



## Porvorim Firing Probe Sees Twist As Advocate Retracts Earlier Video

■ Conflicting accounts emerge over alleged contract killing plot involving casino businessman Srinivasa Nayak

### Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** The investigation into the shooting involving casino businessman Srinivasa Nayak has taken a new turn following a public clarification by advocate Anita, who has withdrawn an earlier video containing allegations attributed to accused shooter Arputharaj.

The advocate said the version circulated in the earlier video should not be treated as factual



after Arputharaj, following his arrest, allegedly gave investigators a different account.

In the first video, Arputharaj had allegedly

claimed that the shooting was carried out as part of a plan involving Nayak himself. He reportedly alleged that he had been offered ₹1 crore for the

assignment and received ₹5 lakh beforehand. He had further claimed that the incident was intended to be a controlled exchange of fire without causing serious injury.

Anita has now said that Arputharaj subsequently denied that Nayak had directed him to carry out or stage the shooting. According to her, the accused instead allegedly indicated that the assignment had been arranged through a person

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## Porvorim Shooting Probe: Satish Shinde Reportedly Names Two Persons

Crime Branch may question Gopal and a South Goa political leader following disclosures during investigation

### Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** The investigation into the Porvorim shooting has taken a new turn, with prime suspect Satish Shinde, who is currently in custody, reportedly providing investigators with the names of two persons during questioning. According to reliable sources in the Crime Branch, Shinde has allegedly named a person identified as Gopal as well as a political leader from South

Goa during the course of the investigation. Sources said the Crime Branch is likely to call both individuals for questioning as investigators work to verify the information provided by the accused and establish whether there is any connection with the shooting. The alleged disclosures are being examined as part of the wider investigation, and the exact nature of the involvement, if any, of the two persons named by Shinde remains to be established.

## Petrol Pumps May Stop Accepting UPI Payments Above ₹2,000 From October 15

■ Dealers Demand Complete MDR Waiver, Warning of Restrictions on High-Value Fuel Transactions

### Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Petrol pump dealers in Madhya Pradesh and several other parts of India have raised concerns over the proposed 0.4% Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions, with some warning that they may stop accepting digital payments above ₹2,000 from October 15.



The proposed move could affect customers who regularly use UPI to pay for fuel, particularly those making larger purchases at petrol stations. Dealers

are demanding a complete exemption from MDR on UPI transactions at fuel outlets. They argue that rising operational expenses and unchanged fuel commissions have made it difficult to absorb additional payment processing charges. The All India Petroleum Dealers Association has also called for a full waiver of MDR on UPI payments made

at petrol pumps. Dealers in Madhya Pradesh have separately urged authorities to withdraw the proposed charges and exclude fuel sales from the MDR framework. The issue has attracted attention from the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), which has expressed concern over the possibility of petrol pump dealers imposing limits on UPI payments.

## IIM Nagpur Team Inspects Porvorim Flyover Days After Fatal Crash

Expert team reviews traffic flow and road-safety measures on newly opened elevated corridor



### Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** An expert team from IIM Nagpur inspected the newly opened Porvorim Elevated Corridor on Saturday, days after a fatal crash on the flyover claimed two lives. The inspection was carried out as the Goa government reviewed traffic arrangements and road-safety measures on the elevated corridor following the accident. The IIM Nagpur team assessed traffic movement and safety concerns along the stretch in coordination with Public Works Department (PWD) officials. The experts are

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## Vijai Sardesai Demands Immediate Action On Porvorim Traffic

### Team Goemkarponn

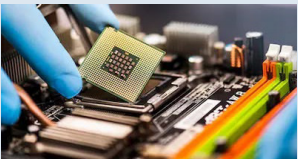
**PANAJI:** Goa Forward Party (GFP) MLA Vijai Sardesai has demanded immediate measures to address traffic problems around the Porvorim Elevated Corridor, saying commuters cannot be left waiting for further studies and reports. Sardesai said that telling commuters there is "no immediate solution" is not an answer to the problems they are facing.

## India Secures \$12 Billion in Chip Investment Pledges as Semiconductor Push Gains Momentum

■ New Commitments Follow Fresh \$13.4 Billion Fund as Global Companies Expand Plans in India

### Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** India has attracted investment commitments worth up to \$12 billion from global and domestic companies within months of introducing its latest semiconductor policy, strengthening the country's push to establish a large domestic



chip manufacturing ecosystem.

The commitments include investments from companies involved in semiconductor equipment, materials and specialised chemicals.



A powerful moment of devotion and tradition captured during the Ganesh Visarjan procession at Malwara, Agassaim. A beautiful frame by Dhiraj Gauns, creatively crafted by Anuksh Naik.

# Four a Week. What Is Goa Police Detecting After Damage Is Done?

Four cases of rape or sexual assault every week.

That is not merely a statistic. It is a warning.

It means that almost every two days, a woman or child in Goa is allegedly becoming a victim of sexual violence. Behind every case is a person, a family, trauma and a long battle for justice.

Yet Goa appears to be increasingly comfortable discussing crime through statistics rather than confronting the uncomfortable question of why these crimes continue to happen.

The government and police often highlight Goa's high crime detection rate as proof of an effective policing system. Detecting a crime, identifying an accused and completing an investigation are certainly important. But there is a fundamental question that needs to be asked.

What is the use of a very high detection rate if the system cannot prevent the crime from happening in the first place?

Detection begins after the damage has already been done.

A woman has already been assaulted. A child has already suffered trauma. A family has already been devastated. No detection percentage can reverse that moment.

The police may identify the accused. An investigation may be completed. A chargesheet may be filed. The government may then point to the detection figures with satisfaction.

But what happened before the crime?

That is where the real test of policing lies.

A criminal justice system cannot measure its success only by what happens after an offence is committed. Prevention has to be equally important. If sexual offences continue to occur at the rate of four cases every week, the State must seriously examine whether enough is being done to identify vulnerabilities, deter offenders and protect those at risk.

High detection is important. But high prevention should be the ambition.

Goa needs to ask whether vulnerable public spaces are adequately monitored, whether complaints of harassment are acted upon before they escalate, whether repeat offenders are being watched, whether schools and institutions have adequate safeguards and whether women and children have confidence that approaching the authorities will lead to immediate protection.

These are questions that cannot be answered by detection statistics.

There is also a tendency to explain individual sexual offences through relationships, alcohol, social media, family disputes or personal choices. Such factors may emerge during investigations, but they cannot become

*"A criminal justice system cannot measure its success only by what happens after an offence is committed. Prevention has to be equally important. If sexual offences continue to occur at the rate of four cases every week, the State must seriously examine whether enough is being done to identify vulnerabilities, deter offenders and protect those at risk. High detection is important. But high prevention should be the ambition."*

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convenient explanations for the larger problem.

The fundamental principle is simple. No relationship, disagreement, promise, lifestyle or circumstance gives anyone the right to sexually assault another person.

The State's responsibility begins much before an FIR is registered.

It begins with prevention, awareness, safe public spaces, responsible institutions, responsive policing and creating an environment where victims can report abuse without fear.

And when a crime does occur, justice must follow swiftly.

How quickly are investigations completed? How many cases result in chargesheets? How many reach trial? How many end in conviction? How long do victims have to wait? How many accused remain out on bail while survivors are forced to repeatedly relive their trauma?

A high detection rate means little to a victim if justice takes years.

The State must also look beyond the police station. Every serious sexual offence should raise questions about whether warning signs existed before the crime and whether something could have been done differently.

If the accused had previously threatened or harassed the victim, was the complaint taken seriously?

If an offence occurred in an area where previous complaints had been made, was anything done to address the vulnerability?

If an accused had a history of similar behaviour, was that information available to the system?

These are the questions that turn policing from a reactive exercise into preventive policing.

The issue becomes even more serious when children are victims. Children require stronger institutional protection because they cannot be expected to understand or navigate adult power relationships. Schools, families, institutions and law enforcement agencies must work together to recognise warning signs and intervene early.

Goa also needs greater transparency in its crime data.

Citizens deserve to know not just how many cases were registered and detected, but what happened afterwards. How many investigations were completed within reasonable timelines? How many chargesheets were filed? How many cases reached trial? How many resulted in conviction? How long did the process take?

Otherwise, statistics risk becoming a shield against accountability.

Goa cannot continue to confuse its tourism image with public safety.

A State is not safe simply because tourists arrive in large numbers or because crime detection figures look impressive. It is safe when women can travel without fear, when children are protected, when victims are heard and when potential offenders know that the system will act before and after a crime.

Four cases ev

## EDITOR SPEAKS

### Muddy Water Is No Way to Live

The situation faced by residents of Zarina Towers at Tonca, St Inez, is a matter of serious concern. For the past several days, residents have been receiving discoloured and muddy water from their taps, raising legitimate concerns about the quality and safety of the water supplied to their homes.

The problem is reportedly linked to damage caused to a water pipeline during construction activity on a neighbouring plot. If this is indeed the cause, it raises an important question about how construction activities are being monitored and whether adequate precautions are being taken to protect existing public utilities.

Water is not a luxury. It is an essential service. Residents should not have to worry whether the water coming from their taps is fit for drinking, cooking, bathing or other household purposes.

It is encouraging that CCP Mayor Rohit Monserrate visited Zarina Towers along with the ward councillor and engineers associated with the construction work. However, a visit cannot be the end of the matter. Residents need a permanent solution.

The developer must ensure that the damaged pipeline is properly repaired and that the water network is thoroughly checked before normal supply is restored. The authorities must also verify the quality of the water being supplied to residents.

Development cannot come at the cost of basic civic services. If construction activity damages essential infrastructure, accountability must follow.

The residents of Zarina Towers deserve clean and reliable water, not assurances that the problem will be resolved.

- Francis D'Souza, Tonca, St Inez

### Celebration Must Not Become Someone's Loss

Ganesh Chaturthi is a time of faith, devotion and community celebration. But the incident near Old Chowgule College, where a parked car was reportedly gutted after a firecracker landed on it during a Ganpati immersion procession, should make us pause and think about the way celebrations are conducted.

A firecracker may appear harmless for a few seconds, but when it lands on a vehicle, building, roadside stall or any other property, the consequences can be serious. In this case, the firecracker reportedly ignited cloth items kept inside the car, with the flames rapidly spreading and completely gutting the vehicle.

For the owner, what may have been a festive evening suddenly became a moment of shock, loss and financial burden.

Celebrations and safety cannot be treated as two separate issues. Processions often pass through crowded roads and residential areas, where vehicles are parked close to the route. Firecrackers being burst near such areas without proper precautions can put lives and property at unnecessary risk.

Authorities and organisers must ensure that basic safety measures are followed during immersion processions. There should be clear guidelines on where and how firecrackers can be used, particularly around parked vehicles, buildings and crowded areas.

People celebrating Ganpati should also remember that devotion does not require putting others at risk.

Festivals belong to everyone. The joy of one group should never become the loss of another.

I hope this incident serves as a reminder that responsible celebration is as important as celebration itself.

- Michael Fernandes, Margao

# Goa's ₹43.77-Crore CAMPA Plan Cut To ₹37.19 Crore By National Authority

■ Compensatory Afforestation Gets Full Approval, But Funding For Forest Protection, Fire Control And Wildlife Work Is Pruned

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa's proposed spending on forests, wildlife and related conservation activities has been scaled down by the National CAMPA authority, which has approved ₹37.19 crore against the State's ₹43.77-crore Annual Plan of Operation for 2026-27.

The decision was taken at the 40th meeting of the National CAMPA Executive Committee held on August 11. Despite



the reduction from Goa's original proposal, the approved allocation marks a substantial increase over the ₹14.96 crore

sanctioned in 2025-26 and ₹13.74 crore in 2024-25.

Goa secured full approval for its ₹11.84-crore proposal

for compensatory afforestation covering 80 hectares.

However, several other components of the State's plan were reduced, particularly those involving forest infrastructure, biodiversity, technology, fire management and wildlife habitat improvement.

One of the largest reductions was under Rule 5(3) of the CAF Rules, 2018. Goa had sought ₹4.86 crore under this head, but the National



## 64,232 Sqm Across 18 Goa Plots Proposed For Settlement Conversion

■ TCP Invites Public Objections As Land Parcels In Eight Areas Face Proposed Change In Zoning

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Town and Country Planning Department has put forward proposals to bring 64,232 square metres of land spread across 18 plots under settlement zoning, inviting members of the public to file objections or suggestions on the proposed changes.

The notice, issued by Chief Town Planner (Planning) Vertika Dagur, covers properties located in Guirdolim, Candolim, Nachinola, Cortalim, Damocem-Sattari, Morjim, Morambi-O-Pequeno and Aldona. The land parcels presently carry a range of zoning classifications. A majority are identified as orchard and natural cover areas, while some of the properties have

additional designations linked to environmental and specific land-use restrictions. These include no-development slopes, cultivable areas falling within irrigation command zones and a plot classified for crematorium use. The single largest parcel covered by the proposals is located in Candolim and measures 35,410 square metres. The TCP Board considered the proposals at its meeting on August 28, following which the department issued the notification under Section 39A of the TCP Act to seek public feedback. Members of the public who have objections or suggestions regarding any of the proposed changes can submit them in writing to the Chief Town Planner.



## Goa To Map Every Ward's Dog Population, Including Pet Dogs And Sterilisation Status

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa is preparing for a statewide animal census that will go beyond counting stray dogs, with authorities set to map pet and domesticated dogs in every ward along with their gender and sterilisation status.

The survey will be conducted from October 1 to 15 by urban and rural local bodies under the Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services. Stray cattle found along roads and highways will also be recorded during the exercise.

The ward-wise data collection will involve door-to-door visits by panch members, ward members and councillors, with assistance from dog feeders and local volunteers.

The department has asked feeders and volunteers to approach their respective panchayat members, councillors or corporators and provide information on stray dogs and roadside cattle in their areas by September 25.

## Car Gutted After Firecracker Lands On Vehicle During Ganpati

■ Parked Car Catches Fire Near Old Chowgule College; Vehicle Completely Damaged

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** A parked car was gutted after a firecracker reportedly landed on the vehicle during a Ganpati immersion procession near Old Chowgule College.

According to the information available, the firecracker landed on the car and ignited cloth items kept inside the vehicle.

The flames quickly spread, engulfing the car and causing extensive



damage. The vehicle was completely gutted in the fire. Further details

regarding the incident and the exact extent of the loss are awaited.

## Muddy Water Supply Leaves Zarina Towers Residents Worried

■ Pipeline Damage During Nearby Construction Suspected Behind Water Contamination At Tonca-St Inez

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Residents of Zarina Towers at Tonca-St Inez have been dealing with discoloured and muddy water from their taps for the past several days, raising concerns over the quality of their daily water supply.

According to residents, the problem is suspected to have originated after a water pipeline was damaged



during construction activity on a neighbouring plot. They said the damaged

line may have allowed mud and other material to enter the water supply.

Although efforts have reportedly been initiated to address the problem, residents said the muddy water has continued to reach their homes, leaving them inconvenienced and concerned about using the supply for

household needs.

Rajdeep Constructions, which is carrying out the nearby construction work, has reportedly assured residents that the necessary repairs and corrective measures will be undertaken. The issue also prompted Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) Mayor Rohit Monserrate to visit Zarina Towers on Thursday. He was accompanied by the ward councillor and engineers associated with

Rajdeep Constructions.

During the visit, the Mayor met residents and inspected the situation. In a social media post, Monserrate said the interaction helped authorities understand the problem more clearly and assess the measures needed to resolve it. He said the focus was on finding a workable solution and ensuring that the issue was addressed at the earliest.

# Six Holiday Package Complaints Allege ₹6.84 Lakh Fraud By Beatrix Holidays

Complaints Filed In Panaji, Anjuna And Calangute Over Alleged Misrepresentation Of Holiday Memberships And Packages

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa Police have received six complaints alleging that customers from different parts of the country were cheated of a total of ₹6.84 lakh in connection with holiday packages and membership schemes offered by Beatrix Holiday Private Limited and Goa Life Vacation Pvt. Ltd.

The complaints, lodged on September 17, 2026, relate to alleged transactions ranging from



₹60,000 to ₹1.60 lakh and name Gaurish Ratnakar Shirodkar, described in the complaints as owner/director of the companies, along with company representatives or staff in some cases. In one complaint, Bhanidian

Lazer Baptist Anthony of Thane alleged that he was induced at The Crown Hotel in Panaji on March 18, 2026, to purchase holiday bookings and membership benefits after being assured of premium accommodation and services. He alleged that he paid ₹1.50 lakh through a debit card but neither

received the promised services nor a refund. In another complaint, Hyderabad resident S. Anjana alleged that she was offered a 10-year holiday package worth ₹1.60 lakh at The Crown Hotel in Panaji on April 13, 2026.

She alleged that she was asked to provide her debit card and OTPs for an eligibility check, following which a payment/loan transaction of ₹1.60 lakh was effected in favour of the company.



## Woman Bitten By Dog At Pixem Dongri In Mormugao

Police Book Case After Pet Dog Allegedly Attacks Woman Walking On Road

Team Goemkarponn

**VASCO:** A woman was allegedly attacked and bitten by a pet dog at Pixem Dongri in Mormugao on September 17, 2026.

According to a complaint filed by Rhea Victoria D'Souza, the incident occurred at around 4.30 pm when she was walking along the road at Pixem Dongri. The complaint alleges that Milagris Dsilva, the owner of

the dog named Tyson, was aware that the animal was aggressive but allegedly left it unattended in an open area outside the premises.

The dog allegedly ran towards D'Souza, jumped on her and bit her, causing injuries.

Police have initiated an investigation into the incident. PSI Akanksh Fadte Dessai of Vasco Police Station is conducting further investigation.



## 21-Year-Old Curchorem Man Dies After Being Hit By Train

Team Goemkarponn

**CURCHOREM:** A 21-year-old man from Curchorem, Omkar Lagve, died while undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, after he was reportedly hit by a train at a railway track in Curchorem.

Police received a wireless message from the casualty section of GMC Bambolim at around 8.28 am on September 18, informing them that Lagve had succumbed to his injuries. According to police, Lagve had been referred to GMC Bambolim from South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, on September 11 after being injured in the railway-track incident at Curchorem. Following his death, police conducted an inquest panchanama and sent the body for a post-mortem examination. The police surgeon, after conducting the autopsy, certified the cause of death as depressed fracture of the skull with multiple cerebral contusions, intraventricular haemorrhage and brain-stem injuries caused by trauma.

## Stolen Bajaj Scooter From Margao Found Abandoned In Karnataka

Vehicle Stolen From Khareband Recovered After Goa Police Alerted Neighbouring State Authorities

Team Goemkarponn

**MARGAO:** A Bajaj scooter reported stolen from Khareband, Margao, was traced and recovered in Karnataka following prompt coordination between Goa Police and authorities in the neighbouring state. According to police, Anant Falari of Calconda, Margao, reported that his Bajaj scooter, valued at approximately ₹1 lakh, was stolen between 10 pm on September 13 and



6.30 am on September 14. The vehicle had been parked in an open parking area near Naaz Hotel at Khareband, Margao. Margao Town Police registered an offence on September 17 following the complaint

and initiated an investigation to trace the stolen vehicle and identify the person or persons involved. During the investigation, details of the stolen scooter were promptly

shared with police authorities in neighbouring states. Following interstate coordination and efforts by the police, the vehicle was traced within the jurisdiction of Ashok Nagar Police Station in Karnataka.

## Two House Burglaries Reported In Cuncolim And Arambol

Thieves Allegedly Target Locked Houses, Escape With Cash, Gold And Other Valuables

Team Goemkarponn

**CUNCOLIM/ARAMBOL:** Two separate house burglaries have been reported in Cuncolim and Arambol, with thieves allegedly targeting residences while the occupants were away.

In the first incident, unidentified thieves allegedly broke into a locked house in the Demani area of Cuncolim by cutting



through the iron window grilles. The incident reportedly took place at night while the house owner was away.

The intruders allegedly used a cutter to gain entry and ransacked the house, opening cupboards and scattering belongings before fleeing with gold ornaments and other valuables. The burglary came to light after the owner returned home and alerted Cuncolim Police.

In a separate incident at Bamnabhati, Arambol,

unidentified thieves allegedly broke into a house while the family was away and escaped with ₹2 lakh in cash and gold ornaments reportedly worth more than ₹10 lakh.

The incidents have raised concerns among residents, particularly over the targeting of houses left unattended. Police are investigating both burglaries and efforts are underway to identify the persons involved.

# Police Dismantle DJ Systems From Visarjan Trucks In Mormugao

■ DySP Gurudas Kadam Says Full Police Force Deployed To Enforce Ban On DJ Music During Ganesh Immersion Processions

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MORMUGAO:** Police on Friday dismantled DJ sound systems installed on trucks preparing to participate in Ganesh idol immersion processions in the Mormugao subdivision, following directions prohibiting DJ music during visarjan.

Mormugao DySP SP Gurudas Kadam, along with police personnel, carried out the action at the site. The move led to tense moments after



some locals objected to the removal of the sound systems, stating that they had already made advance payments for the DJ arrangements and requesting permission to use the systems during the procession.

Kadam maintained that

the restrictions had been discussed during three meetings held with the Deputy Collector ahead of the visarjan

arrangements. He said the decision to prohibit DJ systems had been communicated before the festival.

According to Kadam, DJ systems were nevertheless used during the previous 1.5-day visarjan processions.

He attributed the earlier enforcement difficulties to a shortage of police personnel deployed for festival arrangements.

"This time, police personnel have been deployed in full force to ensure that DJ systems are not used during the visarjan processions," Kadam said.

He said police would strictly enforce the directions issued for the immersion processions and would not permit DJ systems or loud music.



## CM Sawant Attends Viksit Bharat Financing Conference In New Delhi

■ Goa Chief Minister Joins State Leaders At Bharat Mandapam For Discussions On Public Finance, Investment And Resource Mobilisation

**Team Goemkarponn**

**DELHI:** Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant attended the conference on "Financing India's Journey Towards Viksit Bharat" at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on Friday, joining Chief Ministers, Finance Ministers and senior officials from states and Union Territories. The conference, organised by the Union Ministry of Finance on September 18 and 19, is chaired by Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The meeting focuses on financing challenges and policy priorities for India's long-term development journey.

The deliberations include strengthening public finances, mobilising resources, enhancing investment and exploring innovative financing mechanisms to support the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047. The conference also provides a platform for Centre-State discussions on policy complementarities and financing strategies, with participation from senior officials and representatives of states and Union Territories. Sawant's participation comes as states and the Centre discuss ways to strengthen state-level economies and develop financing pathways to support investment and long-term growth.



## AAP Questions Porvorim Flyover Planning, Says BJP Now Trying To Pass The Blame

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PORVORIM:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa has questioned the planning and execution of the newly opened Porvorim elevated corridor, alleging that the government is now attempting to shift responsibility after the project faced safety concerns and restrictions within days of opening.

AAP Goa president Valmiki Naik said the government and BJP leaders had actively claimed credit for the project before its inauguration, but were now engaged in what he described as a "pass the parcel" exercise after a fatal crash and subsequent changes to traffic arrangements. Naik questioned whether the concerns surrounding the corridor should have been addressed before it was opened to motorists, alleging that the government had prioritised publicity and credit over safety.

## Environmental Public Hearing For JSW Steel's Codli Mining Project On October 22

■ Residents invited to raise objections, suggestions over 377-hectare mining proposal in Dharbandora

**Team Goemkarponn**

**DHARBANDORA:** The Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) will hold an environmental public hearing on October 22 over JSW Steel Ltd's proposed iron ore mining project at Codli in Dharbandora. The hearing will begin at 10 am at Shree Sateri Pisani Devasthan, Kalsai, Kirlapal-Dabal. The proposed project involves an auctioned mineral block spread across 377.0681



hectares. According to the project proposal, the mine is planned to produce 3.50 million tonnes of iron ore annually, along with the removal of 6.21 million tonnes of overburden and waste. The total excavation is projected

at 11.71 million tonnes per year. The project also proposes setting up four crushers, a dry processing and screening plant, and a wet beneficiation plant

as part of the mining and mineral-processing operations. The public hearing will provide residents, affected persons and other stakeholders an opportunity to place their objections, views and suggestions on record.

## Panjim Explores Future-Ready Urban Development With Transitions Research

■ CCP Mayor Rohit Monserrate discusses safer public spaces, green jobs and innovation for the city

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** CCP Mayor Rohit Monserrate held a discussion with Sushant Figueiredo and Dr Vikrom Mathur of Transitions Research on the future development of Panjim and ways to make the city more responsive to emerging urban challenges. The discussion focused on the upcoming Emergence: Festival of Future Cities, which



will examine small and medium-sized cities as interconnected systems and explore how different urban elements can work together to shape their future. Key areas

discussed included the use of technology to create safer public spaces, opportunities for green jobs and

livelihoods for Panjim's youth, and practical ways to connect innovation with the everyday needs of residents. The meeting also highlighted the importance of viewing

Panjim through multiple perspectives, including its people, environment, infrastructure, institutions and economy, rather than addressing individual urban challenges in isolation. The exchange explored how these interconnected aspects could contribute to a more responsive and future-ready Panjim, while also opening up possibilities for initiatives beyond the upcoming festival.

## Mandovi River Traffic Alert Issued For Kayak Races On September 20

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Captain of Ports Department has issued a river traffic advisory for vessels operating on the Mandovi River in view of kayak races scheduled as part of the International Tourism Celebration on September 20.

The directions will apply from 2 pm to 6 pm to all barges and boats operating in the stretch between the newly constructed Ribandar Jetty and the Mandovi Bridge.

# Goa Makes It Easier for IT Companies to Set Up and Scale

■ State IT Policy Offers Incentives for Infrastructure, Hiring, Technology and Business Expansion

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa is positioning itself as an emerging destination for technology companies by combining business incentives with a work environment focused on employee retention and quality of life.

Through the Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, the state's IT Policy aims to develop Goa as the Creative Capital of India, with a focus on sectors such as artificial intelligence, data science, blockchain, 3D printing and robotics.

Under ITE&C Minister Rohan Khaunte, the government is promoting Goa as an investment destination for technology businesses while also targeting the development of an advanced, employment ready local workforce.

The state has set a goal of preparing 10,000 Goans with advanced IT skills.

The policy provides financial support at several stages of setting up and expanding a business. Companies purchasing land for IT



office space can receive a one time rebate of ₹40,000 per male employee and ₹50,000 per female employee, subject to specified limits.

Businesses purchasing built up office space can receive a rebate of up to 20% of the purchase cost.

New and existing units can also claim up to 50% reimbursement on annual lease rentals for two years. The reimbursement can rise to 60% when women account for at least 30% of the workforce.

Additional support

is available for Goan diaspora entrepreneurs, including lease rental assistance and a capital investment subsidy.

Eligible new units can receive capital investment subsidies of up to 20%, with additional support for mega business units.

The policy also provides subsidies for electricity and high speed internet costs, along with incentives for companies using solar power.

Hiring incentives include salary matching grants of up to ₹10,000 per month for freshers and ₹12,500 for female

freshers for two years. Recruitment assistance is also available for companies hiring through campus placements in Goa.

The policy links incentive payouts to local employment, with companies employing more Goans receiving higher levels of benefits.

Together, these measures are designed to reduce the cost of establishing and operating technology businesses while encouraging investment, innovation and employment within Goa.

## HAL Hands Over Indigenous Tejas Trainer and HTT-40 Aircraft to Indian Air Force

■ Dhruv NG Helicopters Inducted into Civil Aviation as HAL Strengthens India's Aerospace Capabilities

Team Goemkarponn

**BENGALURU:**

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has handed over indigenous Tejas twin-seater trainer aircraft and HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft to the Indian Air Force, marking a significant step in India's efforts to strengthen domestic aerospace manufacturing.

The handover ceremony took place in Bengaluru in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu. Dhruv Next Generation helicopters were also handed over to Pawan Hans Limited, expanding the platform's presence in the civil aviation sector.

During the event, the aircraft and helicopters were displayed, while a traditional pooja was conducted. Rajnath Singh also inspected the Dhruv NG helicopter by sitting inside the aircraft.

HAL delivered two LCA Tejas Final Operational Clearance (FOC) trainer aircraft to the Indian Air Force, completing twin-seater deliveries under the FOC contract. The company also handed over four Dhruv NG helicopters to Pawan Hans, marking their induction into civil

aviation.

The HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft, named Ankur, was also handed over to the Air Force, beginning deliveries under a contract for 70 aircraft.

The Tejas FOC trainer is a lightweight, all-weather, multirole 4.5-generation aircraft designed primarily for pilot training, while retaining the capability to undertake fighter operations when required. It features a quadruplex fly-by-wire flight-control system, advanced digital avionics, a glass cockpit and composite airframe materials.

The Dhruv NG is a 5.5-tonne, twin-engine, multirole helicopter designed and manufactured by HAL. Its civil-certified cockpit, upgraded navigation systems and safety features support operations in demanding conditions.

Meanwhile, the HTT-40, developed by HAL's Aircraft Research and Design Centre, is designed for basic military pilot training. The aircraft supports aerobatics, instrument flying, navigation, night flying and formation flying. Together, the platforms highlight HAL's involvement in military aviation, civil helicopters and indigenous pilot training capabilities.



## Porvorim Firing Probe Sees Twist As Advocate Retracts Earlier Video

named Suraj.

The advocate also made further allegations concerning an alleged plan targeting Nayak. She claimed that Nayak had remained on a hit list for around a year and that a separate group had allegedly been offered ₹75 lakh in advance, with another ₹10 crore purportedly agreed upon after the operation was completed.

Anita apologised for sharing the earlier video and said it had caused reputational damage to Nayak. She also appealed to media organisations to exercise caution and not present the accused's initial account as an established version of the incident.

The development has brought multiple competing versions of the alleged shooting to the fore. The purported financial arrangements, motive, involvement of different

individuals and statements allegedly made during custody are yet to be independently established.

The allegations remain subject to verification by the investigating authorities and the courts.

## IIM Nagpur Team Inspects Porvorim Flyover Days After Fatal Crash

expected to recommend corrective measures to improve road safety and streamline the movement of vehicles.

The inspection comes amid increased scrutiny of the newly opened corridor following the fatal accident. In its aftermath, the government prohibited two-wheelers from using the flyover and closed entry and exit points near Hotel Neo Majestic as part of measures to regulate traffic.

PWD Minister Digambar Kamat had said the expert team would inspect the site along with PWD

Principal Chief Engineer Sandip Chodnekar and other officials, following which a detailed report would be submitted.

The department is also examining additional safeguards to minimise the risk of further accidents. Measures under consideration include structural modifications, improved access points to facilitate the merging of local traffic with regional routes, barricading of service lanes to separate local traffic from the main carriageway and installation of speed cameras.

Particular attention is being given to the descending stretch towards Porvorim from Atal Setu, where authorities are assessing measures to curb reckless driving and high-speed collisions.

Officials have indicated that restrictions could be partially eased once adequate safety protocols are established. The initial assessment will focus on the Porvorim corridor before similar safety measures are considered for other critical stretches across the state.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

# “We Respect Other Forms of Worship”: Mohan Bhagwat Stresses Religious Tolerance in Ujjain

■ RSS Chief Urges Youth to Treat Dharma as a Way of Life and Warns Against Ego and Arrogance

Team Goemkarponn

**BHOPAL:** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat stressed the importance of religious tolerance and humility while addressing young people at the Yuva Dharma Sansad in Ujjain on Friday. He said individuals should remain committed to their own traditions while respecting different forms of worship.



Bhagwat also cautioned against ego and the belief that everything can be controlled according to

an individual's wishes. He said arrogance can create the misconception that a person has authority over everything, whereas life does not always unfold according to personal expectations. Speaking about the participation of young people in discussions on dharma, Bhagwat said such conversations should not be viewed as

something reserved for old age. He described dharma as a principle that extends throughout life and is reflected in a person's conduct and responsibilities. He referred to duties such as those of a son, a ruler and a human being, explaining that dharma determines responsibilities according to the nature and role of individuals.



## Mamata Banerjee Faces Another Setback as Rejinagar Bypoll Candidate Withdraws

■ Rabiul Alam Chowdhury Quits Election Race, Deepening Trinamool Faction's Challenges Ahead of October 6 Polls

Team Goemkarponn

**KOLKATA:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's faction has suffered another setback after its candidate for the Rejinagar by-election, Rabiul Alam Chowdhury, withdrew his nomination on Saturday. His decision came a day after the party's candidate in Nandigram also stepped out of the electoral contest. Both Rejinagar and Nandigram are scheduled to vote on October 6, but the withdrawal of candidates has created fresh uncertainty for Mamata Banerjee's faction ahead of the bypolls. Chowdhury attributed his decision to alleged harassment

of party workers by the state administration. He said the party was currently without its official election symbol, while several workers had left the area for employment. According to him, the prevailing circumstances made it difficult to conduct an effective election campaign. His withdrawal followed the decision of Sanchita Pradhan Dey, the faction's Nandigram candidate, to withdraw her nomination on Friday after meeting Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari. In response to the Nandigram development, Mamata Banerjee announced support for the Congress candidate, Milan Pradhan.



## Rajnath Singh Calls for Integrated Aerospace Ecosystem to Strengthen India's Defence Capabilities

Team Goemkarponn

**BENGALURU:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has called for the development of an integrated aerospace ecosystem that meets the requirements of both civil aviation and military operations, while stressing the need to address delays in defence technology projects.

Speaking at a ceremony at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Singh said delays in developing and manufacturing defence equipment could create gaps in critical military requirements and increase costs. He also cautioned that technologies could become outdated by the time projects were completed, making realistic timelines essential.

The event featured the handover of Light Combat Aircraft Tejas twin-seat trainers and Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 aircraft to the Indian Air Force, along with Dhruv Next Generation helicopters for Pawan Hans Limited.

## Trump Signs Russia Sanctions Law, Opening Door to 100% Tariffs on India and China

■ New US Law Gives President Power to Impose Steep Duties on Major Buyers of Russian Oil and Gas

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** US President Donald Trump has signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 into law, giving his administration expanded powers to impose tariffs of up to 100% on countries that continue significant purchases of Russian oil and gas. India and China, among the major buyers



of Russian crude, could therefore face higher US duties.

The legislation was signed two days after the US House of Representatives approved it by a 262 to

159 vote. The Senate had passed the measure earlier. The law targets Russia's energy and defence sectors, financial institutions, senior officials and the so-called shadow fleet used to circumvent sanctions. The legislation authorises tariffs of up to 100% on imports from countries covered by provisions targeting purchases of Russian oil and gas.

## AAP Launches Punjab 2027 Poll Campaign After 8% DA Hike for Government Staff

■ Bhagwant Mann to Release Campaign Pamphlet in Ludhiana as Party Begins Statewide Door-to-Door Outreach

Team Goemkarponn

**CHANDIGARH:** The Aam Aadmi Party is formally beginning its campaign for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann scheduled to launch the party's campaign in Ludhiana on Saturday. The move comes a day after the Punjab government approved an 8% increase in Dearness Allowance



for state employees and pensioners.

Mann is set to release the party's election

campaign pamphlet in Ludhiana, marking the beginning of a wider political outreach ahead

of the polls. The party has also announced a membership drive and a statewide door-to-door campaign starting September 20. The DA increase will affect around eight lakh government employees and pensioners, making the announcement significant for a large section of the state's workforce. The decision followed discussions between the government and employee and pensioner

organisations after a prolonged dispute over pending DA and related demands. AAP plans to deploy 2,68,553 booth committee members for the statewide household outreach. The workers will visit homes across Punjab and present the government's work and schemes. Punjab has more than 25,000 polling booths, with the campaign being organised through local booth committees.

# Will Team India Accept Asian Games Medals From Mohsin Naqvi? BCCI Says Decision Will Come Later

■ Board Avoids Speculation as India's Men's and Women's Teams Prepare for Aichi-Nagoya 2026

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The question of whether India's men's and women's cricket teams will accept Asian Games medals from Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi has emerged ahead of the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 competition.

Both Indian teams are defending Asian Games



champions and are set to compete in Japan. Naqvi, who is also the chairman of the Asian Cricket Council and Pakistan's Interior Minister, could potentially be involved in the medal ceremony if he

is officially assigned the responsibility by the Olympic Council of Asia.

According to reports, Indian teams would be expected to follow the official medal ceremony protocol if Naqvi is formally delegated by the OCA to present the medals. The OCA rules provide for medals to be presented by the organisation's president,

who can delegate the responsibility to another authorised representative.

The issue has gained attention following recent developments at the Asia Cup. India's women's team declined to receive the trophy from Naqvi after winning the tournament. The Indian men's team had similarly not accepted the Asia Cup trophy and medals from him during the previous edition.



## BCCI Steps In Over Asian Games Kit Issues as India's Men's Team Prepares to Depart

■ Sizing Problems Partly Resolved, While BCCI Makes Separate Hotel Arrangements in Japan

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The BCCI has stepped in to address logistical concerns surrounding India's men's cricket team ahead of its departure for the Asian Games, with several players reportedly awaiting correctly sized kits.

The Shreyas Iyer led side is scheduled to leave the national capital early Sunday morning for Japan. The team will first wear its regular India kit for the one off T20 International against Japan on September 22 before switching to the official Asian Games jersey for the tournament, which begins on September 28.

The kit issue has involved coordination between the BCCI, the Indian Olympic Association and its kit supplier. Most of the sizing problems have reportedly been resolved, while a few remaining items are expected to reach the players shortly.

The need for separate kits for the bilateral match and the Asian Games has added to the logistical requirements ahead of the team's departure.

The BCCI has also made separate accommodation arrangements for the men's team after concerns emerged over facilities provided through the Games organisers.

## Rain Washes Out Final Day as Goa and Gujarat U-23 Clash Ends in Draw

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Persistent rain brought the Goa and Gujarat Men's Under-23 Multidays Practice League encounter to an early conclusion, with the match ending in a draw at Gujarat College Cricket Ground A in Ahmedabad on Thursday. Gujarat dominated the opening stages of the contest, posting an imposing 471 for nine declared in their first innings. Raj Raghvani led the batting effort with an impressive 196, while Kavyan Patel contributed a valuable 65 to strengthen Gujarat's total. Goa faced early difficulties in their reply, losing two wickets for just 22 runs. However, captain Aryan Narvekar responded with a determined half-century, scoring 50 off 79 deliveries. His innings included six boundaries and one six, helping Goa recover from their poor start. By the end of the second day, Goa had reached 144 for five after 57 overs. Dishank Prabhu Misquin remained unbeaten on 14, while Jeevan Chittem was not out on 21 as Goa looked to build a stronger response to Gujarat's substantial first innings total.

However, the weather intervened on the final day, with persistent rain preventing any play.

## Agarkar Set To Exit As BCCI Shortlists Parthiv Patel, Pragyan Ojha For Chief Selector Role

■ Ajit Agarkar's tenure as chairman of the senior men's selection committee is expected to end next month, with two former India cricketers emerging as leading contenders for the post.

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Ajit Agarkar is unlikely to continue as chairman of the BCCI senior men's selection committee, with former India wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel and ex-spinner Pragyan Ojha emerging as the leading candidates to succeed him.

Agarkar's current contract is scheduled to end next month.



BCCI could extend his tenure until the 2027 ODI World Cup, the latest developments suggest that the board is preparing for a change at the top of the selection committee.

The BCCI's Annual

Agarkar is not expected to receive an extension. Wednesday's selection meeting, which saw India's squads announced for the upcoming white-ball series against the West Indies and the Irani Trophy, could have been his final meeting as chairman.

Agarkar also headed the selection process for the Rest of India squad for the Irani Trophy.

## Abhishek Sharma Reveals Yuvraj Singh's Message Behind Record-Breaking T20I Century

■ India opener says mentor's advice to avoid forcing every delivery helped him produce a stunning 108 off 34 balls against Afghanistan

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Abhishek Sharma credited a simple message from his mentor Yuvraj Singh for helping him produce one of the most explosive innings in T20I cricket. The left-handed opener smashed a breathtaking 108 off just 34 balls in the third T20I against Afghanistan, powering India to a massive 127-run victory and a 3-0



series sweep. His innings included nine fours and

11 sixes. Abhishek revealed that Yuvraj had contacted him after the second match, in which he scored 39 following an 82 in the series opener. The former India all-rounder advised him not to force every delivery and encouraged him to rotate the strike when conditions demanded it. "He told me not to force all the balls. In these conditions,

if I take one or two singles in between, it helps," Abhishek said.

The advice worked perfectly as Abhishek maintained his attacking approach while also finding opportunities to take singles. He reached his century in only 30 balls, setting a new record for the fastest T20I hundred in a match involving full-member nations. His 108 came after India raced to 142 for one in 10 overs. Following

his dismissal, India lost momentum but still finished strongly at 221 for seven. Afghanistan struggled badly in the chase and were bowled out for 94 in 14.1 overs. Axar Patel struck twice in his opening over, dismissing Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Sediqullah Atal, while Nitish Kumar Reddy claimed three wickets for 25 runs. Ravi Bishnoi completed the collapse with his third wicket.