



# Oppn Questions Goa's Low Conviction Rate; CM Sawant

Defends Police Detection, Borkar Flags 5.85% Conviction Rate, Organised Crime And Drug Threats; Sawant Says Pending Cases Affect Overall Figures

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** RGP MLA Viresh Borkar today questioned the effectiveness of Goa's criminal justice system, raising concerns over the state's low conviction rate despite a high crime detection rate. Borkar cited government data showing a 98.92% crime detection rate against a conviction rate of just 5.85%, and questioned whether



the wide gap pointed to shortcomings in investigation, prosecution or enforcement. The MLA also raised concerns over organised criminal activities, drug-related offences, the alleged smuggling of drugs

into Colvale Jail and the recent Porvorim shootout, calling for stronger policing and preparedness. Responding to the Opposition's concerns, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant defended the

performance of the Goa Police, stating that the department has a strong record in detecting cases. He said police were taking necessary steps to ensure that accused persons are brought to justice, while convictions ultimately depend on prosecution and court proceedings. Sawant said around 9,000 of the 12,795 cases are still pending, which, according to him, has an impact

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## Goa Labelled 'Crime Capital' As LoP Yuri Alemao Accuses Govt Of Failing To Curb Crime

Alemao Flags No Murder Convictions In Three Years And Police Staff Shortage; CM Sawant Says Vacancies Will Be Filled Within A Month

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**PANAJI:** Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao launched a sharp attack on the Goa Government over the state's law-and-order situation, alleging that the Home Department has failed to effectively curb crime and take cases to their logical



conclusion. Alemao expressed concern over the lack of convictions in serious criminal cases and

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## IndiGo Goa-Delhi Flight Returns To Goa After Engine Issue

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**MOPA:** An IndiGo flight from Goa to Delhi returned to Manohar International Airport on Tuesday after the crew detected a technical issue involving an engine soon after departure. The flight, operating as 6E 2102, had taken off from Mopa but was later required to turn back to Goa. The crew followed the prescribed safety procedures and brought the aircraft back for a precautionary landing. The aircraft landed safely and was subsequently taken out of service for detailed technical inspection. The airline said the aircraft would be cleared for operations only after the required maintenance checks are completed. Passengers affected by the disruption were provided assistance, with the airline making alternative arrangements to help them continue their journey.

## Kharapur-Sarvan Protest Enters 150th Day, CM Assures Meeting With Villagers

Yuri Alemao Raises Prolonged Agitation During Zero Hour; Pramod Sawant Agrees To Meet Residents On Thursday

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**PANAJI:** The agitation by villagers of Kharapur-Sarvan in Bicholim against the proposed luxury township mega project has entered its 150th day, with Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao urging the government to initiate dialogue with the affected residents. Raising the issue



during Zero Hour, Alemao said the villagers had been forced to continue their protest for the past

150 days due to what he described as the government's failure to address their concerns.

Alemao said the protest stems from apprehensions over the project's potential impact on the local ecology, water resources, village demography, traffic infrastructure, livelihoods and the character of the surrounding villages.

## HC Issues Notices On PIL Challenging Closure Of 2015 Police Pistol Shooting Case

Activist Kashinath Shetye Seeks Crime Branch Probe And Guidelines On 'A-Summary' Closure Reports

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**PANAJI:** The High Court has issued notices to the respondents on a public interest litigation filed by activist Kashinath Shetye, challenging the closure of a 2015 case involving then Police Sub-Inspector Gouresh Malik, who had allegedly shot himself with his service weapon. Malik, who is presently posted as Police Inspector at Old Goa, was serving



as a Police Sub-Inspector when the incident occurred. Through the PIL, Shetye has questioned the manner in which the case was closed and has sought a fresh investigation by the Crime Branch into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The petitioner has also raised concerns over the use of "A-Summary" closure reports and urged the High Court to frame appropriate guidelines governing their filing. The plea seeks safeguards to ensure that such closure reports are not submitted or accepted mechanically in cases involving serious allegations or circumstances requiring further investigation.

## Ferreira Flags Alleged Misconduct In Police System, Sawant Orders Probe

CM directs DGP to verify allegations and assures strict action against personnel found guilty



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**PANAJI:** Aldona MLA Carlos Ferreira raised concerns over alleged irregularities within the police and government machinery, questioning whether the state can effectively tackle crime without first addressing misconduct within its own system.

Speaking during the Assembly discussion on law and order, Ferreira referred to allegations including bribery, collection of money in connection with government jobs, possession of assets disproportionate to known income and alleged wrongdoing

involving jail personnel.

Ferreira called for the allegations to be independently verified and urged the government to act against anyone found to have violated the law or abused their position.

Responding to the concerns, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant directed the Director General of Police to conduct an inquiry into the allegations raised by Ferreira. Sawant said appropriate and stringent action would be taken if the inquiry establishes wrongdoing by any police or departmental official, including suspension where necessary.

# Opposition Must Debate, Not Perform

The Goa Legislative Assembly has barely begun its short monsoon session, but the Opposition has already squandered precious legislative time in a confrontation that achieved little beyond headlines. On the very first day, Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao led Opposition MLAs into the well of the House after the Speaker disallowed a question concerning No Development Zones and land conversion. The House was adjourned for 10 minutes and, when the Opposition returned to the well, three MLAs were eventually marshalled out.

The Opposition may have had legitimate concerns about the question being disallowed. Land conversion and the interpretation of No Development Zones are among the most important issues confronting Goa today. There is a genuine public debate to be had about how land is being classified, what permissions are being granted and whether planning laws are being applied consistently.

But the manner in which the Opposition chose to raise the issue is deeply disappointing.

What exactly did Goa gain from the disruption?

The Speaker's ruling was that the question could not be admitted because the matter was sub judice before the Bombay High Court. The Opposition could have challenged the ruling through the procedures available within the House, sought a detailed clarification, raised related questions that were admissible, demanded answers through other legislative mechanisms or taken the issue to the people outside the Assembly with documents and facts.

Instead, the well of the House became the preferred destination.

This is precisely where the Opposition needs to introspect.

An Opposition has one fundamental job in a legislature: to question the government, expose inconsistencies, demand accountability and force ministers to provide answers. It has the right to protest. It has the right to disagree. It has the right to be aggressive. But disruption cannot become a substitute for scrutiny.

The irony is that Question Hour, perhaps the most powerful instrument available to an Opposition MLA, was itself compromised.

Goa has only a three-day session to discuss matters of public importance. That makes every minute inside the Assembly valuable. Roads, land conversion, the environment, mining, tourism, unemployment, drug abuse, public health, education, infrastructure, law and order and the state's finances are not issues that can wait for another convenient session. People expect their elected representatives to extract answers from the government while they have the opportunity.

Instead, the opening day produced scenes of slogans, protests and marshals escorting legislators out of the House.

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That may make for compelling television footage. It may generate social media clips. It may allow political parties to claim that they “fought” for Goa. But politics cannot be reduced to footage for social media.

The Opposition must understand that Goans are not merely watching who shouts the loudest. They are increasingly asking who asks the right questions.

If the government is wrong, expose it with facts. If a department has violated procedure, put the documents on the table. If land has been illegally converted, identify the

survey numbers, dates, permissions and officials responsible. If policies are benefiting a handful of people, demand the data. If ministers make contradictory statements, place those statements side by side and demand an explanation.

That is how an Opposition can corner a government.

Storming the well is comparatively easy.

The Opposition also needs to recognise that the government benefits when legislative proceedings are disrupted. Every minute lost is a minute in which ministers are not being questioned. Every adjournment reduces the number of issues that can be raised. Every walkout or marshalled removal shifts public attention from the substantive question to the conduct of the legislators.

In other words, disruption can inadvertently provide the government with political breathing space.

There is also a larger danger. Repeated theatrics can diminish the seriousness of the legislature itself. The Assembly is not a stage for political performance. It is the institution where the executive is held accountable on behalf of the people.

This does not mean the government should escape scrutiny. Far from it. The Speaker's rulings must also be subject to legitimate questioning, particularly when Opposition members believe that an important public issue has been excluded from Question Hour. The ruling should be debated within the rules, and the government must remain open to answering every question that is legally and procedurally permissible.

But the Opposition must learn the difference between protest and performance.

Goa's political Opposition is small. That makes its legislative time even more valuable, not less. With only seven Opposition MLAs, every question they ask carries greater weight. They cannot afford to spend their limited ammunition on slogans.

The people of Goa did not elect Opposition MLAs to occupy the well. They elected them to occupy their seats, study government files, ask uncomfortable questions and demand uncomfortable answers.

There are only three days.

Three days to grill the government.

Three days to put failures on record.

Three days to raise the people's grievances.

Three days to make ministers answer.

Those three days should not be sacrificed at the altar of political theatrics. Goa needs an Opposition that fights the government with facts, questions and evidence. That would be far more powerful than shouting slogans in the well of the House.

The Opposition should remember one simple truth: the strongest way to embarrass a government is not to stop the Assembly from functioning. It is to make the government answer.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Nepal's Disaster Is a Warning for Goa Too

The devastating flash floods in Nepal should not be dismissed as yet another natural disaster. They are a stark warning about the consequences of disturbing fragile ecosystems in the name of development. The destruction caused by sudden floods, landslides and extreme weather events shows how vulnerable human settlements become when nature's protective systems are weakened.

Goa must take a serious cue from such disasters. We are witnessing unprecedented pressure on our hills, forests, wetlands, rivers and coastal areas. Hill cutting, large scale construction, land conversion, destruction of natural drainage channels and indiscriminate infrastructure development are being carried out with little thought for their long term consequences.

Every hill that is flattened and every wetland that is filled may appear to be an isolated development project. But collectively, such interventions alter the natural flow of water and weaken the land's ability to absorb heavy rainfall. When extreme weather arrives, the consequences can be devastating.

Development is necessary, but development cannot mean destroying the very environment that protects us. Goa needs scientific planning, strict enforcement of environmental laws and a clear understanding of the carrying capacity of its fragile landscape.

The lesson from Nepal is simple. Nature may tolerate human interference for years, but when its limits are crossed, the consequences can be sudden and devastating.

We should not wait for a disaster to teach us what environmental warnings have been telling us for years.

- **Prakash Naik**, Panaji, Goa

### Goa Must Not Allow Religion to Become a Political Weapon

The decision of the Goa Government to hold back the proposed Anti Conversion Bill is a welcome step, particularly at a time when the legislation had already triggered political opposition and unease even within the ruling establishment. The Bill, which was cleared by the Cabinet and was expected to be introduced in the Assembly, was reportedly put on hold after reservations were expressed by several MLAs.

Goa has always taken pride in its pluralistic character and peaceful coexistence among communities. Any legislation dealing with religion must therefore be approached with exceptional caution. There can be no justification for forced or fraudulent conversion, and existing laws should be strictly enforced against coercion, fraud or exploitation. But a law that is perceived as targeting a particular community can create fear, suspicion and unnecessary divisions.

The timing of the proposed legislation is also a matter of concern. With the 2027 Assembly elections approaching, bringing religion into the centre of political discourse risks turning a sensitive social issue into an electoral weapon.

Goa has far more pressing challenges. Unemployment, land conversion, environmental destruction, drugs, law and order, infrastructure, rising living costs and the future of tourism deserve the government's attention. If there are genuine concerns about unlawful conversions, the government should first place facts and evidence before the people. Any proposed legislation must be transparent, constitutionally sound and subjected to wide public consultation.

Goa should not import the politics of religious polarisation. Our strength has always been our ability to live together.

- **Rajesh D'Souza**, Margao, Goa

# AI Cameras Detect Over 10 Lakh Traffic Violations Across Goa In Just Two Months

■ Mercedes Junction Records Highest Number Of Offences, Followed By Power House Circle And Birla Cross

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa's AI-powered traffic surveillance system has detected more than 10 lakh traffic violations across 26 key locations in the state within just over two months, Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho informed the Goa Legislative Assembly. According to data tabled in the House, the artificial intelligence-enabled cameras were installed on June 15, while the issuance of



electronic challans began from August 1. During the monitoring period, the surveillance network recorded a total of 10,41,658 violations across the 26 locations.

The figures translate to an average of around 40,064 violations per day, highlighting the scale of traffic violations being detected through automated surveillance.

Merces Junction emerged as the biggest violation hotspot in the state, recording 1,05,814 offences. It was followed by Power House Circle, where 92,222 violations

were detected. Birla Cross at Verna ranked third with 62,681 violations, while other locations with significant numbers included V.P. Chicalim with 60,896, Muni Vihar Circle with 59,374, Fatorda Junction with 56,689, and Old Market with 51,542 violations. The deployment of AI-enabled cameras marks a major shift towards automated traffic enforcement in Goa, with surveillance operating continuously at key junctions and corridors.



## 30 Landslide Complaints Received In Mormugao Since April 2022

■ Government says no exclusive policy framework has been formulated for landslide-prone areas; vulnerable locations identified for monitoring and preventive action

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Goa Government has received 30 complaints related to landslides in the Mormugao constituency since April 2022, Revenue Minister Atanasio Monserrate informed the Legislative Assembly in a written reply to Starred LAQ No. 018B tabled by Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar.

The government said details of the complaints and identified landslide-prone areas have been provided in the annexures to the Assembly reply.

Various departments, including the Public Works Department (PWD) and Water Resources Department (WRD), are responsible for undertaking preventive and mitigation works such as retaining walls, hill-slope stabilisation, drainage improvement and allied measures.

On the utilisation of disaster management funds, the government clarified that funds under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) are used according to the assistance norms prescribed by the Government of India.



## Formula 4 Event Costs Goa Nearly ₹37 Crore As State Bears Additional ₹2 Crore Power Bill

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**PANAJI:** The Goa government spent ₹36.90 crore from public funds on the Formula 4 racing event held at Mopa, according to official records placed before the Goa Legislative Assembly.

The expenditure was incurred through the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) for the Indian Racing Festival, with the event involving substantial government spending and additional costs borne by state departments.

Under the agreement between the government and the event organisers, Goa was entitled to receive 30% of the festival's total revenue, including income generated through ticket sales. However, the exact amount received by the government has not been disclosed so far. The promoter's accounts are reportedly still under examination, leaving the final revenue generated for the state unclear.

The government also waived the organisers' stipulated 50% share of the electricity expenses incurred during the event.

## Goa's Six Dams Lack Key Emergency Safety Systems, Report Reveals

■ No emergency action plans, flood-warning networks or inflow forecasting systems in place as of March 2026

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa's six specified dams may have been assessed as structurally sound, but a State dam safety report has highlighted major gaps in emergency preparedness and monitoring infrastructure.

The Goa State Dam Safety Organisation's Annual Report for 2025-26, prepared under the Dam Safety Act, 2021, states that none of the six specified dams had an operational Emergency



Action Plan as of March 31, 2026.

The report also found that emergency flood-warning mechanisms and hydro-meteorological networks capable of forecasting inflows were not in place. No mock drills, tabletop exercises,

community awareness programmes or coordination meetings with stakeholders were conducted during the year.

The six dams covered under the report are Selaulim, Anjunem, Amthane, Chapoli, Gavanem and Mhaisal at Panchawadi. Selaulim is classified as a major dam, Anjunem as a medium dam, while the other four are categorised as minor irrigation tanks.

## Nearly 23,000 Ganesh Idols In Goa Declared To Contain PoP

■ GSPCB registration data identifies 90 PoP-linked registrations and highlights Maharashtra's role in Goa's idol supply chain

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Nearly one in every five Ganesh idol makers and sellers registered in Goa has declared the use of Plaster of Paris (PoP) in idols ahead of the Ganesh festival. Data from the Goa State Pollution Control Board's (GSPCB) Ganesh Idol Registration Portal shows that 90 of the 470 registrations, or



19.1%, reported that their idols contain PoP. These registrations

account for 22,886 idols out of the total 77,136 idols recorded on the

portal. The remaining 380 registrations, or 80.9%, declared that their idols did not contain PoP. The registration process ended on August 14. The GSPCB has permitted the use of up to 20% PoP in Ganesh idols, subject to compliance with prescribed norms. The Board has also stated that registered units will be inspected and idols may undergo laboratory testing to verify the material

composition declared during registration. The registration data has also provided authorities with information on the supply chain ahead of the festival. Among 211 registrants who provided details of a specific supplier, location or business, 57 identified Kolhapur in Maharashtra as their source. Another 17 applicants specifically mentioned Maharashtra as their source state.

# Goa Cyber Crime Police Arrest Bengaluru Man In ₹35.90 Lakh Digital Arrest Fraud

■ Accused allegedly impersonated Andheri police official, threatened Margao resident and secured ₹35.90 lakh through RTGS

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa Cyber Crime Police have arrested a 25-year-old man from Bengaluru, Karnataka, in connection with a digital arrest fraud case involving ₹35.90 lakh.

The case was registered on August 21, 2026, under Crime No. 74/2026 under Sections 318(4), 319(2) read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section



66-D of the Information Technology Act.

According to police, the accused, along with his associates, allegedly contacted a resident of Margao through a WhatsApp call before July

22. The accused allegedly impersonated an official from Andheri Police Station and falsely claimed that the complainant's bank account was linked to terrorist activities. The complainant was allegedly threatened with serious legal consequences and coerced into settling the purported case by transferring ₹35,90,200

through RTGS. Following a detailed technical investigation, Cyber Crime Police traced the suspect to Bengaluru. A police team led by PSI Anil Polekar, along with HC Anay Naik and PC Sunil Renati, travelled to Bengaluru and arrested Mohankumar G S/o Govindan, 25. Police said the accused had received ₹9.8 lakh in his bank account between August 6 and August 12, 2026, allegedly in connection with the fraud.



## 58-Year-Old Man Found Dead In Britona, Porvorim

■ Man found hanging from tree near Dadeshwar Mandap; police suspect suicide, no foul play suspected

**Team Goemkarponn**

Bardez.

**BRITONA:** A 58-year-old man was found dead near Dadeshwar Mandap at Matavwada, Britona, Porvorim, on August 30, 2026.

Police said they received a phone call from Meghraj Halankar at around 9.30 am informing them that a man had been found hanging at the spot.

PSI Vighnesh Naik and staff from Porvorim Police Station reached the location and found the man hanging from a tree branch with a yellow-coloured nylon rope. The deceased was identified as Subhash Halankar, son of Yeshwant Halankar, aged 58, a resident of Matav Wada, Britona,

During the preliminary enquiry, police learnt that Halankar was residing alone and had reportedly been suffering from diabetes and hypertension for a prolonged period. He was undergoing treatment and taking medication for the conditions.

Police said his prolonged health issues and recurring medical problems had reportedly caused him stress and tension. Based on the preliminary enquiry, police suspect suicide and said no foul play is suspected. Further enquiry is being conducted by PSI Vighnesh Naik of Porvorim Police Station.



## 30-Year-Old Man Injured After Falling From Compound Wall Near Fort Aguada

**Team Goemkarponn**

**AGUADA:** A 30-year-old man sustained injuries after reportedly slipping and falling from a compound wall near the Fort Aguada parking area on August 31, 2026.

The injured man was identified as Ashish Kumar Sonu, a resident of Bihar. He reportedly lost his footing and fell from the compound wall, sustaining a fracture to his right leg.

A team from Pilerne Fire Station responded to the incident. The rescue team was led by Sub Officer Sunny Phayde and included firefighters Vishal Patil, Sayish Chari, Shrikant Sawant, Rajesh Pirankar and Kiran Pednekar.

The injured man was attended to and taken for further medical treatment.

## 71-Year-Old Man Dies At GMC Bambolim After Fall At Colvale Home

■ Digambar Khorjuvekar had been admitted to GMC after reportedly sustaining injuries in a self-fall

**Team Goemkarponn**

**COLVALE:** A 71-year-old man from Colvale died while undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, on August 30, 2026.

According to police, GMC Bambolim informed them at around 1 pm that the patient, identified as Digambar Khorjuvekar, aged 71, a resident of Tarwada, Colvale, Bardez, had died in Ward No. 120.



Police enquiry revealed that Khorjuvekar had been admitted to Ward No. 108 at GMC Bambolim on August 29

after reportedly suffering a fall at his residence.

Further investigation is in progress with PSI Dattaraj Rane.

## Tourist-Driven Maruti Ignis Plunges Into Nullah At Siolim

■ Car reportedly went off road after driver lost control; no injuries reported

**Team Goemkarponn**

**SIOLIM:** A Maruti Ignis driven by a tourist went off the road and plunged into a roadside nullah near the Electricity Office at Bamon Waddo, Siolim, after the driver allegedly lost control of the vehicle.

According to locals, the car was travelling at high speed from St Antony Church towards Siolim Bridge when the



accident occurred.

The driver is suspected to have been under the

influence of alcohol, though this has not been officially confirmed.

The vehicle suffered extensive damage in the accident. No injuries were reported. The occupants of the car reportedly abandoned the vehicle and left the spot following the incident. Personnel from Siolim Police Outpost, along with Anjuna Police staff, reached the site. Investigation and panchanama proceedings are underway.

## Maina Curtorim Police Seize 270 Grams Charas Worth ₹1.5 Lakh In Arlem Raid

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MAINA:** Maina Curtorim Police conducted a narcotics raid at an open place behind the Royal Enfield showroom at Arlem, Raia, Salcete, on August 31, 2026, resulting in the seizure of 270 grams of charas worth approximately ₹1.5 lakh.

Police registered an offence under Maina Curtorim PS Crime No. 62/2026 under Section 20(b)(ii)(B) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

# Suspicious Deaths Of Dogs Reported In Sankhali Housing

■ Locals suspect poisoning; post-mortem reports awaited to determine exact cause of deaths

**Team Goemkarponn**

**SANKHALI:** Several dogs were found dead under suspicious circumstances in the Housing Board area of Sankhali, raising concern among local residents.

Following the incident, residents contacted North Goa DSPCA officer Hanumant Gawas and informed him about the deaths. A complaint was subsequently filed at the Bicholim Police Station,



while post-mortems of the deceased dogs were conducted, Gawas said.

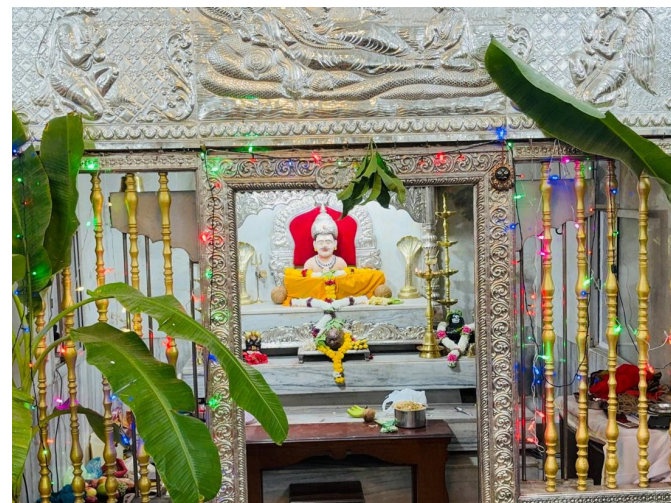
The exact cause of death is yet to be

established. Authorities are examining whether the dogs died due to poisoning, were deliberately fed toxic

substances, or consumed some other harmful material.

The post-mortem and other necessary examination reports are expected to shed light on the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

The incident has sparked concern among residents, particularly as multiple dogs were found dead in the same locality. Further action is expected to be taken based on the findings of the reports.



## Rare Chandan Gandha Pooja Returns To Vasco Damodar Temple After 17 Years

■ Sacred sandalwood ritual performed for the third time in the temple's 128-year history

**Team Goemkarponn**

**VASCO:** A rare religious tradition returned to Vasco's historic Lord Damodar Temple after a gap of 17 years, with the traditional Chandan Gandha Pooja being performed amid the presence of a large number of devotees.

The Gandha Pooja, traditionally conducted during the holy month of Shravan, involves covering the idol of Lord Damodar with sandalwood (Chandan) paste. Devotees believe the sacred sandalwood application provides a

cooling and soothing effect to the deity.

According to temple priest Bhushan Joshi, the Lord Damodar Temple has completed around 128 years of existence, while its 127th Saptah was held recently. He said the Gandha Pooja has been performed only three times in the temple's history. The first Gandha Pooja was conducted in 1991 by his late father, Ramesh Joshi, who served as the temple priest. The ritual was performed again by Ramesh Joshi in 2009, after a gap of 18 years.



## Uday Bhembre Opposes Goa Government's Proposed Anti-Conversion Bill

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** Former Margao MLA Uday Bhembre has opposed the Goa Government's proposed Anti-Conversion Bill, questioning the need for such legislation in the State.

Bhembre said the proposed legislation appears to be part of what he described as an RSS agenda being pursued by the BJP in states where it is in power.

He argued that Goa does not require a separate anti-conversion law as there is no evidence of widespread forced or unlawful religious conversions in the State.

According to Bhembre, if genuine cases arise where a person is being forcibly converted against their will, the government can take appropriate legal action or introduce legislation specifically dealing with such instances. However, he maintained that forced conversion is not a prevalent issue in Goa and therefore questioned the need for a separate Anti-Conversion Bill.

## Hindu Organisations In Goa Support Anti-Conversion Bill

■ Hindu Janajagruti Samiti Urges Government To Table Goa Prohibition Of Unlawful Conversion Bill During Monsoon Session

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Hindu organisations in Goa have extended their support to the proposed 'Goa Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion Bill, 2026', with the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti urging the state government to table the legislation during the ongoing Monsoon Session of the Goa Legislative Assembly.

Addressing journalists outside the Assembly complex on August 31,



Samiti representative Rajashree Gadekar said the proposed Bill was necessary to curb what she described as unlawful religious conversions in the state.

Her statement came after the Goa Government

August 31 to defer the introduction of the Anti-Conversion Bill following demands from MLAs from both

the Opposition and ruling parties.

Gadekar alleged that some organisations were taking advantage of poverty among Hindus and carrying out religious conversions by offering monetary inducements.

## Goa DEO Reviews Preparations For Regional Electoral Conference In Margao

■ Arrangements reviewed ahead of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's visit to Goa on September 2-3

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** South Goa DEO Ms. Eгна Cleetus, IAS, held a review meeting with the Nodal Officers appointed for the Regional Conference on "BLOs, ELC and ECINET", scheduled to be held at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, from September 2 to 3, 2026. The meeting focused on reviewing the responsibilities



assigned to each Nodal Officer and assessing the progress of preparations for the conference, which will be attended by Chief Election Commissioner of India Gyanesh Kumar. The conference aims to promote electoral literacy among young and first-

time voters and create greater awareness about India's electoral system, voter registration, polling, counting and the role of the Election Commission of India. It will also focus on strengthening Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) as structured, visible

and digitally enabled platforms through the ECINET portal. During the meeting, officials reviewed arrangements including the mobile deposit facility, Model Polling Station, Model Counting Centre, backdrop, projector, LED screens, lamp decoration, seating arrangements and the welcome and see-off of guests and ECI dignitaries.

## 39-Year-Old Man Dies After Alleged Assault Over Two-Wheeler Theft Suspicion In Nuvem

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NUVEM:** A 39-year-old man died after allegedly being assaulted by a group of people who suspected him of being involved in the theft of a two-wheeler in the Salcete area.

According to Goa Police, the incident occurred at Nuvem on the evening of August 27 between 7 pm and 10 pm. An unlawful assembly allegedly intercepted the man and assaulted him with kicks and fist blows.



Photo Credit : Rozario Estibeiro

## “Russia’s S-500 And Su-57 Could Reshape India’s Defence Strategy”

■ Moscow steps up its defence offer as India weighs air defence needs, fighter shortages and indigenous weapons programmes

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Russia is preparing an ambitious defence package for India, with the S-500 Prometheus air defence system and Su-57 Felon stealth fighter emerging as the centrepieces of Moscow’s latest proposal. The push comes as India seeks to strengthen its air defence network and address a growing shortage of combat aircraft.

The S-500 represents a potential successor to the S-400, which is already in service with the Indian military. Russia is seeking to build on the operational experience of the S-400, particularly its deployment against aerial threats during Operation Sindoor.

Moscow has also recently proposed supplying India with five additional S-400 squadrons. If accepted, the deal could significantly expand India’s existing inventory. However, New Delhi is simultaneously advancing Project Kusha, its indigenous long range air defence programme, creating questions over whether another foreign system would duplicate capabilities being developed domestically.

The Su-57 presents an even more complicated decision. Russia is offering its fifth generation fighter at a time when the Indian Air Force is facing declining squadron strength and the indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft remains years away

from entering service. Moscow has indicated that technology transfer, local manufacturing and greater industrial participation could form part of a potential agreement.

Supporters argue that the Su-57 could bridge the gap until AMCA becomes operational. Critics, however, point to the additional cost and logistical burden of introducing another fighter into an already diverse fleet.

India currently operates aircraft including the Su-30MKI, MiG-29, Rafale, Mirage 2000, Jaguar and Tejas. Adding the Su-57 would create another separate ecosystem for training, maintenance, weapons and spare parts.

Russia’s renewed offer also reflects its concern over India’s growing defence diversification. New Delhi is expanding cooperation with the United States, France and other suppliers while simultaneously investing in indigenous systems.

Moscow is also seeking opportunities involving strategic early warning radars, Su-30MKI upgrades and Kilo class submarine modernisation.

The broader question for India is whether to rely on additional foreign capabilities to address immediate military requirements or wait for domestic programmes to mature. With China expanding its stealth fighter fleet and Pakistan preparing for its own fifth generation capability, the decision could have major consequences for India’s air power over the next two decades.



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## Goa Labelled ‘Crime Capital’ As LoP Yuri Alemao Accuses Govt Of Failing To Curb Crime

claimed that not a single murder conviction has been recorded in Goa in the last three years. He questioned the government’s strategy to control rising crime and sought clarity on the measures being taken to stop the supply of drugs in the state.

The Leader of Opposition also raised concerns over the shortage of personnel at several police stations, stating that inadequate staffing was increasing the workload and pressure on police personnel.

Alemao pointed out that while a number of police stations are reportedly facing staff shortages, the Mopa Airport Police Station is allegedly overstaffed. He questioned the rationale behind the distribution of police personnel and called for a more balanced deployment of staff based on operational requirements.

Responding to the concerns, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant said the government has already initiated measures to strengthen the police force and address vacancies.

Sawant said nearly 250 Police

Sub-Inspectors (PSIs) have been recruited and will be deputed to their respective posts after completing their training.

He said recruitment for the remaining vacant posts has already been advertised, while the government is also expediting promotions within the police department.

“The remaining vacant posts will be filled within a month. I will give instructions to the DGP,” Sawant said.

## Oppn Questions Goa’s Low Conviction Rate; CM Sawant

on the overall conviction rate.

On strengthening law and order, the Chief Minister said the government is preparing a comprehensive plan that includes filling vacant police posts, expanding CCTV surveillance and intensifying tenant and labour verification. Around 700 CCTV cameras are being used to strengthen surveillance across the state.

He said approximately 1.22 lakh tenants have been verified and reiterated that property owners must

ensure mandatory tenant verification.

Addressing the growing threat of cybercrime, Sawant said mobile banking frauds are becoming increasingly sophisticated. He urged people not to respond to unknown calls or follow instructions given by unidentified callers, stressing that public awareness remains crucial in preventing cyber fraud.

On drug-related offences, the Chief Minister said the government continues to take strict action under the NDPS Act, with convictions reported in 28% of cases. He also said police recruitment and strengthening measures are underway, including 250 Police Sub-Inspectors sent for training, besides promotions within the department.

On rape cases, Sawant said authorities were examining the circumstances surrounding complaints, including disputes arising from live-in relationships and marriage-related issues. He stressed that cases involving minors are dealt with separately under the law.

The Chief Minister also claimed that a significant proportion of crimes involve persons from outside Goa, while emphasising that tenant and labour verification is being strengthened to improve monitoring.

# Nepal Demands 'Climate Compensation' From India, US and China After Deadly Floods

■ Kathmandu shifts from seeking aid to demanding climate justice as Himalayan disaster leaves over 1,000 dead and thousands missing

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Nepal has intensified its international response to the devastating flash floods along its Himalayan region, calling for climate compensation rather than treating the disaster solely as a humanitarian crisis. The country argues that it has contributed very little to global emissions but is



facing increasingly severe consequences linked to climate change. The disaster began on August

26 after a massive collapse of ice and rock near the Nepal Tibet border sent enormous volumes of water

into the Bhotekoshi River. Floodwaters tore through downstream settlements, destroying homes, vehicles, roads and bridges while severely damaging hydropower infrastructure. Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said the country was moving its diplomatic approach from humanitarian aid towards climate justice and compensation.



## PM Modi At SCO Summit: "There Can Be No Place For Double Standards On Terrorism"

■ With Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif present, Modi calls for a united fight against terror financing, recruitment and safe havens

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a strong message against terrorism at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit on Tuesday, stressing that the international community must adopt a united approach and reject any form of double standards in dealing with the threat. With Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif present at the summit, Modi called for the complete dismantling of the ecosystem that enables terrorism. He highlighted the need to target terrorist financing, recruitment, radicalisation and safe havens as part of a

coordinated global effort.

Modi also called for conflicts around the world to be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, stressing that lasting solutions cannot be achieved through warfare. Outlining India's vision for the SCO, the Prime Minister identified Security, Connectivity and Opportunity as the three key pillars of cooperation. On connectivity, Modi said India supports initiatives that link markets, promote trade and create new opportunities for development. At the same time, he emphasised that connectivity projects must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of every country.



## 51 Indians Recruited Into Russian Army Killed in Ukraine War, 139 Discharged: MEA

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** India has said that 51 of the 227 Indian nationals recruited into the Russian armed forces have died during the ongoing war in Ukraine, while 139 have been discharged and are now in the process of returning home. The figures were shared by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri during a briefing on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kyrgyzstan. India is continuing discussions with Russia to secure the release of the remaining Indian nationals still serving in the Russian military. The Indian Embassy in Moscow is closely monitoring the cases and working with Russian authorities to facilitate the discharge and repatriation of those who remain in service. New Delhi has repeatedly raised the issue with Moscow at various levels, seeking the early return of Indian citizens to their families.

## Nepal Floods: Death Toll Crosses 1,000 as Over 4,400 People Remain Missing

■ Rescue teams race against time as hundreds of hydropower workers are feared trapped inside debris filled tunnels

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Rescue operations in Nepal intensified on Tuesday as teams continued searching for thousands of people missing after catastrophic floods struck the Nepal China border region nearly a week ago. The disaster has now claimed more than 1,000 lives across Nepal and Tibet, while over 4,400 people remain missing.

A major focus of the rescue effort is the country's hydropower



sector, where hundreds of workers are feared to be trapped inside tunnels buried under mud and debris. Around 900 workers across 12 hydropower projects are believed to

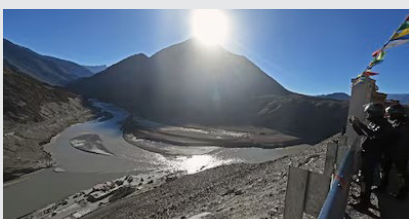
have been affected, with approximately 500 feared trapped inside large underground tunnels. Four bodies have so far been recovered from the tunnel sites.

## ISI Still Backs LeT, JeM and TRF as India Keeps Indus Waters Treaty in Abeyance

■ Pakistan based handlers reportedly adopt drones, encrypted communications and local recruits to sustain cross border terror operations

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Pakistan's intelligence establishment continues to face allegations of supporting terrorist groups targeting Jammu and Kashmir, with security assessments indicating that handlers are adopting new methods to evade India's counterterrorism and border security mechanisms. The Inter Services Intelligence,



or ISI, is reportedly continuing its support for groups including Lashkar e Taiba, Jaish e Mohammed and proxy outfit The Resistance Front. According to intelligence inputs, Pakistan based handlers are increasingly relying

on drones to move weapons and other material across the border, while encrypted communication platforms are being used to coordinate with operatives. Security agencies have also flagged the use of locally recruited individuals who may not have previous security records, making them harder to identify through conventional surveillance systems. The

evolving strategy is aimed at reducing the physical presence of Pakistan based handlers while maintaining operational capabilities inside India. Recent counterterror operations have also targeted an alleged ISI backed network operating across multiple states. Investigators reportedly recovered grenades bearing Pakistan Ordnance Factory markings, improvised explosive devices

and other weapons allegedly intended for sabotage and targeted attacks. The latest security assessment comes amid continuing tensions between India and Pakistan over terrorism and the Indus Waters Treaty. India has kept the 1960 water sharing agreement in abeyance and has repeatedly linked its position to Pakistan's alleged support for cross border terrorism.

# Lionel Messi Announces Argentina Retirement: "I Leave With Peace and Pride"

■ Argentina legend ends an extraordinary international career after 207 appearances and 125 goals

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Lionel Messi has announced his retirement from international football, bringing an emotional end to one of the greatest careers in the history of the game. His final appearance for Argentina came in the 2026 FIFA World Cup final, where Argentina suffered a 1-0 defeat. Messi revealed that



he had made the decision shortly after the World Cup final. The passing of his father, Jorge Messi, later strengthened his belief that it was the right moment to step away from

the national team. The 39-year-old made his Argentina debut on August 17, 2005, in a friendly against Hungary when he was just 18.

Over the following two decades, he became the central figure of a golden era for Argentine football. Messi eventually achieved the major international success that had eluded

him for years by leading Argentina to the 2022 FIFA World Cup title in Qatar. He also won the Golden Ball for the second time at the tournament. His international honours include consecutive Copa América titles in 2021 and 2024, the 2022 Finalissima against Italy, Olympic gold at the 2008 Beijing Games and the 2005 FIFA U-20 World Cup.



## St. Thomas HSS Aldona Crowned Under 19 Football Champions of Zone I

■ Aldona school defeats St. Francis Xavier's Siolim 4-2 on tie breakers after thrilling 1-1 final

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** St. Thomas Higher Secondary School, Aldona, secured the Under 19 Football Zone I championship with a hard fought victory over St. Francis Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Siolim, at Quitula Ground on September 1. The final, organised under the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Panaji, ended 1-1 after regulation time, with both teams producing a competitive display filled with determination and attacking intent. St. Thomas HSS Aldona held its nerve during the decisive tie breaker, eventually winning 4-2 to lift the Zone I title. The victory sparked celebrations at the Aldona institution, with the school management praising the players for their discipline,

commitment and teamwork throughout the competition.

Principal Angelica Fernandes expressed pride in the team's achievement, highlighting the players' composure and dedication in a high pressure final. Manager Fr. Roxy Fernandes also congratulated the squad, stressing the importance of discipline, teamwork and confidence in achieving success on the sporting field. The school acknowledged the contribution of Physical Education Teacher R. J. Vijaykumar and coach Somshekar.K for their consistent training, guidance and motivation. Their efforts played an important role in preparing the players for the tournament and helping them remain focused during crucial moments.



## Goa's Gautam Wadkar Earns NIS Table Tennis Certification, Sets Sights on Grassroots Coaching

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa State ranked table tennis player Gautam Wadkar has successfully completed a six week NIS Certification Course in Table Tennis in West Bengal, marking an important step in his transition towards coaching and grassroots development. Wadkar, who continues to compete at the state level, represented Goa at the UTT 87th Senior National and Inter State Table Tennis Championships held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from March 14 to 21, 2026. His coaching journey began after joining the Khelo India State Centre of Excellence in Goa in 2023. Over the past two years, he has developed his coaching skills while assisting the centre's Head Coach. The experience has also contributed to his development as a player, giving him an opportunity to understand the technical and tactical aspects of the sport from a coaching perspective.

## Chandan Caro, Ishita Colaso Complete Triple Crowns at YMCA Table Tennis Tournament

■ Neeza Kamat Claims Women's Singles Title as Young Players Shine in All Goa Major Ranking Event

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Chandan Caro and Ishita Colaso emerged as the standout performers at the YMCA All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament, completing impressive triple crowns at the Indoor Stadium, Campal, where the finals were held on Sunday. Chandan dominated across three categories, winning the Boys U15, U17 and Men's titles. He began his winning run with a 3-0 victory over Dhruva Kamat



in the U15 final before edging Rishan Shaikh 3-2 in the U17 decider. In the Men's final, Chandan produced another strong performance to defeat former State champion Diljeet Velingkar 4-2. Ishita also completed a

triple crown after winning the Girls U15, U17 and U19 titles. She defeated Tisha Shaikh 3-1 in the U15 final, Sanisha Sinha 3-0 in the U17 decider and Neeza Kamat 3-2 in a closely contested U19 final.

## Michael Mare, Amaira Dhumatker and Pratik Naik Borkar Eye Sunlite State Ranking Badminton Glory

■ Top seeds advance as U13 and U11 categories produce intense quarterfinal battles at Campal

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Top seed Michael Mare, defending title contender Amaira Dhumatker and promising Ponda shuttler Pratik Naik Borkar continued their strong campaigns as the Sunlite State Ranking Badminton Tournament 2026 entered its decisive stages at the Indoor Stadium, Campal.

Michael delivered a dominant performance



in the U13 Boys' quarterfinals, defeating Varun Sahakari 15-6, 15-6 to secure his place in the semifinals. Pratik also impressed with a convincing 15-11, 15-6 victory over fifth seed Mihir Chafadkar.

Vedh Lotliker booked his semifinal spot after

beating Ayansh Sanke 15-7, 15-7, while Anav Kanekar survived

a closely fought contest against fourth seed Shourya Sinari. After losing the opening game 11-15, Kanekar fought back strongly to win the next two games 15-12, 15-11.

In the U11 Girls' category, top seed Amaira Dhumatker produced

one of the most emphatic results of the tournament, defeating Oorvi Khyalia 15-1, 15-0. Third seed Yashika Koneru, Saachi Sinai Kenkre and eighth seed Anvitha Poojari also progressed to the semifinals.

The U11 Boys' quarterfinals featured a tense battle involving top seed Shloke Utagi, who overcame Sambhav Bhardwaj 15-7, 11-15, 15-10. Mahipal Singh Parmar, Priyansh Sawant Dessai and Aariketh Chari also

advanced to the last four. The U9 categories also moved into the semifinal stage, with top seeds Rafael Anacleto De Ataide and Oorvi Khyalia progressing in the Boys' and Girls' sections respectively. Divyam Singh and Samaira Velip completed the respective semifinal line-ups. The tournament is being organised by Sunlite Sports and Cultural Club in association with the Goa Badminton Association.