



## Congress Draws Line on Defectors, Sharpens Focus on Sankhalim and Valpoi

■ Manikrao Thakre says former defectors will not be readmitted; party steps up programmes in key constituencies

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Congress has drawn a clear line against leaders who have previously quit the party, with AICC Goa in-charge Manikrao Thakre saying there will be no scope for their return. Thakre said some former party members are making attempts to rejoin Congress, but the party has decided against accepting them.

"We will not give any place to those who have defected from Congress.



They are trying to come back to us, but we will not accept them, either now or in the future. This is their punishment from us," he said. Thakre also commented on the recent issue surrounding an invitation sent to Goa Congress president Amit

Patkar for a party meeting.

He indicated that Patkar may have expected a more direct form of communication.

"There may be certain expectations that someone should personally call or send a message before attending a meeting. Perhaps he felt that the message sent to him was not of his level and may have taken it personally. But I don't think this is a very serious

issue," Thakre said.

Meanwhile, the party has identified Sankhalim and Valpoi as areas requiring increased organisational attention.

Thakre said senior Congress leaders, district-level teams and the Mahila Congress have been conducting programmes and reaching out to voters in both constituencies. Speaking about Sankhalim, Thakre pointed to the narrow margin by which the Chief Minister won the constituency in the previous election.

## Fresh Forgery Case Against Tarak Arolkar

**Crime Branch arrests Mapusa councillor over alleged fake birth certificate used for OBC certificate; comes amid earlier property fraud case and hospitalisation**



Team Goemkarponn

**MAPUSA:** Mapusa Municipal Councillor and real estate developer Tarak Manguesh Arolkar has been arrested by the Crime Branch in a fresh forgery case concerning an allegedly fabricated birth certificate.

Investigators suspect that the document was used as part of the process to secure an Other Backward Classes (OBC) caste certificate. The Crime Branch initiated action after allegations surfaced that forged documents had been submitted to support the application.

The latest arrest comes while Arolkar is already facing proceedings in connection with a

separate property-related case. Earlier, the Mapusa JMFC Court had sent him to 13 days of judicial custody following his arrest in an alleged property fraud case involving around ₹40 lakh.

The earlier case was registered by Mapusa Police after a Mormugao resident allegedly accused Arolkar of cheating him of ₹41.9 lakh. The complaint relates to an alleged promise to sell a 51,000-square-metre property in Torxem, Pernem.

Arolkar was subsequently hospitalised after reportedly experiencing chest pain, adding another development to the ongoing case.



## Soaps, Shampoos and Toothpaste to Carry Veg, Non-Veg Markings Under New Rules

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**NEW DELHI:** Consumers buying everyday products such as soaps, shampoos and toothpaste will now be able to identify whether they are made from vegetarian or non vegetarian ingredients through markings on their packaging.

Under the new rules, products of vegetarian origin will have to carry a green dot, while products of non vegetarian origin will be required to display a red or brown dot. The marking must be placed prominently at the top of the package's principal display panel.

The change has been introduced through an amendment to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, bringing cosmetic and toiletry products within the new labelling requirement. The amended provisions have come into effect following the issuance of a notification by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

## Porvorim Shooting Case: Satish Shinde Sent To 9-Day Judicial Custody

■ Crime Branch names businessman as seventh accused as investigators probe his alleged connection to the shooters and a possible wider conspiracy

Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** Businessman Satish Shinde has been sent to nine days of judicial custody by the Mapusa JMFC Court following his arrest in connection with the shooting of businessman Shrinivas Naik near the Majestic Hotel in Porvorim.



The Crime Branch has identified Shinde as the seventh person arrested in the case. Investigators are now examining his alleged involvement and his

possible links with those accused of carrying out the attack. Police sources said the six suspects arrested earlier allegedly mentioned Shinde during questioning. Based on the information gathered during the investigation, officers are examining whether he had a role in bringing the alleged shooters together.

## 'Not To Justify Cheating': IIT Bombay Students Seek Reforms After Student's Death

■ Student representatives say protest focused on systemic concerns, accountability and a safer campus

Team Goemkarponn

**MUMBAI:** IIT Bombay student representatives have clarified that the protests following the death of a second year student were not intended to defend cheating or academic misconduct, but to highlight concerns over institutional systems and seek reforms.

The statement was



issued on September 21, days after the death by suicide of 20 year old Sahil Wakode, a student of the Department of Energy Science and Engineering, on

September 18. Student representatives described the death as a deeply tragic incident that had prompted

students to examine the systems and processes within the institute. They stressed that students do not support cheating or any form of academic misconduct.



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# Can Goy Rakkhon Yatra save Congress in Goa?

Congress is back on the streets of Goa. This time, it has chosen a slogan that sounds less like an election campaign and more like an emotional appeal: Goy Rakkhon. Protect Goa.

The 27 day yatra, covering all 40 Assembly constituencies, is Congress's attempt to reconnect with voters before the 2027 Assembly elections. The party is placing land, Goan identity, environment, unemployment, safety, corruption and social harmony at the centre of its campaign.

The question, however, is not whether Congress can take a yatra across Goa. It clearly can. The real question is whether this yatra can bring Congress back into the political conversation in a meaningful way.

For years, Congress has struggled with a problem that cannot be solved by slogans alone. It has had leaders, MLAs, workers and a long political history in Goa. What it has repeatedly lacked is sustained organisational discipline and the ability to remain politically relevant between elections.

Goy Rakkhon gives the party an opportunity to change that.

The choice of Goa's identity as the central theme is significant. Land conversion, the changing character of villages, environmental concerns, development projects and the fear of Goa losing what makes it different are issues that can connect with ordinary people.

But there is a problem.

Congress is not the only party speaking about Goa's identity.

Regional political forces have already occupied considerable political space on issues of land, culture, local rights and the protection of Goa. The opposition space is also becoming increasingly crowded, with different parties attempting to build their own platforms ahead of 2027.

Therefore, Congress cannot simply say, "Save Goa" and expect voters to automatically return to the party.

The people will ask a much harder question: Save Goa from what, and what will Congress do differently?

This is where the yatra will be judged.

If Congress uses the 27 days merely to attack the BJP government, hold meetings and produce photographs, the impact may disappear soon after the last kilometre is completed.

But if Congress actually listens to people, records constituency level problems and converts those concerns into a clear political programme, the yatra could become

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something more substantial.

Goa does not need another collection of election promises. It needs answers.

What happens to agricultural land? What should be the policy on land conversion? How should infrastructure be planned? What

happens to young Goans looking for jobs? How can tourism be balanced with the carrying capacity of the state? What kind of development should Goa accept and what should it reject? How should villages retain their character while the economy grows?

These are questions Congress must answer with clarity.

There is another challenge. Congress itself needs to convince its workers that the party is serious about rebuilding.

A party cannot ask voters to trust it while its own organisation remains distracted by leadership questions, ticket aspirations and alliance calculations. The message from the ground has to reach the party leadership, and the leadership has to act on it.

The opposition unity question is equally important.

Congress cannot be unaware that a divided opposition could benefit the BJP. At the same time, simply bringing different parties together on an anti BJP platform does not automatically create public trust. Every alliance has to answer the question of what binds it beyond defeating one political party.

The Goy Rakkhon Yatra therefore has two journeys to complete.

The first is the physical journey across Goa.

The second is the political journey from being an opposition party to becoming a credible alternative.

That second journey is much harder.

Congress has an advantage that many newer political formations do not have. It has a history in Goa, an established cadre and leaders spread across constituencies. But history can become an asset only when it is combined with organisational renewal. The party also needs to understand that Goans are not merely looking for someone to blame. They are looking for someone to trust.

Goy Rakkhon is a powerful political phrase because it speaks to something deeper than a government scheme or an election promise. It speaks to the fear that Goa may change beyond recognition.

But Congress cannot simply own that fear. It has to provide a credible alternative vision. The yatra may put Congress back on the road. It may put its leaders in front of people. It may create political energy.

But whether it can save Congress will depend on what happens after the flags are folded, the microphones are switched off and the leaders return to their offices. Goy Rakkhon may be the slogan. Rebuilding Congress is the real yatra.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### A Flyover That Needed Fixing After Opening

The government's decision to reopen the entry and exit points of the Porvorim elevated corridor and install traffic signals, rumble strips, cameras and speed limit signs raises a very uncomfortable question: Why were these basic safety arrangements not ready when the flyover was opened?

This is a Rs 641 crore project that was inaugurated with considerable fanfare. Yet within days, access points were closed, two wheelers were restricted and traffic arrangements had to be reconsidered after a fatal accident. Now the government is preparing to reopen the same points with additional safety measures.

This is not how a major public infrastructure project should be rolled out.

Safety cannot be an afterthought. Traffic signals, proper signage, speed controls and clearly designed entry and exit points should have been part of the planning and commissioning process. The public should not have to become the testing ground for an expensive infrastructure project.

The government is now consulting experts and studying traffic movement. That is welcome, but it should have happened before the corridor was opened to thousands of motorists. There is also a bigger question of accountability. If the design required changes immediately after opening, who approved the original traffic arrangements? Who certified that the corridor was ready for public use? And why were motorists exposed to confusion over access, exits and restrictions?

The government must stop treating every problem as something to be corrected after it occurs.

Goans paid for this project. They deserve a flyover that is safe, functional and properly planned from day one, not one that is repeatedly modified after accidents and public pressure.

A Rs 641 crore flyover should not need a trial run on the public.

- Francisco D'Souza, Porvorim

### Can this unnatural alliance survive the Goa heat?

The AAP and Goa Forward Party alliance was announced with much fanfare as the "Goa First" alternative to both BJP and Congress. But barely days later, questions over its future have begun surfacing. GFP has now reiterated its "Goa First" position amid speculation that it could rethink the arrangement and reopen discussions with Congress.

That itself raises the biggest question: How strong was this alliance in the first place?

AAP and GFP may have found common ground in opposing the BJP, but politics is not sustained merely by a common opponent. The two parties have different political histories, different organisational structures and different ambitions in Goa. GFP is built around a regional identity and the political relevance of Vijai Sardesai, while AAP is a national party attempting to expand its footprint in the state.

The alliance may look attractive on paper, but seat sharing, leadership questions and constituency interests could become much more difficult once the actual election arithmetic begins.

There is also a trust deficit within the opposition camp. GFP was with Congress in the previous Assembly election and is now with AAP, while Congress and Revolutionary Goans have already moved towards an understanding for 2027. For voters, this constant movement raises a basic question: Is this about ideology or electoral convenience?

GFP's repeated emphasis on "Goa First" suggests the party wants to retain flexibility. But an alliance cannot remain permanently flexible. At some point, both partners will have to decide whether they genuinely want to fight the election together or merely want to keep every political door open.

The real test will come when candidates and constituencies are discussed. Until then, "Goa First" remains more a political arrangement than a settled alliance.

In Goa politics, alliances are announced with microphones, but they survive only after the seat-sharing table.

- Miguel Fernandes, Margao

# New fee regime may raise panchayat licence costs for Goa's high-end businesses

■ Draft rules propose separate fee ceilings for businesses, with casinos facing the highest area-based charge

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** High-end businesses operating in Goa's village panchayat areas may have to pay substantially more for trade licences if a proposed fee structure is notified by the State government.

The Directorate of Panchayats has placed the draft Goa Panchayat



Raj (Grant of Permission/ Trade License and Levying of Permission Fees/Trade License Fees) Rules, 2026, in the public

domain and sought objections and suggestions within 15 days.

The proposed rules will take effect only once they are formally notified in the Official Gazette.

One of the key

changes is an area- and establishment-based system for determining maximum licence fees. Under the draft, land-based casinos could be charged as much as Rs 5,000 per square metre every year.

For the hospitality sector, the proposed ceiling is Rs 2,000 per room or suite for star hotels and luxury resorts.



## Goa government to fully fund protective bund repairs

■ Tenant associations to be relieved of 10% share; individual proposals will require Finance Department clearance

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The State government has decided to take full financial responsibility for the repair and strengthening of protective bunds across Goa, ending the 10 per cent contribution that tenant associations were previously required to make. Under the revised arrangement, the government will meet the entire cost of eligible bund repair and strengthening works. However, the release of funds will depend on the availability of budgetary provisions and approval from the Finance Department for each proposal. The decision was communicated through

a recent notification issued by Under Secretary (Revenue) Vrushika Kauthankar. The notification states that the government will provide 100 per cent financial assistance for works involving the repair or strengthening of protective bunds. It also makes clear that individual proposals will have to receive prior clearance from the Finance Department, taking into account the State's financial position and available budget. The government had earlier increased its share of bund repair costs in June 2021, when an ordinance amended the Goa, Daman and Diu Agriculture Tenancy Act, 1964.



## Citizens for Democracy Goa Seeks Independent Safety Audit of NH-66 Works

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Citizens for Democracy Goa has urged the Government of Goa, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to immediately commission an independent engineering and road-safety audit of the NH-66 drainage and elevated footpath works at Cuncolim.

Addressing the media, Elvis Gomes, representing Citizens for Democracy Goa, said the organisation had repeatedly raised safety concerns with the Chief Minister, PWD Minister, MoRTH and NHAI but had not received even an acknowledgement.

According to the organisation, concerns at the Cuncolim stretch include the narrow paved surface, inadequate or absent protective barriers, the proximity of the drainage structure to the carriageway, visibility issues and the overall configuration of the roadside infrastructure.

## Loud Music Till Dawn; Tourists' Revelry Raises Safety Concerns

■ Residents complain of loud music at a roadside bar in New Wada, Morjim; drunk tourist crashes into another vehicle, no injuries reported

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MORJIM:** Residents of New Wada, Morjim, have complained about loud music being played at a roadside bar until the early hours of the morning. Locals have also reportedly noticed some foreign tourists engaging in unruly behaviour and moving around on the roads late at night.

In an incident, a tourist who appeared to be under the influence of alcohol



reportedly rammed into another vehicle. Fortunately, no one was injured in the accident. However, both vehicles remained on the road for some time, raising concerns about traffic and road safety.

Local residents are

now questioning when action will be taken against the loud music continuing until dawn. They have expressed concern that such late-night activities are not only causing inconvenience to residents but are also posing a potential risk to road safety.

Residents have urged the concerned authorities and police to take the matter seriously and initiate appropriate action against violations of rules.

## Fish deaths at Kapileshwari Lake trigger pollution probe

■ GSPCB collects water samples after fish found floating dead; firecrackers and oxygen depletion among claims, cause yet to be established

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PONDA:** The mass death of freshwater fish at Kapileshwari Lake in Kavlem, Ponda, has prompted a pollution investigation, with the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) collecting water samples from the lake on Monday evening.

The samples were collected by GSPCB junior engineer Aryada Deshpande



and field assistant Roma Khandekar in the presence of Kavlem

panchayat staff and Shree Kapileshwar Temple authorities,

following a request from the panchayat to determine the cause of the fish deaths. A large number of fish were found floating dead in the lake on Saturday, shortly after Ganesh Chaturthi immersion activities, triggering concern among local residents and temple authorities. While photographs and videos circulated on social media, with claims linking the deaths to firecrackers detonated on or near the

water, officials have not established such a connection. Some villagers also raised the possibility that stagnant water and reduced dissolved oxygen levels may have contributed to the deaths. GSPCB officials said they were not in a position to comment on the cause until the water samples are examined. They noted, however, that the lake water was unfit for swimming.

# Autopsy inconclusive in Canacona sisters' deaths; viscera sent for chemical analysis

■ Advanced decomposition prevents cause-of-death opinion as police await chemical analysis report

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANACONA:** The post-mortem examination of two sisters found dead inside their house at Mokhard, Sristhal, Canacona, has remained inconclusive, with the Police Surgeon unable to give an opinion on the cause of death due to advanced decomposition of the bodies. Rekha Kamat,



73, and Medha Kamat, 70, both unmarried and residing together, were found dead inside their residence on September 20 after a foul smell was

noticed coming from the house.

Following the post-mortem examination at SGD, Margao, the Police Surgeon

certified that there was "no opinion" regarding the cause of death in view of the advanced decomposition changes. Samples of visceral organs

from both bodies have been preserved and sent for chemical analysis.

Police had earlier found a suicide note and a bottle of clinic spirit inside the bedroom. A local Panch member also told police that one of the sisters had spoken to him around eight days earlier and reportedly said that they were frustrated with their lives.



## Four booked for allegedly assaulting father-son duo over soak pit dispute in Sattari

■ The accused allegedly attacked the complainant and his father with wooden sticks and threatened them with dire consequences

**Team Goemkarponn**

**SATTARI:** Police have registered a case against four persons from Bhuipal in Sattari following a complaint alleging assault over a dispute concerning a soak pit.

According to the complaint filed by 39-year-old Ramu Shelke, the incident took place around 5 pm on September 20 at Bedshe Wada, Bhuipal. The complainant alleged that Saidatta Sadanand Parab, Chandrakant Sadanand Parab, Sachidanand Parab and Nityanand Sadanand

Parab, all residents of Bedshe Wada, Bhuipal, allegedly assaulted him and his father, Dhulo Shelke, with wooden sticks.

The complaint further alleges that the accused threatened both the complainant and his father with dire consequences, including threats to their lives, following the dispute over the soak pit.

The case was registered on September 21 at around 1.45 pm. Further investigation is being conducted by Investigating Officer Head Constable 5152 Devidas Paryekar.



## Woman allegedly stabbed by husband over suspicion about her character in Ponda

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PONDA:** Ponda Police have initiated an investigation after a woman was allegedly assaulted and stabbed by her husband at St. Cruz, Ponda, on September 10.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred at around 7.45 pm when the accused, identified as Ramesh Gondhali, a resident of St. Cruz, Ponda, and originally from Belgaum, Karnataka, allegedly assaulted his wife with a knife.

The complainant alleged that she sustained stab injuries to the right side of her abdomen during the incident. The assault was allegedly linked to the accused's suspicion regarding her character.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Ashish Velip of Ponda Police Station.

## Hubli man alleges ₹1 crore cheating by man claiming links with Goa casino company

■ Complainant alleges he was induced to pay ₹1 crore on the promise of restoring his gaming operation

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Panaji Police have registered a cheating complaint following an allegation by a Karnataka-based man that he was deceived into paying ₹1 crore on the promise of restoring his gaming operation in Goa. According to the complaint filed by Lalit Bhurat, a resident of Hubli, the incident



on December 1, 2025, outside Casino Pride in Panaji. The complainant alleged that a man identified as Gopal Naik, whose full details are not known, approached him

himself as being associated with Goa Coastal Resorts and Recreation Pvt. Ltd. and its managing director Ashok Wadia. According to the complaint, Naik allegedly gained the complainant's confidence by claiming that he could arrange a meeting with Wadia and help restore the complainant's Ander Bahar gaming operation.

## Car driver allegedly pulls petrol pump nozzle, causes ₹9.98 lakh loss in Ponda

■ Around 9,603 litres of petrol reportedly leaked after dispensing unit was pulled from its foundation at Curti petrol pump

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PONDA:** Ponda Police have registered a case after a Maruti Ritz car allegedly moved away while the petrol dispensing nozzle was still connected to the vehicle at a petrol pump in Curti, resulting in damage to the dispensing unit and a reported loss of nearly ₹10 lakh. According to the complaint filed by Kaushal Sahakari,



partner of Sahakari Petroleum, Curti, the incident occurred on July 16, 2026, at the petrol pump in Curti. The complaint states that the accused driver/owner of

the Maruti Ritz had arrived at the pump for refuelling. While petrol was being dispensed, the driver allegedly started and moved the vehicle forward without ensuring that the dispensing nozzle had been removed from the fuel tank. As a result, the nozzle allegedly

remained connected to the vehicle and the dispensing unit was pulled from its foundation.

The incident reportedly damaged the pipeline connected to the underground storage system, leading to the leakage of approximately 9,603 litres of petrol. The value of the lost petrol has been estimated at ₹9,98,231, according to the complaint.

## Silvassa man dies after scooter crashes into electricity pole in Morjim

**Team Goemkarponn**



**MORJIM:** A 30-year-old man from Silvassa

died after the scooter he was riding crashed into a roadside electricity pole at Khend, Morjim, in the early hours of September 20. The deceased has been identified as Akash Pandey, son of Umesh Kumar Pandey, a resident of Pramukh Vihar, Naroli Road, Silvassa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

# Curtorim Panchayat draws line against hill cutting

Warning board installed at Battiem after activity halted; Sarpanch Milagres Rodrigues calls for community vigilance

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CURTORIM:** The Curtorim village panchayat has taken a firm stand against hill cutting, putting up a warning board at Battiem after intervening to stop earth-cutting activity at the site.

Sarpanch Milagres Rodrigues, accompanied by panchayat members, installed the board on Monday as part of the local body's efforts to prevent further damage to the village's hills and



natural landscape.

Rodrigues said the panchayat acted after the hill-cutting activity was brought to its notice and a complaint was lodged with the flying squad. The work was stopped before the warning board was

erected.

He said the board was intended to make the panchayat's position clear to both residents and

those purchasing land for development.

"The panchayat has stopped hill cutting at Battiem after the activity was brought to our notice. We have now installed a board to drive home the message that no hill

cutting activity will be tolerated in the village," Rodrigues said.

The Sarpanch also urged property owners and developers to comply with regulations, warning that the panchayat would take action against violations. He appealed to residents to alert the panchayat whenever they come across suspected illegal hill cutting. "100 per cent, we will act against hill cutting. Our appeal to the people is to please go by the rule book.



## Erica's four-gold sweep earns Nationals berth; Sports Minister backs Goan fighter

Erica de Sequeira dominates South Zone Ju-Jitsu Championship as sister Giovanna also returns with four medals

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANACONA:** Goa's Erica de Sequeira has secured selection for the Nationals after a four-gold medal performance at the South Zone Ju-Jitsu Championship 2026 in Hyderabad, giving fresh momentum to the young fighter's push towards the national stage. Representing Goa at the September 5-6 championship, Erica won four gold medals in her events. Her sister Giovanna de Sequeira also made her mark at the tournament, winning two gold, one silver and one bronze medal.

The achievements

of the two sisters were highlighted during their recent meeting with Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Ramesh Tawadkar, where they discussed their training, competition experiences and future sporting ambitions. Tawadkar appreciated their dedication and discipline and encouraged them to continue pursuing their sporting goals. He also expressed his willingness to extend support through the appropriate Sports Ministry processes.

Both Erica and Giovanna train under coach Ronnyy at the Academy of Combat Sports Goa (ACS-GOA).



## Goan roots, military distinction: Major Jeffrey Carvalho honoured by Eastern Command

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PUNE:** A military achievement by Major Jeffrey Carvalho has brought pride to his family and the Goan community, with the Army officer receiving the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) Commendation Card of the Eastern Command.

The distinction acknowledges his service, leadership and professional conduct during his operational tenure in Manipur, where he served in a challenging environment. The commendation was announced on Independence Day. Major Carvalho was subsequently presented with a Commendation Medal along with an appreciation letter from Lt Gen Bhuwanan Krishnan, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command. Major Carvalho has strong links with Goa despite being based in Pune. He is the son of John and Jacinta Carvalho and the nephew of Jesuit priest and Konkani scholar Fr Pratap Naik SJ.

## Camurlim locals seek probe into roadside tree felling

Residents to take up tree loss at gram sabha, question Panchayat and Forest Department over alleged inaction

**Team Goemkarponn**

**SALCETE:** Concern over the loss of roadside trees has escalated in Camurlim, with residents seeking an explanation from the authorities and calling for an inquiry into the felling.

Locals, including Fr Eremito Rebello and Jesus Romao, have objected to the removal of the trees and urged the village panchayat and Forest Department to intervene.



Residents have raised concerns that removing trees from the roadside could affect the stability of the soil. Rebello cautioned that the disturbance to the vegetation and soil could increase the risk of erosion and, during heavy

rains, potentially contribute to landslides.

The residents have questioned whether the authorities were aware of the tree felling and, if so, why action was not taken.

The issue is now set to be taken to the gram sabha, where residents intend to seek answers from the panchayat and demand accountability over the loss of roadside tree cover.

## BharatNet rollout gets power connection push in Goa

Electricity Department introduces common application system to speed up connections at multiple project sites

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Goa Electricity Department has introduced a simplified mechanism for providing power connections to infrastructure being established under the Amended BharatNet Programme, removing the need for separate applications for every location.

Through a notification issued by the Chief Electrical Engineer's office, the department has introduced a



Common Application Form (CAF), enabling an applicant to seek connections for multiple BharatNet sites across Goa through a single application.

The revised procedure is expected to reduce paperwork and help accelerate the deployment of BharatNet infrastructure in villages and gram panchayats.

As per the new arrangement, connections required for the programme will be categorised as government connections, following directions issued by the Ministry of Power.

The department has also permitted the monthly electricity charges for multiple connections belonging to the same applicant under the programme to be consolidated into a single bill. The provision applies to eligible telecom service providers, infrastructure companies, Bharat

Broadband Network implementing agencies and other authorised entities, subject to the applicable requirements.

Field-level engineers have been instructed to implement the revised mechanism and process BharatNet-related connection applications without delay. The move follows communications from the Ministry of Power and the Union Ministry of Finance concerning Right of Way provisions and implementation of the BharatNet programme.

# Manipal Hospital Goa pledges 'Ek Ped Beti Ke Naam' for every girl child born at the hospital

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** On the occasion of the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Manipal Hospital Goa launched 'Ek Ped Beti Ke Naam', a new plantation initiative that will see the hospital plant a tree to commemorate the birth of every girl child at the hospital. The occasion also marked the 91st birthday of Dr Ramdas M. Pai, Padma Bhushan Awardee and Chancellor, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE).

Through 'Ek Ped Beti Ke Naam', Manipal Hospital Goa aims to connect the celebration of every girl child with the responsibility of nurturing a greener environment. The initiative is a continuing plantation effort by the hospital, with each tree serving as a living reminder of the birth of a girl child.

The initiative seeks to create a lasting environmental commitment that grows with every new beginning. By linking tree plantation with an important milestone in a family's life, the hospital aims to encourage greater awareness of environmental responsibility and the importance of nurturing green spaces.

The initiative comes at a time when Goa is placing greater emphasis on plantation and environmental participation. The state government's 'Green Goa, Clean Goa' movement has focused on expanding green cover and encouraging citizens and institutions to participate in plantation and conservation efforts.

Present on the occasion were doctors from Manipal Hospital, Dr Shekhar Salkar, Dr Dipchand Bhandare and Dr Amol Mahaldar. Also present was Medical Officer PHC Chimbhel, Dr Jude Desouza and Anita Kavlekar among other dignitaries.

Speaking about the initiative, Mr. Surendra Prasad, Hospital Director,



Manipal Hospital Goa, said, "Every birth is a celebration of hope, and the birth of a daughter brings with it a very special promise for the future. Through 'Ek Ped Beti Ke Naam', we want to make that celebration live on in another form — through a tree that grows alongside her. Each sapling will be a symbol of new life, hope and our shared responsibility towards the world that these children will inherit."

He added, "This is not just about planting a tree on the day a girl child is born. It is about creating a memory that continues to grow. Whenever possible, we will nurture these trees on our campus. Where space is a constraint, we will invite parents to take a sapling home and give it a place in their own family's journey. Years from now, when that tree has grown, it will carry with it the story of a little girl whose arrival brought new hope to her family."

Prasad said the initiative will be undertaken every month, making it a continuing commitment of the hospital.

"Whenever there is a girl child born in our hospital, we will plant a tree in her name. We want every daughter born here to leave behind a little more green in the world. Our hope is that these trees will grow into a living legacy for the children, their families and for Goa," he said.

Dr Shekhar Salkar said the hospital was celebrating the 91st birthday of the visionary leader Dr Ramdas M. Pai, which coincided with the Prime Minister's birthday.

He said that while the Prime Minister had given a call for 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', Manipal Hospital Goa had taken the sentiment forward with 'Ek Ped Beti Ke Naam'.

"Every daughter is a promise of tomorrow. When we plant a tree in her name, we are not simply planting a sapling — we are planting a promise that will continue to grow. The little girl may not understand it today, but years from now, when she sees that tree standing tall, she will know that on the day she entered this world, someone planted something for her future," he said.

Dr Salkar added, "We will see to it that each plant grows well. If we run out of space at the hospital, we will hand over a sapling to the parents of the girl child to be planted at their home. I hope other hospitals and the government sector also take up such initiatives. If every institution contributes in this way, the collective impact can be enormous."

Dr Salkar said that with around 25,000 deliveries recorded in Goa annually, and approximately, 12,000–13,000 of these being girl children, the initiative could have significant potential to contribute to the state's green cover.

"So, in a year, at least 13,000 saplings can potentially be planted. Imagine the difference this can make over the years. These will not just be trees; each one will represent a daughter, a family and a new beginning. As these trees grow, they will give shade,

fruit and life to future generations. That is the kind of legacy we should leave behind," he said.

"For every girl child born, we plant a sapling because her future deserves a greener tomorrow. This is our concept, and we have therefore planted \*six fruit-bearing saplings today\*, as we had six girl-child deliveries last month," he said.

Dr Salkar said the emotional connection between a daughter and the tree planted in her name could encourage families to care for it over the years.

"Those who want to take a sapling home and take care of it, we will give them a plant. Once you use this emotional tag of a 'beti', I am quite sure that the family and siblings will look after that plant very well. The plant will grow with the child. One day, when that girl becomes an adult, she can look at the tree and say, 'This tree was planted when I was born.' That is the emotional connection we want to create," he said.

As part of the launch, six fruit-bearing saplings were planted, representing the six girl-child deliveries recorded at the hospital during the previous month.

Through 'Ek Ped Beti Ke Naam', Manipal Hospital Goa aims to make every birth of a girl child an opportunity to create a lasting green legacy — one that grows with the child, gives back to the community and leaves behind a greener world for generations to come. "Her First Breath, Our Promise, A Greener Tomorrow"

About Manipal Hospitals

Manipal Hospitals is one of India's leading integrated healthcare providers serving ~ 8 million patients annually, focussed on providing accessible, high-quality healthcare services. Manipal's integrated network today has a pan-India footprint of 50 hospitals with over 13,400 licensed beds across 14 States & Union Territories.

## Where the Future Meets the Classics: Goa Gets Ready for a New Automotive Experience

■ New-age EVs, premium automobiles, newly launched models, rare vintage vehicles, entertainment and food set the stage for a three-day celebration

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANJIM:** Goa is getting ready for a weekend where the latest in mobility meets the timeless charm of automotive classics. With just three days to go, Kala Academy, Darya Sangam, Panjim, is set to host the Goa Auto Show 2026 – 2nd Edition, from September 25 to 27, 2026.

Following its successful debut in 2025, this year's exhibition promises visitors a more immersive experience, bringing together new-generation automobiles, electric vehicles, premium and luxury cars, two-wheelers, automotive technology, classic and vintage vehicles, entertainment and food under one roof. From New-Age Mobility to Rare Automotive Classics: A major highlight of this year's show will be the opportunity to experience both the future and heritage of automobiles at the same destination. Visitors will get to explore the latest developments in electric and new-age mobility, with brands including VinFast, BYD and MG Select showcasing their

offerings, alongside newly launched BMW models and other automotive products. Adding a completely different dimension will be a rare collection of classic and vintage automobiles and vehicles, presented in association with Jatin Pal Singh, popularly known as Yardshark. The collection will give visitors an opportunity to see automotive icons and heritage vehicles that are rarely seen together at an exhibition.

This unique mix means visitors can move from exploring new electric and premium vehicles to admiring some of the most distinctive automobiles from the past, making the exhibition a journey across generations of mobility. The experience will extend beyond the vehicle displays, with entertainment, visitor activities and a variety of food choices adding to the three-day celebration. The exhibition will feature LUXE – Premium Car Brands, bringing together the world of luxury automobiles, while REVV – The Two-Wheeler Arena will celebrate motorcycles, scooters, performance and two-wheeler culture.



# Delhi PG Building Collapse: Court Extends Custody Of Six Accused For 14 Days

■ Seven people died after the five storey Hostel Daze building collapsed in South Delhi's Satya Niketan area

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court has extended the judicial custody of six accused in connection with the Satya Niketan paying guest building collapse that claimed seven lives. The Patiala House Court extended their custody by another 14 days after the accused were produced before the court following the



completion of their earlier custody period. The investigation into the circumstances surrounding the building collapse is still underway.

The five storey property, operated as a boys' paying guest accommodation under the name Hostel Daze, collapsed at around 1.30

pm on September 6 in South Delhi's Satya Niketan area, near Delhi University's South Campus. Seven people were killed in the incident.

Among those arrested are property owner Urmila, 75, her 81 year old husband Hariram, 81, and their 52 year old son Mahesh Gupta. The PG operators, Sudhanshu and Shubham Tyagi, along with labour contractor Sanoj, are also in custody. Investigators said Mahesh Gupta was responsible for overseeing maintenance of the property on behalf of his parents.



## Odisha SIR Removes Over 20 Lakh Voters From Final Electoral Roll

■ More than 8 lakh voters marked as permanently shifted, while over 8 lakh deceased entries were removed

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Odisha has been completed, with more than 20.5 lakh voter entries removed during the verification process. The final electoral roll was published after claims, objections and verification of voter details.

The revision began on May 30, 2026, when Odisha had around 3.14 crore registered electors. During the initial verification, 20.12 lakh entries were removed for different reasons. Of those removed, around 8.32 lakh entries belonged to voters who had died, while approximately 8.08 lakh voters had

notices. This included approximately 13 lakh voters whose details could not be mapped to the 2002 electoral roll and another 45.37 lakh entries flagged for logical errors.

After verification and hearings, around 24,000 voters were found ineligible and removed.

The revision also resulted in fresh additions to the electoral roll. Around 2.74 lakh applications were received through Form 6, while another 16,000 applications were submitted through Form 8. Together, approximately 2.90 lakh eligible voters were added.

The final electoral roll now contains 3,16,32,754 electors, including around 1.61 crore men, 1.55 crore



## New Spam Crackdown May Cover WhatsApp, OTT, Social Media and Push Notifications

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** The government is considering a wider framework to tackle promotional and unsolicited commercial communications, with the proposed rules potentially extending beyond phone calls and SMSes to messaging apps, OTT platforms, social media, push notifications and other digital services.

The draft framework seeks to strengthen existing safeguards around consumer consent, sender identification and mechanisms to stop unwanted communication. It also introduces provisions covering artificial intelligence, personal data and the responsibilities of businesses and digital platforms.

If implemented, the guidelines could apply to businesses, communication service providers, beneficiaries, named entities and platforms involved in sending commercial messages.

## Himanta Sarma, Congress Clash Over Stone-Pelting Attack On Campaign Convoy

■ Assam CM blames Congress infighting, while KC Venugopal accuses BJP workers of political violence

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal traded accusations after a Congress campaign convoy was allegedly attacked with stones in Nagaon district. The incident occurred as Congress leaders were travelling to a public



meeting at Barma as part of the party's campaign for the Nagaon Lok Sabha bypoll. The confrontation led to tension in the area, with people taking to the streets and waving

black flags. Police later used a lathi charge to disperse the gathering, while stones were also reportedly thrown at CRPF personnel deployed at the location. Sarma attributed the incident to internal differences within the Congress and accused the party leadership of attempting to shift responsibility.

## Jaishankar Holds Key Talks On Ukraine, Gulf Crisis And UN Reform At UNGA 2026

■ External Affairs Minister meets counterparts from France, Ecuador, Slovakia and Hungary ahead of his UN General Assembly address

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a series of bilateral meetings with foreign counterparts in New York as the high-level session of the 81st United Nations General Assembly got underway.

Jaishankar arrived in New York on Sunday to lead the Indian delegation at the UN General Assembly. His diplomatic engagements



began with a meeting with French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot, where the two sides discussed a range of regional and global developments.

The discussions included the ongoing

Ukraine crisis and developments in the Gulf region. The two ministers also exchanged views on multilateral matters, including the need for reform of the United Nations Security Council.

Jaishankar later met Ecuador's Foreign Minister Roberto Kury, with discussions focusing on strengthening bilateral economic cooperation. Energy, pharmaceuticals, mobility, personnel training and development partnerships were among the areas discussed.

Cooperation through multilateral platforms, including the United Nations, also featured in the talks.

During his meeting

with Slovak Foreign Minister Juraj Blazar, Jaishankar discussed the bilateral relationship as well as opportunities to expand cooperation on international and multilateral issues.

He also held his first meeting with Hungary's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Anita Orban. The two sides discussed strengthening bilateral ties and advancing their strategic partnership.

# India Win Asian Games Gold as Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. Defend Women's Cricket Title

■ Smriti Mandhana stars as India post a record 216/3 before bowling Sri Lanka out for 69

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India's women's cricket team began the gold medal campaign at the Asian Games 2026 in spectacular fashion, defeating Sri Lanka by 147 runs in the final to successfully defend their title.

Batting first, India produced a commanding performance and posted



a record 216 for three, the highest total recorded in women's cricket at the Asian Games. The Indian top order made full use of the conditions, setting Sri

Lanka an imposing target of 217.

Smriti Mandhana led the charge with an outstanding 79 off just 45 deliveries. Her aggressive innings provided

India with the perfect start and put the Sri Lankan bowling attack under sustained pressure.

Richa Ghosh then provided a late flourish

with a stunning unbeaten 49 from only 22 balls. Her quickfire knock helped India add crucial runs during the final stages and push the total beyond the 200 run mark.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur and the rest of the Indian side entered the second innings with a huge advantage, and the bowlers ensured there was little opportunity for a Sri Lankan comeback.



## India Edge Japan by Two Runs in Historic T20I Thriller

■ Rain cuts historic contest to five overs per side as India defend 32-run target in Sano

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India secured a thrilling two-run victory over Japan in a rain shortened one-off T20I at the Sano International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday, winning a historic contest that was reduced to just five overs per side.

Put in to bat, India struggled against Japan's disciplined spin attack and the challenging conditions. The visitors managed only 32 for four in their allotted five overs, with the Japanese bowlers making good use of the turn and extra bounce on offer. Captain Shreyas Iyer top scored for India with a composed 16 from 12 deliveries. His innings included one boundary and provided much needed stability after India lost wickets early. Sanju Samson

contributed nine runs from seven balls, including a boundary, but India were unable to accelerate significantly during the short innings.

Japan's Charlie Hara Hinze was the standout bowler, finishing with two wickets for 17 runs from his two overs. He dismissed Abhishek Sharma for a duck before removing Iyer as Japan kept India under pressure throughout the innings. Chasing 33 for victory,

Japan made a determined attempt but found India's bowling attack equally difficult to negotiate. The hosts finished on 30 for three after their five overs, falling narrowly short of the target. Washington Sundar played a decisive role with the ball for India, claiming two wickets for 13 runs and helping restrict Japan during the tense run chase.

## Goa U-16 Bowled Out For 108 As Vidarbha Take 69-Run Lead

■ Arjun Mahajan's unbeaten 55 puts Vidarbha in control on opening day of J.Y. Lele Invitation Tournament

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa Under-16 were bowled out for 108 after opting to bat first against Vidarbha Under-16 in the All India Under-16 J.Y. Lele Invitation Cricket Tournament at the Infipiro Sports Academy Ground in Vadodara.

Goa's innings lasted 48.4 overs, with Shaurya Chodankar emerging as the team's top scorer with 30 runs. Ishant

Tivarekar contributed 16, while opener Nanthan Sawant scored 14. Tanishk Naik added 13 as Goa struggled to build substantial partnerships.

Vidarbha's Devansh Bhoyar led the bowling attack with an impressive spell of 3 for 7. Khilesh Wankhede and Jasdeep Singh claimed two wickets each, while Krishna Nagargoje and Manav Wakode took one apiece.

Vidarbha responded

strongly with the bat and reached 177 for four in 39 overs by stumps, establishing a 69 run first innings lead.

Arjun Mahajan anchored the Vidarbha innings with an unbeaten 55, while Manav Wakode scored 36 and Shabd Thakur contributed 30. Laksh Masrkar also made a useful 21 as Vidarbha maintained control after Goa's early collapse.

Goa's bowlers managed four wickets

but struggled to contain Vidarbha's scoring rate. Vedant Aigal was the most successful bowler with 2 for 22, while Mrunal Naik and Shaurya Chodankar claimed one wicket each.

With Vidarbha already holding a sizeable first innings advantage, Goa face a challenging final day on Tuesday as they look to restrict the opposition's lead and force their way back into the two day contest.

## Rudresh Sharma Takes Four As Aryan Narvekar Hits Fifty For Goa U-23

■ Goa reach 143 for five after restricting Chhattisgarh to 330 on day two in Ahmedabad

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa Under-23 produced a mixed performance on the second day of their multi day practice match against Chhattisgarh at the Gujarat College Cricket Ground 'A' in Ahmedabad on Monday.

After Chhattisgarh resumed at 210 for four, Goa's bowlers struck regularly but could not prevent the opposition from reaching 330 in



96.2 overs. Chhattisgarh added 120 runs during the day before losing their



remaining six wickets. Shashwat Sharda and opener Shobhit

Sharma led the batting effort with half centuries, scoring 67 and 68 respectively. Ambrish Kumar contributed 37, while Anurag Sahu also made 37.

Off spinner Rudresh Sharma was Goa's standout bowler, finishing with four wickets for 118 runs.

Left arm spinner Anuj Yadav provided strong support with three wickets for 82 runs.

Rahul Vishwakarma

and Fardin Khan claimed one wicket each.

Goa's reply began poorly as they slipped to 13 for two. Aman Dhooper and Dishank Prabhu Misquin then steadied the innings with a 53 run partnership for the third wicket. Dhooper scored 30, while Dishank contributed 33.

Goa captain Aryan Narvekar took charge late in the day and remained unbeaten on 53 from 77 balls. His innings included

five fours and two sixes. Pradnesh Gaonkar added 18 as Goa reached 143 for five in 47.3 overs at stumps.

Chhattisgarh left arm spinner Manraj Singh Dhillon was the dominant bowler for his side, claiming all five Goa wickets to fall and finishing with figures of five for 53.

Goa still trail Chhattisgarh by 187 runs with one day remaining in the match.