Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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Goa govt to provide flats to Goans without homes under Awas Yojana

■ Eligible native Goan families with annual income below ₹5 lakh to pay a one-time fee of ₹5,000; around 150 tenements to be allotted initially

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a major housing initiative aimed at providing shelter to Goans without homes, the Goa Cabinet has approved the Chief Minister Awas Yojana, under which eligible native Goan families will be allotted residential flats free of cost on a 30-year lease for a nominal one-time payment of ₹5,000.

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant announced the decision after Wednesday's



Cabinet meeting, stating that the scheme is specifically intended to benefit poor native Goans (Mul Goenkars) who do not own a house or flat.

To qualify, applicants must be native Goans and produce a 30-year residence certificate along with birth certificates of their parents or grandparents showing that they were born before Goa's Liberation. The annual family income must be below ₹5 lakh, and neither the applicant nor their family should own any other house or flat.

Sawant clarified that the tenements would be allotted strictly on a 30-year lease to prevent beneficiaries from selling them. Apart from the one-time payment of ₹5,000, no other charges will be levied.

The government has identified around 150 available tenements across various talukas under the Rehabilitation Board and the Housing Board. Local residents will be given first preference in the respective talukas where the houses are located.

The Chief Minister said the available units, including one-bedroom-kitchen flats in areas such as Pernem, Vasco and Santa Cruz, would be renovated and repaired before being handed over to beneficiaries.

Govt hopeful of ST political reservation before 2027 Goa Assembly polls: Sawant

State to file affidavit before High Court as case moves on fast-track basis; Supreme Court had directed decision by December 24

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PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant on Wednesday said the Goa government was making every possible effort to secure political reservation for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community in the State before the 2027 Assembly elections, expressing confidence that the community would get its rightful representation. Speaking to reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Sawant said the government was seriously pursuing the matter and was continuously monitoring the legal proceedings in coordination with Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar. He said the Goa government had earlier filed an appeal before the Supreme Court, with Advocate General personally appearing in the matter and Additional Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta representing the Union Government. The Supreme Court subsequently remanded the matter to the High Court with directions to decide the case before December 24.

Sawant said the Government of India had already submitted its affidavit before the High Court, while the Goa government was scheduled to file its affidavit the following day.



SC directs Goa HC to decide reservation petition by December 31: AG Pangam

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PANAJI: The Supreme Court has directed the Goa High Court to dispose of the reservation-related petition by December 31, while extending the existing interim order until then, Advocate General Devidas Pangam said.

Pangam said the Supreme Court had also directed the Goa government to be impleaded as a party to the proceedings and granted the State seven days to file its affidavit.

Following the Supreme Court's directions, the Goa High Court has drawn up a time-bound schedule for completing the proceedings. As per the schedule, replies are to be filed by December 2, rejoinders by December 5, and the final hearing has been scheduled for December 7. The court has made it clear that no adjournments will be permitted, indicating that the matter will be heard on a time-bound basis.

Fake Casino Chips Worth ₹6.25 Lakh Exchanged at Neo Majestic Casino; Two Accused in Custody, Three Absconding

■ Porvorim Police book five persons for allegedly exchanging 25 counterfeit gaming chips; one accused remanded to four days of police custody

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Porvorim Police have registered a case against five persons for allegedly exchanging 25 counterfeit gaming chips worth ₹6.25 lakh at Neo Majestic Casino.

The second accused, identified as Javed Anwar Uchgaonkar (45), a resident of Bagwan Galli,



Khade Bazar, Hukeri, Belgaum, Karnataka, was produced before the JMFC Court today. The court remanded him to four days of police custody.

One accused was already in police custody, while the remaining three accused are absconding.

Further investigation in the case is being conducted by PI Tukaram Chavan and PSI Sanket Talkar.

Centre Tells Delhi High Court Lookout Circular Issued Against CJP's Saurav Das

■ Government flags passport discrepancies that could affect activist's Indian citizenship as he challenges being stopped from travelling to the UK

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NEW DELHI: A lookout circular (LOC) has been issued against activist Saurav Das, the Centre informed the Delhi High Court during a hearing on his petition challenging the decision to stop him from travelling abroad.

The Centre also raised concerns over discrepancies in Das's passport, stating that the irregularities could have implications for his Indian citizenship. However,



Das's lawyer told the court that they had not received any information about the issuance of a lookout circular against the activist. Das was recently prevented from travelling to the United Kingdom, where he was scheduled to participate in an event at Oxford University on November 27.

Kashmir Has No Local Terrorists for First Time in 37 Years, 35 Pakistani Militants on Security Radar

■ Security forces intensify winter surveillance along the Line of Control as Pakistan shifts its infiltration strategy following the collapse of local terror recruitment.

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JAMMU: Kashmir has reached a significant milestone in its security situation, with no local terrorists remaining active in the Valley for the first time in 37 years. However, security agencies are preparing for a possible increase in infiltration attempts by Pakistani terrorists ahead of the winter



season.

Around 35 Pakistani terrorists believed to be operating north of the Pir Panjal range are currently being monitored by security forces.

Intelligence inputs suggest that Pakistan may attempt to push militants across the Line of Control before heavy snowfall blocks mountain passes.

ST Reservation: BJP Faces a Test of Trust, Not Just a Legal Battle

The Supreme Court's refusal to stay the Bombay High Court's interim order restraining the notification of estimated Scheduled Tribe (ST) population figures in Goa has dealt a political setback to the BJP government at a crucial time. With the 2027 Assembly elections approaching, the controversy over political reservation for STs has moved beyond the courtroom. It is now becoming a question of political credibility, trust and electoral consequences.

For Goa's tribal community, this is not merely a legal dispute over population figures or constitutional provisions. It is a decades-old demand for adequate political representation in the state legislature. The expectation that four Assembly constituencies would be reserved for ST candidates in the coming elections had raised hopes that the community would finally have a stronger voice in decision-making. Those hopes have now suffered another setback.

However, it is important to understand that the Supreme Court has not delivered a final judgment against ST reservation. It has declined to interfere with the High Court's interim order. The legal battle continues, and the High Court is expected to hear the matter further. The distinction is important, but politically, the damage to the government's credibility could be considerably greater than the immediate legal consequences.

The BJP government had projected itself as committed to securing political reservation for the ST community. Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant had repeatedly maintained that the government was pursuing the matter and would overcome the legal hurdles. Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar had also expressed confidence that reservation would become a reality before the 2027 elections.

But confidence and assurances are no substitute for results.

The biggest question now is whether the ST community will continue to repose faith in the BJP. There is no reason to assume that the entire community will automatically turn against the ruling party. Electoral choices are influenced by local leadership, individual candidates, government schemes, development and political loyalties. However, there is equally little reason for the BJP to assume that tribal voters will overlook the repeated delays in fulfilling a demand that has remained unresolved for years.

The anger within sections of the community was already visible before the Supreme Court's latest order. Leaders of tribal organisations have openly expressed their disappointment, while some have warned that the community must unite politically and ensure the election of ST candidates, with or without reservation.

That warning should not be taken lightly. If tribal voters decide to turn the reservation issue into a collective electoral movement, the BJP could face a serious challenge in constituencies with significant ST populations. The consequences may extend beyond individual seats, particularly if the issue becomes a symbol of unfulfilled political promises.

The Opposition will undoubtedly attempt to capitalise on the situation. Congress and the Goa Forward Party have already accused the BJP of misleading the ST community. Vijai Sardesai has been particularly vocal, alleging that the government has repeatedly failed the community. Congress president Girish Chodankar has also questioned the government's handling of the issue.

But the Opposition must understand that merely attacking the BJP will not win tribal confidence. It needs to present a credible alternative, explain what it would do differently and demonstrate a genuine commitment to political representation. The ST community cannot be reduced to an electoral bargaining chip every five years.

The government, meanwhile, has limited time to restore confidence. Its immediate responsibility is to strengthen its legal arguments, coordinate with the Centre and ensure that all relevant parties are heard. The Supreme Court has also directed that the Goa government and Mission Political Reservation be impleaded in the proceedings, with the High Court asked to hear their submissions within a week. The interim protection is to remain in force until December 24.

More importantly, the government must address the fundamental question raised by the High Court: how can a population estimate of 9.9 per cent be justified when the Census Commissioner has acknowledged that the available data is insufficient? The 2001 Census predates the inclusion of the Kunbi, Gauda and Velip communities in the ST list in 2003. A legal framework built on questionable population assumptions cannot be expected to withstand judicial scrutiny.

The commencement of Census 2027 on January 5 adds another layer of urgency. The government must explain whether the reservation process can legally be completed in time for the Assembly elections and what alternative constitutional and administrative steps are available.

Ultimately, the BJP's challenge is not just to win a legal battle. It must convince the ST community that its commitment to political empowerment is genuine and not an election-time promise.

The Opposition, too, must move beyond rhetoric. And tribal leaders must ensure that their community's political future is not dictated by competing party interests.

Goa's ST community has waited long enough for meaningful political representation. The 2027 elections could become a referendum on who has genuinely stood by that demand. If the BJP fails to deliver, it may discover that electoral trust, once lost, is far more difficult to recover than a legal case.

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OPED

JUSTICE MAHESH SONAK - AN OUTSTANDING & BRILLIANT JUDGE

By Adv. Aires Rodrigues

Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak who rose to be appointed as Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court on 2nd January 2026 retires on this 27th November. On June 21st 2013, Mahesh Sonak was sworn in as Judge of the Bombay High Court. Mahesh Sonak started practicing Law in 1988, at the age of 23, under then Goa's leading lawyer Ferdino Rebello, who himself rose to be a Judge of the Bombay High Court and later Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court.



As a Judge, Justice Mahesh Sonak always endeavoured to ensure that the wheels of Justice moved in accordance with law while doing his bit in taking the Judiciary to enhanced heights. Anyone who has interacted with Mahesh Sonak will confidently vouch that he had all it takes to be a fair and fearless Judge with humility and always demonstrating the need for careful consideration, and the recognition of the human condition in the judicial process.

A skilled legal professional with a sound knowledge of Law, and a compassionate and empathetic individual who always sought to understand and address the complexities of human behaviour and justice, while maintaining a good disposition and a refined personality, vital for a Judge to conduct Court proceedings effectively.

Even as an Advocate, Mahesh Sonak was exceptional and a true role model for the legal fraternity. Ever so humble, down to earth and upright even as a Judge.I had the privilege of knowing his family from my childhood days. His Dad the very affable late Sharadchandra Sonak was a distinguished advocate of those times and nostalgic memories of my childhood interactions with him. His Mum, Dr Mrs. Vibhavari, ever so caring and considerate, worked at the Ribandar Hospital. Had the privilege of also working alongside his brother late Adv. Satish in various student movements and on other social causes. Sister Sushma has been a gem of a person, always bubbly and so very kind, in tune with a trait that runs in the Sonak family. As our dear Justice Mahesh Sonak retires after a brilliant Judicial career, let us wish him, his wife Dr. Mrs. Sangeeta and son Adv. Eeshan all the very best.

We acknowledge with gratitude his dedication and commitment to justice and the rule of law that has left an indelible mark on the communities he has served. We all offer our sincere thanks for his leadership, wisdom and compassion and wish Justice Mahesh Sonak a relaxing retirement, knowing that his life's work has made a difference and inspired many. Undoubtedly, at just 62, Justice Mahesh Sonak must be having plans of continuing to serve the community at large. Would the voracious reader, prolific writer and passionate public speaker, Justice Mahesh Sonak team up with his former Senior Retired Justice Ferdino Rebello in his yeoman movement to Save what remains of Goa?

''As Judges we are architects of a better tomorrow'' ''Behind every ruling lies the power to inspire change'' Justice Sonak lived up to these two famous quotes in word and in deed!

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DAY 07

THURS, 26 NOV 2026

OPEN FOR ALL

Cinemela 2026 at Kala Academy

Children Special Screening
08:30 AM - Happy Mother's Day
10:15 AM - Ek Ajooba

Contemporary at Kala Academy
03:00 PM - Pyre

Nostalgia
06:00 PM - Hum Kisise Kum Naheen

PICTURE TIME

Indian Panorama
Kantara: A Legend Chapter 1 (Feature)
Scroll (Feature)
Paro – The Untold Story of Bride Slavery (Feature)
Kabir Sir Ka Akhri Lesson(Feature)
Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu (Pandaga Ki Vastunnaru)(Feature)
Krishnavataram (Feature)
Deool Band 2 (Feature)
Ulididdu Sampige Maatra
Echoes Of The Last Shelter
Amit Atal
The Hug Of Emptiness
The Unseen Holy River - Saraswati

Goan Film
Woodworm (Roto)
Cheers!
Medium Piece

Gala Premier
Tu Aahes Na
Now I Met Her

Open Air Screening

Miramar Beach
The Wild Robot @ 7 Pm

Vagator Beach
Mukkam Post Bombilwadi @ 7 Pm

Ravindra Bhavan (Margao)
Back to the Future@ 7 pm

OPEN FOR ALL

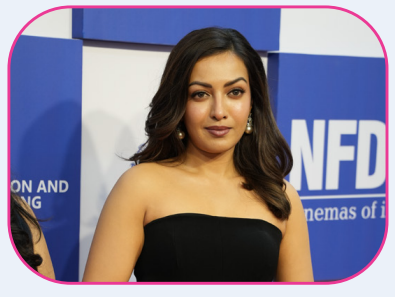
OPEN FOR ALL

IFFI Village
Venue: Azad Maidan

The festival fun doesn't stop at films!

Visit IFFI Village for a lively evening of entertainment, food, shopping & more.






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 | Lounge Partner | Airline Partner | Airport Partner | Radio Partner | F&B Curation Partner | Screening Partner | Hydration partner | Content Partner | Wireless & Surveillance Partner

Technical Partner | Licensing Partner | Our Supporters

Associate Partner

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

Konkan Railway detects 2.62 lakh irregular travel cases, recovers ₹17.31 crore

■ Railway conducts 6,316 special ticket-checking drives from April to October 2026; enforcement to be intensified during Christmas holiday season

Team Goemkarponn



MARGAO: Konkan Railway has intensified ticket-checking drives across its entire route to curb ticketless and irregular travel and ensure safe, smooth and comfortable journeys for genuine passengers.

According to a press release issued by Konkan Railway, a total of 6,316 special ticket-checking drives were conducted between April 1 and October 2026. During these drives, 2,62,937 cases of unauthorised and irregular travel were detected, resulting in the recovery of ₹17.31 crore towards railway fares and penalties. During October 2026 alone, Konkan Railway conducted 890 special ticket-checking drives, apart from routine checking activities. These drives resulted in the detection of 29,536 cases of unauthorised and irregular travel, with ₹2.15 crore collected towards due railway fares and penalties. Konkan Railway has appealed to passengers to travel with valid journey tickets to avoid inconvenience during their journeys. With the upcoming Christmas holiday season, the railway authorities will further intensify ticket-checking drives across the entire Konkan Railway route in coordination with Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel and railway officials.



FDA cracks down on illegal chicken shops in South Goa, imposes ₹1.05 lakh in fines

■ Twenty-two premises inspected in Quepem and other parts of South Goa; 13 served notices and three directed to shut operations over licensing and hygiene violations

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) conducted special inspection drives across Quepem taluka and other parts of South Goa on November 25, 2026, targeting chicken shops and other food business establishments operating without valid FSSAI registration or licences and allegedly violating food safety and hygiene norms.

During the inspection drive in Quepem taluka, FDA officials inspected 17 premises to verify valid FSSAI registration certificates and compliance with sanitary and hygienic requirements. As many as 11 establishments were served notices for operating without valid licences under Section 31(2) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The inspections also revealed several alleged hygiene violations, including inadequately enclosed premises, absence of medical records of food handlers and pest control records, unhygienic surroundings, improper attire, foul odour, inadequate drainage, floors covered with filth and dirty water, use of corroding materials, lack of continuous potable water supply, inadequate ventilation and absence of waste bins.



Man booked for allegedly possessing beef without valid certificate in Ponda

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Ponda Police have registered an offence against a person for allegedly possessing beef without a valid certificate from the competent authority at Fatima Cold Beef Store, Kota Wada, behind Jama Masjid, Ponda.

According to the complaint lodged by Rajiv Jha, a resident of Gaonkarwada, Usgao, the incident occurred on November 25, 2026, at around 5.30 am.

The accused has been identified as Allauddin Rahaman Jangali, a resident of Cotwada, Curti, Ponda, originally from Haveri, Karnataka.

As per the complaint, the accused was allegedly found in possession of beef which was reportedly procured illegally without obtaining a valid certificate from the competent authority for its procurement and sale, thereby allegedly contravening the provisions of the Goa Animal Preservation Act.

Salcete man acquitted in decade-old passport forgery case

■ JMFC court in Merces gives benefit of doubt to accused after prosecution fails to establish forgery charges

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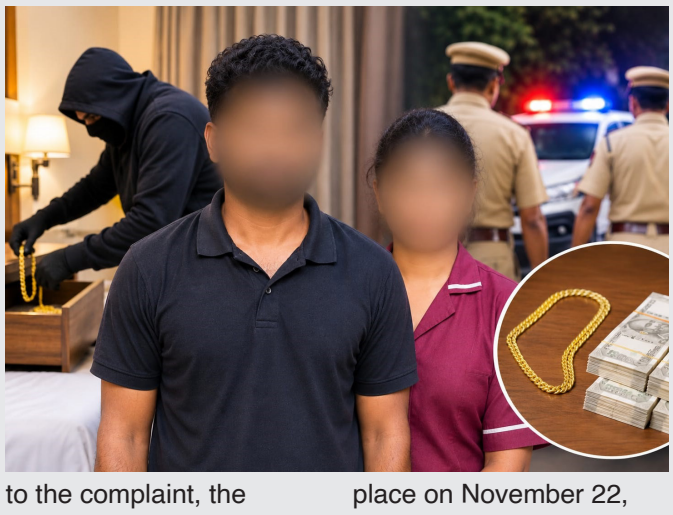


PANAJI: A Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court at Merces has acquitted Carmelino Fransisco Assis Luis, a resident of Carmona, Salcete, in a decade-old case involving the alleged forgery of a Secondary School Certificate (SSC) passing certificate submitted for passport re-issue. The case dates back to August 12, 2015, when Luis allegedly prepared a forged SSC passing certificate and submitted it as genuine at Passport Bhavan, Patto Plaza, Panaji, to obtain a re-issue of his passport. Following a complaint, Panaji Police registered an FIR on November 26, 2015, and filed a chargesheet on June 30, 2016. During the trial, defence counsel Adv. Stanwin J. Aguiar challenged the prosecution's evidence, arguing that the passport application was submitted online and that there was no conclusive evidence to establish that Luis had personally uploaded the questioned documents. The complainant and investigating officer could not confirm whether the accused himself had uploaded the documents.

Two housekeeping staff booked for theft of gold chain and ₹1.35 lakh in Mandrem

■ Police register case against two employees of Dhacha Seaview Mandrem for allegedly stealing valuables from guest rooms

Team Goemkarponn



MANDREM: Mandrem Police have registered an offence vide Cr. No. 104/2026 under Sections 306 read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, at 10.36 pm on November 24, 2026, following a complaint lodged by Mantosh Sharma (43), a businessman residing at Dhacha Arambol, Pernem, Goa.According to the complaint, the incident allegedly took place on November 22, 2026, at around 10.30 pm at Dhacha Seaview Mandrem, Junaswada, Mandrem, Pernem.

The accused have been identified as Prakash Choudhary, originally from Jodhpur, Rajasthan, and Pooja Madhukar, from Warangal, Telangana, who were employed as housekeeping staff at the establishment. The complaint alleges that the two accused, acting with common intention, took room keys from guests on the pretext of cleaning the rooms. In the absence of the guests, they allegedly entered various rooms and committed theft of a gold chain valued at approximately ₹25,000 and cash amounting to around ₹1,35,000.

The total value of the stolen property is estimated at approximately ₹1.60 lakh. Further investigation in the case is in progress with Mandrem Police.



MHAJO FLAT

Securing Home Ownership, Empowering Housing Societies



A landmark citizen-centric initiative by the Department of Cooperation, Government of Goa, to help flat owners secure legal ownership of their homes through Unilateral Deemed Conveyance.

Owning a home is one of life's most cherished dreams. The Government of Goa, through its Department of Cooperation, has introduced MHAJO FLAT, an important initiative aimed at strengthening the legal ownership rights of flat owners and empowering cooperative housing societies across the State.

The scheme provides a structured mechanism for eligible cooperative housing societies to obtain legal title to their property through Unilateral Deemed Conveyance, particularly where the builder, promoter or developer has not executed the conveyance deed.

Introduced through amendments to the Goa Cooperative Societies Act, 2001, MHAJO FLAT empowers housing societiesto complete the conveyance process with institutional support from designated officers of the Department of Cooperation.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Legal Ownership:** Enables eligible cooperative housing societies to obtain legal title to their land and property.
- **Unilateral Deemed Conveyance:** Provides a legal mechanism to complete conveyance even when the builder or developer has not executed the deed.
- **Concessional Stamp Duty:** Special concessional rates based on the category of property and location.
- **Reduced Registration Fees:** Registration fee of just ₹10,000 for unilateral deemed conveyance.
- **Dedicated Officers:** Designated and authorised officers appointed across all six zonal offices to guide applicants and process cases.
- **Simplified Procedure:** Standard application formats, a step-by-step process and guidance material are made available to housing societies.
- **Time-Bound Process:** Deemed conveyance is to be completed within one year of application.
- **Support for Redevelopment:** Legal conveyance facilitates repairs, renovations and redevelopment of housing complexes.

CONCESSIONAL STAMP DUTY

The scheme offers special stamp duty rates depending on the property category:

- **Category A:** Residential ₹50,000; Commercial ₹1,00,000; Amenities ₹10,000.
- **Category B:** Residential ₹40,000; Commercial ₹80,000; Amenities ₹7,500.
- **Category C:** Residential ₹30,000; Commercial ₹50,000; Amenities ₹5,000.

SIX ZONAL OFFICES FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Dedicated offices at Mapusa, Bicholim, Panaji, Ponda, Fatorda and Quepem provide administrative support and assistance to applicants across Goa.

MHAJO FLAT is more than a housing initiative. It is a step towards securing property rights, strengthening cooperative housing societies and giving every eligible flat owner greater legal certainty and confidence in home ownership.

For details, visit: coopgoa.gov.in

Department of Cooperation, Government of Goa

Cooperate. Grow Together. People First. Stronger Societies. A Prosperous Goa.

Department of Information and Publicity





Goa Takes a Leap in Veterinary Education

First batch of B.V.Sc. & A.H. students welcomed by CM Dr Pramod Sawant at Curti, Ponda



Goa has taken another significant step in strengthening professional education with the commencement of the Goa College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at Curti, Ponda.

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant interacted with the first batch of B.V.Sc. & A.H. students during the Orientation Programme, in the presence of Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar, the Chief Secretary and other dignitaries.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **New Institution:** Goa College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences begins its academic journey with its first batch of students.
- **Education Expansion:** CM highlighted the growth and strengthening of educational institutions in Goa over the last 15 years.
- **More Opportunities:** Establishment of the Veterinary College and launch of the Fisheries College mark important milestones in professional education.

- **Career Prospects:** Students can pursue careers as veterinary doctors and professionals in allied sectors.
- **Rural Development:** Veterinary and animal sciences will contribute to agriculture, animal husbandry and Goa's rural economy.
- **National Vision:** CM expressed confidence that the college will emerge as one of the finest institutions in the country.
- Congratulating everyone involved in establishing the institution, Dr Sawant described the first batch as pioneers who will shape the college's future.
- He urged students to make the most of this opportunity, develop professional skills and contribute to Goa's growth.
- A new institution, wider career opportunities and a stronger future for Goan youth.
- Government of Goa I Investing in Education, Empowering Youth.

Department of Information and Publicity

IFFI evenings bring cinema, culture and celebrations to Goa

■ Open-air screenings, Romtamel performances and illuminated streets turn Panaji into a vibrant festival destination

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is adding a festive dimension to Goa's evenings, with open-air film screenings, cultural performances, colourful parades and illuminated public spaces bringing cinema closer to the people. According to a press release issued by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) on November 25, the festival's evening activities are creating opportunities for residents, tourists and cinema enthusiasts to experience the celebrations beyond conventional cinema halls. As part of IFFI 2026, open-air screenings are being organised at Miramar Beach, Ravindra Bhavan in Margao and the helipad area at Vagator Beach. Scheduled between 7 pm and 10 pm, the screenings feature a curated selection of films, allowing audiences to enjoy cinema under the open skies. The cultural celebrations also extend to the Mandovi promenade, where performances of Goa's traditional Romtamel are showcasing the state's rich artistic heritage. Seven cultural groups are participating in performances scheduled across four evenings from November 23 to 27. Another major attraction is the IFFI Parade, held on November 25 under the theme 'Celebrating the Joy of Cinema'. The parade proceeds from the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) premises to Kala Academy in Panaji, featuring colourful floats, cultural performances and community participation.



When words fall short, music speaks: K.S. Chithra recalls legendary voices at IFFI

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Celebrated playback singer K.S. Chithra took audiences on a nostalgic musical journey, recalling her personal experiences and cherished memories of legendary singers Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle and S. Janaki during a special masterclass at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. Titled 'Lata Mangeshkar Talk: The Voice That Echoes Forever in the Memory of Asha Bhosle and S. Janaki', the session explored the musical legacies of the three iconic singers through anecdotes, memorable songs and personal experiences. The interaction was moderated by actor and filmmaker Suhasini Maniratnam. Recalling her early musical journey, Chithra spoke about growing up in a family with a strong musical background, participating in singing competitions and receiving training in classical music. She said singing was something she knew she could do well, although she had never imagined it would take her so far.

Bharatbala's The India Experience: Season One Makes Its India Premiere At IFFI Goa

■ A 90-minute cinematic journey celebrating India's living heritage, comprising 10 films from Virtual Bharat, premieres to a packed house at the 57th International Film Festival of India

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Acclaimed filmmaker Bharatbala's *The India Experience: Season One* made its India debut with a gala premiere at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa, on November 24, marking a homecoming for the 90-minute creation, comprising 10 films from Virtual Bharat, was screened at INOX Panjim to a packed auditorium and an enthusiastic audience. The screening was followed by an engaging interaction between the audience and the film's team. celebrated cinematic project after a successful run of screenings across the United States. The



100 young filmmakers showcase talent in 48-hour challenge at IFFI 2026

■ Sixth edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow concludes in Goa; 'One Last Stop' wins Best Film award and takes home ₹5 lakh

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A total of 100 young creative professionals from across the country showcased their filmmaking skills through an intensive 48-hour filmmaking challenge as the sixth edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT) concluded at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa on November 25.

The initiative brought together emerging talent from 13 filmmaking disciplines, culminating in the screening of five short films produced by five teams and the presentation of awards across 15 categories.

The Best Film award went to *One Last Stop*, directed by Mohak Gandhi of the Red Team, which received a cash prize of ₹5 lakh. *A Little Something*, directed by Tamanna Thakur of the Green Team, secured the runner-up position with a prize of ₹3 lakh.

Tamanna Thakur was also adjudged Best Director, while Siddhi Parkar won Best Actor for *Shells*.

Other award winners included Triasha Manna for Best Cinematographer, Nayan Chotaliya and Manav Agarwal for Best Editor, and Jithin S for Best Scriptwriter.

Aswin Ashok won Best Sound Design, Sree Parvati S was recognised as Best Playback Singer, and Akshay Anmol Katore received the Best Music Composer award.

Srushti Wagh and Rupalika Paul won awards for Best Costume Design and Best Art Design.

'Baapya' explores gender identity, acceptance and family relationships at IFFI 2026

■ Director Samir Tewari says Marathi film highlights the importance of understanding and accepting individual choices; actor Girish Kulkarni stresses art's role in social progress

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PANAJI: The Marathi comedy-drama *Baapya*, set in coastal Maharashtra, explores gender identity, family relationships and social acceptance through an intimate story of personal choices and changing societal perceptions, said director and producer Samir Tewari at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. The film, featured in the Mainstream Cinema section of Indian Panorama, was discussed during a press conference organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) on November 25, attended by Tewari and actor Girish Kulkarni. Explaining the central idea behind the film, Tewari said it was not intended to preach to society but to tell a story about acceptance, understanding and relationships.

Making audiences laugh is serious business, says Anil Ravipudi at IFFI 2026

■ Director discusses the challenges of comedy filmmaking, family emotions and working with superstar Chiranjeevi at Goa film festival

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Making audiences laugh is one of the most demanding creative exercises in filmmaking, said National Film Award-winning Telugu filmmaker Anil Ravipudi during a press conference at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

Speaking about his film *Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu*, selected in the Mainstream Cinema section of Indian Panorama, Ravipudi said comedy requires careful writing, particularly when it involves balancing humour with family emotions and audience expectations.

The 164-minute Telugu-language film is among the five films selected in the Mainstream Cinema category at IFFI 2026.

World's First Dual-Console Complex Robotic Beating-Heart TECAB Surgery Performed in India using Made in India technology

■ The landmark beating-heart TECAB procedure performed at Medanta Hospital using SSI Mantra system, demonstrates advances in Indian Medtech industry and the potential of dual-console technology in complex, minimally invasive heart procedures.

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NEW DELHI: India has achieved a global milestone in robotic cardiac surgery with the successful completion of the World's first dual-console, five-arm robotic beating-heart Totally Endoscopic Coronary Artery Bypass (TECAB) surgery using the SSI Mantra Surgical Robotic System at Medanta, Gurugram.

The procedure was performed by Dr. Nitin Kumar Rajput, Associate Director of Robotic and Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery at Medanta, Gurugram and Dr. Lalit Malik, Chief Cardiac Surgeon at Manipal Hospital, Jaipur under the supervision of Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, widely considered as Father of Robotic Surgery In India, using two separate control consoles. The surgeons operated in synchronisation to perform the complex procedure with all five robotic arms of SSI Mantra system, deployed simultaneously in a dual-console configuration. A heart stabilisation system helped steady the target area while the heart continued to beat. complex form of coronary artery bypass surgery performed through small incisions, without opening the chest, unlike a conventional sternotomy. In conventional procedures, one surgeon often needs to assist the other by operating the retractor or mobilising tissues to obtain a clear surgical view. However, under this technique with a five-arm robotic configuration and dual-console control it enables more precise movements and better coordination. This level of precision can make a significant difference to the overall clinical outcomes, benefiting both the surgeon and the patient. The beating-heart approach allows surgeons to perform the bypass while the heart continues to beat, without using a heart-lung machine.

The procedure also brings attention to the potential recovery benefits of minimally invasive robotic cardiac surgery. In this case, the patient's recovery progress over 15 days provides an important reference point for assessing the outcomes of the approach. The outcome represents an encouraging development in robotic cardiac surgery, where advances in surgical techniques and technology continue to expand treatment possibilities for patients.

Dr. Naresh Trehan, Chairman and Managing Director, Medanta, said "This achievement reflects Medanta's commitment to advancing cardiac care through innovation, surgical excellence and technology. The successful completion of this highly complex beating-heart TECAB procedure demonstrates how robotic surgery can make advanced cardiac interventions less invasive for patients. It is a proud moment for our team and an important step forward for cardiac surgery in India.

Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, Founder, Chairman and CEO, SS Innovations International, Inc., said, "With our vision of 'Make in India, for the World', this historic procedure demonstrates the capabilities of the SSI Mantra Surgical Robotic System in enabling advanced minimally invasive cardiac surgery. The successful use of dual-console control and five robotic arms in a beating-heart TECAB procedure marks a significant milestone for Indian innovation in surgical robotics.

Our mission is to make world-class robotic surgery accessible and affordable and this achievement brings us a step closer to that goal."

Dr. Nitin Kumar Rajput, Associate Director of Robotic and Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery at Medanta, Gurugram said, "Performing a complex beating-heart bypass procedure using five robotic arms and two control consoles requires precision, coordination and close collaboration between the surgeons. This approach allowed us to work in synchronisation throughout the procedure. The patient's recovery following surgery was encouraging and reinforces the potential of minimally invasive techniques in advancing cardiac care."

Dr. Lalit Malik, Chief Cardiac Surgeon, Manipal Hospital, Jaipur, said, "This procedure marks an important step in the evolution of robotic cardiac surgery. The dual-console setup enabled coordinated control between the two surgeons, while the five-arm configuration supported the technical demands of the operation. Such advancements can help expand the possibilities of minimally invasive cardiac procedures and improve the overall surgical experience for patients."

The achievement underscores India's growing capabilities in advanced medical technology. Developed in India by SS Innovations, the SSI Mantra Surgical Robotic System reflects the 'Make in India, for the World' vision, highlighting the potential of indigenous s innovation to advance complex cardiac procedures and serve global healthcare needs. The dual console surgery also provides great on job training for the second surgeon, providing him the learning curve, which was otherwise was an impossible ask.

Tata Trusts Takes N Chandrasekaran Reappointment Row to Bombay High Court

■ Noel Tata-backed trusts challenge the approval of Chandrasekaran's second five-year term, alleging that Tata Sons' board did not follow the required voting procedure.

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NEW DELHI: The growing power struggle within the Tata Group has reached the Bombay High Court, with Tata Trusts preparing to challenge the reappointment of N Chandrasekaran as executive chairman of Tata Sons.

The Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and the Ratan Tata Trust have decided to approach the court, arguing that Chandrasekaran's reappointment was not approved in accordance with the company's Articles of Association.

The controversy dates back to a Tata Sons board meeting held on September 17, during which Chandrasekaran was approved for another five-year term beginning February 2027. However, the trusts maintain that the resolution did not receive the mandatory support required under the company's governance rules.

At the centre of the dispute is the voting pattern among directors nominated by Tata Trusts. The trusts argue that important decisions, including the appointment or reappointment of the chairman, require majority support from trust-nominated directors present at the meeting. During the September meeting, Noel Tata voted against Chandrasekaran's reappointment, while Venu Srinivasan supported it. With the two directors divided, the resolution was approved through a casting vote exercised by meeting chairman Harish Manwani.

Tata Trusts now maintains that a casting vote cannot substitute the affirmative support required under the Articles of Association. It wants the court to declare the resolution invalid and prevent Tata Sons from acting on the decision.

The decision to initiate legal proceedings was itself taken through an internal vote. Noel Tata, Neville Tata and Bhaskar Bhat supported the move, while Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh opposed it.

Tata Trusts is the largest shareholder of Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group, giving it significant influence over the conglomerate's governance and leadership decisions.

The trusts are also seeking a combined Rs 65 crore in damages, with the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust claiming Rs 50 crore and the RD Tata Trust seeking Rs 15 crore. The legal challenge comes ahead of another important Tata Sons board meeting scheduled for November 30. The trusts are seeking urgent judicial intervention to prevent further disputes over board decisions and governance procedures.



Deepam Row Takes Fresh Turn as Four Temple Priests Deny Being Consulted by Trustees

Priests allege their names were used without consent in temple communication defending the traditional location for lighting the Karthigai Deepam

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MADURAI: The controversy surrounding the lighting of the Karthigai Deepam atop Thiruparankundram hill in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, has taken a fresh turn after four hereditary temple priests denied being consulted by the temple administration before their views were cited in an official communication. The four Sthanika Bhatters (hereditary priests) have expressed concern over the inclusion of their names in a communication issued by the temple authorities without their knowledge or consent. In a letter dated November 24, addressed to the temple's Executive Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and other trustees, the priests clarified that they had not submitted any representation concerning this year's Deepam lighting arrangements. The priests said they came to know about the communication only through media reports. They also clarified that their only previous correspondence with the temple administration was a letter sent by post last year regarding the lighting of the lamp at the Uchipillaiyar temple. The development comes amid an escalating dispute over the Deepathoon, a stone pillar on Thiruparankundram hill. On November 24, the ceremonial lamp was lit only at the customary Deepa Mandapam near the Uchipillaiyar temple, despite a November 20 Supreme Court order permitting a one-time ceremonial lighting at the stone pillar through an authorised temple team.



Nepal Begins Process to Declare 213 Missing Indians Dead After Devastating Floods

Three months after the August disaster, families can submit objections or corrections to the missing persons list before December 2

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KATHMANDU: Three months after devastating flash floods struck Nepal, the government has begun the process of declaring 213 missing Indian nationals dead following their disappearance in the Trishuli-Bhote Koshi river system in August.

Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) has published a list of the 213 missing Indian nationals on its official website and invited objections, additions or corrections to the details provided. The Indian Embassy in Nepal has urged family members of those still missing to examine the list and report any concerns or discrepancies before December 2.

Families can submit their objections or requests for changes by contacting the embassy through the email address eoikathmandufloodsupport@gmail.com or mobile number 9779851316807.

Following the completion of the consultation process, the Nepal government will finalise the list and formally issue the declarations of death.

The Indian Embassy will subsequently initiate the process of obtaining death certificates for the missing individuals from the relevant local authorities in Nepal.



'Institutions Must Not Be Targeted for Political Motives': CJI Surya Kant

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NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has emphasised the importance of respecting institutional processes, warning against attempts to target institutions for political agendas or personal gains. He also stressed that disagreements with judicial decisions must be guided by principled reasoning rather than personal or political considerations.

Addressing the Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice said the judiciary must remain open to persuasion, engage with different arguments and ensure that its decisions are based on sound reasoning.

He highlighted that judicial authority is an essential part of India's constitutional framework, but public confidence in the institution must be earned continuously through its actions and decisions. The Chief Justice also underlined that disagreement is not a weakness of constitutional democracy.

'Opposition Wants to Cut OBC Quota to Give Reservation to Muslims': PM Modi on Constitution Day

Prime Minister accuses Congress of obstructing Parliament, questions its record on constitutional amendments and women's reservation

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accused the Congress of attempting to reduce reservations for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) to introduce quotas for Muslims, describing the alleged move as a serious departure from the principles upheld by the Constitution's framers.

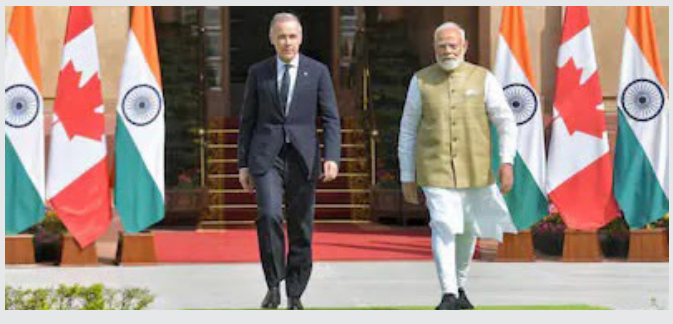
In a Constitution Day article published on his website on Wednesday, Modi criticised the Opposition over its approach to reservation policies and parliamentary proceedings. Marking the anniversary of the Constitution's adoption by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, he argued that the Opposition was pursuing an agenda that went against the vision of Dr BR Ambedkar and other members of the Constituent Assembly.

Without directly naming the Congress, Modi alleged that the country's largest Opposition party wanted to reduce OBC reservation and introduce Muslim quotas.

"This Is Our Time Together": Modi's Canada Visit Could Accelerate India-Canada Trade Deal

Ontario Minister Victor Fedeli expects the proposed CEPA agreement to be finalised by the end of 2026, opening new opportunities in technology, defence, manufacturing and critical minerals.

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to Canada on December 11 and 12 could give fresh momentum to efforts to rebuild India-Canada relations, with a major trade agreement expected to take centre stage during his meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. Ontario's Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Victor Fedeli, has expressed confidence that both countries could conclude negotiations on the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by the end of 2026. He described the agreement as an opportunity to strengthen economic cooperation after several years of diplomatic tensions. Ontario, Canada's largest provincial economy, accounts for approximately 40 per cent of the country's population and has a strong presence in aerospace, automobiles, technology and advanced manufacturing.

Fedeli believes closer trade ties with India could benefit businesses across these sectors.

The proposed agreement assumes greater importance as both countries aim to double bilateral trade to $70 billion by 2030. It is expected to improve market access, encourage investments and provide businesses with greater certainty. Relations between the two countries deteriorated following the 2023 killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia and subsequent allegations involving Indian government agents, which New Delhi rejected.

'Gautam Gambhir Is Keeping Deaf Ears': Srikkanth Urges India to Fast-Track Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

■ Former India selector says the 15-year-old batting sensation deserves more opportunities in the national team after his stunning 204 off 53 balls.

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's extraordinary batting performance in the Asia Cup Rising Stars has reignited the debate over his promotion to the senior Indian cricket team. The 15-year-old left-handed batter smashed a sensational 204 off just 53 deliveries for India A, demonstrating his remarkable power and ability to dominate bowling attacks.

His breathtaking innings, which highlighted his growing reputation across formats, has strengthened calls for India to give him more opportunities at the highest level. Former India captain and 1983 World Cup winner Krishnamachari Srikkanth has now urged the team management to take decisive steps towards fast-tracking the young batter.

Srikkanth also directed a blunt message at head coach Gautam Gambhir, accusing the team management of overlooking Sooryavanshi despite his impressive performances.

He pointed out that the teenager has already been entrusted with significant responsibilities, including captaincy of Bihar and the vice-captaincy of the Duleep Trophy side.

Chandan Caro Sets Up Double Final as Ruhaan and Rishan Shine at State Table Tennis Championships

■ Chandan to face Ruhaan in U15 final and Rishan in U17 title clash at Peddem

Team Goemkarponn

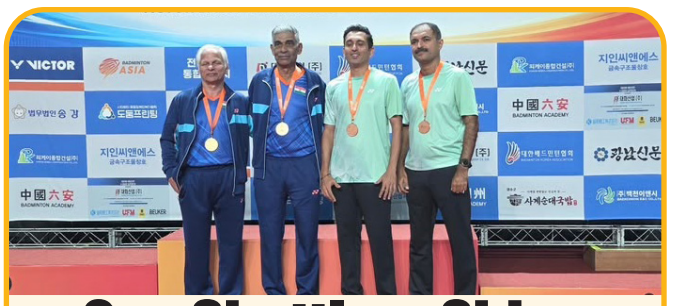


PANAJI: Chandan Caro, Ruhaan Shaikh and Rishan Shaikh emerged as the standout performers on the opening day of the Late Manohar Sawkar State Table Tennis Championships 2026, which witnessed participation from more than 250 entries at the Multipurpose Stadium, Peddem.

Chandan enjoyed an impressive run, securing places in the finals of both the boys' U15 and U17 categories. In the U15 semifinals, he defeated Yug Prabhu 3–1, while Ruhaan Shaikh registered an identical 3–1 victory over Ishaan Colaso to set up the title clash against Chandan.

Earlier in the U15 quarterfinals, Chandan defeated Riying Modi 3–0, while Yug Prabhu overcame Vedant Wagle by the same margin. Ishaan Colaso secured a 3–1 win against Dhruva Kamat, and Ruhaan Shaikh defeated Yuvaan Sanke 3–0 to advance to the semifinals.

Chandan continued his strong performance in the boys' U17 category, defeating Prathyush Shettigar 3–0 in the semifinals to book his second final appearance. He will face Rishan Shaikh, who secured his place in the final with a 3–1 victory over Vedant Wagle. In the U17 quarterfinals, Chandan defeated Ashank Dalvi 3–0, while Prathyush Shettigar edged past Atharv Dhulapkar in a closely fought 3–2 encounter.



Goa Shuttlers Shine at Asian Badminton Championships, Tanaji-Dhond Win Gold

■ Parag Chauhan and Kamlesh Kanji add bronze as Goa's senior players deliver a memorable performance in South Korea

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PANAJI: Goa celebrated a major achievement in international badminton as its senior shuttlers delivered an impressive performance at the Badminton Asia Senior Championships 2026 in Gwangju, South Korea. Tanaji Sawant and Pradeep Vaman Dhond clinched the gold medal in the men's doubles 70+ category, while Parag Chauhan and Kamlesh Kanji secured bronze in the men's doubles 45+ event. Representing India, Sawant and Dhond produced a dominant display in the final, defeating Sri Lanka's Rohan De Silva and Kaneson Sethuraman in straight games. The Indian pair controlled the contest from the beginning and registered a convincing 21–12, 21–11 victory to claim the Asian championship title. Their impressive performance highlighted their experience, coordination and consistency on the international stage, bringing significant recognition to Goa's badminton community. Chauhan and Kanji also made their mark in the tournament by securing a bronze medal in the men's doubles 45+ category. The Goan combination defeated the UAE's Abdul Abubacker and Rakesh Ramakrishnan in the quarterfinals to advance to the last four. In the semifinal, they faced Japan's Nobuyuki Ishihara and Chaoyang Lin in a closely contested encounter. After losing the opening game 17–21, the Indian pair fought back strongly to take the second game 21–19.

Amaira Dhumatker Makes History, Guarantees Second Consecutive National Medal for Goa

■ Young Goan shuttler storms into Under-11 girls' singles semifinals at the All India National Badminton Championship in Raipur

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Goa's rising badminton star Amaira Amar Dhumatker has made the state proud by storming into the semifinals of the Yonex Sunrise All India Under Mini Badminton National Championship 2026 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, thereby guaranteeing herself a medal for the second consecutive year.

Amaira produced an impressive performance in the quarterfinals, defeating Rajasthan's Rashi Singhal in straight sets with a commanding 15-6, 15-4 victory to secure her place in the last four of the Under-11 girls' singles category. With this achievement, Amaira has become the first Goan athlete to reach the semifinals of the Under-11 girls' singles category at the national championship for two consecutive years. Her consistency at the highest level of age-group badminton marks a significant milestone for the state. The young shuttler has also secured her second consecutive national medal for Goa, following her bronze medal-winning performance in the same category at the National Badminton Championship held in Gujarat in December 2025. Remarkably, Amaira was just nine years old when she claimed her first national medal. Returning to the competition this year, she has once again demonstrated her talent and determination by reaching the semifinals and ensuring another podium finish. The championship, being held from November 24 to 27, has provided another platform for the young Goan player to showcase her abilities against the country's leading junior shuttlers.