



Flyover Access Plan Takes Shape as Traffic Measures Set To Roll Out

■ Three access arrangements agreed in principle; signals, rumblers, speed breakers and cameras planned

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Traffic management measures are set to be rolled out along the Porvorim corridor, with authorities agreeing in principle to three access arrangements while deploying traffic personnel on the Mercas-Panaji route to tackle congestion. The decisions were taken during a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and attended by senior officials and experts from IIT Kharagpur. PWD Minister Digambar Kamat said three



access arrangements for Porvorim have been agreed upon in principle. These include one entry and one exit for the corridor, along with a separate entry for

Porvorim residents to access the Atal Setu. Kamat clarified that the proposed arrangements would not involve making additional cuts or punctures in the newly

constructed corridor. As part of the traffic-control plan, traffic signals, speed breakers, rumblers, cameras and large advance signboards will be installed at identified locations. The signboards will alert motorists about speed restrictions and upcoming access points well in advance. Authorities will also undertake lane-merging measures and other traffic-management requirements. Kamat pointed out that although the Porvorim corridor

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Questions Raised Over IIM Nagpur Role In Porvorim Flyover Review

*Civic Activists, Former PWD Engineers Question Choice Of Management Institute For Technical Assessment

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The appointment of IIM Nagpur to examine issues surrounding the six-lane Porvorim elevated flyover has come under scrutiny from civic activists and former Public Works Department (PWD) engineers, who have questioned whether a technical engineering institution would have been more appropriate for the assessment. While Indian Institutes of Management

(IIMs) specialise in management, administration and project-related studies, experts have pointed to institutions such as IITs and the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), which have specialised expertise in road engineering, traffic management and structural engineering. GOACAN Coordinator Roland Martins highlighted the road-safety work already being undertaken in Goa

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Khaunte seeks accountability, 7-day fix for Porvorim flyover

■ MLA says planning flaws must be addressed as govt promises immediate access, safety measures and joint monitoring

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Porvorim MLA Rohan Khaunte has demanded accountability for planning and design lapses in the Porvorim flyover project, while calling for immediate measures to resolve access and traffic-safety



concerns faced by local residents. Speaking after a briefing by the PWD

Minister, Khaunte said the government has committed to implementing a package of measures within a maximum of seven days, while opening key access points over the next couple of days. Khaunte said the immediate priority was to provide connectivity

for traffic approaching Porvorim from both the south and the coastal belt. According to him, authorities will work on opening access for vehicles coming from the Atal Setu towards Porvorim, Calangute and the beach belt, while also providing flyover access

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

“No Existential Crisis”: Election Office Clarifies SIR Notices Issued to Advani, Kejriwal and Rekha Gupta

Delhi CEO Office Says Notices Over Voter Details Do Not Mean Names Will Be Deleted



Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Delhi Chief Electoral Officer's office has clarified that notices issued under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls do not automatically mean that a voter's name will be removed from the list. The clarification came after several prominent voters, including former deputy prime minister L K Advani, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, received notices over

discrepancies in their electoral details. The notices have been issued as part of the ongoing verification exercise covering voters whose details could not be matched with earlier electoral records or showed what the authorities described as logical discrepancies. The CEO office said receiving a notice does not mean an electoral entry has already been deleted or will necessarily be removed. It also stressed that no voter's name can

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

BJP Targets RaGa Over Alleged Data Exposure on Chhatron Ki Goonj Website

■ BJP Raises Cybersecurity Concerns Over Student Registration Data, Congress Website Issues Under Scrutiny

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. The projects are expected to be implemented over the next two to

three years. The fresh interest follows



India's announcement in July of a \$13.4 billion semiconductor fund, aimed at expanding an earlier \$10 billion support programme. The government has been using financial incentives to attract major semiconductor manufacturing and

assembly projects to the country. Several projects supported under the earlier programme have already moved into commercial production. Capacity being created through existing projects has also attracted advance demand, indicating growing interest in locally manufactured semiconductor products. PM Modi also highlighted India's large pool of engineering talent and its semiconductor policies while addressing the industry gathering in New Delhi, seeking greater participation from international investors.

BJP-MGP Alliance: The Cracks Are Getting Wider

The BJP and Maharashtra Gomantak Party may still be partners in government, but the latest war of words between Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and MGP leader Sudin Dhavalikar has exposed something that both parties would rather keep under wraps: the alliance is far from comfortable.

For months, there have been signals of growing tension between the two parties. Now, those differences are becoming public.

Sawant's remark that the MGP should "know its limits" has clearly not gone down well with Dhavalikar. The MGP leader has responded by reminding the BJP that his party has its own political history, organisational strength and voter base. He has also made it clear that the MGP will not quietly accept attempts to diminish its political relevance.

This is not merely a war of words. It is about political space.

The real battle between the BJP and MGP is already taking shape well before the 2027 Assembly election. Constituencies such as Mandrem and Priol have become symbols of the larger struggle over who gets to contest where. The BJP wants to expand its footprint. The MGP wants to retain its relevance and bargaining power.

That is where the alliance becomes complicated.

An alliance works only when both partners believe they are gaining from it. The moment one partner begins feeling that the other is attempting to swallow its political space, tensions are inevitable.

The MGP knows that it cannot match the BJP organisationally. But the BJP also knows that the MGP still has a regional identity and a network of traditional voters that can matter in a close election.

This is precisely why the language coming from both sides is important.

Dhavalikar's reminder of the MGP's 17-year rule is not simply a reference to history. It is a message that the MGP does not see itself as a temporary appendage of the BJP.

Similarly, when the BJP speaks about the MGP's political limitations, it is sending its own message: the BJP does not intend to surrender constituencies merely because the MGP considers them part of its traditional territory.

So what happens next?

The immediate alliance may continue because both sides have

The real battle between the BJP and MGP is already taking shape well before the 2027 Assembly election. Constituencies such as Mandrem and Priol have become symbols of the larger struggle over who gets to contest where. The BJP wants to expand its footprint. The MGP wants to retain its relevance and bargaining power.

That is where the alliance becomes complicated.

An alliance works only when both partners believe they are gaining from it. The moment one partner begins feeling that the other is attempting to swallow its political space, tensions are inevitable.

The MGP knows that it cannot match the BJP organisationally. But the BJP also knows that the MGP still has a regional identity and a network of traditional voters that can matter in a close election.

This is precisely why the language coming from both sides is important.

Dhavalikar's reminder of the MGP's 17-year rule is not simply a reference to history. It is a message that the MGP does not see itself as a temporary appendage of the BJP."

reasons to remain together. But the bigger question is whether this relationship can survive the pressure of the 2027 election.

And beyond 2027 lies another question: can BJP-MGP ties realistically be assumed to remain intact until 2029?

Goan politics has repeatedly

demonstrated that alliances are rarely permanent. Political equations change when electoral calculations change. Parties that share power today can become rivals tomorrow. Leaders who stand together on one platform can find themselves campaigning against each other when constituency interests collide.

The BJP-MGP relationship has already experienced this cycle before.

The current situation therefore deserves more attention than a routine political disagreement. When the Chief Minister publicly tells an alliance partner to know its limits and the alliance partner publicly reminds the Chief Minister of his own political past, the problem is no longer hidden.

There is a trust deficit.

The question is how deep it will become.

The BJP will want maximum control over the electoral map. The MGP will want enough seats and political space to remain relevant. Between these two ambitions lies the future of the alliance.

The coming months will therefore be crucial. Seat sharing will expose the real balance of power. Constituency claims will test the patience of both parties. Candidate selection could become another flashpoint. And if either side believes the other is attempting to politically eliminate it, the alliance could become little more than a temporary arrangement.

The BJP may believe that it can expand independently. The MGP may believe that its traditional vote can still influence the outcome in several constituencies. Both calculations will eventually be tested at the ground level.

For now, neither party has walked away.

But that does not mean everything is fine.

The BJP-MGP alliance may survive another meeting, another negotiation and another public statement. But political alliances are ultimately sustained by mutual respect and mutual interest.

The latest exchange shows that both are under pressure.

The cracks are visible. The question is no longer whether there is friction between the BJP and MGP. The question is how long the alliance can hold once the electoral battle becomes real.

Goa has seen political alliances change before. There is little reason to assume this one is guaranteed to remain untouched until 2029.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Is AAP Weakening Opposition Unity in Goa?

With the Congress once again keeping its doors open for an alliance with the Goa Forward Party, an important question arises: what role is the Aam Aadmi Party playing in Goa's political landscape?

Many voters who seek an alternative to the BJP fear that the presence of multiple Opposition parties could lead to a division of votes. Goa's electoral history has shown that when anti-BJP votes are split among several parties, the ruling party often benefits from the fragmented mandate.

The recent AAP-GFP alliance under the "Goa First" banner has added another layer of complexity to Opposition politics. While AAP presents itself as an independent alternative, some political observers and voters believe that a divided Opposition may ultimately strengthen the BJP's electoral prospects rather than create a united challenge. This perception is becoming stronger as discussions on broader Opposition unity continue.

If the primary objective of Opposition parties is to provide a strong challenge to the BJP, then all like-minded parties should engage in sincere dialogue and avoid creating multiple fronts that confuse voters.

Ultimately, the people of Goa are looking for clarity, stability and a united vision. Political parties must decide whether they wish to compete separately or work together in a manner that avoids splitting votes and weakening the Opposition space.

Sebastian Fernandes,
Margarao

Opposition Unity Cannot Be Built on Half-Open Doors

The Congress's decision to keep the door open for an alliance with the Goa Forward Party comes at a crucial time for Goa's Opposition politics. With the 2027 Assembly election approaching, the biggest challenge before the Opposition is not only defeating the BJP, but avoiding a division of votes among multiple parties.

The Congress has indicated that it is willing to work with parties that want to take on the BJP. At the same time, GFP has already joined hands with AAP under the "Goa First" platform, while Congress is also exploring an understanding with other political forces.

This raises an obvious question. How many alliances can the Opposition realistically manage without creating confusion among voters?

An alliance cannot survive merely on election arithmetic. It requires trust, clarity on seat sharing and a common political direction. If every party wants to lead and every party wants the maximum number of constituencies, negotiations could become more difficult than the actual electoral battle.

Congress and GFP have worked together in the past, but politics has changed considerably. If both sides genuinely believe that a broader understanding is necessary, they should keep personal differences and political egos aside and begin serious negotiations.

The people of Goa will ultimately judge whether Opposition unity is genuine or simply an election-time arrangement.

The doors may be open today. The real question is whether there is enough political trust to walk through them together.

Francisco D'Souza
Aldona

Old Settlements To Be Dropped From NDA, NDZ Classification

■ TCP-Forest Joint Committee To Scrutinise Cases, Protect Private Forests And Ecologically Vulnerable Areas: Rane

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department will drop old settlements and settlement pockets from the No Development Area (NDA) and No Development Zone (NDZ) classifications, TCP Minister Vishwajit Rane said. The move comes following demands from residents of traditional settlements who have been affected by the earlier zoning classifications.



Rane said the government would first put in place a joint committee comprising officials from the TCP and Forest departments to scrutinise the cases before any changes are

considered. The committee will ensure that private forests and ecologically vulnerable areas are not affected by the decision, he said. The minister said the

move was aimed at providing relief to families living in traditional settlements while enabling regulated development. Rane stressed that there would be no compromise on the protection of private forests, khazan lands, salt pans, paddy fields, low-lying areas, mangroves and non-development slopes. He said the existing environmental and planning safeguards would continue to be strictly followed while addressing the concerns of people living in old settlements.



GFP Says No Room For Speculation On Political Realignment

■ Party Reiterates 'Goa First' Stand, While Congress Signals Readiness To Work With Vijai

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Forward Party (GFP) has asked against speculation over its future political alignment, maintaining that the party's focus remains on putting Goa's interests first and bringing together secular political forces. In a statement posted on X, the GFP said its position remained unchanged and that it was committed to creating a united alternative that was inclusive and focused on the interests of the people. The party also appealed for speculation to be avoided until it makes any formal announcement on the matter. GFP leader Prashant Naik, meanwhile, said there was no issue with making a "course

correction" if required. Referring to the demand for opposition unity, Naik said that if political parties had misread public sentiment and later sought to correct their approach, such a move should not be rejected. GFP president Vijai Sardesai has maintained the party continues to stand by its 'Goa First' arrangement with AAP. Sardesai said there was currently no rethink and that the party was occupied with the Ganesh festivities. He indicated that any political developments, if they arise, would be considered after the festive period, while declining to comment on speculation. Meanwhile, senior Congress leader M K Sheikh said Congress remained open to working with Sardesai and the GFP.



Ecstasy seizure exposes suspected Goa-Mumbai-Hyderabad drug link

Team Goemkarponn

HYDERABAD/GOA: A suspected interstate drug trail involving Goa, Mumbai and Hyderabad has come under investigation following the arrest of a 29-year-old man near Miyapur Metro Station with 14 ecstasy pills. The accused, Pola Suresh Gopi, was apprehended by the Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE) along with Miyapur police. Officers recovered 14 pills containing MDMA, weighing approximately nine grams, besides two mobile phones. Police said Gopi, originally from Miryalaguda in Nalgonda district and presently living in Hyderabad, had moved to Goa in July 2024, where he started working in the rental-property sector. Investigators allege that while staying in Goa, Gopi established contacts with individuals involved in the narcotics trade. He subsequently began sourcing drugs for acquaintances and allegedly reselling them for profit.

Goa Has Water Reserves To Tide Over Summer, Says Shirodkar

■ WRD confident of meeting drinking water demand through May despite seasonal rainfall shortfall

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa is expected to have adequate drinking water reserves to meet demand through May despite the shortfall in seasonal rainfall, Water Resources Minister Subhash Shirodkar said on Sunday. Shirodkar said the Water Resources Department (WRD) had built up sufficient reserves and storage capacity to provide a cushion during the summer months, with



the state also having access to multiple sources of water. He said Goa's natural water resources, coupled with dam storage and contingency arrangements, would help the state meet its drinking

water and irrigation needs. The minister said the state's water management system was designed to withstand rainfall significantly below the normal levels received in Goa.

18 Of 29 Mangrove Offence Cases In Goa Remain Pending

■ Forest Department records violations across the state, while government cites no dedicated restoration plan

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Eighteen of the 29 mangrove-related offence cases registered by the Goa Forest Department between January 2022 and January 2025 are yet to be completed, according to information placed before the Goa Legislative Assembly. The cases concern alleged damage to mangroves through activities such as

cutting, uprooting and trimming of trees. One of the cases also relates to the dumping of concrete waste into a canal, which obstructed the movement of water and was followed by the death of mangroves in the affected stretch. The information was furnished by Forest Minister Vishwajit Rane through two annexures submitted to the Assembly earlier this month.

Of the total cases



listed, six have been compounded and three have completed inquiries. Two others are at the concluding stage of inquiry, while the remaining 18 continue to be investigated. The reported incidents

are spread across several parts of Goa, including Morambi-o-Grande, Carmona, Curtorim, Arambol, Aradi, Corlim, Candolim, Curca, Khandola, St Esteven, Tarvalem, Siolim, Loliem, Poinguinim, Pernem, Aldona, Ribandar, Raia and Deussua. The case records indicate that some individual incidents involved dozens of mangrove trees. Khandola accounted for 100 allegedly affected

mangroves in one case, while 86 were listed in a case from Tarvalem in Shiroda. Corlim recorded 52 and Candolim 49. At Morambi-o-Grande, one case involved 41 trees, of which 37 were mangroves, over an area of approximately 300 square metres. Another case from the same locality involved 29 mangroves. At Curca, 27 mangroves were allegedly felled.

Fake Social Media Poster Featuring Woman And Minister Circulated In

■ Vasco Police Register Case Over Alleged Defamatory Electronic Content

VASCO: Vasco Police have registered a case following a complaint by a woman alleging that an unknown person created and circulated a forged electronic poster featuring her image alongside that of a minister. According to the complaint, the incident took place on September 19, 2026, at TNK, Vasco. The alleged fake poster/document contained congratulatory



messages claiming that the complainant and the minister were legally

married. Police said the electronic content was allegedly

created and circulated as genuine on various social media handles with the intention of harming the complainant's reputation.

A case has been registered at Vasco Police Station under Sections 336(4), 340(2), 356(2) and 356(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Suresh Velip of Vasco Police Station.

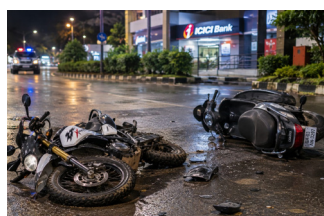


Woman Booked For Allegedly Setting Fire To House In Raia

■ Dispute Over Friendship Allegedly Leads To Fire Incident; House Partially Damaged

Team Goemkarponn
MARGAO: Margao Colva Police have registered a case against a woman for allegedly setting fire to a residential house at Raia, Salcete, resulting in partial damage to the property. According to a complaint filed by Renuka Mahtpati, a resident of Fatorda, the incident occurred prior to 4.28 am on September 19, 2026, at Raia. Police said the

accused, Sarala Patil, a native of Jalgaon, Maharashtra, allegedly caused mischief by setting fire to the residential house of the complainant's brother-in-law, Mallesh Naik. The fire reportedly caused partial destruction to the house. Police stated that the incident was allegedly linked to a dispute arising from the friendship between Patil and Naik. Further investigation is being conducted by LPSI Veronica Coutinho of Margao Colva Police



Porvorim Rider Booked For Rash Driving

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Porvorim Police have registered a case against a scooter rider following a road accident near ICICI Bank, Porvorim, on Sept 10. According to the police, the accident occurred around 12.04 am when Vishwanath Singh, a resident of Porvorim, was riding an Aprilia scooter (GA-03-AN-3297) from NH-66 towards the Goa Board, Porvorim. Police alleged that Singh rode the scooter in a rash and negligent manner and suddenly took a right turn opposite ICICI Bank without giving a side-light indicator. At the time, a Hero Xpulse motorcycle (GA-03-AX-3832), travelling from Panaji towards Porvorim, collided with the scooter. Both riders fell along with their vehicles in the impact. The rider of the Xpulse, 20-year-old Dwayne Almeida of Tivim, sustained injuries to his hand and other parts of his body. The case was registered on Sept 19 at 6.35 pm following a state complaint lodged by HC Shripad K. Teli of Porvorim PS, after an enquiry into Accident No. 59/2026 dated September 18.

5-Yr-Old Boy Seriously Injured After Being Hit By Car

■ Minor Sustains Severe Head Injuries While Crossing Road; Pernem Police Book Driver Rash Driving

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: A five-year-old boy sustained severe head injuries after being hit by an Innova Crysta while crossing the road near the bus stop at Deulwada, Casarvarnem, Pernem, police said. Incident came to light after a complaint was filed by Laxmi Bai, wife of Parshuram Dodamani, on September 19 at around 8.20 pm. According to the complaint, the accused, Tulshidas Chandrakant Pardhi, 44, a resident of Bhedshi, Dodamarg,



Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, was driving an Innova Crysta bearing registration number HR-26-DB-7170. Police said that the accused allegedly drove the vehicle in a rash and negligent manner and, upon reaching near the Deulwada Casarvarnem bus stop, hit complainant's

minor son while he was crossing road. The child sustained severe head injuries in the accident and was initially shifted to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Casarvarnem. He was subsequently referred to Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, for further treatment. Mopa Police have registered an offence under Sect 281 and 125(b) of BNS, 2023, against the accused driver.

Man Booked For Assaulting Couple And Police In Vasco

■ Accused Allegedly Assaulted Couple, Disrupted Traffic And Resisted Police Intervention

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco Police have registered a case against a man for allegedly assaulting a couple, obstructing traffic and later resisting police intervention at New Vaddem, Vasco. According to a complaint filed by Santosh Prajapati, a resident of Vaddem, the incident occurred at around 8.30 pm on September 19 near



the water tank at New Vaddem. Police said the accused, identified as Samir alias Chammu, a resident of New Vaddem, allegedly assaulted the complainant and his wife with fist blows. The accused allegedly further assaulted the complainant with a stone and a knuckle, causing injuries to both of them. The accused also

allegedly obstructed and disrupted the normal movement of traffic at the spot, affecting the free and orderly movement of vehicles. When police personnel intervened and attempted to control the situation, the accused allegedly resisted their intervention and assaulted police personnel while they were carrying out their official duties. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Suresh Velip of Vasco Police Station.

Goa Cuts Emergency Ambulance Response Time From 14 To 9

■ Technology-Led Dispatch And Smarter Ambulance Deployment Aim To Make Emergency Care Faster And More Accessible

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has reduced the average emergency ambulance response time from 14 minutes to nine minutes through technology-led dispatch, real-time monitoring and smarter ambulance deployment, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said.

Highlighting the initiative, Rane said every minute matters when a life is at stake and stressed the importance of ensuring timely medical care across the state.

**A FASTER
A SAFER GOA 108**

Average response time reduced
14 MIN → 9 MIN
Every minute saved can save a life.



According to the information shared by

the Health Minister, the faster response is being

supported by technology-enabled ambulance deployment and real-time monitoring, aimed at making emergency services more responsive and accessible to people across Goa.

"Our focus remains clear. Timely medical care for all, wherever and whenever it is needed," Rane said.

He described the initiative as part of the Goa model of healthcare, with technology being used to strengthen emergency response while keeping the patient care at the centre.



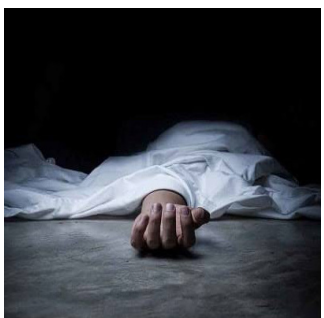
Goa Marks International Coastal Cleanup Day With Drives Across 25

■ Mauvin Godinho Leads Bogmalo Drive; Governor Joins Cleanup At Miramar

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI/BOGMALO: Goa marked International Coastal Cleanup Day with beach cleanliness drives held across the state, with a major initiative covering 25 beaches to promote a cleaner and greener coastline. Panchayat Minister Mauvin Godinho led a beach cleanliness drive at Bogmalo Beach. The initiative was organised by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in collaboration with local administration bodies, the Lions Club and the Vibrant Goa Foundation. Governor of Goa Pusapati Ashok Gajapati Raju also participated in a beach cleanup drive at Miramar

Beach as part of the statewide observance. The event at Miramar was organised by the Indian Coast Guard in association with the Lions Club and Vibrant Goa. DIG and Coast Guard District Commander Goa Manoj Bhatia, Director of CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography Sunil Kumar Singh and other officials and participants joined the cleanup activities. The drives focused on removing waste and marine debris from the beaches while encouraging greater public participation in keeping Goa's coastline clean and protecting the coastal environment. Goa has a coastline of about 105 km, according to the state government.



Unknown Man Found Dead Near Sai Baba Temple At GMC Bambolim

Team Goemkarponn

BAMBOLIM: Agacaim Police have registered an unnatural death case after an unidentified man, believed to be around 50 years old, was found lying near the Sai Baba Temple at GMC Bambolim and was subsequently brought dead to the casualty section.

According to police, the incident was reported on September 19, 2026, at around 4:49 pm after a wireless message was received from the casualty department of GMC..

The deceased, whose identity and residential address are currently unknown, was brought to the hospital as a medico-legal case (MLC No. 7578/2026). Agacaim Police have registered UD No. 23/2026 under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). Further investigation is underway. The inquiry is being conducted by PSI Shubham S. Korgaonkar

of Agacaim Police Station.

Goa Embryologist Dr Shravani Parker Honoured With Young Achiever Award

■ ISAR Recognition Highlights Her Work In IVF Training, Research And Embryology Education

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa-based embryologist Dr Shravani Parker has been honoured with the Embryology Excellence – Young Achiever Award at the ISAR ART Excellence Awards 2026, held in Udaipur on Saturday. The award, presented by the Indian Society of Assisted Reproduction (ISAR), recognises Dr Parker's contributions to clinical embryology as well as her work in education,



research and assisted reproductive technology. Dr Parker, who specialises in Clinical Embryology and Reproductive Sciences, has been associated with IVF and assisted reproduction, with her work spanning laboratory

practices, academic training and research.

A significant part of her contribution has been the establishment of the Embryology

Training and Research Centre at Old Goa, co-founded through Kasturi Repro Assist Concepts. The centre has so far trained and provided learning exposure to more than 2,000 students and learners.

Cavelossim Sarpanch Questions Political Motive Behind Development

■ Dixon Vaz Says Panchayat Decisions On Projects Taken Collectively And Through Due Process

Team Goemkarponn

CAVELOSSIM: Cavellossim Sarpanch Dixon Vaz has questioned the motive behind the recent protests against development proposals in the village, alleging that political interests are influencing the growing opposition to various projects. Vaz said the agitation has included objections related to land use, environmental protection, NDZ and CRZ provisions. He alleged that Benaulim



MLA Venzy Viegas had been actively involved in some of the recent campaigns. According to Vaz, disagreements over development should be settled by examining official documents, permissions and applicable regulations rather than

through political campaigns. He also alleged that there were efforts to prevent or delay development activity in Cavellossim.

Defending the role of the village panchayat, Vaz said proposals before the local body were processed through the prescribed procedures and that decisions were not taken unilaterally. On the Ashford SCDC Resorts LLP proposal, Vaz said the panchayat received the application

concerning site in April 2026. The site was subsequently inspected and the proposal was taken up through the panchayat's process, he said. Vaz further stated that all seven panchayat members supported the proposal, rejecting the suggestion that decision was the result of an individual action. He maintained panchayat's position should be assessed on the basis of the records and process followed in dealing with the project.

GPCC Dissolves Eight Block Congress Committees

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has dissolved eight Block Congress Committees with immediate effect, according to a notice issued by GPCC President Girish R. Chodankar on September 20. The dissolved Block Congress Committees are Valpoi, Pernem, Ponda, Fatorda, Shiroda, St. Cruz, Mapusa and Curchorem. The GPCC said the dissolved block committees will be reconstituted shortly.

Noida Traders Divided Over New UPI MDR, Say Costs Will Be

■ 0.4% Charge on Merchant Payments Above ₹2,000 From October 15 Leaves Businesses Weighing Options

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Noida businesses are preparing for a new Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on eligible UPI payments above ₹2,000, with traders divided over its impact but several saying they will absorb the additional cost rather than pass it on to customers. From October 15, a 0.4% MDR will apply to person-to-merchant UPI transactions above ₹2,000. The charge will be borne by merchants and will be capped at ₹300 for transactions of ₹75,000 or more. Person-to-person UPI transfers will remain free, while merchant payments of up to ₹2,000 will also continue without the new charge. For electronic goods sellers, the additional cost is being viewed as another pressure on already competitive margins. Harpreet Kohli, who runs Kay Dee Electronics, said his business would absorb the charge instead of transferring it to customers. "We will not pass it on to the customer. We will absorb it," Kohli



said, pointing out that merchants already pay MDR on several other payment methods. Harish Gupta, who runs Ankur Electricals in Sector 18, said his store already incurs MDR costs of around 0.85% to 1.2% on credit cards, debit cards and other digital payment options. Gupta said UPI had significantly changed the way his business received payments, but the new charge could put additional pressure on margins. However, intense competition from online retailers makes

it difficult for physical stores to add the cost to customer bills. At Nithari Fish Market in Sector 31, sellers expressed similar concerns. Fish trader Gautam Haldar said even a small charge could affect margins in a business where individual transactions are often modest. Haldar said he may remove some UPI QR codes and request customers to pay in cash. However, he acknowledged that many customers no longer carry cash regularly.

Kirana store owner Ajit Sarkar said the impact would be limited because many of his transactions are below ₹2,000. However, he noted that the accumulated cost from higher-value transactions could still reduce overall profit margins. For many small businesses, the new MDR therefore presents a choice between absorbing the cost, encouraging cash payments or accepting some pressure on margins, while keeping UPI available to customers.

200+ Indian Ecologists Warn of El Niño Impact on Ecosystems

■ Scientists Urge Urgent Preparations as Strengthening El Niño Threatens Water, Crops, Forests and Marine Life

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: More than 180 Indian scientists and ecologists have issued an urgent call for policymakers and researchers to prepare for the potentially wide-ranging effects of a strengthening El Niño, warning that the climate event could affect ecosystems, agriculture, water resources and livelihoods across the country. The appeal, signed by 188 members of India's ecological research community, calls for stronger monitoring and long-term studies to document how the 2026-27 El Niño affects marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems. The warning comes as El Niño continues to intensify over the equatorial Pacific. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center said there is a 75% chance that the October-December 2026 event could reach historic strength, exceeding the intensity of El Niño

events recorded since 1950. It also put the probability of a very strong event during the Northern Hemisphere autumn and winter at more than 90%. For India, the effects could extend beyond the southwest monsoon. Scientists have warned of increased heat and rainfall stress, reduced soil moisture and pressure on water storage and agricultural systems. The ecological effects could also include changes in plant growth, fruiting patterns and animal behaviour. Marine ecosystems face additional risks. Strong El Niño conditions can contribute to marine heatwaves and coral bleaching, placing further stress on coral reefs and other marine species. Scientists have pointed to the limited recovery time available to reefs following previous major bleaching events. Tropical forests could also come under pressure, as higher temperatures and prolonged dry periods affect trees and other vegetation.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Flyover Access Plan Takes Shape as Traffic Measures Set To Roll Out

has three lanes, the carriageway narrows to two lanes towards Mercedes, making additional traffic-control measures necessary. The implementation work is expected to begin within the next day or two and is likely to become operational this week. Meanwhile, SP Traffic Prabhod Shirvoikar said traffic personnel have already been deployed along the Mercedes-Panaji route to regulate traffic movement and manage congestion.

Khaunte seeks accountability

for traffic coming from areas such as Malim, Betim and Aldona towards Porvorim, Mopa, Pernem and Mapusa. He said the road leading towards the Atal Setu for Porvorim residents is also expected to be opened within the next few days. At the same time, Khaunte said traffic-control measures including speed enforcement, traffic signals, speed breakers, rumblers, cameras and clearer advance signage are being taken up. He stressed that motorists must be clearly informed about speed restrictions and access arrangements to prevent sudden manoeuvres and confusion. Khaunte also raised

concerns over two-wheelers entering the Atal Setu despite the restriction. He said existing signage was inadequate and called for prominent written boards stating that two-wheelers are not permitted, rather than relying only on symbols. On speeding, Khaunte said the prescribed speed limit is 65 kmph and called for cameras to automatically detect violations and issue challans wherever the technology is available. Khaunte said traffic, Transport and PWD authorities should work together instead of addressing the issue separately. He said the PWD Minister has agreed to form a joint committee involving the concerned departments to oversee implementation and

monitor traffic conditions on the ground. He also urged that recommendations from IIT and IIM consultants be vetted by practical transport-management authorities before implementation, citing the need to assess traffic movement, enforcement and accident-prevention requirements on the ground. Khaunte said authorities must conduct continuous trials and monitor traffic patterns, including the impact on Mercedes Circle and the Mapusa side, to ensure that solving one bottleneck does not create another. On the original planning and Detailed Project Report (DPR), Khaunte said personnel involved in the PWD planning at the time are no longer in those positions, but that should not prevent

accountability from being established. "Rather than trading blame, accountability must be firmly fixed. I will be writing to the Chief Minister regarding this," Khaunte said. He argued that the planning process should have accounted for the existing population and local access requirements along the corridor, even though the project forms part of a national highway network. Khaunte said the immediate focus, however, must remain on fixing the current problems and ensuring smooth connectivity for Porvorim residents while maintaining North-South traffic movement. He added that the government's commitments would be followed up closely, with

progress expected to be reviewed on the ground within a week.

Questions Raised Over IIM Nagpur Role In Porvorim Flyover Review

by IIT Madras, raising questions over the need to involve an institution primarily focused on management for examining technical and safety-related aspects of the Porvorim project. Former PWD engineers have also raised concerns over road signage, traffic management and commuter safety in wake of ongoing issues surrounding the elevated corridor.

“Be Prepared”: Vaishnaw Warns of Cyberattacks, Fake News, Sabotage Against India’s Semiconductor

■ Electronics Minister Says Strategic Chip Industry Could Face Growing Opposition

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has warned that India’s expanding semiconductor industry could face cyberattacks, misinformation campaigns and physical sabotage as the country strengthens its position in global chip manufacturing.



Speaking in an interview with NDTV, Vaishnaw said India’s growing presence in strategic industries could attract opposition from groups that do not

want the country to emerge as a major manufacturing hub. Referring to the early stages of Apple’s iPhone assembly operations in India, the minister cited incidents involving alleged misinformation, electricity disruptions and other challenges. He argued that similar obstacles could emerge as India expands its semiconductor

capabilities. Vaishnaw urged companies and other stakeholders in the industry to prepare for potential threats, emphasising that semiconductors are critical to national security and economic development. He identified cyberattacks, fake news and physical attacks as possible risks that the industry must address.



IIT Bombay Apologises Over Student’s Death Statement, Says Circumstances Still Under Investigation

■ Institute says it was inappropriate to characterise events before they were established through investigation

Team Goemkarponn

Mumbai: The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay has apologised for statements made in an earlier communication regarding the circumstances surrounding the death of second-year BTech student Sahil Wakode, saying details about the events leading up to his death have not yet been established. In a fresh statement issued on Monday, IIT Bombay said the circumstances surrounding the incident remain under investigation by the appropriate authorities. “We apologise for the statements contained in our earlier

the circumstances surrounding the unfortunate demise of Sahil,” the institute said. The institute acknowledged that its earlier communication had referred to circumstances preceding the student’s death before those details had been formally established through the investigative process. IIT Bombay said it was inappropriate to characterise or present such details while the investigation remains ongoing. “The details and circumstances leading up to the incident remain subject to investigation by the appropriate authorities,” the institute said.



AJUP State Secretary Arrested in Bengal With Fake Currency and Illegal Arms Ahead of Bypoll

Team Goemkarponn

Murshidabad: The state secretary of the Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP), led by Humayun Kabir, has been arrested in West Bengal’s Murshidabad district after police allegedly recovered counterfeit currency and illegal firearms from a vehicle. Ashik Iqbal was detained late Friday night during a vehicle inspection at a police checkpoint in Hariharpara. Another person travelling with him was also arrested. Officers stopped an SUV near the Garinama area and recovered 108 counterfeit ₹500 notes, two firearms and 4 rounds of ammunition during search. Police are examining the origin and intended use of fake currency and weapons. They are also looking into whether the counterfeit notes were meant to influence the upcoming Oct 6 Rejinagar Assembly bypoll and whether accused had any previous involvement in circulation of fake currency.

Japan Air Force Chief Flies Tejas, IAF Chief Calls Sortie a Sign of ‘Faith and Trust’

■ General Morita’s Tejas Flight Highlights Growing India-Japan Air Force Cooperation

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Japan Air Self-Defense Force Chief General Morita took a sortie in India’s Light Combat Aircraft Tejas during the ongoing Veer Guardian 2026 exercise, with Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh describing the flight as a strong expression of confidence in India’s indigenous



fighter aircraft. Singh said Morita’s decision to fly the Tejas demonstrated the trust placed in India’s homegrown aviation capabilities. He also said the experience could help

open new opportunities for exchange programmes and joint training, particularly involving fighter aircraft. The IAF chief described Veer Guardian 2026 as more than a routine military exercise, saying engagement was strengthening cooperation between 2 air forces while creating opportunities for mutual learning and greater interoperability.

“Our Average Power Cost Will Come Down By ₹1”: Himanta Sarma On ₹48,000 Crore

■ Assam CM Says 3,200 MW Plant Will Transform Northeast’s Energy Landscape

Team Goemkarponn

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has described Adani Power’s upcoming 3,200 MW ultra-supercritical thermal power project in Dhubri district as a major step towards strengthening the state’s electricity infrastructure and attracting large-scale investment. Sarma laid the foundation stone for



the project on Saturday in the presence of Jeet Adani, Director of the Adani Group. With an estimated investment of

₹48,000 crore, the project is being positioned as the largest private investment in Assam. Speaking about the

development, Sarma said the power plant would be the biggest in Assam and across the Northeast. He also stated that the project could help Assam transition from a power-deficit state to a power-surplus state. Chief Minister highlighted the potential impact on electricity costs, saying state’s average power cost could decline by approximately ₹1 after the plant becomes operational.

Beyond electricity generation, Sarma emphasised wider economic importance of the investment and indicated that Assam could work with Adani Group on additional projects in future. The state government is also pursuing a broader energy strategy that combines thermal power with renewable sources, including hydropower and pumped storage projects.

Asian Games 2026: Himanshu Dhillon Wins Silver, Rudrankksh Patil Takes Bronze in 10m Air Rifle

■ India Secures Individual and Team Shooting Medals as Athletes Compete Across Multiple Disciplines

Team Goemkarponn

Aichi-Nagoya: Indian shooters Himanshu Dhillon and Rudrankksh Patil delivered a strong performance at the Asian Games 2026, winning silver and bronze medals respectively in the men's 10m air rifle individual event on Monday. China's Sheng Lihao claimed the gold medal after a closely contested final.

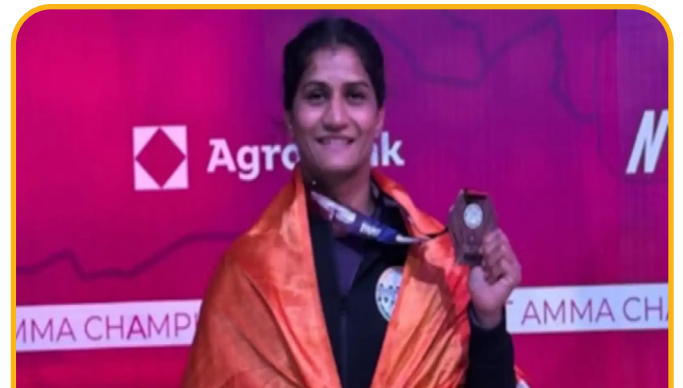


Rudrankksh began the competition impressively, taking the early lead with 52.8 points in the opening series. He extended his advantage with a score of 53.2 in the second series, moving 1.1 points

ahead of the field. Himanshu remained in medal contention, briefly moving into second place as the competition progressed.

After 12 shots, Rudrankksh led with 127.4 points, followed by Himanshu at 126.6 and Sheng at 126.3. The battle remained tightly contested, with Sheng moving into first place after 16

shots. Rudrankksh and Himanshu were separated by just 0.2 points. Himanshu produced a 10.9 to close the gap but later dropped to third following a 9.8. Sheng maintained his lead through the final stages. Rudrankksh was eliminated after 22 shots, finishing on 230.9, narrowly behind Himanshu's 231.0. Sheng eventually secured gold.



Suchika Tariyal Makes History With India's First MMA Medal

■ Indian Fighter Wins Bronze in Women's Traditional 60kg MMA Event at Aichi-Nagoya

Team Goemkarponn

Aichi-Nagoya: Indian mixed martial arts athlete Suchika Tariyal created history at the Asian Games 2026 by winning the country's first-ever medal in MMA. She secured bronze in the women's traditional 60kg event at Aichi-Nagoya on Monday. Suchika had already assured India of its first MMA medal after defeating Mongolia's Altanchimeg Baigalmaa in the quarterfinals on Sunday. Baigalmaa increased the pressure in the second and final round as she looked to change the outcome, but Suchika held her ground with disciplined defence. The Indian fighter produced an important reversal during the contest and

took Baigalmaa to the ground. She maintained control until the end of the round to secure the victory and book her place in the semifinals. Suchika's campaign ended in the semifinal stage after she suffered a 2-0 defeat against Singapore's Hui Hoon Teo. The result earned her a historic bronze medal and marked a significant moment for Indian MMA on Asian Games stage. India's Varun Sanyal, was unable to begin his campaign after being ruled out for medical reasons. India also continued its medal-winning run in shooting, with Rudrankksh Patil, Parth Mane and Himanshu Dhillon claiming silver in the men's 10m air rifle team event.

Chhattisgarh Reach 210/4 Against Goa in U-23 Practice Match

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Chhattisgarh made a steady start against Goa, reaching 210 for four at the end of the opening day of the Gujarat Cricket Association Men's Under-23 Multidays Practice Match at Gujarat College Cricket Ground A in Ahmedabad on Sunday. After winning the toss and opting to bat, Chhattisgarh put together a solid first innings, scoring 210 runs in 63 overs. Goa are yet to begin their first innings. Shobhit Sharma anchored the Chhattisgarh innings with a patient 68 off 126 deliveries, hitting eight boundaries. Ashish Kumar Dahariya provided valuable support with 44 off 71 balls, while Yash Kumar Varda contributed 33 from 68 deliveries. Ambrish Kumar remained unbeaten on 32, while Shashwat Sharda was not out on 14 at the close of play. Captain and wicketkeeper Rahul Pradhan scored 11 before being dismissed. Chhattisgarh lost their fourth wicket at 172, but Ambrish and Sharda steadied the innings with an unbeaten partnership. The duo helped the visitors cross the 200-run mark and ensured Chhattisgarh finished the day in a strong position.

India Thrash Indonesia 13-1 as Dilpreet Singh Scores Four

■ Defending champions dominate from start to finish, with Dilpreet leading a nine-player scoring effort

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India produced a commanding performance at the Asian Games 2026, defeating Indonesia 13-1 in a one-sided men's hockey contest. Dilpreet Singh led the scoring with four goals, while Shilanand Lakra and Sukhjeet Singh added two each. India made a fast start and opened the scoring in the sixth minute. Harmanpreet Singh's drag flick was saved by Indonesian

goalkeeper Alam Fajar, but Lakra reacted quickly to convert the rebound.



Abhishek doubled the advantage in the 12th minute before Dilpreet struck twice in quick succession. He first finished a pass from Abhishek and then scored again after receiving

Sukhjeet's delivery. Rajinder Singh added another from a rebound before Mandeep Singh made it 6-0. Harmanpreet then converted a penalty corner in the 28th minute after earlier missing a penalty stroke, giving India a 7-0 lead at half-time. Indonesia managed a consolation goal through Aulia Al Ardh in the 33rd minute, but India immediately regained control. Lakra scored his second before Dilpreet completed his hat-trick.

Goa Women Suffer 5-Wkt Defeat Against Baroda

■ Poorva Bhaidkar Takes Four Wickets as Goa Fall Short in T20 Practice Match

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa senior women suffered a five-wicket defeat against Baroda senior women in a T20 practice match organised by the Baroda Cricket Association at B.C.A. Stadium 'B' in Baroda on Sunday. After winning the toss, Baroda opted to bowl first and restricted Goa to 96 for nine in their 20 overs. Goa struggled to build momentum with the bat, with Shreya Parab emerging as their top scorer with 22 runs from 39 balls. Tejaswini



Durgad and Poorva Bhaidkar contributed 15 runs each, while Vinavi Gurav added 12. Baroda's bowling attack kept Goa under pressure throughout the innings.

Tanvir Sheikh claimed two wickets for 15 runs,

while Hani Patel also picked up two wickets, conceding 20 runs. Chasing 97 for victory, Baroda reached the target in 17.1 overs, finishing on 97 for five. Amita Joseph anchored the chase with a patient

36 off 48 balls, while Meshvi Poker contributed 24 from 36 deliveries. Atoshi Banerjee added 19 off 28 balls to help Baroda move steadily towards the target. Goa's Poorva Bhaidkar produced an impressive individual bowling performance despite her team's defeat. She claimed four wickets for just 15 runs from her four overs, keeping Goa in contention during the chase. Shreya Parab took the other Baroda wicket, finishing with figures of one for 14. However, Goa's modest

first-innings total ultimately left them with little room for error as Baroda completed the chase with 17 balls to spare. Brief Scorecard Goa Senior Women: 96/9 in 20 overs Shreya Parab 22, Tejaswini Durgad 15, Poorva Bhaidkar 15, Vinavi Gurav 12; Tanvir Sheikh 2/15, Hani Patel 2/20. Baroda Senior Women: 97/5 in 17.1 overs Amita Joseph 36, Meshvi Poker 24, Atoshi Banerjee 19; Poorva Bhaidkar 4/15, Shreya Parab 1/14.