



‘More Than 300 Indians Are Missing’: Nepal FM Reveals Scale of Flash Flood Tragedy

■ Rescue operations intensify as deadly floods devastate Nepal’s Himalayan border region

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: More than 300 Indians are among those reported missing after devastating flash floods struck Nepal’s Himalayan border region, raising serious concerns over the safety of tourists, pilgrims and other travellers caught in the disaster.

The floods hit on Wednesday after an ice



and rock avalanche near the Nepal Tibet border triggered a powerful surge of water, mud and boulders into the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river



systems. The sudden flooding caused widespread destruction across Rasuwa, Dhading and downstream areas. At least 160 people have been confirmed dead in Nepal, while thousands remain unaccounted for. Three deaths have

also been reported in China. The full scale of the disaster is still being assessed as rescue teams struggle to access several affected areas.

Nepal Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal said nearly 300 Indians are among those missing. Earlier reports had placed the number of missing Indian nationals and non resident Indians at around 170, but

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

“India Stands With Nepal”: Relief Supplies Reach Flood-Hit Country As Global Support Grows

■ Ten tonnes of humanitarian aid and medicines arrive in Kathmandu as rescue operations continue

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has delivered emergency humanitarian assistance to Nepal as the neighbouring country continues to deal with the devastating impact of floods and landslides along its northern border. A consignment containing 10 tonnes of humanitarian and disaster relief supplies along with essential



medicines has reached Kathmandu. Additional assistance is also being prepared as India steps up support for Nepal’s

ongoing rescue and relief operations. The aid follows a conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese

counterpart Balendra Shah. Modi conveyed condolences over the loss of lives and assured Nepal that India was prepared to provide all possible humanitarian assistance. Indian teams are also coordinating with authorities involved in rescue and relief efforts. The disaster has claimed at least 160 lives, while hundreds of people remain missing. Several

Congress Launches Statewide Movement Against ‘Sale Of Goa’s Land’, Unveils Missed-Call Helpline

***Party launches ‘Goy Vikpak Divche Na, BJP’k Jikpak Divche Na’ campaign; public can register protest by giving a missed call to 8080963939**



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee has launched a statewide campaign against what it described as the BJP-led government’s attempts to “sell off” Goa’s land and hand it over to outsiders.

The campaign, titled ‘Goy Vikpak Divche Na, BJP’k Jikpak Divche Na’ (Won’t Let Goa Be Sold, Won’t Let BJP Win), was launched on August 17 under the leadership of AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge. Senior Congress

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Yuri Alemao Slams BJP Over Anti-Conversion Bill

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao has strongly criticised the proposed Anti-Conversion Bill, accusing the BJP of attempting to divide the people of Goa along religious lines.

Alemao alleged that the BJP was using a “divide and rule” policy targeting Hindus, Christians and Muslims through the proposed legislation. He said the

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06



No Goans Stranded In Nepal So Far: CM Sawant

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has expressed sadness over the situation in Nepal, where some Indian nationals have reportedly gone missing.

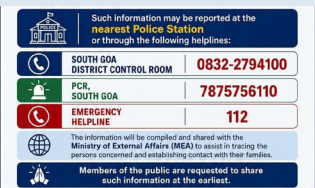
Sawant said the Goa government is in continuous contact with the national authorities to ascertain the whereabouts of the missing Indians and extend all possible assistance.

Goa Authorities Seek Information On Persons Missing In Nepal

■ North and South Goa administrations urge public to share details of missing or uncontactable persons with police and helplines for coordination with MEA

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In view of the recent incident in Nepal, the district administrations of North and South Goa have appealed to members of the public to provide information about any person from Goa who may be missing or whose whereabouts are currently unknown. Authorities have requested that details including the person’s name, contact number



and other relevant information, along with details of family members or contact persons, if available, be shared at the earliest. In South Goa, the information can be reported at the nearest police station or through the South Goa District Control Room at 0832-2794100, PCR South Goa at 7875756110, or

the emergency helpline 112. In North Goa, members of the public can approach the nearest police station or contact the District Control Room at 0832-2225383, PCR North Goa at 7875756117, or the emergency helpline 112. The information received by the authorities will be compiled and shared with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to assist in tracing persons concerned and facilitating contact with their families.

WE ARE HIRING!

Join our team!

NEWSPAPER DESIGNER

What You'll Do:

- Experience in InDesign software
- Experience in Newspaper designing
- Knowledge of Canva
- Work on shift

SALE EXECUTIVE

What You'll Do:

- Freshers and experienced candidates can apply.
- Excellent communication skill
- Prepare advertising proposals, quotations, and follow up with clients.

How to Apply:

Send your portfolio + resume to [our email/DM] Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for a quick test edit.

Why Join Us?

- Work with a dynamic and creative team
- Opportunities to grow
- Be part of impactful journalism & media

APPLY NOW

SEND YOUR CV TO: > goemkarponnnews@gmail.com

CALL US: > +91 89568 93882

Goa's Air Traffic Crisis Needs Context, Not Political Blame

The sharp fall in international air passenger traffic from Goa is undoubtedly worrying. A 69 per cent decline at Dabolim and 42 per cent at Manohar International Airport during the April to June quarter should concern everyone because aviation is closely linked to Goa's tourism economy. But before turning the numbers into another political weapon, there is a need to understand what is happening in the wider world.

It is tempting to blame the Goa government for every decline in tourist arrivals or international flights. The government certainly deserves scrutiny over connectivity, tourism policy, airline incentives and the manner in which Goa's two airports are being managed. But suggesting that the present collapse in international traffic is entirely a result of government failure would be both unfair and factually simplistic.

The world has been going through extraordinary geopolitical turbulence.

The war involving the United States, Israel and Iran has had a direct impact on international aviation. Airlines have been forced to avoid large stretches of Middle Eastern airspace, cancel services, reroute aircraft and take longer and more expensive routes. The disruption is particularly significant for Goa because a substantial part of its international connectivity is linked to the Gulf and wider West Asian aviation network.

When major aviation hubs and airlines are affected by war, destinations such as Goa cannot remain insulated.

The Russia-Ukraine war is another factor that must be considered. Russia has traditionally been an important source market for Goa's tourism industry. The prolonged conflict has changed international travel patterns, airline operations and passenger behaviour. For a destination dependent on international leisure tourism, disruption in major source markets inevitably has consequences.

The latest numbers also show that Goa is not alone. International passenger traffic across India declined by around 10 per cent during the same period. Indian carriers recorded an even sharper fall. This indicates that there is a larger aviation problem at play, rather than a Goa-specific administrative failure.

At the same time, Goa cannot hide behind global circumstances.

The government must ask difficult

"The world has been going through extraordinary geopolitical turbulence.

The war involving the United States, Israel and Iran has had a direct impact on international aviation. Airlines have been forced to avoid large stretches of Middle Eastern airspace, cancel services, reroute aircraft and take longer and more expensive routes. The disruption is particularly significant for Goa because a substantial part of its international connectivity is linked to the Gulf and wider West Asian aviation network.

When major aviation hubs and airlines are affected by war, destinations such as Goa cannot remain insulated.

The Russia-Ukraine war is another factor that must be considered. Russia has traditionally been an important source market for Goa's tourism industry.

questions about why international connectivity has become so vulnerable. Why are airlines reducing services? Why has Goa not been able to develop a wider and more resilient international network? Why does the state remain so dependent on seasonal charter operations and a limited number of foreign markets?

These are legitimate questions.

The existence of two airports has also created a new challenge. Mopa was expected to transform Goa's international connectivity and attract more airlines and destinations. Instead, Goa now has two airports competing within the same relatively small market. That requires careful planning and coordination.

The objective cannot simply be to shift passengers from Dabolim to Mopa. Goa needs to grow the total aviation market.

Dabolim's decline deserves particular attention because it remains an important airport for South Goa and has a long history of handling international and charter traffic. At the same time, Mopa has been growing its domestic footprint. The government, airport operators and airlines need to work together to ensure that both airports complement each other rather than create an unhealthy competition that ultimately hurts connectivity.

Tourism too needs to change.

Goa cannot depend indefinitely on beaches, nightlife and seasonal charter tourists. It needs to attract different categories of international travellers, including those interested in wellness, heritage, culture, business, conferences, sports and long stay tourism. A broader tourism product would also help create demand for more international routes.

The government should also recognise that airlines do not operate routes out of sentiment. They operate where there is sustainable demand and commercial viability. If Goa wants new international routes, it must make a convincing economic case to airlines.

Therefore, the present crisis should become an opportunity for a serious aviation and tourism review.

Political parties will naturally use the figures to attack the government. That is part of democracy. But the debate should not stop at blaming the Chief Minister or the Tourism Department. Nor should the government dismiss the figures by blaming wars and global instability.

Both arguments are incomplete.

The wars in West Asia and Ukraine are genuine external shocks. They have disrupted airspace, airline schedules, travel confidence and international tourism. Goa cannot control these events. What Goa can control is how prepared it is for the recovery.

Wars will eventually end. Air routes will reopen. Airlines will restore capacity. Tourists will begin travelling again. When that happens, Goa must not discover that other destinations have moved ahead.

The real test for the government is therefore not whether it caused the present fall in international traffic. It did not. The real test is whether it uses this difficult period to strengthen Goa's aviation network, diversify tourism markets and make both airports commercially stronger.

Goa should not be looking for someone to blame. It should be preparing for the next takeoff.

OPED

A Law Goa Does Not Need

By Savio Coutinho

Goa has long been recognised for its tradition of social harmony, where people belonging to different faiths and communities have lived together peacefully for generations. It is against this backdrop that the proposed Goa Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2026, deserves careful scrutiny. Before introducing a stringent law dealing with religious conversion, the government must answer a fundamental question: What problem in Goa is this legislation actually seeking to solve?

The government must place before the people credible and official data showing the extent of forced, fraudulent or coercive religious conversions in the State. If such conversions have become a serious and widespread problem, the government has a responsibility to explain the nature and scale of the problem and why existing laws are inadequate to deal with it.

Legislation affecting matters as sensitive as religion and individual belief cannot be based merely on apprehension, political rhetoric or isolated allegations. Laws must respond to demonstrable public concerns. Goa's communities have coexisted for decades without requiring a specialised penal law to regulate matters of personal faith.

There are also legitimate constitutional concerns that cannot be brushed aside. The Constitution guarantees every individual freedom of conscience and the right to profess, practise and propagate religion, subject to reasonable restrictions. Any law dealing with conversion must therefore maintain a careful balance between preventing coercion and protecting an individual's freedom to make personal choices about faith.

The language of such legislation becomes particularly important. Broad definitions and excessive penalties can create uncertainty and leave room for misuse. A law intended to protect citizens should not inadvertently become a tool for harassment, intimidation or interference in genuine personal decisions. The distinction between forced conversion and a voluntary change of faith must remain absolutely clear.

The government also needs to recognise the larger political context. Goa is facing a number of pressing challenges that directly affect people's everyday lives. Infrastructure remains a concern. Employment opportunities, the cost of living, economic growth, traffic, public transport, environmental protection and the future of tourism require sustained attention. These are the issues on which citizens expect the government to deliver.

At a time when people are demanding better roads, more employment, improved public services and stronger economic opportunities, introducing legislation around religious conversion risks shifting public attention towards a deeply polarising cultural debate.

This does not mean allegations of forced conversion should be ignored. Any genuine instance of coercion, fraud or exploitation must be investigated and punished under appropriate law. But the answer should be proportionate, constitutionally sound and based on evidence.

Goa's greatest strength has always been its ability to accommodate diversity without allowing differences in faith to destroy social relationships. That tradition must not be taken for granted.

The government should therefore place the evidence before the public, explain the necessity of the proposed legislation and invite a transparent debate before proceeding. Laws governing faith and conscience must be approached with extraordinary caution.

Goa does not need unnecessary divisions. It needs governance that brings people together and addresses the problems they face every day. The government should focus on those priorities rather than allowing cultural polarisation to become a substitute for accountability and development.

Goa Municipal Poll Process Advances As SEC Reviews Ward Delimitation

■ Final Delimitation Expected By September 9, With Ward Reservation And Elections To Follow

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The State Election Commission (SEC) has moved into the next phase of preparations for elections to Goa's 11 municipal councils, with officials currently examining feedback received on the proposed ward boundaries. State Election Commissioner Menino D'Souza said the Commission is assessing the suggestions and objections submitted by the public and will issue



the final delimitation notification within the deadline set by the High Court of Bombay at Goa. Once the ward boundaries are finalised, the SEC will begin the reservation exercise. The draft reservation

list is scheduled to be released on September 20, allowing the public a month to submit objections or suggestions. The final reservation notification is expected by November 9. The election schedule will then move into its final phase, with the model code of conduct likely to be enforced for 25 days in December. Polling and counting are required to be completed, and results declared, by January

4, 2027. The timeline follows the High Court's recent decision upholding the Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, while directing the SEC to complete the electoral process for all 11 municipal councils by the January 4 deadline. The elected terms of the 11 councils ended between March and May 2026. Administrators were subsequently appointed by the State government to manage the councils until fresh elections are held.

Goa Needs A Law Against its Conversion Into A Sin Destination: Prabhav Naik

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: "Goa needs a law not against religious conversions, but against the conversion of our beautiful land into a destination for crime, drugs, murder, rape, prostitution and casinos," stated Madganvcho Awaaz & Youth Leader Prabhav Naik. Naik said the replies furnished to the Goa Legislative Assembly clearly reveal that only four cases relating to religious conversion were registered in Goa between 2012 and 2025. It may also be noted that the said FIRs were subsequently quashed by the High Court. "These figures expose the misplaced narrative around religious conversions. The real concern confronting Goa today is the alarming transformation of our tourism identity and social fabric," Prabhav Naik said. He said Goa is now increasingly emerging as a "sin destination", with growing concerns over rape, murder, drug abuse, prostitution, organised crime and the unchecked expansion of casinos. "A land known for its



natural beauty, culture, communal harmony and peaceful way of life cannot be allowed to be reduced to a playground for crime, drugs and immoral activities," Naik said. "Instead of creating fear over an issue where the Assembly's own replies show only four cases over thirteen years, the Government must focus on the issues that are affecting ordinary Goans every day. Women must feel safe, families must feel secure and our youth must be protected from the drug menace," Prabhav Naik added. Madganvcho Awaaz has demanded a comprehensive law and stronger enforcement mechanisms to prevent Goa from being systematically converted into a hub for criminal and exploitative activities. "Government must adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards drugs, rape, murder, prostitution, human trafficking and other organised criminal activities."



Calangute Panchayat Told To Remove Seals From Four Clubs

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Panchayats (DoP) has asked the Calangute panchayat to de-seal four clubs, even as the local body prepares to restart its inspection and enforcement campaign targeting commercial establishments allegedly operating without the required approvals. The panchayat had taken action against eight clubs and other commercial establishments last week by sealing their premises. The drive was put on hold on Monday and is expected to resume from Thursday. Panchayat member Sequeira said the local body was yet to examine the DoP communication directing the removal of the seals, as the panchayat office was closed for the Eid holiday. The latest development has also triggered questions over the extent of enforcement in Calangute's busy tourist zone. Former MLA Agnelo Fernandes has urged authorities to conduct checks across the entire belt and take action against establishments allegedly operating as dance bars.

FDA Inspects Porvorim Canteens, Three Ordered To Stop Operations Over Hygiene Lapses

■ Special Drive Planned For Government And Private Institution Canteens; Compliance Checks Required Before Resumption

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched a surveillance drive targeting canteens and eateries operating in and around office establishments in Porvorim, with three units ordered to stop operations after serious structural deficiencies and poor kitchen hygiene were detected.



The inspection covered four establishments, including three canteens serving government offices and one private restaurant. During the inspections, FDA officials identified shortcomings that raised concerns over food safety and hygiene standards.

The three units have been directed to cease operations until corrective measures are completed.

Tillari Canal Repairs To Disrupt Water Supply In Three North Goa Talukas

■ Alternative Pipeline Being Tested As Goa Prepares For Three-Month Tillari Shutdown

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Residents of Pernem, Bardez and Bicholim may face water supply difficulties for three months as repair work on the Tillari canal system in Maharashtra is set to begin from October 1.

The work on the project's left and right bank canals is scheduled to continue until December 31,



during which the flow of water from the Tillari project to Goa will be affected.

Water Resources Minister Subhash Shirodkar said the government has

been working on an alternative arrangement to reduce the impact of the shutdown. A new pipeline connecting Amthane with Cunchelim has already been laid, and testing is expected to begin shortly.

Once tested and commissioned, the pipeline will be used to supply water to the affected areas and further towards Porvorim.

Viral Infections Rise In Goa, Health Department Urges People To Stay Alert

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa is seeing an increase in seasonal viral infections, including H1N1 influenza and Covid-19, prompting the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) to advise residents to take precautions without becoming alarmed.

The health department has cautioned people against using antibiotics without medical advice, pointing out that such medicines are ineffective against viral infections.

St Inez Flat Burgled, Gold Ornaments And Other Valuables Stolen

■ *Woman returning from Coorg finds back door broken open and cupboards ransacked; gold ornaments weighing around 100 grams reported missing

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A burglary was reported at a flat in St Inez, Panaji, after a 62-year-old woman discovered that her residence had been broken into during her absence.

According to the complaint filed by Dr. Sabina Martins, she had travelled to Coorg, Karnataka, with her husband Subhas Naik Jorge on May 28, 2026, and returned to their



residence on May 31 at around 11 pm. On reaching home, she found the back door of the flat broken open.

Upon checking the premises, she noticed several articles missing, including copper and

brass vessels and lamps. A drawer of a bedroom cupboard had also been broken open, from where four gold bangles, a silver coin featuring a Lakshmi design and a silver sindhoor box were allegedly stolen.

Four pairs of gold earrings were also reported missing from the dressing table.

The second bedroom was found ransacked, with two wooden cupboards and a steel cupboard

allegedly broken open. Several gold ornaments, including chains, earrings and rings, along with a gold-coloured Titan wristwatch and other articles, were reported stolen. The complainant estimated the stolen gold ornaments at approximately 100 grams and silver articles at around 25 grams. She stated that the exact value of the stolen property would be established and supported by bills and other documents.



Assagao Rent-A-Bike Rivalry Turns Violent, Man Assaulted With Iron Rod

■ *Business rivalry over rent-a-bike operations allegedly leads to assault near Ulhas General Store; police register case

Team Goemkarponn

ASSAGAO: Anjuna Police have registered an offence following a complaint by 41-year-old businessman Mahesh Dhargalkar of Munang Waddo, Assagao, alleging that he was abused and assaulted during a dispute linked to rent-a-bike business rivalry.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred on August 21, 2026, at around 8.30 pm near Ulhas General Store at Munang Waddo, Assagao. The accused, identified as

Honaji Sawant, allegedly abused Dhargalkar in filthy and abusive language before assaulting him with a hard object believed to be an iron rod.

Police said Dhargalkar sustained cut injuries to his left ear and injuries to his left hand in the alleged assault.

The offence was registered on August 25, 2026, at around 8.40 pm. Further investigation is being conducted by Head Constable Sandeep Pednekar (HC-5197) of Anjuna Police Station.



Retired Woman Allegedly Cheated Of ₹3.6 Lakh In Solar Panel Deal

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: Old Goa Police have registered a cheating case after a 65-year-old retired woman allegedly lost ₹3.60 lakh in a solar panel installation deal.

According to the complaint filed by Amalina Vaz of Mollar, Old Goa, the alleged transaction took place between March 23 and April 8, 2026. Police said the accused, Prashant Naik of Pernem, proprietor of Sai Sun Solar System, allegedly induced the complainant to pay ₹3,60,000 on the assurance of installing a solar panel system at her residence.

However, the solar panel was allegedly not installed and the amount was also not refunded, resulting in an alleged financial loss of ₹3.60 lakh to the complainant.

Old Goa Police registered the offence on August 25, 2026, at 9.01 pm under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, pertaining to cheating.

UK National Arrested With Suspected Ecstasy In Siolim

■ Anjuna Police seize four blue tablets weighing 1.85 grams, valued at approximately ₹40,000, during late-night raid

Team Goemkarponn

SIOLIM: Anjuna Police arrested a 58-year-old United Kingdom national after allegedly finding him in illegal possession of suspected psychotropic drug Ecstasy near the football ground at Marna Wado, Siolim, Bardez-Goa. According to police, the action was carried out on August 25, 2026, between 9.30 pm and 11.30 pm following specific and reliable information. The accused, identified as



John Hepworth, presently residing in Arambol, Pernem, was allegedly found carrying four blue-coloured tablets weighing 1.85 grams and suspected to be Ecstasy, with an approximate value of ₹40,000. Police said the

suspected drug was concealed inside a pink-coloured pouch. The tablets and other

exhibits were seized under a search panchanama after following the mandatory provisions of the NDPS Act. Hepworth was placed under arrest at 12.53 am on August 26 after being informed of the grounds and reasons for his arrest.

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.

Man Allegedly Abducted From Kesarval, Verna Police Register Case

Team Goemkarponn

CORTALIM: Verna Police have registered an offence following the alleged abduction of a man from Kesarval, Cortalim, in the late hours of August 12.

According to the complaint lodged by Subhash Kumar Singh, his cousin brother Vikash Kumar Singh, a native of West Bengal and residing at Kesarval, Cortalim, was allegedly abducted by unknown persons at around 11.45 pm on August 12.

EDC Board Approves Key Financial Decisions, Reports ₹69 Crore Profit

■ CM Pramod Sawant reviews new interest rebate and Easy Exit schemes aimed at supporting Goa's entrepreneurs

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant chaired the 409th Board Meeting of EDC Limited, where several important policy and financial decisions were taken, including the sanctioning of term loans.

The Board approved EDC's consolidated financial statements for FY 2025-26, recording revenue of around ₹128 crore and a profit of approximately



₹69 crore. Sawant appreciated the EDC team and officers for their continued contribution towards strengthening Goa's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The Chief

Minister also reviewed the recently amended Mukhyamantri Modified Interest Rebate Scheme, which includes an additional 5%

rebate for solar projects and an additional rebate of up to ₹15 lakh for loans under the Working Capital Term Loan Scheme. The meeting also discussed the Easy Exit Scheme for

CMRY borrowers, which aims to provide relief to eligible entrepreneurs whose businesses have failed. Under the scheme, eligible borrowers can repay the principal amount within two years, with applicable interest waived.

Sawant urged the EDC team to ensure that the benefits of these initiatives reach every eligible Goan entrepreneur and contribute towards further strengthening the vision of Swayampurna Goa.



Phase III Of Joggers Park To Give Chicalim A Modern, Inclusive Public Space

■ Foundation stone laid by Panchayat Minister Mauvin Godinho; upgraded park to feature accessible spaces, green gym, smart amenities and recreational facilities

Team Goemkarponn

CHICALIM: Panchayat Minister Mauvin Godinho on Tuesday evening laid the foundation stone for Phase III of the Joggers Park at Chicalim, marking another step towards transforming the popular public space into a modern, inclusive and vibrant recreational destination for residents of Dabolim and surrounding areas. The latest phase has been designed with a focus on health, accessibility, recreation, technology and environmental sustainability, with facilities planned to cater to people across different age groups and abilities. A key feature will be wheelchair-accessible and sensory-

friendly spaces, making the park more welcoming to persons with disabilities. The project will also include dedicated children's play areas, a green gym and additional sit-out spaces for exercise, leisure and social interaction. The upgraded park is proposed to have a cafeteria and food court, additional washrooms and a music den, adding convenience as well as a creative and cultural element to the recreational space. Modern amenities will include smart poles equipped with Wi-Fi and CCTV surveillance, EV charging facilities and improved lighting, aimed at making the park safer and more user-friendly, particularly during evening hours.



Catholic Groups Urge MLAs To Clarify Stand On FCRA Amendment Bill 2026

Team Goemkarponn

GOA: The Council for Social Justice and Peace (CSJP) and the Catholic Association of Goa (CAG) have jointly appealed to Catholic MLAs in the Goa Legislative Assembly to clarify their personal stand on the proposed Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, and raise concerns of Goan civil society during the upcoming Assembly session. The organisations said the proposed Bill seeks to create a stringent framework for supervising, managing and disposing of foreign contributions and assets of organisations whose FCRA registration is cancelled, surrendered, expires or is not renewed. It also proposes a Designated Authority with wide-ranging powers. While acknowledging the need for transparency and financial accountability, CSJP and CAG expressed concern that certain provisions could affect genuine charitable, educational, healthcare and social-service institutions if enacted without adequate safeguards.

Ravindra Bhavan Baina Seeks Vacation Of Collector, Mamlatdar Offices

■ Committee says occupation of canteen and art gallery is restricting cultural activities and depriving local artists of vital space

Team Goemkarponn

BAINA: The Ravindra Bhavan Baina committee has renewed its demand for the immediate shifting of the Collector and Mamlatdar offices operating from its premises, stating that their continued occupation is hampering cultural activities at the institution. The committee has raised particular concern over the use of the canteen and art gallery spaces by government offices, saying these facilities were originally intended



to support cultural, artistic and community activities. The occupation of the art gallery has emerged as a key issue, with the committee stating that it has become difficult to organise art exhibitions and other programmes requiring dedicated exhibition space. It said the situation restricts Ravindra Bhavan's ability

to provide a platform for local artists and emerging talent. The committee has urged the government to identify suitable alternative accommodation for the Collector and Mamlatdar offices and restore the occupied areas to their intended purpose. According to the committee, Ravindra Bhavan should primarily function as a dedicated platform for Goa's artists, performers, writers and cultural organisations to showcase their work and promote the state's artistic traditions.

NH66 Expansion Work Halted In Dandewado-Chinchinim As Villagers Demand Bypass, Clarity

■ Velim MLA Cruz Silva backs residents, seeks proper presentation and consultation before work resumes

Team Goemkarponn

VELIM: Villagers of Dandewado-Chinchinim on Wednesday stopped work on the NH66 expansion in the area, demanding clarity on the proposed alignment and urging authorities to provide a suitable bypass to avoid the densely populated portion of the village.

Velim MLA Cruz Silva, along with



villagers and concerned panchayat members, was present at the site and extended support to the residents' demands.

Silva said villagers have every right to know

the exact alignment, scope of work and likely impact of the NH66 expansion before any work proceeds. He demanded

that the concerned authorities make a detailed presentation to the people.

"The villagers have a right to know what is being proposed in their area.

A proper presentation must be made before any work is allowed to proceed. The people cannot be expected to accept a project when the authorities have not clearly explained the proposal to them," Silva said.

Residents clarified that they are not opposed to development or the expansion of NH66, but want the highway to be diverted through a suitable

alignment so that the densely inhabited portion of Dandewado can be bypassed. They said they would have no objection to the project if an appropriate bypass or diversion is provided.

The villagers said the PWD had earlier assured them that their concerns would be heard and that a presentation on the proposed expansion would be made.

"E10 Could Make A Comeback": Centre Weighs Lower Ethanol Premium Petrol Amid E20 Concerns

■ Government explores 10% ethanol premium fuel as motorists raise mileage concerns over E20 petrol

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Centre is considering bringing back petrol with a 10% ethanol blend as concerns grow among motorists over the performance and fuel economy of E20 petrol, particularly in older vehicles.

The Petroleum Ministry is discussing whether existing premium petrol brands such as Indian Oil's XP95, BPCL's Speed and HPCL's Power95 could be offered as E10 fuel. Such a move could allow oil companies to provide a lower ethanol blend without creating an entirely new storage and dispensing network at fuel stations. The proposal is still under consideration, with no final decision taken. One option being examined is offering 95 octane E10 petrol as a premium product, while another is introducing a more affordable regular E10 variant.

The debate comes after motorists raised concerns about reduced mileage and possible effects of E20 petrol on older vehicles. Demand for premium petrol has



reportedly increased significantly, with its share of fuel sales rising from around 4% earlier to approximately 15%.

However, current premium fuels such as XP95, Speed and Power95 are not E10 alternatives. They also contain a 20% ethanol blend but include additional additives designed to improve combustion, clean engine components and provide protection against corrosion.

These fuels are sold at a substantially higher price than regular petrol.

A separate Octane 100 fuel is also available for high performance and luxury vehicles and does not contain ethanol.

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has acknowledged that E20 can affect fuel economy, with the impact varying according to vehicle type and age. He has indicated that mileage could decline by around 2% to 6%.

At the same time, government testing has not found engine durability failures attributable to E20. Tests

have also indicated improvements in acceleration and driving performance, along with significantly lower carbon emissions compared with E10. The government had earlier rejected the idea of maintaining separate nationwide supply chains for different ethanol blends, citing higher logistics costs and inventory complications.

The latest proposal could provide a middle ground by using existing premium fuel infrastructure to offer E10, although its final form and pricing remain undecided.

"Full Tech Transfer And IP Rights": UK Makes Major AMCA Engine Pitch To India

■ Rolls Royce proposes co developing a 120+ kN engine as India weighs options for the AMCA Mk2 fighter

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The United Kingdom has made a major technology transfer proposal to India for the engine that could power the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, offering complete technology transfer and full intellectual property rights as New Delhi evaluates competing bids for its future fifth generation fighter.

British aerospace giant Rolls Royce has proposed jointly developing an entirely new engine producing more than 120 kilonewtons of thrust specifically for the AMCA programme. The proposal is aimed at giving India greater control over the technology and the ability to develop future aero engines independently.

India is currently assessing engine options from Rolls Royce and France's Safran for the more powerful version of the indigenous stealth fighter. A key element of the Rolls Royce proposal is the promise of an engine without third party components. The approach is intended to reduce India's dependence on external suppliers and minimise the potential impact of future sanctions or export restrictions.

The British offer also places emphasis on ownership of intellectual property, potentially allowing India to use and further develop the technology without

remaining tied to foreign licensing arrangements.

The proposal comes as Rolls Royce expands its industrial presence in India through its partnership with Reliance Industries. The two companies are working towards establishing aerospace manufacturing capabilities in the country, including production of aero engine components.

A larger AMCA engine programme could provide another opportunity to expand Indian participation in the design, development and manufacturing of advanced propulsion systems.

The AMCA is India's most ambitious fighter aircraft programme and is intended to deliver a domestically developed fifth generation stealth platform. The initial AMCA Mk1 is planned to use the American GE F414 engine. However, the heavier and more advanced Mk2 variant is expected to require a substantially more powerful engine in the 110 to 130 kilonewton class. The new powerplant will be critical for carrying heavier weapon loads while meeting the demanding performance and stealth requirements of the next generation aircraft.

If accepted, the Rolls Royce proposal could represent a major shift in India's approach to fighter engine development by combining foreign expertise with domestic design capability and intellectual property ownership.



'More Than 300 Indians Are Missing': Nepal FM Reveals Scale of Flash Flood Tragedy

the figure later increased substantially. The affected region is an important route for pilgrims travelling towards Kailash Manasarovar, leaving several Indian visitors caught in the floods. Members of the Isha Foundation were also among those in the affected area, with concerns raised over the whereabouts of people at an immigration centre. Meanwhile, two residents of Karnataka's Kalaburagi district who had been stranded in the region have been rescued and moved to safety. Arrangements are being made to bring them to Delhi before their onward journey. India has stepped up assistance, with Prime

Minister Narendra Modi assuring Nepal of humanitarian support. The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu is coordinating efforts to trace and assist affected Indian nationals.

Congress Launches Statewide Movement Against 'Sale Of Goa's Land', Unveils Missed-Call Helpline

Congress would oppose any such attempt to create divisions in society. The Opposition Leader said the Congress would continue to focus on issues affecting Goa, including corruption and matters concerning the welfare and interests of the people. Alemao maintained that the party would take its campaign against the BJP to the people of Goa and work towards defeating the ruling party in the 2027 Assembly

elections.

Yuri Alemao Slams BJP Over Anti-Conversion Bill

leaders, led by GPCC President Girish Chodankar, Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao, South Goa MP Viriato Fernandes and other senior office-bearers, addressed a press conference in Panaji, outlining the party's position on land-related issues and its plans to take the campaign across the State. Congress alleged that attempts to transfer Goa's land to outsiders, including through provisions such as Section 39A of the TCP Act, have become a major concern for the people of the State. The party said there is growing public anger over what it termed the erosion of Goa's land, identity and way of life.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

“Death Toll Hits 270”: Nepal Floods Leave Over 1,600 Missing As Search Operations Continue

■ Nepal and Tibet battle widespread destruction as rescue teams search for hundreds of missing people

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The death toll from devastating floods and landslides in Nepal and China's Tibet has climbed to 270, while more than 1,600 people remain missing as search and rescue operations continue across the disaster hit regions.

Nepal has recorded 190 deaths and 1,130 missing people, while



three deaths have been reported in Tibet along with 558 people still unaccounted for. Authorities are continuing to verify the figures, with

access.

The disaster began close to the Nepal China border before floodwaters surged downstream, causing widespread

the final toll expected to change as rescue teams reach areas that remain difficult to

destruction across multiple districts. Powerful currents swept away roads and bridges, inundated settlements and damaged several hydropower facilities.

Rasuwa and Dhading have suffered some of the most severe destruction, with the flooding subsequently affecting areas including Nuwakot, Chitwan, Gorkha, Tanahu and Nawalparasi East.



“We Profoundly Value”: Nepal PM Balen Shah Thanks Modi For India's Flood Support

■ Balen Shah expresses gratitude as India steps up humanitarian assistance after deadly floods

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah has thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for expressing solidarity with Nepal and offering India's support following the devastating floods that have killed more than 160 people.

The Nepal Prime Minister's Office said Kathmandu deeply appreciated Modi's condolences and his offer of humanitarian assistance during the crisis. Shah described India's gesture as a reflection of the longstanding friendship between the two neighbouring countries, adding that Nepal places great value on those ties. Modi had earlier spoken with Shah and conveyed his condolences over the loss of lives. He

assured Nepal that India was prepared to provide all possible humanitarian assistance and said teams from both countries were coordinating rescue and relief operations. The Indian government has already dispatched emergency supplies and medicines to assist Nepal as authorities struggle to deal with the widespread destruction. The latest disaster began when the Bhothe Koshi River surged through central Nepal on Wednesday, affecting Rasuwa and Dhading districts near the Tibet border as well as Nuwakot. The powerful floodwaters swept through settlements, damaged infrastructure and destroyed bridges, leaving several communities difficult to access.



“Our Stand Remains Unchanged”: Congress Rejects Omar Abdullah Cabinet Offer Amid J&K Rift

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Congress is unlikely to join the Omar Abdullah led government in Jammu and Kashmir, keeping the alliance between the Congress and National Conference under strain ahead of a possible cabinet expansion.

The Congress, which is a junior partner in the alliance, has maintained that its position has not changed despite a fresh invitation from the National Conference to join the government. Congress Legislature Party leader and AICC General Secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir said the party had received the offer but would continue with its existing position.

Omar Abdullah is currently running the administration with five ministers, including four from the National Conference and one independent. The council can have a maximum of nine ministers under the applicable constitutional framework.

“India, UK In Final Stages”: Major Missile Deal Set To Become LMM's Second Largest Order

■ Hundreds of Lightweight Multirole Missiles expected to strengthen Indian Army's precision strike capabilities

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India and the United Kingdom are nearing the conclusion of a major defence agreement that could see the Indian Army acquire hundreds of Lightweight Multirole Missiles, marking a significant expansion of military cooperation between the two countries. The two governments are in the final stages of an intergovernmental



agreement for the missile system, commonly known as Marlet. An initial emergency procurement is already underway, while the proposed agreement would expand the acquisition into a much larger order involving

hundreds of missiles. Once finalised, the deal is expected to become the second largest order placed globally for the Lightweight Multirole Missile system. The only larger order so far has been linked to Ukraine's defence requirements. The British made missile weighs around 13 kilograms and measures approximately 1.3 metres in length, with a diameter of 76 millimetres.

“High Alert In Samba”: Satellite Phone Signal Triggers Massive Search Operation In J&K

■ Security forces deploy drones and launch an intensive search after suspected satellite communication signal disappears

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Security forces have launched a major cordon and search operation in the forested Sumb area of Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district after a suspected foreign origin satellite communication signal was detected, triggering a heightened security alert.

The signal, reportedly linked



to an Iridium satellite communication device, was detected around 11:15 am in the Samba sector. Shortly afterwards,

Army personnel, Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Special Operations Group moved into the area and surrounded

the hilly terrain, which is covered by dense forests.

The signal disappeared after the initial detection, and no subsequent transmission has been picked up. Security forces have nevertheless continued searching the area to determine who may have been operating the device. Drones have been deployed to conduct aerial surveillance of the surrounding forests and hillocks. Security has

also been increased along roads and routes leading to Sumb, a strategically sensitive location situated near the Basantar River and providing access towards the International Border with Pakistan.

The operation involves personnel from multiple security agencies and is being supervised by local police officers along with Army units.

“Bitter Truth”: PM Modi Says India Must Enter More Olympic Sports To Win More Medals

■ Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls for a wider Olympic footprint as India targets greater sporting success

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged India to expand its presence across a much wider range of Olympic sports, saying the country's medal tally cannot rise significantly unless Indian athletes compete in disciplines where the nation has traditionally had little or no



participation. Addressing athletes, students and volunteers during the Khelo India Dialogue, Modi

described India's limited participation in Olympic events as a “bitter truth”. At the Paris Olympics in 2024, India competed in only 16 of the 32 sports on the programme. According to Modi, focusing only on established medal winning disciplines is not enough. He said India needs to develop expertise in a broader group of sports and build

the infrastructure, coaching and talent pipeline required to compete internationally. Modi highlighted surfing and sport climbing as disciplines where India could have significant potential. He pointed to the country's long coastline and extensive mountainous regions as natural advantages that could support the development of water and winter sports.



“Praggnanandhaa's Title Dream Hangs By A Thread” After Draw With Caruana

■ Indian Grandmaster trails Fabiano Caruana 3 9 after two classical games, with rapid and blitz rounds still remaining

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: R Praggnanandhaa kept his Grand Chess Tour title hopes alive by holding Fabiano Caruana to a draw in the second classical game of their 2026 final on Wednesday. However, the Indian grandmaster still faces a steep challenge after falling six points behind in the opening game.

The second classical encounter ended in a 3 3 draw, leaving Caruana with a 9 3 advantage after the two games. With the classical phase now complete, Praggnanandhaa must rely on the rapid and blitz stages to close the gap and turn the title contest

around. Caruana made a strong start to the final by defeating Praggnanandhaa in the opening classical game and collecting six points under the scoring system used for the match. The Indian player had remained competitive for much of the game after an unconventional opening led to a complicated middlegame.

The position featured a bishop against a knight and initially offered Caruana no straightforward path to an advantage. The decisive moment came on Praggnanandhaa's 28th move. A tactical error allowed Caruana to win material and gradually convert his advantage into victory.

“Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat”: Goa Set For Three-Day National Sports Day Celebration

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa is set to mark National Sports Day 2026 with a three day statewide programme from August 28 to 30, celebrating the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.

The Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, in coordination with the Sports Authority of Goa, will organise the celebrations under the theme “Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat”. The programme will focus on three key pillars: Tribute, Play and Move.

The celebrations will open on August 28 with a walkathon rally at Campal, followed by the inauguration ceremony and competitions for students and the public.

A Beach Volleyball Tournament and Inter Departmental Tug of War will be held at Miramar Beach from 3:30 pm. The activities will bring together media professionals and staff from DSYA, SAG, the Goa Football Development Council and other participating groups. The events are designed to promote fitness, teamwork and camaraderie while encouraging active participation.

“St. Thomas HSS Aldona March Into Final”: Jatin Kiro Hat Trick Powers 4 0 Win

■ Aldona school sets up Zone I Under 19 football final against St. Francis Xavier's HSS Siolim

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: St. Thomas Higher Secondary School, Aldona, produced a dominant performance to storm into the Zone I Under 19 Football Final after defeating Government Higher Secondary School Valpoi 4 0. The match, organised by the Directorate of Sports, Panaji, saw St. Thomas HSS control proceedings and convert their opportunities to secure a convincing victory. Jatin Kiro was the



star of the contest, scoring a superb hat trick to put St. Thomas HSS firmly in control. His clinical finishing proved decisive as the Aldona side maintained its attacking momentum throughout the match. Harsh Maldar also found the net, completing

the four goal tally and sealing a comprehensive win for St. Thomas HSS.

The victory has earned the Aldona school a place in the Zone I Under 19 final, where they will face St. Francis Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Siolim.

“Football Is Also A Form Of Education”: 104 Young Players Receive Kits At Old Goa GFDC Event

■ GFDC initiative promotes fitness, discipline and grassroots football development among children

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A total of 104 young footballers received sports kits during a kit distribution ceremony organised by Portais Sporting Club in association with the Goa Football Development Council at the Old Goa Educational Institute High School Hall on Thursday. The event brought together representatives from the



GFDC, local panchayat, school authorities, coaches and football administrators to encourage children to take up sports alongside their studies. GFDC Vice President Dhaku Madkaikar urged the

young players to make sports an important part of their daily lives. He highlighted the importance of developing physical fitness from an early age and described football as an extension of education.



Madkaikar said the GFDC currently operates 36 football centres across Goa with around 64 coaches. Players at these centres receive football kits, including T shirts, shorts and shoes, twice a

year. He also stressed the importance of discipline, encouraging the children to use their equipment properly, respect the game and maintain good conduct during training and matches. Old Goa Sarpanch Medha Parvatkar congratulated Portais Sporting Club, the GFDC and organisers for creating opportunities for children to develop through sport.