



Goa Gets Lie Detector, Voice Analysis Systems To Boost Criminal Investigations

■ CM Pramod Sawant says new forensic facilities will end dependence on other states and strengthen police investigations

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said Goa has significantly strengthened its forensic capabilities with the installation of a Lie Detector (Polygraph) System and a Voice Analysis System, enabling investigators to conduct advanced forensic examinations within the state.



Sawant said forensic samples that were earlier sent to laboratories in Bengaluru and Gujarat can now be analysed in

Goa, reducing delays and improving the efficiency of criminal investigations.

The upgraded Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) has been equipped with a Lie Detector (Polygraph) System worth ₹28 lakh, a Voice Analysis System costing ₹35 lakh, and Video Conferencing facilities worth ₹41 lakh. The Chief Minister said these additions will provide investigators with

modern scientific tools to assist in complex criminal cases and strengthen police and prosecution efforts.

Highlighting the laboratory's performance, Sawant said Goa is emerging as one of the best states in the country in the field of criminal investigation. He commended the Forensic Science Laboratory staff

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Goa Congress Unveils 'Goem Rakhon Yatra' Roadmap, Reviews Electoral Issues

State Executive discusses electoral roll revision, ward delimitation and organisational strengthening



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has finalised the roadmap for its proposed 'Goem Rakhon Yatra', scheduled to commence on September 22, while reviewing key electoral and organisational issues during meetings of the PCC Office Bearers and the State Executive Committee held at the Congress headquarters in Panaji.

The meetings, chaired by GPCC President Girish Chodankar, were attended by Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao, former Union Minister Eduardo Faleiro, Working Presidents M.K. Shaikh and Sunil Kawthankar, Treasurer Datta Naik and other office-bearers and

executive members.

The State Executive approved the broad framework for the Goem Rakhon Yatra, describing it as a statewide public outreach campaign aimed at connecting with people across Goa, raising awareness on issues affecting the state, and mobilising support to protect Goa's identity, environment, constitutional values and the rights of its citizens.

The Executive also reviewed concerns surrounding the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. Party spokesperson Savio Coutinho briefed members on complaints received from across the state and stressed the need to ensure that every eligible voter is able to exercise their

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06



Chief Minister Orders Tightened Security At Colvale Jail, Stresses Monsoon Safety

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has directed authorities to strengthen security at Colvale Central Jail following recent security concerns, ordering mandatory inspection of every vehicle entering the jail premises and a comprehensive review of existing security arrangements.

Speaking to reporters, Sawant said the Jail In-Charge has been instructed to conduct a detailed assessment of the prison's security systems to ensure that no similar lapses occur in the future. He said stricter monitoring and surveillance measures will be implemented to enhance security at the facility.

The Chief Minister also appealed to the public to exercise extreme caution while visiting waterfalls during the ongoing monsoon season.

Goa Congress Expels Shamila Siddiqui, Manisha Usgaonkar For Six Years Over Alleged Indiscipline

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Congress has expelled Shamila Siddiqui and Manisha Usgaonkar from the party for six years following the recommendations of its disciplinary committee over alleged indiscipline.

The action comes after the party initiated disciplinary proceedings against the two leaders. Congress leader said



the issue was discussed in detail during a party meeting, where concerns were raised over internal discipline and social media posts allegedly targeting the Congress party.

According to the

party, the disciplinary committee conducted an enquiry into the matter and both Siddiqui and Usgaonkar were given an opportunity to present their side before the committee arrived at its recommendation.

Based on the committee's findings, the Goa Congress decided to expel both leaders from the party for a period of six years.

Udhayanidhi Stalin Arrested Over Trisha Remarks, Faces Non Bailable Charges Amid Political Storm

■ DMK leader booked under multiple legal provisions as controversy over rally speech escalates in Tamil Nadu

Team Goemkarponn

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin was arrested on Tuesday after police registered a case over his alleged remarks during a political rally, triggering a fresh political controversy in the state. The case includes two non bailable provisions, making the legal proceedings against the DMK leader more significant. Among



the charges invoked are Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which relates to promoting enmity between different groups, and Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, which deals with harassment of women.

Fresh Security Advisory Issued After J&K Terror Attacks, Forces Ordered to Tighten Vigilance

■ Sensitive areas and vulnerable routes identified as agencies intensify security operations across Jammu and Kashmir

Team Goemkarponn

SRINAGAR: Security agencies have issued a fresh advisory to forces deployed across Jammu and Kashmir following two recent terror attacks, with vulnerable areas and key routes identified amid concerns over renewed militant activity in the region.

The advisory directs security personnel to avoid isolated or single-person deployments and suspend all non essential personal



movement in sensitive locations. Forces have also been instructed to strictly follow standard operating procedures while conducting vehicle checks and patrols, avoiding unsanctioned stops or casual movement in high risk areas.

Security has been significantly strengthened across the identified locations, while search and surveillance operations have been intensified. Agencies have also narrowed their focus to a specific area within a defined radius where the terrorists believed to be responsible for the two attacks are suspected to be operating.

The BJP Has Lost Before. It Has Always Found a Way Back

Prashant Kishor's victory in the Bankipur Assembly by-election is undoubtedly one of the biggest political stories of the year. Winning from a constituency that had been a Bharatiya Janata Party bastion for more than three decades is no ordinary achievement. For a man who built his reputation as India's most sought-after election strategist, this marks a successful transition from kingmaker to elected representative. It also gives his Jan Suraj Party the credibility it desperately needed.

The result deserves appreciation because Indian democracy becomes stronger when voters demonstrate that no constituency belongs permanently to any political party. Every election must remain a contest, not a coronation.

However, there is one mistake that political observers, opposition parties and even Prashant Kishor's supporters should avoid. They must not interpret this election as the beginning of the BJP's decline.

Indian politics has repeatedly shown that writing the BJP's political obituary after a setback is a dangerous exercise.

History offers enough evidence. The BJP has suffered defeats in state elections before only to return stronger in subsequent contests. It has lost governments, important by-elections and major political battles, but has consistently demonstrated an unmatched ability to reorganise, learn from mistakes and reconnect with voters.

Unlike many regional parties that often descend into blame games after defeats, the BJP generally treats setbacks as opportunities for introspection. The party possesses perhaps the strongest organisational machinery in the country. Its booth-level network, disciplined cadre, communication strategy and leadership structure enable it to recover quickly from electoral shocks.

That is precisely why opponents should celebrate cautiously.

For Prashant Kishor, this victory is more symbolic than transformative. Bankipur gives him legitimacy as an elected politician after years of advising others on

“Unlike many regional parties that often descend into blame games after defeats, the BJP generally treats setbacks as opportunities for introspection. The party possesses perhaps the strongest organisational machinery in the country. Its booth-level network, disciplined cadre, communication strategy and leadership structure enable it to recover quickly from electoral shocks.

That is precisely why opponents should celebrate cautiously.

For Prashant Kishor, this victory is more symbolic than transformative. Bankipur gives him legitimacy as an elected politician after years of advising others on how to win elections. It proves that he can convert political theory into votes. But winning one Assembly seat and building a statewide political movement are entirely different challenges.”

how to win elections. It proves that he can convert political theory into votes. But winning one Assembly seat and building a statewide political movement are entirely different challenges.

The real test lies ahead.

Can Jan Suraj expand beyond urban educated voters? Can it build an organisation in every district? Can it attract credible candidates? Can it withstand the intense political pressure that accompanies larger elections? These questions remain unanswered.

At the same time, the BJP

would be making an equally serious mistake if it dismisses this defeat as an isolated incident.

The loss reflects voter willingness to embrace an alternative when presented with a credible face and a focused campaign. Bankipur has shown that even traditional strongholds are no longer impregnable. Voters today are less bound by historical loyalties than they once were. They reward performance and increasingly seek accountability.

This should serve as a reminder to every political party that complacency is expensive.

Yet, Indian electoral politics also teaches another lesson. Momentum is temporary unless supported by sustained organisation. Several political movements have produced spectacular victories in one election only to fade because they failed to institutionalise their success.

The BJP understands this better than most.

The party rarely allows defeats to define its future. It studies voting patterns, recalibrates its messaging, mobilises its cadre and returns to the battlefield with renewed energy. That resilience has become one of its greatest political strengths.

Prashant Kishor himself, having worked closely with several successful election campaigns in the past, understands this reality better than anyone else. He knows that defeating the BJP once is difficult. Defeating it consistently is an altogether different proposition.

Therefore, Bankipur should not be viewed as the end of one political era but as the beginning of a more competitive one.

Indian democracy benefits when new political forces emerge, challenge established parties and force everyone to perform better. Prashant Kishor's victory deserves recognition for exactly that reason.

But those celebrating today would do well to remember a simple lesson from recent political history.

The BJP has often stumbled. It has rarely stayed down.

Underestimating the BJP has been one of the costliest strategic errors in Indian politics. If history is any guide, every setback only gives the party another reason to regroup, rethink and return with even greater determination.

EDITOR SPEAKS

ST Reservation: Promise Meets Practical Reality

Suraj Nandrekar

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has once again assured Goa's Scheduled Tribe community that political reservation in the State Assembly will be resolved "as soon as possible." The assurance comes just days before a proposed statewide protest by tribal organisations and follows repeated commitments by the government that the reservation would be implemented before the 2027 Assembly elections.

The question, however, is not whether the government wants to fulfil this promise. The real question is whether it is practically possible to complete the entire constitutional and administrative exercise before Goa goes to the polls.

No one disputes that the Scheduled Tribe community deserves political representation. For decades, tribal groups have argued that despite forming a sizeable share of Goa's population, they have remained underrepresented in the Legislative Assembly. Parliament has already passed the legislation enabling reservation of Assembly seats for Scheduled Tribes in Goa, and the President's assent has cleared a major legal hurdle.

But passing a law is only the beginning.

Political reservation cannot simply be announced through a government notification. It requires identifying which Assembly constituencies will be reserved based on the Scheduled Tribe population. That, in turn, requires a delimitation or readjustment process involving constitutional authorities, detailed demographic analysis and implementation by the Election Commission. These are not routine administrative formalities that can be completed overnight.

The Chief Minister has expressed confidence that the Centre will act quickly, while Art and Culture Minister Ramesh Tawadkar has suggested that the issue could be resolved within a month or two.

Optimism is welcome.

But optimism alone does not complete constitutional procedures.

Every change in reserved constituencies has political consequences. Existing MLAs may find their constituencies reserved. Political parties may have to identify entirely new candidates. Voters themselves may see constituency equations altered. Such changes inevitably invite objections, consultations and scrutiny.

These processes are essential because political reservation is not merely an electoral promise. It reshapes democratic representation for years to come.

The timing also raises questions.

The next Assembly election is approaching rapidly. Once the Election Commission begins preparing for the electoral process, major changes become increasingly difficult. Any delay in notifications, constituency identification or legal formalities could push implementation beyond the coming election.

That is why the government should avoid creating expectations that may become difficult to fulfil within the available timeframe.

For the Scheduled Tribe community, this issue is far too important to become another election slogan. Tribal organisations have waited years for political reservation. Every assurance raises hopes. Every delay deepens frustration. The government must therefore replace repeated promises with a transparent roadmap.

It should clearly state what stages remain pending, which authorities must complete them, the expected timelines and whether implementation before the election remains realistically achievable. Honest communication is better than ambitious deadlines that later prove impossible.

Equally, opposition parties should also act responsibly. Most have publicly supported ST political reservation. If consensus exists, they should cooperate in ensuring that legal and constitutional procedures move forward without unnecessary political obstruction.

This is not an issue that should divide Goa. It is an issue that should strengthen democratic inclusion.

Whether reservation is implemented before the next election or shortly thereafter, the process must be legally sound and beyond challenge. Rushing constitutional procedures for electoral convenience may ultimately create litigation that delays the very objective everyone claims to support. The Scheduled Tribe community deserves more than assurances. It deserves certainty.

If the government can deliver before the election, it will fulfil a historic commitment. If practical realities make that impossible, it owes the people complete honesty rather than unrealistic timelines. Promises win headlines.

Transparent governance earns trust.

Directorate to Crack Down on Panchayats That Skipped Mandatory Gram Sabhas

■ BDOs to verify lapses and ensure pending village meetings are held; Directorate says technical issues may have affected online records

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Panchayats has initiated steps to address the failure of several village panchayats to hold their mandatory gram sabhas during the first quarter of the current financial year, with Block Development Officers (BDOs) being asked to verify the situation and ensure pending meetings are conducted.

Senior officials in the Directorate said



reports will be sought from BDOs to determine why gram sabhas were not convened in certain villages. Based on these findings, defaulting panchayats will be

instructed to organise the missed meetings without delay. The Directorate, however, indicated that the data available on the NIRNAY portal may not accurately reflect the actual position, pointing out that technical problems with the online system could have delayed the uploading

of gram sabha details. Under the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, every village panchayat is required to convene gram sabhas at regular intervals, with the first meeting of each financial year expected to be held between April and June. These meetings play a key role in local governance by allowing residents to review panchayat functioning, discuss development works and adopt resolutions on village issues.

Goa Seeks Visa-on-Arrival, Open Sky Status to Boost Tourism

■ Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte pitches measures to strengthen international and domestic air connectivity during meeting with Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Goa government has renewed its efforts to improve international access to the State by requesting the Centre to introduce a Visa-on-Arrival (VoA) facility at both Manohar International Airport in Mopa and Goa International Airport in Dabolim.

Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte raised the proposal during a meeting with Union Tourism and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, highlighting the need to simplify travel procedures for overseas visitors. According to the minister, extending the VoA facility to Goa would place

the State alongside other Indian airports that already offer the service and make travel more convenient for international tourists.

Besides the visa proposal, the State also sought the extension of the Open Sky policy to Goa. The government believes the move would encourage more international airlines to operate direct flights, improve global connectivity and support the growth of the tourism sector.

The discussions also covered the need to increase flight frequencies on major domestic routes linking Goa with key cities across the country, with the aim of improving year-round accessibility for travellers.



FIR Sought Against Former Gomantak Bhandari Samaj Office-Bearers Over Alleged Donation Irregularities

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A complaint has been filed seeking registration of an FIR against Rohidas L. Naik, Shrikrishna Haldankar, Tarak Arolkar, Charudatt Panjikar, Avinash Shirodkar and others over alleged financial and administrative irregularities in the Gomantak Bhandari Samaj. The complaint, submitted to the police, alleges offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, including cheating, criminal breach of trust, criminal conspiracy, misrepresentation, misuse of the Gomantak Bhandari Samaj's name, and irregularities in the collection and utilisation of donations. It seeks registration of an FIR and a detailed investigation into the allegations. The complaint comes amid an ongoing dispute within the Samaj over its scholarship and felicitation programme.

Government Inducts Modern Firefighting Fleet To Boost Emergency Response

■ New vehicles, including Hazmat unit and 42-metre ladder, added to strengthen disaster preparedness and public safety across Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a major boost to Goa's emergency response infrastructure, the Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services has inducted a fleet of modern firefighting and support vehicles aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness, firefighting capability and public safety across the State. The vehicles were formally dedicated to public service during a ceremony held at the Directorate's headquarters in St. Inez,



Panaji.

The newly inducted fleet includes eight Mid-Sized Water Tenders (MSWTs), one state-of-the-art Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Response Vehicle, one 42-metre Turn Table Ladder (TTL), and eight Hero Super Splendor motorcycles, taking the

total number of new vehicles added to the department's operational fleet to 18. Five of the MSWTs have been procured with financial assistance under the 15th Finance Commission at a cost of ₹5.43 crore and deployed at Canacona, Curchorem, Vasco, Pilerne and Pernem fire stations. Three additional MSWTs, funded by the Government of Goa at a cost of ₹4.49 crore, have replaced condemned vehicles at Margao, Ponda and Vasco fire stations.

FDA Orders Closure of Six Food Establishments Over Hygiene Violations

■ Surveillance drives at Bambolim, Mercos and Thivim find unhygienic conditions; fines imposed and more inspections planned across Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has ordered six food business establishments to suspend operations after surveillance drives conducted in Bambolim, Mercos and Thivim revealed multiple hygiene violations.

During the inspections, FDA officials checked



10 food businesses, including restaurants and petty retailers selling tea and snacks. Six establishments were directed to suspend

operations after they were found to be functioning in unhygienic conditions.

In the Bambolim area, four food outlets

operating outside Goa Medical College (GMC) were asked to cease operations after officials found that they were sourcing food from

unapproved kitchens that were maintained in unhygienic conditions. A fresh juice vendor near GMC was also fined ₹10,000 for violating food safety norms.

In Thivim, an Udipi restaurant and a tea stall were ordered to shut down due to hygiene violations. The Udipi restaurant was additionally fined ₹15,000.

The FDA said the establishments will remain closed until

the deficiencies are rectified and compliance is verified by the department.

The department said surveillance drives will continue across Goa and appealed to all food business operators to strictly comply with food safety and hygiene regulations. It warned that failure to adhere to the prescribed norms could lead to suspension of licences.



Teen Driver Booked For Drunk Driving In Fatal Siridao Flyover Crash

■ Police allege 18-year-old was under the influence of alcohol when SUV plunged off flyover, leaving one passenger dead and two injured

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Agacaim Police have booked an 18-year-old student for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol in connection with the fatal Siridao Flyover crash that claimed the life of a 19-year-old passenger and left two others injured.

The case was registered on the complaint of HC Uday Palkar on behalf of the State. According to police, the accused,



Harsh Shrenik Jain (18), a resident of Aquem, Margao, was driving a Ford EcoSport from Panaji towards Agacaim at around 3.45 am on August 1 when the incident

occurred.

Police alleged that the accused was driving the vehicle under the influence of alcohol in a rash and negligent

manner, endangering human life. On reaching the beginning of the Siridao Flyover near Sainik Aaramghar on NH-66, he allegedly lost control of the SUV on a

curve and crashed into the crash barrier. The impact caused the vehicle to plunge from the flyover onto the service road below, where it caught fire.

The driver sustained injuries in the crash. Another occupant, Tanish Puri (18) of Raia, suffered bodily injuries, while Yash Mehta (19) of Margao sustained grievous injuries and was declared brought dead at Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim.

Man Dies After Car Hits Scooter Near Priol



Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: A scooter rider was killed after a Maruti Alto car allegedly being driven in a rash and negligent manner collided with his two-wheeler near Adarsh Palace Hotel at Konem, Priol, on Sunday evening.

According to Mardol Police, the case was registered on the complaint of HC Suraj Gaude. Police said the accident occurred at around 7 pm on August 2, 2026, when the Maruti Alto, driven by Savanta Ram Sutar, a resident of Karaswada, Mapusa, originally from Barmer, Rajasthan, was proceeding from Ponda towards Mardol.

During the journey, the driver allegedly attempted to overtake another vehicle on a curved stretch of road near Adarsh Palace Hotel, Konem, Priol, and crashed into an oncoming Honda Activa scooter. The scooter rider, Datta Naik, a resident of Shenviwada, Shiroda, Ponda, sustained grievous injuries in the collision. He was rushed to hospital but later succumbed to his injuries.

Unidentified Man Found Dead Near Joggers Park In Chicalim

■ Police shift unresponsive man to hospital, where doctors declare him brought dead; identity yet to be established

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: An unidentified man, believed to be between 30 and 35 years of age, was found lying in an unresponsive state near Joggers Park at Chicalim in the early hours of Monday.

According to Vasco Police, information was received from police staff at around 12.31 am on August 3, 2026, that an unknown man was lying beside the road near Joggers Park.



Police rushed to the spot and found the man unconscious. A 108 ambulance was immediately called, and he was shifted to the Sub-District Hospital (SDH),

Chicalim, for medical attention. However, the attending doctor declared him brought dead.

Police subsequently conducted an inquest

panchanama over the body, which has been preserved at the South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for medico-legal formalities and identification.



Mapusa Police Recover Stolen Scooter, Arrest 52-Year-Old Man

■ Accused allegedly used an old Yamaha Fascino key to steal the vehicle parked outside complainant's residence

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Mapusa Police have recovered a stolen Yamaha Fascino scooter and arrested a 52-year-old man in connection with the theft reported from Dhuler, Mapusa.

According to police, complainant Mrs. Sara Afzal Khan, a resident of Dhuler, Mapusa, lodged a complaint on August 2, 2026, stating that her blue Yamaha Fascino scooter (Registration No. GA-03-BA-8083), which had been parked in the open parking area in front of her residence near the football ground at Dhuler, was stolen between 10 pm on July

6 and 9.30 am on July 27.

During the course of investigation, police recovered the stolen vehicle and arrested the accused, identified as Jyoti Bandhan Yadav (52), a resident of Khobrawado, Calangute, originally from Uttar Pradesh. He was arrested on August 2 at around 7.30 pm.

Police said the accused allegedly committed the theft by using a key from an old Yamaha Fascino scooter that was in his possession.

Further investigation is being carried out by HC Nilesh Ghadi of Mapusa Police Station.

Five Booked For Assault, Criminal Intimidation At Hollant Beach

■ Complainant and his three sons allegedly abused, assaulted and threatened during altercation in Velsao

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Verna Police have registered a case against five persons for allegedly abusing, assaulting and threatening a man and his three sons following an altercation at Hollant Beach, Velsao.

According to police, the case was registered based on a complaint filed by Jose Fernandes,



a resident of Dando, Velsao, Cansaulim. The

complainant alleged that the incident occurred

at around 2.30 pm on August 2, 2026, when the accused allegedly hurled filthy abuses at him and his three sons before assaulting them with kicks and fist blows.

The accused have been identified as Francisco Rodrigues, Paul Rodrigues, Marcel Rodrigues, Peter Rodrigues, all residents of Behind Tilak Maidan, Vasco, and Joseph Remedios Mendes, a

resident near Ganesh Temple Bogda, Vasco.

Police said the accused also allegedly threatened the complainant and his sons with dire consequences. Verna Police have registered an offence under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Carey Fernandes.

Canoe Capsizes Off Arossim; All 10 Fishermen Safe After Rescue Response

■ Drishti Marine also returns three lost mobile phones to beachgoers over the weekend

Team Goemkarponn

AROSSIM: A fishing canoe carrying 10 fishermen overturned in the waters off Arossim Beach in the early hours of Monday, prompting a swift response from Drishti Marine lifesavers. All the fishermen were rescued safely with the assistance of another fishing boat in the vicinity.

According to Drishti Marine, the incident occurred off Arossim Beach when the canoe



capsized. A nearby fishing vessel came to the fishermen's aid, enabling all 10 occupants to safely transfer to the second boat. As a precautionary measure, Drishti Marine deployed three jet skis

from Colva, Velsao and Betalbatim beaches to the location. Efforts to retrieve the overturned canoe were underway.

Apart from the rescue response, Drishti Marine personnel also returned three lost mobile phones to their rightful owners during routine patrols over the weekend.

At Arambol Beach,

lifesaver Manoj Parab found an expensive mobile phone that had been misplaced by a beach visitor the previous night. After tracing and verifying the owner, the phone was returned in the presence of Tourist Police personnel and a beach warden.

At Calangute Beach, beach marshal Akash Kesarkar recovered an unattended mobile phone near the waterline during routine patrolling. The device was returned to its



DIP Photographer Chandu Korgaonkar Honoured With 'Patrakar Mitra' Award

■ Recognition conferred during Lokmanya Tilak Punyatithi programme for contributions to journalism and photography

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chandu V. Korgaonkar, photographer with the Department of Information and Publicity (DIP), was conferred with the prestigious 'Patrakar Mitra' honour during the Lokmanya Tilak Punyatithi programme organised by the Sanguem-Quepem Patrakar Sangh at Sanvordem.

The award was presented by Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Dessai and Sports Minister Ramesh Tawadkar in recognition of Korgaonkar's dedication and significant contribution to journalism and the media fraternity.

The Department of Information and Publicity described the honour as a well-deserved recognition of his sincerity, commitment and professional excellence in documenting events of public importance through photography.

Congratulating Korgaonkar on the achievement, the department expressed confidence that he would continue to capture moments that inspire, inform and preserve history, while wishing him many more accolades in his professional journey.

The department termed the recognition a proud moment for the Department of Information and Publicity.



INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

JA PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE

AICC Forms Goa Alliance Committee For 2026 Assembly Elections

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has constituted the Goa Alliance Committee to coordinate with alliance partners in preparation for the 2026 Goa Assembly elections.

According to a statement issued by the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee, the committee has been approved by Congress President and will take immediate effect. The decision was announced by AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, MP.

The committee will be headed by Manickrao Thakare as Chairman. Other members include Girish Chodankar, Yuri Alemao, Dr. Anjali Nimbalkar, Capt. Viriato Fernandes, and M.K. Shaikh.

The panel has been entrusted with coordinating with alliance partners and ensuring effective cooperation and strategic planning ahead of the Assembly elections.

Saligao, Pilerne-Marra Get ₹3.15 Crore Door-To-Door Waste Collection Project

■ "GWMC rolls out scientific waste management system following initiative by Saligao MLA Kedar Naik

Team Goemkarponn

SALIGAO: The Goa Waste Management Corporation (GWMC) has launched a comprehensive door-to-door municipal solid waste collection, segregation and transportation project for the Village Panchayats of Saligao and Pilerne-Marra, following the initiative of Saligao MLA Kedar Naik.

According to a statement, the work order has been awarded to M/s Sunil Enterprises, with



services commencing from August 1, 2026. The formal inauguration of the project is scheduled to be held later this month.

The project, valued at ₹3.15 crore (excluding GST) for the first year, has been awarded for an initial period of three years,

extendable by another two years based on satisfactory performance.

The new system aims to ease the financial and operational burden on the two village panchayats by shifting waste collection and transportation to a professionally managed, centralised model. This is expected to allow the panchayats to utilise more of their own funds for local infrastructure and development works, including roads, drainage, street lighting and sanitation.

Goa NGO Continues Assam Flood Relief, Distributes Rebuilding Tools To Affected Families

■ Street Providence Goa reaches three flood-hit villages in Sivasagar district on second day of relief mission

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Street Providence Goa continued its Assam Flood Relief Mission on Monday, carrying out the second day of relief distribution in three flood-affected villages of Nazira Block in Assam's Sivasagar district.

The organisation distributed 158 spades, 158 hand shovels, 158 metal baskets and



339 bundles of rope to flood-affected families to assist them in clearing debris, repairing damaged surroundings and rebuilding their homes.

According to the NGO, the relief materials

were procured through donations received from supporters in Goa and elsewhere. The organisation said the tools are intended to help families begin rebuilding their lives after losing homes, belongings and livelihoods in the floods.

Street Providence Goa thanked its donors, volunteers and well-wishers for supporting the initiative, stating that their contributions had directly reached families

in need.

The NGO said relief operations will continue over the coming days as volunteers travel to remote and severely affected villages across Assam. It has appealed for continued public support, saying additional donations would help provide food, shelter, hygiene supplies and other essential relief materials to more flood-affected families.

FSSAI Bars Dabur From Using '100%' Claims on Honey, Ghee and Edible Oils

■ Food regulator says labels such as '100% Pure' and '100% Natural' are misleading, directs company to stop sales and submit compliance report

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has prohibited Dabur India Ltd from selling several food products carrying "100%" claims, stating that such labelling violates food advertising regulations and has the potential to mislead consumers.

The regulator issued a prohibition order covering products including honey, cow ghee, virgin coconut oil, sesame oil, apple cider vinegar, coconut water and coconut milk, along with other food items marketed using claims such as "100% Natural," "100% Pure," "100% Purity Guaranteed," "100% Organic" and "100% Tender Coconut Water."

According to the FSSAI, these claims are ambiguous, cannot be independently verified and are not permitted under the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018. The authority said such marketing could create a misleading impression among consumers



regarding the nature and quality of the products.

The regulator also pointed out that Dabur Himalayan Organic Apple Cider Vinegar and Dabur Organic Honey were found displaying the Jaivik Bharat logo without valid FSSAI organic endorsement. Additionally, Dabur Hommade Coconut Milk was marketed with the claim "100% Purity," which is not allowed for compound food products under the existing regulations.

FSSAI said it had previously directed Dabur to discontinue the use of misleading "100%" claims. However, the company allegedly failed to take satisfactory corrective action, prompting the latest prohibition order.

The food regulator has instructed Dabur to immediately stop the sale of all identified products carrying the disputed claims and submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) within 15 days detailing the corrective

measures implemented.

Responding to the development, Dabur said it has received the FSSAI notice and is reviewing the content mentioned on its website.

In recent months, FSSAI has increasingly used social media to publicise enforcement actions against food manufacturers and e-commerce platforms as part of its efforts to strengthen consumer awareness and ensure compliance with food safety regulations.

Centre Raises Windfall Tax on Petrol, Diesel and ATF Exports Amid Iran Conflict

■ Higher export duties aimed at protecting domestic fuel supplies as global crude oil prices remain volatile

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Centre has increased windfall taxes on exports of petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) with immediate effect, as volatility in global crude oil prices continues amid tensions linked to the Iran conflict.

According to a government notification, the revised export duties are intended to safeguard domestic fuel availability while responding to fluctuations in international energy markets and rising global oil prices.

The export duty on petrol has been increased to Rs 3.5 per litre from Rs 2.5 per litre. The government said the revision is aimed at ensuring adequate fuel supplies within the country despite strong international demand.

The most significant hike has been announced for diesel exports.

Through two separate tax levies, the total export duty has been raised to Rs 25.5 per litre, up from Rs 15.5 per litre that was in force over the past fortnight.

Similarly, the export duty on aviation turbine

fuel (ATF) has been increased to Rs 22 per litre from Rs 14.5 per litre, reflecting the government's continued efforts to manage domestic fuel availability during a period of heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

The latest revision follows a series of changes made over the past month as global crude prices surged amid escalating tensions involving Iran. In the previous revision, the government had increased export duties on diesel and ATF while reducing the levy on petrol exports to balance refining margins and domestic supply requirements.

Earlier adjustments had also seen multiple revisions in the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) on petroleum exports, with tax rates being altered in response to changing international oil prices and refining economics.

With geopolitical tensions continuing to influence energy markets, the Centre is closely monitoring global crude price movements and has indicated that export duties may be reviewed periodically to ensure domestic energy security while maintaining stability in the country's fuel market.



Goa Congress Unveils 'Goem Rakhon Yatra' Roadmap, Reviews Electoral Issues

constitutional right without discrimination or administrative hurdles. A detailed discussion was also held on the proposed ward delimitation for the forthcoming Municipal Council elections. Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sanghathan Chairman Praveen Blagga, who is coordinating the exercise, presented the party's review of the draft proposals to ensure the delimitation process remains transparent, impartial and in accordance with democratic principles. The State Executive also ratified the expulsion of Shamila Siddiqui and Manisha

Usgaonkar from the Indian National Congress following the recommendations of the party's Disciplinary Committee over alleged acts of indiscipline. The Executive noted that both leaders were given an opportunity to present their case before the committee arrived at its decision.

Addressing the meeting, GPCC President Girish Chodankar urged party leaders and workers to strengthen the organisation with discipline, unity and renewed commitment. He called on the cadre to intensify public outreach, take the party's message to every household and continue opposing what he described as anti-people policies while safeguarding the interests and aspirations of Goa's people. The meeting concluded with a unanimous resolution

to build a stronger Congress organisation capable of effectively representing public concerns and providing a credible political alternative in Goa.

Goa Gets Lie Detector, Voice Analysis Systems To Boost Criminal Investigations

for providing forensic reports within 24 hours in several cases, saying the timely reports have helped fast-track investigations and improve the delivery of justice. The Chief Minister said the state government's investment in modern forensic infrastructure would make investigations more effective while reducing reliance on forensic facilities outside Goa.

'Flood Relief Alone Is Not Enough': Himanta Sarma Announces Village Reconstruction in Worst-Hit Assam Areas

■ Assam government to focus on long term rehabilitation as flood death toll rises to 87

Team Goemkarponn

GUWAHATI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has announced a long term rehabilitation plan for some of the state's worst flood affected villages, saying immediate relief measures alone will not be enough to help families rebuild their lives after the devastating floods. During a visit to the severely affected



districts of Sivasagar and Charaideo, the Chief Minister assessed the extensive damage and interacted with residents whose homes and livelihoods were destroyed

by floodwaters. In Nepalikhuti, Sarma travelled by tractor after damaged roads became inaccessible to regular vehicles, highlighting the scale of destruction in the region. After meeting affected families, Sarma said the devastation on the ground was far greater than what had been visible through television coverage. He

assured residents that the government would remain committed to both relief and rehabilitation efforts. The Chief Minister announced plans to rebuild entire villages in some of the worst affected locations, including Bihubor, Nepalikhuti, Betbari and Nimaichan, with reconstruction becoming a key priority once the immediate crisis is addressed.



'This Is A Wake Up Call': Prashant Kishor Hails Historic Bankipur Win, Targets BJP Leadership in Bihar

■ Jan Suraj secures its first Assembly seat after ending the BJP's three decade dominance in Bankipur

Team Goemkarponn

PATNA: Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor described his landmark victory in the Bankipur Assembly bypoll as a "wake up call" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying Bihar now needs leadership that prioritises education, employment and curbing migration instead of politics driven by power. Making his electoral debut, Kishor defeated BJP candidate Neeraj Kumar by more than 19,000 votes, ending the party's uninterrupted hold over the Bankipur constituency since 1995. The result also marked Jan Suraj's first ever seat in the Bihar Assembly.

Calling the verdict a significant political

message, Kishor said the outcome reflected the aspirations of voters seeking a new direction for Bihar. He maintained that his party's objective was to bring meaningful development to the state rather than pursue political positions for personal gain.

Rejecting any possibility of an alliance with established political parties, Kishor reiterated that Jan Suraj would continue to contest elections independently. He said the party's only alliance would remain with the people of Bihar and credited his victory to support from voters across political lines, including those dissatisfied with the BJP, Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal.

'We Will Conduct Introspection': BJP Accepts Bankipur, Datia Bypoll Setbacks, Says Nitin Nabin



Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: BJP National President Nitin Nabin on Monday accepted the verdict of the recent Assembly by-elections, saying the party would undertake a detailed review of its defeats in Bankipur and Datia while working to rebuild public confidence.

Reacting to the results, Nabin thanked voters in Manjalpur, Gujarat, where the BJP successfully retained the Assembly seat, and congratulated party workers for their efforts. He said the party respects the people's mandate and would carefully assess the reasons behind the setbacks in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Acknowledging the losses, Nabin said the BJP did not receive the expected mandate in Bankipur and Datia. He stressed that the party would carry out a thorough introspection with complete seriousness and return to the people with renewed energy and determination to strengthen their trust.

Bangladesh Urges India to Prevent Sheikh Hasina's August 5 Virtual Address, Seeks Clarity on New Delhi's Stand

■ Dhaka says political activities by the ousted former prime minister from Indian territory could affect bilateral relations

Team Goemkarponn

DHAKA: Bangladesh has urged India to clarify its position over reports that former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is set to deliver a virtual address from New Delhi on August 5, warning that political activities by the ousted leader from Indian territory could have an adverse impact on bilateral ties.

Bangladesh's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shama Obaed



Islam, said Dhaka expects India to explain its stance on the reported event, which is scheduled to coincide with the second anniversary of the fall of Hasina's government. She stressed that Bangladesh wants relations with India to improve and hopes both

countries will continue strengthening cooperation.

According to reports, Hasina is expected to join the virtual programme alongside several senior Awami League leaders and supporters. Bangladesh has reiterated its long standing position that individuals facing legal proceedings or living outside the country should not be allowed to use foreign territory for political activities that could create instability.

Jharkhand Students Intensify Protest Over JPSC, JSSC Exam Row, Demand CBI Probe

■ Hunger strike enters movement as aspirants seek cancellation of 14th JPSC exam and recruitment reforms

Team Goemkarponn

RANCHI: Hundreds of students continued their protest for the sixth consecutive day in Ranchi over alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations conducted by the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) and the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC). The protesters



are demanding a CBI investigation, cancellation of the 14th JPSC preliminary examination, and comprehensive reforms in the state's

recruitment process.

The indefinite sit-in at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium has gained momentum, with student

leader Devendra Nath Mahto launching a hunger strike in support of the movement. He has called for investigations by the Central Bureau

of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into the alleged irregularities in the 14th JPSC examination, the JSSC Combined Graduate Level examination, and other recruitment tests.

Mahto said the protest would continue despite physical hardship, asserting that the movement for students' rights and justice would not lose its resolve.

The agitating students have expressed a lack of confidence in the ongoing CID investigation ordered by the Jharkhand government. They allege that examination paper leaks and other recruitment irregularities have occurred repeatedly over the years and fear that the current probe may not lead to meaningful action.

Electricity Department Clinches Goa State Civil Services Football Tournament 2026-27 Title

■ Defeats Water Resources Department 2-0 in the final at Santacruz Football Ground

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Electricity Department was crowned champion of the Goa State Civil Services Football Tournament 2026-27 after registering a convincing 2-0 victory over the Water Resources Department in the final played at Santacruz Football Ground in Goa.

The champions opened the scoring in the



first half when Yeshwant More calmly converted a penalty to put the Electricity Department

ahead. Holding onto their advantage at the break, the team continued to dominate proceedings in

the second half before Rajat Naik doubled the lead with a well taken goal, securing the title with a comfortable 2-0 win.

The victory capped off an impressive campaign for the Electricity Department, which displayed consistency and determination throughout the tournament to emerge as the best among the participating government departments.



From Pulwama to the Global MMA Stage: Owais Yaqoob Chasing UFC Dream

■ Jammu and Kashmir fighter earns international recognition after impressive BRAVE CF victory

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Owais Yaqoob, a mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter from Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, is rapidly emerging as one of India's brightest combat sports talents after a string of impressive performances on the international stage. The 1998 born fighter recently grabbed global attention with a statement victory over Delyan Georgiev at BRAVE CF 107.

Georgiev is a training and sparring partner of UFC champion Ilia Topuria, making the win a significant milestone in Yaqoob's growing career and reinforcing his credentials among the sport's rising stars. Born in the village of

Murran in Pulwama, Yaqoob began his sporting journey in 2012 with taekwondo and kickboxing. His dedication and talent helped him win more than a dozen national medals across various martial arts disciplines before he shifted his focus to mixed martial arts as the sport gained popularity worldwide.

Determined to nurture young talent in his home region, Yaqoob established the Lion's Den Martial Arts Academy in Pulwama in 2015. Since then, the academy has trained more than 200 young athletes, providing opportunities for aspiring martial artists while promoting fitness and discipline among local youth.



UEFA Threatens FIFA With Legal Action After Infantino Drops Controversial World Cup Investment Plan

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: UEFA has threatened legal action against FIFA following the collapse of President Gianni Infantino's controversial proposal to sell a stake in future FIFA World Cup revenues to private investors, escalating tensions between the two governing bodies over the future of world football's administration.

The dispute erupted after FIFA abandoned plans to raise \$4.2 billion through private investors, including a New York investment firm, following widespread opposition from football stakeholders. The proposal would have offered FIFA's 211 member associations a one time payment of \$20 million each in exchange for approving the creation of a new commercial entity to manage the organisation's revenue generating operations.

'A Proud Moment for J&K': Teammates Celebrate Auqib Nabi's Maiden India Test Call-Up

■ Baramulla pacer becomes first cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir selected for India's Test squad

Team Goemkarponn

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir cricketers hailed fast bowler Auqib Nabi Dar's maiden India Test call-up as a historic milestone, describing it as a proud moment for the region and an inspiration for aspiring young cricketers. The 29 year old pacer from Baramulla was named in India's Test squad on Monday as the replacement for



injured Jasprit Bumrah for the upcoming two match Test series against Sri Lanka, which begins on August 15 in Galle. Auqib's selection marks a landmark achievement for Jammu and Kashmir

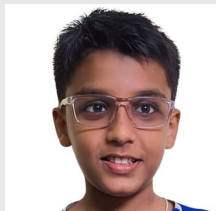
cricket, as he becomes the first player from the Union Territory to earn a place in India's Test squad. Former all rounder Parvez Rasool remains the only cricketer from the region to have represented India at the international level, having featured in one ODI and one T20I. Following the announcement, Auqib's teammates from the Jammu and Kashmir Ranji Trophy squad congratulated him.

Yug Prabhu, Mission Lalpekhlua Lead U13 Boys Semi-final Line-up at Ulhas Jewellers BPS Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament 2026

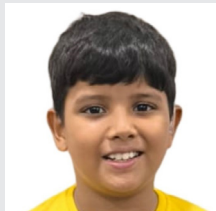
■ Kaushik Nair and Yuvaan Sanke also secure dominant quarter-final victories in Fatorda

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Yug Prabhu, Mission Lalpekhlua, Kaushik Nair and Yuvaan Sanke booked their places in the Boys Under 13 semi-finals of the Ulhas Jewellers BPS Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament 2026 with impressive performances at the Multipurpose Stadium,



Fatorda. In the quarter-finals, Yug Prabhu produced a commanding display to defeat Vanlalmalsawmkima 3-0 and move into the last four. Mission



Lalpekhlua overcame Aarish Shaikh 3-1 in a competitive contest, while Kaushik Nair cruised past Ashank Dalvi with a straight games 3-0 victory. Yuvaan Sanke



also sealed his semi-final berth in style, defeating Vihaan Jotkar 3-0 to complete the final four line-up. The pre-quarter-finals witnessed several one sided encounters alongside a few closely fought battles. Yug Prabhu began his campaign with a convincing 3-0 win over Kavish Dalvi, while Vanlalmalsawmkima edged Kedar Nair 3-2 in a

thrilling five game match. Aarish Shaikh defeated Shreysht Rane 3-1 to advance, and Mission Lalpekhlua eased past Vardhan Verlekar with a 3-0 victory. Kaushik Nair continued his impressive form by overcoming Aryan Kanji 3-0, while Ashank Dalvi outclassed Ronan Menezes Gama 3-0 to secure his place in the quarter-finals.