

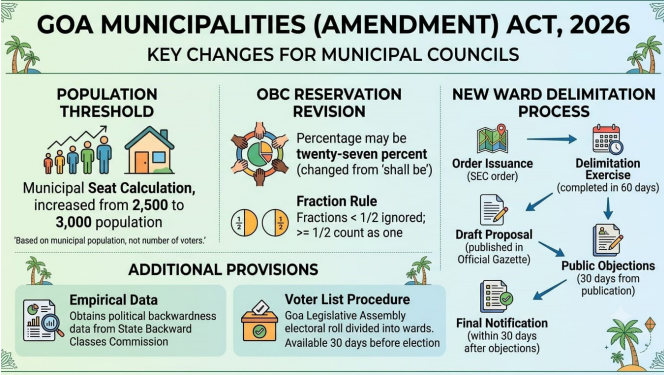


Goa Municipalities Act amended, new process for ward delimitation and reservations

Population threshold raised to 3,000; SEC to complete ward delimitation within 60 days before public objections and reservation process

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 2026 has been enacted, introducing major changes to the constitution of municipal councils, ward delimitation, reservation of seats and preparation of municipal voters' lists. The amendment was passed by the Goa



Legislative Assembly on September 1 and received the assent of the Governor on September 5. One of the key changes is the increase in the

population threshold used to determine the number of municipal seats. The threshold has been raised from 2,500 to 3,000, while population of the municipal area will now be used instead of the number of voters for the relevant calculations. The amendment has also revised the provision relating to reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs). ▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06



"It Appears You're Waiting For My Retirement": CJI Rejects Aravalli Panel Extension

Team Goemkarponn

JAIPUR: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has rejected a request from the high powered committee examining the definition and conservation of the Aravalli range for a six month extension, directing it to submit its report by November 30, 2026. A three judge bench headed by CJI Surya Kant was hearing the matter when the committee sought additional time until February 27, 2027. Responding sharply to the request, the Chief Justice remarked that the timeline appeared to suggest the committee was waiting for his retirement. The court instructed the panel to accelerate its work and complete the exercise within the three month deadline. The matter will be taken up again on December 2. The bench also stressed that the committee must undertake a comprehensive consultation before finalising its findings.

Opposition has no agenda, only opposes government work: CM

Sawant says Congress and other opposition parties are targeting infrastructure projects and welfare schemes

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant criticised the Congress and other opposition parties, alleging that they are confused about what to oppose and are targeting the government's infrastructure projects and welfare schemes. Speaking at the inauguration of the Bicholim bus stand,



Sawant said the opposition has no constructive agenda and urged people not to fall prey to what he termed misleading claims and opposition tactics. He also said the newly

inaugurated Bicholim bus stand is an interstate bus stand and that the government plans to connect bus stands with rural areas to strengthen interstate and regional connectivity in the future. Sawant said Bicholim is witnessing rapid development and the government will undertake master planning for the city.

"Unsafe Buildings Will Face Strict Action": Delhi Orders PG Safety Audit After Satya Niketan Collapse

Government plans inspections, tighter PG rules and expanded student housing across the capital

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu has ordered a structural safety audit of all buildings operating as paying guest accommodations in major PG hubs across the capital within a week, following the deadly building collapse at Satya Niketan. The directive came during a

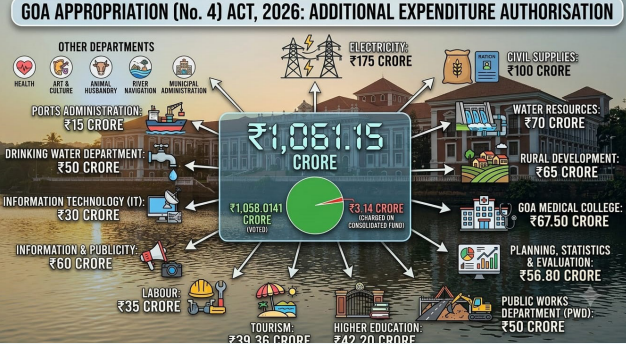


high level review meeting attended by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood and senior officials from the Delhi government, MCD, police, NDRF, DDA and

Delhi University. Officials have been instructed to conduct targeted inspections of PG properties, particularly buildings suspected of violating height, floor and other construction norms.

Goa authorises ₹1,061 crore additional expenditure for 2026-27

Electricity gets ₹175 crore, Civil Supplies ₹100 crore and Water Resources ₹70 crore under Goa Appropriation (No. 4) Act, 2026



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Government has authorised additional expenditure of ₹1,061.15 crore from the State's Consolidated Fund for the financial year 2026-27 under the Goa Appropriation (No. 4) Act, 2026.

The legislation was passed by the Goa Legislative Assembly on September 2 and received the assent of the Governor on September 4. It was subsequently published in the Official Gazette on September 7, formally authorising the additional sums for various government services and purposes. Of the total amount of ₹1,061.15 crore,

₹1,058.0141 crore has been provided as expenditure voted by the Assembly, while ₹3.14 crore is charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State. Among the major provisions, the Electricity department has received ₹175 crore, followed by ₹100 crore for Civil Supplies and ₹70 crore for Water Resources. Rural Development has been allocated ₹65 crore, while ₹60 crore has been provided for Information and Publicity. Other significant allocations include ₹67.50 crore for Goa Medical College, ₹42.20 crore for Higher Education, ₹50 crore for the Public Works

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

WE ARE HIRING!

Join our team!

NEWSPAPER DESIGNER

What You'll Do:

- Experience in InDesign software
- Experience in Newspaper designing
- Knowledge of Canva
- Work on shift

SALE EXECUTIVE

What You'll Do:

- Freshers and experienced candidates can apply.
- Excellent communication skill
- Prepare advertising proposals, quotations, and follow up with clients.

How to Apply:

Send your portfolio + resume to [our email/DM] Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for a quick test edit.

Why Join Us?

- Work with a dynamic and creative team
- Opportunities to grow
- Be part of impactful journalism & media

APPLY NOW

SEND YOUR CV TO: goemkarponnnews@gmail.com

CALL US: +91 89568 93882

A Welfare Scheme Should Not Become a Race Against Time

A welfare scheme is meant to make life easier for people. It should reach the intended beneficiaries with minimal paperwork, minimal inconvenience, and certainly without forcing them to run from one government office to another against a deadline. The controversy surrounding the rushed rollout of the Goa Ujjwala Yojana raises a simple but important question: why should an eligible family have to apply within just four days to receive a benefit that is meant for them?

According to the report, beneficiaries have been given only a narrow window from September 5 to September 8 to apply for the scheme, which provides ₹3,000 through their bank accounts for three LPG cylinders a year. The report also highlights shortages of physical forms at panchayat and municipal offices, long queues and difficulties faced particularly by senior citizens.

The irony is difficult to ignore.

Goa has repeatedly spoken about digital governance and has already created welfare platforms where citizens can apply online for government assistance. The Chief Minister's Welfare Portal itself describes its approach as end to end digitisation, allowing beneficiaries to register, apply, upload documents and submit applications online.

So why was a scheme involving LPG consumers launched with such a compressed application period and a predominantly physical process?

There is no obvious administrative justification for making people scramble.

The government may have its reasons for fixing a date for the transfer of funds or completing administrative verification. But the application window need not be the same as the payment deadline. If the government genuinely wants every eligible family to benefit, applications could remain open for a reasonable period, with verification and payments being processed in batches.

There is nothing wrong with having a financial year boundary. There is nothing wrong with asking applicants to submit documents within a defined period. But a welfare programme should not be designed in a manner where a person who is eligible today loses the benefit simply because they could not reach a panchayat office during a few days.

This becomes even more problematic when the rollout coincides with the Ganesh Chaturthi period.

Families are busy cleaning and decorating their homes, preparing

“According to the report, beneficiaries have been given only a narrow window from September 5 to September 8 to apply for the scheme, which provides ₹3,000 through their bank accounts for three LPG cylinders a year. The report also highlights shortages of physical forms at panchayat and municipal offices, long queues and difficulties faced particularly by senior citizens.

The irony is difficult to ignore.

Goa has repeatedly spoken about digital governance and has already created welfare platforms where citizens can apply online for government assistance. The Chief Minister's Welfare Portal itself describes its approach as end to end digitisation, allowing beneficiaries to register, apply, upload documents and submit applications online.”

traditional food and making arrangements for the festival. For senior citizens, daily wage workers and people without easy access to transport, visiting an office repeatedly to obtain a form, photocopy documents and submit an application is not a minor inconvenience. It can mean losing a day's work or making several unnecessary trips.

The shortage of forms makes the situation worse. A welfare scheme cannot have a system where the first person to reach an office gets a form while another eligible citizen is told to come back later.

That creates an avoidable scramble.

The government should therefore immediately reconsider the deadline

and keep the application process open for at least a month, if not longer. Better still, applications should remain open until all eligible beneficiaries have been given a fair opportunity to apply.

The question is not whether ₹3,000 is a large or small amount. For many families, assistance towards cooking gas can make a real difference. The question is whether the state wants the scheme to reach every eligible household or merely achieve a target by a particular date.

There is also a larger lesson here.

A welfare scheme should not depend on political representatives distributing forms. Access must be uniform. An eligible citizen should not need to know a councillor, panchayat member, MLA or political worker to obtain an application form.

The government already possesses considerable information about LPG consumers. Aadhaar-linked records, bank details and LPG connection databases can help simplify verification. If the state can use technology to transfer benefits directly, it should also use technology to make applications easier.

And yet, technology should not become another barrier. A proper system should offer both online and offline options. Those who are comfortable applying digitally should be able to do so from home. Those who need assistance should be able to approach a panchayat, municipal office or designated service centre.

The objective must be inclusion, not procedural convenience for the administration.

There is nothing wrong with announcing a welfare scheme. There is everything wrong with making eligible citizens run against the clock to claim it. Let people apply when they are ready. Give them a reasonable window. Verify the applications properly and release the benefit.

A welfare scheme succeeds not when the government announces it with great fanfare, but when the last eligible family gets its benefit without having to plead, queue repeatedly or race against an unnecessarily short deadline.

The Goa Ujjwala Yojana should therefore not be remembered for the chaos surrounding its rollout. It should be remembered as a scheme that was made accessible to every eligible Goan household.

The government has the opportunity to correct the problem. Extend the deadline, simplify the process, and let people apply without the pressure of a four-day race.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Porvorim Flyover: A Long-Overdue Relief for Goa

By Suraj Nandrekar

For years, Porvorim has been synonymous with traffic congestion. What should be a relatively simple journey between Panaji and Mapusa can often become an exercise in frustration, with commuters losing valuable time on a road carrying an ever-increasing volume of vehicles.

The new Porvorim flyover therefore deserves to be welcomed as more than a traffic solution. It is an important piece of infrastructure that can change the way people and goods move through one of Goa's busiest corridors.

The elevated corridor is expected to take around 60 per cent of traffic off the ground-level road. For commuters travelling between Panaji and Mapusa, and for those using NH66 towards Pernem and Canacona, this could bring substantial relief to daily travel.

The significance goes beyond convenience. Goa's roads carry a mixture of private vehicles, tourist traffic, buses, commercial vehicles and goods carriers. When all of them are forced through the same congested stretch, delays become inevitable. A separate elevated route for through traffic can create a much more predictable journey.

For industries and businesses, predictability matters. Trucks carrying materials or finished products cannot operate efficiently when their movement depends on how badly traffic is moving on a particular day. Employees also spend considerable time travelling between different parts of the state.

The flyover can help remove one of the most persistent bottlenecks on this route.

Tourism could also gain from smoother movement. However, not every traveller heading north will necessarily benefit in the same way. Those travelling directly towards Mapusa and further along NH66 are likely to enjoy the greatest advantage. People heading towards Saligao, Calangute, Anjuna, Vagator and other local destinations will still depend heavily on the ground level road network.

That distinction is important because the existing road will continue to have a major role.

There is also a genuine concern for businesses operating along the present corridor. Restaurants, shops, garages, fuel stations and other establishments have traditionally benefited from the visibility and passing traffic generated by the highway.

If a large share of vehicles moves overhead, some of these establishments could see fewer spontaneous customers.

But this should not become an argument against the flyover.

Instead, it should encourage better planning of the road below. The ground level corridor can increasingly cater to local traffic, commercial activity and access to surrounding communities, while the elevated section handles vehicles simply passing through.

Clear signage, proper junctions, safe pedestrian movement and convenient access points will be essential. Motorists should be able to leave the flyover easily when their destination is along the existing corridor.

The project also offers Goa an opportunity to rethink Porvorim itself. For too long, the area has functioned as a bottleneck rather than as a properly planned urban corridor. Separating through traffic from local movement can help give the ground level road a different and more manageable character.

Most importantly, the project is a recognition that Goa cannot continue relying entirely on an increasingly congested road network built for a much smaller volume of traffic. As vehicle numbers rise and the state becomes more dependent on road connectivity, infrastructure must keep pace. The Porvorim flyover is therefore a welcome step forward. It will save commuters time, improve the movement of goods and create a more reliable connection along one of Goa's most important routes. The challenge now is to ensure that the transformation benefits the entire corridor.

The traffic may move overhead, but Porvorim's local economy must continue to function below.

If that balance is achieved, the flyover can become not only a solution to Porvorim's traffic problem, but a major improvement in the way Goa moves.

Goa Lacks Scientific Data On Fish Stocks Despite Government Claim

■ Assembly disclosure reveals no decade-long scientific assessment of marine resources, raising questions over the

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has acknowledged that it does not have a recent scientific assessment of the condition of fish stocks in the State's territorial waters, despite maintaining that fish catches have remained stable over the past decade. Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar told the Legislative Assembly during the monsoon session that



the government had not undertaken a scientific stock assessment or sustained monitoring programme in the last 10 years covering fish

populations, breeding and spawning areas, marine biodiversity or the effects of environmental and developmental pressures. The areas for which

no such assessment was carried out include the impact of climate change, rising sea temperatures, pollution, microplastics, dredging and coastal development on Goa's marine resources. The admission puts the government's assertion of "no decline" in fish catch under scrutiny, as there is no corresponding scientific stock assessment cited to establish whether fish populations have remained healthy or sustainable.



Goa Intensifies Action Against Foreign Visa Violations

■ 59 Foreign Nationals Detained This Year As FRRO Steps Up Immigration Enforcement

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Authorities in Goa have intensified checks against foreign nationals allegedly found violating visa and immigration rules, with 59 people detained so far this year and 98 others leaving the country after receiving Leave India notices.

The latest case involved an Iranian couple who were found during an FRRO verification at a rented premises in Korgao, Pernem. Officials reportedly discovered that their passports and visas had expired. They were subsequently detained and shifted to a detention facility while further legal proceedings are undertaken.

Deportation proceedings have also gathered momentum.

Six foreign nationals were deported from Goa in August, comprising three Russian citizens and one national each from Belarus, Tanzania and Bangladesh, according to official figures.

The enforcement activity has continued this month, with two Russian nationals who had been placed under home restriction subsequently departing India. Their travel expenses were reportedly paid by the individuals themselves.

Meanwhile, immigration authorities are preparing for further deportations. A Nigerian national currently being held in detention is expected to be sent back next week, while a Ugandan national in detention is also likely to be deported shortly.



Maharashtra Officials Skip Goa HC Hearing On Child Begging PIL

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Maharashtra authorities failed to participate in Tuesday's hearing before the High Court of Bombay at Goa in a PIL concerning allegations of children being brought into the State for begging.

The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) at Osmanabad and the Secretary of Maharashtra's Women and Child Development Department did not join the proceedings through video conference, despite the Court having specifically directed their appearance at the earlier hearing. The authorities had also been served notices through email.

Taking note of their absence, the High Court decided to seek the assistance of the Maharashtra Advocate General on matters involving coordination between the two States, monitoring of repatriated children and their rehabilitation after being sent back to Maharashtra.

The Court has also ordered that fresh notices be issued to the concerned authorities.

300 liquor cartons worth ₹18.72 lakh seized at Polem Checkpost

■ Driver and cleaner flee after Excise officials uncover liquor concealed among vegetable sacks

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Canacona Excise Department seized 300 cartons of whiskey worth approximately ₹18.72 lakh after allegedly finding the liquor concealed among vegetable sacks inside an inter-state container at the Polem Checkpost late Sunday night.

The container was intercepted at around 11 pm while reportedly proceeding towards Karwar. During a routine



inspection, Excise officials questioned the driver about the contents of the vehicle. His claim that potatoes were being transported from Goa to Karnataka reportedly raised suspicion.

The Excise team then

physically inspected the container and found sacks containing vegetables. On closer examination,

officials discovered liquor cartons concealed among the sacks.

While the inspection was underway, the driver and cleaner allegedly fled from the spot and disappeared into the darkness.

Huge Tree Crashes Onto Houses at Desterro-Baina, No injuries reported

■ Senior citizen evacuated as multiple structures, including a godown, suffer damage; losses estimated at around ₹10 lakh

Team Goemkarponn

BAINA: A massive jungle tree came crashing down on residential houses behind Busy Bee School at Desterro in the early hours of Tuesday, damaging several structures and leaving residents shaken. Fortunately, no injuries or casualties were reported. The incident occurred around 4.30 am when



the huge tree suddenly collapsed onto the houses in the area. The impact caused significant

damage to the affected properties, with residents estimating their losses at several lakhs of rupees.

A senior citizen living in one of the affected houses was evacuated from the premises as a precautionary measure.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel reached the site after being alerted and launched a clearance operation.

Fire Officer Dilip Bicholkar said the department had sought the assistance of a crane from Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) to remove

the massive tree, with the operation continuing. Bicholkar said the concerned Mamlatdar and Talathi had also been informed about the incident and the damage reported to the properties.

One of the residents, Abid, said his family had suffered substantial losses after the tree crashed onto their house. He estimated the damage at around ₹10 lakh.

Man Dies After Electric Shock, Falls From Betelnut Tree In Mardol

■ 55-year-old Kusta Naique suffered electric shock while repairing a light at his betelnut farm; autopsy attributes death to head injury following fall

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: A 55-year-old man died after suffering an electric shock and falling from a betelnut tree while repairing an electric light at his farm in Cuncolim-Mardol, Ponda, on September 6.

Police received information at around 3.20 pm from the casualty police at Sub-District Hospital, Ponda, that Kusta Naique, a resident of Cuncolim-Mardol, had been brought dead to the



hospital in connection with an electric shock incident at his residence.

During the inquiry, police visited the incident

spot and conducted a scene of Unnatural Death (UD) occurrence panchanama. It was revealed that at around 1

pm, Naique had climbed a betelnut tree using a metal ladder to repair an electric light installed along the footpath of his betelnut farm. While carrying out the repair work, Naique accidentally came into contact with electricity and suffered an electric shock. He subsequently fell from the height and became unconscious. He was shifted to Sub-District Hospital, Ponda, for treatment, where the doctor on duty declared him brought dead.



Fatal Kundai Crash: Woman Killed After Container Truck Runs Over Scooter

■ Two Drivers Booked After Collision Leaves Scooter Rider With Grievous Injuries

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: A woman was killed and a man sustained grievous injuries in a road accident at Kundai, Ponda, on September 6.

According to a complaint filed by HC 5574 Sitaram Tari of Mardol Police Station, the accident occurred at around 8.50 am near Team 24 Foods and Beverages Pvt Ltd, Kundai. Police said container truck driver Ram Paul Sharma, a resident of Bilaspur, was allegedly driving rashly and negligently while proceeding from Burger Company, Kundai IDC towards Kundai. The truck reportedly moved towards the extreme right side of the

painted road median. At the same time, TVS Jupiter rider Tilakram Yadav, a resident of Kundai, Ponda, allegedly attempted to overtake the container truck. During the manoeuvre, his scooter allegedly collided with an oncoming Aviator scooter travelling from Kundai Beat Post towards Burger Company, Kundai.

The impact caused Aviator rider Rushab Borkar, a resident of Borim, Ponda, and pillion rider Divya Mandrekar, a resident of Velgem-Surla, Bicholim, to fall onto the road.

The container truck subsequently went over Mandrekar, causing grievous injuries to both the rider and pillion.



Arpora Woman Loses ₹1.22 Lakh In Online Dating Fraud

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A 41-year-old woman from Arpora was allegedly cheated of ₹1.22 lakh by a man she met through the 'Bumpy' dating application.

According to the complaint, the accused allegedly posed as a Netherlands national and developed a relationship with the woman after promising to marry her. He later allegedly claimed that he had been detained at Delhi airport after gold articles were found in his possession and sought money from her.

The woman allegedly transferred a total of ₹1.22 lakh to the accused.

Anjuna Police have registered a case under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) following a Zero FIR registered by the Cyber Crime Cell.

Further investigation is underway.

Three Live Rounds Found In Passenger's Baggage At Mopa Airport, FIR Registered

■ 33-year-old passenger booked under Arms Act after 32 calibre ammunition allegedly detected during security screening

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: Three live rounds of .32 calibre were allegedly found inside the baggage of a 33-year-old passenger during security screening at Manohar International Airport (MIA), Mopa, on September 7.

According to police, the passenger, identified as Sourabh, a resident of Haryana, was travelling from Mopa to Delhi on



Akasa Air flight OP1814. He was seated in 8B.

During security screening at around 10.48 am, three live rounds of .32 calibre were allegedly detected in his baggage.

Police said the passenger could not produce a valid licence or any other document authorising him to possess or carry the ammunition. He also allegedly failed to produce permission from the competent authority to carry the rounds on board the aircraft.

An offence has been registered under Section 3 read with Section 25 of the Arms Act, 1959.

FIR registered after alleged attack on Gerson Gomes at Chinchinim Panchayat office

■ AAP Working President and Chinchinim-Deussua Sarpanch admitted to SGDh surgery ward following alleged assault

Team Goemkarponn

CHINCHINIM: An FIR has been registered following an alleged attack on AAP Goa Working President and Chinchinim-Deussua Sarpanch Gerson Gomes inside the Chinchinim Panchayat office.

Gomes was admitted to the surgery ward of South Goa District Hospital (SGDH) following the incident.



He is believed to have suffered hairline fractures and has also complained

of chest pain.

He was initially treated at Balli Primary Health

office, following which the Aam Aadmi Party sought police intervention

Centre before being shifted to SGDh for further medical care.

The alleged assault took place inside the Panchayat

and demanded action in connection with the incident.

With the FIR now registered, police are expected to investigate the circumstances surrounding the alleged attack and ascertain the sequence of events. The AAP has maintained that political differences and disputes involving elected representatives should be resolved through lawful and democratic means.

Review MBBS State Quota Seat Calculation To Protect SC, ST And OBC Reservation: Sharad Chopdecar

■ Goa Congress leader seeks review of GMC's 2026-27 seat matrix and reservation methodology

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee OBC Department Chairman Sharad (Nitin) Chopdecar, along with Virendra Shirodkar, Anthony Braganza and Bholanath Ghadi, has urged the Goa government to review the methodology used to calculate category-wise reservation in the MBBS



State Quota at Goa Medical College for the 2026-27 academic year. The leaders submitted a memorandum to Chief

Minister Pramod Sawant seeking an urgent review and correction of the seat calculation

process. According to the memorandum, the proposed MBBS intake at Goa Medical College is 250 seats, of which 37 are

earmarked for the All India Quota, leaving 213 seats under the State Quota.

Chopdecar has sought clarity on the manner in which SC, ST, OBC and EWS reservations are being calculated within the State Quota.

"Our demand is not against EWS reservation. We fully respect the constitutional framework of reservation.



Satyawan Talwadkar joins Congress, Chodankar raises questions over promotion and ST welfare

■ Congress leaders say his entry will strengthen the party's focus on social justice, reservation and equal opportunities

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Satyawar Talwadkar joined the Indian National Congress on Monday in the presence of AICC Goa In-charge Manikrao Thakare, AICC Goa Co-Incharge Dr. Anjali Nimbalkar and senior state Congress leaders.

Welcoming Talwadkar into the party, GPCC President Girish Chodankar said his decision to join Congress reflected his resolve to raise issues concerning justice, equal opportunity and the rights of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community. Chodankar raised questions over the circumstances

surrounding Talwadkar's promotion in the Directorate of Accounts and alleged that caste considerations may have influenced the manner in which the matter was handled. He said Talwadkar had approached the court seeking relief in connection with his promotion.

"Satyawar Talwadkar had to approach the court to seek what he believed was his rightful due. His case raises questions about fairness and equal treatment in government service, and these concerns deserve to be examined objectively and transparently," Chodankar said.



Jit Arolkar leaves BJP switch question open as Mandrem political buzz grows

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: Speculation over the political future of Mandrem MLA Jit Arolkar has intensified, with discussions growing in Pernem over a possible move by the MGP legislator to the BJP. The buzz followed Arolkar's presence at Manohar International Airport in Mopa, where he welcomed Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Arolkar, however, said his presence at the airport was purely in response to a request from Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. Arolkar said Sawant had informed him about Fadnavis' arrival and asked him to be present at Mopa to receive the Maharashtra Chief Minister. He maintained that no political message should be attached to the meeting. Asked whether he was considering joining the BJP, Arolkar stopped short of giving a clear answer. "I am currently with the MGP. The right decision will be taken at the right time and after taking everyone into confidence," he said.

Government ensures no eligible beneficiary is left out of Goa Ujjwala Scheme

■ Additional application forms made available across Goa; acceptance to continue beyond first disbursement

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Government has made additional application forms available at all Village Panchayats and concerned Municipalities across the state to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out of the Goa Ujjwala Scheme.

The move comes after shortages of application forms were



Village Panchayats and Municipalities. The newly supplied forms are meant for eligible beneficiaries who have not yet submitted their applications under the

Beneficiaries are required to duly fill in the forms and submit them to their respective Village Panchayat or Municipality.

The local bodies will compile the applications and forward them to the concerned Taluka Office of the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies for further processing.

'Omkar' elephant returns to Mopa-Tambose, farmers fear Chaturthi crop losses

■ Farmers seek lasting solution as elephant damages plantations and moves repeatedly across Goa-Maharashtra border

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: Farmers in the Mopa-Tambose belt are once again facing the threat of crop damage following the return of the wild elephant known as 'Omkar'. The elephant has reportedly entered plantations in the area, raising anxiety among cultivators ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi.

The farmers' main concern is the alleged handling of



the elephant along the Goa-Maharashtra border. They claim that instead of being safely managed, the animal is repeatedly

pushed from one state to the other. When it moves towards Maharashtra, it is allegedly driven back towards Goa, and

when it enters Goa, similar attempts are made to send it towards Maharashtra.

According to the farmers, this cycle has done little to address the underlying problem. The elephant eventually finds its way back to the border villages, where plantations are once again exposed to damage.

Farmers said they need a long-term solution rather than limited compensation after their

crops have already been destroyed. They have called for coordinated action by the authorities of both states to prevent the elephant from repeatedly entering cultivated areas.

The immediate concern is the approaching Ganesh Chaturthi season, when banana and other horticultural crops grown by local farmers are close to being harvested.

“Rs 1.10 Lakh Crore Defence Push”: India Clears Mine Layers, Radars And Electronic Warfare Systems

■ Army, Navy and Air Force to receive advanced equipment as government prioritises operational readiness and indigenous manufacturing

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Defence Ministry has cleared military procurement proposals worth around Rs 1.10 lakh crore to strengthen the operational capabilities of the Army, Navy and Air Force and accelerate domestic defence production.

The proposals were approved by the Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The council granted Acceptance of Necessity, marking the first major stage in the defence procurement process, for a wide range of equipment.

The Indian Army will receive approvals for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear reconnaissance vehicles, high mobility vehicles, self propelled mechanical mine layers, advanced light helicopters, trawl tanks and the Sarvatra bridge system.

The CBRN reconnaissance vehicles will help troops identify and monitor areas affected by hazardous chemical, biological or radiological substances. High mobility vehicles



are intended to improve troop transportation and logistics, particularly in challenging terrain.

Advanced light helicopters will support Army and Air Force operations across different environments, while trawl tanks and the Sarvatra bridge system are designed to enhance battlefield mobility and facilitate the movement of forces across difficult obstacles.

For the Indian Navy, the procurement package includes Arudhra radars along with the design, development and eventual acquisition of marine

gas turbines for warship propulsion.

The Arudhra systems are expected to replace existing air route surveillance radars at naval air stations, improving monitoring and airspace awareness. The marine gas turbine programme is aimed at reducing dependence on overseas suppliers for critical propulsion technology.

The Indian Air Force will also receive new electronic warfare capabilities, including Ground Based Multi Purpose Jammers. The systems are designed

to counter hostile radar networks and strengthen the electronic warfare capabilities of fighter aircraft and other platforms.

The approvals also include the installation of the Defence Forces Secure Access Card system.

The ministry said nearly 98 per cent of the approved procurements will be sourced from Indian industry, giving a major boost to domestic defence manufacturing and supporting the government's push for greater self reliance in military equipment.

“To The Moon And Beyond”: India, US Step Up Space Cooperation

■ Sergio Gor and ISRO Chairman discuss human spaceflight, lunar exploration and expanding strategic partnership

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India and the United States are looking to deepen cooperation in space exploration, with US Ambassador Sergio Gor meeting ISRO Chairman Dr V Narayanan to discuss opportunities ranging from human spaceflight to future lunar missions.

Following the meeting, Gor highlighted the growing scope of the partnership and pointed to NASA's recent invitation for ISRO to participate in its Moon Base programme. The initiative is aimed at advancing scientific research on the Moon while developing capabilities needed for future crewed missions, including eventual journeys to Mars.

India's involvement in the US led Artemis framework provides an important foundation for expanding cooperation. New Delhi became the 27th country to sign the Artemis Accords in June 2023. The non binding framework establishes principles for peaceful, transparent and sustainable exploration of the Moon, Mars and other destinations beyond Earth.

However, India's participation does not make ISRO a formal hardware partner in NASA's Artemis programme. New Delhi continues to pursue its independent space objectives while developing selected bilateral projects with

the United States.

Earth observation remains a major area of collaboration through the NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar mission, known as NISAR. The joint satellite is designed to monitor changes on Earth's surface and provide data for scientific and environmental studies.

Human spaceflight has also emerged as a growing area of partnership. Indian astronauts, known as Gaganyatris, have been receiving training for missions to the International Space Station as part of cooperation involving NASA and Axiom Space.

India's participation in international lunar initiatives could also create opportunities for its expanding private space sector. Greater engagement could help Indian companies participate in global supply chains and contribute to emerging technologies for lunar exploration.

The partnership could further give India a stronger voice in discussions over future lunar activities, including resource utilisation, spacecraft safety and sustainable exploration.

With India and the US expanding cooperation across human spaceflight, Earth observation and lunar exploration, the relationship is increasingly moving towards long term collaboration beyond Earth.



Goa authorises ₹1,061 crore additional expenditure for 2026-27

Department, ₹56.80 crore for Planning, Statistics and Evaluation, ₹39.36 crore for Tourism, ₹35 crore for Labour and ₹30 crore for Information Technology.

The Act also provides ₹50 crore for the Drinking Water Department and ₹15 crore for Ports Administration, along with allocations for several other departments and services, including Health Services, Art and Culture, Animal Husbandry, River Navigation and Municipal Administration.

The legislation states that the sums authorised under the Act may be paid and applied from the Consolidated Fund of Goa towards

defraying the various charges arising during the 2026-27 financial year for the services and purposes specified in the Schedule.

Goa Municipalities Act amended, new process for ward delimitation and reservations

The earlier wording stating that the proportion “shall be twenty-seven percent” has been replaced with wording that it “may be twenty-seven percent”. A new provision has been introduced to address fractions while determining reserved seats. Fractions below one-half will be ignored, while fractions of one-half or more will be counted as one. The amended Act lays down a detailed process for delimitation of municipal wards. Once

the State Election Commission (SEC) issues an order fixing the number of wards for a municipal area and publishes it in the Official Gazette, the delimitation exercise will have to be completed within 60 days.

The SEC will then prepare and publish a draft delimitation proposal in the Official Gazette. The public will have 30 days from the date of publication to submit objections and suggestions. After considering the representations, the Commission, in consultation with the Government, will issue the final delimitation notification within 30 days from the last date for filing objections and suggestions.

The amended law also provides for empirical data relating to political backwardness to be obtained from the Goa State Commission for Backward Classes for the respective municipal areas and wards.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

“Foundation Couldn’t Bear the Load”: Delhi Collapse FIR Alleges Four Floors Were Added for Rent

■ Police allege owners knew the structural risk but continued construction as the building housed students in a PG facility

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The owners of the Delhi building that collapsed, killing several people, allegedly knew that its decades old foundation could not withstand additional weight but still constructed four extra floors to generate rental income, according to the FIR registered in the case. The FIR alleges that building



owner Hari Ram Bansal, also known as Gupta, and his brother proceeded with the additional construction despite being aware of the limitations of the existing foundation. Police have

alleged that the extra floors were built to increase rental earnings, even though the added weight posed

a potential threat to the stability of the structure. The building was reportedly being operated as a paying guest accommodation under the name HostelDaze.

It consisted of a ground floor and four upper floors and was occupied by a large number of students and other residents when it collapsed. According to the FIR, the owners were aware that the existing foundation was not designed to support the additional load and that the construction could potentially lead to a structural failure and loss of life.

“Dedicated Freight Corridor Is India’s Lifeline”: PM Modi Hails 2,800-Km Network

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday described India’s Dedicated Freight Corridor as a “lifeline” for a rapidly developing nation as he marked the completion of the over 2,800 kilometre freight network in Vadodara. He said the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors are emerging as a backbone for India’s trade, commerce and logistics infrastructure. The completed network, spanning about 2,843 kilometres, includes the final three sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor covering 326 route kilometres. Their completion establishes a direct freight link between Jawaharlal Nehru Port near Mumbai and major industrial centres in northern India, including Dadri in Uttar Pradesh.

Modi said freight movement has become considerably faster since goods trains were separated from passenger railway traffic. More than 430 freight trains now operate daily on the Eastern and Western corridors, while a journey that previously took around 30 hours by truck can be completed in approximately 10 to 12 hours through the dedicated network.

“Great Importance”: Iran Hails India Ties, Eyes Deeper Cooperation at BRICS Summit

■ Tehran highlights strong bilateral ties as Modi and Pezeshkian prepare for further discussions in New Delhi

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Iran has described its relationship with India as “very good” and of “great importance”, signalling its intent to deepen cooperation with New Delhi ahead of the upcoming BRICS Leaders’ Summit.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei highlighted the long standing historical

and civilisational links



between the two countries, while pointing to growing cooperation in trade and economic affairs. Baghaei noted that India’s membership of both BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation

Organisation provides an important platform for continued engagement between the two nations. He said Iran’s relations with India have continued to develop across several areas of mutual interest.

The remarks came ahead of the 18th BRICS Leaders’ Summit, scheduled to be held in New Delhi from September 11 to 13 under India’s chairship.



“Discussions Were Positive”: BRICS Sherpas Near Deal on Joint Statement

■ Negotiators work to resolve key differences as BRICS leaders prepare to arrive in New Delhi on Friday

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: BRICS negotiators are close to finalising the wording of a joint statement ahead of the bloc’s upcoming leaders’ summit in New Delhi, with Sherpas expected to reach an agreement on the draft as early as tomorrow.

The negotiations have focused on resolving differences over sensitive geopolitical issues while ensuring that the final document reflects a consensus acceptable to all member countries.

A recent Sherpa meeting made significant progress, with discussions described as constructive and focused largely on refining language around a few remaining contentious issues. Negotiators are now

working against a tight deadline to complete the draft before the arrival of the leaders.

Once the Sherpas agree on the text, the draft will be circulated among member countries for review and final approval. The joint statement is expected to emerge as one of the key outcomes of the summit, outlining the bloc’s shared position on major international developments and areas where members intend to strengthen cooperation. BRICS Sherpas play a crucial role in preparing such declarations. Senior officials conduct detailed negotiations ahead of leaders’ meetings, working through politically sensitive language and attempting to bridge differences between member states.

“Passenger Trains Could Resume Next Month”: India, Bangladesh Discuss Revival of Cross-Border Rail Services

■ Maitree, Bandhan and Mitali Express services likely to be discussed as railway officials meet in Dhaka

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India and Bangladesh are expected to discuss the possible restoration of cross-border passenger train services that have remained suspended since 2024, with railway officials from both countries scheduled to meet in Dhaka this week. The two sides will hold a two day Inter-Governmental Railway Meeting beginning



Tuesday, where the revival of the Maitree, Bandhan and Mitali Express services is likely to be among the key issues on

the agenda. The Maitree Express connects Dhaka with Kolkata, while the Bandhan Express links Khulna with Kolkata. The

Mitali Express previously operated between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal. Bangladesh is also expected to propose a new passenger service connecting Rajshahi with Kolkata. Another proposal could involve changing the Maitree Express route to use the newly constructed Padma Bridge instead of its existing alignment through the Jamuna Bridge. Officials on both sides are understood to

be open to restoring passenger connectivity. However, restarting the services would require approvals from several departments, including foreign affairs and home ministries in the two countries. Representatives from these ministries are expected to take part in the discussions. The passenger trains were disrupted following widespread unrest in Bangladesh in July 2024.

“My Job Is Just To Score Runs”: Ishan Kishan’s Redemption After BCCI Contract Setback

■ East Zone captain opens up after stunning 270 in Duleep Trophy final, crediting a clearer mindset for his return to form

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Ishan Kishan’s journey back towards the top has taken a significant turn, with the wicketkeeper batter revealing how stepping away from the pressures of international cricket helped him rediscover his focus. After smashing a remarkable 270 for East Zone in the Duleep Trophy



final against South Zone, Kishan said he has learned to shut out expectations and concentrate solely

on his responsibility as a batter. The innings represented the clearest sign yet of his transformation following a difficult period in his career.

Kishan was an established all format India player in 2023, but a series of setbacks eventually saw him lose his place in the national team and his BCCI

central contract. Instead of allowing the setback to define his career, he returned to domestic cricket and rebuilt his game through consistent performances. During the 2025 26 Ranji Trophy season, Kishan registered centuries and also played a key role in Jharkhand’s Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy triumph, scoring 517 runs with two hundreds.



BCCI Forced To Make 2 Changes In India U19 Squad Over ‘Age Fraud’ Case

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has taken strict action against age related document discrepancies in junior cricket, removing India Under 19 leg spinner Rohit Yadav from the squad and imposing a two year ban on him from BCCI sanctioned competitions.

The decision comes amid increased scrutiny of age verification in domestic junior cricket. The Cricket Association of Bengal and the BCCI’s age verification cell reportedly identified inconsistencies in documents submitted during the verification process.

Rohit had been selected in India’s Under 19 squads for the upcoming matches against Australia Under 19 in Rajkot and Ahmedabad. Following the findings, the BCCI Junior Cricket Committee named Saurashtra’s Aryan Savsani as his replacement in the One Day squad and Haryana’s Tanmay Baloda as his replacement in the Multi Day squad.

“Aarush Pawaskar Secures Direct Junior Nationals Berth With West Zone Bronze”

■ Goa shuttler delivers a strong singles campaign in Bilaspur as the state looks to strengthen its badminton talent pool

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa’s Aarush Pawaskar produced a notable performance at the West Zone Inter State and Zonal Badminton Championship 2026 in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, claiming bronze in the Junior Boys’ singles and earning direct qualification for the 2026 Junior Nationals.

Aarush advanced to the semifinals after overcoming Madhya Pradesh’s Kanhaiya



Sharma 15-12, 17-19, 15-10 in the round of 16. He then defeated Gujarat’s Saanidhya Agarwal 16-18, 15-7, 15-12 in a closely contested

quarterfinal. His campaign ended in the semifinals against Maharashtra’s top seed Rutva Sajwan. Aarush fought hard but went down 17-19, 14-16 to settle for the bronze medal.

His performance was enough to secure one of the four available direct qualification spots in the singles category for the Junior Nationals. Goa also secured a bronze medal in Junior Boys’ doubles through Shaheen C K and Aswin M.



“Wesley Do Rosario and Urvi Surlakar Rule Supreme at Priority Gaspar Dias Open”

■ Aaron Farias, Neeza Kamat, Chandan Caro and Ishita Colaso also claim major age group titles in Miramar

Team Goemkarponn

Colaso 3-0.

PANAJI: Wesley Do Rosario and Urvi Surlakar emerged as the Men’s and Women’s champions at the Priority Gaspar Dias Open All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament held at Clube Tennis de Gaspar Dias in Miramar.

Organised in association with the Goa Table Tennis Association, the tournament featured several of Goa’s leading players across senior and junior categories.

Wesley produced a dominant display in the Men’s final, defeating Aaron Farias 4-0 to claim the title. In the Women’s final, Urvi was equally impressive as she overcame Ishita

Aaron bounced back from his senior final defeat to secure the Boys U19 crown, defeating Chandan Caro 3-1 in the final. Neeza Kamat captured the Girls U19 title after beating Ishita 3-1.

Chandan completed a successful tournament by winning the Boys U15 title, overcoming Yug Prabhu 3-1. Ishita added another title to her campaign in the Girls U15 category, defeating Aarna Lotlikar 3-0. The younger age groups also produced competitive contests. Yug Prabhu won the Boys U13 title with a 3-0 victory over Kaushik Nair, while Tisha Shaikh defeated Sachi Dessai 3-1 in the Girls U13 final.

“Punnamada Panthers Win Both Titles in Red Bull Vallam Vali 2026”

■ Keralam’s traditional boat racing gets a high energy ‘Tug of Oars’ makeover in Gothuruth

Team Goemkarponn

KERALAM: Red Bull Vallam Vali 2026 brought a fresh competitive twist to Keralam’s celebrated boat racing tradition, combining the spirit of Vallam kali with the intensity of Vadam Vali. The second season of the invitational event was held at historic Gothuruth in North Paravur, turning the Periyar River into an arena for an unusual tug



of war on traditional boats.

The competition featured two formats, the Chundan Vallam Row Off and the Iruttukuthy Vallam Row Off. Punnamada

Panthers and Vembanad Vikings reached the finals in both categories, with the Punnamada Panthers emerging victorious in both events.

The Chundan Vallam Row Off featured two 85 member crews aboard 100 foot snake boats positioned bow to bow. Each team rowed in the opposite direction, attempting to pull its rival away from the centre line. The Iruttukuthy Vallam Row Off featured 27 rowers on the same boat, with the two sides rowing against each other.

Four teams competed in the event: Ashtamadi Acers, Kuttanad Knights, Vembanad Vikings and

Punnamada Panthers. The teams first competed in a round robin league, with each side playing three matches before the top two advanced to the final.

A winning team earned two points. If neither boat crossed the designated finish marker within 120 seconds, the team positioned farther from the centre line when the race was stopped was declared the winner.