



## 'Mhaji Ghar' Scheme to Benefit 50% Goans: CM Sawant

■ We will officially launch the 'Mhaji Ghar' scheme in presence of Home Min Amit Shah

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant today announced the launch of the Mhaji Ghar scheme, which he said will benefit nearly 50 percent of Goa's population. Sawant said that following the scheme's launch, notifications are being issued in connection with Comunidade land, the 20-point programme and government land. "Once all legal matters are settled, application forms will be made available. We will officially launch the 'Mhaji Ghar' scheme in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah," the Chief Minister said. He further added that even families rehabilitated nearly three decades ago under earlier housing programmes will now be granted ownership of their flats.



The scheme, according to the government, is aimed at addressing long-pending housing and land ownership issues in the state. Under the new policy, plots in Category A, where allottees have built houses and are residing with their families or legal heirs, will be converted from Class-II to Class-I by issuing a Sanad. This will be subject to the payment of a premium equivalent to 1/20th of the fair market value or

minimum land rate as notified by the government. Category B includes vacant and unused plots where allottees have not taken possession or constructed houses. These will be reverted to the government, with District Collectors empowered to take possession. Category C covers cases where original allottees have unauthorisedly transferred possession to third parties who have since constructed and occupied houses. Such plots will be regularised on a one-time basis, with Sanads issued under Class-I occupancy, subject to payment of a premium of 1/20th of the fair market value and a penalty of an equivalent amount provided that such unauthorized possession of the plot has been obtained prior to February 28, 2014.

## On PM's 75th Birthday, Goa CM Pushes Swadeshi

■ Appeals to Women to Avail 'Swast Naari Swasth Parivaar' Campaign



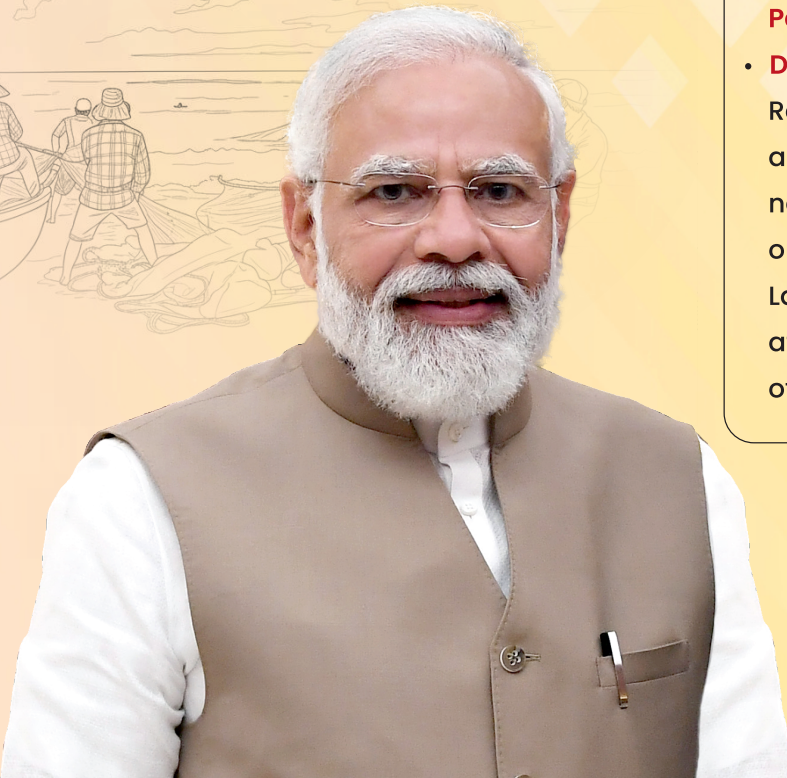
**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged citizens to embrace Swadeshi and promote it with pride, under the tagline "Garv se kaho hum Swadeshi bechte hain." He noted that the appeal is in line with the vision of Swayampurna Goa and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Dr. Sawant also appealed to women in Goa to take advantage of the newly launched 'Swast Naari Swasth Parivaar' campaign announced by the Prime Minister. The initiative will be conducted across rural Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs), offering free medicines and healthcare services exclusively for women.

# Sewa Pakhwada

17<sup>TH</sup> SEP TO 2<sup>ND</sup> OCT 2025




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Release of Financial Assistance amounting to Rs. 62 Cr and launch of new projects under SVEP | Sanction orders of 48 Aajevika Vehicles | Virtual Launch of Super Market for SHG Products at KTC Bus Stand, Panaji | Appointment of Swayampurna Sakhis



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- Launch of Khelo Goa Center
- Health Camps at PHC's/CHC's
- Blood Donation Camps
- Rojgar Melava
- Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam
- Aadhar Updation Drive at Educational Institutes
- Distribution of Laadli Laxmi, Griha Aadhar, DSSY, Atal Asra Sanction Orders
- Cleanliness Drives under Swachh Bharat Mission



## Seva, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan - Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas

### #SevaParv



# Is Goa Doing Enough to Save Mhadei?

The Mhadei river is more than a natural resource. For Goa, it is a lifeline that sustains drinking water, forests, agriculture, and biodiversity. Yet the battle over its waters has dragged on for decades, and today the big question stares us in the face: has Goa really done enough to save Mhadei, or are we slowly ceding ground to Karnataka?

The recent meeting of the Mhadei Bachao Abhiyan (MBA) with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant brings this unease back into focus. The delegation asked for police protection to visit the Kankumbi and Bhandura sites, where diversion works are reportedly underway. They pressed for an aerial survey, a joint inspection, faster hearings in the Supreme Court, and even a meeting with the Union Environment Minister to discuss ecological concerns.

These demands sound reasonable. If Karnataka is indeed moving ahead with construction, why should citizens have to beg for something as basic as an official inspection or state-level intervention?

But there is also another side to the debate. The government insists that it is fighting the case in the Supreme Court, that legal processes take time, and that matters concerning inter-state rivers are never straightforward.

To be fair, Goa has not been silent in this battle. It has challenged Karnataka in multiple legal forums and secured earlier rulings in its favour. It has raised objections to central clearances and highlighted the ecological damage that diversion will cause. Yet the perception persists that Karnataka is several steps ahead, pushing its agenda consistently, while Goa reacts only when activists raise alarms.

This perception is not without reason.

Karnataka has been relentless. For years it

*"This perception is not without reason. Karnataka has been relentless. For years it has lobbied in Delhi, built political support across party lines, and created a steady narrative that it only seeks water for drinking purposes.*

*Goa's narrative, in contrast, often feels fragmented and defensive. The lack of a long-term strategy has meant that our responses come in fits and starts, giving the impression of a state firefighting rather than planning. Is this enough when the very survival of our river is at stake?*

*The role of civil society also deserves scrutiny. The Mhadei Bachao Abhiyan has kept the issue alive through protests, petitions, and pressure campaigns"*

has lobbied in Delhi, built political support across party lines, and created a steady narrative that it only seeks water for drinking purposes. Goa's narrative, in contrast, often feels fragmented and defensive. The lack of a long-term strategy has meant that our responses come in fits and starts, giving the impression of a state firefighting rather than planning. Is this enough when the very survival of our river is at stake? The role of civil society also deserves scrutiny. The Mhadei Bachao Abhiyan has kept the issue alive through protests,

petitions, and pressure campaigns. Without their persistence, it is possible that public discourse around Mhadei would have faded even further. But can NGOs, no matter how dedicated, shoulder the responsibility of protecting a river of such critical importance? Should it not be the government's job to lead from the front, rather than wait to be nudged into action? There is also the larger question of public participation.

Why does Mhadei not stir the same emotions as other movements in Goa? Is it because the impact of diversion is not immediately visible to most citizens?

For now, taps in Panaji and Margao still flow, and paddy fields in Ponda are still green. But what happens when the river's flow reduces, when forests dry out, and when saline intrusion spoils our freshwater? By the time the impact is felt in everyday life, will it be too late to act.

The Chief Minister now stands at a crossroads.

He can choose to treat the latest warning bells from MBA as yet another routine complaint, or he can take bold steps to prove that Goa will not give up its lifeline without a fight. That means pushing for urgent hearings in the Supreme Court, ensuring on-ground inspections, and demanding accountability from the Centre for the clearances given. It also means convincing Goans that this is not just an environmental issue but a survival issue. So, are the MBA's demands justified? Given the stakes, yes, they appear both urgent and necessary. But the bigger question is whether the government will act on them decisively or whether Goa will continue to play catch-up while Karnataka steadily strengthens its position.

The battle for Mhadei is far from over. But if Goa does not show the same persistence as Karnataka, the outcome may already be tilting away from us.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Celebrating PM Modi's Vision and Leadership on His 75th Birthday

On the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday, it is an opportune moment to acknowledge his remarkable achievements and transformative leadership that have shaped India's trajectory over the past decade. Under his guidance, India has not only strengthened its global standing but also made significant progress in infrastructure, digital connectivity, renewable energy, and social welfare schemes. Initiatives like Swachh Bharat, Digital India, and Make in India have redefined the country's development narrative and empowered millions of citizens. PM Modi's unwavering focus on economic reforms, entrepreneurship, and innovation has spurred growth, while his diplomatic acumen has positioned India as a respected voice on the global stage. His efforts in fostering regional cooperation, promoting sustainable development, and supporting global peace initiatives reflect a vision that transcends national boundaries. Beyond policy achievements, what stands out is his ability to inspire people, particularly the youth, to engage in nation-building and embrace a spirit of service. His leadership during challenging times, including the pandemic, has been a testament to resilience, foresight, and decisive action. As India celebrates this milestone, it is fitting to commend PM Modi for his relentless dedication to the nation's progress. At the same time, citizens and policymakers alike must continue to work collectively to support his vision, ensuring that India reaches even greater heights in the years ahead.

By Sangeeta Naik  
Mapusa

### Selective Raids on Tobacco Sales Near Schools

I commend the recent raids conducted by Goa authorities near schools, resulting in the seizure of tobacco products from establishments such as a tea stall in Zori Zuarinagar and a mobile repair shop near Shree Mahalasa Narayani School. While these actions are a step in the right direction, they raise pertinent questions about the consistency and effectiveness of enforcement.

Tobacco products are readily available in numerous shops across Goa, often in close proximity to educational institutions. The sporadic nature of these raids suggests a lack of comprehensive monitoring. This inconsistency not only undermines the efforts to curb tobacco access near schools but also raises concerns about the possibility of illicit arrangements between vendors and enforcement personnel.

The public perception is that such selective enforcement may be influenced by factors like bribery or favoritism, leading to a situation where only certain establishments face scrutiny while others operate unchecked. This undermines the credibility of the authorities and the effectiveness of the laws intended to protect our youth from the harmful effects of tobacco. I urge the concerned authorities to implement regular, random inspections across all areas, ensuring that no shop is exempt from scrutiny. Transparency in enforcement and accountability for all parties involved are crucial to maintaining public trust and achieving the goal of a tobacco-free environment for our children.

By Rajan D'Silva  
Mandur



# Goa to Launch Statewide Cleanliness Campaign to Boost Tourism & Sustainable Living

## Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said Goa is set to roll out the Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 campaign from September 17, with a strong focus on sustainable tourism, environmental protection, and citizen participation.

The State has identified 36 public spaces for transformation into vibrant, tourist-friendly zones, while over 95 cleanliness drives will be carried out across beaches, bus stands, markets, schools, and water bodies. "The campaign is not just about cleanliness—it is about making Goa a model state for eco-friendly tourism and sustainable



living," Rane said after chairing a review meeting with the Chief Secretary and senior officials from

Urban Development, Tourism, Panchayat, Environment, Rural Development, Health Services, and the Goa Waste Management Corporation. As part of the drive, zero-waste events and eco-friendly celebrations will be promoted, alongside initiatives such as Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) collection drives, waste-to-art installations, rallies, and school competitions to spread awareness. The campaign will also place emphasis on the welfare of sanitation workers, with 43 medical camps planned for Safai Karamcharis, providing preventive health check-ups, safety training, and welfare linkages. The movement will culminate on October 2,

## Transport Dept Allows Taxi Operators to Choose Fare Meter Vendors

GPS linked fare meters now mandatory for tourist taxis

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Directorate of Transport, Goa, has issued a public notice clarifying that motor cab operators can now purchase digital fare meters with GPS tracking from any approved vendor, following requests from various taxi operators. Earlier, the Department had empanelled only two vendors through Goa Electronics Limited for the fitment of fare meters.

However, after considering requests from taxi operators, the



Directorate has allowed the choice of vendor, provided the device complies with Rule 140 of the Goa Motor Vehicle Rules, 1991. The notice emphasizes that all fare meters must have an intact seal from the Legal Metrology Department, confirming that the device has been tested and is in proper working condition.

## 20-Point Scheme: Goa to Settle Land Titles,

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** In a major step to address long-pending land issues, the Goa government has announced fresh measures under the 20-Point Programme to provide legal ownership to families residing on allotted plots while reclaiming unused ones.

According to official data, there are over 5,000 plots allotted under the



scheme across the State.

Under the revised guidelines, plots have been divided into three categories: Category A: Families who have constructed houses and are residing on their allotted land.

## MLA Michael Lobo Flags Waste Management Issues, Calls for Cleaner Beaches in Goa

### Team Goemkarponn

**CALANGUTE:** Highlighting the growing garbage problem along Goa's coastal belt, Calangute MLA Michael Lobo has raised concerns over both the performance of the waste management facility and the littering habits of domestic tourists.

Speaking on the issue, Lobo acknowledged the efforts of the earlier team managing the state's waste treatment facility but said the new staff are not performing up to the mark.

"I have spoken to the Chief Minister regarding this, and he will



hold a meeting at the plant this week or by Monday to ensure that the facility functions as it did before," Lobo said. He added that for the coastal belt, the plant has a capacity of 250 tonnes, and any load beyond this would make it unsustainable.

Lobo also emphasized that Mormugao Taluka should have its own treatment facility, even if small, to manage local waste efficiently.

Turning to the issue of public behavior, Lobo criticized domestic tourists for littering. "Littering is inbuilt in Indian tourists," he said, citing repeated appeals for cleanliness under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. He urged visitors to follow the PM's example, noting Modi's personal participation in a beach cleanup in Lakshadweep and his call for citizens to maintain clean beaches across India.



## GCCI Urges Centre to Spare Low-Grade Iron Ore from Export Duty

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) has urged the Centre not to impose export duty on low-grade iron ore, cautioning that such a move would severely affect Goa's mining sector, disrupt operations, and endanger thousands of livelihoods. In a letter dated September 15 to Union Minister of Mines

G. Kishan Reddy, GCCI President Pratima Dhond raised concerns over reports that export duty may be extended to iron ore fines and lumps with less than 58% iron content. The speculation stems from discussions at a stakeholders' meeting on August 26 and the formation of an Advisory Committee on August 28, whose Terms of Reference included a clause hinting at such a levy.

## Crime Branch Submits Chargesheet in Missing Gujarat Businessman Case

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Crime Branch has filed a 279-page chargesheet in connection with the mysterious disappearance of Gujarat businessman Bashudev Bhandari (22), who went missing on August 31, 2024, after his rented car plunged into the St Estevam river. The document, placed before a

local court last Friday, names two Belagavi residents, Yasim Sheikh and Mohd Gous, as accused. They face charges of road rage, criminal intimidation, and endangering human life under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Investigators have recorded statements of 77 witnesses, including Bhandari's girlfriend, local villagers, forensic specialists, and technical experts.



The case, initially probed by Old Goa Police as a road rage matter, was later handed over to the Crime Branch after 40 days. Despite extensive search operations by the police, fire services, and the Indian Navy, Bhandari has not been traced.

## Congress Launches Grassroots Drive Ahead of Zilla Panchayat Elections

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has initiated a major ground-level

campaign ahead of the upcoming Zilla Panchayat (ZP) elections, signalling its intent to strengthen village-level influence across the state. Grassroots Party

sources said discussions focused on finalizing credible candidates and crafting strategies for deeper voter engagement in every village.





## BJP Ministers Eye 'Healthy & Wealthy' Portfolios Over Public Service: Girish

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Congress senior leader Girish Chodankar on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the BJP government, alleging that its ministers are more interested in securing "healthy and wealthy" portfolios than working for the welfare of the people.

Referring to reports of Sports, Art & Culture and Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar's dissatisfaction with his current departments due to lack of funds, Chodankar said the BJP's so-called "Mission Commission" stands exposed. "Tawadkar has apparently said in the



party meeting that his portfolios don't have dum (strength), but what he actually meant is they don't have daam (money)," Chodankar remarked. "Do ministers want portfolios to serve the people, or to make money?" The AICC in-charge for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry argued that Tawadkar could still make

a meaningful impact by using the Sports and Art & Culture departments to empower youth, and the Tribal Welfare portfolio for the upliftment of ST communities. "Instead, he seems to prefer only those portfolios that are financially strong. He should focus on making his departments 'Revenue Swayampurna' rather than

'Commission Purna'," Chodankar added.

The Congress leader further claimed that Tawadkar has even threatened to resign if not given a "strong" portfolio, and taunted the Chief Minister with a Konkani proverb: 'The king has taken away even the beggar's last morsel'.

Pointing to the controversy over Kala Academy, Chodankar alleged that the BJP government had "looted" funds in its refurbishment. "I agree with Tawadkar that these departments are bankrupt, and that may be only because the BJP government has looted them," he said.

## Cyber Crime Police Arrest 19-Year-Old in 80 Lakh 'Digital Arrest'

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Cyber Crime Police Station, Goa, has arrested a 19-year-old from Nagpur in connection with a cyber fraud case involving ₹80 lakh, where a victim was duped under the pretext of a so-called "digital arrest." Police said the accused, identified as Anandkumar Danuram Verma, was apprehended in Nagpur following technical investigation and financial trail analysis. The case was registered under Crime No. 28/2025 for offences under Sections 318(4), 319(2) r/w 3(5) of the BNS, 2023, and Section 66-D of the IT



Act, 2000. According to the complaint filed by a 59-year-old resident of Canacona, the fraudsters, using WhatsApp numbers with Maharashtra and other codes, impersonated officials of NCRB, Sahar Police Station, and a public prosecutor. They falsely accused the victim of sending offensive messages against Hindu religion and the Government of India using a SIM card allegedly issued with his Aadhaar details.

## Nepali Held With 295 gms Ganja

Team Goemkarponn

**QUEPEM:** Police arrested a man of Nepali origin after he was allegedly found in illegal possession of cannabis worth around ₹25,000 during a raid at Devumol, Sirvoi, on Monday evening. According to Quepem Police, the



accused, Sawan Chan, a resident of Ghanemorod, Xeldem-Quepem and native of Bajhang, Nepal, was caught between 6.30 pm and 8.21 pm

with 295 gms of greenish leafy substance with flowering and fruiting tops suspected to be ganja.

Based on the state complaint lodged by LPSI Rifha Barretto, the offence was registered under Crime No. 48/2025 for violation of Section 20(b)(ii)(A) of the NDPS Act.

## Colva Beach Redevelopment under Swadesh Darshan 2.0

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte chaired a meeting with shop owners at Colva Beach to discuss the proposed developments under the first phase of the



Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (Coastal Circuit) project. He noted that current structures, including the shopping area and other

facilities, are in poor condition and require urgent redevelopment to enhance the visitor experience. A comprehensive masterplan has been prepared, featuring upgraded infrastructure and modern amenities.

## Youth Arrested for Attempted Murder in Chapora Assault Case

Team Goemkarponn

**ANJUNA:** Police have arrested a 23-year-old man in connection with an attempted murder case registered at Anjuna Police Station after a violent assault near Avatara Bar & Restaurant, Chapora, on Tuesday morning.

The case, registered as Crime No. 130/2025 under Section 109(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, is based on a complaint filed by Mohammed Noorudhe EN Mulla, a 24-year-old resident of Bengaluru. According to police, the accused, Sahil, son of Sawood Hasan Babu, allegedly attacked Mothe Sairam (27), a businessman from



Telangana, with a sharp weapon on the head around 6.30 am on September 16, with the intention to kill him.

The victim sustained serious bleeding injuries and was rushed for medical treatment.

Sahil, a businessman residing near Oppas Restaurant,

Chapora, Bardez, was arrested the same day at 3.44 pm.

Further investigation is underway, police said.

## Motorcyclist Booked for Rash Driving After Collision on Mandovi Bridge

Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** Police have registered a case against a 32-year-old motorcyclist for rash and negligent driving after his KTM bike allegedly collided with another two-wheeler on the Mandovi Bridge, leaving the rider injured.

The incident occurred on September 3 around 9.15 pm when the accused, Zahir Shaikh,



son of Adam Shaikh, resident of Sanquelim and Ramnagar-Betim, was riding a KTM (GA-07-AJ-7383) towards Panaji via the Old Mandovi Bridge. Police

said he rode recklessly and hit a Honda Dio scooter (GA-07-AE-3665) ridden by Prasad Sawant of Kumbharjua, who fell along with his scooter and sustained injuries to his right hip.

Based on the complaint, Porvorim Police registered the case as Crime No. 84/2025 under Sections 281 and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Further investigation is in progress, police said.

## Gas Agency Delivery Boy Booked for 3.27 Lakh Fraud in Benaulim

**COLVA:** Police have registered a case against a delivery boy of a gas agency in Benaulim for allegedly cheating customers and misappropriating over ₹3.27 lakh. According to Colva Police, the accused,

Vishanaram Pooniya, a native of Jodhpur, Rajasthan, was employed as a delivery boy at Salcete Gas Agencies. Between June 16 and July 20, 2025, he allegedly induced customers to make online payments for gas cylinder

deliveries into his personal bank account instead of the company's account. Police said he dishonestly withheld the money and failed to deposit it into the complainant's account, thereby causing wrongful loss to his employer.





# Goa Hosts 35th Basic Course in Legislative Drafting

## Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** The Institute of Legislative Drafting and Research Department, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, in collaboration with the Law Department and the Goa Legislature Secretariat, conducted the 35th basic course in legislative drafting at the Goa Assembly Complex, Porvorim.

A group of 20 trainee officers from various



states, led by Legislature Counsel K.K. Sharma and Giridhar Gopal Verma, along with Section Officer Meesala Padmalatha, interacted with officials of the Law Department and the Goa Legislature

Secretariat to gain insights into legislative procedures and the functioning of the legislature.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Law) Sandip Jacques, IAS, Secretary of the Goa Legislature

Namrata Ulman, Joint Secretary Mohan Gaonkar, Joint Secretaries of the Law Department, and Committee Officer Eknath Sawant were also present during the programme.

# Man Held With 93 gms Ganja

## Team Goemkarponn

**CUNCOLIM:** Police arrested a 23-year-old man from Assolna after he was allegedly caught in possession of ganja worth around ₹10,000 during a narcotics raid near Assolna Bridge on Monday night. According to Cuncolim Police, the accused, Altaf, son of Malik Rehan Darwad, resident of Orel, Assolna, was found with 93 grams of green dry leafy substance suspected to be ganja during a raid conducted between 8.10



pm and 10.39 pm on September 15, acting on reliable information. He was arrested on September 16 and produced before the court, which remanded him to two days of police custody. The case has been registered under Crime No. 61/2025 for offences under Section 20(b)(ii)(A) of the NDPS Act.

# Verna Police Seize Tobacco Products Worth Over 10,000 Near Schools, Two Shop Owners Booked

## Team Goemkarponn

**VERNA:** In a crackdown on the sale of tobacco near educational institutions, Verna Police on Tuesday seized tobacco products worth over ₹10,000 in two separate raids conducted near schools at Zuarinagar and Verna. In the first raid, police seized tobacco products worth ₹8,515 from a tea stall belonging to Rajkumar Ghosh (27), son of Babu, resident of Zori, Zuarinagar, located within 100

meters of the Government School, Zori, Zuarinagar. The accused was booked for selling prohibited tobacco items in the school vicinity. In the second raid, police seized tobacco products worth ₹2,200 from Jakir Hussain (33), son of Taleb Uddin, resident of Old Mardol and native of Assam, who was found selling the banned products at his mobile repairing shop near Shree Mahalasa Narayani School, IDC Verna. Police said the seized products have been taken into

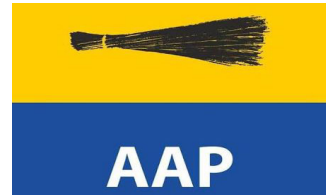


custody for legal proceedings and warned that strict action will continue against those found violating the ban on the sale of tobacco near schools.

# AAP Appoints Taluka Incharges Ahead of ZP

**PANAJI:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa has appointed taluka incharges across the state as part of its preparations for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat (ZP) elections, signalling its intent to take on the BJP with full force.

AAP Goa State President Amit Palekar said the move is aimed at strengthening the party's grassroots presence and raising local issues at the state level. "Our taluka incharges



are leaders closely connected with people's daily struggles. AAP believes real governance comes through public participation, not top-down decisions," Palekar stated, adding that the party is committed to offering an honest alternative to the BJP's "misrule."

# Fatorda Police Seize 1.1 Kg Ganja, Cash and Packing Equipment

## Team Goemkarponn

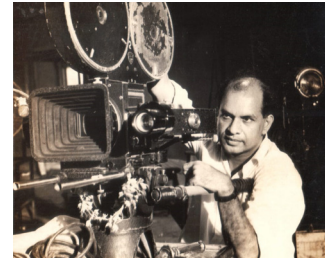
**FATORDA:** Fatorda Police have seized 1.1 kg of ganja worth around ₹1.1 lakh, cash, and drug-packing equipment during a raid at a residence in Borda on Tuesday evening. Acting on credible information, a house search warrant was obtained from the DySP/SDPO, Margao, following which a team



searched the residence of Tehran alias Terrence Savio Fernandes of Modsai, Borda, between 7.00 pm and 9.30 pm. Police recovered 1.1 kg of ganja, 820 gms of polythene packaging material, four Lenovo

tablets, three weighing machines, a red-and-black packing machine, a wooden gun resembling an airgun, and cash amounting to ₹1,05,600 in various denominations. The seized items were attached under panchanama. A case has been registered under Crime No. 77/2025 for offences under Sections 20(b)(ii)(B), 21(b), and 22(b) of the NDPS Act.

**PANAJI:** The Cinephile Film Club of the Entertainment Society of Goa will mark the birth centenary of legendary Goan cinematographer K. Vaikunth with a special programme on Saturday, September 20, at the Maquinez Palace Theatre, Old GMC building, Panaji. The event will feature a conversation on Vaikunth's legacy with noted film historian



Pavan Jha, followed by the screening of Gulzar's acclaimed classic Aandhi.

The programme begins at 5.30 pm. Born in Margao as Vaikunth Dattaram Kunkolienkar,

the celebrated cinematographer carved a niche in Indian cinema with a career spanning over three decades. Known for his mastery over lighting, framing, and mood, Vaikunth worked with stalwarts such as Ramesh Sippy (Andaz, 1971; Seeta Aur Geeta, 1972), Ramanand Sagar and Manmohan Desai. He won the Filmfare Award for Seeta Aur Geeta.

# Short-Circuit in Air-Cooler Triggers Fire in Canacona Flat;

3 Women Rescued, Losses Over Rs. 2 Lakh

**CANAONA:** A fire broke out early Tuesday morning in a bedroom of a residential flat in Subhash Building, Chaudi, Canacona, after an air-cooler caught fire, causing extensive damage and losses exceeding Rs. 2 lakh. The blaze, which

started around 6:30 a.m., quickly filled the flat and neighboring units with smoke. Three women—a girl alone at home and a mother-daughter duo in the adjacent flat—were rescued by a neighboring resident before the Fire and Emergency Services



(F&ES) arrived. Residents also removed gas cylinders from the kitchens, preventing a potential disaster. The fire destroyed clothes in cupboards and even melted some gold ornaments, causing significant financial loss to flat owner Gerald

Fernandes. Other residents have appealed to the government for compensation. F&ES personnel, delayed in reaching the site due to the remote location of the Chapoli fire station, controlled the blaze after two trips, as smoke reignited from some burning books.



# Goa CM Highlights Worker Safety and Welfare at OSH India Conference 2025

Team Goemkarponn

**MUMBAI:** Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant inaugurated and addressed the OSH India Conference & Exhibition 2025 in Mumbai, emphasizing that workplace safety and health have become a national priority that goes far beyond mere regulatory compliance. Speaking at the event, Dr. Sawant said, "Safer workplaces mean stronger industries and a stronger India." He highlighted India's progress in adopting personal protective equipment (PPE), promoting mental health, fostering sustainability, and driving innovation in occupational



safety standards.

The Chief Minister underlined Goa's commitment to worker welfare, safety, and well-being, citing initiatives by the Inspectorate of Factories & Boilers, the ESI Scheme, and other welfare programs that extend benefits to healthcare, education, and social

security for workers and their families.

Dr. Sawant added that with the evolving workplace environment, including digital workplaces, sustainability initiatives, and mental health concerns, compliance must now evolve into a culture of care rather than just a legal requirement.

## What does Tesla, Google Maps and Swiggy have in common? Goa's First Friday had the answer

Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Margao, September 2025: From revolutionising businesses to shaping daily routines, geospatial and location technologies are changing how we interact with the world, starting with the simple question: 'WHERE?'. The 16th edition of First Friday, a monthly meetup by Goa's Creative Community, delved deep into how geospatial tools are becoming an indispensable part in today's tech-driven world. Held at FiIRE, a coworking centre in Margao, the session was organised by the Creative Community of Goa (CCG) in collaboration with the Association of Designers of India (ADI) – Goa Chapter, with support from the Startup



& IT Promotion Cell, Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (DITE&C), Government of Goa. The insightful session was led by Architect and Entrepreneur Vikrant Karandikar who took the audience on a journey through the evolution of geospatial technology, from its military origins to its present-day role in powering everyday services like GPS, delivery

tracking and healthcare diagnostics. Emphasising the growing importance of this technology, Karandikar explained how location data has transcended physical geography to become a major force behind influencing smarter decisions and innovative business models, whether it's finding the exact spot for a food delivery or marking an injury location during an MRI.



## NRAI Indian Restaurant Summit 2025 Concludes in Goa

■ F&B Industry Set to Reach INR 7.76 Lakh Crore by 2028

**Panaji:** The 4th edition of the NRAI Indian Restaurant Summit 2025 concluded successfully at Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon, marking a major milestone in India's food and beverage (F&B) industry. With the theme "Serving the Future," the three-day summit brought together over 2,500 delegates, 300+ leading brands, and 80+ speakers from across India. The event opened with a Google CEO Roundtable and a lamp-lighting ceremony graced by Shri Rohan Khaunte, Minister for Tourism, IT & E&C, Shri Rohit Monserrate, Mayor of Goa, and NRAI leadership. Discussions spanned ethnic cuisines, digital transformation, Gen Z influences, sustainability, profitability, and policy advocacy, reflecting the sector's rapid evolution.

Mr. Sagar Daryani, NRAI President, said, "The summit is about shaping the future of our industry together. From sustainability and digital transformation to

profitability and policy advocacy, the discussions here will help define India's F&B roadmap in the coming decade."

The summit featured masterclasses and workshops on topics such as cloud kitchen economics, digital growth strategies, automation, beverage experiences, and kitchen optimisation.

Fireside chats included insights from Roni Mazumdar, CEO of Unapologetic Foods and Board Director of the National Restaurant Association (USA), highlighting the summit's expansion from Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Chennai to Goa.

Sessions covered Dining as Theatre, Evolution of QSRs, and Regional Cuisines Going Mainstream, concluding with the grand finale, Food Fight – Culinary Capitals Clash. Culinary and tech showcases offered participants a glimpse of innovations in delivery, packaging, automation, and cloud kitchen models.

## Goa Tourism conducts Electric Cycle Tour and Bread-Making Experience under Yuva Tourism Club initiatives

Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** As part of the month-long celebrations leading up to World Tourism Day 2025, the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, in collaboration with the Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG), SKAL International Goa and the Yuva Tourism Club, today conducted two immersive activities for students, an Electric Cycle Tour at Chorao and a "Life of Pao" Bread-Making Experience at Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science, Devorlim.

Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Shri Rohan A. Khaunte said, "Through activities like today's Electric Cycle Tour and Bread-Making Experience, we want to engage the youth in authentic experiences and instill in them a sense of ownership towards Goa's heritage, ecology and traditions. This aligns with our vision to make Goa a model for regenerative tourism."

Director of Tourism, Shri Kedar Naik added, "These hands-on programmes are more than just excursions, they are an educational journey for students,

sensitising them to sustainability, local livelihoods and community engagement. We are delighted to see the enthusiastic participation from our partner institutions under the Yuva Tourism Club."

These initiatives form part of Goa Tourism's ongoing efforts to promote regenerative and experiential tourism, providing the youth with first-hand exposure to the state's natural and cultural assets. By involving colleges and schools through the Yuva Tourism Club, the Department is building awareness about responsible travel practices and encouraging



active participation in community-based tourism.

The Department of Tourism will continue to host a range

of activities across September culminating in special events and celebrations on World Tourism Day.



# Amid Tariffs and Talks, Trump Greet Modi on 75th Birthday

PM thanks US President, reaffirms support for peaceful Ukraine resolution and stronger India-US ties

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday thanked US President Donald Trump for extending birthday greetings ahead of his 75th birthday, while reiterating India's commitment to strengthening the India-US Comprehensive and Global Strategic Partnership. Modi also underlined New Delhi's support for Washington's efforts to secure a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine conflict. In a message on X, the Prime Minister wrote, "Like you, I am also fully committed to taking the India-US Comprehensive and Global Partnership to new heights. We



support your initiatives towards a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict." Responding on Truth Social, Trump said he had a "wonderful call" with Modi, praising the Prime Minister's leadership. "Just had a wonderful phone call with my friend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I wished him a very Happy Birthday! He is

doing a tremendous job. Narendra: Thank you for your support on ending the War between Russia and Ukraine! President DJT." Tariffs and trade friction The exchange of greetings comes against a tense economic backdrop. The United States has imposed sweeping tariffs on Indian goods, including a 50 percent duty on imports and a 25 percent

# "I Had Enough of His Hatred": Tyler Robinson's Texts Reveal Confession to Killing Charlie Kirk

Court filings show the 22-year-old admitted planning the attack for a week, left notes of intent, and urged his partner to delete messages

**Washington:** Tyler Robinson, the 22-year-old accused of fatally shooting conservative activist Charlie Kirk, allegedly confessed in a series of text messages to his transgender partner shortly after the killing, according to newly released court documents. Kirk, 31, founder of the right-wing group Turning Point USA, was shot in the neck by a rifle while speaking at Utah Valley University last week. Robinson was arrested a day later and made his first court appearance in Utah, facing murder and related charges in a case that has drawn sharp political reaction from Donald Trump and his allies, who point to it as evidence of rising violence against conservatives. Texts and notes reveal intent Court filings revealed



that Robinson admitted to planning the shooting for more than a week and left a handwritten note declaring his intent. In one message to his partner, who is also his roommate, Robinson wrote: "I had enough of his hatred. Some hate can't be negotiated out." He also left a note hidden under a keyboard that read: "I had the opportunity to take out Charlie Kirk and I'm going to take it." When his partner asked if it was a prank, Robinson replied: "I am still ok my love, but am stuck in Orem for

a little while longer yet. Shouldn't be long until I can come home, but I gotta grab my rifle still... To be honest I had hoped to keep this secret till I died of old age. I am sorry to involve you." Pressed further on whether he was the shooter, Robinson confirmed: "I am, I'm sorry." Transcript of key text exchanges\* Partner: I thought they caught the person? Robinson: no, they grabbed some crazy old dude... I planned to grab my rifle from my drop point... most of that side of town got locked down.

# Khalistani Outfit Threatens Siege of Indian Consulate

"Espionage and Intimidation on Canadian Soil," Group Alleges; Poster Targets High Commissioner

**Vancouver:** Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), a US-based pro-Khalistan group, has issued a fresh threat to "siege" the Indian Consulate in Vancouver on Thursday. The group accused Indian consulates in Canada of running spy networks targeting Khalistanis, and released a poster depicting the new Indian High Commissioner, Dinish Patnaik, with a target on his face. SFJ urged Indo-Canadians with planned visits to the Vancouver consulate to reschedule. In its statement, the group claimed the alleged surveillance has been ongoing, describing threats as so severe that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had to offer witness protection to Inderjeet Singh Gosal, who succeeded Hardeep



Singh Nijjar as head of the Khalistan Referendum campaign following Nijjar's death.

The allegations include that Indian diplomatic missions are engaged in espionage and intimidation of Khalistan activists residing in Canada. SFJ references comments by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, made in Parliament on September 18, 2023, concerning investigations into Indian agents' suggested role in Nijjar's killing.

# "India's Been Saying It's Bilateral": Pak Minister Ishaq Dar's Big Admission

Dar acknowledges Pakistan requested ceasefire, denies Donald Trump's claims of US mediation in Operation Sindoor

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has admitted that India categorically rejected any third-party involvement during Operation Sindoor, reiterating that New Delhi considered the conflict a strictly bilateral matter between the two countries. His remarks directly contradict former US President Donald Trump's repeated

assertions that he had mediated between India and Pakistan. India's stand on mediation Speaking to Al Jazeera, Dar revealed details of his meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Washington on July 25. According to him, Rubio made it clear that India had left no room for ambiguity in its position. "When I met Secretary



Rubio on July 25 in Washington, I asked him about the status of dialogue between India and the US over the conflict. Rubio replied that India said it is a bilateral issue," Dar stated. He

further explained that while Islamabad remained open to third-party involvement, New Delhi consistently opposed any such role. "We don't mind third-party involvement, but India has categorically been stating it's a bilateral matter. Admission on ceasefire request This was not the first time Dar made such an acknowledgement.

# "Embraced Terrorism To Protect...": Jaish Commander's Speech Exposes Pakistan's Terror Links

Masood Azhar hailed as 'symbol of resistance' at Balakot event, India points to fresh proof of cross-border terror support

**New Delhi:** A religious gathering in Pakistan's Balakot tehsil last week—ostensibly a conference on the life and teachings of Prophet Mohammed—has drawn sharp scrutiny after being used to spread anti-India, pro-jihad messages.

According to intelligence sources, the 38th annual Mission Mustafa conference began at 10 am in Gadi Habibullah and attracted thousands from the town and surrounding areas. While prominent Islamic scholars spoke largely on

the theme of Khatm-e-Nubuwwat—the finality of the Prophet—the event turned into a platform for extremist rhetoric when a video of Masood Ilyas Kashmiri, a senior commander of Jaish-e-Mohammed, was played. Jaish commander praises



Azhar, glorifies terrorism In his address, Kashmiri described Jaish founder Masood Azharone of India's most wanted terrorists as a "global symbol of resistance... discussed by world powers from Washington to Moscow."



# Fresh Twist in Asia Cup Row: SKY Opposes Mohsin Naqvi at Trophy Presentation

Indian captain firm after handshake controversy as ACC and ICC face mounting pressure

**Dubai:** The Asia Cup 2025 controversy took a new turn as India captain Suryakumar Yadav reportedly told officials he does not want Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairman Mohsin Naqvi to be part of the trophy presentation ceremony if India win the final. The demand comes in the wake of a heated fallout between the Indian and Pakistani cricket boards over the recent handshake row. According to NDTV, Suryakumar conveyed that he would



prefer not to receive the trophy from Naqvi, who is also the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief. The move is being seen as a reaction to Naqvi's role in escalating the matter following the post-match controversy between the two teams. Backdrop of controversy

The tension began after India's seven-wicket victory over Pakistan, when the Indian players did not follow the customary post-match handshake. Pakistan, in protest, withdrew from the presentation ceremony. The PCB later lodged a complaint against ICC

match referee Andy Pycroft, accusing him of influencing protocol at the toss and not ensuring the exchange of team sheets. The ICC rejected the PCB's complaint and demand to remove Pycroft from the panel, prompting threats from Pakistan of pulling out of the Asia Cup. The fallout also led to the dismissal of PCB's director of cricket operations, Usman Walha, after it was revealed he had failed to brief captain Salman Ali Agha on tournament rules.



## Mohammad Yousuf Defends 'Pig' Remark at Suryakumar

Former Pakistan captain says no disrespect intended but questions double standards after India-Pakistan handshake controversy

**Islamabad:** Former Pakistan captain Mohammad Yousuf has refused to apologise for his controversial remarks on Suryakumar Yadav, insisting that he did not intend any disrespect. Clarifying on social media, Yousuf wrote: "I didn't mean any disrespect to any sportsman who plays for his country with passion and grace, but why were the

Indian media and people praising Irfan Pathan when he said that Shahid Khan Afridi was barking like a dog? Shouldn't that have been rejected by everyone who talks about dignity and respect?" The controversy The row erupted after India's seven-wicket win over Pakistan in the Asia Cup, when Indian players reportedly skipped the post-match handshake.



## Apollo Tyres Becomes Lead Sponsor of Team India in 579 Crore Deal

Three-year agreement covers men's and women's teams across bilateral and ICC tournaments

**Mumbai:** Apollo Tyres has officially taken over as the lead sponsor of the Indian cricket team, signing a landmark three-year agreement with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) valued at ₹579 crore. The deal gives the tyre major prominent branding rights on the jerseys of both the men's and women's national teams across all formats and tournaments.

The sponsorship, which begins immediately, will see Apollo Tyres' logo featured on Team India's kits for all bilateral series as well as ICC events. This includes high-profile competitions such as the ICC Champions Trophy and the ICC Women's World Cup. BCCI's statement.

Welcoming Apollo Tyres on board, BCCI

president Roger Binny said the partnership reflects the global stature of Indian cricket. "We are pleased to have Apollo Tyres as the new lead sponsor.

This collaboration underscores the continued commercial strength of Indian cricket, and we look forward to a successful association that will inspire fans and players alike," Binny said.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah echoed the sentiment, highlighting the importance of strong partnerships.

"The Indian team represents passion, perseverance and excellence. Apollo Tyres shares these values, and this agreement will go a long way in building memorable milestones together," Shah remarked.

## Pernem, Quepem, Don Bosco Fatorda, Cuncolim start with wins

### Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Sant Sohirobanath Ambiye Government College of Arts and Commerce, Pernem, Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Quepem, Don Bosco College of Engineering, Fatorda, and Cuncolim Educational Society's College of Arts and Commerce, Cuncolim,

registered opening-day victories as the Goa University Inter-Collegiate Women's Football Championship 2025-26 kicked off on September 16 at the Goa University ground in Taleigao and Rosary College ground in Navelim.

At the University ground, Pernem blanked Padre Conceição College of Engineering,

Verna, 3-0 with goals from Maeve Rodrigues (17') and a brace from Arpita Malekar (20', 50'). Quepem edged Parvatibai Chowgule College, Margao, 1-0 thanks to a 51st-minute strike by Merlyn Mascarenhas, while Government College, Sanquelim, advanced with a walkover against Ganpat Parsekar College of Education, Harmal.



## Chandan Caro, Aaron Farias, Ishita Colaso, Neeza Kamat headline Priority Gaspar Dias Open

### Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Goa's leading table tennis players will take center stage at the Priority Gaspar Dias Open All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament 2025, powered by Priority Constructions, from September 17 to 21.

The five-day event, organised under the aegis of the Goa Table Tennis Association, will feature top names such as Chandan Caro, Aaron Farias, Ishita Colaso, Neeza Kamat, Dheeraj Rai, Rishan Shaikh, Urvi Surlakar, Ruhaan Shaikh



and Dhruva Kamat.

The championship will bring together both established players and emerging talents, with youngsters like Yug Prabhu, Ishaan Colaso, Vedant Wagle, Aayushi Amonkar, Sachi Dessai, Gianna George, Tisha Shaikh, Ashank Dalvi, Anaya Shukla, Shaurya Dessai and Aarna Lotlikar

expected to make a strong impact.

The tournament begins on September 17 with the Boys U11, U13 and U15 categories, followed by the Girls U11, U13 and U15 matches on September 18. On September 19, attention will shift to the U19 and Women's events. The Men's Singles, always a

highlight, will be contested on September 20. The final day on September 21 will open with the Veterans' competition before culminating in an afternoon of grand finals across all categories. Parind Nachinolkar, promoter of the event, described the championship as more than just a contest.