



Goa turns to market borrowing with ₹100 crore loan

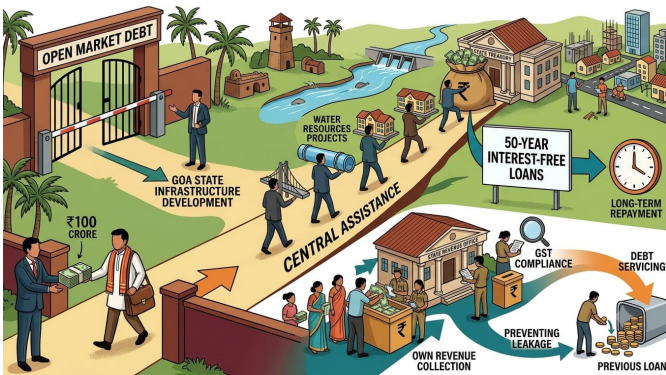
■ State had avoided open market debt for five months, relying largely on interest-free central assistance

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: After keeping away from the bond market during the opening five months of the financial year, the Goa government has now raised ₹100 crore through the sale of government securities.

The latest borrowing has been contracted at 7.8% interest for a period of 11 years, with the liability scheduled to mature in 2037.

The borrowing is well within Goa's permitted net borrowing limit of ₹3,700



crore. However, official figures show that the state had not tapped the open market until August 31, choosing instead to finance its requirements

through other sources. Goa has also continued to meet its existing debt commitments. During the period, the government

paid ₹1,103 crore towards previous loans, including both the principal component and interest, using its own revenue collections.

Data on fresh debt raised between April and August show that the state largely relied on central assistance rather than conventional market loans. Of the ₹338.5 crore incurred during the period, ₹311.1 crore came through special central assistance provided for capital expenditure.

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Mopa passenger traffic drops 22.8% in August as Goa airport faces sharp decline

Goa's Mopa records steepest fall among GMR's major Indian airports as overall group traffic rises just 0.9%



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Mopa Airport witnessed a sharp 22.8% year-on-year decline in passenger traffic in August, making Goa one of the major weak spots in GMR Airports' Indian airport portfolio during the month.

The steep fall at Mopa came even as GMR Airports reported a marginal 0.9% increase in overall passenger traffic across its consolidated portfolio, excluding Cebu. The operator handled 9.44 million passengers during August. The Goa airport's performance contrasted with that of GMR's largest facility, Delhi Airport, which

registered 2.7% growth during the month. Hyderabad Airport, however, also reported a significant 11.5% drop in passenger traffic. Delhi handled 6.08 million passengers in August and continued to account for the bulk of GMR's passenger volumes. The airport added about 1.6 lakh passengers compared with August last year. In contrast, the decline at Hyderabad resulted in the loss of nearly 2.85 lakh passengers over the same period, while Mopa recorded a 22.8% contraction. GMR's consolidated traffic comprised approximately 7.1 million domestic and 2.4 million international

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06



Manoj Parab's Ganesh Chaturthi post triggers comeback buzz

Team Goemkarponn

PIRNA: Former Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) president Manoj Parab has once again become the subject of political speculation after sharing a Ganesh Chaturthi photograph featuring a gathering of his supporters in Pirna. Parab posted the picture late on Thursday along with the message, "My home, My Ganpati, and my Revolutionary Family." While the post did not mention any political decision or future plans, it has generated discussion about his possible return to active politics. The latest development follows a cryptic Facebook post shared by one of his supporters a day earlier. The message appeared to suggest that Parab could be preparing to make a political move, adding to speculation surrounding his next step. The renewed attention comes at a time when Goa's opposition parties are working on different political combinations ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

AI Regulation Is Essential To Protect Citizens, Says Ashwini Vaishnaw

■ IT Minister highlights AI's growing benefits and risks as India works on a balanced approach to technology safety

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has stressed the importance of regulating artificial intelligence (AI), stating that the technology offers significant benefits but also presents complex risks to user safety. Speaking on the sidelines of SEMICON



India 2026 on Thursday, Vaishnaw said every emerging technology brings both opportunities and challenges, making regulation an important part of ensuring public

safety. He explained that AI requires special attention because its risks are more difficult to anticipate than those associated with certain physical technologies.

According to the minister, understanding how to ensure safety in AI systems is a particularly complex task because of the technology's broad and evolving capabilities.

'Vote Theft, Government Theft, Now Party Theft': Rahul Gandhi Attacks EC Over TMC Symbol Freeze

■ Congress leader alleges BJP and Election Commission are working together as rival Trinamool factions are barred from using party name and symbol

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has sharply criticised the Election Commission of India (ECI) after it temporarily froze the Trinamool Congress' party name and election symbol amid an internal dispute between rival factions. Gandhi alleged that the



Election Commission and the BJP were working together to split opposition parties and deprive them of their established election symbols.

He compared the developments involving the

Trinamool Congress with earlier disputes within the Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party. The Election Commission issued an interim order on September 17, preventing both factions from using the name All India Trinamool Congress and its reserved Flowers and Grass symbol in the upcoming West Bengal bypolls.

WE ARE HIRING!

Join our team!

NEWSPAPER DESIGNER

What You'll Do:

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

SALE EXECUTIVE

What You'll Do:

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

How to Apply:

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

Why Join Us?

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

APPLY NOW

SEND YOUR CV TO: > goemkarponnnews@gmail.com

CALL US: > +91 89568 93882

Let Dabolim Fly, Let Goa Benefit...

For years, the future of Dabolim Airport has been discussed as if the growth of Mopa must automatically mean the decline of Dabolim. That is a narrow way of looking at Goa's aviation needs. The latest numbers coming from Dabolim suggest that the airport continues to have a role to play, and its progress should be seen as good news for the state.

Dabolim is currently handling around 85 flights and nearly 13,000 passengers a day, according to airport director Lt Akash Deep. The airport is also generating an annual profit of around Rs 135 crore. These are not insignificant numbers. They demonstrate that Dabolim continues to have substantial passenger demand and economic relevance even after the opening of Goa's second airport.

The argument should therefore not be about Dabolim versus Mopa. Goa needs both airports to function efficiently.

Dabolim has several natural advantages. Its proximity to South Goa, Panaji and major commercial and tourism centres makes it convenient for a large section of passengers. It has also been part of Goa's aviation ecosystem for decades. Airlines, taxi operators, hotels, businesses and thousands of workers have built their livelihoods around its operations.

The arrival of Mopa changed the aviation landscape, but it did not erase the demand for Dabolim. If anything, the continued traffic at Dabolim indicates that Goa has enough passenger movement to support a dual airport system, provided the government and airport authorities plan connectivity intelligently.

The proposed winter boost is therefore significant. Aeroflot is expected to add 10 flights, bringing additional international connectivity during one of the most important tourism periods for Goa. The possibility of Fly91 commencing operations from Dabolim is another development worth watching.



"Dabolim has several natural advantages. Its proximity to South Goa, Panaji and major commercial and tourism centres makes it convenient for a large section of passengers. It has also been part of Goa's aviation ecosystem for decades. Airlines, taxi operators, hotels, businesses and thousands of workers have built their livelihoods around its operations."

"The arrival of Mopa changed the aviation landscape, but it did not erase the demand for Dabolim. If anything, the continued traffic at Dabolim indicates that Goa has enough passenger movement to support a dual airport system, provided the government and airport authorities plan connectivity intelligently."

"The proposed winter boost is therefore significant. Aeroflot is expected to add 10 flights, bringing additional international connectivity during one of the most important tourism periods for Goa."



If the regional airline begins operations, it could further strengthen Dabolim's role in domestic connectivity.

But numbers alone should not become a reason for complacency.

The real challenge is to ensure that Dabolim remains competitive, passenger friendly and well connected. Infrastructure has to keep pace with demand. Roads leading to the airport must

be maintained properly. Public transport connectivity needs improvement. Parking, passenger movement, taxi services and last mile connectivity must remain priorities.

There is also a larger question for Goa. What exactly should the state's airport strategy be?

The answer cannot be to allow one airport to grow at the expense of another without considering the consequences for passengers, tourism and the local economy. A well planned dual airport system can distribute traffic, create more connectivity and give airlines greater flexibility. It can also provide resilience when one airport faces operational constraints.

Dabolim's performance also sends an important message to policymakers. Existing public infrastructure should not be allowed to become redundant simply because newer infrastructure has arrived. If an airport is handling thousands of passengers every day and generating substantial revenue, the focus should be on making it more efficient and ensuring that its potential is fully utilised.

Goa has spent decades building its tourism economy. Connectivity is one of its strongest pillars. More flights mean more visitors, greater business opportunities and easier movement for Goans travelling outside the state. Competition between airports should ultimately benefit the passenger, not become a political or administrative contest.

Dabolim has served Goa for generations. Its continued passenger traffic, profitability and prospects for additional connectivity show that its story is far from over.

Mopa may be the new chapter in Goa's aviation story. Dabolim remains an important part of the same story.

Goa should not be choosing between the two. Goa should be making both work.

That is not only good for Dabolim. It is good for Goa.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Porvorim Flyover: Why Was Khaunte Not Consulted?

By Suraj Nandrekar

A road project built to solve Goa's traffic problems should not become another source of daily frustration within days of opening. Yet that is precisely the situation surrounding the newly inaugurated Porvorim Elevated Corridor. The ₹641-crore, 5.15-km corridor was presented as a major solution to congestion between Panaji, Porvorim and North Goa. Government estimates suggested it could carry 75,000 to 80,000 vehicles a day. Instead, barely 24 hours after opening, a fatal accident was followed by restrictions that have left commuters questioning the planning behind the project.

The accident itself demands a serious investigation. Two people lost their lives after a speeding car collided with a scooter and a truck near the southern end of the corridor. Authorities subsequently banned two-wheelers from the flyover and closed entry and exit points towards the Atal Setu side. The government has said these measures are temporary and necessary to study traffic movement, congestion and operational performance before deciding on further action. Safety concerns cannot simply be dismissed.

But safety cannot become an excuse for inadequate planning.

The larger question is why critical traffic-management issues appear to have surfaced only after the corridor was opened to the public. A major infrastructure project of this scale should have been subjected to detailed traffic simulations, safety assessments and coordination between the Public Works Department, traffic police, local administration and other stakeholders before opening day.

This is particularly important because the Porvorim corridor does not operate in isolation. It connects with Atal Setu and existing roads that already carry enormous volumes of local and through traffic. Closing the interchange has created a situation where motorists travelling towards Porvorim may have to travel farther before turning back, increasing journey times and pushing additional traffic onto existing roads. Residents who endured years of construction-related diversions understandably expected the completed project to make their daily journeys easier.

Porvorim MLA and Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte has also questioned the manner in which the restrictions were introduced. He said he was not taken into confidence and called for the measures to be reviewed, while arguing that residents who endured the construction period should now be able to benefit from the corridor. His intervention reflects a genuine governance question: were the people and local representatives sufficiently consulted before decisions affecting their daily movement were taken?

At the same time, accountability should not become a political blame game. If there are design, drainage, signage, merging-lane or traffic-management shortcomings, they must be independently identified and corrected. If the accident was primarily caused by reckless driving, that too must be clearly established rather than allowing speculation about the infrastructure to substitute for evidence. Authorities have reportedly cited the accident footage while reviewing the circumstances.

Goa does not need another cycle of construction, confusion, temporary fixes and permanent inconvenience. The government should publish the traffic assessment, explain the basis for every restriction and provide a clear timeline for corrective measures. Infrastructure is ultimately built for people. When planning gaps emerge, commuters should not be expected to absorb the cost through longer journeys, congestion and uncertainty. The Porvorim corridor must now be made safe, functional and properly integrated with Atal Setu and the surrounding road network. That is not merely a demand from Porvorim residents; it is the basic standard expected from a ₹641-crore public infrastructure project.

Sawant backs Damu Naik's Fatorda bid if he seeks to contest

■ CM leaves final candidate decision to BJP state and central leadership

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has said BJP state president Damu Naik should contest the Fatorda Assembly seat if he wants to enter the electoral fray in 2027, while making it clear that the final decision on the party's candidate will be taken by the BJP leadership.

Sawant made the statement while visiting Naik's residence for Ganesh celebrations on Thursday. Asked whether



Naik should contest from Fatorda, the Chief Minister said there was no reason for him not to do so if he was willing.

However, when asked whether the BJP state president should be the party's candidate from

the constituency, Sawant said the matter would be decided by Naik and the central leadership.

The Fatorda seat has already emerged as a point of political focus ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, with discussions within parties over possible candidates and alliances.

Responding to questions on the proposed AAP-GFP alliance and its contention that it could bring the BJP government's functioning under scrutiny, Sawant

said his government had nothing to hide.

He said the government had maintained transparency and pointed to infrastructure and other development projects undertaken during the BJP-led "double-engine" government.

Sawant said a statewide campaign would be conducted from September 17 to October 18 to inform people about the work carried out by the Goa and Central governments.



ED Searches Gopal Kanda Properties In Rs 248-Crore Real Estate Case

■ Probe focuses on alleged diversion of funds collected from 661 investors across four commercial projects

Team Goemkarponn

GURUGRAM: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has stepped up its money laundering probe against businessman and former Haryana minister Gopal Kanda, conducting searches at three properties associated with him in Gurugram over an alleged Rs 248-crore real estate fraud.

The searches were conducted under the provisions of Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at Kanda's residence, farmhouse and office.

The agency's investigation relates to four commercial real estate projects in

which approximately Rs 248.46 crore was allegedly collected from 661 investors. According to the ED, investors were offered assurances including timely possession, returns on their investments, lease rentals and execution of sale deeds.

However, the agency alleges that the promised properties were not handed over to the investors and the corresponding sale deeds were not executed.

The ED is examining the movement of the funds collected from the investors and has alleged that a portion of the money was diverted to different companies associated with Kanda.



ED moves court over alleged ₹278 crore property fraud

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has approached the Special Court with a prosecution complaint against Siddique alias Suleman Khan in a money-laundering investigation linked to an alleged land-grabbing racket involving four properties in North Goa.

The properties, which have a combined fair market value of approximately ₹278.16 crore, have been provisionally attached by the agency under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED's action follows four chargesheets filed by the Special Investigation Team (Land Grabbing) of the Goa Crime Branch in cases registered with the Mapusa and Valpoi police.

As per the ED, its investigation indicates that Khan allegedly targeted high-value properties owned by other persons and attempted to establish fraudulent ownership claims over them.

FRRO steps up action against visa overstays in Goa

■ Two foreigners deported, Kenyan national held at Mapusa detention centre

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) in Goa has intensified action against foreign nationals found violating visa conditions, with two persons from Thailand and Uganda deported from the state on Thursday night.

The two nationals had arrived in India on tourist visas on separate dates but remained beyond the period permitted under their visas. Officials said



both were subsequently processed for deportation and sent back to their respective countries. The Thai national was also convicted in connection with the overstay.

In a separate case, a Kenyan woman was found

to have remained in India beyond the validity of her tourist visa. After her conviction, she was transferred to the detention centre in Mapusa

on Thursday evening, where she will remain until arrangements are made for her deportation.

The latest cases take the number of foreign nationals deported by the FRRO for overstaying to five this month.

North Goa DM imposes Rs 5.6 lakh penalty on food businesses

■ Five operators penalised for sub-standard, misbranded and unlicensed food activities

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The District Magistrate of North Goa has imposed a cumulative penalty of Rs 5.6 lakh on five food business operators for allegedly selling misbranded and sub-standard food products, operating without valid licences and failing to meet food safety requirements.

According to the Directorate of Food and Drugs Administration



(FDA), the highest penalties of Rs 2 lakh each were imposed on M/s Shree Chemfood Pvt Ltd, Gujarat, and M/s

Jagarnath Salt Pvt Ltd, Gujarat.

Shree Chemfood was penalised for selling misbranded and sub-

standard iodised salt, while Jagarnath Salt Pvt Ltd, identified as the manufacturer, was penalised in connection with the sale of misbranded and sub-standard Taza Shuddh Salt.

Dharwad Mishra Pedha and Food Processing Industry, Karnataka, was fined Rs 50,000 for selling loose Motichoor Laddoo.

A penalty of Rs 1 lakh was imposed on Shri Nitin Wadhwa, partner of M/s

Dias Club, Gaum Vaddi, Anjuna, for selling food articles without a valid FSSAI State licence.

The DM also imposed a Rs 10,000 penalty on Smt Pooja Prajapati of M/s Ganesh Goa Sweet Corner, Mercers, for selling sub-standard quality Mysore Pak.

The action was taken against the food business operators for violations relating to food quality, licensing and hygiene, the FDA said.

Bull fight organised for betting in Arambol, two booked

■ Mandrem Police register case over alleged cruelty to bulls

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: Mandrem Police have registered a case against two persons for allegedly organising a bull fight for betting purposes at Arambol.

The case was registered late on September 16 following a complaint by Shyam Fale, 28, a police constable attached to Mandrem Police Station.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred around 9 am on September 16 at an open area near a parking lot at



Madhlawada, Arambol.

Police have named Vikas, 22, son of Shreebhagavan Mali and a resident near the Post Office, Agarwada,

Pernem, and Chohote Lal, 37, son of Sadhu, a resident of Bhaman Bhatti, Madhlawada, Arambol, as the accused.

The two allegedly

organised the bull fight for betting and personal financial gain without taking adequate care or precautions for the safety of the animals. The complaint states that the bulls were allegedly subjected to cruelty by being

incited to fight.

Further investigation is in progress. PSI Jaydeep Palyekar of Mandrem Police Station is investigating the case.



2 kg suspected ganja worth Rs 2 lakh seized in Mapusa

■ Jharkhand native arrested during narcotics raid at New KTC Bus Stand

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Mapusa Police arrested a 22-year-old man and seized 2 kg of suspected ganja, valued at around Rs 2 lakh, during a narcotics raid at the New KTC Bus Stand parking lot on Wednesday night.

According to police, the raid was conducted between 8.45 pm and 10.45 pm on September 16 after the police team received prior information. PSI Mangesh Palni, along with personnel from Mapusa Police Station, carried out the

operation.

The accused was identified as Vishal Kumar Manjhi, 22, son of Jay Kumar Manjhi, a resident of Nima Chak, Panki, Palamu, Jharkhand. Police said he was caught with the suspected narcotic substance during the raid.

The suspected ganja, estimated to be worth Rs 2 lakh, was seized under a panchanama. Police also recovered Rs 500 in cash from the accused.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Bablo Parab.



19-year-old found dead at home in Parcem

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: A 19-year-old youth was found dead at his residence in Madhlawada, Parcem, on Wednesday, with Mandrem Police registering an unnatural death case.

Police said they received a call from the Medical Officer of CHC Tuem at around 6.32 pm on September 16, informing them that a person had been brought to the casualty department in a suspected hanging case.

During the preliminary enquiry, the deceased was identified as Sujal Parsekar, 19, son of Shyam Parsekar, a resident of Madhlawada, Parcem.

According to the statement of the deceased's father, the youth had allegedly died by suicide following an episode of anger.

Mandrem Police subsequently registered UD case No. 37/2026 under Section 194 of the BNSS, 2023.

Further enquiry is being conducted by PSI Jaydeep R Palyekar of Mandrem Police Station.

Mormugao police arrest man for allegedly sexually assaulting minor

■ Accused allegedly developed relationship with girl and subjected her to sexual intercourse on multiple

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: Mormugao Police have arrested a man in connection with an alleged sexual assault case involving a minor girl at Baina.

The case was registered following a complaint by the minor's mother, whose identity has been withheld. According to the complaint, the accused, identified as Munna Jaiswar, a resident of Mormugao, allegedly befriended the minor



between January and May 2026 at TNK, Baina.

Police said the accused allegedly developed a close relationship with the girl and touched her inappropriately. Taking

advantage of their acquaintance, he allegedly subjected the minor to sexual intercourse on different occasions, resulting in her pregnancy.

Jaiswar was subsequently arrested in connection with the case.

Further investigation is being conducted by LPSI Laureen Sequeira of Mormugao Police Station.

Two arrested for allegedly organising illegal bull fight in Navelim

■ Accused released on bail; male buffaloes allegedly subjected to cruelty

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police have arrested two persons in connection with an alleged illegal bull fight organised at Sinquetim, Navelim, on Wednesday evening.

The case was registered on the state complaint of LPSI Anushka Parab of Margao Town Police Station. According to the complaint, between 6 pm and 7 pm on



September 16, unknown persons allegedly acted

with a common intention to organise an illegal

bull fight at Sinquetim, Navelim, thereby

subjecting the male buffaloes to cruelty. During the investigation, police arrested Gajendra Sawant, a resident of Telaulim, Salcete, and Tapas Biswas, a resident of Navelim, Salcete, originally from West Bengal, in connection with the case. Both accused were subsequently released on bail. Further investigation is being conducted by ASI Dilkush Velip of Margao Town Police Station.

Dabolim looks beyond airport shift fears, eyes winter boost in connectivity

■ Airport director says 85 flights and 13,000 passengers handled daily; Aeroflot to add 10 flights

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Dabolim Airport is banking on continued passenger movement and additional winter connectivity, with airport director Lt Akash Deep stating that the airport is currently handling around 85 flights and 13,000 passengers daily and generating an annual profit of about Rs 135 crore.

Addressing concerns over Dabolim's future amid Goa's dual-airport



operations, Lt Akash Deep said there was "nothing to worry" about the airport's functioning, pointing to its current traffic and financial performance.

"We are handling around 85 flights per day with a passenger movement of around 13,000. The airport is making around Rs 135

crore profit," he said.

The airport is also set to receive a seasonal connectivity boost, with Aeroflot expected to operate 10 additional flights during the winter period.

Another potential development is the entry of Fly91 at Dabolim. According to the airport director, office space has already been provided to the regional carrier and the airline is in a position to begin operations from the airport.



Agriculture machinery worth Rs 1.5 crore distributed to 250 Sanguem farmers

■ Subhash Phal Dessai distributes equipment under PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana on PM Modi's birthday

Team Goemkarponn

SANGUEM: Agriculture machinery worth around Rs 1.50 crore was distributed free of cost to nearly 250 farmers from Colomba and Vaddem in Sanguem constituency on Thursday, marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday.

Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Dessai distributed the machinery to the beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY). Addressing the gathering, Phal Dessai said serving farmers was an appropriate way to mark the Prime Minister's birthday.

He said the governments at the Centre and in Goa were working towards

increasing farmers' income and making agriculture more self-reliant.

The minister said access to modern agricultural machinery would help farmers reduce labour costs and improve productivity. ZP member Rajeshree Gaonkar, Sarpanch Chandan Unandkar, former sarpanch Prajyot Gaonkar, Sarpanch Vaishali Naik, Deputy Sarpanch Suryakant Naik and ZAO Agresh Shirodkar were among those present on the occasion. Farmers who received the machinery expressed their appreciation for the assistance, while panchayat members and Agriculture Department officials also attended the programme.



GMC upgrades patient meals, introduces covered Cambro plates and curd

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Medical College (GMC) is introducing changes in patient care and hospital nutrition, with traditional steel plates being replaced by covered Cambro plates and curd being added to patients' lunch.

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said the changes were aimed at improving everyday patient care and ensuring better nutrition for those admitted to the hospital.

According to Rane, protein-rich nutritional feeds are also being provided to patients who require assisted nutrition as part of their treatment and recovery.

"Patient well-being" remains at the centre of the initiatives, Rane said, adding that the government would continue efforts to strengthen Goa's healthcare system.

Margao court grants bail to accused driver in fatal Sancoale dragging case

■ Court says case prima facie falls under 'knowledge without intention' provision of BNS

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Margao Sessions Court has granted bail to Vidyadhar alias Vipul Prabhu, 32, who was arrested in connection with the fatal Sancoale crash in which a motorcycle was allegedly dragged for nearly 2.5 km beneath a Mercedes car. Prabhu, a Fatorda resident, was granted bail on furnishing a personal bond of Rs 50,000 and one surety of the same amount. The accident



occurred on September 4 when Prabhu was allegedly driving from Upasagar towards Cortalim via Shindolim. According to Verna Police, he was allegedly under the influence of alcohol when his car moved towards the extreme right of the road on the

Shindolim slope and collided with an oncoming motorcycle. The collision left motorcycle rider Ashok Kumar Chauhan, 42, and pillion rider Sonu Kumar, 24, both from Palamu, Jharkhand, critically injured. Police alleged that Prabhu fled the spot with the motorcycle lodged beneath his vehicle, dragging it for around 2.5 km. The friction between the vehicles reportedly triggered a fire, engulfing both the car and motorcycle.

Tiswadi Mamlatdar reschedules auction of vehicles to recover Rs 44.56 lakh

■ Third auction slated for October 7 after no bidders turn up for seized car and scooter

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Tiswadi Mamlatdar's office has scheduled a fresh auction of two attached vehicles on October 7 as part of recovery proceedings to realise Rs 44.56 lakh outstanding in connection with an alleged embezzlement involving the Morombi O Grande Tenant Association, Mercos.

The auction follows an order of the Bombay High Court at Goa



dated October 11, 2023, in Writ Petition No. 352 of 2023, directing recovery of Rs 59.22 lakh allegedly misappropriated by members of the association's managing

committee during their tenure.

Of the amount, Rs 14.66 lakh has already been recovered towards government dues, leaving Rs 44,56,368 to be recovered from defaulters Nicolau J. C. Monteiro and Nicolau Nunes, both residents of Mercos.

According to a proclamation issued under Form 6 by Tiswadi Mamlatdar and Revenue Recovery Officer Dattaprasad Toraskar, earlier auctions scheduled on August 19 and

September 9 failed to take place as no bidders came forward.

The attached properties will now be auctioned on an "as is, where is" basis. They include a Wagon R (LX), for which the upset price has been fixed at Rs 1.40 lakh, and a Honda Activa scooter with an upset price of Rs 20,000.

The fresh auction will be held at 3.30 pm on October 7 at the Mamlatdar's office in the Collectorate Building, Panaji.

Prospective bidders are required to submit valid KYC documents and deposit an Earnest Money Deposit of Rs 10,000 by the day preceding the auction. The successful bidder will have to deposit 25 per cent of the bid amount immediately, with the remaining amount payable within the stipulated period.

All transfer charges, RTO taxes and applicable penalties will have to be borne by the purchaser.

Ai+ Smartphone to Cross 1,000+ Service Touchpoints; Announces First Exclusive Service Centre and Ai+ Assistance App

Team Goemkarponn

GOA: Ai+ Smartphone is strengthening its after-sales experience in India with plans to expand its service network to 1,000+ service centers across the country. It will also be establishing its first exclusive Ai+ Service Centre in Delhi this Diwali. Complementing the expansion of its physical service infrastructure, the brand is also introducing the Ai+ Assistance App, a unified digital platform designed to bring device support, service bookings, ticket tracking and troubleshooting assistance together in one place.

The expansion will add 200+ service centres to its already existing network of 800+ service centres, further extending the brand's after-sales reach across India. Together, the physical and digital expansion is aimed at making the ownership experience more accessible, transparent and consistent for Ai+ customers, from raising a



service request to tracking its resolution.

Commenting on the announcement, Madhav Sheth, CEO, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies (Ai+ Smartphone), said, "Building a smartphone brand goes beyond the device. At Ai+, the ownership experience is where the real relationship begins. Crossing 1,000+ service touchpoints, establishing our first

exclusive service centre and introducing the Ai+ Assistance App are important steps towards making support more accessible, transparent and dependable. Our focus is simple, to ensure that wherever our customers are, reliable support is never far away."

The upcoming Delhi facility will be Ai+'s first dedicated Service Centre in India, offering

trained technical support, genuine spare parts, standardised repairs, software assistance, warranty support and device setup across the Ai+ smartphone portfolio. For common service requirements, Ai+ is targeting turnaround times ranging from same-day resolution to up to seven days, depending on the nature and complexity of the issue.

'It's Like A Festival': iPhone 18 Pro, Pro Max Go On Sale Across India

■ Apple's latest flagship iPhones draw early morning queues as buyers turn launch day into an annual tradition

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Apple's latest iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max went on sale across India, attracting large crowds at Apple stores as enthusiastic buyers arrived hours before opening time to secure the new devices.

Apple had unveiled the latest iPhone lineup at its September 9 launch event. The Pro models are being sold through Apple's online store and six retail outlets across the country. Despite the higher prices compared with the previous generation, demand remained strong on launch day.

At Apple's BKC store in Mumbai, one buyer travelled from Nashik after pre-booking an iPhone 18 Pro Max. He said he upgraded from an iPhone 17 Pro Max because of improvements to iOS 27, artificial intelligence features and the camera system.

The launch also drew dedicated Apple customers in other cities. At the company's Noida store, one customer purchased three iPhone 18 Pro Max devices, while buyers at stores in Bengaluru and Punjab formed queues from

early morning.

One Bengaluru customer described buying a new iPhone every year as a festival, recalling that his first Apple smartphone was an iPhone 7. Another buyer who travelled from Punjab said he had been waiting outside the Noida store since 6 am and was among the first customers to receive the new model.

Apple's physical stores opened at 8 am on launch day and were scheduled to remain open until 10 pm.

New Camera, Chip And Design Options

The iPhone 18 Pro and Pro Max are available in black, silver, glacier and a new burgundy finish. The devices feature a 48MP Fusion Main camera with variable aperture and updated Pro camera controls.

Both models are powered by Apple's A20 Pro chip and feature a new vapour chamber designed to improve sustained performance, artificial intelligence capabilities and battery efficiency. The iPhone 18 Pro starts at ₹1,64,900 for the 256GB version, while the iPhone 18 Pro Max starts at ₹1,79,900. Higher storage options go up to 2TB, with the top Pro Max variant priced at ₹3,29,900.



Mopa passenger traffic drops 22.8% in August as Goa airport faces sharp decline

passengers. Domestic volumes increased 1.1%, whereas international passenger traffic edged up by only 0.5%.

The company said international traffic was affected by flight disruptions arising from geopolitical developments in West Asia.

The August numbers also saw a new airport enter GMR's portfolio, with Bhogapuram Airport contributing 1,05,171 passengers after commencing commercial operations midway through the month.

Nagpur Airport, where GMR took over operations on June 25, handled around 2.2 lakh passengers in August, registering a 5.9% decline. Aircraft movements at the airport, however, increased 13.3% to 1,969.

GMR's April-August figures for Nagpur show passenger traffic rising 5.2%, with aircraft movements up 7.8%. The company has clarified

that these figures are provided for reference since it assumed operational control only during the current financial year.

The weaker trend was not restricted to India. GMR's Medan Airport in Indonesia handled 5,48,093 passengers in August, down 4.8%. Passenger traffic at the airport during April-August was down 10%, with the company citing aircraft availability issues linked to maintenance-related groundings.

Cebu Airport in the Philippines, which GMR has divested, recorded 9,03,322 passengers in August, a 4.1% decline. GMR will continue providing technical services at the airport until December.

Goa turns to market borrowing with ₹100 crore loan

These loans come without an interest charge and allow the state 50 years to repay the amount.

Another ₹27.4 crore was secured through two NABARD loans carrying 4% interest. The money is being used

for Water Resources Department projects, including works planned in Calangute and the construction of twin barrages on the Chapora River. The projects are intended to support the supply of 250 million litres of raw water per day. Alongside its borrowing strategy, the state has been pursuing measures to improve its revenue position. The focus includes strengthening tax collection, preventing revenue leakage, improving GST compliance and expanding non-tax income.

Goa recorded revenue collections of ₹20,281.2 crore during 2025-26. Tax receipts contributed ₹14,788.1 crore, while non-tax sources brought in ₹5,493.1 crore. In the first quarter of 2026-27, the state collected ₹5,132.7 crore in revenue up to June. Tax revenue accounted for ₹3,581.2 crore, with non-tax collections contributing another ₹1,551.6 crore.

The latest ₹100 crore borrowing therefore comes after a period in which Goa relied significantly on concessional and interest-free financing while continuing efforts to strengthen its revenue base.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Cross-LoC Trade Ends In Uri As Salamabad Facility Set For Border Tourism

■ Trade centre handed over to Tourism Department after seven years of suspension, opening a new chapter for Uri's tourism sector

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir government has officially closed the chapter on cross-Line of Control (LoC) trade at Salamabad in Uri, handing over the unused Trade Facilitation Centre (TFC) to the Tourism Department for development of border tourism.

The facility, which has



remained non-operational since cross-LoC trade was suspended in April 2019, will now be repurposed to attract visitors and create livelihood opportunities

for local communities.

The trade centre previously managed a duty-free, cashless barter system between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Instead of using banking channels or foreign currency,

traders exchanged goods of equivalent value, including apples, dry fruits, handicrafts and textiles.

Introduced in 2008 as a confidence-building initiative between India and Pakistan, the trade continued for 11 years before being suspended over security concerns. Authorities had raised concerns about the alleged misuse of the



UPI, Electric Vehicles And Jersey Cows: Key Highlights Of Jaishankar's Bhutan Visit

■ India strengthens its partnership with Bhutan through infrastructure, digital payments, healthcare and agricultural development

Team Goemkarponn

THIMPHU: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's three-day visit to Bhutan from September 16 to 18 highlighted India's expanding cooperation with its Himalayan neighbour across infrastructure, technology, healthcare and agriculture.

The visit reflected the longstanding relationship between the two countries, with Jaishankar meeting Bhutanese leaders and participating in several development initiatives.

New Hydropower And Infrastructure Projects

Jaishankar attended the foundation stone

ceremony for the 500 KW Lunana Hydropower Project in northern Bhutan's Gasa district. The project marks another step in the countries' decades-long energy partnership, which began with the Jungshina hydropower plant in Thimphu in 1967. He also inaugurated the 65-bed Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Mother and Child Hospital in Mongar, aimed at improving access to specialised maternal and child healthcare. An 80-metre-long bridge in Samdrup Jongkhar, constructed through Project Dantak, was also inaugurated to improve connectivity between Trashigang and Samdrup Jongkhar.



Moody's Raises India GDP Growth Forecast To 7% For 2026-27, Citing Economic Resilience

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Moody's Ratings has raised its forecast for India's economic growth in the 2026-27 financial year to 7%, up from its earlier estimate of 6%, citing the economy's resilience to global disruptions and strong domestic demand.

In its latest review of India's Baa3 sovereign rating, the agency highlighted improvements in economic activity but warned that rising energy prices and potential weather-related disruptions could increase inflationary pressures.

India's real GDP growth reached 8.2% year-on-year during the first six months of calendar year 2026, compared with 7.3% for the full year in 2025.

The expansion was supported by stronger private consumption, continued public infrastructure investment, improving prospects for private-sector spending and sustained growth in services.

'They Are Violators Of Law': Tukaram Mundhe On Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn And Tiger Shroff

■ Maharashtra FDA begins legal proceedings over alleged surrogate pan masala advertising as commissioner stresses endorsers' responsibility

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe has described actors Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn and Tiger Shroff as alleged law violators in connection with a Vimal Elaichi advertisement, stressing that celebrity status does



The FDA issued show-cause notices to the three actors on August 11, alleging that the advertisement amounted to surrogate promotion of Vimal Pan Masala,

were given 15 days to respond.

According to Mundhe, two of the three actors have replied to the notices, while proceedings for adjudication and prosecution have begun against the actor who has not responded. He did not disclose the names of those who replied.

El Niño Threatens India's Monsoon As Rainfall Deficit Reaches 15%

■ Weakest monsoon in 17 years possible as poor rains threaten crops and add pressure on food prices

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India is heading towards its driest monsoon in 17 years as strengthening El Niño conditions weigh on rainfall, raising concerns over agricultural output and food prices. Cumulative rainfall during the June to September monsoon season is currently 15% below the long-term average, according to the India Meteorological



Department. If the deficit remains at this level, the country could record its weakest monsoon since 2009, when rainfall was 18% below normal. The

current shortfall is also significantly worse than the 10% deficit forecast by the weather department in May.

A possible tropical

cyclone developing over the Bay of Bengal during the final week of September could bring additional rainfall to parts of eastern and northeastern India. However, weather analysts expect the system to have only a limited impact on the overall national rainfall deficit. With less than two weeks remaining in the monsoon season, specialist forecasting models indicate a

significant possibility that rainfall will finish between 10% and 20% below normal. The monsoon is critical to India's agricultural economy, with hundreds of millions of farmers relying on seasonal rainfall to irrigate their fields. India is among the world's largest producers of rice, sugar and cotton, while the monsoon provides most of the country's annual rainfall.

Manu Bhaker And Tajinderpal Singh Toor To Lead India As Asian Games Flag Bearers

■ Double Olympic medallist Bhaker and two time defending champion Toor chosen for opening ceremony in Aichi-Nagoya

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker and shot put star Tajinderpal Singh Toor have been named India's flag bearers for the opening ceremony of the Asian Games, scheduled to be held on Saturday. The ceremony will take place at the Paloma Mizuho Stadium from 2:30



pm to 4:30 pm IST. More than 500 Indian athletes are expected to compete across 37 sports at the

continental event, which will conclude on October 4.

Bhaker enters the Games as one of India's leading shooting stars.

At the Paris Olympics, she created history by becoming the first Indian athlete in the post

independence era to win two medals at a single edition of the Games. She claimed bronze in the women's 10m air pistol and the 10m air pistol mixed team event. She was also part of India's gold medal winning women's 25m pistol team at the previous Asian Games in Hangzhou. Toor brings significant continental experience to the opening ceremony.



Asian Games Chaos: Pranati Nayak, Male Coach Assigned Same Room In Midnight Mix-Up

■ Accommodation confusion leaves Indian gymnast and coach stranded for hours before officials arrange separate rooms

Team Goemkarponn

NAGOYA: The accommodation troubles surrounding the Indian contingent at the Asian Games 2026 have taken another bizarre turn, with gymnast Pranati Nayak and her male coach Ashok Mishra initially assigned the same room on the cruise ship being used to house participants.

The unusual room allocation came to light when the gymnast and coach checked in on Thursday. Concerned over the mixed-gender

accommodation, they immediately approached officials and sought a separate room. But what followed was hours of confusion as efforts to resolve the issue continued late into the night. The Indian Olympic Association eventually intervened, and alternative accommodation was arranged at around 1:30 am. Even then, the chaos did not end. When Mishra went to collect the key to his separate room, hotel staff could not locate his booking in their records.

Shafali Verma Blitz, Shree Charani Four Fer Send India Into Asian Games Semis

■ India beat hosts Japan by eight wickets in a historic quarter final as Charani dominates with the ball and Shafali finishes the chase in five overs

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Defending champions India stormed into the women's cricket semi finals at the Asian Games 2026 after defeating hosts Japan by eight wickets in a historic quarter final on Friday. India bowled Japan out for just 57 before reaching the target in only five overs. India's spinners controlled the match after Japan made a steady start. Openers Ayaka



Kato Stafford and Haruna Iwasaki negotiated the opening six overs, but India quickly took control once the spin attack

was introduced. Shree Charani produced the standout bowling performance, claiming four wickets for just 10 runs from her four overs. She also bowled two maiden overs as Japan struggled to

find scoring opportunities. Shafali Verma contributed with two wickets, while Deepti Sharma and Shreyanka Patil took

one each as Japan were dismissed for 57 in 19.5 overs.

The match was particularly significant as it marked the first international cricket meeting between India and Japan. Japan also recorded a historic moment during the chase when Nonoha Yasumoto and Kato Stafford claimed the first two wickets Japan had taken against a full member ICC nation in a women's T20I.

'Whether You're 15 Or 30, You Have To Wait': Gambhir's Blunt Message As Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Is Snubbed Again

■ India coach backs Sanju Samson while explaining why the teenage sensation must wait for his senior team opportunity

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India head coach Gautam Gambhir has made it clear that teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will have to wait for his opportunity in the senior national team, despite the excitement surrounding the 15 year old.

Speaking after India's 127 run victory over Afghanistan in the



third T20I, Gambhir said established players with consistent performances over the past few years

would remain ahead of newcomers when it comes to selection.

Sooryavanshi was not

included in the playing XI in any of the three T20Is against Afghanistan, with Sanju Samson featuring throughout the series.

Gambhir backed Samson's selection, pointing to his ability and previous performances. Samson scored a half century in the series decider after another fifty in the previous match.

The India coach also recalled Samson's performances that earned him recognition during

a World Cup campaign, saying his talent justified his place in the squad.

Gambhir explained that India were also keen to return to the combination that delivered the T20 World Cup, arguing that established players do not suddenly become poor performers after a few failures.

India completed a 3 0 series sweep against Afghanistan, with Abhishek Sharma producing a spectacular

108 off 34 balls, including a 31 ball century. India posted 221 for seven before dismissing Afghanistan for 94.

Youngsters Set For ODI Opportunity

Gambhir also addressed India's upcoming three match ODI series against the West Indies, acknowledging that the Asian Games schedule had influenced squad selection.