Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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ALL ISSUES SORTED? BJP MAKES LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO RESOLVE SAWANT-RANE DIFFERENCES

■ Presence of BJP national organisational leader Shivprakash at November 24 meeting raises questions over whether the party is attempting to prevent internal tensions from affecting its preparations for the 2027 Assembly elections; history of public disagreements between the Chief Minister and Health Minister continues to cast a shadow over claims of unity

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MAIN POINTS

- Vishwajit Rane, CM Pramod Sawant meet on Nov 24 at CM's official residence
- BJP National Joint General Secretary (Organisation) Shivprakash also present
- Discussion on Goa's priorities, state issues and way forward
- Rane calls the meeting "productive and interactive"
- No public reference to resolving internal differences

PANAJI: Is the long-running political unease between Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant and Health Minister Vishwajit Rane finally behind the BJP, or has the party leadership once again stepped in to contain differences between two of its most influential leaders in Goa?

A meeting between Sawant and Rane at the Chief Minister's official residence on November 24, in the presence of BJP National Joint General Secretary (Organisation) Shivprakash, has brought the question of internal unity back into focus.

Rane subsequently described the meeting as "productive and interactive", stating that discussions centred on important matters concerning Goa, its priorities and the way forward for the state.

Significantly, his public statement made no reference to internal differences, reconciliation or any specific political understanding between the two leaders.

However, the presence of Shivprakash, a senior BJP organisational functionary, alongside the Chief Minister and Health Minister has inevitably drawn attention. The meeting comes against the backdrop of a history of political friction between Sawant and Rane, which

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Congress gets early December deadline to seal Goa alliance

Venugopal asks state leaders to take final call on GFP, RGP tie-up and seat-sharing; prolonged delay raises questions over party's election preparedness



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NEW DELHI: The Congress high command has given its Goa leadership an early December deadline to finalise its alliance strategy for the 2027 Assembly elections, including a decision on tie-ups with the Goa Forward Party (GFP) and Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), as well as seat-sharing arrangements. The directive came during a high-level meeting between AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal and senior Goa Congress leaders at Indira Bhavan in New Delhi on Tuesday. The leadership was asked to stop dragging its feet and arrive at a final decision on the proposed alliances within the stipulated timeframe. The deadline comes amid growing questions over the Congress's prolonged indecision on electoral alliances, even as the 2027 Assembly elections draw closer. Despite repeated discussions and public indications of possible understandings with regional parties, the Congress has yet to provide clarity on the final alliance structure or the constituencies it is willing to concede.



EXCISE DEPT SEIZES 500 BOXES OF GOA WHISKY WORTH ₹32.40 LAKH

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PATRADEVI: In a major crackdown on illegal transportation of liquor, Goa Excise officials seized 500 boxes of Goa Whisky worth approximately ₹32.40 lakh at the Patradevi Excise Check Post during an operation conducted around 12.30 am on November 25. The liquor consignment was allegedly concealed inside a truck and hidden beneath bags of sawdust in an attempt to evade detection by the authorities. Acting during the operation, Excise officials intercepted the truck and discovered the concealed liquor consignment. The entire stock of 500 boxes, along with the truck allegedly used for transporting the liquor, was subsequently seized. The truck is estimated to be worth approximately ₹25 lakh, taking the total value of the seized liquor and vehicle to ₹57.40 lakh. The seizure is being viewed as a significant enforcement action by the Excise Department against illegal transportation of liquor.

TWO 14-YEAR-OLD GIRLS KILLED IN TRAGIC ACCIDENT AT SACORDA

■ SCOOTER CRASHES INTO ELECTRICITY POLE AT SACORDA

■ Both classmates succumb to injuries after accident at Udalshe-Sacorda on Tuesday evening

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SACORDA: Two 14-year-old schoolgirls lost their lives in a tragic accident at Udalshe-Sacorda on Tuesday evening, November 24, after the scooter they were travelling on reportedly crashed into an electricity pole around 7 PM.

One of the victims, Nidhi Patil, died on the spot due to the impact of the collision.

The second girl, Raghvi Gaonkar, sustained critical injuries in the accident and was rushed to Goa Medical College (GMC) for treatment.

However, despite medical efforts, she later succumbed to her injuries.

Both girls were classmates, and their tragic deaths have left their families, friends and the local community devastated.

Further details regarding the circumstances leading to the accident are awaited.

Bisleri says Goa plant operating normally, FSSAI action limited to one batch

■ Company says disputed September 2025 batch is no longer in market; maintains all 143 plants remain operational

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PANAJI: Bisleri International has clarified that its Goa manufacturing facility continues to operate normally and that the recent regulatory action by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is restricted to a single batch of packaged drinking water manufactured in September 2025.

In a statement issued on November 24, the company said the FSSAI's prohibition on the sale of the product applied exclusively to Batch GO 270, manufactured at its Goa facility on September 27, 2025. It maintained that no stock from the disputed batch was currently available in the market.



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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)

DAY 06
MON, 24 NOV 2026

Open Air Screening

Miramar Beach
Mog Asum @ 7 Pm

Vagator Beach
Back to the Future @ 7 Pm

Ravindra Bhavan (Margao)
Tanvi, The Great @ 7 pm

OPEN FOR ALL

OPEN FOR ALL

PICTURE TIME

Cinemela 2026 at Kala Academy

Children Special Screening
08:30 AM - Achappa's Album
10:15 AM - Pappu Ki Pugandi

Contemporary at Kala Academy
03:00 PM - Hanuman Ansh

Nostalgia
06:00 PM - Jab Tak Hai Jaan

MasterClass at Kala Academy
Workplace Safety & POSH Implementation in the Indian Film Industry | 4:30 PM

Join us

for the IFFI Parade! Celebrate the joy of cinema with us.
25 November 2026 | 5:00 PM onwards
ESG Premises to Kala Academy, Panaji

OPEN FOR ALL

IFFI Parade

Indian Panorama
Mana Shankara Vara
Prasad Garu (Pandaga Ki Vastunnaru) (Feature)
Krishnavataram (Feature)
Deool Band 2 (Feature)
Save the God (NonFeature)
Amit Atal (NonFeature)
The Hug of Emptiness(NonFeature)
The Unseen Holy River – Saraswati(NonFeature)






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.)

www.iffigoa.org @iffigoa @iffigoa @iffigoa www.esg.co.in @esg_goa @esggoa @esg_goa

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: Lavissa
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, PPL
Our Supporters: P.W.D, GSIDC, Ravindra Bhavan, Imagine Panaji, Kala Academy Goa, GOA

Associate Partner: SBI, Wellness Forever Chemists, TUCKIT, SAFA, ARENA, Dakshin Stories, Envision, AK Entertainment, New India Assurance, Pernod Ricard India, Tarini, Bank of Maharashtra

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

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PANAJI | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2026

South Goa Police Register Six NDPS Cases, Arrest Nine Accused In 11 Days

Narcotic substances worth Rs. 2.60 lakh seized across six police station jurisdictions between November 13 and 23

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MARGAO: South Goa District Police registered six cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and arrested nine accused persons during an 11-day period from November 13 to 23, 2026. Police seized suspected narcotic substances, including Ganja, Hydroponic Ganja, Charas, Hashish Oil and MDMA, with an estimated total value of Rs. 2,60,010. The cases were registered across Maina Curtorim, Colva, Fatorda, Quepem and Mormugao police station jurisdictions.

In the Maina Curtorim case, police arrested Jayesh Pagi and seized 199 grams of suspected Charas valued at approximately Rs. 1 lakh. A Maruti Suzuki Fronx car, estimated to be worth Rs. 8 lakh, was also seized. Colva Police registered two separate NDPS cases. In the first case, Lovston Lucas Dourado and Sufiyan Byagdi were arrested, with police seizing 72 grams of suspected narcotic substances, including Hydroponic Ganja and Ganja, valued at Rs. 81,000.



Canacona man arrested with 199 grams of charas worth Rs 1 lakh in Raia

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RAIA: Maina Curtorim police arrested a man from Canacona after allegedly catching him red-handed with 199 grams of charas, valued at approximately Rs 1 lakh, near Raia Panchayat Ground on November 23.

The accused, identified as Jayesh Pagi, was found in possession of the suspected narcotic substance during a police operation conducted between 5.55 pm and 8.45 pm at an open place near the Panchayat Ground.

Police seized 199 grams of charas along with other articles and a four-wheeler car valued at approximately Rs 8 lakh under a panchanama.

Following the seizure, Pagi was arrested in connection with the case.

Maina Curtorim Police registered an FIR under Section 20(b)(ii)(B) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, vide Crime No. 100/2026. The case was registered on the complaint of PSI Narayan Pinge of Maina Curtorim Police Station. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Sherwin Dacosta.

Nine booked over alleged forged sale deed of 10,516 sq m Assagao land

Complaint alleges criminal conspiracy, fabrication of property documents and fraudulent transfer of land belonging to legal heirs

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MAPUSA: Nine persons, including directors of private companies and infrastructure firms, have been named in a police complaint over an alleged conspiracy to forge property documents and fraudulently transfer a 10,516-square-metre plot of land at Assagao in Bardez.

The complaint was lodged by Maria Zoraida Sarojini da Piedade Vas on November 23, 2026, alleging that the accused conspired to unlawfully carry out transactions involving the property bearing Survey No. 238/2 at Assagao, allegedly belonging to the legal heirs of the property.

According to the complaint, the accused allegedly prepared forged and fabricated documents relating to the land and subsequently used them as genuine before the concerned authorities. They are also accused of making false statements and declarations and executing a fraudulent sale deed to unlawfully transfer rights and interests in the property.



Cuncolim Police Crack Robbery Case in Four Days; Woman Arrested, Stolen Gold and Weapon Recovered

Police recover gold ornaments, Rs 8,800 cash and knife allegedly used in the crime

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CUNCOLIM: Cuncolim Police have successfully detected a robbery case within p Buinsa, Cuncolim.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred at around 7 pm on November 19, when an unidentified woman allegedly entered the complainant's residence, threatened and assaulted her at knifepoint, and robbed her of a gold chain, a pair of gold earrings and gold bangles collectively valued at approximately Rs 1 lakh. The accused allegedly pushed the complainant to the floor before fleeing with the ornaments.

A surveillance team was constituted under the supervision of PI Diogo Gracias of Cuncolim Police Station. During the investigation, police questioned neighbours and gathered information about a suspected woman who had visited the Buinsa area on the day of the incident. Technical surveillance subsequently confirmed her presence in the area.

The suspect was identified as Perpetua, wife of John Pereira, originally from Olizaino, Velim, and presently residing at Benkyawaddo, Cuncolim. During questioning, she allegedly confessed to committing the crime.

62-year-old pedestrian killed after vehicle reverses into him at Bhuipal junction

Driver allegedly fled after knocking down pedestrian at ACGL bus body junction in Honda, Sattari, without taking him for medical treatment or informing police

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HONDA: A 62-year-old pedestrian died after being knocked down by a reversing vehicle near the ACGL bus body junction at Bhuipal, Honda, Sattari, on November 24.

According to a complaint lodged by Head Constable Sham Shivaji Polekar, the accident occurred at around 11.45 am when an unidentified driver of a vehicle bearing registration number UP-32-ATC-2006 allegedly reversed in a rash and negligent manner without taking proper care and caution.

The vehicle reportedly rammed into pedestrian Devanand Surendra Savalkar (62), a resident of Valpoi, who was standing behind the vehicle. He sustained injuries and was subsequently shifted to the Community Health Centre (CHC), Sanquelim, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Police further stated that the driver allegedly failed to arrange medical assistance for the injured pedestrian or report the accident to the police and fled from the spot.

Valpoi Police registered a case in connection with the incident. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Sahil Naik of Valpoi Police Station.

Avishesh Jha wins top honours at Prasar Bharati's first script pitching lab at IFFI

■ 'Mirchi Cake' bags first prize and Rs 5 lakh; nearly 1,000 scripts received for 'Page Se Pitch Tak' initiative

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PANAJI: Emerging writer Avishesh Jha won the first prize at Prasar Bharati's maiden script pitching initiative, 'Page Se Pitch Tak', organised as part of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

Jha secured the top position for his script 'Mirchi Cake' and received a cash award of Rs 5 lakh. Satya Vyas won the second prize of Rs 3 lakh for his script 'संहार', while Jitesh Thakur secured third place with 'Sharad Poornima', receiving Rs 2 lakh.

The winners were announced on November 24 at Kala Academy, Panaji. The awards were presented by Prithul Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Dhiraj Singh, Managing Director of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). The initiative, conceived by Prasar Bharati Chairman Prasoon Joshi, aims to provide a national platform for emerging writers to showcase original stories in 10 Indian languages across feature films, documentaries and short films. The competition received nearly 1,000 script submissions within just 10 days of its announcement, highlighting the growing interest among young writers in original storytelling.



Book revisits filmmaker Awtar Kaul's life and unfinished cinematic journey

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PANAJI: The life and cinematic legacy of filmmaker Awtar Kaul, whose creative journey ended prematurely after making just one feature film, *27 Down* (1974), were revisited through a book released at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

Titled *Awtar Kaul: The (In)Complete Story*, the book has been authored by Vinod Kaul and published by the Publications Division. It brings together letters, photographs, personal memories and conversations documenting the filmmaker's life and contribution to Indian cinema.

The book was released on November 21 during IFFI. Speaking at an interaction on November 23, author Vinod Kaul explained that the project began as a personal effort to learn more about his uncle, who passed away when he was in Class Two.

Actor Saurabh Sachdeva urges aspiring actors to overcome fear and embrace risks

■ At IFFI masterclass in Goa, acting coach stresses discipline, handling rejection and aligning everyday actions with career ambitions

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PANAJI: Actor and acting coach Saurabh Sachdeva urged aspiring actors to overcome their fears, take social risks and back their ambitions with consistent effort during an interactive masterclass at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. Titled 'What Stops You from Being an Actor', the session was held at Kala Academy on November 24 and witnessed the participation of several young acting enthusiasts. Sachdeva encouraged participants to look beyond their desire to become actors and identify the psychological, practical and personal barriers holding them back.



Women filmmakers at IFFI share stories of identity, heritage and creative freedom

■ Kyrgyz, Romanian-Roma and Mexican-American filmmakers discuss breaking stereotypes, gender bias and challenges faced by independent women directors at 57th IFFI

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PANAJI: Women filmmakers from different cultural backgrounds shared their experiences of challenging stereotypes, reclaiming cultural identities and pushing creative boundaries during a panel discussion at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

Titled 'Her Lens, Her Legacy, Her Liberty: Women Shaping World Cinema', the discussion brought together Kyrgyz writer-director Narghiza Dotieva, Romanian-Roma actress and filmmaker Alina Șerban, and Mexican-American writer-director Suzanne Andrews Correa. Indian filmmaker Abhishek Jain moderated the session.

The filmmakers spoke about how their cultural roots, personal experiences and social realities have shaped their storytelling and cinematic journeys.

Dotieva recalled how her grandfather's recitations of traditional Kyrgyz oral poetry inspired her interest in storytelling. Drawing from Kyrgyzstan's literary and cultural heritage, including the epic Manas, she went on to make films exploring borderland histories and universal human emotions. Her feature debut is titled *Skylark*.

Malayalam film Half unveils a unique vampire universe at IFFI gala premiere

■ Starring Amala Paul, Abbas, Ranjith Sajeev and Aiswarya Raj, the action thriller blends supernatural elements with human emotions and sibling bonds

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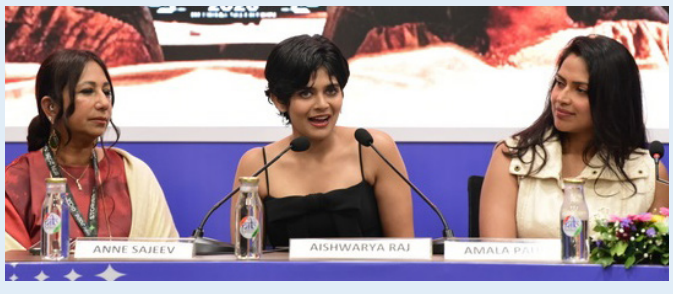

PANAJI: Malayalam cinema explored an unconventional supernatural world with the gala premiere of *Half* at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), bringing together vampires, high-octane action and deeply rooted human emotions.

The film's cast and producer shared insights into the project during a press conference organised by the Press Information Bureau in Goa on November 24.

Actress Amala Paul said the opportunity to portray a vampire and explore a supernatural character made the film particularly exciting, as such roles are rarely offered to actors. She described it as an opportunity to step into an unfamiliar character she had long wanted to explore.

Actor Abbas said his role was distinctly different from his previous projects. Recalling the challenges of shooting in the intense heat of Jaisalmer, he said the experience pushed him beyond his familiar territory and described the film as a surprise package.

Actor Ranjith Sajeev said his passion for acting made the project exciting. He revealed that he and co-star Aiswarya Raj underwent intensive workshops to prepare for the demanding action sequences.

He also highlighted the film's distinctive action treatment, pointing out that despite being an action thriller, *Half* does not feature a single slow-motion shot.

Actress Aiswarya Raj said the sibling relationship was one of the aspects of the film that resonated most strongly with her.

FLYING FLEA EXPANDS PRESENCE IN INDIA - LANDS IN GOA





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GOA: Flying Flea, Royal Enfield's dedicated city+ electric mobility brand, continues to strengthen its presence in India with operations commencing in Goa. Charged by the strong customer response to the Flying Flea C6 in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai and Kochi, Flying Flea has established three sales and service centres across Goa including one at the company owned Garage Cafe. Strategically located across the city, the network gives customers convenient access to the city+ proposition, offering an eco-friendly and stylish choice to explore the charming side of Goa.

Rooted in its "Born Airborne" legacy, the FF.C6 is Flying Flea's first electric motorcycle, created for agile and exciting urban mobility. It combines advanced materials, purposeful design and smart connectivity to deliver an authentic, visceral urban riding experience. Inspired by the original Flying Flea motorcycle of the 1940s, the Flying Flea C6 reinterprets its iconic heritage through a contemporary neo-vintage design language, seamlessly blending timeless aesthetics with modern engineering. Winner of the prestigious Red Dot Design Award, every design element on the motorcycle is conceived to balance form and function, to enhance its urban riding experience. As Flying Flea continues to expand its presence, the brand remains committed to its customer-first approach by strengthening accessibility and enhancing the after-sales support across key locations in the city. Supporting the Goa network is Flying Flea's integrated ownership ecosystem with three service centers with dedicated technical support for routine service and maintenance requirements. Flying Flea Sales & Service Centres Royal Enfield Garage Cafe, Arpora Auto Guides Sales, Panaji Saini Motors, Margao

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ALL ISSUES SORTED? BJP MAKES LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO RESOLVE SAWANT-RANE DIFFERENCES

has periodically surfaced in public and required intervention from the party's central leadership.

For the BJP, the timing is important. With the 2027 Assembly elections approaching, the party has little room for prolonged public disagreements between two senior leaders who occupy important positions in its Goa establishment.

But whether the November 24 meeting has addressed the underlying issues remains unclear. A rivalry that goes back several years The relationship between Sawant and Rane has been under scrutiny since Rane joined the BJP in 2017 after resigning from the Congress-led government. Both leaders have political influence in the Sattari belt, and questions over their respective positions within the party have repeatedly surfaced. The most serious public confrontation came during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in May 2021, when Goa was struggling with an acute oxygen supply crisis at the Goa Medical College and Hospital.

On May 11, 2021, Rane publicly stated that 26 COVID-19 patients had died between 2 am and 6 am, raising concerns about inadequate oxygen supplies. He also called for a High Court-monitored investigation and suggested that the Chief Minister might have been misinformed about the situation. Goa News - The Indian Express +1

The remarks exposed differences within the government at a time when the administration was facing intense public scrutiny over its handling of the pandemic.

The following day, BJP state president Sadanand Tanavade facilitated a meeting between Sawant and Rane at the Chief Minister's residence. The Goan reported on May 13, 2021, that the party's central leadership had intervened in an attempt to defuse tensions between the two. The party publicly maintained that there were no differences, even as reports suggested that the intervention was necessary to prevent the situation from escalating. The Goan +1

The oxygen controversy also produced conflicting public positions. While Rane initially highlighted the shortage and sought an inquiry, he subsequently told the Assembly in July 2021 that no COVID-19 patient had died directly because of oxygen shortage. The Bombay High Court had earlier observed that there were serious issues concerning oxygen supply at GMC and that lessons needed to be learnt from the deaths. Goa News - The Indian Express +1

Denials of differences, but questions never disappeared

The tensions did not end with the pandemic. In November 2021, when BJP national president J P Nadda visited Goa, Sawant publicly dismissed reports of a fight between the two leaders, saying they were united.

However, a meeting in Valpoi attended by Nadda reportedly exposed continuing differences. According to The Goan's November 26, 2021 report, while Sawant spoke about unity, Rane suggested that certain outstanding issues could be discussed in the absence of the national leader. Goa News - The Indian Express +1

The political undercurrents became particularly visible again in March 2022, when the BJP returned to power following the Assembly elections.

Both Sawant and Rane travelled to Delhi for discussions with the party's central leadership. Rane was widely discussed as a possible contender for the Chief Minister's post, although he publicly dismissed speculation about seeking the position. The central leadership eventually retained Sawant as Chief Minister. The Indian Express +1 This episode reinforced the perception that the relationship was not merely about differences over administration but also involved questions of political standing.

No Social Media Age Ban for Teens, Centre May Put Platforms in Charge of Safety Measures

■ Government considers screen time limits, night-time restrictions and parental controls instead of blanket restrictions on teenagers

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NEW DELHI: The Centre is unlikely to introduce strict age-based restrictions on teenagers accessing social media platforms. Instead, the government is considering an approach that would require social media companies to regulate young users' activities through safety measures and usage controls.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is examining proposals that would allow platforms to introduce screen time limits, restrictions during school hours, night-time usage controls and parental supervision features. The approach is aimed at making social media safer for teenagers without completely restricting their access.

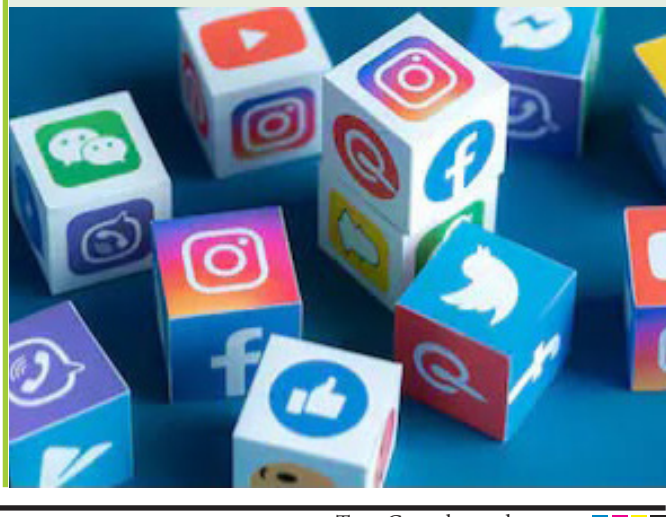
The proposed framework reflects growing concerns that blanket bans are difficult to enforce and could encourage teenagers to move to less regulated digital platforms. The government is also evaluating how such measures can be implemented while ensuring compliance with existing laws, particularly the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act.

Under a proposal introduced by Meta in the United States, teenagers could face a daily usage limit of two hours, restrictions between midnight and 6 am, and muted notifications during school hours. Users may also receive reminders after every 15 minutes of continuous activity. Parents would have the option to relax certain restrictions.

India's DPDP Act classifies individuals below 18 years as children and requires verifiable parental consent before their personal data can be processed. This means platforms will need systems to identify underage users, obtain parental approval and ensure appropriate data protection.

WhatsApp has already started testing a voluntary age confirmation feature in India as companies prepare for the new requirements.

International experiences have also highlighted the difficulties of enforcing age-based restrictions. Australia's restrictions on social media access for children below 16, which came into effect in December 2025, have faced challenges involving false age details and methods of bypassing verification systems. Several European countries have also explored similar restrictions, but privacy and enforcement concerns remain.



Tamil Nadu Blames Temple Trustees for Failure to Light Deepam at Supreme Court-Ordered Site

Madurai Collector Apologises to Supreme Court, Says Temple Board Insisted on Following Traditional Ritual Location

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NEW DELHI: The Tamil Nadu government has blamed the Thirupparankundram temple's board of trustees for the failure to light the Karthigai Deepam at the designated hilltop stone pillar, despite a Supreme Court order permitting the ceremony. The district administration has maintained that the ritual could not proceed because the temple authorities refused to authorise the team assigned to carry it out.

In a preliminary status report submitted to the Supreme Court, Madurai District Collector Nishant Krishna tendered an unconditional apology for the lamp not being lit at the Deepathoon pillar on November 24. He maintained that the administration and police could not independently authorise the ritual after the temple trustees withheld their approval.

The Supreme Court, on November 20, had permitted the ceremonial lamp to be lit at the Deepathoon between 6 pm and 6.30 pm on November 24 as a one-time arrangement. The Collector was appointed nodal officer to coordinate security and logistical arrangements with the temple administration, the Archaeological Survey of India and the police.



"Forced to Announce Candidates": Samajwadi Party Hits Back at Congress Amid UP Alliance Rift

Seat-Sharing Dispute Escalates as Akhilesh Yadav's Party Releases First List of Five Candidates During Negotiations

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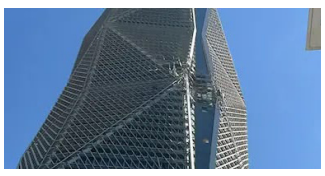
NEW DELHI: The Samajwadi Party was compelled to announce its first list of five candidates for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections amid growing tensions with the Congress over seat-sharing negotiations. The move came while discussions between the two INDIA bloc allies were underway in Delhi, exposing differences over the distribution of constituencies and the conduct of negotiations.

Samajwadi Party leaders maintained that outspoken Congress leaders were making public statements that disrupted discussions and complicated efforts to reach an agreement. They also accused the Congress leadership of failing to control its state leaders, allowing disagreements to spill into the public domain. The party, led by Akhilesh Yadav, reportedly felt that its Congress counterparts were not approaching the negotiations constructively. While the Samajwadi Party had appointed senior leaders to handle discussions, it alleged that certain Congress representatives were making provocative remarks that threatened the alliance. The announcement of five candidates was also intended to demonstrate the Samajwadi Party's electoral preparedness and strengthen its position in the negotiations.



India Strongly Condemns Houthi Attack on Riyadh Tower That Injured Two Indians

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NEW DELHI: India has strongly condemned the Houthi attack on a tower in Saudi Arabia's Financial District in Riyadh, which left 11 people injured, including two Indian nationals. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday expressed concern over the incident and called for an immediate end to attacks targeting civilian, economic and energy infrastructure in the Kingdom.

The MEA said such attacks posed serious risks to civilian lives, violated Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and threatened regional peace and stability. India also reaffirmed its support for Saudi Arabia in protecting its territorial integrity and ensuring the safety of its citizens and residents.

Confirming the involvement of Indian nationals, the Ministry said the Indian Embassy in Riyadh was providing all possible assistance to the injured individuals and their families. India also expressed solidarity with the Saudi government and people, while hoping for an early return to peace and normalcy in the region.

"Not Today": Supreme Court Defers Interim Bail for Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam

Top Court Seeks Delhi Police Response, Orders Formation of Three-Judge Bench to Hear Bail Pleas in 2020 Delhi Riots Case

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to grant immediate interim bail to activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the case relating to the alleged larger conspiracy behind the February 2020 northeast Delhi riots. The court issued notices to the Delhi Police and sought its response before considering their requests for temporary release.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya



Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing appeals challenging the Delhi High Court's decision to deny bail to the two activists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

During the proceedings, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Khalid, requested interim bail while the main matter remained pending. Senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for Imam, also sought similar relief, citing the prolonged period the activist had spent in custody.

However, the bench declined to grant immediate relief, stating, "Not today". It clarified that the Delhi Police would first be given an opportunity to respond before the interim bail applications were considered.

"Only One Batch Under Scrutiny": Bisleri Clarifies FSSAI Action Against Goa Plant

Company Says September 2025 Batch Is No Longer in Circulation, Confirms All 143 Manufacturing Facilities Remain Operational

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Bisleri International has clarified that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) scrutiny involving its Goa manufacturing facility is limited to a single batch of packaged drinking water produced in September 2025. The company said the affected batch is no longer available in the market and maintained that its subsequent production has complied with applicable food safety standards.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Bisleri identified the batch as GO 270, manufactured on September 27, 2025. The company said the regulatory action did not extend to its other manufacturing operations and that all 143 plants across its network continued to function normally. Bisleri also maintained that its Goa facility had not received any order directing it to suspend operations. It said FSSAI's November 23 clarification confirmed that bromate levels in the sample were below the permissible limit following retesting. However, the company acknowledged that one of six samples examined during a subsequent testing round showed the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at 0.144 micrograms per litre. Another sample from the same batch reportedly met all prescribed parameters. The issue came to light after FSSAI announced prosecution proceedings against Bisleri following laboratory findings concerning bromate levels and the subsequent detection of PAHs in the sample. The regulator clarified that its prohibition on the sale of the product applied specifically to batch GO 270, which was found to be non-compliant.

D Gukesh Survives Time Pressure to Draw World Chess Championship Opener Against Sindarov

Indian Defending Champion Holds His Nerve Against Uzbekistan Challenger in a Tense First Game of the 14-Game Title Clash

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Defending champion D Gukesh began his World Chess Championship title defence with a hard-fought draw against Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov in the opening game on Tuesday. The Indian grandmaster showed remarkable composure under severe time pressure to withstand his opponent's challenge and avoid an early setback.

Playing with the black pieces, Gukesh opted for the Berlin Defence against Sindarov's Ruy Lopez opening, an unexpected choice that introduced an interesting tactical battle from the beginning.

The Indian initially appeared slightly cautious and came under pressure as Sindarov developed a marginal positional advantage through better piece placement and pawn structure. The Uzbek challenger attempted to increase the pressure during the queenless middlegame, but Gukesh responded with accurate calculations and maintained his position. Sindarov later sacrificed a pawn to create complications and make the game more unpredictable.



"This Is the Evolution of Cricket": Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's 204-Run Knock Leaves Former Cricketers Stunned

15-Year-Old Smashes 204 Off 53 Balls Against UAE, Sets Multiple Records as Experts Hail His Fearless Batting

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has received widespread praise following his extraordinary 204-run innings against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026. Former India cricketer Atul Wassan described the youngster's fearless approach as the evolution of modern cricket, saying his remarkable performances were giving statisticians nightmares.

Playing for India A in a Group B encounter on Tuesday, the 15-year-old smashed 204 runs from just 53 deliveries, hitting 28 sixes and seven fours. His explosive innings included a century in 28 balls and a double century in just 52 deliveries, setting remarkable records in List A cricket.

India A successfully chased the target of 250 in just 14.2 overs, registering a convincing seven-wicket victory.

Wassan praised Sooryavanshi for playing without the traditional expectations associated with cricketing legends. He said the youngster was not trying to become another Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara or Virat Kohli but was establishing an identity of his own.

Goa to Conduct U-17 Boys Cricket Trials for 70th National School Games

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs will conduct selection trials for the Under-17 boys' cricket team to represent Goa at the 70th National School Games Championship 2026.

The trials will be held from November 25 to 27 at Chicalim Ground, Vasco. Participants are required to report on November 25 between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm.

Players seeking selection must meet the prescribed eligibility criteria. Only those born on or after January 1, 2010, will be eligible to participate in the Under-17 category. The participating players must be regularly enrolled students of their respective schools. Students who have passed Class 12 will not be eligible to participate in the SGFI National School Games, irrespective of their age category. Selected players will be required to submit an Age Verification Test (AVI) certificate issued by a doctor, along with the prescribed eligibility forms.

Players must also carry their sports cards or school identity cards during registration, as these documents are mandatory for participation in the selection process.

Goa to Hold Kabaddi Selection Trials for Khelo India Youth Games 2026

Trials Scheduled at Peddem Sports Complex on November 26; Eligible Players Asked to Report by 9.30 AM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs will conduct selection trials for the Kabaddi discipline ahead of the Khelo India Youth Games 2026, scheduled to be held in Telangana from December 11 to 22.

The trials will take place at the Peddem Sports Complex on November 26, beginning at 10 am. Interested Kabaddi players have been invited to participate in the selection process to earn an opportunity to represent Goa at the national-level sporting event.

All participating athletes must report at the venue by 9.30 am, ahead of the scheduled commencement of the trials. Players appearing for the selection process are required to carry the prescribed age proof documents and necessary documents confirming their eligibility to represent the state.

The selection trials aim to identify talented Kabaddi players who can represent Goa at the Khelo India Youth Games and compete against emerging sporting talent from across the country. For further information regarding the trials, interested players can contact Aniket Shenai at 8208906591.

Amandeep Khare's Unbeaten 116 Powers Chhattisgarh to Victory Over Goa

Abhinav Tejerana and Lalit Yadav's half-centuries go in vain as Chhattisgarh chase down 197 with one ball to spare in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

Team Goemkarponn





PANAJI: Goa suffered a four-wicket defeat against Chhattisgarh in an Elite Group D encounter of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy after a spectacular unbeaten century from Amandeep Khare overshadowed two impressive half-centuries from Goa's batting line-up. Chasing a target of 197, Chhattisgarh reached 197 for six in 19.5 overs, completing the victory with one ball remaining. Khare was the standout performer, smashing an unbeaten 126 off just 62 deliveries, including nine boundaries and seven sixes, to guide his team to a successful chase.

Earlier, Goa posted a competitive total of 196 for six in their allotted 20 overs. Captain Abhinav Tejerana led the batting effort with an aggressive 62 off 33 balls, striking five fours and four sixes. Lalit Yadav also played a crucial role, scoring 57 off 36 deliveries with six boundaries and two sixes.

Deepraj Gaonkar added valuable runs with an unbeaten 23, while Vikas Singh contributed 14. Despite the strong batting display, Goa could not build a sufficiently challenging total to stop Chhattisgarh's powerful response.

During the chase, Khare maintained the scoring momentum and controlled the innings with an outstanding display of power hitting. Dev Aditya Singh provided an explosive finish, remaining unbeaten on 24 from just seven balls.