



Sawant Unfazed By Opposition, Says BJP Set For 2027 Win

■ CM Defends Govt's Record, Rules Out Ujjwala Criticism, SSC Reversal And Change In Goa's Language Status

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, speaking in an interview with a local television channel, launched a broad defence of his government, brushing aside Opposition criticism and expressing confidence that the BJP will return to power in the 2027 Goa Assembly elections.

Reacting to criticism over the Ujjwala scheme, Sawant said he does not care about Opposition attacks and maintained



that his focus remains on the welfare of Goans. He also announced that the remuneration under the Griha Aadhar and DSSY schemes will be increased, with details to be revealed soon.

On the electoral battle ahead, Sawant rejected the anti-incumbency

narrative, saying Goa is witnessing "pro-incumbency" due to improved infrastructure and youth-oriented policies under the BJP-led double-engine government.

Describing the BJP government as a "fast train", Sawant said there would be "no coming back once you sit" and expressed confidence that the party would win the 2027 elections.

On Opposition unity, Sawant said he had no time to focus on whether

rival parties were united or divided. He said voters would judge the government on its five-year performance and compare it with previous governments before deciding whom to support.

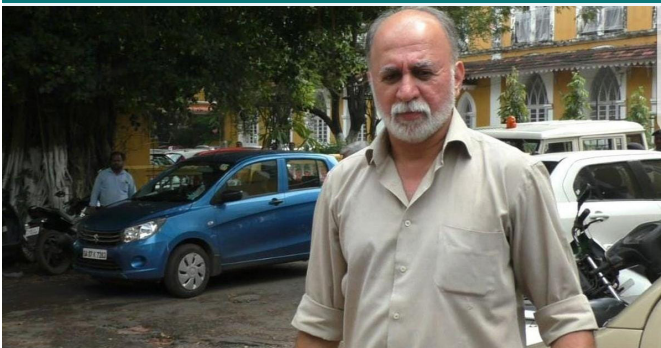
"I don't care whether they are united or divided," Sawant said.

Sawant also said he maintains good personal relations with all MLAs, including those from the Opposition, as every legislator represents the people and their

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Tarun Tejpal Moves Surrender Application Before North Goa Court

Supreme Court Had Directed Tejpal To Surrender By September 22 In 2013 Rape Case



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Journalist Tarun Tejpal has moved an application before the North Goa Additional Sessions Court concerning his surrender, in compliance with the Supreme Court's recent direction in the 2013 rape case involving his former junior colleague.

The Supreme Court on August 25, 2026, directed Tejpal to surrender within three weeks after his appeal against the 10-year rigorous imprisonment sentence. The apex court said his appeal would be heard after the certificate confirming his surrender is filed, on or before September 22, 2026.

The matter stems from the High Court order of August 6, 2026, convicting Tejpal in the rape case and sentencing him to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment.

The State of Goa, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, had argued that Tejpal must first surrender before his appeal could be listed before the Supreme Court. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Tejpal, argued that his client's appeal should instead be listed for hearing first.

On August 24, Justice Alok Aradhe had observed that unless suitable orders were passed on Tejpal's application seeking

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"EVMs Cannot Be Hacked": CEC Gyanesh Kumar Reaffirms Security of Voting Machines

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has strongly rejected concerns over the possibility of Electronic Voting Machines being hacked, saying the machines used in Indian elections operate independently and have no connectivity that would allow remote access. Speaking during his two-day visit to Gujarat at the Ahmedabad Management Association, Kumar explained that EVMs are standalone devices and are not connected to electricity networks, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth or infrared systems. He said this makes remote hacking of the machines technically impossible.

The CEC also outlined the multiple safeguards involved in the electoral process. Electoral rolls are continuously verified through a network of around 12 lakh Booth Level Officers, who check voter details and help ensure that eligible citizens are included while ineligible names are removed.

Goa Taxis Set To Go Meterless With QR-Based Fare System

■ Passengers To Scan QR Codes For Official Fares; Same Rates To Apply To GoaMiles

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa taxis are set to go meterless, with passengers instead able to check official fares through a new QR code-based system approved by the State Transport Authority (STA).

Under the proposed system, commuters will be able to scan a QR code to view the applicable



taxi fares. MLA Michael Lobo said the Information Technology Department will complete the remaining work before the system is rolled out.

The new fare structure will come into force once the rates are officially notified. Lobo said the same notified fares will also apply to GoaMiles, ensuring a common fare structure for taxi services.

The move is expected to give passengers direct access to fare information while replacing the existing meter-based system.

"I Was Part of the 9/11 Plot": The Pilot Training Claim That Shocked Mumbai

■ A tailor's son from Mumbai was arrested weeks after the attacks after making extraordinary claims about planned strikes in Britain and Australia

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Twenty five years after the September 11, 2001 attacks, one of the most unusual investigations linked to the tragedy began in Mumbai with the arrest of a young man who claimed he had been involved in an Al Qaeda conspiracy. Mohammed Afroz came under the Mumbai Police radar in October 2001 after intelligence agencies



flagged his overseas travel for pilot training. His background immediately attracted attention. Afroz lived in Cheeta Camp near Trombay, while his father worked as a tailor. Investigators questioned how the family could have financed expensive training abroad.

Bank Employees Go On Nationwide Strike Today

■ UFBU Goa Says Five-Day Banking And Withdrawal Of PLI Scheme Remain Key Demands

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Bank employees across Goa are observing a one-day nationwide strike today, September 11, 2026, following a call by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), the umbrella body representing seven bank unions. The strike has been called to protest the alleged delay in addressing long-pending demands despite repeated



representations by the unions. Among the key demands is the immediate implementation of five-day banking, which the UFBU said was agreed upon in a settlement and joint note dated March 8, 2024, but has still not been formally notified and implemented.

The unions are also demanding the withdrawal of the Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme), terming it unilateral and discriminatory and alleging that it disrupts the uniform structure of

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Development cannot mean bulldozing Bhoma

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has built a reputation for pushing infrastructure projects with speed and determination. Goa needs that approach. Better roads, safer highways and improved connectivity are essential for the state's future. But development cannot become a numbers game where project completion matters more than the people and communities living along its path.

The latest controversy over Bhoma is a clear example.

Gadkari has proposed a short flyover at Bhoma as a solution to concerns raised by villagers over the proposed expansion of the highway. The intention may be to protect houses and the temple while allowing the highway project to proceed. But the villagers are clearly saying that the flyover does not address the larger issue. They have been demanding a bypass and want the authorities to explain why that option is not being seriously considered.

That grievance cannot simply be brushed aside.

The issue at Bhoma is not merely about whether a temple will be spared demolition. It is about what happens to an entire village when a major highway expansion cuts through it. Villagers have pointed out that four laning could fragment the settlement and affect the character of the village, its religious activities and the way people move and live. They have also questioned the decision to beautify the temple lake when their larger concerns about the highway alignment remain unanswered.

This is precisely where Gadkari needs to pause and listen.

The Union minister should not allow officials to reduce a complex local dispute to a simple engineering problem. If a flyover is technically feasible, that does not automatically make it the best solution. A project can be technically sound and still be socially disruptive. Good infrastructure planning must consider both.

The villagers are asking a straightforward question. If a bypass option was considered earlier, why has it been rejected? That question deserves a detailed technical answer in public. The people should be shown the alternatives, the land requirements, the environmental implications, the cost difference and the expected

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impact on the village.

There is nothing wrong with pursuing the highway project. In fact, completing the long pending connectivity improvements between Ponda, Bhoma and Old Goa is important. The highway is a vital link for passenger and freight movement between Goa and Karnataka. The Centre has already sanctioned substantial funds for the four laning of the relevant stretches.

But the urgency of completing a highway cannot become an excuse for ignoring legitimate local objections.

Gadkari himself has repeatedly spoken about quality, accountability and the need to get infrastructure projects right. The same principle should apply at Bhoma. If there is a better alignment, it should be examined. If the bypass is impractical, the government should explain why. If the flyover is genuinely the least damaging alternative, then the people should be given the evidence to understand that decision.

The worst approach would be to announce a solution and then expect the villagers to accept it simply because it has been approved at the highest level.

Goa has already seen enough instances where infrastructure projects were conceived primarily from the perspective of vehicles and engineering drawings, while the impact on communities was considered later. Roads are built for people, not merely for vehicles. A highway that saves motorists a few minutes but leaves a village divided, its traditional spaces disturbed and residents permanently unhappy cannot automatically be called successful development.

Bhoma should therefore become an example of a different approach.

Gadkari should personally direct the concerned authorities to sit with the villagers, present the complete project plans and alternatives, and hear every objection. An independent technical assessment of the bypass and flyover options would help remove suspicion. The final decision should be based on engineering, economics, environment and, importantly, the human cost.

Development should move forward, but it should carry people along.

The Bhoma villagers should not have to fight the government merely to be heard. Nor should their concerns be treated as an obstacle to progress. The Centre has the resources and expertise to find a solution that improves connectivity without unnecessarily destroying the character of the village.

Gadkari must therefore listen before he builds. Goa needs highways. Bhoma needs justice.

And development should never mean bulldozing people's concerns in the name of progress.

- By Suraj Nandrekar

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gadkari must take responsibility

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari's statement that he felt "ashamed" over the prolonged delay in completing the Mumbai-Goa Highway is understandable, but being ashamed cannot be the end of the matter. The minister must take responsibility and ensure that those responsible for the delays and poor execution are held accountable.

The Mumbai Goa Highway has been delayed for years, causing enormous inconvenience to commuters, transport operators, tourists and local residents. Every additional delay has a cost, not just in money but also in lost time, accidents, fuel consumption and public frustration.

Gadkari has now said that he will personally travel from Mumbai to Goa in October to inspect the highway and assess the situation. This is welcome, but the inspection must result in action rather than another review.

If contractors have failed to deliver, they must face consequences. If officials have neglected their responsibilities, accountability must follow. The minister has himself spoken about blacklisting contractors and suspending officials involved in delays and poor execution. The people of Goa and Maharashtra now expect him to demonstrate that resolve. The highway is not merely another infrastructure project. It is a crucial lifeline connecting two major regions and supporting tourism, trade and everyday travel.

Gadkari has the authority to ensure that the project is completed properly and without further excuses. He should use it.

Being ashamed may acknowledge failure. Taking responsibility and correcting it is leadership.

- Ramesh Naik, Mapusa, Goa

Porvorim shooting is a warning Goa cannot ignore

The shooting incident at a casino in Porvorim should not be dismissed as another isolated crime. It is a disturbing indication of how a mafia culture can slowly take root in Goa when criminals begin believing that violence, intimidation and money can operate with impunity.

The reported shooting and the subsequent detention of four persons, while the alleged main accused remains absconding, raise serious questions about the criminal networks operating in and around Goa's entertainment and business establishments.

Goa cannot afford to normalise gun violence. A state known for tourism, peace and a relatively relaxed way of life cannot allow shootings to become part of its crime landscape.

The casino sector, nightlife and the growing flow of money into Goa can attract legitimate businesses, but they can also become vulnerable to organised criminal elements. This is precisely why the police and enforcement agencies must act before isolated incidents develop into a larger pattern. The authorities must investigate the Porvorim shooting thoroughly, identify everyone involved and establish whether there are wider links to organised crime. Merely detaining a few people will not be enough if the masterminds remain beyond the reach of the law.

The government must send a clear message that Goa will not become a safe haven for gangsters, contract criminals or those who use money and influence to intimidate others.

If such incidents are allowed to continue unchecked, the mafia culture we fear today could become the reality of tomorrow.

Goa must act before it is too late.

- Prakash Desai, Porvorim, Goa

HC Questions Stray Dog Estimates, Calls For Accurate Goa Census

■ Provisional Count Of 39,180 Placed Before Bench; Geo-Tagging Suggested To Track Distribution

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has called for greater clarity on the actual number and distribution of stray dogs in the state, noting wide variations in figures available with different authorities.

The Division Bench of Justice Valmiki Menezes and Justice Amit Jamsandekar was hearing a suo motu writ petition concerning the stray dog issue when the Union



government submitted a provisional figure of approximately 39,180 dogs. Advocate Somnath Karpe, representing the Union government through the Principal Secretary, told the court that the number was still provisional and had not undergone final collation. The figure was submitted

to assist the Bench in its consideration of the matter. The court also explored the possibility of using geo-tagging to map stray dogs across Goa. The Bench indicated that even a partial geo-tagging exercise could help authorities understand where the animals are concentrated and assist in planning future interventions.

The reliability of existing estimates was also questioned. The Bench recalled that

figures placed on record earlier had shown a stray dog population equivalent to around nine per cent of Goa's human population in November 2022, while another government estimate in July 2023 had put the figure at 4.5 per cent.

The court had consequently sought information on whether the Union government had any census data, including provisional data, that could provide a more dependable baseline.



FDA Cracks Down On Unlabelled Food Consignments In South Goa

■ Food Products Worth ₹92,000 Seized During Festive Season Inspections At Margao And Quepem

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: With the Ganesh Chaturthi season witnessing increased movement of food consignments, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has stepped up enforcement in South Goa, seizing food products worth approximately ₹92,000 during separate inspections. At the Margao KTC bus stand, FDA officials checked inter-state buses on Thursday and intercepted consignments carrying food products that allegedly failed to meet mandatory labelling requirements under FSSAI regulations. The seized products, valued at around ₹30,000, comprised pickles, stone

chocolate, hing goli, paan and sweet amla. According to officials, the packages did not carry mandatory information such as manufacturing dates, use-by dates and FSSAI licence numbers. Officials said the inspection formed part of intensified checks during Ganesh Chaturthi, when food products are transported into Goa in larger quantities. The team also intercepted a separate consignment of ice cubes worth ₹12,000 that had arrived by bus from Pune. Officials noted that although the ice was manufactured in Pune, the packaging reportedly displayed the FSSAI licence number belonging to a manufacturing establishment in Goa.



Goa Changes Funding Framework For Urban Bodies, GSUDA

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has overhauled the system for providing financial assistance to municipalities, the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) and the Goa State Urban Development Agency (GSUDA), introducing a one-year framework governing the sanction, release and use of grants. The new arrangements have been notified by Director of Municipal Administration Brijesh Manerkar through separate orders for the three categories of urban institutions. The latest notifications replace the previous grant-related provisions. Municipal councils will be eligible for assistance across several areas, ranging from civic infrastructure and development projects to pre-monsoon preparedness, fire-related arrangements during the monsoon and solid waste management. Financial support can also be sought for salaries of common-cadre and deputation personnel, honorarium payable to elected representatives of B and C class municipal councils, disaster management activities, acquisition of land, statutory payments.

Goa Sets New Compensation Rules For Victims Of Serious Crimes

■ Rape And Human Trafficking Victims May Get Up To ₹10 Lakh Under 2026 Scheme

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Victims of serious crimes in Goa will now be covered under a revised compensation framework, with the State government providing financial assistance of up to ₹10 lakh in cases involving severe mental trauma caused to women and children, including rape and human trafficking.

The government has notified the Goa Victim Compensation Scheme,



2026, replacing the scheme introduced in 2012. The new framework specifies compensation according to the nature of the offence, extent of injury and circumstances faced by the victim or dependants.

Under the scheme, victims of acid attacks can receive up to ₹5 lakh where the assault results in facial disfigurement. Other acid attack injuries can attract

compensation between ₹3.5 lakh and ₹4.5 lakh.

A maximum of ₹2 lakh has been provided in cases where the death of the sole earning member leaves minor or unemployed children without financial support.

Goa Mines Told To Focus On Prevention, Worker-Led Safety

■ DGMS Stresses Risk Checks, Training And Reporting Of Near-Misses At Kalay And Advalpal-Tivim Blocks

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Mining safety in Goa must move beyond reacting to accidents and focus more strongly on preventing them, the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has said, urging workers and contractors to become active participants in identifying risks at worksites.

The issue came up during a safety committee meeting hosted by Fomento Resources Private



Limited on Thursday as part of the review of measures recommended at the 12th National Conference on Safety in Mines.

The tripartite meeting included officials from the DGMS, representatives of the company, workers and contractors engaged

at the Kalay Mineral Block and Advalpal-Tivim Mineral Block. DGMS Deputy Director General, Western Zone, Nagpur, Bipul Bihari Satiar, presided over the proceedings.

Rather than limiting safety measures to compliance after an

incident, the discussions focused on detecting unsafe practices and conditions at an early stage. DGMS officials called for systematic risk assessments, stronger site supervision and regular training so that workers are better equipped to recognise and respond to potential dangers.

The committee reviewed a range of safety concerns, including workplace risk assessment, use of protective equipment, movement and handling of

materials, transportation, emergency response arrangements and electrical and mechanical hazards.

The importance of documenting unsafe situations and near-miss incidents was also highlighted, as such reports can help management identify weaknesses before they result in injuries or fatalities.

Workers and contractors were given an opportunity to raise concerns arising from day-to-day operations.

Tourist Cheating Case: Goa Man Arrested For Allegedly Duping Kerala Tourist Of ₹91,000

■ Economic Offences Cell Alleges Fake Travel Package Scam Involving Beatriz Holidays And Go Life Vacation

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Economic Offences Cell (EOC) of Goa Police has arrested a 48-year-old man in connection with an alleged cheating case involving a Kerala tourist who was reportedly duped of ₹91,000 through a travel package. The EOC Police Station registered Cr. No. 07/2026 at 12.19 am on



September 9, 2026, under Sections 318(4) and 338 read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, following a complaint filed

by Akshay M. V., a resident of Kozhikode City, Kerala. According to the complaint, prior to December 19, 2025, at Anjuna, Bardez,

the accused, identified as Gaurish Shirodkar, son of Ratnakar Shirodkar, and Geetesh Shirodkar, son of Ratnakar Shirodkar, allegedly operated Beatriz

Holidays Pvt. Ltd. and Go Life Vacation Pvt. Ltd. with a common intention. Police stated that the accused allegedly induced the complainant, who was visiting Goa as a tourist, to purchase a travel package worth ₹91,000. The package reportedly promised tour services and benefits through arrangements with various hotels in India and abroad.



Kiki By The Sea Booked For Noise Pollution Violation

■ Music Played Beyond Permissible Hours At Assagao Establishment; Sound Level Recorded At 69.50 dB(A)

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered a case against the owner/manager of M/s Kiki By The Sea at Assagao for allegedly violating noise pollution norms by playing music beyond the permissible time and prescribed sound limits.

Anjuna Police registered FIR Cr. No. 99/2026 at 7.39 pm on September 9, 2026, under Section 5 of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, and Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The case was registered following an email received from the Goa State Pollution Control Board and a complaint lodged by PSI

Amir Taral of Anjuna Police Station.

According to the complaint, on September 8, music was allegedly played at M/s Kiki By The Sea from 11 pm until midnight, extending into September 9. During the inspection, the sound level was recorded at 69.50 dB(A), which was found to be beyond the permissible limit. Police stated that the alleged violation resulted in noise pollution in the locality and constituted a contravention of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, as well as the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The investigation in the case is being conducted by PSI Amir Taral of Anjuna Police Station.



Unidentified Male Body Found Along Miramar Beach

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered an unnatural death case after the body of an unidentified male was found floating in the sea and lying along the seashore at Miramar Beach on Thursday.

The incident was reported on September 10, 2026, following a wireless message received from the Panaji Police Control Room (PCR) at around 10.51 am, informing police that an unknown male person was floating in the sea near the Miramar shoreline.

Police subsequently proceeded to the spot and found the body of an unidentified male person floating in the sea and lying along the seashore.

A scene of occurrence panchanama was conducted by the police in the presence of two panch witnesses.

The deceased's body was subsequently shifted to Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim, for preservation, with the assistance of PC 9319. Panaji Police registered UD No. 56/2026 under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

Russian National Arrested In Keri For Alleged Illegal Stay

■ Mandrem Police Book 46-Year-Old Under Immigration And Foreigners Act

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: Mandrem Police have arrested a 46-year-old Russian national for allegedly staying illegally in India without a valid visa.

The case was registered as Mandrem Police Station Cr. No. 83/2026 at 11.22 pm on September 9, 2026, under Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

According to police, the accused, identified



as Alexey Avdeev, son of Alexander Proshlyakov, a Russian national residing at Keri, Pernem, was found allegedly staying in India without a valid visa.

The alleged violation came to light during a police check at Keri, Pernem, at around 1 pm on September 9.

The case was registered on the state complaint of PC-7242 Nikitesh R. Vaigankar, 29, attached to Mandrem Police Station. Police stated that the accused's alleged stay without a visa amounted to a contravention of Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

Avdeev was arrested at 11.22 pm on September 9. Further investigation is in progress under ASI Sanjay Pednekar of Mandrem Police Station.

Russian National Found Dead In Morjim Room

■ 48-Year-Old Man Found In Decomposed State; Family Suspects No Foul Play

Team Goemkarponn

MORJIM: A 48-year-old Russian national was found dead in a decomposed condition inside a rented room at Morjim in Pernem on Wednesday, prompting Mandrem Police to register an unnatural death case.

Mandrem Police registered UD No. 36/2026 under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) at around 7.24 pm on September 9, 2026.

Police received a



call through the Police Control Room (PCR) reporting a foul smell emanating from a room at House No. 823, near Manner Chapel, Vithaldas Waddo, Morjim, and that the person staying inside was not responding or

opening the door. Police proceeded to the location along with a Fire Brigade team. The Fire Brigade personnel broke open the locked main door of the first-floor premises, where they found a man lying in the bathroom in a

decomposed condition.

The deceased was identified as Andrei Kirianov, 48, a Russian national, by his wife Natallian Kiryanava, 43, a Belarus national. The family was reportedly staying together with their son, Klimentisi Kiryanau. During the preliminary enquiry, police learnt that the deceased was a regular consumer of alcohol and had been undergoing treatment at St Anthony Hospital in Anjuna.

Family members reportedly expressed no suspicion of foul play.



Car Rams Into Motorcycle At Amona Junction

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A 65-year-old woman sustained grievous injuries after a Swift car allegedly driven in a rash and negligent manner rammed into a motorcycle at Amona Junction, Bicholim, on September 7. According to a complaint lodged by Head Constable Prasad Gaonkar of Bicholim Police Station, the accident occurred at around 12.30 pm near Amona Junction.

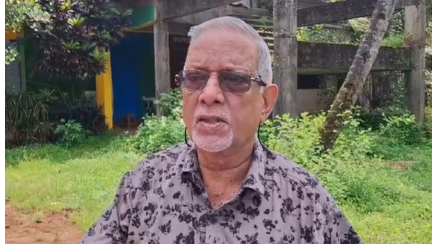
Issorcim Jurisdiction Row Takes New Turn

■ Roquezinho D'Souza Backs Villagers Seeking Separation From Velsao Panchayat

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: A fresh twist has emerged in the long-standing jurisdiction dispute involving Velsao-Pale-Issorcim and Chicolna-Bogmalo panchayats under the Mormugao Block, with former Panch and social worker Roquezinho D'Souza changing his position on the proposed alteration.

The proposal seeks to shift Ward No. 7 of Velsao-Pale-Issorcim,



comprising Issorcim and Ranghavi Estate, to Chicolna-Bogmalo Panchayat. Velsao Panchayat has previously opposed the move, including concerns over the revenue generated from the Ranghavi Estate area.

With the proposal resurfacing and a Special Gram Sabha scheduled for Sunday, D'Souza said he had initially

planned to submit an objection against the proposed jurisdictional change.

However, he said he subsequently visited Issorcim to understand the concerns of residents on the ground. During the visit, he claimed

that several villagers expressed a desire to be separated from Velsao Panchayat, citing alleged neglect and inadequate development in the area.

Following the interaction, D'Souza said he had decided to support the concerns of the Issorcim villagers rather than pursue his earlier objection. "If the villagers themselves feel they are being neglected, their voice must be heard," D'Souza said at a press conference on Friday.



Vasco Sports City Project Gathers Pace; Tanya Ground Expansion On Cards

■ Futsal Ground, Walking Track To Get Priority As MLA Salkar Inspects Site With SAG Officials

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar conducted a joint inspection of the Tanya Ground along with Sports Authority of Goa (SAG) officials, as plans to develop the facility into a comprehensive Sports City complex gathered momentum. Salkar said discussions were underway with landowners and Comunidade authorities for acquiring around 4,500 square metres of additional land.

The proposed acquisition would take the total area of the ground to approximately 19,000 square metres, providing greater scope for the planned Sports City development. During the inspection, Salkar

said priority would be given to facilities that can be executed quickly, particularly a futsal ground and walking track. Volleyball facilities and a cricket pitch could also be developed in a short period.

"The futsal ground and walking track can be opened at the earliest. These facilities do not require much time and can be taken up immediately. With the compound wall already completed, we can now move ahead with the next phase," Salkar said. He said the objective was to transform the Tanya Ground into an attractive sporting and recreational destination for residents of Vasco and surrounding areas, rather than merely creating individual sports facilities.



Sanjay Barde Appointed State Chairperson Of Kisan Congress, Goa Pradesh Congress Committee

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has approved the appointment of Sanjay Barde as the State Chairperson of the Kisan Congress, Goa Pradesh Congress Committee, with immediate effect. The appointment was approved by Congress President and communicated by AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, MP, through an official press release dated September 10, 2026. The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee congratulated Barde on his appointment and expressed confidence that he would work towards strengthening the Kisan Congress and further advancing the interests and concerns of Goa's farming community. The appointment assumes significance as the party seeks to strengthen its engagement with farmers and highlight issues affecting the agricultural sector in the state.

Political Twist In Cortalim: Former Sancoale Dy Sarpanch Darrick Vales Set To Join Congress, Eyes Assembly

■ Vales Says Family Has Long Congress Association; Grassroots Outreach Fuels Speculation Over Cortalim Candidature

Team Goemkarponn

CORTALIM: A fresh political twist is taking shape in Cortalim, with former Sancoale Deputy Sarpanch Darrick Vales indicating that he is set to join the Congress and is likely to stake his claim to contest the upcoming Assembly elections from the Cortalim constituency.

Vales said his entire family has remained loyal to the Congress for



several years and that he too has been associated with the party and its ideology.

He said supporters and well-wishers have now been urging him to "aim bigger" and take his political journey to the

next level by entering the Assembly electoral battle.

Speaking about his political background, Vales said his family has had a strong political presence in Cortalim over the years.

Luanna Fernandes' Miss Goa International First Runner-Up Win Brings Pride To Goa

■ Santa Cruz Girl Receives Warm Welcome At Dabolim Airport After International Pageant Success

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Pride and excitement filled Dabolim Airport on Thursday evening as Santa Cruz girl Luanna Fernandes, who was crowned Miss Goa International first runner-up, returned to Goa to a warm welcome from her family and well-wishers.

Luanna arrived at the airport wearing her crown and sash, drawing the attention



of passengers and supporters who had

gathered to welcome her following her

achievement. Her arrival turned into a celebratory moment, with family members greeting her with flowers, smiles and traditional Goan music. Adding a distinctly Goan touch to the occasion, a special Goan music serenador performed traditional Goan songs as Luanna made her way out of the airport. The music and gathering created a memorable welcome for the young achiever, with her family and supporters

expressing pride over her performance on the international platform.

Speaking to reporters, Luanna said she was extremely happy to have won the prestigious first runner-up title, particularly as she had very little time to plan and prepare for the competition. Despite the limited preparation time, she said she decided to pursue the opportunity with confidence and give it her best.

Railways Crosses 20 Lakh Bookings in a Day for the First Time Amid Festive Rush

■ IRCTC records 20,06,353 bookings on September 7 as demand for train travel surges

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) recorded its highest-ever single-day ticket bookings on September 7, with more than 20 lakh tickets booked as demand for train travel surged ahead of the festive season.

A total of 20,06,353 tickets were booked through the IRCTC platform on September 7, marking the first time its daily booking figure crossed the 20-lakh milestone.

The demand remained strong the following day, with 19,50,699 tickets booked on September 8. The September 7 figure was around six per cent higher than the previous festive-season record of 18,40,203 tickets recorded last year.

IRCTC said nearly 89 per cent of reserved railway tickets are now booked online, highlighting the growing dependence on digital ticketing. To manage the increasing traffic, additional servers have been deployed, nearly



doubling the capacity of the online reservation system.

The corporation also introduced a redesigned website and user interface on July 15, allowing passengers to check seat availability across different travel classes on a single screen.

Alongside expanding capacity, IRCTC has strengthened measures against automated bots and fraudulent booking activity. Its anti-bot

system has reportedly reduced suspicious bot traffic by between 55 and 65 per cent.

To prevent authorised ticket agents from gaining an early advantage, agents are barred from booking tickets during the first 10 minutes after the reservation window opens, from 8 am to 8:10 am. Aadhaar verification is also mandatory for passengers booking tickets when the reservation window opens.

As part of its wider action against suspicious activity, IRCTC has deactivated 3.04 crore user IDs, while another 6.33 crore accounts have been flagged for re-verification. Despite the unprecedented booking volumes, IRCTC said the upgraded online ticketing system continued to function without any major technical glitch or outage, allowing passengers to access the platform during the peak festive booking period.

“Strongly Suggests Illegal Wildlife Trade”: Five Baby Orangutans Found in Odisha Forest

■ Indonesia seeks answers as DNA tests are planned to determine the animals’ exact origin

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The discovery of five baby orangutans in a forest in Odisha’s Balasore district has raised concerns over a possible international wildlife trafficking network, with Indonesia calling for an investigation into how the animals reached India.

The five orangutans were rescued by the Odisha Forest Department from the Bichitrapur forest area under Bhograi block on September 8. Their presence in the region surprised authorities as orangutans are not native to India and naturally occur only in parts of Indonesia and Malaysia.

Indonesia is closely monitoring the case and coordinating with Indian authorities to determine the animals’ origin and explore arrangements for their eventual return.

Preliminary observations indicate that the animals could belong to the Sumatran orangutan population. However, authorities have stressed that this assessment is not yet conclusive. DNA testing by authorised scientific experts is expected to establish their species

and genetic origin.

The unusual discovery has also raised suspicions that the animals could have been transported through an illegal international wildlife trade network. Orangutans are native to the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, making their presence in Odisha particularly unusual.

Following their rescue, the five animals were shifted to Nandankanan Zoological Park in Bhubaneswar. They have been placed under quarantine and are being closely monitored by veterinary and wildlife experts.

Zoo officials said the young orangutans have displayed different behaviours while adapting to their new surroundings. They have been playful at times but have also shown signs of anxiety and frequently cling to one another.

To help reduce their stress, officials are also taking steps to play classical music as advised by experts.

The animals will remain under observation as authorities work to establish their precise origin and investigate the circumstances surrounding their arrival in Odisha.



Tarun Tejpal Moves Surrender Application Before North Goa Court

exemption from surrender, his appeal could not be listed before the Supreme Court.

The State had opposed the exemption plea, relying on the Supreme Court Rules, 2013. Mehta argued that the Rules were mandatory and that Tejpal’s appeal could not be listed until he surrendered.

Sawant Unfazed By Opposition, Says BJP Set For 2027 Win

respective constituency.

On BJP ticket distribution, the Chief Minister clarified that he does not decide election tickets. He said the BJP follows a structured process through its organisation and election

committee, with winnability remaining a key criterion.

“Every party changes candidates,” Sawant said, adding that 30–40 per cent of winners are new faces every time.

Defending the decision to establish the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Sawant said it is a firm policy decision and there is no question of reversing it. He said the system would ensure greater transparency in government recruitment.

On alliance partner MGP, Sawant said the party should stand with the BJP-led NDA alliance, pointing out that it has only two MLAs. He said MGP should not spend time conducting surveys in other constituencies and should understand its limitations.

On the demand for Marathi to be made a state language, Sawant said it would not be appropriate to alter Goa’s existing language provision.

He said Konkani is Goa’s state language while Marathi is recognised as a co-language, as provided when Goa attained statehood.

“Goa was formed on the basis of language,” Sawant said, maintaining that changing the existing provision would not be appropriate.

Bank Employees Go On Nationwide Strike Today

the banking sector.

The UFBG Goa unit has warned of further industrial action if the demands are not addressed. A three-day nationwide strike is scheduled from September 28 to 30, followed by a continuous indefinite strike from October 26 onwards.

The union has expressed regret for the inconvenience caused to the banking public and business community and appealed for public support for its demands.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

“Entire Mumbai Filled With Filth”: Bombay High Court Raps BMC Over Garbage Crisis

■ Court warns ward officers of accountability and possible contempt action over persistent uncleanness

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Bombay High Court has strongly criticised the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) over the growing problem of garbage and unclean roads across Mumbai, warning that civic officials could face action if they fail to maintain cleanliness in their respective wards.



A division bench of Justice Girish Kulkarni and Justice Neela Gokhale made the strong observations while hearing a petition filed by residents of Kannamwar

Nagar concerning pollution linked to the Kanjurmarg dumping ground.

The court questioned the functioning of the civic administration and expressed concern over garbage reportedly being found at several locations across the city.

The judges questioned whether the civic machinery had become inactive and asked how Mumbai could continue to project itself as an international city when public spaces were not being properly maintained. The bench warned that ward officers would be held directly responsible for cleanliness in their respective areas.



Suvendu Adhikari's Kalighat Bhog Sparks Fresh Non Veg Row

■ BJP leader eats traditional fish bhog at Kalighat as debate over Bengali food and Durga Puja traditions intensifies

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Bengal's long standing debate over vegetarian and non vegetarian food during religious festivals has gained fresh attention after BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari participated in the traditional fish bhog at Kolkata's Kalighat temple.

Adhikari visited the historic temple on the occasion of Kaushiki Amavasya and was seen having bhog that included a fish head, fried fish and basanti pulao.

The meal reflects a long standing tradition at Kalighat, where fish and sacrificial goat meat are offered to Goddess Kali and subsequently consumed as bhog by

devotees.

His visit came amid a growing controversy over comments by Bageshwar Dham priest Dharendra Shastri, who had appealed to Bengali Hindus to avoid non vegetarian food during Durga Puja. He also called for meat and liquor shops to remain closed during the festival.

The remarks triggered criticism in Bengal, where fish and meat are deeply connected with the region's food culture and, in certain Shakta traditions, religious practices as well.

The BJP has sought to distance itself from the idea that an outside religious figure should determine what people in Bengal eat.



“Does Congress Want Kashmiris in Jail?” Omar Abdullah Hits Back Over Full Vande Mataram

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has hit back at ally Congress over its objection to the full rendition of Vande Mataram, asking whether the party wants people in Kashmir to face legal action for following government protocol.

The dispute follows the playing of the complete national song at the opening ceremony of the International Film Festival in Srinagar. Omar Abdullah and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah stood during the full rendition, including all six stanzas.

The Congress had urged its alliance partner to follow the party's 1937 position, under which only two stanzas of Vande Mataram are used at Congress events. Congress MP KC Venugopal had argued that the complete version did not fit with the pluralistic and inclusive vision associated with India's freedom movement.

No Terror Plot: Man Faked PMO ID to Impress Fiancée and Her Family

■ Mumbai police say Rohan Parikh allegedly created a fake government identity to project himself as a powerful official with access to the Centre

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The man arrested in Mumbai with a fake Prime Minister's Office identity card was allegedly not involved in a terror plot, but had created the false identity to impress his fiancée and her family, according to the investigation. Rohan Parikh, 24, was arrested along with his bodyguard Dilip Kunde on Monday at a shopping mall in the



Bandra Kurla Complex, close to the venue of the Prime Minister's event at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre. Parikh was carrying a fake PMO identity card, while his bodyguard was

allegedly carrying a firearm. The incident initially triggered serious security concerns because of its proximity to the Prime Minister's programme.

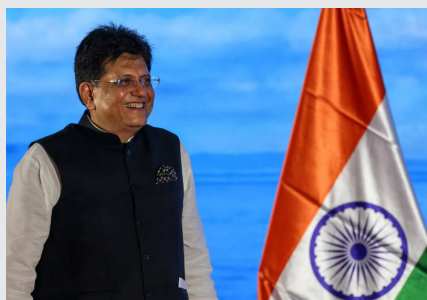
Investigators have now found that Parikh had allegedly been attempting to create an image of himself as a powerful government official with significant influence in the central government.

India Pushes UPI Model to Strengthen BRICS Trade and Local Currency Payments

■ Piyush Goyal calls for BRICS nations to link payment systems and expand digital trade

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has called for stronger digital and financial cooperation among BRICS countries, with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal urging member nations to connect their payment systems and promote trade using local currencies. Addressing the opening session of the BRICS Business Forum 2026, Goyal highlighted India's digital public infrastructure and



said the country's Unified Payments Interface, or UPI, could serve as a model for deeper economic integration among BRICS nations. Goyal said UPI has grown to more than

250 billion transactions annually and accounts for over half of the world's digital payment transactions by volume. He also pointed out that the Indian payment system is already accepted in 11 countries.

Calling for greater financial connectivity, Goyal urged BRICS members and partner countries to link their respective payment

platforms. He also advocated wider use of national currencies for bilateral trade and greater access to digital commerce. The minister said closer cooperation in emerging technologies could help BRICS countries build stronger economic links and prepare for the future of global trade. The BRICS Business Forum was organised ahead of the two-day BRICS Summit, which India is hosting in New Delhi on September

12 and 13 as the chair of the grouping for 2026. The summit comes at a time of heightened uncertainty in the global economy. Ongoing geopolitical tensions, including the Russia-Ukraine war and the US-Iran conflict, along with disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz and changing tariff policies under the Trump administration, have created additional challenges for international trade.

“Shafali Steals the Show”: India Storm Into Women’s Asia Cup Final With 40-Run Win

■ Explosive opener’s 64 helps India post 149 before bowlers restrict Bangladesh to 109 for seven

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Shafali Verma produced a match-winning batting display as India secured a place in the Women’s Asia Cup final with a comfortable 40-run victory over Bangladesh in Dubai.

Batting first on a slow surface, India struggled to score freely but reached 149 for five in their 20 overs. Shafali stood



apart from the rest of the batting lineup, smashing 64 from just 40 deliveries at a strike rate of 160. Her innings included three sixes and several attacking strokes against

both pace and spin.

The opener was given three lives, being dropped on 6, 11 and 56, and Bangladesh were made to pay heavily for those missed opportunities.

India made a steady start, reaching 45 for one during the powerplay, but found it difficult to accelerate during the middle overs. Pratika Rawal contributed 20 from 24 balls, while Richa Ghosh added a useful 21 from 16. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur remained unbeaten on 24 from 28 balls and finished the innings strongly with two sixes.

Mumbai Beat Goa by Seven Wickets in U-19 Women’s T20 Tournament

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Mumbai defeated Goa by seven wickets in the U-19 Women’s Inter State T20 Tournament Siechem Trophy league match at the SLIMS Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

After winning the toss and choosing to bat, Goa struggled to build momentum and were dismissed for 78 in 19.3 overs. Muskan Sab was Goa’s top scorer with 26 runs from 44 balls, while Usma Khan added 20 off 27 deliveries. Mumbai’s bowlers kept Goa under pressure throughout the innings. Tanisha Sharma delivered an impressive spell, finishing with two wickets for just eight runs from her four overs. Kritika Yadav also claimed two wickets, while Megan Rodrigues, Ritika Yadav and Shravani Patil took one wicket each. Mumbai made light work of the modest target, reaching 80 for three in 12.1 overs to secure a convincing victory. Parineeta Patil provided the early impetus in the chase, scoring 26 from 26 balls. Ria Thakur contributed 14 before Shravani Patil stayed unbeaten on 19 to guide Mumbai towards the finish. Dhruvi Trivedi remained not out on eight as Mumbai completed the chase with 47 balls to spare.

Goa University Badminton Selection Trials Rescheduled to September 23

■ Men’s and women’s teams to be selected for West Zone Inter University Championships

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa University Badminton Men’s and Women’s Team selection trials for the 2026 to 27 West Zone Inter University Badminton Championships have been rescheduled to September 23, 2026.

The trials will be conducted from 10 am at the S.A.G. Multipurpose Indoor Stadium at Peddem, Mapusa. Interested and eligible

students are required to report at the venue by 9:30 am in full playing kit.

Participants must wear non marking shoes during the selection trials. Colleges have been asked to ensure that all eligible and interested badminton players are informed about the revised schedule and venue. The selected Goa University Women’s Badminton Team will represent the university at the West Zone Inter University

Badminton Women’s Championship 2026 to 27. The tournament is scheduled to take place at CHARUSAT University in Gujarat from October 29 to November 2, 2026.

The selected men’s team will compete in the West Zone Inter University Badminton Men’s Championship 2026 to 27. The men’s championship is scheduled to be held at Lords University in Alwar, Rajasthan, from January 2 to 6, 2027.



Magnus Carlsen Makes Big Prediction on Gukesh World Championship Clash

■ Carlsen says Gukesh should feel he has everything to gain when he faces Uzbekistan’s Javokhir Sindarov

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen has backed Javokhir Sindarov as the favourite ahead of the upcoming World Chess Championship clash against defending champion D Gukesh, while urging the Indian star to approach the match without the pressure of defending his title. Gukesh will face Uzbekistan’s Sindarov in the World Chess Championship in Geneva, Switzerland, from November 24 to December 12.

Carlsen believes the word “defend” itself could create unnecessary pressure for Gukesh. Instead,

he feels the Indian grandmaster should approach the contest with the mindset that he has everything to gain. According to Carlsen, Gukesh has already demonstrated his ability to perform at an exceptionally high level, particularly during his breakthrough year in 2024. He believes the challenge now is for Gukesh to rediscover that level of confidence and performance against Sindarov. Carlsen also highlighted the psychological side of a World Championship match. He suggested that an early advantage for either player could have a major impact on the contest.

Goa’s Brave Chase Falls Short as Vidarbha Win by 28 Runs

■ Prabhudesai, Kauthankar and Naik lead Goa’s fightback, but Vidarbha hold their nerve in Bengaluru

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa fought hard against Vidarbha in the Dr. (Capt.) Thimmappiah Memorial Cricket Tournament but suffered a 28-run defeat after being bowled out for 294 while chasing 323 at the IAF Ground in Bengaluru.

Vidarbha, who had posted 393 in their first innings, gained a 65-run first-innings lead after Goa were dismissed for 328. Captain Snehal Kauthankar was the standout performer for Goa, producing



a determined 149 off 280 deliveries with 16 boundaries to keep his side in the contest.

Vidarbha then reached 257 for nine before declaring in their second innings, setting Goa a challenging target of 323. Goa responded positively and went on the attack



from the beginning.

Opener Suyash Prabhudesai provided Goa with a flying start, smashing 52 off just 36 balls with six fours and two sixes. He added 69 runs with Manthan Khutkar, who contributed 41, for the opening wicket in only 9.4 overs.



Shivendra Bhujbal added 33, while Yash Kasvankar scored a valuable 49. Ruthvik Naik kept Goa’s hopes alive deep into the innings with a fighting 51 off 67 balls.

However, Vidarbha’s bowling attack eventually broke through the Goa lower order and wrapped



up the innings at 294 in 57.4 overs. Yash Kadam was the pick of the bowlers, claiming four wickets for 35 runs, while Parth Rekha took two wickets.

The defeat was Goa’s second in the tournament. They had earlier suffered a narrow one-wicket loss against the KSCA President’s XI.

Goa will now look to finish the tournament on a positive note when they face Gujarat in their final match from September 13 to 16 at the BGS Ground.