



After 29 months of traffic chaos, Porvorim elevated corridor to open today

■ Nitin Gadkari to inaugurate 5.15-km six-lane corridor as motorists await relief from one of Goa's biggest traffic bottlenecks

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: After nearly 29 months of construction that brought traffic diversions, lane restrictions, dust, noise and daily inconvenience to motorists and residents, Goa's much-awaited six-lane elevated corridor at Porvorim will be inaugurated today, with commuters now waiting to see whether the project delivers the long-promised relief from congestion.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari



will inaugurate the 5.15-km elevated corridor at 6 pm today in the presence of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and other leaders. A stage has been erected on the Panaji side of the corridor for the inauguration ceremony.

Executed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the elevated corridor has been designed to ease congestion on the busy Porvorim stretch of NH-66, which carries heavy traffic

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Promise made to Goa has been delivered, says Digambar Kamat

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PANAJI: PWD Minister Digambar Kamat said he was happy to have fulfilled the commitment made to the people of Goa on the Porvorim Flyover. He said several people messaged him

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Porvorim flyover dream becomes reality, says Rohan Khaunte

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PANAJI: Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte said the long-awaited Porvorim Flyover has finally become a reality with the support and cooperation of the people. He said the project will bring greater convenience to commuters and help ease traffic movement in the area. Khaunte described



the construction as a challenging task and thanked the workers and contractors who worked round the clock to complete the project.



Goa government clears Ocean Congress sponsorship, Archaeology land allocation

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PANAJI: The Goa government has cleared a proposal for sponsorship towards the 4th World Ocean Science Congress, with POSCO set to provide sponsorship for the event, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said.

The decision was taken as part of the government's recent approvals, with the Chief Minister stating that the sponsorship proposal for the international ocean science event has been cleared.

In another decision, the government has approved the allocation of 4,401 square metres of land to the Department of Archaeology for departmental use.

The land allocation is expected to support the department's administrative and operational requirements.

No relief for Atala as High Court orders surrender by September

■ Israeli national Yaniv Benaim, alias Atala, directed to appear before trial court; bail challenge to be heard on September 21

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PANAJI: The High Court has directed Israeli national Yaniv Benaim, alias Atala, to surrender before the trial court by September 16 in connection with a 2025 drugs case.

Atala has been absconding after the North Goa Special NDPS Court rejected his fresh



bail application. Following his failure to appear, the trial court issued a non-

bailable warrant (NBW) against him.

The High Court has scheduled September 21 for hearing Atala's petition challenging the lower court's dismissal of his bail plea. The direction to surrender comes while his challenge against the bail rejection remains pending before the High Court.

Goa Ujjwala Scheme: No Need to Reapply, Says CM Pramod Sawant

Beneficiaries whose applications have already been scrutinised will receive payments directly in their bank accounts from tomorrow



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PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has clarified that beneficiaries of the Goa Ujjwala Scheme who have already submitted their applications do not need to apply again.

Sawant said the Goa Ujjwala Yojana is an annual scheme and that new application forms have now been issued. However, beneficiaries who had already filled and submitted the earlier forms need not submit fresh applications.

The Chief Minister also explained the

process involving A and B forms, stating that applications which have already been scrutinised will be processed for payment.

According to Sawant, beneficiaries whose forms have been scrutinised will start receiving the scheme benefits directly in their bank accounts from tomorrow. The clarification is aimed at addressing confusion among beneficiaries over whether they need to submit fresh forms following the release of the new application forms.

"How Dare a Magistrate Do That?" Supreme Court Pulls Up Official Over Student Notice

■ Top court seeks explanation after Greater Noida student was issued notice despite its order protecting students from coercive action

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday strongly criticised the issuance of a notice to a student in Greater Noida over his alleged participation in the Cockroach Janata Party protests, questioning how an Executive Magistrate could take such action



despite a clear court order. The matter involved Akshat Tripathi, a second year student of Gautam Buddha University, who received a notice from the Greater Noida Executive Magistrate on Sept. 4.

GCZMA Has Failed Goa's Coastline

Goa's coastline is not merely a tourist attraction. It is one of the State's most valuable natural assets, an ecological shield and a living part of its identity. Yet, the continuing growth of encroachments and alleged illegal constructions along the coast raises a disturbing question: who is actually protecting Goa's coastline?

The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority, created to regulate activities in the Coastal Regulation Zone, appears to have failed in one of its most fundamental responsibilities. The latest allegations by a citizens' group are only the latest indication of a problem that has been visible for years.

The issue is no longer about one illegal structure or one disputed construction. It is about a pattern.

Across Goa, coastal areas have witnessed construction, commercial activity and encroachments that have repeatedly triggered complaints from citizens and environmental groups. In many instances, action appears to come only after public protests, complaints or court intervention. By then, the damage may already have been done.

That cannot be called effective coastal management.

The purpose of a regulatory authority is to prevent violations before they become permanent. It is not enough to issue notices after a structure has come up, conduct inspections after citizens complain or pass demolition orders that remain pending for years.

An authority is ultimately judged by what it prevents and what it enforces. This is where the GCZMA faces serious questions.

If an illegal construction can come up inside a regulated coastal area, remain there for years and continue to function despite complaints, then the enforcement mechanism is clearly not working. If demolition orders are passed but structures remain standing, the message sent to others is equally dangerous: violate first and deal with the authorities later.

That is precisely the culture Goa must avoid. The coastline cannot be treated as ordinary private property where violations can eventually be regularised or settled. Coastal regulations exist because these areas are environmentally fragile and because uncontrolled construction

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can have consequences far beyond the particular property involved.

Goa's beaches, dunes, wetlands, mangroves and other coastal ecosystems provide natural protection against erosion, flooding and extreme weather. Once destroyed, they cannot simply be recreated by spending money on another government project.

There is also a larger question of equality before the law.

Coastal regulations must apply equally to everyone. A small local structure cannot be demolished while a larger commercial establishment escapes action simply because it has greater influence or resources. The credibility of the entire regulatory

system depends on consistent enforcement.

The government must therefore stop treating coastal violations as isolated disputes.

There should be a publicly accessible record of every major CRZ violation reported to the GCZMA. It should state when the complaint was received, what inspection found, what action was ordered and whether the order was actually implemented. Such transparency would immediately tell citizens whether the system is functioning or merely generating paperwork.

There must also be accountability for delayed enforcement.

If an authority has the power to order demolition, there must be a mechanism to ensure that the order is executed within a reasonable timeframe. Otherwise, an order becomes little more than a piece of paper. The latest criticism should therefore not be dismissed as another environmental dispute. It should be treated as a warning.

Goa cannot claim to be serious about sustainable tourism while allowing its coastal areas to be steadily altered by illegal construction and encroachment. Tourism itself depends on the very coastline that uncontrolled development threatens to destroy.

Development and environmental protection are not enemies. Goa can have tourism, businesses and infrastructure while protecting its natural heritage. What is unacceptable is development that takes place by ignoring the rules designed to protect that heritage.

The GCZMA now needs to demonstrate that it is more than a regulatory body on paper.

It needs to act decisively, enforce its own orders and make it clear that Goa's coastline is not available for capture by whoever manages to construct first. For too long, citizens have watched the coast change while authorities debate violations.

Goa has already lost enough of its natural landscape to unplanned and unlawful development.

The time has come to ask the uncomfortable question openly: if the authority entrusted with protecting the coast cannot stop encroachments and illegal constructions, who will protect Goa's coastline?

EDITOR SPEAKS

Porvorim Flyover: Goa's Road to a Faster Future

By Suraj Nandrekar

Today is an important day for Goa's infrastructure journey. The opening of the much awaited Porvorim flyover marks the completion of a project that has the potential to change the way thousands of people travel every day.

For years, the Porvorim stretch of the national highway has been one of the biggest traffic bottlenecks in the state. What should have been a short journey could often become an exercise in patience, particularly during peak hours, weekends and the tourist season. Commuters travelling between Panaji, Porvorim, Mapusa and North Goa have lived with this reality for far too long.

The new elevated corridor offers a much needed solution.

The six lane, 5.1 kilometre flyover is not simply another road project. It is an attempt to separate through traffic from local traffic and improve the movement of vehicles along one of the busiest corridors in Goa. Once traffic begins flowing smoothly on the elevated section, commuters can reasonably expect shorter and more predictable travel times.

That matters enormously in a state where road congestion has become a daily concern.

A faster road network is not only about convenience. It has an economic value. Every hour lost in traffic represents lost productivity for workers, additional fuel consumption for motorists and higher operating costs for businesses. Goods vehicles spend valuable time on the road, while employees lose precious time that could otherwise be spent at work or with their families.

The Porvorim flyover can help address some of these problems.

Its benefits will extend beyond Porvorim itself. Better connectivity between Panaji and Mapusa will strengthen the movement of people across North Goa. Areas such as Saligao, Guirim, Parra, Anjuna, Calangute, Candolim and other parts of the northern belt will also gain from improved connectivity with the state capital and the wider road network.

Tourism too stands to benefit. Goa's tourism economy depends heavily on road connectivity. Visitors may come for beaches, heritage, hospitality and entertainment, but their experience is also influenced by how easily they can move from one destination to another. A smoother road network can make travel more comfortable for tourists while improving logistics for the businesses that serve them.

There is another important aspect to this project. Infrastructure must always be planned with tomorrow in mind. Goa's vehicle population continues to grow, new commercial areas are developing and the number of visitors travelling by road remains substantial. Building capacity today is therefore essential if the state wants to avoid even bigger congestion problems in the future.

The completion of the Porvorim flyover should also be seen as a reminder that major infrastructure projects require patience. Construction inevitably brings disruption. Residents and motorists in the surrounding areas have experienced diversions, congestion and inconvenience during the execution of the project. The completion of the flyover now provides the opportunity to convert that inconvenience into a long term public benefit.

But the real test begins with its opening.

The government and traffic authorities must ensure that the approaches, exits, service roads and adjoining junctions function efficiently. Traffic should not simply move faster on the flyover while congestion builds up at its ends. Proper maintenance, road discipline, signage and traffic management will be essential to ensure that the investment delivers its full potential.

For now, however, Goa has every reason to look forward. The Porvorim flyover represents more than concrete, steel and engineering. It represents time saved, connectivity improved and a step towards a more efficient road network.

For thousands of Goans who have spent countless hours in Porvorim traffic, the real meaning of the flyover is simple. It is the promise of reaching home a little earlier, reaching work a little faster and travelling across Goa with a little less frustration.

That is what good infrastructure should ultimately achieve: making everyday life easier for ordinary people.

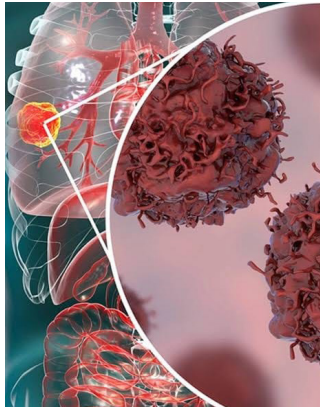
Lung Cancer among women in Goa raises concern

■ NOTE India calls for urgent study into changing gender pattern and possible role of passive smoking and environmental exposures

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PANAJI: The rising proportion of women among lung cancer patients in Goa has raised concern, with the National Organisation for Tobacco Eradication (NOTE) India calling for a dedicated epidemiological study to understand the reasons behind the changing trend.

According to NOTE India, Goa records approximately 120 to 150 new lung cancer



cases every year. About a decade ago, around 90% of cases were reported among men and 10% among women. In

recent years, however, the distribution has shifted substantially, with approximately 60% of cases among men and as many as 40% among women.

NOTE India President Dr Shekhar Salkar said the significant epidemiological shift cannot be ignored and warrants systematic investigation, particularly among women who have never actively smoked.

The organisation said the possible contribution

of second-hand tobacco smoke, indoor air pollution, occupational exposure, environmental pollutants, biomass fuel exposure, radon and other risk factors needs to be examined rather than prematurely attributing the change to a single cause.

The concern comes against the backdrop of findings reported in a study published in The Lancet on the growing burden of disease and deaths associated with second-hand smoke.



Karnataka Man Dies After Slipping On Vomit At Baga Guest House

■ 54-year-old found unresponsive by friends; body sent to GMC Bambolim for medico-legal formalities

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BAGA: A 54-year-old man from Karnataka died after allegedly slipping on his own vomit and sustaining a bleeding injury to his nose at a guest house in Baga, Calangute, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Zakeer Khan, 54, son of Anwar Khan, a resident of Harihar in Davangere, Karnataka.

According to police, Khan and three friends checked into Room No. 107 of Lillas Cottage, Bhramar Complex, near Nazri Resort, Baga, at around midnight on September 7.

Police said Khan had been consuming alcohol from around 12.30 pm that day. He later vomited on the floor of the room and allegedly

slipped on it, falling and sustaining a bleeding injury to his nose.

He subsequently cleaned the room, including his nose and the blood, before going to sleep, police said.

Later, when his friends attempted to wake him, they found him unresponsive.

An ambulance was called through the 108 emergency service and Khan was taken to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Candolim, where he was declared brought dead.

The body was sent to the GMC Morgue at Bambolim for preservation and further medico-legal formalities.

Further enquiry into the incident is in progress. The investigation is being conducted by PSI Vishwajit Dhavalikar.



Goa widens clean-energy drive beyond rooftop solar

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PANAJI: Goa is expanding its renewable-energy strategy beyond rooftop solar, with the government planning a series of projects involving panchayats, agricultural land, educational institutions and waterways as it works towards adding 65 MW of solar capacity by 2027.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that the State had set a target of 21,200 rooftop solar installations by 2027, but stressed that the clean-energy transition would require wider participation from local communities and public institutions.

The government is developing programmes that will allow panchayats to assess their energy use and carbon emissions and work towards becoming more energy-efficient. The Model Solar Village and Net Positive Panchayat initiatives are among the measures being introduced as part of this approach.

Goa is also testing whether renewable-energy projects can be integrated with existing economic activities.

Court frames charges in ₹1.03-crore stock-trading cyber fraud case

■ Sattari court rejects accused's discharge plea, says bank account used to route fraud proceeds indicates prima facie involvement

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PANAJI: The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court at Sattari has framed criminal charges against Kumar Laxman Utlasar in an alleged ₹1.03-crore stock-trading cyber fraud case, rejecting his plea for discharge.

The court framed charges against Utlasar for cheating, cheating by personation, forgery



of valuable security with common intention and an offence under Section 66D of the Information Technology Act.

According to the chargesheet filed by the Cyber Crime Police

Station, the accused allegedly induced the complainant before October 3, 2024, to invest in fraudulent "Upper Circuit" and Initial Public Offering (IPO) schemes by promising high returns from the stock market.

Investigators said the victim was directed to use a fake mobile application named "SMIFSMAX", which allegedly impersonated a legitimate trading platform.

Assagao Rottweiler attack case: Mapusa court acquits 68-year-old owner

■ Court acquits Sham Govekar after key witnesses retract allegations following amicable settlement

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MAPUSA: The Mapusa JMFC Court has acquitted 68-year-old Sham Govekar in connection with a January 2025 Rottweiler attack in Assagao, after the complainant and injured victim made no incriminating statements against him during the trial.

According to the prosecution, the incident occurred on January



29, 2025, at around 10.15 pm near the residence of complainant Sunil Salgaonkar at Badem, Assagao. Govekar was

accused of keeping his Rottweiler unleashed and failing to take sufficient precautions to prevent danger to human life.

The dog allegedly attacked Sunil's 40-year-old brother, Vinil Salgaonkar, and bit him on his left leg. He was subsequently treated at the Primary Health Centre, Siolim.

Based on Sunil Salgaonkar's complaint, Anjuna Police registered a case alleging negligent conduct with respect to a domestic animal and later filed a charge sheet against Govekar.

During the trial, the complainant, victim and accused submitted a joint application seeking permission to compound the offence following an amicable settlement. Govekar also gave an undertaking that he

would never allow the Rottweiler to roam loose, unleashed or unattended in any street, public place or community area and would keep the dog under strict supervision whenever it was taken outside. The court, however, rejected the application for compounding, observing that the offence was non-compoundable in law and could not be settled even with the court's permission.

Woman Alleges ₹60 lakh Cheating in Flat Investment Deal

■ Fatorda Police register FIR against two Borda residents over alleged failure to provide residential flats or return investment

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FATORDA: Fatorda Police have registered an FIR against two residents of Borda, Margao, following a complaint alleging that a woman was cheated of ₹60 lakh in connection with a promised residential flat investment.

According to the complaint filed by Josephina M. Mergulhao Fernandes, a resident of Seraulim, Colva, the incident dates back to 2008, when she allegedly



invested ₹60 lakh in a business establishment at Borda, Fatorda, operated by accused Pramod V. Barad and Amey Barad.

The complainant alleged that the accused, acting with common intention, dishonestly induced her to invest the

amount on the assurance that residential flats would be provided to her.

However, despite the passage of several years, the promised flats were allegedly not provided. The complainant further alleged that the accused also failed to return the ₹60 lakh, resulting in her being cheated of the entire amount. Fatorda Police have registered a case vide Cr. No. 45/2026 under Section 420 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code.



Pedestrian grievously injured after bus hits her in Honda

■ 35-year-old woman sustains serious leg injuries after being knocked down by a passenger bus near SBI Bank, Tisk

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TISK: Valpoi Police have registered a case against a bus driver for allegedly driving rashly and negligently and knocking down a pedestrian at Tisk, Honda, in Sattari.

The incident occurred on September 4 at around 5.30 pm near SBI Bank, Tisk. According to the complaint, accused driver Sankesh Bharat Pednekar, a resident of Dabelwada, Sankhalim, was driving a bus bearing registration number GA-05-T-6435 from Honda towards Sankhalim.

Police said the driver allegedly drove the bus in a rash and negligent manner without taking proper care and caution,

thereby endangering human life. When the bus reached near SBI Bank, Tisk, it allegedly hit a pedestrian, identified as 35-year-old Shaila Sawant.

Shaila, originally from Upper Harvelem, Sankhalim, and presently residing at Narayan Nagar, Honda, sustained grievous injuries to her right leg in the accident.

The case was registered on September 7 at 9.42 pm following a complaint by ASI Raghunath Gawas of Valpoi Police Station in connection with Motor Vehicle accident enquiry No. 36/2026 dated September 5.

Further investigation is in progress under ASI Raghunath Gawas of Valpoi Police Station.



27-year-old Russian national found dead in Morjim

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MORJIM: A 27-year-old Russian national was found dead at his rented accommodation in Bhatir Wado, Morjim, on September 7, prompting Mandrem Police to register an unnatural death case. The deceased has been identified as Pavel Lenskii, who was residing at Bhatir Wado, Morjim, under the care of a local resident. According to police, information was received from the Police Control Room, following which PSI Pratik Garud and staff proceeded to the spot and conducted an inquiry. Police said Lenskii had reportedly been facing financial difficulties after losing his job as a programmer with a Russian company. His friend, Roman Raibinkin, also a Russian national, told police that Lenskii had appeared depressed over the past few days. Raibinkin said he had spoken with Lenskii while having breakfast at around 7.45 am on September 7, after which Lenskii went to his bedroom. Later, at around 1 pm, Raibinkin reportedly noticed that Lenskii was unresponsive inside the room and alerted the authorities.

Unidentified man found dead at Mobor Beach

■ 25–30-year-old man found unresponsive after reportedly being spotted floating in the sea; identity yet to be established

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MOBOR: An unidentified man, believed to be between 25 and 30 years old, was found dead at Mobor Beach in Cavelossim on September 7.

According to police, a phone call was received at around 4.04 pm from ASI Krishna Velip of Betul Coastal Police Station, informing that a body was lying on the seashore at Mobor Beach.

Police personnel who



visited the spot found the body of an unidentified male lying on the shore. The deceased was wearing a black half-sleeve T-shirt with the word "DREAMS" printed on it and blue-and-white shorts. A blue ribbon was tied around his right wrist, while a steel ring was

found in his left ear. Police also noted a tattoo bearing the name "SAHIL" on his right wrist.

During the inquiry, Punu Velip of Drishti Lifesavers informed police that at around 12.15 pm, he received information from a lifeguard about a person floating in the sea at Mobor Beach.

He, along with other lifeguards, rushed to the spot and brought the person to the seashore. The man was found unresponsive.

Scooter collision leaves 51-year-old rider grievously injured in Anjuna

■ Anjuna Police have registered a case against a 24-year-old rider for allegedly driving rashly and negligently, resulting in a serious road accident near Café Sicily Football Ground.

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ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered a case following a road accident in which a 51-year-old scooter rider sustained grievous injuries and is undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim.

According to police, the accident occurred on September 3 at around 2.45 pm near Café Sicily Football Ground, Anjuna, Bardez. The accused



rider, identified as 24-year-old Abhijit A.S., a resident of Kollam, Kerala, was

allegedly riding a Yamaha Fascino scooter bearing registration number GA-

03-V-6224 from Anjuna Beach towards the Tito's direction in a rash and negligent manner.

Police said the scooter collided with an oncoming Yamaha Fascino bearing registration number GA-03-AS-3731. The rider of the second scooter, identified as 51-year-old Manju Lamani, a resident of Gadag, Karnataka, sustained grievous injuries in the collision.

The pillion rider also suffered simple injuries,

police said.

Based on a complaint lodged by Head Constable B. No. 5431 Shailesh B. Masurkar of Anjuna Police Station, a case was registered on September 7 at 4.30 pm under Sections 281, 125 and 125(b) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Further investigation is being conducted by HC Shailesh B. Masurkar of Anjuna Police Station.

Curchorem fast becoming Goa's drug capital, claims Amit Patkar

■ Former GPCC president announces statewide anti-drug awareness campaign, raises concern over children's safety

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: Former Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Amit Patkar has raised concerns over the alleged growing drug menace in Curchorem, claiming that the town is "fast becoming Goa's drug capital" under the BJP-led government.

Patkar said the issue came to the fore during his interactions with educational institutions, where concerns were



raised about the safety of children and their increasing exposure to drugs.

He announced that a sustained anti-drug awareness campaign would be launched from

October, beginning in Curchorem and subsequently extending to other parts of Goa.

"Our children should carry books and dreams, not live under the shadow of drugs. No drugs around our children. No compromise on their safety," Patkar said.

The campaign, he said, will focus on creating awareness among students, parents and the wider community about the dangers posed by drug abuse.



Congress calls ₹890-crore smart meter project a 'colossal failure', demands scrapping

■ Amarnath Panjikar alleges cost escalation, inflated bills and delayed billing; party seeks relief for affected consumers

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led government over the state's smart meter project, alleging cost escalation, inflated electricity bills and delays in billing while demanding that the project be scrapped. GPCC Media and Communication Department chairman Amarnath Panjikar said the project cost had increased from ₹467 crore to approximately ₹890 crore, raising questions over planning, transparency and accountability. "A project whose cost has nearly doubled while consumers are

being hit with inflated bills cannot be called smart governance. This is a colossal failure of the Sawant Government. Scrap the smart meter project and stop punishing Goa's consumers," Panjikar said.

GPCC RTI Department convenor Uday Chari claimed that 44,248 smart meters had been installed, but consumers were reportedly not receiving timely information about their electricity consumption on their mobile phones. "If consumers cannot even access timely information about their own electricity consumption, what exactly is smart about this smart meter project?" Chari asked.



Ujjwala scheme reflects BJP's 'freebie politics', alleges Vijai Sardesai

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai has accused the BJP of turning welfare schemes into political tools, alleging that programmes such as the Ujjwala Yojana are being used to create an electoral narrative rather than provide sustainable long-term support.

Sardesai said the Ujjwala scheme was an example of what he described as a broader BJP model of announcing welfare initiatives with political fanfare, building voter dependence and using public funds to gain electoral advantage.

According to Sardesai, the importance attached to such schemes changes once elections are over, with beneficiaries potentially facing reduced or withdrawn benefits.

"This is not long-term welfare. It is short-term electoral politics dressed up as public benefit," Sardesai said.

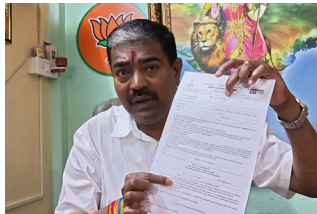
He alleged that ordinary Goans ultimately bear the burden when welfare promises made for political gain are not sustained.

Amonkar urges women to trust CM, warns opposition against misleading beneficiaries

■ Mormugao MLA rejects claims that Goa Ujjwala benefits will affect Griha Aadhar and DSS schemes

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MORMUGAO: Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar on Tuesday appealed to women beneficiaries of the Goa Ujjwala scheme not to fall prey to what he termed "false and misleading" information being circulated by opposition leaders. Amonkar said attempts were being made to create unnecessary



fear among women by claiming that availing benefits under the Goa Ujjwala scheme would affect their existing benefits under the Griha Aadhar and Dayanand Social Security Scheme

(DSS).

Rejecting the claims, Amonkar urged beneficiaries to verify information before believing rumours being circulated through political circles and social media. He said the Goa Ujjwala scheme was introduced to provide additional support to eligible women and families and should not become a subject of political misinformation.

Goa fire services shift emergency helpline to unified 112 system

■ Calls to existing 101 fire helpline will now be automatically routed to ERSS-112 for processing and dispatch

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PANAJI: Goa's Fire and Emergency Services has shifted its emergency helpline to the unified 112 system, with calls made to the existing fire helpline 101 now automatically rerouted to the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)-112. The Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) said the integration aims



to bring fire and rescue emergencies under a single emergency-response platform. Calls received through 112 will be digitally recorded, documented and forwarded through

the integrated system to the concerned fire station. With the new system in place, the public can dial 112 for fire, rescue and other emergencies. The DFES has appealed to people to use the emergency number only for genuine emergencies, warning that false, frivolous or non-emergency calls could divert resources and

delay assistance to those in need. Under the new system, the ERSS-112 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) will receive emergency calls, process the information and dispatch the details to the appropriate fire station. The digital trail is also expected to facilitate systematic monitoring, coordination and tracking of emergency responses. During the transition and stabilisation phase, the DFES has specifically

advised the public not to contact individual fire station landlines to report emergencies. These numbers will now be used exclusively for official and administrative purposes. The Directorate has urged callers to provide clear and accurate information to the 112 call taker, including the nature of the emergency, exact location, a nearby landmark and contact details.

Ai+ opens up Nxt Quantum OS with transparent software versions and network diagnostics

■ With core data infrastructure and source code maintained in India

Team Goemkarponn

GOA: Ai+ Smartphone rolls out Nxt Quantum OS v1.1 that strengthens its privacy framework and gives users greater visibility and control over how applications access their devices and data.

As part of the commitment to data sovereignty and security, Nxt Quantum enforces a strict sovereign data boundary, ensuring that 100% of application data traffic is routed through local, India-hosted infrastructure. This robust system performs automated analysis of source rules across more than 1,000 connections and 172 unique destination IPs to ensure perimeter security. Notably, all data traffic and IP pings are contained within India, with external traffic limited to essential Google core services directed solely to California and Singapore, necessary for standard operating system functions. This approach not only prioritises data integrity but also reinforces our commitment to protecting user information in line



with the Nxtquantum OS framework.

With v1.1, NxtQuantum OS also introduces a more streamlined privacy experience through the NxtPrivacy Dashboard, bringing application permissions together in a single interface. Users can review, modify and revoke permissions more easily, providing greater control over how applications interact with device resources and personal data. Enhanced background activity visibility helps users understand when applications access sensitive device

resources while operating outside active use.

Privacy alerts further help identify permissions that may be excessive, unnecessary or no longer required, enabling users to make more informed decisions about their privacy.

Commenting on the update, Madhav Sheth, CEO, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies (Ai+ Smartphone), said, "The future of technology isn't defined by what it can do. It's defined by how much people can trust it and the aspirations it enables. That belief is central to how we are building NxtQuantum OS".

The latest enhancements are part of NxtQuantum's broader approach to building a technology platform, in which privacy, security, and user control are considered throughout the software experience.

This commitment to transparency also extends to how Ai+ evaluates its products through Project Open Review 2.0, which enables reviewers, creators, journalists, technology enthusiasts and ethical hackers to independently test Ai+ devices and provide feedback even before launch.

"AI With a Human Touch": Rohan Khaunte's Vision To Make Goa A Digital Jobs Hub

■ From women's drone skilling and startup jobs to AI, e governance and Konkani LLMs, Goa is building a technology driven future

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa is expanding its technology ecosystem with a focus on job creation, digital empowerment, startups and responsible artificial intelligence. At the centre of this transformation is ITE&C Minister Rohan Khaunte, whose approach seeks to use technology not merely as infrastructure, but as a tool to create opportunities and improve everyday governance. Since taking charge of the department in 2022, Khaunte has placed particular emphasis on digital skilling for women. A pilot drone workshop trained 12 women to operate drones for agriculture and emerging sectors. Under the Mahila Digital Sashaktikaran Yojana, nearly 115 women have also received training in digital payments, cybersecurity and other essential digital skills. The government's larger objective is to create employment within the state and reduce brain drain. The Goa IT Policy targets 10,000 jobs in the IT and ITeS sector, while the Goa Startup Policy aims to create another 10,000 jobs and support the establishment of 1,000 startups. The Electronic Manufacturing Cluster is also projected to generate 10,000 jobs. The Goa Drone Policy

adds another dimension, with the proposed Goa Drone Didi Training Scheme set to fully fund and certify 300 women drone pilots over three years. Digital governance is another major priority. The unified Goa Online Portal provides access to more than 280 government services, supported by a 24 hour AI chatbot to assist citizens with documentation and application tracking. Goa is also preparing for wider AI adoption through the Goa AI Mission 2027 and an upcoming AI policy focused on ethical and human centred technology. Plans include AI labs, a Centre of Excellence, hackathons, skilling programmes and support for local AI startups. A strategic collaboration with BHASHINI is also aimed at developing a Konkani Large Language Model, strengthening technology access in the local language. The upcoming Goa AI Conclave is expected to bring together technology leaders, innovators and students. The broader ambition is to position Goa as a digital, creative and innovation hub while retaining its distinctive lifestyle. Initiatives such as modern coworking spaces and the beachside Shackathon reflect an effort to combine Goa's culture with emerging technology and entrepreneurship.

Promise made to Goa has been delivered, says Digambar Kamat

saying, "You kept your word," adding that the promise has now been delivered.

Kamat also said the newly developed six-lane elevated corridor on NH-66 at Porvorim will play a key role in boosting Goa's economy.

After 29 months of traffic chaos, Porvorim elevated corridor to open today

between Panaji, Mapusa and North Goa.

The project will allow through traffic to move along the elevated section while the existing road below

continues to handle local traffic and provide access to properties and commercial establishments.

For commuters, the opening comes after a prolonged construction period during which the existing highway had to remain operational. Work on piling, piers, ramps and other components was carried out alongside live traffic, leaving motorists to negotiate narrowed carriageways, barricades and diversions.

The construction also affected residents and businesses along the corridor, with dust, construction noise, heavy vehicles and restricted access becoming part of everyday life. The project was launched in mid-April 2024 with an original 24-month completion schedule and a target of April 2026. A six-month extension was later granted after the required depth of piling increased.

The completed structure comprises 1,431 concrete segments supported by 88 piers and 87 spans. The construction contract was awarded to Rajasthan-based Rajendra Singh Bamboo Infra Pvt Ltd. With the construction phase now ending, the focus shifts to the corridor's performance on the ground. Porvorim has remained one of Goa's most persistent traffic trouble spots, particularly during peak hours, and commuters will be looking for a clear improvement in travel times once the elevated route becomes operational.

For motorists who have endured almost two-and-a-half years of disruption, today's inauguration is therefore not merely the opening of a new infrastructure project. It is the moment when the much-promised solution to Porvorim's traffic problem faces its biggest test.



India Flags UN Map 'Anomalies' Showing Arunachal Pradesh, Aksai Chin Separately

■ New Delhi backs equal area mapping resolution, but says it does not endorse any specific UN map

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has raised concerns over anomalies in a recently issued United Nations world map that depicts Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin separately from the country. New Delhi clarified that its support for a UN General Assembly resolution promoting more accurate and equitable maps should not be interpreted as acceptance of the disputed depiction.



India had voted in favour of the African Union backed resolution, which promotes the use of equal area map projections to ensure that the relative

size of continents and regions is represented more accurately. However, India stressed that the resolution does not endorse any particular

map. The map, published by the UN on July 1, has drawn attention for its depiction of Arunachal Pradesh as a separate region between Assam and China. It also does not show Arunachal Pradesh sharing a border with Nagaland. Aksai Chin has similarly been represented as a separate region, with India shown to its west and China to its east. The UN has not provided a specific explanation for these changes.



Satya Niketan Building Collapse: 5th Arrest Made as Demolition of Unsafe Structure Begins

■ Police arrest PG operator as Delhi steps up crackdown on illegal constructions and unsafe hostels

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police have made a fifth arrest in connection with the deadly Satya Niketan building collapse, while civic authorities have begun the phased demolition of an adjoining structure declared unsafe.

The latest accused, paying guest accommodation operator Sudhanshu, was arrested during the ongoing investigation. Police said building owner's son Mahesh Gupta told investigators that he had leased the property to Sudhanshu and his business partner Shubham Tyagi in August 2025. The duo allegedly ran the premises as a paying guest facility under the

name "Hostel Daze". According to the investigation, the operators paid Mahesh Gupta a monthly rent of ₹1.05 lakh. Tyagi is currently missing and remains wanted by the police. The five people arrested so far are 81 year old building owner Hariram Gupta, his wife Urmila Gupta, their son Mahesh Gupta, labour contractor Sanoj and PG operator Sudhanshu.

The five storey building, estimated to be around 50 years old, collapsed within seconds on Sunday afternoon. Seven people were killed and six others injured in the incident. The premises reportedly accommodated nearly 75 students in paying guest rooms.



Iran Claims Capture of US Unmanned Submarine in Strait of Hormuz After Tanker Strikes

Team Goemkarponn

TEHRAN: Iran has claimed that its navy captured a US unmanned underwater vehicle near the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz during an intelligence operation, adding another flashpoint to the escalating confrontation between Tehran and Washington. The vehicle was identified as a Dive LD, an autonomous underwater system developed for surveillance and other maritime missions. Iranian authorities described it as a highly advanced submersible and released footage purportedly showing the captured vehicle. The US military acknowledged that one of its underwater drones had malfunctioned while conducting a survey of regional waters more than a day earlier. However, it did not confirm whether the malfunctioning vehicle was the same system Iran claimed to have seized. The US described the drone as an older model that did not carry classified sonar or radar equipment or collect sensitive information.

Vande Mataram Row Escalates: Congress Objects to Full Song, Omar Abdullah's Party Hits Back

■ National Conference rejects Congress diktat as BJP accuses opposition party of appeasing fundamentalist forces

Team Goemkarponn

SRINAGAR: A political controversy over the rendition of the full version of Vande Mataram has intensified in Jammu and Kashmir, with the Congress, National Conference and BJP exchanging sharp attacks.

The dispute began after the complete national song was performed at an international film festival in Srinagar in



the presence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah. Congress general secretary in charge of organisation KC Venugopal objected to the

performance and urged alliance partners to support the party's position of singing only the version adopted by the Congress.

He argued that the complete song did not align with the pluralistic and inclusive vision associated with India's freedom movement.

India-Bangladesh Ties: High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi Meets President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir

■ First meeting highlights dialogue, river water sharing and efforts to strengthen bilateral relations

Team Goemkarponn

DHAKA: India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi met Bangladesh President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at Bangabhaban during a courtesy call, marking their first meeting since Trivedi took charge of his diplomatic responsibilities.

The meeting focused on strengthening relations between



the two neighbouring countries and resolving outstanding issues through dialogue. President Alamgir stressed the importance of addressing matters of

mutual concern through discussions and mutually acceptable solutions.

He said greater trust between the people of India and Bangladesh could be built by resolving

bilateral issues fairly while respecting the interests of both countries.

River water sharing was among the key issues discussed during the meeting. The Bangladesh President called for effective measures to ensure a fair share of the waters of common rivers, including the Ganges and the Teesta. Trivedi indicated that India was taking positive steps in this area.

The two sides

also highlighted the longstanding relationship between India and Bangladesh, which has been shaped by shared history, cultural connections and strong people to people ties.

Alamgir said Bangladesh attaches considerable importance to its relationship with India, describing the country as a close neighbour as well as an important trade and development partner.

"Comfortable Accommodation Will Be Provided": BCCI Breaks Silence on India's Asian Games Hotel Row

■ Rajeev Shukla says Nagoya's limited five star options led to the arrangement as BCCI assures players' comfort

Team Goemkarponn

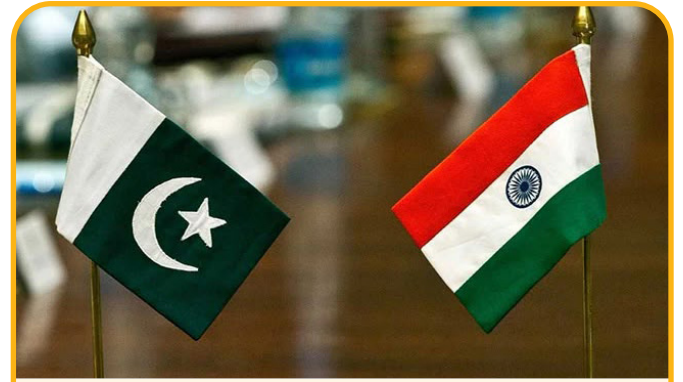
NEW DELHI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India has sought to put an end to the controversy surrounding accommodation for Indian cricketers at the upcoming Asian Games in Japan, saying the players will stay in designated hotels arranged in Nagoya. BCCI vice president



Rajeev Shukla said the accommodation may not match the five star hotels Indian players generally receive during overseas tours, but maintained that

the facilities are comfortable and suitable for the team. Shukla explained that Nagoya has a limited supply of top rated hotels, making accommodation arrangements more challenging. Moving the team to Tokyo or Osaka was considered impractical

because of the distance from the competition venues. According to Shukla, photographs and videos of the proposed accommodation have already been reviewed to ensure that the players receive adequate facilities. He also clarified that the cricketers would stay in individual rooms rather than twin sharing arrangements.



India's SAF Games 2027 Participation in Pakistan Hinges on Sports Policy and Global Rules

■ MEA says athletes' interests and directions from international sporting bodies will guide the final decision

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Centre has clarified its position on India's participation in the 2027 South Asian Federation Games in Pakistan, saying any decision will be guided by the country's sports policy, international sporting regulations and the interests of Indian athletes. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India's participation in international government or multilateral sporting championships is governed by the latest framework issued by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. He added

that the government will also consider directions issued by relevant international sports organisations. The clarification comes amid continuing sensitivities surrounding sporting ties between India and Pakistan. Under the sports policy announced in May 2026, India ruled out resuming bilateral sporting engagements with Pakistan while allowing athletes from both countries to compete in multilateral international competitions.

The policy means Indian teams will not travel to Pakistan for bilateral series, while Pakistani teams will not participate in bilateral competitions in India.

Serials Chess Club Hosts Two Chess Tournaments Together, Draws 190 Players in Ponda

■ Vihaan Tari and Silas Fernandez emerge winners in rated and unrated sections

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Serials Chess Club successfully conducted two chess tournaments simultaneously on September 5 and 6, bringing together 190 participants at Saad Market Plaza in Upper Market, Ponda.

The two day event featured the 7th Serials Classical Chess Tournament for FIDE rated players and the 8th Serials Rapid Chess Tournament for unrated participants.



The tournaments attracted strong enthusiasm from chess players

and provided competition across both categories.

In the rated section, Vihaan Tari claimed the top position, with Rejmon Fernandes finishing second and Advait Prasanna taking third place.

The unrated tournament saw Silas Fernandez emerge as champion. Kanish Sudhir secured the runner

up position, while Aditya Amit finished third. The event was attended by Chief Guest CM Niraj Saripalli. The tournaments were conducted with the support of officials and organisers, including FA Tanishq Kavlekar, who served as Chief Arbiter for the unrated section, and FA Anushka Naik, who oversaw the rated section.

Michael Ferrao, SNA Abhishesh Prabhu Dessai and Deepali Manerikar also contributed to the smooth organisation of the competitions.

"Our Goal Is Gold": India Hockey Teams Leave for Asian Games With LA 2028 Olympic Berths in Sight

■ Harmanpreet Singh and Salima Tete lead defending champions and confident women's side into crucial continental campaign

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's men's and women's hockey teams have departed for Japan with the Asian Games 2026 gold medal firmly in their sights. The Aichi Nagoya Games will be held from September 19 to October 4, with hockey matches scheduled in Kakamigahara, around 35 km from Nagoya.

For the men's team, captain Harmanpreet



Singh will lead the defending champions as they look to put their disappointing eighth place finish at the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup behind them. India showed flashes of quality in the Netherlands and

Belgium but struggled for consistency in crucial matches.

The Asian Games present an opportunity to respond strongly. The gold medal carries an additional reward, with the highest eligible



team securing direct qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games. India won the title at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games and will now look to retain its continental crown.

India has been drawn

in Pool A alongside Japan, South Korea, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The campaign begins against Indonesia on September 20, with the pool stage concluding against Bangladesh on September 28. The

semifinals are scheduled for October 1, followed by the final on October 3. The women's team enters the tournament with renewed confidence after producing a historic fifth place finish at the 2026 World Cup, its best result since the inaugural tournament in 1974. Captain Salima Tete, who has also guided India to the Nations Cup title, will lead the side under coach Sjoerd Marijne.