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GOA

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24 October 2026

TECHNOLOGY

## Panaji: Goa CM Dr. Pramod Sawant inaugurates two-day Goa AI Tech Conclave 2026 at Inox Courtyard



**Sudesh mayekar** Panaji: Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant inaugurated the two-day Goa AI Tech Conclave 2026 at the Inox Courtyard in Panaji. The conclave is being organized by the Goa government’s Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication through the Startup and IT Promotion Cell (SITPC).

The primary objective of the conclave is to strengthen the Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem in Goa, promote innovation, and contribute to the development of an inclusive and future-ready digital economy.

On this occasion, the Goa government’s Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the K.K. Birla Goa Campus of BITS Pilani. The aim of this agreement is to further strengthen the startup and AI ecosystem in the state.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Goa Minister of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication Rohan Khavte; MLA of

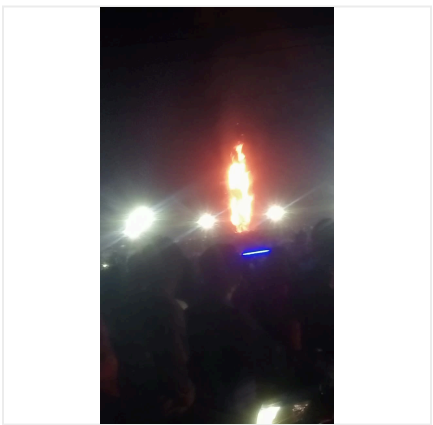
Dicholi and Chairman of Info Tech Corporation of Goa Limited Dr. Chandrakant Shetty; MLA of Maje Premendra Vishnu Shet; Secretary of the IT Department Santosh Sukhadeve (IAS); Department Director Kabir Shirgaonkar; Managing Director of Info Tech Corporation of Goa Limited Pravin Volvotkar; CEO of the Startup and IT

Promotion Cell D.S. Prashant, among other dignitaries.

The conclave places special emphasis on promoting AI technology, startups, innovation, and digital development in Goa.

LOCAL

### Ravana effigy burned in Goi, part of local festival



**DINESHNEED24** The burning of the Ravana effigy took place in Goi, Sendwa, this year on the occasion of Durga Puja.

The local administration ensured security arrangements for the burning ceremony, which was witnessed by a large crowd.

No reports of injuries or disorder were received, and the program concluded peacefully.

The burning is a traditional part of the Durga Puja festivities, symbolizing the victory of good over evil.

BUSINESS

### GOA Therapeutics launches \$300 million stock offering to develop first-in-class drug for acute alcohol poisoning



GOA Therapeutics, a biotech company engaged in the development of new drugs, has launched a \$300 million stock offering to advance its first-in-class drug candidate for acute alcohol poisoning. This capital raise is intended to financially strengthen the pre-clinical development and subsequent clinical trials of the drug, thereby addressing the need for rapid treatment in cases of severe alcohol consumption.

The company has described this issue as a primary equity offering, providing an opportunity for both institutional and retail investors to participate. The funds raised will be allocated to laboratory research, regulatory filings, and manufacturing expansion, which are necessary to move the drug to the next stages of the development process.

Experts believe that a specific treatment for acute alcohol poisoning is not yet available in the market, and if clinical data remains positive, GOA Therapeutics could bridge this gap. The company has not disclosed the exact date for the start of trials but stated that this funding will accelerate the development schedule.

The stock offering is being underwritten by major investment banks, and the company stated that the transaction will be completed within the next few weeks, subject to regulatory approval.

SARKARI YOJANA

### Only 5% response to Goa’s Urban Property Card Scheme



The Goa government has launched a scheme to issue property cards for urban properties, aimed at updating and digitizing land records across the state. According to a report by The Times of India, the response to the scheme has been minimal, with only about five percent of eligible owners providing the required information.

Officials overseeing the initiative stated that limited participation could hinder the goal of creating a comprehensive, searchable property database. They noted that additional awareness and publicity efforts may be necessary to encourage broader compliance.

The Property Card Scheme is part of broader efforts to modernize the state’s land administration and increase transparency in urban real estate transactions.

AGRICULTURE

### Marigold Cultivation Sees 30% Increase Over Last Year



Times of India reported that marigold cultivation in India has increased by 30% compared to the previous year, marking a significant upswing in the sector. This growth has been observed in the country’s major horticultural regions, where farmers have expanded cultivation of the bright-orange flower.

Experts believe the surge is largely driven by rising demand for marigold during festivals such as Diwali and Navaratri, as well as steady orders from Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian export markets. The flower’s use in cosmetics and essential oil production also contributes to the increase.

The rise in production is expected to improve the incomes of small farmers who rely on seasonal cash crops. Prices have remained stable, and the larger supply should meet market needs without causing a sharp price drop. Agricultural officials are considering expanding credit or technical assistance in view of this trend.

Looking ahead, experts predict that growing interest in natural dyes and eco-friendly décor will further boost marigold cultivation, keeping it an important cash crop for Indian farmers.

POLITICS

### BJP and MGP leaders in Goa resolve differences, but election tensions rise



Recently, senior leaders of the BJP and MGP in Goa agreed to resolve long-standing differences during a meeting. The two parties, which have historically been rivals, reached a consensus on several key issues.

However, the agreement has created new tensions between the two parties. The BJP viewed the move as a step toward stability, while the MGP expressed concern that the accord could weaken its bargaining power during the election period. Analysts say this move could alter the political landscape in Goa, where the next state elections are scheduled for early 2025.

Experts believe that a resolution at this juncture could impact voter perception and coalition formation. The BJP, which is trying to strengthen its position in Goa, may see the agreement as a strategic advantage, while the MGP fears losing its distinct identity.

Both parties have called for a united front against the opposition, but underlying conflicts make it clear that the path to a solid alliance remains complex. The political situation in Goa is likely to remain unstable due to the complexities preceding the elections.

NATIONAL

## ST body demands visits to remote tribal villages and time-bound development plans



The Scheduled Tribe (ST) body has formally requested government officials to visit remote tribal villages across the country. In its statement, the body emphasized the need for on-the-ground assessments to understand the effectiveness of existing schemes.

The body urged state governments and relevant agencies to deploy dedicated teams to these areas and prepare development plans with clear timelines. It stated that specific deadlines are essential for monitoring progress and ensuring accountability.

This initiative aims to integrate long-neglected remote tribal settlements into mainstream development programs, thereby improving infrastructure, health, and education, and accelerating socio-economic progress.

The ST body also stated that it would periodically review the implementation status and take corrective measures where delays occur.

LIFESTYLE

## Goa State Weekly Lottery Results for 20 October 2026 Released



The Goa State Lottery Department published the official results of the weekly lottery draw held on 20 October 2026. This announcement marks the completion of the draw process for the cycle, providing clarity to participants who purchased tickets across the state and beyond.

The weekly event is a regular part of the state's lottery calendar, attracting a significant number of participants eager to check their numbers. Publishing the results is a standard procedure aimed at ensuring transparency and allowing winners to claim prizes within the stipulated timeframe.

Ticket holders are advised to verify their numbers against the official results released by the department. Potential winners should keep their original tickets safe, as they are required for verification and prize collection.

The Goa State Lottery operates under the regulatory framework set by the state government, ensuring that all draws are conducted fairly and that revenue contributes to the state's welfare initiatives. Participants are urged to rely solely on official sources for accurate information.

LIFESTYLE

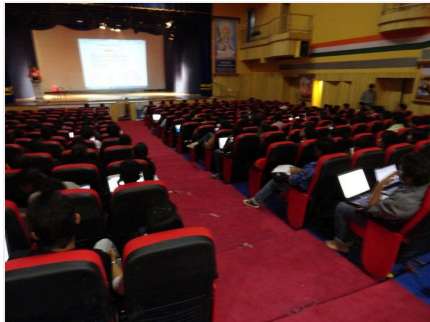
## Dog lovers fail to adopt abandoned dogs on beach



A group of dog lovers pledged to adopt abandoned dogs found on a local beach, but the promise has yet to be fulfilled. The beach, which has a high number of stray dogs, has often been the center of rescue and rehabilitation efforts. Despite community interest, no formal adoption process has been completed, leaving the dogs without permanent homes. Local animal welfare groups have urged volunteers to follow through on their commitments and collaborate with shelters to ensure proper care.

EDUCATION

## WPU-Goa expands academic horizons by launching doctoral programs



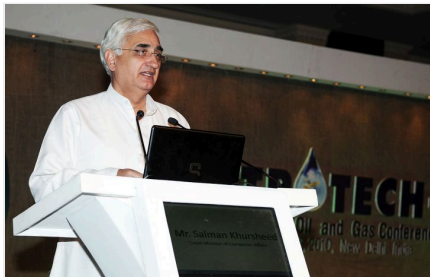
Westford Private University (WPU), located in Goa, told Business Standard that it is adding doctoral programs to its curriculum. This step was taken to expand the institution's academic scope and provide opportunities for research-level students. WPU stated that doctoral programs would be launched in various subjects, although specific disciplines were not mentioned. This initiative is part of a strategy to establish the university as a leading research center in the region.

The university also stated that the doctoral programs would adhere to the same quality standards as its existing undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Interested candidates must meet the eligibility criteria set by the university and regulatory bodies. No specific timeline has been provided for the first intake, but the admission process will begin once the necessary approvals are received.

Business Standard noted that this expansion would bolster the trend of Indian higher education institutions offering research degrees. Through its doctoral programs, WPU hopes to strengthen the research culture and promote industry and academic partnerships.

JOBS & CAREER

## Delhi corporate executive reveals decision to quit job and settle in Goa, citing fear of running out of money



A corporate professional from Delhi decided to quit a high-paying job to settle in a coastal city in Goa, as reported by The Economic Times. This move marks a significant shift from the fast-paced work environment of the capital to a quieter lifestyle.

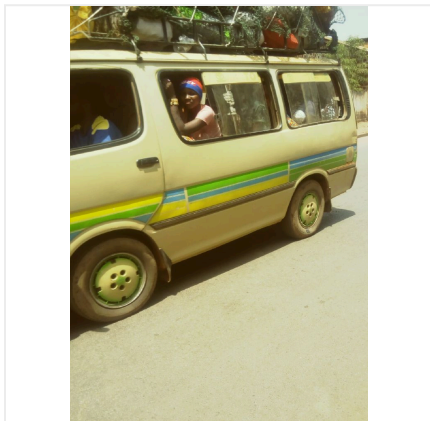
In a candid conversation, they revealed that their biggest fear following the change is financial stability. They are concerned that the savings accumulated over years of employment may not be sufficient to cover their new living expenses and future plans.

This story reflects the trend of many Indian professionals who are leaving traditional careers for lifestyle-based options, while also highlighting the financial uncertainties associated with such decisions. Experts say that careful budgeting and planning for alternative income sources are essential for long-term stability behind the allure of coastal living.

Overall, this case highlights the personal aspects of career changes, reminding us that practical financial considerations, such as cash flow and savings duration, are key to success behind the romantic idea of beach life.

AUTOMOBILE

## Passenger dies after mini bus collides with water tanker



A passenger died when a mini bus collided with a water tanker, according to local officials. The accident occurred on a road where the bus was traveling at an uncertain speed. Emergency services arrived at the scene immediately, but the passenger could not be saved.

Investigators are examining the causes of the accident, which includes checking the condition of the vehicles and identifying any mechanical failures. The incident has raised concerns about regulations for small buses and road safety in the area.

Officials have warned drivers to maintain safe speeds and adhere to traffic rules to prevent such accidents in the future.

DEFENCE

## Indian Navy Conducts Rafale Marine Tests in Goa for INS Vikrant



Indian Navy has begun testing the Rafale Marine, the carrier-based variant of the French-made fighter, near Goa's coastline. The trials aim to assess the aircraft's compatibility and performance with INS Vikrant's deck and systems. Rafale Marine has been fitted with reinforced landing gear, an arrestor hook and other essential modifications required for carrier operations. The Navy plans to certify it after several flight, take-off and arrested-landing tests scheduled over the coming weeks. Successful certification would be a significant step toward building a fully indigenous carrier strike group, enhancing maritime strike capability and reducing dependence on older platforms. Officials said that upon approval, Rafale Marine would join INS Vikrant's air wing alongside existing aircraft, strengthening India's maritime power projection.

SPORTS

## FC Goa's Decisive Clash Against Fortis in the ACL



FC Goa is preparing for a pivotal match against Fortis in the Asian Champions League (ACL), which could prove decisive for their tournament run. Both sides will vie for three points, leaving little margin for error. Goa, known for its attacking style, must maintain discipline and seize every opportunity, or Fortis could gain the upper hand. Vigilance in defence and precision in finishing will be key. Fortis will also try to exploit Goa's weaknesses to secure a win on foreign soil. The clash will be tough for both sides, as the result will directly impact their ACL aspirations.

TRAVEL

## Leave Expensive Goa in Winter, Choose Four Affordable Indian Beaches



Moneycontrol's latest travel advice notes that Goa, typically crowded in winter, has become less attractive for budget-conscious travellers due to soaring accommodation prices and crowds. It therefore recommends turning to four other Indian beaches that remain relatively free from winter crowds. These shores span various states, offering lower lodging costs and a quieter atmosphere. Tourism experts say the beaches retain natural beauty and basic amenities, allowing travellers to enjoy sun, sand and sea without Goa's premium rates. The article does not name the four beaches, but advises readers to find suitable options based on their travel plans and budgets. By attracting tourists to these alternatives, Moneycontrol aims to promote a balanced flow of tourism along India's extensive coastline.

SPORTS

## Zeeshan Ansari's five-wicket haul lifts Uttar Pradesh ahead of Goa



Uttar Pradesh's bowling attack was spearheaded by Zeeshan Ansari, who dismissed five Goa batsmen in the first innings of the match. His disciplined line and length proved decisive, breaking crucial partnerships and restricting Goa's total.

The five-wicket performance came at a pivotal moment, allowing Uttar Pradesh to post a competitive score and maintain a clear advantage on the points table. Team captain praised Ansari's composure under pressure and highlighted his role in the side's recent resurgence.

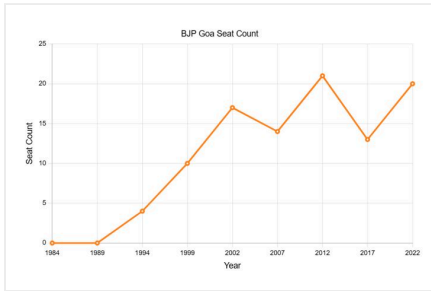
With the win, Uttar Pradesh moves ahead of Goa in the tournament standings, intensifying the race for the top spots as the domestic season progresses. The next fixture for both sides is scheduled for the coming weekend, where they will look to consolidate their positions.

Fans and analysts alike noted that Ansari's spell could be a turning point in his career, potentially opening doors for higher-level selections. The cricketing community will be watching his development closely.

The match, played under clear skies, showcased a blend of emerging talent and experienced players, underscoring the depth of India's domestic cricket structure.

POLITICS

## BJP Accuses Congress of Misleading Goans on Mhadei Issue



In a statement released earlier this week, leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accused Congress representatives of misleading the people of Goa about the Mhadei river issue. The Mhadei, a vital water source for the state, has been a focal point of political debate and environmental concern.

The BJP alleges that Congress officials have disseminated information that it claims is inaccurate or incomplete, thereby creating confusion among Goans about the status and management of the river. The party argues that such misinformation could affect public opinion and policy decisions.

This accusation comes amid a broader political contest between the two parties in Goa, with both sides vying for influence over local issues. While the BJP has called for a transparent review of the information circulated by Congress, no official response from the Congress leadership has been reported at this time.

AGRICULTURE

## Shiroda Farmer's Health Crisis Sparks Full-Time Farming, Income Soars to ₹5 Lakh



After a sudden health setback, a farmer from Shiroda in Goa decided to devote himself entirely to agriculture. The setback, which left him unable to manage his other responsibilities, prompted a shift from part-time to full-time cultivation. By focusing solely on his fields, he has increased his annual revenue to ₹5lakh, a significant rise from his previous earnings. His experience highlights how dedicated farming can boost income for rural households in the region.

RELIGION

Deities' Weddings Take Center Stage at Durga Puja Celebrations in Goa Villages



Large-scale events depicting the weddings of deities are organized in several villages in Goa on the occasion of Durga Puja. This ritual is deeply rooted in local tradition and is considered the main attraction of the festival, bringing rural communities together for worship and cultural programs. Processions featuring decorated idols, traditional music, and folk dances strengthen community unity and regional heritage. On this occasion, artisans and local traders also display their handicrafts and goods, adding an economic dimension to the religious celebration. Overall, this divine wedding ritual highlights a unique blend of devotion and cultural expression in Goa's Durga Puja.

TRAVEL

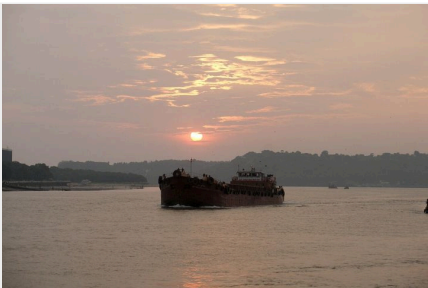
India Announces 7 New Vistadom Train Routes from Goa to Shimla



Indian Railways has launched seven new Vistadom train routes from Goa to Shimla, showcasing the country's diverse landscapes. Vistadom coaches feature large panoramic windows and LED displays, allowing passengers to view the Western Ghats, Konkan coast, and Himalayan foothills in real time. The routes include Goa-Ratnagiri, Ratnagiri-Mumbai, Mumbai-Pune, Pune-Nashik, Nashik-Delhi, Delhi-Shimla, and Shimla-Kasauli, each presenting a distinct landscape. This initiative aims to promote tourism and provide premium travel options, with ticket prices and booking details available on the Indian Railways website.

HEALTH

Goa Pollution Board Files Petition in High Court Over Fecal Coliform Levels in Mandovi River



The Goa Pollution Control Board (GPCB) has filed a petition in the Goa High Court, reporting that fecal coliform levels in the Mandovi River are significantly higher than national standards. The Board states that this bacterial growth poses a serious threat to public health and affects the river's ecological balance.

According to the GPCB, samples collected from various points in the river last month showed coliform counts exceeding the permissible limit of 1,000 colony-forming units per 100 milliliters of water. This increase is attributed to uncontrolled sewage discharge and wastewater flowing from nearby settlements.

In the petition, the Board has requested the state government to implement strict waste treatment measures, initiate immediate cleanup operations, and strengthen monitoring through regular testing. It has also demanded awareness campaigns regarding the health risks associated with water pollution.

State officials have not yet responded to the petition, but the High Court is likely to hear the case within the next two weeks. Environmental organizations have welcomed this legal move and called for immediate action to keep the water clean.

POLITICS

Goa CM Says Rahul Gandhi's Visit Will Not Impact State Politics



In a statement released earlier today, the Chief Minister of Goa said that Rahul Gandhi's Congress tour in Goa will not affect the state's politics. The Chief Minister emphasized that this is a national-level event and will not impact the governance of Goa. He assured voters that local issues will remain the top priority of the state administration. No additional information was provided regarding the tour's schedule or potential participation.

CRIME

Kolva Panchayat Members Accused of Attending Gram Sabha Members



Police were called to a Gram Sabha held in Kolva, Goa, after reports emerged that some local panchayat members physically attacked attendees. The assembly was convened to discuss village development issues, but the atmosphere turned hostile due to the violence.

Police recorded statements from witnesses present at the scene and booked three panchayat members under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code for assault and disturbing public peace.

The suspects will be produced in court next week. Officials stated that any form of violence on democratic platforms will not be tolerated and appealed to citizens to report such incidents immediately.

The incident has heightened concerns among locals regarding the safety of Gram Sabhas, prompting the district administration to indicate a review of security measures for such future events.

POLITICS

Village CM Says Rahul Gandhi's 10-Minute Walk Will Not Impact Goa



Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said in a statement released by the Goa government that Rahul Gandhi's upcoming 10-minute walk will not have any impact on state affairs.

The statement came as the opposition leader was set to travel for a brief walk in Goa, a move that has attracted attention across the country.

Sawant emphasized that Goa's political and administrative processes will not be affected by the visit, stressing the state's stability.

The comment was released before the event to reassure residents and stakeholders that the walk would not bring any changes to the state's governance or development programs.

BUSINESS

Panel Discussion on Goa's Export Strategy in Panjim



A panel discussion was held in Panjim, focusing on Goa's export strategy and its potential as a model for other states. The event was organized by industry experts and highlighted Goa's export playbook, covering policies, challenges, and success stories. Participants noted how Goa's policies and infrastructure have spurred growth in key sectors. The discussion underscored that learning from Goa's experience could enhance India's overall export performance. The event was reported by Express Pharma.

POLITICS

Goa STs Threaten Campaign Over Unfinished Quota Process Ahead of 2027 Elections



The Scheduled Tribe (ST) community in Goa has issued a warning that it will mobilise a campaign if the pending reservation quota is not resolved before the 2027 state elections. The demand relates to the implementation of a quota that the community believes is essential for its political representation and access to government jobs. ST leaders have said the deadline is critical because the next assembly poll will set the political landscape for the next decade.

Officials from the state government have been approached repeatedly to expedite the quota process, but the community says progress has stalled. The ST groups have indicated that a failure to act will compel them to organise a statewide protest, aiming to draw public and media attention to the issue.

The warning comes as political parties begin to outline their election strategies, and the ST vote is considered a decisive factor in several constituencies. Analysts note that any large-scale mobilisation could influence voter sentiment and pressure the administration to address the reservation backlog before the election calendar tightens.

While no specific date for a campaign has been set, the ST representatives have urged the government to complete the quota formalities well before the filing of nominations, which is expected in early 2027. The situation remains under close watch as the election timeline approaches.

