Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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Congress Offers GFP Six Seats, GFP Pushes For Seventh

Goa Forward had sought eight constituencies, but Congress proposes six, including Mandrem, Siolim, Saligao, Fatorda, Canacona and Sanguem; another round of negotiations expected

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Seat-sharing negotiations between the Congress and the Goa Forward Party (GFP) for the 2027 Goa Assembly elections have entered a crucial phase, with Congress offering six constituencies to GFP against the eight seats sought by the regional party.

GFP president Vijai Sardesai, who met Goa Congress in-charge Manikrao Thakre on Sunday, November 15, for nearly two and a half hours, described the meeting as "a good beginning". However, differences over the number of constituencies to be allotted to GFP remain unresolved.

According to sources, GFP had sought eight seats during the negotiations, while Congress has indicated its willingness to offer six constituencies. The proposed seats include Mandrem, Siolim and Saligao in North Goa, and Fatorda, Canacona and Sanguem in South Goa.

Sardesai was reportedly keen on securing at least a seventh constituency for his party. However, Congress has made no commitment on the

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CONGRESS-GFP SEAT-SHARING TALKS

8 vs 6 Seats sought by GFP versus Congress's offer Six constituencies offered

- **North Goa:** Mandrem, Siolim, Saligao
- **South Goa:** Fatorda, Canacona, Sanguem
- GFP keen on at least a seventh seat.
- Congress yet to commit to an additional constituency.
- Second round expected with Girish Chodankar and Yuri Alemao.
- Congress also negotiating separately with Viresh Borkar's Revolutionary Goans.

Mandrekar Set To Join Goa Forward, BJP Ticket Uncertainty Triggers Exit

Former Minister and ex-Siolim MLA eyes political alternative as sitting BJP MLA Delilah Lobo is likely to retain the party ticket for the 2027 Assembly elections

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PANAJI: Former Goa minister and ex-Siolim MLA Dayanand Mandrekar is all set to join the Goa Forward Party (GFP), amid indications that he is preparing to quit the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

Mandrekar's likely move to GFP comes against the backdrop of growing uncertainty over his prospects of securing the BJP ticket from Siolim, where sitting MLA Delilah Lobo is expected to remain the party's preferred candidate.

Delilah had won the Siolim seat on a Congress ticket in the 2022 Assembly elections before defecting to the BJP along with several other Congress MLAs. With her now being the sitting BJP MLA, Mandrekar is understood to be facing an uphill task in securing the party nomination for the next elections.

Three Beach Shacks Gutted In Calangute Fire; Michael Lobo Announces ₹4 Lakh Aid Each

MLA Promises Immediate Assistance To Rebuild Shacks; Calls For Beach-Specific Fire Tenders

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Three beach shacks were completely gutted in a fire at Calangute Beach, with strong winds causing the flames to spread to adjoining structures. The fire has been brought under control, and no injuries were reported. Calangute MLA Michael Lobo, who rushed to the spot, expressed sorrow over the incident, stating that the fire had caused massive losses to shack owners at the beginning of the tourism season. Kitchen equipment, refrigerators, food stocks, alcohol, furniture and other materials were destroyed in the blaze.

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Rohan Khaunte Announces ₹2 Lakh Aid Per Shack Owner For Calangute Fire Victims

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CALANGUTE: Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte has announced financial assistance of ₹2 lakh per affected shack owner following the fire that gutted three beach shacks at Calangute, assuring immediate support to help them begin rebuilding during the ongoing tourist season.

From Sowing Seeds Of Atmanirbharta
To Harvesting The Fruits Of Prosperity.

ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY OF GOA

GOVERNMENT OF GOA



Empowering farmers through **50+ schemes** and subsidies of **upto 90%** to buy seeds, fertilizers, irrigation and farm equipment technology and infrastructure.

Key Support to Farmers

- **72,187** Soil Health Cards distributed, with **500 organic** clusters benefitting **13,112 farmers**.
- **4,628** dairy farmers supported under the **Sudharit Kamdhenu Scheme**.
- Assured-price assistance to **1313 farmers**; **740 MT** of vegetables exported in the last 7 years.
- **₹5 lakh** Kisan Credit Card loan limit, benefiting over **17,500** farmers.
- **41,699** farmers assisted through custom hiring services.

Modern and Sustainable Farming

- **Goa State Amritkal Agriculture Policy 2025** promotes technology, innovation and traditional farming.
- Seed processing unit being established with **2 TPH** capacity.
- **Agricultural drone** commissioned under Drone Didi for precision spraying.
- Paddy fields were revived at multiple places in Goa revitalising agriculture.
- **₹27.94 Cr** invested in strengthening **9.09 km** of khazan bunds, protecting **384 hectares** of paddy fields.
- **59,836** plants distributed under Homestead Gardening.
- **915 hectares** irrigated under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.

Additional Support:
PM-KISAN, Shetkari Adhar Nidhi, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, PMKSY watershed development, agricultural training, Kisan Credit Cards and digital farmer services through Agristack.



आमचें गोंय विकसित गोंय
वचनपूर्ति

Goa's Drug Trade Goes Homegrown: Is Cannabis Cultivation Becoming a New Business?

From rented guest houses in Arambol to residential flats and villas in Panaji, reports of indoor cannabis cultivation raise serious questions about whether Goa is emerging as a centre of local drug production rather than merely a destination for narcotics brought from outside.

The arrest of a 48-year-old Mumbai resident for allegedly cultivating cannabis inside a rented guest house in Arambol should be a matter of serious concern for Goa. The seizure of nine cannabis plants, estimated to be worth Rs 3.60 lakh, is not just another narcotics case. It raises an uncomfortable question: Is cannabis cultivation quietly emerging as a new underground business in the state?

For years, Goa's drug problem has largely been associated with narcotics being transported into the state from neighbouring regions and other parts of the country. The supply chain was believed to operate through networks distributing drugs across beaches, tourist destinations, nightclubs and other locations. However, the discovery of cannabis cultivation inside rented premises suggests that the nature of this business could be changing.

Is ganja no longer just being imported into Goa? Is it now being grown here?

The Arambol incident is certainly not the first development to raise such concerns. There have been reports and investigations involving alleged cannabis cultivation inside residential flats and villas, including in Panaji. Earlier narcotics operations have also brought indoor cultivation and hydroponic growing methods into focus. This is a worrying development because cultivation inside private properties presents a different challenge to law enforcement agencies. Unlike conventional drug trafficking, which may involve transportation and distribution networks, indoor cultivation can remain hidden behind closed doors. A rented apartment or luxury villa can potentially be converted into a growing facility without attracting immediate attention.

Goa's growing holiday home and rental accommodation market could also create opportunities for people looking to misuse private properties for illegal activities. The state has thousands of apartments, villas, guest houses and serviced accommodation units occupied by tenants and tourists throughout the year. While property owners cannot be expected to monitor every activity of their tenants, proper tenant verification and vigilance are essential.

> ***The Arambol incident is certainly not the first development to raise such concerns. There have been reports and investigations involving alleged cannabis cultivation inside residential flats and villas, including in Panaji. Earlier narcotics operations have also brought indoor cultivation and hydroponic growing methods into focus.***
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The bigger concern, however, is whether these cultivation facilities are operating independently or are connected to organised drug distribution networks.

Who is financing these operations? Where are the seeds and cultivation equipment coming from? Who purchases the produce? Are these facilities supplying the local drug market, including tourist destinations and nightlife establishments, or is the cannabis being transported outside Goa?

These questions require answers through a proper investigation.

The police must look beyond the immediate arrests and examine the entire supply chain. Catching someone cultivating cannabis is important, but identifying the financiers, suppliers, distributors and buyers is equally crucial. Otherwise, one operation may be shut down while another continues elsewhere.

The government must also examine whether recent cultivation cases have any common links. A coordinated investigation by the Anti Narcotics Cell and local police could help establish whether these are isolated incidents or signs of a wider underground business.

The implications for Goa's younger generation are particularly serious. Drug consumption has remained a major concern, with repeated public statements about the need to protect youth from narcotics. If cannabis is increasingly being cultivated locally, the supply could become easier and distribution more difficult to track.

There is also a tourism angle that cannot be ignored. Goa promotes itself as an international holiday destination, but its image continues to face questions over drugs, illegal activities and the safety of visitors. The state cannot aspire to attract quality tourism while allowing the perception to grow that narcotics businesses can operate under the cover of hospitality establishments and residential properties.

Equally important is impartial enforcement. The NDPS Act must be implemented without fear or favour. Whether cannabis is allegedly cultivated in a modest rented room or an expensive luxury villa, the law must apply equally. Money, influence and connections cannot determine the seriousness of enforcement. The government must stop treating every narcotics seizure as an isolated success. Arrests and seizures make headlines, but the real measure of success is whether the networks behind the drug trade are dismantled. Goa may be witnessing a shift in the way narcotics enter and circulate within the state. The possibility that cannabis is now being cultivated locally, alongside supplies coming from outside, should not be ignored.

The drug trade may be changing its address. It may no longer be confined to beach shacks, nightlife destinations or hidden supply routes. It could be operating from rented homes and residential neighbourhoods. Goa does not need another announcement promising a drug-free state. It needs sustained intelligence, effective policing and investigations that reach the people financing and controlling the trade. If ganja is now being grown behind the closed doors of our homes, the drug problem has come much closer to every Goan household.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Goa's Top Ranking Reflects Progress, But Development Must Reach Everyone

Goa securing the first position among 28 states in the Access (In)Equality Index 2026 is a significant achievement and a matter of pride. With an overall score of 0.68, the state's performance in basic facilities and healthcare reflects progress in providing essential services to its residents.

The reported figures, including 91.9 per cent of households having access to piped water, 90 per cent of residents living in pucca houses and 93.8 per cent full vaccination among children, indicate positive outcomes in important areas of public welfare.

Goa's second position in education is also encouraging. However, such rankings should not make the government complacent. There is still a need to strengthen educational infrastructure, improve healthcare facilities and ensure that essential services reach every household.

The real measure of development is not simply where a state stands in a national ranking, but whether ordinary citizens experience meaningful improvements in their daily lives.

The government must also pay attention to rural areas, economically weaker sections and communities that may still face difficulties accessing basic amenities.

This recognition should encourage the administration to identify existing gaps and work towards making development more inclusive.

Goa has every reason to celebrate this achievement, but the larger responsibility is to sustain the progress and ensure that no citizen is left behind.

- Christopher D'Souza, Margao, Goa

Goa's Drug Trade May Be Going Local: Authorities Must Act Before It Spreads

Reports of cannabis cultivation inside rented guest houses, residential flats and villas in Goa should serve as a serious warning to the state. The recent arrest of a Mumbai resident for allegedly growing cannabis in a rented guest house in Arambol, with nine plants reportedly seized, raises concerns about a possible shift in the drug trade.

Goa has traditionally been viewed as a destination where narcotics are brought in from outside and distributed through various networks. However, alleged indoor cultivation suggests that some operators may now be using private properties to produce cannabis locally.

This development demands a deeper investigation. Are these isolated cases, or are they connected to a wider network? Who is financing the operations, supplying seeds and equipment, and purchasing the produce? These are questions that law enforcement agencies must answer.

The growing rental accommodation and holiday-home market could be misused by individuals seeking to conceal illegal activities. Property owners should therefore exercise reasonable vigilance and ensure proper tenant verification, while the police must strengthen intelligence gathering and monitoring.

The Anti Narcotics Cell and local police should investigate possible links between cultivation cases and identify the financiers, suppliers and distributors behind them. Enforcement must also remain impartial, regardless of whether an alleged operation is found in a modest rented room or an expensive villa.Goa cannot afford to treat every drug seizure as an isolated achievement. Arrests are important, but dismantling the networks that sustain the trade must be the priority.

If cannabis is increasingly being cultivated within residential properties, the threat is no longer limited to tourist hotspots. It is moving closer to ordinary neighbourhoods and households. The government must respond with sustained action before this alleged underground business becomes more deeply established.

- Rohit Dessai, Pernem, Goa

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Colvale Jail Clash: Tarzan Parsekar, 12 Others Booked For Attempted Murder

Vikat Bhagat Hospitalised With Serious Injuries Following Alleged Inmate Assault; Guard Hurt During Intervention

Team Goemkarponn



COLVALE: Colvale Police have booked Tarzan Parsekar and 12 others in connection with an alleged attempt to murder fellow inmate Vikat Bhagat during a violent altercation inside Colvale Central Jail.

The incident reportedly took place on Wednesday between 3.45 pm and 4 pm, when several inmates allegedly attacked Bhagat following a dispute linked to previous enmity. The assault left him seriously injured, while a jail guard was also hurt while attempting to intervene.

Bhagat was initially taken to the North Goa District Hospital in Mapusa before being shifted to Goa Medical College and Hospital for advanced treatment. He reportedly sustained injuries to his head and face.

Following the incident, jail authorities initiated precautionary measures to prevent further violence and submitted a complaint to Colvale Police identifying the inmates allegedly involved in the attack. Police have registered an FIR against the accused for attempted murder and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the assault.

Bhagat is serving a life sentence for the rape and murder of a foreign national at Canacona in 2017.



South Goa Collector Directs Inspections Of Pending CRZ Cases

Nine Coastal Regulation Zone Inspection Reports Reviewed; Cases Recommended For Structure Removal And Revised Reports

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: South Goa District Collector Egna Cleetus has directed the concerned Sub-Divisional Officers to schedule inspections of pending Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) cases and submit inspection reports to the District Level Committee for examination and onward submission to the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA). The directive was issued during the 30th meeting of the South Goa District Level Coastal Monitoring Committee (SGDLCMC), chaired by Cleetus, where the pendency of CRZ cases was reviewed. The meeting was co-chaired by Deputy Collector (Revenue), South Goa, Rohan Loliyekar, and attended by the Member Secretary of SGDLCMC, Deputy Collectors and Sub-Divisional Officers of South Goa district, representatives of the Inspector of Survey and Land Records (ISLR), Works Division VIII (Buildings), Town and Country Planning Department, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mamlatdar of Salcete and representatives of the local fishing community. During the meeting, nine CRZ inspection reports were reviewed.

Certain cases were recommended for onward submission to the Member Secretary of GCZMA for removal of structures, while the remaining cases were referred back to the concerned Sub-Divisional Officers for revised inspection reports with clear recommendations.



Goa Tops Access (In) Equality Index 2026, Ranks First Among 28 States

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has ranked first among India's 28 states in the Access (In) Equality Index 2026, published by O.P. Jindal Global University, with an overall score of 0.68.

The state secured the top position in the categories of basic facilities and healthcare, while placing second in education, highlighting its performance across key sectors of public service delivery and access to essential amenities.

According to the findings, 91.9% of households in Goa have access to piped water, while 90% of residents live in pucca houses. The state also recorded 93.8% full vaccination among children.

11-Year-Old Boy Booked in POCSO Case Over Alleged Assault on 5-Year-Old in Calangute

Calangute Police register case following complaint by victim's mother; investigation underway

Team Goemkarponn



CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have registered a case following a complaint by the mother of a five-year-old girl alleging that her minor daughter was sexually assaulted by an 11-year-old boy.

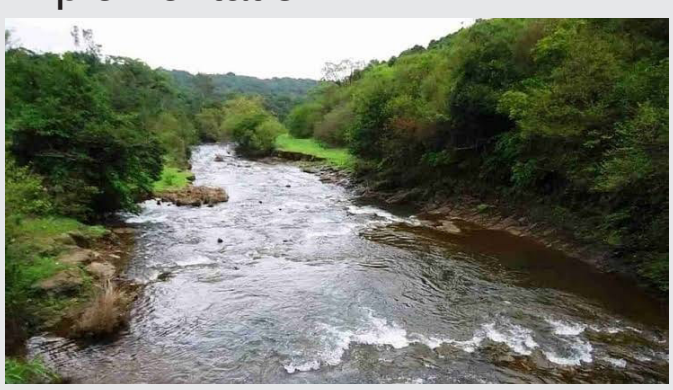
According to the police press note, the alleged incidents took place between November 1 and November 18, 2026, when the complainant and her husband were working at a restaurant in Calangute.

The 11-year-old boy, who is a neighbour and reportedly a regular visitor to the complainant's house to play with her children, has been identified as the juvenile in conflict with law. Calangute Police registered Crime No. 154/2026 under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Goa Children Act, 2003, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. Both the five-year-old victim and the juvenile have been sent for medical examination. The investigation is being conducted by LPSI Sanisha Naik of Calangute Police Station under the supervision of PI Dinesh Gadekar, SDPO Porvorim Vishwesh Karpe and North Goa Superintendent of Police Rahul Gupta, IPS.

Karnataka Questions Centre's Stand On Kalasa-Bhandura Clearances

Mohan Katarki Argues Goa's Appeal And Wildlife Order Cannot Stall Mhadei Tribunal Award Implementation

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Karnataka has challenged the Centre's decision to hold back approvals for the Kalasa-Bhandura water diversion scheme, arguing that the reasons cited for withholding clearances have no legal basis. In its submission, senior Supreme Court counsel Mohan Katarki maintained that Goa's challenge to the Mhadei Water Disputes Tribunal award and an order issued by the state's Wildlife Warden on March 29, 2023, cannot prevent Karnataka from proceeding with the project. The Centre is understood to have cited the pending Supreme Court proceedings and the Wildlife Warden's order under Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, while withholding statutory approvals. Katarki argued that the tribunal award has not been stayed by the Supreme Court and that the mere filing of an appeal does not suspend its operation. He relied on Order XLI, Rule 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure to support Karnataka's position. He also questioned the jurisdiction and constitutional validity of the Wildlife Warden's order, arguing that it was issued against the Karnataka Government and that Goa could not exercise such authority beyond its territorial limits.

The counsel further contended that the Centre could use Section 62B of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, along with Article 256 of the Constitution, to direct Goa to withdraw the order.

Mumbai Man Arrested For Illegally Cultivating Cannabis At Arambol Guest House

Mandrem police seize nine cannabis plants worth approximately Rs 3.60 lakh during a midnight narcotics raid

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ARAMBOL: Mandrem Police arrested a 48-year-old Mumbai resident for allegedly illegally cultivating cannabis plants at a rented premises in Rocktop Guest House, Khalchawada, Arambol, during a narcotics raid conducted in the early hours of November 18.

According to police, the raid was conducted between 1.30 am and 3.15 am on November 18 by PSI Pratik Garudi of Mandrem Police Station, along with two panch witnesses and a police raiding team, acting on specific information.

During the raid, the police allegedly found nine cannabis plants being cultivated in pots inside the rented premises.

The plants, valued at approximately Rs 3.60 lakh, were seized and attached under a duly drawn panchanama.

The accused has been identified as Joel Joseph Dsouza (48), a resident of Rocktop Guest House, Khalchawada, Arambol, originally from Malad West, Mumbai, Maharashtra. Police stated that the accused was subsequently interrogated and allegedly confessed to his involvement in the offence.



Mormugao Police Arrest Man With Hashish Oil And Ganja At Baina

Accused allegedly caught with hashish oil and 29 grams of suspected ganja worth approximately Rs 10,900 during narcotics raid

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: Mormugao Police arrested a man from Baina for allegedly possessing hashish oil and ganja during a narcotics raid conducted beneath the Baina flyover on October 17, 2025.

According to police, PSI Saidatta Naik of Mormugao Police Station, acting on specific and reliable information, conducted a narcotics raid between 10.40 pm and 11.45 pm.

During the raid, the police allegedly caught Mohammed Rafi, a resident of Baina, red-handed with 4 grams of hashish oil valued at approximately Rs 8,000 and 29 grams of suspected ganja, comprising greenish-coloured dry leaves, stems, flowering and fruiting parts of a plant, valued at approximately Rs 2,900.

The accused allegedly possessed the narcotic substances with the intention of delivering them to his customers.

Police subsequently arrested the accused in connection with the case.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Suraj Naik of Mormugao Police Station.



Old Goa Man Assaults Uttarakhand Resident, Causes Fracture Near Right Eye

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OLD GOA: A 37-year-old man has been booked by Old Goa Police for allegedly assaulting a Uttarakhand resident and causing a fracture injury near his right eye following an altercation near a sweet shop at Old Goa.

According to the complaint lodged by Balli Singh Negi (33), a resident of Ella, Old Goa, originally from Haridwar, Uttarakhand, the incident occurred on November 17 at around 11.30 pm near Canara Bank at Old Goa.

The complainant stated that he was purchasing drinks at a sweet shop when the accused, identified as Deshpal (37), son of Gangadhar Morje, a resident of Dahuj Road, Old Goa, allegedly abused him in filthy language.

Thereafter, the accused allegedly approached the complainant from behind and punched him forcefully near his right eye, resulting in a fracture injury.

Man Booked For Allegedly Kidnapping 15-Year-Old Girl In Taleigao

Panaji Police register case after complaint; whereabouts of minor girl allegedly concealed

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered a case against a man for allegedly kidnapping a 15-year-old minor girl from the lawful guardianship of her family in Taleigao, Tiswadi.

According to the complaint lodged by a person whose identity has been withheld, the incident occurred on November 16 at around 3 pm at Chinchinim, Taleigao, Tiswadi, Goa.

The accused has been identified as Ravi Yadav, a resident of Shankarwadi, Taleigao, originally from Uttar Pradesh. He allegedly took the minor girl away from the lawful custody of her guardians and subsequently concealed her whereabouts.

The complaint was lodged on November 17 at 3.34 pm, following which Panaji Police registered an offence. Further investigation in the case is in progress under LPSI Harshal Raikar of Panaji Police Station.

Udupi Man Booked For Stealing Cash And Canadian Dollars From Calangute Hotel Room

Accused allegedly gained entry through balcony door and stole Rs 50,000 and CAD 1,000 from a Canadian tourist's room

Team Goemkarponn



CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have registered a theft case against a 38-year-old man from Karnataka for allegedly stealing cash worth Rs 50,000 and Canadian dollars 1,000 from a hotel room at Goan Heritage Hotel, Gauravaddo, Calangute.

According to the complaint lodged by Edlyn De Souza, a resident of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, the theft took place on November 15 between 6.30 pm and 8 pm in Room No. 305 of Goan Heritage Hotel.

The unknown accused allegedly gained entry into the hotel room through the balcony door and stole cash amounting to Rs 50,000 and CAD 1,000, which had been kept inside the complainant's bag.

Following the complaint, Calangute Police registered a case under Section 305(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) vide Cr. No. 153/2026 on November 17 at 11.33 pm. The accused has been identified as Kasim (38), son of Firoz, a resident of Bangle Gudde, Kukkondoor, Udupi, Karnataka. He is presently in the custody of Panaji Police Station.

Further investigation in the case is being conducted by PSI Vishwajit Dhavalikar of Calangute Police Station.

IFFI 2026 Introduces First-Ever 'Films About Films' Section

Five international productions from ten countries to be screened in Goa from November 20 to 28, exploring the lives, legacies and creative journeys behind cinema

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is set to offer cinema enthusiasts a unique experience with the introduction of its first-ever 'Films About Films' section, bringing the stories behind filmmaking into the spotlight. The new section, introduced under this year's festival theme, 'Stories Without Borders', will feature five international productions exploring the lives of legendary filmmakers, actors, cinematic legacies and stories that never made it to the screen. The festival will be held in Goa from November 20 to 28. Curated following suggestions from renowned filmmakers, the special segment aims to highlight the art and craft of filmmaking while offering audiences an insight into the creative processes, personal struggles and historical circumstances that shape cinema.

The line-up spans productions and co-productions across ten countries — the United Kingdom, the United States, Russia, Georgia, Estonia, Turkey, Switzerland, France, Germany and Italy. The section opens with *Maverick: The Epic Adventures of David Lean*, directed by Barnaby Thompson.

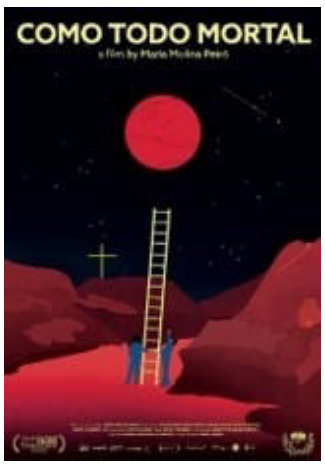


Himalayan Stories Take Centre Stage at IFFI 2026

Four Ladakhi and Kashmiri films showcase Himalayan life, traditions and human struggles, bringing stories of a young ice-hockey enthusiast, Gulmarg children and Srinagar's traditional woodcarving artist to the international festival

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PANAJI: The breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage and everyday human experiences of the Himalayan region will find a prominent place at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026, with four films in Ladakhi and Kashmiri languages selected for screening in Goa. The selection comprises two feature films and two non-feature films, offering audiences an intimate glimpse into the lives, aspirations, traditions and challenges of people living in Ladakh and Kashmir. The festival will be held from November 20 to 28. Among the highlights is *Becoming*, an 11-minute Ladakhi short film written and directed by Leena Yadav. Selected as the opening film of the Indian Panorama Non-Feature Films section, it explores themes of reincarnation, destiny and spirituality. Set in Ladakh, the film follows Rinchen, a young mother, and her seven-year-old son Agyal, who develops an unusual connection with nature and experiences mysterious visions. Drawn towards the ancient Likir Monastery, the boy recalls memories that appear to belong to another life.



IFFI 2026 Puts Indian Cinema and Environmental Stories in Global Spotlight

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PANAJI: The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026 will celebrate the diversity and richness of Indian cinema while bringing urgent environmental concerns to the global screen through its specially curated 'Mission Life' section. The festival will be held in Goa from November 20 to 28 under the theme 'Stories Without Borders'.

The festival aims to showcase India's linguistic and regional storytelling diversity while using cinema as a medium to encourage conversations on ecological transformation, the relationship between humans and nature, and sustainable coexistence.

Indian cinema remains at the centre of this year's festival programme

IFFI 2026 Introduces Special Animation Section Featuring Five International Films

Animated features from Japan, France, China, Singapore and the USA to explore romance, social satire, memory, loneliness and human emotions

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026 is expanding its cinematic horizons with the introduction of a dedicated Animation section, celebrating the artistic creativity, emotional depth and storytelling potential of animated films. The special segment will showcase five acclaimed international animated features from Japan, France, China, Singapore and the United States, offering audiences a diverse cinematic experience that goes beyond conventional animation. The festival, scheduled to be held in Goa from November 20 to 28, aims to highlight how animation can capture complex human emotions, social realities and imaginative worlds through distinctive visual storytelling. The Japanese animated film *Cherry and Virgin*, directed by Masanao Kawajiri, explores modern romance, social anxiety and the challenges of human relationships.

Five Web Series Nominated For Best Web Series Award At IFFI 2026

Diverse stories spanning education, folklore, entrepreneurship, politics and relationships feature in the OTT Awards category

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Five web series have been nominated for the Best Web Series Award under the OTT Awards category at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), scheduled to be held in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2026. The nominations highlight the growing diversity of India's digital entertainment industry, bringing together stories rooted in social realities, cultural traditions, historical milestones and human relationships. The five nominated web series are:

1. Adarsh Baal Vidyalaya:
Directed by Himank Gaur, the series presents a humorous yet thought-provoking take on India's public education system. Set in a government school in Delhi, it follows a headmaster striving to transform the institution with the help of an idealistic teacher.

2. Devkhel:
Directed by Chandrakant Lata Gaikwad, the series draws inspiration from folklore and traditional beliefs. Set in Devtali village, it revolves around mysterious deaths occurring every year on the night of Holi and an investigation into the secrets behind them.

3. Made in India: A Titan Story:
Directed by Robbie Grewal, the series traces the entrepreneurial journey behind the creation of one of India's most recognised homegrown brands. It follows Xerxes Desai's efforts to establish a world-class Indian watch brand with the guidance of J.R.D. Tata.

Kashmir Freezes As Srinagar Records Season's Coldest Night At Minus 0.2°C

Pahalgam dips to minus 2.8°C, while Shopian emerges as the coldest place in Jammu and Kashmir at minus 3.4°C

Team Goemkarponn



SRINAGAR: Kashmir is witnessing an intensifying winter chill as temperatures across the Valley continue to fall, with Srinagar recording its coldest night of the season so far at minus 0.2 degrees Celsius.

The summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir recorded a temperature 0.9 degrees below the seasonal average. Several parts of the Valley experienced sub-zero temperatures, with popular tourist destinations such as Pahalgam and Gulmarg also witnessing freezing conditions.

Shopian emerged as the coldest location in Jammu and Kashmir, recording a minimum temperature of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam, located in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, registered minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, while the famous ski destination Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded minus 1.0 degrees Celsius.

Other areas also experienced a significant drop in temperatures. Kupwara recorded minus 1.3 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund, known as the gateway to Kashmir, registered minus 0.8 degrees Celsius. Kokernag remained relatively warmer at 1.0 degrees Celsius.

Despite sunshine across the Valley on Thursday, the weak winter sun offered little relief from the biting morning cold. Chilly winds blowing from snow-covered mountains have further intensified the conditions, while frost has started appearing in several areas. However, water bodies across Kashmir have not yet begun freezing. In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 10.8 degrees Celsius, while Katra registered 10.9 degrees. Batote recorded 5.7 degrees, Banihal 8.7 degrees and Bhaderwah 2.2 degrees Celsius. The Meteorological Department has predicted largely dry weather across Kashmir until the end of November. Night temperatures are expected to decline further over the coming days.

The falling mercury signals the approach of Chillai Kalan, Kashmir's harshest winter period, which begins on December 21 and continues for 40 days. During this period, daytime temperatures generally remain below 9 degrees Celsius, while nighttime temperatures frequently drop several degrees below freezing.

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Congress Offers GFP Six Seats, GFP Pushes For Seventh

additional seat so far, leaving the matter open for further negotiations. A second round of discussions is expected to take place with Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Girish Chodankar and Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao also participating. The next meeting is likely to focus on bridging differences over seat allocation and arriving at a mutually acceptable formula. The Congress is simultaneously holding separate discussions with Revolutionary Goans (RG), led by MLA Viresh Borkar, on possible seat-sharing arrangements for the 2027 Assembly elections.

The parallel negotiations indicate that Congress is exploring a broader opposition understanding to take on the ruling BJP, with regional parties expected to play an important role in the electoral contest. Meanwhile, Sardesai has also flagged differences within the 'Goa First' alliance involving the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and GFP. He has called for bringing together anti-BJP forces, stressing the need for opposition unity ahead of the elections. With Congress engaging both GFP and RG, the emerging challenge will be to accommodate the electoral ambitions of regional parties without creating further friction within the proposed opposition arrangement. The coming rounds of negotiations are expected to determine whether the parties can move beyond preliminary discussions and build a workable seat-sharing arrangement ahead of the 2027 polls.

Three Beach Shacks Gutted In Calangute Fire; Michael Lobo Announces ₹4 Lakh Aid Each

Lobo estimated the losses at approximately ₹30–35 lakh per shack and announced that efforts would be made to provide ₹4 lakh in assistance to each affected shack owner.

He said ₹2 lakh each would be arranged by tomorrow morning to help the owners begin rebuilding, while the remaining assistance would be handed over by Monday. The proposed support would include ₹1 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, his contribution and assistance from the shack owners' association, along with ₹50,000 committed by the Secretary. Lobo appealed to shack owners not to lose hope, assuring them that efforts would be made to help rebuild the structures within the next five to eight days so they could resume business during the ongoing season. He said many of the affected owners belong to the local fishing community and depend entirely on the shacks for their livelihood. He also appealed to members of the Shack Owners Association and others to contribute towards relief efforts, adding that he would seek support through CSR initiatives. Raising concerns over fire safety along the coastline, Lobo said the need for beach-specific firefighting vehicles had been discussed earlier.

Beleza Hotels Partners with Goa Motor Vehicle Department for Road Safety Awareness Ride on November 22

Team Goemkarponn

GOA: In an initiative to promote road safety and encourage responsible road behaviour, Beleza Hotels has partnered with the Goa Motor Vehicle Department and the Regional Transport Office (RTO) for a special Road Safety Awareness Ride on Sunday, November 22, 2026.

Presented by the Goa Motor Vehicle Department Technical Executive Officers Association, the initiative will bring together cycling enthusiasts, citizens and road safety advocates for an awareness ride aimed at highlighting the importance of safe roads and responsible journeys across Goa.

The cyclothon will commence at 6:00 AM from Colva Beach and conclude at Beleza By the Beach, covering a distance of approximately 18 kilometres. The cycling event is scheduled to take place from 6:00 AM to 9:00 AM, followed by a medal ceremony from 9:00 AM onwards to recognise and felicitate the participating cyclists.

The event will also feature a closing ceremony attended by Transport Minister, Shri Mauvin Godinho, and Goa's Tourism Minister, Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, as Guests of Honour.

Through this initiative, Beleza Hotels aims to support the larger road safety awareness movement and encourage citizens to adopt responsible practices while using public roads. The campaign will emphasise four essential road safety messages: Wear a Helmet, Buckle Up, Never Drink and Drive, and Obey Traffic Rules.

The cyclothon seeks to convey that road safety is a shared responsibility and that every individual has a role to play in making Goa's roads safer for everyone.

Participants and cycling enthusiasts are encouraged to register for the event by scanning the registration QR code featured on the official event poster. With this collaborative initiative, Beleza Hotels reiterates its commitment to supporting meaningful community initiatives and promoting awareness around issues that contribute to a safer and more responsible society.



Delhi SIR: Election Commission Clears 32.8 Lakh of 33 Lakh Voter Notices, Over 98% Cases Resolved

■ Verification of electoral discrepancies reaches final stages, with remaining cases to be disposed of by December 15 and the final voter list scheduled for December 22.

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: The Election Commission has addressed more than 32.8 lakh of the over 33 lakh notices issued to voters in Delhi over discrepancies in their electoral details under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), taking the disposal rate beyond 98 per cent.

With nearly a month remaining to complete the process, the poll body is working to resolve the outstanding cases by December 15. The final electoral roll is scheduled to be published on December 22, 2026.

Among the prominent personalities who received notices over discrepancies in their voter details are External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

The list of 3,367 prominent voters also includes senior BJP leader LK Advani, former Delhi BJP president Virendra Kumar Sachdeva and former Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and his wife. The wife and son of CPM MP John Brittas were also issued notices.

The verification process, including the submission and acceptance of supporting documents, is continuing across Delhi's Assembly constituencies.



62 Kerala School Students Hospitalised After Suspected Toxic Fumes From Tar Mixing Plant

■ Classes suspended at Kollam school following complaints of breathing difficulties; Human Rights Commission orders 15-day inquiry

Team Goemkarponn

KOLLAM: At least 62 students of a private school in Kerala's Kollam district were hospitalised after experiencing breathing difficulties and other health problems following suspected exposure to fumes from a nearby tar mixing plant.

The incident occurred at Auxilium School in Kottiyam, where several students complained of discomfort after thick smoke and a strong, unpleasant smell reportedly spread from the nearby industrial unit. The affected children were rushed to hospital for medical attention, while school authorities suspended classes as a precautionary measure.

The incident has raised serious concerns among parents and local residents, particularly as a similar episode had reportedly occurred earlier at the same school. On that occasion, several students experienced comparable health problems, triggering protests against the plant. Following the agitation, the local panchayat had issued a stop memo directing the unit to halt its operations.

However, the matter subsequently reached the Kerala High Court, where the company obtained an order allowing it to reopen and resume operations.



"India Is Playing a Whole New Game": PM Modi Uses GTA 6 Launch to Highlight 13 Years of Progress

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has used the launch of the much anticipated video game Grand Theft Auto 6 (GTA 6) to highlight India's transformation over the past 13 years, drawing comparisons between the country's progress and the gap between GTA 5 and its latest instalment. A post shared on the Prime Minister's official Instagram account features a series of images showcasing how India has advanced since GTA 5 was released in 2013. Carrying the caption, "India is playing a whole new game," the post uses the iconic Pricedown font associated with the popular gaming franchise to connect with younger audiences. The carousel highlights several milestones, including India's shift from being part of the 'Fragile Five' economies to becoming the world's fastest-growing major economy. The reference also takes a political swipe at the previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government led by the Congress.

Pak Minister Who Threatened India Over Indus Waters Treaty Set for Delhi Visit

■ Musadik Malik, who previously issued a strong warning over the Indus Waters Treaty, will represent Pakistan at the SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum in New Delhi from November 20 to 22.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Pakistan's Climate Minister Musadik Malik, who is scheduled to visit India this week for a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting, has previously made aggressive remarks against New Delhi over the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.

Earlier this year, Malik issued a strong warning during a seminar in June, declaring, "Whoever



touches our water, their hands would be cut off." His comments came amid escalating tensions over India's decision to place the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance following the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at a water conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Malik also warned against what he described as water aggression and urged India to respect the treaty governing the sharing of river waters between the two countries. Malik's upcoming visit marks the first trip by a Pakistani federal minister to India since Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attended an SCO meeting in Goa in 2023.

Ahmedabad Police Detain Over 950 Suspected Drug Offenders in Massive Stadium Crackdown

■ Repeat offenders questioned over suspected drug networks as Gujarat Police intensifies its 'Drug-Free Gujarat' campaign

Team Goemkarponn

AHMEDABAD: In a major crackdown against drug-related activities, Ahmedabad Police detained more than 950 individuals with previous narcotics-related cases during a large-scale operation conducted across all seven police zones on Wednesday.

The individuals, who had previously been booked under the Narcotic Drugs



and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, were brought to the J.D. Nagarwala Police Stadium near Shahibaug Police Headquarters for verification and questioning. The operation involved local police stations along with specialised units, including the Crime Branch, Special Operations Group (SOG) and Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF). Officials questioned the suspects about their alleged involvement in drug activities and possible connections with active supply networks.

During the operation, police personnel reportedly separated habitual offenders and questioned them inside a specially arranged enclosed tent within the stadium premises. Videos showing the police action attracted widespread attention on social media. Some individuals were reportedly seen emerging from the enclosure in visible discomfort. Addressing the media, Crime Branch Joint Commissioner of Police Sharad Singhal said the exercise was intended to send a strong message against narcotics-related activities and demonstrate the police department's zero-tolerance approach.

John Abraham's Goa Aces JA Racing Targets More Glory as Indian Racing Festival Returns to Buddh

■ Defending IRL champions aim to build on Raoul Hyman's victory, Aryan Narola's double win and Luviwe Sambudla's impressive Chennai performance

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Defending Indian Racing League (IRL) champions Goa Aces JA Racing are gearing up for another crucial race weekend as the Indian Racing Festival returns to the Buddh International Circuit (BIC) on November 28 and 29.

Owned by Bollywood actor John Abraham, the Goa-based franchise will enter the upcoming rounds with considerable momentum following a series of impressive performances in both the Indian Racing League and F4 Indian Championship.

The team enjoyed a memorable outing at the previous BIC round, where Raoul Hyman secured victory in Race 1 of the Indian Racing League on October 31. Hyman overcame Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru driver Emil Heyerdahl after executing a crucial overtaking move and maintained his advantage until the finish.

Goa Aces JA Racing's IRL line-up also features Fabienne Wohlwend, Ishaan Madesh and Veer Amar Sheth.

The franchise has also made a strong impression in the F4 Indian Championship. South African driver Luviwe Sambudla dominated Round 3 at the Madras International Circuit, winning the opening two races and securing another podium finish. Aryan Narola also claimed a podium in the first race.

Lalit Yadav's Blazing 81 Goes in Vain as Mumbai Edge Goa by 18 Runs in SMAT Thriller

■ Sairaj Patil's sensational three-wicket over turns the match around after Goa need just 22 runs off the final two overs

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Lalit Yadav produced a spectacular batting performance, but Goa suffered an 18-run defeat against Mumbai in their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Elite encounter at the Jadavpur University Second Campus Ground in Kolkata.

Chasing a challenging target of 208, Goa fought hard and remained firmly in contention for most of their innings. However, a dramatic 19th over changed the course of the match, allowing Mumbai to secure a crucial victory.

Batting first, Mumbai posted 207 runs before being bowled out in 18.5 overs.

Musheer Khan led the scoring with 44 runs, while Sairaj Patil provided a valuable contribution of 40. Maxwell Swaminathan added 28, Suryakumar Yadav scored 25 and Shivam Dube chipped in with 23 to help Mumbai cross the 200-run mark.

Goa began their chase with determination, but it was Lalit Yadav who emerged as the standout performer. He smashed 81 runs off just 41 deliveries, keeping Goa in the hunt with an aggressive display. Deepraj Gaonkar also played an important role, scoring 48 runs to build momentum during the chase.

Goa appeared well positioned at 186 for seven after 18 overs, requiring only 22 runs from the final 12 deliveries. However, Mumbai's Sairaj Patil delivered a decisive breakthrough by dismissing Lalit off the first ball of the 19th over.

Patil then struck twice more in the same over, completing a crucial hat-trick of wickets in the over and ending Goa's hopes of victory. Goa were eventually bowled out for 186 in 19 overs. Patil finished with impressive figures of three for 27, while Shivam Dube and Tushar Deshpande claimed two wickets each.



GFDC Sanquelim Thrash Marcel 7-0 As Dominant Wins Highlight U13 Girls' Tournament Day 2

■ Several centres register convincing victories as the GFDC Inter Centre Grassroots Tournament 2026 witnesses an action-packed second day

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The second day of the Goa Football Development Council (GFDC) Inter Centre Grassroots Tournament 2026 witnessed a series of dominant performances in the U13 Girls' category on Wednesday, November 18, with several centres securing impressive victories in their preliminary matches. GFDC Sanquelim delivered the most emphatic performance of the day, registering a commanding 7-0 victory over GFDC Marcel. GFDC Sao Jose De Areal also enjoyed a convincing outing, defeating GFDC Paroda 5-0, while GFDC Valpoi secured a comfortable 4-0 win against GFDC Arambol. GFDC Devabagh continued the trend of dominant performances with a 4-0 victory over GFDC Uguem. GFDC Seraulim defeated GFDC Ambelim 4-1, while GFDC Quepem and GFDC Dona Paula recorded identical 4-0 victories against GFDC Dabal and GFDC Mandrem, respectively.

The day also featured closely contested encounters. GFDC Navelim managed a narrow 2-1 victory over GFDC Cortalim, while GFDC Savoi Verem edged past GFDC Zarme 1-0 to secure all three points. In another closely fought fixture, GFDC Tuem and GFDC Aldona failed to find the net during regulation time.

Five Judokas Selected to Represent Goa University at AIU West Zone Inter-University Tournament

■ Goa University women's team to compete in Gujarat from November 24 to 25

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Goa University has selected a five-member women's judo team to represent the institution at the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) West Zone Inter-University Judo Tournament 2026-27, scheduled to be held at Swarnim Gujarat Sports University, Gujarat, from November 24 to 25. The selected players will compete against university teams from across the West Zone, aiming to deliver strong performances and bring recognition to Goa University. The team comprises Tanishka Shivolkar, Riyansha Naik, Pallavi Dande, Jancica Swamy and Suhana Parwar. A kit distribution and farewell function was organised on November 18 at the Sports Section of Goa University ahead of the team's departure for the tournament. The event was attended by Balachandra Jadar, Assistant Director of Physical Education and Sports at Goa University, and Chinmay Jalmi, Assistant Sports Officer. Team coach Mir Dias and manager Vaibhavi Chodankar were also present to encourage the players ahead of the competition. The participation reflects Goa University's continued efforts to promote university-level sports and provide women athletes with opportunities to compete at inter-university and national-level events. The five judokas will now look to make their mark at the Gujarat tournament while representing Goa University on the West Zone stage.