



## Goa Ujjwala Yojana 2026 launched, eligible households to receive Rs 3,000

■ Rs 100 crore allocated for the scheme; applications open from September 5 to 8, DBT payments likely from September 9

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant today rolled out the Goa Ujjwala Yojana 2026, a State government initiative that will provide eligible households with Rs 3,000 a year to meet their cooking-fuel expenses during 2026-27.

Under the scheme, the amount will be paid in a single instalment through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-linked bank account. The government



has made a provision of Rs 100 crore for the programme and there is no income-based eligibility limit.

Sawant said the

initiative delivers on the government's announcement of providing support equivalent to three LPG cylinders. Although three

cylinders at the current rate of around Rs 956 each would cost Rs 2,868, the State has fixed the annual assistance at Rs 3,000.

Beneficiaries will be covered through two routes. People already receiving Griha Aadhaar assistance and women covered under the Dayanand Social Security Scheme (DSSS) will be considered using existing government records. Their LPG or PNG connection, however, will have to be

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### First phase of Goa Ujjwala Scheme to cover 2.5 lakh beneficiaries

Government aims to begin direct financial transfers from September 9; CM says Goa is now kerosene-free

#### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant said the first phase of the Goa Ujjwala Scheme is expected to benefit around 2.5 lakh beneficiaries, with the financial assistance being credited directly to their bank accounts.

Sawant said the State government is working towards commencing the payment process from September 9, subject to the completion of the application and verification process.

The Chief Minister also said Goa has achieved kerosene-free

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### "There Is a Risk of Speedy Water Level Rise": 38 Arunachal Lakes Face GLOF Threat

#### Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** A new study has raised concerns over the growing threat of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in Arunachal Pradesh, identifying 38 high altitude lakes at medium to high risk of such events.

Researchers assessed 127 lakes across the state and classified 89 as low risk, 36 as medium risk and two as high risk. The lakes facing greater risks are concentrated in the Upper Dibang Valley, West Kameng and Tawang regions, where downstream communities and important hydropower infrastructure could be affected.

A GLOF occurs when water stored in a glacial or high altitude lake is suddenly released, often following the failure of a natural moraine dam. The resulting flood can carry huge quantities of water, rocks, sediment and debris downstream, potentially causing widespread damage.

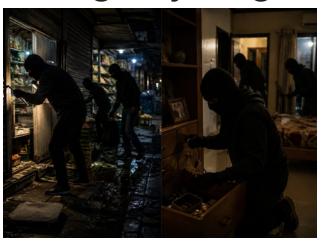
## Theft Incidents Reported In Mapusa, Shops And Flat Targeted

■ Three market shops broken into in one incident; five unidentified thieves allegedly target Ganeshpuri flat

#### Team Goemkarponn

**MAPUSA:** Two separate theft incidents have been reported in Mapusa, with unidentified thieves targeting three shops at the Mapusa Municipal Market and a residential flat in Ganeshpuri.

In the first incident, thieves broke into three shops in the vegetable market area



of the Mapusa Municipal Market and reportedly stole around ₹1 lakh in cash along with other valuables. Police reached the spot and launched

an investigation, while the exact loss is being assessed.

In another incident, five unidentified thieves allegedly broke into a flat at a residential society in Ganeshpuri around 1 am yesterday. The suspects reportedly broke the door lock and stole a gold mangalsutra, gold earrings and gold rings kept inside a cupboard.

## "Your Prime Minister Warned Europe": Belgian PM Says Modi's Trade Dependency Warning Was Ignored

■ Bart De Wever calls Europe's economic awakening "a bit late" and backs India as its top strategic partner

#### Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever has acknowledged that Europe failed to act on an earlier warning from Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the dangers of excessive economic dependence on other countries, saying the continent is now facing the consequences.

Speaking at a CII event, De Wever



said India and Europe were confronting similar challenges as economic and industrial dependencies increasingly became tools of geopolitical pressure. He stressed that neither side wanted to be pushed around or see trade

relationships turned into leverage.

De Wever said India had recognised the risks much earlier, while Europe took longer to respond. He described Europe's current realisation as a "rude awakening", adding that the continent had allowed foreign industrial overcapacity to enter its markets at very low prices, weakening parts of its own manufacturing base.

## Build Qualities That Shape Students' Future: CM Sawant

Technology cannot replace teachers; CM urges educators to nurture communication, creativity, compassion and courage among students



#### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant on Saturday urged teachers to focus on developing key qualities such as communication, creativity, compassion and courage among students, saying these values will play an important role in shaping their future. Addressing the 65th Teachers' Day celebrations in Panaji, Sawant stressed that the role of teachers remains irreplaceable despite the growing use of technology in education. "Technology can never replace a teacher. The way teachers teach and connect with students with care and affection is irreplaceable," the Chief

### No Teacher Will Be Removed From Job, Urges Students Not To Protest: CM

#### Team Goemkarponn

**MANDREM:** \*Sawant assures higher secondary teachers of job security, says issues can be resolved through discussions  
Team Goemkarponn  
**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant assured that no higher secondary teacher working on a three-year contract or as a guest lecturer will be removed from service. He said teachers can continue working in their existing schools until the Education Department completes its streamlining process.

Minister said. Sawant also urged aided schools to give special attention to the cleanliness and maintenance of girls' and ladies' toilets.



# Goa Must Remember Its Lost Temples, Not Rewrite Its History

Goa has never been short of history. What it has sometimes lacked is the willingness to confront that history honestly.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's statement that around 1,000 temples were destroyed during Portuguese rule has brought the question of Goa's lost religious and cultural heritage back into public discussion. The issue deserves serious attention, not because history should become a weapon for present day politics, but because a society that forgets the destruction of its heritage risks losing an important part of its own identity.

There is little doubt that temple destruction and restrictions on Hindu religious practices took place during Portuguese rule, particularly in the areas that formed the Old Conquests. Historical accounts document the destruction of temples, restrictions on religious practices and attempts to suppress aspects of indigenous culture. An expert committee constituted by the Goa government has also referred to more than 1,000 temples destroyed during the Portuguese regime and recommended a memorial and museum to preserve their memory.

But the number itself must be approached with historical discipline.

If the government says approximately 1,000 temples were destroyed, then Goa deserves to know how that figure was established. Which temples have been identified? Where were they located? What records exist? Which structures were destroyed completely and which were subsequently rebuilt elsewhere? What happened to their idols, religious objects, inscriptions and architectural remains?

These are not inconvenient questions. They are necessary questions.

The recent restoration work at Saptakoteshwar in Divar demonstrates why serious historical research matters. Archaeological remains dating between the 14th and 16th centuries have been discovered at the site, including architectural fragments associated with an earlier temple complex. The evidence points towards a much older religious and cultural landscape than what survives today.

This is precisely where Goa's approach to history needs to

*"The recent restoration work at Saptakoteshwar in Divar demonstrates why serious historical research matters. Archaeological remains dating between the 14th and 16th centuries have been discovered at the site, including architectural fragments associated with an earlier temple complex. The evidence points towards a much older religious and cultural landscape than what survives today."*

*This is precisely where Goa's approach to history needs to mature.*

*Restoring a temple is important. Documenting the history of the temple is equally important. Preserving archaeological remains is important. Digitising old records and making them available to researchers is perhaps even more important for future generations.*

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Restoring a temple is important. Documenting the history of the temple is equally important. Preserving archaeological remains is important. Digitising old records and making them available to researchers is perhaps even more important for future generations.

The government has indicated that Portugal is willing to cooperate in providing access to historical records. This opportunity should be pursued seriously. Goa should not merely depend on political

statements about its past. It should build a comprehensive historical archive based on Portuguese records, church records, local documents, archaeological evidence, oral histories and research by independent historians.

There is another important distinction that Goa must maintain.

Remembering temple destruction does not mean blaming present generations of Goan Christians for the actions of a colonial administration centuries ago. Goa's Christian community is as much a part of modern Goa as its Hindu community. The history of Portuguese rule must therefore be discussed without turning historical injustice into contemporary communal hostility.

The destruction of temples was an attack on a cultural landscape that existed before colonial rule. Remembering it should strengthen Goa's understanding of itself, not divide Goans against one another.

The proposed memorial for temples destroyed during Portuguese rule could therefore become much more than a political symbol. It could become a centre of historical education. A museum could document the temples that disappeared, the traditions that survived, the communities that preserved their faith and the remarkable movement of sacred images and traditions from the Old Conquests to safer territories.

Goa must also remember that its history did not begin in 1510. The Chief Minister has rightly drawn attention to the Kadamba period and the ancient roots of Goa's temple traditions.

But history should not end with another political narrative replacing the previous one.

Goa needs evidence, archives, archaeology and scholarship.

The question before the government is therefore bigger than whether 1,000 temples were destroyed. The real question is how many stories disappeared with them and how many can still be recovered.

If the government genuinely wants the younger generation to understand Goa's history, this is the moment to do it properly.

Remember the temples. Restore what can be restored. Document what has been lost. Preserve what survives.

And above all, let history speak through evidence rather than slogans.

## EDITOR SPEAKS

### Ujjwala 2026: When a Promise Finally Reaches the Kitchen

By Suraj Nandrekar

A government promise matters most when it reaches the people for whom it was made. The launch of the Goa Ujjwala Yojana 2026 by Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant, in the presence of Union Minister Shripad Naik, is therefore more than the announcement of another government scheme. It represents a promise translated into tangible financial support for Goan households.

Under the scheme, eligible beneficiaries will receive financial assistance equivalent to the cost of three domestic LPG cylinders every financial year. The Goa government has made a provision of ₹100 crore for the initiative, underlining its commitment to providing meaningful support to families and strengthening household financial security.

For ordinary households, the cost of cooking fuel is a regular and unavoidable expense. For women, who continue to play a central role in managing kitchens and household needs, assistance towards LPG expenses can provide valuable financial relief. Every saving in the household budget matters, particularly when families have several essential expenses to manage.

The strength of Ujjwala 2026 lies in its direct connection with everyday life. It is not an abstract benefit. It addresses a basic household requirement and provides assistance that eligible families can use for one of the most essential expenses in their homes.

The scheme also reflects the government's focus on women and family welfare. By supporting cooking fuel expenses, the initiative can help women and families manage household finances with greater confidence. Financial assistance of this nature can provide a sense of security and help households plan their expenditure better.

The ₹100 crore provision gives the scheme significant financial backing. It demonstrates that the government is not merely making a policy announcement but is putting resources behind its commitment to the people of Goa.

There is also an important political significance to the launch. Governments make promises to citizens, particularly during elections, but the real value of a promise is seen when it becomes a functioning programme. Goa Ujjwala Yojana 2026 is an example of that transition from commitment to implementation.

The message is clear. A promise becomes meaningful when it reaches the kitchen, where household budgets are managed and where the impact of rising expenses is felt every day.

For eligible Goan families, support equivalent to the cost of three LPG cylinders every financial year can provide practical and welcome relief. For women, it represents support for one of the most important responsibilities of the household.

A welfare initiative should ultimately be judged by the difference it makes in people's lives. Ujjwala 2026 has been designed with that very purpose in mind. From a promise made to a benefit delivered, Goa Ujjwala Yojana 2026 represents a significant step towards supporting families, empowering women and strengthening household financial security. A promise finally reaches the kitchen, bringing with it relief, support and renewed confidence for Goan households.



# Rental vehicles account for 76 crashes and 38 deaths in Goa

■ Accident figures tabled in Assembly show 65 injuries since 2021, with Bardez emerging as the biggest hotspot

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa has recorded 76 road crashes involving rental cars and two-wheelers over the past five years, with the accidents resulting in 38 fatalities and 65 injuries, figures presented in the Legislative Assembly have revealed.

The data, covering the period from January 2021 to July 31, 2026, indicates that the number of accidents involving rented vehicles has



generally increased despite fluctuations from year to year. There were nine such crashes in 2021, followed by just two in 2022. The number

climbed to 14 in 2023 and further increased to 18 in 2024. Goa registered 20 cases in 2025, the highest annual figure during the period. Another 13

accidents were reported in the first seven months of 2026. The fatalities have remained a concern. Three people died in rental-vehicle crashes in 2021, while 2022 recorded one death. The toll jumped to 10 in 2023 and stood at nine in 2024. Seven deaths were reported in 2025, followed by eight fatalities up to July 31 this year. In terms of injuries, nine people were hurt in 2021, one in 2022, six in 2023, 17 in 2024 and 22 in 2025.



## Excise clerk facing sensitive-posting bar assigned to Vigilance wing

■ Harish Naik, whose dismissal followed a ₹16.86 lakh revenue misappropriation case, gets complaint-related duties despite appellate restriction

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**PANAJI:** The Excise Department has assigned Vigilance-related responsibilities to Harish Naik, an employee whose dismissal from service in a government revenue misappropriation case was later replaced with a lesser penalty, despite an explicit condition that he should not be placed in a sensitive position.

Naik, who has since been demoted from Upper Division Clerk to Lower Division Clerk, has been given responsibilities in the Vigilance wing that include dealing with complaints against

employees, vigilance matters, public grievances and issues concerning toddy tappers. The assignment comes months after the Chief Secretary, while deciding Naik's appeal, directed that he should not be entrusted with sensitive postings in the future. The disciplinary case dates back to Naik's tenure at the Pernem Excise Station. An inquiry into the handling of licence-related collections between 2018-19 and 2021-22 established that government revenue amounting to ₹16.86 lakh had not been deposited into the State Treasury.



## Three major Goa gateways get tourist-place status

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Three major gateways through which visitors enter Goa have been brought under the state's legal framework for protection and maintenance of tourist destinations.

The government has notified Dabolim International Airport, Manohar International Airport at Mopa and Mormugao Port in Vasco as tourist places with immediate effect.

The notification has been issued under the Goa Tourist Places (Protection and Maintenance) Act, 2001, bringing the three locations within the scope of regulations applicable to notified tourist areas.

The designation means activities that can affect cleanliness, public safety or the condition of the notified premises can invite action under the law.

Goa's tourist-place regulations prohibit 19 categories of unauthorised activities. Depending on the violation, offenders can face fines starting at ₹5,000 and going up to ₹1 lakh.

## Government lays down fresh process for use of Comunidade land

■ Public agencies will need multiple clearances before Comunidade properties can be taken on longlease

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Goa Government has put in place a new mechanism for government agencies seeking Comunidade properties for public works, with the 2026 rules prescribing a series of checks before such land can be granted.

The newly notified Goa Grant of Comunidade Land for Public Purpose Rules, 2026 require departments, government-owned bodies,



institutions and statutory authorities to begin the process by submitting their requirement to the Administrator of Comunidade.

A project proposal will have to establish the need for the land and explain the choice of a Comunidade property.

Details of the area required and the nature of the proposed public work will also have to be provided.

The applicant agency must additionally disclose the property's status under the Regional Plan and furnish information on statutory permissions, clearances already secured or proposed, the duration for which the land is required, planned construction, expected completion schedule and administrative sanction.

## Congress, RGP Hold Alliance Talks Ahead Of Goa Assembly Polls

■ Opposition parties discuss framework for possible alliance; committees to continue talks in coming days

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Congress Party and the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) held a constructive meeting to discuss the possibility of an alliance ahead of the upcoming Goa Assembly elections.

Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Girish Chodankar and Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao met RGP



MLA Viresh Borkar and RGP Alliance Committee Chairman Amol Navelkar to deliberate on strengthening opposition unity and protecting Goa's identity, interests and future. The parties said the people of Goa were calling for unity among opposition forces and stressed the need for a united front ahead of the elections. The meeting also focused on the larger political objective of ensuring that the voice

and concerns of Goans are represented and protected. The alliance committees of both parties have agreed to continue discussions in the coming days to work out the framework and modalities of cooperation. The parties said the discussions would be guided by the larger interests and aspirations of the people of Goa as they explore a possible electoral understanding.



# Speeding Mercedes Drags Bike For 2 Km In Sancoale Crash; Rider Killed, Vehicles Gutted

■ 37-year-old motorcyclist dies after Mercedes allegedly rams bike and drags it before both vehicles catch fire

**Team Goemkarponn**

**SANCOALE:** A horrific road accident at Shindolim in Sancoale on Friday afternoon claimed the life of a 37-year-old motorcyclist after a Mercedes allegedly rammed his motorcycle and dragged it for nearly two kilometres before both vehicles caught fire.

The accident occurred at around 2 pm and resulted in the death of Ashok Chavan, 37, a resident of Shindolim, Sancoale, and a native



of Jharkhand. Chavan was riding motorcycle bearing registration number GA06 Q 7275 when it was allegedly hit by a Mercedes bearing registration number GA07 L 9095.

According to preliminary information, the impact was severe, with the motorcycle reportedly becoming trapped under the Mercedes. The car allegedly continued moving with the bike being

dragged along the road for nearly two kilometres before both vehicles came to a halt and caught fire. The fire quickly engulfed both vehicles. Fire tenders were rushed to the spot, and firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control. The Mercedes driver was also rescued from the vehicle during the emergency operation.

Verna Police reached the scene and initiated proceedings, registering an accident case and beginning an investigation into the circumstances

surrounding the fatal crash. Sources claimed that the Mercedes driver, identified as Vidhyadhar Prabhu, 32, a resident of Fatorda, was allegedly under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident. The allegation will be subject to police investigation, medical examination and other procedures. The incident caused panic among residents of Shindolim, particularly as the crash occurred during the afternoon when schoolchildren

and pedestrians are commonly present in the area. Residents said the consequences could have been even more serious had the speeding vehicle struck children or other pedestrians. Congress leader Olencio Simoes condemned the incident and demanded stringent action against the driver. He also urged police to consider registering a murder case if the investigation establishes deliberate or extremely reckless driving despite alleged intoxication.



## Maina-Curtorim Police Arrest Burglary And Gold Chain Snatching Accused

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MAINA:** Maina-Curtorim Police have arrested 30-year-old Ismail Shaik, a resident of Davorlim, in connection with a house burglary case reported in the area.

During the investigation, police allegedly found that Shaik was also involved in a gold chain-snatching incident near Costa Factory in Margao. According to police, the chain-snatching was allegedly carried out using a motorcycle that had been stolen during the house burglary.

The accused was apprehended by a team of Maina-Curtorim Police. During the course of the investigation, police recovered the motorcycle allegedly used in the chain-snatching incident, along with two gold chains and other articles from his possession.

Maina-Curtorim Police Inspector Kapil Nayak said the accused is also a history-sheeter.

Further investigation into the case is underway.

## Arlem Man Found Dead At Residence In Suspected Suicide

■ 42-year-old found hanging from wooden roof; police record UD case and conduct inquest

**Team Goemkarponn**

**ARLEM:** A 42-year-old man was found hanging from the wooden roof of his residence near Peter's Shop at Arlem, Salcete, on September 3.

Maina-Curtorim Police received information about the incident from PCR Margao at around 5.28 pm. Police personnel visited the spot and found Jose Gauncar, 42, a resident of Arlem, hanging from the wooden roof using a nylon rope.



During the enquiry, Gauncar's brother Peter informed police that the deceased was reportedly struggling with alcoholism and was under depression due to unemployment.

Police conducted an UD occurrence panchanama and inquest panchanama before

sending the body to South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for post-mortem examination.

A police surgeon subsequently conducted the autopsy and certified the cause of death as asphyxia as a result of hanging. Following the post-mortem examination, the body was handed over to the family for the final religious rites.

The enquiry is being conducted by PSI Narayan Pingre of Maina-Curtorim Police Station.

## Unidentified Man Found Dead Near Gandhi Market In Margao

■ 35-40-year-old labourer reportedly found lying near Station Road; body preserved for

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** An unidentified man, believed to be between 35 and 40 years old, was brought dead to South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, on September 3 after reportedly being found lying near Station Road in the Gandhi Market area.

Margao Town Police received a call from the casualty police at



SGDH at around 11.47 am informing them that the man had been brought to the hospital by a 108 ambulance.

During the enquiry, police learnt that the deceased was reportedly

a labourer and a chronic alcoholic who used to sleep on the footpaths in and around the Gandhi Market area.

Police conducted an inquest panchanama over the body, which has been preserved at SGDH Margao for further medico-legal formalities.

Further enquiry is being conducted by PSI Sameer Gaonkar of Margao Town Police Station.



## Two Bikers Critical After Head-On Collision At Harvalem

■ Accident raises concerns over ongoing roadwork and safety measures in the area

**Team Goemkarponn**

**HARVALEM:** Two two-wheelers were involved in a head-on collision at Harvalem in Sanquelim this evening, leaving both riders seriously injured.

Following the accident, both riders were initially taken to the Sanquelim Primary Health Centre for medical attention. After examination, they were referred to Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim, for further treatment.

A site inspection

following the accident also raised concerns over the ongoing roadwork in the area. Open sections, rods and potholes were reportedly found along the roadside, raising questions over the safety measures being maintained at the work site. The condition of the road and the safety arrangements during the ongoing work have also brought the role of the concerned road contractor and the Public Works Department's Roads Division under scrutiny.



# Goa Staff Selection Commission Announces 222 Group C Vacancies

■ Applications open for Desktop Publishing Operator, LDC/ Recovery Clerk, Data Entry Operator and Junior Assistant posts

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Goa Staff Selection Commission (GSSC) has invited online applications for various Group C posts in different Government departments of Goa under Advertisement No. 3 of 2026.

According to the brief advertisement dated September 4, 2026, a total of 222 vacancies have been announced across four categories.

The vacancies include



three posts of Desktop Publishing Operator, 197 posts of Lower Division Clerk/Recovery Clerk, two posts of Data Entry Operator and 13 posts of

Junior Assistant.

The LDC/Recovery Clerk vacancies include 109 posts for the Unreserved category, 25 for Scheduled Tribes, four for Scheduled Castes and 44 for Other Backward Classes. The remaining posts include reservations for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities, Ex-Servicemen and Meritorious Sportsmen/ Sportspersons.

For Junior Assistant, the 13 posts comprise seven Unreserved, two

Scheduled Tribe and four Other Backward Class vacancies, with three posts reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities and one for an Ex-Serviceman.

The Commission has stated that the vacancies indicated are tentative and the exact number will be specified in the detailed advertisement. Applications will be accepted only online through the Goa Staff Selection Commission website.

## St. Anne's Institute, Agonda Girls crowned Canacona Champions.

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANACONA:** St. Anne's Institute, Agonda are the Champions of the Under-17 Girls Football Tournament, organized by DSYA Cluster 12, Canacona. In the final played at Karvem Grounds, St. Anne's Institute defeated St. Anthony High School, Galgibag 5-0 in a dominant performance.

Showing splendid performance, St. Anne's Institute girls outplayed St. Anthony High School girls right from the beginning of the match and scored four goals in the first half itself. The match was slowed down in the second half using lots of time in dribbling, but taking full control of the match, before scoring the 5th goal and sealing the victory with ease. The Goal Scorers are Gwyneth Fernandes-2 goals, Valiaka Monteiro, Anishka Gaunkar and Aisha Naik Gaonkar scored one goal each. This is yet another crown to the Agonda girls who are trained and coached by PE Tr Anjelo Silva. Meanwhile in the third place match in the Under-17 Boys Football Tournament organized by DSYA Cluster 12, Canacona, St. Anne's Institute, Agonda secured Third Place pipped out GHS Goval- Khola 1-0.

## Canacona-Margao Travel Time To Drop To 30 Minutes With NH-66 Four-Laning

■ Tawadkar Welcomes Commencement Of Bendurdem-Canacona NH-66 Four-Lane Road Works

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANACONA:** Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and Canacona MLA Ramesh Tawadkar has welcomed the commencement of work for the long-awaited four-laning of NH-66 from Bendurdem to Canacona, saying the project will significantly improve connectivity and reduce travel time between Canacona and Margao.

Tawadkar said the four-laning of NH-66 has



been a long-standing demand of the people of Canacona. He said that following the completion of the Manohar Parrikar Canacona Bypass Road, approval was secured for the four-laning works from Bendurdem to Char-Rasta in Canacona, as well as the Maxem-Polem stretch.

According to Tawadkar, land diversion and acquisition processes for the project have been completed and tree-felling work has now commenced along the proposed 40-metre road width. He said the actual construction, land-filling and other related works are expected to begin in October.

Tawadkar said the project would bring a major improvement in travel connectivity for Canacona.



## Goa Announces Winners Of 'Mhaji Lab, Bari Lab' ICT Laboratory Awards

■ Six schools across North Goa, South Goa and Kushavati districts selected for the 2025-26 academic year

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Directorate of Education has announced the winners of the 'Mhaji Lab, Bari Lab — Goa State Best ICT Laboratory Award Scheme' for the academic year 2025-26. In North Goa, Fr. Agnel High School, Pilar, won in Category A, while G. S. Amonkar Vidya Mandir, Mapusa, was declared the Category B winner. In South Goa, Sarvodaya Education Society's Higher Secondary School, Barazan, Usgao, Ponda, secured the Category A award, while Holy Rosary Convent High School, Nuvem, Salcete, won in Category B. In Kushavati district, Government High School, Ambaulim, Quepem, was selected

as the Category A winner, while PM SHRI Government High School, Gaval Khol, Canacona, won in Category B. Under the scheme, three awards of Rs. 2 lakh each are presented under Category A, with one ICT laboratory selected from each district. Category B carries three awards of Rs. 3 lakh each, again with one winning ICT laboratory from each district. The Directorate of Education congratulated all the winning institutions and appreciated the efforts of school authorities, teaching and non-teaching staff and students in strengthening ICT infrastructure and promoting the effective use of technology in the school environment.

## FDA Intensifies Food Safety Enforcement In South Goa

■ Two Canacona sweet units ordered to halt operations over hygiene violations; expired products worth ₹10,000 destroyed

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has intensified enforcement across South Goa to ensure compliance with food safety and hygiene standards and protect public health.

During inspections in Canacona, two sweet manufacturing units were found with serious hygiene and structural deficiencies, including damaged flooring, a collapsed false ceiling, stagnant water and



inadequate storage facilities.

Both establishments were directed to stop operations until they submit the required compliance and the deficiencies are verified by the authorities.

The FDA also confiscated and destroyed expired sweets and farsan products worth ₹10,000 during the enforcement action. As part of the surveillance drive, 12 samples of sweets were collected and sent for laboratory analysis to check their safety and

quality.

In a separate action in Margao, an unlicensed food business was fined ₹10,000 for operating without the required licence.

The FDA said enforcement will continue across the state, with strict action against establishments found violating food safety and hygiene norms. The department reiterated that ensuring safe food and protecting the health of people in Goa remains a priority.



# “Delhi Must Be Summit Ready”: Govt Orders Road, Drainage and Cleanliness Checks Ahead of BRICS Summit

■ Chief Secretary led inspection to cover key routes, while traffic curbs are expected across Delhi from September 10

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi government is stepping up preparations for the 2026 BRICS Summit with a detailed inspection of major routes connecting Bharat Mandapam with Indira Gandhi International Airport. The inspection, scheduled for Saturday, will be led by the Delhi Chief Secretary and will assess road conditions, potholes, footpaths, drainage systems, waterlogging risks, cleanliness and the overall appearance of the routes used by visiting dignitaries.

Officials from the New Delhi Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Public Works Department, Delhi Police, Delhi International Airport Ltd and the National Highways Authority of India will participate in the exercise. Drainage arrangements and waterlogging prone areas will receive particular attention, with authorities also reviewing emergency dewatering measures. The NDMC will inspect areas under its jurisdiction,



including summit venues and locations where foreign delegates are expected to stay.

The MCD will focus on cleanliness, encroachments, beautification and stray animal management, while the PWD will examine roads, potholes, signage, lighting and other civic infrastructure. Authorities will also ensure that BRICS branding and other visual elements are properly installed along designated routes.

Traffic restrictions are expected to begin from September 10 as foreign delegations arrive in the capital. The two day summit will be held at Bharat Mandapam on September 12 and 13, with delegations expected to leave around September 14.

Nearly 4,800 traffic personnel are being deployed to manage the movement of foreign leaders, delegates and other dignitaries. Traffic arrangements could affect

at least 22 major roads across central, south and southwest Delhi, with temporary diversions, stoppages and closures likely at different times.

Commuters travelling through these areas have been advised to allow extra time for their journeys and monitor traffic advisories. Detailed information on affected roads, diversion routes and restriction timings is expected to be issued by the Delhi Traffic Police closer to the summit.

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## First phase of Goa Ujjwala Scheme to cover 2.5 lakh beneficiaries

State status, with most households having shifted to LPG or PNG connections for their cooking requirements.

According to Sawant, the government believes that almost every household in the State now has access to either LPG or PNG. He, however, said families that have not yet secured a gas connection can apply for a new connection.

The government has urged Panchayat representatives and Swayampurna Mitras to identify households that may still be without LPG or PNG and assist them in obtaining connections.

Under the Goa Ujjwala Scheme 2026, eligible households will receive Rs 3,000 in annual financial assistance towards cooking-fuel expenses. The amount will be

transferred in a single instalment through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to Aadhaar-linked bank accounts.

## Goa Ujjwala Yojana 2026 launched, eligible households to receive Rs 3,000

verified.

Applicants from these categories will need to furnish the prescribed form along with their Aadhaar details, LPG book or PNG connection particulars and an Aadhaar-linked bank passbook.

A separate provision has been made for residents who are not beneficiaries of either scheme. Under the open category, applicants must be 18 years or above, be residents of Goa with a valid EPIC and have a domestic LPG or PNG connection. The connection may be registered either in their own name or in the name of a family member. Widows, widowers and divorcees

can also apply if they meet the other requirements.

The government has clarified that the benefit will be restricted to one payment per household each year, regardless of how many LPG or PNG connections are held by the family.

Application forms will be available through 191 gram panchayats and municipal offices. Completed forms can be submitted between September 5 and September 8 through Panchayat Secretaries, Swayampurna Mitras or other officials authorised for the process.

The State government plans to commence the first round of DBT payments on September 9 or 10, depending on the volume of applications received.

Sawant has appealed to beneficiaries to avoid overcrowding at government offices, pointing out that Panchayat and municipal offices will also function on Sunday to assist residents with applications. The government has also simplified the documentation process.

## UN Declares November 27 International Day Against Child Marriage

■ New UN resolution gives global recognition to efforts to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The United Nations has officially designated November 27 as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage, marking a significant step in the global campaign against child marriage and giving international recognition to efforts led by civil society and governments.

The resolution was introduced at the United Nations by Sierra Leone on September 4 and was subsequently adopted. The development follows a proposal by child rights campaigner Bhuwan Ribhu, who had called for a dedicated international day to strengthen global action against the practice.

November 27 also holds particular significance for India. The date marks the launch of the Government of India's Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat campaign in 2024. The Child Marriage Free India campaign, launched in 2023, has brought together communities, children and organisations to raise awareness and encourage action against child marriage. Ribhu welcomed the

UN decision, describing it as a major moment for India's child protection movement. He called for governments around the world to demonstrate stronger leadership and work towards eliminating child marriage by 2030 while ensuring children have access to education, protection and opportunities for development.

India has also recorded progress in reducing the prevalence of child marriage.

According to national health survey data, the proportion of women aged 20 to 24 who were married before turning 18 declined from 23.3 per cent in 2019 to 20.1 per cent in 2023 to 20.24.

The Indian government has set a target of reducing child marriage prevalence by 10 per cent by 2026.

The new international day is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 5, particularly Target 5.3, which calls for an end to harmful practices including child, early and forced marriage. The UN decision is expected to strengthen awareness and encourage governments, communities and organisations to intensify efforts towards ending the practice globally.





# “Zero Tolerance on Safety Violations”: Air India Sacks Phuket Delhi Flight Pilot After Drug Test

■ Pilot in command tested positive for a psychoactive substance following August 4 incident that injured 24 passengers

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Air India has terminated the employment of the pilot in command of its Phuket to Delhi flight after a post incident drug test confirmed the presence of a psychoactive substance. The decision follows an altitude upset involving the aircraft on August 4 that left 24 passengers injured. The Tata owned



airline said it maintains a strict zero tolerance policy towards violations involving flight safety, fitness and regulatory requirements. The pilot's

employment was terminated with immediate effect after the confirmatory test returned a positive result. The Airbus A320 was carrying 145 people and was cruising at around 36,000 feet when it experienced a near simultaneous loss of all three hydraulic systems, according to the

preliminary investigation. The technical failure was followed by an autopilot disconnect and a brief stall warning, after which the aircraft lost altitude. At the time of the incident, the co pilot was operating the aircraft and attempted to stabilise the flight. The pilot in command subsequently took control as the aircraft experienced significant changes in altitude.



## Terrorist Killed in Budgam Encounter, Security Forces Launch Forest Search

■ Joint security forces operation near Doodhpathri enters search phase after fierce gunfight in Jammu and Kashmir

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Security forces killed a terrorist during an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday, following a joint anti terror operation by the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Srinagar Sector CRPF. The operation, codenamed Operation Ashdar, was launched in the Ashdar Gali area after security forces received specific intelligence about the movement of suspected terrorists in the region. The inputs indicated that a group had moved from the Pakherpora area of Pulwama towards Yousmarg in Budgam. During the search

operation, troops detected suspicious movement and challenged the suspected terrorists. The group responded with gunfire, leading to an intense exchange between the two sides. One terrorist was killed during the encounter. Security forces recovered an AK series rifle along with other war like material from the site. The identity of the slain terrorist has not yet been established.

The operation has now shifted into an extensive search phase as security forces continue combing the area for other suspected terrorists who may have escaped during the gunfight.



## “The World Map Must Show the World as It Really Is”: UN Backs Push for a More Accurate Map

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The world could be heading towards a major change in how global maps are presented after the United Nations General Assembly backed an initiative aimed at correcting distortions in the way continents and countries are shown.

The “Correct the Map” resolution, led by African Union member states and the Bahamas, received support from 164 countries. Six nations abstained, while the United States was the only country to vote against the proposal.

The initiative challenges the widespread use of the Mercator projection, a map design developed by European cartographer Gerardus Mercator in 1569. The projection remains particularly useful for navigation because it preserves directions, but it significantly distorts the apparent size of landmasses located farther from the Equator.

## “First Rock Check Dam Built Across Indus”: Ladakh Boosts Irrigation in Leh

■ Upshi project raises river water levels by 10 feet as administration plans 36 more check dams across Ladakh

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Farmers in parts of Leh are set to benefit from improved irrigation after Ladakh constructed its first rock check dam across the Indus River at Upshi, marking a significant step towards making greater use of available water resources in the Union Territory. The structure has been built by placing naturally available boulders across the river without using cement.



The intervention has raised the water level by around 10 feet, allowing water to be diverted into agricultural fields through the Igoo Phey irrigation canal. The project addresses a persistent challenge faced by farmers during the spring sowing season. Water

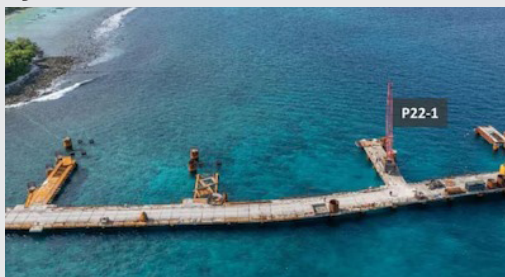
levels in the Indus can fall considerably during this period, making it difficult to operate pumps, particularly in areas where the river flows through deep gorges. The reduced access to water has affected cultivation in several farming areas. The new check dam has an estimated storage capacity of around 40 million litres, providing an additional water source that can be channelled towards nearby village fields.

## “People Can Now Walk Between Malé and Vilimalé”: India Backed Maldives Connectivity Project Hits Major Milestone

■ First 2 km bridge segment completed as the \$500 million Greater Malé Connectivity Project moves forward

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The Maldives has reached a major milestone in its infrastructure development with the completion of the first segment of the Greater Malé Connectivity Project (GMCP), a major India backed initiative aimed at transforming transport links across



the Greater Malé region.

The completed section includes a 2 kilometre bridge connecting Malé and Vilimalé. On August

30, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu walked across the newly completed

bridge, marking a significant moment for the island nation. The opening of the section also enabled people to travel

directly between the two islands on foot for the first time, reducing reliance on boat services.

The bridge forms part of the ambitious 6.74 kilometre GMCP, which is designed to connect Malé, Vilimalé, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi through an integrated network of bridges, causeways and roads.

The project was first

envisaged under an agreement between India and the Maldives in 2021. It is being constructed by India's Afcons Infrastructure and supported through Indian financial assistance, including a \$400 million line of credit provided through the Export Import Bank of India and a \$100 million grant.



# “BCCI Can Make Its Own Arrangements”: IOA Rejects Special Accommodation Request for Asian Games

■ Cricket board may arrange separate hotels and logistics if organisers' facilities do not meet its requirements

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Olympic Association has declined to seek separate accommodation for Indian cricketers at the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi Nagoya, leaving the Board of Control for Cricket in India to decide whether it wants to make independent arrangements for its players.



The IOA has indicated that if the BCCI opts for accommodation outside the facilities provided by the Games organisers, the cricket board would also

have to take responsibility for associated arrangements, including meals, transportation and ensuring players reach the competition venue on time. BCCI CEO Hemang Amin has reportedly discussed the matter with the IOA, with the cricket board considering

sending an advance team to Japan to inspect the accommodation, cricket venue and other facilities before making a final decision. The IOA has said it is comfortable with such an assessment and will support whichever option the BCCI chooses, provided the board assumes responsibility for arrangements if it decides against using the organisers' facilities.



## “India Is Poised To Become A Major Global Sports Hub”: Amit Shah

■ Union minister highlights India's expanding sports infrastructure, medical expertise and bid for major global events

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has said India is moving towards becoming a leading global destination for sports, with the government focused on building a stronger ecosystem for athletes, training and international competitions. Addressing the opening ceremony of the World Archery Para Series in Ahmedabad virtually on Friday, Shah said the country's growing sports infrastructure would help attract athletes from around the world. More than 108 para athletes from 19 countries are taking part

in the event, being held from September 5 to 9. Shah said Ahmedabad, Gujarat and India have the potential to become major centres for the Olympics, Paralympics and other international sporting events. Gujarat, he added, is also expected to develop into a hub for sports training, modern facilities and sports equipment manufacturing. He stressed that India's sporting ambitions extend beyond winning medals. The broader objective is to create a strong and sustainable sports ecosystem covering major competitions such as the Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Police Games.

# “We Held Our Nerve When It Mattered”: Satwik-Chirag Reach China Masters Semifinals

■ Indian men's doubles stars survive a tough three-game battle, while Kidambi Srikanth exits in the quarterfinals

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** India's leading men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the semifinals of the China Masters Super 750 after overcoming Denmark's Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen in a hard fought quarterfinal on Friday. The fourth seeded Indian duo prevailed 21-13, 16-21, 21-18 in a 70 minute contest to continue their strong run on the



international circuit. Satwik and Chirag, who finished runners up at the Thailand Open Super 500 before winning the Singapore Open Super 750 in May, produced another composed performance

under pressure. The Indians made an aggressive start, quickly opening a 5-1 advantage and controlling the rallies with powerful attacking shots. They extended their lead to 16-9 before closing out the opening game. Astrup and Rasmussen responded strongly in the second game. After the scores were level at 15-15, the Danish pair produced a

decisive six point surge across two runs to force a decider.

The final game remained closely contested, with neither side able to establish a significant advantage. With the score tied at 17-17, Satwik and Chirag raised their intensity and collected three consecutive points to move within one point of victory. Despite conceding a point, they kept their composure to finish the match 21-18.

# “India Send a Warning to Rivals”: Junior Hockey Champions Thrash Indonesia 14-0

■ Prabhdeep Singh scores five as India begin their title defence with a dominant Pool A victory in Moqi

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** India opened their title defence at the AHF Junior Men's Asia Cup in emphatic fashion, crushing Indonesia 14-0 in their Pool A opener in Moqi on Saturday.

The five time champions produced a dominant attacking display, with captain Anmol Ekka, Prabhdeep Singh and Ajeet Yadav accounting for 12 of the team's 14 goals.



Prabhdeep was the standout performer, scoring five times and earning the Player of the Match award. Ekka

contributed four goals, while Yadav completed a hat trick.

Harpal and Ashu Maurya scored the

other two goals as India maintained relentless pressure throughout the contest.

India took control early, repeatedly penetrating the Indonesian circle and creating chances. Prabhdeep opened the scoring in the fifth minute before Harpal doubled the advantage three minutes later.

The Indian attack continued to expose gaps in the Indonesian defence. Ekka converted a penalty stroke in the 16th minute

before Yadav added another goal four minutes later to make it 4-0.

Prabhdeep then took charge of the scoring, finding the net in the 26th and 30th minutes to complete his hat trick and give India a 6-0 lead at half-time.

The pressure continued after the interval. Ekka converted penalty corners in the 35th and 42nd minutes before Prabhdeep scored again near the end of the third quarter, taking India to

9-0.

India produced another five goals in the final quarter. Ekka completed his four goal performance in the 51st minute, while Prabhdeep struck again a minute later to register his fifth.

Yadav then completed his hat trick with two goals in the 53rd minute as India moved 13-0 ahead. Maurya completed the rout in the 59th minute with a penalty corner conversion.