



ED Seizes Assets Worth ₹13.44 Crore In Goa, Mumbai In United Services Club Case

Properties, Bank Deposits And Other Assets Linked To Alleged Diversion Of Funds Provisionally Attached

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Mumbai Zonal Office, has provisionally attached 13 movable and immovable assets worth approximately ₹13.44 crore in Mumbai, Goa and Madhya Pradesh in connection with an alleged money laundering case involving Barnadiet Bharat Varma,



Bharatkumar Shankarlal Varma and others. The action has been taken

under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA),

2002. According to the ED, the investigation was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the Mumbai Police under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. The investigation allegedly revealed that Barnadiet Bharat Varma, who was working as Deputy Secretary (Finance) at the United Services Club,

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Khaunte says he was not taken into confidence on Porvorim flyover decisions

Tourism Minister seeks urgent meeting with Digambar Kamat, says Porvorkars who endured construction disruption must now benefit from corridor



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte has sought an urgent meeting with PWD Minister Digambar Kamat over the issues surrounding the Porvorim Elevated Corridor, while stating that he was not taken into confidence when key decisions regarding the flyover were being taken.

Khaunte said he had spoken to Kamat and urged him to convene a meeting to address concerns such as rash driving, waterlogging and restrictions imposed on the corridor.

He said Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Kamat and senior PWD officials

should meet at the earliest and work out measures to ensure the flyover serves its intended purpose without compromising commuter safety. "While decisions regarding the flyover were being taken, I was not taken into confidence," Khaunte said.

He stressed that residents of Porvorim had endured considerable disruption during the construction of the project and should now be able to benefit from the completed corridor.

The elevated corridor was presented as a major solution to Porvorim's long-standing traffic

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06



Sawant highlights Modi's 25 years in public service

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public service, pointing to developments in infrastructure, digital connectivity, social welfare, entrepreneurship and economic growth during his tenure.

Sawant also underlined the development initiatives undertaken in Goa, citing improvements in connectivity, highways, tourism, education, healthcare, technology and sustainable development.

On the occasion of Prime Minister Modi's birthday on September 17, Sawant appealed to Goemkars to light an 'Ashirwad Ka Diya' at their homes from 6 pm as a gesture of goodwill and extend their wishes for the Prime Minister's long life and good health.

BJP To Focus On Winning Capacity Of Candidates Across All 40 Seats: Damu Naik

Damu Naik says BJP parliamentary board will decide candidates, with winning capacity among key considerations

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: With the 2027 Goa Assembly elections approaching, BJP Goa president Damu Naik has said the party will assess the winning capacity of candidates across all 40 constituencies before deciding on its nominees.



Naik said the BJP parliamentary board would take the final call

on who receives the party ticket, making it clear that individual ambitions would remain secondary to the party's decision. "If my party thinks that Damu could be a good candidate, then I will have to contest," Naik said when asked about his own candidature from Fatorda.

Centre Declares Pakistan Based Shahzad Bhatti Network a Terrorist Organisation Under UAPA

Government Adds SBN to the List of Banned Terrorist Groups Under Section 35 of UAPA

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Centre has declared the Pakistan based Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN) a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, citing its alleged involvement in cross border smuggling, recruitment and activities linked to terrorism. Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the decision on Wednesday, saying the action was in line with the



government's stated policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism. A gazette notification issued by the Union Home Ministry invoked Section 35(1)(a) of the UAPA to add the Shahzad Bhatti Network to the First Schedule of the legislation.

Russian Oil Supply Uncertainty Deepens as Middle East Conflict Raises Pressure on Indian Refiners

State-Owned Oil Companies Face Tougher Decisions Over Crude Purchases Beyond October

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Indian state-owned oil refiners are facing growing uncertainty over future crude supplies as disruptions caused by the Middle East conflict coincide with the possibility of tighter US restrictions on countries purchasing Russian oil. India has relied on discounted Russian



crude and relatively stable supply agreements with Middle Eastern producers to control import expenses in recent months. However, disruptions to established supply routes and increasing sanctions risks are forcing refiners

to reconsider their purchasing strategies. Oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have faced disruptions since late February. Saudi Arabia also recently suspended operations along a key section of its East-West pipeline following drone attacks, affecting more than 400,000 barrels per day of supplies destined for India.

Porvorim Flyover: Was the Traffic Planning Missing?

The ₹641 crore Porvorim flyover was inaugurated with much fanfare and presented as a major solution to Goa's growing traffic problems. But barely has the dust settled, and the project is already raising uncomfortable questions about planning, execution and traffic management.

For Porvorkars, the last three years have been anything but smooth. Dust pollution, traffic congestion, diversions, vehicle damage, delays and accidents became part of everyday life during construction. People were repeatedly told that the hardship would eventually be worth it because the elevated corridor would transform traffic movement through Porvorim.

Today, that promise appears increasingly difficult to defend.

The most troubling aspect is that two freak accidents were enough to trigger major changes in the traffic system. Two-wheelers were banned from the flyover, while entry and exit points around Porvorim were closed. The result has been a familiar nightmare on the roads.

Traffic pressure has once again shifted towards the Mandovi bridges and adjoining junctions. For people travelling from Mapusa towards Panaji, the problem is even more complicated because access to both the Porvorim flyover and the Atal Setu has been affected by the restrictions.

The Panaji Kamatamba Circle and Mercedes Circle are now feeling the additional burden.

This raises a fundamental question. If the ₹641 crore elevated corridor was designed to take a substantial share of traffic, why is the system struggling when it needs its capacity most?

The government has maintained that the flyover would significantly ease congestion. It was expected to carry around 60 per cent of the traffic movement through the corridor. Yet with restrictions on two wheelers and changes to entry and exit points, a project designed to improve traffic flow is now operating with reduced utilisation. That is not merely a traffic management problem. It is a planning question.

And now comes another curious development. The government reportedly wants IIM Nagpur to study the traffic movement and suggest solutions.

There is nothing wrong with seeking expert advice. In fact, complex infrastructure projects should be subjected to independent

“Was the traffic model not adequately studied during the planning stage? Were traffic simulations carried out for different vehicle categories, peak hours, accident scenarios and possible restrictions? Were the interactions between the Porvorim elevated corridor, the Mandovi bridges, Atal Setu and surrounding junctions properly assessed?”

These are not minor details. They are the very fundamentals of traffic planning.

The National Highways Authority of India, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Goa's Public Works Department have access to engineering expertise and consultants. The project itself involved significant technical planning and expenditure. So why has the government reached the stage where another institution has to be brought in to figure out how traffic should move after the flyover has already been constructed and opened?”

technical review. But the timing raises serious questions.

Why was this exercise not undertaken before the flyover was opened?

Was the traffic model not adequately studied during the planning stage? Were traffic simulations carried out for different vehicle categories, peak hours, accident scenarios and possible restrictions? Were the interactions between the Porvorim elevated corridor, the Mandovi bridges, Atal Setu and surrounding junctions properly assessed?

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And who will pay for this additional study?

More importantly, what happens if IIM Nagpur recommends changes that require further expenditure, reconstruction or alterations to the existing road network?

Goa cannot afford a cycle where a massive project is announced, constructed at enormous public cost, inaugurated with political fanfare and then subjected to basic operational corrections after opening.

Infrastructure cannot be judged merely by its size, cost or appearance. It must be judged by whether it actually solves the problem for which taxpayers paid.

The Porvorim flyover was built to reduce congestion. If its opening has instead shifted congestion to Mandovi, Kamatamba, Mercedes and other junctions, the government needs to explain why.

The people of Porvorim have already paid a price through years of construction disruption. They should not now be asked to pay again through additional studies, modifications and traffic experiments.

Calling the flyover a white elephant may still be premature. But the warning signs are clearly visible.

A ₹641 crore project cannot be allowed to become an expensive monument to poor coordination between planning and execution.

The government must publish the original traffic projections, the expected utilisation of the corridor, the traffic studies conducted before construction, the reasons for the present restrictions and the projected cost of the IIM Nagpur study.

Goans deserve answers before another rupee is spent. Because the real question is no longer whether Porvorim needed a flyover.

The question is whether Goa built the right flyover, with the right traffic plan, at the right time and with the right expertise.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Why Is BJP Sweating Over Nilesh Cabral Now?

By Suraj Nandrekar

Nilesh Cabral has not announced that he is leaving the BJP. He has not declared that he will contest against the party. He has simply asked a rather uncomfortable question: if the BJP offers him a ticket, should he accept it?

Yet the response from the BJP has been unusually sharp.

Cabral, a three time BJP MLA from Curchorem and a former minister, has publicly questioned the way the party treats its loyal leaders. He has spoken about giving up his Cabinet berth to make way for Aleixo Sequeira and then not being considered for another ministerial position or even a corporation chairmanship. He has also complained about what he describes as “backstabbing” and a growing “BJP versus BJP” situation in several constituencies.

Instead of allowing the statement to pass as the grievance of a sitting MLA, BJP state president Damu Naik responded strongly, accusing Cabral of political insecurity and pointing out that the party had given him tickets and that he had won three elections on the BJP symbol. Naik also said Cabral, being a member of the Core Committee, should have raised the matter within the party and that his statement has been sent to the leadership in Delhi.

That reaction itself raises questions.

Why is the BJP so uncomfortable with Cabral asking whether he wants the ticket?

The answer may lie in Curchorem.

There is already visible activity by other BJP leaders in the constituency. Rohan Gauns Dessai has emerged as a ticket aspirant and has been conducting a series of public activities, including sports events, medical camps, well cleaning and a recent sapling distribution programme. The timing and visibility of these activities have fuelled speculation about his political ambitions.

Cabral is obviously watching this.

He had already said in August that several people could aspire for a BJP ticket but that the final decision would rest with the party. At that stage, he appeared willing to leave the matter to the organisation.

Something has clearly changed since then.

The interesting part is that the BJP leadership itself had earlier warned party leaders against entering constituencies represented by fellow BJP MLAs and creating disturbances. That warning came amid speculation involving Curchorem and other constituencies.

So this is not merely a Cabral versus BJP argument.

It is about the larger question of how the BJP manages sitting MLAs when new aspirants emerge from within the party.

Cabral's grievance also touches upon a much bigger political transformation within the BJP. The party has expanded by inducting leaders from other political parties, some of whom have subsequently received important responsibilities. Cabral is asking what happens to those who stayed with the BJP through the years.

That is a legitimate internal political question.

The BJP is equally entitled to say that tickets are decided by its established process and that no sitting MLA has a permanent claim to a ticket.

But the political message emerging from Curchorem is unmistakable. A sitting three-time MLA is publicly questioning whether he even wants to seek the party's ticket, while another BJP leader is building a visible presence in his constituency.

That is not something the BJP can dismiss simply as “political insecurity”.

The real test will come when the BJP has to decide its Curchorem candidate.

Until then, everyone can make statements, organise programmes and build political networks. But the ticket decision will reveal much more than today's rhetoric. For now, the bigger question is not whether Nilesh Cabral is worried about his political future.

It is why the BJP appears so worried about Nilesh Cabral asking about it.

Goa Villas Allegedly Used To Run Cyber Fraud Operations; ₹1,000 Crore Money Trail Under Scanner

■ Mumbai Crime Branch uncovers two alleged networks operating from the state, with 19 arrests and about ₹100 crore in suspected proceeds frozen

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Two alleged cyber fraud networks with operations based in Goa have come under the scanner of the Mumbai Crime Branch after investigators traced transactions involving more than ₹1,000 crore through suspected mule bank accounts. The probe reportedly uncovered two separate groups



allegedly using rented villas in Goa as bases for their activities. Mumbai Crime Branch teams have arrested 19 people

in connection with the investigations and frozen approximately ₹100 crore linked to the suspected financial transactions.

Investigators are examining how the groups allegedly collected and circulated money through a network of bank accounts

opened in the names of individuals who may have acted as account holders or facilitators. Police suspect that the operations were being coordinated by alleged handlers based in Dubai. The movement of funds across multiple accounts is now being examined to establish the complete chain and identify those who ultimately controlled the money.



Goa Backward Classes Commission Seeks Two-Month Extension To Submit Empirical Data

■ Commission approaches High Court after being directed to provide OBC population data to State Election Commission by September 16

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa State Commission for Backward Classes has approached the High Court seeking a two-month extension to submit empirical data on the population of Backward Classes in connection with the municipal elections.

The Commission filed its application after the High Court, in its judgment dated August 25, directed it to furnish the empirical data to the State Election Commission by September 16.

The data is linked to the process concerning reservation for Backward Classes in the upcoming municipal elections.

With the September 16 deadline having passed, the Commission has sought additional time to complete and submit the required empirical data.

The matter is scheduled to come up for hearing before the High Court on September 23, when the court is expected to consider the Commission's request for an extension.



PIL In Goa High Court Questions Validity Of Beach Shack Law

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The constitutional validity of Goa's 2024 legislation governing beach shacks has been challenged before the High Court, with a Public Interest Litigation alleging that the law weakens regulatory safeguards applicable to the state's ecologically sensitive coastline.

The Goa Erection of Shacks on Public Beaches (Regulation and Control) Act, 2024, was passed by the Legislative Assembly in August 2024 and came into effect in October. While the legislation provides a framework for regulating temporary and seasonal tourism structures, the petitioners have alleged that some of its provisions conflict with safeguards contained in central environmental legislation.

The plea has raised objections under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011, and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The petitioners contend that the state legislation cannot override or dilute requirements arising under these central laws.

Belagavi Tax Consultant Granted Bail In GST Input Credit Case

■ Court provides relief to consultant facing allegations linked to alleged irregularities in input tax credit claims

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A tax consultant from Belagavi has secured bail in a case being investigated over alleged irregularities in the claiming of input tax credit (ITC) under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. The consultant was arrested as part of the investigation into the alleged GST-related transactions. The case involves scrutiny of financial records and claims made under the



tax system. Following the arrest, the accused moved the court for bail. After hearing arguments from both sides, the court granted bail subject to conditions.

The investigation will continue, with the authorities examining

the transactions and documentation associated with the alleged irregularities. The allegations remain subject to the ongoing legal proceedings, and the grant of bail does not determine the guilt or innocence of the accused.

Colvale Jail Scuffle Leaves Three Inmates Injured; Police Register NC Case

■ Prison authorities approach Colvale police after three prisoners suffer minor injuries in separate alleged assaults inside the jail

Team Goemkarponn

COLVALE: A morning disturbance inside Colvale Jail on Wednesday led to three inmates being injured after they were allegedly attacked by another prisoner, with police subsequently registering a non-cognizable case.

The incident was reported at around 7.35 am. Police said Virendra Kumar, an inmate of Ward 13, allegedly first



attacked Vikat Bhagat while he was asleep in Ward 11.

Kumar is then alleged to have assaulted two

other prisoners, Ismail Mulla and Mohammad Sarfaraz, who were lodged in the undertrial ward.

The three injured inmates were taken to the jail hospital, where they received treatment. A medical report submitted along with the complaint recorded their injuries as minor.

The complaint was filed by Shamsunder Kaskar, Additional Superintendent In-Charge of the prison. The jail authorities also provided the medical documentation to police as part of the complaint.

HC Calls For Complete Record Of Goa Dairy's Management Transfer To NDDB

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa High Court has sought the complete official record behind the decision to place the management of Goa Dairy under the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), with the dispute also involving the long-pending elections of the cooperative. The direction was issued while hearing a petition filed by Anup Desai and others, who have sought directions for elections to the Goa State Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Limited.

Attempted Murder Reported At Margao Railway Station; Accused Untraced

■ "Victim shifted to GMC after alleged attack on Platform 6; Konkarn Railway Police say they have no information

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: An alleged attempted murder incident was reported at Platform No. 6 of the Margao Railway Station around 4 pm on Tuesday, with the accused reportedly fleeing the scene and remaining untraced. According to information available, the victim was allegedly attacked on the railway platform and sustained injuries. The injured person was subsequently shifted to Goa Medical



College (GMC) for treatment. Bloodstains were reportedly noticed on the platform following the incident. However, Konkarn Railway Police, when contacted, said they had not received

any report regarding the alleged incident and were unaware of the case.

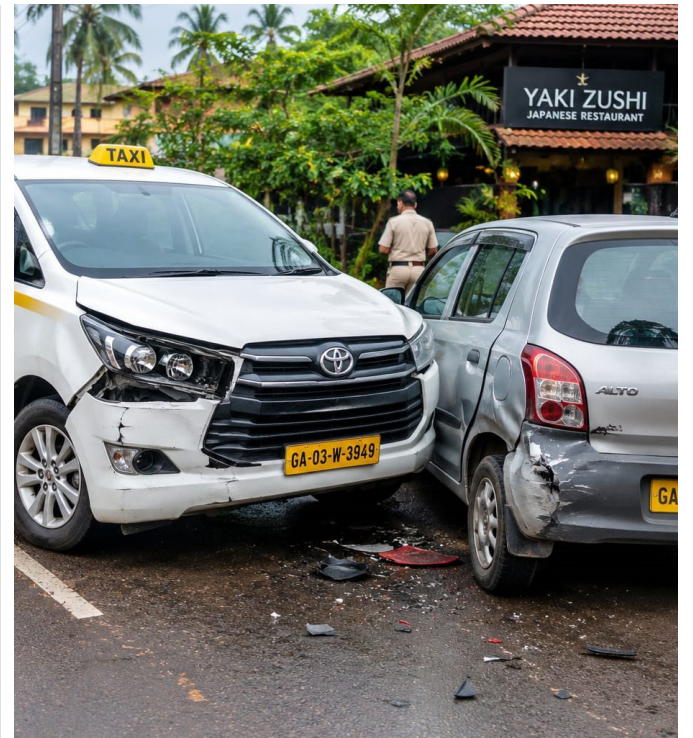
A Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP), meanwhile, confirmed that the victim had been admitted to

GMC for treatment.

The apparent lack of information with the railway police has raised questions over the reporting and response mechanism for serious incidents occurring within railway station premises.

The identity of the accused and the circumstances leading to the alleged attack are yet to be officially established.

Police are expected to ascertain the sequence of events and trace the person allegedly involved.



Taxi Driver Booked After Collision In Sangolda

■ Alto driver injured after Innova taxi allegedly hits car on Chogm Road

Team Goemkarponn

SANGOLDA: Saligao Police have registered a case against an 18-year-old taxi driver following a road accident near Yaki Zushi restaurant on Chogm Road, Sangolda, in which the driver of another car sustained simple injuries.

According to the complaint, the incident took place at around 7.54 am on September 13. The accused, identified as Vinod Shivappa Lamani, was allegedly driving an Innova taxi bearing registration number GA-03-W-3949 from an

internal road towards Chogm Road.

Police said that upon reaching the vicinity of Yaki Zushi restaurant, the taxi allegedly entered the main road in a rash and negligent manner and collided with a Maruti Alto bearing registration number GA-03-P-9414, which was travelling towards Saligao.

The collision resulted in damage to the Alto and left its driver with simple injuries. Further investigation in the case is being carried out by Head Constable Sudesh R. Mapari of Saligao Police Station.



64-Year-Old Man Found Dead Near Candolim Parking

Team Goemkarponn

CANDOLIM: A 64-year-old man was found dead near an open area close to the Candolim parking area on Wednesday, September 16, police said.

According to Calangute Police, they received information about an unidentified person lying at the location at around 12.24 pm. Police visited the spot and conducted enquiries with local residents.

The deceased was later identified as Basavaraj Sakarappa Attigeri, 64, a native of Gadag, Karnataka.

During the enquiry, locals reportedly informed police that the man was an alcoholic and did not have a fixed place of stay.

Police said that no foul play is suspected at this stage. The body has been preserved at the Goa Medical College (GMC) morgue for further procedures.

Calangute Police have registered an unnatural death (UD) case, and further enquiry is being conducted by PSI Prajeet Mandrekar.

41-Year-Old Labourer Missing From Old Goa Jetty

■ Police register complaint after man remains untraced; abduction suspected

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: Police have registered a missing person complaint after a 41-year-old labourer went missing from the vicinity of the Jetty at Old Goa in the early hours of September 13. The complaint was filed by Gaurav Harihar Apte, 42, a businessman from Alto Betim, Porvorim, against unknown persons. According to the complaint, Alok Tete, son of Amatus Tete, was



last seen near the Old Goa Jetty before 3 am on September 13. He has remained untraced despite efforts to locate him. Police have described Tete as around 5 feet 10 inches tall, with a thin build, round face, black hair and whitish complexion. At the

time he went missing, he was reportedly wearing black-coloured half pants. He is known to speak Hindi and Odia and has an injury mark on the right side of his forehead. The complainant has expressed suspicion that unknown persons may have abducted Tete and secretly confined him. Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding his disappearance and efforts are underway to trace him.

48-Year-Old Kerala Man Found Dead In Colva Hotel

■ Tourist found unconscious in hotel room; declared brought dead at SGD Margao

Team Goemkarponn

COLVA: A 48-year-old man from Kerala was found unconscious inside his hotel room in Colva on Wednesday morning and was later declared brought dead at South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao. According to police, information was received from SGD Margao at around 1.08 pm on September 16 regarding the death of Sudheer



A, 48, a resident of Kerala. During preliminary enquiry, police found that

Sudheer had arrived in Goa on September 14 and was staying at a

hotel in Colva. He was found lying unconscious inside his room on Wednesday morning. He was subsequently shifted to SGD Margao for medical treatment. However, the duty doctor declared him brought dead. The body has been preserved at SGD Margao for further medico-legal formalities. Further enquiry is being conducted by PSI Prashant Bhagat of Colva Police Station.

Unidentified 36-Year-Old Found Dead In Panaji Garden

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: An unidentified man, believed to be around 36 years old, was found dead in a garden opposite Geeta Bakery in Panaji, police said. According to police, information was received at around 12.35 pm on September 16 through a memorandum from the casualty department of Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim. The man, whose identity and residential details could not be immediately established, was found lying in the garden.

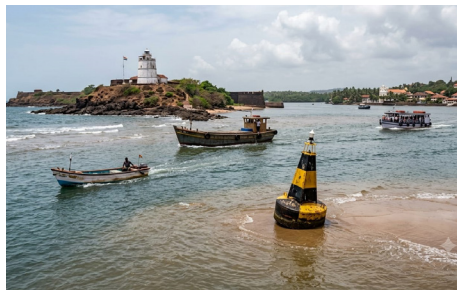
Aguada Sand Bar Reopens To Water Traffic; Mariners Warned Of Shallow Waters And Rough Weather

■ Captain of Ports issues fresh navigation guidelines, cautions vessels with draught above 1.7 metres against crossing the bar without proper assessment

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Captain of Ports Department has reopened the Aguada Sand Bar for all water-borne traffic with effect from September 16, 2026, while issuing a series of safety instructions to mariners navigating Goa's inland waterways and bridges.

The department has also announced that the



lighthouses at Campal, Tejo Front, Tejo Rear, Reis Magos, Penha de Franca and Aguada Beacon have resumed functioning with

their usual characteristics.

Mariners have been cautioned about the shallow waters around the Aguada Bar, with the

minimum depth recorded at 1.8 metres below chart datum at the mouth of the Mandovi River. Vessels with a draught exceeding

1.7 metres have been specifically warned not to attempt crossing the bar without proper assessment.

The department has further warned that weather conditions may deteriorate without warning and advised mariners to exercise extreme caution while crossing the Aguada Bar during rough conditions.

A Black and Yellow



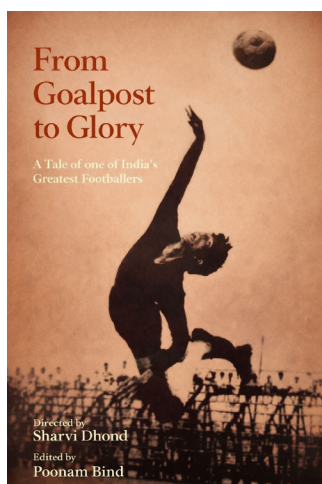
Poetry and Portuguese guitar blend at 'The Many Moods of Monsoon' in Panaji

■ Multilingual poetry in five languages was paired with compositions by acclaimed Portuguese guitarist Marta Pereira da Costa at a cultural evening organised by Communicare Trust, Instituto Camões - CLP and the Consulate General of Portugal in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Poetry and music came together in a multilingual celebration in Panaji, with Goan poets reciting verses in Konkani, English, Portuguese, Hindi and Urdu alongside compositions by Portuguese guitarist Marta Pereira da Costa. Titled The Many Moods of Monsoon, the event was organised by Dona Paula-based Communicare Trust in association with Instituto Camões - CLP and the Consulate General of Portugal in Goa. The evening explored the interplay between poetry,

language and music, with each poem accompanied by a carefully selected composition from Costa's repertoire. The recital featured Goa-based poets Arthy Muthanna Singh, Asavari Gurav, Bhuvarahan Srinivas, Gargi Guha, Heta Pandit, Jeet, Mamata Verlekar, Rahul Vishwakarma, Sheela Jaywant, Tino de Sá, Vrushali Kelekar and Ruzai Dias. Each poet chose a track based on the mood and rhythm of their poem. The programme reflected Goa's diverse linguistic landscape, bringing together five languages through a common artistic platform.



From Goalpost To Glory Traces The Legacy Of Goan Football Icon Brahmanand Sankhwalkar

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The life and legacy of Goan football great Brahmanand Sankhwalkar take centre stage in From Goalpost To Glory, a documentary created by Sharvi Dhond and Poonam Bind that looks beyond the football field to explore the sport's enduring place in Goa's cultural landscape. For Dhond, who has previously worked in the fiction genre, the documentary marks his first venture into non-fiction filmmaking. He has directed and anchored the film, while Poonam Bind has handled cinematography and editing.

Rather than presenting Sankhwalkar's career solely through his sporting achievements, the documentary places his journey within the broader history of football in Goa.

Goa Youth Conduct Re-Visarjan Drive At Miramar To Restore Beach Cleanliness

■ Sujan Naik and Guruprasad Borkar lead annual initiative to collect floating and damaged Ganesh idols and promote eco-friendly celebrations

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A group of youth volunteers conducted a beach cleanup and Ganesh idol collection drive at Miramar Beach on Wednesday morning after several idols were found floating along the Miramar and Caranzalem coastline following the visarjan festivities. The initiative was led by Sanghatana and Goa Hindu Yuva Shakti president Sujan Naik, along with Sadguru



Youth Federation president Guruprasad Borkar. The volunteers began the collection drive at around 6 am, gathering idols that had washed ashore or remained floating in the sea. According to the organisers, several of the

collected idols were made of Plaster of Paris (POP), which does not readily dissolve in water and can contribute

to marine pollution. The collected idols were subsequently taken for re-visarjan (punar-visarjan) as part of the initiative, with the organisers saying the process was carried out respectfully and with the required rituals.

CCP Child Committee Reviews Safety And Well-Being Issues In Panaji Schools

■ Students and school representatives share concerns and suggestions as city body discusses steps towards a more child-friendly Panaji

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Child Committee of the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) held a meeting with representatives of schools across the capital to review issues concerning children's safety, well-being and rights.

The meeting brought students, school representatives and other stakeholders



together to discuss the progress of initiatives undertaken so far and identify areas where further attention and

support may be required.

Participants shared experiences and perspectives from schools, providing inputs on issues

affecting children and highlighting areas where existing systems could be strengthened.

The discussions also focused on the importance of ensuring that children are heard when civic policies and initiatives affecting their daily lives are planned. The committee emphasised that creating a child-friendly city involves more than providing physical infrastructure. It also requires systems

that allow children to raise concerns, feel supported and participate meaningfully in matters affecting them. The interaction with schools is expected to help the CCP identify gaps and strengthen efforts related to child safety, welfare and rights across Panaji. The initiative is part of the broader effort to make the city a safer and more responsive environment for children.

"The Outbreak Remains Uncontrolled": Ebola Cases Rise Sharply in DR Congo's North Kivu

■ WHO Warns of Diverging Transmission Trends Despite Decline in National Cases

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains uncontrolled despite an overall decline in cases and deaths, with transmission patterns increasingly diverging between affected provinces.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said the latest situation showed a significant geographic shift in transmission. While cases have declined in Ituri, which has remained the main centre of the outbreak, infections have increased sharply in neighbouring North Kivu.

Ituri accounts for nearly 80 per cent of confirmed cases, but infections there have been falling since mid August. Over the latest three week period, confirmed cases across the country declined by about 6 per cent, largely because of a 25 per cent reduction in Ituri.

North Kivu, however, recorded a rise of more than 76 per cent during the same period. The province has reported its highest incidence since the outbreak began and now accounts for roughly



one third of new cases and more than one third of new deaths nationally.

Health authorities have warned that the improvement in Ituri should not be interpreted as an indication that the wider outbreak is ending. The differing trends have increased the need for stronger contact tracing, surveillance and other containment measures.

Researchers are also studying potential vaccines and treatments. The current outbreak is caused by Bundibugyo ebolavirus, for which

no vaccine or specific treatment has yet received approval.

The Ervebo vaccine, approved for Zaire ebolavirus, is being administered in the DRC under special use and research protocols to assess whether it could provide protection against the current strain. By September 13, around 2,307 healthcare and frontline workers had received the vaccine.

Clinical studies are also examining experimental treatments and post exposure

prevention. The WHO said 128 people had received investigational treatment or prophylaxis, including confirmed patients and high risk contacts. According to the DRC government's latest data through September 13, the outbreak has recorded 7,258 confirmed cases and 3,510 deaths across 62 health zones in seven provinces.

The outbreak has become the deadliest Ebola epidemic in the DRC's history and the second largest recorded globally.

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Khaunte says he was not taken into confidence on Porvorim flyover decisions

congestion. However, safety concerns following accidents soon after its opening have resulted in restrictions, raising questions among commuters about the corridor's operation. Khaunte said the focus should now be on resolving the issues and ensuring that the people of Porvorim receive the benefits for which the project was conceived.

ED Seizes Assets Worth ₹13.44 Crore

In Goa, Mumbai In United Services Club Case

along with her husband Bharatkumar Shankarlal Varma, diverted around ₹77 crore into various fake/dummy bank accounts opened in the names of individuals resembling the names of regular members of the United Services Club and the club's US Club accounts.

The ED said the funds, which allegedly represented proceeds of crime, were subsequently transferred to the personal and joint bank accounts of Barnadiet Varma, Bharat Varma and their family members/associates.

The agency further alleged that the accused used the proceeds of crime to acquire several immovable

properties and also invested part of the funds in fixed deposits with different banks.

As part of the alleged money trail, around ₹11 crore was transferred to the bank account of M/s Jyotirmay Foundation (Trust). The funds were subsequently transferred to accounts associated with Chand Prakash Pandey, his family members and chartered accountants allegedly connected with the United Services Club. The ED said its investigation had earlier resulted in the seizure of 35 properties valued at approximately ₹34.51 crore on March 20, 2026.

With the latest action, the agency has provisionally attached another 13 assets valued at around ₹13.44 crore. The investigation into the alleged diversion and utilisation of funds is continuing.

PM Modi Inaugurates SEMICON India 2026, Showcases Country's Growing Semiconductor Ambitions

■ Three-Day Exhibition in Delhi Brings Together Global Chipmakers, Startups and Industry Leaders

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the SEMICON India 2026 exhibition at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in Delhi, highlighting India's expanding semiconductor ecosystem and growing ambitions in the global electronics industry. Before the inauguration, the Prime Minister visited the exhibition and interacted with participating companies and industry representatives. Held from September 17 to 19, the event is organised under the theme "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem." It focuses on industry collaboration, government policy, technological development and international partnerships across the semiconductor value chain.

The exhibition brings together more than 600 exhibitors, including approximately 300 international companies, across 15,000 square metres. Over 150 speakers are participating, while six country pavilions and 12 state government pavilions will showcase developments and investment opportunities. Dedicated sections for startups, student hackathons and workforce development are also part of the exhibition, providing platforms for innovation,

technical education and employment opportunities in the microelectronics sector. The event will highlight progress under the Semicon India Programme, through which the Union government has approved 12 semiconductor projects. Three units approved under the first phase, Semicon 1.0, have reportedly begun commercial production. The Union Cabinet has also approved Semicon 2.0, which is structured around six key pillars. India's semiconductor design capabilities will receive additional attention, with electronic design automation tools extended to more than 400 academic institutions and 105 startups. Meanwhile, 24 startups have received approval under the Design Linked Incentive scheme.

A special "Sand to Silicon" Value Chain Experience will demonstrate the complete semiconductor journey, covering materials, manufacturing, advanced packaging, chip design, electronics and integrated systems. The exhibition is expected to facilitate business partnerships, investment discussions, technology collaborations and supply-chain development involving major global and Indian companies, including ASML, Micron, Tata Electronics, IBM Research, Applied Materials and Lam Research.



India Sends 47 Lakh Litres of Diesel to Bangladesh Through Friendship Pipeline

■ Latest Consignment Arrives in Dinajpur as Bangladesh Seeks Additional Fuel Supplies

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has supplied another consignment of diesel to Bangladesh through the India Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline as the neighbouring country works to meet rising fuel demand.

Nearly 4,000 metric tonnes, equivalent to around 47 lakh litres, of diesel reached the Parbatipur Receiving Terminal Depot in Dinajpur through the cross border



pipeline. The shipment was the pipeline's 72nd consignment, with the transfer taking place between September 13 and September 15.

The pipeline was established under a 2018 bilateral agreement that provides for Bangladesh

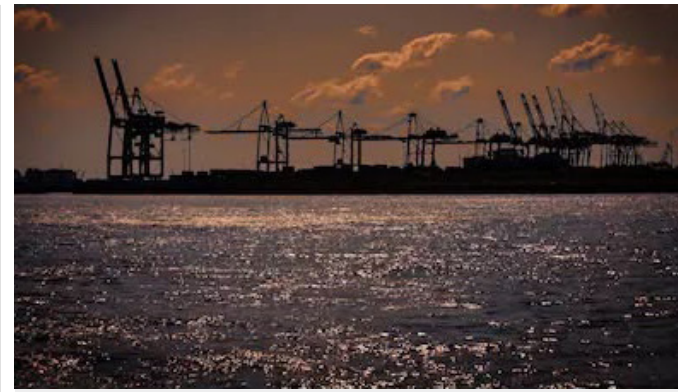
to import around 2 million tonnes of diesel over 15 years. Since operations began in March 2023, Bangladesh has received 330,087 tonnes of diesel through the facility.

The India Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline was inaugurated in March 2023 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Its foundation stone was laid by the two leaders in September 2018.

The pipeline has an

annual transportation capacity of 1 million metric tonnes of high speed diesel, making it an important part of energy cooperation between the two countries. It is the first cross border energy pipeline connecting India and Bangladesh.

India's Numaligarh Refinery has also been supplying petroleum products to Bangladesh since 2015, contributing to the wider energy partnership between the neighbouring countries.



“Gateway to the Middle East”: Oman Pitches Ports and Free Zones to Indian Businesses

■ Roadshow Highlights Sohar's \$30 Billion Investment Ecosystem and Expansion Opportunities

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Oman is positioning its ports, free zones and industrial areas as a gateway for Indian companies looking to expand into the Middle East and other international markets.

A two day business roadshow in New Delhi brought together Indian manufacturers, exporters and businesses to explore investment, manufacturing, distribution and logistics opportunities in Oman. The event was held under the theme “Your Gateway to International Markets.”

Oman's Embassy has been engaging with Indian businesses

to showcase the country's commercial infrastructure and investment opportunities. The focus has been on helping companies understand how Oman's ports and industrial zones can support their expansion into regional and global markets.

The roadshow also featured business to business meetings focused on potential investments, partnerships and specific commercial opportunities.

The engagement comes following the implementation of the India Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) from June 1, 2026.



“Meta Must Take More Responsibility”: Government Flags Accountability Over Child Safety on Instagram

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Meta has acknowledged a mistake involving child sexual abuse material linked to advertisements on Instagram and agreed to strengthen its reporting mechanism with Indian law enforcement agencies, amid increasing government scrutiny of online platforms. The government has maintained that social media companies have responsibilities beyond simply hosting user content, particularly when their algorithms influence what users see. Officials have also raised questions over whether platforms can claim legal protection when their systems actively recommend or amplify harmful material. The final interpretation of intermediary protections, however, remains a matter for the judiciary. Meta, which owns Instagram and Facebook, has agreed to report child safety related cases directly to the cybercrime portal operated by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).

“An Example of Sacrifice and Unwavering Resolve”: Amit Shah Hails PM Modi on 76th Birthday

■ Home Minister Highlights Modi's Long Political Journey and Focus on Governance

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday extended birthday wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing his political journey as an example of sacrifice, dedication and commitment to public service. Prime Minister Modi, who was born on September 17, 1950, in Vadnagar, Gujarat, turned 76 on



biography records his progression from work as an organisational worker to serving as Gujarat Chief Minister and later becoming Prime Minister.

Shah described Modi's life as one centred on public service and said

ordinary party worker to the highest elected office demonstrated the importance of sustained commitment to national service.

He also highlighted what he described as the Prime Minister's focus on welfare, development and governance, pointing to initiatives involving healthcare, housing, women's empowerment, education, skills and entrepreneurship.

“Small Merchants May Think Twice”: Retailers Warn New UPI Fee Could Push India Towards Cash

■ Industry Voices Raise Concerns Over 0.4% MDR on Select Merchant Payments Above ₹2,000

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The introduction of a new Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on certain UPI payments above ₹2,000 has triggered concern among retailers, with industry representatives warning that additional costs could encourage some small businesses to favour cash transactions. Under the revised framework, coming into effect



from October 15, 2026, a 0.4% MDR will apply to specified person to merchant UPI transactions

above ₹2,000, subject to a maximum charge of ₹300. Certain sectors, including railways, telecom,

insurance and fuel, will have a flat ₹5 MDR. Consumers will continue to make UPI payments without a transaction fee.

The Retailers Association of India has raised concerns about the potential impact on merchants operating with narrow profit margins. Its chief executive said even a relatively small payment processing cost could influence decisions over whether to accept digital payments or cash.

The association plans to raise the issue with the National Payments Corporation of India and the Finance Ministry, including a proposal for a differentiated structure between debit and credit linked UPI transactions. The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India has also questioned the timing, as the new framework will begin shortly before the Diwali shopping season.

Pakistan Pulls Out of Asian Champions Trophy in India, Cites Security Concerns

■ Pakistan Hockey Federation asks Asian Hockey Federation to shift the tournament to a safer venue

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Pakistan has decided not to send its national hockey team to India for the upcoming Asian Champions Trophy, citing security concerns and calling for the tournament to be moved to another country.

The Asian Champions Trophy is scheduled to be held from October 27 to November 5 in Mohali and Jalandhar, with Pakistan and five other teams set to participate.



Pakistan Hockey Federation president Mohyuddin Wani said the decision had been communicated to the Asian Hockey Federation.

The federation has requested that the tournament be relocated because of the sensitive situation between India and Pakistan. Relations

between the two neighbouring countries have remained strained for years, with bilateral sporting ties largely suspended following the 2008 Mumbai attacks. India has previously accused Pakistan based militant groups of involvement in the attacks. The latest decision also follows heightened tensions between the two countries after a deadly four day conflict last year that followed an attack on tourists in Kashmir.

Raj Raghwaní's Unbeaten 142 Puts Gujarat in Command Against Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Raj Raghwaní delivered a spectacular unbeaten century to put Gujarat in a commanding position against Goa on the opening day of the Men's U-23 Multidays Practice League Match at Gujarat College Cricket Ground A.

After winning the toss and choosing to bat, Gujarat suffered an early setback when Maulyarajsinh Chavda was dismissed for a duck in the first over. However, Malay V Shah and Manas Dave steadied the innings with valuable contributions of 70 and 51, respectively.

Goa's bowling attack responded strongly during the middle phase of the innings, picking up regular wickets and reducing Gujarat to 210/7. Rahul Vishwakarma, Deep Kasvankar and Anuj Yadav claimed two wickets each as Goa looked to restrict the hosts to a manageable total.

Gujarat, however, staged a remarkable recovery, led by Raj Raghwaní. The batter produced an attacking masterclass, remaining unbeaten on 142 from 150 deliveries.

His innings featured 10 fours and seven sixes, allowing Gujarat to accelerate significantly during the final stages of the day.

Parthiv Patel, Pragyan Ojha Emerge as Frontrunners to Replace Ajit Agarkar

■ BCCI set to decide on the next chairman of the senior men's selection committee as Agarkar's tenure nears its end

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Ajit Agarkar is set to leave his position as chairman of the BCCI senior men's selection committee, with former India cricketers Parthiv Patel and Pragyan Ojha emerging as the leading contenders for the role.

Agarkar's current contract is scheduled to end this month, with the BCCI's Annual General Meeting set to take place on Friday. While there had been speculation



that his tenure could be extended until next year's ODI World Cup, the latest developments indicate that the board is preparing for a change at the top of the selection panel.

Agarkar may have already chaired his final selection meeting on Wednesday. The

committee under his leadership announced India's squads for the upcoming white ball series against the West Indies as well as the Irani Trophy. Agarkar also headed the selection process for the Rest of India squad.

Parthiv Patel and Pragyan Ojha are now among the names being considered to succeed Agarkar. Both former India players have also been part of successful IPL campaigns, winning the tournament three times.



Indian Contingent Faces Training, Food and Accommodation Crisis at Asian Games

■ Athletes reportedly facing long journeys, inadequate facilities and accommodation problems ahead of the competition

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's contingent at the Asian Games is facing significant logistical challenges, with athletes reportedly struggling with training arrangements, food, transportation and accommodation ahead of the competition. Members of India's shooting contingent are reportedly spending more than two hours travelling to their training venue. Once there, facilities are also said to be limited, with drinking water reportedly being the only adequate provision available at some venues. Accommodation has

emerged as another major concern. Several rooms booked for Indian athletes and officials were reportedly cancelled, leaving some members of the contingent waiting for hours at the airport before accommodation could be arranged. To address the shortage, India's Chef de Mission has reportedly arranged 15 additional rooms for members of the contingent. The rowing team has also encountered difficulties since arriving at the Games. Members of the contingent reportedly waited for nearly six hours before local residents helped them arrange accommodation and food.

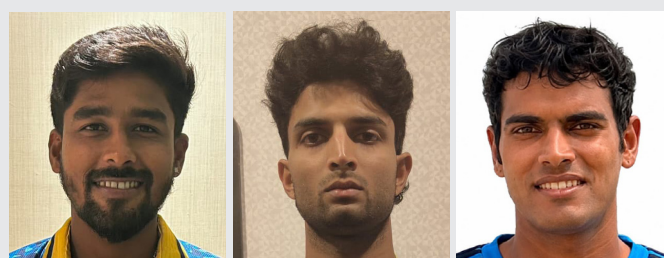
Goa Crush Gujarat by Eight Wickets in Thimmappiah Memorial Tournament

■ Suyash Prabhudessai and Abhinav Tej Rana Lead Goa to Comfortable Chase in Bengaluru

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa produced a dominant performance to defeat Gujarat by eight wickets in the Dr Capt K Thimmappiah Memorial Tournament, successfully chasing a target of 151 in just 24.5 overs at the Bala Gangadharanatha Swamy School Ground in Bengaluru.

Goa's victory was built on a commanding batting partnership



between Suyash Prabhudessai and Abhinav Tej Rana, who added 110 runs for the second wicket to put their team firmly in control.

Prabhudessai delivered an aggressive

knock of 61 off 48 deliveries, striking six fours and four sixes.

Tej Rana provided stability at the other end, remaining unbeaten on 69 from 81 balls. His innings included nine

boundaries as he guided Goa towards the target. Deepraj Gaonkar finished unbeaten on nine, helping Goa complete the chase with minimal difficulty.

Earlier, Gujarat showed resilience in their second innings after conceding a substantial first-innings deficit. They scored 287 runs in 72.3 overs, setting Goa a target of 151 after Goa had secured a 137-run lead.

Smit Patel led Gujarat's batting effort with a well-

made 71, while Jaymeet Patel contributed 63 and Sunpreet Bagga scored 34. However, Goa's bowling attack managed to restrict Gujarat from building a more challenging total.

Darshan Misal was Goa's leading wicket-taker, claiming four wickets for 69 runs. Yash Kasvankar supported him with three wickets for 67 runs, while Lalit Yadav picked up two wickets for 58 runs.