



Sawant says EC is independent, urges voters to follow appeal process

■ CM says voter deletion issue is with Election Commission, questions Goy Rakhonn Yatra and highlights welfare measures

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has maintained that the Election Commission is an independent body and said the state government and political parties have no role in its functioning, while responding to concerns over voter deletions.

"Everyone has been given an opportunity to appeal," Sawant said, adding that the Election Commission has already announced the process



and that affected voters should approach the poll panel as per the prescribed protocol.

Sawant said the voter deletion issue was a matter concerning the

Election Commission and was not related to any political party or to him as Chief Minister. He said the Election Commission was guiding

the process properly.

"The Election Commission is an independent body, and we are not related to it," Sawant said.

On the Goy Rakhonn

Yatra, Sawant questioned its objective and the participation of people from outside Goa. He also questioned where the organisers had been over the past 60 years and said his government was working to take Goa forward through development, innovation and technology.

Sawant also highlighted government welfare measures, stating that widows with children aged 18 years or below receive ₹4,000 per month

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Palekar alleges 4,500 voter deletions in St Cruz

Ferreira questions Election Commission process, demands transparency and resignation of CEC



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Congress leader Amit Palekar has alleged that around 4,500 names were deleted from the electoral roll in St Cruz during the recent revision, claiming that the deletions disproportionately affected Catholic and Muslim voters.

Palekar alleged irregularities in the revision process and demanded a criminal investigation into the matter. He also urged voters to verify their names on the electoral roll and approach Booth Level Officers (BLOs) or party representatives if they find that their names have been deleted.

Meanwhile, Congress MLA Carlos Ferreira has questioned the Election Commission's handling of voter-roll exclusions and changes to Form 6, alleging that the process violates principles of due process and constitutional safeguards.

Ferreira demanded that the Election Commission of India (ECI) make public complete records relating to its decisions, including agendas, objections, minutes of meetings and final resolutions.

He also called for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the process had been manipulated to favour a political party.



Assam Approves Rules for Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Assam Cabinet has approved the Assam Muslim Marriage Registration (Compulsory) Rules, 2026, introducing a uniform framework for the mandatory registration of Muslim marriages across the state.

Under the new system, Muslim marriages will be registered through designated government registrars instead of licensed Muslim registrars or qazis. The government may appoint additional officers as registrars if the number of applications increases, with the aim of ensuring that couples can complete the registration process without difficulty.

The new rules provide the procedural framework under the Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Act, 2024. The legislation replaced the Assam Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act of 1935, under which registration had initially been voluntary.

SC notice to Goa on Tarun Tejpal's challenge to 10-year sentence

■ Former Tehelka editor seeks relief against Bombay High Court verdict convicting him in 2013 rape case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Supreme Court has sought the response of the Goa government on former Tehelka editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal's challenge to the Bombay High Court verdict that overturned his acquittal and sentenced him to 10 years in prison in a 2013 rape case. A bench of Justice M.M. Sundresh



and Justice Prasanna B. Varale took up Tejpal's petition. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Tejpal, told the court that

the matter involved an acquittal being reversed by the High Court and pointed out that his client had already

surrendered. Sibal also requested the bench to fix a date for hearing Tejpal's plea seeking suspension

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Senior BJP leader Anil Hoble passes away

■ Former Goa BJP vice-president and SC/OBC Finance and Development Corporation chairman dies at 70



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Anil Hoble has passed away at the age of 70. Hoble was born on May 14, 1956.

Hoble served as Vice-

President of the Goa BJP and also headed the Goa State Scheduled Castes & Other Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation.

He had also contested the St Cruz Assembly constituency in the past.

'Anti-Incumbency Strong Against Congress': BJP Hits Back at Rahul Gandhi Over ECI-SIR Row

■ Sudhanshu Trivedi defends the Election Commission and challenges Congress claims on electoral trends

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The BJP has hit back at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his criticism of the Election Commission and his remarks on anti-incumbency during the ongoing controversy surrounding the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi questioned Gandhi's



argument that anti-incumbency, a recurring feature of Indian elections, no longer appears to affect the BJP. Trivedi instead highlighted the

Congress's electoral record across several states and argued that the party has itself faced prolonged periods outside government.

SIR Must Protect Every Eligible Vote, Not Just the Electoral Roll

The controversy surrounding the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Goa has raised an issue that goes far beyond political parties. At stake is the basic principle that every eligible citizen must have a fair and effective opportunity to remain on the electoral roll.

The Opposition has accused the Election Commission and the BJP of using the revision exercise to influence the electoral process and has demanded that the SIR be rolled back. These are serious political allegations and should not be accepted as established facts without evidence. At the same time, the Election Commission cannot expect such concerns to disappear merely by dismissing them as political criticism.

The immediate concern is the case of 97 voters who were not included in Goa's final electoral roll published in February 2026. According to reports, these voters had been flagged for discrepancies, but after submitting documents and being heard, election officials found them eligible for inclusion. The issue arose because the electoral software reportedly did not provide a mechanism for officials to reverse the earlier deletion. The Goa Chief Electoral Officer has now clarified that these 97 cases were separately processed through house-to-house visits by Booth Level Officers for completion of Form 6. Many have since been enrolled and the remaining cases are being processed. The CEO has also reiterated that no eligible elector will be left behind.

That clarification is important, but it also raises another question. Why should an eligible voter, whose case has already been examined and cleared, have to face another administrative process because the software could not accommodate the decision of the electoral authorities?

The Election Commission's explanation that the system does not have a rollback provision

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deserves closer examination. Technology is supposed to assist statutory officials, not restrict their ability to implement decisions taken after due verification.

There is also a wider institutional concern. An investigation by The Indian Express reported that two Election Commissioners had raised objections on several occasions concerning aspects of the handling of electoral data and the SIR process. These reported disagreements make transparency and accountability even more important.

The Opposition, meanwhile,

has a legitimate role in scrutinising the process. But political parties must also be careful not to turn every administrative error or technological failure into proof of deliberate electoral manipulation without establishing evidence. Allegations involving the integrity of elections demand facts, documentation and accountability, not simply political rhetoric.

The Election Commission, too, has a responsibility beyond issuing clarifications. It must demonstrate that every eligible voter has been given a genuine opportunity to be included. The 97 cases should therefore be resolved transparently, with the status of each case made clear through the appropriate electoral process.

Goa's electorate is not merely a number in a database. Every name represents a citizen with a constitutional right to participate in the democratic process. A voter should not lose that opportunity because of an administrative gap, a software limitation or a communication failure between state and central authorities.

The SIR may have a legitimate objective of ensuring accurate electoral rolls. But accuracy cannot mean only removing doubtful names. It must equally mean ensuring that genuine voters are not wrongly excluded. The Election Commission should welcome scrutiny, publish clear data and explain the safeguards in place. The Opposition should scrutinise the process responsibly and provide evidence for its allegations. In the end, the credibility of the 2027 Goa election will depend not merely on how many names are on the roll, but on whether Goans have confidence that every eligible citizen has been treated fairly.

That is the standard the Election Commission must meet, and the standard against which every political party should be judged.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What Kind of Rakhondars Are These?

The Indian National Congress can march across Goa for weeks talking about protecting Goa. But before calling itself Goa's "Rakhondar", the party must first answer questions about what happened within its own organisation.

A state president who was working for Goa was removed, while those who supported him were reportedly sidelined and treated badly. Did anyone in Delhi, including Rahul Gandhi, actually take the time to sit down with those affected and hear their side? Now there is time for a yatra. Now there is time for Rahul Gandhi to come to Goa on October 18 and speak about listening to Goans. But what about listening to the party's own colleagues and workers? Goans are tired of political gimmicks that create headlines and noise without addressing the real issues. The Congress cannot spend weeks marching across Goa claiming to protect the state while failing to keep its own elected representatives together. The party has seen its MLAs defect across two elections, while factionalism and rival camps continue to expose serious divisions within its organisation. The question Goans may reasonably ask is this: how can a party that struggles to keep its own house united claim to protect Goa?

A yatra cannot hide internal disunity. Slogans cannot erase the questions being raised by party workers. If the Congress genuinely wants to present itself as Goa's Rakhondar, it should first put its own house in order.

Goans are not fools. They can distinguish between genuine concern for Goa and political theatre. Before preaching about protecting Goa, the Congress should first demonstrate that it can protect and unite its own organisation.

- Kim Pinto, UK Goan

Goans Will Judge Politics by Performance

The Opposition may be preparing for another yatra in Goa, but the bigger question is whether such political marches can actually influence Goans. People today are looking beyond slogans, rallies and political theatrics. They are judging governments by what they see and experience in their daily lives.

Under the BJP governments at the Centre and in Goa, several schemes and initiatives have focused on different sections of society, from school students and senior citizens to youth, women and families. Areas such as healthcare, education, housing, employment, entrepreneurship and infrastructure have received continued attention.

The government has also announced measures concerning old houses, including provisions allowing increased FAR, with safety and redevelopment being cited as objectives. With rainfall remaining a concern, water conservation and storage have also become important priorities. The promised three LPG cylinders have been supported through financial assistance, while the government has continued to claim progress in tackling the illegal drug trade.

Goan youth are also making their presence felt on national and international platforms in sports, education, business and other fields. These achievements deserve recognition regardless of political affiliation. The Opposition has every right to hold a yatra and raise issues. However, ultimately, Goans will make their own assessment based on governance, delivery and their everyday experiences. As BJP workers and voters, we remain united and committed to our party. We will continue working among the people and supporting initiatives that we believe benefit Goa.

The coming Assembly election will provide Goans the opportunity to assess the record of all political parties and make their choice.

- Gajanan Mhapsekar, Siesaim



Weaves of Goan Natives: Preserving Kunbi Heritage, Empowering Women

Chicalim's new Mahila Resource Centre brings together tradition, skills, entrepreneurship and livelihood opportunities

Chicalim : A new chapter in women's empowerment and the preservation of Goa's rich cultural heritage began with the inauguration of the Mahila Resource Centre and Mahila Bhavan, "Weaves of Goan Natives," at Chicalim by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant.

The initiative aims to provide women with opportunities to develop skills, explore entrepreneurship and build sustainable livelihoods while keeping Goa's traditional crafts and textiles alive. The centre places special focus on Goan handloom, Kunbi textiles and traditional handicrafts, giving local women a platform to transform traditional skills into viable economic opportunities.

Alongside the inauguration, the virtual foundation stone for the Skills Centre was laid. The centre is expected to strengthen skill development and provide women with access to training



that can help them enter new areas of employment and entrepreneurship.

The programme also saw the launch of "Mauve," a brand aimed at giving locally made products a contemporary identity and greater market visibility. By connecting traditional craftsmanship with modern branding and markets, the initiative seeks to ensure that products rooted in Goa's cultural traditions can find new customers and wider

opportunities.

A Coffee Table Book was also released during the event, documenting Goa's traditional crafts, textiles and cultural heritage. Such efforts can help preserve traditional knowledge and ensure that the skills and stories associated with Goa's indigenous crafts continue to reach future generations.

The initiative reflects the vision of

Vocal for Local and Swayampurna Goa, with an emphasis on strengthening local production and creating opportunities within the state.

Women's empowerment goes beyond employment. It is about providing access to skills, entrepreneurship, markets and the confidence to build independent livelihoods. The Mahila Bhavan and Skills Centre can become important platforms in this journey.

By bringing together women's empowerment, traditional craftsmanship and entrepreneurship, "Weaves of Goan Natives" seeks to give Goa's heritage a new identity and economic relevance.

The Chicalim initiative thus represents a meaningful step towards empowering Nari Shakti, preserving Kunbi heritage and building a more Swayampurna Goa.



Department of Information and Publicity

Cyber Crime Police register offence over fake GSSC recruitment advertisement

■ Job aspirants advised to verify recruitment information only through official Goa government channels

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Cyber Crime Police Station, Goa, has registered an offence following the circulation of a fake and unauthorised recruitment advertisement on social media in the name of the Goa Staff Selection Commission (GSSC). The fake advertisement, titled "GSSC Group C Recruitment 2026 – 215 Vacancies," was circulated through a Facebook account/page named



"Employment News – Rozgar Samachar." The advertisement falsely presented itself as an official recruitment notice issued by the Goa Staff Selection Commission. According to the Cyber Crime Police, the

circulation of such unauthorised advertisements can mislead job aspirants and create confusion among

candidates and members of the public. It may also facilitate cheating or fraudulent activities by inducing individuals to share personal information or make payments. The Cyber Crime Police Station has

registered an offence and launched an investigation into the matter. Efforts are underway to identify the persons responsible for creating and circulating the advertisement and to establish the circumstances surrounding the offence. The police have advised job aspirants and members of the public not to trust or act upon the recruitment advertisement merely because it has been circulated on social media.



Congress Workers Booked for Unlawful Assembly at Dabolim Airport During Kharge's Arrival

■ Dabolim Airport police register FIR against 15–20 unidentified persons over alleged altercation during Congress president's arrival

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Dabolim Airport Police have registered an FIR against around 15 to 20 unidentified persons allegedly associated with the Congress party for allegedly forming an unlawful assembly and engaging in altercations at Goa International Airport, Dabolim, on August 17. The FIR was registered on the complaint of Tushar Kelkar, a resident of Ansabhat, Bardez. According to the complaint, the incident occurred at the airport when Congress president and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge was leaving the

airport.

The complainant alleged that the persons, sharing a common objective, entered into altercations and engaged in aggressive and disorderly conduct with him and others who had gathered to peacefully protest and express their resentment over what they described as an alleged insult or disrespect to the national song. Dabolim Airport Police have registered the case under Sections 189(2), 189(3), read with Section 190 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The case comes amid a wider political dispute over a protest staged during Kharge's arrival in Goa.



Man's body recovered from Zuari river at Panchawadi

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: An unidentified male body was recovered from the Zuari river at Digasher, Panchawadi, Shiroda, on Wednesday evening.

According to police, information regarding the body was received from Curchorem Police Station at around 8.23 pm on September 23. Police personnel subsequently visited the spot and found the body of an unidentified man, believed to be between 30 and 40 years of age, floating in the river.

With the assistance of personnel from the Curchorem Fire Brigade, the body was fished out of the river.

Police conducted the UD occurrence panchanama and inquest panchanama over the deceased. The body was subsequently preserved at South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for further medico-legal formalities.

Further inquiry into the incident is being conducted by PSI Krishna Gawas of Ponda Police Station.

15-Year-Old Boy Dies After Motorcycle Skids at Assonora

■ Colvale Police register case against 22-year-old rider for rash and negligent driving

Team Goemkarponn

ASSONORA: A 15-year-old boy died after the motorcycle on which he was travelling as a pillion rider skidded and fell on Goa State Highway 1 near Holy Cross Chapel at Assonora on September 22. According to Colvale Police, the accident occurred at around 1.30 pm when the accused, identified as Shivraj, 22, was riding a Honda Shine motorcycle bearing registration



number GA-03-AS-6279 from Assonora towards Sirsaim. Police said the rider allegedly rode the motorcycle in a rash and negligent manner without taking proper care and precautions, thereby endangering human life.

On reaching near Holy Cross Chapel, Assonora, he reportedly lost control of the motorcycle, causing it to skid. The rider and the pillion rider fell on the road. The 15-year-old pillion rider, a resident of Poriem, Sattari, sustained injuries to his head and eye in the accident. He was subsequently shifted to Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Minor girl allegedly kidnapped from Cacora

■ Curchorem Police register case on mother's complaint; investigation underway

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: Curchorem Police have registered a case following a complaint by the mother of a minor girl, alleging that her daughter was kidnapped from Cacora, Curchorem, on September 22. According to the complaint, the incident occurred at around 7.30 am, when an unidentified accused person allegedly took the minor girl, whose identity has been



withheld, from the lawful guardianship of her

mother.

Police have initiated

an investigation into the alleged kidnapping and efforts are underway to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the girl's disappearance and trace her whereabouts.

Further investigation is being conducted by LPSI Sonal Gounkar of Curchorem Police Station.

The identity of the minor has been withheld in accordance with legal and ethical norms protecting children involved in such cases.

Rider injured after electric bus rams scooter at Kundai

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: A scooter rider sustained grievous injuries after an electric bus allegedly rammed into the rear of his two-wheeler near Nivaant Hotel at Kundai, Ponda, on September 22. According to the complaint filed by HC 6841 Suraj Gaude of Mardol Police Station, the incident occurred at around 8 am when the accused, identified as Pradeep Mardolkar, a resident of Navem, Dharbandora, was driving a Kabamba electric bus from Bhoma towards Kundai.

Captain of Ports clarifies terminal tender, says no privatisation of government jetties

■ Department says tender is for professional operation and maintenance while government retains ownership, regulatory powers and oversight

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Captain of Ports Department has clarified that the recently floated tender for the operation and maintenance of the Captain of Ports Terminal Building and allied jetty facilities does not involve privatisation or transfer of ownership of the government-owned assets.



The department said the tender provides for professional operation, maintenance and management of specified

facilities under an operation and maintenance framework. Ownership of the Terminal Building and jetties will continue

to remain with the government, while the Captain of Ports Department will retain its statutory, regulatory,

supervisory and administrative functions.

Under the tender framework, the selected operator will be responsible for operating and maintaining the facilities during the prescribed concession period. Statutory wharfage, berthing and other charges payable by vessel operators will continue to be paid to the Authority.



Viriato Fernandes demands action against Gyanesh Kumar over 'vote chori' allegations

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: South Goa MP Capt Viriato Fernandes on Thursday accused the Election Commission of involvement in what he termed a "mega chori" of votes and demanded action against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the electoral-roll revision process.

Fernandes alleged that the controversy over voter records amounted to a "systematic crime and criminal activity" and called for Kumar's arrest. He also claimed that the Congress had reached the conclusion that there appeared to be an alliance between the BJP and the Election Commission.

The MP further alleged that the other two Election Commissioners had raised objections and issued notices several times over the past 10 months regarding the functioning of the Commission under Kumar, but claimed that their concerns were not acted upon.

Legal Metrology notifies calibration centres for vehicle tanks

■ Vehicle tanks in North and South Goa to be calibrated at designated Legal Metrology offices

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Controller, Legal Metrology has notified designated centres for the calibration of all vehicle tanks registered with the Transport Authorities in various talukas of Goa. Vehicle tanks registered with the Transport Authorities of Pernem, Bardez, Bicholim and Tiswadi talukas in North Goa will be calibrated at the Office of the Inspector, Legal Metrology,



Mapusa-I, Dattawadi, Mapusa.

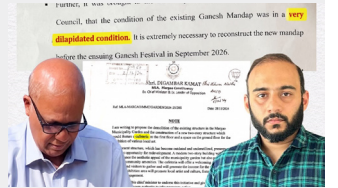
Similarly, vehicle tanks registered with the Transport Authorities of Ponda, Salcete and Mormugao talukas, along with Quepem,

Canacona and Dharbandora talukas under Kushavati District, will be calibrated at the Office of the Inspector, Legal Metrology, Margao-I, opposite the Railway Station, Margao. The notification specifies the designated calibration centres for vehicle tanks based on their registration under the respective Transport Authorities.

"Dilapidated" Ganesh Mandap Hosts Ganesh Chaturthi; Questions Demand Answers: Prabhav Naik

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Ganapati Bappa has exposed a glaring contradiction. The Ganesh Mandap at the Margao Municipal Garden, officially described as being in a "very dilapidated condition," successfully hosted this year's Shree Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations of the Margao Municipal Employees' Shree Ganesh Utsav Mandal, stated Madganvcho Awaaz & Youth Leader Prabhav Naik. "If the structure was genuinely in such a 'very dilapidated condition', how was it considered fit and safe to host the Chaturthi celebrations?" questioned Naik. He said the contradiction assumes greater significance in light of the proposal dated 28 November 2024 submitted by Margao MLA Digambar Kamat seeking demolition of the existing structure and construction of a new two-storey building. Kamat had also directed officials to consider the already floated tender and open the single bid, citing the urgency of completing the Ganesh Mandap



before the September 2026 festival, Naik stated. "The proposal specifically envisaged a cafeteria on the first floor and an exhibition space for local art on the ground floor and was subsequently forwarded by the Chief Minister's Office to GSIDC for necessary action," Naik stated. "Was the 'very dilapidated' description supported by a proper technical structural assessment, or was it being used to justify demolition and pave the way for the proposed cafeteria project? The documents and this year's Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations demand clear answers," said Naik. Naik said citizens had already opposed the concretisation of the Margao Municipal Garden through Madganvcho Awaaz's "Mhaje Madgao, Mhaje Garden" campaign. "Any redevelopment must preserve the garden's heritage character and respect the concerns and sentiments of Madgaonkars," he stated.

Tawadkar to take up Canacona hospital issues with DHS

■ Canacona MLA says meeting with Director of Health Services will address staff shortage and other concerns at CHC

Team Goemkarponn

CANAONA: Canacona MLA and Minister Ramesh Tawadkar has said he will take up the issues facing the Canacona Community Health Centre (CHC) with the Director of Health Services (DHS).

Tawadkar was responding to concerns raised by the Canacona Health Welfare Committee, including the demand for upgrading



the CHC to a Sub-District Hospital and addressing shortages of doctors and medical staff. He also said members of the Health Welfare Committee would be invited to attend the meeting with the DHS.

During the interaction, committee chairman Diago da Silva, along with Honarato Fernandes and Barretto,

apprised Tawadkar of difficulties reportedly faced by patients at the hospital.

The committee members said they had been raising concerns relating to healthcare

facilities in Canacona for more than 15 years. They also recalled that Tawadkar had earlier been associated with demands for improved healthcare facilities in the area.

Residents also raised concerns over assurances given during Health Minister Vishwajeet Rane's visit to Canacona regarding the resolution of health-related issues within 100 days.

Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka to hold multi-state cyclone mock exercise

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka will participate in a multi-state-level mock exercise on cyclone and cyclone-induced disasters on October 1, aimed at strengthening inter-state coordination, emergency response and operational preparedness. The exercise is being coordinated by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and follows an Orientation and Coordination Conference held on September 21.

Mauvin Godinho Inaugurates Goa Auto Show 2026, Showcasing EVs, Luxury Cars and Automotive Classics

■ VinFast and MG SELECT make their debut at the show as rare vintage and classic cars and bikes take centre stage alongside leading automotive brands



Team Goemkarponn

PANJIM: The second edition of the Goa Auto Show 2026 was inaugurated today at Kala Academy, Darya Sangam, Panjim, by Shri Mauvin Godinho, Minister for Transport, Government of Goa, marking the opening of a three-day celebration of automobiles, innovation, mobility and automotive heritage.

The exhibition brings together an exciting mix of electric vehicles, premium and luxury automobiles, two-wheelers, newly launched models, automotive technology and rare vintage and classic vehicles, offering visitors an opportunity to experience the changing face of mobility alongside some of the most iconic automobiles from the past.

Speaking at the inauguration, Shri Mauvin Godinho, Minister for

Transport, Government of Goa, said, "It is encouraging to see an exhibition like the Goa Auto Show bringing together the latest developments in mobility along with the rich heritage of the automobile industry. Goa has a strong connection with tourism and lifestyle, and an event of this nature adds another exciting experience for residents and visitors. The participation of new-age electric vehicle brands, premium automobiles, two-wheelers and the remarkable collection of vintage and classic vehicles makes this a showcase that has something for every automobile enthusiast."

A major highlight of this year's edition is the first-time participation of VinFast and MG SELECT at the Goa Auto Show. VinFast, the Vietnamese-origin global electric vehicle manufacturer, is

showcasing its new-age electric mobility offerings, while MG SELECT, the luxury automotive channel of JSW MG Motor India, is presenting its curated luxury automotive experience, including the MG Cyberster and MG M9 Presidential Limousine.

Adding to the excitement is a never-before display of vintage and classic cars and bikes from Mr. Jatin Pal Singh and other renowned auto connoisseurs. The collection brings together rare and iconic automobiles, giving visitors a glimpse into the craftsmanship, design and engineering that have shaped automotive history over the decades.

The show also features a wide range of leading automotive brands and models, including Toyota, MG, MG Hector and multiple other premium and mainstream

automobile brands, alongside an extensive two-wheeler showcase. The dedicated LUXE – Premium Car Brands section presents premium automobiles, while REVV – The Two-Wheeler Arena brings together motorcycles and two-wheelers for enthusiasts.

The Goa Auto Show 2026 will remain open to visitors from September 25 to 27, between 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM at Kala Academy, Darya Sangam, Panjim.

The three-day event also features entertainment, activities and food, making it a complete automotive and lifestyle experience.

With electric mobility, luxury automobiles, two-wheelers and rare automotive classics coming together under one roof, Goa Auto Show 2026 brings the future, present and heritage of the automobile world together in Panjim.

UPI MDR Is Not A Tax, Customers Will Not Pay Extra: Nirmala Sitharaman

■ 0.4% charge on specified UPI merchant payments above ₹2,000 will be borne within the payment ecosystem

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has clarified that the new Merchant Discount Rate on specified UPI transactions above ₹2,000 is not a tax, cess or surcharge, and that customers will not be charged separately for making such payments.

The new framework, which is scheduled to take effect from October 15, 2026, introduces an MDR of 0.4% on specified person to merchant UPI transactions above ₹2,000. The charge will be capped at ₹300 for transactions of ₹75,000 or more. Person to person UPI payments will continue to remain free. Sitharaman said the money collected through MDR will not go into the government treasury. Instead, it will be distributed among participants in the digital payments ecosystem, including banks and payment service providers involved in processing transactions.

The Finance Minister stressed that customers will continue to pay the amount displayed by merchants without a separate MDR

being added to their bills. She compared the arrangement with card payments, where merchants generally bear the applicable processing charges rather than collecting them separately from customers.

The government has also clarified that payments to merchants up to ₹2,000 will remain free. Small merchants covered under the zero MDR framework will also continue without the charge. According to the government, around 96% of person to merchant UPI transactions will remain unaffected.

The new system marks a change after years of zero MDR for UPI merchant payments. The stated framework is intended to support the financial sustainability of the digital payments ecosystem while keeping routine and person to person transactions free.

The clarification comes amid concerns over whether merchants could eventually pass the cost of MDR to customers. The government has maintained that the charge is part of the merchant payment ecosystem and is not a

Sawant says EC is independent, urges voters to follow appeal process

under DSSS along with Griha Aadhar assistance. He said orphans receive financial assistance and welfare support through government schemes, while persons with disabilities receive a monthly pension of ₹3,000–₹5,000 along with free artificial limbs and assistive devices at GMC.

SC notice to Goa on Tarun Tejpal's challenge to 10-year sentence

of his sentence. The bench, while issuing notice to the State, said the request would be considered.

The Supreme Court proceedings follow an earlier direction requiring Tejpal to surrender before his appeal against the High Court verdict could be considered on merits. Justice Alok Aradhe had directed him to surrender within three weeks and submit a surrender certificate before September 22.

The Bombay High Court's Goa bench of Justices Neela Gokhale and Amit Jamsandekar, in its August 6 judgment, set aside the trial court's acquittal of Tejpal and found him guilty in the case. The court later imposed a 10-year rigorous imprisonment sentence. While dealing with the trial court's reasoning, the High Court took issue with the manner in which the survivor's conduct following the alleged incident had been assessed. It said a survivor's response to sexual violence cannot be measured

against a fixed model of how a victim is expected to behave, noting that individuals can react to trauma differently.

Tejpal was convicted under provisions of the Indian Penal Code dealing with rape, sexual harassment and assault with intent to disrobe. The rape provision invoked in the case prescribed a minimum sentence of 10 years and allowed imprisonment for life. The allegations date back to November 2013 and concern an incident involving a former colleague during a Tehelka event in Goa. Tejpal was acquitted by the trial court in 2021, but the Goa government subsequently challenged that decision before the High Court. The Goa government has also moved the Supreme Court seeking an enhancement of Tejpal's sentence to life imprisonment.



'A Star Spreads Light, Not Darkness': Tukaram Mundhe Warns Bollywood Celebrities

■ Maharashtra food safety chief says celebrity influence cannot put public health concerns aside

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI:

Maharashtra Food Safety Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe has issued a fresh warning to celebrities endorsing food products, stressing that fame does not place anyone above the law.

In a recent social media post, Mundhe said celebrities have a responsibility to consider the impact of the products, behaviours and habits they promote.



He emphasised that when food products are endorsed by public figures, public health must remain a key consideration.

The remarks come weeks after Maharashtra authorities issued show

cause notices to actors Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn and Tiger Shroff over their appearances

in a Vimal Elaichi advertisement. The department alleged that the campaign amounted to surrogate advertising for Vimal Pan Masala, a product restricted in the state.

The actors were asked

to respond to the notices and stop appearing in the advertisement. The matter has also reached the courts. The Delhi High Court dismissed a petition filed by the brand's master licensee seeking to challenge the notices, citing lack of territorial jurisdiction.

Mundhe accompanied his latest message with a video featuring President Droupadi Murmu discussing the influence of film stars, particularly on young people.



'A Star Spreads Light, Not Darkness': Tukaram Mundhe Warns Bollywood Celebrities

■ Maharashtra food safety chief says celebrity influence cannot put public health concerns aside

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI:

Maharashtra Food Safety Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe has issued a fresh warning to celebrities endorsing food products, stressing that fame does not place anyone above the law. In a recent social media post, Mundhe said celebrities have a responsibility to consider the impact of the products, behaviours and habits they promote. He emphasised that when food products are endorsed by public figures, public health must remain a key consideration. The remarks come weeks after Maharashtra authorities issued show cause notices to actors Shah Rukh

Khan, Ajay Devgn and Tiger Shroff over their appearances in a Vimal Elaichi advertisement. The department alleged that the campaign amounted to surrogate advertising for Vimal Pan Masala, a product restricted in the state. The actors were asked to respond to the notices and stop appearing in the advertisement. The matter has also reached the courts. The Delhi High Court dismissed a petition filed by the brand's master licensee seeking to challenge the notices, citing lack of territorial jurisdiction. Mundhe accompanied his latest message with a video featuring President Droupadi Murmu discussing the influence of film stars, particularly on young people.



Omar Abdullah Moves J&K Statehood Resolution: 'We Were Promised'

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday moved a resolution in the Union Territory's Legislative Assembly seeking the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

While introducing the resolution, Abdullah referred to what he described as a three step process involving delimitation, Assembly elections and restoration of statehood. He said the first two stages had been completed and that statehood was now the remaining step. Abdullah said people of Jammu and Kashmir had participated in the electoral process and that the government had continued to wait for the promised restoration of statehood. He also referred to assurances that he said had been made in Parliament and before the Supreme Court. The resolution was moved amid an uproar in the Assembly, with BJP legislators protesting its contents.

'Climate Change Does Not Recognise Borders': Nepal PM's UN Warning After Deadly Floods

■ Balendra Shah calls for India, China and Nepal to share data and strengthen Himalayan disaster warning systems

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah has called for stronger international cooperation to tackle the growing climate risks facing the Himalayan region, weeks after devastating floods killed more than 1,400 people and left thousands unaccounted for. Addressing the United Nations General Assembly, Shah warned that climate



related disasters do not remain confined within national boundaries. He highlighted the recent Himalayan disaster as an example of how rapidly extreme events can affect communities across borders. The floods were triggered after a major

collapse of rock and glacier ice in the high Himalayas near the Nepal China border. The resulting surge of water travelled downstream, causing widespread destruction in Nepal and affecting areas on the Chinese side. Official figures cited in the aftermath indicated that at least 1,386 people had died in Nepal by September 18, while more than 5,130 people remained unaccounted for.

India Raises Kashmiri Pandit Exodus at UN, Calls on Pakistan to Vacate J&K

■ New Delhi accuses Islamabad of backing terrorism and raises concerns over treatment of minorities in Pakistan

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India strongly objected to Pakistan's remarks on Jammu and Kashmir and minority rights at the United Nations Human Rights Council, accusing Islamabad of continuing to occupy parts of the region and calling for the territory to be vacated.

Exercising India's right of reply at the council, diplomat Kshitij Tyagi said Jammu



and Kashmir remains an integral part of India and argued that the only portion of the region under foreign occupation is the territory controlled by Pakistan. Tyagi also criticised Pakistan's

comments on minorities in India, pointing to the country's large Muslim population and representation of Muslims in elected bodies, the judiciary and other public institutions. He, in turn,

raised concerns over the treatment of minority communities in Pakistan, referring to Hindus, Sikhs and Christians as well as Shia, Ahmadiyya, Ismaili and Hazara Muslims. He alleged that these communities have faced discrimination, violence and attacks on places of worship. The Indian diplomat also brought up the displacement of Kashmiri Pandits during the violence of the 1990s. He alleged that Pakistan

supported terrorist groups that were involved in attacks that forced members of the community to leave their homes. Tyagi further argued that violence had affected Kashmiris across religious communities and questioned Pakistan's criticism of India on human rights issues while facing allegations concerning minority rights within its own territory.

Gautam Gambhir Opens Up on India Tenure: 'I've Had My Share of Failures'

India head coach reflects on two years of ups and downs, praises Rohit, Suryakumar, Gill and Shreyas for putting the team first

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India head coach Gautam Gambhir has opened up about his two-year stint with the national team, admitting that his tenure has included both significant successes and failures across Test, ODI and T20 cricket.

Speaking ahead of India's upcoming home white-ball season against the West Indies, Gambhir said setbacks are an unavoidable part



of taking responsibility for the national team and that he accepts both his achievements and failures.

The India-West

Indies series begins on September 27 and features three ODIs and five T20Is. Shubman Gill will captain India in the ODIs, while Shreyas Iyer

will lead the T20I side.

Gambhir also reflected on his long-standing relationship with former India captain Rohit Sharma. He said their association goes back to their playing days and extends beyond their professional roles as coach and captain.

According to Gambhir, differences in opinions between a coach and captain are natural, but the ultimate objective must remain the team's interests.



Goa Set to Host 37th West Zone Junior Athletics Championship From September 27

124-member Goa squad receives official kits ahead of three-day athletics championship at Cujira

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa is set to host the 37th West Zone Junior Athletics Championship 2026 from September 27 to 29 at the Atal Athletics Stadium, Cujira. The championship is being organised by the Goa Athletic Association in collaboration with the Athletics Federation of India and the Sports Authority of Goa. Junior athletes from eight states across the West Zone are expected to participate, giving young competitors an opportunity to test themselves at the zonal level and compete for honours. Ahead of the championship, the 124-member Goa athletics team was presented with official kits at the Atal Stadium on September 24. A

group photograph of the Goa contingent was also taken during the programme as the young athletes prepared for the three-day competition. The event will feature competition across various track and field disciplines, with athletes looking to produce strong performances and establish themselves at the higher levels of the sport. The championship is also expected to provide promising athletes with valuable competitive exposure as they aim to progress towards national level competitions. Speaking during the programme, Goa Athletic Association president Narendra Sawaikar shared details about the championship and highlighted the importance of hosting a major junior athletics event in Goa.



Asian Games 2026 Day 6: Suruchi-Kamaljeet Win Gold, India Add Silver as Kabaddi Teams Reach Finals

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India enjoyed a strong start to Day 6 of the Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, winning a gold and a silver medal in shooting while securing medal spots across table tennis, squash and kabaddi. Kamaljeet and Suruchi Singh produced a dominant performance to win gold in the 10m air pistol mixed team event. The Indian pair topped qualification and then continued their form in the final to claim the country's second gold of the Games. Their winning performance also set an Asian Games record. India added a silver in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions team event, with Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Niraj Kumar and Rudranksh Patil finishing behind China. Tomar and Niraj also qualified for the individual final, where they finished fifth and eighth respectively. The medal haul grew further as Diya Chitale and Manush Shah defeated Hong Kong's Wong Chun Ting and Doo Hoi Kem to enter the mixed doubles table tennis semifinals, assuring India a medal.

Arnav, Atharv, Niharika, Dimple Storm Into State Badminton Semifinals

Radiant State Ranking Tournament reaches last-four stage at Pondaa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Arnav Saraf, Atharv Sadaye, Niharika Parwar and Dimple Revankar advanced to the semifinals of the Radiant State Ranking Badminton Tournament, being held at the Multipurpose Stadium in Ponda. The tournament is organised by Radiant Sports Club in association with the Goa Badminton Association and the Sports Authority of Goa. In the Boys' U17 singles, top seed Mohammed Umar



defeated Aaryan Karpe 15-5, 9-15, 15-2. Atharv Sadaye produced a close three-game win over fourth seed Linesh Virnodkar, prevailing 16-14, 11-15, 17-15. Arnav Saraf continued his impressive run with a 15-12, 15-11 victory over fifth seed Shaan C K. Sparsh Kolwalkar also booked his semifinal place after overcoming

Sudhanva Udupa 15-12, 16-18, 15-9. In the Girls' U17 category, top seed Dimple Revankar defeated Kajal Yadav 15-5, 15-3, while Saanvi Audi beat Netra Jogdand 15-1, 15-7.

Amaira Dhumatker and Niharika Parwar also progressed after recording straight game victories over Ananya Kanekar and Arya Shinkre respectively.

Dempo, Don Bosco, Mandre Among Big Winners on Goa University Football Championship Opening Day

Goa University Football Championship Opens With 10 Matches and 36 Goals

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa University Inter Collegiate Football Championship 2026-27 for men began on Thursday with an action packed opening day across three venues in Goa.

At the Goa University Ground in Taleigao, VVM's Shri Damodar College, Margao, began its campaign with a narrow 1-0 victory over P.G. Goa University.



Harshad Mestry scored the only goal in the 53rd minute.

Agnel Institute of Engineering and Management, Assagao, produced one of the biggest wins of the day, defeating Goa College of Hospitality and Culinary

6-0. Vishvesh Haldankar, Rudra Shetgaonkar, Shreyash Dabholkar, Aditya Mathkar, Akash Tandel and Vaishnav Salgaonkar were on target.

Sant Sohirobanath Ambiye Government College of Arts and

Commerce, Pernem, also registered a 5-0 win over Goa College of Pharmacy. Shubh Kerkar, Laksh Ghadi, Sheldon Rodrigues, Ashviesh Chodankar and Pranav Raikar scored for the winners.

At Rosary College

Ground, Navelim, Swami Vivekanand Vidyaprasarak Mandal's College of Commerce defeated St Joseph Vaz College 4-0. Prajot Mashelkar, Shravon and Sahil Velip, who scored twice, found the net.

Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre, Assagao, defeated Goa College of Agriculture 5-0, with Yuraj Kanjia scoring twice and Kreedal Dhargalkar also contributing two goals.