



Senior Citizen Alleges Road-Rage Attack, Chasing By MLA's Son

Complaint alleges road obstruction, verbal abuse, intimidation and dangerous vehicle chase from Pontemol Junction to Ambedkar Circle; FIR sought against Rahul Faldessai and three unidentified persons

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: A senior citizen has approached the Curchorem Police Station with a complaint alleging a road-rage incident involving Rahul Faldessai, son of Cumbarjua MLA Rajesh Faldessai, and three unidentified persons. According to the complaint dated September 28, 2026, the alleged incident took place on September 26 between



around 8:15 pm and 9 pm, beginning at Pontemol Junction near Rajyadhyax Grocery Shop and later continuing towards Shivaji Circle and Ambedkar Circle.



The complainant, Shantaram V. Kudchadkar, stated that he was travelling towards Margao with his daughter-in-law and grandchildren in a Mercedes SUV bearing

registration number GA 09 K 7700. When they reached near Pontemol Junction, their path was allegedly blocked by another SUV bearing registration number GA 07 P 4499, which the complaint says was parked diagonally and partly across the road.

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Goa Sets 2047 Target For Rabies-Free State

CM Sawant Calls For Joint Effort To Eliminate Rabies, Stresses Vaccination, Sterilisation And Responsible Pet Ownership



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has called for coordinated efforts by government departments, local bodies, veterinary services, schools and animal welfare organisations to make the state completely rabies-free, building on Goa's achievement of being declared a rabies-controlled state in 2021. Speaking at a World Rabies Day programme at the Goa Science Centre, Sawant highlighted the theme "Stronger Together" and said sustained collaboration would be crucial to achieving the next stage of rabies elimination in Goa in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. The Chief Minister

credited Mission Rabies and partner animal welfare organisations for their sustained work in Goa over the past 12 years. Recalling the early days of the initiative, Sawant said the programme had started with limited government support and international collaboration, alongside sterilisation and vaccination campaigns. He said Goa had moved away from the earlier practice of dog culling towards a more humane approach involving the capture, sterilisation and vaccination of stray dogs. Emphasising the seriousness of rabies, Sawant said the disease is fatal once clinical symptoms develop and stressed that prevention through vaccination remains critical.



3 Day Bank Strike Deferred After Late Night Talks Between Unions and IBA

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The United Forum of Bank Unions has deferred its planned three day nationwide bank strike following an eleventh hour meeting with the Indian Banks' Association on Sunday night. The strike was scheduled to begin on Monday and was expected to disrupt banking services across the country. The decision to defer the protest came after representatives of the two sides held discussions at around 9.30 pm and reached an agreement on several pending issues. A joint committee involving the IBA and UFBU will now be formed to examine the demand for making all Saturdays bank holidays. The committee will consider different options, consult stakeholders and work towards a solution that also takes the interests of bank customers into account. Discussions will also begin on changes to the performance

Congress lost ZP polls despite ballots: CM

Sawant says Congress cannot blame EVMs or ECI after losing Zilla Panchayat elections conducted using ballot papers

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant on Sunday hit out at the Congress over its allegations against the Election Commission of India (ECI), saying the party's repeated questioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) has no basis when elections are conducted



using ballot papers. "Congress has repeatedly questioned EVMs and demanded ballot papers. We held the Zilla Panchayat elections using ballot papers, and the BJP

won by a landslide. This shows that Congress has lost the public's trust. They are now trying to create confusion among people, but the public will not be misled," said Sawant. CM Sawant hits out at Congress over ECI allegations Sawant said Congress has a habit of blaming the ECI and EVMs whenever it loses elections.

Congress-RGP Move Towards Common Manifesto, Seat-Sharing Talks Continue

Parties Discuss Section 39A, Goa's Financial Burden And Mahadayi; Nimbalkar Says Seat-Sharing Not Yet Finalised

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Congress and the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) are moving ahead with discussions on a common political programme, with the two parties holding an alliance meeting in Dona Paula to work out key issues ahead of the 2027 Goa Assembly elections.

The meeting at the International Centre was attended by RGP president



Shavina Naik Shirodkar, GPCC president Girish Chodankar and members of the respective alliance committees.

Discussions focused on a proposed common manifesto, including the demand to scrap Section 39A, concerns over Goa's financial burden and other

issues affecting the state. Seat-sharing was also discussed,

but no decision has been taken on the allocation of constituencies. AICC Goa co-incharge Anjali Nimbalkar said the alliance talks were continuing and that further discussions would be held in the coming days.

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Goa Must Break the Network Behind Organised Begging

Goa has always prided itself on being a welcoming destination, but the state's streets are increasingly confronting a problem that cannot be dismissed as simply a question of poverty or individual survival. The reported rise of organised begging in commercial and tourist areas deserves serious attention, not because the poor should be pushed out of sight, but because begging involving organised networks, coercion, exploitation or harassment requires a completely different response from the authorities.

Margao, Panaji, Mapusa, Calangute and other busy areas attract thousands of people every day. Markets, shopping streets, bus stands, religious places and tourist hotspots naturally become places where people seeking alms gather. In itself, begging is not a new phenomenon. What requires scrutiny is whether vulnerable people, including children, women and elderly persons, are being brought into these areas systematically and made to solicit money as part of an organised activity.

That distinction is important.

A blanket approach that treats every person begging on the street as a nuisance would be both insensitive and ineffective. Poverty, homelessness, disability and lack of employment cannot be addressed through policing alone. At the same time, authorities cannot afford to look away if begging is being organised as a business model, if people are being transported from one location to another, or if vulnerable persons are being exploited for financial gain.

The problem becomes even more serious in tourist areas.

Visitors come to Goa expecting a relatively relaxed and hospitable experience. Persistent solicitation, particularly when it involves following tourists, repeatedly demanding money or surrounding visitors, can create discomfort. It can also affect the experience of residents and businesses operating in crowded commercial areas. But the answer cannot simply be to remove beggars from tourist centres whenever complaints arise. Such an approach would merely move the problem from one street to another.

What Goa needs is enforcement backed by investigation.

If there is credible evidence of organised begging, the authorities should identify who is coordinating it, who is transporting or controlling those involved, where the money is going and whether any form of

“A blanket approach that treats every person begging on the street as a nuisance would be both insensitive and ineffective. Poverty, homelessness, disability and lack of employment cannot be addressed through policing alone. At the same time, authorities cannot afford to look away if begging is being organised as a business model, if people are being transported from one location to another, or if vulnerable persons are being exploited for financial gain. The problem becomes even more serious in tourist areas. Visitors come to Goa expecting a relatively relaxed and hospitable experience. Persistent solicitation, particularly when it involves following tourists, repeatedly demanding money or surrounding visitors, can create discomfort. It can also affect the experience of residents and businesses operating in crowded commercial areas. But the answer cannot simply be to remove beggars from tourist centres whenever complaints arise. Such an approach would merely move the problem from one street to another. What Goa needs is enforcement backed by investigation.”

exploitation is taking place. Merely conducting periodic drives and shifting people from one location to another does not solve anything. It produces photographs of enforcement without addressing the network behind the activity.

The involvement of children should attract particular scrutiny. A child begging at a traffic junction or outside a commercial establishment should not be viewed merely as another person seeking charity. It should trigger questions about the child's family

circumstances, education, safety and whether the child is being exploited. Child protection agencies, police and social welfare authorities need to work together rather than treating the issue as belonging to one department.

There is also a responsibility on citizens and tourists. Handing money directly to people on the streets may provide immediate relief, but if organised networks are involved, such payments can unintentionally sustain the system. Goa needs stronger awareness about responsible giving, alongside accessible mechanisms through which genuine cases of distress can receive assistance.

The government should therefore consider a coordinated strategy involving police, municipal bodies, social welfare officials, child protection authorities and local administrations. Mapping recurring begging hotspots, identifying repeat patterns, investigating suspected organisers and providing rehabilitation or shelter to genuinely vulnerable persons would be more meaningful than sporadic crackdowns.

Commercial establishments too should be part of the conversation. Traders and shopkeepers have a legitimate interest in maintaining orderly surroundings, but they should not be expected to become enforcement agencies. Their complaints should be recorded and acted upon through a defined mechanism.

Ultimately, Goa has to avoid two extremes. One is indifference, which allows organised begging networks to flourish. The other is an aggressive campaign against poor and vulnerable people simply because their presence is considered inconvenient.

The objective should be neither to hide poverty nor to tolerate exploitation.

Goa's reputation as a tourist destination depends not only on beaches, hotels and infrastructure, but also on how its public spaces function. If organised begging is genuinely growing, the government must establish the facts, identify those responsible and intervene decisively. At the same time, those who are begging because they have nowhere else to turn must be given dignity, assistance and a pathway out of the streets. A serious problem demands more than periodic drives. Goa needs enforcement that reaches the organisers, rehabilitation that reaches the vulnerable and accountability that reaches the authorities responsible for both.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Bank Strikes Hurt the Economy That Bank Employees Depend On

Suraj Nandrekar

A bank strike is a legitimate tool available to employees when negotiations fail. Workers have the right to raise concerns over working conditions, wages, incentives and other service matters. But when a strike involves lakhs of employees and affects a banking network spread across the country, the consequences go far beyond the negotiating table.

That is what makes bank strikes particularly disruptive to the economy.

Banks are not ordinary workplaces. They are part of the country's basic economic infrastructure. Salaries are credited through banks, businesses make payments through them, government benefits reach citizens through them and millions of people depend on branches for services they cannot easily access digitally. When banking operations are interrupted on a large scale, economic activity inevitably slows.

The immediate burden falls on ordinary customers.

A salaried employee may need to deposit or withdraw cash. A pensioner may require assistance at a branch. A small trader may need to deposit daily collections. A business may have payments to make, documents to process or credit arrangements to complete. While many banking services are now available online, digital banking cannot replace every branch service, particularly for senior citizens, rural customers and people who are less comfortable with technology.

The impact on small businesses can be particularly significant. Large companies may have multiple banking arrangements and sophisticated digital systems, but a small shopkeeper or local enterprise often operates with limited working capital. A delay in receiving or making a payment can affect suppliers, employees and customers. When thousands of such delays occur simultaneously, the disruption becomes an economic issue rather than merely an employment dispute.

There is also a broader question of productivity.

India is attempting to expand economic activity, attract investment, support manufacturing, strengthen small businesses and increase formal financial participation. Banks are central to almost all these objectives. Credit disbursement, business transactions, government payments, agricultural finance and other financial activities depend on a functioning banking system.

A nationwide strike therefore creates an avoidable interruption at a time when continuity matters.

The argument that customers can simply use mobile banking or ATMs also has limitations. Digital services can reduce the impact of a strike, but they cannot eliminate it. Not every transaction can be completed digitally, and technical problems, cash requirements, documentation and account-related issues still require human intervention. Moreover, a significant section of India's population continues to depend on physical banking infrastructure.

There is another cost that is often overlooked. Banks and businesses have to spend time and resources preparing for disruptions. Transactions may be postponed, branch operations rescheduled, and backlogs created once employees return. The strike may last only a few days, but its administrative consequences can continue beyond the strike period.

None of this means bank employees should surrender their right to protest. Their demands deserve negotiation and a fair hearing. The dispute over a five-day working week and the performance-linked incentive system should be resolved through structured dialogue rather than allowing repeated confrontation to become the norm.

The latest decision to defer the three-day strike following discussions between the United Forum of Bank Unions and the Indian Banks' Association shows that negotiation can prevent disruption. The creation of a joint committee on Saturday holidays and discussions on the incentive scheme provide an opportunity to settle the issues without bringing banking operations to a standstill.

For a country as economically diverse and financially dependent on its banking system as India, strikes should be the last resort, not the first response.

Employees have legitimate rights. Banks have legitimate operational responsibilities. Customers have an even more basic expectation: that the banking system will be available when they need it.

The real success of industrial relations is not measured by how effectively one side shuts down the system. It is measured by how effectively both sides resolve their differences while keeping that system running.

Viriato Fernandes targets Digambar Kamat, says Congress will defeat him

■ South Goa MP says the time has come for the former chief minister to “pack his bags and leave”

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: South Goa MP Capt. Viriato Fernandes launched a sharp political attack on former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat, asserting that Congress would defeat him in the upcoming election.

Addressing party workers, Fernandes said the time had come for Kamat to “pack his bags and leave.” He credited Congress workers Savio Coutinho and Chirag Naik for their efforts on



the ground, saying their work would strengthen the party and contribute to defeating Kamat.

Fernandes' remarks come amid intensified political activity in Goa ahead of the upcoming election, with Congress workers stepping up their

campaign against Kamat. Congress protests in Fatorda, demands CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation

Subtitle: Party workers raise slogans, burn effigy during demonstration outside Collectorate

Congress workers staged a protest outside the Collectorate office in Fatorda, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner

Gyanesh Kumar. Party leaders and workers raised slogans against Kumar and accused him of undermining democratic processes. Protesters alleged that his actions were “killing democracy” and expressed their opposition through a demonstration outside the government office.

The protesters also burnt an effigy representing the Chief Election Commissioner as part of the demonstration.



Zuarinagar Cyclone Shelter Faces Water Crisis, Congress Leader Questions MLA And Panchayat

■ Mahesh Nadar alleges toilets have lacked running water since 2022, offers to take up maintenance

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Cortalim Congress leader Mahesh Nadar has raised concerns over the condition of the multipurpose cyclone shelter at Zuarinagar, alleging that the facility has been left without functional toilets and running water for several years.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Nadar claimed that the washroom facilities have not had a proper water supply since 2022. He said the lack of basic sanitation was creating particular difficulties for women, children and other members of the public who use the premises for various

programmes. Nadar questioned the maintenance of the facility despite the panchayat collecting charges from organisations and individuals for hosting events there. He said it was unacceptable for a venue being regularly used by the public to lack a basic facility such as running water.

He also criticised Cortalim MLA Anton Vas and questioned the BJP leadership over the alleged neglect. Nadar pointed out that government officials, ministers and BJP leaders have attended programmes at the same venue, asking how the condition of the washrooms could have gone unnoticed.



Joshua D'Souza Rejects Link To Siddiqui's Alleged 1996 Mapusa Land Deal

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Mapusa MLA Joshua D'Souza has rejected claims linking him or his late father, former Deputy Chief Minister Francis D'Souza, to an alleged 1996 property transaction involving builder and property dealer Suleman Siddiqui. Responding to the claims, Joshua said he was only eight years old when the alleged transaction is stated to have taken place and therefore had no knowledge of any sale deed purportedly signed by his father. He also maintained that the land at Housing Board, Ekta Nagar, Mapusa, did not belong to his immediate family. According to him, the property is owned by relatives, some of whom are based in the United States. Siddiqui had referred to the property during proceedings before the Additional Sessions Court in connection with his bail application. In his application and affidavit, he claimed that he had negotiated for approximately 20,000 square metres of land at the location and alleged that the transaction involved Francis D'Souza.

Govt to decide on Section 39A after considering state's interests

■ Damu Naik says Sawant-led government will take an appropriate call on the contentious TCP provision

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: State BJP president Damu Naik on Sunday said the government would take an appropriate decision on Section 39A of the Town and Country Planning Act after considering its implications for Goa and its people.

Naik was responding to questions on whether the government was examining the possibility of withdrawing the contentious provision.



He was also asked if the issue could affect the BJP's prospects in the forthcoming Assembly elections. Maintaining that the government had consistently sought to take decisions in the larger interest of the state, Naik said the final call on Section

39A would be taken by the government under Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's leadership. He said the government would consider the concerns surrounding the provision and act in what it considers to be the best interests of Goa and its people. The BJP leader's statement comes amid continued discussion over Section 39A and its implications, with attention now focused on the government's next move on the issue.

Goa borrows Rs 500 crore from market in September

■ Fresh fund-raising comes amid government's earlier emphasis on fiscal consolidation and debt management

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has raised Rs 500 crore through government securities in September, with the State returning to the market for funds on four occasions during the month.

Data published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows that the State raised Rs 100 crore each on September 8 and September 15. It followed this up with two larger borrowings of Rs 150 crore each



on September 18 and September 22.

The September borrowing marks a significant change from the position at the end of August, as RBI records

show that Goa had not raised funds through market borrowing until August 31.

The fresh loans also come against the backdrop of the

government's earlier stated focus on containing its dependence on open-market borrowing and strengthening its fiscal position. During the recent Assembly session, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had said the government was concentrating on fiscal discipline, revenue generation and better management of its debt.

For the current financial year, Goa has been permitted to borrow up to Rs 3,700 crore from the market.

Meanwhile, the State's existing debt obligations

continue to put pressure on its finances. Goa paid Rs 1,103 crore towards principal and interest during the first quarter of 2026-27. The repayment requirement is expected to grow in the years ahead. RBI estimates show that Goa will have to meet repayments of Rs 1,320 crore in 2026-27, followed by Rs 1,800 crore in 2027-28 and Rs 2,350 crore in 2028-29. The projected requirement rises further to Rs 2,600 crore in 2029-30 and Rs 3,300 crore in 2030-31.

Woman alleges harassment led to daughter's suicide in Anjuna

■ Three persons booked for allegedly mentally torturing 47-year-old complainant's daughter; investigation underway

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered a case following a complaint by a 47-year-old businesswoman alleging that three persons harassed and mentally tortured her daughter, allegedly leading her to commit suicide.

According to the complaint, the alleged harassment took place prior to August 13, 2026, in Anjuna, Bardez. The accused have been



identified as Ganesh Lamani, 27, a commercial interior designer from Gadag, Karnataka; Gopal Lamani, 28, of Gadag;

and Minakshi Lamani of Laxmeshwar, Gadag.

The complainant alleged that the accused acted with a common

intention and subjected her daughter to harassment and mental torture, which allegedly drove her to take the extreme step.

The case was registered at Anjuna Police Station on September 26, 2026, at 10.24 pm. Police have booked the accused for allegedly abetting the commission of suicide.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Amir Taral of Anjuna Police Station.



Car hits scooter during overtaking manoeuvre in Olaulim, elderly rider injured

■ Porvorim woman booked for allegedly driving rashly and negligently; 69-year-old scooter rider sustains serious injuries

Team Goemkarponn

OLAULIM: A 54-year-old woman has been booked after allegedly driving a car in a rash and negligent manner and colliding with a scooter near the Christian Crematorium at Olaulim, Pomburpha, Bardez, on September 26.

According to the complaint, the accused, identified as Sushma Pravin Hede, a resident of Alto Torda, Porvorim, was driving car bearing registration number GA-03-P-1148 from Pomburpha towards Aldona at around 7.18 pm.

Police alleged that while overtaking scooter GA-03-AN-3411, which was travelling in the same direction, Hede failed to take proper care and caution and the car dashed against the scooter.

The impact caused the scooter rider, identified as 69-year-old Baltazar John Fernandes of Coelhowado, Brittona, Bardez, to sustain serious bodily injuries.

The case has been registered in connection with the alleged rash and negligent driving. Further investigation is in progress under IO HC 5462 Mahesh Mayekar.



Unknown man found dead on Sancoale railway track

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SANCOALE: An unidentified man, believed to be around 35 years old, was found dead near the railway track at Sancoale on September 27.

Police received information from SDH Chicalim at around 6.40 am that an unknown male had been brought dead from the Sancoale railway track by a 108 ambulance.

During the preliminary inquiry, police found that the deceased appeared to be a labourer. He is suspected to have died after being hit by a moving train while walking or attempting to cross the railway track.

An inquest panchanama was conducted over the body, which has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for further medico-legal formalities.

Further inquiry is being conducted by PI Amarnath Passi of Vasco Railway Police Station.

68-year-old man dies after feeling unwell during birthday dinner in Morjim

■ Sadiq Mohammed was rushed to PHC Siolim after experiencing breathing difficulty; doctors declared him brought dead

Team Goemkarponn

MORJIM: A 68-year-old man died after reportedly experiencing uneasiness, suffocation and difficulty in breathing while having dinner with his family at a restaurant in Temwado, Morjim, on September 27.

According to Mandrem Police, a phone call was received from PHC Siolim at around 6.26 am informing them that Sadiq Mohammed, 68, was brought dead to the casualty.



Police said Mohammed was celebrating his birthday with family members at Jadin Dulyesse Restaurant in Temwado, Morjim, when he suddenly complained of uneasiness and difficulty in breathing.

His friend Nitin Donde

and others reportedly attempted CPR, but Mohammed did not respond. He was subsequently shifted to PHC Siolim in a private car, where the doctor on duty declared him brought dead. Mandrem Police have registered an Unnatural Death case (UD No. 40/2026) under Section 194 of the BNSS.

Further inquiry is in progress under PSI Paresh Kale of Mandrem Police Station.

42-year-old man dies while undergoing treatment at GMC Bambolim

■ Cansaulim resident was shifted to hospitals after falling ill; death reported as a case of septic shock

Team Goemkarponn

BAMBOLIM: A 42-year-old man from Cansaulim died while undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, on September 27.

According to police, a wireless message was received from GMC Bambolim at around 12.31 pm informing that Krishanappa Gawda, 42, had expired while



receiving treatment for septic shock.

During the inquiry,

police learnt that Gawda was residing alone in a rented room at

to GMC Bambolim for further medical treatment. However, he died while

undergoing treatment at the hospital. His body has been preserved at GMC Bambolim for further medico-legal formalities. Further inquiry is being conducted by PSI David Costa of Verna Police Station. Available next action: Create a downloadable PDF file here in this chat containing the finalized decisions and immediate actions above.

Goa Tourism Eyes Five-Year Registration for Eligible Four- and Five-Star Properties; MICE Bureau to Be Set Up

■ World Tourism Day stakeholders' meet focuses on MICE, AI, ease of doing business and high-value, year-round tourism

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Tourism is considering a five-year registration period for eligible A and B category tourism properties, including four- and five-star hotels, Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte said on Sunday. Speaking at the World Tourism Day 2026 stakeholders' meet held at Grand Hyatt, Khaunte said the proposed longer



registration period would be subject to compliance requirements and clear responsibility for meeting annual obligations. He also announced that

a MICE Bureau would be put in place as Goa seeks to strengthen its presence in the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions segment. The stakeholders' meet was organised jointly by the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, the Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) and SKAL International. It brought together tourism stakeholders and industry

representatives to discuss the future of the state's tourism sector under the theme #GoaReimagines.

The event was attended by Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte, Director of Tourism Kedar Naik, TTAG President Jack Sukhija, Goa Tourism Development Corporation Managing Director Kuldeep Arolkar and other tourism stakeholders.



Congress Says Doors Closed to Defectors as Goy Rakhonn Yatra Draws Response in Calangute

■ Thakare reiterates party's stand on defections; Congress leaders raise concerns over drugs, coastal issues, tourism and taxi operators

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee's Goy Rakhonn Yatra received a strong response in Calangute on Sunday, with party leaders reiterating that Congress would not readmit leaders who had left the party after being elected on its ticket. Addressing the gathering, AICC Goa Desk In-charge Manikrao Thakare said Congress would remain committed to its secular and inclusive ideology and would not compromise on its core principles. On the issue of defections, Thakare said voters have the democratic right to question elected representatives who

seek their mandate on one party's ticket and subsequently change political allegiance. He also expressed confidence in the leadership of Rahul Gandhi.

GPCC President Girish Chodankar criticised the 2022 defection of eight Congress MLAs to the BJP and specifically referred to Calangute MLA Michael Lobo. The eight legislators who moved to the BJP in September 2022 were Michael Lobo, Delilah Lobo, Digambar Kamat, Sankalp Amonkar, Aleixo Sequeira, Rudolf Fernandes, Rajesh Faldessai and Kedar Naik. Contemporary reports confirm the move.



Organized Begging Allegedly Rising in Margao, Authorities Urged to Act: Auda Viegas

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Bailancho Ekvott convenor Auda Viegas has raised concern over what she described as a rise in organised begging in Margao and other parts of Goa, urging authorities to take immediate and effective action.

Viegas said Margao, being Goa's commercial capital, has a large number of traders and businesses, many of whom are reportedly affected by begging activities in commercial areas.

She also alleged that tourists are being harassed by beggars, which, she said, could create an uncomfortable experience for visitors to the state.

Viegas pointed out that although restrictions are in place against begging, effective enforcement has allegedly remained inadequate. She urged the concerned authorities to step up monitoring and take appropriate action against organised begging.

Dr. Deviya Rane Orders Swift Action Over Suspected Hazardous Waste Dumping in Honda

■ Valpoi Police seize truck, call driver and owner for enquiry; authorities directed to remove illegally dumped waste immediately

Team Goemkarponn

PORIEM: Poriem MLA Dr. Deviya Rane has directed the Valpoi Police to take swift action following reports of suspected hazardous waste being illegally dumped near the crematorium at Narayan Nagar, Honda.

Taking serious cognizance of the incident, Dr. Rane instructed the police to conduct an immediate



vehicle involved and trace those responsible for the dumping.

According to the information provided, the Valpoi Police have taken the truck allegedly involved in the incident to

Further investigation is underway.

Dr. Rane has also directed the concerned authorities to ensure the immediate removal of the waste from the site and arrange for its safe handling and disposal. She stressed that the material was allegedly dumped without authorisation and could pose a potential risk to the environment and surrounding areas.

Chaturmasya Vrata Samapti at Partagali Jeevottam Math

■ 55-day Chaturmasya Vrata celebrations conclude with a grand procession at Partagali Jeevottam Math

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The annual Chaturmasya Vrata Samapti celebrations were held at Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math on Sunday (September 27, 2026), marking the culmination of the 55-day observance held from August 5 to September 26. This year's Chaturmasya Vrata marked the



10th Chaturmasya Vrata of Paramapoojya Shreemadh Vidhyadeesh Teerth Shreepad Vader

Swamiji and the fourth Chaturmasya observed by Paramapoojya Swamiji at the sacred

Partagali Jeevottam Math, established in 1578. A large number of devotees and Samajbandhav participated in the concluding procession. Maharaj Swami, seated on a throne, led the procession and entered the Math premises along with Math Committee Chairman Shreenivas V. Shenvi Dempo, amid chants of "Swami Maharaj Ki Jai" by the devotees.



Goa to Mark World Rabies Day 2026 with Five-Day Statewide One Health Campaign

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa will observe World Rabies Day 2026 with a five-day statewide awareness campaign from September 28 to October 3, focusing on rabies prevention through vaccination, dog sterilisation and a coordinated One Health approach.

"A Pending Appeal Does Not Restore Your Vote": Bengal SIR Backlog Raises 12-Year Wait Concern

■ Over 37 lakh appeals remain pending in West Bengal, raising questions about voters who could miss elections while their cases are being decided

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: West Bengal's ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls has brought renewed attention to what happens when a voter's name is excluded and the subsequent appeal takes years to resolve.

According to figures submitted by the Election Commission, 1,26,194 appeals were decided by appellate tribunals in the five months after they began functioning in mid April. However, 37,05,235 appeals were still pending as of September 16.

At the current disposal rate, clearing the existing backlog could take around 146 months, or more than 12 years.

The issue has raised an important question: can a person whose appeal is pending still vote?

A pending appeal does not automatically restore a person's name to the electoral roll. If a name has been deleted or excluded, the voter must challenge the decision before the appropriate authority. Unless the appeal is allowed or specific interim relief is granted, the person remains off the electoral roll and cannot vote in an



election held during that period.

If an appeal is allowed before the relevant polling deadline, the voter's name can be restored through the applicable electoral roll process, including supplementary lists where permitted.

The scale of the backlog has also highlighted capacity concerns. West Bengal currently has 24 appellate tribunals, while the Election Commission has proposed increasing the number to 42. It has also sought arrangements allowing judicial officers to work remotely in an effort to reduce delays.

Of the 38,31,429 appeals filed, 22,21,118 involve requests to restore excluded or deleted names, while 16,10,311 challenge the inclusion of names.

So far, 1,13,943 voters have had their names restored after their appeals were decided, while 8,649 appeals were rejected. These figures apply only to cases already decided and do not establish the likely outcome of the remaining appeals.

The legal concern is particularly significant because an eventual restoration cannot normally bring back an

electoral opportunity that has already passed. A voter who was legally entitled to participate but remained excluded while an appeal was pending could therefore miss an election even if the case is later decided in their favour. bKarnataka is now facing a different stage of the SIR process, with voters dealing with notices, verification and applications for inclusion. Its final electoral roll is scheduled for October 27, making the speed of the verification process particularly significant for those seeking to resolve discrepancies before the deadline.

Planning a US Trip? Indians May Now Face Up to 12-Month Wait for B-1/B-2 Visa

■ Hyderabad records the longest visitor visa wait, while student and exchange visa appointments remain available much sooner

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7.5 months.

NEW DELHI: Indian travellers planning a trip to the United States may have to prepare for lengthy waits for visitor visa interviews, with appointment delays extending close to a year at several major US consular posts.

The latest US State Department visa appointment data, updated on September 17, shows significant differences in waiting periods for B-1/B-2 visitor visas across India.

Hyderabad recorded the longest wait, with the next available B-1/B-2 interview appointment listed at 12 months. The average waiting period was 11.5 months.

Mumbai followed with an average wait of 11 months, while the next available appointment was listed at 11.5 months. In New Delhi, the average wait was 7.5 months, although the next available appointment was shown at 10 months.

Chennai had the shortest visitor visa waiting period among the four major Indian posts. The average wait was seven months, with the next available appointment listed at

The situation is considerably different for F, M and J visa applicants, covering students and exchange visitors. The next available appointment was listed at less than half a month in Chennai, two months in New Delhi, 1.5 months in Hyderabad and 2.5 months in Mumbai.

Employment based H, L, O, P and Q visa applicants also faced varying waits. The next available appointments were listed at 1.5 months in Chennai and Mumbai, three months in New Delhi and 5.5 months in Hyderabad.

The figures have also changed from August. Mumbai's average B-1/B-2 wait fell from 14 months to 11 months, while Hyderabad's increased from 9.5 months to 11.5 months.

However, the published figures are estimates and do not guarantee an applicant will wait that long. Additional appointment slots are released periodically, and applicants can check for earlier openings after securing an appointment.

Eligible applicants may also qualify for interview waivers, which are not reflected in the published waiting times.

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Senior Citizen Alleges Road-Rage Attack, Chasing By MLA's Son

The complainant alleges that the obstruction caused traffic to back up and resulted in a traffic jam within a few minutes. According to his account, his daughter-in-law repeatedly honked to draw the attention of the occupants of the other vehicle.

The complaint states that the primary occupant, later identified as Rahul Faldessai, allegedly stepped out of the SUV and verbally abused the complainant's daughter-in-law. The complainant further alleges that the vehicle was not moved despite the road being otherwise clear.

The complainant says he

subsequently stepped out and approached the SUV to request that the road be cleared. According to the complaint, the occupants initially refused to respond, and the vehicle moved forward only after two to three other people gathered at the spot.

The complaint further alleges that as the family continued towards Margao, they noticed Rahul Faldessai and two to three others near their SUV, allegedly carrying a rod or stick and making aggressive gestures towards their vehicle.

According to the complainant, his family attempted to move to the extreme side of the road and get away from the situation. He alleges that the other SUV then followed them closely, allegedly creating fear that their vehicle could be rammed or that

an accident could occur.

The alleged pursuit reportedly continued up to Ambedkar Circle, where the complainant says his vehicle was forced to halt momentarily. The other SUV then allegedly crossed the signal and proceeded in the direction of Quepem.

Following the incident, the complainant states that he contacted his son to trace the ownership details of the SUV. He says the vehicle particulars were subsequently obtained and that the driver was identified. The complaint has sought immediate registration of an FIR and legal action against Rahul Faldessai and the three unidentified persons. It cites Sections 126, 130, 351 and 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in connection with the allegations.



“Tear Gas Fired as Ujjain Mosque Row Turns Violent”: Cops Clash With Protesters

■ Stone pelting reported as authorities move ahead with road widening work before Simhastha 2028

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Tension escalated in Ujjain on Monday as protesters and police clashed near the Shahi Masjid over a proposal to remove part of the mosque for a road widening project. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowd after stones were reportedly thrown at security personnel. Rapid Action Force personnel were also deployed at the site.

The proposed



action is part of a wider infrastructure programme ahead of the Simhastha Mela in 2028, when Ujjain is expected to witness a major influx of pilgrims. Authorities have identified 272 structures that are

affected by the road widening project.

The plan involves widening a key road to 15 metres. The proposed removal from the Shahi Masjid complex includes a portion of the prayer hall,

a 120 foot minaret and the Mazhar Chowk Shahi. The mosque is registered as a Waqf property.

The dispute has also been the subject of legal proceedings. Earlier this month, the Madhya Pradesh High Court dismissed petitions challenging the municipal corporation's decision, holding that the road widening action was part of preparations for managing traffic and public movement during Simhastha.



Pilot Body Seeks Scrutiny of Technical Records in AI171 Crash Probe

■ Federation of Indian Pilots calls for detailed examination of electrical, avionics and maintenance data

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI:

The Federation of Indian Pilots has urged the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau to conduct a comprehensive examination of technical evidence as part of its investigation into the Air India AI171 Boeing 787 crash. The pilots' body has called for particular attention to electrical, electronic and avionics related information, saying a detailed assessment of all available technical records could help investigators establish the circumstances surrounding the June 2025 crash involving aircraft VT ANB. The federation referred to technical notes and

communications it had previously submitted to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the investigation authorities concerning reported electrical system issues on Boeing 787 aircraft. It also asked investigators to carefully examine technical material submitted by the Foundation for Aviation Safety. The material reportedly includes information relating to the aircraft's operational history, maintenance work, recurring system anomalies and fault indications. The pilot body said the AAIB had acknowledged receiving and reviewing the information through an expert associated with the UK Air Accidents Investigation Branch.



“The Winds Have Changed”: Suvendu Adhikari Vows Action Against Those Who Insult Monks

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NEW DELHI: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said his government would protect “gaumata” and take action against people who insult saints, monks and spiritual leaders. He made the remarks while addressing a mass Bhagavad Gita recital at Kolkata's Netaji Indoor Stadium on Sunday.

The event, organised by the Bangur Jagaran Mancha, saw around 11,000 people recite the Bhagavad Gita together. Adhikari urged people to openly recite and distribute the Gita and Hanuman Chalisa, chant the Hare Krishna mantra and observe religious traditions without fear.

“The winds have changed,” he said, while describing the new government as one committed to protecting traditional Hindu symbols and practices. He also said people who insult sadhus, saints and mahants would face imprisonment.

“Targeting Seafarers Is Completely Unacceptable”: Jaishankar Raises Alarm at UN

■ External Affairs Minister warns that conflicts and the “weaponisation of everything” are putting global trade and the Global South under pressure

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NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has strongly criticised attacks on commercial shipping and seafarers amid continuing conflicts in the Gulf and other key maritime regions, calling the loss of sailors' lives “completely unacceptable”. Addressing the 81st session of the



United Nations General Assembly in New York, Jaishankar said attacks on commercial vessels and maritime crews had emerged as a major concern, with incidents reported across the Gulf,

Red Sea and Black Sea. India called for restraint, de escalation of tensions, protection of civilians and the uninterrupted movement of energy and commercial goods. Jaishankar said Indian sailors, along with seafarers from other countries, should not be exposed to attacks while carrying out their duties on international waterways.

“India's First LNG Powered Train Is Here”: Amit Shah Flags Off New Railway Initiative

■ Dual fuel technology aims to cut diesel use, emissions and operating costs

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NEW DELHI: India has introduced its first LNG powered train, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel flagging off the train from Sabarmati in Ahmedabad on Sunday. The initiative marks a new step towards using alternative fuels in railway operations and reducing dependence on conventional diesel.



The train operates on a dual fuel system that allows LNG to be used alongside diesel. Two 1,400 horsepower Driving Power Cars at the Sabarmati Integrated

Coaching Depot have been converted to run on the new system. More than 2,000 kilometres of field trials have been completed to assess the technology's performance

and reliability. The system can replace up to around 40 per cent of diesel consumption with LNG. Railway trial data indicates that the technology could lower fuel costs while also reducing emissions such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. Earlier assessments estimated annual savings of approximately Rs 11.9 lakh for a single Driving Power Car and around Rs 23.9 lakh for an eight coach rake. The converted power

cars are equipped with LNG tanks holding about 2,200 litres, equivalent to approximately 850 to 900 kg of usable LNG. A full LNG tank is expected to support around 1,600 kilometres of operation, helping reduce the frequency of refuelling. The dual fuel system can switch between LNG and diesel depending on availability, while retaining the operational capabilities of conventional diesel engines.

"Virat Kohli Scripts History": Breaks Sachin Tendulkar's All Time ODI Record

■ Kohli becomes the fastest batter to reach 15,000 ODI runs as India beat West Indies by eight wickets

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli added another landmark to his remarkable ODI career by becoming the fastest batter to score 15,000 runs in the format. The Indian star reached the milestone during the first ODI against West Indies in Thiruvananthapuram, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's record for the quickest journey to the mark.

Kohli needed 59



runs before the match to overtake Tendulkar's record. While Tendulkar reached 15,000 ODI runs in 377 innings, Kohli

achieved the feat in just 303 innings. He is now the second player in ODI history to cross the 15,000 run mark.

Kohli finished the match unbeaten on 139 from 117 balls, smashing 10 fours and nine sixes, as India chased down West Indies' 296 with eight wickets

in hand. India reached 300 for two in 41.4 overs to take a 10 lead in the three match series.

Kohli was involved in a spectacular 150 run partnership with captain Shubman Gill, who scored 110 from 107 balls. Gill registered his 10th ODI century, while Kohli brought up his 55th ODI hundred and 86th international century.

West Indies had posted 296, powered by Justin Greaves' maiden ODI century.



India Win Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy for Third Consecutive Chess Olympiad

■ India wins the prestigious combined team trophy for the third consecutive Chess Olympiad

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the Open and women's sections.

NEW DELHI: Five time world champion Viswanathan Anand presented the prestigious Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy to the Indian chess team following another impressive campaign at the Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

India secured the trophy for the third consecutive edition, continuing a remarkable run that began with its success at the 2022 Olympiad in Chennai and continued at the 2024 edition in Budapest. The award recognises the federation with the strongest combined performance across

In the Open section, hosts Uzbekistan claimed the gold medal after defeating Ukraine 2.5 to 1.5 in the final round. India finished with the silver medal after drawing 2-2 against Hungary. Germany took bronze.

India and Germany both ended the competition with 18 match points and 28.5 game points. India finished ahead on the basis of its head to head result against Germany.

The Indian women's team also produced a strong performance, securing the bronze medal after a 2-2 draw against Georgia in the final round.

Goa Dominate Assam as Dhulapkar's Five Wickets Secure First Innings Lead

■ Goa bowlers trigger a dramatic Assam collapse after a 72 run fourth wicket stand in Vadodara

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa secured a first innings lead against Assam as their two day encounter in the All India Late J.Y. Lele Invitational Under 16 Cricket Tournament ended in a draw at the Reliance Cricket Stadium in Vadodara.

After posting 232 runs in their first innings, Goa produced a strong bowling display to dismiss Assam for 198 in 70.4 overs. The result gave Goa the first



innings advantage in a match where their bowlers maintained control for large periods.

Samarth Dhulapkar led the attack with an impressive five wicket haul, finishing with figures of 5 for 38. Shaunak Naik and Shaurya Chodankar supported him effectively

with two wickets each, while Mrunal Naik claimed the

remaining wicket.

Assam appeared to be in a strong position during the middle stages of their innings. Reyan Nandey scored a composed 62, while Swarnav Guru contributed 56. The pair added 72 runs for the fourth wicket, helping Assam recover and move

to 151 for three.

However, Goa turned the match around with a decisive bowling spell. Assam lost their final seven wickets for only 47 runs, collapsing from 151 for three to 198 all out.

Nandey's 62 and Guru's 56 were the major contributions in Assam's innings, while Nilabhra Medhi added 33. Goa's disciplined attack prevented Assam from converting their promising start into a substantial first innings total.

India Reach Asian Games Cricket Semifinal Without Playing After Rain Washes Out Afghanistan Clash

■ Higher ICC ranking sends India through as weather disrupts both quarterfinals

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India advanced to the men's cricket semifinal at the Asian Games after persistent rain forced the quarterfinal against Afghanistan to be abandoned without a ball being bowled at Karogi Sports Park on Monday.

The match was scheduled to begin at 10:30 AM IST, with the toss planned for 10 AM, but continuous



rain prevented the fixture from getting underway. With no result possible, India progressed to the next stage as the higher ranked team.

The same situation occurred earlier in the day during the first quarterfinal between Pakistan and Hong Kong, China. That match was scheduled to

start at 5:30 AM IST but was abandoned without a toss because of rain. Pakistan consequently secured its place in the semifinals.

The qualification rules meant the higher ranked team would advance if a quarterfinal was washed out. India entered the tournament as the No. 1 ranked T20I

side, while Afghanistan were ranked 10th. Pakistan were sixth, compared with Hong Kong, China at 24th. India had been preparing for the possibility of difficult weather conditions. Captain Shreyas Iyer said before the match that the team remained focused on adapting to whatever conditions it encountered.

With their quarterfinal abandoned, India will now face the winner of the third quarterfinal between Sri Lanka and Nepal in

the semifinal. Pakistan will take on the winner of the Bangladesh and Malaysia quarterfinal. The remaining quarterfinals are scheduled for Tuesday, with the semifinals set to be played on Thursday. The rain affected both of Monday's scheduled quarterfinals, denying India and Pakistan an opportunity to compete on the field while still sending both teams into the final four based on their superior rankings.