



Bombay High Court bars firecrackers on public roads during festivities

■ Court raises concern over noise and air pollution, calls for tighter checks on DJs, loudspeakers and laser displays

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court has directed that firecrackers should not be burst on public roads during festive celebrations, as it called for stronger measures to control noise and air pollution across Maharashtra.

The court's observations came while hearing a matter concerning noise pollution during religious festivals and processions. The bench stressed that



celebrations should not result in inconvenience to the public or cause harm to the environment.

The court also expressed concern

over the growing use of powerful sound systems, DJs and laser displays during religious processions. It questioned the need for excessive

noise and elaborate displays in the name of religious celebrations.

The bench observed that devotion did not require the use of loudspeakers and firecrackers at excessive levels and urged people and organisers to act responsibly.

Authorities have been asked to ensure that prescribed noise limits are followed during processions and that violations are dealt with strictly. The court also

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Goa expands vaccination programme to cover all stages of life

New 2026-2036 policy targets adolescents, adults and vulnerable groups alongside routine childhood immunisation



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has introduced a new long-term vaccination strategy aimed at extending immunisation services beyond childhood and across different stages of life.

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane launched the Goa Policy for Life-Course Immunization 2026-2036 on Wednesday. The policy proposes vaccination schedules that take into account a person's age as well as individual health risks.

The framework gives special attention to senior citizens, people with compromised immunity and organ transplant recipients.

It also identifies individuals living with conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as groups that may require additional protection through vaccination.

The state plans to make use of its existing primary healthcare infrastructure and immunisation network to provide vaccines to adolescents and adults, while maintaining the ongoing childhood vaccination programme.

Vaccines covered under the policy include those offering protection against influenza, pneumococcal disease, hepatitis B and tetanus-diphtheria.



Porvorim flyover issues to be resolved within 7 days: Rohan Khaunte

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte said the government is extending full support to Public Works Department (PWD) officials to resolve all issues related to the Porvorim flyover within seven days.

Khaunte said a step has already been taken towards addressing the concerns with access to Atal Setu being opened for residents of Porvorim.

He said Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has directed PWD officials to take up and resolve the issues related to the flyover on priority.

Khaunte also alleged that some people were attempting to politicise the matter, while maintaining that the government was focused on finding solutions to the issues faced by residents.

The minister said the government would continue to support the PWD in resolving the pending concerns within the stipulated seven-day period.

Atal Setu access reopened for motorists heading towards Porvorim

■ Move aims to ease congestion and provide an alternative route for traffic from Mercas towards Porvorim and Calangute

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The government has reopened one of the connections around the Porvorim elevated corridor as part of efforts to ease congestion and improve access between Porvorim and Panaji.

According to a travel advisory issued by SP Traffic, motorists travelling from Mercas towards



Porvorim and Calangute will be permitted to use the Atal Setu from the Mercas side with effect from Wednesday.

Two-wheelers, however, will not be

permitted to use the reopened route.

The motorists using the Atal Setu will have to exit near Hotel Neo Majestic in Porvorim, before the entry point of the Porvorim Elevated Corridor.

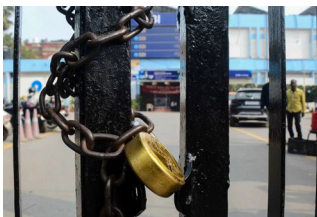
The decision follows a review of traffic movement around the elevated corridor on Monday.

Banks To Open On Sunday Before 3-Day Strike From September 28

■ Public sector and regional rural banks to operate on September 27 to reduce disruption for customers

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks will remain open on Sunday, September 27, ahead of a proposed three day nationwide bank strike scheduled from September 28 to 30. The decision has been taken to ensure that customers do not face prolonged disruption in banking services. The strike is being called by the United Forum of Bank Unions, which represents several major banking employee



unions. The government has directed Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks to function normally on September 27. The Reserve Bank of India has also approved the continued operation of bank branches, offices, ATM linked branches and currency chests on the day.

Election Commission Row: Poll Panel Says SIR Decisions Were Unanimous Despite 14 Recorded Objections

■ Claims of internal disagreement over electoral roll changes trigger fresh political confrontation

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A fresh controversy has erupted around the Election Commission of India after a report alleged that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi raised objections on record against several decisions taken during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. The report said



the two commissioners raised concerns at least 14 times over a period of 10 months, including over changes to Form 6, access to electoral roll databases, voter deletion and restoration procedures,

and appeals connected with the West Bengal revision. However, Election Commission sources have disputed the suggestion that the commissioners recorded formal dissent.

A ₹641 Cr Investment To Create More Traffic Jams

The Porvorim elevated corridor was built with one clear promise: reduce congestion, improve traffic flow and make the journey through one of Goa's busiest stretches faster and safer. But the reality unfolding on the ground is raising an uncomfortable question. Has the flyover actually solved the traffic problem, or has it simply pushed the problem elsewhere?

The serpentine queues witnessed on both sides of the Mandovi Bridge and at Mercedes Circle cannot be dismissed as a temporary inconvenience. When a major traffic project opens and congestion begins building up on roads far beyond the immediate project area, something clearly needs to be examined.

The Porvorim flyover was supposed to take traffic off the old road network. Instead, traffic on those very roads appears to have increased. The Atal Setu too remains underutilised while vehicles continue to pile up at critical junctions. If thousands of crores are being invested in roads, bridges and elevated corridors, but motorists are still spending hours negotiating traffic jams, then the government has to ask whether the planning has kept pace with the infrastructure.

This is not about finding a convenient scapegoat. It is about accountability.

A project of this scale cannot be judged merely by the quality of the concrete, the height of the pillars or the length of the elevated road. Its success must be measured by what happens to traffic before, during and after the project. If vehicles are moving freely on the flyover but getting trapped immediately after coming down, then the problem has not been solved. It has merely been shifted.

That is precisely what appears to be happening.

The government is now talking about reopening access points, introducing traffic signals, installing rumble strips, putting up speed limit signs and making other changes. These measures may help. But they also raise an obvious question: why were these requirements not fully anticipated before the corridor was opened?

A Detailed Project Report is supposed to be more than a document prepared to satisfy a tendering process. It should examine traffic patterns, entry and exit points, junction capacity, merging traffic, pedestrian movement, emergency access and the impact on surrounding roads. It should

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If those aspects were overlooked, someone must explain why.

And if officials had identified potential problems before the opening, then another question arises: why were those warnings not acted upon?

The government cannot keep treating every infrastructure problem as something that can be corrected

after inauguration. Roads are not laboratory experiments. Every design failure affects thousands of commuters. Every poorly planned junction creates frustration. Every unnecessary diversion increases travel time. And every unsafe arrangement carries a human cost.

The bigger concern is that Goa is increasingly building infrastructure without sufficiently examining how different projects work together.

The Porvorim corridor cannot be viewed separately from the Mandovi Bridge, Atal Setu, Mercedes Circle, Panaji, Mapusa and the surrounding road network. Traffic does not understand administrative boundaries or project limits. Vehicles simply follow the route available to them. If one road is restricted, the pressure immediately moves to another.

That is why the solution cannot be another temporary diversion or another traffic notification.

The entire traffic network needs to be examined scientifically. The government must know where vehicles are entering, where they are exiting, where they are getting stuck and why. It must also examine whether the original traffic projections were accurate.

Most importantly, there must be accountability.

Who prepared the traffic plan? Who approved it? Who examined the DPR? Who certified the safety arrangements? Who decided the corridor was ready to open? And if shortcomings were identified before the opening, who decided to proceed anyway?

Goa cannot have a system where everyone wants credit when a project succeeds but nobody accepts responsibility when it fails.

The Porvorim flyover still has the potential to become an important piece of Goa's transport infrastructure. But that will happen only if the government is willing to acknowledge what is not working and correct it without political defensiveness.

A ₹641 crore project cannot be considered successful simply because vehicles can travel over it.

The real test is what happens after the vehicle comes down.

If the flyover moves traffic faster but leaves motorists trapped at Mandovi, Mercedes and other junctions, then Goa has not solved congestion. It has simply relocated the headache.

And for a project built to reduce traffic, that is a question the government can no longer avoid.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Pre-1961 Houses: Heritage Shield or Development Hurdle?

By Suraj Nandrekar

Goa is finally waking up to a problem that has been staring it in the face for years. Traditional Goan houses are disappearing, one demolition at a time, replaced by concrete structures that may be bigger and newer but rarely carry the character of the homes they replace.

The decision by the Town and Country Planning Board to restrict redevelopment of properties containing pre-1961 traditional houses is therefore significant. But it also raises an equally important question: is this move a boon for Goa's heritage or could it become a bane for property owners and rural development?

Under the new directive, plots of 500 square metres or more containing pre-1961 traditional houses and located outside Outline Development Plan areas will face a Floor Area Ratio cap of 40 per cent. More importantly, structural demolition of the identified traditional houses will not be permitted.

On paper, this appears to be a strong intervention at a time when Goa's architectural identity is rapidly changing.

A traditional Goan house is not simply a private building. It is part of the landscape. The laterite walls, traditional balconies, red tiled roofs, wooden doors, verandahs and relationship with the surrounding fields and village roads tell the story of Goa in a way that modern apartment blocks cannot.

Once demolished, such architecture cannot be recreated authentically. A replica may look similar, but it will never carry the history of the original house.

So protecting these structures is certainly important.

But preservation cannot mean freezing every property in time.

The government must recognise that these houses are privately owned. Many are old, expensive to maintain and increasingly difficult to repair. In some cases, younger generations may not live in them or may not have the financial resources to restore them. There are also houses that may have serious structural problems.

What happens to such owners?

If the government says these houses cannot be demolished, it must also answer whether it is prepared to help owners preserve them. Heritage protection without financial or technical support could turn into an unfair burden on ordinary property owners.

The 40 per cent FAR restriction also needs careful examination. Development controls may protect the surrounding character, but they can also affect the economic value of a property. A landowner who has legally acquired a large plot may suddenly find that development potential is significantly restricted because an old house stands on it. That is where the government must strike a balance. Goa cannot protect heritage by simply telling owners what they cannot do. It must create incentives for what they can do.

There should be a clear mechanism for identifying genuine pre-1961 traditional houses. There must also be transparent criteria for determining their heritage value. Not every old structure is necessarily architecturally significant, and not every property should automatically face identical restrictions.

The government could consider incentives for restoration, property tax concessions, technical assistance, heritage grants and controlled adaptive reuse. Traditional homes could be encouraged to function as homestays, cultural spaces, boutique establishments or family residences, subject to appropriate regulations.

That would turn heritage from a burden into an asset.

The other danger is selective enforcement. Goa has seen enough examples of regulations being strict on paper and flexible in practice. If this policy is to succeed, there must be consistency. The rules must apply equally, regardless of who owns the property.

The larger question is what kind of Goa we want to leave behind. Development is inevitable. But development does not have to mean demolition. Goa needs roads, homes, businesses and modern infrastructure. At the same time, it needs its villages, houses, courtyards and streetscapes that distinguish it from every other rapidly urbanising destination.

The TCP Board has taken the first step. The real test begins now.

If the policy protects genuine heritage while allowing owners reasonable and regulated development, it could become a turning point.

If it merely imposes restrictions without support, clarity and fairness, it could create resentment and encourage people to find ways around the rules.

The question is not whether Goa should choose heritage over development. The question is whether Goa can finally learn to protect its heritage while developing responsibly.

That will determine whether the pre-1961 protection becomes a boon for Goa or another bane of poorly balanced planning.

Goa FDA gives food businesses four days to disclose milk analogue use

Hotels, restaurants and sweet shops told to clearly distinguish dairy products from substitutes on menus, counters and bills

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has given hotels, restaurants, sweet shops, caterers and other food establishments four days to comply with new disclosure requirements governing the sale and use of milk analogue products.

FDA Director Shweta Desai announced the deadline at a stakeholders' meeting held on Tuesday, where traders, distributors,



caterers and restaurant operators were briefed on the regulations. The move

follows complaints and investigations indicating that milk analogue

products were being used in food items and sold to consumers as genuine dairy products.

Officials said instances had been detected where cheese analogue was used instead of paneer in restaurant preparations. Similar concerns were raised over traditional sweets, including peda, milk cake, barfi, rabdi and basundi, allegedly being prepared with analogue substitutes in place of khoya, mawa or other genuine dairy ingredients.



Goa moves to protect pre-1961 traditional houses from demolition

TCP Board restricts development on larger plots outside ODP areas, sets FAR limit at 40 per cent

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Town and Country Planning (TCP) Board has introduced restrictions on the redevelopment of properties containing pre-1961 traditional houses, in a move aimed at preserving Goa's rural architectural heritage.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the TCP Board chaired by Town and Country Planning Minister Vishwajit Rane on Tuesday. As per the new directive, plots measuring 500 square metres or more that contain pre-1961 traditional houses and are located outside Outline Development Plan (ODP) areas will be subject to a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) cap of 40 per cent.

The policy also bars the structural demolition of the identified traditional houses. This provision is intended to ensure that such houses remain intact even when regulated construction is permitted on the surrounding property.

The government's move comes against the backdrop of growing redevelopment activity in Goa's rural areas, where traditional homes and their adjoining streetscapes have increasingly come under pressure from new construction.

Officials and sources associated with the decision said the restrictions are intended to retain the architectural character of traditional settlements while allowing a controlled level of development on eligible plots.



Bombay HC grants bail to Nigerian accused after nearly seven years in custody

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has granted conditional bail to Nigerian national Ifeanyi Pascol Obi alias Alex, observing that an accused cannot be kept behind bars for an inordinate period when the trial remains pending due to delays not attributable to him. A Bench of Justice S G Chapalgaonkar passed the order in connection with a 2019 drug case registered by Calangute police involving alleged seizure of contraband worth several crores of rupees. Obi has been in custody since October 29, 2019, and has spent nearly seven years behind bars without the trial reaching conclusion. The Court noted that only seven of the 30 listed witnesses had entered the witness box. It also observed that an earlier five-month deadline fixed for completion of the trial had expired on May 10, 2026. "The accused cannot be kept behind bars for an inordinate period of time by taking refuge in rigours laid down in Section 37 of the NDPS Act," the Court observed.

Godinho cautions against 'BJP versus BJP' ahead of polls

Transport Minister urges party workers to stay united and avoid internal differences and anti-party activities

Team Goemkarponn

BAINA: Transport Minister and Dabolim MLA Mauvin Godinho on Tuesday urged BJP workers to remain united ahead of the upcoming elections, cautioning that individual political aspirations should not create a situation of "BJP versus BJP" within the party.

Speaking at the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' at Ravindra Bhavan, Baina, Godinho said party workers should avoid anti-



party activities and ensure that internal differences did not affect the party's functioning.

With elections approaching, Godinho also appealed to people to exercise caution against what he described as misleading statements

and misinformation. He said the opposition had attempted to divert public attention through misinformation when the Goa Ujwala Yojana was announced.

Godinho said the large turnout of women at the programme demonstrated their appreciation for the government's implementation of the Ujwala scheme. He said women had come forward in large numbers to thank the government for fulfilling its commitment.

Griha Adhar aid to get a boost soon, says Sawant

Enhanced monthly assistance to be announced shortly; revised benefit to be credited directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts

Team Goemkarponn

BAINA: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced that the monthly assistance under the Griha Adhar scheme would be increased soon, with the enhanced amount expected to be implemented around Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to Goa and credited directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.

Sawant made the announcement while addressing the



'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' at Ravindra Bhavan, Baina, organised to thank the government for implementing the Goa Ujwala Yojana. A large number of women attended the programme.

The Chief Minister said

nearly two lakh women were currently receiving Griha Adhar assistance, with the amount credited on the 10th of every month. He said the government would shortly announce the revised assistance and ensure

that the enhanced benefit reached beneficiaries through direct bank transfers.

Sawant also gave an update on the Goa Ujwala Yojana, saying nearly two lakh applications had been received so far. Around 50,000 beneficiaries had already received financial assistance, while scrutiny of another one lakh applications was in progress and the money would be credited by Saturday, he said.

According to Sawant, around 40,000 men had submitted applications

under the scheme. He appealed to such applicants to encourage eligible women in their households to apply, pointing out that the scheme was primarily aimed at women.

In households where there was no eligible woman, the benefit would be extended to the man at a later stage, he said.

Sawant said women who were not eligible for Griha Adhar for various reasons would not be excluded from the Goa Ujwala scheme.

Porvorim Police Register Case Over Alleged Remarks During Ganesh Visarjan Procession

■ Accused allegedly obstructed procession, made derogatory remarks and posted abusive video on social media

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Porvorim Police have registered an offence following a complaint by Sanjay Pednekar of Carrem, Socorro, alleging that a man obstructed a Ganesh Visarjan procession and made derogatory and insulting remarks concerning Lord Ganesh and the religious beliefs of devotees. According to



the complaint, the incident occurred on September 18 between 10.45 pm and 11 pm near Vetal Temple at Vaddem, Socorro, Porvorim, Bardez, North

Goa. Pednekar stated that he was proceeding with other villagers and devotees towards Vaddem Lake for the immersion of the Ganesh idol when the alleged incident took place. Police said the accused, identified as Michael Oliveria,

allegedly disturbed and obstructed the procession and used abusive and derogatory language against the complainant and others. He also allegedly threatened them with consequences. The complaint further alleges that the accused recorded and subsequently posted a video on social media containing the alleged abusive and derogatory remarks.



Navelim Woman Alleges ₹70 Lakh Fraud Involving Visually Impaired Husband

■ Three accused allegedly obtained cheques, ATM details and a pension-backed loan through dishonest means

Team Goemkarponn

NAVELIM: Margao Town Police have registered a case following a complaint by Maria Inez Fernandes of Navelim, Salcete, alleging that her husband, who is physically disabled and visually impaired, was cheated of approximately ₹70 lakh over a period from 2021 to 2026.

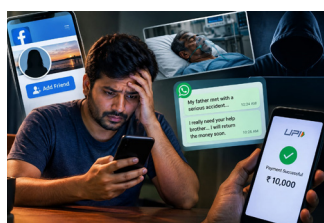
According to the complaint, Sohail Shaikh of Cuncolim, who was allegedly working as the caretaker of the complainant's husband Caetano Fernandes, along with his brother Riyan Shaikh and another person identified

as Paulino, allegedly conspired to obtain access to the victim's financial resources.

The complainant alleged that the accused induced her husband to sign various cheques drawn on different bank accounts and also took possession of his ATM card along with the PIN.

The accused allegedly used these details to withdraw a total amount of around ₹70 lakh.

The complaint further alleges that the complainant was taken to the State Bank of India branch at Navelim, where signatures were allegedly obtained on various documents.



Canacona Man Allegedly Duped Of ₹1.85 Lakh In Facebook Friendship Scam

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Canacona Police have registered a case following a complaint by Nitesh Sudhir of Poinguinim, Canacona, alleging that he was cheated of ₹1,85,570 after being befriended on Facebook by a person identified as Arya Naik.

According to the complaint, the incident took place between January 1 and September 6, 2026, at Poinguinim, Canacona. The accused allegedly contacted the complainant through Facebook and subsequently communicated with him on WhatsApp.

Police said the accused allegedly sought financial assistance on the pretext that his father had met with a serious accident and promised to return the money. The complainant allegedly transferred a total of ₹1,85,570 through UPI transactions on different occasions. The complaint states that despite the assurances, the accused allegedly failed to return the money.

Scooter, Gold Mangalsutra And Cash Stolen From Curchorem Market

■ TVS Jupiter and valuables worth around ₹2.68 lakh allegedly stolen from GSUDA market

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: Curchorem Police have registered a theft case following a complaint by Siddhesh Sawardekar of Assolda, Curchorem, currently residing at Virdi, Dodamarg.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred on September 20, 2026, between 10.55 am and 11 am at the GSUDA Market in Curchorem. An unknown person allegedly stole a



TVS Jupiter scooter that had been parked at the market.

The scooter is registered in the name of the complainant's brother-in-law, Omkar Gaonkar of Kerim, Sattari.

Police said that a

bag kept with the scooter was also allegedly stolen. The bag reportedly contained an Infinix mobile phone, a gold mangalsutra and ₹3,000 in cash.

The total value of the stolen scooter and belongings has been estimated at approximately ₹2.68 lakh.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Dinesh Gaonkar of Curchorem Police Station.

Pedestrian Dies After Being Hit By WagonR In Verna

■ Driver allegedly drove rashly and negligently before hitting pedestrian and parked truck

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Verna Police have registered a case following a state complaint by HC 5767 Sudeshkumar Dessai of Verna Police Station in connection with a fatal road accident reported at Verna.

According to the complaint, the accident occurred on September 20, 2026, at around 6.15 pm near Sai Marbles Enterprises at Agnel Ashram, Verna. The accused driver, identified as Anil Naik of Fatorda, Margao,



was allegedly driving a WagonR car from Panaji towards Margao in a rash

and negligent manner, endangering human life. Police said that when

the vehicle reached near Sai Marbles Enterprises, it allegedly hit a pedestrian,

identified as Pintu Gaud, a resident of Agnel College, Verna, originally from Uttar Pradesh, who was walking along the side of the road.

Gaud sustained grievous injuries in the collision and later succumbed to his injuries.

Following the impact, the WagonR allegedly also rammed into a parked Eicher truck, resulting in injuries to the accused driver.

Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Prissy Carvalho of Verna Police Station.

Traffic diversion announced on NH-66 near toll plaza from September 22

■ Vehicles to use newly constructed PQC road at Fakir Pata junction to facilitate toll plaza construction works

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Traffic on NH-66 between Patradevi and Zuari Bridge will be diverted through a newly constructed PQC road from September 22 to October 31 to facilitate ongoing construction of the temporary and permanent toll plaza at Km 476.500 of NH-66 in Goa. The diversion has been notified by the Executive Engineer, Works Division VII (NH), Public Works Department,



Government of Goa, under powers delegated by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

As per the notification, traffic will be diverted on the newly constructed PQC road available on both the Left Hand Side (LHS) and Right Hand Side (RHS) of the toll plaza. The diversion will commence from Fakir Pata junction at Chainage 476/360 and continue up to Chainage 476/660, before merging with the existing main carriageway

near the petrol pump at Chainage 476/670. The diversion has been arranged to facilitate ongoing construction activities while maintaining uninterrupted access for vehicles, military personnel and local commuters. The notification states that the diversion will remain in force from September 22, 2026, to October 31, 2026, to facilitate the hindrance-free and speedy completion of the work.



CM Sawant visits Murgaocha Raja Ganesh pandal at Sada, offers prayers

■ Chief Minister seeks blessings of Bappa and greets devotees during ongoing nine-day Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations

Team Goemkarponn

SADA, MORMUGAO:

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant on Tuesday visited the Murgaocha Raja Sarvajani Ganesh pandal at Sada, Mormugao, and offered prayers to Lord Ganesha, seeking the blessings of Bappa for the people of Goa.

Sawant was accompanied by BJP state president Damodar Naik, Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanawade and Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar. The leaders offered prayers before the idol of Lord Ganesha and interacted with

devotees gathered at the venue.

A large number of devotees were present at the pandal during the Chief Minister's visit, creating a vibrant devotional atmosphere as the nine-day Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations continued.

Sawant appreciated the positive atmosphere at the venue and said the gathering reflected the spirit of togetherness associated with Ganesh Chaturthi. He said the celebrations provided an opportunity for people from different sections of society to come together in devotion and celebrate the festival collectively.



38-Year-Old Man Found Dead At Residence In Rumdamol

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A 38-year-old man was found dead at his residence in Rumdamol, Davorlim, Salcete, in an apparent case of suicide, police said.

The incident came to light on September 21, 2026, after SGD Margao received information at around 11.08 pm that Uday Harijan, a resident of Rumdamol, had been brought to the hospital in an unresponsive condition.

According to police, family members told investigators that they found the door of Harijan's room locked from inside and, after gaining entry, found him unresponsive. He was subsequently shifted to SGD Margao in a 108 ambulance, where the duty doctor declared him brought dead. During the preliminary inquiry, police said the apparent reason was financial stress related to unemployment and difficulty in repaying pending loans. Police conducted the necessary UD occurrence panchanama and inquest panchanama.

Ayurveda urges balanced living for a healthier tomorrow

■ Dr Santosh Vernekar highlights preventive healthcare, disciplined routines and harmony with nature on Ayurveda Day

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: With changing lifestyles, irregular eating habits, inadequate sleep, stress and physical inactivity increasingly affecting health, Ayurveda offers a holistic approach centred on prevention, balance and disciplined living, said Ayurved Physician Dr Santosh Ganapati Vernekar of the Primary Health Centre, Balli.

Speaking on the occasion of Ayurveda



Day, Dr Vernekar said the fundamental objective of Ayurveda is not merely to treat disease after it occurs but also to preserve the health of healthy individuals.

“Swasthasya Swasthya Rakshanam, Aturasya Vikara Prashamanam — to maintain the health of the healthy and to alleviate disease in the sick,” Dr Vernekar said.”

Ayurveda Day will be observed on September 23. The day was earlier associated with Dhanatrayodashi, which commemorates the birth anniversary of Lord Dhanvantari, regarded as the presiding deity of Ayurveda.

Goan short film 'Ful Ani Sauli' selected for MUMBA International Film Festival 2026

■ Glen Cardozo's Konkani film exploring friendship, memory and identity to screen at NFDC-NFAI in Pune on October 8

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goan filmmaker Glen Cardozo's Konkani short film 'Ful Ani Sauli' has been officially selected for the MUMBA International Film Festival 2026, where it will be screened on October 8 at the NFDC-National Film Archive of India in Pune, Maharashtra. The film is scheduled to screen at 2.59 pm in Audi 1 as



part of the five-day festival being held from October 6 to 10.

Set against the quiet

landscape of an old Goan house, Ful Ani Sauli explores an unlikely friendship between a

young artist and a solitary woman. Their relationship develops through simple moments involving tea, sketches and silence, while unexplained echoes of familiarity gradually blur the boundaries between memory, identity and time.

Cardozo has directed the film and also written its story and screenplay. Tejas V. Naik and Raghav Komarpant have handled cinematography, while Yuri Brito Carvalho has edited the film. The cast

includes Rati Bhatikar and Nidhi Amonkar, with Rajendrakumar Nipanikar serving as gaffer. Describing the idea behind the film, Cardozo said the story is an exploration of silence, memory and human connection. “I wanted to tell a story where timelines blur without spectacle, where memory and identity overlap quietly, like a shadow following its flower.

Stone Wood Hotels & Resorts Expands North Goa Portfolio with 40-Key Hotel in Calangute

■ Sibaya Courtyard by Stone Wood Premier becomes the second property under the Sibaya portfolio, with further expansion planned across India



Team Goemkarponn

GOA: Sibaya, in partnership with Stone Wood Hotels & Resorts, has expanded its presence in North Goa with the opening of Sibaya Courtyard by Stone Wood Premier, a 40-room hotel in Calangute. The property marks the second hotel under the Sibaya portfolio, with Stone Wood Hotels & Resorts providing hospitality management and operational expertise.

Located in Khobra Vaddo, Sibaya Courtyard by Stone Wood Premier is positioned within the Baga-Calangute hospitality market, approximately a five-minute walk from Tito's Lane and with convenient access to both Baga Beach and Calangute Beach. Despite its proximity to one of North Goa's busiest tourism belts, the hotel is situated away from the more crowded stretches of the neighbourhood.

The property features 40 rooms across three categories: Deluxe Rooms with Balcony, Premium Rooms with Balcony and Pool View Rooms with Balcony. All rooms include private balconies.

Sibaya Courtyard also features a 1,507 square feet conference and banquet hall with a capacity of approximately 80 to 100 guests, allowing the hotel to cater to small corporate meetings, private functions and social celebrations. Other facilities include a swimming pool, an air-conditioned multi-cuisine restaurant with a bar and an open courtyard café.

The hotel is designed to cater to independent leisure travellers, families, small corporate groups and social gatherings, while its location provides convenient access to the wider Baga-Calangute tourism and entertainment district.

The design of the property draws from its

Goa setting, with tropical influences incorporated through the colour palette, décor and bedroom wallpapers. The courtyard, private balconies and open social spaces have been designed to create a relaxed environment while maintaining the convenience of a centrally located North Goa hotel.

Commenting on the property, Shaminder Singh, Managing Partner, Sibaya Courtyard by Stone Wood Premier, said: "While developing Sibaya Courtyard, our focus with the architects was on creating a hotel that reflects what travellers increasingly seek in North Goa: proximity to the action without having to compromise on comfort or privacy. We have carried a tropical character through the interiors, including the colour palette, décor and bedroom wallpapers, to keep the design connected to its Goa setting. The courtyard, private balconies and

open social spaces add to that approach, while the banquet and dining facilities allow us to serve leisure guests, corporate groups and intimate celebrations."

Shikhar Kumar, Managing Partner, Sibaya Courtyard by Stone Wood Premier, said, added: "North Goa is a highly competitive market, and location alone is no longer enough to differentiate a hotel. Travellers are looking for better-designed stays that offer access, comfort and a sense of privacy. Sibaya Courtyard has been developed around that requirement. It also allows us to address small-format corporate and social events, which are becoming an important source of year-round demand in Goa."

The opening of Sibaya Courtyard by Stone Wood Premier marks another step in the development of the Sibaya portfolio, which began with Sibaya Beach Resort in Morjim.

AI Animated Short 'THE VIRAL GOLD' Selected for Abohar International Film Festival 2026

■ Gauresh Savardekar's AI film earns official selection at the inaugural festival in Punjab

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Filmmaker Gauresh Savardekar's AI animated short film THE VIRAL GOLD has been officially selected for the inaugural edition of the Abohar International Film Festival 2026, marking a notable milestone for the emerging filmmaker and AI driven animation.

Produced under Kohli Motion Pictures, the film has been included among the festival's official selections celebrating independent cinema and new forms of storytelling. The festival is focused on showcasing creative work across contemporary filmmaking formats, including projects that explore the growing use of artificial intelligence in animation.

Following the official selection, Savardekar has also been invited to attend the festival's award ceremony, where filmmakers, industry professionals, festival delegates and other nominees are expected to come together to celebrate the selected works.

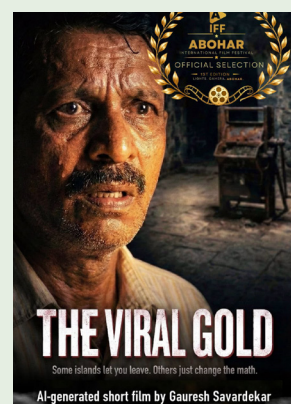
The award ceremony is scheduled to take place on Sunday, September 27, 2026, beginning at 10:30 am at Teachers' Home,

near Branch School in Abohar, Punjab.

The selection of THE VIRAL GOLD highlights the growing presence of AI based animation within independent filmmaking. As filmmakers increasingly experiment with artificial intelligence, the technology is opening new possibilities for visual storytelling, animation and short form cinema.

The Abohar International Film Festival's first edition aims to provide a platform for independent creators and new cinematic voices. The inclusion of an AI animated project among its selections also reflects the changing landscape of filmmaking, where emerging technologies are being explored alongside more traditional production methods.

For Savardekar, the festival selection provides an opportunity to present THE VIRAL GOLD to a wider audience and connect with filmmakers and cinema professionals attending the inaugural event. The upcoming ceremony will also bring together the creators behind the festival's selected films as the organisers recognise notable works from the first edition.



Bombay High Court bars firecrackers on public roads during festivities

raised questions over the manner

in which permissions for processions and loudspeakers are granted and monitored.

The directions come amid restrictions imposed by the Mumbai Police between September 9 and 26 on unauthorised gatherings and activities that could contribute to law-

and-order or noise-related concerns.

The High Court's intervention comes as authorities prepare to manage festive gatherings and processions, with the focus on balancing religious celebrations with public health, safety and environmental concerns.

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“Malicious Propaganda”: India Slams Pakistan Over Indus Waters Treaty Letter at UN

■ New Delhi rejects arbitration proceedings, says Pakistan is distorting facts

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has strongly criticised Pakistan over its latest position on the Indus Waters Treaty at the United Nations, accusing Islamabad of misrepresenting facts and using the issue for what it described as “malicious propaganda.” India’s Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated New Delhi’s longstanding



position that the arbitration proceedings being cited by Pakistan do not have legal standing from India’s perspective. Jaiswal said Pakistan was presenting the proceedings as a ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, while

India considers the body involved to have been constituted in violation of the Indus Waters Treaty. He maintained that India does not recognise the tribunal’s jurisdiction over decisions concerning its sovereign interests. India has repeatedly rejected the arbitration process, arguing that the court was established without its consent and therefore cannot adjudicate matters

covered by the treaty. The Indus Waters Treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 to establish a framework for sharing the waters of six rivers in the Indus basin. Under the agreement, India has unrestricted use of the eastern rivers, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej, while the western rivers, Indus, Jhelum and Chenab, were allocated primarily for Pakistan’s use, subject to treaty provisions.



Trump Backs India-Middle East-Europe Corridor to Reduce Iran Dependence

■ US President highlights IMEEC as an alternative route for energy, trade and regional connectivity

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump has backed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor as a potential way to reshape energy and trade routes across the region and reduce dependence on infrastructure linked to Iran. Speaking at a meeting with leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, Trump said recent attacks on commercial shipping in the region had highlighted the need to move Middle East energy infrastructure away from areas vulnerable to disruption.

He pointed to the India-Middle East-Europe Economic

Corridor, along with other routes for transporting oil, as part of the broader effort to develop alternative energy networks and improve regional connectivity.

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor was unveiled in September 2023 during the G20 Summit in New Delhi. The proposed network is designed to connect India with the Arabian Gulf and then link the Gulf region with Europe through a combination of rail and maritime routes. The project is planned around two main sections. The eastern corridor would connect India to the Arabian Gulf, while the northern corridor would extend from the Gulf to Europe.



No Punishment For Not Singing Vande Mataram: Supreme Court Tells Centr

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has asked the Centre to ensure that a person who respectfully declines to sing Vande Mataram on grounds of conscience is not subjected to penal consequences.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, along with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, was hearing a petition challenging provisions that extend legal protection to the national song and prescribe penalties for disrupting its singing. The petition was filed by Carnatic vocalist T M Krishna.

During the hearing, the court referred to its 1986 judgment in Bijoe Emmanuel vs State of Kerala, in which it protected schoolchildren who respectfully declined to sing the national anthem because of their beliefs. The bench indicated that the same legal principle should apply to conscientious objectors under the amended law.

“We Will Uproot Drug Trade From India By 2029”: Amit Shah Sets Deadline

■ Home Minister calls for a united national fight against narcotics, with focus on results and accountability

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has set December 31, 2029, as the target to eliminate the drug trade from India, calling for a coordinated effort involving central agencies, states and Union Territories. Shah made the announcement while addressing the third national conference of chiefs of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force in New Delhi. He said the government has prepared a “Roadmap



2029” aimed at protecting young people from the impact of narcotics. The Home Minister said the objective is to ensure that drugs neither enter India nor leave the country. He stressed that tackling drug trafficking requires cooperation between all agencies and state governments, along with a

compassionate approach towards people affected by addiction. Shah called for the fight against narcotics to become a national priority and urged authorities to work collectively to achieve measurable results. He also outlined an approach based on three key principles: target, timeline and accountability. According to him, agencies need to move beyond routine meetings and reports and focus on concrete outcomes.

“Arnab” May Not Be a Cyclone: Deep Depression to Hit Andhra Odisha Coast Tonight

■ Heavy rain and strong winds expected as system moves towards Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A deep depression over the Bay of Bengal is moving towards the north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts, bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds to several areas. The India Meteorological Department has forecast that the system will cross the coast between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur by the night of September 23.



The weather system intensified into a deep depression on Tuesday and has continued moving west northwestwards. The latest IMD bulletin

placed it around 100 km east southeast of Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and about 150 km south of Gopalpur in Odisha.

Odisha is expected to face particularly heavy rainfall, with several districts under heightened weather alerts. Southern districts could receive heavy to very heavy rain, with extremely heavy rainfall possible at isolated locations. Authorities have also taken precautionary measures in vulnerable areas.

Andhra Pradesh is also expected to experience widespread rain along the coast. Strong squally winds are forecast along

and off the north Andhra and south Odisha coasts, while sea conditions are expected to remain rough to very rough.

Despite widespread references to “Cyclone Arnab”, the IMD has currently classified the system as a deep depression, not a cyclone. Arnab is the next name on the regional list of cyclone names and was contributed by Bangladesh.

Mirabai Chanu Makes History With Silver As India Adds Four Medals On Asian Games Day 4

■ India's weightlifting drought ends after 28 years, while shooting, soft tennis and kabaddi deliver major moments

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India enjoyed a memorable day at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Wednesday as Mirabai Chanu finally secured her maiden Asian Games medal, winning silver in the women's 49kg weightlifting event. Her podium finish also ended India's 28 year wait for a weightlifting medal at the



Games. Chanu lifted a combined 198kg, finishing behind North Korea's Ri Song Gum. Chanu's medal was one of four added by India during the day.

The country's shooting contingent produced two bronze medals in the team skeet events. The women's trio of

Raiza Dhillon, Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Maheshwari Chauhan secured bronze, while Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Mairaj Ahmed Khan and Bhavtegh

Singh Gill won bronze in the men's event. Naruka later finished fourth in the individual final. Soft tennis also produced a historic moment as Jay Meena became India's first medallist in the sport at the Asian Games. Meena secured bronze in the men's singles after an injury forced him to withdraw from his semifinal.

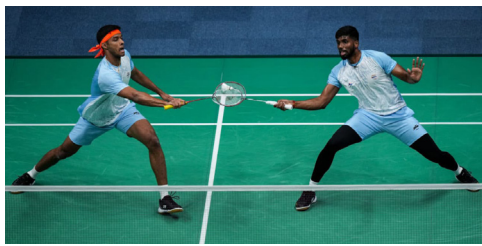
Satwik-Chirag Complete Dream Comeback, India Level China 1-1 in Asian Games Semi-Final

■ India fight back after Lakshya Sen's defeat as the doubles pair beat Wang Chang and Liang Weikeng

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India produced a strong response in the men's badminton team semifinal against China at the Asian Games, with Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeating Wang Chang and Liang Weikeng to level the tie at 1-1.

The Indian pair delivered a composed performance against the Chinese combination, keeping India alive in the contest after Lakshya Sen



lost the opening match to world No. 1 Shi Yu Qi.

Shi controlled the first game against Lakshya and secured a 21-16, 21-18 victory to give China an early advantage. Lakshya fought hard in the second game but could not force the contest into a decider.

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Satwik and Chirag then took centre stage in the doubles match. The Indian duo maintained

in the quarterfinals. The team is also seeking to settle the disappointment of the previous Asian Games, where China defeated India 3-2 in the final at Hangzhou to retain the men's team title.

India had entered the knockout stage with strong momentum after a dominant quarterfinal campaign. Lakshya, Satwik and Chirag, along with Ayush Shetty, had produced important victories to help India advance.



"The Attitude Was Impeccable": Shreyas Iyer Praises Japan After India's Thrilling Two Run Win

■ India survive a stunning Japan fightback in rain shortened five over T20I in Sano

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India captain Shreyas Iyer praised Japan's spirited performance after India secured a narrow two run victory in a rain shortened five over T20I in Sano on Tuesday. The match, played as part of celebrations marking 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Japan, turned into a closely fought contest after the hosts' bowlers restricted the reigning T20 world champions to just 32 for four. Iyer top scored for India with 16 runs from 12 balls, while Japan's Charlie Hara Hinze impressed with two wickets. Ibrahim Takahashi also claimed one wicket as India struggled to score freely

on a slow and turning surface. Abhishek Sharma was dismissed for a golden duck, while Sanju Samson made nine and Ishan Kishan scored three. India managed only 32 runs in their five overs, with Shivam Dube and Tilak Varma unbeaten at the end of the innings. Japan began their chase poorly, losing Lachlan Yamamoto Lake to a run out and Ibrahim Takahashi to Washington Sundar. The hosts then recovered through Kendel Kadowaki Fleming and Benjamin Ito Davis. Kadowaki Fleming scored 12 before Sundar removed him in the fourth over, leaving Japan needing eight runs from the final six balls.

Goa University Women's Football Championship Begins Across Three Grounds

■ Several colleges register wins as the Inter Collegiate Football Championship gets underway

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa University Inter Collegiate Football Championship 2026 27 for women began on September 22 with matches being played at the Goa University Ground, Rosary College Ground and Chowgule College Ground.

At the Goa University Ground, Vidya Prabodhini College of Commerce, Education, Computer and

Management, Porvorim

recorded a 2 0 victory

a walkover against Goa

S.S. Dempo College

Sima Mandal added the second in the 42nd minute. Rajput completed her brace in the 46th minute.

Shree Mallikarjun and Shri Chetan Manju Desai College of Arts and Commerce, Canacona also registered a 3 0 win over Padre Conceicao College of Engineering, Verna. Neha Velip, Anan Viegas and Pranali Gaonkar scored in the seventh, 10th and 19th minutes respectively.



received a walkover against Cuncolim Educational Society's College of Arts and Commerce, Cuncolim.

Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Sanquelim

over V.M. Salgaocar College of Law, Miramar. Both goals came in the second half, with Angel Lopes scoring in the 26th and 31st minutes. Fr. Agnel College, Pillar also advanced after receiving

College of Music. At Rosary College Ground, Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar received a walkover against Goa College of Agriculture, Ela, Old Goa.

of Commerce and Economics, Cujira, Bambolim defeated Govind Ramnath Kare College of Law, Margao 3 0. Neha Rajput opened the scoring in the sixth minute before