



Goa Could Have Had South India-Like Temples If Portuguese Had Not Come: Sawant

■ CM Says Kadamba Era Was A “Golden Era”; Announces One-Year Timeline For Koti Tirth Corridor And Future Development Of Gopakapattana Port

Team Goemkarponn

NARVEM: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant on Friday said Goa could have had temples similar to those seen in South India if the Portuguese had not arrived in the state.

Speaking at the Udak Shanti and Ganga Pujan ceremony at the Koti Tirth Corridor project at Divar, Sawant said Goa had been ruled by around



8–10 kingdoms and described the Kadamba period as a “golden era” in the state’s history.

He said the Kadamba rulers, along with Goans, built several temples across Goa. However, many temples were later destroyed during Portuguese rule.

“If Portuguese would have not come to Goa, we would have seen temples in Goa similar to those in South India,” Sawant said.

Koti Tirth Corridor To Be Completed Within One Year

Sawant said the Koti

Tirth Corridor project will be completed within one year. The restoration of Shree Saptakoteshwar and Kotiteerth, described as symbols of Goa’s ancient religious, cultural and historical heritage, has commenced as part of the Directorate of Archaeology’s Kotiteerth Corridor Development Project.

The programme at Pornem Teerth, Divar,

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35-Year-Old Man Dies After Self-Inflicted Knife Injury In Siolim

Pune Resident Rohit Pravin Jalgaonkar Dies At PHC Siolim; Police Conducting Further Inquiry



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SIOLIM: A 35-year-old man died after allegedly sustaining a self-inflicted stab injury at River Inn, Siolim, on Friday morning. According to police, at around 10.30 am, the Police Control Room (PCR), Panaji, received information that a person had caused injuries to himself with a knife at River Inn, Siolim. He was subsequently shifted to the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Siolim. Robot 18 staff later informed police that the man had been declared dead. Upon visiting the PHC, the deceased was identified as Rohit Pravin Jalgaonkar, 35, a native of Pune and presently residing in Siolim,

Bardez, Goa.

Police observed one stab injury on the right side of his abdomen.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that Jalgaonkar had been staying in Siolim with his fiancée, Bukke Harika Rathos, 34, a native of Hyderabad, since August 2025. Police said the couple had reportedly been involved in arguments since August 27 over allegations concerning Jalgaonkar’s alleged relationship with another woman. According to the preliminary information, an argument also took place between the two on Friday morning, during which Jalgaonkar allegedly inflicted the injury on himself with a knife.



High Court Of Bombay At Goa Stays Proceedings Against Senior Police Officials

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has stayed further proceedings in Criminal Case No. IPC/96/2026/F pending before the JMFC ‘F’ Court, Mercas, involving allegations against senior police officials.

The complaint was filed by Kashinath Jairam Shetye, Executive Engineer, Electricity Department and social activist, and named Rahul Gupta, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch; Harischandra Madkaikar, Superintendent of Police, North Goa; Jivba Dalvi, Superintendent of Police; and Tushar Lotliker, Police Inspector, Crime Branch.

The matter relates to allegations concerning the handling of complaints arising from an alleged assault at Mercas on May 8, 2026. Old Goa Police Station had registered Crime No. 65/2026 based on a complaint by Yogesh Tigadi and subsequently registered Crime No. 66/2026 based on Shetye’s complaint.

“ISRO Alone Cannot Meet India’s Needs”: V Narayanan Backs Bigger Private Role in Space Sector

■ ISRO chairman says India needs hundreds of satellites as reforms aim to expand the space economy, jobs and private industry

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: ISRO Chairman Dr V Narayanan has defended the growing participation of private companies in India’s space sector, saying the country’s rapidly increasing requirements cannot be met by ISRO alone.



Narayanan said India currently has around 56 satellites, while the

country’s future needs could run into hundreds. He stressed that expanding the broader space ecosystem is essential to meet demand for satellites and related services.

Air India Phuket Delhi Pilot Tested Positive for Psychoactive Substance, AAIB Probe Finds

■ Preliminary report flags drug test result as a serious concern after aircraft suddenly lost nearly 300 feet in altitude

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Pilot in Command of an Air India flight from Phuket to Delhi tested positive for a psychoactive substance in a confirmatory test following an incident in which the aircraft suddenly lost nearly 300 feet of altitude, according to the preliminary findings of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau.



The incident occurred on August 4 while the aircraft was flying over Odisha. The Airbus A320 was carrying 137 passengers, including three infants, along with eight crew members. The sudden altitude change left 20 passengers and four cabin crew members

injured. The investigation found that all three hydraulic systems of the aircraft failed while it was cruising at 36,000 feet. The green system failed first, followed within seconds by the blue and yellow systems. The hydraulic failures resulted in the autopilot disconnecting and triggered a brief stall warning. During the resulting altitude disturbance, the aircraft

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From Complaint to Withdrawal: What Happened Behind the Scenes?

A restaurant owner first approaches the police with a complaint alleging misbehaviour involving police personnel. The matter comes under investigation. Then, the same complainant withdraws the complaint.

The obvious question is: Why?

Was the complaint withdrawn voluntarily, or was the restaurant owner under pressure to withdraw it?

That question cannot simply be brushed aside.

The issue assumes greater significance because the complaint reportedly involved PSI Viraj Sawant and Patil, while the police have acknowledged that an enquiry is continuing despite the withdrawal. If there was nothing unusual about the withdrawal, there should be no difficulty in establishing how and why the complainant changed his stand.

The public is not asking for anyone to be declared guilty without an investigation. Nor should any police officer be condemned merely because allegations have been made against him. Every person is entitled to a fair hearing.

But fairness must work both ways. If the restaurant owner genuinely decided that he no longer wanted to pursue the complaint, that decision should be respected. But if he withdrew it because of pressure, influence, fear or persuasion, then that becomes a separate and serious issue that deserves investigation.

The police should therefore answer some basic questions.

What exactly did the restaurant owner state when the complaint was initially made? What changed later? Who contacted him between the complaint and its withdrawal? Were there any discussions with the accused or people connected to them? Did the complainant face any pressure? Were restaurant employees also approached or influenced?

Most importantly, why did a person who considered

"If the restaurant owner genuinely decided that he no longer wanted to pursue the complaint, that decision should be respected. But if he withdrew it because of pressure, influence, fear or persuasion, then that becomes a separate and serious issue that deserves investigation."

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What exactly did the restaurant owner state when the complaint was initially made? What changed later? Who contacted him between the complaint and its withdrawal? Were there any discussions with the accused or people connected to them? Did the complainant face any pressure? Were restaurant employees also approached or influenced?

Most importantly, why did a person who considered the incident serious enough to complain to the police subsequently decide to withdraw that complaint?

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The CCTV footage from the restaurant may reveal what happened during the incident. But CCTV cannot necessarily reveal what happened afterwards.

That is where the investigation must go deeper.

The police have stated that the dispute reportedly began over a food bill and that Akash, a friend of PSI Sawant, allegedly

argued with restaurant staff. They have also said that Sawant was seated beside Akash and did not use abusive language, while suggesting that he should have intervened to stop the argument.

If this is the police version, it must be tested against the available evidence and statements of those present.

But there is another important dimension.

When a complaint involving police personnel is withdrawn, the circumstances surrounding that withdrawal become part of the story. A withdrawal cannot automatically be treated as proof that the original allegations were false. At the same time, it cannot automatically be treated as proof that the accused were guilty.

The truth lies in the investigation.

And that investigation must be independent, transparent and credible. If there was no pressure, the police should have no hesitation in establishing that fact. If pressure was exerted, the person responsible must be identified.

This is not about protecting a restaurant owner or targeting a police officer. It is about protecting public confidence in the system.

A citizen must feel free to approach the police when he believes he has been wronged. But that confidence will suffer if people begin believing that complaints can disappear after pressure is applied behind closed doors. Porvorim Police now have an opportunity to clear the air. The question is no longer merely what happened inside the restaurant.

The bigger question is what happened after the complaint was filed. And until that question is answered, the withdrawal of the complaint will continue to raise eyebrows.

Was it withdrawn because the complainant changed his mind, or because someone pressured him to change it?

That is the question the investigation must answer.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Three Cylinders, Five Years and a Promise Still Carrying Questions

By Suraj Nandrekar

There is a strange way in which election promises work. They arrive with great certainty before an election, acquire a life of their own after the election, and sometimes return just before the next election looking remarkably similar to the promise that voters were made to remember. The three free LPG cylinders promised by the BJP in its 2022 Goa Assembly election manifesto are a case in point.

The government has now announced that eligible consumers will receive ₹3,000 as reimbursement for three LPG cylinders. The announcement is undoubtedly welcome for households struggling with the rising cost of cooking gas. For many families, ₹3,000 is meaningful assistance.

But as a matter of political accountability, there is a much bigger question. Why did Goans have to wait five years for a promise that was made so confidently in 2022?

This is not a question against providing the benefit. It is a question about the long journey between making a promise and fulfilling it.

When the BJP sought votes in 2022, the promise of three free LPG cylinders was presented as a commitment to every household. It was not presented as something that would be considered if finances permitted, nor as a scheme that would take several years to implement.

After the election, there were announcements about the scheme. There were discussions about eligibility. There were financial concerns. The original promise was subsequently restricted, with the benefit being linked to eligible sections rather than every household. And then came the years of waiting.

That is where the political memory of voters matters.

A government can change the design of a welfare scheme. It can introduce eligibility criteria. It can decide to provide reimbursement instead of directly giving cylinders. All of that can be administratively justified. But what cannot simply disappear is the question of why the original commitment was not implemented as promised. If the government knew in 2022 that the financial burden was too high, why was the promise made in the first place?

If the scheme required changes, why did it take years to arrive at the present format?

And if the government now considers ₹3,000 sufficient to fulfil the commitment, does this mean the promise of three free cylinders every year has actually been fulfilled, or is this a one time reimbursement?

That distinction is crucial. A promise of three cylinders every year is one thing. A ₹3,000 reimbursement covering three cylinders at one point in time is another.

The government should therefore tell people clearly what exactly has been fulfilled.

There is nothing wrong with the Chief Minister announcing relief to consumers. In fact, if the money reaches eligible families on time, it should be welcomed.

But welfare should not become a substitute for accountability. The timing inevitably invites political questions. Goa is heading towards another Assembly election in 2027. A promise made in 2022 is now being delivered, at least in a modified form, in 2026.

That coincidence cannot simply be ignored.

The government may argue that implementing a welfare scheme requires financial planning, verification and administrative procedures. That is perfectly understandable. But voters too have a right to ask why those processes consumed almost an entire term.

For a family buying an LPG cylinder, five years is not an administrative statistic. It is five years of household expenditure. This is why the three-cylinder issue should not be reduced to ₹3,000.

It is about the credibility of political promises.

Every election manifesto is, in effect, a contract with the voter. Governments may not always be able to fulfil every commitment exactly as written. Circumstances change. Priorities change. Finances change. But when a major promise is delayed or altered, people deserve an explanation. The Chief Minister now has an opportunity to provide one. Tell Goans why the original promise could not be implemented on time. Tell them why the scope changed. Tell them whether the present reimbursement is a permanent annual scheme or a one-time measure. And tell them whether those who were promised this benefit in 2022 will receive what was promised for every subsequent year.

Because the question is no longer simply whether ₹3,000 will reach a bank account by September 10.

The bigger question is this: When a promise made before an election takes five years to materialise, can it still be called a promise fulfilled, or is it a promise finally remembered when another election is only months away?

Goa Notifies Rules To Regularise Contractual Employees With 10 Years Of Service

■ New rules provide one-time regularisation for eligible contractual staff while barring routine contractual recruitment by government departments and bodies

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PANAJI: The Government of Goa has notified the Goa (Contractual Employees Regularization in Service) Rules, 2026, paving the way for the one-time regularisation of eligible contractual employees who have completed at least 10 years of continuous service from the date of their initial contractual



appointment.

The notification, issued by the Department of Personnel on September 3, 2026, states that the rules will apply to contractual employees working against Group

A, B and C posts, including those working in government departments and government bodies, subject to specified conditions.

To qualify, employees must have met the prescribed educational qualification and age requirements at the time of their initial appointment and must have been selected through the due process applicable to

direct recruitment. Their continuous service should not have been secured through an order of a court or tribunal.

The rules also require eligible employees to have a satisfactory character and antecedent verification and not be facing any criminal or departmental inquiry or proceedings at the time their regularisation is considered.

Zenito Cardozo Moves High Court Against Charges In Rama Kankonkar Assault Case

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PANAJI: Accused Zenito Cardozo has approached

the Bombay High Court at Goa, challenging the charges framed against him by the Sessions Court in connection with the Rama Kankonkar assault case. The High Court has issued notices seeking responses from the Goa government, Panaji Police and complainant Rama Kankonkar.

Rahul Mhambare Seeks Opposition Meeting Ahead Of Amit Shah's Goa Visit

■ Congress Leader Calls For Discussion On Key State Issues Before Western Zonal Council Meeting

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PANAJI: Congress leader Rahul Mhambare has demanded that the Goa government convene a meeting with the Opposition to discuss key issues concerning the state ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Goa.

Shah is scheduled to visit Goa for the Western Zonal Council Meeting on September 7.

Mhambare said the government should



take the Opposition into confidence and hold discussions on matters affecting the state before the high-level meeting.

He also raised concerns over Goa's land

policies and the approach towards industrial development, calling for greater scrutiny and discussion on decisions that could have long-term implications for the state.



FDA Intensifies Food Safety Checks Across Goa

■ Unlabelled Pickles Detained, Samosa Units Directed To Stop Operations; Establishments Fined For Non-Compliance

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has intensified food safety surveillance across Panjim, Porvorim, Colvale, Salcete and Quepem, focusing on hygiene and licensing compliance ahead of the festive season.

In Porvorim, government canteens and a catering college were inspected. Spot notices were issued over structural deficiencies, while the college failed to produce FSSAI registration for the mess operated for its students.

In Colvale, two samosa manufacturing units were directed to stop operations after officials found poor hygiene conditions.

During an inspection in Panjim, the FDA

detained 450 kg of unlabelled pickle that was being transported on an interstate bus without bills required for traceability.

In Salcete, three establishments found to be in continued or partial non-compliance were fined a total of ₹15,000.

Meanwhile, FDA officials in Quepem collected 25 surveillance samples of sweets and farsan, including two mawa samples, for adulteration testing. Five premises were also inspected for licensing compliance, with one wine store issued a notice for operating without the required licence.

The FDA said surveillance activities will continue across Goa to ensure compliance with food safety regulations and safeguard public health.

Goa Government Announces CM-Vashistha Guru Puraskar For Nine Teachers

■ Chief Minister to honour educators on September 5 during 65th Teachers' Day celebrations in Panaji

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Education, Government of Goa, has announced the CM-Vashistha Guru Puraskar 2025-26, with nine educators selected for their exemplary contribution and dedicated service to the education sector. The awards will be presented by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on September 5, 2026, at 11 am during the 65th Teachers'

Day celebrations at the Institute Menezes Bragança Hall in Panaji.

In the Primary Teacher category, the award will be presented to Eshwar Raghuvir Parab, Government Primary School Teacher at Government Primary School, Surla, Bicholim, and Arati Ashok Kolambkar, Government Primary School Teacher at Government Primary School, Chavdi, Canacona.

Goa Polls Will Be Held On Schedule, CEC Gyanesh Kumar Says

■ Election Commission sets 95% voter turnout as target, urges officials and citizens to step up participation

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Thursday made it clear that Goa's next Assembly elections will be conducted according to schedule, putting to rest speculation over the possibility of an early poll. When asked whether the elections could be held in December, Kumar responded: "Samay par



hoga", indicating that the electoral exercise would take place on time. Kumar was speaking during an interaction with members of Electoral Literacy Clubs at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, as part of an outreach programme focused on increasing

voter participation. Calling for an ambitious target, the CEC said Goa should strive for 95 per cent polling, stressing that high voter participation was important for a healthy democracy. "If Goa promises 95 per cent polling, democracy

will be more vibrant. It is immaterial who wins or loses in an election," he said. Kumar also sought commitments from election officials on improving turnout across the state. The North Goa Collector set a target of more than 90 per cent, while South Goa Collector Egna Cleetus committed to 94 per cent. The Kushavati district Collector set the highest target of 95 per cent.

Gold Chain Worth ₹1.90 Lakh Snatched From Woman In Margao

■ Helmeted scooter rider allegedly approaches woman near Costa Factory, Aquem, and flees after chain snatching

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police are investigating a chain-snatching case after an unidentified scooter rider allegedly snatched a gold chain from a woman near Costa Factory, Aquem, Margao.

According to the complaint filed by Sharon Fernandes E Menezes, a resident of Aquem Alto, the incident occurred on September 2, 2026, at around 8.30 am.



Police said an unknown accused, riding

a scooter and wearing a helmet with his face

covered, approached the woman near Costa Factory.

The rider allegedly snatched her gold chain weighing approximately 10 grams, along with a cross and medal, from her neck before fleeing from the spot.

The stolen ornaments are collectively valued at approximately ₹1.90 lakh.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Subhash Gaonkar of Margao Town Police Station.



French National Booked For Staying In India Without Valid Visa

Anjuna Police register case under Immigration and Foreigners Act 2025; accused is already in judicial custody in an NDPS case

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered a case against a 43-year-old French national for allegedly staying in Goa/India without possessing a valid visa. The case, Anjuna P.S. Cr. No. 92/2026, was registered on September 2, 2026, at 7.49 pm under Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. According to the police complaint filed by PSI Navneet Goltekar, attached to Anjuna Police Station, the

accused, Gaelle Louise Daniele Pavillon, was allegedly found staying without a valid visa. The alleged violation came to light on March 26, 2026, at around 8.35 pm near the crematorium at Aradi, Oxel, Siolim, Bardez, Goa. Pavillon is currently lodged in judicial custody at Central Jail, Colvale, in connection with Anjuna P.S. Cr. No. 21/2026, registered under Section 22(c) of the NDPS Act, 1985. PSI Navneet Goltekar is conducting the investigation into the case.



65-Year-Old Woman Dies After Fall At Residence In Ponda

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: A 65-year-old woman from Mardol, Ponda, died at the casualty department of Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, following injuries sustained in a fall at her residence.

According to Mardol Police, a wireless message was received from GMC Bambolim casualty police on September 2, 2026, at around 10.27 am, informing them that Durga Naik, a resident of Mardol, had expired.

During the enquiry, police found that Naik had been admitted to Ward No. 108 after reportedly suffering a fall at her residence.

Police said she was suffering from diabetes and hypertension and was under regular medication. She was also undergoing psychiatric treatment.

Mardol Police visited GMC Bambolim and conducted an inquest panchanama over the body. The deceased was subsequently referred for a post-mortem examination.

25-Year-Old Driver Booked After Anjuna Crash Leaves Woman With Fracture

■ Car allegedly driven rashly crashes into Royal Enfield Hunter near Government Primary School

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered a case against a 25-year-old car driver following a road accident near the Government Primary School in Anjuna, in which a pillion rider allegedly sustained a grievous fracture injury.

The case, Anjuna P.S. Cr. No. 93/2026, was registered on September 2, 2026, at around 9.40 pm under Sections 281 and 125(b) of the



Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

According to the complaint filed by 25-year-old Chythra Sunil of Kollam, Kerala, the accident occurred on July 13, 2026, at around 3 pm near the Government Primary School, Anjuna.

Police said the

accused, Priya Gulati, was driving car bearing registration number GA-08-AA-7656 from Mapusa towards Anjuna when she allegedly drove in a rash and negligent manner without exercising proper care and caution.

Upon reaching the accident spot, the car allegedly collided with a Royal Enfield Hunter motorcycle (KL-05-BB-2187) being ridden by the complainant's friend, with the complainant travelling as a pillion rider.

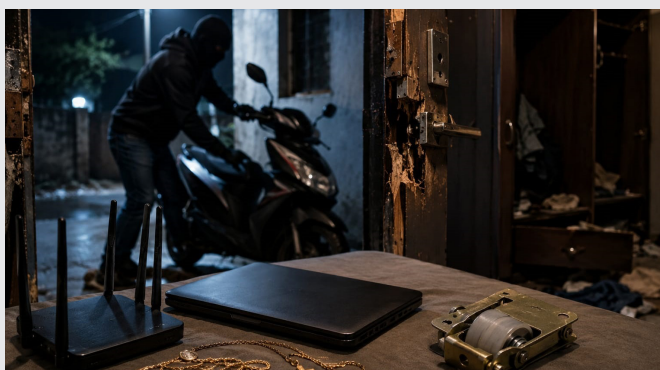
Theft At Davorlim Rented Room; Scooter Also Stolen

■ Gold necklace, laptop and other valuables reported missing; accused Ismail Shaikh arrested

Team Goemkarponn

DAVORLIM: Maina Curtorim Police are investigating a theft case reported at Davorlim, Salcete, after a rented room was allegedly broken into and several valuables, along with a scooter, were stolen.

According to the complaint filed by Irshad Mangalwad, a resident of Davorlim and originally from Haliyal,



Karnataka, the incident took place between 12.10 am and 10 am on September 2, 2026.

Police said an unknown accused allegedly gained entry into the complainant's rented

room by breaking open the door lock and stole one gold necklace, elevator lift material, a Wi-Fi router and a laptop. The exact value of these items is yet to be ascertained.

The accused also allegedly stole a TVS Ntorq scooter, which was parked in an open parking area beside the rented room. The scooter is valued at approximately ₹1 lakh.

Hit-And-Run Near Thivim Leaves 78-Year-Old Seriously Injured

Team Goemkarponn

COLVALE: Colvale Police have registered a hit-and-run case after an unidentified four-wheeler allegedly knocked down a 78-year-old scooter rider near Amyani Madel, Thivim.

The case, Crime No. 70/2026, was registered on September 3, 2026, at around 3.18 pm under Sections 281 and 125(b) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, along with Sections 134(a) and 134(b) of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Ancient Temple Relics Unearthed At Saptakoteswar Temple, Diwar

■ 14th to 16th century remains point to an ancient temple complex and sacred corridor, says CM Pramod Sawant

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Important archaeological discoveries have emerged during restoration work at the historic Shree Saptakoteswar Temple at Diwar, with relics and remains dating between the 14th and 16th centuries unearthed along the old pathway between Koti Tirth and Madhavachi Talli. According to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant,



the discoveries indicate the possible existence of an ancient temple complex and a sacred corridor at the site.

Among the significant finds are a Kirtimukh motif, traditionally carved above



Khostam, used for placing idols. The variety of stone typologies and temple motifs suggests successive reconstruction of the temple during the Vijayanagar period, following the destruction

temple doorways, a carved capital of a temple pillar and portions of Dev

of an earlier temple dating to the Kadamba period.

Sawant said the discovery of relics belonging to successive eras is significant in strengthening the historical chronology and sacred legacy of the ancient site. "Our Government remains committed to preserving, restoring and bringing Goa's rich civilisational heritage to light," the Chief Minister said.



Digambar Kamat Directs Immediate Action On Students' Demands At Shree Damodar College

■ PWD and Sewerage officials inspect college premises following concerns raised by students

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Acting on concerns raised by students of Shree Damodar College of Commerce & Economics, Margao MLA and PWD Minister Digambar Kamat directed the concerned departments to take immediate necessary action.

Following the Minister's directions, officials from the Roads and Sewerage Department visited the college premises and conducted an on-site inspection in the presence of students.

The officials assessed the issues raised by the students and assured them that the required works would be undertaken at the earliest.

The student representatives expressed their gratitude to Kamat for his prompt intervention and immediate response to their concerns.

The students also reiterated their commitment to raising issues affecting the student community constructively and working towards a better, safer and more student-friendly campus.



Supreme Court Notice To Respondents On Goa Bachao Abhiyan's Parmesh Project Plea

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Supreme Court has taken up a plea filed by Goa Bachao Abhiyan against the Bombay High Court's decisions relating to the Parmesh Construction Private Limited project, issuing notice to the respondents in the matter. The Supreme Court has not ordered a stay, status quo or any other restriction on the Parmesh project. The September 2 proceedings were limited to allowing the Special Leave Petition (SLP), condoning the delay in filing it and issuing notice to the respondents. A bench comprising the Chief Justice of India, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohana heard the matter on September 2 and directed that the notices be made returnable on September 18. The case has also been connected with another appeal already pending before the Supreme Court. The dispute stems from proceedings before the Bombay High Court, where Goa Bachao Abhiyan had challenged the permissions and approvals linked to the Parmesh Construction project.

Captain Viriato Fernandes Named To JPC On Foreign Contribution Amendment Bill

■ South Goa MP joins 31-member panel tasked with examining and scrutinising the 2026 FCRA Amendment Bill

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: South Goa Member of Parliament Captain Viriato Fernandes has been nominated to the 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) constituted to examine and scrutinise the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026. The committee was constituted on Thursday, with BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal appointed as its chairperson. The



JPC has been tasked with examining the provisions of the proposed legislation and submitting its report to the Lok Sabha by the last day of the first week of the Winter Session of Parliament. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation)

Amendment Bill, 2026, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 25, 2026. It was subsequently referred to the JPC amid opposition from various political parties and concerns raised by different stakeholders.

Fernandes' nomination gives Goa representation on the parliamentary panel that will undertake a detailed examination of the proposed amendments before the bill proceeds further in Parliament.

Goa State Haj Committee Seeks Direct Or Connecting Flights To Saudi Arabia

■ Chairman Urfan Mulla urges government intervention as 219 Goan pilgrims face logistical and financial hardships travelling via Mumbai

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa State Haj Committee has sought government intervention to facilitate direct or convenient connecting flights from Goa to Saudi Arabia for pilgrims travelling for Haj 2027.

In a representation dated September 3, Committee Chairman Urfan Mulla urged BJP Goa President Damu Naik to take up the issue



with the state government, highlighting the difficulties faced by Goan pilgrims due to the absence of direct air connectivity to

Saudi Arabia.

According to the committee, 219 pilgrims from Goa have applied for Haj 2027. Under the

existing arrangements, pilgrims are required to travel to Mumbai to board onward flights to Jeddah or Medina. Mulla pointed out that a substantial number of the pilgrims are elderly persons, women and first-time travellers. Travelling to Mumbai with heavy baggage involves additional transportation, accommodation and coordination, resulting in physical, mental and financial hardships for the pilgrims.

The committee has requested Naik to take up the matter with the Government of Goa, urging the state administration to coordinate with the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Haj Committee of India.

The representation has sought the possibility of launching direct flights from Goa to Jeddah or Medina for Haj pilgrims.

'TCML Is Fully Compliant': Tata Chemicals Responds To Kenya's Order To End Operations

■ Company says it has submitted all required documents and is awaiting the Kenyan government's review

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Tata Chemicals has reaffirmed that its Kenyan subsidiary, Tata Chemicals Magadi Limited (TCML), complies with the country's regulatory requirements after President William Ruto directed the Indian company to end its operations in Kenya.

Ruto announced the decision on Thursday during a visit to Magadi in Kajiado County, where Tata Chemicals operates the Magadi Soda facility. He said the Kenyan government planned to bring in two new companies to take over the business and establish manufacturing facilities in the region.

Tata Chemicals, however, said TCML had already responded to concerns raised by Kenya's Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs. The company said it submitted a detailed compliance report on August 11, providing the information, reports and documents requested by the ministry.

The company said it is now waiting for the



ministry to complete its assessment and provide further directions. Tata Chemicals maintained that TCML had addressed the issues raised and remained compliant with applicable regulatory requirements.

Ruto Questions Tata's Contribution

The Kenyan president criticised Tata Chemicals' long association with the Magadi operation, arguing that the company had not generated enough local industrial development in Kajiado.

Ruto said Kenya wanted new operators to

invest in manufacturing facilities, including a glass factory and a chemical plant, rather than simply exporting raw materials from the region.

The dispute follows a government directive in July requiring TCML to suspend operations at the Magadi Soda factory. Soda ash exports from the facility were also stopped.

Tata Chemicals Signals Continued Engagement

Tata Chemicals said the Magadi operation has been an important part of its business and Kenya's economy since the company acquired the

plant in 2005.

The company said it respects the Kenyan government's authority and remains committed to resolving the matter through legal and regulatory channels. It also highlighted its focus on employees, the local community and continued economic development in Kenya.

The developments affected Tata Chemicals' shares in India, with the stock falling around 3% to an intraday low of Rs 625 on the BSE on Friday following Ruto's announcement.

'Mumbai Faces Permanent Inundation Risk': UN Warns Rising Seas Could Displace Millions

■ UN report flags Mumbai, Kolkata and Dhaka as major South Asian cities facing severe risks from sea level rise

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Mumbai is facing a growing threat from rising sea levels, with a new United Nations report warning that millions of people living across vulnerable South Asian cities could eventually be forced from their homes by permanent coastal inundation.

The report, titled Challenges Related to Sea Level Rise and Ways and Approaches to Address, was presented to the UN General Assembly on August 31. It identified Mumbai and Kolkata in India, along with Dhaka in Bangladesh, among the region's major cities where rising seas could trigger extensive displacement and cause serious economic disruption. The report estimates that more than 14 million people in low lying areas of South Asia are at immediate risk of losing their homes to permanent inundation. It also stressed that assessments of coastal vulnerability must give greater importance to human displacement and social consequences, rather than focusing primarily on financial losses.

Global sea levels increased by a record 5.9 mm in 2024, significantly above the average annual rise

of 4.7 mm recorded between 2014 and 2023.

The UN report projects that global sea levels could rise by at least 0.5 metres by 2100 even if countries pursue ambitious emissions reductions. Under a worst case scenario involving instability of the West Antarctic ice sheet, the rise could reach as much as two metres, putting large coastal populations at serious risk.

Mumbai faces additional challenges because of land subsidence and saltwater intrusion. Rising seawater could contaminate freshwater aquifers and coastal wells, while storm surges could damage housing, sanitation systems and transport infrastructure.

Mumbai's Climate Action Plan, released by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation in 2021, had also highlighted the city's vulnerability to sea level rise. The plan warned that large parts of the island city could face inundation risks by 2050.

The city is also witnessing changes in rainfall patterns. BMC data shows that average rainfall during very heavy rainfall events increased from 132 mm to 182 mm over a six year period, adding another layer of risk for Mumbai's densely populated coastal areas.

Air India Phuket Delhi Pilot Tested Positive for Psychoactive Substance, AAIB Probe Finds

climbed 372 feet before dropping 292 feet from its assigned altitude. The hydraulic systems recovered within seconds and the flight control surfaces returned to normal operation.

Investigators found no reported adverse weather conditions at the time. The sudden movement caused damage to several parts of the cabin, including overhead bins, ceiling panels and an emergency exit handle.

With the seat belt signs switched off, passengers and crew were injured. The aircraft subsequently continued to Delhi and landed safely.

The AAIB said the confirmatory test finding involving the Pilot in Command was a serious concern and recommended that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation take appropriate action on priority.

The cause of the incident has not yet been established. Investigators are analysing data from the Cockpit Voice Recorder and Digital Flight Data Recorder, while aircraft components and samples are also being examined.

Goa Could Have Had South India-Like Temples If Portuguese Had Not Come: Sawant

included Mahabhishek, Udakshanti, Mandovi Panchganga Aarti and a public meeting. The programme was held in the presence of Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant and Union Minister

of State Shripad Naik. Revival Of Ancient Pilgrimage Heritage According to the government, Goa has historically been a centre of pilgrimage, learning, trade and culture.

The region has been associated with several dynasties, including the Mauryas, Satavahanas, Bhojas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Kadambas and Vijayanagara. The government statement highlighted the Kadamba period as a particularly significant phase in Goa's history, with Shree Saptakoteshwar being the family deity of the Kadambas. The temple of Shree Saptanath-Saptakoteshwar at Divar was an important part of this tradition. Following its destruction during invasions, the tradition was carried forward at Narve.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj restored the temple of Shree Saptakoteshwar in 1668.



“Preferential Tariff or No Final Deal”: India Sets Key Condition for US Trade Pact

■ Piyush Goyal says India will finalise the bilateral trade agreement only after Washington offers tariff terms better than those given to India’s competitors

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India will finalise and announce the details of its proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement with the United States only after Washington agrees to provide preferential tariff treatment compared with India’s key competitors, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

Goyal said negotiations



have progressed significantly, but the final announcement will depend on the US offering India a competitive tariff

advantage. He stressed that the agreement’s detailed text has not yet been made public.

The minister also maintained that India has protected its key economic interests during the negotiations. He said the government had consulted

farmers, fishermen, micro, small and medium enterprises, workers, the handloom and handicrafts sectors and the automobile industry before finalising the first phase of the agreement. According to Goyal, the pact represents only the first tranche of a broader engagement between the two countries, with further negotiations expected to continue.



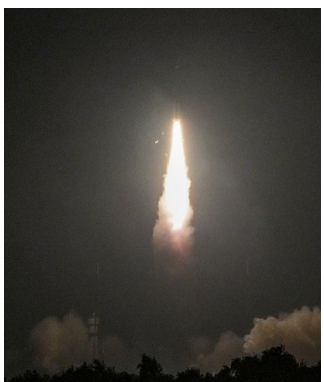
“As Long as There Is Breath, There Is Hope”: Two Rescued Alive From Nepal Hydropower Tunnel After 9 Days

■ Rescue teams pull two workers from debris filled Trishuli 3A tunnel as hundreds remain missing after devastating floods

Team Goemkarponn

KATHMANDU: Two workers have been rescued alive from a hydropower project tunnel in Nepal, nine days after devastating flash floods swept through parts of the country, offering renewed hope that more people could still be found alive. The workers, identified as 30 year old mechanical foreman Sanjay Shah and 45 year old supervisor Kabir Maharjan, were pulled from the Trishuli 3A Hydropower Project in the Trishuli region. Both were reportedly injured

in their arms and legs and are believed to have survived by moving through the tunnel after its entrance was buried by mud and debris. Shah was airlifted to Battar for medical treatment and was reported to be in stable condition, while Maharjan was taken to Chhauni Hospital in Kathmandu and placed under intensive care. Rescue teams described the operation as extraordinary, with images showing the mud covered workers being carried out of the tunnel. Their survival has raised hopes among families waiting for news of missing workers.



“A Proud Moment for the Nation”: PM Modi Hails ISRO After Successful GSLV-F17 Launch

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) following the successful launch of the GSLV-F17 rocket carrying the EOS-05 Earth observation satellite, calling the mission a proud moment for the country.

The GSLV-F17 lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, at 2:55 am on Friday in a pre dawn launch. The satellite was subsequently placed into its designated sub geosynchronous transfer orbit. Modi praised the achievement as a reflection of India’s growing capabilities in space technology, highlighting the role of innovation and the expanding cooperation between ISRO and the Indian space industry.

“We Are Ready to Help”: Jaishankar Offers India’s Support to End Russia Ukraine War

■ External Affairs Minister says India backs dialogue and diplomacy as Kyiv seeks stronger international efforts to achieve peace

Team Goemkarponn

KYIV: India is prepared to provide any assistance it can to help bring an end to the Russia Ukraine war, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said during talks with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha in Kyiv on Thursday.

Jaishankar reiterated India’s long standing position that lasting solutions to the conflict



cannot emerge from the battlefield and stressed the need for dialogue and diplomacy. He noted that every additional day of fighting results in further loss of life and destruction.

The minister’s visit came amid continued hostilities between Russia and Ukraine and was also overshadowed by the recent death of an Indian national in an attack in Kyiv. Jaishankar expressed condolences to families affected by the conflict.

Jaishankar later met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and briefed him on his discussions with Sybiha.

“Historic Day for Ladakh”: Five New Districts to Get Elected Hill Councils

■ LAHDC system extended to Sham, Nubra, Zaskar, Drass and Changthang as election process moves forward

Team Goemkarponn

LEH: Ladakh’s five newly created districts are set to come under elected autonomous hill councils, marking a major expansion of grassroots governance across the Union Territory. Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Thursday approved the notification for establishing Ladakh Autonomous Hill



Development Councils (LAHDCs) in all seven districts. The move will extend the council system

beyond Leh and Kargil to Sham, Nubra, Zaskar, Drass and Changthang. The Centre had earlier

decided to extend the autonomous hill council framework to all seven districts. Until now, elected LAHDCs functioned only in Leh and Kargil. The expansion is expected to give residents of the five new districts greater representation in local development planning and administrative decision making. The councils are designed to bring governance closer to communities and provide

elected representatives with a stronger role in addressing local priorities. However, election dates for the new councils have not yet been announced. The Ladakh administration said the elections will be conducted in due course after the required formal notification is issued under Section 8 of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Act, 1997.

'I Didn't Know All This Happened': Smriti Mandhana Reacts After Breaking Three Major Records

India star Smriti Mandhana rewrote multiple records with a stunning 124 against Hong Kong in the Women's Asia Cup 2026

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Smriti Mandhana produced a spectacular batting display against Hong Kong in the Women's Asia Cup 2026, smashing a record breaking 124 off just 64 balls. Her explosive innings helped India Women post 193/5 in their Group A clash at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.



Despite rewriting several records during her sensational knock, Mandhana revealed that

she was unaware of the milestones she had achieved until after the innings.

"I didn't know all of this happened," Mandhana said, while crediting Hong Kong's bowlers for maintaining discipline during the powerplay. The Indian opener admitted that facing slower bowlers can be challenging but praised Hong Kong for their accuracy and

intensity. She also highlighted the energy shown by the opposition, saying it was something other teams could learn from. Mandhana explained that the pitch offered some low bounce during the early overs, making strokeplay slightly difficult. However, once she settled at the crease, she found it easier to judge the length and play her shots more freely.



"Pilar's Teamwork and Sportsmanship Shone Through": Seminary Storms to 4-0 Fr. Agnel Fellowship Cup Victory

Host side overwhelms Rachol Seminary with three first half goals before sealing a commanding win

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Pilar Seminary produced a dominant performance to defeat Rachol Seminary 4-0 and lift the Fr. Agnel Fellowship Cup at the Fr. Agnel Football Ground on September 2. The traditional friendly football encounter began in grand style with Chief Guest Yatish Dempo attending the occasion along with several distinguished guests, including Akshaya Vernekar, Vicar General of the Society of Pilar Rev. Fr. Steevan D'Souza, Rachol Seminary Rector Rev. Donato Rodrigues and Indian football legend Muhammad Ali. The dignitaries were welcomed by the

seminarians' brass band before being escorted to the stage by Pilar Seminary Rector Fr. Norman Almeida. Pilar quickly established control after the opening whistle, displaying impressive coordination, attacking intent and tactical discipline. The hosts scored three goals during a dominant first half to take a commanding 3-0 advantage into the break. The halftime interval featured cultural performances by the Fr. Agnel Niketan Boys and Minor Seminarians, adding to the festive atmosphere. Rachol returned with renewed determination in the second half and created several attacking opportunities.



Suyash Prabhudesai Hits Stunning Century as Goa Stumble Against KSCA Presidents XI

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's hopes of taking control of their four day clash against KSCA Presidents XI suffered a major setback on the third day of the Dr. (Capt.) K. Thimmappiah Memorial Cricket Tournament at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. After Goa were bowled out for 332 in their first innings, KSCA Presidents XI responded strongly to post 396, securing a crucial 64 run lead. Goa were then reduced to 167 for 8 in their second innings by the close of play, leaving them with only a 103 run advantage and two wickets in hand. KSCA Presidents XI had been in trouble at 210 for 7, but Venkatesh M. continued his resistance with a 49 run knock. After the score reached 295 for 9, Shikhar Shetty and Mohsin Khan produced a remarkable final wicket partnership worth 101 runs. Shetty narrowly missed a century, scoring 92, while Mohsin remained unbeaten on 51 to lift the hosts to a commanding total.

Goa Pickleball Team Selection Trials Set for September 8 and 9 Ahead of National Championship

Players across nine age categories can compete for places in Goa's squad for the Kochi Nationals

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pickleball Association has announced selection trials to identify the Goa team for the 10th National Sub Junior, Junior, Senior and Veteran National Pickleball Championship 2026-27.

The trials will be held on September 8 and 9 from 3 pm onwards at PHQ, Play Headquarters, Vaddem, Vasco da Gama. Players will compete



across nine categories, including U10, U12, U14, U16, U19, 19+ Open, 35+, 50+ and 60+. Selection will be conducted for Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles events. Participants can enter

a maximum of two events, which may be within the same age group or across different categories, provided they meet the eligibility requirements.

The selected Goa players will represent the state at the national championship, scheduled to take place from October 2 to 4 in Kochi, Ernakulam, Kerala. The tournament will be conducted under the aegis of the All India Pickleball Association.

Arjun Rane, Yajat Keny, Ashank Dalvi and Aarish Shaikh Storm Into Finals at Gaspar Dias Open

Top seeds Arjun and Ashank lead the charge as four young paddlers book title clashes in U9 and U11 categories

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Arjun Rane, Yajat Keny, Ashank Dalvi and Aarish Shaikh secured their places in the finals of the Boys U9 and U11 categories at the Priority Gaspar Dias Open All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament at Clube Tennis de Gaspar Dias, Miramar.

The tournament is being conducted in association with the Goa



Table Tennis Association.

In the Boys U9 semifinals, top seed Arjun Rane survived a close contest against Ronan Menezes Gama, winning 3-2 to keep his title hopes alive. Second seed Yajat Keny produced a more comfortable performance,

defeating Vivaan Rane 3-0 to earn his place in the final.

Arjun had earlier advanced to the semifinals with a 3-0 quarterfinal victory over Anshuman Lokapure. Ronan secured a 3-0 win against Jagrav Sinha, while Vivaan defeated Kavish Singh

3-1. Yajat completed the quarterfinal lineup with a 3-1 victory over Urvansh Pathak.

The Boys U11 category also witnessed dominant semifinal performances from the top two seeds. Ashank Dalvi defeated Kedar Nair 3-0, while second seed Aarish Shaikh recorded an identical 3-0 victory over Vardhan Verlekar. The results set up an eagerly awaited final between Ashank and Aarish.

Earlier in the U11 quarterfinals, Ashank defeated Ronan Menezes Gama 3-0, while Kedar Nair beat Ved Sanvordekar by the same scoreline. Vardhan Verlekar overcame Arjun Rane 3-1, while Aarish Shaikh secured a 3-0 victory over Urvansh Pathak.

The four finalists will now battle for the respective age group titles as the Priority Gaspar Dias Open