# Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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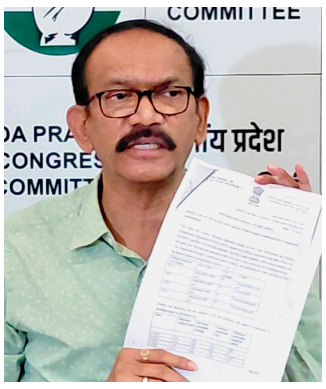
# Congress Alleges ₹2,147 Crore Revenue Loss Over TCP's Additional FAR

## Girish Chodankar cites CAG findings, alleges 321 commercial establishments were granted additional FAR without payment of applicable fees

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa Congress president Girish Chodankar has alleged a potential ₹2,147 crore revenue loss to the state exchequer after the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department granted additional Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to commercial establishments without levying fees.

Chodankar said the issue has been highlighted



in the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, which noted that 321 commercial establishments were granted additional FAR without charges being collected.

According to the Congress leader, the CAG calculated the revenue implication at around ₹107 crore based on one applicable rate. However, the potential loss could rise to ₹2,147 crore if the rate of ₹20,000 per square metre, applicable to four- and five-star hotels, were

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# Dabolim Police Register FIR Over Protest During Kharge Visit

## BJYM Goa Chief Tushar Kelkar Named; Amit Palekar Calls FIR An Eyewash

**Team Goemkarponn**

**DABOLIM:** Dabolim Airport Police have registered an FIR against BJYM Goa chief Tushar Kelkar and a few others in connection with the protests during Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's visit to Goa. The FIR was registered following allegations of unlawful assembly and related offences during the protest at Goa International Airport, Dabolim. The case has been registered under Sections 189(2) and 189(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Congress Goa spokesperson Amit Palekar, however, has questioned the sections invoked in the FIR, alleging that stringent

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# Goa's International Air Traffic Takes Major Hit, Dabolim Down 69% And Mopa 42%

**Team Goemkarponn**

**DABOLIM/MOPA:** Goa's

international air connectivity has witnessed a significant setback, with passenger traffic at both its airports falling sharply during the April-June quarter. Dabolim recorded a 69 per cent decline in international passengers, while traffic at Manohar International Airport in Mopa dropped by 42 per cent. The figures, based on the latest data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), stand in stark contrast

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Home Department

*Inauguration Ceremony*

**HUTATMA SMRUTI SMARAK**

**Patradevi, Goa**

will be inaugurated by

**SHRI RAJNATH SINGH JI**

Hon'ble Union Minister for Defence, Government of India

in the distinguished presence of

**DR. PRAMOD P. SAWANT**

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa

**SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK**
Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Power

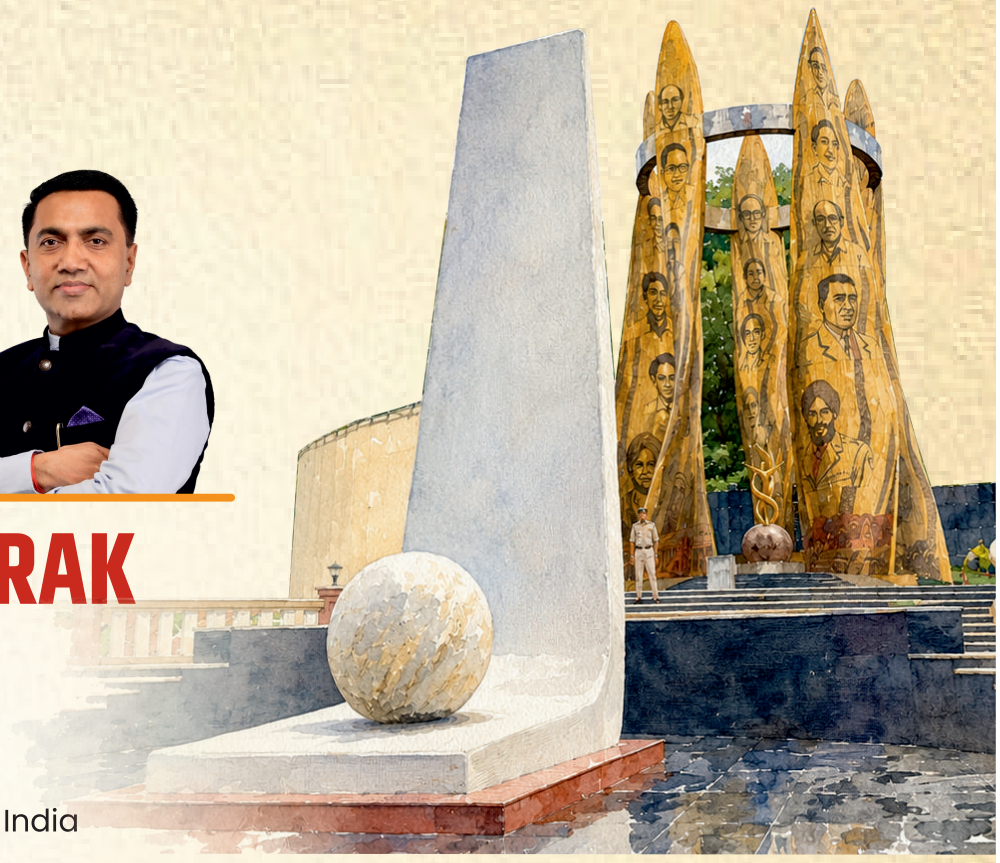
**SHRI SADANAND SHET TANAVADE**
Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

**SHRI JIT AROLKAR**
Hon'ble MLA, Mandrem

**SHRI PRAVIN ARLEKAR**
Hon'ble MLA, Pernem

**DR. V. CANDAVELOU, IAS**
Chief Secretary, Government of Goa

**26th August 2026 | 04:30 PM** **Patradevi, Goa**



A Memorial to the Heroes of Goa's Liberation Struggle

**15 AUGUST 1955 - A DAY OF SACRIFICE**

- Over 20,000 Satyagrahis volunteered for peaceful Satyagraha.
- The first batch entered Patradevi unarmed.
- Portuguese forces opened machine-gun fire on the Satyagrahis, around 74 Satyagrahis sacrificed their lives.
- Satyagrahis came from across India, united by the cause of Goa's freedom.

Issued by
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Government of Goa

# Why Were Goa's Municipal Elections Delayed in the First Place?

The Bombay High Court has now cleared the way for elections to Goa's 11 municipal councils, directing the State Election Commission to complete the entire process and declare the results by January 2, 2027. The court has upheld the Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, which changed the framework for delimitation and reservation of wards.

The immediate question is therefore simple: why did Goa need a court battle to reach this point?

More importantly, why were the elections delayed in the first place?

The terms of the 11 municipal councils expired in March and April this year. The Constitution is quite clear under Article 243U that the duration of a municipality is five years and elections are to be completed before its term expires. Yet, instead of allowing voters to elect their representatives, administrators were appointed after the councils completed their terms.

The government argued that the delay was necessary to ensure fair elections, particularly by putting in place a proper system for delimitation and reservation, including reservation for Other Backward Classes based on empirical data. The argument sounds reasonable on paper. Free and fair elections certainly require legally sound delimitation and reservation.

But the timing raises uncomfortable questions.

The State Election Commission had already begun the delimitation process in February and March. It had issued orders fixing the number of councillors and initiated the division of municipal areas into wards. Then came the ordinance in April. The existing delimitation exercise was declared null and void, forcing the process to start again under the amended law.

That is where the controversy really begins.

If the government knew that the municipal election system required changes, why were those changes not made well in advance? Why was the ordinance brought in when the terms of the councils were about to expire and the election process was already underway?

The timing inevitably created suspicion.

Reports at the time suggested another political consideration. Several MLAs reportedly wanted the municipal elections postponed until after the 2027 Assembly elections because local contests could create friction among supporters and aspirants within the ruling political establishment.

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That allegation cannot simply be brushed aside.

Municipal elections are not an inconvenience to be managed according to the political calendar. They are a constitutional democratic exercise. Local governments deal with garbage, roads, drainage, building permissions, markets, street lighting, local planning and countless issues that directly affect citizens. When elected councils disappear and administrators take over, accountability to voters weakens.

The government may have had a legitimate case for correcting the delimitation and reservation system. The High Court has now accepted the legal validity of the ordinance. But legality and political propriety are not necessarily the same thing.

The court's decision settles the legal challenge. It does not erase the questions surrounding the delay.

There is another lesson here. Election laws should not be changed at the last minute unless there is a compelling and demonstrable reason. Changing the rules after an election process has already begun inevitably creates uncertainty and gives political opponents reason to question the government's intentions.

The revised law itself lays down a lengthy process. Delimitation can involve public objections, consideration of those objections, final notification, collection of empirical data on political backwardness, reservation, further objections and final notification before elections can be declared.

Such safeguards are welcome. But they should have been anticipated.

Goa now has an opportunity to end this episode properly. The State Election Commission must not lose another day. Every stage must be transparent, time-bound and accessible to the public. The government must resist the temptation to interfere politically in what should be an independent electoral exercise.

The January 2 deadline set by the High Court should not become another target that is approached with last-minute excuses.

The bigger issue is not whether municipal elections will finally happen. They will.

The real issue is why citizens had to wait in the first place.

Goa cannot claim to be a mature democracy if elected local bodies are allowed to lapse while governments search for reasons, amend laws and restart electoral processes. If the objective was genuinely to ensure fair elections, the government should have ensured that the necessary legal and administrative groundwork was completed before the councils' terms expired.

The High Court has opened the door.

Now the government and the State Election Commission must walk through it without further delay. The people of Goa deserve their elected municipal representatives, not administrators appointed after the political clock has run out.

## EDITOR SPEAKS

## GMC's Digital OPD Must End the Culture of Queues

The move to make outpatient consultations at Goa Medical College increasingly accessible through online appointments is a welcome step towards making public healthcare more convenient and dignified. GMC has already introduced online OPD booking in phases, allowing patients to reserve slots without physically standing in queues.

For generations, visiting GMC has often meant reaching the hospital early, waiting for hours and navigating crowded OPD counters. For elderly patients, people with disabilities and those travelling from distant parts of Goa, this can be particularly difficult. A digital appointment system can save valuable time and reduce unnecessary physical hardship.

But technology alone cannot solve the problems of a government hospital. The online system must be reliable, transparent and genuinely patient friendly. If appointments are available online but patients still have to wait for hours after reaching the hospital, the purpose of the reform is defeated.

The authorities must also ensure that online booking does not create a new digital divide. Many elderly patients may not be comfortable using smartphones, OTPs or online portals. The existing offline appointment system must therefore continue with adequate slots, as the government has indicated.

Another important issue is transparency. Patients should be able to see available slots clearly and receive confirmation immediately. There should also be a simple mechanism for cancellation, rescheduling and addressing technical problems.

GMC is one of Goa's most important public healthcare institutions. Any reform that reduces queues and improves access deserves public support. But the real test will be whether ordinary patients experience a meaningful improvement.

Digital healthcare should not merely move the queue from a hospital corridor to a computer screen. It should eliminate unnecessary waiting altogether.

Goa should now build on this initiative and eventually provide a seamless system covering all departments, investigations, follow-up consultations and other patient services.If implemented properly, GMC's digital OPD could become more than a technological upgrade. It could restore something every patient deserves when seeking treatment: time, dignity and certainty.

**- Rohan Naik,** Panaji

## Jobs Cannot Be Sold in Goa

The latest job fraud case in Goa is a disturbing reminder of how vulnerable desperate job seekers can be. According to reports, Porvorim police have arrested a woman after 10 complaints were registered at different police stations. The accused allegedly collected around Rs 50 lakh by promising government jobs, including posts of teachers, police sub inspectors and drivers.

What makes such cases particularly painful is that the victims are not chasing luxury. They are looking for employment and stability. In a state where government jobs remain highly coveted, fraudsters know exactly how to exploit the aspirations of young people and their families.

This is not the first job scam Goa has witnessed, and that itself should concern the authorities. Every such case should prompt a wider investigation into whether similar networks are operating elsewhere. Police must examine bank transactions, phone records, intermediaries and possible links to people claiming to have influence over recruitment.

The government also needs to make one message absolutely clear: recruitment to government posts cannot be purchased through agents, politicians or middlemen. Selection must happen only through officially notified procedures.

At the same time, job seekers must be educated about recruitment processes. Any person demanding money in exchange for a government appointment should immediately raise suspicion. Official vacancies, examinations and selection lists should be easily accessible online so that candidates do not depend on brokers.

The investigation must not end with one arrest. If others were involved, they too must be identified and prosecuted. The money allegedly taken from victims should also be traced and recovery efforts pursued.

Employment is already a major concern for Goa's youth. Fraudsters cannot be allowed to turn that concern into a profitable criminal enterprise. Goa needs jobs, not job sellers. And anyone who exploits a young person's dream of employment deserves the full force of the law.

**- Miguel Fernandes,** Margao

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# Four-year citizen-led legal battle ends with restoration of illegally cut Arpora hill

## Goa Foundation's persistent PIL action leads to restoration of damaged hill

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The four-year legal battle over the illegal cutting of a hill at Arpora has ended with the Bombay High Court at Goa recording that the hill has been restored to a stable condition.

The case, P.I.L. W.P. No. 20/2022 — Goa Foundation v. Village Panchayat of Arpora-Nagoa & Ors. — began after the Goa Foundation received a citizen complaint regarding hill-cutting and development activity behind the Park Regis Hotel at Arpora.

The Foundation first approached the Village Panchayat on March 31, 2022, after observing heavy machinery being used to cut the hill. It pointed out that the land was identified in the Regional Plan as a No Development Slope. However, the Panchayat declined to stop the work, stating that the complaint did not identify the person responsible.

With the hill-cutting continuing, the Foundation approached the High Court on April 12, 2022. The following day, the Court directed the Flying Squad to immediately stop the activity.

A subsequent inspection by the North Goa Planning and Development Authority (NGPDA) revealed extensive damage.

# NSUI Accuses Goa Minister, BJYM of 'Kidnapping' Students' Council General Secretary

## Eight newly elected council members allege political interference in Shree Mallikarjun College after election results

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANACONA:** The newly elected students' council of Shree Mallikarjun and Chetan Manju Desai College in Canacona has been caught in a political controversy, with the NSUI accusing Canacona MLA and Minister and the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) of orchestrating a rift within the council and allegedly pressuring its General Secretary (GS) and two other elected members. Addressing the media in Canacona on Tuesday, NSUI State General Secretary Kumar Arjun Gauli, along with eight newly elected council members, alleged that the GS and two Class Representatives were taken by ABVP and BJYM members to the office of the Canacona BJP MLA, where they were felicitated by the minister with a flower bouquet. The controversy erupted soon after the college students' council election results were declared on Monday. A photograph of the elected panel with NSUI and Congress leaders had initially surfaced, following which GS Gauravi Phaldesai released a video stating that the panel was independent and had no political affiliation or patronage.

# Goa Moves To Identify New Iron Ore Blocks For Fifth Auction Round

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa's Directorate of Mines and Geology (DMG) has started groundwork for the fifth round of iron ore mineral block auctions, with the state government looking to complete the process before the Model Code of Conduct for the 2027 Assembly elections is enforced.

As part of the exercise, the DMG is assessing the quantity of iron ore available in mining leases where geological investigations have already been completed. The findings will determine which areas have adequate mineral resources and can be considered for the next auction.

Officials said the department will shortlist the eligible blocks after the resource assessment is completed. Tender notices for the selected blocks are expected to be issued before the election-related restrictions come into effect.

The proposed auction, however, will have to take into account the 20 million tonne annual mining limit fixed by the Supreme Court.

# 225 Kg Unlabelled Frozen Jamun Seized in Mapusa

## FDA intensifies food safety crackdown across North Goa; restaurants ordered shut and quick-commerce units suspended over violations

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MAPUSA:** The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has intensified food safety enforcement across North Goa, seizing 225 kg of unlabelled frozen jamun worth around Rs 50,000 during an early-morning surveillance operation at the interstate Mapusa bus stand.

The consignment, transported from Pune to Mapusa via Atamaram, was booked by a local hotel for use in ice cream preparations and distribution to other units. The FDA said the hotel did not possess a valid FSSAI registration, following which action was initiated under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and a penalty of Rs 10,000 was imposed.

The FDA has also written to the Maharashtra FDA seeking action against the Pune-based vendor for dispatching the consignment without mandatory labelling. The seized stock was destroyed with the assistance of the Mapusa Municipality.

# 'Our panel is independent,' says Mallikarjun College GS

## Gaurvi Phaldessai rejects NSUI backing claim, says council has no political affiliation

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANACONA:** Newly elected General Secretary of Shree Mallikarjun and Chetan Manju Desai College, Gaurvi S. Phaldessai, has rejected NSUI's claim that the students' council panel was backed by the organisation.

In a video message, Phaldessai and two Class Representatives said the entire panel contested independently and has no affiliation with any political party.

"Our full panel is independent. We have not contested with the support of NSUI or any other political party. We will work with our Chairman and college management," Phaldessai said. An elected Class Representative alleged that NSUI used a photograph taken after the election, when its leaders had come to congratulate the students, to portray the panel as NSUI-backed without their consent. Meanwhile, it has been alleged that BJYM/ ABVP members later took Phaldessai and two Class Representatives to meet Canacona BJP MLA and Minister Ramesh Tawadkar, who congratulated them with a flower bouquet.

The development has triggered a political controversy over the newly elected students' council.

# Goa Link Suspected As MDMA Manufacturing Unit Unearthed In Kolhapur

**Team Goemkarponn**

**KOLHAPUR:** A suspected synthetic drug manufacturing operation has been uncovered at a poultry farm in Hajagoli village of Chandgad taluk in Kolhapur district, with Maharashtra authorities investigating a possible supply connection to Goa, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

The Maharashtra Anti-Narcotics Task Force carried out the raid on Saturday evening after receiving information during a separate drug trafficking investigation.

# Navelim Man Loses Rs 1.46 Lakh In Telegram UPI Fraud

## Unknown accused allegedly lured complainant with promise of services and induced multiple payments

**Team Goemkarponn**

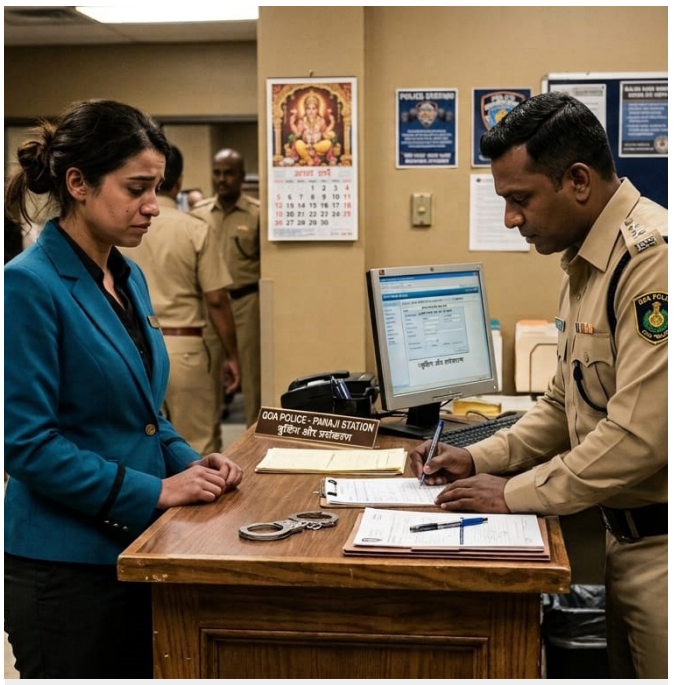
**NAVELIM:** A case of alleged online fraud has been registered following a complaint by Aloysius Barretto of Navelim, Salcete, who claimed that he was cheated of Rs 1,46,361 through fraudulent transactions on Telegram.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred between August 7 and August 8, 2026, at TNK, Navelim.

Police said that unknown accused persons allegedly contacted Barretto through Telegram and fraudulently induced him to make several payments through UPI transactions on the pretext of providing certain services. Believing the representations made by the accused to be genuine, the complainant allegedly made multiple UPI payments amounting to Rs 1,46,361.

However, the promised services were allegedly not provided, and the money paid by the complainant was also not refunded, resulting in wrongful loss to him.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Sanjay Velip of Margao Town Police Station.




# Receptionist Booked For Stealing ₹80,000 Cash, Wrist Watch From Miramar Hotel

## Panaji Police Register Case After Theft Reported At Coastal Pearl Hotel

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Panaji Police have registered a case against a hotel receptionist for allegedly stealing ₹80,000 in cash and a wrist watch from the cash counter of Coastal Pearl Hotel at Miramar, Panaji.

According to the complaint filed by Sunil Amonkar, an official of Coastal Pearl Hotel, the theft allegedly took place at around 3:57 am on August 21, 2026. The accused has been identified as Neeraj S/o Gangaram, a resident of Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, who was employed as a receptionist at the hotel.

Police said the accused had access to the property of his employer and allegedly dishonestly removed the cash and wrist watch from the hotel's cash counter. The complaint was lodged on August 24 at around 8:58 pm. Further investigation is in progress and is being conducted by Head Constable 5717 Babu Madanwar of Panaji Police Station.

# Activa Rider Booked For Rash Driving, Fleeing Accident Spot In Porvorim

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PORVORIM:** Police have registered a case against an Activa scooter rider for allegedly driving rashly and negligently, causing a collision near the Magson showroom on Chogam Road, Porvorim.

The incident occurred on August 23, 2026, between 2:45 pm and 3:00 pm. According to the complaint filed on behalf of the State by HC 4880 Pranesh L. Gawas of Saligao Police Station, Atul Moitra and his wife Priyanka Sudhin Thakkar were travelling from Panaji towards Calangute on a rented Fascino scooter bearing registration number GA-03-AV-0946.

When they reached near the Magson showroom, the rider of an Activa scooter bearing registration number GA-03-AU-1518, identified as Raju s/o Mohan Valmiki, allegedly came from the Church side and crossed the main road in a rash and negligent manner without due care and caution.

# Man Booked For Depositing 13 Fake ₹500 Notes In HDFC Candolim CDM

## Calangute Police Investigate Alleged Use Of Counterfeit Currency At Bank Cash Deposit Machine

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANDOLIM:** Calangute Police have registered a case against a man for allegedly depositing 13 counterfeit ₹500 currency notes into a Cash Deposit Machine (CDM) at HDFC Bank's Candolim branch.

According to the complaint by Manish Rege, 46, Branch Manager of HDFC Bank's Candolim branch, an application enquiry was conducted following the incident reported to have occurred on August 19, 2026. The exact time of the alleged incident was not known. The accused has been identified as Shibapati Patra, a resident of Candolim, Bardez. Police said Patra allegedly used 13 counterfeit ₹500 notes and deposited them into the bank's CDM while presenting them as genuine currency notes.

The complaint was received on August 25, 2026, at around 11:19 am. Further investigation is in progress and is being conducted by PSI Yogesh L. Mandrekar of Calangute Police Station.

# Scooter Rider Dies In Collision With Alto At Chinchinim

## One killed and one injured after alleged rash driving on Dandewado road

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CHINCHINIM:** A scooter rider was killed and another person injured in a road accident at Dandewado, Chinchinim, on August 24, 2026, after an Alto car allegedly driven in a rash and negligent manner collided with an oncoming electric scooter.

According to a state complaint filed by Tukaram Velip, Head Constable 6922 of Cuncolim Police Station, the accident occurred prior to 11:01 am when the accused, identified as Swatantra Kumar Chauhan, a resident of Velim, Salcete, and originally from Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, was driving a Maruti Suzuki Alto from Dandewado towards Sarzora.

Police said that upon reaching Dandewado, Chauhan allegedly drove the car in a rash and negligent manner and collided with an oncoming E2Go electric scooter travelling from Sarzora towards Dandewado.

The impact allegedly caused the scooter to be dragged for some distance along with its rider, Sikandar Kandulna, a resident of Chinchinim and originally from Odisha.

Kandulna sustained serious injuries in the collision and subsequently succumbed to his injuries. The occupant of the Alto car, identified as Kiran Chauhan, also sustained injuries.

# NODO Living Owner Alleges Assault, Property Damage and CCTV Tampering

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NERUL:** Police have registered a case following a complaint by Arvind Chawla, property owner and business owner of NODO Living, Nerul, Bardez, alleging that a man entered the premises late at night, assaulted a staff member, damaged property and allegedly attempted to interfere with CCTV and electronic evidence. According to the complaint, the incident took place between 11:30 pm on August 22 and 4:00 am on August 24, 2026, at NODO Living, Nerul.

# Hold joint meeting to resolve NH66 diversion demand, or face people's

## AAP MLA says residents are not against highway expansion but oppose alignment through inhabited areas of Dandewado

**Team Goemkarponn**

**VELIM:** Velim AAP MLA Cruz Silva has demanded that the concerned authorities immediately convene a joint meeting with National Highway authorities, Goa PWD, local representatives and residents of Dandewado-Chinchinim to resolve the demand for diversion of the proposed NH66 expansion outside the village.

Silva warned that failure to address the issue and discuss the proposed alternative alignment with all stakeholders would leave residents with no option but to take to the streets in a democratic protest.

He said residents are not opposed to the expansion of National Highway 66 or development, but strongly object to the proposed alignment passing through inhabited areas of Dandewado. According to him, the highway should be realigned through an alternative route outside the village to protect homes, properties and the safety of residents.

All concerned Sarpanchas and Panchayat members from the affected areas met Silva and discussed the proposed NH66 alignment and concerns raised by residents. The local representatives supported the demand for diversion outside the village and urged the authorities to address the matter before proceeding further.

# Goa Multi-Faculty College to participate in 'Khel Ki Baat PM Ke Saath'

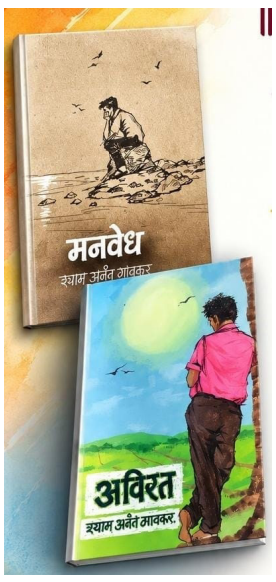
## College to host programme on sports, fitness, youth participation and nation building on August 27

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** SPES's Goa Multi-Faculty College, Dharbandora, will participate in the 'Khel Ki Baat PM Ke Saath' programme, focusing on sports, fitness, youth participation and youth-led nation building, on August 27 at 10 am at the college premises.

The programme is being organised under the Khelo India Samvaad initiative and will provide students and young people an opportunity to engage with issues related to sports, fitness and their role in nation building. Principal Prof. (Dr.) Shaikh Mohammad Parvez Al-Usmani, along with other officials, addressed a press conference and appealed to students to participate actively in the programme.

Prof. Usmani said the college was proud to be associated with Khelo India Samvaad and valued the opportunity for its students to participate in an important national programme. He said the initiative would help promote sports development while encouraging discipline, teamwork, confidence and a healthy lifestyle among young people. Samyek Meshram, Assistant Director, MY Bharat Goa State, said the programme was being organised under 'Khelo India Samvaad – Khel Ki Baat PM Ke Saath' with the objective of encouraging greater youth participation in sports and fitness-related activities. Paricshit Phal Desai and Milan Gaonkar were also present at the press conference.




# Governor Rajendra Arlekar to release books by Shyam Gaonkar

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Two new Marathi collections of essays, Manvedh and Avirat, authored by Shri Shyam Anant Gaonkar, will be released at a book publication ceremony on Friday, August 28, 2026, at 4 pm at the Mini Hall, Institute Menezes Braganza Hall, Panaji. The books, which focus on new ideas aimed at providing positive energy and direction to adolescents stepping into youth and young people, will be released by Kerala Governor Shri Rajendra Arlekar.

The programme will be attended by Shri Abhir Hede, Director, Department of Information and Publicity; Shri Dashrath Parab, Chairman, Institute Menezes Braganza; and journalist Shri Sangam Govind Bhonsule as special guests.

# Yuri Alemao Honoured With Global Achiever Award For Political Leadership

## Girish Chodankar congratulates Goa Leader of Opposition on international recognition

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa Pradesh Congress Committee President Girish Chodankar has congratulated Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao on being honoured with a prestigious Global Achiever Award for Political Leadership at an international summit and awards ceremony held in Mauritius. The award was presented to Alemao by Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool in the presence of senior dignitaries. Congratulating Alemao, Chodankar said the recognition was a proud moment not only for the Leader of Opposition but also for Goa. He said the award reflected Alemao's leadership, commitment to public service and consistent efforts to raise the voice of the people of the state.

"Yuri Alemao has emerged as a strong and committed voice of the people. This prestigious international recognition is a testament to his dedication, leadership and unwavering commitment to public service. It is a proud moment for Goa and the Congress family," Chodankar said. Chodankar also wished Alemao greater strength, success and continued inspiration in his efforts to serve Goa and its people.

# Goa wins national award for overall performance under PMFME scheme

## State recognised in Small State category for strong implementation of micro food processing scheme

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa has been conferred the Winner State Award for Overall Performance under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme in the Small State category by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India. The award was presented at the PMFME Conclave organised by MoFPI at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi during the two-day conclave held on August 24 and 25. Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Shri Chirag Paswan presented the award to the Goa PMFME team in recognition of the State's overall performance in implementing the scheme. The Ministry evaluated the performance of States and Union Territories based on approved performance evaluation criteria. Goa has made significant progress under the PMFME Scheme.

Between 2021 and 2026-27, a total of 160 applications have been sanctioned in the State, including 158 individual and two group applications, against an overall target of 134 applications.

# Ramakant Naik Gaonkar appointed Vice-Chairman of Canacona Ravindra Bhavan

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANACONA:** Former CMC chairperson and Chaudi councillor Ramakant Naik Gaonkar has been appointed Vice-Chairman of Ravindra Bhavan, Canacona, now formally known as Lata Mangeshkar Kalangan.

The appointment order, dated August 25, 2026, was issued by the Director of Art & Culture and Ex-Officio Joint Secretary to the Government, with immediate effect.

# "Holistic Healing for All Generations": HOPE Physiotherapy Opens Third Branch in Panjim

■ New Patto centre expands access to multidisciplinary rehabilitation and advanced patient care

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** HOPE Physiotherapy Rehabilitation Centre has expanded its presence in Goa with the inauguration of its third branch at Dempo Trade Centre in Patto, Panjim. The new facility marks another step in the centre's vision of providing multidisciplinary care and holistic healing for people across all age groups.

HOPE Physiotherapy Rehabilitation Centre, a unit of HOPE LG Healthcare Pvt Ltd, already operates centres in Calangute and Corlim. The organisation provides advanced and innovative rehabilitation services, incorporating robotics and artificial intelligence alongside evidence based physiotherapy and multidisciplinary care. The new branch was inaugurated in the presence of Kedar J Naik, MLA of Saligao Constituency and Chairman of the Goa Tourism Development Corporation, along with Fr. Antonio Lorenco Fernandes, Parish Priest of Soccoro. The event was attended by HOPE's directors and founders, healthcare professionals, patients, families, well wishers and members of the local community. The inauguration was also accompanied by the launch of HOPE LG Healthcare's official website, providing information about its services and rehabilitation programmes. Founded in 2011 with the vision of "Multidisciplinary Care, Holistic Healing for All Generations", HOPE has evolved from a physiotherapy focused centre into a comprehensive rehabilitation facility. Its team includes physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, behaviour therapists and special educators. The centre caters to patients across different stages of life, including children and adolescents, adults and senior citizens. With its new Panjim branch, HOPE aims to make specialised rehabilitation more accessible, affordable and convenient while offering comprehensive care under one roof. Photo Caption: GTDC Chairman Kedar J Naik inaugurates the third branch of HOPE Physiotherapy Rehabilitation Centre at Patto, Panjim.

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## Dabolim Police Register FIR Over Protest During Kharge Visit

provisions relating to the alleged obstruction of the security convoy and confrontation with security personnel have not been applied.

Palekar termed the FIR "merely an eyewash" and demanded that Goa Police invoke appropriate sections and take stringent action against those responsible.

## Congress Alleges ₹2,147 Crore Revenue Loss Over TCP's Additional FAR

considered.Chodankar questioned how such a large amount of revenue could allegedly go uncollected and demanded accountability from the government. He further alleged that if the state had suffered a loss of this magnitude, there should be an investigation into where the money had gone. "If the government has suffered a loss of ₹2,147 crore, then ₹1,000 crore must have gone into someone's pocket," Chodankar alleged, calling for scrutiny of the TCP department's decisions.

The Congress has sought accountability over the grant of additional FAR and demanded that the government clarify the financial implications and the action proposed on the CAG findings.

## Goa's International Air Traffic Takes Major Hit, Dabolim Down 69% And Mopa 42%

to the national picture. International passenger traffic across Indian airports declined by approximately 10 per cent during the first quarter of the financial year.

The downturn has been particularly pronounced for Indian airlines. Passenger numbers carried by domestic carriers on international routes dropped 27 per cent year-on-year, whereas foreign airlines saw their international passenger traffic rise by around 6 per cent. This resulted in Indian carriers' share of international traffic falling from 46 per cent to 37 per cent. Goa's performance is considerably weaker than that of several major aviation markets. While smaller airports can experience substantial percentage swings following the withdrawal or reduction of a handful of flights, the scale of the decline at both Goan airports has drawn attention to the state's overseas connectivity.

Other Tier-2 aviation centres, including Surat, Chandigarh, Indore, Kannur and Pune, also reported significant reductions in international passenger numbers.

The decline is particularly noteworthy because April to June is traditionally a strong travel period, supported by school holidays and increased leisure movement. A contraction during this period could therefore have wider implications for airlines, airports and tourism-dependent destinations.

# "Red Flags on Junk Food?" India's Push for Healthier Labels Faces Industry Resistance

■ Food companies oppose front of pack warnings as India confronts rising obesity and growing consumption of packaged foods

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India's effort to introduce clearer warning labels on packaged foods high in sugar, salt and fat has run into strong resistance from major food and beverage companies, raising questions about how consumers are informed about the health risks of everyday products.

The country's food safety regulator had considered introducing prominent front of pack warnings that would make it easier for consumers to identify products containing excessive levels of sugar, salt and fat. However, following discussions with industry representatives, the regulator moved away from the proposed colour coded system and instead backed a simpler black and white nutritional information table.

Health experts and activists have challenged the decision, arguing that consumers need information that is immediately visible rather than being required to examine detailed nutritional tables on the back of packages.

The debate has gained importance as India faces a growing burden of obesity and lifestyle related illnesses. A recent study estimated that hundreds of millions of Indians could be overweight or obese by 2050.

Industry groups have argued that colour coded warnings could oversimplify nutritional information and create confusion. They have also raised concerns that products containing naturally occurring sugar could receive the same warning as products with added sugar.

India has considered stronger front of pack labelling since 2017, including warning symbols and nutritional ratings. However, manufacturers currently remain primarily responsible for providing ingredient and nutritional information on the rear of packages.

The controversy has also highlighted differences between products sold in India and overseas markets. Several multinational companies use interpretive nutritional labels in European markets while similar products in India generally carry less prominent information.

Consumer campaigns have increasingly drawn attention to differences in ingredients, sugar levels, oils and other formulations across countries. Social media influencers have played a growing role in pushing companies and regulators to address these concerns.

At the same time, changing consumer preferences are encouraging some manufacturers to introduce healthier alternatives.

# "Skardu Was Cleared, But Weather Forced a Change": Gen Anil Chauhan Reveals Operation Sindoor Details

■ Former CDS says bad weather shifted the IAF strike to Bholari and explains what happened at Kirana Hills

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India had planned a strike on Pakistan's Skardu airbase during Operation Sindoor, but deteriorating weather conditions forced the Indian Air Force to abandon the mission at the last moment, former Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan has revealed.

Speaking at an event in New Delhi, Chauhan said the IAF had received approval to target Skardu after Sargodha was identified as an objective. However, poor weather around Skardu made the operation difficult, prompting the forces to switch to another target, Bholari.

Skardu, officially known as PAF Base Qadri, is a strategically important Pakistan Air Force facility near Skardu in Gilgit Baltistan.

The subsequent strike on Bholari emerged as one of the most prominent operations of the May 10 air campaign. The IAF attack targeted a hangar at the base, with satellite imagery showing extensive damage to the structure. A large breach was visible across the roof, while debris appeared scattered around the area adjoining the runway, indicating the force of the strike.

# "Our Religion, We Decide": Owaisi Hits Out At Allahabad High Court Hijab Ruling

■ AIMIM chief says judges should not determine what constitutes an essential Islamic practice

**Team Goemkarponn**

**HYDERABAD:** AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi has strongly criticised the Allahabad High Court's decision rejecting a Muslim student's plea seeking permission to wear a hijab with her school uniform. Describing the ruling as an "attack on Islam", Owaisi argued that courts should not determine which religious practices are essential to a faith. He maintained that questions concerning religious observance should be decided by members of the faith themselves. The Allahabad High Court, in its August 21 ruling, held that students cannot insist on modifying an institution's prescribed dress code according to their personal preferences. The court dismissed a petition filed by a minor girl from a private school in Prayagraj who wanted to wear a headscarf while seeking admission to Class XI at the same institution. A two judge bench comprising Justices JJ Munir and Indrajit Shukla rejected the argument that wearing a hijab constitutes an essential Islamic practice. The court observed that previous rulings by various high courts had reached a similar conclusion regarding the religious status of the headscarf. The court also held that educational institutions can enforce their prescribed uniforms when the rules are fair, non discriminatory and intended to maintain discipline and equality among students.

# India, China Agree to Pursue "Political Settlement" of Border Dispute

**Team Goemkarponn**

**BEIJING:** India and China have agreed to continue efforts towards a political settlement of their long standing boundary dispute, while emphasising the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control for stable bilateral relations.

The understanding emerged during National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing. The talks focused on the boundary question, including progress towards delimitation, as well as broader bilateral and transboundary cooperation.

The discussions were held under the Special Representatives mechanism, with Doval and Wang serving as the designated representatives of the two countries. Both sides described the talks as candid and substantive, with the boundary issue discussed in the context of their broader and long term interests.

# "This Country Is Not a Dharamshala": Amit Shah Unveils India's 2047 Security Blueprint

■ Home Minister calls for tougher action against infiltration, terrorism, narcotics and emerging threats

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah has outlined an ambitious internal security roadmap for India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, stressing that economic and social progress cannot be sustained without a strong security framework.

Addressing the concluding session of the Intelligence Bureau's National Security Strategy Conference in New Delhi, Shah called for a proactive approach to threats including illegal infiltration, terrorism, narcotics trafficking, cyber risks and radicalisation. He said security agencies must identify emerging challenges well before they develop into major crises.

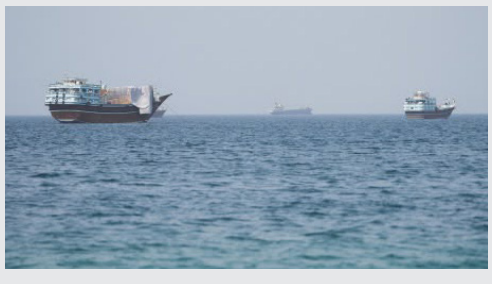
Shah highlighted what he described as the successful elimination of three major internal security hotspots, crediting coordinated action by state police forces, central agencies and Central Armed Police Forces.

He called for intelligence agencies to look 15 to 20 years ahead and develop strategies based on future security trends. The objective, he said, should be to detect threats early and neutralise them before they become difficult to control.

# Iran Blacklists Indian, Pakistani Ships Among 45 Vessels Over Hormuz "Violations"

■ Tehran warns of fines, seizure and confiscation as tensions rise over shipping routes through the strategic waterway

**Team Goemkarponn**



**TEHRAN:** Iran has placed 45 vessels on a blacklist over alleged violations of its transit protocols for the Strait of Hormuz, including ships linked to India and Pakistan, escalating pressure on commercial shipping through the strategically important waterway.

The Persian Gulf Strait Authority has listed the India linked bulk carrier Maha Roos among vessels considered non compliant with Iranian arrangements for crossing the strait. A Pakistan flagged crude oil tanker, Mardan, has also been included. Iran has warned that blacklisted vessels could face restrictions on future crossings, including fines, seizure or confiscation. The authority also cautioned that vessels cooperating with ships on the list could themselves be added to the blacklist. Operators seeking removal have been asked to submit formal applications explaining their case.

Maritime ownership and management records indicate that most of the vessels on the list are connected to companies based in the United Arab Emirates. Other vessels have links to Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Malta and Singapore. Some of the ships have also previously transported cargo, including energy supplies, to India.

# "All Conventional Missile Technologies": Rajnath Singh Clears DRDO Transfer to Indian Firms

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the transfer of Defence Research and Development Organisation technologies related to all conventional missile systems to Indian companies for indigenous production, marking a major push towards greater self reliance in defence manufacturing.

# "In The Big Games, We Have To Do Better": Fulton Reacts After India's Hockey World Cup Exit

■ India head coach Craig Fulton admits crucial mistakes and a slow start cost the team in the 3-5 defeat to Argentina

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India's hopes of reaching the Hockey World Cup semifinals came to an end after a 3-5 defeat against Argentina, with head coach Craig Fulton admitting that his team failed to deliver when it mattered most.

Fulton described the match as a strange contest and acknowledged that India's performance fluctuated throughout the game. The team made a poor start but improved significantly in the second quarter before struggling again in the third. India produced a late fightback in the final quarter, scoring three goals and creating further opportunities. Fulton felt the team could even have found a fourth goal from a penalty corner, but the recovery came too late to change the result.

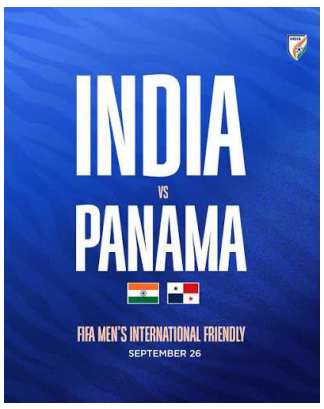
"We didn't want to end like that," Fulton said, reflecting on the defeat. He acknowledged that India had played at a high level during the tournament but stressed that the team needed to raise its performance in decisive matches.

# Praggnanandhaa Storms Into Grand Chess Tour Final With 19-9 Win Over Keymer

■ Indian Grandmaster dominates Germany's Vincent Keymer to set up a high stakes final against Fabiano Caruana

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa produced a dominant performance to reach the final of the last leg of the Grand Chess Tour in St. Louis, defeating Germany's Vincent Keymer 19-9 in the semifinal. Praggnanandhaa entered the final day with a commanding six point advantage after winning the second classical game. With rapid and blitz games scheduled on the concluding day, the Indian quickly strengthened his position. He defeated Keymer in consecutive rapid games, taking an unassailable 17-3 lead and effectively putting the tie beyond his opponent's reach. Praggnanandhaa then won the opening blitz game to increase his advantage to 19 points. Under the tournament format, all scheduled games had to be completed despite the result already being decided. Keymer managed to fight back by winning the final three blitz encounters, but his late surge could not alter the outcome. Praggnanandhaa will now face American star Fabiano Caruana in the final. Caruana advanced after defeating fellow American Wesley So 18-9, with his strong performance in the blitz section proving decisive.




# India Set For First-Ever Clash With Panama Ahead Of Brazil Friendly

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India will take on Panama in an international friendly on Saturday, September 26, during the FIFA men's international window. The venue for the match is yet to be announced. The fixture will be a historic first meeting between India and Panama. It will also see the Blue Tigers face their ninth different opponent from the CONCACAF region. Panama, ranked 44th in the latest FIFA rankings, featured at the 2026 FIFA World Cup and are expected to provide a major challenge for India under head coach Khalid Jamil.

The match will serve as an important test for the Indian side ahead of their much anticipated friendly against Brazil. The Panama fixture is part of India's effort to gain exposure against higher ranked international opposition.

# India Tighten Grip On Sri Lanka As Follow-On Puts Hosts Under Pressure

■ Sri Lanka reach 83/2 at lunch after India take a 213-run first innings lead in Colombo

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India strengthened their position in the second Test against Sri Lanka after enforcing the follow-on on Day 4 in Colombo.

India posted a massive 503/9 declared in their first innings before bowling Sri Lanka out for 290, securing a commanding 213 run lead. Sonal Dinusha offered strong resistance with a century, but India's bowlers eventually completed the job.

With a substantial advantage in hand, India chose to enforce the follow-on and immediately put Sri Lanka under pressure for a second time in the match.

Sri Lanka suffered an early setback when Lahiru Udara was dismissed for three. Kamil Mishara then made 32 before Ravindra Jadeja removed him, leaving the hosts at 83/2 at lunch.

Pasindu Sooriyabandara remained unbeaten on 35 at the interval, while Kamindu Mendis was not out on 10. Sri Lanka still needed to overcome a 130 run deficit and face a difficult task to save the match.

# Loyola, Don Bosco Fatorda Crowned State Sub Junior Basketball Champions

■ Loyola dominate boys' final while Don Bosco stage a strong comeback to claim girls' title

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Loyola, Margao and Don Bosco Sports Academy, Fatorda emerged as the boys' and girls' champions respectively at the Group Priority State Sub Junior Basketball Championship 2026, held at the Don Bosco Oratory in Panjim. In the boys' final, Loyola produced a commanding performance to defeat fellow Margao team Libania Cagers 44-18. Loyola took control from the opening quarter, leading 14-7 before extending their advantage with a 12-3 second quarter. They continued their dominance after the break, winning the third quarter 11-4 and the final period 7-4. Adriel Rosario was the standout performer for Loyola, finishing with 19 points, while Kurt D'Silva contributed 13. Joshua Cardoso scored eight points and Deshawn Cardoso added six for Libania Cagers. Rosario was named the Boys' Final MVP for his impressive display. The girls' final saw Don Bosco Sports Academy, Fatorda overcome an early setback to defeat St. Mary's Girls High School, Mapusa 23-15. St. Mary's led 8-6 after the opening quarter, but Don Bosco responded strongly in the second period, keeping their opponents scoreless while scoring eight points.