Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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Goa Cabinet Approves AI Policy 2026, Manuscript Mission and Cancer Research Recruitment

Government allocates 60% of AI policy budget for skilling; CM Sawant says follow-up is underway on ST reservation issue

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PANAJI: The Goa Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, on Tuesday approved a series of proposals, including the Goa Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy 2026, the formation of an autonomous body for the Goa State Mission for Manuscripts and recruitment of staff for the Goa CARE cancer research initiative.

Announcing the cabinet decisions at a press briefing, Sawant said the Goa AI Policy 2026 aims to strengthen AI skills, promote startups and develop infrastructure across the state.

Under the policy, 60 per cent of the budget allocation will be directed towards AI skilling and capacity building, while 20 per cent each will be allocated for AI startup promotion and support, and AI infrastructure development.

The policy will cover students and individuals at different educational levels, including ITI, polytechnic and graduate-level institutions. The government also plans to introduce the 'AI Ready for Goa' initiative, focusing on AI training and certification.

Key components of the policy include the AI Skilling Certification and Capacity Building Programme, Konkani AI and Research Excellence Scheme, Udyam AI Scheme for MSMEs, and Goa AI Startup Innovation Promotion Scheme to support startup funding, incubation and innovation.

The Chief Minister said an Advisory Council, chaired by him, would oversee the policy and facilitate periodic upgrades.

The Cabinet also approved contractual recruitment of staff for the Goa CARE cancer research initiative. The

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Centre to Move Supreme Court Against Bombay HC Stay on Goa ST Population Notification

Chief Minister says Centre will challenge October 29 interim order; assures follow-up to safeguard ST community interests

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PANAJI: The Central Government will approach the Supreme Court challenging the Bombay High Court's October 29 interim order staying the notification of estimated Scheduled Tribe (ST) population figures in Goa, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said.

Goa Governor Summons Assembly Session For December 16; One-Day Sitting Proposed

Governor Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju Issues Summons For 15th Session Of Eighth Goa Legislative Assembly At 11.30 AM In Porvorim



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PANAJI: The 15th Session of the Eighth Goa Legislative Assembly will be held on December 16, 2026, at 11.30 am at the Assembly Hall in Porvorim.

Governor Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju has officially summoned the Assembly session through an order issued on November 18, 2026, under Article 174(1) of the Constitution of India.

According to the summons issued by Goa Legislative Assembly Secretary Namrata Ulman, the Government proposes to conduct a one-day sitting during the session on December 16.

All members of the Eighth Goa Legislative Assembly have been requested to attend the sitting.

Yuri Alemao Calls One-Day Assembly Session An Insult To Democracy

LoP Accuses BJP Government Of Avoiding Accountability, Says Goa's Pressing Issues Cannot Be Addressed In A Single-Day Session

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PANAJI: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao has strongly criticised the BJP government's decision to convene a one-day session of the Goa Legislative Assembly on December 16, calling it an insult to democracy and an attempt to avoid accountability.

Alemao alleged that the government was unwilling to face uncomfortable questions from elected representatives and was reducing the highest democratic institution of the State to a publicity platform for announcements and election-oriented promises.

He questioned how critical issues such as the deteriorating law and order situation, crimes against women and children, unemployment, the Mhadei issue, environmental destruction, coal handling, rising public debt and the education sector crisis could be adequately discussed in just one day.



"Must End": India Strongly Condemns Hormuz Tanker Attack as One Indian Seafarer Remains Missing

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NEW DELHI: India has strongly condemned the attack on a Panama-flagged LPG tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, expressing serious concern over the growing threats to commercial shipping and civilian seafarers. One Indian crew member remains missing following the incident, while 21 others have been safely evacuated and two injured sailors are receiving medical treatment in Oman. The attack targeted MT Tara Gas on November 16, 2026. The vessel was carrying 24 Indian nationals when it came under attack. Following the incident, the crew was forced to abandon the tanker.

Goa Allows Malls, Supermarkets And Shops To Operate 24 Hours A Day

Babush Monserrate Confirms Centre's Approval; Labour Department Grants Three-Year Permission Under Goa Shops And Establishments Act, 2025

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PANAJI: Shops, shopping complexes, malls and supermarkets across Goa can now operate round the clock following the State government's decision to permit 24-hour operations under the Goa Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2025.

Revenue Minister Babush Monserrate said approval had been received from the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, for allowing malls and supermarkets to remain open 24 hours a day. He added that the rules are being framed and further details will be available with the Revenue Department.

Supreme Court Issues Contempt Notice to Lawyer Over Remarks Against CJI Surya Kant

Three-judge bench seeks response after SCBA moves plea over alleged misconduct inside courtroom; next hearing scheduled for January 20, 2027

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued a contempt notice to a lawyer over alleged objectionable remarks against Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant during court proceedings earlier this week.

A three-judge bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta, Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana took up the petition filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), seeking contempt proceedings against the lawyer. The bench directed the respondent to submit a response.

24x7 GOA: TOURISM OPPORTUNITY OR A LAW AND ORDER NIGHTMARE?

Goa has always sold itself as a destination that never quite sleeps. Its beaches, nightlife, restaurants, entertainment venues and hospitality sector have attracted visitors looking for experiences beyond conventional holiday hours. The government's decision to allow stores and malls to operate round the clock could therefore appear to be a progressive step towards making Goa a more vibrant, tourist-friendly destination.

But there is a fundamental question the government cannot afford to ignore: Can Goa manage a 24-hour economy when it is still struggling to manage law and order during regular hours?

The idea of keeping commercial establishments open 24x7 is not necessarily a bad one. In fact, it could be a significant boost to tourism, employment and business. However, an economic decision of this scale cannot be viewed in isolation from the ground realities of the state. Goa is witnessing growing concerns over crime, drug-related activities, assaults, sexual offences and the safety of residents and tourists. In such circumstances, extending commercial activity into the early hours without strengthening policing and public safety could create more problems than opportunities.

The government's argument will undoubtedly be that tourists should not have to adjust their shopping and leisure activities to conventional business hours. Visitors arriving late at night or leaving early in the morning should have access to shops, supermarkets and essential services. Extended business hours could also generate additional employment, increase sales and provide opportunities for small businesses to compete with larger commercial establishments.

The notification issued by the Labour Department under the Goa Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2025, permits establishments, shopping complexes and malls to operate round the clock for three years, subject to the prescribed conditions. The government has also laid down provisions governing working hours, rest intervals, weekly holidays and workplace conditions. These are welcome provisions. But allowing businesses to remain open for 24 hours is one thing; ensuring that the surrounding environment remains safe is quite another.

Who will protect employees finishing their shifts at 2 am or 4 am? Who will ensure the safety of women working night shifts? What arrangements will be made for employees travelling back home when public transport is limited or unavailable? Who will monitor commercial establishments that become gathering points for anti-social elements during the night?

The responsibility cannot be left entirely to shopkeepers and mall managements. The police must identify vulnerable commercial zones, increase night patrolling, strengthen surveillance and ensure swift response to emergency calls. CCTV networks, adequate street lighting and accessible police assistance must become essential requirements in areas where businesses operate throughout the night.

Equally important is the question of transport. A 24-hour economy cannot function if employees and customers have no safe and affordable means of travelling home. The government must coordinate with transport operators and local authorities to ensure that late-night mobility does not become another problem.

These are not imaginary concerns. They are practical questions that deserve answers before the government celebrates this decision as another milestone in tourism development.

Goa's law and order situation has already come under scrutiny over incidents involving violence, drugs, assaults and crimes against women and children. The state cannot afford to create additional opportunities for criminal activity without simultaneously strengthening its policing infrastructure.

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There is also a larger concern about Goa's tourism model. Are we trying to build a destination that offers quality experiences, or simply extending operating hours in the hope that more activity will automatically translate into more tourism revenue?

Tourism is not measured by how many hours a shop remains open. It is measured by the quality of the experience, safety, hospitality, infrastructure and the confidence visitors have in a destination. A tourist who feels unsafe walking down a street at midnight is unlikely to be impressed by a supermarket that remains open until morning.

The government must also ensure that workers' rights are not sacrificed in the name of business flexibility. Night shifts must be voluntary where required, women employees must have prescribed safety arrangements, and employers must strictly comply with wage, rest and weekly holiday provisions. Inspections cannot remain confined to paperwork.

There is an opportunity here, but it requires responsible implementation. The government should consider a periodic review of the three-year permission, with assessments of public safety, employment conditions and the actual economic benefits.

Goa deserves a vibrant night-time economy. Businesses should be allowed to grow, tourists should enjoy greater convenience and young people should have more employment opportunities. But economic liberalisation cannot come at the cost of public safety.

The government must understand that a 24-hour Goa also requires 24-hour policing, 24-hour emergency services and 24-hour accountability.

Otherwise, what is being projected as a tourism game changer could turn into another headache for an already overstretched police force. Goa should stay open, but it must also stay safe. That is the real test of this decision.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Democracy Must Be Protected Through Accountability and Respect

The BJP's "Loktantra Bachao Padyatra" in Panaji has once again brought the debate over democracy, electoral institutions and political accountability into public discussion.

Democracy is the foundation of our Constitution, and every political party has the right to organise peaceful marches, express its views and question the functioning of institutions. However, the responsibility of protecting democracy does not rest with one political party alone. It is a collective responsibility of every political organisation, elected representative and citizen.

The reference to the 1975 Emergency by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant during the march reminds us of a significant chapter in India's democratic history. The lessons of that period should encourage all political parties to respect constitutional values, freedom of expression and institutional independence.

At the same time, criticism of the Election Commission, EVMs or government decisions should not automatically be viewed as an attack on democracy. In a healthy democratic system, institutions must be open to scrutiny, and political disagreements should be addressed through constitutional and legal channels.

Political rallies and counter-protests are part of democratic expression, but they should not become opportunities for unnecessary confrontation.

Goa needs constructive political debate focused on public issues such as unemployment, infrastructure, environmental protection and governance. Ultimately, democracy is strengthened not by slogans alone but through transparency, accountability and respect for differing opinions.

- Anthony Fernandes, Chinchinim, Goa

24-Hour Business Policy Must Balance Growth With Workers' Welfare

The Goa government's decision to allow shops, malls and other covered establishments to operate round the clock for three years is a significant change in the state's business environment. While the move could create additional economic opportunities, its success will depend on how effectively workers' rights are protected.

Allowing businesses to operate 24/7 could benefit consumers, tourists and entrepreneurs by providing greater flexibility and convenience. It may also create employment opportunities and encourage commercial activity beyond conventional working hours.

However, economic growth should never come at the cost of employees' health, safety and personal lives. Workers employed during night shifts must receive proper facilities, adequate rest, fair wages and safe working conditions. Employers must strictly follow the prescribed shift arrangements and welfare guidelines.

The government must also establish an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure that establishments do not misuse the notification or force employees to work beyond permissible hours.

Special attention must be given to the safety of women employees working during late-night shifts, including appropriate transportation and workplace security arrangements.

The three-year policy should be viewed as an opportunity to modernise Goa's commercial sector while maintaining a balance between business interests and labour welfare.

The government must regularly review its implementation and take action wherever violations are reported.

A 24-hour economy can benefit Goa, but development must remain people-centric. Businesses may operate around the clock, but workers' rights and dignity must never take a back seat.

- Peter Fernandes, Vasco, Goa

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Goa businesses face tighter labour compliance as 2026 rules introduce mandatory employee records

Employers required to document staff leave, working hours and extra duty; workplace facilities and record preservation also come under scrutiny

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PANAJI: Businesses across Goa will need to pay closer attention to their employment practices following the introduction of a new regulatory framework governing shops and commercial establishments, which became operational on November 16, 2026.

The Goa Shops and Establishments Rules, 2026, framed under the Goa Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2025, prescribe detailed procedures for documenting employee attendance, leave entitlements, wages and additional working hours.

One of the significant changes concerns the individual employment records that businesses must maintain. Every employee will have to be provided with a separate leave account reflecting leave credited, leave utilised and applications that have not been approved.

Employers will also be expected to keep a clear account of overtime performed by their staff. Additional working hours must be entered into the prescribed records immediately after the completion of the overtime duty.



MLA Vijai says Goa Forward will contest only constituencies where it has winning prospects

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MARGAO: With Goa gearing up for the 2027 Assembly elections, Goa Forward Party (GFP) president Vijai Sardesai has made it clear that his party will focus its electoral ambitions on constituencies where it believes it has a genuine opportunity to emerge victorious. Speaking during his weekly public interaction at Goemkar Ghor, Sardesai indicated that the party would adopt a selective approach to seat-sharing negotiations with the Congress and other potential Opposition partners. He said the objective should not be to maximise the number of constituencies allotted to individual parties, but to identify candidates and constituencies where the Opposition has the strongest electoral prospects. Referring to his recent interaction with Congress leaders, Sardesai clarified that the meeting was not centred on negotiating constituency allocations.

Goa mandates digital tracking of used cooking oil transactions

Hotels, restaurants, food vendors and collection agencies must register transactions on GEDA platform; move aims to prevent unsafe reuse and promote biodiesel production

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PANAJI: In a step aimed at tightening oversight of waste cooking oil, the Goa government has introduced compulsory digital recording of its movement and transactions, bringing food establishments and agencies handling the discarded oil under a common monitoring system. The Department of Environment and Climate Change has issued directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, requiring every stage of the used cooking oil chain to be documented on a digital platform developed by the Goa Energy Development Agency (GEDA). The system will cover the entire process, beginning with the generation of waste oil at food establishments and extending to its collection, storage, transportation, transfer and eventual processing or disposal. The objective is to establish a verifiable record of its movement and stop discarded cooking oil from finding its way back into kitchens. For implementing the arrangement, the government has brought BiofuelCircle on board as GEDA's authorised partner.



Palolem rises in protest against proposed turtle nesting site tag

Locals and tourism stakeholders fear restrictions will hit tourism, employment and livelihoods; demand withdrawal of Forest Department's proposal

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CANACONA: The Forest Department's reported proposal to include Palolem beach under the turtle nesting site category in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) 2019 notification has triggered strong opposition among local residents and tourism stakeholders, who fear the move could severely impact tourism, employment and livelihoods. Residents have expressed shock and disbelief over the proposal, stating that declaring Palolem a turtle nesting area would create additional restrictions for tourism-related activities and businesses. They have vowed to oppose the move if the government proceeds with the proposal reportedly submitted by the Forest Department to the Ministry of Environment. The proposal reportedly seeks to bring eight coastal stretches in Canacona under the turtle conservation programme, including the already recognised nesting sites of Agonda and Galgibaga, along with Rajbag, Cabo de Rama, Khola, Patnem, Palolem and Talpona. This would cover almost the entire Canacona coastline, except the southern beach cove of Polem. The inclusion of Palolem and Patnem, together form the coastal stretch of Canacona Municipality, has particularly angered residents. Locals questioned the rationale behind identifying these beaches as turtle nesting areas.

Goa's District Development Plans in Limbo as North, South DPCs Await Formation

Municipal bodies' lack of elected leadership holds up committee formation; questions raised over years of inaction on decentralised planning

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MARGAO: Goa's district-level development planning machinery is yet to get off the ground this year, as the District Planning Committees (DPCs) for North and South Goa have not been formally constituted.

The delay means that proposals prepared by local self-government bodies cannot move through the intended district-wide coordination process. The committees are meant to bring together development priorities identified by Zilla Panchayats, village panchayats and municipal councils before preparing integrated plans for each district.

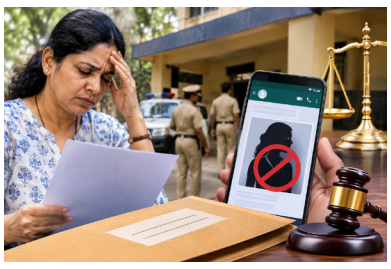
Although elections to both Zilla Panchayats were held in December 2025 and the bodies have since elected their chairpersons, the next stage of the planning structure remains incomplete.

Director of Panchayats Shagun Velip said the process had run into a problem over municipal representation. The civic bodies are presently under government-appointed administrators following the postponement of municipal elections, and do not have elected chairpersons who can be nominated to the DPCs. Velip said the Panchayat Directorate had contacted the two Zilla Panchayats and the Director of Municipal Administration to obtain the names of representatives. The Zilla Panchayats have responded, but the municipal nominations have not been received.

Goa educator files complaint over alleged defamatory photos on WhatsApp; police register FIR

Accused Socorro Sebastiao Jacob Menezes seeks extension till November 22 to join investigation

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OLD GOA: An educator associated with AIM School has lodged a complaint against Socorro Sebastiao Jacob Menezes for allegedly posting defamatory photographs of her on a WhatsApp group named “Rahul Gandhi Supporters Group Congress Party Goa”.

The complaint was received on October 30, 2026, from Mrs. Shamila Siddiqui, a resident of Chimbel, Tiswadi, North Goa. She alleged that the accused had circulated her photographs on the social media platform WhatsApp using mobile number 9823514088.

Based on the complaint, Old Goa Police registered FIR No. 136/2026 on November 13, 2026, under Sections 79 and 356(2), read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Section 6 of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986. On November 16, police issued a notice under Section 35(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, directing the accused to appear before the Investigating Officer at Old Goa Police Station on November 17 at 11 am to join the investigation.



Car driver booked for rash driving after scooter accident at Ecoxim

Woman sustains grievous leg injuries, husband suffers minor injuries; accused driver allegedly flees without helping victims

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PORVORIM: Porvorim Police have registered a case against the driver of a Maruti Suzuki Alto car for allegedly driving rashly and negligently, causing an accident at Bhatan, Ecoxim, Bardez, in which a woman sustained grievous injuries to her right leg while her husband suffered minor injuries.

The offence was registered on November 16, 2026, at 21.03 hours, based on a complaint lodged by Mrs. Poonam Hoble (40), a service professional and resident of Mayem, Bicholim. According to the complaint, the accident occurred on November 7, 2026, at around 10.15 pm at Bhatan, Ecoxim, Bardez. The accused, while driving a Suzuki Alto bearing registration number GA-08-E-3655 from the Ecoxim-Pomburpha direction, allegedly drove in a rash and negligent manner, endangering human life.

On reaching Bhatan, the car allegedly veered towards the side of the road and collided with an oncoming Yamaha Fascino scooter bearing registration number GA-04-Z-4802. Due to the impact, the scooter rider, Nandan Hoble (44), sustained minor injuries, while his wife and pillion rider, Poonam Hoble, sustained grievous injuries to her right leg.



iPhones and luxury wristwatch worth Rs 2.3 lakh stolen from Anjuna villa

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ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered a theft case after three iPhones and a luxury wristwatch, collectively valued at approximately Rs 2.30 lakh, were allegedly stolen from White Castle Villa at Anjuna, Bardez.

The case was registered on November 16, 2026, at 20:24 hours, vide Anjuna Police Station Crime No. 137/2026 under Section 305 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, based on a complaint lodged by Sumeet Arakeri (28), a businessman residing in Hubballi, Karnataka.

According to the complaint, the theft took place on November 15 between 6.15 am and 9.30 am at White Castle Villa, Anjuna, when unknown persons allegedly stole valuables from the premises. The stolen items include an iPhone 15 Pro Max (blue colour) belonging to the complainant, valued at approximately Rs 90,000, and a blue Guess wristwatch worth around Rs 15,000.

Man arrested for stealing iPhone from passenger aboard Vasco–Yesvantpur Express

Vasco Railway Police arrest Margao resident; stolen Apple iPhone worth Rs 80,000 recovered

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VASCO: Vasco Railway Police have arrested a man in connection with the theft of an Apple iPhone worth approximately Rs 80,000 from a passenger travelling aboard the Vasco–Yesvantpur Express train. The case was registered on the complaint of J. Jenita, a resident of Karaswada, Mapusa, who reported that her Apple iPhone had been stolen while she was travelling from Madgaon Railway Station towards Yesvantpur Railway Station. According to the complaint, the incident occurred between 11.40 pm on November 11 and 12.30 am on November 12, 2026, while the train was travelling between Madgaon Railway Station and the vicinity of Sanvordem Railway Station. The complainant noticed that her Apple iPhone, valued at approximately Rs 80,000, had been stolen by an unknown person during the journey. During the course of the investigation, police arrested the accused, identified as Swapnil Waradkar, a resident of Chadwaddo, Davorlim, Margao, originally from Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, on November 16, 2026.

Udupi man arrested for stealing Rs 20,000 from Goa Marriott hotel rooms

Accused allegedly entered guest rooms through balconies; CCTV photographs circulated among police units to verify similar theft cases

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PANAJI: Panaji Police have arrested a 38-year-old man from Karnataka in connection with a theft of Rs 20,000 from two guest rooms at Goa Marriott Resort & Spa, Miramar, Panaji. The offence was registered at Panaji Police Station on November 16, 2026, vide Crime No. 190/2026 under Sections 305 and 331 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. According to police, the accused allegedly gained entry into Room Nos. 110 and 112 of the hotel through their respective balconies while the guests were away. He allegedly committed theft of cash amounting to Rs 20,000 from the rooms. Following the incident, a special police team was constituted under the supervision of North Goa Superintendent of Police Rahul Gupta, IPS, and Panaji Sub-Divisional Police Officer Sudesh Naik to trace and apprehend the person involved in the offence. During the investigation, police noticed a person moving suspiciously in the vicinity of the hotel rooms. He was intercepted and questioned before being brought to Panaji Police Station for further enquiry.

During questioning, the person disclosed his identity as Kasim, son of Fayaz, aged 38, a resident of Bangle Gudde, Kukkondoor, Udupi, Karnataka. Police stated that during the enquiry, he allegedly admitted to his involvement in the theft. Accordingly, Kasim was arrested on November 16, 2026. Meanwhile, photographs of the accused, obtained from CCTV footage and his actual photograph, have been circulated among police personnel through police communication groups to verify his possible involvement in similar theft cases.

CM Sawant chairs 410th EDC Board meeting, reviews business operations and employment schemes

Board reviews Patto Plaza plots, Mukhyamantri Swayam Rozgar Yojana and financial performance of Goa Electronics Ltd

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PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant chaired the 410th Board Meeting of EDC Limited, during which the Board reviewed the Corporation's business operations and the status of plots at Patto Plaza.

The Board also reviewed the Mukhyamantri Swayam Rozgar Yojana, with a presentation made by the Training Partner, EDII Goa Centre. It also took note of the financial performance of Goa Electronics Ltd.

CM said that the discussions focused on reviewing ongoing operations, assessing progress and strengthening the implementation of various initiatives aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and supporting economic development in Goa.

The meeting reviewed key areas of the Corporation's functioning, with emphasis on ensuring effective implementation of initiatives that contribute to the State's economic growth and employment generation.



Steering failure sends KSRTC bus plunging 150 metres off Canacona bypass

Bus carrying four passengers crashes through crash barriers near Rajbagh; passengers, driver and conductor escape unhurt

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CANACONA: A Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus veered off the Manohar Parrikar Canacona Bypass Road (MPCBR-NH-66) and plunged nearly 150 metres down into bushes near Molyma Hotel at Rajbagh-Tarir in Canacona on Tuesday evening after its steering reportedly got locked. Fortunately, no injuries were reported. The Margao-Kumta (Karnataka) bound bus was carrying four passengers at the time of the mishap. All four passengers, along with the driver and conductor, had a lucky escape.

The bus reportedly came to a halt just inches away from a coconut tree, averting what could have been a more serious accident.

According to the driver, while negotiating a long curve, he began hearing unusual thundering sounds from beneath the steering wheels. Shortly afterwards, the steering got locked and refused to move. As a result, the driver could not negotiate the curve, and the bus continued straight, crashed through the crash barriers and plunged down the slope before coming to a halt in the bushes nearly 150 metres below the elevated highway.



Hindu Janajagruti Samiti Objects to Film 'Ramayana', Warns of Nationwide Protest

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PANAJI: The Hindu Janajagruti Samiti has strongly objected to the recently released film 'Ramayana', alleging that several scenes distort the original epic written by Maharshi Valmiki, glorify Ravana and portray Lord Shri Ram and Lakshman in a manner contrary to their traditional characters.

Dr Manoj Solanki, Goa coordinator of the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti, appealed to Sanatani Hindus not to watch the film, alleging that it promotes a Communist narrative under the pretext of creative freedom. He also warned that the Samiti would strongly oppose the upcoming second part if similar distortions continued.

The Samiti said the excessive glorification of Ravana, distortion of important incidents, alleged denigration of Lakshman and portrayal of Lord Shri Ram and Lakshman in ways that contradict their valour were among its major objections.

Swatantra Path to Get a Complete Makeover by December-End, Says Salkar

Beautification project from Church Junction to railway station to feature redesigned footpaths, dedicated lighting, organised parking and underground utility ducts

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VASCO: The transformation of Vasco's iconic Swatantra Path has begun in full swing, with Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar launching the beautification works on Tuesday and setting a December-end deadline for completing the stretch from Church Junction to the railway station.

The ambitious makeover aims to give one of Vasco's most prominent roads a fresh identity through redesigned footpaths, dedicated lighting, organised parking, underground utility ducts and new landscaping. The project is expected to significantly enhance the appearance of the historic thoroughfare while addressing several long-standing infrastructure concerns.

Salkar said drainage and gutter works along the road had been undertaken earlier but were interrupted by the monsoon. With the monsoon season over, the works have now resumed on a full scale.

Goa University gets ₹28.55 crore infrastructure boost to strengthen higher education and research

CM Pramod Sawant inaugurates new academic facilities, launches BhashaSnap app and signs Indo-Portugal TwinLab partnership

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PANAJI: Goa University is set to strengthen its academic, research and technological capabilities with infrastructure projects worth approximately ₹28.55 crore, inaugurated by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Tuesday.

The programme marked the inauguration of several major academic and research facilities, the launch of the BhashaSnap web application and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BIOPOLIS-CIBIO, University of Porto, Portugal, to initiate the Indo-Portugal TwinLab Partnership. The university's e-magazine was also released on the occasion.

Among the major facilities inaugurated were the new Computer Science and Technology building at Goa Business School and several advanced facilities at the University Materials Characterisation Laboratory in Block E.

These include the Robotics and Internet of Things (IoT) Lab, Machine Learning Lab, Liquid Nitrogen Facility, 2D GC and TOF Mass Spectrometer, and SQUID Magnetometer.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated two electric buses with seating capacities of 14 and 23 passengers, aimed at improving transportation facilities on the university campus.

The infrastructure projects have been developed at an investment of approximately ₹28.55 crore under the PM-USHA/RUSA 2.0 scheme.

IFFI 2026 to Bring 150 International Films from 86 Countries to Goa Under 'Stories Without Borders'

57th International Film Festival of India to run from November 20 to 28, featuring Spain as Country of Honour, Russia as Partner Country and a special focus on BRICS cinema

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PANAJI: Goa is set to become a global destination for cinema as the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) returns from November 20 to 28, 2026, under the theme 'Stories Without Borders'. The festival will showcase more than 150 international films from 86 countries, bringing together filmmakers, artists and cinema enthusiasts from across the world.

The festival has received over 1,900 film submissions from 137 countries, reflecting its growing international reach. Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said Goa was prepared to welcome the global film fraternity, with arrangements covering screening venues, transportation, hospitality and public facilities. He described IFFI as an important part of the state's cultural identity.

Festival Director Ashutosh Gowariker highlighted cinema's ability to connect people across geographical, linguistic and cultural boundaries through universal emotions and storytelling.

Polish filmmaker Paweł Pawlikowski's Fatherland will open the festival. I Matter, directed by Alina Șerban, has been selected as the mid-festival film, while Anthony Chen's We Are All Strangers will close the nine-day event.

Spain has been named the Country of Honour, with four Spanish films featuring in a special showcase. Russia will participate as the Partner Country, presenting four films representing its cinematic landscape.

A special BRICS cinema section will feature films from all 11 member countries, with India's Ramayana selected as its opening film. The Indian Panorama will present 76 films across 18 languages, celebrating the diversity of Indian storytelling. The section will open with Hindi feature film Dhurandhar and Ladakhi non-feature film Becoming.

The festival will also introduce two new segments, Animation and Films About Films, featuring five films each. Seven international films will compete in the Best Debut Feature Films Competition, providing a platform for emerging filmmakers.

IFFI 2026 will further highlight women filmmakers and emerging talent, with 52 women filmmakers and 62 debut filmmakers participating across the festival's selections.

The sixth edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow will bring together 100 participants representing 13 filmmaking crafts. The programme will include workshops, masterclasses, a 48-hour filmmaking challenge and opportunities to interact with industry professionals.

WAVES Film Bazaar will facilitate international collaborations, co-productions and business opportunities. Netflix will join as its Knowledge Series partner, supporting creative talent development and strengthening India's visual effects capabilities.

The festival will host 14 masterclasses, workshops and interactive sessions at Kala Academy from November 21 to 27. It will also feature centenary tributes to celebrated Indian filmmakers, actors and music composers, alongside restored classics and retrospectives.

Screenings will take place across 13 indoor screens at four locations, including Panaji, Porvorim, Margao and Ponda, with a combined seating capacity of more than 4,000.

With international premieres, emerging filmmakers, industry collaborations and diverse cinematic traditions, IFFI 2026 aims to strengthen Goa's position as a major destination for global cinema and cultural exchange.

WAVES Film Bazaar Celebrates 20 Years of Connecting Indian Cinema with Global Film Industry

20th edition to bring filmmakers, producers, investors and distributors together in Goa from November 20 to 24

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: WAVES Film Bazaar is set to celebrate two decades of promoting Indian cinema and connecting filmmakers with the global film industry during its 20th edition, scheduled from November 20 to 24, 2026, at Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon. The event will take place alongside the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

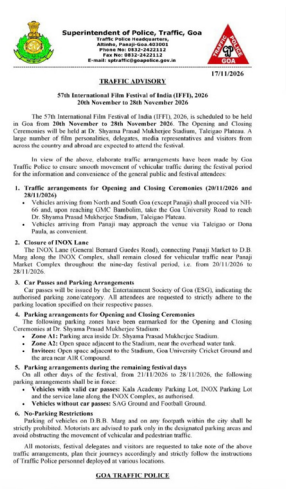
Over the past 20 years, Film Bazaar has evolved into one of the region's important platforms for cinematic collaboration, industry networking and business opportunities. Established by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) in 2007, the initiative initially focused on promoting South Asian storytelling and has gradually expanded its international reach.

The 2026 edition will feature several initiatives designed to support filmmakers at different stages of production. The Co-Production Market will connect selected feature films and documentaries with international producers and potential financiers. The NFDC Screenwriters' Lab will provide mentorship to emerging writers, while the Work-in-Progress Lab will offer professional guidance to filmmakers developing their projects.

IFFI 2026: Goa Traffic Police Announces Road Closures, Diversions and Parking Arrangements

INOX Lane to remain closed for nine days; special traffic routes and parking zones announced for November 20 and 28 ceremonies

Team Goemkarponn



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17/11/2026

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), 2026
20th November to 28th November 2026

The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), 2026, is scheduled to be held in Goa from 20th November to 28th November 2026. The Opening and Closing Ceremonies will be held at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium, Taleigao Plateau. A large number of film personalities, delegates, media representatives and visitors from across the country and abroad are expected to attend the festival.

In view of the above, elaborate traffic arrangements have been made by Goa Traffic Police to ensure smooth movement of vehicular traffic during the festival period for the information and convenience of the general public and festival attendees:

1. **Traffic arrangements for Opening and Closing Ceremonies (20/11/2026 and 28/11/2026)**
   - Vehicles arriving from North and South Goa (except Panaji) shall proceed via NH-66 and, upon reaching GMC Bambolim, take the Goa University Road to reach Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium, Taleigao Plateau.
   - Vehicles arriving from Panaji may approach the venue via Taleigao or Dona Paula, as convenient.
2. **Closure of INOX Lane**
   The INOX Lane (General Bernard Guedes Road), connecting Panaji Market to D.B. Marg along the INOX Complex, shall remain closed for vehicular traffic near Panaji Market Complex throughout the nine-day festival period, i.e. from 20/11/2026 to 28/11/2026.
3. **Car Passes and Parking Arrangements**
   Car passes will be issued by the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), indicating the authorized parking zone/category. All attendees are requested to strictly adhere to the parking location specified on their respective passes.
4. **Parking arrangements for Opening and Closing Ceremonies**
   The following parking zones have been earmarked for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium.
   - **Zone A1:** Parking area inside Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium.
   - **Zone A2:** Open space adjacent to the Stadium, near the overhead water tank.
   - **Invitees:** Open space adjacent to the Stadium, Goa University Cricket Ground and the area near AIR Compound.
5. **Parking arrangements during the remaining festival days**
   On all other days of the festival, from 21/11/2026 to 28/11/2026, the following parking arrangements shall be in force:
   - **Vehicles with valid car passes:** Kala Academy Parking Lot, INOX Parking Lot and the service lane along the INOX Complex, as authorised.
   - **Vehicles without car passes:** SAG Ground and Football Ground.
6. **No-Parking Restrictions**
   Parking of vehicles on D.B.B. Marg and on any footpath within the city shall be strictly prohibited. Motorists are advised to park only in the designated parking areas and avoid obstructing the movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

All motorists, festival delegates and visitors are requested to take note of the above traffic arrangements, plan their journeys accordingly and strictly follow the instructions of Traffic Police personnel deployed at various locations.

GOA TRAFFIC POLICE

PANAJI: Goa Traffic Police has announced special traffic arrangements for the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026, scheduled to take place from November 20 to 28 across Goa. With thousands of delegates, film personalities, media representatives and visitors expected to attend, elaborate measures have been introduced to ensure smooth traffic movement and prevent congestion. The opening and closing ceremonies will be held at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium at Taleigao Plateau on November 20 and 28, respectively. Traffic arrangements for opening and closing ceremonies Vehicles arriving from North and South Goa, excluding Panaji, will have to travel via National Highway 66. After reaching GMC Bambolim, motorists must take the Goa University Road to reach the stadium. Vehicles coming from Panaji can approach the venue through either Taleigao or Dona Paula, depending on convenience. INOX Lane to remain closed The INOX Lane, also known as General Bernard Guedes Road, connecting Panaji Market to D.B. Marg near the INOX Complex, will remain closed to vehicular traffic near Panaji Market Complex throughout the festival from November 20 to 28.

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Goa Cabinet Approves AI Policy 2026, Manuscript Mission and Cancer Research Recruitment

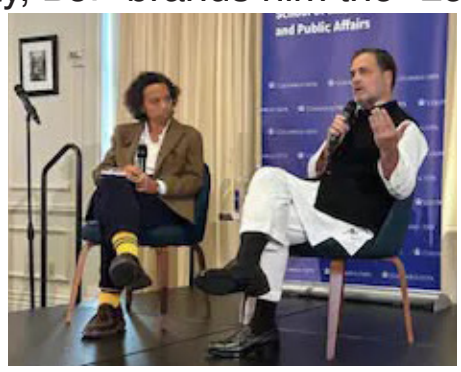
appointments include one Medical Programme Coordinator, four Research Coordinators, 16 Field Staff members, four Laboratory Technicians and one Administrator-cum-Accountant. Five MTS-cum-DEO personnel will also be appointed through GHRDC for an initial period of one year. Sawant said a Memorandum of Understanding involving the Directorate of Health Services, Government of Goa, Tata Memorial Centre's Centre for Cancer Epidemiology and the University of Oxford for the Goa Longitudinal Cohort Study 2025 had been sent to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

In another major decision, the Cabinet approved the creation of an autonomous body for the Goa State Mission for Manuscripts, with an approximate overall budget of ₹1 crore. The initiative aims to bring together manuscripts available across Goa under a common institutional framework for preservation and related work. The Cabinet also approved the Goa Gyan Bhandar Samvardhan Yojana, a financial assistance scheme for recognised private repositories possessing manuscripts of national importance. The assistance will depend on the quantity and nature of manuscripts held by the repositories. The scheme will be published in the Official Gazette. Additionally, the government approved the Goa State Audio-Visual Archives Scheme with an initial financial requirement of ₹45 lakh for one year, subject to fund availability. The Abhilekh Sarvekshan Yojana was also approved for implementation through the Archives Department. The Cabinet further cleared new posts in the Directorate of Mines and Geology, including one Senior Surveyor Officer and one Junior Legal Officer, along with two Junior Geo-related posts. On the issue of political reservation for Scheduled Tribes in Goa, Sawant said the file had been sent to the Central Government and that the process had been initiated on Monday.

"India Facing Economic Disaster": Rahul Gandhi's US Remarks Trigger Fierce BJP Attack

■ Congress leader flags unemployment and education concerns at Columbia University, BJP brands him the "Leader of Anti-India Propaganda"

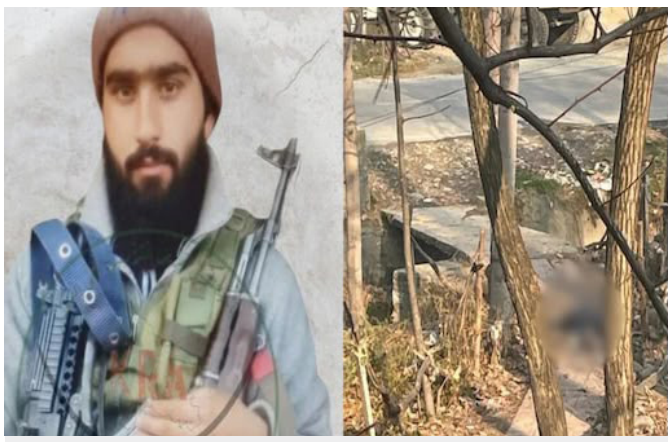
Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's remarks on India's economy during his visit to the United States have triggered a political confrontation, with the BJP accusing him of tarnishing the country's image on foreign soil.

Speaking at Columbia University on Tuesday, Gandhi expressed concern over India's economic situation, pointing to widespread unemployment and shortcomings in the education system. He warned that the country was heading towards a major economic crisis, arguing that the growing frustration among young people reflected their lack of confidence in future opportunities.

Responding to a question about India's youth, Gandhi said many frustrated young people came from middle-class families and had received formal education but were increasingly uncertain about their future prospects. His comments drew a sharp response from the BJP, which accused him of repeatedly criticising India during international visits.



Lashkar Terrorist Lateef Bhat Killed in Kulgam Encounter After Hiding Inside Mosque

■ Security forces launched an operation after he refused repeated surrender appeals; Bhat was linked to the November 11 CRPF checkpoint attack that injured three personnel

Team Goemkarponn

SRINAGAR: Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Lateef Bhat was killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district after refusing repeated appeals to surrender. Bhat had taken shelter inside a mosque and opened fire on security personnel when they attempted to persuade him to surrender. The encounter began around 2:45 am on Tuesday after police established contact with Bhat through a video call and urged him to lay down his weapons. Senior police officials also appealed to him through announcements outside the mosque, but he refused to surrender.

Security forces maintained restraint during the operation because the terrorist was positioned inside a place of worship. However, after Bhat opened fire, the forces retaliated, resulting in his death. Bhat was allegedly involved in the November 11 attack on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) checkpoint at Akhran, in which three personnel were injured. His associate, Umar Nisar Dar, was killed in a separate encounter in Kulgam on Monday.



Nvidia Rejects Jensen Huang's Return as CEO Despite Trump's Support, Seeks Permanent Successor

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Nvidia has rejected former CEO Jensen Huang's offer to return to the company's leadership, ending speculation over his possible reinstatement following his resignation amid controversy surrounding his alleged personal and business connections with a suspected Chinese intelligence operative.

Nvidia Chairman Harvey Jones announced the decision during the company's quarterly earnings call on Tuesday, confirming that the board had unanimously accepted Huang's resignation and had no plans to reinstate him. The company is currently being managed by Chief Financial Officer Colette Kress, who is serving as interim CEO while the board searches for a permanent successor. Jones said the company wanted to appoint a new chief executive as quickly as possible but would not rush the process before identifying the right candidate.

Rajnath Singh Arrives in Tokyo for India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue to Strengthen Defence Ties

■ Defence ministers to discuss maritime security, military exercises, defence technology and

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday for a two-day visit to participate in the fourth India-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministers' Dialogue, popularly known as the 2+2 Dialogue. The visit is aimed at strengthening bilateral defence cooperation and expanding strategic collaboration between the two countries. Singh was received at the



airport by Japan's Joint Staff Vice Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Norimichi Shirakawa. During the visit, Singh will hold bilateral discussions with Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi. The two leaders are expected to review progress in defence and security cooperation while exploring new opportunities in maritime security, defence technology, military exercises and regional stability. The fourth India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue will be co-chaired by Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, alongside Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

Punjab Records Zero Voter Growth As UP Adds 18.84 Lakh Electors In Draft Rolls

■ Goa Registers Highest Percentage Increase Of 3.01%, Final Electoral Rolls Scheduled For January 4, 2027

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Punjab has recorded no net increase in its voter population in the latest draft electoral rolls, while Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the leading state in terms of new voter additions, registering an increase of 18.84 lakh electors under the Special Summary Revision (SSR) exercise.



The first phase of the revision, covering 13 States and Union Territories, has resulted in nearly 75 lakh additional names being included in the draft electoral rolls. The combined electorate across these regions has increased from 45.22 crore after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) to 45.96 crore in the draft SSR lists, marking an overall growth of 1.64 per cent. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest addition in absolute numbers. Its electorate increased from 13.39 crore in the final post-SIR rolls to approximately 13.58 crore in the draft list, representing a growth of 1.42 per cent. Notably, 11.83 lakh of the newly enrolled voters belong to the 18 to 19 age group, indicating a significant addition of young and first-time voters.

In contrast, Punjab's electorate has remained unchanged at approximately 2.01 crore, with no net addition recorded between the final SIR rolls and the latest draft SSR list.

Among other states, Uttarakhand added 1.19 lakh voters, taking its total electorate to 72.78 lakh.

IPL 2027 Retention: MI Release Trent Boult and Deepak Chahar, KKR Part Ways With Rs 18 Crore Star

CSK Make Major Changes As All 10 Franchises Announce Released Players Ahead Of IPL 2027 Mini-Auction

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: The IPL 2027 retention deadline has brought several major surprises, with franchises making significant changes to their squads ahead of the upcoming mini-auction. Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings are among the teams to release several high-profile players.

One of the biggest developments came from Chennai Super Kings, with MS Dhoni moving into a team mentor role. CSK also released several players, including Prashant Veer, who carried a price tag of Rs 14.2 crore, along with Matt Henry and Spencer Johnson.

Five-time champions Mumbai Indians have also made notable changes, releasing experienced pacer Trent Boult, Deepak Chahar and spinner Allah Ghazanfar. Their decision to part ways with these players marks a significant reshuffle ahead of the next season.



Team Bonding Powered India's U-19 Asia Cup Final Win Against Pakistan, Says Goan Cricketer Venkata

Young Goan cricketer credits friendship, GCA support and quality training for helping India secure victory in the high-pressure final

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Team bonding and mutual understanding played a decisive role in India's victory over Pakistan in the Under-19 Asia Cup final, according to Goan cricketer Chigurupati Venkata, who made a valuable contribution to the team's triumph. Speaking at the Goa Cricket Association (GCA) headquarters in Porvorim on Tuesday, Venkata highlighted how friendship and coordination among players helped them handle the pressure of one of cricket's biggest rivalries. He particularly credited his understanding with teammate Mohit Ulva, explaining that their friendship off the field translated into effective coordination during the match. Venkata said the players did not need lengthy discussions during crucial moments because they understood each other's approach, demonstrating the importance of team spirit in delivering under pressure. The young cricketer was felicitated by the GCA for his contribution to India's success. He expressed gratitude to the association's managing committee, coaches and support staff for providing the resources and encouragement that helped him progress.

Goa University Gets₹28.55 Crore Infrastructure Boost, CM Launches BhashaSnap and Indo-Portugal Research Partnership

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa University has received a major infrastructure boost with investments worth approximately ₹28.55 crore aimed at strengthening higher education, scientific research and technological innovation in the state.

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant inaugurated several academic and research facilities at the university on Tuesday. The programme also featured the launch of BhashaSnap, a multilingual web application, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with BIOPOLIS-CIBIO, University of Porto, Portugal, to establish an Indo-Portugal TwinLab Partnership. The university's e-magazine was also released during the event. Among the major developments was the inauguration of the new Computer Science and Technology building at Goa Business School. Several advanced facilities at the University Materials Characterisation Laboratory in Block E were also inaugurated.

Punjab Crush Goa by 77 Runs in Women's U-23 T20 Trophy

Harsimranjit smashes 96 as Goa struggle in 165-run chase, managing just 87 for seven

Team Goemkarponn

PANJIM: Goa suffered a disappointing 77-run defeat against Punjab in the Women's Under-23 T20 Trophy Elite tournament at the Chaudhary Bansi Lal Cricket Stadium in Lahli on Tuesday.

Batting first, Punjab delivered an impressive performance to post 164 for three in their allotted 20 overs. Harsimranjit led the batting charge with a 96-run knock, while Khushi Chahal provided valuable support with an unbeaten 34.

For Goa, Harshita Yadav, Pooja Kalel and Aradhana Saroj picked up one wicket each. However, Punjab maintained a strong scoring rate throughout the innings to set Goa a challenging target of 165.

In response, Goa struggled to build momentum and managed only 87 for seven in 20 overs, falling well short of the target.

Harshita Yadav emerged as Goa's leading batter, scoring 38 runs with the help of five boundaries. Her effort provided some resistance, but the rest of the batting lineup failed to make significant contributions.

Captain Tanaya Naik remained unbeaten on 11, while Harshada Kadam finished not out on seven. Punjab's bowling attack kept Goa under pressure, with Mannat Kashyap leading the charge with three wickets for 21 runs.

GFDC Grassroots Inter-Centre Tournament 2026 Begins Across Goa With Goal Fest

Young footballers shine in U-10 category as Corlim record biggest victory with a 14-0 win

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The Goa Football Development Council (GFDC) Grassroots Inter-Centre Tournament 2026 began on November 17 with an action-packed opening day in the U-10 Boys category. Young footballers from across Goa showcased their skills, attacking abilities and enthusiasm in a series of exciting encounters. GFDC Corlim delivered the most dominant performance of the opening day, registering a massive 14-0 victory over GFDC Marcel. GFDC Cortalim also impressed with a 10-0 triumph against Khandepar, while GFDC Ambelim secured a convincing 9-1 win over GFDC Shiroda. GFDC Fatorda began its campaign on a winning note with an 8-0 victory against GFDC Maina Curtorim. GFDC Devabag defeated Sao Jose de Areal 8-1, while GFDC Mandrem recorded a comfortable 6-0 win over Pernem. GFDC Navelim also secured three points with a 4-0 victory against Quepem. Among the other results, GFDC Poira defeated Savoi Verem 5-0, while GFDC Siolim overcame Socorro 5-1. GFDC Collem registered a 6-0 win against Davorlim, and GFDC Vagator beat Zarme 4-1. GFDC Arambol also started its tournament campaign positively, defeating Mayem 2-0. GFDC Seraulim edged past Dabal 2-1 in a closely fought encounter, while the match between GFDC Paroda and GFDC Cuncolim proved to be one of the day's most competitive contests.