did not face similar challenges in accessing higher education.

India Joins US-Led Pact to Secure AI Supply Chains Against China Amid Nvidia Row

■ San Francisco Declaration aims to reduce dependence on Chinese-controlled technology networks and strengthen global cooperation in critical AI infrastructure.

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: India has joined a US-led international initiative aimed at protecting critical artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and supply chains from potential Chinese influence, marking a significant development in the global technology race.

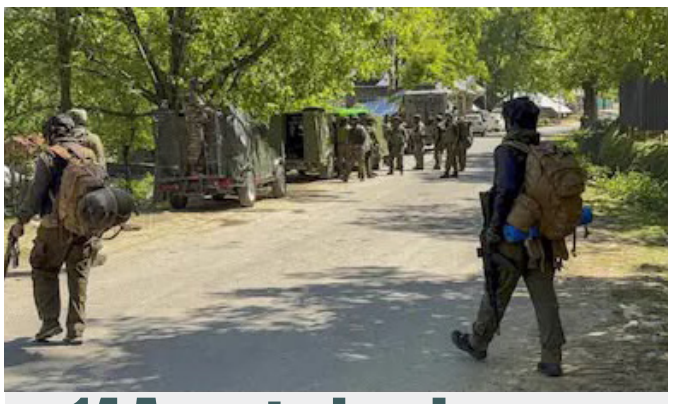
The agreement, known as the San Francisco Declaration on the Secure Foundations of Enduring Prosperity, has been signed by the United States, India, Japan, Australia, Israel, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and the European Commission are also expected to join the initiative.

The development comes amid growing concerns in Washington over China's access to advanced AI chips, particularly those manufactured by Nvidia. US President Donald Trump has reportedly ordered stricter action against companies suspected of illegally transferring Nvidia's advanced processors to China.

What Is Pax Silica?

The declaration represents a new phase of Pax Silica, a US-led initiative launched in December 2025 to strengthen AI supply chains and reduce dependence on critical infrastructure controlled by China.

The initiative covers several strategic sectors, including semiconductors, critical minerals, advanced manufacturing, energy infrastructure and data centres.



14 Arrested as Jammu Police Bust Exam Cheating Racket Ahead of Finance Assistant Test

■ Suspects allegedly planned to transmit answers to selected candidates using wireless communication devices; SIT formed to investigate the network.

Team Goemkarponn

JAMMU: Jammu Police have arrested 14 people for allegedly attempting to facilitate cheating in the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) Finance Assistant Examination following an intelligence-led operation on Sunday. The arrests were made before the commencement of the examination after police received intelligence inputs about a group allegedly conspiring to help selected candidates use unfair means during the test. Acting on the information, multiple police teams were formed and deployed strategically around identified examination centres to prevent any attempt to compromise the examination process.

The 14 suspects were apprehended from locations surrounding various examination centres before the test began. Police also seized electronic equipment, including wireless radio sets, which were allegedly intended to transmit answers to candidates inside the examination halls. Preliminary investigations suggest that the accused had developed a mechanism using modern electronic communication technology to send answers to selected candidates appearing for the examination.



'Efforts Underway to Divide India by Magnifying Smaller Identities': RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat

Team Goemkarponn

JODHPUR: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday warned that attempts were being made to weaken India by highlighting smaller identities and provoking conflicts within society, drawing a comparison with the British policy of divide and rule.

Addressing the 'Maru Ninad-2026' Ghosh Shivir organised by the RSS Jodhpur Prant at Rajaram Ashram in Shikarpura, Bhagwat said India was progressing in the right direction, but certain global forces did not want the country to emerge as a great power.

He described India as a source of hope for the world but cautioned that efforts were being made to create divisions among people for selfish interests. He urged society to remain united and avoid falling victim to attempts that could create internal conflicts.

'ASEAN Ties at Heart of Act East Policy': PM Modi Begins Two-Day Philippines Visit

■ Prime Minister to attend the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and 21st East Asia Summit, focusing on regional cooperation, connectivity and Indo-Pacific security.

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday departed for a two-day visit to the Philippines, emphasising that India's relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) remains central to its Act East Policy and MAHASAGAR vision.

During his visit to Manila on Monday and Tuesday, Modi will participate in the 23rd



ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit at the invitation of Philippine President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr.

Highlighting the importance of India's partnership with ASEAN, the Prime Minister said the relationship was built on centuries of civilisational exchanges and had developed into a wide-ranging partnership covering trade, connectivity, maritime security, technology and people-to-people relations.

Modi expressed his commitment to strengthening India's friendship with ASEAN member countries and said he looked forward to interacting with the Indian community living in the Philippines.

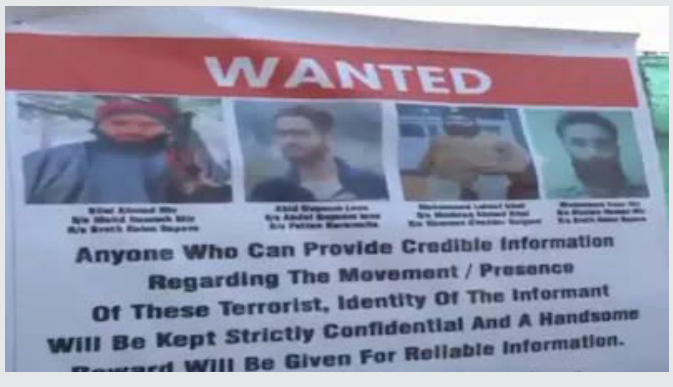
Two Lashkar Terrorists Linked to CRPF Camp Attack Killed in Kulgam Encounter

■ Latief Bhat and his associate eliminated in South Kashmir operation; Bhat was allegedly involved in several terror attacks across the region in 2026.

Team Goemkarponn

SRINAGAR: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists, including Latief Bhat, allegedly linked to last week's attack on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bhat, a resident of Kulgam, was reportedly operating alongside



Pakistani terrorists and frequently shifting between hideouts in South Kashmir with the assistance of an overground worker network.

He was allegedly involved in several terror attacks in 2026, including the July 22 killing of a police constable in the Lal Chowk area of Anantnag and the July 31 killing of migrant workers in Kulgam.

The encounter comes days after two heavily armed terrorists attacked a CRPF post near Mir Bazar in Kulgam on November 11. The attack left three CRPF personnel injured, with one of them sustaining critical injuries. The attackers subsequently escaped towards a nearby forested area.

The security situation deteriorated further within 24 hours when terrorists killed two Special Police Officers (SPOs), identified as Babi Chand and Yashpal Kumar, in Kishtwar district. The two personnel were reportedly travelling to join the Army during an ongoing anti-terror operation when they were attacked.

MCC Masters and MCC Knights Dominate with Convincing Wins in Members Cricket League-12

Shailesh Redkar and Kapil Borkar shine as their respective teams register victories at Margao

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: MCC Masters and MCC Knights registered convincing victories in the Margao Cricket Club's Members Cricket League-12 tournament at the MCC ground in Margao on Sunday.

In the morning fixture, MCC Masters defended a competitive total of 177 for nine to defeat



MCC Tigers by 23 runs. Shailesh Redkar led the batting effort with 38 runs off 20 balls, while Shreyas Usgaonkar contributed 30 off 19 deliveries. Angad Poinguincar provided a late flourish, remaining unbeaten on 25 off just seven balls.

For MCC Tigers, Rueben Karekar delivered an impressive bowling performance, claiming four wickets for 11 runs in two overs.

Chasing 178, MCC Tigers managed 154 for eight in their allotted 20 overs. Aditya Prabhugaonkar top-scored with 40, while Vaibhav Naik added 26 and Sandeep Dalal contributed 21. Redkar and Satyesh Kamat picked up three wickets each to guide MCC Masters to victory. Redkar was named Man of the Match for his all-round contribution.

Kumar Vasudev's Unbeaten 130 Puts Rajasthan in Command Against Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Rajasthan took a significant 78-run first-innings lead against Goa on the second day of their Vijay Merchant Trophy Elite Under-16 three-day cricket match at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium 'B' Ground in Lucknow.

Resuming their first innings at 177 for five, Goa managed to add only 51 runs before being bowled out for 228 in 97.4 overs. Overnight unbeaten batter Yuvraj Dabolkar narrowly missed a century, adding just four runs to his overnight score before departing for an impressive 95. Shaurya Chodankar remained unbeaten on 22, while Diganth Manohar contributed 13.

Anjanya Sharma led Rajasthan's bowling attack with four wickets for 52 runs, while Harshit Yadav claimed three wickets for 56 runs and Sahil Khan picked up two.

In response, Rajasthan produced a strong batting performance to reach 306 for five in 72 overs, establishing a 78-run advantage. Captain Kumar Vasudev was the standout performer, remaining unbeaten on 130 with the help of 17 boundaries. He received valuable support from Tavish Sharma, who scored 67, and Daivik Somani, who added 47.

Madhya Pradesh Crush Goa by 92 Runs in Women's U-23 T20 Trophy

Goa struggle with the bat after Madhya Pradesh post 166 for six in Sultanpur

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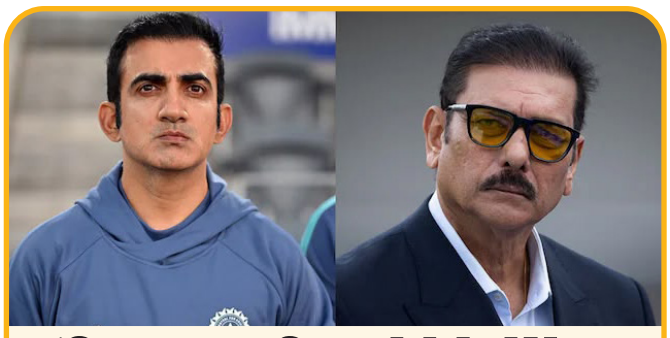
PANAJI: Goa suffered a heavy 92-run defeat against Madhya Pradesh in the Women's Under-23 T20 Trophy Elite tournament at the Gurugram Cricket Ground (SRNCC), Sultanpur, on Sunday.

After winning the toss, Goa opted to field, but Madhya Pradesh made full use of the batting conditions to post 166 for six in their allotted 20 overs. Ananya Dubey led the scoring with 33 runs, while Yamini Billore added 24 and Sanskriti Gupta contributed 22. Ayushi Shukla also chipped in with 20 runs.

For Goa, Pooja Kalel and Aradhana Saroj claimed two wickets each, while Bharati Sawant and Vidhi Bhandare picked up one wicket apiece.

Chasing 167 for victory, Goa's batting unit failed to build partnerships and managed just 74 for six in 20 overs. Harshada Kadam top-scored with an unbeaten 16, while Harshita Yadav contributed 15. Tanaya Naik added 10 runs, but the remaining batters struggled to make an impact. Madhya Pradesh's bowlers maintained control throughout the innings, restricting Goa to a modest total.

Dhani Buchade was the standout performer with two wickets for nine runs, while Vaishnavi Sharma and Sanskriti Gupta claimed one wicket each.



'Gautam Gambhir Was Right': Ravi Shastri Flags India's Batting Concerns Ahead of 2027 ODI World Cup

Former India coach backs Gambhir's warning over batting collapses in seaming conditions, stressing that adaptability will be crucial in South Africa

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has backed current coach Gautam Gambhir's concerns over India's batting performances in challenging conditions, warning that the team must improve its application ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa. India recovered from a humiliating 89-run all-out performance in the fourth ODI against New Zealand to win the fifth match and seal the series 3-1. However, despite the victory, questions remain over the team's ability to handle conditions that offer significant assistance to fast bowlers. India struggled badly in the fourth ODI at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui, with the batting line-up collapsing against New Zealand's pace attack. In the fifth match at the same venue, India managed just 209 runs but successfully defended the total to secure a 22-run victory. Shastri agreed with Gambhir's assessment that the batting performances during the tour were a concern, particularly because New Zealand's conditions closely resemble those India could encounter at the 2027 World Cup.

Jay Shah Re-Appointed Unopposed as ICC Chairman for Second Term

ICC Board backs Shah's leadership as cricket prepares for its return to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles 2028

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Jay Shah has been re-appointed unopposed as the International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman for a second consecutive term, ensuring continuity in the leadership of world cricket's governing body.

The decision was announced during the ICC Board and Committee meetings held in Bali, following a proposal put forward by ICC Directors. The reappointment reflects the Board's confidence in Shah's leadership as the organisation looks to expand cricket's global presence, attract new audiences and strengthen its commercial growth.

Shah expressed gratitude to the ICC Board and its members for continuing to place their trust in him, describing the position as both an honour and a significant responsibility.

He highlighted cricket's upcoming return to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles 2028 as one of the most important opportunities in the sport's history. He said the Olympic platform would help introduce cricket to new audiences, inspire younger generations and create opportunities for the game's further expansion.

Shah also stressed that the ICC's responsibilities extend beyond organising successful international tournaments. He said the organisation must focus on building a sustainable future for cricket by supporting players, engaging fans and strengthening relationships with commercial partners and other stakeholders.

Emphasising cricket's ability to unite people across countries and cultures, Shah said his priority during the second term would be to translate the organisation's ambitions into meaningful action and ensure long-term progress.