



Goa CM Gives Police Full Authority To Act Firmly Against Offenders

■ Chief Minister Says Those Who Confront, Assault Or Obstruct Police Must Face Strict Legal Action

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has directed the police force to act firmly against individuals who attempt to intimidate, confront, assault or obstruct police personnel while they are performing their duties.

Addressing the media, Sawant said the government and people of Goa have traditionally maintained a calm and considerate approach



towards law enforcement, but warned that such patience should not be mistaken for weakness or exploited by those who show disrespect towards police personnel.

"I have given full

authority to our police force. Going forward, the police must act firmly under the law," Sawant said.

He stated that anyone attempting to confront, assault or obstruct police officers in the discharge of their duties must face strict legal action.

The Chief Minister stressed that the primary responsibility of the police is to protect the public and maintain law and order.

He said law

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₹19 Crore IDC Website Row: Mauvin Godinho Seeks Details, CM Promises Full Disclosure

Industries Minister Says He Will Hold Press Conference On Website And ₹25 Lakh Logo Expenditure



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Industries Minister Mauvin Godinho has sought a detailed report from the Goa Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) department over the ₹19 crore expenditure on its website and the reported ₹25 lakh cost of its logo.

Godinho said he had sought details from the concerned department and maintained that all prescribed procedures were followed in awarding the project.

The Industries Minister said he would address a press conference either later on Friday or Saturday to explain the matter and provide details of the procedures followed.

The issue has also drawn a response from Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, who has assured that complete information regarding the ₹19 crore IDC website project will be disclosed.

The controversy centres on the reported ₹19 crore cost of the website project and the separate ₹25 lakh expenditure on the IDC logo, with questions being raised over the expenditure and procurement process.

Godinho's proposed press conference is expected to shed further light on the project, including the tendering process, approvals, scope of work and expenditure involved.



1991 Jammu Railway Station Blast Accused Arrested After 35 Years

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SRINAGAR: One of Jammu and Kashmir's longest pending terror cases has reached a major breakthrough with the arrest of the last absconding accused in the 1991 Jammu Railway Station bomb blast, more than three decades after the attack claimed three lives and injured 18 others.

'Raise Your Voice': PoK Protest Leader Calls for Mass Demonstrations Against Pakistan

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The political unrest in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) is set to intensify as Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) leader Sardar Aman Kashmiri has called for a large scale public mobilisation, urging people across the region to take to the streets in protest against Pakistan's administration.

Goa Unveils New Land Development And Building Regulations

■ 2026 Amendment Revises Prohibited Land Uses, Zoning Rules And Development Charges Across The State

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Government of Goa's Department of Town and Country Planning has notified the Goa Land Development and Building Construction (Amendment) Regulations, 2026, introducing revised provisions governing land use, development and building construction across the state.



The amendment was issued under Notification No. 21/1/TCP/GLDBCR-2010/TCP/2026/1603 by order of the Governor of Goa and came into force following its publication in the Official Gazette on

August 13, 2026.

A key change is the substitution of Regulation 6A.2.1, which sets out a revised list of prohibited land uses across different zoning categories.

In residential zones (SPR, S1, S2, S3 and S4), activities such as wholesale trade, warehousing, scrap yards, automobile workshops and noisy

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Goa Government Declares Snakebite A Notifiable Disease

■ Health Authorities To Track Snakebite Cases And Fatalities Across The State To Strengthen Public Health Response

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Government of Goa has officially declared snakebite cases and snakebite-related deaths as a notifiable disease across the state, in a move aimed at strengthening surveillance, reporting and emergency response.

The notification was issued by Dr. Pooja M

ST Reservation: BJP Cannot Afford to Look Divided

The Scheduled Tribe reservation issue is fast turning into a serious political test for the BJP in Goa, and the latest developments should worry the party. The United Tribal Associations Alliance has now warned of a "severe backlash" if political reservation for Scheduled Tribes is not implemented before the 2027 Assembly elections. The demand is that the process be completed within two months.

This is no longer a routine political demand that can be managed with another assurance. The tribal community has been waiting for political representation for years, and the approaching election has added urgency to the issue. UTAA says ST communities have missed reservation in four consecutive Assembly elections and are now unwilling to wait any longer. Its demand for four reserved Assembly constituencies has therefore acquired considerable political weight.

For the BJP, however, the bigger problem may be coming from within its own house.

BJP leader and Priol MLA Govind Gaude's aggressive intervention at the UTAA gathering has put the party in an uncomfortable position. Gaude declared that reservation is a right, not charity, and warned that the tribal community could show those in power their place. He also cautioned Chief Minister Pramod Sawant against listening to advisers who oppose ST reservation.

There is nothing wrong with a political leader supporting the constitutional rights of his community. In fact, Gaude is perfectly entitled to demand that the government move faster. But the language and manner in which the issue is being raised create a political complication for the BJP. A ruling party cannot afford to appear as though one of its own legislators is standing on one side of a confrontation while the government stands on the other.

The problem becomes even more serious because this is not the first time Gaude has publicly taken an aggressive position on

BJP leader and Priol MLA Govind Gaude's aggressive intervention at the UTAA gathering has put the party in an uncomfortable position. Gaude declared that reservation is a right, not charity, and warned that the tribal community could show those in power their place. He also cautioned Chief Minister Pramod Sawant against listening to advisers who oppose ST reservation. There is nothing wrong with a political leader supporting the constitutional rights of his community. In fact, Gaude is perfectly entitled to demand that the government move faster. But the language and manner in which the issue is being raised create a political complication for the BJP.

tribal issues. His earlier confrontation with the administration over tribal affairs had already cost him his cabinet position. His latest remarks revive questions about whether the BJP has been able to politically manage the tribal reservation issue within its own organisation.

The timing could hardly be worse for the BJP.

The 2027 Assembly elections are approaching, with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant indicating that polls are likely in February. The ST reservation issue could therefore become a central electoral question, particularly in constituencies where tribal voters can influence the outcome.

The BJP's advantage is that it can point to the Centre's action on the reservation framework and claim that the legal groundwork has moved forward. But voters are unlikely to be satisfied

merely with the passage or notification of legislation. They will want to know which constituencies will be reserved, when delimitation will happen and whether the four ST seats will actually be available for the 2027 election.

That is where the government must provide clarity.

The BJP should also understand that an issue such as tribal political representation cannot be treated merely as an electoral management exercise. The demand is rooted in representation and constitutional rights. If the government has genuine legal, administrative or delimitation hurdles, it must explain them openly. If there are no such obstacles, it should stop creating uncertainty.

For the BJP, the greatest danger is not the protest itself. It is the perception that the party is divided on an issue that directly concerns a significant section of Goa's tribal population.

Opposition parties are unlikely to let this opportunity pass. They will attempt to portray the BJP as a party that makes promises but delays implementation. Gaude's public confrontation can then become useful political ammunition against his own party.

The BJP therefore needs to speak with one voice. It must give a clear timeline, explain the process and ensure that the reservation becomes a reality before the 2027 elections if legally and administratively possible.

Gaude's anger may reflect genuine frustration within the tribal community. But his outburst also exposes the BJP's political vulnerability. The party cannot afford a situation where its own MLA appears to be warning the government from the same platform as an agitation.

The tribal community is asking a simple question: after 23 years, when will political reservation become a reality?

The BJP needs to answer that question before its opponents answer it for the party at the ballot box.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Highway Cattle Menace: Who Is Responsible?

It should not take a court reprimand for the authorities to realise that stray animals on Goa's highways are a serious threat to human life. Yet that is exactly where the situation has reached. The High Court of Bombay at Goa has pulled up the Centre and the National Highways Authority of India over delayed action on the growing problem of stray animals on highways.

The question Goa should now ask is simple: why did it take judicial intervention for the authorities to act on something that is visible to everyone travelling on the state's roads?

Stray cattle on highways are not a new problem. Motorists have been encountering them for years, particularly at night and on stretches where traffic moves at high speed. The danger is obvious. A motorist trying to avoid a cow or bull can lose control, collide with another vehicle or crash into a roadside structure. The animal itself can also be seriously injured or killed.

The disturbing part is that both the State Government and NHAI have had enough warning.

In fact, NHAI's own correspondence with the Goa government has acknowledged the problem of stray cattle on national highways. A 2024 response to the Goa Assembly recorded that the issue had been taken up with state authorities. Yet the problem has continued.

So who is responsible?

High Court Puts FCRA Cancellation On Hold For Two Goa Diocesan Bodies

■ Court questions cancellation based on non-use of foreign funds, grants interim protection to organisations pending final hearing

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court has temporarily halted the cancellation of FCRA registrations held by two Goa-based diocesan organisations, providing relief to the Diocesan Society of Education and the Diocesan Centre for Social Communications Media in their legal challenge against the Union of India.



The dispute centres on the cancellation of the organisations' FCRA certificates. The petitioners

argued that the authorities acted without following due process and failed to give them a proper opportunity

to respond before taking the decision.

A key contention before the Court was that the organisations were not served a hearing notice under Section 14(2) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act before their registrations were cancelled. They also argued that they were not given adequate time or opportunity to put forward their case.

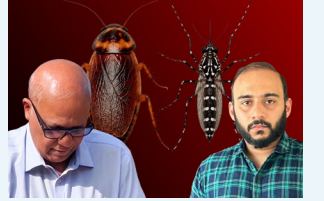
Cockroaches & Mosquito Bites Finally Wake Up Govt: Prabhav Naik

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Madgavcho Awaaz & Youth Leader Prabhav Naik has said that after the issue of dengue cases at the Margao Police Station was raised on 7th August 2026 by him, the Government was finally compelled to take notice, with the PWD Minister Digambar Kamat visiting the premises on Thursday, 13th August, to witness first-hand the pathetic condition of the Margao Police Station and the South Goa & Kushavati District Police Headquarters.

Naik said the visit is a direct result of the concerns raised by Madgavcho Awaaz and demonstrates that sustained public pressure can compel the Government to act. "It is unfortunate that it took dengue cases, mosquito bites and the presence of cockroaches for the Government to wake up and take notice of the miserable condition of a police establishment that should have received attention much earlier," he said.

Taking a dig at the Government, Prabhav Naik said, "Perhaps the cockroaches and mosquito bites have



done what repeated reminders and public concerns could not; they have finally woken up the Government." He said the condition of the Margao Police Station, South Goa & Kushavati District Police Headquarters and the adjoining police quarters is a serious reflection of the Government's neglect of essential public infrastructure.

Naik urged the Government to now demonstrate that the visit was not merely a photo opportunity and immediately prioritise the rebuilding of the Margao Police Station and Police Residential Quarters with ultra-modern facilities. He said wasteful expenditure on the concretisation of Margao Garden, the non-feasible Hydraulic Parking at the Old Fish Market and the proposed Food Court at the Old Bus Stand should be reconsidered, with funds instead directed towards urgent and meaningful public infrastructure.



Government Divides Goa's Inland Waters Into Three Navigation Zones

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PANAJI: The Goa Government has notified a new zoning framework for inland vessel operations, dividing the state's inland waters into three operational zones based on the maximum significant wave height.

Under the new classification, Zone 1 will cover areas with a maximum significant wave height of up to 2 metres, Zone 2 up to 1.2 metres and Zone 3 up to 0.6 metres.

The framework specifies the categories of inland vessels permitted to operate in each zone, based on the prevailing wave conditions and operational requirements.

It also mandates voyage permission for inland vessels seeking to operate beyond their specified inland vessel limits.

Special approval from the Captain of Ports will be required for certain categories of operations, including passenger vessels, tankers and towing operations, as well as other special categories of inland vessels.

Goa Sees 150 Missing Children Still Untraced Over Five Years

■ Parliament data reveals 256 children were reported missing from 2020 to 2024, while 88 human trafficking arrests resulted in just four convictions

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A total of 256 children were reported missing in Goa between 2020 and 2024, with 150 of them still untraced, according to figures placed before the Rajya Sabha.

The data, presented by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar in a written reply on August 12, shows that only 106 of the missing children were traced during the five-year period.

Goa recorded its highest number of missing children in 2024, when 58 cases were reported. This



was followed by 55 cases in 2022, 52 in 2020, 48 in 2023 and 43 in 2021.

The tracing figures remained considerably lower. Authorities traced 22 children in 2020, 14 in 2021, 23 in 2022, 17 in 2023 and 30 in 2024, taking the five-year total

to 106. The parliamentary response also shed light on human trafficking cases registered in the state. Goa recorded 88 arrests linked to human trafficking between 20

Two Arrested For Assaulting 77-Year-Old Over Property Dispute

■ Elderly Man Sustains Fracture To Right Hand; Son Also Injured In Attack At Pomburpa

Team Goemkarponn

POMBURPA: Police have registered a case against two residents of Pomburpa for allegedly assaulting a 77-year-old man and his son following an ongoing property dispute.

According to the complaint filed by 43-year-old Rajesh Prabhakar Halankar of Palmar, Pomburpa, the incident occurred on August 6 at around 11.30 am at Palmar.

The accused, identified



as Arvind Giri Halankar and Akshay Arvind Halankar, both residents of Palmar, are neighbours of the complainant.

Police said the dispute was related to the property and cleaning of shrubs being undertaken by the complainant's father,

Prabhakar Namdev Halankar, 77.

The accused allegedly acted with common intention and assaulted Prabhakar with a wooden danda. They also allegedly assaulted Rajesh with slaps and fist blows.

As a result of the assault, Rajesh sustained simple injuries, while his father suffered bodily injuries, including a fracture to his right hand.

The case is being investigated by PSI Bablo Parab.



Verna Police Book Trader For Alleged Misappropriation Of ₹7.15 Lakh HDPE Material

■ 10,969 Kg Of HDPE Lumps Allegedly Not Returned To BLS Polymers

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Verna Police have registered a case against Abdul Kalam, proprietor of Hana Traders, for allegedly misappropriating HDPE material worth approximately ₹7.15 lakh entrusted to him by BLS Polymers Ltd., IDC Verna.

According to the complaint filed by Joydeep Guha of BLS Polymers Ltd., the accused was entrusted with 22,880 kg of HDPE lumps between February 12 and March 14, 2024, on different dates against delivery challans and e-way bills.

The material was entrusted for grinding and processing, with the processed material to be

returned to the company against agreed service charges.

Of the total quantity, the accused allegedly processed and returned only 11,191 kg of HDPE lumps. The remaining 10,969 kg, valued at approximately ₹7,15,785, was allegedly neither processed nor returned to the complainant.

The complaint alleges that the accused dishonestly retained and misappropriated the entrusted material for his own benefit, despite receiving service charges amounting to ₹1,54,605.

The alleged acts caused a wrongful loss of approximately ₹8,94,731 to the complainant company.



Road Roller Worth Rs 8 Lakh Stolen in Bogmalo

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco Police have registered a case following the theft of a road roller worth approximately ₹8 lakh from Chicolna, Bogmalo.

According to the complaint filed by Suraj Phaldessai of Cuncolim, the road roller was parked by the side of the road at Chicolna, Bogmalo, when unknown accused persons allegedly stole it on August 12, 2026, at around 7.30 am.

Police said the accused allegedly used a hydra crane and trailer to lift and transport the road roller, which belonged to the complainant.

An FIR has been registered at Vasco Police Station under Crime No. 83/2026 under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Plato Carvalho of Vasco Police Station.

Missing Woman Suspected Abducted And Wrongfully Confined In Carambolim

■ Old Goa Police Register Case Against Unknown Persons Under BNS Section 140(3)

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Old Goa Police have registered an offence against unknown persons following suspicion that a missing woman may have been abducted and secretly wrongfully confined in the Carambolim area.

The case was registered on August 11, 2026, at around 2.10 pm as Crime No. 104/2026 under Section 140(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), based

Giant Wheel Banned At Vasco Saptah Fair, Collector Reviews Safety Arrangements

■ South Goa Collector Directs Strict Compliance With Disaster Management, Fire Safety And Crowd Control Measures

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: South Goa Collector Eгна Cleetus on Thursday reviewed preparedness for the annual Damodar Saptah fair in Vasco along with Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar, South Goa SP Tikam Singh, Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam, Deputy Collector Pratap Rao Gaonkar, Mamlatdar Pravinjay Pandit, Saptah



Committee Central member Prashant Joshi and other members of the Saptah Samiti.

The Collector announced that the

giant wheel will not be permitted at this year's Saptah fair and directed authorities and organisers to strictly follow safety and disaster management

protocols to ensure smooth crowd movement and prevent any untoward incident.

Cleetus said separate entry and exit points would have to be maintained for devotees, while emergency exit areas must remain free of barricades. A separate holding area will also be created to regulate crowds, particularly during peak hours.



South Goa To Begin EVM, VVPAT First-Level Checking From August 17

■ Exercise To Verify Machines Ahead Of 2027 Goa Assembly Elections; Political Parties Invited To Depute Representatives

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The First Level Checking (FLC) of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines for the forthcoming 2027 Goa Legislative Assembly elections will be conducted in South Goa from August 17 to August 31, 2026.

According to a press note issued by South Goa Collector and District Election Officer Eгна Cleetus, the FLC will be carried out at the first floor of the Old Collectorate Building, opposite MMC Garden, Margao, under the supervision of concerned officials and in accordance with guidelines issued by the Election Commission of

India.

During the exercise, EVMs and VVPAT machines will undergo prescribed technical checks and verification by authorised engineers and technical personnel in the presence of representatives of recognised political parties.

All recognised political parties are being informed separately about the FLC schedule and have been requested to depute their authorised representatives to remain present during the process.

The FLC is a preparatory exercise aimed at ensuring the proper functioning and readiness of EVMs and VVPATs ahead of their deployment for the 2027 Goa Assembly elections.



Physical Ration Card Not Mandatory For Foodgrain Quota, Says Ponda Civil Supplies Office

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Beneficiaries of the public distribution system in Ponda taluka do not need to produce their physical ration cards to collect their monthly foodgrain quota if their Aadhaar-based authentication is successfully completed, the Office of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs has clarified.

In a notice dated August 13, the Ponda Taluka Civil Supplies office said it had received complaints that certain Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers were insisting that beneficiaries produce their physical ration cards while issuing the monthly foodgrain quota. The office clarified that beneficiary data is fully digitised and that verification at FPSs is carried out through Aadhaar-based authentication. Beneficiaries are therefore entitled to receive their monthly quota by furnishing their Aadhaar details and cannot be compelled to produce the physical ration card where Aadhaar authentication is successfully completed.

Panaji Traffic Diversions Announced For Independence Day Celebrations

■ D.B.B. Marg To Remain Closed In Phases From August 13; Commuters Advised To Follow Alternate Routes

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Traffic diversions have been announced in Panaji in view of the Independence Day celebrations scheduled at the Old Secretariat on August 15, with restrictions coming into effect from August 13 and continuing through August 15.

According to a press note issued by the Traffic Headquarters, Altinho-



Panaji, the stretch of D.B.B. Marg from Ferry Wharf Junction to Bandonkar Statue will be closed for vehicular movement on August 13 from 6 am until the Independence Day rehearsal is completed.

On August 14, the

left lane of D.B.B. Marg from Bandonkar Statue to Abade Faria Statue will remain closed from 6 am onwards for the erection of the pandal.

Further, both lanes of D.B.B. Marg between Ferry Wharf Junction and Bandonkar Statue will be closed to vehicular traffic from 8 pm on August 14 until the Independence Day function concludes on August 15.

Delhi Master Plan 2047 Approved: 40 Lakh New Homes, Rental Housing and Yamuna Floodplain Reforms

■ DDA's long term blueprint focuses on affordable housing, Metro linked development, redevelopment of ageing colonies and stricter planning for the Yamuna's ecologically sensitive zone

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has approved the Master Plan for Delhi 2047, a comprehensive roadmap that aims to address the capital's growing housing demand through affordable homes, rental accommodation, redevelopment of older neighbourhoods and better planned urban expansion.

The proposal will now be sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for final approval.

The master plan estimates that Delhi will require nearly 40 lakh additional homes by 2047 as the city's population rises and average household sizes continue to shrink. To meet this demand, the plan promotes compact homes ranging from 25 to



60 square metres, making housing more accessible for middle income families, students and young professionals.

A major focus is the creation of 30 lakh housing units through land pooling and development around Metro and public transport corridors. The blueprint also encourages rental housing, including student hostels, shared dormitories and dedicated accommodation for workers, with incentives proposed for private

developers.

The plan also prioritises the redevelopment of ageing residential areas, including old DDA colonies, cooperative housing societies, resettlement colonies and employer provided housing. Many two storey DDA homes built over five decades ago could be reconstructed with modern infrastructure while allowing residents to remain within established neighbourhoods.

Beyond central Delhi, the Master Plan identifies emerging growth corridors such as Narela, Bawana, Najafgarh and Dwarka, supported by improved connectivity through Urban Extension Road II and expanding transport networks. Higher Floor Area Ratio norms within 500 metres of Metro, RRTS and railway stations are expected to encourage denser, transit oriented development.

The blueprint also introduces revised rules for the Yamuna floodplain by separating the riverbed from the outer floodplain. While permanent urban construction will remain restricted, the outer zone may accommodate recreational projects, including a proposed 52 kilometre cycling track, balancing environmental protection with carefully managed public use.

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Goa CM Gives Police Full Authority To Act Firmly Against Offenders

enforcement personnel must demonstrate strong and decisive policing whenever individuals attempt to overpower or interfere with them.

Sawant also emphasised that there should be no tolerance for acts that undermine police authority or disrupt the discharge of official duties.

Goa Unveils New Land Development And Building Regulations

engineering units have been prohibited. Commercial activities along main streets are subject to restrictions, including a limit of 50% of the proposed covered area and restrictions on roads narrower than eight metres.

The amended regulations also state that professional offices,

including IT and IT-enabled services operating from residences, cannot exceed 10% of the carpet area where the property is located on a road less than 10 metres wide.

In commercial zones, including SPC, C1 Special, C1, C2, C3 and C4, extensive heavy or noxious industries and gas works have been prohibited. The regulations also prescribe minimum plot sizes and frontage requirements for establishments such as hospitals, cinemas and hotels.

For industrial zones (I-1, I-2 and I-3), noxious, hazardous and heavy operations are prohibited in restricted areas. However, auxiliary facilities such as staff housing, canteens and administrative offices are permitted up to 15% of the permissible Floor Area Ratio (FAR) or built-up area.

In agricultural zones (A1 and A2), non-agricultural uses continue to be prohibited, with specified exemptions for activities such as

irrigation, farmhouses and agro-processing units.

Goa Government Declares Snakebite A Notifiable Disease

snakebite to the public health authorities.

The move is expected to improve the accuracy of data on snakebite incidents and fatalities across Goa, helping authorities identify areas where the incidence of snakebites is higher.

The health department can also use the data to plan and optimise the availability and distribution of anti-snake venom (ASV), along with other emergency medical supplies and services.

The notification is further expected to help authorities strengthen emergency response mechanisms, identify high-risk geographical areas and undertake targeted public awareness measures to reduce snakebite-related deaths and complications.



Independence Day 2026: Tricolour Hoisting Rules Every Citizen Should Know

■ Follow the Flag Code of India to ensure the National Flag is displayed with dignity and respect on August 15

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: As India celebrates its 80th Independence Day on August 15, citizens across the country will proudly hoist the National Flag at homes, schools, offices and public institutions. The Tiranga is a symbol of the nation's freedom, unity and sacrifice, and its display is governed by the Flag Code of India to ensure it is treated with the highest respect.

On Independence Day, the National Flag is hoisted from the bottom of the flagpole to the

“When Will You Grow Up?” BJP Hits Back at Rahul Gandhi Over PM Modi ‘Hug’ Remark

■ Political row erupts after Rahul Gandhi mocks the Prime Minister’s foreign policy, with BJP leaders accusing him of lowering the dignity of public discourse.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A fresh political confrontation has broken out between the BJP and Congress after Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s foreign policy during a party convention, prompting sharp criticism from several senior BJP



leaders. Speaking at the Rachnatmak Congress National Convention, Rahul Gandhi claimed that the Prime Minister’s

approach to diplomacy revolved around embracing foreign leaders. To illustrate his point, he staged a hug with Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit on stage and suggested that symbolic gestures had been reduced to the essence of India’s foreign policy. He also described the BJP and RSS as a

“bunch of jokers” with no understanding of India.

The remarks triggered an immediate response from the ruling party. Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi questioned Gandhi’s political maturity, saying that governing a country requires responsible leadership rather than theatrical performances.



“We Recall the Courage”: PM Modi Pays Tribute on Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

■ Leaders honour the victims of the 1947 Partition and call for unity, harmony and a stronger India

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday observed Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, paying tribute to the millions affected by the 1947 Partition and remembering the resilience of those who rebuilt their lives after enduring immense suffering and displacement. In his message, the Prime Minister said the Partition tore apart countless families, uprooted communities and left behind deep emotional and human loss.

He noted that despite unimaginable hardship, survivors overcame adversity, rebuilt from nothing and made significant contributions to India’s growth. He

said their journeys reflect the extraordinary strength of the human spirit and urged citizens to strengthen harmony, brotherhood and the collective vision of a Viksit Bharat. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also honoured the victims, describing August 14, 1947, as one of the darkest chapters in history.

He recalled the widespread violence, loss of life and mass displacement that forced millions to abandon their homes, livelihoods and loved ones. Shah said the tragedy remains an enduring scar and stressed the importance of preserving its memory so future generations remain committed to national unity and the ideal of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.



7 Arrested in Jharkhand Exam Scam as CID Intensifies JPSC Probe

Team Goemkarponn

RANCHI: The Jharkhand Crime Investigation Department (CID) has arrested seven people after conducting coordinated raids across multiple districts in connection with the alleged Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) examination scam.

Delhi on High Alert After Bomb Threats Target IGI Airport, Red Fort and High Court

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Delhi was placed on high alert on Friday after multiple bomb threats were reported across the National Capital Region, just a day before Independence Day celebrations. The threats targeted several prominent locations, including Indira Gandhi International Airport Terminal 3, the Red Fort, Delhi High Court and multiple government offices.

“It’s Between the Students and Me”: CJI Rebukes Bar Council Over NALSAR Circular

■ Supreme Court seeks BCI’s response and directs that no punitive action be taken against NALSAR students or faculty

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice Surya Kanta Mishra strongly criticised the Bar Council of India’s (BCI) directive that temporarily barred the enrolment of NALSAR University’s 2026 law graduates, calling the move “absolutely uncalled for” and questioning the Council’s interference in a matter involving students and the judiciary.

The controversy began after the BCI issued a circular instructing all



in the university’s convocation ceremony. The order also sought a report from the Vice Chancellor identifying those who had initiated or organised the campaign.

Hearing the matter, the Chief Justice remarked that student protests were a normal part of academic life and recalled his own experience

of participating in demonstrations during his student years. He made it clear that the issue was a dialogue between him and the students, not one for the Bar Council to intervene in.

The Supreme Court has now sought a formal response from the BCI regarding its circulars and directed that no punitive action be taken against NALSAR students or faculty members while the matter is under consideration.

US Flags India as Tier 1 Hub in China Tariff Evasion Crackdown

■ Washington says India is among the largest global trade hubs at risk of Chinese transshipment as AI powered border enforcement is rolled out

VVS Laxman Set to Become BCCI's First Director of Cricket

■ New role places Laxman above Gautam Gambhir and Ajit Agarkar in the cricketing hierarchy while linking India's entire talent pathway

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Former India batter VVS Laxman is set to be appointed as the BCCI's first Director of Cricket, a newly created position that will place him at the top of India's cricket operations and strengthen the board's long term player development structure. Laxman, who currently heads the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE), is also expected to receive a two



year contract extension. While he will continue overseeing rehabilitation programmes, junior cricket and talent pathways for both men's and women's teams, his expanded responsibilities will now include greater oversight



of coaching structures, staff appointments and the overall cricketing ecosystem.

The new designation is designed to create a unified system connecting every level of Indian cricket, from youth development and domestic

pathways to the senior national teams. It marks a significant organisational shift, with Laxman becoming the key figure responsible for ensuring consistency in talent identification, player progression and high performance planning.

The appointment effectively places Laxman above Team India head coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar in the administrative hierarchy. However, sources indicate that the change does not affect their immediate positions.



India Withdraw from FIFA ASEAN Cup to Prioritise Brazil Friendly

■ AIFF opts out of the inaugural tournament as the national team prepares for a blockbuster clash against five time world champions Brazil

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has withdrawn the Indian men's football team from the inaugural FIFA ASEAN Cup, choosing to prioritise its high profile international friendly against Brazil scheduled for October 3 in Kolkata.

AIFF deputy secretary general M Satyanarayanan confirmed that the federation decided it was not possible to participate in both competitions due to overlapping schedules. The move means India will miss the FIFA sanctioned tournament despite having previously accepted an invitation to compete as one of the non ASEAN nations.

India had been placed in Division 1 Group A alongside

Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, with the tournament set to be held during the September 21 to October 6 FIFA international window. However, the confirmed fixture against Brazil at Salt Lake Stadium created a direct scheduling conflict, prompting the federation to withdraw.

The AIFF had earlier explored the possibility of sending a developmental squad to the ASEAN Cup while the senior team prepared for Brazil. It has now decided to use the international window to arrange additional friendly matches instead, with reports suggesting that Cabo Verde and Iran are among the teams being considered as potential opponents, although no official confirmation has been made.

TTFI Urges Sports Ministry to Reconsider Suspension, Says Deficiencies Were Already Resolved

■ Federation cites Olympic Charter, seeks August 12 order to be kept in abeyance while governance dispute is reviewed

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) has appealed to the Union Sports Ministry to reconsider its decision suspending the federation's recognition, arguing that the shortcomings cited in the order were either factually incorrect or had already been remedied before the show cause notice was issued.

In a statement issued by TTFI president Meghna



Ahlawat, the federation requested that the ministry keep its August 12 suspension order in abeyance and review the matter afresh. The federation also stressed that its autonomy, as recognised under the Olympic Charter and the statutes of the

International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), must remain protected from third party interference

The Sports Ministry had withdrawn TTFI's recognition on Wednesday, citing governance lapses, including its failure to conduct elections within the prescribed timeline. It also directed the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to appoint an ad hoc committee to oversee the sport until further notice. TTFI maintained that it

is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and that its administration is governed by its constitution and general body. The federation said it had submitted a detailed reply to the ministry on July 7, supported by meeting minutes, resolutions and audited records, explaining that the issues raised had either been resolved or required factual clarification.

FIH Hockey World Cup 2026: Men's and Women's Editions Set for Historic Double Showpiece

■ Belgium and the Netherlands co host the 16th edition, with 16 teams in each tournament and a brand new competition format

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 is set to make history as both the Men's and Women's World Cups are staged simultaneously in Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to August 30. Featuring 16 teams in each competition, the tournament introduces a fresh two stage league format before the knockout rounds, promising more high



intensity matches on the road to the world title. Reigning men's champions Germany return to defend the crown they won in India in 2023