



Goemkarponn

TRUE GOEMKARS AT HEART

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RS. 10/-



Hon'ble
**SHRI AMIT BHAI
SHAH**

Union Minister for Home & Cooperation
Govt. of India

**WELCOME
TO GOA!**



Shri Damu G. Naik
State President, BJP Goa



Dr. Pramod Sawant
Chief Minister, Goa

**ATAL BHAVAN
INAUGURATION
CEREMONY**

DATE & TIME: 6th September 2026
At 4:00 PM

VENUE: Atal Bhavan, BJP State Party Office,
Old Goa Bypass Road, Chimbel, Goa

BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY, GOA

Three Cylinders, Thousands in a Queue: What Went Wrong?

The launch of the Goa Ujjwala Yojana in Salcete has raised a question that the government cannot simply brush aside: was the rush genuinely spontaneous, or was the confusion created by the manner in which the scheme was rolled out?

The scheme itself is difficult to criticise. Financial assistance equivalent to the cost of three LPG cylinders is meaningful support for families, particularly at a time when household expenses continue to remain a concern. The government has also stated that there is no income limit and that every eligible citizen, irrespective of caste or religion, can avail of the benefit.

But a good scheme can still have a bad beginning.

On Saturday, hundreds of people reportedly gathered at multiple locations across Salcete to obtain application forms. At the Margao Municipal Council, the rush was significant enough for more than 800 forms to be distributed. Yet the forms were exhausted within minutes, leaving many people disappointed and frustrated.

This is where the administration needs to answer some uncomfortable questions.

If the government knew that the scheme could attract a large number of beneficiaries, why were only limited forms made available at the launch locations? If the objective was to ensure that every eligible household receives the benefit, why create a situation where citizens feel they must physically race to a particular venue before the forms disappear?

The most striking clarification came from PWD Minister Digambar Kamat, who said the forms distributed on Saturday were merely part of a “token exercise” and assured that every eligible beneficiary would receive the benefit.

If that was indeed the case, then why was this not communicated clearly before people were asked to gather?

For ordinary citizens, the distinction between a “token exercise” and actual form distribution is not academic. A person who travels from a village, waits in a queue and returns empty-handed does not experience the event as a symbolic launch. They experience it as a failure of the system.

The confusion was further aggravated by a lack of coordination. In Velim, concerns were raised about coordination between the government and the panchayat over the distribution of forms. Citizens for Democracy convenor Elvis Gomes also questioned why an online application facility was not available, particularly when the government frequently speaks about e-governance.

And therein lies the bigger issue. In 2026, why should a welfare scheme involving potentially lakhs of beneficiaries begin with people physically scrambling for pieces of paper?

A token distribution exercise should not look like a first-come-first-served competition.

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In 2026, why should a welfare scheme involving potentially lakhs of beneficiaries begin with people physically scrambling for pieces of paper?

The government has announced the scheme for a large beneficiary base. When the potential reach is substantial, the administration should anticipate demand, publish clear eligibility and application procedures, make forms available in sufficient numbers and, wherever possible, provide a digital application mechanism.

Instead, what the public saw was a rush, exhausted forms, confusion and political accusations.

The opposition will naturally use the episode to attack the government. The BJP and Congress have already exchanged political barbs over the implementation. But beyond the political fight lies a legitimate public concern: welfare should not become a spectacle of scarcity.

The government may argue that the rush proves how popular the scheme is. That may be partly true. People rush when they believe an opportunity is limited.

But that is precisely why the administration must remove the perception of scarcity.

If every eligible beneficiary is genuinely guaranteed the benefit, then there should be no reason for citizens to believe that arriving late means losing out. There should be no incentive to queue overnight, rush to municipal offices or travel unnecessarily from one location to another.

So, was the rush artificially

EDITOR SPEAKS

Amit Shah's Goa Visit: BJP Moves Ahead While Oppon Tries to Catch Up

By Suraj Nandrekar

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's arrival in Goa could prove to be far more significant for the Bharatiya Janata Party than a routine political visit. With the 2027 Assembly elections approaching, Shah's two-day stay, organisational reviews and discussions on governance send a clear message: the BJP is already thinking about the next election, while much of the Opposition is still trying to put its house in order.

That difference in timing could matter enormously.

Shah is not coming to Goa merely for a ceremonial engagement. His visit includes marathon reviews of BJP organisation and governance, signalling that the party's central leadership is taking the state seriously and wants the Goa unit to be election-ready. For BJP workers, the presence of one of the party's most influential national leaders can provide a significant psychological and organisational boost. Elections are not won only through speeches and rallies. They are won through booth-level organisation, candidate selection, constituency management, messaging, resources and, above all, clarity of purpose. Shah's intervention can help bring that clarity to the BJP's Goa strategy.

The Opposition, meanwhile, faces a very different challenge. For months, Congress, Revolutionary Goans, AAP and other political forces have spoken about the need to prevent a division of the anti-BJP vote. But translating that sentiment into an actual alliance has proved considerably more difficult.

There is now some movement. Congress and Revolutionary Goans have held discussions and publicly said they have agreed to come together, with talks on a common minimum programme expected to follow.

But an agreement to come together is not the same as a functioning electoral alliance.

The real questions will emerge when seats have to be distributed, candidates have to be accommodated and individual political ambitions have to be sacrificed for a larger objective. Goa's political history is full of alliances that looked possible on paper but became complicated when constituency-level interests entered the picture.

This is where the BJP enjoys an important advantage.

The ruling party does not have to spend the coming months negotiating whether it will fight together. Its challenge is to strengthen its existing organisation, address public dissatisfaction, identify vulnerable constituencies and present a convincing narrative for another term.

The Opposition's challenge is considerably larger: it must first decide who fights whom, where, under whose leadership and on what common programme.

That is a lot of political ground to cover.

The BJP also has another advantage—the ability to connect state politics with the national organisation. Shah's presence demonstrates that Goa is not being left entirely to local leaders. The central leadership is watching, reviewing and preparing. For the Opposition, this should be a warning. An anti-BJP sentiment, even if it exists, does not automatically translate into votes. Voters need a credible alternative. They need to know who will govern, what that government will stand for and whether the parties involved can work together after the election. The biggest danger for the Opposition is therefore not necessarily the BJP's strength. It is the Opposition's inability to convert its combined political potential into a coherent electoral force. Amit Shah's visit could give the BJP precisely the momentum it needs to begin that consolidation early. Meanwhile, every additional week spent negotiating, posturing or publicly discussing alliances without finalising the difficult details gives the BJP more time to strengthen its ground game. The 2027 election is still some distance away. Nothing is predetermined. Anti-incumbency can change political equations, alliances can reshape contests and voters can surprise every political strategist. But one thing is becoming increasingly clear. **The BJP is already preparing for 2027. The Opposition is still preparing to prepare.** If the Opposition wants to challenge the BJP seriously, it cannot afford an alliance that exists only in press statements. It needs a structure, a common programme, seat-sharing clarity and a leadership framework that can survive internal disagreements.



Happy Birthday
Damu G. Naik
(President, , BJP Goa)

Wishing our dynamic leader
Happiest BIRTHDAY
TO
DAMU G. NAIK
BJP GOA - PRESIDENT
“May this year bring you more strength, good health, happiness and success in your journey of empowering the youth and serving the nation.”
MAHARUDRA YUVAK SANGH
NEWVADDEM • VASCO • GOA

Suraj Adpaikar
Ex GS, GBS, Salcete

Purushottam Mardolkar
BJYM Priol Vice president

Dinesh Morajkar
Ward Member, VP Candolim, Secretary BJP mandal, Calangute

Devsh Phadte
BJYM Priol Member

Jivanand Mukund Gaude
General Secretary
Laxmi Devasthan Rassaim Loutolim

Prathamesh Shetye
Prop: Eater's Den, Yesukar, Grab & Go

Arecio D'Souza
Ex-MLA, Minister, Cuncolim

Pankaj Naik
Naik IT Solutions

Pravin Kochrekar
Panch, Oxel, Siolim, P'yat

Gautam Naik
Tuvem, Bardez, Goa

Santesh Salgaokar
Dhargal, Pernem, Goa

Manohar Borkar
Ex-Mandral President, Fatorda

Sanju Chavan
BJYM, Thivim, Bardez, Goa

Sarvesh Prabhu
Arpora, Bardez, Goa

Filipe Neri Rodrigues
Ex-MLA, Minister, Velim

Sunil Naik
Ex-Sarpanch, Bhoma-Adcon

Ramkrishna Naik
Chairman, Ponda Urban Co-op, Credit So

Pralhad Naik
Hasapur, Pernem, Goa

Shah Sets 2029 Drug-Free India Goal, Says Naxalism Now A Thing

■ Says govt has dismantled narcotics networks, broken financial chains & delivered major gains in fight against Naxalism, terrorism

Team Goemkarponn
PANAJI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday set out the Centre's roadmap to make India drug-free by 2029, while declaring that the country's five-decade-old Naxalism problem has now become "a thing of the past". Speaking in Goa, Shah said the Narendra Modi government had transformed the fight against narcotics from fragmented, agency-level action into a coordinated national-security campaign involving central agencies, states and multiple departments.



He said the government had overhauled its anti-narcotics systems since 2019, with the objective of not merely arresting petty offenders but dismantling entire drug networks, tracing their financial chains and disrupting their international links. The Centre has adopted a

"bottom-to-top" and "top-to-bottom" investigation model, Shah said. Under the approach, even a small drug seizure is followed through the network to identify its source, while a large consignment intercepted at the border is tracked down to its intended

destination and users. The government has also launched the MANAS helpline (1933) for rehabilitation of drug-affected youth and created the NIDAN portal, a national database of narcotics offenders. A nationwide, data-driven mapping of drug hotspots, modus operandi and seizures has also been undertaken using CCTNS and integrated data-fusion systems. Shah said enforcement has increasingly focused on the financial and technological infrastructure of the drug trade.



Census 2027 Schedule Advanced In Goa

■ Population Enumeration In Goa To Begin From December

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has advanced the schedule for the second phase of Census 2027 in Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand, with the population enumeration exercise in these states set to begin months ahead of the schedule for the rest of the country. According to a circular issued by the ministry, population enumeration in Goa, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab will be conducted from December 1, 2026, to January 4, 2027, followed by a revisional round from January 5 to 9. Uttarakhand will follow the same schedule, except in its snow-

bound regions. In the remaining parts of the country, the population enumeration phase will be held from February 9 to 28, 2027. The revised timeline assumes significance as Goa, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab are among the states scheduled to hold Assembly elections in early 2027. The advancement of the census schedule has also triggered speculation over whether it could have a bearing on election-related and constituency exercises. In Goa, the development is particularly significant in the context of the long-pending demand for Scheduled Tribe reservation in the Legislative Assembly.



Three Unknown Men Assault Man With Knife At Agacaim Bar

Team Goemkarponn

AGACAIM: Agacaim Police have registered an offence following a complaint by 29-year-old Saiesh, a resident of Neura-O-Grande, alleging that he was assaulted by three unidentified men at Floyd Bar and Restaurant in Agacaim, Tiswadi, on September 4. According to the complaint, the incident took place at around 2:45 pm when the three accused, allegedly acting with a common intention, assaulted Saiesh with fist blows and kicks. One of the accused allegedly attacked him with a knife, resulting in bodily injuries to the complainant. The offence was registered at around 10:55 pm on September 4. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Rushikesh Raikar of Agacaim Police Station.

Maid Allegedly Steals Gold, Cash Worth Rs 3 Lakh at Porvorim

PORVORIM: Porvorim Police have registered a theft case following a complaint by Rekha, a resident of Sabnis Palace, Porvorim, alleging that her maid servant stole gold ornaments and cash worth approximately ₹3 lakh from her house. According to the complaint, the theft took place between 9 am and 12 noon on September 4 at Bungalow No. 3, Sabnis Palace, Porvorim. The accused has been

identified as Savli, whose full name is not known,



and who is reportedly a resident of Betim, Bardez. The complainant alleged that the maid took the gold ornaments and cash from the house and fled with

the valuables. The offence was

registered at around 11:28 pm on September 4. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Sachin Shirodkar.

Goa Tribunals Face 1,311-Case Backlog Amid Key Vacancies

■ Administrative Tribunal Without President Since May; Oldest Tenancy Matter Has Been Pending For 18 Years

PANAJI: The absence of a regular presiding officer at Goa's Administrative Tribunal has added to a growing backlog, with 1,311 matters currently pending across four administrative and allied tribunals in the state. Chief Minister and Law and Judiciary Minister Pramod Sawant told the Goa Legislative Assembly that the President of the Administrative Tribunal in Panaji has been unavailable since May 30, 2026, after the previous judicial officer was transferred on



deputation. The position of Additional President is also vacant. The Administrative Tribunal accounts for the largest share of the backlog, with 825 cases pending. The Municipalities Appellate Tribunal has 290 cases, the Co-operative Tribunal

194, while the College Tribunal has two matters awaiting disposal. A significant portion of the pending workload concerns land and tenancy-related disputes. As many as 627 cases fall under the Mundkar Act, Agricultural Tenancy Act and Land Revenue Code.

One tenancy dispute has remained unresolved since 2008. The government said that matters involving High Court directions, along with other urgent cases before the Administrative and Co-operative Tribunals, are currently being taken up before the Principal District Judge, North Goa, and an Additional Sessions Judge in Panaji. The Assembly was also informed that the difficulty in filling the top tribunal posts has persisted for several years.

Man Caught Accepting Bets In Public Place At St Inez

Team Goemkarponn
PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered an offence against a 33-year-old man for allegedly accepting bets on numerical figures from members of the public at Madhuban Circle, St Inez. According to the state complaint filed by HC Gurudas B. Ghadi of Panaji Police Station, the accused, identified as Nitesh Gawas, was allegedly caught red-handed while accepting bets near a mithai shop at Madhuban Circle on September 4 at around 3:15 pm.

Goa Dairy Faces Rs 4.31 Cr Award In Payment Dispute

■ MSME Facilitation Council Directs Milk Union To Clear Rs 2.25 Crore Principal And Over Rs 2.05 Crore Interest Within 30 Days

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The financial challenges facing Goa Dairy have been compounded by a payment dispute with G K Plastics, with the Goa Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council directing the Goa



State Co-Operative Milk Producers Union Limited to pay around Rs 4.31

crore towards pending dues and interest. The Council has fixed the

principal outstanding at Rs 2,25,51,192, while interest calculated up to June 30, 2026, amounts to Rs 2,05,85,223. The Union has been given 30 days from the date of the award to make the payment. The award was passed by a three-member Council comprising Chairman

Advocate Galileo Teles and members Priyanka Pikale and J B Pinto. The Council rejected the Union's arguments based on financial constraints and administrative difficulties, holding that such circumstances do not remove or reduce liabilities arising under the

MSMED Act, 2006. The Union has also been put on notice that failure to settle the award within 30 days will result in further interest at three times the Reserve Bank of India's notified Bank Rate. The additional interest will be compounded monthly until the entire amount is paid.

Mercedes Driver In Fresh Trouble After Sancoale Fatal Crash

■ Police Records Show Separate Case Filed By Parents Days Before Accident; Accused Remanded To

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The investigation into the fatal Sancoale



crash involving a Mercedes has taken a new turn, with police records indicating that accused driver Vidhyadhar Prabhu was facing a separate case at Fatorda Police Station shortly before the accident that claimed the life of 38-year-old motorcyclist Ashok Kumar Chauhan.

Prabhu was arrested by Verna Police following the fatal crash and booked under Sections 281, 105, 125(a) and 125(b) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with Sections 134A, 134B and 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act. He was produced before the JMFC Court in Vasco on Saturday and was subsequently remanded to two days of police custody.

Police are also examining the possibility of culpable homicide as part of the investigation into the circumstances surrounding Chauhan's death.

According to sources, Prabhu's parents had approached Fatorda Police on September 2, alleging that their son had assaulted them and behaved aggressively while allegedly under the influence of alcohol.

In their complaint, Prabhu's father Vinayak Prabhu reportedly alleged that his son returned home in an intoxicated state at around 10.30 pm on September 1 and allegedly became abusive and violent. He was accused of slapping his father, while his mother Sharmila Prabhu was also allegedly assaulted.

The parents and their daughter-in-law subsequently left for Sancoale, reportedly fearing for their safety. The complaint alleges that Prabhu followed them there the next morning, where he allegedly continued to abuse and assault his parents and threatened to kill them.

The complaint further stated that when the parents later travelled towards Fatorda in their car, Prabhu allegedly followed their vehicle, intercepted it and assaulted them again. They subsequently approached Fatorda Police.



SHRI AMIT SHAH

HON'BLE UNION HOME MINISTER,
MINISTER OF COOPERATION



DR. PRAMOD SAWANT

HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, GOA



PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S COLOUR TO GOA POLICE

In recognition of its long-standing record of service, courage, discipline, professionalism and commitment to public safety.

At the Hands of

Shri Amit Shah

Hon'ble Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation

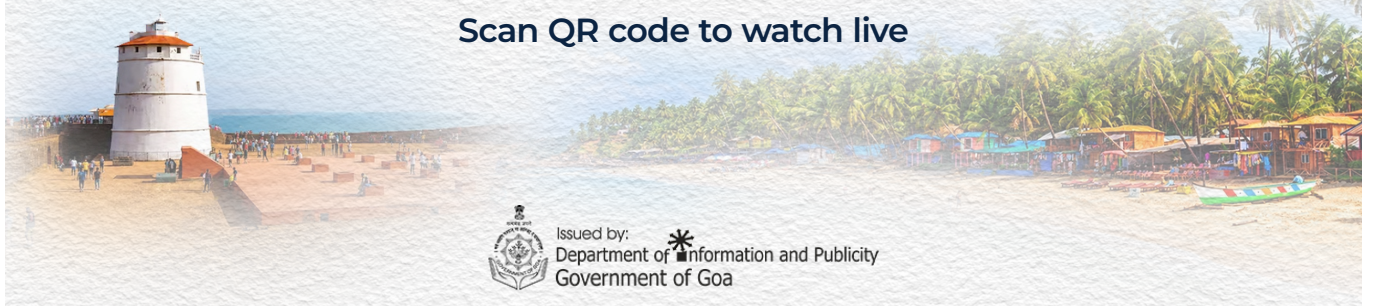
7th SEPTEMBER 2026 | 02:00 PM

Attendance by invite only

**VENUE: DR. SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJEE INDOOR STADIUM
GOA UNIVERSITY ROAD, ST. CRUZ**



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Issued by:
Department of Information and Publicity
Government of Goa

Amit Shah Must Answer Goans on Drug Menace Before Narcotics Conference

■ Girish Chodankar questions BJP Government's record on drugs, demands answers on alleged drug availability inside Colvale Central Jail

Panaji: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee President Girish Chodankar has questioned Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the growing drug menace in Goa, saying his decision to address a conference on narcotics control in the State raises serious questions about the BJP Government's own record in tackling the drug trade. "It is deeply ironic that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has chosen Goa to speak about narcotics control when Goans have been repeatedly raising serious concerns about the spread and easy availability of drugs in the State. Before preaching to the country about narcotics control, the Home Minister owes answers to the people of Goa," said Chodankar. Chodankar asked Amit Shah to clarify why the BJP Government has failed to dismantle the drug networks operating in Goa and expose those at the top of the chain. "Who are the major suppliers and kingpins behind Goa's drug network? How many major kingpins have been arrested and successfully prosecuted during the



BJP's rule? Has the Government investigated allegations of political protection or patronage to people involved in the drug trade? What concrete action has the Union Home Ministry taken against interstate and international supply chains feeding the drug market in Goa?" Chodankar questioned. He said the arrest of small-time peddlers cannot be projected as a victory in the fight against narcotics. "Goans want to know who is sitting at the top of the chain, who finances the network, who supplies the drugs and who protects those involved. Catching the small fish while the big fish remain untouched will never make Goa drug-free," Chodankar said. Chodankar also raised serious

concerns regarding the alleged availability of drugs inside the highly secured Colvale Central Jail. "If drugs can allegedly find their way even inside a fully secured Central Jail, what does that say about the BJP Government's narcotics control machinery? Mr. Amit Shah, will you ask Chief Minister Pramod Sawant how drugs are allegedly reaching inmates inside Colvale Jail? Who is supplying them? Who is facilitating their entry? Who is protecting those involved, and what action has been taken against them?" Chodankar questioned. He demanded that Amit Shah clarify whether the Union Home Ministry has sought any report from the Goa Government regarding alleged drug availability inside Colvale Jail and whether the entire supply chain has been investigated. "Have prison officials, suppliers or others allegedly facilitating this network been investigated? Have those responsible been identified and prosecuted? If the Government cannot keep drugs out of a highly secured prison,

AAP promises to regularise contractual teachers if elected in 2027

■ Atishi and Venzy Viegas raise teachers' job security concerns at Teachers' Day event in Benaulim

Team Goemkarponn

BENAULIM: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has pledged to regularise contractual teachers across Goa if it forms the government following the 2027 Assembly elections. The assurance was given by AAP Goa desk in-charge and former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi Marlena during a Teachers' Day programme held in Benaulim. The event included a panel discussion focusing on the challenges faced by teachers working under different categories in the state.

Atishi said the regularisation of contractual teachers was ultimately a matter of political intent. Referring to the AAP government in Punjab, she said contractual employees had been regularised there after legislative changes were brought in to facilitate the process. She said political parties frequently make commitments to contractual teachers before elections but later cite legal restrictions



after assuming office. According to Atishi, the legislature has the authority to amend laws, and therefore governments can take the necessary steps if there is sufficient political will. AAP Benaulim MLA Capt Venzy Viegas accused the BJP of failing to resolve the concerns of contractual teachers in Goa. He said an AAP government would take up the issue immediately and regularise contractual

teachers during its first Assembly session. The programme featured teachers from several sections of the education system, including contractual and lecture-based teachers, counselling teachers and pre-primary educators. Participants spoke about difficulties they encounter in their professional lives, including inadequate remuneration, being assigned responsibilities beyond their designated

duties and uncertainty over continued employment. The panel discussion was organised as part of an event held to recognise teachers and their contribution to the education sector on Teachers' Day. As part of the programme, teachers were also felicitated and conferred the title "Tr" by Atishi and Capt Venzy Viegas in recognition of their work and contribution.

PRCI Goa, Trichy Chapters Hold Fellowship Meet in Panjim

PANAJI, September 5, 2026: The Goa Chapter of the Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) hosted an informal dinner interaction for a visiting delegation from the PRCI Trichy Chapter in Panaji, providing a platform for professional exchange, networking and discussions on future collaboration. The Goa Chapter delegation was led by Chairman Deepak Narvekar and included Vice Chairman Waman Prabhu, Secretary Nikhil Wagh and Executive Committee Members Jones Samuel and Anant Joshi.

The interaction focused on sharing professional experiences, exchanging ideas and exploring opportunities to strengthen networking and collaboration between the two chapters. As part of the evening, the Goa Chapter felicitated the visiting delegation with traditional Goan shawls and roses and presented them with Goan cashew nuts as a gesture of hospitality. Speaking on the occasion, PRCI Goa Chapter Chairman Deepak Narvekar said the interaction would help strengthen



The visiting Trichy delegation comprised Chairman Gobi D, Vice Chairman Amsadhgan S, Thirunavukkarasu, Jeevanandhan, Sebastian and Edwin Arokiyaraj.

professional bonds within the organisation and pave the way for collaborative initiatives between the Goa and Trichy chapters.

Major Fire in Khorlim, Mapusa After Cylinder Blast

MAPUSA, GOA: A major fire broke out at a house in Khorlim, Mapusa, at around 10.30 pm on Saturday following a cylinder blast, causing extensive damage to the property. Nearly 80 per cent of the household was destroyed in the blaze. The family members managed to escape unharmed. The Mapusa Fire Brigade rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control, preventing the flames from spreading further. Further details on the extent of the damage are awaited.



Chodankar confirms RGP alliance talks as AAP discussions continue

■ Lyndon Monteiro announces plans to contest Assembly polls as opposition parties explore electoral coordination

VASCO: Political activity intensified in the coastal constituency on Sunday, with GPCC president Girish Chodankar confirming that the Congress has reached an understanding with the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), while negotiations with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) remain in progress. Chodankar was speaking after attending a mega blood donation camp organised by the Lions Club of Majorda, Cansaulim and Velsao at Queeny Nagar, where he was the chief guest.



According to Chodankar, the push for opposition coordination has emerged from public demand for like-minded parties to work together ahead of the forthcoming Assembly elections. He said the

broad aim was to bring together political forces with shared concerns and present a stronger challenge to the BJP.

He said the Congress-RGP discussions had reached their concluding

stage, while talks with the AAP were continuing. Chodankar maintained that the Congress was willing to consider wider cooperation if it helped unite voters opposed to the BJP and reflected the expectations of the electorate. Meanwhile, social worker Lyndon Monteiro added to the political buzz by announcing his intention to enter the Assembly contest. Monteiro said he was holding discussions with several political parties and would contest the election from the platform of a non-BJP



Ujjwala scheme launch leaves Salcete consumers frustrated

■ *Form shortage, confusion and political exchanges

Team Goemkarponn

SALCETE: The rollout of the Goa Ujjwala Yojana in Salcete on Saturday drew a large public response but was marred by confusion over application forms, long queues and a political exchange between the BJP and Congress. The government scheme promises eligible households financial support equivalent to the price of three LPG cylinders. Despite the announcement, many consumers who arrived at distribution centres were unable to obtain forms after stocks were quickly exhausted. A large crowd gathered at the Margao Municipal Council (MMC), where PWD Minister Digambar Kamat launched the initiative and oversaw the distribution process. Kamat advised residents living in panchayat

jurisdictions to obtain their forms from their respective local panchayats. According to Kamat's office, over 800 forms were handed out in Margao during the day. Kamat said the initiative was intended to provide assistance to citizens without discrimination. He also clarified that beneficiaries would not have to meet an income criterion to qualify. The rush for forms nevertheless led to disappointment among several LPG consumers, with many leaving the distribution points empty-handed. Kamat attempted to ease concerns by stating that Saturday's exercise was only an initial token distribution and that eligible beneficiaries would not be denied the scheme's benefits. The implementation also became a point of contention between political parties.



Air India Express to Resume Goa-Dubai Flights

PANAJI, September 6, 2026:** Air India Express is set to resume direct flights between Goa's Dabolim Airport and Dubai, with the airline proposing a daily service on the route as part of its Winter 2026 international schedule.

The proposed Goa-Dubai service will operate seven times a week, restoring daily connectivity between Goa and the United Arab Emirates. The move is expected to provide an additional travel option for passengers and strengthen Goa's direct international air links with the Gulf.

The airline has also proposed several new international routes, along with resumption and changes in flight frequencies across its network for the upcoming winter season.

Among the proposed changes is a new twice-weekly service between Mangaluru and Ras Al-Khaimah. Air India Express has also proposed increasing its Mangaluru-Abu Dhabi services from five to nine flights per week. At Thiruvananthapuram, the airline has proposed launching a twice-weekly service to Bahrain.

No Teachers Removed, Says Goa CM; Urges Dialogue Over

■ Sawant Says Contractual, Lecture-Basis Teachers Will Continue in Service

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has clarified that no teachers have been removed from service, stating that some contractual and lecture-basis teachers were promoted and subsequently transferred to other institutions as part of the promotion process. Speaking at a Teachers' Day programme, Sawant said teachers who had served on contractual



or lecture-basis arrangements for the past three years would continue in service and assured that they would not be removed in the future. The Chief Minister said delays in the promotion process had been addressed by the

Education Department, following which some teachers were transferred to other institutions. Sawant directed the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and the Directorate of Education (DoE) to streamline the process and ensure that the affected teachers receive their promotions and are appropriately posted. He said the process was expected to be completed in around three

Protesters question government over Xavier remark cases

■ Pratima Coutinho and other accused allege unequal treatment in handling of protests and law-and-order cases

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: People facing prosecution over the October 2024 demonstrations against alleged derogatory comments on St Francis Xavier have questioned the government's approach to handling protests, alleging that the law is not being applied uniformly. Fatorda police have submitted a charge sheet against Pratima Coutinho and about



500 other accused in connection with the demonstrations at Old Market. The protesters had demanded action

against former RSS chief Subhash Velingkar over remarks made about St Francis Xavier. Some of the accused

appeared before the court on Friday and received copies of the charge sheet. The case has been listed for further hearing on November 2. After the proceedings, Coutinho questioned why those who participated in the demonstrations had been booked under several sections while, she alleged, Velingkar had not been arrested over the remarks.

Heavy Crowd at Korgaon for 3 Free Cylinders Scheme

Korgaon, Pernem: A large number of citizens gathered at the Korgaon Panchayat Office in Pernem to avail themselves of the three free cylinders scheme announced by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant. Citizens filled out the required forms and stood in queues to complete the process and avail the benefits of the scheme. On this occasion, the Panchayat members welcomed the initiative and said that the scheme would provide significant assistance to needy and economically weaker families.

India Crush Pakistan for 55 as Spinners Spark Massive Asia

■ Harmanpreet Kaur's India seal a third straight victory after bowling Pakistan out for their lowest-ever women's T20I total

New Delhi: India produced a dominant all-round performance to thrash Pakistan by chasing down a target of just 56 in 8.4 overs in their Women's Asia Cup 2026 Group A clash in Dubai on Saturday. Pakistan's decision to bat first proved costly as India's spin attack dismantled their batting lineup. Pakistan were bowled out for only 55, their lowest-ever total in women's T20I cricket,



after struggling to cope with India's disciplined bowling. Shree Charani and Prema Rawat led the attack with three wickets apiece,

while Deepti Sharma claimed two wickets and Shafali Verma added one. India kept the pressure on throughout the innings, preventing Pakistan from

building any meaningful partnership and restricting them to a record-low score.

The chase was equally emphatic. India reached the modest target in just 8.4 overs, finishing with 68 balls to spare and underlining their superiority in the contest. The victory gave India their third consecutive win in the tournament and strengthened their position at the top of the Group A standings.



ISL 2026-27 To Return To Home-And-Away Format, Season Start Date Revealed

■ India's top football league will bring back the traditional format after last season's shortened

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Indian Super League is set to return to its traditional home-and-away format for the 2026-27 season, restoring a familiar structure after last season was played in a shortened single-leg format.

The previous campaign was compressed into a limited window after administrative and commercial issues caused a significant delay. The upcoming season will bring back the regular league structure, along with the playoffs that determine the ISL Cup winner. The team finishing at the top of the league standings will be crowned Shield Winners and secure a place in Asian competition. The top six sides will then advance to the

playoffs, competing for the ISL Cup. Thirteen teams are expected to feature in the 2026-27 competition. The lineup includes Bengaluru FC, Chennaiyin FC, Churchill Brothers FC, East Bengal FC, FC Goa, Inter Kashi FC, Kerala Blasters FC, Mohun Bagan Super Giant, Mumbai City FC, NorthEast United FC, Odisha FC, Punjab FC and Sporting Club Delhi. Churchill Brothers are set to replace Jamshedpur FC, although their participation remains subject to completing the required regulatory formalities. Diamond Harbour FC, who secured promotion after winning the 2025-26 IFL title, will not take up their promoted position after failing to meet the administrative fee requirement.



Sandeep Heble Takes Charge As BITOA General Secretary

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa's Sandeep Heble has taken charge as General Secretary of the Badminton India Technical Officials Association (BITOA), the national organisation representing nearly 300 technical officials at National and International levels. Heble, a National BAI Match Control official and former Secretary of the Goa Badminton Association, is part of the 24 member Executive Committee led by Maharashtra's Badminton Asia Referee Dhananjay (Uday) Sane. BITOA aims to bring technical officials from across country onto a common platform while supporting their professional development through training, education, welfare initiatives, other assistance. Heble said organisation would build on the foundation created by its Founder President, Badminton Asia Referee Rajiv Mehta. He said the responsibility now lies with the new team to strengthen and expand the work already undertaken.

Satwik-Chirag Storm Into China Masters Final, Eye Second Title

■ Indian men's doubles stars overcome Malaysia's Ayub and Tan Wee Kiong in a thrilling three-game

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India's Satwicksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty reached the China Masters final for the third time after producing a composed and tactically sharp performance against Malaysia's Nur Mohd Azriyn Ayub and Tan Wee Kiong in Shenzhen on Saturday. The fourth seeded Indian pair defeated the Malaysian combination 21-15, 18-21, 21-11 in 65 minutes to



move within one victory of their second title of the season. Satwik and Chirag, ranked No. 5 in the world, had previously finished runners-up at the China Masters in 2023 and 2025. The Indians made a difficult start in the opening game, falling 0-5 behind before

responding with seven consecutive points. A series of long rallies and powerful attacks helped them establish control, with Satwik's angled smashes causing repeated problems for their opponents. They eventually secured the first game 21-15. Malaysia fought back in the second game. Satwik and Chirag remained competitive throughout, but a series of errors at the net allowed their opponents to gain momentum.

Aaron Farias Eyes Double Crown at Priority Gaspar Dias Open

■ Wesley Do Rosario and Chandan Caro set up title clashes in the Men's and U19 finals

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Aaron Farias is within touching distance of a double title at the Priority Gaspar Dias Open All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament after reaching the finals of both the Men's and Boys U19 events at Club Tennis de Gaspar Dias, Miramar.

The reigning Men's champion produced a dominant display in the Men's semifinals,



defeating Rishan Shaikh 4-0. Aaron will now meet Wesley Do Rosario in the title clash after Wesley ended Chandan Caro's run with a 4-1 victory.

Aaron also booked his place in the Boys U19 final with another 3-1 win over Rishan. He will face Chandan, who defeated Ruhaan Shaikh 3-1 in the

other semifinal. With both players featuring in two finals, the tournament is set for an exciting finish. The Men's competition also produced several impressive performances. Veteran former State player Venkatesh, known as Gaurish Burye, delivered one of the biggest upsets by defeating Goa State player Dhruva Kamat 3-2. Burye's campaign eventually

"You Don't Have To Look A Certain Way"

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Twenty one year old Keyaa Banerji has emerged as one of India's most talked about young powerlifters after winning a silver medal in the Junior Women's 47kg category at the IPF World Championships in South Africa.

Banerji, who is from Gurugram, produced an impressive deadlift of 140kg, nearly three times her body weight. Her performance quickly attracted widespread attention online, but sudden spotlight also brought unwanted comments.