



'Goa First' takes shape as AAP, GFP explore third-front alliance

■ Non-BJP, non-Congress parties consider common platform ahead of 2027 Goa Assembly elections

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's political landscape could see the emergence of a new electoral combination ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Goa Forward Party (GFP) exploring the possibility of joining hands under a broader third-front arrangement.

Political sources said initial discussions have taken place between



representatives of the two parties as they assess the possibility of putting together a common platform of forces outside the BJP-Congress axis. The proposed formation is being referred to as 'Goa First', although its final structure and constituents

are yet to be decided. AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal is expected to play a key role in the proposed political initiative and could formally announce the front once discussions with potential partners progress.

The talks come against the backdrop of the Congress holding discussions with the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) over a possible electoral

understanding. AAP and GFP, meanwhile, are understood to be examining whether a separate coalition of regional and non-Congress political forces can provide voters with another choice in the 2027 polls.

The possibility has gained traction following increased coordination between AAP and GFP legislators on issues inside the Goa Legislative Assembly as well as outside it. Their recent

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Karapur protest against Abhinandan Lodha project suspended after 161 days

Panchayat's work-stoppage notice prompts temporary withdrawal; residents say opposition and legal proceedings will continue



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KARAPUR: After 161 days of continuous agitation, residents of Karapur have decided to temporarily suspend their protest against the proposed 'One Goa' project of The House of Abhinandan Lodha.

The decision follows the Karapur-Sarvan Panchayat issuing a notice directing that work on the project be stopped. Residents said the panchayat's intervention has led them to pause the street protest, but stressed that it does not amount to withdrawing their opposition to the development.

The project has been at the centre of sustained resistance from sections of the local community,

with residents raising objections over its proposed development in Karapur.

Announcing the decision, the protesters said their campaign would now shift its focus towards the legal avenues available to them. They maintained that proceedings challenging the project would continue and that they would closely monitor further developments.

The residents also made it clear that the 161-day protest should not be viewed as permanently concluded. They said they would consider resuming the agitation if circumstances required it or if work on the project proceeded despite the panchayat's notice.

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AAP, GFP Urge Goans Not To Be Fooled By Congress And BJP Again

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PANAJI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Goa Forward Party (GFP) have launched a joint campaign urging voters not to be "fooled" by the Congress and BJP for a third time, with plans to put up posters carrying the message at prominent locations across Goa.

The campaign uses the slogan, "Congress & BJP cheated you twice. Don't let them cheat you the 3rd time," as a direct appeal to voters ahead of the next Assembly election.

The campaign artwork features a visual depicting a man and woman at a scenic coastal location, along with the logos of AAP and Goa Forward, to convey the parties' message of presenting an alternative to the two larger political formations.

AAP and GFP said the poster campaign would be taken across Goa as part of their effort to reach voters and highlight what they describe as repeated failures by successive Congress and BJP governments.

Goa to conduct state-wide survey of stray dogs, pet dogs and stray cattle

■ Urban and rural local bodies to collect ward-wise data from October 1 to 15

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services will conduct a state-wide survey to collect detailed data on stray dogs, pet dogs and stray cattle found along highways, roads and other areas across Goa. The survey will be carried out by the urban and rural local



bodies from October 1 to October 15, 2026, following directions issued by the Bombay High Court at Goa in Suo Motu Writ

Petition No. 2 of 2026, in compliance with directions of the Supreme Court in Suo Motu Writ Petition No. 5 of 2025.

As part of the exercise, ward-wise information on stray dogs and stray cattle will be collected across the State.

"Hafiz Saeed Will Face the Law": NIA Court Issues Fresh Non-Bailable Warrant

■ Lashkar-e-Taiba founder accused of funding, arming and directing terrorists operating in Kashmir

Team Goemkarponn

JAMMU: A special National Investigation Agency court in Jammu has issued a fresh non-bailable warrant against Lashkar-e-Taiba founder and designated terrorist Hafiz Mohammad Saeed in connection with a terror investigation.

According to the investigation, Saeed, who is currently based in Pakistan, is allegedly providing financial



support, weapons and directions to terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir. The agency has described him as a designated terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the founder of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit.

"We Will Not Kneel": Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian Takes Aim at US and Israel in Delhi

■ Pezeshkian backs stronger India ties as Modi stresses dialogue, regional stability and safe maritime routes

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has strongly criticised the United States and Israel, declaring that Iran will not surrender or bow to pressure as he addressed religious leaders, intellectuals and business representatives in New Delhi.

Pezeshkian, who



arrived in India to attend the BRICS Summit, said Iran had faced pressure from the US and Israel but remained determined to defend itself. He accused the two

countries of targeting civilians and critical infrastructure during the ongoing conflict and questioned their claims of supporting human rights.

Will MGP stay with BJP in the coming elections?

The relationship between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Maharashtra Gomantak Party is once again beginning to attract attention as Goa moves towards the 2027 Assembly elections. The question is simple but politically important: will the MGP remain with the BJP, or will growing ambitions over seats create friction within the NDA alliance?

The MGP currently has only two MLAs in the Goa Assembly, Sudin Dhavalikar from Madkai and Jit Arolkar from Mandrem. But the party clearly does not appear satisfied with retaining just these two constituencies. It wants to expand its footprint and is looking at several seats where it believes it can strengthen its position.

Among the constituencies reportedly on its radar are Sankhalim, the constituency of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, besides Shiroda, Priol and Ponda. This is where the political equation becomes interesting.

For the MGP, demanding more seats is understandable. Every political party wants to grow. After remaining a relatively small partner in the alliance, the party would naturally want to bargain for a larger share of constituencies in 2027. But the BJP will also have its own calculations. It will not be easy for the party to surrender seats where it has strong organisational structures, sitting leaders or electoral ambitions of its own.

The situation becomes even more interesting when the Chief Minister himself publicly tells the MGP to remain within limits and not have excessive expectations. Such a statement cannot be ignored. It suggests that the two alliance partners may not be seeing the electoral map in exactly the same way.

This does not necessarily mean that the NDA is on the verge of breaking up. Politics is often about bargaining, positioning and sending messages before negotiations formally begin. Public statements can also be intended to keep alliance partners from making demands that could weaken the

“The BJP has several reasons to be cautious. The MGP has a long political history in Goa and still retains pockets of influence, particularly among sections of the electorate in certain constituencies. At the same time, the BJP is no longer in a position where it can take any constituency or alliance partner for granted. The 2027 election will involve local factors, candidates, anti-incumbency, opposition unity and constituency level calculations.

For the MGP, however, there is also a danger in pushing its demands too far.

The party has to decide whether its greater priority is expanding independently or remaining part of a coalition that has given it political relevance and ministerial space. If it demands too many seats that the BJP considers its own strongholds, negotiations could become difficult.”

larger party's negotiating position.

Yet, the warning from the Chief Minister is significant because it comes at a time when the MGP appears keen to increase its bargaining power.

The BJP has several reasons to be cautious. The MGP has a long political history in Goa and still retains pockets of influence, particularly among sections of the electorate in certain constituencies. At the same time, the BJP is no longer in a position where it can take any constituency or alliance partner for granted. The 2027 election will involve local factors,

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The most interesting constituency in this entire debate is perhaps Sankhalim. Asking for a seat represented by the Chief Minister himself would inevitably be seen as a serious political statement. Whether the MGP genuinely intends to contest there or is using the demand as a bargaining tool remains to be seen.

The same applies to Priol, Ponda and Shiroda. If the MGP insists on these constituencies, the BJP will have to determine whether accommodating its ally strengthens the NDA or creates dissatisfaction within its own organisation.

The coming months will therefore be crucial. What looks like a small disagreement over seat sharing could eventually become a larger question about the future of the alliance. The BJP and MGP have worked together before and have reasons to remain together. But alliances survive not merely because of past relationships. They survive when both partners believe they are getting a fair political deal.

The MGP wants more seats. The BJP wants control over its electoral territory. Both positions are understandable.

The real test will be whether the two parties can negotiate without allowing ambition to turn into confrontation. For now, the alliance may still be intact. But the message from the Chief Minister to the MGP is a reminder that the road to 2027 will not be without political bargaining. And if the MGP believes it deserves a bigger share of Goa's political pie, it will have to convince the BJP that its demands are not just expectations, but electoral realities.

EDITOR SPEAKS

If taxi meters were never used, why were they installed?

By Suraj Nandrekar

The government's decision to introduce QR codes in taxis so passengers can check notified fares may sound like a step towards transparency. But it also raises a rather uncomfortable question: what happened to the taxi meters that were supposed to provide exactly that transparency?

For years, taxi meters have been installed in Goa taxis. Passengers were expected to rely on them to know what they were being charged. Yet, in practice, meters were rarely used. Tourists and locals were routinely told the fare before starting the journey, and the meter often remained nothing more than a piece of equipment sitting on the dashboard.

Now we are being told that taxis will no longer use meters and that passengers will instead scan a QR code to check the government-notified fare.

So, were the meters simply a waste of money?

This is not merely a question about technology. It is about policy consistency and accountability. If meters were mandatory, why was their use not enforced? If the government has now concluded that a notified fare system is better, why was this decision not taken years ago?

The QR code proposal can certainly be useful. A passenger should know exactly what a taxi ride is supposed to cost. The proposed common digital platform could also bring some uniformity to the system, particularly if passengers can immediately check the applicable fare instead of negotiating with drivers.

But transparency cannot depend only on passengers scanning a QR code. The government must ensure that the fare displayed is actually the fare charged.

The proposed base fare of Rs 300 for the first three kilometres and Rs 445 for three to eight kilometres, depending on the vehicle category, followed by per kilometre charges, will need to be clearly notified and displayed. There must also be a simple mechanism for passengers to report overcharging.

The bigger issue is whether this is really a new solution or simply another attempt to deal with a problem that the authorities failed to solve earlier.

Taxi operators have opposed app-based platforms, arguing that they do not want to join such systems. The QR code proposal is being presented as a middle path. Fair enough. But the government cannot allow the interests of either passengers or operators to be compromised.

The passenger needs certainty. The driver needs a fair and predictable earning system. The government has to ensure that both are protected.

What Goa does not need is another half implemented system.

If meters were installed but never enforced, the government should have the courage to acknowledge that failure. If meters are now being abandoned, there should be a clear explanation about the decision and whether existing meters will simply become redundant.

For years, the taxi issue has remained one of Goa's most frustrating tourism and transport problems. Every few years, a new mechanism is announced, while the basic problem of predictable fares remains unresolved.

A QR code alone will not transform the taxi sector.

The real test will be enforcement.

If a passenger scans the code and sees a government-notified fare, but the driver demands something higher, what happens next? Who will act? How quickly can a complaint be resolved? Will there be penalties for repeated violations?

These are the questions that need answers.

Goa cannot keep buying equipment, introducing systems and then abandoning them without asking who failed to implement them.

If taxi meters were never going to be used, the public deserves to know why they were introduced in the first place.

And if QR codes are now the answer, let us hope they do not become the next expensive solution that exists on paper while passengers continue to negotiate their fares on the roadside.

Social Welfare Department Employee Injured As Ceiling Fan Falls In Panaji Office

■ Data entry operator sustains minor head injury after fan crashes down; incident raises fresh concerns over condition of old office building

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A woman employee of the Social Welfare Department was injured on Thursday morning after a ceiling fan reportedly came crashing down inside the department's office on 18th June Road, Panaji.

The woman, who works as a data entry operator, was walking



through the office when the ceiling fan allegedly fell on her. She briefly lost consciousness following the incident and was subsequently taken for

medical attention.

Doctors reportedly found that she had suffered a minor head injury and advised further scanning to rule out any serious complications. The incident has once again raised concerns over the condition and safety of the existing office premises. A

separate structural mishap had reportedly occurred at the same building earlier, adding to concerns among employees over the condition of the facility.

The Social Welfare Department is expected to shift its operations to new premises in Porvorim. However, the relocation has been delayed as some work at the new building remains pending.



Unknown passenger found dead aboard Vailankanni Express

■ Railway Police suspect sudden illness; identity of deceased yet to be established

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VASCO: An unidentified man, aged around 30, was found dead aboard the Vailankanni Express at Vasco railway station on Thursday evening. The incident came to light at around 5.16 pm after the Deputy Station Manager, Vasco, informed the railway police through a written memo about a male passenger lying unconscious inside the train. Vasco Railway Police rushed to the spot and found the man lying in a supine position. An on-duty doctor from South Western Railway examined him and declared him dead. During the preliminary enquiry, police found that the deceased appeared to be a passenger travelling on the train.

Police suspect that he may have died due to a sudden illness or other sickness. However, the exact cause of death will be established through further medico-legal examination. Police conducted the UD occurrence panchanama and inquest panchanama before preserving the body at South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for further medico-legal formalities.

Vasco Railway Police Station has registered a case of unnatural death under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Krishna Talpi of Vasco Railway Police Station under the supervision of PI Amarnath Passi and guidance of Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.



Dengue cases rise in Goa as South Goa records bulk of August infections

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MARGAO: Goa witnessed a significant rise in confirmed dengue infections in August, with 49 cases recorded across the State, official health data shows. South Goa reported the overwhelming majority with 46 cases, while North Goa recorded three. The State also registered 886 suspected dengue cases during the month.

South Goa accounted for 541 of these suspected infections, compared to 345 in North Goa, highlighting continued transmission concerns during the ongoing monsoon. The August numbers represent a substantial increase in confirmed cases over July, when only seven dengue infections were confirmed, all in South Goa. Suspected cases, however, were already high at 882 during the same period.

Dengue concerns had surfaced earlier following infections reported among personnel at government institutions.

FDA destroys 505 kg of unhygienically stored food in Bardez

■ Two food units ordered to suspend operations during surveillance drive

Team Goemkarponn

BARDEZ: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted a surveillance drive across Bardez taluka, inspecting six food businesses, including sweet and farsan manufacturing units, and ordered two establishments to suspend operations over unhygienic conditions.

During the inspections, the FDA team destroyed 320 kg of farsan valued at Rs 64,000 and 185



kg of mawa worth Rs 37,000. Officials said the food items had been prepared and stored under unhygienic conditions, while the mawa was found to have been kept without proper refrigeration. The two premises have been

directed to remain closed until the deficiencies identified during the inspection are rectified and compliance with food safety requirements is ensured.

The FDA said the surveillance drives will continue across different areas of Goa to ensure adherence to prescribed food safety and hygiene standards. Food business operators have been urged to strictly comply with the stipulated norms.

GHRC seeks urgent fix to recurring sewage problems at Colvale jail

■ PWD and SIDCGL told to ensure weekly clearance of blocked chambers until permanent solution is in place

Team Goemkarponn

COLVALE: The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) has sought immediate intervention to address the long-running sewage problems at the Central Jail, Colvale, directing the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Sewerage & Infrastructural Development Corporation of Goa Ltd. (SIDCGL) to put a



dedicated maintenance mechanism in place. The direction came while the Commission was hearing

a complaint raised by a member of the prison's Board of Visitors over sanitation and drainage

conditions at the facility. Details placed before the Commission by Superintendent of Prisons Sucheta Dessai indicate that the jail has been grappling with sewage blockages and overflows since 2021. While a Sewage Treatment Plant is available within the prison complex, the existing drainage system has repeatedly failed to carry wastewater to the facility.

High Court Quashes Rash Driving FIR Over Scooter Mirror Brush

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court has quashed a criminal case and chargesheet against 52-year-old Arvind Coutinho of Navelim, ruling that the mere brushing of a scooter's rear-view mirror against a neighbour's elbow inside a private residential complex did not constitute criminal rash or negligent driving.



Goa Police Arrest Two Accused In ₹2 Crore CEO Impersonation Cyber Fraud

■ Accused allegedly posed as company CEO on WhatsApp and induced accountant to transfer ₹2 crore via RTGS

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Police's Cyber Crime Police Station has arrested two men from Pune in connection with an alleged ₹2 crore cyber fraud involving impersonation of a company CEO on WhatsApp.

Cyber Crime Police registered Crime No. 81/2026 on September 8 under Sections 318(4), 319(2) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section



66-D of the Information Technology Act.

According to police, the accused allegedly used the CEO's name

and profile photograph on WhatsApp to impersonate him and convinced the company's accountant to transfer ₹2 crore

through RTGS to an account belonging to NEXACRUZE MOTORS OPC PRIVATE LIMITED, maintained with IndusInd Bank.

Following registration of the case, police traced the beneficiary account and the subsequent money trail. A Cyber Crime team led by PSI Navin Naik, along with Police Constables Yash Kole, Sidramayya Math and Shantaram Narse, was dispatched to Pune the same night.



₹1.5 Lakh Worth Copper Strips Stolen From Margao Store; One Arrested

■ Fatorda Police recover 40 kg of stolen copper strips worth around ₹50,000 during investigation

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Fatorda Police have arrested a man in connection with the theft of copper strips worth approximately ₹1.5 lakh from the premises of Goa Gutter Gold Retail Ventures Pvt. Ltd. at Borda, Margao.

According to the complaint filed by Binayak P.P. of Colva, the theft took place around 5.30 am on August 28, 2026. The accused, identified as Faizald Khan alias Baba, a resident of Maina, Curtorim, allegedly broke open the lock of the store

room and entered the premises.

The accused allegedly stole around 115 kg of copper strips, valued at approximately ₹1.5 lakh. During the investigation, police arrested Faizald Khan alias Baba. Following his arrest, he allegedly disclosed the location where the stolen property had been kept.

Acting on the information, police recovered approximately 40 kg of copper strips valued at around ₹50,000. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Sanil Dessai of Fatorda Police Station.



Iron Ore Allegedly Stolen From Chowgule Mines In Sanguem

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SANGUEM: Curchorem Police have registered a case following a complaint alleging illegal removal and transportation of iron ore from the Chowgule mines at Costi, Kalay, Sanguem.

The complaint was filed by Suraj Kalangutkar, Geologist with the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Government of Goa.

According to the complaint, prior to August 7, 2026, at around 1 pm, unknown persons allegedly re-handled a mining dump at the Chowgule mines and removed iron ore from the site. The accused allegedly transported the extracted iron ore to an unknown destination without lawful authority or valid permission from the Directorate of Mines and Geology. The complaint states that the act amounted to theft of iron ore belonging to the State Government and caused financial loss to the government. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Bharat Kharat of Curchorem Police Station.

Woman Loses ₹1.29 Lakh In Crypto Investment Fraud In Tivim

■ Unknown person allegedly impersonated a manager and induced complainant to make multiple transactions using QR

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: A woman from Tivim has allegedly lost ₹1,29,394 after falling victim to a cryptocurrency investment fraud involving an unknown person who allegedly impersonated a manager.

According to a complaint filed by Vanchita Vilas Wadkar, the incident occurred on February 20, 2026, at Madel, Tivim. The accused, allegedly operating through the Instagram account @



radhika_jaiswal590, impersonated a manager and induced the complainant to invest in cryptocurrency.

The accused allegedly shared a QR code with the complainant and

made her carry out multiple transactions from her State Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra accounts.

The transactions resulted in a total loss of ₹1,29,394 to the complainant.

Colvale Police have registered a case and further investigation is being conducted by PSI Dattaraj Rane.

1.04 Kg Suspected Ganja Seized In Canacona; Man Arrested

■ Accused caught red-handed near cemetery behind Canacona bus stand; contraband valued at around ₹52,000x

Team Goemkarponn

CANAONA: Canacona Police have arrested a man after allegedly catching him red-handed with 1,040.3 grams of suspected ganja near the cemetery behind the Canacona bus stand.

According to the state complaint filed by PSI Ramdas Doifode of Canacona Police Station, the accused has been identified as Shrinath Vaddar,



a resident of Chaudi, Canacona, and originally

from Uttara Kannada, Karnataka.

The accused was allegedly found in illegal possession of flowering or fruiting tops of the cannabis plant, suspected to be ganja, between 1.53 pm and 3.38 pm on September 10, 2026. The seized substance has been valued at approximately ₹52,000.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Vishal Velip of Canacona Police Station.

Donation Box Broken Open, ₹40,000 Stolen At Talwada Keri Temple

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: Mandrem Police have registered a case following the theft of approximately ₹40,000 in cash from the donation box at Shree Dev Ajoba Devasthan at Talwada, Keri, Pernem. According to the complaint filed by 66-year-old Shrikant Ramkrishna Talkar, the theft took place before 7.45 am on September 10, 2026. An unknown person allegedly broke open the lock of the donation box (fund petti), which was kept in the open premises of the temple, and stole the cash inside.

Goa's First Five Farmers Receive AgriStack Farmer IDs

■ CM Pramod Sawant Says Digital Farmer Identity Will Strengthen Transparent And Efficient Agricultural Services

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has taken its first step towards technology-driven agriculture with the State's first five farmers receiving AgriStack Farmer Enrolment IDs under the Goa State Amritkal Agriculture Policy, 2025.

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant felicitated the five farmers from Surla and presented them Certificates of Appreciation at a programme organised



by the Directorate of Agriculture under the Swayampurna Goa – Vocal for Local initiative.

The AgriStack initiative aims to provide every farmer with a unique

digital identity through the Farmer ID system, enabling better digital records and easier access to government schemes, agricultural services and benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, Sawant said AgriStack is a transformative initiative that brings technology and innovation into agriculture and will help empower farmers.

He said the unique Farmer ID would enable farmers to access government schemes more effectively, support improved agricultural planning and make the delivery of services more transparent, efficient and farmer-centric.



Dabolimcha Raja Arrives In Grand Procession, Takes Position Under Dabolim Flyover

■ Grand Arrival Draws Devotees As Sarvajanik Ganapati Takes Place At New, Larger Venue

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Amid the thunderous beats of Dhol Tasha and chants of "Ganapati Bappa Morya", Dabolimcha Raja arrived in a grand procession on Thursday evening and took his place at the beautifully decorated pandal beneath the Dabolim flyover.

The arrival drew a large gathering of devotees, with the procession turning the area into a vibrant festive spectacle as people accompanied the idol with traditional music, devotional chants and celebrations.

Organisers said the pandal, set up beneath the Dabolim flyover, is among the biggest

Sarvajanik Ganapati pandals in Goa and is expected to attract a large number of devotees throughout the festival.

Chicalim Sarpanch Kamla Prasad Yadav said the venue had undergone a major change this year due to the ongoing Dabolim flyover works, which led to the removal of the shed where the idol was traditionally installed.

However, he said the change had resulted in a larger space for the celebrations. "Dabolim flyover works took away the earlier shed where we used to install Dabolimcha Raja, but Ganapati Bappa himself has given us a bigger and better place this year."



AAP Says High Court Imposes Strict Conditions On Malcolm Pereira's Interim Relief

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: AAP Goa has said that the High Court has imposed strict conditions while granting interim relief to Malcolm Pereira, accused in the alleged assault case involving Chinchinim-Deussua Sarpanch Gerson Gomes. AAP Goa President Valmiki Naik, Senior Vice President Sandesh Teleikar-Dessai and other party leaders addressed the media and highlighted the conditions imposed by the High Court on Pereira. According to AAP, Pereira has been directed not to contact Gerson Gomes or his family, to stay away from Chinchinim, and not to leave Goa without informing the Investigating Officer. Naik also read out portions of the lower court's order rejecting Pereira's anticipatory bail application, highlighting the court's observations regarding the allegations and the investigation.

Kunbi Art Revival Vital To Preserving Goa's Cultural Identity: Sawant

■ CM Says Traditional Craft Can Preserve Heritage While Creating Sustainable Livelihoods For Women

Team Goemkarponn

CHICALIM: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant on Friday said the revival of Goa's traditional Kunbi art is vital to preserving the State's cultural identity, while stressing the need to turn the heritage craft into a sustainable source of livelihood. Sawant was speaking after inaugurating the 'Weaves of Goan Natives' initiative and the Mahila Resource Centre at Joggers Park, Chicalim, in the Dabolim



initiative aims to revive Kunbi weaving while creating opportunities for women through skill development, production and employment.

"The main concept was reviving the Kunbi. I am very happy to see

designer reviving Kunbi saris and other items related to Kunbi art and the Goan Kunbi tradition," Sawant said.

He said the government had been supporting Kunbi art for the past eight years as part of its efforts to promote traditional skills and self-reliance under the Swayampurna Goa vision.

Kharwado Beach Gets Ready For Ganesh Visarjan, Canoes To Assist Devotees

■ Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar Inspects Site, Directs Departments To Ensure Safe And Smooth Immersion

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: With Ganesh Chaturthi approaching, Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar on Friday inspected the Ganesh visarjan arrangements at Kharwado beach along with officials from various government departments.

During the joint inspection, Salkar reviewed the preparations for the safe and orderly immersion



of Ganesh idols and directed the concerned departments to ensure that devotees face no

inconvenience during the process. Salkar said canoes would be deployed at Kharwado beach to

assist devotees during the immersion of idols. The beach will also be cleaned and prepared to accommodate the large number of people expected to gather for visarjan.

A waterproof pandal will be erected at the site, along with adequate seating arrangements for devotees. The facility is expected to provide shelter and basic amenities, particularly in case of rain.

South Goa Opens Enrollment For Civil Defence Volunteers

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The District Administration, South Goa, has initiated the enrollment process for Civil Defence Volunteers to strengthen community participation and improve preparedness for disasters and emergencies.

Civil Defence Volunteers will assist the District Administration and other response agencies in disaster preparedness, emergency response, evacuation, relief operations, public awareness and building community resilience.

Goa Auto Show 2026 Returns with its Second Edition in Goa with the Future of Mobility, Innovation and Lifestyle

Team Goemkarponn

PANJIM: Goa is set to witness the return of one of its most anticipated automotive showcases as the Goa Auto Show 2026 – 2nd Edition takes centre stage at the iconic Kala Academy, Darya Sangam, Panjim, from September 25 to 27, 2026.

Positioned as India's Premier Expo of Mobility, Innovation & Lifestyle, the three-day event will bring together the latest in automobiles, two-wheelers, premium mobility, automotive innovation and lifestyle experiences under one roof. With the theme "The Future of Mobility Returns to Goa," the Goa Auto Show 2026 is set to create a dynamic platform for automotive brands, enthusiasts, buyers, industry professionals and lifestyle audiences.

The exhibition will be open to visitors from 11:00 AM to 7:30 PM each day, offering an immersive experience that goes beyond a conventional automobile exhibition. From the latest mobility solutions and cutting-edge automotive technology to premium vehicles and two-wheeler culture, the event will showcase the evolving face of mobility in India.

A major highlight of the second edition will be the introduction of exclusive

experience arenas designed to offer visitors specialised, engaging automotive experiences. LUXE – Premium Car Brands will bring together the world of luxury and premium automobiles, offering an opportunity to experience some of the most aspirational names and models in the automotive space.

"After an overwhelming response to our debut edition in 2025, we are thrilled to bring back the Goa Auto Show with an even bigger and more immersive experience. The 2026 edition, with the theme 'The Future of Mobility Returns to Goa', is not just about showcasing vehicles, but about creating a complete lifestyle experience. With dedicated arenas like LUXE for premium cars and REVV for two-wheeler culture, we aim to make this India's most vibrant celebration of mobility, innovation and lifestyle," said *Satish Menon,

Exhibition Director, Goa Auto Show 2026.*

Adding to the excitement will be REVV – The Two-Wheeler Arena, dedicated to the passion, performance and culture surrounding two-wheelers. The arena will celebrate the diversity of the two-wheeler segment and create an engaging space for motorcycle and scooter enthusiasts. The Goa Auto Show aims to bring together the worlds of mobility, innovation and lifestyle, reflecting the changing aspirations of today's consumers. With Goa emerging as a vibrant market for premium mobility and lifestyle experiences, the show provides an ideal platform for automotive brands to connect with a diverse audience in one of India's most dynamic destinations.

Following the successful first edition in 2025, which brought together automotive brands, enthusiasts and

industry stakeholders at Kala Academy, the second edition is expected to build on that momentum with a stronger and more immersive showcase. The inaugural edition featured automobiles, electric mobility, biking culture, automotive technology and lifestyle experiences, establishing the Goa Auto Show as a new platform for the state's automotive ecosystem.

The 2026 edition will continue to celebrate the rapidly evolving world of mobility while creating opportunities for brands and visitors to discover new products, technologies and experiences. The combination of premium automobiles, two-wheeler culture, innovation and lifestyle is expected to make the event a key attraction for automobile enthusiasts and the wider public.

For more details, visit the website at goaautoshow.com



"India's Global Stage": Bharat Mandapam Set to Host BRICS Summit 2026

■ Delhi's landmark convention centre will bring world leaders, business leaders and journalists together for two days of high level discussions

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The national capital is preparing to host the 2026 BRICS Summit, with world leaders arriving in Delhi for discussions on major geopolitical, economic and technological challenges. Among the prominent leaders expected at the summit are Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

At the centre of the high profile gathering will be Bharat Mandapam, the modern convention and exhibition complex located within the Pragati Maidan redevelopment area. Spread across 123 acres and built at a reported cost of around ₹2,700 crore, the facility was inaugurated in 2023 and has emerged as one of India's major venues for international events.

The name Bharat Mandapam draws inspiration from the 12th century Anubhava Mandapam, a historic forum associated with public discussion and dialogue. The complex also features a 27 foot tall Nataraja statue weighing 18 tonnes. Crafted by artisans from Tamil Nadu using ashtadhatu, the statue is among the venue's most prominent landmarks.

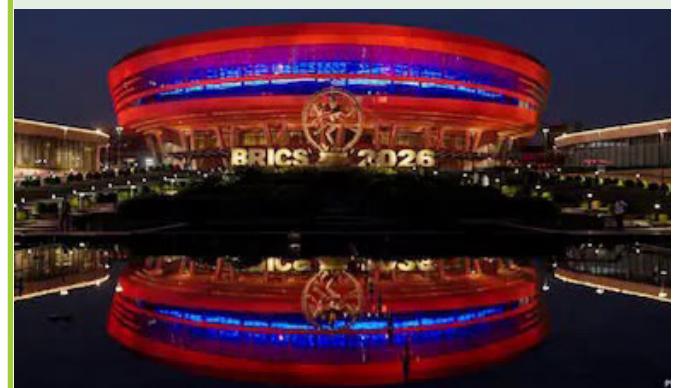
The main convention centre draws inspiration

from the shape of a conch shell, representing consciousness, energy and an auspicious beginning. Its architecture incorporates themes from Indian civilisation, including solar energy, the journey from zero to the Indian Space Research Organisation and the five elements of nature, known as panch mahabhuta.

Bharat Mandapam's summit facilities are designed to accommodate large international delegations. Hall No. 1 has hosted the Bharat Innovates programme showcasing technologies ranging from drones to emerging technologies.

Hall No. 14 will host the BRICS Business Forum, bringing together industrialists, investors and corporate representatives. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Putin are also scheduled to address the business community.

The International Media Centre in Hall No. 5 is expected to host around 1,200 to 1,400 journalists from across the world. It will serve as the main base for global media coverage of the summit. The BRICS discussions are expected to cover the Russia Ukraine war, tensions in the Middle East, counter terrorism, artificial intelligence and trade relations among member countries.



'Goa First' takes shape as AAP, GFP explore third-front alliance

political exchanges have fuelled speculation that the cooperation could eventually translate into an electoral pact.

An AAP leader acknowledged that preliminary conversations had taken place, saying the two parties were examining ways in which like-minded groups could work together to take on the BJP.

"Both parties have underscored the need to dislodge the BJP in 2027. There have been informal discussions

on how like-minded forces can come together and provide an alternative to the people of Goa," the leader said.

According to the AAP leader, negotiations over constituencies may also be manageable if the two parties decide to proceed with an alliance. The leader pointed out that the electoral influence of AAP and GFP is concentrated in different pockets, limiting potential overlap.

"There could perhaps be an issue in three or four seats, but overall, seat-sharing should not be a major problem," the leader said.

GFP has also acknowledged that it is considering alternatives as the party evaluates the political equations

for the next Assembly election.

Karapur protest against Abhinandan Lodha project suspended after 161 days

For the residents, the panchayat's latest action marks a temporary pause in a prolonged confrontation, while the dispute over the proposed project remains subject to the ongoing legal battle. The protesters reiterated that their opposition to the project remains firm and that they would continue pursuing the matter through legal and democratic means.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

“Mumbai Turns to the Sea”: ₹4,007 Crore Desalination Plant to Boost City’s Water Supply

■ Manori project aims to produce up to 400 MLD of drinking water as Mumbai faces a growing gap between demand and supply

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: Mumbai is turning to seawater to strengthen its drinking water supply as demand continues to rise and the city remains heavily dependent on rainfall to replenish its reservoirs.

By 2029, the city is expected to receive up to 400 million litres of drinking water every day



from a major desalination project at Manori in northwestern Mumbai. Once fully operational, the facility is expected to become India’s largest

desalination plant by capacity and make Mumbai only the second Indian city after Chennai to produce drinking water from seawater

on such a scale. The idea gained serious attention after Mumbai’s severe water shortage in 2009, when daily water cuts highlighted

the city’s dependence on the monsoon. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation is now developing the project at an estimated cost of ₹4,007 crore. The Manori plant will cover around 12 acres. The first phase is planned to produce 200 MLD, with the second phase expected to eventually take the total capacity to 400 MLD.



“Properly Handle Differences”: Xi Jinping Arrives in India for BRICS Summit

■ Chinese President to meet PM Modi in Delhi as Beijing signals focus on cooperation and managing differences

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Chinese President Xi Jinping has arrived in India for the 18th BRICS Summit, marking his first visit to the country in nearly seven years and setting the stage for a closely watched bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

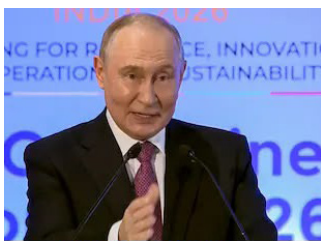
Xi left Beijing on Saturday at Modi’s invitation to attend the BRICS Summit being held in New Delhi on September 12 and 13.

His visit comes as India and China continue efforts to stabilise ties following years of tensions triggered by the 2020 Galwan Valley clash. A meeting between Modi and Xi is scheduled for Saturday evening.

The two leaders have met in each of the past two years, including discussions in Kazan and Tianjin, as diplomatic engagement between the two countries has gradually increased.

China has signalled that it wants to strengthen communication with India while managing differences between the two neighbours. Beijing has said both countries should approach their relationship from a long term and strategic perspective, increase cooperation and address disagreements appropriately.

The visit carries significance as it comes after a period of strained India China relations.



“BRICS Produces Over 40% of World GDP, G7 Just 29%”: Putin Takes Dig at Western Bloc

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin highlighted the growing economic influence of BRICS, saying the grouping has accounted for more than 40 per cent of global GDP over the past five years, compared with 29 per cent for the G7. Speaking at the BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi, Putin said the figures reflected major changes taking place in the global economy. He argued that emerging economies are increasingly becoming new engines of global growth as the traditional economic powers lose some of their earlier dominance. Putin also criticised Western economic policies, accusing Western countries of using sanctions and other measures to restrict competitors. He pointed to disruptions involving pipelines, international transport routes and maritime shipping, while also highlighting the large number of sanctions imposed on Russia.

“India’s Electoral Process Is Among the Most Transparent in the World”: CEC Gyanesh Kumar

■ Election Commission highlights verification at every stage, from voter rolls and polling to EVM counting

Team Goemkarponn

AHMEDABAD: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has described India’s electoral system as one of the most transparent in the world, highlighting the multiple layers of verification carried out throughout the election process. Kumar made the remarks while addressing an interaction with Booth Level Officers at Atal Kalam Hall of



Gujarat University in Ahmedabad on Friday. He said political parties, candidates and their authorised agents are involved in verification at different stages, beginning with electoral rolls and continuing through polling and counting. Electoral rolls are regularly verified

with the participation of political parties and their Booth Level Agents. Booth Level Officers are tasked with identifying cases involving absent, shifted, deceased, duplicate and foreign voters while ensuring that eligible citizens remain included in the rolls. Kumar stressed that every eligible Indian citizen who has completed 18 years should have their name included in the electoral roll.

“Sea Lanes Must Be Secure, Seafarers Safe”: PM Modi’s Strong BRICS Message

■ Prime Minister highlights maritime security, BRICS economic growth and stronger trade cooperation at Business Forum

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed the need for secure maritime routes and safe passage for seafarers, linking the safety of global shipping networks to the growth of international trade.

Addressing the BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi, Modi said global trade could progress only when sea lanes remain



secure, supply routes stay open and seafarers are protected. His remarks come amid growing concerns over attacks

and disruptions involving commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz.

“India is a staunch supporter of freedom of

navigation and the safety of seafarers,” Modi said, underlining the importance of protecting critical maritime routes.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the growing economic strength of BRICS. He said the grouping now represents around 50 per cent of the world’s population, 40 per cent of global GDP and more than 25 per cent of global trade. According to Modi, while the global

economy has expanded around two and a half times, the combined GDP of BRICS nations has increased nearly four and a half times, meaning its economic strength has grown at almost twice the pace of the rest of the world.

He also pointed to the bloc’s growing role in innovation, saying BRICS countries are emerging as important centres for technological solutions and new ideas.

“MS Has Never Asked Us”: CSK Breaks Silence on MS Dhoni’s Reported Stake Demand

■ Chennai Super Kings dismiss claims that Dhoni sought a major ownership share in the IPL franchise

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Chennai Super Kings have rejected reports claiming that former captain MS Dhoni sought a significant ownership stake in the IPL franchise, putting an end to growing speculation surrounding his reported interest in the team’s ownership structure.

A recent report had



claimed that Dhoni initially sought a 25 percent stake in CSK before allegedly lowering his demand to 20 percent. According to the report, the franchise

subsequently offered him a stake of around 5.5 percent.

CSK, however, has denied having any such discussions

with the legendary cricketer. The franchise also indicated that it was unaware of Dhoni discussing the matter with former BCCI president

and CSK shareholder N Srinivasan.

Dhoni remains closely associated with CSK and is widely regarded as one of the most important figures in the franchise’s history. Under his leadership, the team won five IPL titles, while his association with the franchise has helped build one of the league’s strongest sporting brands.



“Anmol Ekka Leads From The Front”: India Beat Malaysia 3-1 To Reach Fourth Straight Junior Asia Cup Final

■ Captain Anmol scores twice as goalkeeper Vivek Lakra stars in India’s semifinal victory

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India’s junior men’s hockey team stormed into the final of the AHF Junior Asia Cup 2026 with a composed 3-1 victory over Malaysia on Friday. The defending champions are now one win away from securing their fourth consecutive title and sixth overall crown in the competition.

Captain and drag flick specialist Anmol Ekka once again produced a match winning performance, scoring twice from penalty corners. His brace took his tournament tally to 16 goals, strengthening his

position at the top of the scoring charts.

Goalkeeper Vivek Lakra was equally crucial to India’s success. Named Player of the Match, Lakra made several outstanding saves throughout the contest, including a crucial stop from a Malaysian penalty stroke. India dominated the early exchanges and created several opportunities, but Malaysia’s goalkeeper Amsyar Mohamad Adib kept the score level during the opening quarter. The breakthrough finally arrived in the 16th minute when India earned their fourth penalty corner.



“Animesh And I Will Win”: Gurindervir Singh Backs India For Asian Games Sprint Double

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India’s sprint star Gurindervir Singh is heading into the Asian Games with confidence, backing himself and fellow sprinter Animesh Kujur to finish on the podium in Nagoya.

Gurindervir, who holds the Indian men’s 100m national record, finished second in the 100m final at the Indian Athletics Series Final in Delhi with a time of 10.32 seconds. Despite the intense heat and humidity, he remained surrounded by supporters long after the race, signing autographs and posing for photographs.

The growing attention is a new experience for the 24 year old sprinter. His profile rose sharply in May when he clocked 10.09 seconds at the Federation Cup in Ranchi, becoming the first Indian man to break the 10.10 second barrier in the 100m. However, his breakthrough was followed by a hamstring injury that disrupted his season.

Goa Beat Himachal Pradesh by 18 Runs as Athashree, Pooja and Nikhila Shine

■ Shivarkar’s unbeaten 66, Kalel’s five wickets and Naik’s three wicket spell lead Goa to victory

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa secured an impressive 18 run victory over Himachal Pradesh in the U 19 Women’s Inter State T20 Tournament for the Siechem Trophy at the SLIMS Ground in Puducherry on Friday. After winning the toss and opting to bat, Goa scored 130 for four in 20 overs. Athashree Shivarkar led the innings with a superb unbeaten 66 off 53 balls, hitting eight fours and a six. Nikhila Naik and Rakshanda Kalangutkar opened the



innings, with Naik scoring 2 and Kalangutkar adding 9 before their dismissals. Usma Khan contributed a valuable 24, while Muskan Sab added 5. Pooja Kalel remained unbeaten on 10 alongside Shivarkar as Goa finished with a competitive total of 130. Extras contributed 14 runs to the Goa total.

Himachal Pradesh began their chase but found it difficult to score freely against Goa’s bowling attack.

They were eventually bowled out for 112 in 18.5 overs. Archana Thakur top scored for Himachal Pradesh with 21, while Yukti Kumari made 17. Himani Sharma and Paavani Singh contributed 15 runs each, with Saainaa Chauhan adding 12.

Canacona and Farmagudi Clinch Goa University Kabaddi Titles

■ Shree Mallikarjun College wins men’s crown, while GVM’s Farmagudi dominates women’s championship

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa University Inter Collegiate Kabaddi Championships 2026 27 concluded with Shree Mallikarjun and Shri Chetan Manju Desai College of Arts and Commerce, Canacona, emerging as the men’s champions, while GVM’s Gopal Govind Poy Raiturcar College of Commerce and Economics, Farmagudi,



Ponda, claimed the women’s title.

The four day championship was held from September 7 to 10 at the Sports Authority of Goa’s Multi

Purpose Indoor Stadium at Peddem, Mapusa.

A total of 28 men’s teams and 18 women’s teams participated in the competition. In the men’s final, Shree Mallikarjun



College defeated Dnyanprassarak Mandal’s College and Research Centre, Assagao, 56 42 to lift the championship trophy.

Canacona had earlier

secured its place in the final after a closely fought 37 35 victory over M.E.S. Vasant Joshi College of Arts and Commerce, Zuarinagar, in the semifinals.