



NEW POLICY BY SEPT 10, CM ASSURES TAXI OPERATORS

■ CM Sawant promises new transport policy by Sept 10, superseding aggregator norms; legislators stress fair pricing and accountability ■ Operators insist they are not against technology but want a Transport Dept-regulated platform to protect livelihoods

Team Goemkarponn

MADKAI: The late-night shootout in Madkai has triggered a political storm across Goa, with Opposition leaders accusing the BJP-led government of allowing law and order to collapse and pushing the State into chaos. Police confirmed that the driver, Saurabh



Lotlikar of Ramnathi, Ponda, narrowly escaped without injuries, though his car sustained damage in the attack. Two bullets struck the vehicle, one of which burst a tyre, as

the firing took place on the busy Ponda-Marcaim stretch near Karnale bridge. Sources added that the streetlights in the area were not functioning at the time.

Key points of Meeting..

- ▶ CM Sawant promises Goa State Transport Policy 2025 by Sept 10.
- ▶ New policy will replace app aggregator guidelines.
- ▶ Concerns: high aggregator commissions, livelihood loss, safety issues
- ▶ MLAs Venzy Viegas & Michael Lobo back operators; demand fair, transparent fares.
- ▶ Goa already has two app-based taxi services; hinterland areas neglected

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FDA Seizes 2.9 Tonnes of Unlabelled Food in Border Checks

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) conducted a late-night surveillance drive at Goa's three State borders – Patradevi, Keri and Mollem – from 8 pm on August 21 to 7 am on August 22, targeting interstate vehicles carrying food items. During the operation, FDA officials detained 1,760 kg of unlabelled chicken and 500 kg of paneer at Keri, 700 kg of chicken from an unverified source at Mollem, and 10 kg of khoa at Patradevi, in the interest of public

health. Several food samples, including vegetables and fruits, were also collected for laboratory testing. Officials said that while compliance had improved compared to previous inspections, efforts were being intensified to further scale up food safety standards. The FDA team also sensitised food suppliers on legal requirements relating to labelling and transportation of food products. The drive was carried out under the leadership of FDA Director Shweta Dessai, with field teams deployed at all three border check-posts.



FRIDAY SHOCKER: Gunshot at Madkai

■ Oppn leaders slam BJP govt, allege 'crime hub', 'Gunda raj' as fear grips citizens

Team Goemkarponn

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without injuries, though his car sustained damage in the attack. Two bullets struck the vehicle, one of which burst a tyre, as the firing took place on the busy Ponda-Marcaim stretch near Karnale bridge. Sources added

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SC Issues Fresh Guidelines on Stray Dogs: Vaccination, Release, Designated Feeding Zones

■ Court allows release of strays after sterilisation and vaccination, but bans feeding on streets

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday modified its earlier directive on stray dogs, allowing their release after sterilisation and vaccination while tightening restrictions on public feeding. A three-judge bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria stayed the August 11 order of the Pardiwala-led bench, which had barred the release of captured strays. The court clarified that sterilised and immunised dogs must be released back into the same locality, but those suffering from rabies or displaying aggressive behaviour would not be freed.

The court further ruled that stray dogs cannot be fed on public roads, warning that those who violate the order will face legal action. Instead,



municipal bodies have been directed to create designated feeding areas within wards, taking into account the population and concentration of stray dogs. Notice boards will also be placed at these locations to make clear that feeding is permitted only in such zones.

In addition, the bench reiterated that no individual or organisation should obstruct sterilisation and vaccination drives by municipal authorities. It directed dog lovers and NGOs to deposit security amounts of ₹25,000 for individuals and ₹2 lakh

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Goa to Introduce QR-Based Tracking for Garbage Management

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa will soon roll out a QR-code-based digital tracking system to monitor garbage collection and disposal across municipalities, as part of its mission to become a model state in sustainable waste management.

Urban Development Minister Vishwajit Rane, who chaired a review meeting on Friday, said



the new system will bring transparency and accountability at every stage of waste handling.

"Through QR-code based monitoring, every step of garbage collection — from households to

final disposal — can be tracked in real time. This will not only enhance efficiency but also ensure accountability," Rane said. Under the initiative, each household and collection point will be tagged with unique QR codes, enabling authorities to track whether waste has been collected, segregated into four categories, and

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How India's Russian Oil Buys Stabilise Global Markets And Why the West Quietly Benefits

■ Pressuring India to halt these imports would shrink the global pool of refined fuels, a move that risks reigniting fuel inflation, particularly in Western economies

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, during his visit to Moscow this week, firmly defended India's continued imports of Russian crude, calling them a stabilising factor for global energy markets. Standing alongside Russian Foreign

Minister Sergey Lavrov, Jaishankar pushed back against Western criticism, noting that China — not India remains the largest buyer of Russian oil, while Europe continues to import Russian LNG in significant volumes.



The remarks came as the US doubled tariffs on Indian goods to

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No Work, No Pay: Time to Make MPs Accountable

The recently concluded monsoon session of Parliament has once again highlighted the yawning gap between what citizens expect from their elected representatives and what they actually deliver.

Out of the 120 hours allocated for serious legislative business and debate, the Lok Sabha functioned for only 37 hours. That is just 31 per cent of the time.

The Rajya Sabha fared only slightly better at 41 hours, or 38 per cent. Together, the two Houses wasted more than 150 hours—time that should have been spent discussing bills, scrutinising government decisions, and addressing pressing national concerns.

The financial translation of this disruption is staggering: an estimated ₹204 crore of taxpayers' money was wasted. Yet, the MPs responsible for this dysfunction continue to draw full salaries, allowances, and perks without consequence. This is nothing short of a betrayal of the people.

Parliament is meant to be the crucible of democracy, where divergent views clash, consensus is built, and decisions that affect 1.4 billion citizens are made. Debate, dissent, and sharp questioning are not only legitimate but essential. But what unfolded during the session was not robust democratic exchange—it was orchestrated chaos.

Shouting matches, placard displays, and deliberate disruptions swallowed up valuable hours. What citizens saw was not lawmakers engaged in fierce but constructive debate, but politicians turning Parliament into a theatre of protest. Both the government and opposition are guilty. The ruling benches accuse the opposition of staging deliberate blockades; the opposition claims the government stonewalls every attempt at accountability. The outcome is the same: the public loses, while the MPs walk away unscathed.

The oft-repeated defence that disruptions are part of democratic functioning is deeply dishonest. Disruption, when used sparingly, may draw attention to urgent concerns. But when it becomes the norm rather than the

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exception, it ceases to be a tool of democracy and instead becomes an instrument of democratic decay. A system in which weeks of scheduled debate are reduced to hours of slogans is not a functioning legislature; it is a mockery of the very idea of parliamentary democracy.

Citizens are left with no choice but to ask: why should we pay our MPs in full when they refuse to work in full?

In every other profession, “no work, no pay” is a simple and accepted principle. An employee who fails to perform duties cannot expect a paycheck at the end of the month. Why then should Members of Parliament be exempt from this standard? If 70 per cent of the scheduled time is wasted, then 70 per cent of MPs' salaries for that session should be deducted.

The equation is both fair and necessary. Lawmakers

cannot pocket taxpayer money while simultaneously wasting taxpayer time. By linking pay directly to productivity, we can create incentives for MPs to prioritise debate over disruption.

The government and the presiding officers of both Houses must take the lead in reforming rules to enforce accountability. At present, MPs who indulge in disruption face little more than mild admonishments or, at worst, suspension for a day or two. These measures have lost their sting. What is required is a system of enforceable financial consequences. Salaries and allowances must be tied to the actual hours of functioning. Persistent disruptors must face cumulative deductions and eventual suspension.

Transparency is equally crucial. The productivity of each session should be published daily in a format that every citizen can easily understand: hours lost, questions asked, bills debated, and names of members responsible for obstruction. Let voters see clearly how their representatives are performing. It is important to emphasise that demanding accountability is not an attack on dissent. Healthy democracy requires strong opposition and uncomfortable questions.

But there is a difference between questioning and preventing questions, between opposing and obstructing. Citizens have the right to hear their representatives argue passionately on issues that affect their daily lives—rising prices, unemployment, education, healthcare, and national security. What they do not deserve is the sight of MPs shouting each other down while nothing is achieved.

The monsoon session stands as another reminder that conscience appeals alone are insufficient. Our lawmakers have shown time and again that they will not police themselves. It is now up to the system—and ultimately the people—to enforce discipline. Linking salaries to productivity is the first step toward restoring dignity to Parliament. The people of India deserve a legislature that works as hard as they do. Until then, the message must be clear: no work, no pay.

EDITOR'S SPEAK

Will Margao Benefit from Digambar's Elevation?

By Suraj Nandrekar

With the latest cabinet reshuffle, the Pramod Sawant government has finally inducted former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat into its council of ministers. Politically, the move is significant. It strengthens the BJP's numbers, consolidates its hold on defectors, and rewards a veteran who was once the Congress's tallest leader in Goa. But for the people of Margao, the city that has sent Kamat to the Assembly for three decades, the pressing question is whether this elevation will bring any real relief to their daily struggles.

Margao, despite being Goa's commercial capital, is also its most congested city. The once vibrant town square has given way to unregulated traffic, illegal parking, and chronic gridlock. Pedestrians navigate broken pavements, motorists crawl through bottlenecks, and residents see little evidence of long-term urban planning. Successive governments, and indeed successive tenures of Kamat himself, have promised solutions. Yet, Margao continues to choke under the weight of its own importance.

The most glaring symbol of this neglect is the Sonsodo garbage mess. Year after year, mountains of waste pile up, contracts are handed out, and temporary fixes are paraded as solutions. Despite crores being sanctioned, Sonsodo remains a festering wound. As minister, will Kamat finally muster the will and clout to resolve this embarrassment once and for all? Or will it continue to be treated as a problem too politically inconvenient to touch?

Equally shameful is the state of the Margao bus stand. For over two decades, promises of a modern transport hub have been recycled during every election. Instead, commuters are left with leaking sheds, poor facilities, and chaotic arrangements. Margao deserves a bus stand befitting its stature as South Goa's hub, yet the project has remained mired in files and announcements. With Kamat's return to power, will this long-pending demand finally be addressed, or will it be pushed aside yet again in favour of short-term optics?

Then there is the South Goa District Hospital, a facility that was meant to be the pride of the region. Instead, it has become a half-functional institution, lacking adequate specialists, equipment, and staff. For many Madgaonkars, it is a hospital in name alone, forcing them to travel to GMC Bambolim for serious treatment. If Kamat truly wishes to redeem his political legacy, ensuring that this hospital functions as it was envisioned must be at the top of his priorities.

The irony is inescapable. Digambar Kamat has represented Margao since 1994, holding powerful portfolios and even serving as Chief Minister. Yet, the city remains in disrepair. His re-entry into the cabinet may help the BJP tighten its grip ahead of the 2027 polls, but unless he uses his influence to deliver on Margao's unresolved civic issues, the political reward will mean little for ordinary citizens.

It is easy to see why the BJP has welcomed him—he lends stature, weakens the opposition, and brings electoral arithmetic in South Goa under control. But politics cannot be only about strategy. It must also be about service.

HC Issues Notice on Goa Foundation Plea to Suspend Mining Operations

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court has issued notice to the State government on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by the Goa Foundation seeking suspension of all mining operations in the state after the monsoon.

The PIL, heard by Justices Bharti Dangre and Nivedita Mehta, will be taken up for consideration of interim relief on September 18, 2025. The Goa Foundation has argued that mining in the state has recommenced without an effective regulatory framework, despite repeated assurances given by the government to Constitutional courts. The petition cites violations of the Supreme Court's



directions, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and Goa's own mining policies and rules. Raising concerns over past mismanagement, the NGO alleged that undue influence of private players on regulators had caused major losses to the exchequer and grave environmental damage. The PIL further stated that the Department of Mines & Geology lacks basic infrastructure, including laboratories, and depends solely on leaseholders' self-declarations of ore quantity and grade. Emphasising the Public Trust Doctrine, the Goa

Foundation pointed out that mineral resources belong collectively to the people and must be managed transparently to safeguard both present and future generations. The petition noted that the State could potentially earn over ₹87,000 crore from the auction of 12 mineral blocks — nearly four times its projected budget revenue for 2025–26 — and argued that funds should not be a hurdle in creating a robust regulatory system. As part of interim relief, the NGO has demanded round-the-clock supervision of mining activity, establishment of an independent ore-grading laboratory, verification mechanisms for production and pricing data, and a grievance system for affected village populations.



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemão on Friday launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led government, alleging that the once peaceful Goa has been converted into a "crime hub". Citing the recent gang fight at Mungul, Fatorda involving weapons

LoP Alemão Slams Govt Over 'Crime Hub' Goa

and the firing incident at Marcaim, Alemão said these were clear indicators of the collapse of law and order in the State.

"Criminals have no fear of the police. Our jails supply ganja, drugs and mobile phones, while police officers with criminal intentions rob people alongside actual robbers," Alemão alleged.

He further said that police are seen conducting nakabandis only after crimes occur, while criminals roam freely at night attacking and robbing people.

Calling the situation "unacceptable and shameful", Alemão accused the government of being incapacitated and completely failing to protect its citizens.

Health Check-up Camp Conducted for Underprivileged Students at Tembewada, Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A General Health Check-up Camp was organized for 62 underprivileged children of Shree Mataji Mandir Vidhyarthi Vasatigruha, Tembewada—Canacona, with the support of the Directorate of Health Services, Campal, Panaji. A special medical team from Hospicio Hospital, Margao, and CHC Canacona conducted consultations in General Medicine, Pediatrics, ENT, Ophthalmology, Dermatology, Dentistry, and Counseling. A total of 57 students underwent detailed screenings, including blood



investigations, hemoglobin checks, and other basic tests. As many as 18 students were referred to Hospicio Hospital for advanced ENT treatment. Free medicines were distributed to all students.

The camp also aimed at spreading awareness about preventive healthcare and cleanliness, ensuring timely medical guidance for the children.

The consulting doctors included Dr. Anusha Kholkar (Pediatrician),

Dr. Poonam Kamat (ENT Specialist), Dr. Sonia Naik (Dermatologist), Dr. Jarvis Barbosa (Ophthalmologist), Dr. Sneha Naik (CHC Medical Officer), and Dr. Sanil (Dentist). The inaugural function was graced by former chairperson and Bhagatwada councillor Nitu Sameer Desai, along with Dr. Diwakarji Velip (CHC Ayurvedic Doctor), Sanitary Inspector Pranay Naik (CHC), and Vasatigruha Pramukh Shrikant.

Goa Seeks Public Feedback on Draft Tenant Verification Rules

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has circulated draft rules under the Goa (Verification of Tenants) Act, 2024, making tenant verification compulsory across the State, and has invited suggestions and objections from the public within 30 days.

The draft Goa (Verification of Tenants) Rules, 2025, mandate that landlords must confirm the identity of tenants by checking specified original documents and submit copies—either physically or digitally—to the nearest police station within 48 hours of renting out their premises.

In addition, landlords will be required to maintain a permanent register of tenants in the prescribed format.

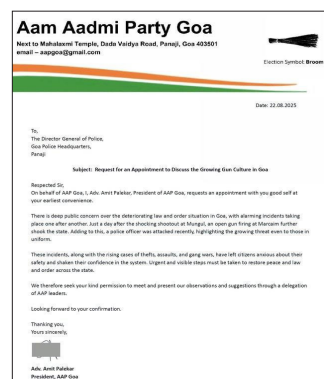
AAP Goa Draws DGP's Attention

Over Growing Gun Culture in State

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa has sought an appointment with the Director General of Police (DGP) to discuss what it described as the "growing gun culture" and deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

In a letter addressed to the DGP, AAP Goa president Adv. Amit Palekar said the party was "deeply concerned over alarming incidents taking place one after another," citing the recent shootout at Mungul, an open gun firing at Marcaim, and the attack on a police officer. "These incidents, along with rising cases of thefts, assaults, and gang wars, have left citizens anxious



about their safety and shaken their confidence in the system. Urgent and visible steps must be taken to restore peace and law and order across the state," Palekar wrote. The party has requested the DGP to grant an appointment at the earliest to allow a delegation of AAP leaders to present their observations and suggestions.



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Canacona Gets First Minister After 8-Year Gap

■ Ramesh Tawadkar sworn in, accorded rousing welcome

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: After an eight-year wait, Canacona has got a cabinet berth again with MLA Ramesh Tawadkar sworn in as a Minister on Thursday. He resigned as Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly earlier in the day before taking oath at Raj Bhavan in the



presence of Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai and Chief Minister Dr. Pramod

Sawant. Former Chief Minister and Margao MLA Digambar Kamat was also

inducted.

Hundreds of Tawadkar's supporters travelled to Dona Paula to witness the swearing-in and later lined up to greet him. On his return to Canacona, Tawadkar was welcomed at Karmalghat and later at his Ruby Residency office, where well-wishers continued to pour in until late evening.

Congress Downplays Digambar's Induction as Min, Terms Margao Development 'Fraud-Ridden'

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Margao Block Congress on Thursday dismissed the induction of Margao MLA Digambar Kamat into the state cabinet, saying the development "has absolutely no bearing" on the Congress party in Margao. Reacting to the swearing-in, Block Congress Convener Savio Coutinho remarked in Konkani, "Amka bhivpachi kaslich garaz na, pun BJPche mukea mantreak chadd bhivpaci garaz assa" (We have nothing to fear, but BJP needs to be worried about its mute ministers). Coutinho alleged that Margao has witnessed several fraudulent works under Kamat's leadership, citing the Rawanfond bridge project cost escalation from ₹21.3 crore to ₹54 crore in just a year. He further accused the PWD, under the Chief Minister, of sanctioning inflated projects where less than 50% of the work is executed, yet contractors are allegedly paid in full — sometimes even more through "arbitrary cost revisions." He claimed that the ongoing "Model Margao" initiative is being funded



through such excess contractor payments, with beneficiaries being "baptised as philanthropists" by the MLA. Slamming the BJP, Coutinho said even original party workers in Margao had admitted awareness of fraudulent works but chose silence as Kamat's ministerial aspirations were long opposed by the cadre. "Today, BJP has dumped their sentiments in the gutters," he remarked.

The Congress Block vowed to continue its activities with "the same vigour," asserting that Madgaonkars had already shown that Kamat's defection to the BJP did not benefit either him or the ruling party. "In 2027, we shall prove that his ministership also did not help," Coutinho said. Pointing out that more than half the current cabinet comprises former Kamat-era ministers, Coutinho quipped that it was now time for Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to revise his catchphrase and start saying "Bhivpachi Garaz Assa" (We need to fear).

Four Arrested in Fatorda Road Rage Assault Case

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Fatorda Police have arrested four persons in connection with a violent road rage incident that left two men injured near the Old Hospicio Hospital on Wednesday afternoon.

The complaint was lodged by Mohammad Rashid, a resident of Benaulim and native of Uttarakhand, who alleged that around 1:20 pm on August 20, he was assaulted following an argument over overtaking. According to police, the rider of a Hero Honda Passion motorcycle first abused Rashid



in filthy language and then attacked him with a screwdriver on his left arm.

When Rashid attempted to seek safety inside the Urban Health Centre, Fatorda, the accused allegedly regrouped with around 15 others, formed an unlawful assembly, and chased him. They are said to have assaulted him with kicks and even a fire extinguisher, causing

injuries. Rashid's brother, Mohammad Shavez, was also attacked and slapped during the incident.

Following investigation, police arrested four accused — Abdul Nabawale of Pajifond, Imran Ballary of Motidongor, Imam Kassi of Pajifond, and Rehan Shaikh @ Yallappa of Pajifond. The accused were produced before the court on Thursday and remanded to four days of police custody.

The case is being investigated by PSI Satvashil Devidas of Fatorda Police Station, under the supervision of senior officers.

Tourist Guide Held for Resort Theft in Arpora

Stolen Mobiles Worth ₹1.35 Lakh Recovered

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have arrested a 20-year-old tourist guide from Rajasthan for allegedly stealing mobile phones and a smartwatch worth around ₹1.35 lakh from a resort room in Arpora, Bardez. According to police, the theft took place on August 7 between 5 am and 8 am at Room No. 401 of M.N. Resort. The complainant, Sagar Wadhwa from Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, reported the theft of his iPhone 14, Samsung S23 FE, Noise smartwatch, and a Realme 12 Pro Plus belonging to his friend.



LoP Alemao Accuses Govt of Loot and Betrayal

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao on Friday accused the BJP-led government of "looting and cheating" the people through electoral bonds, GST, demonetisation, unemployment, and stifling dissent.

Speaking during the Congress' Booth Jodo Abhiyan in Calangute, Alemao said the campaign received overwhelming support,

reflecting public anger over the defection by the local MLA.

He alleged that defections and "vote chori" encouraged by the ruling party had created a wave of opposition, which he claimed would sweep the present dispensation out of power.

Alemao said the government had come to power through "unethical and illicit means" and betrayed the trust of the people.

Curtorim Minor Traced in Delhi After Missing Complaint

Team Goemkarponn

CURTORIM: Panic gripped a family in Curtorim after a minor boy was reported missing and suspected to have been kidnapped from his home on Sunday morning. However, swift investigation by Goa Police revealed that the boy had boarded a Delhi-bound train on his own, and he was later traced safely in the capital. The complaint was lodged by Basangowda Rudragowda, resident of Curtorim, who reported that his minor son had gone missing around 11:00 am from their residence. Initial suspicion suggested kidnapping by unknown persons. During the investigation, CCTV footage from Konkani Railway Police Station showed the boy boarding a train to Delhi.

Goa Police Nab Four History-Sheeters in St. Cruz; Three Sent to Judicial Custody

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Four alleged history-sheeters were apprehended by police late last night in St. Cruz, Tiswadi. The accused have been identified as Anthony Nadar (31), son of Vargues, resident

of St. Agostinho near Pitbul Gym, St. Cruz; Karim Bepari (35), son of Gani Bepari, resident of Ubodando, St. Cruz; Francis Nadar (28), son of Vargues, resident of St. Agostinho, St. Cruz; and Minguel Araujo (24), son of Joa, resident of St.

Agostinho, St. Cruz.

On Thursday, the Deputy Collector of Tiswadi directed Anthony Nadar, Francis Nadar and Minguel Araujo to furnish a bond of ₹50,000 each. As they failed to comply, all three were remanded to five days' judicial custody.

16 Goa Civil Service Officers Promoted to Selection Grade

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Sixteen officers of the Goa Civil Service have been promoted from the Junior Administrative Grade to the Selection Grade (Group 'A' Gazetted). The promotions, approved by the Governor of Goa, were based on the recommendations of the Departmental

Promotion Committee and the Goa Public Service Commission, conveyed through its letter dated August 18, 2025. The order takes effect from July 14, 2025, placing the officers in Level 13 of the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2016. Those promoted include Kum. Biju R. Naik, Surendra F. Naik,

Johnson B. Fernandes, Ajit Panchwadkar, Agnelo A. Fernandes, Dasharath M. Redkar, Narayan Gad, Devidas S. Gaonkar, Florina S. Colaco, Siddhi T. Halarnkar, Dr. Snehal P. Naik Goltekar, Vinayak P. Volvoikar, Meghana V. Shetgaonkar, Darshana S. Narulkar, Ashutosh R. Apte, and Parag Nagarcenkar.



Saligao MLA Donates Sound System to Shri Datt Devasthan

Team Goemkarponn

SALIGAO: Saligao constituency MLA Kedar Naik on Thursday handed over a high-quality Studiomaster brand sound system to Shri Datt Devasthan, following a written request submitted by the temple committee.

The proposal to approach the MLA for assistance was suggested by Mangesh Salgaonkar, Satchit Gavkar and Sarvesh Karpe. Acting on this, the executive committee of Shri Datt Devasthan had submitted a memorandum to the MLA, who responded positively and provided the equipment.



This is not the first time the temple has received support from the MLA. Earlier, Naik had facilitated the installation of solar lights and helped construct a small protective wall for the temple premises. A high-mast lamp is also expected to be installed

soon.

Speaking on the occasion, Naik assured that the long-pending demand for a protective wall near the priest's residence would also be addressed shortly, with necessary documentation already in process. He reiterated his commitment

to addressing developmental needs of the village and the constituency.

The Devasthan committee, life members, devotees, and villagers expressed gratitude to MLA Kedar Naik for his continued support.



New Directory of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman (2025–2026) released

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The annual Directory 2025–2026 of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman was released on Thursday, August 21, on the occasion of the feast of St. Pius X. The release was carried out by Archbishop Patriarch Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão and Auxiliary Bishop Simiao Fernandes at the Archbishop's House, Altinho, Panjim.

They were joined by Fr. Barry Cardozo, Director of the Diocesan Centre for Social Communications Media, Fr. Joaquim Loiola Pereira, Secretary to the Archbishop, Sr. Rita Frois (hc), and staff members of the Communication Centre — Ms. Janet Barcellos and Mr. Romualdo Fernandes.

The Directory provides detailed information about the Church in Goa and Daman (covering the Union Territories of Daman, Diu, Dadra and

Nagar Haveli), along with data on parishes, religious institutes (men and women), educational institutions, technical schools, and various other services offered by the Archdiocese to society.

Copies of the Directory will be available from next week at the Lighthouse (Margao), Pauline Book and Media Centres (Panjim and Mapusa), the Pastoral Institute (Old Goa), and at the Archbishop's House (Altinho, Panjim).

Published by the Diocesan Centre for Social Communications Media, the Directory serves as a vital resource to connect the Archdiocese by offering essential contact details.

The Centre also continues its mission of fostering communication, building relationships, and promoting media empowerment within the Archdiocese.

All Goa Shram-Dham Convention to be Held in Panaji on August 23

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A Statewide Shram-Dham Convention will be held in Panaji on Saturday, August 23, with the participation of over 2,000 Shram-Dham warriors, karyakartas, and well-wishers from across Goa. On Wednesday, Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar chaired a preparatory meeting at Poinguinim,



Canacona, attended by key Shram-Dham warriors and karyakartas. The meeting focused on finalizing plans and strategies for the

smooth execution of the upcoming convention.

Speaking at the meeting, Tawadkar said the event would

serve as a platform for the exchange of ideas, sharing of experiences, and showcasing the works undertaken by Shram-Dham warriors. According to sources, the preparatory discussions also touched upon local-level coordination, program structuring, and logistical arrangements to successfully host the large-scale gathering.

Chef Saurabh Puri Hosts Culinary Masterclass at Goa Dabolim Airport

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Passengers at Goa International Airport, Dabolim, were treated to a unique experience on Thursday as the Airports Authority of India (AAI) hosted an exclusive Culinary Masterclass with renowned chef Saurabh Puri.

The live session, held at the airport lounge operated by Travel Food Services (TFS), saw enthusiastic participation from travellers, including children, and was attended by senior AAI officials, CISF representatives, and special invitees. Airport Director C. George Varghese welcomed Chef Puri at the inaugural event.

The masterclass also



marked the launch of a new initiative — a weekly Thursday Culinary Series — where celebrated chefs will bring fresh flavours and gourmet experiences to passengers at the airport.

Chef Puri, currently Executive Chef at The Zuri White Sands, Goa Resort & Casino, showcased

his expertise in Italian, Continental, and regional cuisines, earning wide appreciation from those present.

AAI said the programme is part of its passenger-centric engagement strategy aimed at making travel "memorable beyond the journey."

Nestlé India Builds Toilet for Girls at Government Higher Secondary School, Sankhali

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Nestlé India's Bicholim unit has constructed a toilet facility for girls at the Government Higher Secondary School, Sankhali.

The facility was inaugurated in the presence of Nestlé India Bicholim Unit Senior Manager (Corporate Affairs) Mario Fernandes, Nestlé Officer Anupa Gawade, Principal Srikrishna S. Naik, Vice Principal Leena Chari, Eco Club In-charge Shambhu Bandekar, Volunteer Project Officer Sameer Prabhu, along with teachers and students.

Expressing his gratitude, Principal



Naik said the facility will significantly improve health, hygiene, and attendance among girl students. He added that such social initiatives at the educational level are crucial for ensuring better opportunities for students and play an important role in overall social development.

Speaking on the occasion, Mario Fernandes urged students

to make proper use of the facility and maintain cleanliness. Vice Principal Chari also thanked Nestlé India for its contribution, calling the initiative timely and meaningful. The programme was conducted by teacher Samhita Kulkarni.

Nestlé India reiterated its commitment to social welfare and to fostering a healthy educational environment for students.



Sayaji Hotels launches new property in Goa with Effotel by Sayaji Panaji

■ A modern business hotel in the heart of India's favorite leisure destination

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Sayaji Hotels has expanded its footprint in Goa with the launch of Effotel by Sayaji, Panaji, a boutique business hotel designed for modern travelers. This marks the brand's first venture in the state capital, combining contemporary hospitality with a touch of leisure in one of India's most vibrant destinations.

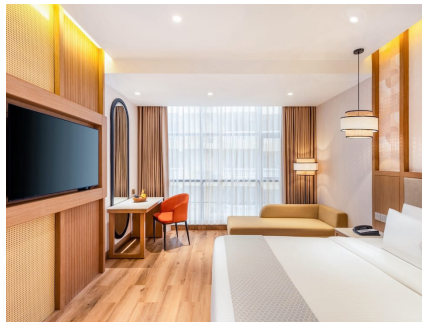
Located on Dr. Atmaram Borkar Road in the heart of Panaji, Effotel offers excellent connectivity to Dabolim Airport (27 km), Mopa Airport (34 km), and Karmali Railway Station (13 km). Its central position provides easy access to government offices, business centers, cultural landmarks, and Goa's iconic

beaches.

The hotel houses 48 well-appointed rooms across three categories — Deluxe, Superior, and Premium — featuring smart amenities and modern interiors. It is tailored to meet the needs of both business and leisure guests.

Culinary experiences form a key highlight, with The Cube, an all-day dining restaurant serving global and Goan flavors, complemented by a lively adjoining bar. Guests can also enjoy a rooftop swimming pool with panoramic city views or relax at the spa for a rejuvenating escape.

"With Effotel by Sayaji, Panaji, we are bringing the Sayaji ethos of thoughtful hospitality, modern design, and curated experiences to Goa. This property reflects our vision of



creating destinations that cater equally to business and leisure travelers," said Sumera Dhanani, Corporate Business Development Head.

Workshop on Waste Management Held in Keri

■ 80 women participate in awareness drive

Valpoi: A workshop on "Waste Management" was recently organised in Keri through a joint initiative of the Biodiversity Board Keri and Gram Panchayat Keri. The event saw the participation of around 80 women from the village.

The chief guest, journalist Ganesh Shetkar, highlighted the growing challenges of waste disposal and stressed the importance of proper waste management to prevent diseases. He also urged the community to adopt sustainable practices. The programme was attended by Sarpanch Supriya Gavvas, Deputy Sarpanch Usman Sayyad, Biodiversity Board President Nanda Majik, guide Shraddha Rangnekar, and Management Committee

members Diksha Gavvas and Dnyaneshwari Shetkar.

The workshop began with the symbolic watering of a Tulsi plant. In her welcome address, Nanda Majik explained the objective of the programme and encouraged villagers, especially women, to use eco-friendly alternatives like cloth bags.

All participants were presented with cloth bags as part of the initiative. Shraddha Rangnekar guided the women on practical ways to segregate and manage household waste effectively. The event was coordinated by Sarita Nanda Majik, while the vote of thanks was delivered by panch member Diksha Gavvas.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Gunfire in Madkai Sparks Outrage Over Goa's Law & Order Collapse

the government's "total failure." He alleged that criminals had no fear of the police, with jails supplying drugs and mobiles, while corrupt officers acted like robbers themselves.

Goa Forward Party leader Durgadas Kamat said the incident exposed Goa's "collapsing law and order," accusing the BJP of presiding over a "Gunda raj." "From drugs

to murders, now open firing on streets! Goa deserves safety, not fear," he charged.

Fatorda MLA Vijal Sardesai blamed the government's political interference and an "overburdened Chief Minister" for the breakdown in policing. "The Madkai shootout is yet another shocking incident after Mungul," he said.

Goa to Introduce QR-Based Tracking for Garbage Management

disposed of scientifically. The Minister added that training programmes for sanitation workers will complement the digital system, equipping them to handle segregation and reporting effectively. Officials including Director of Municipal Administration Brijesh Manerkar, Chief Town Planner Vertika Dagur, Engineer Shri Muzzawar, officials of the TCP, and Advisor to UD Pratyusha Jain were present at the meeting. Rane emphasized that with this integration of technology and ground-level implementation, Goa will set a benchmark in urban cleanliness under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

How India's Russian Oil Buys Stabilise Global Markets And Why the West Quietly Benefits

50 per cent, adding an additional penalty linked to energy trade with Moscow. Jaishankar called this "perplexing," stressing that India's discounted oil purchases prevented supply shocks and "did exactly what the West had informally asked for to keep global energy markets steady." A resurfaced 2024 video of former US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti appeared to bolster New

Delhi's case. Speaking at a Washington forum, Garcetti had said: "They bought Russian oil because we wanted somebody to buy Russian oil at a price cap. That was not a violation. It was the design of the policy." Similarly, in 2022, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen had publicly stated that Washington was "happy for India to buy as much Russian oil as it wants" even above the

cap provided it helped prevent a global price spiral. India's oil imports from Russia surged from less than 0.2% in 2021 to 36-40% of total crude imports by 2024-25, averaging 1.7-2 million barrels per day. This shift absorbed Russian barrels stranded by Western sanctions and prevented Brent and WTI prices from surging by \$10-15 a barrel, according to analysts.

SC Issues Fresh Guidelines on Stray Dogs: Vaccination, Release, Designated Feeding Zones

for organisations with the court registrar. The issue comes against the backdrop of a rise in dog bite incidents and rabies-related deaths. Government figures show that in 2024 alone, there

were at least 37 lakh cases of dog bites and 54 suspected rabies fatalities. The earlier order had mandated that all stray dogs in Delhi-NCR be captured and housed in shelters, but this faced strong resistance

from animal rights activists and celebrities. With the new ruling, the Supreme Court has also transferred all similar matters pending in other courts to itself, paving the way for a final national policy on stray dog.

NEW POLICY BY SEPT 10, CM ASSURES TAXI OPERATORS

Upon receiving the alert, police teams rushed to the scene, cordoned off the spot and regulated traffic while forensic and crime units combed the area for evidence. Lotlikar has been placed in protective custody, both for his safety and to assist in the investigation. By late Thursday night, multiple police teams were deployed to trace the shooters, while checkpoints and naka-bandis were set up across key routes in Ponda and Marcaim. Senior officers said preliminary inquiry suggests the attack may have been pre-planned, though the exact motive remains unclear. The incident has raised fresh concerns over Goa's law and order situation.

“Maharaja in Tariff”: Trump’s Trade Adviser Targets India Over Russian Oil Imports

■ Though the US imposed an additional 25 per cent tariff on India for its energy ties with Russia, it has not initiated similar actions against China, the largest buyer of Russian crude oil.

Washington: US President Donald Trump’s trade adviser Peter Navarro has launched a sharp attack on India for continuing its energy trade with Russia, calling New Delhi the “Maharaja of tariffs” and accusing it of running a “profiteering scheme.”

Speaking to reporters outside the White House, Navarro said he expects the punitive 50% tariffs on Indian imports—including an additional 25% levy tied to Russian oil purchases—to take effect on August 27.

“Prior to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022, India bought virtually no Russian oil. Now, 35% of their needs are met by Russia. They don’t need the oil. It’s a refining profit-sharing scheme, a laundromat for the Kremlin,” Navarro alleged. He argued that Indian refiners were buying discounted crude and exporting premium products to Europe, Africa,



and Asia, calling it “pure profiteering.”

Navarro warned that the trade deficit and India’s import of Russian crude were hurting American workers, claiming: “The money they get from us is used to buy Russian oil, which then funds arms that kill Ukrainians. US taxpayers end up footing the bill for more aid to Kyiv. That’s insane.”

India has pushed back strongly against the criticism. During his Moscow visit, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said New Delhi was “perplexed” by Washington’s stance,

pointing out that the US itself had encouraged India to stabilize global energy markets, including through Russian oil purchases.

“We are a country where, actually, the Americans said for the last few years that we should do everything to stabilise the world energy markets, including buying oil from Russia,” Jaishankar noted.

India’s reliance on Russian crude has surged dramatically since sanctions were imposed on Moscow in 2022. From a mere 1.7% share of total imports in 2019-20, Russia now accounts for 35.1% of India’s oil

imports in 2024-25, making it New Delhi’s top supplier. Moscow-based Kasatkin Consulting estimates that India now takes 37% of Russia’s total oil exports.

Navarro also accused India of “cosying up” to Chinese President Xi Jinping, pointing to New Delhi’s recent outreach to Beijing. His remarks came as India and China agreed to work toward resolving their long-standing border dispute after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s visit to New Delhi.

Beijing, in turn, sought to show solidarity with India against Washington’s tariff moves. “China firmly stands with India to uphold the multilateral trading system and safeguard international fairness and justice,” Chinese envoy Xu Feihong posted on X. Trump’s decision to double tariffs on Indian goods to 50% has pushed New Delhi–Washington ties to a new low.

Indian Envoy Meets US Lawmakers Amid Tariff Strain in Bilateral Ties

■ The Indian ambassador also had an “engaging conversation” with Representative Adam Smith, Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Democrats.

Washington: India’s Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, met with several key American lawmakers this week as New Delhi seeks to ease tensions following President Donald Trump’s decision to impose 50% tariffs on Indian goods, including a 25% penalty linked to Russian oil imports.

Kwatra met Representative Darrell Issa, Chairman of the House Judiciary GOP Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, AI and the Internet, to discuss energy security and trade ties. He thanked Issa for his “steadfast support” of the India-US partnership in his role as Vice-Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Majority.

The envoy also held what he described as an “engaging conversation” with Representative Adam Smith, Ranking Member of the House Armed Services



Committee, focusing on trade, defence, and energy cooperation.

In a separate meeting with Senator John Cornyn, Co-Chair of the Senate India Caucus, Kwatra stressed the importance of bilateral trade engagement and highlighted opportunities to deepen collaboration in hydrocarbons, particularly between Texas and India. On Wednesday, the envoy also met Congressman Andy Barr, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy, and explored avenues to boost bilateral trade and investment. Kwatra expressed gratitude for Barr’s leadership as Vice Co-Chair of the House India Caucus.

Jaishankar in Moscow: Calls for Urgent Steps to Address India-Russia Trade Imbalance

■ During his Moscow visit, Mr S Jaishankar suggested ways to expand the trade relationship between the two countries to tackle the trade deficit. He said that the imbalance “needed to be addressed urgently.”

Moscow: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday stressed the need to urgently tackle the growing trade imbalance between India and Russia, even as bilateral trade has surged more than fivefold in the past four years.

Speaking at the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) alongside Russia’s First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, Jaishankar highlighted that India’s imports, largely driven by discounted Russian crude oil, had created a sharp deficit.

“Over the last four years, our bilateral trade in goods has increased more than five-fold from



\$3 billion in 2021 to \$68 billion in 2024-25. However, the imbalance has widened from \$6.6 billion to \$58.9 billion — about nine times higher. We need to address that urgently,” Jaishankar said.

To bridge the gap, he suggested removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, tackling logistical hurdles, and boosting connectivity through corridors such as the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), the Northern Sea Route, and the Chennai–Vladivostok maritime link.

Online Gaming Bill 2025: Major Platforms Suspend Real-Money Games After Parliament Ban

■ The move comes after Parliament passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, to ban online money games while promoting eSports and online social gaming.

New Delhi: India’s real-money gaming industry has been hit hard after Parliament passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, which bans all money-based online games and prescribes penalties of up to ₹1 crore and jail terms for violations. Soon after the



legislation was cleared, leading platforms including Mobile Premier League (MPL), Zupee, Dream Sports, Gameskraft, and Probo announced the

suspension of their real-money offerings.

MPL, one of India’s largest gaming companies with over 120 million users, said it would immediately halt money-based games. “Effective immediately, we are suspending all gaming offerings involving money on the MPL platform in India. New deposits will no

longer be accepted, but customers can withdraw their balances seamlessly,” the company said in a LinkedIn post. Rival Zupee also confirmed it would discontinue paid games while continuing to offer free titles such as Ludo Supreme, Snakes & Ladders, and Trump Card Mania.

PM Modi: Recalls ‘Operation Sindoor’ Resolve, Launches Key Development Projects

■ PM Modi praised Bihar as the land of Chanakya and Chandragupta and said the terrorists behind the Pahalgam attack were eliminated, fulfilling his vow made from the state’s soil.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday reminded the nation of his pledge to eliminate terrorists responsible for the April 22 Pahalgam attack, saying the vow he made from Bihar’s soil

has been fulfilled through Operation Sindoor.

Speaking at a public gathering in Gayaji after launching multiple projects, the Prime Minister hailed Bihar as the “land of Chanakya and

Chandragupta Maurya” and said that every resolution taken here is fulfilled in time.

“When the Pahalgam terror attack happened, I had vowed from this land to reduce the terrorists



to dust. The world has witnessed that resolve fulfilled,” he said, adding that Operation Sindoor marked a decisive shift in India’s security policy.

Rahul Dravid on Rohit Sharma He Deeply Cared About the Team



New Delhi: Former India head coach Rahul Dravid has opened up about his successful partnership with skipper Rohit Sharma, calling it one of the most fulfilling phases of his coaching career.

Speaking on R. Ashwin's YouTube channel, Dravid reflected on Rohit's leadership qualities and the bond they shared during their tenure with Team India. The Dravid-Rohit

■ The Rahul Dravid-Rohit Sharma partnership turned out to be one of the most successful captain-coach pairings in the national team's history.

pairing produced some of Indian cricket's finest moments between 2022 and 2024. Together, they guided India to the Asia Cup 2023 title, a runners-up finish at the 2023 ODI World Cup, and the long-awaited T20 World Cup victory in 2024.

Dravid said Rohit's biggest strength was his clarity and care for the team. "The thing with Rohit that I always felt was that he deeply cared about the team. From the first day, he was very clear about how he wanted to run things and what was

important to him," Dravid said.

The former coach stressed that in his philosophy, the team should always belong to the captain, with the coach playing a supporting role. "A captain has to lead in terms of the direction he wants to go in, and you have to support him. With Rohit, he was very clear about what he wanted from the team, the atmosphere, and the environment," he added. Dravid credited Rohit's vast experience for shaping India's culture during their time together,

while also emphasizing his own role in creating a comfortable space for the captain.

"For me, it was about challenging him at times but also ensuring he was comfortable. Once Rohit was in that space, he could perform and get everyone else to perform too," he said.

Beyond cricket, Dravid highlighted the ease of their off-field relationship, which often extended to casual conversations and shared meals.

"I enjoyed getting to know him as a person. We could spend evenings

together chatting about things beyond cricket. It felt natural, not forced," Dravid recalled.

Reflecting on Rohit's growth since his early days, Dravid added: "Having seen him as an U-19 kid and giving him his first opportunity, to then watch him evolve as a person and leader was really special."

Together, Dravid and Rohit will be remembered as one of India's most successful captain-coach duos, leaving behind a legacy of clarity, camaraderie, and historic triumphs.



YMCA Major Ranking TT: Rishan, Chandan Set Up Double Finals Showdown

Team Goemkarponn

Panjim: Top seeds Rishan Shaikh and Chandan Caro stamped their authority at the YMCA Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament, storming into the finals of both the Under-17 and Under-19 Boys categories at the Indoor Stadium, Campal.

Organised by YMCA Panjim under the aegis of the Goa Table Tennis Association, the tournament witnessed spirited performances from Goa's emerging paddlers, but the top two seeds proved too strong, cruising to twin summit clashes. In the U17 Boys quarterfinals, Rishan (1) blanked Yug Prabhu (6) 3-0, while Chinmay Bakhare overcame Surendra Chube 3-1. Third seed Dhruva Kamat downed Ruhaan Shaikh 3-0, before Chandan (2)

dismissed Dhruv Kanji in straight games. The semis saw Rishan edge past Chinmay 3-1 in a hard-fought battle, while Chandan breezed past Dhruva 3-0, setting up a blockbuster title clash.

The U19 Boys draw also saw the two top seeds dominate. Chandan (1) defeated Surendra Chube 3-0 in the quarters, while fourth seed Ruhaan stunned third seed Dhruva 3-1. Rishan advanced past Vedant Wagle via walkover, and Yug Prabhu outplayed Chinmay 3-0.

In the semis, Chandan overpowered Ruhaan 3-0, and Rishan brushed aside Yug 3-0, ensuring a repeat showdown in the U19 final. With both age-group finals featuring the same protagonists, all eyes will be on whether Rishan or Chandan can complete a golden double at YMCA's premier ranking event.

11 ISL Clubs Urge Supreme Court Lawyers to Highlight Existential Crisis

■ The letter from the ISL clubs came a day before a SC hearing of the case on Friday.

New Delhi: In a rare collective move, 11 Indian Super League (ISL) clubs have written to the senior lawyers assisting the Supreme Court of India, urging them to draw attention to the "existential crisis" facing Indian football's top-tier league. The appeal comes a day before the apex court's scheduled hearing of the case on Friday.

The clubs expressed deep concern over the uncertainty surrounding the future of the ISL, requesting an urgent judgment to avoid a

complete standstill in Indian football. The letter, addressed to amici curiae Gopal Sankaranarayanan and Samar Bansal, called for immediate clarity to safeguard the livelihoods of thousands engaged in the sport. "Given that football clubs, their players, employees, and stakeholders are the most directly affected by the current standstill, we humbly request that our concerns be placed before the Hon'ble Bench," the clubs wrote.

The signatories include Bengaluru FC,

Hyderabad FC, Odisha FC, Chennaiyin FC, Jamshedpur FC, FC Goa, Kerala Blasters FC, Punjab FC, NorthEast United FC, Mumbai City FC, and Mohammedan Sporting. The crisis erupted after Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), the ISL organisers and commercial partners of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), announced on July 11 that the 2025-26 season was on hold. The uncertainty stems from the impending expiry of the



Master Rights Agreement (MRA) between FSDL and AIFF, signed in 2010 and due to end on December 8, 2025. The AIFF currently receives ₹50 crore annually under the agreement, but negotiations on its renewal remain stalled. The clubs said a verbal stay on discussions regarding the MRA since April 30, 2025, has frozen planning for the upcoming season.

Several clubs have already paused operations or suspended player salaries, with revenues hit hard due to lack of clarity.

Cuncolim Union Storm Past Varca SC 3-0 in Mansion House Cup

Team Goemkarponn

Cuncolim: The 1st All Goa Inter-Village Mansion House Cup 2025 witnessed a dominant display from Cuncolim Union, who overpowered Varca SC 3-0 at the Cuncolim Ground to advance into the next round. In front of a lively crowd of over 1,000 spectators, both sides fought hard, but it was Varca's Hayden Fernandes who squandered the game's first big chance in the 20th



minute, failing to convert a golden opportunity. Cuncolim Union then took control of the match, striking three times in just five minutes before the break. Wilson Fernandes

broke the deadlock in the 35th minute, followed by Tushar Gaunker three minutes later. Soon after, Joliton Fernandes added the third in the 40th minute, effectively



sealing the contest before halftime. For his impactful performance, Joliton Fernandes was named Man of the Match, receiving the award from Videsh Dessai.