



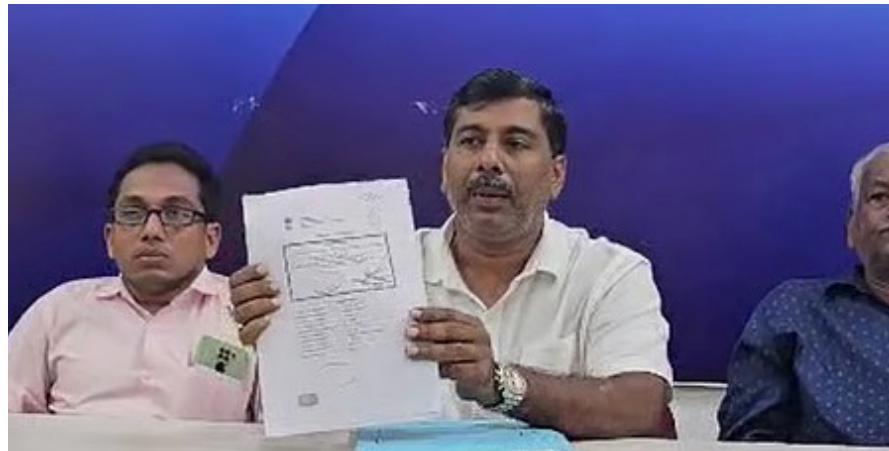
Multi-Crore Land Scam, Fake Ornaments Alleged in Sal Devasthan

Chairman Meghashyam Raut accuses former committee of selling temple land cheap and mismanaging assets

Team Goemkarponn

SAL: The long-running Sal Devasthan dispute has intensified, with the present temple management accusing the former committee of large-scale financial mismanagement.

Addressing a press conference, current Devasthan chairman Meghashyam Raut alleged that the previous committee had sold temple land at throwaway prices, resulting in losses running into crores of rupees. In a fresh twist, a recent inspection of temple assets revealed that jewellery worth lakhs of rupees, donated to the deity, was found to be fake. The discovery has raised further questions about the



handling of temple wealth under the earlier administration.

Raut said the matter had gone beyond reconciliation and demanded strict action against those responsible for the alleged

fraud.

The allegations have reignited tensions within the temple community, with devotees calling for accountability and authorities expected to examine the charges.



Food Industry Powers Goa's Economy, Sustains 40% of Population: Khaunte

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The food and hospitality industry is the true backbone of Goa's economy, sustaining nearly 40% of the state's population, Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte said on Tuesday. Speaking at the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) Summit 2025 in Dona Paula, Khaunte stressed that the sector plays a vital role in shaping Goa's identity

and driving tourism. "Fish curry rice remains the compass of Goa's identity. Almost half of a tourist's budget is spent on food, underlining how central our culinary culture is to the Goan experience," he said. Highlighting the government's efforts to reposition the state as "Goa beyond beaches," Khaunte said regenerative and sustainable tourism, with food at its heart, will define the next phase of growth.



Heavy Rain Triggers Flash Floods in Dehradun; Houses and IT Park Submerged

■ Sahastradhara Cloudburst: The cloudburst followed by massive flooding in the Karligaad rivulet caused severe destruction in the surrounding area.

Dehradun: A cloudburst in Dehradun on Monday night caused severe flooding, submerging homes in Tapovan and leading to major waterlogging in Sahastradhara and the IT Park area. Two people are reported missing, while rescue teams continue efforts to locate them. The cloudburst, combined with heavy rainfall, caused the Karligaad rivulet to overflow, damaging properties, washing away a key bridge, and

displacing residents. Authorities have shifted affected people to safer locations. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, in a statement on social media, confirmed that several shops in Sahastradhara were damaged and that he is personally monitoring the situation in coordination with the local administration. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to CM Dhami to review the situation,

CONTD TO PAGE 06..

Jaish Leader Reveals Masood Azhar's Family Targeted in Indian 'Operation Sindoor'

■ JeM commander Masood Ilyas Kashmiri was heard explaining how the Indian armed forces entered their hideout and attacked them

Islamabad: Months after India carried out strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under 'Operation Sindoor,' a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) commander has admitted that the family of top commander Masood Azhar was severely affected during the attacks. In a viral video, JeM operative



Masood Ilyas Kashmiri described how Indian armed forces entered their hideout and struck on May 7 in Bahawalpur, stating, "Maulana Masood Azhar's family was torn apart by

Indian forces." The strikes, conducted weeks after the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir that killed 26 civilians, targeted nine terrorist facilities across Pakistan and PoK, including Bahawalpur, Kotli, and Muridke, known hubs for JeM and Lashkar-e-Taiba operations. Bahawalpur,

CONTD TO PAGE 06..



Several Internet cables and electric wires are covered by creepers in the city, posing a danger to people. The plants can cause risk of electrocution near Mary immaculate school, panaji.

Photos by Rozario Estibeiro

Fatorda Police Arrest 25th Accused in Mungul Brutal Assault Case

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Fatorda Police have arrested another accused, identified as Rajesh Helma, in connection with the brutal assault at Mungul, Margao. With this arrest, the total number of persons in custody has risen to 25. The case dates back when armed men wielding swords, koytas, sticks and even



guns descended on the quiet Mungul stretch near Shagun Restaurant. The gang intercepted a car carrying Rafiq Tashan (24) and Yuvkesh Singh Badaila (20) around 2:45 am along the Margao-Colva Road.

Valpoi Duty Master in Bribe Row; Audio Clip Surfaces

Team Goemkarponn

VALPOI: Valpoi Police Duty Master has landed in controversy after an audio clip surfaced in which he is allegedly heard demanding ₹1,500 per month from police staff for being posted at the Keri-Sattari outpost, located along the Goa-Karnataka border. According to the recording, the Duty Master

at Valpoi Police Station can be heard telling staff that they would have to pay the monthly amount if they wished to secure duty at the border outpost. The revelation has sparked outrage, raising questions about corruption in duty postings within the police force. Superintendent of Police (North) confirmed that an enquiry has been

CONTD TO PAGE 06..



Saligao is Not Goa's Garbage Dump

Saligao is not Goa's garbage dump. Yet the way the state has handled its waste management, is exactly what Saligao is being reduced to. When the garbage treatment plant was first set up in the village, it was meant to cater to the coastal belt of Bardez. A modest facility, built to handle around 100 tonnes of waste, it was sold as a solution that would be efficient and localised. But like most government promises, that purpose shifted quickly.

Today the plant handles more than twice its original capacity, taking in garbage from places far beyond Bardez, and now the Goa Waste Management Corporation wants to expand the buffer zone by acquiring more land. For the people of Saligao, this is not an act of environmental safety. It is a backdoor attempt to extend the plant's reach, swallow up more land, and make their home the state's dumping ground.

The government can insist that the buffer zone is only about compliance and safety, but that claim rings hollow. Why should anyone believe them when every expansion so far has been justified in exactly the same manner, only to end up raising the plant's capacity? Residents already live with the unbearable stench that seeps into their homes. They already bear the health and social costs of a plant that was never meant to grow so big. They see trucks bringing in waste from distant parts of Goa, even from talukas that should be managing their own garbage. They have little reason to trust vague assurances about limits. The people of Saligao are right to fear that "buffer zone" is simply another phrase for more land, more garbage, and more broken promises.

"There is also the question of fairness. Why should one village be forced to absorb the waste of the entire state? Bardez residents did not sign up to become Goa's custodians of garbage. Yet instead of developing smaller, decentralised facilities across Goa, the government has taken the lazy way out by overloading one plant. This is not planning. It is abdication. It is using Saligao as a safety valve for the failures of others. That is not waste management. It is the exploitation of a village that has been too accommodating for too long. The handling of the Comunidade land issue only deepens suspicion. Locals allege that while the Gaunkars opposed handing over more land, the managing committee refused to pass a resolution against it."

There is also the question of fairness. Why should one village be forced to absorb the waste of the entire state? Bardez residents did not sign up to become Goa's custodians of garbage. Yet instead of developing smaller, decentralised facilities across Goa, the government has taken the lazy way out by overloading one plant. This is not planning. It is abdication. It is using Saligao as a safety valve for the failures of others. That is not waste management. It is the exploitation of a village that has been too accommodating

for too long.

The handling of the Comunidade land issue only deepens suspicion. Locals allege that while the Gaunkars opposed handing over more land, the managing committee refused to pass a resolution against it. This reeks of pressure and manoeuvring. When the panchayat and political leaders have already raised objections, why is the government still pushing? The answer is obvious: it has no intention of listening. Instead, it would rather steamroll opposition, secure land first, and then expand later under the pretext of necessity.

Saligao has been patient. It has borne the brunt of a plant that has grown far beyond its original mandate. But patience is not an endless resource. When residents say enough is enough, they are defending not just their land but also the principle that no village should be turned into a garbage dump for the rest of Goa. What is happening in Saligao today is a warning for every other village tomorrow. If this model of centralising garbage in one place continues, more villages will be sacrificed in the same way, and Goa's environment will suffer even more deeply.

The truth is simple. Garbage is everyone's problem. Every village, every town, every city has to deal with its own waste responsibly. Saligao cannot carry the burden for all. If the state wants to take its waste management seriously, it must invest in systems that spread responsibility, not dump it on a single village. Until then, every attempt to dress up land acquisition as safety will be rightly resisted as a lie. Saligao is not Goa's garbage dump, and the people are right to remind the government of that, loudly and clearly.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

India's Silent Revenge on the Cricket Field

The fuss over Indian players not shaking hands with their Pakistani counterparts after the Asia Cup clash is misplaced. For once, our team chose silence over ceremony, and in doing so gave an answer many Indians had long wanted. Cricket may be a sport, but it does not exist in isolation from the realities that surround it. Every ball bowled and every run scored takes place against the backdrop of a neighbour that has continued to sponsor hostility and bloodshed across our borders.

To expect Indian players to smile and exchange handshakes as if nothing exists beyond the boundary ropes is unfair. By refusing the handshake, the team sent a message without walking away from the match itself. This was the revenge Indians wanted not by boycotting the game, which would only hand Pakistan easy narratives, but by playing, winning, and then denying them the courtesy of camaraderie they have not earned. Suryakumar Yadav's reference to Pahagam may remind us of respect in sport, but respect is also a two-way street. Sportsmanship cannot be divorced from the conduct of a nation. India's cricketers showed that they will turn up, compete, and triumph, but they are not obliged to offer gestures of goodwill when the wounds inflicted off the field remain raw. This act was not arrogance. It was an assertion. And sometimes, in the language of sport, assertion speaks louder than words.

By Sudhir Naik
Borim

When Playgrounds Become Platforms for Profit

The recent decision by the Goa government to allow a mobile tower in the middle of Kuncoliem village's football ground under the joint order of the Departments of IT & Sports is a worrying precedent. A public playground is much more than open land. It is where children chase goals, the community gathers, team spirit is built and where memories are made. Replacing even a part of it with infrastructure that cuts through play is not just insensitive it is a failure of priorities. The fact that only ten square metres of land were earmarked for the tower, yet the order allows the site to shift within a radius that still keeps the tower inside the playing field, shows how flimsy the concession is.

One cannot simply circumvent the communal utility of the ground while claiming minimal damage. Once a football field gets partitioned—even slightly—it distorts the purpose; the "field" becomes unusable for its core function. What is more insulting is the silence from elected representatives. The MLA was reportedly not informed, club officials were allegedly denied a basic inspection report, and a department-scale decision bypassed the people who actually use the field. This is not governance, it is top-down imposition. Public land is not to be sold off piecemeal in the name of "development." If mobile connectivity is needed, find alternate sites rooftops, non-playground community land, edges of public land, not the heart of children's fields. Sport builds health, community, discipline. These values deserve protecting.

By Brendon D'Souza
Benaulim

North Goa Collector forms flying squads to tackle sand mining

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The North Goa Collectorate has set up taluka-level flying squads to monitor and prevent illegal sand mining in the district. Each squad, comprising Deputy Collectors, Mamlatdars, and Talathis, has been tasked with taking immediate action against unlawful sand extraction.

District Collector Ankit Yadav urged citizens to report any instances of illegal sand mining directly



to the officers via phone or WhatsApp, preferably with photographic evidence.

The move comes in response to directives from the Bombay High

Court at Goa, which instructed authorities to actively protect the state's resources rather than merely complying with court orders. The court

emphasized that illegal extraction, sale, or export of sand adversely affects Goa's interests.

Environmental groups, including the Goa River Sand Protectors Network, have previously highlighted continued illegal mining in areas such as Mayem, Maina-Curtorim, and Bicholim, despite court restrictions. The newly formed flying squads are expected to strengthen enforcement efforts and safeguard the state's natural resources.



Draft delimitation of ZP Panchayat constituencies open for public suggestions

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The State Election Commission (SEC) has opened the draft delimitation of Zilla Panchayat (ZP) constituencies for public suggestions. Citizens can submit their feedback between September 16 and 26, 2025, during

office hours. Suggestions can be lodged at the office of the District Collector as well as at the offices of the respective Mamlatdars or AEROs, the SEC said, encouraging public participation in the process to ensure fair and transparent constituency demarcation.

Goa Shipping Firm Director Arrested for Alleged International Human Trafficking

MUMBAI/GOA: A director of a Goa-based shipping company was arrested at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport while attempting to fly to Bangkok, in connection with an alleged international human trafficking network. The arrest followed a lookout notice issued by the FRRO Chennai.

Authorities recovered forged ship-joining letters, multiple mobile phones and SIM cards, and fraudulent e-migration documents during the search.



Investigators claim the accused lured migrants with promises of overseas maritime jobs, charging between ₹1 lakh and ₹5 lakh per person, but instead facilitated their illegal travel to countries including

the UK and the US. At least six victims, including Goan residents, have come forward so far. A senior official disclosed that the network has alleged connections spanning Punjab, Haryana, Mexico, and the United States, and may involve hawala operators and compromised immigration personnel. The accused has reportedly confessed to deceiving multiple individuals and is currently in judicial custody. As the probe intensifies, Goa Police are expected to take over parts of the investigation.



Big welcome puts SAG Director in spot, govt issues notice

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The newly-appointed Executive Director of the Sports Authority of Goa (SAG), Ajay Gaude, has landed in controversy on the very day he assumed office after the State government served him a show-cause notice over an extravagant welcome arranged at the SAG headquarters. Gaude, a senior officer of the Goa Civil Service, formally

took charge on Monday. His entry, however, was marked by a grand reception featuring floral decorations and a drum procession, images of which quickly made rounds on social media.

The Chief Secretary, taking note of the incident, described the celebration as conduct unbecoming of a government officer and asked Gaude to explain why disciplinary action should not be taken against him.

Cuncolim Municipal Council demands action on industrial pollution

Team Goemkarponn

CUNCOLIM: The Cuncolim Municipal Council (CMC) has urged the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) to carry out thorough inspections of all industrial units in the Cuncolim Industrial Estate, amid growing concerns over air and water pollution affecting local residents. During a special council meeting on September 9, the CMC unanimously rejected a



proposal by Goan Marine Impex Pvt Ltd to set up a fish meal plant in the area, citing potential environmental hazards and health risks.

The council also decided to return the approved plan to

the Town and Country Planning Department for clarification regarding the proposed access road and requested the Goa Investment Promotion Board to withdraw its initial approval for the project.

Responding to the council's concerns, GSPCB officials stated that directives have already been issued to ensure regular inspections of all red and orange category units in Cuncolim and nearby Verna industrial estates.

DGP assures Goa is free from organised crime syndicates

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's Director General of Police, Alok Kumar, has dismissed claims that organised crime syndicates are operating in the state, describing recent incidents as isolated and localized. Speaking on local channel programme, Kumar clarified that events

such as the recent Mungul-Margao clash involved local groups only, and do not signify the presence of gang wars in Goa. He added that over 20 people have been arrested in connection with the incident, with further arrests expected. Kumar acknowledged attempts by outsiders to establish criminal networks in the state



but assured that intelligence-led policing is keeping such threats

under check. Commenting on the recent arrest of an ISIS operative in Goa, he noted that the individual had only sporadically stayed in the state over the past decade, and credited the police's effective local intelligence and inter-agency coordination for the apprehension. To strengthen security, the Goa Police are

planning collaboration with the hospitality sector for a real-time information-sharing system to track suspicious individuals. Additionally, a new tenant verification app will be introduced, assigning unique IDs to tenants to create a centralized database and streamline verification processes.

Cruise tourism season begins at Mormugao Port Authority with arrival of first ship

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: The cruise tourism season at the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) has officially set sail with the arrival of the first vessel, Empress, on September 10. The liner, carrying 1,600 passengers and 500 crew members, berthed in Goa on its maiden call for the 2025–26 season, marking the beginning of what promises to be one of the busiest cruise schedules in recent years. According to the schedule released by MPA, a total of 42 cruise ships are expected to call at the port between September 2025 and June 2026. These include repeat visits by the Empress, which is operating as a short-haul cruise option between Mumbai, Agatti, and Goa, as well as calls from internationally acclaimed



luxury liners such as Celebrity Millennium, Crystal Symphony, Crystal Serenity, Seven Seas Navigator, Seven Seas Mariner, Island Sky, and Sirena.

The first domestic cruise ship of the season, MV Cordelia Empress, arrived at the port on the 10th of September and brought around 1,050 people to Goa, who went on shore excursions to different parts of the state. Around 985 passengers boarded the ship on its maiden voyage from Goa as it sailed to Agatti

in Lakshadweep. The domestic cruise has turned out to be a hit and the first ship arrival was a great start to our cruise tourism season," said Jerome Clement, Traffic Manager in-charge at MPA.

He added, "We have around 13 international cruise liners who have confirmed their sailing to Goa and we are expecting an addition of 10 more cruise liners this season. If this happens, MPA will see a 34 percent rise in international cruise tourism."

The season began with the Empress sailing from Mumbai before docking at Mormugao, and officials confirmed that the vessel will make several return visits throughout the season, boosting short-duration tourism traffic. The next major highlight will be the arrival of the Celebrity Millennium in November, a vessel with a capacity of nearly 2,000 passengers, scheduled to arrive from Cochin before continuing onward to Mumbai.

Cruise tourism is increasingly becoming a vital component of Goa's economy. Each vessel brings hundreds of international travelers to local shores, creating opportunities for taxi operators, hotels, tour companies, beach shack owners, and artisans who cater to the influx of guests.



Tourism Min Announces Reconsideration of Shack Subletting Cases

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte on Monday held a meeting with shack owners and representatives of shack associations to deliberate on issues surrounding the shack policy and reported instances of subletting. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Khaunte underlined that beach shacks are an integral part of Goa's traditional tourism economy and play a key role in generating self-employment for locals. He reiterated that the shack policy strictly prohibits subletting, but last year the department received several complaints of

violations. Upon review, it was found that 23 shacks had been sublet to Goans, identified through payment tracking codes. These cases were initially placed under cancellation. However, after representations from shack associations and coastal MLAs, and following consultations with Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, the Government has decided to reconsider them. Khaunte announced that licences for the 23 shacks will now be renewed once the identified issues are resolved and the requisite fees are paid, subject to strict compliance with the non-subletting clause in future.



Six Rescued from Drowning, Missing Child Reunited

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Six persons, including five fishermen, were rescued from drowning in separate incidents along Goa's coastline over the weekend. In addition, Drishti Marine lifesavers reunited a missing child with his family at Baga and assisted an injured kayaker at Arambol. At Mandrem beach, four fishermen were trapped after their boat was caught in rough waves. Lifesaver Manish Narvekar alerted team captain Tanaji Bhagat, who launched a jetski from Mandrem, while

lifesaver Navnath Ghatwal rushed from Arambol. With support from colleagues Rahul Dalvi, Sakharan Bandekar and Vitorino D'Souza, all four fishermen were brought safely ashore. At Colva beach, lifesaver Sahil Tikkam rescued a 36-year-old fisherman from Chhattisgarh, who became exhausted while swimming back from his anchored boat. Tikkam rushed on a jetski and pulled him to safety. At Miramar beach, lifesavers Ratan Kumar and Narendra Gaude saved a man under the influence of alcohol from rough waters.

Senior Citizen Lodges Complaint Against Son and Daughter-in-law for Harassment and Assault

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: A shocking case of domestic violence has been reported in Mapusa, where a senior citizen has accused his own son and daughter-in-law of harassment, cruelty, and physical assault. Complainant Dinanath Ramchandra Redkar, a resident of House No. 294, Ganeshpuri, Housing Board, Mapusa, lodged his complaint at Mapusa Police Station on Monday, September 15, at 1:38 pm.

He alleged that on September 14, around 4:30 pm, his son, Dinesh Dinanath Redkar, and daughter-in-



law, Namita Dinesh Redkar, both residing at the same address, acted with common intention to subject him to cruelty and harassment.

According to the complaint, the accused allegedly refused to provide him his prescribed medicines, tore his clothes, disconnected water while he was using the bathroom, and even

used his towels for their pet dog. They further abused him and his daughters, Reshmi Tari and Sonal Malvankar, with filthy language, before physically assaulting them with slaps, kicks, and fist blows.

The complainant, who is a senior citizen, reportedly sustained serious bodily injuries, while his daughters also suffered injuries in the incident.

The accused also allegedly threatened the complainant and his daughters with dire consequences, including threats to kill them. Mapusa Police have registered the case and taken cognizance of the complaint.

Maina Curtorim Police Seize Tobacco Products

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Maina Curtorim police have seized a large quantity of cigarettes and gutka from Reena General Store located near Carmels College, after it was found selling tobacco products within 100 yards of the educational institution in violation of Section 6 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco

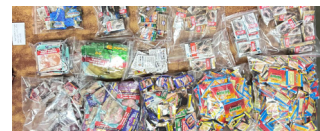


Products Act, 2003. During the raid, police confiscated 55 packets of cigarettes of different brands, 108 packets of Vimal gutka, and 262 packets of V-1 gutka. Authorities said the action was taken to curb the illegal sale of tobacco products.

Vasco police seize tobacco products worth ₹7,675 near school, one held

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco police conducted a raid at a kiosk located within 100 metres of St. Andrews School and seized tobacco products worth ₹7,675. During the raid, 20-year-old Mainuddin Hullatti, son of Nasir Hullatti, resident of Bharat



Nagar, New Vaddem, who was allegedly found selling the prohibited items in the school vicinity.

The seized items have been taken into custody for further legal action.

Punjabi community thanks CM Sawant for Punjab flood relief, invites him for All India Nagar Kirtan

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: The Punjabi community in Goa, along with Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar, met Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant and expressed gratitude for the relief funds and material support extended to Punjab in the wake of devastating floods.

Jagwant Singh Bhatti of Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Mangor Hill, Vasco, said the community was deeply touched by the CM's gesture. "On behalf of the Punjabi community, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the Chief Minister of Goa for standing in solidarity with Punjab during challenging times. The CM allocated ₹5 crore to Punjab and also dispatched



essential relief materials to the people by trucks. Additionally, we cordially invite the Chief Minister to join us for the All India Nagar Kirtan, marking the 350th Shahidi Year of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib Ji, scheduled to take place in Goa on September 30, 2025," said Bhatti. MLA Krishna Salkar, who accompanied the delegation, said the Sikh and Punjabi community had approached him to

arrange an appointment with the CM to convey their gratitude. "The Goa government has been proactive to offer assistance to states struck by natural calamities. The people from Punjab and Chhattisgarh have been facing a lot of difficulties and many lives have been lost due to the floods. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant offered financial assistance of ₹5 crore each to Chhattisgarh

and Punjab from the CM's Relief Fund, supporting their relief and rehabilitation efforts. The government also sent substantial relief materials to both states. This move touched the Sikh and Punjabi community in Goa, and they decided to personally arrive and thank the CM. The Goa Government has always upheld the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat by helping other states affected by natural disasters and calamities," said Salkar. The community has now extended a formal invitation to the Chief Minister to be part of the All India Nagar Kirtan, which is expected to draw participation from across the country on September 30.



Venzy Slams Govt Over Taxi Subsidy Scheme

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Benaulim MLA Capt. Venzy Viegas has launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led Goa Government, accusing it of favoring a private taxi company under a controversial subsidy scheme that he claims is hurting local taxi operators. Alleging that the move amounts to "looting" the interests of Goan taxi businesses, the controversy arises from the government-backed program promoting the "GoaMiles" taxi service, which is offering up

to 30% discounted fares and zero surge charges as part of a pre-booking campaign. While the scheme has been projected as a public-friendly initiative, Viegas described it as a "bluff," insisting it unfairly undermines traditional taxi operators who depend on open market competition. "Instead of supporting our local taxi businesses, the government is handing over public funds to a private company, jeopardizing the livelihoods of countless Goan families," the MLA said.



FDA Cracks Down on Cashew Vendors in Pernem, One Shop Shut and Fines Imposed

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) conducted a surveillance drive in the Pernem area targeting cashew nut vendors operating along the Mopa airport road and towards Patradevi. During the inspection of 10 shops,



one vendor was ordered to shut down for selling substandard cashews and operating without a license, while a case was

booked against another for selling substandard cashews. Additionally, one vendor was fined ₹10,000 for selling low-

grade cashews. Samples were also collected from other outlets for laboratory analysis. The inspection team included Richard Noronha, Bhakti Walke, Ram Dhuri, Budgo Gurav, Lenin De Sa, Amit Mandrekar and Darlan Diukar, under the guidance of FDA Director Shweta Dessai.

Six-Wheeler Transport Vehicles Allowed on Anmod Ghat

MARGAO: The South Goa District Magistrate has partially lifted restrictions on the movement of vehicles along the Anmod Ghat stretch of the national highway, which had been closed to heavy commercial traffic due to landslides.

An initial notification issued on July 5, 2025, and extended on September 2, 2025, had banned all heavy commercial vehicles on the route citing safety concerns. To ease the difficulties faced by

commuters and goods transporters, the District Magistrate directed the National Highway executing department to carry out restoration work.

Following the completion of essential repairs, a corrigendum issued on September 12, 2025, now permits the operation of six-wheeler transport vehicles on Anmod Ghat.

The order was released by the Office of the Collector and District Magistrate, South Goa, on September 15, 2025.

Governor Lauds Red Cross as 'Beacon of Humanity', Applauds Goa Branch for Service to People

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Governor Puspapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju praised the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), describing it as a beacon of humanitarian service rooted in neutrality, voluntary action, and compassion that brings hope and healing to people in times of crisis.

He was speaking at the Annual General Meeting of the IRCS Goa State Branch, held at Raj Bhavan, Dona Paula.

As President of the Goa State Branch, the Governor commended



the organisation for its initiatives in disaster preparedness and relief, healthcare services, and youth engagement. "Your work has strengthened bonds of solidarity within society and is a testimony to the selfless service of volunteers, staff and

well-wishers. I deeply appreciate the Goa branch for its outstanding contribution to the people of Goa," he said.

The meeting also featured the release of the Annual Report 2024-25, discussions on the Administrative Report,

and recognition of various IRCS branches in Goa with awards. Earlier, IRCS Goa Chairperson Shri Gaurish Dhond welcomed the gathering, which was attended by members, volunteers, students, and office bearers.

India Plans \$454 Million Incentives to Boost Ship Recycling, Targeting Bangladesh's Lead

■ Incentives will include a credit note worth about 40% of the ship's scrap value for owners bringing their obsolete vessels to India.

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India is set to introduce ₹40,000 crore (\$454 million) in incentives to strengthen its shipbreaking industry and reclaim market share from Bangladesh and Pakistan, according to sources familiar with the plan.

The benefits, likely to be approved by the Cabinet by the end of September, will be spread over ten years starting 2026. Ship owners bringing obsolete vessels to India will receive credit notes worth roughly 40% of the scrap value, valid for three years and usable to purchase Indian-built ships. The notes can be combined or sold, adding flexibility for stakeholders. India currently handles about one-third of the world's ship recycling market, trailing Bangladesh's 46% share.



Most dismantling occurs at Alang on the western coast, though neighboring Bangladesh and Pakistan have been gradually eroding India's dominance. Rising freight rates and extended lifespans for oil tankers following geopolitical disruptions, including the Russia-Ukraine war, have revived business in recent months. Additionally, India is exploring a

shipbreaking facility on its eastern coast to attract business from Bangladesh. The government is also poised to approve a ₹25,000 crore maritime development fund to boost domestic shipbuilding and reduce reliance on foreign-built vessels, part of broader efforts to strengthen the country's maritime sector.



Goa Tourism Unveils Month-Long Immersive Experiences Ahead of World Tourism Day

Panaji: In the lead-up to World Tourism Day on 27th September, the Goa Department of Tourism, in collaboration with the Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG), SKAL International Goa, and the Yuva Tourism Club, has launched a month-long series of immersive activities across the state. The programme aims to highlight Goa's rich heritage, biodiversity, local communities, and culinary traditions while promoting sustainable and experiential tourism. Hon'ble Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte

said that World Tourism Day celebrates the power of tourism to create positive change and emphasized that partnerships with TTAG, SKAL, and the Yuva Tourism Club not only showcase Goa's unique experiences but also nurture responsible tourism among the youth, the future Tourism Ambassadors. Director of Tourism Shri Kedar Naik added that the activities represent a holistic approach to tourism development, combining heritage walks, nature trails, culinary sessions, inclusive cruises, and other initiatives to ensure tourism

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Heavy Rain Triggers Flash Floods in Dehradun; Houses and IT Park Submerged

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, in a statement on social media, confirmed that several shops in Sahastradhara were damaged and that he is personally monitoring the situation in coordination with the local administration.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to

CM Dhami to review the situation, assuring full support from the Centre during this disaster.

Home Minister Amit Shah also pledged assistance and emphasized that all relief and rescue operations would be supported. CM Dhami expressed gratitude and stated that, with their

guidance, relief work would proceed swiftly.

District officials, including District Magistrate Savin Bansal and SDM Kumkum Joshi, reached the affected areas at night to oversee the operations.

Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response

Force (SDRF), and the Public Works Department (PWD) are engaged in rescue efforts using bulldozers and other equipment. Schools from Class 1 to 12 in Dehradun have been ordered closed as a precaution.

This disaster follows a similar cloudburst in August in Chamoli district, where two people went

missing and livestock was buried under debris.

Prime Minister Modi had visited Dehradun on September 11 to assess the flood situation and chaired a high-level meeting to plan relief efforts.

He later announced ₹1,200 crore in financial assistance for the affected areas.

Jaish Leader Reveals Masood Azhar's Family Targeted in Indian 'Operation Sindoor' Strikes

In a viral video, JeM operative Masood Ilyas Kashmiri described how Indian armed forces entered their hideout and struck on May 7 in Bahawalpur, stating, "Maulana Masood Azhar's family was torn apart by Indian forces." The strikes, conducted weeks after the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir that killed 26 civilians, targeted nine

terrorist facilities across Pakistan and PoK, including Bahawalpur, Kotli, and Muridke, known hubs for JeM and Lashkar-e-Taiba operations. Bahawalpur, located about 400 km from Lahore, houses JeM's operational headquarters at Jamia Masjid Subhan Allah, also known as the Usman-o-Ali campus.

Pakistani media later reported that Masood Azhar

acknowledged the deaths of 10 of his family members in the operation.

Azhar, who has remained in hiding for years, was described by Pakistani politician Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as being of unknown location, though Islamabad expressed willingness to act if India provides

evidence of his presence on Pakistani soil.

Valpoi Duty Master in Bribe Row; Audio Clip Surfaces

The revelation has sparked outrage, raising questions about corruption in duty postings within the police force. Superintendent of Police (North) confirmed that an enquiry has been initiated into the matter. "Disciplinary action will be

taken based on the outcome of the enquiry," the SP assured.

The incident has cast a shadow on the functioning of the Valpoi Police Station, with calls for strict action to restore public confidence in the force.

India 'Coming to the Table': Trump Adviser Ahead of Bilateral Trade Talks

■ Donald Trump's trade adviser Peter Navarro made remarks as the US chief negotiator arrived in Delhi on Monday for a day-long talk on the trade deal.

New Delhi: Ahead of a crucial round of India-US trade discussions, President Donald Trump's trade adviser Peter Navarro said on Monday that India was "coming to the negotiating table." Navarro's remarks came as US chief negotiator Brendan Lynch arrived in Delhi for a day-long dialogue on the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA).

"India is coming to the table. Prime Minister Modi sent a very conciliatory, constructive message, and President Trump responded," Navarro told CNBC. Trump had earlier tweeted that negotiations



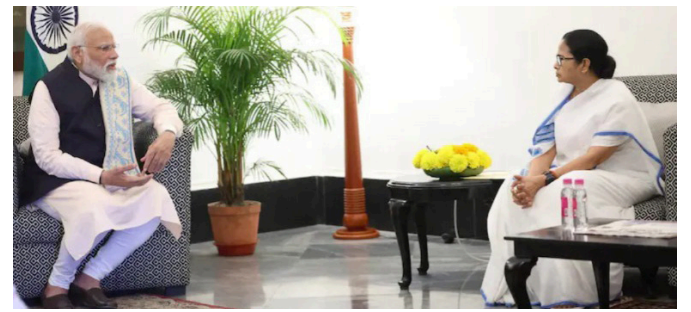
are ongoing to address trade barriers, while PM Modi expressed confidence that the talks would unlock the "limitless potential of the India-US partnership."

Navarro, who has previously referred to India as the "Maharaja of tariffs," reiterated concerns over India's

high tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

He also criticised India for buying Russian oil post the Russia-Ukraine conflict, calling it unfair to American workers. Additionally, he noted that PM Modi might not have been comfortable sharing the stage with China's Xi Jinping and

Russia's Vladimir Putin at the recent SCO summit in Tianjin. India and the US have conducted five rounds of trade negotiations so far, with the sixth round delayed after Trump imposed tariffs on Indian goods, including a 25-50% levy related to Russian oil imports. Rajesh Agarwal, India's chief negotiator, clarified that Tuesday's talks should not be considered the sixth round, but a precursor to decide the future course of action. India and the US have also maintained weekly virtual discussions to push negotiations forward.



Bengal and Centre Forge Security Truce Amid Nepal Unrest

■ Bengal shares a 100-odd-km border including the vulnerable chicken's neck area in Siliguri with Nepal.

Kolkata: Political tensions between West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress and the BJP-led Centre have long defined the state's political landscape. However, recent unrest in neighbouring Nepal has prompted the two sides to set aside differences and focus on border security. Bengal shares a roughly 100-km border with Nepal, including the strategically sensitive Siliguri "chicken's neck" corridor. The

Himalayan nation has been rocked by Gen-Z protests, and although an interim government led by Sushila Karki is now in place, India has maintained heightened vigilance along the border. "These are issues of national interest. On security, there is no Trinamool-BJP rift. We are united," Mamata Banerjee said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a recent visit to the state, also refrained from commenting on political rivalries.

Kuki Zo Council Denies Centre's Claim on NH-2 Free Movement in Manipur

■ The Home Ministry on September 4 announced the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has decided to open National Highway-2 for the free movement of commuters and essential goods in Manipur

Guwahati: The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has refuted the Centre's recent statement claiming that it had agreed to reopen National Highway-2 for free movement of commuters and essential goods in Manipur. The clarification comes after confusion arose when the Home Ministry announced on September 4 that the KZC had consented to lift restrictions on the highway. In its Monday statement, the KZC stressed that no Meitei or Kuki should cross the "buffer zone," as there is "still no settlement or agreement to the conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities." The council added that



their request was limited to asking residents of Kangpokpi to cooperate with security forces to ensure safe passage along the highway. Meitei organisations also criticised the Centre's earlier announcement, saying the claim undermines the constitutional right to free movement and suggested that insurgent groups were dictating access to the highway.

Thousands of Tonnes of Apples Rot as Srinagar-Jammu Highway Remains Blocked

■ As thousands of tons of apple rot in trucks stranded along the Srinagar-Jammu National highway, distressed farmers launched protests and shut fruit markets across Jammu and Kashmir.

Srinagar/Jammu: Thousands of tons of apples are rotting in trucks stranded along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, as distressed farmers across Jammu and Kashmir protest and shut fruit markets in anger over the supply disruption. The highway suffered severe damage following last month's heavy rains and cloudbursts, particularly near Udhampur. Despite repair efforts, the crucial road link remains only partially operational, causing shortages of essential supplies and disrupting the transportation of horticulture produce. Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, after speaking with Union Road Transport Minister



Nitin Gadkari, said concrete measures would be taken within 24 hours to resolve the crisis. He also urged the Centre to hand over the highway to the state if restoration efforts falter.

Horticulture, especially apple cultivation, forms the backbone of Kashmir's rural economy, producing roughly 80% of India's apple supply. Farmers blamed the government for inaction

and poor planning, pointing out that while the four-lane all-weather highway reduced travel time, it was built without adequate risk assessment for the region's fragile terrain.

Sourav Ganguly Slams Pakistan After Asia Cup Match, Dismisses No-Handshake Row

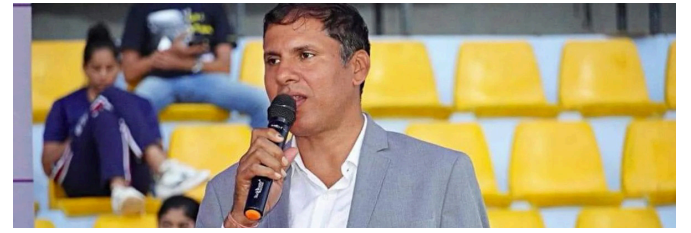
■ Sourav Ganguly trashed the Pakistan cricket team during a public event amid the no-handshake row in the Asia Cup match against India.

Kolkata: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly did not hold back in criticizing Pakistan's cricket team following India's Asia Cup 2025 clash on Sunday, amid the ongoing no-handshake controversy. Speaking at a public event in Kolkata, Ganguly ridiculed the current Pakistani side, stating that he switched off the India-Pakistan match just 15 overs in to watch the Manchester Derby instead. "Pakistan are no longer a competitive side. I would watch India play Australia, England, South Africa, even Afghanistan, rather than watching Pakistan," Ganguly said, reflecting on the decline of standards in modern Pakistani cricket. He recalled the golden



generation of Pakistan cricket with players like Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Saeed Anwar, and Javed Miandad, emphasizing the stark contrast with today's team. "There is no competition between India and Pakistan anymore. Pakistan are no match. I say that with respect it's just the lack of

quality in the side," he added. Ganguly also highlighted India's depth, noting that even without stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, the Indian team remains far ahead of Pakistan and most other Asia Cup sides. Addressing the handshake controversy, Ganguly deferred to India's T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav, saying, "You'll have to ask Suryakumar Yadav. He has answered it... everyone has their own side of the story." He concluded with a broader reflection on the role of sport and society: "Terror must stop, that's most important all around the world, not just India and Pakistan. But sports also cannot stop."



Devendra Jhajharia Confident India Will Cross 20-Medal Mark

■ The championship will be the biggest-ever para sporting event in India, featuring more than 2,200 para-athletes and support staff from 104 countries.

New Delhi: Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) chief Devendra Jhajharia has expressed confidence that India's 73-member contingent is poised to win more than 20 medals at the upcoming World Para-Athletics Championships, set to begin on September 27. The championship, titled the IndianOil World Para-Athletics Championships, will be

the largest-ever para sporting event hosted in India, featuring over 2,200 athletes and support staff from 104 countries. "This is our largest-ever Indian squad at a World Para Athletics Championships, reflecting the depth and growth of para-sport in the country," Jhajharia said. "At the previous edition in Kobe, India secured 17 medals.



ICC Rejects Pakistan's Request to Remove Andy Pycroft

■ Pakistan Cricket Board's request to remove Andy Pycroft as match referee for the Asia Cup match against UAE is rejected by the International Cricket Council.

Dubai: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has rejected the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) request to remove senior match referee Andy Pycroft from the panel ahead of Pakistan's final group stage match against the UAE in the Asia Cup. The controversy erupted after Pakistan alleged that Pycroft instructed captain Salman Ali Agha not to shake hands with India's Suryakumar Yadav during the toss on September 14. Pakistan claimed that team sheets were also not exchanged, breaking the usual protocol. PCB had warned that it might withdraw from the tournament if their demand was not met. "Late last night, ICC informed PCB

that Pycroft will not be removed and their plea has been rejected," a source told PTI. Pycroft, a senior member of the ICC Elite Panel with 695 international matches officiated, is scheduled to oversee Pakistan's match against the UAE on Wednesday. Reports suggest that the confusion arose due to Pakistan Cricket Board's Director of Cricket Operations, Usman Walha, who allegedly failed to brief Salman Ali Agha on the Asia Cup's rules and regulations. Following the incident, PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi who also chairs the Asian Cricket Council ordered Walha's removal, citing the embarrassment caused to the national team.

Anandkumar Velkumar Makes History, Wins India's First Gold at Speed Skating World Championships

■ Indian skater Anandkumar Velkumar made history, securing the nation its first-ever gold medal at the Speed Skating World Championships in China on Monday.

Team Goemkarponn

China: Indian speed skater Anandkumar Velkumar scripted history on Monday, winning the nation's first-ever gold medal at the Speed Skating World Championships. The 22-year-old clinched the top spot in the senior men's 1,000m sprint with a time of 1:24.924, following his historic bronze in the 500m sprint earlier in the championship, where he



clocked 43.072s to secure India's first senior world championship medal. Adding to India's delight, junior skater Krish Sharma also won gold in the 1,000m sprint in the

junior category, signalling a bright future for the sport in the country. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju praised Velkumar on X, calling it "a glorious moment for Indian sports" and congratulating him for becoming the first Indian world champion in speed skating.

The championships, which began on September 13 in Beidaihe, will continue until September 21, showcasing top talent from across the globe.

Sao Jose de Areal Storm into Quarterfinals with 4-0 Win

Team Goemkarponn

Navelim: Sao Jose de Areal registered a commanding 4-0 victory over St. Rock YC Majorda to secure their place in the quarterfinals of the 44th Gold Silver Football Tournament, organised by Navelim Sporting Club at the Rosary Church Ground, Navelim.

Azilton Viegas starred for Areal, striking twice to give

his side the upper hand. Josly Gomes and Daryl Costa added a goal each to complete the emphatic win. St. Rock YC Majorda's Ashley Rodrigues had an opportunity to reduce the deficit but failed to convert his chance.

For his brilliant performance, Azilton Viegas of Sao Jose de Areal was adjudged Man of the Match and received the award at the hands of Salu Fernandes.

