



‘Chanda Chor Bhavan’ Row: Sawant, Tanavade Fire Back At Congress

■ ‘Built With Workers’ Contributions, Not Chanda Chori’: BJP Leaders Defend New Goa Office

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: The BJP has hit back strongly at Congress over its “Chanda Chor Bhavan” jibe at the party’s newly constructed Goa office, with Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant and Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade defending the building



as a result of workers’ contributions and hard work. Sawant said Congress should stop making such statements, asserting that the BJP had built its office through its own efforts. He

questioned the credibility of a party that, according to him, had failed to take care of both the country and its own organisation. Tanavade said the BJP office was made possible through the “tireless work” and contributions of party workers. He said the land was purchased and its foundation stone laid

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Congress Calls BJP ‘Bhrasht Janta Party’, Questions Funding Of Newly Built Party Headquarters

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PANAJI: Goa Congress has launched a sharp political attack on the BJP over its newly constructed party office, dubbing it

“Chanda Chori Bhavan” and questioning the source of funds used for the building. In a social media post, Congress mocked the

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Shivaji Statue To Be Relocated From MPA Land, Govt Tells HC

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PANAJI: The Goa government has informed the High Court that it has, in principle, agreed to relocate the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj installed on Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) property at Sada. The statement was made during the hearing of the matter concerning the installation of the statue on MPA land. The government informed the court that the process of identifying a suitable site on government land is underway. According to the government, two to three potential sites have been identified for the relocation. However, no final decision has been taken so far. The High Court granted the Goa government time to finalise a suitable site and directed it to place the decision before the court at the next hearing. The matter has been adjourned to August 25.

Congress Awaits GFP Clarity Before Moving Ahead With Alliance Talks

■ Chodankar says talks with AAP and RGP likely today or tomorrow; questions alleged casino funding for BJP office

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Girish Chodankar said discussions with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) are expected to be held either today or tomorrow. He said the earlier meeting could not take place as RGP leaders Viresh Borkar and Valmiki Naik were busy. However, with the Goa Forward Party (GFP) yet to take a decision on

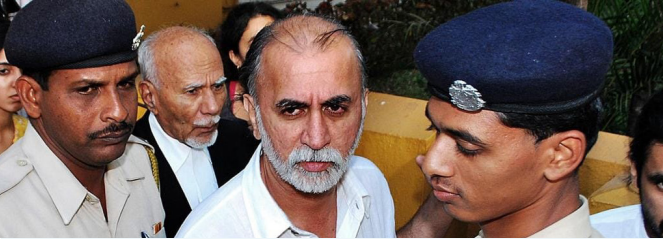


its alliance, Congress is awaiting clarity from the party before moving ahead with broader alliance discussions. Chodankar also alleged that a former

BJP office-bearer currently holding a senior government position helped secure a casino donation for the BJP’s new party office. Questioning the alleged funding, he asked the BJP to clarify how much “share” it had received from the casino. Taking a dig at the BJP, Chodankar suggested that the new party office could instead be described as “Casino Bhawan”, while demanding transparency over the source of the alleged contribution.

Tarun Tejpal Moves SC Against Conviction

Former Tehelka editor challenges High Court verdict sentencing him to 10 years’ rigorous imprisonment



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Tarun Tejpal, former editor-in-chief of Tehelka magazine, has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme

Court challenging his conviction and 10-year prison sentence in a 2013 rape case. The petition challenges the judgment of the High Court dated August 6,

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India Removes Structures Outside Pakistan High Commission In Reciprocal Diplomatic Move

■ Action in New Delhi comes three days after Pakistan dismantled security barricades outside the Indian High Commission in Islamabad

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A section of structures outside the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi was demolished on Thursday after authorities found them to be beyond the diplomatic mission’s approved boundary. The move comes just three days after Pakistani authorities removed protective security barricades outside the



Indian High Commission in Islamabad, adding to the latest round of diplomatic tensions between the two neighbours. Officials said the operation was carried out by the concerned civic agencies using a JCB machine. ▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

‘We Are Gen Z’ Is the New ‘Jaante Ho Mera Baap Kaun Hai’: Omar Abdullah Slams Ladakh Tourist’s Viral Rant

■ Viral confrontation at a Kargil checkpoint sparks backlash over entitlement, security restrictions and respect for armed forces

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A heated confrontation between a female tourist and security personnel at the Minimarg checkpoint in Ladakh has gone viral, triggering a nationwide debate on public behaviour, border security and the misuse of generational identity. The incident, which took place in July in Kargil’s sensitive border region, drew a sharp reaction



from Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Sharing the viral video on social media, Abdullah wrote, “This ‘We are Gen Z’ has become the new ‘Jaante ho mera baap kaun hai’.” He added that

the quickest way to erode the goodwill associated with Gen Z is to use the phrase as a threat whenever faced with a perceived inconvenience. The video shows the woman arguing aggressively with security personnel after traffic was halted for nearly five hours.

Was Priol Road Built on the Shahjahan Model?

There is something deeply troubling when a newly constructed road develops serious defects within just eight months and the immediate response is to explain why it should not be considered a major failure.

MLA Govind Gaude has defended the road, saying that the affected portion involved around 15 to 18 metres of earth filling over a stretch of nearly 200 metres and that some settlement can occur, particularly during heavy rainfall. He has also pointed out that engineers and the contractor are responsible for rectification during the defect liability period.

Fine. But that raises an even bigger question. Why should taxpayers have to accept a defective road in the first place?

If a road is properly designed, engineered and constructed, normal monsoon rainfall cannot automatically become an excuse for substantial settlement within eight months. Goa receives heavy rain every year. Monsoon conditions are not an unexpected natural phenomenon that suddenly arrived after the tender was awarded. The argument that corrective work is being carried out under the defect liability period is also not enough. That provision exists precisely because contractors are expected to rectify defects for which they are responsible. It does not mean the public should celebrate the fact that a defective project can be repaired at the contractor's cost.

The bigger issue is accountability.

Before defending the contractor, the government should tell the public exactly what went wrong. Was the soil properly tested before the earth filling? Was adequate compaction carried out? Were the drainage arrangements scientifically designed? Was the material used according to specifications? Were the layers compacted and tested

"If a road is properly designed, engineered and constructed, normal monsoon rainfall cannot automatically become an excuse for substantial settlement within eight months. Goa receives heavy rain every year. Monsoon conditions are not an unexpected natural phenomenon that suddenly arrived after the tender was awarded."

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properly? Did the supervising engineers certify the work at every stage?

These are not political questions. They are basic engineering questions.

Gaude has rightly said that facts should be verified before conclusions are drawn. We agree. But verification must apply equally to the government. The administration should make the technical inspection report public instead of expecting citizens to simply accept assurances.

There is also a dangerous tendency in Goa to normalise failures in public infrastructure. When a road develops cracks, we blame rain. When a retaining wall fails, we blame soil. When a structure develops defects, we blame unforeseen circumstances. Eventually, responsibility becomes

everybody's except the person who designed, approved, supervised or constructed the project. That is where the comparison with the Shahjahan model, popularly associated with the Kala Academy controversy, becomes relevant as a question of governance, not as a technical conclusion about this particular road. The public has already seen how questions surrounding a major public project can continue for years while accountability remains blurred.

Goa cannot afford another culture where defective infrastructure is defended first and investigated later.

If the road has genuinely suffered only from unavoidable settlement because of exceptional circumstances, let an independent technical assessment establish that fact. If poor workmanship, inadequate compaction, faulty drainage or defective construction is responsible, the contractor and those responsible for supervision must be held accountable.

And if the contractor is responsible under the defect liability clause, the government must ensure that the repairs are carried out properly, inspected independently and documented publicly.

The public is not asking for a witch hunt. It is asking for competence. Goans pay taxes for roads that are safe, durable and built according to engineering standards. They should not be expected to pay again through inconvenience, traffic disruption and repeated repairs because someone failed to get the original work right. The question therefore is not whether 15 metres or 18 metres of earth filling has settled.

The question is much bigger.

How can a road fail within eight months, and why is the first instinct to defend the project rather than demand answers?

Goa needs roads that withstand the monsoon, not explanations that collapse with them.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Goa Cannot Afford a Curtailed Democracy

Goa's Monsoon Session of the Assembly is not merely a constitutional formality. It is the most important platform available to elected representatives to question the government, demand accountability and bring people's concerns into the House. The decision to curtail the session therefore deserves serious scrutiny.

Opposition Leader Yuri Alemão's description of the move as a "murder of democracy" may sound politically sharp, but the larger question cannot be dismissed. If issues raised before the Public Accounts Committee include alleged irregularities and corruption, the government should welcome a detailed debate rather than a shortened legislative session.

Goa is facing challenges that cannot be brushed aside. The rapid sale of land, unemployment, rising prices, pollution and the growing drug menace are matters affecting ordinary Goans. The allegation that drugs are reaching homes, schools and even areas near police establishments should be particularly worrying. A low conviction rate in drug cases, if established, also demands an explanation from the authorities.

At the same time, political parties must ensure that such serious issues are not reduced to election rhetoric. The government has a responsibility to answer questions with facts, while the Opposition must present evidence and constructive alternatives. Goa's future cannot be protected through slogans alone. Whether it is land, jobs, the environment or drugs, people need action and accountability.

Goa's democracy must have enough time to speak.

- Prashant Usgaonkar, Tisk, Usgao

Goa Must Make Accessibility a Goan Habit

Goa's decision to strictly enforce reserved parking spaces for persons with disabilities is welcome and long overdue. For too long, designated parking spaces have been treated by some motorists as convenient spots rather than facilities meant for people who genuinely need them.

The Transport Department's directive under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, makes the position clear. Reserved spaces must be properly marked, signposted and located close to accessible entrances. Unauthorised parking must attract penalties.

But a circular alone will not change behaviour. Government offices, local bodies and public institutions must ensure that the rules are actually enforced. Regular inspections and prompt action against violators are essential.

The fines of ₹500 for the first offence and ₹1,500 for subsequent offences can act as a deterrent. However, enforcement should go hand in hand with public awareness. A person who occupies a disabled parking space for "just five minutes" may see it as a minor inconvenience, but for a person with a disability, it can create a serious barrier to accessing an office or public facility.

Goa prides itself on being a welcoming and progressive state. That image must also be reflected in how we treat our most vulnerable citizens. For every Goemkar, respecting a reserved parking space should be a matter of basic civic sense, not fear of a fine.

An inclusive Goa will not be built through government orders alone. It will be built when every Goemkar understands that accessibility is a right, and respecting that right is our collective responsibility.

- Jude Fereira, Assagao

Court Grants Bail To Meshu D'Costa And Dattaraj Raut Dessai In Sanguem Police Station Case

■ Goa Forward Leaders Get Relief In Case Alleging Threats And Obstruction Of Police Personnel On Duty

Team Goemkarponn

SANGUEM: Goa Forward leaders Meshu D'Costa and Dattaraj Raut Dessai have been granted bail in connection with a case arising from an alleged confrontation with police personnel at the Sanguem Police Station. The duo had been arrested by Sanguem Police in connection with allegations of threatening



and obstructing police personnel while they were performing their duties. The case has been registered under Sections 132, 221, 351 and 189 read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The South

Goa Sessions Court had earlier rejected anticipatory bail applications filed by D'Costa and four others, observing that there was a prima facie case indicating aggressive, confrontational and intimidating conduct. According to the complaint filed by PSI Pradhyumna Keny, the accused allegedly arrived at the police station and engaged with police personnel in a manner that amounted

to threats and obstruction of official duties. The prosecution had opposed the bail pleas, referring to notices issued under Section 35(3) and video footage of the incident. The court had also taken note of the video recording, observing that the interaction appeared to escalate into violence and that such conduct could undermine the authority of the police.



People Say Congress Will Do Hatrick In Defections: Vijai Sardesai

■ GFP chief calls for Opposition unity, questions education spending and seeks job security for 305 COVID-era recruits

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Goa Forward Party (GFP) chief and MLA Vijai Sardesai said people are apprehensive that Congress could "do a hatrick" in defections, while stressing the need for Opposition unity and a credible alternative ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

Sardesai said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks indicated that the party needs to unite first. He said people are looking for a stable political alternative and that the Opposition must have an alternative policy mechanism ready before seeking to form the government.

Sardesai alleged that government funds were being spent on

events and posters instead of being utilised to strengthen basic education infrastructure.

He alleged that government primary schools were being shut down while private schools were being promoted. Referring to the "Cockroach Gen Z" campaign, Sardesai said the youth were reminding the government about its failures in the education sector.

Sardesai also raised the issue of 305 employees recruited by the government during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the employees had supported the government during the crisis but now faced uncertainty over their job security. According to Sardesai, they had been assured regularisation.



HC Sets August 28 Deadline To Demolish 'Murgao Cha Raja' Shed

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has given the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) until August 28 to remove a shed standing on Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) land at Headland-Sada, bringing renewed focus to a demolition order that dates back to 2011.

The direction came during the hearing of a contempt petition filed by the MPA, which alleged that the earlier court order had not been implemented despite repeated assurances. The court has also instructed the MMC Chief Officer to disconnect the electricity connection to the structure within three days. The officer has been directed to appear personally before the Bench on September 1 in connection with the failure to comply with the court's directions. The structure, situated at Chalta No. 1 of PT Sheet No. 7 at Headland-Sada, is locally known as "Murgao Cha Raja." Residents have been using the shed for Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations for more than 15 years.

Police Administration Involved In Drug Trade, Claims Viresh Borkar

■ RGP MLA alleges Home Department support for drug activities inside Central Jail; says alliance talks to begin soon

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: RGP MLA Viresh Borkar has alleged that the police administration is involved in the drug trade, claiming that the availability of drugs inside the Central Jail is not a new issue and that such activities have allegedly been continuing for years.

Borkar further alleged that the Home Department is supporting such activities inside the jail.

On the political front, Borkar said official talks



on a possible alliance would begin soon. He said he would welcome the letter sent by Girish Chodankar once the latter's commitment is fulfilled. "We are ready to hold talks on an alliance," Borkar said.

Borkar also spoke about the party's organisational activities, saying meetings are currently underway.

He said the State President would soon be appointed, followed by the formation of the Executive Committee and other party committees.

Responding to a question about former RGP chief Manoj Parab's birthday, Borkar said he did not wish Parab as he was busy throughout the day.

Bombay HC Gives Relief To Gaurav Bakshi, Quashes Criminal Case

■ Court Says Intention To File Vigilance Complaint Or Take Legal Action Does Not Amount To Criminal Intimidation

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has granted relief to actor-turned-activist Gaurav Bakshi by cancelling the criminal case registered against him over an alleged confrontation with an official of the Tiswadi Mamlatdar's office.

Justice Amit Jamsandekar, hearing the matter on



Wednesday, quashed the FIR lodged by Panaji Police on December 12, 2025, as well as the chargesheet and proceedings before the Judicial Magistrate First

Class at Mercus.

The complaint stemmed from a dispute concerning a land-conversion file. The government official had alleged that Bakshi used abusive language, threatened him and caused a disturbance at the office.

The prosecution claimed Bakshi had told the official that he would "show" him and would ensure that he lost his job

by approaching vigilance authorities.

After examining the allegations, the High Court found that they did not establish the kind of threat required to constitute criminal intimidation. The Bench observed that there was no specific allegation that Bakshi threatened harm to the official's person, reputation or property, nor was there material showing that the complainant was put in

immediate fear.

The court held that a person's statement about taking recourse to a lawful process, including approaching vigilance authorities, cannot automatically be treated as a threat of injury. It therefore concluded that the requirements for an offence under Section 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita were not satisfied.

₹40 Lakh Property Fraud Case: Crime Branch Arrests Tarak Arolkar

■ Accused allegedly posed as authorised property owner and showed forged Sale Deed to induce complainant to pay ₹40 lakh

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: The Crime Branch has arrested Tarak M. Arolkar of Pedem, Mapusa, in connection with an alleged property fraud involving ₹40 lakh.

According to the complaint filed by Pankaj Bajaj, Arolkar allegedly represented himself as the owner and sole authorised person to transact property bearing Survey No. 37/4 at Assagao, Bardez.

He allegedly assured



the complainant that the property had a clear and marketable title and induced him to pay ₹40 lakh towards execution of a Sale Deed.

Despite receiving the

amount, Arolkar allegedly failed to execute and register the Sale Deed and subsequently avoided the complainant.

Further inquiries allegedly revealed that

Arolkar was neither the owner nor an MOU holder of the property.

The Sale Deed shown to the complainant was also allegedly found to be forged and fabricated.

The Crime Branch registered Crime No. 85/2026 on August 17, 2026, under Sections 420, 406, 467, 468 and 471 of the IPC.

Arolkar has been placed under arrest in the case. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Amin A. Naik.



1.58 Kg Ganja Worth ₹1.60 Lakh Seized In Colvale, Man Arrested

■ Colvale Police conduct narcotics raid based on specific information; accused booked under NDPS Act

Team Goemkarponn

COLVALE: Colvale Police arrested a 27-year-old man after allegedly recovering 1.580 kg of suspected ganja, valued at approximately ₹1.60 lakh, during a narcotics raid at Housing Board, Colvale, Bardez.

According to police, the raid was conducted between 2.22 am and 3.50 am on August 19, 2026, near the Dattatray Temple following specific and reliable information.

The accused has been identified as Saish, son of Gangaram Sawant, a resident of Bamanwado, Karaswada, Bardez. Police said the accused was allegedly found in illegal possession of dried greenish-coloured

leafy and flowery substances with seeds and stalks, suspected to be ganja. The suspected narcotic substance, along with other articles, was seized under a panchanama.

Colvale Police registered Crime No. 68/2026 under Section 20(b)(ii)(B) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. The accused was arrested at 5.05 am on August 19, 2026. Police said all Supreme Court guidelines were duly followed and the accused's family was informed about his arrest. Further investigation is being carried out by Investigating Officer PSI Ramchandra L. Satelkar.



Security Guard Accused Of Stealing ₹11 Lakh Construction Material In Cuncolim

Team Goemkarponn

CUNCOLIM: Cuncolim Police have registered a theft case after construction materials worth approximately ₹11 lakh were allegedly stolen from a factory at the IDC, Cuncolim.

According to the complaint filed by Pravin Kakode, owner of Upgrade Enterprises factory at IDC, Cuncolim, the theft occurred prior to August 8, 2026, at the factory premises. Police said the accused, identified as Ratan Kumar Parida, a native of Odisha and an employee of the factory working as a security guard, allegedly committed the theft along with his friend Deepak Nishad, whose address is not known. The duo allegedly acted with a common intention and stole construction materials kept in the factory's store room. The stolen materials are estimated to be worth around ₹11 lakh. Further investigation in the case is being conducted by PSI Sahil Pagui of Cuncolim Police.

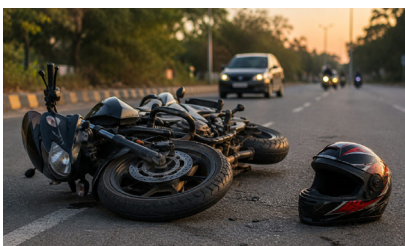
Motorcyclist And Pedestrian Injured In Kesarval Road Accident

■ Pulsar rider allegedly drove rashly and hit pedestrian crossing road at Cortalim

Team Goemkarponn

CORTALIM: A motorcyclist and a pedestrian sustained grievous injuries in a road accident at Kesarval, Cortalim, on August 16, 2026.

According to the complaint filed by HC Sudesh Kumar Desai of Verna Police Station, the accident occurred around 6.15 pm when accused rider Aniket Deore, a resident of Cortalim and native of



Dhule, Maharashtra, was travelling on his Pulsar motorcycle from Titan Junction, Verna, towards Panaji. Police said that upon reaching Kesarval, Cortalim, Deore allegedly rode the motorcycle in a rash and negligent manner and

dashed against a pedestrian, identified as Ajay Kumar, a native of Uttar Pradesh, who was crossing the road. Following the impact, Ajay Kumar

fell onto the tar road and sustained grievous injuries. The motorcycle rider also fell along with the vehicle and suffered grievous injuries. Further investigation is being conducted by HC 5767 Sudesh Kumar Desai of Verna Police Station.

Car Hits Motorcycle In Quepem, Two Injured

■ Car allegedly rammed into bike while overtaking another vehicle at Kusman

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: Two persons sustained injuries after a Tata Nexon allegedly collided with a Honda Shine motorcycle at Kusman, Quepem, on August 15, 2026.

According to the complaint filed by Sankalp Gaonkar of Quepem, the incident occurred around 12.30 pm when accused driver Vasant Lamani, a resident of Haveri, Karnataka, was driving the Tata Nexon from Guddi towards



Quepem.

Police said that upon reaching Kusman, Lamani allegedly drove

the vehicle in a rash and negligent manner while overtaking another vehicle and dashed

against the Honda Shine motorcycle being ridden by Sankalp Gaonkar, who was travelling with his father, Dilip Gaonkar. Due to the impact, Sankalp and his father fell onto the roadside and sustained bodily injuries.

Further investigation is being conducted by ASI Sandeep Velip of Quepem Police Station.

Mapusa Police Solve Moira Hit-And-Run, Driver Arrested

Team Goemkarponn

MOIRA: Mapusa Police have solved the blind accident case at Moira that claimed the life of 34-year-old security guard Jony Anthonio, a resident of the area.

Anthonio was allegedly hit by an unidentified vehicle while he was walking home in Moira. He sustained serious injuries and later succumbed to his injuries.

Following the incident, Mapusa Police launched an investigation to trace the vehicle and identify the driver involved.

Curtailing Monsoon Session Is Murder Of Democracy: Yuri Alemao

■ Opposition Leader raises concerns over land sales, unemployment, prices, pollution and growing drug menace in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Opposition Leader Yuri Alemao has criticised the decision to curtail the Monsoon Session of the Goa Assembly, terming it a “murder of democracy”.

Speaking about discussions at the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting, Alemao said several issues, including alleged irregularities and corruption under the “double-engine



government”, were raised.

“We will not allow Goa to be sold, nor will we allow the BJP to win the

2027 Assembly elections,” Alemao said.

The Opposition Leader also raised concerns over the growing sale of land in Goa, unemployment, rising prices and pollution. He alleged that the government

has failed to adequately address these issues.

Alemao further expressed concern over the spread of the drug

menace, alleging that drugs have reached homes, schools and even areas close to police establishments.

He questioned the effectiveness of the government’s efforts to control the drug menace and highlighted what he described as a low conviction rate in drug-related cases.

Alemao warned that the expanding drug culture poses a serious threat to Goa’s youth and the future of the state.



Akhand Damodar Bhajani Saptah Concludes With Samapti Rituals And Shreefal Immersion

■ Devotees gather in large numbers as traditional procession culminates with immersion of previous year’s Shreefal at Kharewado

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: The religious rituals of the Akhand Damodar Bhajani Saptah concluded on Wednesday afternoon with the traditional Samapti rituals and immersion of the previous year’s anointed Shreefal (coconut) in the Arabian Sea at Kharewado.

A large number of devotees from across Goa gathered at the temple premises to witness the culmination of the spiritual observance, which is marked by 24 hours of non-stop bhajan

performances by various groups.

The Samapti began with a grand procession carrying the Shreefal, led by Damodar Narvekar and his family, who have been entrusted with the immersion ritual for several years. Speaking to the media, Narvekar said the Samapti was conducted on a grand scale this year, with a large number of devotees participating.

He said the Shreefal would be immersed in the Arabian Sea at Kharewado, marking the conclusion of the religious observance.



Goa Transport Dept Directs Strict Compliance On Reserved Parking For Persons With Disabilities

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Transport, Government of Goa, has directed all government offices, departments, autonomous bodies, corporations, local bodies and other government establishments to ensure strict compliance with provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, concerning reserved parking spaces for persons with disabilities (PwDs). The circular, dated August 13, 2026, was issued following a suo motu order dated July 17, 2026, by the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa. It calls for effective implementation of provisions relating to accessibility and reserved parking facilities for PwDs. As per the directions, parking spaces reserved exclusively for persons with disabilities must be clearly demarcated with prescribed signage and road markings. These spaces are also required to be located as close as practicable to accessible building entrances and provided with the necessary access aisle.

PWD Minister Digambar Kamat Inaugurates Special Stall For Persons With Disabilities At Saptah Fair

■ Initiative by Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar aims to ensure inclusive and accessible participation in Damodar Saptah festivities

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: PWD Minister Digambar Kamat inaugurated a special stall for persons with disabilities at the ongoing Damodar Saptah Fair in Vasco, in the presence of Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar, Siddesh Shripad Naik and other dignitaries.

The initiative, facilitated by MLA Krishna Salkar, aims to ensure that persons with disabilities



can participate in the Saptah festivities with dignity and without facing difficulties. The stall has been provided with necessary space and facilities, with Salkar personally bearing the expenses for the

arrangements. Speaking on the occasion, Kamat appreciated Salkar’s efforts and said such initiatives were important to ensure that public festivals and religious events remain accessible to everyone.

Goa Unveils 450+ Apprenticeship Opportunities At Farmagudi ITI

■ Apprenticeship Mela brings 25+ companies together to connect youth with industry opportunities and practical training

Team Goemkarponn

FARMAGUDI: The Directorate of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of Goa, organised an Apprenticeship Mela at Farmagudi Government ITI on August 19, bringing together aspiring candidates and industry representatives to expand access to apprenticeship and career opportunities.



The Mela saw participation from more than 25 companies and establishments, offering over 450 apprenticeship vacancies across various trades and sectors.

The initiative provided candidates with an opportunity to interact directly with industry representatives, understand industry requirements and explore career pathways suited to their qualifications and skills. The programme was attended by Akshay Shirwaikar, Principal (Senior Scale), Farmagudi Government ITI and Assistant Director

(Training); Subhash Redkar, Assistant Apprenticeship Advisor; Sneha Pritesh Hazare, Assistant Director (Training), State Apprenticeship Monitoring Cell (SAMC); Sneha Harmalkar and Gajanan Naik, Group Instructors at Farmagudi Government ITI; Rosario Baptista, Surveyor; Lizetta Vaz, Industry Representative; and a representative of the apprentice candidates.

AAP's Sandesh Telekar-Dessai Launches Campaign In Vasco, Mormugao

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa Senior Vice President Sandesh Telekar-Dessai, along with State President Valmiki Naik, sought blessings at the Shri Damodar Saptah in Vasco and announced the beginning of the party’s campaign to strengthen its presence across Vasco and the entire Mormugao taluka.



Goa International Trade Fair 2026 to Bring Industry Leaders, Investors and Businesses Under One Roof

Three day exhibition at Kala Academy, Panaji, will showcase emerging sectors, investment opportunities, new technologies and business partnerships

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Panaji will host the Goa International Trade Fair 2026 from August 23 to 25 at Kala Academy, bringing together businesses, investors, government agencies, entrepreneurs, industry leaders and consumers for a three day showcase of products, technologies and commercial opportunities.

Organised by Trinity Group, the multi sector exhibition will remain open to the public from 11 am to 7 pm each day. The event is expected to provide a platform for business networking, market expansion, investment awareness, product discovery and new commercial partnerships.

The exhibition will feature a wide range of sectors relevant to Goa and the wider Indian market. These include solar and electrical solutions, energy storage, organic products, agriculture, horticulture, food processing, hospitality supplies,



(Left to Right), **Mr. Amod Gaonkar, Avaada - Solstice Power**, **Mr. Cyril DeSouza, Regional Director, World Trade Centre - Goa.**, **Dr. Joseph Dias, Chairman, Trinity Group**, **Mr. Milind Chaudhari, Director, Mahindra Powerol - Powersafe Engineers**

HoReCa equipment, sleeping systems, cleaning chemicals, water quality solutions and facility management technologies.

One of the major attractions will be a dedicated Investor Protection and Awareness Pavilion coordinated by SEBI along with NSE, BSE, MSE, AMFI, NSDL and MCX. The pavilion will focus on investor education, responsible investing and awareness about financial and commodity markets.

Visitors will also have an opportunity to interact directly with participating financial market institutions.

The trade fair will facilitate B2B meetings, strategic partnerships, joint ventures, distribution opportunities and direct interaction with manufacturers, suppliers and industry professionals. Exhibitors are also expected to offer special prices, incentives and business solutions to visitors.

The event is expected

to attract hotel and restaurant operators, builders, architects, contractors, facility managers, procurement professionals, farmers, horticulturists, investors, entrepreneurs and members of the general public.

Several industry organisations, including the World Trade Centres of Mumbai and Goa, Goa State Industries Association, Goa Chamber of Commerce and other professional bodies, are supporting the event.

The organisers will also host an awards ceremony recognising individuals for excellence in public service and valuable contributions to industry, business and society.

With participation from multiple sectors and institutions, the Goa International Trade Fair 2026 aims to create a common platform for business development, investment awareness, innovation and economic cooperation in Goa.

No Power or Water for Malls, Hotels If Waste Rules Are Violated: Supreme Court

■ Top court issues nationwide guidelines, mandates strict action against bulk waste generators and makes waste segregation a shared civic responsibility

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: In a landmark ruling on environmental protection, the Supreme Court has directed strict enforcement of the Solid Waste Management Rules across India, warning that malls, hotels, hospitals, commercial complexes and large residential societies could face temporary disconnection of electricity and water if they fail to manage their waste responsibly.

A bench of Justices SVN Bhatti and NV Anjaria said solid waste management is the responsibility of every citizen and institution, not merely sanitation workers. The court observed that every waste generator must segregate waste at source, store it safely and hand it over for disposal in the manner prescribed under the law.

The directions came while hearing appeals arising from National Green Tribunal orders on municipal solid waste compliance. Although the case originated from a challenge by the Bhopal Municipal Corporation, the Supreme Court expanded its scope to address waste management failures across the country.

The court ordered District Collectors, through the Chief

Secretaries of all states and Union Territories, to identify bulk waste generators within six weeks. These establishments must be notified to comply with the Solid Waste Management Rules, failing which authorities can temporarily disconnect their electricity or water supply. Utility services will only be restored after the submission of a compliance certificate.

Highlighting the need for accountability, the bench remarked that society has developed a mindset of generating waste without taking responsibility for controlling its environmental impact. It stressed that effective waste management begins at the source through segregation and responsible disposal.

The Supreme Court also directed the use of digital monitoring to improve compliance. Geo tagged photographs of garbage dumps and monthly compliance reports will be uploaded through a dedicated portal, while the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee will oversee implementation by municipal bodies, Railways, Defence establishments, public sector undertakings and central ministries. The committee will also track pollution in rivers caused by municipal solid waste.



'Chanda Chor Bhavan' Row: Sawant, Tanavade Fire Back At Congress

when he was serving as the BJP's state president. Taking a swipe at Congress, Tanavade said the opposition party had a habit of making negative statements and believed it could gain votes by doing so. Instead, he claimed, Congress was losing public support through such behaviour. Sawant said the new office would have designated spaces for the Goa BJP president, Chief Minister, general secretaries and MPs, adding that the building was expected to serve the party for the next 100 years.

The official inauguration of the BJP's new Goa office is scheduled for September 6 in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Congress Calls BJP 'Bhrasht Janta Party', Questions Funding

Of Newly Built Party Headquarters

BJP by referring to it as the "Bhrasht Janta Party" and alleged that the new office had been built using "questionable donations".

The Congress' remarks have triggered a fresh political face-off with the BJP, which has strongly defended the construction of its new office and maintained that it was built with the contributions and efforts of party workers. The BJP has described the office as a long-pending dream of its Goa unit. Party leaders have also said that the land was purchased and the foundation stone laid several years ago.

Tarun Tejpal Moves SC Against Conviction

by which Tejpal was convicted of raping a junior female colleague in 2013 and sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment. Tejpal has now approached the Supreme Court

seeking relief against the High Court judgment and his conviction.

India Removes Structures Outside Pakistan High Commission In Reciprocal Diplomatic Move

Barricades, traffic bollards and queue management structures installed along the lane outside the High Commission, particularly near the visa section, were dismantled during the drive. Visuals from the site showed piles of rubble, twisted metal frames, broken railings and chunks of concrete scattered outside the compound. Sections of corrugated roofing and white metal fencing were completely pulled down, while construction material and damaged fencing lay near the service counters. Parts of the outer facade around the visa windows also appeared to have suffered minor damage, with broken plaster and masonry visible.

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UN Security Council Reform Is 'More Pressing Than Ever', India Demands Major Overhaul

■ India pushes for expanded membership, greater Global South representation and transparent decision making at the United Nations

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has renewed its demand for sweeping reforms of the United Nations Security Council, stating that its structure, working methods and decision making processes must be modernised to reflect today's global realities rather than the geopolitical order of 1945. Speaking during



the Security Council's annual open debate on working methods, India's Charge d'Affaires to the UN, Ambassador Yojna Patel, said the Council's credibility and legitimacy

are facing increasing scrutiny due to its inability to respond effectively to major global conflicts and humanitarian crises.

She stressed that reform is now "more

pressing than ever" as the international system has changed dramatically over the past eight decades. Patel noted that UN membership has grown nearly fourfold since the Security Council was created, arguing that the outcome of a war fought 80 years ago should not continue to determine the composition of the world's most powerful security body.



'Thrilled To Be Here': US Envoy Sergio Gor's Dal Lake Shikara Ride Sends Strong Message On J&K Tourism

■ Ambassador signals possible review of US travel advisory as he praises improved security and explores deeper engagement with Jammu and Kashmir

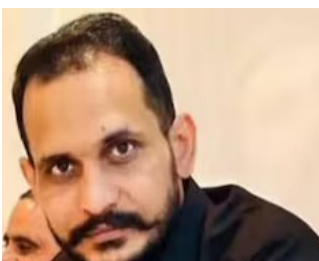
Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor's shikara ride on Dal Lake has put Jammu and Kashmir's tourism potential and security situation in the international spotlight. During his visit to the Union Territory on Wednesday, Gor indicated that the United States could consider downgrading its travel advisory for J&K, citing improvements in security. Gor said New Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had taken significant steps to make the region safer. He also highlighted the growing interest among Americans in visiting Kashmir and suggested that Washington's

existing travel guidance could be reconsidered.

Calling Jammu and Kashmir "an important part of India", Gor said he was "thrilled to be here" during his first visit to the region. His shikara ride across Dal Lake added a strong tourism message to the diplomatic visit, showcasing one of Kashmir's most recognisable attractions.

Gor also held talks with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, with discussions focusing on expanding ties between J&K and the United States. Abdullah described the meeting as productive and said the two sides explored areas where Washington could strengthen its engagement with the Union Territory.



'3,000 Of My Men Still Free': Shahzad Bhatti Challenges India's Crackdown Claims

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Pakistan based gangster turned terror operative Shahzad Bhatti has publicly challenged India's claims of a major crackdown against his alleged network, claiming that thousands of his associates remain free despite a nationwide security operation.

Bhatti's video surfaced days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah said security agencies had dismantled the ISI backed Shahzad Bhatti network through coordinated operations across 14 states. More than 250 people were reportedly detained and over 200 arrests were made, with weapons, explosives and surveillance equipment allegedly recovered during the action. In the video, Bhatti denies that those arrested were members of his organisation. He claims they were associated with what he calls the Cockroach Janta Party, including individuals linked to protests at Jantar Mantar.

ED Raids Azam Khan Linked Jauhar University in Major Money Laundering Probe

■ Searches across Delhi and Uttar Pradesh focus on alleged illegal land acquisition, diversion of government funds and suspicious financial transactions

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday carried out raids at 10 locations across Delhi and Uttar Pradesh as part of a money laundering investigation involving the Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar Trust and Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Rampur, institutions linked to Samajwadi Party leader and former Uttar Pradesh minister Azam Khan.



The searches were conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act across Rampur, Saharanpur and Delhi. The investigation centres on allegations of illegal land acquisition for the university and the suspected diversion of government funds through

private contractors for the creation of assets linked to the trust and the educational institution. According to officials, the ED probe stems from 26 FIRs registered by the Uttar Pradesh Police.

The cases include allegations of extortion, fraud, forgery and criminal conspiracy, with investigators examining whether public money was siphoned off during the execution of government contracts.

'Unusual' 60-Hour Military Airlift From China, Türkiye to Pakistan Puts India on Alert

■ Reported movement of Chinese and Turkish military transport aircraft raises questions over possible defence equipment transfers to Islamabad

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A reported surge in military air traffic from China and Türkiye to Pakistan over nearly 60 hours has raised fresh security concerns in India, with sources indicating that the unusual activity may have involved the movement of defence equipment, including drones and other military supplies.



According to security inputs, Chinese military transport aircraft were seen arriving at Pakistan's Nur Khan airbase near Rawalpindi and Masroor airbase in Karachi. Turkish

military transport aircraft were also reportedly involved in the heightened movement. The scale and concentration of the flights have drawn attention

because such activity is not considered routine bilateral military traffic. The reported airlift comes amid growing defence cooperation between Pakistan, China and

Türkiye. China remains Pakistan's primary military supplier, providing combat aircraft, air defence systems and unmanned platforms. Beijing's defence relationship with Islamabad also deepened following last year's India Pakistan military confrontation, during which China acknowledged that personnel from its aviation industry had provided technical

assistance to Pakistan. Türkiye has similarly expanded its strategic defence partnership with Pakistan, particularly in drones, naval technology and aerospace systems. Pakistani military officials have held discussions with Turkish counterparts on unmanned systems, defence innovation and advanced aerospace technologies.

ISL 2026-27 Postponed: New Season to Begin After October 6 With 13 Teams

■ League delayed by more than a month as Diamond Harbour FC miss participation fee deadline, while Churchill Brothers secure their place

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Indian Super League (ISL) 2026-27 season has been postponed by more than a month and will now begin only after October 6. The league was originally scheduled to start on September 4 but has been pushed back to accommodate the FIFA international window from September 21 to October 6. The revised fixtures are expected to be announced shortly.



The upcoming season will feature 13 teams after Diamond Harbour FC failed to pay the second instalment of their participation fee by the extended deadline. The club had earned promotion to the ISL after winning the Indian Football League 2025-26

but needed to complete a payment of ₹55 lakh to confirm its participation.

All 14 clubs were initially required to pay the second instalment of the ₹1.1 crore participation fee by August 14. Diamond Harbour FC received additional time to make the payment but failed to meet the extended deadline, resulting in the league proceeding with 13 teams.

The ISL has already undergone significant changes ahead of the

new season. Jamshedpur FC withdrew from the competition and disbanded its first team on July 31 after failing to pay the first ₹55 lakh instalment of the participation fee.

Churchill Brothers subsequently secured their place in the upcoming ISL season after paying the full ₹1.1 crore participation fee on August 14. The Goan club took over the league opportunity following Jamshedpur FC's



'No Shame Or Ego': KL Rahul Reveals How India's Open Dressing Room Is Helping Young Stars Shine

■ Senior batter says players freely learn from one another as Manav Suthar's match-winning debut becomes a prime example of India's team culture

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's emphatic 165-run victory over Sri Lanka in the first Test in Galle has highlighted not only the team's growing depth but also the strong culture inside the Indian dressing room. Senior batter KL Rahul revealed that there is no room for ego or hierarchy when it comes to learning and helping teammates.

Chasing 372 for victory, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 206 as left-arm spinner Manav Suthar

delivered a sensational performance. Playing only his second Test, Suthar claimed a 10-wicket match haul and emerged as one of the biggest contributors to India's convincing win. Rahul, speaking after the match, said every player has a responsibility to support teammates regardless of experience or age. He explained that the Indian dressing room has traditionally remained an environment where players feel comfortable approaching one another for advice.



Praggnanandhaa Finishes Second At Sinquefield Cup After Armageddon Loss To Wesley So

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa finished runner up at the Sinquefield Cup in St Louis after losing to American star Wesley So in the decisive Armageddon tiebreak. Despite missing out on the title, Praggnanandhaa ended the event on a strong note and secured top position in the overall Grand Chess Tour standings.

Praggnanandhaa drew his final classical game against Anish Giri of the Netherlands, a result that forced a tiebreak against So, who had remained among the tournament leaders for much of the competition.

The two players first contested two rapid games, with both ending in draws to leave the score level at 1-1. The tournament rules then required an Armageddon game to decide the champion.

India Crush Pakistan 5-3 to Seal Men's Hockey World Cup Second-Round Spot

■ Harmanpreet Singh and Abhishek score twice each as India dominate arch-rivals and knock Pakistan out of title race

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India produced a commanding performance against arch-rivals Pakistan, securing a 5-3 victory in their third and final Pool D match of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2026 in Amstelveen on Wednesday.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh and Abhishek scored two goals each, while Hardik Singh converted a penalty stroke as India maintained their lead throughout the



contest at the Wagener Stadium. The win gave India their second victory of the tournament and secured their place in the second round.

India made a strong start, scoring twice in the opening quarter. Harmanpreet opened the scoring in the fifth minute

before adding another goal early in the second quarter. Abhishek then found the net twice as India extended their advantage.

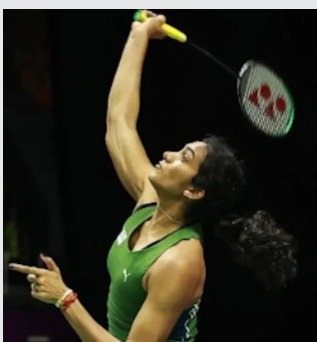
Pakistan responded with two goals in the second quarter and remained competitive, but India continued to control the game. Hardik Singh converted a penalty stroke in the third quarter to restore India's momentum and add another goal to the scoreboard.

PV Sindhu, Ayush Shetty Advance at World Championships as Lakshya Sen Suffers Shock Exit

■ Sindhu and Shetty reach the Round of 16, while Lakshya Sen bows out after a dramatic three-game defeat

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India endured a mixed day at the Badminton World Championships on Wednesday, with PV Sindhu and Ayush Shetty advancing to the Round of 16 while Lakshya Sen suffered a surprise second-round exit. Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu continued her campaign with another composed performance,



securing her place in the pre-quarterfinals. The Indian star will now look to build momentum as she targets another deep

run at the prestigious tournament.

Young Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty also progressed to the Round of 16, continuing an impressive campaign on the world stage. His advancement adds to India's hopes in the men's singles draw, with the youngster emerging as one of the country's promising talents. However, Lakshya Sen's tournament came to an

unexpected end. The Indian suffered a shock defeat against 18-year-old American Garret Tan in a fiercely contested three-game encounter. Sen was unable to close out the contest despite fighting hard, allowing the young American to claim a notable victory and advance to the next round. The result marks a disappointing exit for Sen, who had entered the tournament with

expectations of making a strong impact in the singles competition. India also received positive news in men's doubles, with Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty progressing to the pre-quarterfinals after receiving a walkover in their opening match. The highly rated Indian pair will now prepare for their next challenge as they begin their campaign in the knockout stages.