



## Goa Voter Roll Row: Vijai flags alleged deletion of 1.27 lakh names, seeks urgent review

Goa Forward Party leader alleges eligible voters were removed during SIR; calls for verification and restoration of genuine names

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa Forward Party leader Vijai Sardesai has raised serious concerns over the deletion of voters from the electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), claiming that as many as 1,27,468 names — around 10.75 per cent of Goa's electorate, according to his claim — were removed during the exercise.



Sardesai has demanded an immediate review of the deletions and restoration of names of eligible voters, alleging that several citizens were removed from the rolls

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### Vijai Sardesai Welcomes K.C. Venugopal's Call for United Opposition in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa Forward Party leader Vijai Sardesai has welcomed Congress leader K.C. Venugopal's statement calling for a united Opposition alliance in

Goa.

Sardesai said the issue was not about who makes the statement, but about what the people of Goa want. He said all groups genuinely opposed to the BJP

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## Manoj Parab Alleges 'Mega Plan' to Destroy RGP, Urges Supporters to Think and Stay Alert

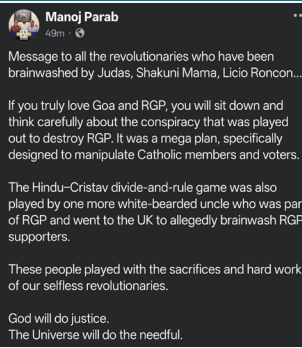
Former RGP president and founding member claims party supporters were manipulated and alleges efforts to exploit communal divisions



Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Former Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) president and founding member Manoj Parab has alleged that a "mega plan" was carried out to weaken and destroy the party, urging its supporters to reflect on what he described as a deliberate conspiracy against RGP.

In a strongly worded message, Parab alleged that the plan was designed to manipulate Catholic members and voters and claimed that a Hindu-Christian "divide-and-rule" strategy was also used. He further referred to



individuals whom he accused of influencing RGP supporters, including an RGP-associated person who, he alleged, travelled to the UK for this purpose.

Parab did not provide evidence to substantiate these allegations in his message.

He said the alleged developments had undermined the sacrifices and hard work of RGP's "selfless revolutionaries" and urged supporters to "think" and "be alert" about what he described as attempts to weaken the party.

"God will do justice. The Universe will do the needful," Parab said.



### BJP afraid of response to Goy Rakhonn Yatra: Kawthankar

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Congress Working President Sunil Kawthankar has alleged that the BJP-led government is attempting to privatise key public assets even as the Congress-led Goy Rakhonn Yatra is receiving a strong public response.

Pointing to a tender issued by the Captain of Ports Department, Kawthankar said the government has proposed to privatise its main building in Panaji along with jetties at Panaji, Betim and Old Goa, besides a floating jetty along the Ribandar causeway. "While Congress is having the Goy Rakhonn Yatra, BJP is busy with Goy Vikhpachi Jatra," Kawthankar said, alleging that the government's move amounted to handing over public assets for private use.

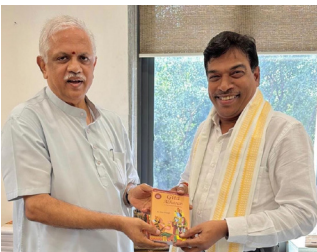
Kawthankar claimed that the BJP was "afraid" of the response to the ongoing Goy Rakhonn Yatra and accused the government of diverting attention through its proposed privatisation plans.

## Damu Naik Meets B.L. Santhosh in Delhi; BJP Goa Organisational Matters Discussed

Congress leader alleges BJP-led government's jetty privatisation move is part of a "Goy Vikhpachi Jatra"; says proposed floating jetty could benefit casino industry

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** BJP Goa President Damu Naik met BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh at his residence in New Delhi, where the two leaders discussed various organisational matters concerning the party in Goa.



Naik shared details of the meeting, stating that the interaction focused on party-related organisational issues in

the state.

The meeting comes as the BJP Goa unit continues its organisational activities and preparations ahead of the 2027 Goa Assembly elections.

Naik described the interaction as a detailed discussion on matters concerning the party organisation in Goa.

## "They Turned PoK Into a Graveyard": Kashmiri Activist Raises Protest Crackdown at UN

Tasleema Akhtar calls for independent probes into reported civilian deaths and restoration of civic space

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Kashmiri socio political activist Tasleema Akhtar has raised concerns over the situation in Pakistan administered Jammu and Kashmir at the 63rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Akhtar, who is associated with the Association of Terror Victims in Kashmir, spoke about recent protests in



the region and alleged that security forces used force against civilians demanding basic rights. She called for independent investigations into every reported death, with access to information related to the cases.

## "International System Is Broken": Rubio Says It Cannot Address India Pakistan Conflicts

US Secretary of State calls for a more functional global system as countries increasingly focus on national interests

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said the existing international system is failing to address major conflicts around the world, including potential tensions between India and Pakistan.

Speaking during the United Nations General Assembly week in New York, Rubio said there was broad agreement among world leaders that the international system



was no longer functioning effectively. He argued that global institutions had moved beyond their original mandate while becoming less capable of resolving major international disputes. Rubio said a functioning international system would be useful in dealing with conflicts and referred

to disputes involving Thailand and Cambodia as well as possible tensions between India and Pakistan. He added that when international mechanisms fail to address such situations, individual countries are likely to act according to their own national interests. The remarks came a day after US President Donald Trump again claimed that his administration had helped bring an end to the India Pakistan conflict in 2025.

# Goa's Jobs, Goa's Youth: Where Did We Lose the Plot?

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has raised a question Goa has asked for years, but perhaps not loudly enough: why are people from outside the State taking up emerging business and employment opportunities while Goans aren't even entering some of these fields?

Speaking to students during the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, the Chief Minister pointed to opportunities in healthcare, elderly care, veterinary services, waste management, disaster management and renewable energy. He cited a case where the government had to appoint a person from Kashmir to a disaster management position at a salary of around Rs 1.5 lakh a month because, according to him, no local applicant applied. He also said that opportunities in waste management and healthcare were increasingly being taken up by people from outside Goa.

The statement deserves serious introspection. But it also demands a second question: if Goans are failing to seize these opportunities, who is responsible for creating this gap?

It is easy to say that Goan youth are not competitive enough. It is much harder to ask whether the education system, skill development programmes, career counselling and government policies are preparing them for the economy that Goa is actually creating.

For decades, the aspiration of a government job has dominated the mindset of Goan families. A secure post, a regular salary and retirement benefits became the definition of employment. Meanwhile, entirely new sectors have emerged around Goa's changing economy.

Waste management is no longer merely about garbage collection. It involves technology, processing, recycling, logistics, compliance and environmental management. Healthcare is expanding beyond hospitals into home care, elderly care, preventive healthcare and specialised services. Disaster management requires trained professionals. Renewable energy requires technical and managerial expertise.

If these opportunities are growing and Goan youth are not entering them, the government needs to ask why.

The answer cannot simply be that young Goans do not want to work.

There is another side to the issue. The presence of people from outside Goa in the job market is not, by itself, evidence that Goans are being denied opportunities. Businesses will naturally seek people with the required skills, experience and

*"For decades, the aspiration of a government job has dominated the mindset of Goan families. A secure post, a regular salary and retirement benefits became the definition of employment. Meanwhile, entirely new sectors have emerged around Goa's changing economy."*

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willingness to work. The real issue is whether local candidates are being given a fair opportunity to compete and whether they possess the skills required.

This distinction is important.

Goa cannot close its doors to talent from outside and expect its economy to flourish. At the same time, Goa cannot allow its own educated and trained population to become spectators in an economy operating in their backyard.

The government itself already recognises this policy challenge. Goa has schemes providing employment

incentives to units that employ Goans, including requirements relating to local manpower for certain categories of enterprises. Yet questions continue to be raised about the participation of local youth in private industry. The Goa Legislative Assembly has also seen concerns raised about companies recruiting outside the State while qualified local candidates struggle to find suitable employment.

Therefore, merely appealing to Goan youth is not enough.

The government needs to identify the sectors where jobs are emerging and then work backwards. What qualifications are required? Which courses are available in Goa? How many students are being trained? How many actually find employment? What salaries are being offered? Why are employers choosing candidates from outside?

These questions require data, not speeches.

There is also a cultural issue that needs to be addressed. If a young person sees waste management, elderly care, disaster management or vocational work as inferior to a conventional office job, no government scheme will change the situation overnight. Society itself must start respecting skilled professions.

But government has a role in changing that perception.

If the State is spending hundreds of crores on waste management, infrastructure, healthcare and new development, a portion of the resulting economic opportunity should translate into skills and careers for Goan youth.

The irony is striking. Goa is developing rapidly, yet Goans could increasingly find themselves participating less in the new economy being created around them.

That would be a failure far bigger than unemployment.

The Chief Minister has put the responsibility on Goan youth to wake up and seize opportunities. Fair enough.

But the government must also wake up.

If outsiders are coming because opportunities exist, the answer is not to blame outsiders. The answer is to ensure that Goans are trained, informed, equipped and encouraged to compete for those opportunities.

Otherwise, one day Goa may have the best infrastructure, the fastest-growing sectors and the most sophisticated services, while its own young people are asking a very uncomfortable question:

"Development is happening in Goa, but where exactly is our place in it?"

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Ganpati in Goa: Tradition Must Not Become a Waste Problem

The debate over Goa's Ganpati celebrations and the repeated appearance of the elephant Omarkar raises a larger question about how the State balances religious tradition with environmental responsibility.

Ganesh Chaturthi is deeply rooted in Goa's cultural and social fabric. The festival brings families and communities together and is an important part of Goa's identity. But devotion cannot come at the cost of the environment.

The concerns surrounding the immersion of idols, especially those made from materials that do not easily dissolve, deserve serious attention. If an idol repeatedly returns to the shore or remains in the water, it is a clear indication that traditional practices need to evolve with environmental realities.

The answer, however, is not to target the festival or the faith associated with it. The government must work with communities, artisans and organisers to encourage environmentally friendly idols and ensure proper immersion facilities.

Goa has already taken several steps towards controlled immersion, including designated immersion sites. But implementation, monitoring and public awareness are equally important.

The Omarkar episode should therefore be treated as a lesson rather than merely a curiosity. It reminds us that what we put into our rivers and seas does not simply disappear.

Goa can celebrate Ganpati with the same devotion while adopting practices that respect nature. Tradition survives when it adapts responsibly.

The real test is not whether Goa celebrates Ganesh Chaturthi with enthusiasm. It is whether we can celebrate Bappa without leaving behind a burden for the environment.

- Paresh Naik, Margao

### When Politics "Becomes a Game" By Damodar Kamat

Goa's political battle appears to have entered a new digital phase, with a satirical online game taking aim at the Congress ahead of its Goa Rakhan Yatra. The "Khokha Run" game uses a caricature resembling Congress Goa chief Girish Chodankar and turns allegations surrounding the distribution of party tickets into an interactive game.

Political satire is not new to Goa. But when serious political allegations are converted into entertainment, there is a danger that the line between satire and fact becomes blurred.

The allegations about money influencing party tickets remain allegations. They must be established with evidence, not through a game, social media post or political campaign. At the same time, the Congress cannot simply dismiss the episode as humour if questions are being raised about transparency in candidate selection.

Political parties should welcome scrutiny, particularly before an election. If there is nothing to hide, the process of selecting candidates and allocating tickets should be transparent enough to withstand public questioning.

The more interesting aspect of the "Khokha Run" episode is what it says about the changing nature of political communication. Voters, particularly younger people, increasingly consume politics through short videos, memes, games and social media rather than conventional speeches and press conferences.

That makes political satire a powerful tool. But power comes with responsibility.

If political parties and their opponents turn every allegation into a joke, meme or digital game, voters may eventually find it difficult to separate political criticism from verified information.

Goa needs political debate, satire and even humour. But it also needs facts.

An election should ultimately be about what parties stand for, what they have done and what they propose to do. The danger begins when politics becomes a game, and allegations become the scorecard.

- Damodar Kamat, Mapusa



# Porvorim Elevated Corridor: A New Gateway to Faster, Smoother Goa

The inauguration of the 6 Lane Porvorim Elevated Corridor marks a landmark moment in Goa's journey towards modern, efficient and future ready infrastructure. Inaugurated at the hands of Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari Ji, with Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant, Union Minister Shri Shripad Naik and other dignitaries present, the project is set to transform connectivity through one of Goa's most important and heavily travelled corridors.

The 5.15 kilometre elevated corridor, built at a sanctioned cost of ₹641.46 crore, is a major investment in Goa's road infrastructure. More importantly, it represents a significant step towards making daily travel faster, smoother and more convenient for thousands of commuters.

Porvorim is a crucial gateway connecting North Goa with Panaji and other parts of the State. The elevated corridor will provide an efficient alternative for through traffic while improving the overall movement of vehicles along the existing road network. Residents, businesses, tourists and daily commuters are all expected to benefit from improved connectivity.

For Goa's economy, better roads mean better movement. Faster connectivity can support businesses, improve access to commercial centres and make travel more convenient for visitors exploring the State. The project therefore goes beyond a road structure. It is an important piece of infrastructure that can contribute to Goa's continuing economic and urban development.

The completion of the Porvorim Elevated Corridor also reflects the importance being given to major infrastructure development under the Double Engine Government. With the support of the Union Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Goa continues to receive significant infrastructure investments aimed at strengthening connectivity and accelerating development.

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant expressed his sincere gratitude to Shri Nitin Gadkari Ji and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for their continued support to Goa. The strong cooperation between the State and Union Governments has helped bring projects of this scale to Goa, creating infrastructure designed to meet the needs of a growing State.

The Porvorim Elevated Corridor is therefore not merely a new stretch of road. It is a symbol of progress, improved mobility and Goa's readiness for the future.

As Goa moves towards becoming a more connected and developed State, projects such as this provide the foundation for sustainable growth and greater convenience for its people.

Building better connectivity. Building Viksit Goa.



Department of Information and Publicity

# Bambolim Man Loses ₹2.85 Lakh In Fake Traffic Challan Cyber Fraud

■ Agacaim Police investigate fraudulent link and APK application allegedly used to siphon money from complainant's bank account

**Team Goemkarponn**

**AGACAIM:** Agacaim Police have registered a cyber fraud case after a 40-year-old Bambolim resident allegedly lost ₹2,85,993 after clicking on a fraudulent link purportedly related to a traffic violation challan. The offence was registered at 2.58 pm on September 23, 2026, following the receipt of Zero FIR No. 0(305)/2026, dated September 17, from the Cyber Crime



Police Station, Ribandar.

According to the complaint filed by Tapendra, 40, a service professional residing near the Government Primary School in Bambolim, the incident occurred between September 7 and 12 at his

residence in Bambolim, Tiswadi. Police stated that an unidentified person, using mobile number 9500192588, allegedly sent the complainant a fraudulent link falsely claiming to be connected to a red-light traffic violation challan involving his vehicle. Believing the link to be genuine,

the complainant clicked on it and unknowingly downloaded and installed an APK application on his mobile phone. Subsequently, an amount of ₹2,85,993 was allegedly debited from his Bank of India account through multiple unauthorised transactions. The complainant alleged that he was cheated through the fraudulent application and that the transactions were carried out without his knowledge or authorisation.



## Russian National Booked After Allegedly Blocking Road, Damaging Two-Wheelers In Morjim

■ Mandrem Police register case under BNS sections following complaint over alleged road obstruction and nuisance at New Wada, Morjim

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PERNEM :** Mandrem Police have registered a case against a 40-year-old Russian national following a complaint alleging that he obstructed road users, damaged parked two-wheelers and created a nuisance at New Wada, Morjim, on September 22.

According to police, the offence was registered at around 8.18 pm as Mandrem PS Crime No. 87/2026, under Sections 324(4), 126(2), 125 and 270 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

The complaint was filed by Jaydeep Palyekar, 35, attached

to Mandrem Police Station. As per the complaint, the incident took place at around 7.30 am at New Wada, Morjim, Pernem.

Police stated that the accused, identified as Roman Kamzolkin, 40, a Russian national residing at Temwada, Morjim, allegedly wrongfully restrained road commuters and users by moving parked two-wheelers onto the road and standing in the roadway, thereby blocking vehicles.

The complaint further alleges that the act resulted in damage to two-wheelers, endangered road users and caused a public nuisance in the area.



## Woman Dies Days After Self-Fall From Two-Wheeler In Mandrem

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PERNEM:** A 45-year-old woman from Mandrem died at the Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, on September 23, days after she reportedly sustained head injuries in a self-fall accident while travelling as a pillion rider.

Police received a wireless message from GMC Bambolim at around 12 noon on September 23, informing them that Deepali Kerkar had died while undergoing treatment. According to police, Kerkar, wife of Mahesh Mhammal and a resident of Madhlamaj, Mandrem, was travelling with her husband from the Ganpati Visarjan venue at Madhlamaj towards Deulwada, Mandrem, when the incident occurred near HDFC Bank, Madhlamaj. Police said the motorcycle reportedly slipped while crossing a speed breaker, causing Kerkar, who was riding pillion, to fall on the road. She sustained head injuries and was initially taken to CHC Tuem for treatment.

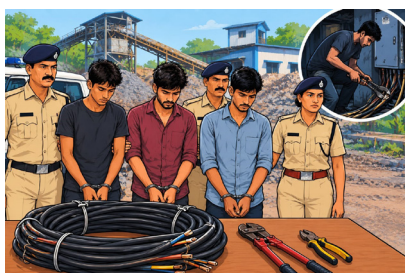
## Three Arrested For Alleged Cable Theft At Mining Plant In Bicholim

■ Suspects allegedly caught cutting electrical cables at Vagus-Kothambi screening plant; police recover cable and cutters

**Team Goemkarponn**

**BICHOLIM:** Bicholim Police have arrested three persons in connection with an alleged attempt to steal electrical cables from a screening plant operated by Salgaonkar Mining Industries Private Limited at Vagus-Kothambi, Bicholim.

According to the complaint lodged by Jayant Gaonkar, Director of Salgaonkar Mining Industries Private Limited, the incident occurred



at around 11 am on September 22 at the company's screening plant.

The complaint states that three persons allegedly entered the premises with a common intention to commit

theft. One of the accused, identified as Sufryan, 18, was allegedly caught by the company's security officer, Krishanand Gouda, while cutting electrical cables.

The alleged act caused an estimated loss of ₹10,000 to the company, according to the complaint. During the investigation, police traced and arrested all three accused on September 22 at around 8.57 pm.

## 23-Year-Old Man Found Dead At Home In Maulinguem

■ Bicholim Police register UD case; post-mortem report reserves cause of death pending chemical analysis

**Team Goemkarponn**

**BICHOLIM:** A 23-year-old man was found unconscious at his residence in Maulinguem, Bicholim, on Wednesday morning and was later declared brought dead at the Community Health Centre (CHC), Bicholim.

According to Bicholim Police, a medical memo was received from the Medical Officer of CHC Bicholim at around 8.29



am on September 23, informing them that Govind Gaonkar, 23, a resident of Paltadwada, Maulinguem, had been brought to the health centre by a 108 ambulance from his residence. During the enquiry, police learnt from

the deceased's family that Govind had dinner on the night of September 22 and went to sleep in his bedroom. The following morning, his mother found him unconscious on the bed while attempting to wake him. His family immediately informed his brother and shifted him to CHC Bicholim in a 108 ambulance. The Medical

Officer examined him and declared him brought dead. Police subsequently visited CHC Bicholim and conducted an inquest panchanama. The body was then sent to Goa Medical College, Bambolim, for post-mortem examination. The post-mortem was conducted by Dr Milind M. Gudyekar of the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, GMC Bambolim.

## Man Booked For Allegedly Blocking Scooter Rider, Issuing Threats In Sodiem

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PORVORIM:** Police have registered a complaint following an alleged road confrontation at Sodiem, Bardez, in which a 70-year-old man claimed that he was stopped while riding his scooter, abused and threatened with dire consequences. According to the complaint lodged by Subhash Rama Goltekar, 70, a resident of Alto Valley Road, Samarth Nagar, Socorro, the incident took place at around 1.40 pm on September 11 near Leo Dias House at Sodiem.

# Goa takes pioneering step in public health with life-course immunization policy

■ State becomes first in India to introduce comprehensive 10-year framework, initially prioritising influenza, pneumococcal and hepatitis vaccination for high-risk groups

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa has taken what the state government describes as a pioneering step in preventive healthcare with the launch of the Goa Policy for Life-course Immunization 2026–2036 and its accompanying Operational Guideline.

Launching the policy at a function organised by the Directorate of Health Services at Sta. Inez, Panaji, Health Minister Vishwajeet Rane said



Goa is the first state in the country to introduce a comprehensive policy covering immunization across the life course.

"This is an achievement we should recognise, but more importantly, it is a

responsibility we should embrace," Rane said, adding that Goa was not merely releasing a policy but demonstrating how preventive healthcare could

evolve in the country.

Rane said immunization has traditionally been associated largely with childhood, but changing demographics and disease patterns require a broader approach. With

people living longer and more individuals living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, kidney disease and cancer, vaccination strategies need to take clinical risk and individual health needs into account, he said.

"A healthy young adult is different from an elderly person. A patient with diabetes is different from a person with chronic lung disease.



## GEDA to host state-level consultation on PM Surya Ghar Yojana

■ Stakeholders to review rooftop solar progress and chart roadmap for accelerated adoption in Goa

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Goa Energy Development Agency (GEDA), in partnership with PTC India Limited, will host a day-long State-Level Stakeholder Consultation on the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (MSGMBY) on September 24 in Panaji.

The consultation, being organised under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's City Accelerator Programme (CAP), will be held from 9.30 am to 4 pm.

The event will bring together vendors, bankers, GEDA as the state nodal agency, the Goa Electricity Department, representatives of urban local bodies, Resident Welfare Associations

(RWAs), consumers and state government officials.

The consultation will review the progress of the PM Surya Ghar scheme in Goa and discuss measures to accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar across the state.

According to GEDA, Goa's residential rooftop solar installation base has increased from 1,249 installations in November 2025 to 3,802 installations as of September 2026. The total installed residential rooftop solar capacity has reached 31.24 MW.

The day-long programme will also include recognition of top-performing vendors and bankers for their contribution to the implementation of the scheme.



## HC Seeks Answers On Rachol MRF Records, Questions Offline Panchayat System

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Bombay High Court at Goa has sought answers from the Department of Panchayats over missing records connected with a waste management project at Rachol, while also questioning why the department has not shifted its NOC-related procedures to an online platform. The matter came before a Division Bench of Justice Valmiki Menezes and Justice Amit Jamsandekar during proceedings on a Public Interest Litigation concerning the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Rachol. The Court is examining the sanction and utilisation of Rs 12.76 lakh for the facility and has called for the original documents to establish how the project moved through the approval process. Officials from the Panchayats Department informed the Bench that the file containing the grant sanction had been located. However, another file containing documents linked to the project, reportedly dating back around four years, was still being traced.

## Traffic diversions announced on Fatorda-KTC road from September 24

■ Road stretch to see temporary restrictions until October 10 for beautification works

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** The South Goa District Magistrate has ordered temporary traffic restrictions on the road stretch from KTC Bus Stand, Fatorda, to Old Market Circle, Fatorda, from September 24 to October 10, 2026, to facilitate beautification works.

As per the traffic advisory issued by the Goa Traffic Police on September 23, only one lane will remain available



for vehicular movement in each direction along the stretch.

Two-wheelers travelling from Old Market

towards KTC Bus Stand may take a left turn near SFX Chapel, pass through the newly developed parking area and exit near KTC Bus Stand, opposite Raigad Restaurant.

Motorists heading towards the District Court Complex can take a left near Eagle Warehouse (SGPDA Market entry), proceed up to the Water Tank intersection and continue towards the District Court Complex/SGPDA parking area via INOX.

## Margao Eatery Told To Shift Outlet After GHRC Finds Residential Disturbance

■ GHRC Cites Impact Of Restaurant Smoke And Noise On Senior Citizen Couple

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** The Goa Human Rights Commission has directed a Margao eatery to take corrective measures after an inquiry found that smoke, cooking emissions and noise from the establishment were affecting a senior citizen couple living in the flat above it. The Commission has recommended that Café 108 relocate its outlet within 30 days in a manner that allows



cooking fumes and smoke to disperse towards the open area above the building's entrance passage rather than towards the residential portion. The Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) has been

asked to follow up on the recommendation and ensure that the required changes are carried out. The proceedings followed a complaint by Rajiv Naik Dalal, who had approached the GHRC alleging that directions

issued in an earlier inquiry concerning the restaurant had not been acted upon. He sought intervention over the conditions affecting his family. The

Commission noted that Dalal and his wife are senior citizens and occupy a first-floor apartment located immediately over the restaurant. It observed that their residential surroundings should provide them with

the peace and quiet appropriate for their age and circumstances. The GHRC's findings followed a physical inspection conducted on August 28.

The Commission's Chairperson, accompanied by its two Members, visited the eatery, examined the service duct and also inspected the complainant's flat. The inspection was attended by three GSPCB engineers, Dalal and a partner of Café 108.

# Goa Launches Seva Sankalp Abhiyan Across 71 Educational Institutions

■ Month-long initiative puts students at the centre of technology, innovation and entrepreneurship



## Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa has launched the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan 2026, a statewide technology and innovation programme involving students from 71 educational institutions across the state. The initiative is being led by the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications in collaboration with the Directorate of Higher Education.

The programme aims to give students practical experience in using technology and innovative ideas to address real-world challenges, including public service delivery. It also seeks to strengthen skills linked to Goa's growing digital economy

and encourage students to explore entrepreneurship.

Launching the campaign, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant urged young people to take an active role in developing solutions for sectors such as health, education, environment, agriculture, tourism and disaster management. He also encouraged students to consider entrepreneurship and become job creators.

Information Technology Minister Rohan Khaunte highlighted the role of innovation in education and said the state's Startup Policy 2025 includes 12 schemes designed to support startups and students. He also pointed to the Goa AI Policy and its target of creating 50,000 AI-certified resources by

2030.

The month-long campaign has been divided into three major programmes. Sankalp Setu, a statewide hackathon running from September 30 to October 23, will focus on developing technology-based solutions under the theme 'Bridging Ideas to Impact'. Winning teams will get an opportunity to present their ideas to government departments for possible implementation.

Sankalp Manthan, scheduled from October 5 to 12, will bring students together at six regional hubs for keynote sessions, panel discussions and solution showcases.

The third component, Sankalp Nirdhar, will

run from October 26 to November 6 across 10 engineering and polytechnic colleges. It will focus on entrepreneurship, innovation and industry readiness through bootcamps involving industry experts and alumni.

The launch also featured discussions on artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship and sustainable startups, along with the launch of the Ayur Hackathon aimed at promoting technology-driven healthcare solutions. Through Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, Goa aims to connect student ideas with government, industry and the startup ecosystem, helping young innovators turn concepts into practical solutions.

## Goa Government Launches AI WhatsApp Chatbot for Citizen Services

■ New digital assistant lets citizens access Goa Online services directly through WhatsApp

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa Government has launched an AI powered WhatsApp chatbot aimed at making government services easier and more convenient for citizens. The initiative has been introduced by the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications in collaboration with Goa Electronics Limited.

The new service builds on the AI chatbot already available on the Goa Online portal and brings its features to WhatsApp, allowing citizens to access services through a platform they already use regularly.

Information Technology Minister Rohan Khaunte said the Goa Online portal has recorded more than 21 lakh service requests and has over nine lakh registered users. He said the WhatsApp chatbot is intended to make government services more accessible while improving the overall experience for citizens.

The chatbot allows users to interact with a digital assistant through simple conversations and menu based options. Citizens do not need to download a separate application to use the service.

To access the chatbot, users can save 9404858105 on their

phones and send "Hi" through WhatsApp.

The service provides access to several Goa Online features, including submitting applications, checking application status, downloading issued certificates and other documents, and accessing payment receipts. Citizens can also use the conversational assistant to seek information and guidance about available government services.

The chatbot is designed to remain available around the clock, allowing citizens to access information and services from different locations and through smartphones with varying levels of internet connectivity.

The launch was attended by Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant, Minister Rohan Khaunte, Bicholim MLA and ITG Chairman Dr Chandrakant Shetye, Priol MLA Govind Gaude and senior officials from the technology and government departments.

The initiative is part of Goa's wider push towards digital governance, with the government seeking to use emerging technologies to simplify public service delivery. Further expansion of the chatbot's capabilities and coverage across additional government services is expected to be shaped by citizen feedback and usage.



## Goa Voter Roll Row: Vijai flags alleged deletion of 1.27 lakh names, seeks urgent review

on what he described as "frivolous grounds". The issue, he said, was highlighted by a case involving 97 voters from Taligaon reported by The Indian Express. Sardesai claimed that officials subsequently directed the restoration of the names after discrepancies were detected, and alleged that errors in the Election Commission's software had contributed to the deletions.

Calling the Taligaon case potentially indicative of a wider problem, Sardesai said the reported deletion of 1,27,468 voters across Goa could be "just the tip of the iceberg". He also claimed that around

4,500 voters had been deleted in his constituency during the SIR process.

Sardesai argued that the consequences of deletion could extend beyond participation in elections. According to him, electoral-roll status may have wider implications for citizens dealing with government schemes, land-related matters, registrations and other official processes. He also questioned the broader implications for the electoral process if eligible voters are removed from the rolls because of procedural or software-related discrepancies. Sardesai alleged that such deletions could undermine citizens' access to electoral justice and described the issue in terms of "vote chori".

Sardesai has called for a detailed verification of the deleted names and correction of cases where eligible voters were wrongly excluded. He further maintained that decisions concerning the voting rights of Goan

residents should be handled by officials in the state and that genuine voters should be restored to the electoral rolls after due verification.

## Vijai Sardesai Welcomes K.C. Venugopal's Call for United Opposition in Goa

should come together on a common platform and contest the elections jointly.

Sardesai said calls for Opposition unity had been made several times in the past and that the latest statements should now be followed by concrete steps towards bringing the various groups together.

He further said he was ready to make any sacrifice necessary to strengthen Opposition unity and work towards defeating the BJP.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

# ₹54 Crore Gold Smuggling Trail: Fake Invoices, Hawala Payments Exposed in Assam

■ ED attaches 37.064 kg of gold in probe into alleged multi state smuggling network

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached 37.064 kg of gold worth more than ₹54 crore as part of a money laundering investigation into an alleged multi state gold smuggling network operating across India. The action was taken under the Prevention of



Money Laundering Act in a case involving Akshay Parshuram Bansode and other unidentified persons. The seized gold includes 29 large gold bars

and 50 smaller gold pieces, along with around 13 grams of silver coloured metal flakes. Assam Police had seized the gold on June

30 from Bansode's alleged possession at Kharghuli Hatisil in Guwahati. The seized material is currently kept at the Kamrup Metro Treasury. The ED began

its investigation based on a case registered at Latasil Police Station concerning the alleged organised transportation and concealment of smuggled gold and a related criminal conspiracy.

Investigators found that Bansode had allegedly been transporting gold across different parts of the country for several years.



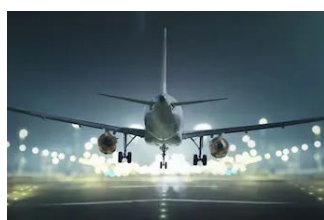
## IIT Bombay Postpones Mid Semester Exams Days After Student Dies By Suicide

■ Exams scheduled for September 26 and 27 shifted to October 10 and 11 amid student protests

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay has postponed its upcoming mid semester examinations following the death by suicide of a second year student, which has triggered protests on the campus. The examinations that were scheduled to be held on September 26 and 27 will now take place on October 10 and 11. The decision was taken after discussions with student representatives and other stakeholders. The move comes days after the death of Sahil Wakode, a second year student at the institute. His death has led to widespread concern among students and prompted demonstrations on the

IIT Bombay campus. Wakode was reportedly accused of cheating during an examination held on September 18. The circumstances surrounding the incident and the events that followed have become a major point of discussion among students. Following his death, students organised protests and raised concerns about academic pressure, examination procedures and the handling of disciplinary matters at the institute. The postponement of the mid semester examinations is expected to provide students additional time and ease some of the immediate academic pressure amid the ongoing situation on campus.



## India's Domestic Air Traffic Falls 6.3% in August, Passenger Numbers Drop to 121.26 Lakh

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India's domestic aviation sector recorded a sharp decline in passenger traffic in August 2026, with airlines carrying 121.26 lakh passengers, down 6.34 per cent compared with the same month last year.

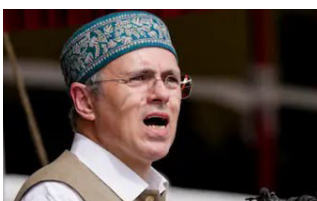
According to data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, domestic airlines had carried 129.47 lakh passengers in August 2025. The latest figures mark a significant year on year decline in passenger movement. Between January and August 2026, Indian airlines carried 1,105.30 lakh passengers, compared with 1,107.26 lakh during the corresponding period in 2025. This represents a marginal annual decline of 0.18 per cent. IndiGo continued to hold the largest share of the domestic aviation market in August, but its share fell to 65 per cent from 67.4 per cent in July. This represents a sequential decline of 2.4 percentage points.

## "Delimitation Was Designed to Benefit One Party": Omar Abdullah Demands Corrective Action

■ J&K Chief Minister questions Election Commission's functioning amid controversy over internal objections

**Team Goemkarponn**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has called for corrective measures in the Election Commission of India, saying public confidence in the electoral process must be protected. Abdullah's remarks came after reports of disagreements within the poll panel over several decisions taken during the past 10 months. The



Election Commission has maintained that differences and observations are a normal part of institutional decision making and that decisions taken during the period were ultimately approved by the full commission. Drawing

a comparison with the current controversy surrounding the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir had faced concerns over delimitation before the SIR became a national issue. He alleged that the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir was opaque and flawed and claimed it was structured to benefit a political party and its associates.

## Ladakh Withdraws Cases Against 20 People Linked to 2025 Leh Violence

■ LG Vinai Kumar Saxena approves closure of cases ahead of first anniversary of the unrest

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday approved the withdrawal of criminal cases against 20 people booked in connection with the violence that broke out in Leh on September 24, 2025.

The decision was taken in the interest of peace, public tranquillity and social harmony in Ladakh. Saxena said



the move would allow the individuals involved to move forward with their personal lives and careers without prolonged legal proceedings.

The Ladakh Police had recommended filing closure reports in the cases following a detailed review. The cases were registered

at the Leh police station in connection with the violence that occurred during protests in the region.

The administration had indicated in August that closure reports would be filed in cases involving certain individuals linked to the September 24 violence.

The development came a day after representatives of the Kargil Democratic Alliance and the Leh Apex Body held discussions with

officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Leh. The decision was also announced on the eve of the first anniversary of the incident. The September 24, 2025 protests were linked to demands for statehood and safeguards for Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The demonstrations later turned violent, resulting in the deaths of four people and injuries to several others.

# "It Took Only 17 Months": Gambhir Defends India's T20I Core

■ India coach backs continuity, praises Shreyas Iyer's selflessness and explains tough selection calls

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India head coach Gautam Gambhir has strongly defended the team's T20I setup, insisting that a few poor performances should not lead to sudden changes in the playing XI.

Gambhir revealed that dropping Sanju Samson during India's T20I series in England was one of the most difficult decisions of his coaching career. Samson had been named Player of the Tournament



during India's T20 World Cup triumph, but was left out after the opening match to make room for

teenage batter Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who was in impressive form.

Gambhir said the decision kept him awake that night, but explained that the team needed to consider current form and the combination required at the top of the order. He also stressed that selection should be based on what the captain and coach believe gives India the best chance of winning, rather than outside pressure or social media discussions.

The coach added that young players must sometimes wait for their opportunities, particularly when established players have consistently performed over a long period. He said India wanted to maintain confidence and security within the dressing room rather than make popular decisions after a handful of failures.

Gambhir also praised T20I captain Shreyas Iyer for his selfless approach to leadership.



## India Win Two Medals as Roshibina Devi Claims Silver

■ Wushu star secures third consecutive Asian Games podium as India's shooting campaign suffers setback

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India made a strong start to Day 5 of the Asian Games 2026, adding two medals to their tally while facing disappointment in the men's 10m air pistol event. Naorem Roshibina Devi secured the silver medal in the women's 60kg wushu category after a hard fought final against China's Xiaoyu Zhang. The result marked Roshibina's third consecutive Asian Games podium finish, underlining her consistency on the continental stage.

India also opened the day with a bronze medal in rowing. Satnam Singh and Salman Khan finished on the podium in the

men's double sculls event, giving the Indian contingent an early double medal boost. However, the shooting range brought disappointment. India's men's 10m air pistol team featuring Kamaljeet, Kedarling Balakrishna and Aakash Bhardwaj finished fourth with a combined score of 1727. None of the three Indian shooters managed to qualify for the individual final. The result came as a setback for India, particularly with the team missing out on a medal despite remaining in contention during the competition. Meanwhile, junior world champion Anahat Singh is set to begin her Asian Games campaign, with attention turning to India's prospects in squash.

## Goa Hold Vidarbha to Draw in U-16 J.Y. Lele Invitational

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa held Vidarbha to a draw in the All India Under 16 J.Y. Lele Invitational Cricket Tournament at the Infipiro Sports Academy Ground in Baroda, with Vidarbha securing the result on the basis of their first innings lead.

After Goa were bowled out for 108 in their opening innings, Vidarbha finished the first day at 177 for four, gaining a 69 run advantage.

Goa fought back on the second day as they dismissed Vidarbha for 233 in 62.2 overs. Arjun Mahajan top scored for Vidarbha with 89, while Shaurya Jain remained unbeaten on eight.

Mrunal Naik led Goa's bowling effort with four wickets for 65 runs. Shaurya Chodankar claimed three for 65, while Vedant Aigal took two wickets for 28 runs and Harsh Nain finished with one for 16.

Needing to defend their advantage, Vidarbha could not dismiss Goa in the allotted overs. Goa ended their second innings at 108 for seven after batting for 64 overs.

Ishant Tivarekar anchored the innings with a patient 30, while captain Abhijay Kalangutkar contributed 26. Vishram Parab added 13 before Goa's lower order resisted the Vidarbha attack.

## Vaishnavi Satarkar Scores Twice for Government College, Quepem

■ Satarkar stars against Dhempe College on Day 2

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Vaishnavi Satarkar scored twice for Government College, Quepem against Dhempe College, Miramar on Day 2 of the Goa University Inter Collegiate Football Championship 2026 27 for Women. Satarkar played a key role in her team's attacking effort, finding the net twice to help Government College, Quepem make their mark in the university championship. The tournament features



women's football teams from colleges across Goa, with the participating

sides competing for honours in the 2026 27 season.

## Pragya, Amaira, Umar and Ateendra March Into State Badminton Quarterfinals

■ Top seeds progress while Ateendra Gaonkar produces a major upset in Ponda

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Pragya Audi, Amaira Dhumatker, Mohammad Umar and Ateendra Gaonkar advanced to the quarterfinals on the opening day of the Radiant State Ranking Badminton Tournament at the Multipurpose Stadium in Ponda.

The tournament is being organised by Radiant Sports Club in association with the Goa Badminton Association

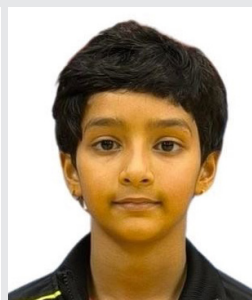


and Sports Authority of Goa, with several young players making their mark across the Under 15 singles events.

In the Girls' Singles Under 15 Round of 16, top seed Pragya Audi



made a strong start with a dominant 15 3, 15 1 victory over Purvi Pai Vernekar. Seventh seed Komal Kothari defeated Tanvika Vemavarapu 15 5, 15 10, while fourth seed Avni Khyalia overcame



Anvitha Poojari 16 14, 15 9. Sanvi Shirodkar produced another notable result by defeating eighth seed Aditi Dhargalkar 18 16, 15 9. Amaira Dhumatker also progressed comfortably,



beating Pihoo Redkar 15 3, 15 5. Palak Ramnathkar, Astha Poudel and Niharika Parwar completed the list of quarterfinalists.

In the Boys' Singles Under 15 event, top seed Mohammad Umar opened his campaign with a convincing 15 7, 15 3 win over Shourya Sinari. Aarush Deshmukh survived a close contest against Tanay Dhond, winning 18 16, 10 15, 15 8 in three games.