# Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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# Goa to introduce AI labs in professional colleges, tablets in primary schools: Sawant

CM seeks shift towards practical, technology-driven education; one-year apprenticeship to qualify as experience for select government jobs

**Team Goemkarponn**



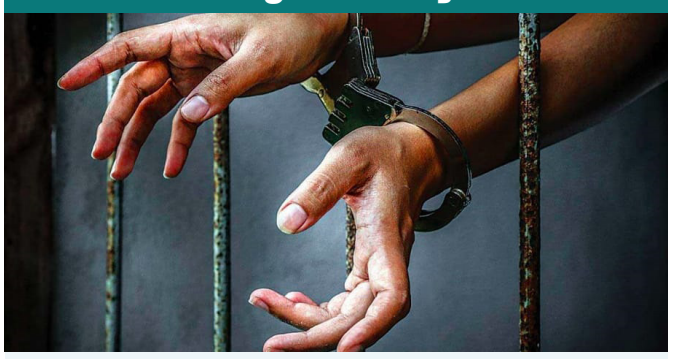
**PONDA:** Goa is looking to reshape its education and skill development framework by introducing technology-based learning in schools and professional colleges while creating stronger links between academic qualifications and employment.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Saturday announced that government primary schools would receive at least two tablets each, while professional colleges across the state would be equipped with Artificial Intelligence (AI) laboratories.

The announcements were made at Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir in Ponda during the distribution of apprenticeship letters to candidates selected for training in government departments. Sawant said the focus was on preparing students for a changing employment landscape, where practical abilities and familiarity with new technologies were becoming increasingly important. He stressed that education must go beyond classroom learning and equip young people with skills that can be applied in actual work environments. Reinforcing this approach, the Chief Minister highlighted the progress of the state's apprenticeship initiative, stating that around 33,000 youths had undergone skill development and reskilling.

# Colvale Police Arrest Seven Inmates In Jail Attack Case

## Life Convict Vikat Bhagat Was Attacked Inside High-Security Block



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**COLVALE:** Colvale Police have arrested seven inmates in connection with an alleged attempt to murder life convict Vikat Bhagat inside Colvale Central Jail on November 18, 2026. Police are making efforts to trace and arrest three more suspects, while further investigation is underway.

According to police, Bhagat was assaulted inside the High Security Block of the prison following an alleged incident in which the accused inmates held prison warden Jayesh Gawkar hostage at the entrance to the restricted zone before gaining entry. The attackers allegedly struck Bhagat on the head with a heavy object, leaving him with grievous injuries. He was initially shifted to Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, for treatment and was subsequently discharged and sent back to jail.

A previous rivalry is suspected to be the motive behind the attack. Following a complaint lodged by Deputy Jail Superintendent Anil Gaonkar, Colvale Police registered a case bearing Crime No. 90/2026 under Sections 132, 61(2) and 109(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. Ten inmates were named as accused in the case: Akash Mudraj, Tarzan Parsekar, Sagar Patil, Babu Balekar, Zakiulla Khazi, Ramkrishna Balekar, Peter, Venkatesh Swami, Aflan and Manthan Chari, along with others.

# Hydroponic ganja, charas worth nearly Rs 90,000 seized in Navelim; 28-year-old arrested

Margao police recover Rs 80,700 cash during NDPS operation near NH-66 underpass

**Team Goemkarponn**



**MARGAO:** In a drug seizure near the NH-66 underpass at Navelim, Margao Town Police arrested a 28-year-old man and seized suspected hydroponic ganja and charas collectively valued at Rs 89,950, along with Rs 80,700 in cash. The operation was conducted between 7.20 pm and 9.45 pm on November 27 near the Orzo Restaurant side of the NH-66 Service Road at Coldem, Navelim, Salcete. The arrested accused has been identified as Yoonus Ahmed alias Mataji (28), a resident of Pontemol, Curchorem. Police seized 23.70 grams of suspected hydroponic ganja valued at Rs 82,950 and 7 grams of suspected charas valued at Rs 7,000. Cash amounting to Rs 80,700 was also recovered during the operation. Margao Town Police registered Crime No. 153/2026 under Section 20(b)(ii)(A) of the NDPS Act. The accused has been arrested and further investigation is underway.

# Jaish Terrorist Wanted to 'Achieve Martyrdom', Received Weapons Training Through WhatsApp

Gujarat ATS finds Pakistan-based contact number and weapon training video on accused's phone as investigation reveals links to Jaish-e-Mohammed

**Team Goemkarponn**

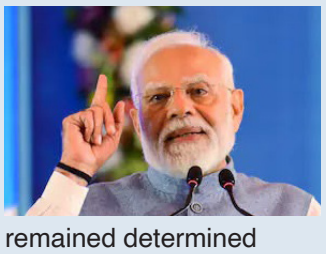


**NEW DELHI:** A 22-year-old man arrested for allegedly planning a lone-wolf attack on an Indian Air Force station in Vadodara wanted to achieve martyrdom and reach paradise, investigators have found. The accused, Mohammad Saharul Islam, a resident of Karimganj district in Assam, was allegedly in contact with handlers of Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). The Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has taken Islam's father, Kabir Uddin, into custody for questioning. Uddin had approached a police station on Thursday night to report his son missing.

# PM Modi Vows to Remove All Obstacles to 33% Women's Reservation

Prime Minister reiterates commitment to Nari Shakti ahead of special Parliament session on women's quota and delimitation

**Team Goemkarponn**



**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reaffirmed his government's commitment to implementing 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, promising to remove all obstacles standing in the way of the legislation.

In a video message shared on X, Modi said the government remained determined to fulfil its promise to women, highlighting that the demand for greater political representation had continued for decades.

"We remain committed to 33% reservation for women. The fight has been going on for decades. I am also one among those who have fought for it," he said.

Reiterating his assurance, the Prime Minister added that the government would fulfil its promise to the country's women.

His statement comes ahead of a special session of Parliament scheduled from November 30 to December 3, during which the Centre is expected to introduce a fresh constitutional amendment linked to women's reservation and delimitation.

The proposed legislation seeks to implement the 33 per cent quota by increasing the number of parliamentary and assembly seats by 50 per cent across states and Union territories. It also proposes raising the maximum strength of the Lok Sabha to 850 members, including up to 815 representatives from states and 35 from Union territories.

# When Builders Take Over, Who Protects Goa?

The Supreme Court's interim order halting construction at the House of Abhinandan Lodha's One Goa project in Karapur is more than a legal setback for a real estate developer. It raises a much bigger and uncomfortable question: Who is protecting Goa's land, its people and its fragile environment when government departments appear determined to push ahead with permissions despite judicial directions?

For the residents of Karapur, the order comes as a significant relief. For Goa, it should serve as a warning.

According to the Goa Foundation, the Supreme Court has stayed the technical clearances granted by the Town and Country Planning Department and construction licences issued for the first four buildings of the project. The Foundation has also filed a contempt petition against officials, alleging that permissions were granted in violation of an earlier status quo order of the Supreme Court.

These are serious allegations. They must be examined thoroughly, and those found responsible must be held accountable.

But the larger concern is not restricted to one project or one developer. It is about the manner in which Goa's land is being administered.

How does a government department grant permissions when a matter is already covered by an order of the Supreme Court? Did the officials concerned know about the earlier directions? If they did, why were the permissions issued? If they did not, who failed to communicate an important judicial order within the department?

These are questions that the government cannot simply brush aside.

Goa has witnessed a growing number of controversies involving land conversions, construction permissions, zoning changes and development projects. Every time a controversy erupts, the government speaks about following the law and protecting the interests of Goans. Yet, increasingly, it is the courts that are being approached to stop decisions that citizens and environmental organisations believe are damaging the state.

This raises a fundamental question about governance. Should ordinary citizens have to approach the highest court in the country to ensure that government departments follow existing judicial directions?

The One Goa controversy also brings into focus the vulnerability of villages such as Karapur. Goa's villages are not empty spaces waiting to be converted into real estate destinations. They have their own ecology, traditional settlements, agricultural landscapes, water resources and cultural identity.

Development is necessary. Investment is welcome. Employment opportunities are important. But development cannot mean that every available piece of land becomes a construction opportunity.

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There is a difference between planned development and development driven by commercial interests. The former considers the carrying capacity of a region, its infrastructure, water availability, roads, drainage and environmental impact. The latter often begins with the question of how much construction can be permitted on a particular piece of land. Goa cannot afford to confuse the two.

The controversy becomes even more significant when viewed alongside the government's changes to Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and building height regulations.

The Goa Foundation has claimed that 1,639 permissions were granted under the earlier Regulation 61(1)(a), which allowed additional height and FAR. It has also questioned the introduction of Regulation 61(2), alleging that it could facilitate the regularisation of earlier approvals. The challenge to these relaxations remains before the High Court.

The question is simple. Why does Goa repeatedly find itself changing planning regulations after permissions have already been granted?

Regulations are supposed to provide certainty, protect public interest and ensure orderly development. They cannot become instruments to accommodate decisions that may otherwise face legal or public scrutiny.

If permissions have been granted legally, the government should have no difficulty defending them. But if there are violations, the answer cannot be to change the rules and make the violations disappear.

There is also a larger institutional issue here. Government officials must understand that their responsibility is not merely to issue permissions and process files. They are custodians of public interest. A technical clearance is not just another piece of paper. It can fundamentally alter the character of a village for generations.

The government must therefore establish whether the allegations concerning the Karapur project have merit and whether any official deliberately disregarded the Supreme Court's directions. Administrative accountability cannot be sacrificed at the altar of investment.

At the same time, the interim order must not be portrayed as a final judgment on the entire project or as a finding of guilt against the developer or officials. The legal proceedings must take their course. Every party deserves a fair hearing.

But the message from the Supreme Court should not be lost in legal technicalities.

Goa's land is limited. Its natural resources are even more precious. Once a hill is flattened, a water body filled or a village transformed by unplanned construction, there is often no going back.

The government must decide whether it wants to be remembered for protecting Goa's character or for facilitating its irreversible transformation.

Karapur may have received temporary relief through judicial intervention. But the people of Goa need something more permanent: a government that respects the law, planning authorities that function independently and regulations that protect public interest rather than commercial convenience.

The Supreme Court should not have to become Goa's planning authority, environmental watchdog and administrative supervisor.

That responsibility belongs to the government. And if the government fails in that responsibility, citizens have every right to question whose interests it is really serving.

## EDITOR SPEAKS

# GOA'S EDUCATION REFORMS MUST TRANSLATE INTO REAL SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Goa Government's announcement to introduce Artificial Intelligence laboratories in professional colleges and provide at least two tablets to every government primary school signals an increased focus on technology-driven education. However, the success of these initiatives will depend on how effectively they are implemented and whether students gain practical skills from them.

Technology in classrooms should not become merely a matter of distributing devices or setting up laboratories. Schools must have trained teachers, reliable internet connectivity, proper maintenance and age-appropriate learning programmes. Similarly, AI laboratories in professional colleges should provide students with hands-on exposure, practical projects and opportunities to understand how emerging technologies are used in different industries.

The apprenticeship initiative also deserves attention. The reported participation of around 33,000 youths in skill development, along with placements in government departments and private companies, highlights the importance of connecting education with workplace experience. Recognising the one-year apprenticeship certificate as experience for certain government recruitment processes could help candidates meet eligibility requirements. However, the government must clearly specify the posts and conditions to which this recognition applies.

The proposed expansion to engineers, teachers, advocates and paramedics, with an honorarium of approximately ₹20,000, could also provide professionals with valuable exposure to government functioning.

Equally important is the Chief Minister's appeal for establishments employing 10 or more people to constitute Internal Committees under the POSH Act. Workplace safety and dignity must be treated as essential parts of employment, not optional compliance.

Goa needs an education system that prepares young people for changing employment demands while protecting their rights at work. The government must ensure that these announcements translate into measurable outcomes, equal access and meaningful opportunities for students and professionals across the state.

**- Prakash Naik,** Margao, Goa

# DRUG SEIZURE IN NAVELIM: CONTINUED VIGILANCE NEEDED TO CURB NARCOTICS

The seizure of suspected hydroponic ganja and charas worth nearly ₹90,000 near the NH-66 underpass at Navelim is another reminder of the need for sustained efforts against drug-related activities in Goa.

According to police, a 28-year-old man was arrested during an operation conducted near Coldem, Navelim, on November 27. Officers reportedly seized 23.70 grams of suspected hydroponic ganja valued at ₹82,950 and seven grams of suspected charas worth ₹7,000. Cash amounting to ₹80,700 was also recovered.

While the arrest and seizure are part of the enforcement action, the investigation must establish the source of the suspected narcotics, their intended destination and whether others were involved in the alleged activity. Action against drug-related offences should not end with the arrest of an individual if further links emerge during the investigation.

Goa's tourism economy and the well-being of its residents depend on maintaining safe communities. Drug enforcement must therefore remain consistent, evidence-based and free from selective action. Police should also strengthen intelligence gathering and coordination between different units to identify supply networks.

At the same time, awareness programmes, community participation and support for people struggling with substance abuse must form part of a wider response. Enforcement alone cannot address every dimension of the problem.

The Margao Town Police deserve recognition for conducting the operation, but the larger challenge is to prevent narcotics from reaching communities in the first place. A sustained approach combining investigation, prevention and public cooperation is essential.

**- Anthony VAZ,** Curchorem, Goa

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www.goemkarponn.com
editor@goemkarponn.com
goemkarponnnews@gmail.com
True Goemkar at heart




International Film Festival of India

cinemas of india

सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY OF GOA
(GOVERNMENT OF GOA UNDERTAKING)

## 57th International Film Festival *of* India, Goa

# Closing Ceremony

In the gracious presence of

**Dr. Pramod Sawant**
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Goa

**Shri. Ashwini Vaishnaw**
Hon'ble Minister of Information & Broadcasting,
Railways and Electronics & Information Technology
Government of India

**Closing Ceremony on 28th November, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium,
Goa University, St. Cruz, Goa**

For more Information visit **www.esg.co.in** and **www.iffigoa.org**
IFFI Helpline number **08326741717** (8.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.)

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PANAJI | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2026

# Bengal worker dies after falling from third floor of under-construction building in Navelim

■ 31-year-old succumbs to injuries while undergoing treatment at GMC Bambolim; Margao police conduct further enquiry

**Team Goemkarponn**



**MARGAO:** A 31-year-old worker from West Bengal died after allegedly falling from the third floor of an under-construction building at Navelim on November 25. The deceased has been identified as Avijit Tudu (31), a native of West Bengal. According to information received from the casualty police of South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, on November 26 at around 3.53 pm, Tudu was brought to the hospital from Navelim with injuries sustained in a fall from height. During the enquiry, police found that the incident had occurred on November 25 at around 9.20 am, when the victim allegedly fell from the third floor of an under-construction building, sustaining grievous injuries. He was initially shifted to South Goa District Hospital, Margao, and was subsequently referred to Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, for further treatment.




## Traffic diversion on NH-66 in Goa from November 28 to December 10

■ Temporary extended lanes to facilitate construction of toll plaza at Km 476.500; motorists advised to follow safety signs and traffic arrangements

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Traffic on National Highway-66 in Goa will be diverted onto temporary extended lanes along a 400-metre stretch from November 28 to December 10 to facilitate the ongoing construction of a temporary and permanent toll plaza at Km 476.500.

The diversion has been notified by the Executive Engineer of Works Division VII (NH), Public Works Department, Goa, through a notification dated November 27, 2026. The toll plaza project is being undertaken under the Annual Plan 2024-25 on the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode. The temporary traffic arrangements have been introduced to ensure the smooth and speedy completion of the work without hindrance.

According to the notification issued by Executive Engineer Gajanan R. Desai, traffic will be diverted onto temporary extended lanes on both sides of the highway for a short stretch of 400 metres.

The contracting agency has been directed to install barricades, blinkers and adequate lighting arrangements, particularly during night hours, to ensure the safety of road users. Signboards displaying the diversion period in Konkani, English and Hindi will also be installed at the diversion points.



## Anjuna police book club manager for playing loud music beyond permitted hours

**Team Goemkarponn**

**ANJUNA:** Anjuna Police have registered a case against the manager of Baaree Club at Ozran, Vagator, for allegedly playing amplified music without obtaining permission from the competent authorities, thereby causing noise pollution in the locality. The accused has been identified as Milan Ghosh (31), a resident of Bengaluru, Karnataka, who was working as the manager of the club. According to police, the incident took place on November 26 at around 11.45 pm at Baaree Club, Ozran, Vagator, Bardez. The accused was allegedly found playing amplified music without obtaining the mandatory permission from the competent authorities. Following a state complaint lodged by Police Sub-Inspector Navneet Goltekar of Anjuna Police Station, a case was registered at 2.45 am on November 27 under Section 5 of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, and Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

## Old Goa Police Book Case Over Late-Night Loudspeaker Use at Bainguinim

■ Loudspeaker allegedly operated beyond permissible hours near Shiv Temple, next to Sunshine School

**Team Goemkarponn**



**OLD GOA:** Old Goa Police registered a case on November 26, 2026, at 8.40 pm, under Section 5 of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, and Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, following a complaint by Mahima Bedi Lobo, a resident of Milroc Kadamba, Baiguinim. According to the complaint, on November 24, 2026, at around 11.20 pm, unknown person(s) allegedly operated a loudspeaker near Shiv Temple, next to Sunshine School, at Bainguinim, Old Goa, emitting loud sound beyond the permissible hours. The alleged act amounts to a violation of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

## Man caught accepting money for issuing 'Kalyan' slips in Pernem

■ Police seize Rs 1,700 cash, carbon paper and pen; accused arrested and released on bail

**Team Goemkarponn**



**PERNEM:** A 39-year-old man was caught red-handed while allegedly accepting money from members of the public and issuing paper slips bearing the inscription 'Kalyan' near Smarak, Chandel, Pernem, on Friday afternoon.

The accused has been identified as Gokuldas Suresh Desai, a resident of Dabiwadi, Kalane, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.

According to the complaint lodged by Head Constable 4977 Mahesh Naik Dessai of Pernem Police Station, the incident occurred at around 12.15 pm on November 27. The accused was allegedly caught accepting money from the public in exchange for issuing paper slips.

During his personal search, police found Rs 1,700 in cash in different denominations, comprising two Rs 500 notes, one Rs 200 note and five Rs 100 notes. Police also seized a slip bearing the inscription 'Kalyan' along with handwritten numbers, a piece of carbon paper and a ballpoint pen.

The accused was arrested and subsequently released on bail on the same day.

Head Constable 4977 Mahesh Naik Dessai of Pernem Police Station is the investigating officer.




# A Stronger, Safer Goa:

## Government Boosts Police Mobility and Coastal Security




*New police fleet, coastal patrol-cum-rescue boats and promotion opportunities for 52 Home Guards mark a major step towards strengthening Goa's security infrastructure.*

Goa is taking another significant step towards building a stronger, more responsive and better-equipped police force, with Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant flagging off a new fleet of police vehicles and two Coastal Security Patrol-Cum-Rescue Boats at the Captain of Ports Complex, Panaji.

The initiative reflects the State Government's commitment to modernising law enforcement, strengthening public safety and enhancing security across Goa, both on land and along its extensive coastline.

The newly inducted fleet includes 15 Kia Carens vehicles, 149 two-wheelers, 80 Light Motor Vehicles and 40 Hunter motorcycles, among other vehicles. This substantial addition to the police fleet will enhance mobility and enable personnel to undertake patrolling, traffic management, field operations and emergency response with greater efficiency.

The expanded fleet will provide much-needed operational support to police stations and personnel across the State, helping improve accessibility, strengthen ground-level policing and ensure a more effective response to public requirements.

Adding another important dimension to Goa's security infrastructure are the two Coastal Security Patrol-Cum-Rescue Boats. These vessels will strengthen maritime surveillance, coastal patrolling and emergency response capabilities. They will also support monitoring of suspicious activities and rescue operations at sea, reinforcing the safety of residents, fishermen and visitors.

The occasion also marked an important milestone in police recruitment and personnel development, with Chief Minister Dr. Sawant handing over offer letters to 52 Home Guards for their promotion into the Police Force. Goa has become the first State in the country to undertake this initiative, recognising the contribution of Home Guards and opening new opportunities for them to serve in the regular police force.

Together, these initiatives represent a comprehensive approach to strengthening Goa Police through modern equipment, improved mobility, enhanced coastal surveillance and personnel empowerment.

With a renewed focus on infrastructure and operational readiness, the Government is reinforcing its commitment to a safer Goa, where a well-equipped and responsive police force remains at the forefront of protecting citizens and safeguarding the State.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **15 Kia Carens vehicles** added to Goa Police fleet.
- **149 two-wheelers** inducted to improve police mobility.
- **80 Light Motor Vehicles** added for field operations.
- **40 Hunter motorcycles** included in the new fleet. Two Coastal Security
- **Patrol-Cum-Rescue Boats** to strengthen coastal surveillance and maritime security.
- **Goa becomes the first State** in the country to undertake this Home Guards promotion initiative.
- **Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant** flags off the new fleet and rescue boats at Captain of Ports Complex, Panaji.
- **Key focus:** Better policing, faster emergency response, stronger coastal security and improved public safety.













Department of Information and Publicity





# A New Creative Revolution Begins in Goa

## Goa Builds Film and Creative Hub

*Six strategic MoUs with leading institutions to open new opportunities in filmmaking, media, visual arts, AI and creative entrepreneurship.*













Goa is taking a significant step towards becoming a hub for India's film and creative industries, with Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant presiding over the signing of six strategic Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) through the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) at Mantralaya, Porvorim.

The partnerships bring together leading institutions and organisations, including the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Women in Film India, Ideabaaz, Knowmagin Eduverse and Goa College of Art.

The collaborations mark an important milestone in the State Government's efforts to develop a vibrant creative ecosystem connecting education, professional training, innovation and industry opportunities.

The initiative aims to create new avenues for Goan youth, students and creative professionals through specialised training, mentorship, industry exposure and practical learning. It will encourage local talent to explore emerging opportunities across filmmaking, television, media, content creation, visual arts and allied creative sectors.

A key focus of these partnerships is the integration of modern technology, including Artificial Intelligence, into creative education and content development. The collaborations will also encourage greater participation of women in cinema, promote entrepreneurship and provide a platform for emerging talent and startups.

Chief Minister Dr. Sawant said the partnerships would strengthen Goa's position as a hub for India's creative economy while generating new opportunities for employment, investment and enterprise.

The MoU signing ceremony was attended by MLA and ESG Vice Chairperson Delilah Michael Lobo, along with representatives of the partner institutions. Aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat and the promotion of the Orange Economy, the Government is positioning creative industries as an important driver of sustainable economic growth.

Through these six strategic partnerships, Goa is opening new pathways for talent, innovation and enterprise, strengthening its ambition to emerge as a destination for filmmaking, media, visual arts and India's growing creative economy.

Department of Information and Publicity

# IFFI 2026 Wraps Up Nine-Day Cinematic Celebration in Goa Today

■ Festival showcases global cinema, nurtures emerging talent and strengthens India's film industry connections

**Team Goemkarponn**




**PANAJI:** The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will conclude in Goa today after nine days of film screenings, industry interactions and creative exchanges, bringing together filmmakers and cinema professionals from across the globe. The festival's final-day programme includes screenings of four films — 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge', 'Health Centre', 'Azad Bharath' and 'We Are All Strangers', directed by Anthony Chen, which has been chosen as the closing film.

The closing ceremony will take place this evening at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panjim, with awards recognising outstanding contributions to cinema. This year's festival, which commenced on November 20, presented over 150 international films representing 86 countries. The Indian Panorama section featured 76 films across 18 languages, offering audiences an opportunity to experience the diversity of Indian storytelling. A significant focus of IFFI 2026 was encouraging new talent.




## Argentine Film 'The River Train' Explores Childhood Dreams and the Spirit of Collaboration at IFFI 2026

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The cast and crew of Argentine Spanish-language film 'The River Train' (El Tren Fluvial) spoke about the role of trust, friendship and sensitivity in filmmaking during a press conference held on the sidelines of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. Producer Valentine Torre and actor Rita Pauls attended the interaction, discussing the making of the 75-minute feature directed by Lorenzo Ferro and Lucas A. Vignale. The film had its India premiere in the International Competition section of IFFI 2026. Set in the Argentine Pampas, 'The River Train' follows nine-year-old Milo, who trains in Malambo, a traditional Argentine folk dance, but dreams of travelling by train to Buenos Aires, a city he knows only through films. As he sets out on his own, unfamiliar encounters and moments of loneliness introduce him to a world beyond the expectations placed upon him. The film explores childhood, freedom and the challenges of pursuing one's dreams.

## Virtual Bharat Showcases India's Diverse Storytelling Traditions at IFFI 2026

■ Initiative brings together 143 films on a cloud-based platform, highlighting India's cultural diversity and the global potential of Indian cinema

**Team Goemkarponn**



**PANAJI:** Virtual Bharat showcased India's rich storytelling traditions and the global potential of Indian cinema during a discussion at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026. The initiative brings together 143 films on a cloud-based platform, offering audiences a glimpse into India's diverse cultural, geographical and social landscape. It aims to take authentic Indian stories to international audiences and strengthen the country's presence in global cinema. Filmmaker Bharat Bala emphasised the importance of discovering and presenting stories rooted in India's cultural and social realities. He highlighted that authentic human experiences have the power to connect with audiences across geographical boundaries.




## 'The Villain Is Not Always an Individual, but a Reflection of Society': Karthik Subbaraj at IFFI 2026

■ Filmmaker explores morality, patriarchy and cinema's power to challenge social prejudices

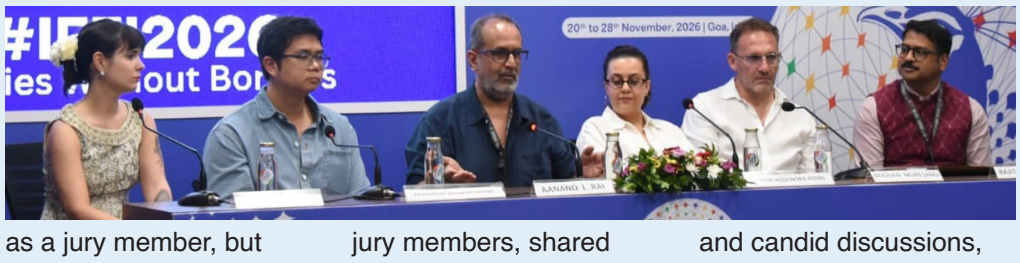
**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Renowned filmmaker Karthik Subbaraj explored the complexities of morality, the roots of villainy in society and cinema's potential to challenge prejudice during an interactive session titled 'What If the Villain Is Right?' at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. Moderated by film critic Sudhir Srinivasan, the session examined how Subbaraj's films question conventional distinctions between good and evil. Observing that human behaviour is shaped by circumstances and social experiences, the filmmaker remarked, "The base is grey for everyone." Discussing his film 'Dorothy', Subbaraj distinguished between characters who consciously commit evil and those whose harmful behaviour emerges from deeply ingrained social conditioning. He pointed out that individuals who fail to recognise their own prejudices and wrongdoing can sometimes be more dangerous than those who openly display evil tendencies. Subbaraj explained that 'Dorothy' portrays masculinity and patriarchal attitudes as the forces responsible for the protagonist's death, suggesting that an oppressive mindset, rather than a single individual, is the real antagonist.

## 'I came as a jury member, but became a student of cinema': Aanand L Rai at IFFI 2026

■ International jury describes Golden Peacock selection process as organic and unanimous; highlights diversity of global cinema

**Team Goemkarponn**




**PANAJI:** Filmmaker Aanand L Rai, Chairperson of the International Competition Jury at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), said that his experience of evaluating films from different countries had turned into an enriching learning experience, offering fresh perspectives on cinema and storytelling."I came as a jury member, but while watching the films I became a student of cinema," Rai said while addressing a press conference organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) in Goa on November 27. Rai, along with fellow international jury members, shared their experiences of evaluating 15 feature films competing for the prestigious Golden Peacock Award. Speaking about the selection process, Rai said the jury's deliberations were organic and involved open and candid discussions, without any predetermined approach or consideration of the countries from which the films originated.

He added that the discussions were enriching, with members freely sharing their opinions and perspectives. Emphasising the evolving nature of cinema, Rai said filmmakers must remain responsive to changes in cinematic grammar, irrespective of the language in which they work.

He observed that cinema is fundamentally an experience of emotions and expressions, and every film should leave a lasting impact on its audience.

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PANAJI | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2026

# Atal Setu crash raises question over road transport of Goa's fish containers

With container-handling infrastructure and shipping logistics facilities available at Mormugao Port, coastal shipping could offer seafood exporters a safer and potentially more cost-effective alternative to long-distance road transportation

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**VASCO:** The mangled cabin of a heavy fish-export container truck on Goa's Atal Setu and the diesel spill that brought traffic to a crawl on Wednesday morning have once again highlighted the risks of transporting heavy cargo through the State's increasingly congested road network.

The accident, which occurred on the night of November 24, could have resulted in a major tragedy. While the driver reportedly escaped before fleeing the scene, the collision left behind damaged road infrastructure, an oil spill and hours of disruption for commuters travelling between Merces and Porvorim.

Beyond the immediate circumstances of the accident lies a larger question that Goa's seafood exporters and logistics operators need to consider: Why should refrigerated export containers undertake long and potentially hazardous road journeys when container-handling facilities and maritime logistics infrastructure are already available at Mormugao Port?



# Unsafe Raghavendra Apartments to be demolished and rebuilt

Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar inspects dilapidated building, urges residents to vacate premises in view of safety concerns

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**VASCO:** With concerns mounting over the safety of residents living in dilapidated structures, Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar on Friday inspected the unsafe Raghavendra Apartments along with concerned government authorities and discussed the way forward for its demolition and reconstruction. The inspection comes after demolition notices were issued to the building, which has been declared unsafe for habitation. During the visit, Salkar assessed the condition of the structure and interacted with residents, explaining the need for urgent action in view of the potential risks involved in continuing to occupy the building. Salkar said the building would have to be demolished and reconstructed, with the owners expected to undertake the redevelopment process in association with a builder. He said the objective was to ensure that residents were not exposed to further danger while providing them an opportunity to have their homes rebuilt through a structured redevelopment arrangement. However, shifting residents out of the building remains a concern, with some families reportedly reluctant to vacate their homes despite the safety risks. During the inspection, Salkar personally interacted with families unwilling to move out and attempted to convince them about the seriousness of the situation.



## AAP's Mhargai Mukti Yatra Reaches Quepem on Day 2, Promises ₹15,000 Monthly Benefits to Every Family

**Team Goemkarponn**

**QUEPEM:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) continued its 'Mhargai Mukti Yatra' in Quepem on Friday, beginning Day 2 by seeking blessings at Shri Shantadurga Fatarpekarin Mandir. AAP leaders interacted with women flower sellers outside the temple, listening to their concerns over rising prices and the increasing cost of essential commodities, which have affected their livelihoods and household budgets. AAP Goa President Valmiki Naik reiterated the party's commitment to providing benefits worth ₹15,000 every month to every family through its guarantees of free electricity, ₹3,000 monthly assistance for women and free bus travel. The temple visit was followed by a bike rally to Velipwada, where party leaders and volunteers conducted door-to-door outreach. The outreach team, comprising Valmiki Naik, Senior Vice President Sandesh Telekar Desai, ST Wing President Rajesh Gaonkar.

# Congress confronts BLO over rejection of PAN card in SIR process

Congress leader approaches Mormugao Mamlatdar, who assures memorandum directing BLOs to accept prescribed documents for restoration of deleted voter names

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**VASCO:** Vasco Congress leader Nandadeep Raut on Friday confronted a Booth Level Officer (BLO) over the alleged refusal to accept a PAN card submitted by a resident seeking restoration of his name in the electoral roll following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Raut alleged that the BLO had refused to accept the PAN card as a valid document, raising concerns over the difficulties faced by residents whose names have been deleted from the voters' list during the revision process. Following the confrontation, Raut approached the Mormugao Mamlatdar, who reportedly clarified that PAN cards were accepted as valid documents for the process. The Mamlatdar subsequently assured him that a memorandum would be issued to all BLOs, directing them to accept the prescribed documents required for restoration of deleted names in the electoral roll. Raut said the incident exposed the confusion and difficulties faced by people attempting to restore their names in the voters' list despite possessing the necessary documents.

# Krishi Melava to be held in Mormugao taluka: Amonkar

Cortalim being considered as venue for farmers' meet to promote awareness of government schemes and agricultural initiatives

**Team Goemkarponn**



**VASCO:** Agriculture Minister Sankalp Amonkar has announced that a Krishi Melava will be organised in Mormugao taluka, with Cortalim being considered as the proposed venue, in a move aimed at bringing agricultural initiatives and government support closer to farmers across Goa.

Amonkar made the announcement during a meeting with members of the Pale Tollem Xetkaranche Association, comprising farmers from Velsao, led by its president Roquezinho D'Souza and Panch Jim D'Souza.

The minister said Cortalim was being considered as the venue as it has a sizeable farming community and enjoys a central location, making it convenient for farmers from different parts of Goa to participate in the programme.

With Mormugao taluka having a significant farming population, particularly in the Cortalim constituency, the proposed Krishi Melava is expected to provide a platform for farmers to interact with officials and learn about various agricultural schemes, facilities and government initiatives.

The association members discussed issues concerning the farming community during their interaction with the minister and expressed confidence in his ability to address farmers' concerns.

Speaking about the meeting, Roquezinho D'Souza said it was a courtesy visit to Amonkar following his assumption of charge as Agriculture Minister after the demise of former minister Ravi Naik.

D'Souza said the association wanted to extend its support to the new minister and bring to his notice the concerns of the farming community.

# Chandrababu Naidu Challenges Congress: "What's the Solution?" Over Delimitation Row

■ TDP chief backs 50% increase in Lok Sabha seats, saying it can protect southern states' representation while ensuring 33% reservation for women

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**NEW DELHI:** Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has challenged the Congress to present an alternative proposal on delimitation, questioning how the party plans to protect the political representation of southern states while implementing 33 per cent reservation for women. Speaking in New Delhi, Naidu strongly backed the Centre's proposal to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha by 50 per cent, arguing that reserving one-third of the additional seats for women would address both concerns. He directly questioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the Opposition over their objections to the proposed delimitation exercise.

"Rahul Gandhi, till yesterday, represented Kerala. Now Priyanka is representing Kerala as an MP. Congress is also in governments in three southern states. What is the solution they are proposing?" Naidu asked.

He cautioned that conducting delimitation solely on the basis of the latest Census could reduce the political influence of southern states, which have raised concerns over population-based seat redistribution. Naidu argued that implementing women's reservation within the existing 543 Lok Sabha seats could create challenges for the representation of male candidates.




## DMK Backs Centre's Delimitation Bill, Boosting Government's Numbers Ahead of Parliament Session

■ Party agrees to support fresh proposal after Centre accepts key demands on seat allocation and a 25-year freeze

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has announced its support for the Centre's proposed delimitation bill, giving the ruling side a significant boost ahead of its introduction in Parliament next week. The decision marks a major shift in the position of the Tamil Nadu-based party, which had strongly opposed the earlier delimitation exercise.

The decision was taken during a meeting of DMK MPs on Saturday morning. Following the meeting, party leaders A Raja and Dayanidhi Maran confirmed that the party would support the fresh bill when it is presented in Parliament.

The DMK's support is significant as the party has 22 MPs and had previously been among the strongest voices opposing population-based delimitation. Its decision strengthens the government's position as it prepares to make another attempt after the earlier bill was defeated in April. The change in stance follows the Centre's inclusion of a provision for a 50 per cent increase in parliamentary seats across all states. The government has also agreed to a 25-year freeze on the distribution of seats, addressing some of the concerns raised by southern states.



## Defence Chief Warns Of China-Pakistan-Turkey Military Ties, Calls For Stronger Indian Space Capabilities

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General NS Raja Subramani has warned about the growing military cooperation between China, Pakistan and Turkey, highlighting the potential security challenges for India. He stressed that New Delhi must accelerate the development of its space-based military capabilities to maintain a strategic advantage in an increasingly technology-driven battlefield.

Speaking at a session on the future of warfare and India's preparedness for multi-domain operations at the Vivekananda International Foundation, General Subramani highlighted the progress of Pakistan's space programme with assistance from China.

He noted that Pakistan's national space agency, Suparco, was also working to strengthen its independent capabilities, with the possibility of additional support from Turkey.

## CoBRA Commandos Deployed In Manipur As CRPF Intensifies Security Operations

■ Around 100 Armoured Vehicles Deployed Across Sensitive Areas As Security Forces Target Armed Groups And Fortified Bunkers

**Team Goemkarponn**



**NEW DELHI:** Security has been tightened across several sensitive areas of Manipur, with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) deploying specialised CoBRA commandos and increasing armoured vehicle patrols to prevent further violence and restrict the activities of armed groups.

On Friday, CRPF personnel conducted extensive patrols along the Churachandpur, Moirang, Kakching, Thoubal, Imphal and Bishnupur stretch. Armoured vehicles moved through villages and rural roads, while security personnel interacted with residents to strengthen confidence in areas affected by prolonged ethnic violence. Two CoBRA battalions, 207 and 210, have been inducted into the state. These specialised units are trained in jungle warfare and have previously participated in anti-Maoist operations.

## "Mortgaging Self-Respect": Sanjay Raut Slams Sharad Pawar Over Possible Support for Delimitation Bill

■ Shiv Sena (UBT) leader warns that backing the BJP-led NDA would amount to betraying Maharashtra, as reports point to power-sharing negotiations

**Team Goemkarponn**



**NEW DELHI:** Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut has launched a sharp attack on Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar over reports that his party is considering supporting the BJP-led NDA government on the upcoming delimitation bill. Speaking to reporters in Maharashtra's Satara district, Raut described the possibility of such support as an unfortunate decision that could affect the political future of Maharashtra. He warned that the NCP (SP) would lose its moral standing if it aligned with the BJP on the issue. Raut also questioned how the party could continue invoking the legacy of social reformers Jyotirao Phule, Shahu Maharaj and Dr B.R. Ambedkar, along with former Maharashtra Chief Minister Yashwantrao Chavan, if it decided to support the BJP. Reminding Pawar of the Opposition's electoral understanding, Raut pointed out that the NCP (SP) had secured eight Lok Sabha seats as part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which also includes the Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT). He argued that the BJP had not contributed to the party's electoral success and warned that any unilateral decision to support the ruling alliance would invite public criticism. In a particularly strong remark, Raut accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of breaking Pawar's party and family through political manoeuvres. He described any attempt by Pawar to seek cooperation with the BJP as "mortgaging your self-respect". Raut also demanded that the NCP (SP) apologise to former Maharashtra ministers Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik, referring to their legal battles during the BJP-led government's tenure.

# "We Didn't Play to Our Potential": India Coach Reacts After Batting Collapse Against New Zealand

India end Day 2 at 116/6, trailing by 240 runs after missed catches and poor batting partnerships put them under pressure in the second Test

**Team Goemkarponn**



**NEW DELHI:** India's disappointing performance with both bat and ball left the team facing a difficult challenge against New Zealand in the second Test at Hagley Oval in Christchurch. Spin-bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule admitted that India had failed to perform to their potential after the visitors ended Day 2 at 116/6 in their first innings on Saturday.

New Zealand had earlier posted 356 runs in their first innings, giving them a substantial advantage of 240 runs. Although India's bowlers managed to restrict the hosts, missed catching opportunities and a lack of meaningful batting partnerships proved costly.

Reflecting on India's batting collapse, Bahutule pointed out that several batters managed to get starts but failed to convert them into substantial scores.



# AA De Moira and KOFS Unveil Official Jersey Ahead of GFA U-14 Second Division League

Young footballers prepare for their November 29 league opener as the partnership focuses on nurturing grassroots talent in Goa

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MOIRA:** AA De Moira, in association with Kick Off Football Schools (KOFS), has unveiled its official team jersey ahead of its debut fixture in the Goa Football Association (GFA) U-14 Second Division League.

The jersey unveiling marks an important occasion for the club as its young footballers gear up for the upcoming league campaign. The new team kit represents their commitment, ambition and determination to compete at the state level while gaining valuable experience.

The partnership between AA De Moira and KOFS reflects their common objective of strengthening grassroots football in Goa. Through their association, both organisations aim to provide young players with opportunities to improve their skills, develop their game and showcase their abilities on a competitive platform.

The initiative also highlights the importance of structured training and competitive exposure in shaping the next generation of footballers. Participation in the GFA league will give the U-14 players an opportunity to test their abilities against teams from across the state.

# Goa in Strong Position to Secure First-Innings Lead Against Odisha in Cooch Behar Trophy

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa moved into a promising position to secure the crucial first-innings lead against Odisha on the second day of their four-day Elite Group encounter in the Cooch Behar Trophy Under-19 tournament at Gandhi Stadium in Balangir, Odisha. After posting 250 in their first innings, Goa's bowlers kept Odisha under pressure, restricting them to 122 for four in 62 overs at stumps on the second day. Odisha still trail Goa by 128 runs with six wickets remaining, setting up an important third day as both sides look to gain the first-innings advantage. Resuming from their overnight score of 195 for six, Goa added 55 runs before being bowled out for 250 in 105.5 overs. Mohit Yadav was the standout performer with the bat, scoring 68 runs, while Chigurupati Venkata contributed 33. Mihir Kudalkar added 15 runs as Goa managed to cross the 250-run mark. Odisha's Shubham Palai and Kamlesh Patra led the bowling effort with four wickets each. Jagadish Mohapatra claimed two wickets. In response, Odisha faced a challenging start but managed to reach 122 for four by the close of play.

# Goa Suffer Innings and 103-Run Defeat Against Maharashtra in Vijay Merchant Trophy

Tanishq Naik top-scores with 34 as Goa are bowled out for 138 in their second innings in the U-16 Elite three-day tournament

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa suffered an innings and 103-run defeat against Maharashtra in the Vijay Merchant Trophy Elite Under-16 three-day cricket tournament at the GCRG Cricket Ground in Lucknow.

Resuming their second innings at 2 for 9 on the final day, Goa struggled to recover and were eventually bowled out for 138 in 65.4 overs on Friday. The result handed Maharashtra a comprehensive victory after establishing a commanding first-innings lead.

Tanishq Naik was Goa's highest scorer in the second innings with 34 runs, following his contribution of 33 in the first innings. However, the batting unit failed to produce the partnerships required to challenge Maharashtra's advantage.

Vishram Parab contributed 16 runs, while Shaurya Chodankar and Ishant Tivrekar scored 13 each. Sanch Naik added 12, while Mrunal Naik remained unbeaten on 11.

Maharashtra's bowling attack maintained pressure throughout the innings. Arjun Gaikwad led the effort with four wickets for 33 runs, while Adarsh Chorghade claimed three wickets for 44 runs. Krushwa Gaikwad also made an impact, finishing with two wickets for 10 runs. Earlier, Maharashtra had posted an imposing 373 in their first innings. In reply, Goa were dismissed for 132, conceding a substantial 241-run lead.

# Stallions Edge Past Warriors by Two Runs in MCL-12 Thriller

Govind Gaonkar claims four wickets while Dinraj Pai Khot delivers a decisive final over to seal a dramatic victory for Stallions

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** MCC Stallions registered a thrilling two-run victory over MCC Warriors in the Madgaon Cricket Club Members Cricket League (MCL-12), thanks to an impressive bowling performance by Govind Gaonkar and a match-winning final over by Dinraj Pai Khot.

In the match played under lights at the MCC ground on Thursday,



Stallions were bowled out for 134 in 20 overs. Nikhil Virginkar top-scored with 34 runs, while Infancio Correia contributed 29. Nikit Naik Dalal remained unbeaten on 25 to help Stallions post a competitive total. Gopal Gawas and Abhishek Goyal led the Warriors' bowling attack with three wickets each.

Warriors began their chase aggressively and appeared to be in control after reaching 108 for five in 11 overs. Pranav Naik played an attacking innings of 39 off just 19 deliveries, putting his team in a strong position.

However, his dismissal triggered a dramatic collapse as Stallions fought their way back into the contest. Warriors slipped to 112 for eight, bringing Gopal Gawas and Anoop Borkar to the crease with the match still hanging in the balance. With Warriors needing nine runs from the final over, Dinraj Pai Khot produced a decisive spell under pressure.

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Team Goemkarponn

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