



North Goa Records Highest Number Of Rape & Sexual Assault Cases In Last Three Years

■ Assembly data shows North Goa led in rape cases in 2023, while also recording the highest sexual assault figures in each of the last three years

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: North Goa has consistently recorded the highest number of sexual assault cases among Goa's three reporting categories over the last three years, while it also registered the highest



number of rape cases in 2023, according to data tabled in the Goa

Legislative Assembly. The district-wise figures provided by Chief Minister and Home Minister Dr Pramod Sawant show that North Goa recorded 59 rape cases in 2023, 58 in 2024 and 58 in 2025. South Goa recorded

34 rape cases in 2023, 45 in 2024 and 43 in 2025, while cases classified under "Other PS" stood at 4, 8 and 3 respectively during the three-year period. The gap is more pronounced in cases registered under the

crime head of sexual assault. North Goa recorded 74 cases in 2023, 101 in 2024 and 86 in 2025, making it the highest among the three categories in each of the years. South Goa recorded 38 sexual assault cases in

2023, 52 in 2024 and 61 in 2025, while "Other PS" accounted for 7, 10 and 9 cases respectively. The figures show that while rape cases in North Goa remained broadly stable at around 58-59 cases annually,

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CM Sawant Orders Legal Review Of Karapur Project Amid Villagers' Demands

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has directed officials to examine the demands raised by Karapur-Sarvan villagers over the H.A. Abhinandan Lodha project and explore possible solutions at the government level. The Chief Minister held a meeting with the protesting villagers, who described the interaction as their "best meeting ever" and said the discussion

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Drugs worth over Rs 92 crore seized in Goa since 2024, 547 arrested

■ Government cites tourism, nightlife, peer pressure and lure of quick money as key drivers of drug trafficking

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Goa has seized narcotic substances worth more than

Rs 92.59 crore and arrested 547 persons in 432 cases between January 2024 and July 2026, the state government informed the Legislative Assembly.

The figures were disclosed by Chief Minister and Home Minister Dr Pramod Sawant in a written reply to a starred question raised by Curtorim MLA Aleixo Lourenco on the growing drug menace among students.

Dabolim's Flight Exodus: Govt Admits No Impact Assessment After Mopa Launch

■ Government defends dual-airport policy as Dabolim records over 57% fall in international passengers since 2023

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has admitted that it has not conducted any impact assessment to determine the operational and economic consequences of Manohar International Airport (MIA) at Mopa on Goa's existing airport at Dabolim, despite a significant shift of international airlines and a sharp decline in



passenger traffic at the South Goa airport. The admission came in a written reply by Chief Minister and Civil Aviation Minister Dr Pramod Sawant to an Unstarred Question tabled by St Andre MLA Viresh Borkar in the Goa Legislative Assembly.



Government of Goa, Department of Archives
Under the Koti Tirth Corridor Restoration Project
Shri Saptakoteshwar Koti Tirth Restoration Committee

Jointly Organises

UDAKSHANTI & GANGA PUJAN

On the auspicious occasion of Shravan Krishna Ashtami (Gokulashtami),
Shalivahan Shaka 1948

Date: 4 September 2026 | Time: 10:00 AM

**Venue: Shri Saptakoteshwar & Shri Koti Tirth Sthan,
Divar, Tiswadi - Goa.**

Yajaman



Dr. Pramod Sawant

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Goa



Shri. Shripad Naik

Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Government of India

Special Invitee

Shri. Sadanand Tanavade
MP, Rajya Sabha

Shri. Rajesh Faldessai
MLA, Cumbharjua

You are cordially invited to attend the programme, offer Ganga Pujan
and seek the blessings of Shri Saptakoteshwar.

Dr. Bhushan Bhawe
Convenor, Jeernoddhar Committee

Shri Prasad Lolyekar (IAS)
Secretary, Department of Archaeology,
Government of Goa

Note:

1. The programme will conclude after the Prasad distribution at 1:00 PM.
 2. Special ferry arrangements have been made from Old Goa and Ribandar for reaching Divar.
 3. Shuttle bus facilities will be available from the Divar ferry jetty to Shri Koti Tirth Sthan.
- Parking arrangements for private vehicles have been made at the Divar ground. Shuttle services will also be available for travelling to Shri Koti Tirth Sthan.

Mhadei Cannot Become an Election-Time Weapon

The Mhadei river is not a political slogan. It is Goa's lifeline, an ecological treasure and an issue that affects the state's water security for generations. Yet, every time elections approach, the Mhadei dispute suddenly returns to the centre of political debate. Leaders hold press conferences, make strong statements and promise to protect every drop of water. Once the political season passes, the noise fades.

That is precisely why the latest political mobilisation over Mhadei deserves closer scrutiny.

Opposition Leader Yuri Alemao has backed the demand for tiger reserve status for the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary, while AAP MLA Venzy Viegas has sought inspection of projects and a deadline for action. These are legitimate issues that deserve attention. But Goa needs more than political statements. It needs consistency, sustained pressure and, above all, political honesty.

The biggest question is this: if Congress is genuinely serious about stopping the diversion of Mhadei water, what is stopping it from confronting its own political establishment in Karnataka?

The Mhadei dispute is between Goa and Karnataka, but politics does not stop at the state border. Congress has a significant political presence in Karnataka and is currently in government there. If the party believes that Karnataka's activities threaten Goa's interests, its leaders in Goa should demand that their own party government in Karnataka immediately halt anything that could further affect the Mhadei basin.

Goans should not be expected to accept a politics where Congress leaders in Goa oppose diversion while Congress leaders in Karnataka defend Karnataka's interests. The people of Goa deserve to know whether the party's commitment to Mhadei is absolute or merely convenient during an election cycle.

The argument that Karnataka has already taken much of what it wanted from the Mhadei basin cannot simply be dismissed. The controversy surrounding the Kalasa

"The biggest question is this: if Congress is genuinely serious about stopping the diversion of Mhadei water, what is stopping it from confronting its own political establishment in Karnataka?"

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Bhandura project has continued for years, with Goa alleging diversion and Karnataka pursuing its claim to the water allocated to it under the 2018 Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal award. The matter remains before the Supreme Court.

In July, the Centre returned Karnataka's wildlife clearance proposal for the Kalasa Bhandura project, saying the matter could not be processed while the dispute

remains pending before the Supreme Court. That is an important development, and Goa should use every legal and constitutional avenue available to protect its interests.

But the larger question remains about what has happened on the ground over the years.

Goa cannot afford a situation where politicians remember Mhadei only when votes are approaching. The river does not flow according to an electoral calendar. Its ecological importance does not increase five months before an election and disappear five months after one.

If political parties genuinely believe that Mhadei is Goa's lifeline, they must demonstrate that commitment continuously.

That means demanding transparent inspections, making the findings public, closely monitoring every proposed project in the basin and maintaining pressure on the Centre as well as Karnataka. It also means strengthening Goa's own water management instead of treating the river dispute merely as an emotional political issue.

The government too cannot escape scrutiny. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has repeatedly maintained that Goa will continue its legal battle in the Supreme Court. The state has also sought inspections concerning alleged diversion works.

That legal battle must continue. But the Opposition must also answer difficult questions.

Where is the sustained pressure on Karnataka? Where are the demands from Congress leaders in Karnataka? Why does Mhadei become headline material primarily when elections are around the corner?

Goans have heard enough promises. They now need action.

If only a few drops remain to be fought over, then every drop matters even more. Mhadei cannot be allowed to become another five year election slogan.

It must become a permanent political, legal and environmental priority for Goa.

The river belongs to the future of Goa, not to any political party.

EDITOR SPEAKS

98.92% Detection, 5.85% Conviction: Is Goa Really Winning the Crime Battle?

Suraj Nandrekar

A crime detection rate of 98.92 per cent sounds impressive. It is the kind of figure any government would want to highlight. But place beside it Goa's conviction rate of just 5.85 per cent, and the picture changes completely.

RGP MLA Viresh Borkar has raised an uncomfortable but important question in the Assembly. If the police are detecting almost every crime, why are so few cases ending in conviction?

The government has explained that thousands of cases are pending and that this affects the overall conviction rate. That may be a valid explanation, but it cannot be the end of the discussion.

The real question is: why are so many cases pending?

Detection is only the first stage of the criminal justice process. An arrest does not establish guilt. A chargesheet does not establish guilt. Ultimately, the prosecution has to prove its case in court.

This is where Goa needs to look beyond statistics.

If the police are doing their job well at the detection stage, then the government must examine what happens afterwards. Are investigations being completed properly? Are forensic reports reaching investigators on time? Is evidence being collected and preserved correctly? Are witnesses being protected? Are chargesheets strong enough? Does the prosecution have adequate resources?

These questions cannot be brushed aside.

The government should conduct a detailed analysis of acquittals, particularly in serious criminal cases. If an accused is acquitted, the system should know why. Was there insufficient evidence? Did witnesses turn hostile? Was the investigation defective? Were procedures not followed? Or was the accused genuinely innocent?

Without answering these questions, the 98.92 per cent detection figure remains largely meaningless to the victim.

The issue also assumes greater importance because the government has recently linked a significant proportion of crime to migrants and stressed tenant and labour verification. If migration is being presented as a major factor behind Goa's crime problem, then the response must be systematic. Verification can help identify people, but it cannot replace professional investigation and prosecution.

Goa needs to stop measuring policing merely by the number of cases detected or accused arrested. The real measure should be the quality of investigation and the ability of the entire justice system to bring cases to a fair conclusion.

The government must also address the thousands of pending cases. Every pending case represents a victim waiting for justice or an accused waiting for a verdict. Delayed justice weakens public confidence and, in some cases, can be as damaging as the crime itself.

The government should publish an annual justice delivery report showing cases registered, detected, chargesheets filed, trials completed, convictions, acquittals and pending cases, along with reasons for delays.

There is nothing wrong with celebrating a 98.92 per cent detection rate. But there is something seriously wrong if the government becomes complacent about a 5.85 per cent conviction rate.

Goa does not need a system that merely detects crime. It needs a system that delivers justice.

And on that front, the government has some serious questions to answer.

6 Protest-Related FIRs Registered In Goa Since 2022

■ CM Pramod Sawant says seven cases were registered in 2024; BJP's July 2026 Panaji march had official permission, while other protests faced police action

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has registered 16 FIRs and initiated preventive proceedings in connection with student, youth and public agitations across the state between January 1, 2022, and July 2026, Chief Minister and Home Minister Pramod Sawant informed the Goa Legislative Assembly.

According to the government's written



reply to a starred question raised by Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas, one case was registered in 2022, two in 2023, seven in 2024, two in 2025 and four up to July 2026.

The cases largely relate to demonstrations

allegedly held without police permission, with charges including unlawful assembly and obstruction of

public roads.

Regarding the July 2026 agitation at Azad Maidan, the government stated that Panaji Police registered FIR Cr. No. 123/2026 under Sections 189, 189(2) read with Section 190

of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against unknown supporters and protesters. Police also issued a call letter to Amreen Shaikh for questioning in connection with the investigation.

In a separate preventive action, Panaji Police registered Chapter Case No. 127/2026 under Section 126 of the BNSS against Mohammad Danish and submitted the matter before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Tiswadi.

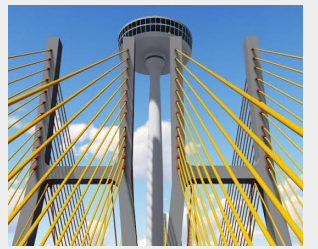
SEAC Backs Rs 270-Crore Zuari Bridge Observation Towers

■ Twin-Tower Project Moves Closer To Environmental Clearance After August 24 Site Inspection

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The proposed twin observation towers on the new Zuari Bridge have moved a step closer to implementation, with the Goa State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) recommending environmental clearance for the Rs 270-crore project.

The recommendation followed a site inspection carried out by the committee on August 24. The proposal has now been referred to the Goa State Impact Assessment Authority (SIAA), which will take a final decision on the grant of environmental clearance. The project, being developed by Dilip Buildcon, had earlier secured Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance from the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) in April. Following the CRZ approval, the proposal was sent to the SEAC for assessment under the Environment (Protection) Act. The project had been planned for



commencement after the monsoon, with the construction period estimated at three years from the start of work. However, construction has not progressed as the necessary statutory clearances were awaited. The SEAC has attached a number of environmental conditions to its recommendation. Among them is a direction to reinforce the estuarine shoreline with a gabion wall made from laterite or basaltic stone. The project proponent has also been instructed not to alter the existing cross-section of the nallah that carries water from the existing pond into the river. Specific precautions will have to be adopted to minimise pollution and prevent littering in the estuarine area during construction as well as after the project becomes operational.



High Court issues notice on Girish Chodankar's petition

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has issued notice in Writ Petition No. 1118/2026 filed by Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Girish Chodankar concerning objections raised before the Election Commission of India regarding the registration of a political party. The Division Bench comprising Justice Valmiki Menezes and Justice Amit S. Jamsandekar has made the notice returnable on September 22, 2026. Importantly, the court clarified that the pendency of the petition would not prevent the Election Commission from deciding Chodankar's objections, provided it follows the prescribed procedure. Amarnath Panjikar, Chairman of the GPCC Media & Communication Department, said the High Court order was a significant development. "We expect the Election Commission to examine all objections objectively and take a decision strictly in accordance with law and the prescribed procedure," Panjikar said.

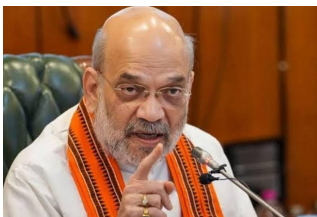
Security curbs announced in North Goa ahead of Amit Shah's Goa visit

■ Restrictions on road works, drone flights and aerial recording to remain in force from September 5 evening

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Security measures have been stepped up in North Goa ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's scheduled visit to the state on September 6 and 7, with the District Magistrate imposing temporary restrictions on road excavation, aerial recording and drone operations in designated areas.

North Goa District Magistrate Ankit Yadav



issued the orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. The restrictions will take effect at 6 pm on September 5 and continue until 7 pm on September 7. Under the road-related order, digging or cutting of roads along identified

stretches will not be permitted without prior approval from the District Magistrate. The areas covered include NH-66 between Zuari Bridge and Mercedes Circle, the GMC service road leading towards Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon at Dona Paula, and NH-748 from Mercedes Circle to Old Goa.

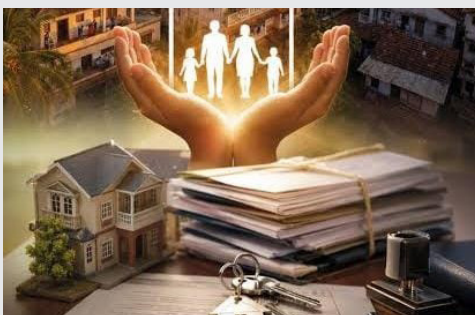
Provision has been made for essential and emergency works involving services such as water, electricity and sewerage.

Mhajo Flat Scheme Draws Zero Applications Nearly Two Months After Launch

■ Government Had Set A Target Of 40,000 To 50,000 Flat Owners Under Ownership Rights Initiative

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Nearly two months after the State Government rolled out its flagship 'Mhajo Flat' scheme to help flat owners secure legal ownership of their properties, the initiative is yet to receive a single application. Cooperation Minister Subhash Shirodkar informed the Assembly that no application has



been received under the scheme so far, despite the government targeting around 40,000 to 50,000 flat owners. Shirodkar said cooperative housing

societies that do not have a conveyance or title deed are eligible to benefit from the scheme. The scheme was brought into effect through the Goa Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, promulgated on July 7. It seeks to address the long-

standing issue faced by flat owners whose cooperative housing societies have been unable to obtain formal conveyance deeds because of unresolved matters involving builders or landowners. Describing the objective of the initiative as "No title to Giving Title", Shirodkar said several cooperative housing societies have been unable to get the land and buildings conveyed in their names due to various

issues involving builders and landowners. The amended framework allows eligible societies to pursue unilateral deemed conveyance where a builder or landowner fails to execute the necessary deed.

Under the procedure, a designated officer will examine the documents and submit a report to the competent cooperative officer.

Goa Cricket Association Officials Booked For Allegedly Obstructing Auditor

Auditor Alleges Force, Threats And Restraint While Conducting Government-Assigned Audit At Porvorim Office

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Two officials of the Goa Cricket Association (GCA) have been accused of allegedly using criminal force, threats and intimidation to obstruct a chartered accountant while he was carrying out an audit at the GCA office in Porvorim.

According to the complaint lodged on August 31, 2026, by a chartered accountant residing in Fatorda, Margao, he had been



appointed as an auditor by the Registration Department, Government of Goa, to conduct an

audit of the Goa Cricket Association.

The complainant alleged that on August 26, 2026, while he was carrying out the audit of GCA records at its Porvorim office, GCA Secretary Tulsidas Shetye and GCA official Harish Shinde allegedly acted with a common intention and used criminal force

to compel him to sign a document.

The two accused allegedly wrongfully restrained, abused and threatened the complainant while he was engaged in his lawful professional duty. They are also accused of obstructing him from carrying out the audit.

Police have registered a case in connection with the allegations. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Arun Shirodkar.



Copper Bars Worth ₹19.13 Lakh Stolen From Vedanta Site In Amona; One Arrested

Bicholim Police Arrest Uttar Pradesh Resident In Connection With Theft Of 1,196 Kg Of Copper Bars

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: Bicholim Police have arrested a 29-year-old man in connection with the alleged theft of copper bars worth approximately ₹19.13 lakh from the DI Pipe Project Site of Vedanta Iron & Steel Limited at Amona, Goa.

According to the complaint filed by Tarun Kumar Jain, authorised signatory of Vedanta Iron & Steel Limited, Pit Iron Division-II, the theft took place between March 12 and July 16, 2026. The complaint stated that unknown persons allegedly stole 37 copper bars weighing 25.8 kg each and three copper bars weighing

80.6 kg each, with the total quantity reported to be approximately 1,196 kg. The stolen material was received and stored at the company's DI Pipe project site.

The theft caused an estimated financial loss of ₹19.13 lakh to Vedanta Iron & Steel Limited.

During the investigation, police gathered information from various sources and identified a suspected accused, Udaibhan, son of Ram Nagan, aged 29, a resident of Umarpur Akbarpur in Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

Udaibhan was subsequently arrested in connection with the case.



Copper Utensil Stolen From Saligao Residence; Two Booked

Team Goemkarponn

SALIGAO: Saligao Police are investigating the alleged theft of a large copper utensil worth approximately ₹15,000 from the open backyard of a residential premises at Grand Marod, Saligao.

According to the complaint filed by Sanjay P. Pednekar, the incident occurred at around 4.30 am on August 31, 2026, at his residence at Grand Marod, Saligao, Bardez.

Police said the accused, identified as Anil Vijay Mane, a resident of Sanquelim, and Aditya Moses of Mapusa, allegedly entered the premises and stole a large copper utensil, locally referred to as a 'madki'.

Further investigation is in progress under PSI Akshay Gaonkar of Saligao Police Station.

Rash Driving Leads To Collision Near Sangolda Football Ground; Four Injured

Activa Rider Allegedly Took Sudden Right Turn Without Indicator, Colliding With Oncoming Royal Enfield

Team Goemkarponn

SANGOLDA: A road accident near the football ground at Sangolda in Bardez left four people injured after a Honda Activa allegedly collided with an oncoming Royal Enfield motorcycle.

According to the complaint filed by HC 5280 Sudesh R. Mapari, the incident occurred on August 30, 2026, at around 7.27 pm near the football ground at Sangolda. Police said



Kumar, 38, a resident of Sangolda, was riding a Honda Activa bearing registration number GA-03-AX-5098 from Guirim towards Saligao. On reaching the accident spot, he allegedly took a sudden right turn towards

an internal road leading to Saligao without giving

an indicator. The scooter subsequently collided with an

oncoming Royal Enfield motorcycle ridden by 20-year-old Azan Shaikh of Mercedes, who was travelling from Sangolda towards Guirim. The collision resulted in bodily injuries to both riders and their respective pillion

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

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

Team Goemkarponn

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

Velim MLA Cruz Silva, along with



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

Silva said villagers have every right to know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Row Over Murgaooncho Raja Land: South Goa MP Viriato Fernandes Urges CM Pramod Sawant To Intervene

■ MP Seeks Permission For Ganesh Pandal This Year And Permanent Acquisition Of MPA Land To End Recurring Disputes

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: South Goa MP Captain Viriato Fernandes has urged Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to intervene urgently in the controversy over the installation of the traditional Murgaooncho Raja Ganesh idol at Sada, Mormugao. In a letter to the Chief Minister's Office, Fernandes



raised concerns over the objection by the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) to the use of port-owned land for erecting the Sarvajanik Ganapati pandal at the traditional venue. The site

has been used for the annual Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations for several years. The MPA's decision to contest the use of the land in court has, according to Fernandes, caused concern among devotees and local residents. Fernandes questioned the decision to pursue legal proceedings and alleged that it could leave the administration

claiming that the matter is sub judice and that it has limited scope to intervene. The South Goa MP said that with the Bharatiya Janata Party governments in power in both Goa and at the Centre, the State should proactively explore acquiring the required parcel of land from the MPA and provide a permanent venue for the annual celebrations.



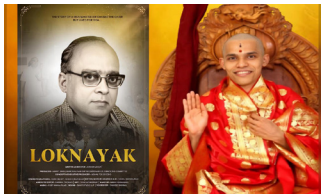
Gokulashtami To Be Marked With Udakshanti And Ganga Puja At Shri Saptakoteshwar, Divar

■ Special Ferry And Shuttle Bus Services Arranged For Devotees Attending Programme At Porne Tirtha

Team Goemkarponn

DIVAR: The Department of Archaeology, Government of Goa, along with the Shri Saptakoteshwar Kotitirth Restoration Committee under the Kotitirth Corridor Development Project, will organise Udakshanti and Ganga Puja at Shri Saptakoteshwar and Shri Kotitirth, Porne Tirtha, Divar, on the occasion of Gokulashtami. The programme will be held on September 4, 2026, with religious rituals scheduled at 9 am, followed by a public meeting at 11 am. The programme will conclude at 1 pm, after which

Prasad will be distributed. Special arrangements have been made to facilitate the movement of devotees attending the programme. Special ferry services will operate from Old Goa and Ribandar to Divar, while shuttle bus services will be available from the Divar Ferry Jetty to Porne Tirtha. Devotees travelling in private vehicles can park at the designated grounds at Malar, Divar. Shuttle buses will also operate between the parking area and Porne Tirtha. The organisers have urged devotees to make use of the special transport arrangements to ensure smooth and convenient travel to the venue.



'Lokanayak' documentary to be screened at Partagali Math on September 4

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: As part of the year-long Birth Centenary Celebrations of former Margao MLA and Minister Anant (Babu) Narcinva Naik, the documentary Lokanayak, chronicling his life and legacy, will be screened at Shree Saunthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math on Friday, September 4, 2026, at 10.30 a.m. Shrinivas V. Dempo, Chairman of the Babu Naik Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee, said the documentary will be screened before Param Pujya Shrimad Vidyadheesh Teerth Sripad Vader Swamiji, Mathadhipati of Shree Saunthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math. The screening assumes special significance as it coincides with Babu Naik's birth tithi according to the Hindu calendar. Babu Naik was born on Gokulashtami, which falls on September 4 this year. Dempo said Babu Naik was a staunch disciple of the Partagali Math and played an important role in the construction of the Mathagram Math Sankul and Shree Maruti Mandir in Margao.

State Games, Sports Schools On Agenda As Goa Olympic Council Meets Sports Minister

■ Goa Olympic Association Discusses State-Level Competition, Grassroots Talent Development, Coaching Reforms And Sports Infrastructure With Ramesh Tawadkar

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Goa could witness its first-ever State Games later this year, while the proposal to establish Sports Schools at multiple locations across the State also emerged as a key focus during a meeting between the Goa Olympic Association (GOA) Executive Council and Sports Minister Dr Ramesh Tawadkar at the Secretariat in Porvorim.



The GOA delegation, led by President Sadanand Shet Tanavade, discussed a broader roadmap for strengthening Goa's sporting ecosystem, with the State Games and

Sports Schools emerging as two major initiatives aimed at developing competitive opportunities and creating a stronger grassroots pathway for young athletes.

Fight Near Margao Railway Station Leaves One With Fracture Injury

■ Five Men Booked After Public Altercation At Fast-Food Stall Allegedly Disturbs Public Peace

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police have registered a case against five persons following an alleged public fight near the railway station in Margao on August 31.

According to the complaint filed by ASI Minguel Vaz of Margao Town Police Station, the incident took place between 8.55 pm and



9.15 pm at a fast-food outlet owned by Lalchand Chauhan near the railway station.

The accused have been identified as Abhay

Koli, a resident of Margao; Putuvar Chauhan, Margao; Shravan Kote, Davorlim; Rahil Pathan, Margao; and Ayaan, Margao. Police said

accused persons No. 1 and 2 were working at the fast-food outlet as a cook and helper respectively when they allegedly got involved in a fight with the others at a public place. As a result of the altercation, Abhay Koli sustained a fracture injury to his leg, while the other persons allegedly suffered simple injuries. Police said the incident disturbed public peace.

Students Submit Memorandum To PWD Minister Digambar Kamat Over Damodar College Issues

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Students of Shree Damodar College of Commerce & Economics, Margao, represented by Rising for Damodar, met PWD Minister and Margao MLA Digambar Kamat and submitted a memorandum highlighting several issues faced by students on the college campus. The student representatives sought necessary improvements to address their day-to-day concerns and ensure a safer, better and more student-friendly campus environment.

'India Must Move Faster': Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang Backs PM Modi's AI Vision

■ Nvidia chief says India's powerful IT sector and growing startup ecosystem can help build a strong domestic AI economy

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang has urged India to accelerate its efforts to capitalise on the rapid growth of artificial intelligence, saying the country's established information technology industry gives it a strong foundation to build a domestic AI economy.

Speaking on the sidelines of the G20 Innovation Ministerial, Huang stressed that AI is developing at extraordinary speed and that countries must move quickly to take advantage of the technology.

He described India as one of the world's leading IT powers and said the emergence of AI represents the beginning of a new technology platform. According to Huang, India can build on its existing technological expertise while encouraging domestic companies and startups to adopt AI, contribute to its development and create new businesses around the technology.

Huang also recalled an earlier conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he had seen Modi discuss the importance of AI



nearly a decade ago. He expressed enthusiasm about seeing Indian companies increasingly participate in the AI revolution and develop solutions suited to the country's needs.

The Nvidia chief described AI as a form of productive economic infrastructure and argued that individual countries should have the ability to develop their own AI ecosystems. While he expects the United States to remain a leader by building capabilities across the AI technology stack, he said other nations should be able to select the technologies and components required

to establish their own systems.

Huang also called for practical regulation of AI. He cautioned governments against creating rules based primarily on hypothetical risks and argued that regulation should focus on genuine and measurable harm while allowing the technology to develop.

He compared AI safety with advances in automobile technology, saying technological progress can make systems safer and more useful over time.

The Nvidia CEO said AI systems have already improved significantly, with newer models



becoming less prone to hallucinations and better at producing factual and practical responses.

However, he stressed that companies must take responsibility for developing increasingly capable AI systems safely.

Huang also clarified that he had not discussed any potential additional semiconductor tariffs with the US official attending the ministerial.

Nvidia, founded by Huang and his co-founders in 1993, has become a central player in AI computing through its specialised chips and technologies used to train and operate advanced AI systems.

'Naughty Boy' GSLV Takes Centre Stage as ISRO Bets on EOS-5 for a Major Comeback

■ GSLV-F17 is set to launch EOS-5 from Sriharikota at 2:55 am on September 4 in a mission that could restore confidence after recent launch setbacks

Team Goemkarponn

SRIHARIKOTA: When most of India is asleep in the early hours of September 4, the Indian Space Research Organisation will face a crucial test of reliability as its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV-F17 prepares to lift off with EOS-5.

The launch is scheduled for 2:55 am from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Beyond placing an advanced Earth observation satellite into orbit, the mission carries added significance for ISRO after a difficult period involving consecutive PSLV setbacks.

EOS-5 will be India's first imaging satellite designed to operate from geosynchronous orbit, nearly 36,000 km above Earth. From this position, the spacecraft is expected to provide a continuous view of India and surrounding areas, offering valuable capabilities for weather monitoring, disaster management, environmental observation and strategic surveillance.

The mission is being carried out using the GSLV Mk II, a launch vehicle that operates independently of the PSLV's propulsion architecture. This means the recent problems associated with the PSLV do not directly affect the

GSLV-F17 mission.

However, the GSLV has a complicated history of its own. Nicknamed the "naughty boy" within ISRO because of its unpredictable early record, the launcher experienced six unsuccessful missions among its first 18 flights.

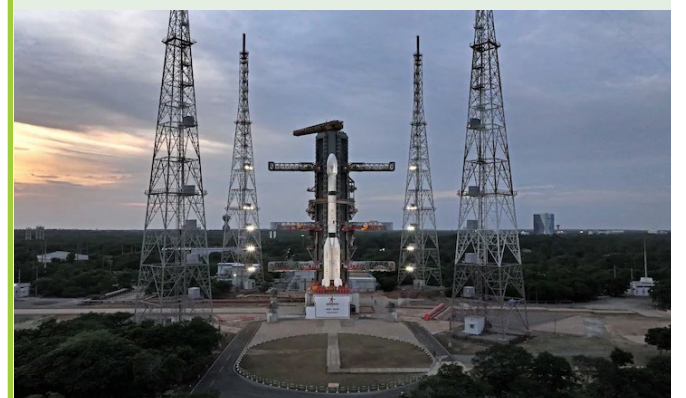
Its development was closely tied to India's long struggle to master cryogenic propulsion.

During the 1990s, international restrictions complicated India's efforts to obtain cryogenic technology from Russia. ISRO subsequently pursued indigenous development, eventually mastering the highly complex technology involving liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen at temperatures below minus 250 degrees Celsius.

The GSLV's journey also includes a major setback involving a similar mission. In August 2021, GSLV-F10 failed to place EOS-03 into orbit after its cryogenic upper stage malfunctioned during flight.

EOS-5 now represents an opportunity to revisit that mission objective with a more advanced spacecraft.

Weighing about 2,367 kg, EOS-5 will initially be placed into a Sub Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit before reaching its operational position.



North Goa Records Highest Number Of Rape & Sexual Assault Cases In Last Three Years

sexual assault cases in the district rose sharply in 2024 before declining in 2025. The government was responding to an Assembly question raised by MLA Aleixo Lourenco on the "disturbing trend of sexual violence". The government said year-wise, month-wise, district-wise and police station-wise details of rape and sexual assault cases are maintained in Annexure A, while taluka-wise, village-wise, town-wise and city-wise details are not maintained. On concerns over investigations and low

conviction rates, the government said investigating officers are regularly briefed on mandatory provisions under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. It also said scientific investigation methods are being used with assistance from the Goa Forensic Science Laboratory, while cases ending in acquittal are analysed to identify shortcomings and improve investigations. The government further stated that police personnel undergo training in coordination with the Bureau of Police Research and Development and that regular crime meetings are conducted to monitor pending investigations and issue directions to investigating officers. This angle is stronger because it gives you a clear three-year comparison rather than focusing on just one year.

CM Sawant Orders Legal Review Of Karapur Project Amid Villagers' Demands

was positive. Sawant said the government cannot immediately stop a project, but directed officials to undertake a detailed legal study of the issues raised by the villagers and take a decision accordingly. Following the meeting, the Chief Minister directed the North Goa Collector to convene a meeting with the concerned departmental officers and extend all possible assistance to the villagers as per law.

The protesters said they would now wait for two days for the authorities to take the necessary action on their demands.

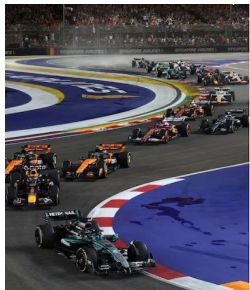
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Chennai Set for Olympic City and Dedicated Motorsports Hub as Tamil Nadu Pushes for Formula 1 Return

■ CM C Joseph Vijay announces world-class sports infrastructure and a dedicated motorsports city aimed at boosting tourism, jobs and the automotive sector

Team Goemkarponn

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu is set for a major expansion of its sports infrastructure, with Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay announcing plans for a world-class Olympic City and a dedicated Motorsports City in Chennai, including facilities aimed at hosting Formula 1 races. The announcements were made in the Tamil Nadu



Assembly on Thursday as part of the state government's plans to strengthen high-performance sports,



City will be developed by the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority. It will feature international-standard sporting arenas,

develop young talent and attract major international sporting events. The proposed Tamil Nadu Olympic

advanced equipment, a High-Performance Training Centre and specialised Sports Science and Sports Medicine facilities.

The complex will also include residential accommodation for athletes and coaches, creating an integrated ecosystem where sportspersons can train, recover and prepare for major international competitions.



'Show Us the Proof': AAP Escalates Fight With ED Over Cases Against Punjab Leaders

■ Punjab Police seeks documents and evidence behind allegations as AAP accuses central agencies of political targeting

Team Goemkarponn

CHANDIGARH: The political battle between the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab and the Enforcement Directorate has intensified, with the state police seeking documents and evidence linked to allegations against AAP leaders. Punjab Police wrote to the ED on August 28, asking the agency to provide the documents and supporting material on the basis of which allegations had been made against members of the ruling party. AAP leaders have now questioned why the requested material has not been provided. The issue has emerged from an ED investigation

under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act following searches conducted in May in connection with a Change of Land Use case. AAP has accused the central agency of attempting to create a negative perception of the Bhagwant Mann government and politically target its leaders. The party has argued that if the ED has documentary evidence supporting its allegations, the material should be shared with the investigating authorities. AAP Punjab chief spokesperson and MLA Kuldeep Dhaliwal said the party would not be intimidated by the prospect of arrests or further investigative action.



Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra Named First CEO of Ram Temple Trust, Three New Members Added

Team Goemkarponn

AYODHYA: The Ram Temple Trust in Ayodhya has appointed retired Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra as its first Chief Executive Officer, bringing a highly experienced former Indian Air Force commander into the temple's administrative leadership.

Mishra was selected from 5,585 applications received for the newly created post. His appointment comes as the trust undertakes a major restructuring aimed at strengthening its management, financial oversight and accountability following a controversy involving the alleged theft of temple donations.

Three new members have also been inducted into the trust. They are Madan Mohan Pandey from Ayodhya, Mahesh Bhagchandka from Delhi and Nirmala Yadav from Shikohabad.

'We Got Support From India, China, US': Nepal PM Balen Shah Thanks Nations for Flood Relief

■ Kathmandu acknowledges rapid international assistance as the death toll crosses 1,200 and thousands remain missing after devastating flash floods

Team Goemkarponn

KATHMANDU: Nepal Prime Minister Balendra 'Balen' Shah has thanked India, China and the United States for their assistance following the devastating flash floods in the Bhotkoshi River region that have killed more than 1,200 people. Addressing Parliament, Shah said international support arrived during a critical



period as Nepal continued rescue and recovery operations across areas severely affected by the floods. Villages, roads and power infrastructure were swept away in the disaster, which affected at least three districts.

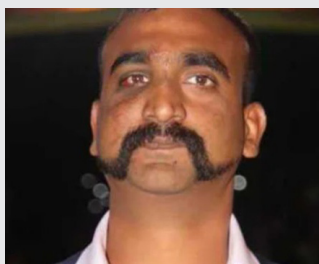
The latest figures put the death toll at 1,204, while more than 4,200 people remain unaccounted for. Among those missing are 275 Indian pilgrims and tourists. Shah said Nepal received emergency assistance from several countries as well as financial support from various institutions, helping authorities respond to the scale of the devastation.

Vir Chakra Hero Abhinandan Varthaman Retires From IAF, Joins Goa-Based FLY91 as Commercial Pilot

■ Fighter pilot who became a national hero after the 2019 India-Pakistan aerial combat begins a new chapter in civilian aviation

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, the Indian Air Force fighter pilot who became a national figure following the 2019 India-Pakistan aerial confrontation, has taken premature retirement from the IAF and reportedly begun a new career as a commercial pilot with Goa-based regional airline FLY91.



Varthaman, who served in the Indian Air Force for around 22 years and rose to the rank of Group Captain, is understood to have joined FLY91 in August. The airline operates regional

services using ATR 72-600 aircraft and has bases in Goa and Hyderabad.

Neither Varthaman nor the airline has publicly commented on his reported appointment. FLY91 has maintained that information concerning individual employees is private.

Varthaman shot to international prominence during the military confrontation between India and Pakistan in February 2019. The crisis

followed India's Balakot air strikes against a Jaish-e-Mohammad terror training facility in Pakistan, carried out days after a suicide attack in Pulwama killed 40 CRPF personnel.

On February 27, Pakistani aircraft crossed into Indian airspace in retaliation, leading to an aerial engagement between the two sides. Varthaman, then a Wing Commander, was flying a MiG-21 Bison during the encounter.

During the dogfight, Varthaman engaged and brought down a Pakistani F-16 before his own aircraft was hit. He ejected from the damaged MiG-21 and landed in territory controlled by Pakistan, where he was captured and held for three days.

His release on March 1, 2019, became a major moment during the tense standoff between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

Japan Cricket Chief Says Asian Games Players Will Get Better Accommodation Amid Concerns

Japan Cricket Association chief Naoki Alex Miyaji says cricket teams will stay in hotels despite wider accommodation challenges at the Nagoya Games

Team Goemkarponn

NAGOYA: Cricket teams competing at the 2026 Asian Games in Japan will be provided hotel accommodation, the head of the Japan Cricket Association has said, seeking to address concerns over the facilities available to players during the continental multi-sport event. Questions over accommodation



emerged after officials from participating cricket nations raised concerns about the arrangements for athletes. The Games will be held across Nagoya

and the wider Aichi region from September 19, with around 17,000 athletes expected to participate. Unlike recent Olympic Games, the Asian Games will not have a conventional athletes' village. Organisers are using a combination

of cruise ship cabins, temporary wooden container facilities and hotels to accommodate participants. Japan Cricket Association CEO Naoki Alex Miyaji said cricket authorities had been discussing accommodation arrangements with the Asian Games organising committee and the Asian Cricket Council for an extended period.



“Amaira Dhumatker Completes Triple Crown” at Sunlite State Badminton Ranking Tournament

Michael Mare and Priyansh Sawant Dessai claim double crowns as Goa's young shuttlers shine

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Amaira Dhumatker was the biggest star at the Sunlite State Badminton Ranking Tournament 2026, completing a stunning triple crown as Michael Mare and Priyansh Sawant Dessai also secured double titles at the state ranking event.

Organised by Sunlite Sports and Cultural Club in association with the Goa Badminton Association, the tournament showcased some of Goa's most promising young badminton talent.

Amaira dominated across three categories, winning the Girls' U11 singles, Girls' U13 singles and Girls' U13 doubles titles.

She defeated Anvitha Poojari 15-6, 15-4 in the U11 singles final before overcoming Komal Kothari 15-6, 15-12 in the U13 singles summit clash. Amaira then teamed up with Komal to complete her triple crown, defeating Anvitha Poojari and Ashbah Tahasildar 15-7, 15-5 in the U13 doubles final. Michael Mare also enjoyed a highly successful campaign, securing the U13 Boys' singles and doubles crowns. The top seed defeated Pratik P Naik Borkar 15-5, 15-8 in the singles final before partnering Ayansh Sanke to beat Pratik and Varun Sahakari 15-10, 9-15, 15-12 in the doubles final.



“Goa Ready to Give Top West Zone States a Tough Fight” as Badminton Squad Heads to Bilaspur

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa will look to make a strong impact at the Inter State West Zone Badminton Championships, scheduled to be held in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, from September 3 to 6, 2026. The state has named a competitive squad featuring several nationally ranked players, along with promising young talents who will be eager to make their mark at the major zonal event. Goa's challenge will be led by Aarush Pawaskar, Arjun Bhagat, Shaheen C K, Aswin Mannambalath, Sufiya Shaikh and Shivanjali Thite.

Rising players such as Dimple Revankar and Niharika Parwar will also be part of the squad as Goa takes on strong badminton states including Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and hosts Chhattisgarh. The team has undergone focused preparations under coaches Vinayak Kamat and Navneet Nasnodkar.

“Goa Ready to Give Top West Zone States a Tough Fight” as Badminton Squad Heads to Bilaspur

Strong Goa contingent features nationally ranked players as the team targets a memorable showing at the West Zone Championships

Team Goemkarponn

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and hosts Chhattisgarh.

The team has undergone focused preparations under coaches Vinayak Kamat and Navneet Nasnodkar. The players will be aiming to build on Goa's encouraging performances in recent years and secure a strong finish in Bilaspur.

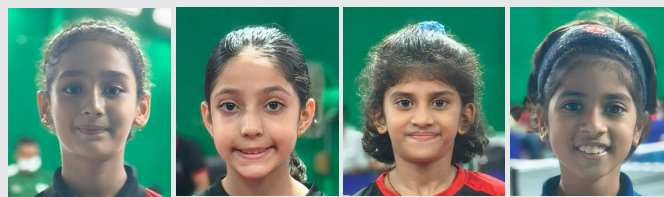
“Four Young Stars Storm Into Finals” at Priority Gaspar Dias Open

Claire George, Ronisha Sakhardande, Anaya Shukla and Shaurya Dessai shine in U9 and U11 categories at Miramar

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Claire George, Ronisha Sakhardande, Anaya Shukla and Shaurya Dessai booked their places in the finals of the Girls U9 and U11 categories at the Priority Gaspar Dias Open All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament at Clube Tennis de Gaspar Dias, Miramar.

In the Girls U9 semifinals, Claire George produced



a dominant display to defeat Hanisha Chonkar 3-0 and secure her place in the title clash. Ronisha Sakhardande also impressed, defeating Spruha Kamat 3-0 to reach her maiden final in the category. The Girls U11 semifinals saw

continue her impressive run with a commanding 3-0 victory over Vanlalrhuitpuii. Shaurya Dessai also advanced to the final after defeating Claire George 3-0. The tournament has also reached the quarterfinal stage in the Girls U13

category.

Sachi Dessai defeated Laruatsangi 3-0, while Inara D'Souza recorded a 3-0 win over Vanlalrhiatpuii. Vanlalrinzuali secured her quarterfinal berth by overcoming Trisha Kamat 3-0, while Tisha Shaikh completed the quarterfinal lineup with a 3-0 victory against Kavya Mahambre.

Earlier in the competition, Sanaz Shaikh, Rheann Menezes Gama, Anaya Shukla,

Shaurya Dessai, Shakambari Kamat, Tvisha Kotkar, Navya Gupta and Aarna Walawalkar exited in the Round of 16. The Priority Gaspar Dias Open, being conducted at Clube Tennis de Gaspar Dias in Miramar under the aegis of the Goa Table Tennis Association, continues to provide a competitive platform for Goa's emerging table tennis talent.