



Saligao Waste Plant Shuts for 25 Days; Civic Bodies Told to Find Alternatives

■ GWMC cites major maintenance, operational constraints; waste acceptance suspended from October 10, raising the challenge of managing garbage across affected areas

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Waste Management Corporation (GWMC) has suspended the acceptance of municipal solid waste at its Saligao Solid Waste Management Facility for 25 days from October 10, citing major maintenance requirements and unforeseen operational constraints that have affected the plant's normal functioning and processing capacity. In a communication



dated October 9, GWMC Managing Director Harish Adconkar informed the Mapusa and Mormugao municipal councils and six village panchayats that the

facility would temporarily stop receiving waste to allow maintenance and corrective work to be carried out. The suspension puts



the onus on the affected civic bodies to make alternative arrangements for the management and processing of waste generated in their

jurisdictions during the shutdown. GWMC has specifically asked them to ensure that the temporary disruption does not result in waste accumulation,

uncontrolled disposal or littering. The corporation said the facility was facing major maintenance requirements along with unforeseen operational conditions that had affected its normal functioning. It said regulating waste acceptance had become necessary to ensure the safe and effective operation of the plant and avoid further operational complications or damage

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UPI Merchant Charges Delayed Until After Diwali, New Implementation Date Awaited

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on selected Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions involving merchants will be introduced after Diwali, with the revised implementation date to be announced separately. The decision was taken on October 13, following a review of the proposed changes and the need to avoid disruptions during the festive shopping season.

The charges were initially scheduled to come into effect on October 15. Under the proposed structure, a Merchant Discount Rate of 0.4 per cent would apply to eligible person to merchant (P2M) UPI transactions exceeding Rs 2,000. The charges would be paid by merchants rather than customers, with a maximum cap of Rs 300 for transactions worth Rs 75,000 or more.

Birch Fire Victims' Families Seek ₹50 Lakh Each; Goa High Court Floats Interim Relief

■ Court Suggests ₹20 Lakh Deposit Each By Luthra Brothers While Compensation Claims Continue; Families' Views To Be Submitted

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The families of those killed in the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub fire have sought compensation of at least ₹50 lakh per victim, prompting the High Court of Bombay at Goa to suggest an interim deposit of ₹20 lakh each by the club's owners,



Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra. During Monday's hearing, advocate Prachi Sawant, appointed under the legal aid scheme to represent the dependants

of all 25 victims, told the Division Bench of Justice Valmiki Menezes and Justice Amit Jamsandekar that nine families had responded to the owners' earlier compensation proposal. The brothers had previously offered ₹15 lakh per victim, inclusive of ₹2 lakh already paid to each family.

CJP Leaders Jump Jantar Mantar Gate, Detained During Protest Against Centre's Order

■ Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka led a flash protest in central Delhi as CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke vowed that demonstrations would continue despite the removal of Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were detained by Delhi Police on Tuesday after they and a group of party volunteers entered Jantar Mantar to protest against the Centre's decision to remove the location from the list of designated



protest sites. The protesters climbed an iron gate and crossed police barricades to reach the area, carrying party flags and raising slogans including "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Inquilab

Zindabad". Police personnel stationed at the site attempted to stop the group before detaining the demonstrators and taking them away.

Goa-Based Suspect Held In Telangana Drug Case; ₹48.4 Lakh Money Trail Under Scanner

Telangana's EAGLE Force Probes Alleged Drug Links Between Goa And Hyderabad; Contacts Of Over 25 People Being Verified



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Telangana police are investigating a suspected narcotics network operating between Goa and Hyderabad after arresting a Goa-based man and uncovering financial transactions worth approximately ₹48.4 lakh that investigators are now scrutinising.

Custodio Fernandes, also known as Kristy, was arrested in Goa by Telangana's Elite

Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE) force, with support from the Hyderabad Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) and Hyderabad City Police. Investigators suspect that the network involved drug supplies, deliveries and the movement of payments between the two states.

The case dates back to May 9, 2026, when Panjagutta police arrested R Keshav Raj Singh over allegations

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SIR Is Not Vote Chori; Protecting Bogus Voters Is No Defence of Democracy

Does the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls really amount to vote chori, or has the political debate around voter verification become another battle in which allegations matter more than facts? If elections are the foundation of democracy, ensuring that only eligible citizens vote must be a national priority. Equally, ensuring that every eligible citizen can exercise that right is non-negotiable. Both principles must coexist.

The Opposition's repeated allegations of vote theft deserve scrutiny, but so does its resistance to measures intended to improve the integrity of electoral rolls. If the electoral register contains duplicate entries, deceased voters, fraudulent registrations or names of individuals who are not eligible to vote, should the Election Commission simply look the other way to avoid political controversy? Electoral integrity cannot become a casualty of partisan convenience.

India cannot afford a system in which the number of registered voters is questioned every election, yet meaningful verification becomes politically unacceptable whenever it is undertaken. A democracy of India's size requires accurate, regularly updated electoral rolls. SIR, in principle, is a legitimate administrative exercise. Whether its implementation is fair, transparent and lawful is a separate question that must be judged on evidence.

The problem of fake documents cannot be ignored.

Questions about fake voter identity cards and forged Aadhaar cards also deserve serious attention. Fraudulent documents, where they exist, must be investigated, and those responsible must face the consequences prescribed by law. But there is an important distinction: possessing an Aadhaar card does not establish Indian citizenship, and an Aadhaar card alone does not confer eligibility to vote. An Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC), too, is not conclusive proof of citizenship if a person's underlying eligibility is challenged.

The answer, therefore, is not to treat every document as genuine or every voter as suspicious. It is to establish reliable verification procedures, identify inconsistencies and provide a fair opportunity to resolve them. The government and the Election Commission must coordinate with

Electoral roll revision is essential to free and fair elections, but the Election Commission must ensure that genuine voters are not disenfranchised in the name of cleansing the system

the relevant authorities to detect document fraud without creating arbitrary barriers for ordinary citizens.

No genuine Indian citizen should lose the right to vote because of a spelling error, a change of address, missing paperwork or an administrative failure. Equally, no ineligible person should retain a place on the electoral roll merely because verification is politically inconvenient.

What about illegal immigrants?

The question of Bangladeshi nationals and Rohingya refugees voting in Indian elections must be addressed through law, not rhetoric. Under India's electoral framework, voting in ordinary constituency elections is a right reserved for eligible Indian citizens who satisfy the applicable statutory requirements. Foreign nationals do not acquire voting rights simply by residing in India, obtaining an identity document or entering the electoral database.

If a foreign national has been unlawfully registered, the authorities must investigate and remove the entry through the prescribed legal process. Any person found to have committed electoral fraud must be dealt with according to law. But allegations against an entire community cannot substitute for individual verification, credible evidence and due process. Neither nationality nor religion should become a shortcut for determining an individual's electoral status.

The objective must be clear: exclude ineligible registrations and protect eligible voters, regardless of their political preferences, religion, language or social background.

Why oppose verification? Why distrust the process?

The Opposition and civil society organisations, including the Citizens for Justice and Peace

(CJP), have raised concerns about voter verification and the possible exclusion of legitimate electors. Such concerns cannot automatically be dismissed as support for illegalities. Challenging an administrative process is not the same as defending fraudulent voters. Equally, invoking constitutional rights cannot justify protecting genuinely ineligible registrations.

The real test is whether critics offer evidence of wrongful deletions and whether authorities respond with verifiable records, clear explanations and effective remedies. If names are being removed without adequate notice, if documentation requirements are unreasonable, or if vulnerable citizens are being excluded, those failures must be corrected. If allegations of mass disenfranchisement are made, they must be examined against the actual data.

The Election Commission must publish transparent figures on additions, deletions, objections and appeals, while protecting personal information. Independent scrutiny and accessible grievance mechanisms would strengthen public confidence far more effectively than political accusations and official dismissals.

Clean rolls, clean elections

India needs an electoral system in which citizens trust both the voter list and the institution responsible for maintaining it. SIR should not become a tool for political exclusion, but neither should the slogan of vote chori become a shield against legitimate scrutiny.

The principle is straightforward: every eligible Indian citizen must be able to vote, and nobody who is legally ineligible should be permitted to do so. Electoral rolls must be cleansed through evidence, technology, accountability and due process—not political pressure, collective suspicion or selective outrage.

Democracy is not strengthened by preserving questionable entries. Nor is it strengthened by deleting genuine voters. The Election Commission must prove that its exercise is fair, and the Opposition must demonstrate its allegations with evidence.

The ballot belongs to the eligible Indian citizen. Protecting that right means defending it against both fraudulent registration and arbitrary exclusion. That is not vote chori. That is the minimum standard of a credible democracy.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Has Vijai Sardesai Finally Identified the Real Enemy?

By Suraj Nandrekar

For months, Goa Forward Party president Vijai Sardesai has appeared more interested in targeting the Congress than confronting the BJP. His political attacks, sharp remarks and repeated questions about Congress's credibility have often overshadowed the larger challenge facing Goa's opposition. Now, with Sardesai urging the Aam Aadmi Party to target the BJP rather than the Congress, one question inevitably arises: has he finally recognised who the real political opponent is, or was his earlier strategy merely an exercise in arm twisting?

Sardesai's latest appeal for opposition unity ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections is welcome. He has reportedly told AAP that parties opposed to the BJP must stop attacking one another and concentrate their political fight on the ruling party. He has also expressed Goa Forward's willingness to be part of a broader opposition arrangement, stressing that Goa's interests must take precedence over political calculations elsewhere.

The message is sensible. But it also exposes the contradiction in the opposition's politics.

If the BJP is the principal political opponent, why has so much energy been spent questioning the Congress? Why have opposition leaders repeatedly engaged in public sparring when the ruling party continues to enjoy the advantages of incumbency, organisation and political influence?

Sardesai cannot escape these questions simply by changing his emphasis now.

The Congress has its weaknesses. Its history of defections, organisational problems and inability to retain elected representatives has damaged its credibility among voters. These are legitimate issues that deserve scrutiny. But repeatedly attacking the Congress without offering a credible alternative risks helping the BJP more than weakening it.

The same applies to AAP. If the party believes it can expand its political space in Goa by attacking Congress, it must explain how such a strategy will defeat the BJP. Opposition votes divided among Congress, AAP, Goa Forward and the Revolutionary Goans Party could create favourable conditions for the ruling party, even where public dissatisfaction exists.

That is the central political arithmetic Sardesai appears to be acknowledging now.

But was the earlier confrontation with Congress simply a bargaining tactic?

Goa's politics has frequently witnessed public hostility followed by private negotiations. Leaders attack one another from political platforms, question each other's intentions and then return to the negotiating table when electoral calculations demand it. Such manoeuvres may strengthen a party's bargaining position, but they do little to inspire public confidence.

If Sardesai's earlier attacks were intended to pressure Congress into accepting his terms for an alliance, voters deserve a more honest explanation. If he genuinely believed Congress was a bigger obstacle than the BJP, then his latest position represents a significant political correction.

Either way, the test is not in the rhetoric. It is in the action.

His reference to alleged voter deletions during the Special Intensive Revision also provides an opportunity for opposition parties to work together on a concrete democratic concern. Electoral roll discrepancies, if established, must be addressed through evidence, verification and appropriate legal channels. This is an issue that should transcend party rivalries.

However, opposition unity cannot be built merely around the fear of losing to the BJP. It needs a common programme, clarity on seat sharing, agreement on leadership and a commitment that parties will not undermine one another after reaching an understanding.

Goa has seen enough political alliances that collapsed under the weight of personal ambition and competing interests.

Sardesai is right to insist that Goa Forward's decisions must be guided by Goa's interests rather than developments in Delhi or Punjab. But that principle must apply equally to every opposition party. Regional interests cannot become a convenient slogan used selectively during negotiations.

The 2027 election will demand more than declarations of unity. It will require political maturity, mutual trust and a willingness to make difficult compromises.

Perhaps Sardesai has finally recognised that the opposition cannot defeat the BJP by fighting amongst itself. If so, he must now demonstrate that this is a genuine change of strategy rather than another negotiating tactic.

The question is no longer whether Vijai Sardesai knows who the enemy is. The question is whether he and the rest of the opposition are prepared to stop treating one another as enemies.

Goa Proposes GI Tag For Traditional Coconut-Leaf Broom 'Muugdyachi Saaran'

■ The Department of Science and Technology's proposal seeks to preserve Goa's indigenous craftsmanship, cultural heritage and eco-friendly broom-making tradition.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The State government, through the Department of Science and Technology, has proposed a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Goa's traditional coconut-leaf broom, locally known as Muugdyachi Saaran, Vhiranche Saaran or Zhaadu. The move aims to recognise and preserve the state's indigenous craftsmanship and cultural



heritage associated with this traditional household implement. Handcrafted from the sturdy midribs of coconut palm leaflets, the broom is widely used in Goan households. The proposed GI recognition



association with Goa's cultural and ecological landscape. According to the proposal moved in August, the traditional coconut broom is a sustainable and eco-friendly household

seeks to highlight its distinctive identity, traditional manufacturing process and close

implement that reflects the ingenuity of Goan craftsmanship. The broom is made by manually stripping, trimming and drying the midribs, locally known as vhir or hir, before binding them tightly with coir rope made from coconut husk fibre. A typical broom consists of around 100 to 120 midribs, each measuring between 0.9 and 1.2 metres, and weighs approximately 250 to 400 grams.



RGP Leader Prashant Pagi Gives WRD 15 Days to Install All Canacona Bandharas

■ Prashant Pagi gives WRD 15 days to install Canacona bandharas, warns of protest over delays

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: RGP leader Prashant Suresh Pagi has submitted a memorandum to the Water Resources Department (WRD) Sub-Divisions I and II in Canacona, demanding the immediate installation of all existing bandharas across the region's rivers to conserve freshwater ahead of the summer season. The memorandum, backed by signatures from local residents and farmers, highlights the need to retain the remaining river water before it flows into the Arabian Sea. With river and stream flows reportedly declining following a

below-normal monsoon, Pagi warned that delays in installing bandharas could lead to water shortages during the coming summer. Pagi has given the WRD a **15-day deadline** to complete the installation of all existing bandharas, warning that he and affected villagers will stage a protest outside the Canacona WRD office if the department fails to act within the stipulated period. He stressed that bandharas play a crucial role in meeting the water requirements of households, farmers, livestock and wildlife, while also helping recharge groundwater and sustain wells during the dry months.



Chicalim Panchayat Staffer Resigns After Sudden Transfer, Alleges Misuse Of Power

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A Chicalim Village Panchayat staff member, Sonali Naik, resigned on Tuesday following her sudden transfer to St. Estevam Panchayat, nearly 50 kilometres away, alleging that the move was politically motivated and caused serious hardship to her family.

Naik, who was recently regularised after serving around 10 years on a temporary contract, addressed the media at the Chicalim Panchayat premises and accused Deputy Sarpanch Aishwarya Korgaonkar of misusing her political influence to facilitate the transfer. Claiming that she had worked sincerely for 11 years without any complaints against her, Naik said the relocation would create significant difficulties as she has two young children and lives in rented accommodation. "I have worked sincerely for 11 years without a single complaint against me. Despite my efficient service, I have been transferred 50 kilometres away.

Shubham Komarpant Calls Off Dharna After Govt Approves Funds for Canacona CHC Lift Repairs

■ Social activist ends protest within hours after receiving financial approval for the lift repair; the facility used by dialysis patients had remained non-functional for six months

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Social activist Shubham Komarpant called off his sit-in protest outside the Deputy Collectorate in Canacona within hours of launching the agitation after the government issued financial approval for repairing the non-functional lift at the Community Health Centre (CHC), Canacona. The lift,



used by dialysis patients and their families to access treatment facilities, had reportedly remained out of order for the past six

months, causing inconvenience to patients visiting the government hospital. Komarpant had earlier submitted notices to the Deputy Collector and other concerned authorities, warning that he would launch an agitation if the process to repair the lift was not initiated.

Nine Arrested In Online Betting Probe Linked To Goa

■ Vasai Police Recover 33 Mobile Phones, 4 Laptops And Dozens Of Banking Records; Financial Trail Under Scanner

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Vasai Crime Branch has arrested nine people in connection with an alleged online betting operation linked to Goa, which investigators suspect used bank accounts and SIM cards registered in other individuals' names to handle betting-related payments.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Sandeep Doifode said the suspected operation was based at Suntech



Hill View-1 End Lakeshore Society in Naigaon East, where bets were allegedly accepted on cricket, football, rummy and other games.

The case came to light after a technical

examination of mobile numbers directed investigators towards North Goa. On October 3, a team from Crime Branch Unit-2, headed by Senior Police Inspector Nitin Patil, conducted a

raid and detained seven alleged members of the operation. The arrested individuals were identified as Furqan Ansari (21), Nitin Makhijani (45), Karan Tanwani (21), Deepak Shekhawat (26), Hitik Khubchandani (26), Rakesh Wadhwani (30) and Mohit Poptani (24).

Police recovered 33 mobile phones, four laptops, 78 passbooks and chequebooks, 69 ATM cards, 40 SIM cards, two CCTV cameras and a notebook. The seized electronic equipment and banking-related material

were estimated to be worth ₹9.86 lakh.

Information gathered during questioning reportedly led police to two additional suspects. Nicholas alias Nikki Rangari (34) and Deepak Dhirwani (44) were subsequently arrested on the Pune-Ahilyanagar Road. Investigators are tracing the bank accounts and payment transactions allegedly used by the network, while also examining how SIM cards and banking facilities were obtained.

Construction Materials Worth ₹6.38 Lakh Stolen From House In Corlim

■ Old Goa Police Register Case After Accused Allegedly Break Lock And Steal Materials From House In Malar

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: Old Goa Police have registered a case of house trespass and theft after construction materials worth ₹6,38,900 were allegedly stolen from a house at Malar, Corlim, Tiswadi, Goa. The case, bearing Old Goa Police Station Crime No. 125/2026 under Section 454 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), was registered on December 10, 2026, at 12.50 pm, based on a



complaint filed by Joao Francisco De Souza, a resident of House No. 773/16, Chogm M Road, opposite the Wireless Department, Porvorim,

Bardez, Goa. According to the complaint, the incident occurred before 11.30 am on November 28, 2026, at House No. 274, Survey No. 20/3, Malar,

Village Corlim, Tiswadi. The accused allegedly broke the lock of the house, which was in the complainant's possession, and entered the premises before stealing construction materials stored inside. The stolen items include centring materials worth ₹2,00,000, plates worth ₹38,000, wooden bamboos worth ₹1,50,000, planks worth ₹2,00,000, tiles worth ₹39,000, and plastic, steel and mild-steel buckets worth ₹11,900.



Goa Police And NCC Join Hands For Drug-Free India Campaign

■ Nationwide Motorcycle Rally On October 19 To Feature Police Forces From Goa, Kerala, Lakshadweep And Karnataka; 250 NCC Cadets To Lead Youth Outreach At Calangute Beach

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Police and the National Cadet Corps (NCC) have joined hands to strengthen the fight against drug abuse through a series of awareness initiatives, including a mega motorcycle rally on October 19 and a youth outreach programme at Calangute beach.

The initiative aims to promote the national Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (Drug-Free India Campaign) and commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, observed as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.

As part of the preparations, Goa Director General of

Police Alok Kumar held a high-level coordination meeting with Capt Sumeet Sinha, Commanding Officer of the 1 Goa Naval NCC Unit, in the presence of Sunita Sawant, Superintendent of Police, Anti-Narcotics Cell, Goa Police. The meeting focused on strengthening inter-state and inter-departmental coordination by combining the institutional reach of the NCC with the community policing initiatives of Goa Police to combat drug abuse. A major highlight of the campaign will be a nationwide motorcycle rally themed "Fight Against Drugs" scheduled for October 19, 2026.



Benaulim Woman Cheated Of ₹1.68 Lakh In Online Task Scam

Team Goemkarponn

BENAULIM: A woman from Benaulim has allegedly been cheated of ₹1,68,798 in an online task scam after unknown accused persons lured her with promises of monetary rewards and higher profits through product-related tasks.

According to the complaint filed by Sanjana Meher, the fraud took place between July 31, 2026, and September 22, 2026, at TNK, Benaulim.

The complainant stated that an unknown accused person contacted her through WhatsApp and induced her to join a Telegram group to complete product-related tasks in exchange for monetary rewards. Initially, she received payments for completing the assigned tasks, which allegedly helped the accused gain her trust.

Subsequently, the accused allegedly persuaded her to make multiple payments on the pretext of completing further tasks and recovering the amounts previously invested, while promising higher returns and profits.

Minor Girl Kidnapped From Sirvoi In Quepem

■ Quepem Police Investigating Case Following Complaint By Girl's Father

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: Quepem Police are investigating a case of alleged kidnapping of a minor girl from Sirvoi, Quepem, following a complaint lodged by her father. According to the complaint, the incident occurred on October 11, 2026, at around 9 am, when an unknown accused person allegedly kidnapped the complainant's minor daughter from Sirvoi in



Quepem. The identity of the minor girl has been withheld to protect her privacy. Further

investigation is being conducted by LPSI Deepa Deykar of Quepem Police Station.

Body Of Missing Man Found Floating In Zuari River At Agacaim

■ Mandar Madkaikar, Missing Since October 8, Identified By Cousin; Body Shifted To GMC Morgue For Preservation

Team Goemkarponn

AGACAIM: The body of a man reported missing since October 8, 2026, was found floating in the Zuari River near Dandi, Agacaim, on November 8, 2026. According to police, Agacaim Police Station registered an Unnatural Death (UD) case bearing No. 27/2026 under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) at



10.34 am after receiving a phone call from an unidentified person informing them about a male body floating in the river. Police personnel, along with the Police

Inspector of Agacaim Police Station, rushed to the spot. With the assistance of police staff and local fishermen, the body was retrieved from the water and placed on the riverbank.

The deceased was identified by his cousin, Adarsh Madkaikar, as Mandar Madkaikar, son of Shalan Madkaikar, a resident of Gudi Wado, Neura, Tiswadi, Goa. He had reportedly been

missing since October 8, 2026. The body was subsequently shifted to the Goa Medical College (GMC) morgue at Bambolim for preservation. Police have made arrangements to conduct an inquest and post-mortem examination to ascertain the cause of death. Further investigation is being conducted by LPSI Deepika Parwar of Agacaim Police Station.

Sawant Cautions Against Alvara Land Sales, Promises Revival Of Puran Sheti

Team Goemkarponn

SATTARI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has cautioned Alvara landholders against selling agricultural land for house construction, warning that such transactions could create difficulties, particularly for buyers. He said agricultural property should not be allowed to be used for residential construction. Sawant also said initiatives are underway to revive the traditional Puran Sheti adding that documents related to the traditional farming system will soon be handed over to the people.

Girish Chodankar Demands Sawant's Resignation Over Cash-for-Jobs Scam

■ Congress Seeks Bombay High Court-Monitored SIT Probe, Questions Alleged BJP Links Of Ajit Shankhwalkar And Demands Investigation Into Forged Signature Claims

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Girish Chodankar has demanded the resignation or removal of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant over the alleged cash-for-jobs scam, calling for a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe monitored by the Bombay High Court at Goa. Chodankar questioned the pace of the investigation involving Ajit Shankhwalkar and allegations of



forged signatures of the Chief Minister on fake appointment orders. He alleged that the government's response to the controversy had raised serious concerns about accountability and the possibility of political interference.

Raising questions about Shankhwalkar's alleged presence on the Goa Assembly premises alongside senior police officers, Chodankar sought clarity on who facilitated such access and why the investigation had not progressed with the urgency expected in a case involving allegations of forged official documents. "When allegations involve forged signatures of the Chief Minister and fake appointment orders bearing his name, the people of

Goa deserve immediate answers," Chodankar said, questioning whether anyone was shielding those allegedly involved. The Congress leader criticised what he described as the Chief Minister's silence and lack of urgency, asserting that the allegations could not be dismissed through routine statements or political responses. He said the government had a responsibility to ensure a transparent, impartial and time-bound investigation.



Congress condemns police manhandling of woman protester at Azad Maidan

■ GPCC demands impartial inquiry into detention orders, alleges misuse of police machinery during peaceful SIR protest

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has strongly condemned the alleged manhandling of young woman protester Amreen Shaikh at Azad Maidan on Sunday, demanding an impartial inquiry into the police action and clarity on who ordered the detention of protesters when no prohibitory orders were reportedly in force. Addressing a press conference on Monday, Goa Mahila Congress president Dr Pratiksha Khalap, along with Congress spokespersons Adv Amit Palekar and Samil Volvoikar, accused the BJP-led state government of using the police machinery to suppress peaceful demonstrations against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Dr

Khalap described the alleged manhandling of Shaikh as shameful and questioned the manner in which the police reportedly dragged the protester by her arms and legs while removing her from the protest site. She held the BJP government and Chief Minister, who also holds the Home portfolio, responsible for the incident and demanded action against those involved.

"The Mahila Congress condemns this blatant disrespect toward a young woman. We demand an impartial inquiry to identify who ordered the manhandling of protesters, and those responsible must be taken to task," Khalap said, adding that the government must ensure such incidents do not recur and that established rules and norms are followed.



Velsao Locals Confront Railway Officials Over Sudden Level Crossing Closure

Team Goemkarponn

VELSAO: Residents of Velsao on Monday confronted railway officials at Level Crossing No. 26 over its scheduled overnight closure, expressing anger over the alleged failure to inform the local Panchayat and affected communities in advance. The Railways has scheduled the closure from 10 pm on October 12 to 5 am on October 13 to facilitate the laying of the second railway track as part of the ongoing double-tracking project. Locals expressed concern that the Velsao-Pale-Issorcim Village Panchayat had allegedly not been informed about the proposed closure. They also claimed that, unlike on previous occasions, no public notice had been displayed near the level crossing to alert residents and road users. Taking serious objection to the alleged lack of communication, social worker Roquezinho D'Souza, Aliston Pinto and Panch Jim D'Souza, along with other residents, confronted railway officials at the site and sought an explanation for the manner in which the closure had been scheduled.

Ferreira Slams Controversial Social Media Ad, Demands Immediate Crackdown

■ Aldona MLA Alleges Dating Event Promotion Is Tarnishing Goa's Image; Seeks Police Probe And Tourism Department Action

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Aldona MLA and Advocate Carlos Alvares Ferreira has criticised the BJP-led government over a controversial social media advertisement promoting a "Goa Meet and Connect" event, demanding an immediate investigation by the police and action by the Tourism Department.

Ferreira alleged that the promotional material raises serious concerns about the nature of the activities being advertised



and could damage Goa's reputation as a tourist destination. He questioned whether the government was adequately monitoring such promotions.

Speaking about the advertisement, Ferreira said a friend from Delhi had forwarded him a

poster circulating on WhatsApp that directed users to an Instagram account promoting social gatherings in Goa.

According to Ferreira, the poster stated that male participants would be charged ₹500 per person, while female participants would be allowed free entry for the first 48 hours, after which charges would apply. It also advertised opportunities to meet like-minded Indians, engage in conversations, build connections and find potential dating matches.

Pernem civic body told to settle pending pension dues

■ Human Rights Commission seeks clearance of arrears with 8% interest and a permanent system for timely monthly payments

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) has recommended that the Pernem Municipal Council, in coordination with the Directorate of Municipal Administration, settle pending pension payments to retired employees within 30 days, along with interest at 8 per cent per annum. In its latest findings,



the Commission highlighted concerns over recurring delays in pension disbursement

and called for corrective measures to ensure that retired employees receive their dues without

having to pursue repeated complaints.

The recommendations cover pension payments pending for February to September 2026. The Commission has proposed that interest be calculated from the dates on which the respective payments became due until the outstanding amounts are cleared.

To prevent further delays, the GHRC has also called for a structured

payment arrangement under which pensions are credited during the final four working days of each month.

The matter came before the Commission following a complaint by three former municipal employees, Madan Desai, Shakuntala Parab and the widow of lower division clerk Sangeet Patekar, who raised concerns over unpaid pension benefits.

Air Chief AP Singh Flies Final Fighter Sortie in Indigenous Tejas Ahead of Retirement

■ The IAF chief completed his final fighter aircraft sortie during Exercise Tarang Shakti at Jodhpur, marking the end of a distinguished flying career ahead of his retirement on October 31.

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh has flown his final fighter aircraft sortie in the indigenous Tejas, marking a significant milestone in his career as he prepares to retire later this month.

The sortie took place at Jodhpur Air Force Station during Exercise Tarang Shakti. The Indian Air Force shared a video of the flight along with photographs showing Singh flying alongside aircraft from participating foreign air forces and the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team.

The sortie reflected Singh's enduring passion for flying and his commitment to leading from the front. Although his career as an active fighter pilot is drawing to a close, he is set to continue serving until his retirement on October 31.

Singh's final flight in the Tejas also highlighted India's growing emphasis on indigenous defence manufacturing and the operational capabilities of its domestically developed fighter aircraft.



Exercise Tarang Shakti, held from September 26 to October 12 at Jodhpur Air Force Station, brought together air forces from several countries to strengthen cooperation, improve interoperability and showcase advanced air combat capabilities.

The second edition of the multilateral exercise featured participation from seven foreign nations: the United States, France,

Germany, Australia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates.

A major highlight was the participation of the American F-35 multi-role stealth fighter for the first time in the exercise, adding an important dimension to the multinational air operations.

India showcased several of its key air assets during the

exercise, which provided a platform for participating forces to exchange operational experience and enhance coordination.

Singh's final Tejas sortie brought a symbolic close to a career shaped by a lifelong passion for flying, while underscoring the Indian Air Force's focus on operational readiness, international partnerships and indigenous aerospace capabilities.

Pakistan Projects 22% Water Shortage as Indus Waters Treaty Remains Suspended

■ Water authorities warn of pressure on Punjab and Sindh as reduced river inflows raise concerns over irrigation and food security

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Pakistan has projected a 22% shortfall in water availability for the 2026 to 2027 Kharif season, raising concerns over irrigation supplies and agricultural production as the Indus Waters Treaty remains in abeyance following the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack.

The projected deficit is expected to affect both Punjab and Sindh, Pakistan's two major agricultural provinces. Official records indicate that the overall water shortage across the system has been estimated at 22%, highlighting the challenges facing the country as it prepares for the crucial crop growing season. Pakistan has also recorded a 22% decline in water inflows during the 2026 Kharif season, according to the reported assessment.

The reduced availability of water has intensified concerns over reservoir levels, river flows and the ability to meet agricultural demand. India placed the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance after the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025. Since then, Pakistan has repeatedly raised the issue at international forums, accusing India of using water supplies as a means of pressure. India has maintained

a firm position linking the future of the treaty to Pakistan ending its support for terrorism. The dispute has added another layer of tension to relations between the two neighbouring countries. Pakistani authorities have expressed particular concern over water availability in the Jhelum and Chenab river systems, which form an important part of the country's irrigation network. Reports of declining reservoir levels and uncertainty over river inflows have increased fears of an agricultural crisis. Authorities have also raised concerns about reduced supplies in the Chenab River, warning of potential difficulties in managing irrigation requirements. Similar concerns emerged during the previous Kharif season, when Pakistan's water authorities anticipated a shortage of up to 21%. The potential consequences extend beyond irrigation, with water availability directly linked to Pakistan's food security and rural economy. Punjab and Sindh account for a substantial share of the country's irrigated agricultural production. Around 90% of Pakistan's agricultural production depends on the Indus Basin Irrigation System, making reliable river flows essential for crop cultivation.



Saligao Waste Plant Shuts for 25 Days; Civic Bodies Told to Find Alternatives

to equipment. The directive applies to the Mapusa Municipal Council and Mormugao Municipal Council, as well as the village panchayats of Chimbél, Santa Cruz, Corlim, Curca, Old Goa and Mercês. GWMC said the necessary maintenance work and corrective measures would be undertaken during the 25-day period to restore normal operations. Further instructions on the resumption of waste acceptance at Saligao will be communicated after the work is completed and normal functioning is restored. The letter, issued under reference GWMC/Tech/82/Part-3/2026-27, does not specify alternative disposal sites for the affected local bodies, leaving them to

make suitable arrangements during the temporary suspension.

With waste acceptance halted at the facility, the immediate task for the concerned municipal councils and village panchayats will be to ensure continuity in waste management while preventing roadside dumping and other forms of uncontrolled disposal.

Goa-Based Suspect Held In Telangana Drug Case; ₹48.4 Lakh Money Trail Under Scanner

that he was attempting to sell drugs allegedly procured from Goa. Police said they recovered 13 grams of MDMA and seven grams of charas from his car. A case was subsequently registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. According to investigators, Singh

allegedly identified two people as his sources during questioning: Vedank, from Marredpally, and Fernandes, based in Goa.

Singh reportedly told police that he visited Goa in April and bought MDMA and charas worth around ₹40,000 from Fernandes, with plans to sell the drugs for nearly ₹80,000. The financial aspect of the case has become a major focus, with investigators reportedly identifying credits amounting to about ₹48.4 lakh in the bank accounts examined. Officials are working to establish where the money originated, who received it and whether the transactions were connected to the alleged drug business. Police suspect that people associated with the Goa-based supplier travelled to Hyderabad to distribute drugs, collect payments and deposit cash into accounts allegedly connected to Fernandes.

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Four Pakistani Terrorists Killed in LoC Blast During Infiltration Attempt in Poonch

■ Explosion in Krishna Ghati sector reportedly kills Lashkar e Taiba commander as security forces intensify vigilance along the border

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Four Pakistani terrorists, including a senior Lashkar e Taiba commander, were killed in a landmine blast while allegedly attempting to infiltrate into India across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Monday. The explosion occurred in the Satwal Naki area of the Krishna Ghati sector, a forward region along the LoC that has previously witnessed



infiltration attempts. The blast reportedly involved an improvised explosive device and occurred when a group approached the Indian side of the border

from Pakistan administered Jammu and Kashmir. The four individuals were identified as Muhammad Ishtiaq, Muhammad Faizan, Muhammad

Waqas and Muhammad Asim. Faizan was identified as a senior Lashkar e Taiba commander. All four were reported to be residents of Mandla, Madarpur, in the Hajira tehsil of Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The circumstances that led to the explosion have not yet been fully established. The incident prompted security forces to raise an alert and strengthen surveillance along the LoC to prevent any further infiltration attempts.



Delhi Police Seeks Extension of 27,300 CAPF Personnel Amid Fears of Prolonged Protests

■ Security deployment requested until October 20 as police flag possible demonstrations at Jantar Mantar, Election Commission headquarters and other sensitive locations

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police has sought an extension of the deployment of 273 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in the national capital until October 20, citing concerns over possible escalation of protests and emerging law and order challenges.

In a letter dated October 12, 2026, addressed to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Office of the Special Commissioner of Police, Operations, requested that the existing deployment be continued beyond October 12 to maintain security preparedness

across the city. Delhi Police had received approval for 301 CAPF companies. Of these, 221 companies were sanctioned on October 6, while another 80 were approved on October 8. The latest request seeks an extension for 273 companies until October 20. The request follows intelligence inputs indicating the possibility of further protests and marches by activists associated with the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and other organisations. The demonstrations are reportedly linked to demands for the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner of India.



"We Grow With the World, Not at Its Cost": PM Modi Highlights India's 7% Growth Outlook

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday highlighted India's growing economic strength and global role in innovation, asserting that the country's progress should benefit the world. His remarks came after the International Monetary Fund raised India's growth forecast to 7%, reflecting stronger economic momentum and resilient domestic demand.

Addressing the Bloomberg New Economy Forum, Modi emphasised that technology, knowledge and innovation should be used to empower millions of people rather than concentrate opportunities among a select few. He described this approach as the principle of using power to empower others. The Prime Minister said India's long standing traditions had shaped its approach to governance and development, with an emphasis on using resources and capabilities for the wider public good. PM Modi Highlights India's Digital Achievements Modi highlighted India's democratic traditions.

"More Than Just Repositories of Information": Jaishankar Calls for Protection of India's Ancient Manuscripts

■ External Affairs Minister stresses cultural preservation, knowledge sharing and AI to make India's traditional wisdom accessible to future generations

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday called for stronger efforts to preserve India's ancient manuscripts, describing them as vital records of the country's cultural memory, intellectual traditions and civilisational history.

Speaking at an event on Asian texts and



practices at the India International Centre in New Delhi, Jaishankar highlighted the importance of protecting traditional knowledge and ensuring that it remains accessible

to future generations.

He explained that manuscripts serve a purpose beyond storing information. They document how societies developed ideas, conducted experiments, organised institutions and passed knowledge from one generation to another. Preserving these records, he stressed, is essential to understanding how human civilisation has evolved.

"This Is a Law and Order Issue": CJI Surya Kant on Delhi Protests

■ Chief Justice says Supreme Court's doors are open to all, but advises INDIA bloc to approach the court through a formal petition

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday said the protests in Delhi were a law and order issue handled by the concerned authorities, clarifying that managing demonstrations on the streets did not fall within his domain. Responding to questions from journalists on the recent protests and security restrictions in



the national capital, the Chief Justice said, "Ye law and order ka mudda hai. Ye mera vishay nahin hai," meaning that the matter concerned law and order and was not his subject.

He made the remarks on the sidelines of an event in Delhi marking

the 33rd anniversary of the National Human Rights Commission. The comments came amid several days of demonstrations demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The protests were linked to allegations of irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Security arrangements were significantly strengthened in Delhi over the weekend

ahead of a demonstration organised by CJP leaders. More than 20,000 security personnel were deployed, 45 Metro stations were closed on Saturday, and checks were intensified at the city's border entry points. Thousands of demonstrators were detained, including senior CJP leaders and four former chief ministers. CJI Responds to INDIA Bloc's Meeting Request Surya Kant also addressed the INDIA bloc's request for a

meeting over concerns surrounding the electoral roll revision process. He emphasised that the Supreme Court remained accessible to everyone, including ordinary citizens and elected representatives seeking legal remedies. However, he explained that he could not hold a separate meeting with Opposition leaders to discuss issues already pending before the court.

Aryan Narvekar's Unbeaten 76 Leads Goa's Fightback Against Baroda in U23 Trophy

■ Goa recover from 59 for 3 to reach 227 for 4 on Day 1 of the Colonel C.K. Nayudu Trophy Elite match

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa captain Aryan Narvekar led a resilient batting effort with an unbeaten 76 as Goa finished the opening day at 227 for four in 87 overs against Baroda in their Colonel C.K. Nayudu Trophy Elite Under 23 four day match at the BCA Stadium B Ground on Monday. After winning the toss and choosing to bat, Goa suffered an early setback, losing three wickets for just



59 runs. Narvekar then took responsibility for rebuilding the innings, displaying patience and discipline against the Baroda bowling attack. The Goa skipper faced 207 deliveries and struck 10 boundaries and two

sixes in a determined knock. He showed good judgment in leaving difficult deliveries while capitalising on scoring opportunities to guide his side out of trouble. Dishank Misquin played a crucial supporting role, scoring 45 off 168 balls with four fours and two sixes. The pair stitched together a valuable 112 run partnership for the fifth wicket, helping Goa regain control after a difficult start. Wicketkeeper Chittem Jeevankumar

remained unbeaten on 45 at the close of play. He struck seven fours and provided strong support to Narvekar, with their unbroken partnership giving Goa a promising platform for the second day.

Baroda's Henil Patel was the most successful bowler, claiming three wickets for 43 runs, while Harshit Maurya picked up one wicket for 29 runs. Goa will aim to build on their recovery when play resumes on Tuesday.

Baroda Post 472 as Goa Suffer First Ball Blow in Ranji Trophy Clash

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Baroda strengthened their position against Goa by declaring their first innings at 472 for eight on the second day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match at the Panaji Gymkhana Ground on Monday. Goa suffered an early blow in reply, losing opener Suyash Prabhudessai for a duck off the very first delivery. At stumps, Goa were struggling at five for one after three overs, with Shivendra Bhujbal unbeaten on five and nightwatchman Darshan Misal yet to open his account. The hosts face a challenging task to reduce Baroda's substantial first innings total. Resuming the day at 204 for three, Baroda added 268 runs to post a commanding score. Captain Atit Sheth narrowly missed a century, falling for 99 after playing a crucial innings. Shashwat Rawat, who had remained unbeaten overnight, continued his impressive performance to score 69. Deepak Hooda contributed 52, while wicketkeeper Mitesh Patel strengthened the visitors' innings with a valuable 81. Their contributions helped Baroda maintain control and build a formidable total before the declaration.

Shubman Gill, Shafali Verma Win ICC Player of the Month Awards

■ India captain Shubman Gill and opener Shafali Verma have been named ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for their impressive performances

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Gill won the men's award for a record fifth time after scoring 110 and 223 in the ODI series against the West Indies. His double-century helped India chase down a massive target of 406 runs. Shafali earned the women's honour after scoring 360 runs at a strike rate of 184.61 and taking six wickets during the Women's Asia Cup. She also scored an



unbeaten century against Bangladesh in the Asian Games semifinal and 48 in the final against Sri Lanka. With this achievement, Gill equals West Indies captain



Hayley Matthews, who has also won the award five times. It is the fifth occasion that players from the same national board have swept both monthly honours.

Sudhanshu Pandey's Century Powers Bengal to Seven Wicket Win Over Goa in Vinoo Mankad Trophy

■ Atharva Kumar Gupta scores 78 for Goa, but Bengal seal the chase with four overs to spare

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa suffered a seven wicket defeat against Bengal in a Group C encounter of the Vinoo Mankad Trophy Elite Under 19 tournament at Cricket Stadium, Sector 16, on Monday, despite posting a competitive 254 for eight in 50 overs. After winning the toss and electing to bowl, Bengal restricted Goa to 254 before completing a successful chase, reaching 255 for three in 46 overs to secure victory with four overs remaining. Wicketkeeper Vishesh Behl, promoted to open the innings, provided Goa with an aggressive start, scoring 28 off just 16 deliveries with four fours and a six. However, Goa suffered a major setback when Aradhya Goyal and Afrid Rajakkanavar were dismissed for ducks, leaving the team

struggling at 64 for four. Adeep Miskin then steadied the innings with a patient 43 off 66 balls, striking five boundaries. He built a crucial 77 run partnership for the fifth wicket with Atharva Kumar Gupta, who emerged as Goa's top scorer with 78. Gupta's innings featured nine fours and helped rebuild the innings after the early collapse. Mihir Kudalkar added valuable runs towards the end, smashing an unbeaten 48 off 35 deliveries, including four fours and three sixes, to take Goa beyond the 250 run mark. Bengal's Hriddhi Nag Chowdhury and Aneesh Rathi claimed three wickets each to lead the bowling effort. In reply, Bengal lost two wickets for 63 runs but recovered through a decisive 185 run partnership between Atmaja Mondal and Sudhanshu Pandey.

St. Joseph Vaz College Clinches Goa University Inter Collegiate Cycling Men's Championship 2026-27

■ Bhavesh Naik wins individual title as over 90 cyclists compete in a challenging 35 kilometre race at Navelim

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: St. Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim, emerged champions at the Goa University Inter Collegiate Cycling Men's Championship 2026-27, held on October 9 at Navelim, Goa. The event was organised by Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim, under the aegis of Goa University, with



more than 90 participants from colleges across the state competing in the 35 kilometre race. Sant Sohirobanath Ambiyee Government College of Arts and Commerce,



Pernem, secured the runners up position, while the host institution, Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim, finished third in the team standings. In the individual category,

Bhavesh Naik of St. Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim, claimed first place and was named Best Player of the Championship for his outstanding performance.

Goa Suffer Third Straight Defeat as Jharkhand Cruise to Nine Wicket Win in U19 T20 Trophy

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa suffered their third consecutive defeat in the Women's Under 19 T20 Trophy Elite after losing to Jharkhand by nine wickets in a Group D encounter at Alur Cricket Stadium 4 on Monday. After winning the toss and opting to bowl, Jharkhand produced a disciplined bowling performance to dismiss Goa for 94 in 18.5 overs. The Jharkhand batters then chased down the target comfortably, reaching 100 for one in just 11.2 overs to seal a convincing victory.