



Govind-MGP Rift Widens

■ MGP Will Never Align with Govind Gaude: Sudin

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PORVORIM: Power Minister and senior MGP leader Sudin Dhavalikar today ruled out any future political association with MLA Govind Gaude, accusing him of using derogatory language against the MGP party symbol, the Lion, and making offensive remarks about party leaders' parents.

Dhavalikar clarified that MGP workers did not support the Zilla Panchayat alliance candidate, asserting that it was not the party's fault, and said the



matter has already been communicated to the BJP central leadership.

"Because of Gaude's conduct, we will never stay with him or stand with him in the future," Dhavalikar stated firmly.

Speaking on the upcoming Municipal Council elections,

Dhavalikar said the MGP will decide whether to contest based on available donations, citing limited financial resources as a regional party.

He added that no alliance meeting has been held yet, and that discussions will be convened by Chief

Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP President Damu Naik, and MGP President Deepak Dhavalikar.

He reiterated that the MGP remains part of the NDA alliance and will act within its framework.

Launching a sharp attack on the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), Dhavalikar claimed the party's contribution to Goa is zero, alleging it lacks a clear agenda, opposes development projects, and operates at the direction of others. Warning the RGP, he said it could face a fate similar to the AAP in Goa.

GHRC Takes Suo Motu Action Over Eviction Notice to Accused's Family

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Panaji: Acting on a December 25 media report titled "Eviction notice to accused's family raises human rights concerns", the Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of the matter and flagged serious human rights issues.

The Commission has directed the Secretary of the Socorro Village Panchayat to submit a detailed reply by January 6, 2026, when the matter will be heard at 10:30 a.m. The Secretary has been instructed to appear in person before the Commission or through an



authorised representative.

In its observations, the GHRC noted that targeting family members who are not connected with the alleged sexual abuse case of a six-year-old girl raises significant human rights concerns. The Commission emphasised that punitive actions should not be extended to individuals who have no role in the alleged offence.

Further proceedings in the matter will depend on the response submitted by the Village Panchayat Secretary.



BJP's V.V. Rajesh sworn in as Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram

■ Party gets its first mayor in Kerala ahead of Assembly elections

Thiruvananthapuram: Senior BJP leader V.V. Rajesh was sworn in as the Mayor of the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, marking a historic first for the Bharatiya Janata Party in Kerala's civic politics and giving the party its first mayor in the state.

Rajesh secured the mayoral post after winning the election in the 101-member corporation council, where the BJP emerged as the single largest party in the recent local body polls. The party crossed the majority mark with the support of an independent councillor, enabling it to form the civic administration in the state capital.

A councillor from the Kodunganoor ward, Rajesh is a long-time BJP

organiser and has held several positions within the party, including district president and state-level responsibilities. At the swearing-in ceremony, he said his focus would be on development, efficient civic administration and inclusive governance for the city.

The BJP had put up a strong performance in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation elections, winning 50 seats and finishing ahead of the Left Democratic Front and the Congress-led United Democratic Front, both of which have traditionally dominated local governance in the state.

Along with Rajesh, Asha Nath was elected as the Deputy Mayor, completing the BJP's

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Suspected Murder: Woman Found Dead in Tempo at Bicholim Bus Stand

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BIICHOLIM: A suspected dead body of Laxmi Gaonkar, a resident of Matne, Dodamarg, Maharashtra, was found inside a tempo parked on a back street near Dicholi main bus stand.

Preliminary reports



suggest the death may be a case of foul play.

The Bicholim police and forensic team reached

the scene, and an investigation is currently underway.

The police have detained one suspect in connection with the case.

Further inquiries are being conducted under the supervision of Bicholim Police Inspector Vijay Rane.

Madras High Court suggests law like Australia's to bar U-16s from social media

■ Bench calls for robust regulation to protect children's mental health and safety online

Chennai: The Madras High Court has urged the central government to consider enacting legislation similar to Australia's social media laws that would prohibit children below the age of 16 from accessing social media platforms, saying



stronger legal safeguards are necessary to protect

young users from the harms of unregulated digital exposure.

A division bench, hearing a petition focused on the adverse impact of social media on children's mental health and wellbeing, stressed that the rapid

spread of harmful content and the addictive nature of social media calls for enlightened regulation. The court said policymakers should examine the Australian model, which restricts social media

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Court extends PC of Luthra Brothers in Nightclub Fire case

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MAPUSA: The Mapusa JMFC Court has extended the police custody of Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra in connection with the Birch nightclub fire

case until December 29.

The Anjuna Police submitted an application to the court stating that certain original documents related to the investigation are yet to be recovered.

The Luthra brothers,



through their lawyer Advocate Parag Rao,

reiterated that they are willing to cooperate with the ongoing investigation.

The Anjuna police have registered a case against them for culpable homicide not amounting to murder

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