



Goa Conducts Multi-State Mock Exercise On Cyclone And Cyclone-Induced Disasters

■ Mock Emergency Scenarios Conducted Across State To Test Disaster Preparedness, Rescue Operations And Inter-Departmental Coordination

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa conducted a multi-state mock exercise on cyclone and cyclone-induced disasters, with simulated emergency situations carried out at multiple locations across the state to assess preparedness,



response mechanisms and coordination among various departments.

The exercise was organised by the State Disaster Management Authority, Government of Goa, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority under the Ministry of

Home Affairs, Government of India.

As part of the exercise, a scenario involving the overflow of the Valvanti River and evacuation of residents was conducted at Mollem in Sattari. At Mopa in Pernem, teams simulated the collapse of a cargo building due

to strong winds, followed by a hazardous chemical leak and fuel spillage.

A simulated cyclone-related drowning of fishermen was conducted at Morjim, Pernem, while at Kharewaddo in Vasco, teams carried out a rescue operation following



Goa's GST Network Crosses 20,000 Taxpayers as Awareness Drive Reaches Industry, Students

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa CGST Commissionerate has 20,960 registered taxpayers and has contributed ₹1,143.87 crore to the Central Government's revenue up to August 2026, even as tax authorities step up efforts to improve taxpayer awareness and voluntary compliance across the state. The figures were highlighted during a four-day taxpayer awareness programme conducted in Goa from September 28 to October 1.

FDA Destroys Nearly 3 Tonnes Of Food Stock

■ Statewide enforcement drive finds 83 non-conforming samples, issues 422 improvement notices and collects over Rs 20 lakh in penalties

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: The Goa Directorate of Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has intensified its statewide food safety enforcement, inspecting more than 2,500 establishments and detecting 83 food samples that failed to meet prescribed standards. According to the department's Action Taken Report, FDA officials inspected 2,528 food establishments and collected 1,532 samples for enforcement testing. Of these, 83 were found to be non-conforming. The enforcement action resulted in penalties and compounding charges amounting to Rs 20.43 lakh. The department also issued 422 improvement notices to food business operators for various violations.

Congress warns of nationwide protests if CEC does not resign

■ Goa Youth Congress leader Swapnil Patil says party will intensify protests and seeks ballot-paper voting in upcoming Goa elections

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Congress has warned of nationwide protests if Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar does not resign within a month, according to IYC Secretary and Goa Pradesh Youth Congress in-charge Swapnil Patil. Patil said the Congress high command had called for Kumar's resignation and warned that the party



would launch protests across the country if the demand was not met within the stipulated period. In Goa, the protests would be held at various levels, including in villages, panchayats and on the streets, Patil said.



TRIBUTE TO THE FATHER OF NATION

On this day we pay our humble tribute to the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, whose life was a message of Truth, Non-violence and Selfless Service. His ideals of Satya and Ahimsa not only led our nation to freedom but continue to inspire the world.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to his vision of self-reliant & work together to build a Swachh, Swayampurna and Viksit Goa that contributes to a Viksit Bharat. On this day, let us commit to actively participate in the Swachh Bharat mission and keep our beautiful Goa clean and green.

To be held on
Friday, 2nd October, 2026
at
Gandhi Chowk, Old Goa
at 8.00 a.m.

The Birth Anniversary of former Prime Minister of India
LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI

Will be celebrated at 9.00 a.m. today 2/10/2026
at Panchayat Hall, Se Old Goa

Chief Guest
Dr. Pramod Sawant
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa
In the distinguished presence of
Shri. Shripad Yesso Naik
Hon'ble Union MoS for Power, New & Renewable Energy

Shri. Rajesh Fal Dessai
Hon'ble MLA of Cumbharjua

Shri. Siddesh S. Naik
ZP Member

Smt. Medha M. Parvatkar
Sarpanch, Old Goa

other dignitaries will also pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of 157th Birth Anniversary Celebrations.



Issued by:
Department of Information and Publicity
Government of Goa

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT
SWAYAMPURNA GOA

Can ₹15 Lakh Ever Compensate for a Lost Life?

Twenty-five people went to work or went out for an evening in Goa on December 6, 2025. They never returned home. Ten months later, their families are being asked to consider an offer of ₹15 lakh each as ex gratia compensation from the owners of Birch by Romeo Lane.

The Bombay High Court at Goa has sought the response of the families and posted the matter for October 12. The offer is not a final determination of compensation, and the court is yet to decide what amount should ultimately be paid.

But the question that needs to be asked is far bigger than the figure itself.

Can the value of a human life be reduced to ₹15 lakh?

Twenty five lives were lost in one of Goa's worst recent tragedies. More than 50 people were injured. Twenty of those who died were reportedly employees of the establishment, many of them working in the basement kitchen when the fire broke out. Five were tourists.

These were not numbers. They were sons, daughters, husbands, wives, parents, brothers and sisters. They were people earning, supporting families and planning their futures.

For a family that has lost its sole or major breadwinner, ₹15 lakh can disappear frighteningly quickly. Rent, loans, education, medical expenses and everyday living costs do not stop because a family has received compensation. The lost income of a young worker cannot simply be replaced by a one-time payment.

That is why compensation must not be viewed as a price placed on a life. It is, at best, financial restitution for the consequences of a death that cannot be reversed.

There is another uncomfortable dimension to this case.

The tragedy was not merely an unfortunate accident. The criminal investigation has alleged serious violations relating to licensing, fire safety and the operation of the establishment. The chargesheet includes allegations involving culpable homicide not amounting

"The tragedy was not merely an unfortunate accident. The criminal investigation has alleged serious violations relating to licensing, fire safety and the operation of the establishment. The chargesheet includes allegations involving culpable homicide not amounting to murder, negligent conduct involving fire and combustible matter, forgery, use of forged documents and criminal conspiracy. These remain allegations to be established through the legal process."

The Enforcement Directorate has separately stated that its investigation found the establishment operating without mandatory approvals, including a Fire NOC, and alleged that forged documents were used to obtain regulatory approvals. It also said the establishment generated approximately ₹29.78 crore in revenue during the period it examined.

If these allegations are proved, the issue becomes even more serious. This would not simply be about compensating families after an unforeseen calamity. It would be about consequences flowing from alleged violations of laws designed precisely to prevent people from dying in such circumstances."

to murder, negligent conduct involving fire and combustible matter, forgery, use of forged documents and criminal conspiracy. These remain allegations to be established through the legal process.

The Enforcement Directorate has separately stated that its investigation found the establishment operating without mandatory approvals, including a Fire NOC, and alleged that forged documents were used to obtain regulatory approvals. It also said the establishment generated approximately ₹29.78 crore in revenue during the period it examined.

If these allegations are proved, the issue becomes even more serious. This would not simply be about compensating families after

an unforeseen calamity. It would be about consequences flowing from alleged violations of laws designed precisely to prevent people from dying in such circumstances.

The High Court itself had earlier questioned the compromise of public safety in the pursuit of profit. The court had also been examining the larger issue of commercial establishments allegedly operating from illegal structures in Goa.

That larger question cannot be allowed to disappear behind a compensation cheque.

There is also a responsibility on the government. Earlier, the families received ₹5 lakh from the Goa government and ₹2 lakh from the Centre, according to the Advocate General's submissions before the High Court.

But relief cannot become a substitute for accountability.

Goa cannot create a system where safety violations become a business calculation. If the cost of ignoring fire norms, licensing requirements and public safety is ultimately only a manageable compensation payment, then the deterrent value of the law is weakened.

The families should not have to bargain over the value of their loss.

The court must determine compensation on evidence, taking into account the age of the deceased, income, dependants, future earning capacity and the circumstances surrounding the deaths. The responsibility of every person or authority found legally liable must also be determined independently of the compensation question.

And the government must answer an equally important question: Who allowed a potentially unsafe establishment to operate in the first place?

The Birch tragedy should not end with compensation. It should result in accountability, regulatory reform and a system in which public safety is treated as non-negotiable.

₹15 lakh may be an offer.

It cannot be the measure of a life.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Swayampurna Goa at Six: How Far Have We Really Come?

Suraj Nandrekar

Six years after the launch of Swayampurna Goa, the government is preparing to celebrate the programme as a major milestone in its journey towards a self-reliant Goa. The state-level programme on October 2 will showcase government schemes, services, farmers, local livelihoods and the new GOA FRESH identity for home-grown produce.

But six years after the programme was launched, the more important question is not how much has been showcased. How much has actually changed?

Swayampurna Goa was launched on October 2, 2020 with an ambitious objective. The idea was to take government schemes and services to the last mile, ensure that eligible beneficiaries were not left out and strengthen local economic activity. The concept of making every panchayat more self-reliant was attractive, particularly in a state where many government schemes fail not because they do not exist, but because people struggle to access them.

Six years is long enough to ask whether that promise has translated into measurable outcomes.

The government has every right to highlight success stories. Farmers who received assistance, entrepreneurs who started businesses, families who accessed welfare schemes and villages that benefited from government intervention are all important. But individual success stories cannot by themselves establish whether the programme has achieved its larger objective.

The real test of Swayampurna Goa should be visible in village economies.

Are more young Goans choosing agriculture and allied activities as viable livelihoods? Has the dependence on imported agricultural produce declined? Are farmers receiving better prices for their produce? Has post-harvest infrastructure improved? Are local products finding stable markets beyond occasional government exhibitions and festivals?

The launch of GOA FRESH is an interesting step because branding can potentially give local products greater visibility. But a logo or common identity cannot by itself transform agriculture. What farmers need is a dependable supply chain, storage, processing facilities, market access, predictable prices and professional marketing.

If GOA FRESH is to become more than another government label, the government must ensure that a farmer producing vegetables, fruit, spices, fishery products or processed food can actually benefit economically from the brand.

There is also a larger question about the delivery of government schemes.

Swayampurna Goa was conceived around last-mile delivery. Six years later, the government should publish clear data showing how many beneficiaries were identified, how many applications were facilitated, how many actually received benefits and what measurable improvements followed.

Without such data, "last mile delivery" remains a slogan rather than an outcome.

The same scrutiny should apply to employment and self-employment. Goa has thousands of educated young people, yet government recruitment, private employment and entrepreneurship continue to dominate public discussion. A genuinely self-reliant Goa cannot simply create beneficiaries. It must create people capable of generating sustainable incomes.

The government should therefore use the sixth anniversary not merely as an occasion for celebration but as an opportunity for an honest audit.

How many farmers have become economically stronger? How many local enterprises have survived beyond the initial assistance? How much government procurement is going to local producers? How many village-level economic activities have become sustainable? How much has the dependence on outside supplies reduced?

These are the questions that matter.

Swayampurna Goa was launched with a powerful idea: government should not remain confined to offices but reach people where they live and work. Six years later, that principle remains relevant.

But self reliance cannot be measured by the number of schemes, stalls or beneficiaries alone. It must ultimately be measured by whether a Goan farmer earns more, whether a village enterprise survives, whether a young person finds a sustainable livelihood and whether local production becomes economically viable.

Six years is enough time to celebrate achievements. It is also enough time to demand the numbers.

Chirag Naik's Hoardings Torn Down in Margao; Rahul Gandhi, Kharge Images Remain

■ Hoardings reportedly targeted under cover of darkness; Naik says his presence cannot be erased from citizens' hearts

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Hoardings carrying the image of Chirag Datta Naik were reportedly torn down in Margao during the night, with the incident drawing attention in the city. According to local accounts, the hoardings appear to have been removed or damaged under the cover of



darkness. While Chirag Naik's image was torn away, the images of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge remained prominently visible on the structure. Reacting to the incident, Naik remained composed and said the removal of his image from a hoarding would not diminish his connection with the people.

Fast-Track Court Acquits Man In 2020 Rape Case

■ Complainant declines to support prosecution during trial; court finds insufficient evidence to sustain charges

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The North Goa Special Fast-Track Court has acquitted a 19-year-old man who was facing charges of rape and criminal intimidation in connection with a 2020 case, after the complainant did not support the prosecution's version of events during the trial.

The case was registered at Ponda Police Station in July 2020. The prosecution had alleged that the accused took the complainant to a hotel room in Ponda and other secluded locations on multiple occasions between October 31,



2019, and March 16, 2020, and sexually assaulted her against her will.

It was also alleged that the accused had taken nude photographs of the complainant and subsequently used them to pressure her into meeting him. The prosecution further alleged that he had threatened to kill her father. The accused was arrested on July 19, 2020, and later granted bail in September that year.

Court Acquits Two In 2021 Socorro Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The North Goa Special Court has acquitted Socorro residents Viraj Pirankar and Jitendra Halankar of charges including assault,



criminal intimidation and caste-based abuse under

the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The court found that the prosecution had failed to establish the charges beyond reasonable doubt, particularly after the

complainant and a key witness did not support the allegations during the trial. The case stemmed from an alleged incident on the evening of November 14, 2021, near a bar at Lima Waddo in Socorro.

Two Orders, Two Standards: Patkar Questions Government

■ Former GPCC chief contrasts Education Director's retirement with one-year extension granted to Accounts Joint Director

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Former Goa Pradesh Congress Committee president Amit Patkar has questioned the Goa Government over what he described as "two different standards" in the



treatment of senior government officers, citing the retirement of Director of Education Shailesh Zingade and the one-year extension

granted to Directorate of Accounts Joint Director Gajanan M. Naik. Patkar said he had led a gherao of Zingade on September 28 over the pending demands of Goa's pre-primary teachers.

Too Early to Say": Netanyahu Keeps Iran Link Open in Flydubai Attack Probe

NEW DELHI: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said it is too early to determine whether Iran had any involvement in the attack aboard a Flydubai flight travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv, while confirming that Israel will participate in the investigation.

Speaking about the incident, Netanyahu said investigators would first need to establish what happened on board the aircraft before drawing conclusions about any possible involvement by a state actor.

Netanyahu also said he had spoken with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed after the incident. According to him, the UAE has agreed to Israel joining the investigation



into the circumstances surrounding the flight emergency.

The Flydubai aircraft was travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv when an incident reportedly occurred inside the cockpit. The flight was diverted to Saudi Arabia after emergency signals were activated. The aircraft transmitted the international emergency code 7700 before switching to code 7500, which indicates unlawful interference.

The incident involved Indian captain Smit

Machchhar, who was reportedly attacked by his co pilot during the flight. Machchhar was injured in the confrontation but managed to resist the attacker and open the cockpit door.

Crew members and passengers then intervened and helped restrain the attacker, allowing the aircraft to be brought under control. The plane subsequently landed safely in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

Machchhar was taken to a hospital for treatment following the emergency. His actions during the confrontation have drawn attention in India and Israel, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi praising his courage and role in preventing a potentially serious incident.

Investigators are now examining the sequence

35,000 Voters Return To Goa Rolls After SIR

■ ECI relaxes Form 6 requirement, giving more electors an opportunity to seek fresh enrolment

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Nearly 35,000 electors who lost their names from Goa's electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) have already been added back through fresh enrolment, while thousands of others will now have a simpler route to seek inclusion.



The Election Commission of India (ECI) has removed the additional declaration that was linked to the online Form 6 application in states and Union Territories where the SIR process has been

completed, including Goa. The relaxation means eligible electors who were classified as "unmapped" or under "Logical Discrepancies" can now apply for inclusion using the regular Form 6 without submitting the additional declaration concerning their own or their parents' electoral details from an earlier SIR.

Eighth Accused Arrested In Porvorim Shooting Case In Mumbai

■ Crime Branch apprehends Dinanath Kori in Chunabhatti; two vehicles allegedly used in the offence seized for forensic examination

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Police Crime Branch has arrested the eighth accused, Dinanath S/o Triloki Kori, 32, in connection with the Porvorim Police Station shooting case registered under Cr. No. 66/2026.

According to a press note issued by the Crime Branch, credible information was received on September 29 regarding the movement of the



absconding accused in the Sion-Trombay Road area of Mumbai. With the assistance of technical surveillance, the accused was traced and intercepted at Chunabhatti, Mumbai, where he was

subsequently arrested.

The operation was carried out by a Crime Branch team comprising PI Mahesh Gadekar, PSI Madhav Naik, PC Sunil Begur and PC Uddesh Shirodkar, under the supervision of PI Tushar Lotlikar and DySP Suraj Harlankar.

During the investigation, Kori allegedly identified two vehicles that were reportedly used in the

commission of the offence. The vehicles, a white Toyota Corolla bearing registration number MH-12-CY-1949 and a golden Maruti Suzuki SX4 bearing registration number MH-02-BD-2508, were traced and seized by the police.

The vehicles were seized under proper attachment panchanamas in the presence of a Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team for further forensic examination.



Car Hits Motorcycle At Nuvem Junction, Two Injured

■ Rider and pillion passenger sustain injuries after alleged rash and negligent driving near Honda showroom

Team Goemkarponn

NUVEM: Two persons sustained bodily injuries after a Bajaj Dominar motorcycle was allegedly hit by an Ertiga car at the four-road junction near the Honda showroom at Nuvem on September 22. According to a complaint lodged by ASI Anant Gaonkar of Maina Curtorim Police Station, the incident occurred at around 7.35 p.m. The accused driver, Sudesh Shyam Langote, a resident of Gawaliwada, Fatorda, was allegedly driving the Ertiga car from Majorda towards Nuvem.

Police stated that upon reaching the four-road junction near the Honda showroom, the Ertiga allegedly collided with an oncoming Bajaj Dominar motorcycle travelling from Verna towards Margao. As a result of the collision, the motorcycle rider, Virgil Walter Rodrigues, and pillion rider Raksha Devi, both residents of Pandicol, Curtorim, fell onto the road and sustained bodily injuries. The case has been registered based on the state complaint, and further investigation is being conducted by ASI Anant Gaonkar of Maina Curtorim Police Station.



Assonora Man Duped Of Rs 2.24 Lakh In Fake KYC Update Scam

Team Goemkarponn

ASSONORA: A 27-year-old man from Assonora was allegedly cheated of Rs 2,23,999 after an unidentified person posing as a representative of UCO Bank, Panjim Branch, contacted him on WhatsApp on the pretext of updating his KYC details. According to the complaint lodged by Prahlad Kumar, 27, a resident of Malaya Vaddo, Assonora, the incident occurred on September 28 between 1.03 p.m. and 1.26 p.m. The complainant stated that an unknown person using a WhatsApp number contacted him while impersonating a bank representative. The accused allegedly told Kumar that his KYC details needed to be updated and sent him an APK file through WhatsApp. Kumar was allegedly induced to open the file and provide his ATM card details and PIN as part of the purported KYC-upgradation process. Subsequently, an amount of Rs 2,23,999 was allegedly fraudulently debited from his bank account through multiple POS withdrawals,

Two Held For Alleged Gambling Activities In Pernem And Sattari

■ Police seize cash and gambling materials from two men allegedly accepting bets in public places

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM/SATTARI: Police in Pernem and Sattari reported two separate cases of alleged gambling activities in public places, resulting in the seizure of cash and other gambling materials.

In the first case, Sameer S/o Sadashiv Mavlankar, 40, a resident of Fakir Patta, Torxem, Pernem, was allegedly caught red-handed while conducting a gambling activity near Masjid



Fakir Patta, Torxem, on September 29 at around 11.15 a.m.

According to the state complaint filed by HC 5962 Tukaram Chavan of Mopa Airport Police

Station, Sameer was allegedly accepting money from members of the public and issuing

paper slips as part of a game of chance in an open public place. Police seized Rs 410 in different denominations along with other gambling articles from his possession.

Illegal Sand Extraction Reported Along Chapora River In Camurlim

■ Unknown persons allegedly extracted and stacked sand worth around Rs 10,000 without obtaining permission from authorities

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Unknown persons allegedly illegally extracted sand from the Chapora River and stacked it along the riverbank at Camurlim, Bardez, without obtaining the required permissions from the concerned authorities.

According to a complaint lodged on September 29 at 7.19 p.m. by Krishna Gawas, Mamlatdar of Bardez



Taluka, the incident took place prior to 2 p.m. on September 26, 2026, behind Prabhu Temple at

Camurlim, Bardez.

The complaint states that the unidentified persons extracted sand

from the river water and subsequently stacked it on the riverbank. The sand was estimated to be worth approximately Rs 10,000.

The act allegedly amounts to theft of minor minerals, namely sand, as the extraction was carried out without obtaining permission from the competent authorities. PSI Prakash Ghadi is conducting further investigation into the case.

Scooter Rider Dies After Collision With Tipper Truck In Bicholim

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A 43-year-old scooter rider died after sustaining grievous injuries in a road accident involving an Eicher tipper truck at Vagus Junction, Kotambi, Pale, Sankhalim, Bicholim, on September 29. According to the police complaint, the accident occurred at around 9:45 a.m. when Vikash Kumar, 24, driver of an Eicher tipper truck bearing registration number GA-11-T-6503, was travelling from Navelim towards Usgao.

Congress targets government over land, identity issues during Goy Rakhonn Yatra

■ Party leaders allege land transfers, private universities and resource exploitation; appeal to Thivim–Pernem voters for political change

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: Congress leaders accused the BJP-led government in Goa of failing to deliver development for ordinary citizens while facilitating the transfer of land and natural resources to private interests. The allegations were made during the ninth day of the Congress-led Goy Rakhonn Yatra, which was dedicated to highlighting the role of women in protecting Goa's land, identity, culture



and future. Addressing the concluding session, Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemão alleged that political power was being used to facilitate the sale of land to private universities, permit indiscriminate

mining and enable the destruction of Goa's natural resources. "Remember that BJP and MGP leaders have placed self-interest

above public interest. The politics being pursued by the Sawant-Rane combine must be rejected and removed from power," Alemão said. Goa Pradesh Congress Committee president

Girish Chodankar alleged that the Sawant-Rane government was engaged in what he termed the "loot of Goa". He accused the government of favouring political defections and alleged that schemes were being implemented in the interests of political leaders rather than the public. Chodankar also raised the issue of representation of backward communities, saying Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had committed to giving priority to a caste census.



Sancordem panchayat building reconstruction launched

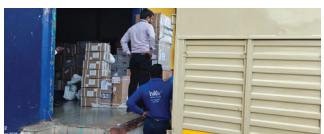
■ New Panchayat Hall inaugurated; CM highlights infrastructure, education and development in Dharbandora

Team Goemkarponn

SANCORDEM: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant on Thursday laid the foundation stone for the reconstruction of the Village Panchayat Sancordem building and inaugurated the newly developed Panchayat Hall under the Deendayal Panchayat Raj Infrastructure Development (Golden Jubilee) Scheme. The programme was held in the presence of Speaker Ganesh Gaonkar, Panchayat and Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho and other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Sawant said the reconstructed Panchayat building would also accommodate a bank branch and residential quarters, strengthening local infrastructure and

supporting the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Swayampurna Goa. The Chief Minister also felicitated individuals who contributed to the processing of Forest Rights Act claims through research and documentation. Sawant said improved connectivity and the establishment of institutions such as the National Forensic Sciences University, along with the proposed university in Dharbandora, were contributing to Sancordem's emergence as an important centre for education, opportunities and development. The development of the Panchayat infrastructure is expected to provide improved facilities for residents and strengthen the delivery of local civic services in the area.



Cargo operations hit at Dabolim airport as scanners remain non-functional

Team Goemkarponn

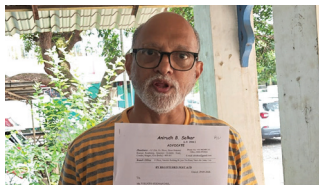
DABOLIM: Cargo operations at Goa International Airport in Dabolim have been severely disrupted following the prolonged non-functioning of X-ray screening equipment at its domestic and international cargo terminals. According to sources familiar with the situation, the scanners have remained non-operational for a considerable period, effectively putting cargo clearances on hold and causing inconvenience to businesses and trade operators dependent on the airport's freight facilities. "X-ray scanners of domestic and international terminals of Goa International Airport cargo sections in Dabolim have been non-functional for quite some time, keeping on hold the cargo clearance and causing inconvenience to citizens while also leading to revenue losses," a source said. The disruption has reportedly forced authorities and logistics operators to divert cargo to Manohar International Airport at Mopa to facilitate clearances and prevent further delays.

Salkar sends defamation notice to Viriato Fernandes over Chicolna Comunidade land row

■ Comunidade attorney demands unconditional apology within eight days, rejects allegations over 6,500 sq m land

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Chicolna Comunidade Attorney Mahendra Salkar has issued a legal notice to South Goa MP Captain Viriato Fernandes over allegations concerning the alleged transfer of 6,500 square metres of Comunidade land to a metal company owned by a prominent industrialist in Vasco. Addressing the media on Wednesday,



Salkar rejected the allegations as false and said he would initiate defamation proceedings if Fernandes did not tender an unconditional apology within eight days. Salkar said he did not have the authority to arbitrarily transfer Comunidade

land and questioned the basis of the allegations made by Fernandes and his supporters. "A few days ago, news appeared wherein South Goa MP Capt. Viriato Fernandes along with his two supporters claimed that I was involved in giving away a prime Comunidade land of 6,500 square meters to a metal company owned by a prominent industrialist in Vasco.

Mopa airport cargo facility supports traders amid Dabolim disruption

■ GMR Aero Cargo & Logistics processes three tonnes of diverted freight to support continuous cargo movement from Goa

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: GMR Aero Cargo & Logistics at Manohar International Airport has facilitated the movement of cargo diverted from Dabolim amid the ongoing disruption in cargo handling operations at the other airport in Goa.

The cargo facility said its infrastructure helped support the state's trading community by enabling



the seamless transit of consignments affected by the cargo-handling difficulties at Dabolim.

According to GMR Aero Cargo & Logistics, its

facilities include bonded warehousing options, four dual-view X-ray machines and extensive apron space capable of accommodating major

freighter aircraft.

These facilities enabled the airport to handle additional cargo diverted to Mopa and support the continued movement of freight from Goa.

As of now, GMR Aero Cargo & Logistics said it has processed three tonnes of cargo through GMR's road feeder service (RFS) vehicles, facilitating the movement of consignments from the airport.

Seva Ki Kahani – Seva Sankalp Abhiyan to mark six years of Swayampurna Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A state-level programme, "Seva Ki Kahani – Seva Sankalp Abhiyan," will be held on October 2 to commemorate the 25-year public-service journey of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and mark six years of the Swayampurna Goa programme. Swayampurna Goa was launched on October 2, 2020, under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, with a focus on ensuring last-mile delivery of government schemes and services and strengthening local livelihoods.

Swiggy Dineout turns GIRF into The Great Indian Ravi Festival with Ravi Kishan

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Swiggy (Swiggy Ltd, NSE: SWIGGY / BSE: 544285), India's pioneering on-demand convenience platform today announced the return of Swiggy Dineout's flagship dining property, the Great Indian Restaurant Festival (GIRF) but with a twist. This year, GIRF has been reimagined as The Great Indian Ravi Festival, built entirely around the internet's current obsession, Ravi Kishan. The campaign is anchored by the line "Discount Followss My Brothaaaar", a twist on one of Ravi Kishan's most viral dialogues, tying the internet's favourite movement directly to GIRF's core promise: unbeatable dining discounts. This edition of GIRF will be live from September 14, 2026 to October 24, 2026. Customers can enjoy up to 50% off across 57,000+ restaurants in 84+ cities across India, including a range of cafés, pubs, bars, luxury dining and family restaurants. Diners can also get an additional 10% instant discount on all HDFC Bank cards, along with 10% back as DineCash on every booking made through Dineout.

The renaming of GIRF is much more than a branding exercise. It is Swiggy Dineout's response to a cultural



moment that is already unfolding online. Ravi Kishan, a household name in Indian cinema for decades, has recently been trending across social channels with his dialogues, expressions and mannerisms remixed and shared widely by a wide generation of internet users. Swiggy Dineout has not just tapped into that moment, it has built an entire festival around it.

As part of the campaign, Ravi Kishan moves beyond the role of a conventional brand ambassador to become the face, voice and personality of the entire festival. The flagship campaign film reimagines him as a larger-than-life figure, a philosopher

dispensing his own brand of life wisdom, weaving in recognisable internet-favourite references such as "Jaldi the Late" and "Home from Work" into the world of dining out, in a style that mirrors the content his fans already love him for.

Speaking on GIRF, Dhruvish Thakkar, AVP Marketing and Revenue, Swiggy Dineout said, "GIRF continues to be one of India's largest dining movements, and every year our aim is to meet consumers where they already are. We have partnered with trending personalities and internet icons for GIRF over the last few years. This time, we have gone a step further by rechristening

GIRF as Great Indian Ravi Festival. Ravi Kishan isn't just having a moment right now — he is the moment and has been trending across social media for the past few weeks! This is the reason why instead of simply riding that wave, we decided to build this year's entire festival around him. We hope that GIRF in its new avatar will appeal to a larger audience, as the discount really does follow the brothaa."

The festival spans across 84+ cities including India's established dining capitals like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Chennai, alongside emerging culinary destinations including Goa, Jaipur, Indore, Coimbatore, Chandigarh, Lucknow and Udaipur.

This edition features participation from leading brands including Good Flippin' Burgers, Punjab Grill, YouMee, One 8 Commune, Mainland China, Paradise Biryani and Absolute Barbecues among other popular dining destinations.

The Great Indian Ravi Festival will roll out across digital, social and creator ecosystems, alongside in-app storytelling formats on the Dineout platform, with Ravi Kishan integrated throughout the campaign to make him feel as omnipresent across the festival as he currently is across the internet.

Link of the film- <https://www.instagram.com/p/DdRJRxtgyeD/>

"Green Energy Corridor Will Transform India's Power Grid": Cabinet Clears ₹1.86 Lakh Crore Plan

■ Phase III to support evacuation of 135 GW renewable energy and deploy 50 GWh of battery storage

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet has approved the third phase of the Green Energy Corridor, with a total investment of ₹1,86,405 crore aimed at strengthening intra state power transmission networks and integrating large amounts of renewable energy into the national grid. The scheme is targeted for completion by 2032 to 33.

The Green Energy Corridor Phase III will strengthen the Intra State Transmission System across states and Union Territories, enabling the evacuation of up to 135 GW of renewable energy. The project is designed to support the expansion of solar, wind and other renewable power generation by improving the infrastructure needed to transmit electricity from generation centres to consumers. A major component of the initiative is the deployment of 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems. These storage facilities are expected to improve grid flexibility by helping manage fluctuations in renewable generation, transmission congestion and peak hour curtailment. They will

also help meet electricity demand during periods when solar power is unavailable.

Of the total allocation, ₹1,36,378 crore has been earmarked for intra state transmission infrastructure, while ₹50,000 crore will support the 50 GWh battery storage component. The scheme also carries Central Financial Support of ₹54,082 crore, which is intended to reduce intra state transmission charges and help contain power costs. Greenfield transmission projects will be developed through tariff based competitive bidding, while brownfield upgrades and network strengthening will follow a cost plus model. State Transmission Utilities will oversee implementation, with transmission service providers undertaking competitively bid projects. The government expects the programme to strengthen long term energy security, support the expansion of non fossil fuel capacity and create employment across transmission, manufacturing, construction and energy storage sectors. The initiative is also intended to improve grid management as India expands renewable power generation.



Goa Conducts Multi-State Mock Exercise On Cyclone And Cyclone-Induced Disasters

a scenario in which a fishing trawler capsized. Another sea rescue scenario involving fishermen caught in rough waters was conducted at Palolem in Canacona, while a simulated rescue of a tourist from the sea was carried out at Candolim in Bardez. Several land-based emergency scenarios were also conducted. At Junta House in Panaji, teams carried out a mock rescue operation following a building

collapse. At Verna in Salcete, a fallen electrical pole scenario leading to a fire at a pharmaceutical company was simulated. At Quepem, teams conducted a scenario involving a petrol pump canopy catching fire during tanker decanting. At Sanguem, a road blockage caused by fallen trees following heavy rains was simulated, while evacuation exercises were conducted at Ponda and Bicholim. Officials also assessed response operations through emergency control rooms established at the state and district levels. Senior officials and nodal officers from various line departments coordinated the exercise

from the State Level Control Room at the Secretariat in Porvorim. North Goa Collector Ankit Yadav, IAS, reviewed rescue, response and mitigation efforts at the District Emergency Operations Centre at the Collectorate. He was accompanied by Deputy Collector (Disaster Management) Safal Shetye, Mamlatdar Pravind Gawas and senior officials from various departments. In South Goa, Collector Eгна Cleetus, IAS, along with Additional Collector Ramesh Gaonkar and other senior officials, reviewed the rescue, response and mitigation efforts at the Mathany Saldanha Administrative Complex in Margao.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

“Extraordinary Courage”: Indian Pilot Smit Machchhar Helps Save 174 Lives on Flydubai Flight

■ Captain with more than 13 years of flying experience battled a cockpit emergency before the aircraft made a safe landing in Saudi Arabia

Team Goemkarponn

DUBAI: Captain Smit Machchhar, an Indian pilot with extensive Boeing 737 experience, has emerged at the centre of a dramatic mid air emergency involving a flydubai flight carrying 174 people, including 27 children.

Machchhar has been flying with flydubai for around four years after spending more than a



decade with SpiceJet. He joined SpiceJet in 2011 and served in several roles, including senior commander and line training captain, before moving to flydubai as

a direct entry captain in June 2022.

He has more than 13 years of commercial aviation experience

and around 9,750 flying hours, primarily on the Boeing 737. He was trained in New Zealand after deciding to pursue aviation as a career at the age of 19.

What happened on the flight

Flydubai Flight FZ1073 was travelling from Dubai International Airport to Ben Gurion International Airport when a serious confrontation reportedly erupted inside the cockpit.

According to accounts of the incident, one pilot allegedly attacked Machchhar and attempted to interfere with the aircraft's systems.



“FCRA Amendment Is Not Just About Christian Organisations”: Prestone Tynsong Calls for Review

■ Meghalaya Deputy CM backs parliamentary scrutiny as concerns grow over proposed foreign funding rules

Team Goemkarponn

SHILLONG: Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong has called for a detailed review of the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, stressing that the changes would apply to all organisations receiving foreign contributions and not only Christian institutions. (Meghalaya Times)

Tynsong welcomed the decision to refer the FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026 to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for detailed examination. He said concerns raised by non governmental

organisations, including Christian organisations, should be examined during the parliamentary process. The committee also includes Meghalaya Rajya Sabha MP James Pangsang Kongkal Sangma as a special invitee. His inclusion followed efforts by the Meghalaya government to ensure that the concerns of the Northeast are represented during discussions on the proposed legislation. (India Today NE) The debate has intensified in Meghalaya amid concerns over provisions that could affect organisations dependent on foreign funding for their activities.



“I Cannot Move Out of My House”: Mamata Banerjee Accuses BJP of Creating Fear in Bengal

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee has alleged that the political situation in West Bengal has become increasingly tense following the recent election, claiming that the atmosphere has become so difficult that she can no longer freely step out of her home.

Speaking during the INDIA bloc meeting in New Delhi, Banerjee accused the BJP of creating what she described as an atmosphere of “anarchy” and “autocracy” after its electoral victory. She also raised concerns over protests and attacks involving Trinamool leaders in different parts of the state.

Several Trinamool leaders have recently faced demonstrations, with some incidents involving eggs and stones being thrown at their vehicles. The Trinamool has alleged that BJP supporters were behind the incidents, while the BJP has described them as expressions of public anger against the ruling party in Bengal.

Stones, Beer Bottles and Flaming Torches Fly in Thiruvananthapuram Hostel Clash

■ Youth Congress and SFI workers clash near Kerala University hostel as police use tear gas and lathicharge

Team Goemkarponn

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Tensions escalated in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday night when a Youth Congress protest march demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar turned violent near the Kerala University men's hostel.

The confrontation began around 7.30 pm as the march reached the University College and hostel area. Youth



Congress workers alleged that stones and bottles were thrown at the procession from inside the hostel. SFI members, however, gave a different account and alleged that protesters threw stones, sticks and burning torches towards the hostel.

Both sides subsequently exchanged stones and the situation rapidly escalated. Burning torches reportedly

landed inside the hostel compound, including near a parked vehicle and windows. The violence also spread towards the University College premises, where some protesters allegedly entered the campus and damaged flex boards.

INDIA Bloc Announces October 6 March to Election Commission, November 1 Mega Rally

■ Opposition alliance plans nationwide protests over SIR and alleged irregularities in electoral rolls

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The INDIA bloc has announced a series of nationwide protests against the Election Commission, including a march by Opposition MPs to the poll panel's office in New Delhi on October 6 and a major rally in the national capital on November 1. The decision was taken at a meeting of Opposition parties on Wednesday



as the alliance intensified its campaign over the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and what it describes as “vote chori”. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge

said INDIA bloc parties would organise “Save Democracy” marches and demonstrations across districts from October 2 to 8. All Opposition MPs from both Houses

of Parliament are scheduled to march to the Election Commission on October 6. The alliance also plans to seek an appointment with President Droupadi Murmu in the second week of October. Opposition leaders intend to submit a representation highlighting their concerns over electoral processes and what they describe as threats to democratic institutions.

“Punjab Does Not Need Speeches, It Needs Answers”: AAP Challenges Amit Shah Over Drug Crisis

Team Goemkarponn

CHANDIGARH: The political confrontation over Punjab's drug crisis intensified as Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed an anti drug rally in Jalandhar as part of the BJP's statewide “Nasha Mukht Punjab Yatra”. The rally has become a major political platform for the BJP as it seeks to make the drug problem a central issue ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections.

India Storm Into Asian Games Cricket Final After Sri Lanka Collapse for 45

■ Ishan Kishan's unbeaten 80 and a dominant bowling display seal a 124 run semifinal victory

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India produced a commanding performance to defeat Sri Lanka by 124 runs in the semifinal of the Asian Games 2026 cricket tournament, booking a place in the gold medal match against Pakistan.

Batting first after being asked to set the target, India posted 169 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs. Ishan Kishan led the innings with a superb unbeaten 80 off 46



deliveries, providing the platform for India to reach a strong total.

Sri Lanka's bowlers managed to pick up regular wickets during

the innings, with Sahan Arachchige and Tharindu Ratnayake claiming two wickets each. However, Kishan remained unbeaten and ensured

India finished with a competitive score.

Sri Lanka's chase quickly turned into a one sided contest as India's bowlers dismantled the batting order. The Sri Lankan innings lasted only 9.5 overs, with the team bowled out for just 45.

Jasprit Bumrah and Axar Patel spearheaded the attack with two wickets apiece, while the rest of the Indian bowling unit maintained relentless pressure throughout the chase.



"Every Part of My Body Is Cramping": Shubman Gill Proud After India's Historic 406 Chase

■ Captain's unbeaten double century and Rohit Sharma's hundred help India seal eight wicket win over West Indies

Team Goemkarponn

GUWAHATI: Shubman Gill admitted he was physically exhausted but immensely proud after leading India to a record breaking chase of 406 against the West Indies in the second ODI on Wednesday. Gill remained unbeaten after producing a historic double century, while Rohit Sharma added a commanding hundred as India chased down 405 with eight wickets in hand. The victory gave India an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three match series. The West Indies had posted their highest ODI total of 405 for 7 after batting first. Despite the enormous target, India completed the chase in just 43.3 overs. Gill

acknowledged that the target initially created pressure, but India's confidence increased rapidly once the team crossed 200 runs before the halfway stage. India had set a target of reaching around 75 to 80 runs in the first 10 overs without losing wickets. The plan was to accelerate once the ball became older and easier to bat against.

Gill said the team had expected to reach around 200 to 210 runs by the 25th over but had moved well ahead of that mark. Once India crossed 230 to 240 runs, the pressure shifted firmly onto the West Indies. The captain also admitted that India's bowling had been below its best during the opening powerplay.

Atharva Dharmadhikari Hits 130 as Maharashtra Reach 271/6 Against Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PUNE: Atharva Dharmadhikari struck a commanding century to help Maharashtra finish the opening day at 271 for 6 against Goa in the MCA Senior Men's Interstate Multi Day Practice Match at the MCA International Cricket Ground, Gahunje. After winning the toss and choosing to bat, Maharashtra suffered an early setback when captain Sachin Dhas was dismissed for a duck in the second over by V. Koushik. Dharmadhikari then took charge of the innings and built a crucial second wicket partnership with Siddhesh Veer. The pair steadied Maharashtra's innings, with Veer producing a patient 69 from 178 deliveries. Dharmadhikari went on to complete a superb 130 from 185 balls. His marathon innings included 20 boundaries and a towering six, providing Maharashtra with the foundation for a competitive total. Goa managed to make inroads during the latter stages of the day, claiming several wickets in the evening session. Harshal Kate contributed 28 before being dismissed, while Rajvardhan Hangargekar was removed after scoring 12. Ruthvik Naik emerged as Goa's leading bowler, claiming two wickets for 44 runs.

Goa Edged Out by Punjab in One Wicket Thriller

■ Punjab chase down 112 with four balls to spare in a tense Rama Atray Women's T20 clash

Team Goemkarponn

CHANDIGARH: Goa Women suffered a narrow one wicket defeat against Punjab in the seventh Rama Atray Women's T20 Cricket Tournament at the Sector 16 Cricket Stadium in Chandigarh.

After being put into bat, Goa posted 111 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs. Vinavi Gurav top scored with an unbeaten 23, while Diksha Amonkar and Shikha Pandey contributed 19 runs



apiece. Poorva Bhaidkar added 14 and Sunanda Yetrekar scored 11.

Mannat Kashyap was Punjab's most effective bowler, finishing with two wickets for 17 runs. Annu Malhan, Mamta Rani, Kanika Ahuja and Neetu Singh picked up one wicket each as Punjab kept Goa's scoring

under control. Punjab's chase was far from straightforward as Goa's bowlers kept the pressure on throughout the innings. Prashanti Sharma led the chase with a crucial 40, while Pragati Singh scored 31 and Neetu Singh added 17. With wickets falling regularly, Punjab were pushed to the brink before Annu Malhan's unbeaten 10 helped them cross the finish line.

Don Bosco, Rosary College Storm Into Goa University Football Final

■ Don Bosco beat St Xavier's 3-0, while Rosary College produced a 25-0 semifinal rout

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Don Bosco College, Panjim and Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim have booked their places in the final of the Goa University Inter Collegiate Women's Football Championship 2026-27 after contrasting victories in the semifinals at the Goa University Ground on September 30.

In the first semifinal, Don Bosco College



defeated St Xavier's College 3-0 to reach the final for the second consecutive year. Don Bosco took control of the contest and created several attacking opportunities before Kanwiksha Rekdo broke the deadlock in the 32nd

minute. She headed the ball into the net from a corner delivered by Simran Narvekar.

Just three minutes later, Aniela Barretto doubled the advantage. After receiving a pass from Blessica near the penalty area, Barretto showed

impressive dribbling skills before finishing with a tap-in to make it 2-0. St Xavier's strengthened

their defence after the break and attempted to prevent further damage. However, Barretto struck again in the 65th minute. She collected the ball from midfield, dribbled past the goalkeeper and completed her brace to seal a 3-0 victory for Don

Bosco. The second semifinal witnessed a remarkable attacking display from Rosary College, Navelim, who overwhelmed P.G. Goa University 25-0. Vinoshka Fernandes led the scoring with nine goals, while Fatima Braganza also netted eight times. Prissy Pereira and Zuriel Tavares scored twice each, with Swellen Fernandes, Ria Pinto and Ria Rajesh also finding the net.