Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

Reg No: GOAENG/2020/79967 VOL: 5 | ISSUE : 211 PANAJI | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026 | Pages-8 RS. 10/-

BJP Faces Growing Dissent in Sanvordem as Six Leaders Challenge Ganesh Gaonkar

■ Former minister Deepak Pauskar among six leaders seeking a fresh candidate; Sanket Arsekar also enters the race for the party ticket

Team Goemkarponn



SANVORDEM: The BJP in Sanvordem is witnessing signs of internal discontent, with six prominent party figures reportedly coming together to push for a change in leadership ahead of the next Assembly elections.

The group, comprising Vilas Desai, Balaji Gauns, former minister Deepak Pauskar, Vinay Tendulkar, Ramakant Gaonkar and Dr. Milind Desai, is seeking the party's nomination for one of its members instead of re-nominating incumbent MLA Dr. Ganesh Gaonkar.

The leaders have expressed dissatisfaction over what they describe as the lack of progress on commitments made during the previous Assembly election campaign. They claim they had actively supported Gaonkar's victory but are now facing questions from voters over promises that, according to them, remain unfulfilled.

Their concern appears to be that the failure to deliver on electoral commitments could affect the credibility of those who had campaigned for the sitting MLA.

Highlighting the group's electoral influence, BJP Core Committee member Vinay Tendulkar has claimed that the six leaders together could command approximately 17,000 votes in the

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Viresh Borkar accuses Manoj of working for builders' lobby to undermine RGP

Releases documents and videos alleging Manoj floated a company to secure painting contracts for mega projects by employing non-Goans, hours before his scheduled return to RGP

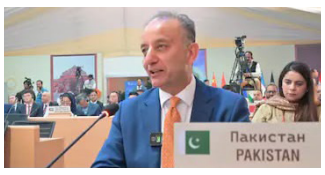


Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: MLA Viresh Borkar has levelled serious allegations against Manoj, accusing him of floating a company and securing painting contracts from builders for their mega projects by allegedly employing non-Goan workers.

Borkar further alleged that Manoj was acting

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06



"One Wall, Two Rivals": Pakistan Minister Highlights Humayun and Sher Shah Suri's Shared Legacy at Delhi's Purana Qila

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Pakistan Minister Musadik Malik on Saturday highlighted the shared historical legacy of Mughal Emperor Humayun and Sher Shah Suri while addressing the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum at Delhi's historic Purana Qila. Describing the monument as a reflection of multiple layers of history, Malik pointed out that Humayun laid the foundation of the fort, while Sher Shah Suri continued its construction after defeating the Mughal ruler. "One wall, two rivals," Malik remarked, referring to the two rulers associated with the historic structure. He described the fort as a symbol of different rulers and historical periods coming together at one location.

ACB Seizes Nearly 800 Grams of Gold in Disproportionate Assets Case Against Suspended Cop

■ Gold ornaments recovered during early-morning raid at Gauresh Naik's residence in Sattari; properties and fixed deposits also under investigation



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB), along with the Vigilance Department, has seized gold ornaments weighing nearly 800 grams during an investigation into a disproportionate assets case involving suspended police constable Gauresh Naik.

The seizure was made following an early-morning search at Naik's residence at Betkekar Wada in Nanus-Sattari, near Valpoi.

Naik was previously attached to the Porvorim Police Station.

Apart from the gold ornaments, investigators are examining details of several immovable properties and fixed deposits allegedly linked to the suspended constable as part of the ongoing probe.

The investigation centres on allegations of assets disproportionate to Naik's known sources of income.



MRP: A CONSUMER RIGHT OR JUST A PRICE DISPLAYED ON THE PACK?

Should shopkeepers follow the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) printed on product packaging, or is it merely a figure displayed for customers to see? An alleged overcharging incident near Nagoa Circle has once again raised questions about fair pricing, consumer rights and the accountability of businesses operating in Goa.

According to the Goemkarponn reporter, a cigarette packet carrying a printed MRP of ₹240 was allegedly sold for ₹250, with the shopkeeper demanding an additional ₹10. When the customer questioned the extra charge, the shopkeeper allegedly responded aggressively and used abusive language. While the allegations need to be verified by the authorities, the incident raises a larger concern about how customers are treated when they question prices.

The issue is not simply about ₹10. It is about a basic consumer right. If a product clearly carries an MRP of ₹240, why should a customer be asked to pay ₹250? On what grounds can a shopkeeper demand an amount exceeding the printed maximum retail price? And if customers are expected to accept whatever amount is demanded, what purpose does printing an MRP on product packaging serve?

The MRP is not decorative information meant to be displayed on a packet. Under the applicable Legal Metrology rules, a packaged commodity cannot ordinarily be sold above its declared MRP. Consumers are entitled to question excess charges and seek clarification. Shopkeepers, in turn, have a responsibility to comply with the law and maintain transparency in their transactions.

What is equally concerning is the alleged behaviour of the shopkeeper when questioned. Since when has asking for an explanation about a product's price become an offence? Should a customer have to think twice before questioning an additional charge for fear of being verbally abused? Is this the kind of commercial environment Goa wants to promote?

> ***Goa receives thousands of visitors every year, and its tourism economy depends heavily on the reputation it builds through hospitality and responsible business conduct. However, fair treatment must not be restricted to tourists. Local residents are equally entitled to transparent pricing and respectful behaviour.***
>
> ***Tourism cannot become an excuse for exploiting customers or taking advantage of visitors who may be unfamiliar with local markets. Equally, shopkeepers must understand that a customer's right to question a price does not depend on whether that person is a tourist or a local resident.***
>
> ***Consumers, too, must remain alert. Checking the printed MRP, asking for bills and reporting suspected violations through appropriate consumer grievance channels can help prevent unfair practices. Silence should not become the price customers pay to avoid unnecessary confrontation.***

A business relationship must be based on mutual respect. Customers have every right to ask questions, check prices and demand proper bills. Shopkeepers may explain their pricing and business practices, but aggression and abusive language cannot be justified when a customer raises a genuine concern.

The authorities concerned must take note of the allegation near Nagoa Circle and verify whether the establishment has been charging customers above the declared MRP. If a violation is established, appropriate action must follow. More importantly, should this incident not prompt inspections of other establishments in tourist areas and commercial markets? Are customers elsewhere also being charged amounts higher than the prices printed on packaged products? Is there sufficient monitoring to prevent such practices?

Goa receives thousands of visitors every year, and its tourism economy depends heavily on the reputation it builds through hospitality and responsible business conduct. However, fair treatment must not be restricted to tourists. Local residents are equally entitled to transparent pricing and respectful behaviour.

Tourism cannot become an excuse for exploiting customers or taking advantage of visitors who may be unfamiliar with local markets. Equally, shopkeepers must understand that a customer's right to question a price does not depend on whether that person is a tourist or a local resident.

Consumers, too, must remain alert. Checking the printed MRP, asking for bills and reporting suspected violations through appropriate consumer grievance channels can help prevent unfair practices. Silence should not become the price customers pay to avoid unnecessary confrontation.

The larger concern is whether consumer protection rules are being followed consistently or whether enforcement happens only when an incident attracts public attention. What action will the authorities take? Will there be proper verification and follow-up, or will this become another complaint that disappears after a few days?

An additional ₹10 may appear insignificant, but the principle involved is much bigger. If the MRP is meant to protect consumers, it must be respected in practice, not merely printed on packaging.

Goa must decide whether MRP is a rule that businesses are expected to follow or simply a number customers are expected to ignore. Fair pricing is not a favour. It is a responsibility and a consumer right.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

GOA'S 2027 ELECTION: PUBLIC DEMAND FOR CHANGE MUST BE MATCHED BY CREDIBLE LEADERSHIP

The latest survey ahead of the 2027 Goa Assembly elections presents an interesting political picture. While nearly two-thirds of respondents favour a change in government and 56.4 per cent express dissatisfaction with the ruling dispensation, the BJP-MGP alliance continues to remain the single most preferred political formation.

This contradiction highlights the Opposition's biggest challenge. Public dissatisfaction does not automatically translate into electoral support for an alternative. The Congress and other parties must demonstrate unity, leadership and a clear vision for Goa.

The survey also points to everyday concerns, including difficulties accessing government offices, rising prices and issues relating to water and identity. These are matters that directly affect citizens and should become priorities for every political party.

Equally concerning is the finding that 95 per cent of respondents expect their MLA to help them get work done in government offices. This reflects the importance of accessibility and accountability in public life. Elected representatives must do more than provide personal assistance; they must also raise systemic problems and demand solutions through the Assembly.

The BJP faces the challenge of anti-incumbency after three consecutive terms, while the Opposition faces the responsibility of proving that it can govern effectively.

Ultimately, Goa needs more than political slogans or alliances formed for electoral convenience. Voters deserve credible leadership, practical policies and accountability. The 2027 election should be about who can deliver better governance, not merely who can defeat whom.

- Dinesh Naik, Ponda, Goa

MANOJ PARAB'S RETURN TO RGP: POLITICAL UNITY MUST BE BUILT AROUND GOA'S INTERESTS

Manoj Parab's announcement of his return to the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) marks an important development in Goa's political landscape. His decision to rejoin the party and appeal to supporters to unite reflects his intention to continue the political journey he had begun with the organisation.

Political movements often face differences, difficult phases and uncertainty. However, what ultimately matters is whether leaders and their supporters remain focused on the issues affecting the people. Parab's return should therefore be seen not merely as an individual political development, but as an opportunity to renew discussions on Goa's future, identity, employment, land protection and the concerns of ordinary Goans.

The public gathering scheduled for November 22 at Alto Porvorim will provide an opportunity for supporters to hear directly from him about his plans and the road ahead. However, emotional appeals and expressions of loyalty must eventually translate into clear priorities, constructive political engagement and consistent action.

Goa needs political leadership that can raise public concerns responsibly and offer practical solutions. Protecting the interests of Goans requires more than slogans; it demands accountability, transparency and sustained engagement with communities across the state.

At the same time, political differences and criticism must be accepted as part of a democratic society. Leaders should respond to criticism through their work and public conduct rather than allowing personal disagreements to overshadow important issues.

Parab's return to RGP will now be judged by the direction he gives to the party and the issues he chooses to pursue. Supporters may welcome his return, but the larger responsibility is to ensure that the political movement remains centred on the aspirations and welfare of Goa and its people.

- Rohan Dessai, Mapusa, Goa

Printed and Published by Rupali Suraj Nandrekar for M/s Daily Scoops Media Pvt Ltd. Published from H.No 5/56, Donwado, Saligoa, Bardez, North Goa, Goa – 403511 and Printed from H.No 5/56, Donwado, Saligoa, Bardez, North Goa, Goa – 403511. Editor Suraj Arjun Nandrekar (responsible under the PRB Act)

DAY 03

SUN, 22 NOV 2026

International Film Festival of India | NFDC cinemas of india | सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING | ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY OF GOA (GOVERNMENT OF GOA UNDERTAKING)

Indian Panorama
Ruby- Cube (Feature)
Banaras (Feature)
Surjyamukhi (Feature)
Sing Geetham(Feature)
Urum(Feature)
Thaai Kizhavi(Feature)
Kathar Katha (Non Feature)
Naqsh-E-Daur (Non Feature)
Nirmanjali: The Chandigarh
Of Maciej Nowicki (Non Feature)
Becoming(Non Feature)
Red Carpet(Non Feature)

Cinemela 2026 at Kala Academy
Children Special Screening
08:30 AM - Bhago Bhoot
10:15 AM - Pinti Ka Sabun

Contemporary at Kala Academy
03:00 PM - Pyre

Nostalgia
06:00 PM - Fanaa

Panel Discussion
Ray Gunn

Goan Film
Umesh
Shakuntala

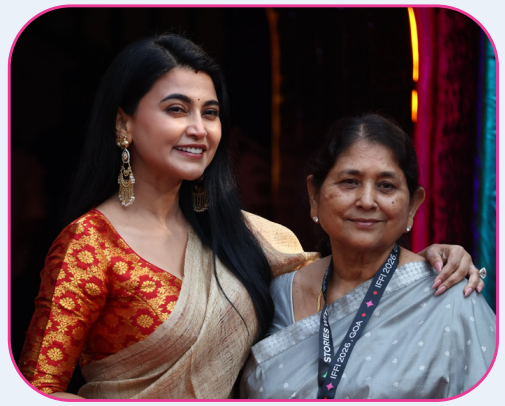
Open Air Screening

Miramar Beach
How to Train Your Dragon @ 7 Pm

Vagator Beach
Natsamrat @ 7 Pm

Ravindra Bhavan (Margao)
Mukkam Post Bombilwadi @ 7 pm






For more Information & Registration log on to **www.esg.co.in** and **www.iffigoa.org** | IFFI Helpline number **08326741717** (8.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.)

Beverage Partner: Campa Bison
Lounge Partner: Xpanse Coffee, tataki Immersive Asian Dining
Airline Partner: Qatar Airways, fly91
Airport Partner: GOX Manohar International Airport, Goa
Radio Partner: Big FM
F&B Curation Partner: Hospitality AQ
Screening Partner: PVR INOX
Hydration partner: Laviss
Content Partner: prime video, Netflix, Story TV
Wireless & Surveillance Partner: Salgaonkar Studios

Technical Partner: Sony, SMPTE, Qube, Qube Wire, pulz sound matters, Moviebuff Access, cinedubs
Licensing Partner: Novex, RMPL Feel the beat, IPRS, ppl

Associate Partner: SBI, Wellness Forever Chemists, TUCKIT, SAFA Film Academy, Arena, Dakshin Stories, Envision, AK Entertainment, New India Assurance, Pernod Ricard India
Our Supporters: P.W.D Public Works Department, GSIDC, Ravindra Bhavan, Imagine Panaji, Kala Academy Goa, GOI, Corporation of the City of Panaji

Note: Delegates are required to enter the theatre before show start time to avoid reduction of their daily tickets quota.

Mandrem Police Intervene in Khubani Resort Dispute; Chapter Case Sent to Dy Collector

Police prevent escalation after rival complaints of trespass and lease violations; both complaints under inquiry

Team Goemkarponn



MANDREM: Mandrem Police intervened in a property dispute involving Khubani Restaurant & Resort at Survey No. 223/3, Mandrem, on the evening of November 20, 2026, after receiving information about a fresh attempt to take possession of the premises. Police brought the concerned parties to the police station to prevent a possible law and order situation.

According to a press note issued by PRO, North District, a complaint was received at Mandrem Police Station on November 12 from Sharad Madan, who alleged that Farooq Shaikh, Felix Britto, Karan and certain bouncers had forcibly entered the property.

Madan claimed that he had leased the property from Felix Britto and Farooq through a sub-lease agreement dated December 29, 2023. He further alleged that attempts to forcibly enter the premises were made on November 9 and 10. Mandrem Police had initiated an inquiry into the complaint.



Cruz Silva Lays Foundation Stone for ₹6.64 Crore Road Works in Velim

Project to cover resurfacing of 15.51 km of internal roads in Sirlim and Dramapur; Church Road to get paver beautification

Team Goemkarponn

VELIM: Velim MLA Engr. Cruz Silva on Saturday laid the foundation stone for rural road improvement works worth ₹6.64 crore, covering 15.51 km of internal roads in Sirlim and Dramapur.

The project, being undertaken by the Public Works Department (PWD), has a tender value of ₹6,64,87,761.54 and involves the resurfacing of remaining internal rural roads in the two areas.

Apart from road resurfacing, the project also includes beautification of Church Road through the laying of pavers, aimed at improving the appearance and accessibility of the stretch.

The foundation stone-laying ceremony was attended by PWD engineers, the respective Sarpanchas and Panchayat members, along with local residents.

Speaking on the occasion, Silva said that improving internal roads and strengthening basic infrastructure in every village remained a priority.

He said residents deserved safe, smooth and well-maintained roads and assured that he would continue to coordinate with the concerned departments to ensure that development works reached every part of the constituency.



Two Arrested in Quepem NDPS Case; 354 Grams of Ganja Seized

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: Quepem Police have arrested two persons in connection with an NDPS case involving the alleged possession and attempted delivery of suspected Ganja at Gudo, Avedem, Quepem. Police seized 354 grams of suspected Ganja, valued at approximately ₹35,400, along with two vehicles, cash and two mobile phones. The total value of the seized property is estimated at ₹1,76,900. Quepem Police Station registered Crime No. 56/2026 on November 21, 2026, under Section 20(b)(ii)(A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, following reliable information about the illegal possession and attempted delivery of suspected Ganja. During the raid, police intercepted the first accused, Rainbert s/o Thomas Dias, 24, a resident of Amona, Quepem. The suspected Ganja, cash, two mobile phones and a scooter were seized, and the accused was arrested.

Girl Reported Kidnapped from Lawful Guardianship in Margao

Father lodges complaint at Margao Town Police Station; PSI Aanushka Parab leads further investigation

Team Goemkarponn



MARGAO: Margao Town Police have registered an offence following a complaint lodged by the father of a girl from Navelim, alleging that his daughter was kidnapped by an unknown person from his lawful guardianship.

According to police, the alleged incident took place on November 17, 2026, at around 8.30 am, within the jurisdiction of Margao Town Police Station.

Based on the father's complaint, police registered an offence against an unknown accused person in connection with the alleged kidnapping.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Aanushka Parab of Margao Town Police Station. The identity of the girl has been withheld to protect her privacy.

Quepem Police Arrest Man with 354 Grams of Suspected Ganja; Contraband and Property Worth ₹1.76 Lakh Seized

Accused Rainbert Dias caught near Santadurga Chamundeshwari Temple at Gudo-Avedem; cash, two mobile phones and scooter seized

Team Goemkarponn



QUEPEM: Quepem Police have arrested a 24-year-old man for allegedly possessing 354 grams of suspected Ganja at Gudo-Avedem in Quepem. The police have seized the suspected narcotic substance, cash, two mobile phones and a scooter, with the total value of the seized property estimated at approximately ₹1,76,900.

According to police, Quepem Police Station registered an offence on the state complaint of PSI Siddesh Naik in connection with the incident, which occurred between 10.39 pm on November 20 and 12.35 am on November 21, 2026, behind Santadurga Chamundeshwari Temple at Gudo-Avedem, Quepem.

The accused, identified as Rainbert Dias, a resident of Cotta, Amona, Quepem, was allegedly found in illegal possession of 354 grams of a greenish leafy substance with flowering and fruiting tops, suspected to be Ganja, valued at approximately ₹35,400.

During the operation, police also seized cash amounting to ₹11,500, two mobile phones and one Jupiter scooter. The entire property was attached under a duly conducted panchanama.

The accused was subsequently arrested in connection with the case.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Siddesh Naik of Quepem Police Station.

Prasar Bharati Launches 'Page Se Pitch Tak' Script Pitching Lab at IFFI 57 in Goa

■ Ten emerging writers pitch original scripts in 10 Indian languages; winners to be announced on November 24

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Prasar Bharati on Saturday inaugurated its first-ever Script Pitching Lab, 'Page Se Pitch Tak', at Kala Academy, Panaji, as part of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Conceived by Prasar Bharati Chairman Padma Shri Prasoon Joshi, the initiative aims to provide a national platform for emerging writers from across India to showcase their original scripts and connect with professionals from the film industry.

The annual initiative will feature scripts in 10 Indian languages across three categories — feature films, documentaries and short films.

The programme is designed to nurture fresh storytelling talent and create opportunities for original ideas to be developed into screen productions.

Addressing the inaugural event, Prasoon Joshi emphasised the importance of authentic storytelling rooted in personal experiences and cultural perspectives. He said Prasar Bharati was committed to nurturing distinctive voices and providing a platform for stories emerging from different parts of the country.

He also highlighted that every region and folk tradition in India carries unique narratives that can be meaningfully explored through an understanding of its native culture. Doordarshan Director General Rina Sonowal Kouli delivered the welcome address and highlighted the initiative's role in showcasing India's linguistic and creative diversity.



Indian Panorama Jury Selects 20 Films from 358 Entries at IFFI 57

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Indian Panorama Non-Feature Film Jury at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has selected 20 films from a total of 358 entries, highlighting the diversity of Indian storytelling and the country's rich cultural landscape. Sharing insights into the selection process at a press conference in Goa on November 21, Jury Chairperson Himansu Sekhar Khatua said the jury's primary endeavour was to represent India in its truest sense through cinema. Referring to this year's IFFI theme, 'Stories Without Borders', Khatua said the selected films sought to capture India's diverse identities, lived experiences and cultural richness while reflecting the universal spirit of storytelling. He explained that the jury undertook a rigorous evaluation process across multiple rounds, looking beyond conventional cinematic frameworks and mainstream sensibilities to identify distinctive perspectives and compelling narratives from different parts of the country.

100 Young Filmmakers Inaugurate Sixth Edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow at IFFI 57

■ Five teams to produce short films in 48 hours; initiative aims to connect emerging talent with the media and entertainment industry

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The sixth edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT), an initiative of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, was inaugurated at Kala Academy, Goa, on Saturday as part of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

The initiative brings together 100 young creative talents from across the country, providing them with a platform to collaborate, showcase their skills and gain exposure to the film and entertainment industry.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Chanchal Kumar urged young filmmakers to draw inspiration from their roots, culture, language and personal experiences while creating stories with universal appeal.



Documentary Filmmaking Is an Intimate Process, Says French Filmmaker Julie Bertuccelli at IFFI 57

■ Filmmaker highlights trust, ethics and social responsibility in documentary cinema; raises concerns over AI's impact on creativity and copyright

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Documentary filmmaking is not merely about capturing reality but also about building trust, understanding people's lived experiences and ensuring ethical representation, acclaimed French filmmaker and screenwriter Julie Bertuccelli said at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. Speaking during an in-conversation session titled 'From Witness to Change: The Social Responsibility of Documentary Cinema' at Kala Academy, Panaji, on November 21, Bertuccelli discussed the ethical challenges and social responsibilities associated with documentary filmmaking. She was in conversation with National Award-winning Indian filmmaker Haobam Paban Kumar. Describing documentary filmmaking as an intimate process, Bertuccelli said films can have a profound impact on the lives of their subjects and, in certain circumstances, may even put them at risk. She emphasised the importance of building trust with communities, spending time with people and allowing them to become comfortable with the presence of cameras. Observing individuals in their everyday environments, she said, helps filmmakers understand how people perceive themselves and how they wish to be represented in society.

Spanish Film 'Looking for Michael' Makes World Premiere at IFFI 57 in Goa

■ Director Juana Macías says humour is an intelligent way to approach life; film explores courage, friendship and resilience through the journey of a woman living with Parkinson's disease

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Spanish comedy-drama *Looking for Michael* (Persiguiendo a Michael), directed by Juana Macías, made its world premiere at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji on Saturday. The 2026 film tells a moving story of courage, friendship and resilience, exploring how humour and music can help people confront life's challenges. The film follows Sonia, a young woman diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, who decides to face her circumstances with courage and a renewed outlook on life.

Supported by members of her music therapy group, who are also living with the condition, she embarks on a journey to meet renowned actor Michael J. Fox, who has openly spoken about his experience of living with Parkinson's disease.

Inspired by the real-life journey and dream of Yess Andréz, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in her mid-thirties, the film draws on her personal experiences to bring authenticity and emotional depth to the narrative.

Speaking at the film's premiere, director Juana Macías said, "Humour is an intelligent way to approach life."

She observed that everyone faces difficulties at some point, whether through illness, personal loss or unexpected circumstances, and that humour can offer a meaningful way to navigate such challenges.

Why Even a Pre-Feasibility Survey Has Triggered Protests Against Arunachal's Siang Mega Dam

■ Proposed 11,200 MW project raises fears of displacement, submergence and environmental damage, while the Centre calls it a strategic water-security initiative amid China's upstream dam construction

Team Goemkarponn



GUWAHATI: A proposed mega dam in Arunachal Pradesh has triggered strong protests among sections of the indigenous Adi community, even before construction has been approved. The controversy centres on the 11,200-megawatt Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP), which the government considers strategically important for India's water security and flood management.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Arunachal Pradesh for a two-day review visit amid growing opposition to the project. He acknowledged the concerns of residents and assured them that the government was willing to engage in dialogue, while maintaining that the project was important for national interests and the development of the state.

The project, being undertaken by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), covers parts of Siang, Upper Siang and East Siang districts. Once developed, it is expected to become India's largest hydropower and water-storage facility.

Unlike conventional run-of-the-river projects, SUMP is being planned primarily as a strategic reservoir capable of storing water and moderating floods. The project received National Project status from the Union Cabinet in February 2008.

One of the major reasons behind the renewed push for the project is China's construction of a 60,000 MW hydropower facility in Tibet, near the Indian border. The Yarlung Tsangpo river flows from Tibet into Arunachal Pradesh as the Siang before entering Assam as the Brahmaputra.

The Arunachal Pradesh government has expressed concerns about possible changes in water flows due to upstream developments. It believes a storage reservoir could help India prepare for sudden increases in river discharge and water shortages during dry months.

However, the project remains at the pre-feasibility report stage. Current activities are limited to technical, environmental and geological investigations to determine whether such a large reservoir is viable in the earthquake-prone region.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu has clarified that construction has not been approved and that any future decision would involve mandatory public hearings and legal procedures concerning compensation and rehabilitation.

Why Are Local Communities Protesting?

Sections of the Adi community fear that the proposed reservoir could submerge ancestral villages, agricultural land, paddy fields and orange orchards. Organisations including the Siang Indigenous Farmers' Forum and Adi Baane Kebang United have opposed even the preliminary surveys.

Tensions increased following the preventive detention of four activists in October under the Arunachal Pradesh Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 2014. A subsequent 12-hour shutdown witnessed violence, including the burning of an NHPC office and police vehicles in Pasighat. Central security personnel were deployed across the affected districts.

Protest leaders have maintained that dialogue cannot begin until security forces are withdrawn and cases registered against protesters are addressed.

Meanwhile, former Union minister and Pasighat West MLA Ninong Ering has argued that completing the technical study is necessary to understand the project's actual impact, including the areas that could face submergence.

The central disagreement remains whether the proposed reservoir can protect India's water interests without permanently affecting the homes, livelihoods, environment and cultural heritage of communities living along the Siang Valley.

"A Bus Check Exposed A Massive Drug Network": NCB Busts Delhi-Kashmir Racket, Seizes Over 5 Lakh Medicines

■ Four arrested after a Srinagar-bound bus interception leads investigators to a secret pharmaceutical warehouse in Delhi

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted an alleged interstate pharmaceutical drug trafficking network operating between Delhi and Kashmir, arresting four people and seizing more than five lakh tablets, capsules and bottles of medicines. The investigation began with the interception of a Srinagar-bound passenger bus in Jammu and Kashmir before leading authorities to a suspected secret warehouse in Shahdara, northeast Delhi.

The joint operation was carried out by the NCB's Jammu and Delhi Zonal Units. Investigators suspect that the network was diverting pharmaceutical medicines from authorised supply chains and distributing them through illegal channels.

The case came to light on November 16, when the NCB intercepted a passenger bus near Mada Toll Plaza at Chenani in Udhampur district. During the search, officials recovered approximately seven kilograms of codeine-based cough syrup from a passenger travelling towards Srinagar. The passenger was reportedly a resident of Bhaderwah in Doda district.

Following the seizure, a case was registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Investigators subsequently traced the suspected recipient of the consignment to Anantnag district in Kashmir and arrested him. The investigation then shifted towards Delhi, where searches on November 18 resulted in the recovery of another 356 bottles of codeine-based cough syrup. Further leads directed the teams towards rented premises in Shahdara, which was allegedly being used as a concealed storage facility.

Searches conducted on November 18 and 19 uncovered more than five lakh pharmaceutical units containing tramadol hydrochloride, alprazolam, nitrazepam and codeine.

These substances have legitimate medical applications but can cause serious health complications when misused or consumed without medical supervision.



...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Viresh Borkar accuses Manoj of working for builders' lobby to undermine RGP

at the behest of the builders' lobby with the intention of weakening and destroying the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP). In a significant development, Borkar released documents and videos purportedly supporting his allegations just hours before Manoj was scheduled to rejoin the RGP.

The timing of the revelations has added to the political significance of the controversy, raising questions over Manoj's alleged business links and his role within the party.

BJP Faces Growing Dissent in Sanvordem as Six Leaders Challenge Ganesh Gaonkar

constituency. Adding another dimension to the developing political contest, young BJP leader Sanket Arsekar has also made his intentions clear, maintaining that he will not withdraw from the race for the party nomination.

China Backed Pakistan During Operation Sindoor to Contain India's Rise, US Panel Warns

■ Congressional report flags Beijing's growing military support to Islamabad, economic pressure on New Delhi and expanding influence across South Asia

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: China's growing military partnership with Pakistan is part of a broader strategy to restrict India's rise as a regional power, according to a new report by a US Congressional panel. The report has warned that Beijing is combining military cooperation, economic pressure and strategic influence to challenge India's position in Asia. The assessment was presented in the 2026 Annual Report to Congress by the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, titled China's Other Front: India and the Future of US Strategy in the Indo-Pacific. The report identified India as one of the few countries outside the US alliance system with the economic and military potential to compete with China. It highlighted India's importance in maintaining a favourable balance of power in Asia and providing an alternative to China's manufacturing and supply chains. However, the panel cautioned that Beijing is actively attempting to limit India's growth through several measures, particularly by restricting access to critical industrial materials, advanced technologies and technical expertise. The report also raised concerns over China's expanding defence relationship with Pakistan, particularly during the military confrontation between India and Pakistan in May 2025 following Operation Sindoor. It observed that China's longstanding support for Islamabad has increased India's concerns about facing a coordinated two front security challenge.



"Bitten By Mad Dogs": Revanth Reddy's Remark Sparks Fresh Trouble Within Telangana Congress

■ Internal power struggles, corruption allegations and disputes over development funds expose growing divisions within the ruling party ahead of crucial civic elections

Team Goemkarponn

HYDERABAD: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is facing growing internal opposition within the Congress, with disagreements involving party MLAs, ministers and senior leaders increasingly becoming public. A controversial remark describing dissenting party members as having been "bitten by mad dogs" has further intensified the political confrontation.



"Times Are Changing": PM Modi Says Skilled Workers Will Be Valued More Than Degree Holders

Team Goemkarponn

LUCKNOW: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that artificial intelligence cannot take away the livelihood of people with practical skills, stressing that skilled workers will receive greater recognition and demand in the changing employment landscape.

Addressing the fifth National Skill Convocation Ceremony at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow, Modi said India was moving towards becoming the world's skill capital. He emphasised that practical knowledge, technical expertise and traditional craftsmanship must receive the same respect as academic qualifications. Recalling India's history, the Prime Minister said traditional artisans and craftsmen faced systematic attempts to weaken their skills during foreign rule.

"Traditions Won't Be Compromised": Amit Shah Assures Arunachal Residents Amid Siang Mega Dam Protests

■ Home Minister promises dialogue and a comprehensive compensation package as indigenous organisations demand withdrawal of security forces and reconsideration of the 11,200 MW project

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured residents of Arunachal Pradesh that their indigenous heritage, customs and traditions will not be compromised over the proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP). His assurance came amid continuing protests against the proposed 11,200 MW mega dam on the Siang River.

During his two-day visit to the state, Shah acknowledged the concerns of residents and promised that the government would discuss every aspect of the project. He described SUMP as a strategically important national project that could contribute to Arunachal Pradesh's development.

He also promised that the government would work towards providing the best compensation package in the country to affected communities. Shah highlighted Arunachal Pradesh's strategic importance, noting that the state shares its international borders with China, Bhutan and Myanmar. He said maintaining peace and security in the region was essential for India's internal security.



Quepem, Savoi Verem, Navelim and Siolim Crowned District Champions at GFDC Grassroots Tournament 2026

North and South Goa finals deliver exciting contests as young footballers battle for district honours

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The fifth day of the GFDC Inter-Centre Grassroots Tournament 2026 concluded with exciting North and South Goa district finals across the U-10 Boys, U-13 Boys and U-13 Girls categories. Young footballers from across the state showcased their talent, teamwork and determination while competing for district titles.

In the South Goa U-13 Girls final, GFDC Quepem defeated GFDC Navelim 2-1 to claim the championship. Quepem had earlier reached the final after overcoming GFDC Collem 2-0 in a penalty shootout following a 1-1 draw. Navelim secured their place with a convincing 4-1 semifinal victory over GFDC Seraulim. The North Goa U-13 Girls title went to GFDC Dona Paula, who defeated GFDC Poira 3-2 in a penalty shootout after the match ended 1-1. Dona Paula had beaten GFDC Sanguelim 2-1 in the semifinal, while Poira registered a 2-0 win over GFDC Aldona.



Rishabh Pant Creates History, Becomes First Asian Wicketkeeper to Score Test Centuries Across All SENA Nations

India's star batter joins Adam Gilchrist and Jonny Bairstow in an exclusive list after smashing his ninth Test century against New Zealand

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Rishabh Pant produced a sensational batting performance against New Zealand, registering his ninth Test century and creating a unique record in the opening Test at the Basin Reserve. Pant's explosive 128 off 153 deliveries helped India reach 629 for six at lunch on the fourth day, extending their first innings lead to 261 runs. His innings included 10 boundaries and six sixes as India added 143 runs during the morning session. With this century, Pant became the sixth Indian batter to score Test hundreds in all four SENA countries (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia). He joined Sachin Tendulkar, Mohammed Azharuddin, Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul in the exclusive group. More significantly, Pant became the first Asian wicketkeeper to achieve the milestone. At the global level, he became only the third wicketkeeper in Test cricket history to score centuries in all four SENA nations, joining Australia's Adam Gilchrist and England's Jonny Bairstow. Pant initially adopted a cautious approach but shifted gears after launching Kyle Jamieson over long-on for a massive six.

Baroda Crush Goa by 95 Runs as Goa End U-23 Women's Trophy Campaign with Fourth Defeat

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa suffered a heavy 95-run defeat against Baroda in the Women's Under-23 Trophy Elite Cricket tournament at the Chaudhary Bansi Lal Cricket Stadium in Lahli, bringing their campaign to a disappointing end with just one victory from five matches.

Batting first, Baroda posted a competitive total of 149 for six in their allotted 20 overs. Mesvi Pokar led the batting effort with 47 runs, while Nishat Changiwala contributed 34 and Naysha Tivari added 22. Sneha Baria remained unbeaten on 17 to help Baroda reach a challenging total.

For Goa, captain Tanaya Naik and Aradhana Saroj delivered with the ball, claiming two wickets each. Harshita Yadav and Pooja Yadav picked up one wicket apiece.

However, Goa's batting struggled badly during the chase as the team was bowled out for just 54 in 19.5 overs. The batting lineup failed to build partnerships or offer meaningful resistance against Baroda's bowling attack.

Captain Tanaya Naik was the only Goa batter to reach double figures, scoring 13 runs.

MCC Priority Titans Survive Last-Wicket Scare, Royals Seal Seven-Run Victory in MCL-12

Nikhil Bhoomkar and Sumiran Amonkar shine as both teams register impressive wins at Margao

Team Goemkarponn



MARGAO: The Members Cricket League (MCL-12), organised by Margao Cricket Club, witnessed two exciting encounters on Saturday, with MCC Priority Titans securing a thrilling one-wicket victory over MCC Knights, while MCC Royals defeated MCC Warriors by seven runs at the MCC ground in Margao.

In the opening encounter, MCC Knights were bowled out for 128 in 18.2 overs. Kapil Borker top-scored with 35 runs, while Sairaj Dhond contributed 26 and captain Vikrant Prabhu added 16. For the Titans, captain Lakshay Garg delivered an impressive performance with the ball, claiming three wickets for 20 runs. Chasing 129, MCC Priority Titans made a flying start through Sahish Mahambrey, who smashed 35 off just 13 deliveries, including five fours and two sixes. Sanat Prabhudessai also scored 35, while Smit Dalvi added 21.

"Grassroots Cricket Is Key to Developing Local Talent": Goa's 6th Panchayat-Level Tournament Begins at Madkai

GCA officials inaugurate the tournament, highlighting the importance of village-level cricket in strengthening the sport across Goa

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Goa's 6th Panchayat-Level Cricket Tournament was officially inaugurated at the Madkai Panchayat Ground, marking another initiative to promote cricket and nurture emerging talent across the state.

The opening ceremony was attended by Goa Cricket Association (GCA) Secretary Tulsidas Shetye and Vice President Paresh Fadte. Umakant Naik, President of Madkai Yuvak Sangh, along with members of the organising club, was also present for the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, GCA Secretary Tulsidas Shetye highlighted the importance of organising cricket tournaments at the grassroots level. He emphasised that such competitions provide local players with opportunities to showcase their abilities, gain valuable match experience and improve their skills. Shetye also reiterated the Goa Cricket Association's commitment to expanding the sport across the state and ensuring that aspiring cricketers from villages and smaller communities receive opportunities to participate in competitive cricket. The sixth edition of the tournament continues an initiative aimed at strengthening cricket at the panchayat and village levels. By bringing local teams together, the competition encourages greater participation and provides emerging players with a platform to demonstrate their potential.