



Opposition Disrupts Goa Assembly Over NDZ Issue

■ MLAs Protest Speaker's Decision To Disallow Question On Section 39A And No Development Zones

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Proceedings in the Goa Legislative Assembly were disrupted on Monday after Opposition MLAs protested against the Speaker's decision to disallow a Question Hour query on No Development Zones (NDZs) under Section 39A of the Town and Country Planning Act. Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao raised a Point of Order and questioned the decision, maintaining that the issue needed to be discussed in the House. Opposition MLAs subsequently entered the well and raised



slogans in protest. The question, submitted by six MLAs, sought details on the declaration and interpretation of NDZs under Section 39A and the Regional Plan 2021, including information on survey numbers, development permissions and technical clearances.

Speaker Ganesh Gaonkar said the question was disallowed under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the House. He cited Rules 9B and 16B and said the matter was sub judice before the Bombay High Court at Goa. The Speaker referred to PIL

Writ Petition No. 53 of 2024 filed by the Goa Foundation against the State of Goa and others, saying the pending court proceedings were the reason the question could not be admitted. The Opposition, however, remained dissatisfied with the ruling and continued its protest inside the House. The disruption eventually led to the Assembly being adjourned for 10 minutes. The NDZ issue has emerged as a major point of confrontation between the government and Opposition during the ongoing Assembly session.

Alemao, Borkar Marshalled Out Over NDZ Row In Goa Assembly

Speaker Says Ruling Disallowing NDZ Question Will Stand As Opposition Demands Fresh Discussion

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Proceedings in the Goa Legislative Assembly witnessed another confrontation over the disallowed question on No Development Zones (NDZs) under Section 39A, with Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao and RGP MLA Viresh Borkar being marshalled



out of the House. The issue was raised again by Alemao, who told the Speaker that the Opposition was not satisfied with the earlier ruling disallowing the question.

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Marathi Protesters Block Old Mandovi Bridge, Set Ultimatum

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Tension prevailed in Panaji on Monday after a large number of supporters of the Marathi Rajbhasha Nirdhar Samiti blocked the Old Mandovi Bridge while pressing for official language status for Marathi in Goa. The protesters had gathered at the Kadamba Bus Stand before proceeding towards the Goa Assembly. After being stopped near the bridge, the demonstrators sat on the road, resulting in the Old Mandovi Bridge being closed to vehicular movement in both

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Vijai Sardesai Vs Mauvin Godinho Over IDC Plot Row

■ Heated Assembly Exchange As Sardesai Demands House Committee Probe Into Alleged Irregularities



Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: A heated exchange took place in the Goa Assembly between GFP MLA Vijai Sardesai and Industries Minister Mauvin Godinho over the allotment and transfer of industrial plots by the Goa Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). Sardesai alleged that 326 IDC plots were transferred between 2021 and 2026 under the Ease of Doing Business initiative, claiming that the process caused an estimated loss of ₹61 crore to the corporation. Questioning the changes



in eligibility criteria for industrial plot bidders, Sardesai demanded that a House Committee be constituted to examine the alleged irregularities in the IDC. Sardesai also directly challenged Godinho, saying he would expose the alleged irregularities and making a political statement about his own electoral contest if he failed to do so. Godinho strongly defended the government's decision to relax the financial eligibility criteria, saying the move was intended to remove barriers for investors and attract industries to Goa.

Goa Puts Anti-Conversion Bill On Hold, Removes It From Assembly Agenda

■ Government Steps Back From Introducing Controversial Legislation After Objections From Ruling MLAs And Opposition

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has decided against bringing the proposed religious conversion law before the Legislative Assembly during the ongoing monsoon session, putting the contentious legislation on hold amid growing opposition. The Goa Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2026 was initially listed for introduction on the first day of the session, with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant expected to move it in the House. However, shortly before the Assembly proceedings began, Sawant met Catholic legislators from the ruling side to discuss concerns surrounding the proposed legislation. Following the meeting, the government chose not to proceed with its introduction.



Independent MLA Alexio Reginaldo Lourenco said the decision followed objections raised by several legislators, including members supporting the government.

The Bill was later taken off the Assembly's Business List, effectively removing it from the agenda for the current session.

The Cabinet had given its approval to the proposed legislation the previous week. Its planned introduction, however, drew criticism from opposition parties, which argued that such a law could create divisions within society and heighten communal tensions.

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Anti-Conversion Bill Needs To Be Studied: MLA Lobo

PANAJI: MLA Michael Lobo said the Anti-Conversion Bill will not come up in the ongoing Assembly session, stressing that the proposed legislation needs to be studied thoroughly before being brought before the House. Lobo said all stakeholders should be taken into confidence before any decision is taken on the bill. He also emphasised that every religion is important and that all religions must be respected.

Goa's Problems Don't Fit Into Three Days

The Goa Assembly begins today, but before the first question is asked and the first debate begins, one uncomfortable question needs to be asked: How can three days possibly be enough for everything Goa needs to discuss?

The state has no shortage of issues. In fact, the list is getting longer by the day.

Law and order is one of the biggest concerns. Gang wars, murders, rape, kidnapping, drugs and now the shocking shooting of a casino director have created an uneasy feeling among people. These incidents cannot be treated as isolated events. They raise larger questions about organised crime, the drug trade, the availability of firearms and whether the police machinery is adequately equipped to deal with a changing security situation.

People need answers. They need to know what is going wrong and what the government intends to do about it.

But law and order is only one part of the problem.

The controversial Section 39A issue, land conversions, illegal constructions, hill cutting and continuing environmental damage are equally important. Goa's land is limited, yet the pressure on it continues to increase. Agricultural land is being converted, natural landscapes are changing, and construction is spreading into areas that were once considered unsuitable for development.

The Assembly is the place where such decisions should be questioned and examined. Not merely through political speeches, but through detailed discussion and accountability.

Then there is unemployment. Every year, thousands of young Goans enter the job market. Many are educated, qualified and ambitious, yet a significant number continue to look outside the state for opportunities. Goa cannot keep talking about development while failing to provide enough meaningful employment for its own youth.

Tourism, infrastructure, roads, public transport, healthcare, education and the cost of living also deserve serious attention. Each of these subjects could consume hours of meaningful debate on its own.

"The anti-conversion bill is expected to be one of the major highlights of the session. The government says the legislation is aimed at preventing forced or fraudulent religious conversions. Those supporting the bill see it as a necessary legal safeguard, while critics have questioned its necessity and raised concerns over individual freedom and the possibility of misuse."

There is nothing wrong with giving the bill serious consideration. In fact, a law dealing with religion and personal freedom deserves careful scrutiny. Every clause must be examined and its possible consequences understood before it becomes law."

But Goa must not allow one politically sensitive bill to overshadow everything else."

And yet, the elected representatives have three days.

The anti-conversion bill is expected to be one of the major highlights of the session. The government says the legislation is aimed at preventing forced or fraudulent religious conversions. Those supporting the bill see it as a necessary legal safeguard, while critics have questioned its necessity and raised concerns over individual freedom and the possibility of misuse.

There is nothing wrong with giving the bill serious consideration. In fact, a law dealing with religion and personal freedom deserves careful scrutiny. Every clause must be examined and its possible consequences understood before it

becomes law.

But Goa must not allow one politically sensitive bill to overshadow everything else.

The real concern is that the Assembly will spend precious hours dealing with legislative business while several pressing public issues receive only limited attention. This is not about opposing the bill. It is about asking whether the government has provided enough time for the legislature to do its actual job.

An Assembly session is not simply a mechanism for passing bills.

It is where ministers are questioned. It is where government decisions are challenged. It is where Opposition members raise the concerns of their constituencies. It is where uncomfortable questions are supposed to be asked and answered.

A three day session inevitably puts a limit on all of this.

And the timing makes the decision even more difficult to understand. Goa is entering an election year. This should be the period when the government faces the greatest scrutiny. The Opposition should have enough time to question its record and the government should have enough time to explain what it has achieved.

Instead, Goa gets three days.

There is a danger that the Assembly becomes a race against the clock, with legislators rushing through questions, debates and bills simply because there is not enough sitting time.

That is not meaningful legislative scrutiny.

Goa's problems will not disappear when the Assembly adjourns after three days. The gang wars will still need to be tackled. Land conversions will continue to raise concerns. Environmental damage will remain. Young people will still look for jobs. Questions over development and governance will continue. The Assembly, therefore, should not be treated as a calendar obligation that has to be completed in the shortest possible time.

Goa needs a legislature that sits longer, debates more and scrutinises harder.

Three days may be enough to conduct business.

It is certainly not enough to discuss Goa.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Is This Revenge from Lodha?

The arrest of two Goans for allegedly extorting ₹41 lakh from The House of Abhinandan Lodha over its One Goa township project raises more questions than it answers.

According to reports, the two accused from Karapur allegedly demanded ₹6 crore from the developer and subsequently received ₹34 lakh and ₹7 lakh. Police have alleged that they threatened company officials and claimed that money was required to manage protesters opposing the project.

There is no justification for extortion. If people have genuine objections to a project, there are democratic and legal ways to raise them. Threatening a company and demanding money cannot be defended in the name of protecting Goa.

But there is another question that Goans cannot ignore: Is this really only an extortion case, or is there a larger story behind it?

The One Goa project has faced strong local opposition, particularly over concerns surrounding land, development and the impact of large projects on Goa's character. When such a controversial project suddenly becomes the centre of an alleged extortion racket, authorities must investigate every angle.

Was the opposition to the project genuine? Were some individuals exploiting the protests for personal gain? Were there others behind the alleged extortion? And most importantly, has the arrest been used to portray every person opposing the project as an extortionist?

Goa has seen enough battles over land and development to know that the truth is rarely as simple as it first appears.

The police must establish the facts without fear or favour.

If this is extortion, punish those responsible. But if there is more to the story, Goans deserve to know that too.

- Antonio D'Souza, Mapusa

Goa Cannot Become a Safe Haven for Gunmen

The firing at casino director Srinivas Nayak in Porvorim should worry every Goan. Two unidentified men allegedly fired three rounds at Nayak's car while he was sitting inside with his security personnel. What makes the incident even more disturbing is that it happened just metres away from a police station.

Thankfully, Nayak escaped unharmed, and his security personnel managed to return fire, forcing the attackers to flee. But we cannot depend on luck every time criminals decide to use guns in public places.

The incident raises a simple question: How did armed men feel confident enough to open fire in such a prominent location?

Goa has been witnessing increasing concerns over drugs, gang activity, violence and the easy availability of firearms. If criminals can plan and execute a shooting in Porvorim, what message does it send to ordinary citizens?

The police must not only arrest the shooters but also establish who sent them, why Nayak was targeted and where the weapons came from. The motive is as important as the arrest.

The Chief Minister has said that those responsible will not be spared. Goans will now expect action, not merely assurances.

Law and order cannot be judged by whether the victim survived. It must be judged by whether criminals believe they can get away with such acts.

Goa is known for its peace and safety. We cannot allow guns and gang violence to become part of our daily life.

- Francis D'Souza, Porvorim

Opposition Targets Government Over Three-Day Assembly Session

■ Leaders Raise Concerns Over Jobs, Healthcare, Water Security, Environment, Law And Order And Goa's Identity

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The opening day of the three-day Goa Assembly session saw Opposition leaders launch a broad attack on the government, raising questions over the duration of the session and several issues affecting the state.

Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao criticised the government for restricting the Assembly session to three days, saying the Opposition had



demanding at least 15 days to adequately debate matters concerning the people of Goa. Alemao accused the government of failing to address key concerns relating to healthcare, infrastructure, education, unemployment, environmental protection and law and order. He also raised concerns over

the increasing pressure on the Goa Medical College, pollution of rivers, unemployment among Goan youth and recent shooting incidents. He alleged that the government was avoiding wider public sentiment by limiting the time available for legislative discussion and questioned its handling of public safety and social harmony. MLA Viresh Borkar called for greater Opposition unity, saying defeating the BJP

and protecting Goa's interests should remain key priorities. He said his party was strengthening its organisation at the state, district and block levels while continuing discussions with like-minded political parties. Borkar also welcomed increased participation of women in politics, saying greater representation would help ensure that women's concerns receive a stronger voice in decision-making.



Marathi Language Agitation Gains Political Attention In Goa

■ Leaders Offer Different Views On Marathi Schools, Official Language Demand And Democratic Right To Protest

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The ongoing agitation over the demand for greater recognition of Marathi in Goa has triggered varied reactions from political leaders, with the issue being discussed against the backdrop of the ongoing Assembly session.

Minister Ramesh Tawadkar stressed the importance of Marathi-medium primary schools and said issues concerning education and the mother tongue should be discussed and addressed appropriately. He also spoke about the law and order situation, saying the government has a responsibility to take strict action against violations and ensure that necessary directions are

implemented effectively. Goa Assembly Speaker Ganesh Goankar, when questioned by the media about the ongoing Marathi language agitation, did not respond to questions and remained silent.

Cortalim MLA Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco said there was no need to change the existing decision on the official language issue. He questioned the timing of the renewed demand and alleged that the issue was being raised with the upcoming elections in mind.

Minister Sudin Dhavalikar recalled that the MGP had earlier supported the demand for Marathi as an official language and had participated in the movement.



Crime Branch Takes Over Porvorim Shootout Probe

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The investigation into the attempted shooting of casino executive Shrinivas Nayak and his security guard in Porvorim has been transferred to the Goa Crime Branch, three days after the incident.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant informed the Assembly on Monday that the Crime Branch would now lead the probe. He said the investigation was in progress and expressed confidence that the attackers would be identified and arrested.

The case was taken up in the House after Goa Forward Party MLA Vijai Sardesai moved an adjournment motion over concerns surrounding the state's law and order situation. Sardesai had called for the Crime Branch to investigate the shooting.

Raising questions over the security arrangements, Sardesai pointed out that the attack occurred only about 500 metres from the Legislative Assembly as well as the Porvorim police station.

CM Pramod Sawant Assures Release Of Pending Diocesan Salaries Within Two Days

■ Vijai Sardesai raises issue of salaries pending for over 458 teaching and non-teaching staff; release linked to chairman

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Forward Party (GFP) chief and MLA Vijai Sardesai raised the issue of pending salaries of more than 458 teaching and non-teaching staff of the Diocesan Society of Goa during the ongoing Assembly session. Sardesai sought the government's intervention in resolving the salary issue, highlighting the difficulties being faced



by the employees due to the delay in payments. Speaking in the Assembly, Sardesai said former Congress president Amit Patkar had also approached him regarding the matter and brought the concerns of the affected

employees to his notice. Responding to Sardesai, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant assured the House that the pending salaries would be released within two days, subject to the chairman of the Diocesan Society coming forward and signing the required documents. The Chief Minister's assurance is expected to provide relief to the more than 458 teaching and non-teaching employees awaiting their salaries.

Cancel Porvorim Flyover Inaugural Fanfare, Use Funds For Nepal Flood Relief: Prabhav Naik

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Madganvcho Awaaz and Youth Leader Prabhav Naik have appealed to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari to cancel the proposed inaugural fanfare event of the Porvorim Flyover scheduled on 9th September 2026 and open it directly for public use. In a letter addressed to Gadkari, Prabhav Naik highlighted the immense loss of life and widespread



destruction caused by the devastating floods in Nepal, which have left thousands of families distressed, with several Indian citizens also reportedly affected and missing. "At a time when Nepal is facing such a grave humanitarian

tragedy, celebrations and extravagant ceremonies would be insensitive. Humanity and compassion must take precedence over ceremonial fanfare," stated Prabhav Naik. He urged the Union Ministry to utilise the expenditure earmarked for the inauguration, or contribute an equivalent amount through the appropriate Government of India mechanism, towards rescue, rehabilitation and humanitarian relief efforts in Nepal. Naik said that such a compassionate gesture would

demonstrate sensitive and responsible governance while further strengthening India's enduring friendship and solidarity with Nepal during its gravest hour of need. "The Porvorim Flyover can be opened directly for public use without an elaborate ceremony. Cancelling the fanfare and supporting the distressed people of Nepal would set a meaningful example that public welfare and humanity come before celebration," concluded Prabhav Naik.

Supreme Court Rejects Bail Pleas Of Three Accused In Goa Nightclub Fire Case

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: The Supreme Court has upheld the cancellation of bail granted to three accused in connection with the deadly Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub fire in Arpora, Goa, bringing them back within the custody process as the criminal case moves forward. A Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu dismissed the pleas filed by Saurabh Luthra & Gaurav Luthra.

₹3.5 Lakh Fraud Case Registered Against Goa Man Over Alleged Forged Lease Document

■ Anjuna Police Allege Forgery, Misappropriation And Unauthorised Transfer Of Firm's Funds

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered a case against a Goa resident for allegedly forging a lease termination document and misappropriating funds belonging to a firm, causing an estimated loss of ₹3.5 lakh. According to police, the case was registered on August 29, 2026, at 9.30 pm



based on a complaint filed by Ishan Thakur, 38, a resident of Assagao, Bardez. The complainant alleged that on August

3, 2026, at TKN, Siolim, the accused, identified as Gaurav Bakshi, allegedly forged a document purporting to be a Termination

of Lease Deed dated September 26, 2024. Police said the allegedly forged document was subsequently produced

before the competent authorities.

According to the complaint, the accused thereafter allegedly dishonestly misappropriated funds belonging to the firm styled as HelpdesQ and caused unauthorised withdrawal and transfer of the funds without the knowledge or consent of the complainant.



Panaji Police Arrest Kerala Man In ₹7.54 Lakh Mobile Banking Fraud Case

■ Accused Allegedly Hacked Complainant's Mobile Phone And Made Multiple Unauthorised UPI Transactions

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have apprehended a man from Kerala in connection with a cyber fraud case involving the alleged unauthorised transfer of ₹7,54,638 through UPI transactions.

According to police, Vijay Shah, 48, a resident of Panaji, lodged a complaint on July 6, 2026, stating that on May 29, 2026, an unknown accused allegedly hacked his OPPO A79 5G mobile phone and carried out multiple unauthorised online banking transactions.

The accused allegedly transferred a total amount of

₹7,54,638 through UPI to multiple bank accounts without the complainant's knowledge, thereby allegedly committing cheating and theft.

In connection with the complaint, Panaji Police Station registered Crime No. 117/2026 under Sections 318(4) and 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and initiated an investigation.

During the investigation, Panaji Police, using technical assistance and information developed through their sources, traced and apprehended the accused, identified as Abdul Haseeb K.P., a native of Pandikkad in Malappuram, Kerala.



81-Year-Old Goa Man Duped Of ₹6.05 Lakh In Fake Bank Representative Fraud

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: Old Goa Police have registered a case after an 81-year-old retired resident of Ribandar was allegedly cheated of ₹6.05 lakh by an unknown person impersonating a Bank of India representative. According to police, the complainant, identified as Vaman, son of Krishna Kamat, residing at Patto, Ribandar-Patto, received a communication from an unknown person using mobile number 9907186634.

The incident reportedly took place on July 25, 2026, prior to 9 pm, at the complainant's residence. The accused allegedly impersonated himself as a representative of Bank of India and told the complainant that obtaining a debit card from the bank would entitle him to a 20% to 30% discount at medical stores or private hospitals.

The complainant reportedly agreed to the offer and received a proforma through WhatsApp.

Mumbai Police Arrest Two Goa Residents In Alleged Extortion Case Over One Goa Project

■ Accused Allegedly Demanded Money From House Of Abhinandan Lodha And Threatened To Disrupt Karapur Housing Project

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: The Anti-Extortion Unit of the Mumbai Police has arrested two Goa residents in connection with an alleged extortion case involving a demand for money from The House of Abhinandan Lodha over its One Goa housing project at Karapur in Bicholim, Goa.

The case was registered at N. M. Joshi Marg Police Station under



Crime No. 110/2026. According to the complaint, the accused allegedly demanded money from the real estate company and threatened to disrupt the housing project if their demands were not met.

Police allege that the accused also forcibly took approximately ₹41 lakh from the company in connection with the extortion demand.

The arrested accused have been identified as Siddhesh Tari and Pritesh Salgaonkar, both residents of Goa.

According to the available information, the two were arrested in Dodamarg, Maharashtra, during the course of the investigation.

Unidentified Man's Body Found Floating Near Sinkerim Jetty

■ Body Recovered With Help Of Fire Brigade And Shifted To GMC Morgue For Preservation

Team Goemkarponn

SINQUEURIM: An unidentified male body, believed to be of a man aged between 40 and 54 years, was found floating near the seashore at Sinkerim Jetty in Sinkerim, Bardez, on August 29, 2026.

According to police, information regarding the body was received from the Police Control Room (PCR), Panaji, at around 4.57 pm.



The body was subsequently removed from the water with the assistance of Fire Brigade personnel. Police

conducted the necessary formalities before shifting the deceased to the Goa Medical College (GMC) Morgue at Bambolim for

preservation.

Arrangements have been made to conduct the post-mortem examination and complete other required formalities.

The identity of the deceased and the circumstances surrounding the death are yet to be ascertained.

Further investigation is in progress under the supervision of PSI Prajit Mandrekar.

Canacona Man Booked For Trespass, Threats And Assault At Agonda Shop

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Canacona Police have registered a case against a man for allegedly trespassing into a shop at Agonda, damaging property, issuing death threats and assaulting the shop owner.

According to the complaint filed by Kamal Kishor, a resident of Canacona and native of Delhi, the incident took place between 1.30 pm on August 28 and 8.30 am on August 29, 2026, at Agonda, Canacona.

Driving Goa Towards a Better Future

Goa is taking confident steps towards building a modern, comfortable and efficient public transport network, with the Government placing greater emphasis on connectivity, passenger convenience and improved mobility across the state.

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant recently flagged off 10 new semi-luxury buses at the KTC Stand in Panaji, adding to the Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited's fleet and strengthening public transport services for commuters across Goa.

The new buses represent the Government's vision of providing citizens with modern, comfortable and reliable transportation. With improved fleet strength, KTCL is set to serve more passengers while supporting seamless connectivity between towns, villages and key destinations across the state.

The transformation does not stop with the latest bus induction. As part of the next phase of KTCL's expansion, six luxury sleeper coaches equipped with modern amenities will be introduced by Dussehra 2026. These coaches will provide passengers with a more comfortable travel experience while strengthening interstate connectivity between Goa and neighbouring states.

The Government also plans to induct another 24 semi-luxury buses, further boosting the state's public transport network. This continued expansion reflects a clear vision of creating a stronger and more accessible transport system

for Goans and visitors.

Public transport is an important part of Goa's growth story. Better bus connectivity supports students, employees, senior citizens, businesses and families while making travel more convenient and accessible. A stronger public transport network also complements Goa's tourism sector by making destinations easier to reach.

The focus on modern buses and improved passenger amenities demonstrates a commitment to making public transportation an attractive and comfortable choice. With new technology and upgraded facilities becoming an integral part of KTCL's fleet, commuters can look forward to an enhanced travel experience.

The vision also aligns with a more connected and sustainable Goa. Encouraging greater use of public transport can support smoother mobility while helping reduce dependence on individual vehicles.

The latest bus induction is therefore more than an addition to the KTCL fleet. It is part of a broader vision to transform public transportation in Goa and create a network that connects people, communities and opportunities.

With continued investment, modern vehicles and expanded services, Goa is steadily moving towards a public transport system designed for the needs of a growing and dynamic state.

The message is clear: a better connected Goa begins with better public transport.



Department of Information and Publicity



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Alemao, Borkar Marshalled Out Over NDZ Row In Goa Assembly

The Opposition sought a fresh ruling and pressed for the matter to be discussed in the House.

Speaker Ganesh Gaonkar, however, made it clear that his earlier decision would remain unchanged. He said the ruling disallowing the NDZ-related question stands and that "there won't be any change."

The situation escalated after Alemao and Borkar moved to the well of the House and disrupted proceedings. They were subsequently marshalled out.

Gaonkar explained that the amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act introducing Section 39A had already been discussed during a special half-hour discussion held on

February 7, 2024.

Alemao countered that the Opposition had proposed a fresh special discussion on the issue during the Business Advisory Committee meeting.

The protest saw different positions among the Opposition benches. Vijai Sardessai did not participate in the protest in the well, while the other Opposition MLAs remained seated.

The NDZ issue continues to create friction between the government and Opposition, with the latter insisting that the matter requires further discussion in the Assembly.

Goa Puts Anti-Conversion Bill On Hold, Removes It From Assembly Agenda

The proposed legislation

aimed to penalise religious conversions allegedly obtained through force, coercion, undue influence, deception, inducements or marriage.

Among its proposed provisions were severe penalties, including imprisonment that could extend up to life, a minimum fine of ₹50,000, and compensation of up to ₹5 lakh for affected individuals.

Another provision dealt with marriages allegedly used as a means to facilitate unlawful conversion. Such marriages could be declared invalid if found to have been conducted solely for that purpose.

People accused of assisting or facilitating unlawful conversions, including certain religious functionaries, could have faced three to 10 years in prison under the proposed law.

The legislation also provided for tougher punishment when alleged conversions involved

minors, women, persons with disabilities or mental illness, or members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

For now, the government's decision means the controversial proposal will not be debated or voted on during the ongoing monsoon session.

Marathi Protesters Block Old Mandovi Bridge, Set Ultimatum

directions.

Traffic was diverted through the New Mandovi Bridge as police personnel were deployed in large numbers at the spot. Motorists were advised to use the alternate route and exercise caution.

Before the protest escalated, Marathi language agitators gave the government a five-minute deadline to respond to their

request for a meeting with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

The protesters said they would wait for five minutes for a response and, failing an assurance of a meeting, would proceed towards the Assembly Complex with their demand for official language status for Marathi.

Leader Subhash Velingkar said the agitation would continue if the protesters were not given an opportunity to meet the Chief Minister. The Samiti has been seeking a resolution on Marathi's official language status during the ongoing Assembly session.

The developments also drew political reactions. Minister Sudin Dhavalikar, when questioned by the media, expressed support for the demand raised by the protesters. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, meanwhile, said such protests are natural and are bound to take place during Assembly sessions.

'They Are Not Saints': Sonam Wangchuk Says CJP Founders Have Political Ambitions

■ Activist backs young leaders entering politics but urges student movements to remain neutral and apolitical

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Activist Sonam Wangchuk has said he believes the founders of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) have political ambitions, while stressing that there is nothing wrong with aspiring to enter electoral politics. Speaking about his association with the CJP founders during a



podcast, Wangchuk said his view was based on his own assessment of their conduct and interactions.

He clarified that none of them had directly told him about plans to pursue politics. Wangchuk said he does not see political ambition as something negative and believes more young people should consider entering public life.

He suggested that young leaders could either join established political parties or create new

political platforms of their own. He also addressed criticism surrounding his association with CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, who had previously been associated with the Aam Aadmi Party. Wangchuk said a person's past involvement with a political party does not automatically make their participation in a public movement inappropriate.



Congress Issues Cabinet Exit Warning Over Rahul Gandhi's 2029 PM Bid

■ Tamil Nadu minister says Congress could quit Vijay's government if TVK refuses to back Rahul Gandhi

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Tamil Nadu Tourism Minister S Rajesh Kumar has warned that Congress ministers could resign from the state Cabinet if the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) does not support Rahul Gandhi as the party's preferred prime ministerial candidate for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. Speaking at a programme marking George Robinson's appointment as President of the Kanyakumari West District Congress Committee, Rajesh Kumar expressed confidence that Rahul Gandhi would become India's Prime Minister in 2029. The remarks come amid a politically

significant arrangement in Tamil Nadu, where TVK Chief C Joseph Vijay is heading a coalition government that includes the Congress. The Congress currently has two ministerial positions in the state Cabinet, marking its return to the Tamil Nadu government after several decades.

TVK emerged as the largest party in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, winning 108 of the 234 seats. With 118 seats required for a simple majority, the party relied on support from the Congress and other allies to form the government, with Vijay becoming Chief Minister.

Congress's return to the Cabinet represents a major shift in the state's political landscape.



Nepal Flood Death Toll Crosses 900 as New Alert Raises Fear of More Flash Floods

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Nepal has issued a fresh flood warning as rescue teams continue searching for thousands of people missing after a devastating glacial collapse triggered catastrophic flooding along the Nepal Tibet border. Nepal's disaster authorities have reported 903 deaths and 4,247 people still missing. On the Chinese side of the border, authorities have recorded 16 deaths and 546 missing people. The combined toll has now crossed 900, while the scale of the missing population has placed enormous pressure on rescue and relief operations. Authorities in Nepal received warnings of increased water flow from upstream areas after Chinese officials detected further risks in the mountainous region. Water levels in the Bhotokoshi River have been rising, while fresh rainfall has complicated efforts to reach communities cut off by destroyed roads and bridges.

Indian Navy Commissions 'Nipun' With Advanced Deep Sea Diving and Submarine Rescue Capabilities

■ Second Diving Support Vessel strengthens India's underwater intervention, salvage and submarine rescue operations

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Indian Navy has commissioned its second Diving Support Vessel, 'Nipun', in Mumbai, adding a specialised platform to its deep sea diving, underwater intervention and rescue capabilities. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan commissioned the vessel at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on Monday.



Built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, 'Nipun' was formally handed over to the Navy at Visakhapatnam on July 30, 2026. The vessel has been constructed in accordance with the classification standards of the Indian Register of Shipping. The

Sanskrit name 'Nipun' refers to someone who is skilled, capable and highly proficient in a particular field. The vessel has been purpose built to support demanding underwater operations, including deep sea diving and rescue missions. 'Nipun' is equipped with advanced diving systems that enable deep sea saturation diving, along with a side diving stage designed to support diving activities.

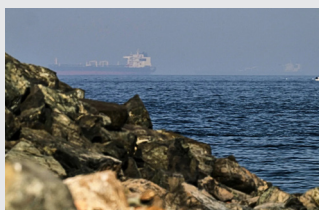
US Strikes Iran's Larak Island Over Strait of Hormuz Mine Threat, Tehran Vows Retaliation

■ American forces target Iranian launch systems after alleged preparations to deploy sea mines in the strategic waterway

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The United States has carried out strikes against two Iranian launch systems on Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz, marking the first known American attack on Iranian territory since late July.

The strikes were conducted after US forces allegedly detected members of Iran's



Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps preparing launchers to fire rockets carrying sea mines into the strategically important waterway. The operation was confirmed by a US official.

Larak Island is located

south of Hormuz Island and east of Qeshm Island. Its position places it close to the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important routes for global energy shipments.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps acknowledged that Larak Island had come under attack. Iranian authorities said several military personnel and civilians were killed or wounded in the strikes

and warned that the United States would face a response and punishment. The attack comes amid escalating tensions between Washington, Tehran and Israel. The United States and Israel launched coordinated military operations against Iran on February 28, prompting Tehran to retaliate with attacks targeting Israel as well as Gulf states hosting American military facilities.

US President Donald Trump had previously warned that Washington would respond if Iran attempted to place additional mines in the Strait of Hormuz. Any disruption to the waterway could have significant consequences for global oil and gas supplies because of its importance to international energy trade.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Makes History at 15, Breaks 57 Year Old Duleep Trophy Record

■ Teenage opener becomes the youngest player to score a half century in the tournament

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has added another remarkable achievement to his growing list of records after becoming the youngest player to score a half century in Duleep Trophy history.

The 15 year old opener reached the landmark at 15 years and 157 days during East



Zone's semifinal against defending champions Central Zone. He smashed his fifty from just 42 deliveries, striking five fours and three sixes in an

aggressive display.

Sooryavanshi surpassed the previous record held by Laxman Singh, who scored a Duleep Trophy half century at the age of 16 years and 23 days in 1969. Piyush Chawla is third on the list, having reached the milestone at 16 years and 307 days.

The young batter came close to another piece of history but fell eight runs

short of becoming the youngest player to score a century in the competition.

Sooryavanshi's innings once again highlighted his fearless approach, with the teenager taking on the bowlers from the beginning and maintaining a high scoring rate. His performance came after he briefly took charge of East Zone during the match when regular captain Ishan Kishan left



Tilak Varma Emerges as India's Top Choice to Back Up Shreyas Iyer for 2027 ODI World Cup

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup are beginning to take shape, with Tilak Varma emerging as a leading candidate to provide depth in the middle order and serve as a potential backup for Shreyas Iyer.

The team management is reportedly assessing different combinations as injuries continue to affect all rounders Hardik Pandya and Nitish Kumar Reddy. Their fitness concerns have created a challenge for India in maintaining the right balance between batting and bowling.

Tilak's ability to contribute with the ball has strengthened his case. The left hander could offer an additional four overs in one day cricket, reducing the workload on India's specialist bowlers while adding flexibility to the playing XI.

The management is also looking beyond immediate requirements and preparing for the conditions expected at the 2027 World Cup in South Africa.

Hockey World Champions Crowned: Germany Clinch 4th Men's Title, Argentina End Dutch Reign in Women's Final

■ Germany edge Spain 1-0 as Argentina defeat Netherlands in shootout to lift their third Women's World Cup trophy

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Germany created history by winning the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup for the fourth time after defeating Spain 1-0 in a tightly contested final. The victory moved Germany level with Pakistan as the joint most successful nation in the tournament's history. Germany had previously lifted the men's World Cup in 2002, 2006 and 2023. Spain, meanwhile,



reached the final for the first time since 1998 but remained without a maiden world title. The final was dominated by disciplined defending, with both sides struggling to create clear scoring opportunities. After a goalless first half, Germany finally broke the deadlock in the 44th



minute when Michel Struthoff converted a well constructed attacking move from open play. Spain responded with sustained pressure and produced several attacks during the third quarter, but Germany's defence repeatedly denied the equaliser.



"Young Shuttlers Set for Glory": U13 Finals Take Shape at Sunlite State Badminton Ranking Tournament

■ Ayansh-Michael, Pratik-Varun and two girls' pairs secure final berths as U11 finalists are also confirmed at Campal

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The stage is set for an exciting finish in the junior doubles categories at the Sunlite State Badminton Ranking Tournament 2026, with four pairs booking their places in the Under 13 finals on the opening day at the Indoor Stadium, Campal, on Sunday.

In the Boys' U13 doubles semifinals, fourth seeds Ayansh Sanke and Michael Ryan Mare defeated Rajveer Patil and Viaan Redkar 16-14, 15-12 to enter the final. Pratik P Naik Borkar and Varun Sahakari produced one of the day's closely contested results, overcoming second

seeds Mihir Chafadkar and Vedh Lotliker 14-16, 15-12, 17-15.

The Girls' U13 doubles final will feature third seeds Amaira Dhumatker and Komal Kothari against Anvitha Poojari and Ashbah Tahasildar. Amaira and Komal defeated Aditi Dhargalkar and Kanika Pai Vernekar 15-7, 15-5, while Anvitha and Ashbah overcame second seeds Nishka Gauns Dessai and Tirtha Shetkar 15-13, 15-9. The U11 doubles finals were also decided. Fourth seeds Mahipal Singh Parmar and Priyansh Sawant Dessai defeated Sambhav Bhardwaj and Shloke Utagi 15-13, 15-5.

Neeza Kamat Stuns Top Seed Ishita, Reaches YMCA Table Tennis Final

■ Anushri Naik joins Neeza in Women's final as Chandan Caro and Diljeet Velingkar advance in Men's singles

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Neeza Kamat produced a major upset at the YMCA All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament, defeating top seed Ishita Colaso 3 2 to storm into the Women's singles final at the Indoor Stadium, Campal, on Sunday.

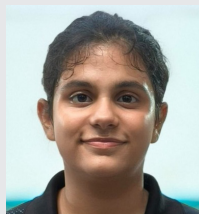
Neeza showed composure in a closely fought semifinal



to overcome the tournament's top seed and secure her place in the title clash. She will face Anushri Naik, who earned a hard fought 3 2 victory over Sanisha Sinha in the other Women's singles semifinal.



The Men's singles final will see Chandan Caro take on former State champion Diljeet Velingkar. Chandan delivered a dominant performance in his semifinal, sweeping Rishan Shaikh 4 0 to



impressive result against second seed Atharv Dhulapkar. The former State champion prevailed 4 2 to set up a much anticipated final against Chandan.

The tournament has also witnessed strong

book his place in the championship match.

Diljeet, meanwhile, produced an impressive result against second seed Atharv Dhulapkar. The former State champion prevailed 4 2 to set up a much anticipated final against Chandan.

performances in the junior categories. In the Girls Under 19 singles semifinals, Ishita Colaso bounced back from her Women's singles defeat by securing a convincing 3 0 win over Sanisha Sinha. Neeza continued her impressive run in the Under 19 category as well, edging past Gianna George 3 2 in a tightly contested semifinal to earn another place in a final.