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THE GOAN

EVERYDAY

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 14 pages | PRICE ₹ 10 PANAJI | MARGAO GOA | VOLUME XII, NO. 95 RNI: GOAENG/2015/65729



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Entry, exit points on Porvorim flyover to reopen with curbs

■ GOVT SETS ONE WEEK DEADLINE ■ RUMBLERS, CAMS, SIGNAGES PLANNED ■ BAN ON TWO-WHEELERS TO STAY

THE GOAN I NETWORK

MAPUSA

The State government has decided to reopen the entry and exit points of the Porvorim elevated corridor, albeit with restrictions, while continuing to bar two-wheelers from using the six-lane flyover.

The decision, taken at a high-level meeting on Monday, comes amid mounting concerns over traffic movement and safety at the corridor's junctions with the Atal Setu and local roads.

As reported by The Goan on Monday, the government was considering reopening the access points with restrictions, while the ban on two-wheelers was expected to remain.

The meeting has now endorsed that approach, with Public Works Minister Digambar Kamat saying the entry and exit arrangements would be restored within about a week.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the traffic arrangements would be streamlined within eight days after the necessary safety measures were put in place.

The meeting was attended by Sawant, Kamat, Tourism Minister and Porvorim MLA Rohan Khaunte, Mapusa MLA Joshua D'Souza, PWD and Traffic Police officials and other experts.

The IIT Kharagpur team, the project's technical and traffic engineering consultant, joined the meeting virtually.

Restricted access

Under the revised arrangement, vehicles coming from Atal Setu will be allowed to exit near Hotel Majestic and proceed on the road below towards Porvorim or Calangute etc. At the same point, vehicles coming from the Mandovi bridges will be allowed to enter the Elevated Corridor and proceed towards Mapusa or North Goa.

On the other side, four-wheelers from Porvorim's service road will be allowed to enter and take the Atal Setu. However, vehicles coming from Mapusa and other places of North Goa on the Elevated Corridor will not be allowed to exit and proceed to Mandovi bridges to proceed towards Panaji. They will have to continue straight on the Atal Setu.

However, two-wheelers will continue to be barred from the elevated corridor, even after the restricted access points are reopened.

Kamat said the government would streamline the entry and exit arrangements by providing specific access points rather than reopening all the previously available

›Continued on P9

Porvorim elevated corridor sees another crash; cameras do not work at night

MAPUSA: Another accident on the newly opened Porvorim elevated corridor has added to growing concerns over road safety, with a rear-end collision reported around midnight on Sunday.

A Creta car was hit from behind by a Baleno on the corridor. Both vehicles were damaged in the collision. Two occupants of the cars were reportedly injured in the accident.

Porvorim police conducted a spot inspection and took the vehicles into custody.

The latest crash comes amid a series of accidents reported on the corridor since it was opened to traffic, putting the spotlight once again on safety and traffic-management measures.

Traffic police have installed automated speed cameras on the corridor to check overspeeding. Motorists travelling above the prescribed 65-kmph speed limit are to be detected and issued e-challans.

However, the cameras currently have a major limitation – they operate only during the daytime and are not functional at night because of darkness.

Traffic police said the cameras automatically record vehicles crossing the speed limit and facilitate the issuing of challans to offenders.

Khaunte seeks accountability for flyover flaws

›› See pg 3

Casinos, luxury hotels face steep p'yat licence fee hike

Draft proposes area-based charges, hefty penalties for delayed renewals

THE GOAN I NETWORK

MAPUSA

Casinos, luxury hotels, clubs and other high-end commercial establishments could face sharply higher trade licence fees in village panchayats, with the government proposing a new area-based regime that could see land-based casinos charged up to Rs 5,000 per sq metre annually.

Starred hotels and luxury resorts could attract a fee of up to Rs 2,000 per room or suite, while clubs, discotheques, pubs and lounges could be charged up to Rs 1,500 per sq metre under the proposed rules.

The Directorate of Panchayats has published the draft Goa Panchayat Raj (Grant of Permission/Trade License and Levying of Permission Fees/Trade License Fees) Rules, 2026, inviting objections and suggestions within 15 days. The rules will come into force only after their final publication in the Official Gazette.

The proposed regime seeks to standardise the way panchayats levy trade licence and permission fees by placing panchayats in two categories based broadly on their commercial, industrial and tourism potential.

Panchayats would be allowed to fix their own rates through resolutions, but could not exceed the maximum ceilings prescribed under the draft without prior government approval.

For ordinary retail shops and commercial establishments in RCC structures, the annual ceiling in Category A panchayats would range from Rs 50 per sq metre for premises up to 15 sq metres to Rs 150 per sq metre for premises above 100 sq metres. Category B rates would range from Rs 30 to Rs 100 per sq metre.

The higher-end commercial sector would face steeper ceilings.

Mega retail stores, showrooms and corporate retail establishments, as well as corporate offices, banks and insurance offices, could attract up to Rs 200 per sq metre annually in Category A

›Continued on P9

DRAFT RULES: KEY PROVISIONS

- P'yats to be classified into Category A & B based on commercial, industrial and tourism potential
- P'yats can set their own fees but cannot exceed prescribed ceilings without govt nod
- Mega retail stores, showrooms, corporate offices, banks could attract fees of up to Rs 200 per sq metre annually
- Licences proposed for 1, 3, 5 or 10 years, with fees payable upfront
- 10 per cent per month for delayed renewal/ payment
- Seasonal shacks to face fees up to Rs 15,000 per season
- Traditional artisans, weavers and small agricultural producers to be exempt

IN SHORT ››

Big security churn at Colvale jail

PANAJI: Colvale Central Jail has witnessed a sweeping churn of security personnel within days, with 41 constables moved out to IRB camps over the weekend and 65 personnel transferred from various IRB camps and the GRP to the Correctional Home. ›› See pg 3

HC quashes NGT order in CRZ challenge

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has come down heavily on the National Green Tribunal for dismissing a challenge over alleged CRZ violations at Casa Britona without hearing the petitioner. ›› See pg 5

2 Indian students killed in Canada

TORONTO: Two Indian students have been killed in a tragic air accident in Canada during their flight training, the Indian mission has said.

WEATHER ››

Max:	32.5 C
Min:	25.7C
Humidity:	71%

Hat Katro Khambo, 14 heritage sites declared protected

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The 16th-century pillory Hat Katro Khambo, also known as Pelourinho Novo is among 15 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains across Goa that have been formally declared protected under the Goa Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1978.

The Department of Archaeology, in a notification, said the 15 sites have been notified as protected monuments. Of these, 11 are privately owned, while the remaining four belong to the government.

The sites were proposed for protection by the government in February.

The newly protected sites include the Malar Cave in Malar, Tiswadi, and a cave at Sirdona. The ruins of the Convent of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Chimbel, considered historically significant, have also been included.

Other sites include the remains of the Gopakkapattnam Port at Goa Velha, Jacquem Cave at Neturlim; Bawlyache Mol at Pirla; and Pandurang Math and Mukhyapran (Maruti) Math at Balli.

The notification also covers the remains of a temple at Sasore Khaddem in Cordem, Tamsuli Cave at Candola, Mardangad Fort at Queula, ruins of the Surya Temple and Thadgi memorials at Kudne, a rock-cut tank at Dabolim and Shree Damodar Temple tank at Fatorda.

PRESERVING THE PAST

- 11 are privately owned, while four are govt-owned
- Sites proposed for protection in Feb
- Newly protected sites include Malar Cave in Malar, and a cave at Sirdona
- Ruins of Convent of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Chimbel also included



RIFLE GLORY: India's Rudrankksh Patil, Himanshu Dhillon and Parth Mane pose after winning the silver medal in the men's 10m air rifle team final at the Asian Games 2026 on Monday. Himanshu Dhillon and Rudrankksh Patil also won the silver and bronze medals, respectively, in the men's 10m air rifle individual final. *(Report on pg 12)*

Protective bund repairs to get 100% govt financial support

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The State government has decided to bear the entire cost of repairing and strengthening protective bunds, replacing the existing 90 per cent government contribution, though the enhanced funding will be subject to the State's financial position and prior approval of the Finance Department.

The decision effectively removes the financial contribution of 10 per cent that tenant associations were earlier required to make towards the repair of protective bunds.

In a notification issued recently, Under Secretary (Revenue) Vrushika Kauthankar said the government has decided to contribute 100 per cent of the cost towards the repair or strengthening of protective bunds.

"The decision is subject to the prior permission of the Finance Department towards each such proposal considering Budget allocation and financial position of the State," Kauthankar said in the notification.

The government had, in June 2021, amended the Goa,

›Continued on P9

Double tragedy in Canacona: 2 elderly sisters found dead

DECOMPOSED BODIES FOUND IN 2 ROOMS

THE GOAN I NETWORK

CANACONA

Two spinster siblings in their seventies are reported to have ended their lives in their house at Mokhard-Bhatpal in Shristhal-Canacona late Sunday evening.

According to sources, the highly decomposed bodies of Rekha Kamat (73) and her sister Medha (70) were found in two separate rooms at the house. A handwritten note along with cash of Rs 15,000 was found at the scene, mentioning that the money should be used to conduct their last rites.

Source said the two sisters who were living together had been under considerable mental stress and had isolated themselves from the neighbourhood.

When some stench began to emanate from their house, panch Ramu (Dhillan) Naik and some neighbours went towards the house. Suspecting something fishy on account of the foul smell, they notified the Canacona police and intimated the relatives of the deceased.

A police team went to the house and found that while the door was closed, it was not locked from the inside. The police entered the house and found the two highly

›Continued on P9

TRAGIC END

- Handwritten note along with cash of Rs 15,000 found at the scene
- Note states money should be used to conduct their last rites
- The two sisters living together had been under considerable mental stress and had isolated themselves

NHAI sets fresh guidelines for high-speed national highways

PROVIDES UNIFORM TECHNICAL & SAFETY MEASURES

PTI

NEW DELHI

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Monday released comprehensive guidelines for the design and development of access-controlled high-speed national highways, aiming to standardise lane configurations based on detailed traffic assessments and ensure seamless, safer movement of vehicles.

The guidelines seek to bring uniformity in the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for these corridors, introduce greater consistency in technical standards, strengthen road safety measures and improve operational efficiency across the national highway network, according to an official statement. They will apply to all upcoming four- and six-lane greenfield and brownfield high-speed access-controlled national highways.

Until now, no separate standards and specifications existed for planning and designing access-controlled high-speed national highways other than expressways. This had led to variations in the standards adopted for DPRs.

The new guidelines address the gap by providing a uniform set of technical and safety provisions. A key focus is the incorporation of additional safety measures suited to high-speed traffic conditions.

Special provisions have been prescribed for advance notification of exits and entries, enabling road users to anticipate and safely navigate upcoming access and egress points.

Big push to revive khazan land, govt seeks ₹476 cr

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The State government has sought Rs 476 crore from NITI Aayog to bring 1,490 ha of traditional khazan land back under cultivation, with a major part of the proposed investment aimed at repairing the ageing network of bunds and sluice gates that protect these low-lying agricultural lands from saline water ingress.

The proposal, prepared by the Agriculture Department was submitted to the Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation for onward submission to NITI Aayog for funding, sources said adding that the same has been forward to the Aayog.

Of the proposed outlay, Rs 180 crore has been earmarked for strengthening khazan bunds and sluice gates, while another Rs 296 crore is proposed for desilting water bodies, including poiems, and drainage canals.

The proposed intervention covers khazan areas in Tiswadi, Bardez and Salcete, with Carambolim emerging as one of the key areas for bund strengthening. Four bunds -- Naganzo Khedo, Ofla-Caujuo-Kholi, Ofla-Dongzo and Dhado -- have been identified, with the proposed works expected to protect around 750 hectares of khazan land.

In Salcete, strengthening of the Daclem Ordh, Odlem-Ordh, Deorbhat-Tamxell, Nokhazan and Carbot-Cantor-Bebdo bunds has been proposed.

Khazan lands are low-lying estuarine areas reclaimed over centuries and traditionally used for paddy cultivation and

›Continued on P9

WHAT THE AGRI DEPT PROPOSAL ENTAILS

- Major funding to strengthen Goa's khazan areas
- Rs 180 crore for strengthening khazan bunds and sluice gates
- Rs 296 crore proposed for desilting water bodies, poiems, drainage canals
- Works to cover khazan areas in Tiswadi, Bardez & Salcete
- Four Carambolim bunds identified for strengthening
- Carambolim works expected to protect around 750 hectares of khazan land
- Five bunds in Salcete proposed for strengthening
- Proposal forwarded to NITI Aayog for funding consideration



Congress projects unity for 2027, but strategy clouded by internal friction

PARTY STARES AT LEADERSHIP AND ALLIANCE QUESTIONS AS IT LAUNCHES PRE-POLL CAMPAIGN

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

As the Congress leadership put up a united front on the eve of the Goy Rakhon Yatra, scheduled for a grand launch on Tuesday, the principal opposition party may face a host of critical questions, particularly over internal leadership and how it plans to engage with like-minded political parties to take on the BJP in the 2027 Assembly elections.

Aimed at mobilising party workers, supporters and well-wishers ahead of the electoral battle, the yatra comes at a time when the leadership tussle within the Congress has left the organisation unsettled, while questions over its alliance strategy with non-BJP parties remain unresolved.

The party also faces questions over how it will deal with political leaders seeking to join its ranks while maintaining a balance with loyal workers who have been preparing for the upcoming elections.

These issues continue to confront the Congress leadership despite its efforts to project the party as being in a position of strength. The party has portrayed the yatra as an attempt to take the fight to the BJP by highlighting what it describes as the ruling party's fast-track approach towards the sale of the state's land resources.



Leadership question remains

While the leadership issue appeared to have been settled following the appointment of Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Girish Chodankar as Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president, the matter appears to be far from closed.

The removal of Amit Patkar as GPCC chief is now a past chapter, but sources said some well-wishers of the Congress are still working on a possible middle-ground solution under which Chodankar could voluntarily step aside to contest the coming polls and propose another leader from his camp to head the party during the election campaign.

Sources said well-wishers of the Congress party from Salcete, who do not hold any brief for former GPCC chief Amit Patkar, are exploring whether the Congress leadership could consider a new face to lead the party in the forthcoming elections while reassuring Chodankar that he would continue to have a decisive role in the party's decision-making process.

"We are well-wishers of the Congress party. We have nothing against Chodankar and hold no brief for Patkar. We are trying to work out a solution to the Congress leadership issue wherein a new face leads the party in the coming elections," a Congress well-wisher said.

SCOPE FOR CHANGE?

- Congress is preparing for the 2027 electoral battle with its leadership structure still subject to internal discussion
- There is speculation about a possible middle-ground arrangement under which Girish Chodankar could step aside to contest the polls while proposing another leader to head the party during the campaign
- However, KC Venugopal's earlier backing of Chodankar could indicate continuity at the top

Venugopal visit may signal continuity

The visit of AICC general secretary KC Venugopal to Goa to launch the Goy Rakhon Yatra could, according to party circles, rule out any immediate change in the Congress leadership.

For, during his previous visit to Goa, when the party was caught in the midst of the leadership tussle, Venugopal had strongly backed Chodankar and given him a clean chit, effectively ruling out any immediate possibility of a change at the top.

Since then, the Congress has focused on strengthening its organisation, a process that culminated in the visit of party national president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Alliance strategy under scrutiny

The Congress has entered into an alliance with the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), but questions remain over how it will proceed with the Goa Forward Party (GFP), which has entered into an alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

With several national leaders expected to visit Goa during the month-long Goy Rakhon Yatra, including Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, there is speculation within political circles over whether the party's central leadership will seek to bring more like-minded parties into its alliance fold during the campaign.

After the Congress-GFP alliance came under strain following the regional party's tie-up with the AAP a week ago, hopes have once again emerged of a possible electoral understanding between the Congress and GFP, with Congress leaders going to the town to say the party doors are still open for the Goa Forward Party.

However, the two parties are yet to resolve fundamental questions surrounding their alliance, including whether the Congress wants GFP to merge with the party or whether it is prepared to continue with an alliance and work out a seat-sharing arrangement for the 2027 elections.

Sources are now wondering whether these issues will be addressed during the month-long yatra or left to be settled in the months ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

AAP accuses Cong of targeting its Salcete strongholds, not BJP

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

The Opposition unity effort in Goa ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections has hit fresh friction, with AAP accusing the Congress of targeting its strongholds instead of focusing on defeating the BJP, while keeping the door open for the Congress to join its proposed Goa First alliance.

Speaking to the media, AAP Goa chief Valmiki Naik said the party had waited for the Congress to initiate talks on an alliance but claimed that no meeting had taken place despite repeated efforts.

"Congress is a senior Opposition party. We waited a long time for their call for an alliance, but not a single meeting took place," Naik said.

He claimed that while the Congress had sent an official letter to the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), no such communication was sent to AAP, which led the party to believe that Congress did not want it as part of the alliance.

Naik said AAP had simultaneously been in talks with the Goa Forward Party (GFP) and RGP and had received a positive response from GFP. He said the Goa First alliance was being pursued with the objective of forming a "BJP-mukt Sarkar" in 2027, adding that the alliance's doors remained open to Congress.

> Looks like we are the target and not BJP,"
> —*Valmiki Naik,*
> AAP Goa chief



However, Naik questioned Congress' strategy for the 2027 elections, alleging that it appeared more focused on AAP-held constituencies such as Benaulim and Velim than on defeating the BJP.

"Looks like we are the target and not BJP," he said. He also questioned whether joining hands with Congress would help achieve the objective of defeating the BJP.

Naik further attacked Congress over its reported willingness to accommodate BJP defectors, citing the examples of Michael Lobo and Babush Monserrate. He alleged that such politicians could join Congress before the elections and later return to the BJP.

AAP, he said, was also in touch with strong independent leaders who wanted to defeat the BJP and would not support a post-poll arrangement with the party. Naik urged Congress not to "cheat Goans again" and said AAP would continue working towards building an alternative political front for 2027.

NDA/NDZ plan faces questions over its ground-level impact on families

Velim MLA calls for survey-wise review before classification is finalised

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

Velim MLA Cruz Silva has demanded a comprehensive, ground-level study of every survey number that continues to fall under the proposed Non Developable Area/No Development Zone (NDA/NDZ) classification, warning the Government against taking any further decision without examining the concerns of affected families and traditional livelihood communities.

Silva said the government's decision to now exclude old settlements and settlement zones from the NDA/NDZ proposal reinforces the need for a similar detailed review of the remaining areas. "The Government has now made an amendment after the concerns raised by us and the people. That clearly shows that the issues we had raised immediately after the notification were genuine and had substance. I therefore put it on record once again: don't take any decision on the remaining areas without conducting a proper study of every survey number and understanding the concerns of every affected family."

SEEKING CLARITY

- Velim MLA Cruz Silva has sought a detailed ground-level review of areas remaining under the proposed NDA/NDZ classification, saying affected families and traditional livelihoods must be considered before further decisions
- He also called for clarity on FAR and consultation with panchayats and locals before the provisions are finalised

The AAP legislator said he has completed the first round of consultations with all the affected Village Panchayats in the Velim constituency, meeting elected Panchayat members as well as members of the general public. "The next phase would focus on identifying people whose lives and livelihoods are connected to areas that may not be officially classified as settlements but where families have traditionally lived or maintained shelters close to their sources of livelihood," he said.

Silva said a blanket classification without understanding these ground realities could cause serious hardship to families that depend on agriculture and fishing. The MLA stressed that Goa's small geographical size makes such an exercise both practical and necessary. "Goa is a small State. Only a limited number of villages and areas have been brought under these NDA and NDZ notifications. It is certainly possible to conduct a proper survey. The TCP Department should take the assistance of the Revenue Department, the concerned Village Panchayats and the elected MLA of the respective constituency. There is no justification for saying that such a detailed exercise is not possible."

FAR concerns

Silva said the government must now use the opportunity to correct the deficiencies in the original process.

Saying that FAR must be decided in the interest of villages, not real estate interests, he demanded clarity on the proposed Floor Area Ratio (FAR) applicable in these areas, adding that any decision on FAR must reflect the needs, character and carrying capacity of villages rather than the commercial interests of builders and the real estate lobby. He said the government must consult the affected Village Panchayats and local residents before finalising any FAR provisions. He clarified that his demand should not be construed as opposition to environmental protection.

Warning the government that any further action without a comprehensive ground-level assessment would only deepen the anxiety among residents, he demanded that the TCP Department undertake a coordinated survey, and document the circumstances of affected families before finalising the classification. He said the government must understand that protecting Goa's environment and protecting the legitimate interests of its people are not competing objectives.

"Protect Goa's land, but don't forget the people who have protected and depended on that land for generations. Planning must be scientific, transparent and people-oriented. No government should decide the future of an entire family merely on the basis of a line drawn on a map," he added.

Runaway minors found during Colva nakabandi

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

A minor boy and girl from Vile Parle, Mumbai, who had left their respective houses without informing their family members, have been traced by the Colva police on Sunday night.

The duo, both aged around 17 years, were travelling in a taxi when the Colva police, conducting late-night nakabandi, intercepted the vehicle, and found the two minors inside. The minors were brought to the Colva Police Station for further enquiry, wherein the duo disclosed their identities.

During the enquiry, both minors stated that they had left their respective houses on the night of September 18 without informing their family members. Further verification with Mumbai Police revealed that the family member of the minor boy had reported him missing, pursuant to which Vile Parle Police Station, Mumbai, had registered a case under Section 137(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The Investigating Officer of the case was contacted and informed about the tracing of both minors at Colva.

The minors underwent medical examination South Goa District Hospital, Margao, and were later sent to Apna Ghar, Merces.

Curtorim panchayat launches campaign against hill cutting

Local body vows action against violations in village

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

The Curtorim village panchayat led by Sarpanch Milagres Rodrigues has launched a major campaign against hill cutting in the village.

Accompanied by Panchayat members on Monday, the Sarpanch installed a board containing a clear message that the Panchayat is opposed to hill cutting at the site in question. The panchayat installed the board after complaining to the flying squad to stop the cutting of the hill at the site.

Sarpanch Milagres later told the media that the panchayat had stopped the hill cutting activity before installing the board to send a message loud and clear to all and sundry that the panchayat is vehemently opposed to hill cutting.

The Sarpanch has also appealed to the local residents as well as those who purchase properties for development not to indulge in hill cutting, asserting that the panchayat would come down heavily on the violators. "The panchayat has stopped hill cutting at Battiem after the activity was brought to our notice. We have now installed a board to drive home the message that no hill cutting activity will be tolerated in the village," he said.



The board installed by Curtorim panchayat Battiem opposing hill cutting in the village.

Making an appeal to the villagers to inform the Panchayat body about hill cutting, Milagres said, "100 per cent, we will act against hill cutting. Our appeal to the people is to please go by the rule book. If any illegal hill cutting is found, we will not spare the violators. We will not allow our verdant hills and mountains to be destroyed in the village. Help and support us to preserve our environment and beauty."

> The panchayat has stepped up its campaign against hill cutting, stopping an activity at Battiem and installing a warning board. It has urged residents and developers to report and avoid illegal hill cutting, amid ongoing concerns over big housing projects

Saying that the panchayat has kept the local MLA Reginaldo Lourenco informed about the hill cutting activity, the Sarpanch said the MLA has given the Panchayat full support to crack a whip on hill cutting.

The panchayat stance comes amid sustained agitations by the residents of Maina, objecting to a host of housing projects coming up in the village. In fact, people of Maina had been running from pillar to post, right from the panchayat to the Salcete BDO to the court of Additional Director of Panchayats, South Goa, to object to the housing projects lined up in the village.

Porvorim corridor: Traffic data gaps in planning questioned

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

Activist Dr Jorson Fernandes has said the technical failures at the recently inaugurated Porvorim Elevated Corridor, leading to the loss of two precious lives, followed by another accident in two days after its hurried inauguration, point to sheer incompetence on the part of the Government, with its closure inviting severe public, political as well as technical backlash. Its hurried rollout pointed to major technical lapses.

> Questions have been raised over the traffic data and technical assessments that preceded the Porvorim Elevated Corridor, including whether vehicle volumes and movement patterns were adequately studied

Pointing out that road engineering is basically an engineering subject which calls for technocrats and not management gurus, Fernandes said the technocrats are needed first to analyse the data and design roads for smooth flow of traffic. "Has the Government and the PWD in particular undertaken any traffic data collection measuring vehicle volume, movement patterns with volume counts, turning movements, merging of traffic at entry and exit points, vehicle classification before going ahead with the building of Porvorim Elevated Corridor?" he questioned.

Saying that data collection is critical before launching any project of this sort as traffic stream characteristics need to be collected from the field, which takes into account speed, travel time, flow and density, he said the most important measurement is the vehicle volume count collected for short intervals of five minutes or 15 minutes, for each type of vehicle like cars, two-wheelers, three-wheelers, LCV, HCV, multiple-axle trucks.

He added: "From what one has observed, the one thing that has been forgotten is traffic data collection, which serves as an invaluable tool in the arsenal of traffic management professionals. This needs to be undertaken by road engineers, premier academic institutions offering advanced programmes and research in transportation and road/highway engineering, and specialised centres like the IITs".

Caveat filed in HC over disputed Margao civic land

Shadow Council moves against claim over 13,590-sqm property valued at ₹14.12 crore

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

Coinciding with Margao Martyrs Day, wherein 23 Goans were martyred in front of Camara Municipal de Salcete in 1890 defending the democratic right to elect Margao Municipality, the Shadow Council of Margao has filed a caveat in the High Court on Monday against what it called an attempt to defend Margao Municipal Council's own freehold property, valued at Rs 14.12 crore, from being claimed as private property.

After filing the caveat in the High Court, Shadow Council of Margao convenor Savio Coutinho told the media that the caveat has been filed in connection with Margao Municipal property PTS No.190, Chalta No. 27, admeasuring 13,590 square metres, according to the file records of Margao Municipal Council. He said this property, which is valued at Rs 14.12 crores by government-registered valuer Mahendra Kakule, is recorded in MMC's own records as being titled to MMC.

CIVIC INTEREST

- The Shadow Council of Margao has filed a caveat in the High Court to ensure that the Margao Municipal Council's interests are heard before any ex-parte order is passed in the dispute over its property
- The move follows an Administrative Tribunal order staying further proceedings before ISLR Margao until October 6



- The land was allotted to BPS Sports Club in 1952 for public sports purposes with a reverter clause if its use was changed

"In 1952, this land was given to BPS Sports Club only for public sports purpose under Portaria No.5,568 dated 04-09-1952 and MMC Deliberation dated 18-06-1952, with a reverter clause - that on dissolution or deviation from sports purpose, property reverts to MMC. There is no lease deed, no foro, no lease rent paid to MMC since 1952," he said.

Considering the commercial activities like Bar and Restaurant etc., Coutinho said the "reverter clause" becomes effective, as these commercial activities amount to "deviation".

"Upon the club filing an application for confirmation of land Records pertaining to this property, I filed an intervention application. However, my intervention application before ISLR Margao in Case No.16/2026 was dismissed. I have filed Land Revenue Appeal No.03/2026 before Administrative Tribunal Goa at Panaji, and the Tribunal by order dated 17-09-2026 has stayed further proceedings before ISLR Margao till next date 06-10-2026 at 4:30 PM at Merces court. Notice No.425/AT/2026/LRA/03/2026 dated 18-09-2026 has been issued to all respondents, BPS Club, Margao Municipal Council and ISLR Margao as Respondent No.3. Therefore ISLR cannot issue Form D on 22-09-2026," he said.

He added, "I have filed this caveat today so that no ex-parte order is passed without hearing MMC's interest. Today, 21st September, is observed as Margao Martyrs Day - In 1890, 23 Goans were martyred in front of Camara Municipal de Salcete defending the democratic right to elect Margao Municipality. And today on the same day, I have filed a Caveat in the High Court to defend Margao Municipal Council's own freehold property PTS 190/27, valued at Rs.14.12 cr, from being claimed as private property."

TCP, Forest officials to vet devpt proposals in private forests, ESAs

JOINT PANEL TO INSPECT GROUND REALITY, PROTECT VULNERABLE AREAS

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

Even as the government moves to remove old settlements and settlement pockets from the No Development Zone (NDZ) and No Development Area (NDA) classifications, it is proposing a joint mechanism to ensure that the move does not open the door to development in ecologically sensitive areas.

TCP Minister Vishwajit Rane said a joint committee comprising officials from the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department and the Forest Department will be constituted to inspect and verify the ground reality before land-related or development proposals are considered.

"Before any cases are considered, there will be a joint committee of TCP and Forest Department to inspect and verify the ground reality so that private forests and ecologically vulnerable areas are protected," Rane said.

PROTECTING ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

- Joint TCP-Forest panel to verify land before development approvals
- 46.11 sq km of private forest notified for NDA protection
- Another 41.53 sq km identified as private forest
- Goa Green Shield to protect 177.84 sq km of ecologically significant land
- Old settlements to be removed from NDZ/NDA classifications
- Private forests, khazan lands, paddy fields and mangroves remain protected



- Committee to inspect ground reality and protect vulnerable areas
- 8.65 sq km within notified private forests marked as NDA
- Conservation plan includes wetlands, hill ecosystems and river corridors
- Coastal and marine habitats to form part of the conservation network
- Existing environmental regulations to remain strictly enforced

The proposed mechanism assumes significance against the backdrop of the large extent of private forest land identified for protection in the State. Around 46.11 sq km covering 624 survey numbers has been notified as private forest and referred for NDA protection.

Another 41.53 sq km has been identified as private forest, with the notification process currently underway. In addition, 8.65 sq km within notified private forests, covering more than 550 survey numbers and 855 subdivisions, has been delineated as NDA.

The government has also proposed the "Goa Green Shield" initiative to bring an additional 177.84 sq km, or 17.784 crore sq m, of ecologically significant land outside existing government forests under conservation protection.

The initiative envisages an interconnected conservation landscape covering mangroves, river corridors, private forests, wetlands, khazan lands, agricultural areas, hill ecosystems and coastal and marine habitats.

On Sunday, Rane announced that old settlements and settlement pockets earlier classified under NDZs and NDAs would be removed from these classifications, citing concerns of residents who have occupied such areas for generations.

However, he clarified that the decision would not dilute environmental safeguards. Private forests, khazan lands, salt pans, paddy fields, low-lying areas, mangroves and non-development slopes would continue to remain protected, with existing regulations strictly enforced.

Goa drug case exposes ₹3.96-cr Dubai-to-dark-web money trail: ED

Five more accused charged in laundering case

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

A Rs 3.96-crore drug money trail allegedly routed through banking channels to Dubai, converted into cryptocurrency and then used to procure narcotics through the dark web has led the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Goa, to charge five more persons in a money laundering case.

The ED filed a supplementary prosecution complaint against Nihal Vadakkancherry Nazer, Prasobh P K, Alfin Thomas, Dheeraj Mathews and Nishant Pratap before the Principal District and Sessions Judge, North Goa, Special Court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The five have been arraigned as additional accused and face charges under Sections 3 and 4 of the PMLA, read with Sections 44 and 45 of the Act, for their alleged roles in generating, procuring, layering, concealing, and converting proceeds of crime.

Details of the complaint accessed by The Goan reveal that the supplementary complaint follows the main prosecution complaint filed on March 16, 2026, against seven accused. The ED said its investigation had established that Rs 3.96 crore approx was generated as proceeds of crime through organised inter-State and cross-border trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

> "A portion of the alleged proceeds was layered through banking channels and routed to Dubai, where it was converted into cryptocurrency in the form of USDT, "
> *— Enforcement Directorate*

The money trail was uncovered during an investigation by the Goa Police Anti-Narcotic Cell on October 15, 2024, against Madhupan Sasikala in alleged international narcotics trafficking.

The ED said that Madhupan had allegedly generated the proceeds of crime through this criminal method since 2016.

"A portion of the alleged proceeds was layered through banking channels and routed to Dubai, where it was converted into cryptocurrency in the form of USDT. The cryptocurrency was then allegedly used to procure narcotic substances through the dark web," it said.

Further investigation led the ED to identify five additional accused and their alleged roles in moving, layering, and converting the proceeds of crime.

The ED has also quantified the alleged proceeds of crime held by two accused named in the main complaint. It identified Rs 9.39 lakh in the possession of Anam Charan Pradhan, Accused No. 2, and Rs 17.48 lakh in the possession of Uttam Chand, Accused No. 3.

Immovable properties equivalent in value to these amounts were provisionally attached by the ED on September 16. Earlier this year, the ED conducted searches at 26 premises across Goa, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha and Delhi in connection with the case.

109 constables shuffled to and from Colvale Central Jail in 4 days

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

Colvale Central Jail has witnessed a sweeping churn of security personnel within days, with 41 constables moved out to IRB camps over the weekend and 65 personnel transferred from various IRB camps and the GRP to the Correctional Home.

The unusually large-scale reshuffle comes against the backdrop of a series of allegations surrounding the functioning of the facility, including alleged nexus between some jail officials, IRB personnel and inmates to facilitate the movement of contraband.

In the transfer order on September 18 covering 84 IRB constables, 32 personnel were shunted from Colvale Central Jail to IRB camps at Altinho and Kadamba, while 30 were transferred from the IRB Wagheri camp to Colvale.

Another 10 personnel were moved from the jail premises to IRB Altinho, while 12 constables were transferred from IRB Altinho to Colvale.

A fresh order issued on Monday added 25 more constables from the GRP and SP Centre, Mapusa, to Colvale Jail, with directions that all personnel be relieved immediately and report to the Central Jail.

The reshuffle assumes significance as the government has been monitoring internal inquiries into how contraband continues to find its way into the jail despite multiple layers of security.

Last year, security personnel had apprehended four minors allegedly caught throwing rubber balls containing ganja into the prison premises. Seven such balls were recovered, containing 1.397 gm of ganja and valued at around Rs 1.4 lakh.

With the jail comprising at least three layers of security, IRB personnel conduct frisking at the main gate, followed by another security point around 200 mtrs inside, where prison staff conduct further checks. IRB personnel are also deployed in the intervening area and a security tower overlooks the premises.

Sources alleged that bags entering through these channels are rarely subjected to X-ray screening, with only certain smaller security bags being checked.

BE WITH US MARY ALONG THE WAY



Parishioners take the statue of Blessed Virgin Mary, locally known as 'Saibinn' to their house at Mapusa on Monday. Saibinn is a ritual that has a purpose of bringing the parish members together. People from the whole ward come together and pray with the family members of the house in which the statue will be kept. Vincent Braganza

Minister seeks accountability for Porvorim flyover flaws

THE GOAN I NETWORK

MAPUSA

Tourism Minister and Porvorim MLA Rohan Khaunte has demanded that responsibility be fixed for the shortcomings plaguing the newly opened Porvorim flyover.

Khaunte pointed out that officials who prepared the flyover's Detailed Project Report (DPR) are no longer with the Public Works Department (PWD), but said this could not be an excuse for avoiding accountability.

"Accountability has to be fixed. Those who did the DPR are no longer in PWD, but someone has to own up responsibility. These are not minor flaws," Khaunte said.

Questioning who would be held responsible if there were deficiencies in the flyover's planning or DPR, Khaunte said he would write to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant seeking that responsibility be established.

His remarks come amid mounting concerns over traffic management and safety on the recently opened corridor, which has witnessed a series of accidents and operational problems.

HC upholds bail of Kerala accused, says no role in laundering above ₹12.88L

Prosecution must still establish accused's actual connection with proceeds of crime: Order

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The High Court of Bombay at Goa refused to cancel bail granted to a Kerala native, accused in Rs 3.96-crore laundering operation linked to a narcotics investigation, observing that the Enforcement Directorate's ongoing probe did not in any way reveal a connection to or part of a larger activity of money laundering.

The Bench of Justice S G Chapalgaonkar, in its order pronounced on Monday, stated that while money laundering has to be viewed in the context of the entire criminal enterprise, the prosecution must still establish the accused -- Nihal Vadakkencherry Nazer's actual connection with the proceeds of crime before denying him the benefit of the monetary threshold under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Respondent's role

"When prosecution was filed against seven accused persons ... they are accused of money laundering of total sum of Rs 3.96 crore. The respondent's role is connected with transfer of money by Madhupan for conversion into dirham. There is nothing to show that respondent has role, directly or indirectly, in money laundering of any more amount beyond Rs 12.88 lakh. Prima facie, respondent cannot be individually or vicariously linked to money laundering of total proceeds of crime of Rs 3.96 crore on the basis of money trail flow chart relied by prosecution. Even from investigation so far, nothing is discernible that respondent was any way connected or part of larger activity of money laundering," reads the order.

Order challenged

The ED had challenged the August 18 bail order of the Special Court, arguing that the accused was an important link in the laundering chain and had facilitated conversion of Indian currency into USDT and its cross-border movement.

The central agency's probe was initiated following the Anti-Narcotics Cell's FIR into the seizure of Rs 1.01 crore worth of narcotic substances.

The ED alleged that Nazer arranged bank accounts through which funds were routed for conversion into cryptocurrency and that Rs 12.25 lakh had been transferred through accounts arranged by him. It contended that he was not merely an accommodation party but a cross-border conversion conduit for the syndicate.

The High Court, however, closely examined the money trail and found that the material showed transactions totalling Rs 12.88 lakh involving Nazer.

The court also stressed that money laundering must be examined in the context of the entire criminal enterprise and the financial interlinks between accused persons. In the present case, however, the court found no material showing that Nazer was part of a larger organised money-laundering activity or that further investigation was likely to establish a larger role.

The court also found that the stringent conditions imposed by the Special Court adequately addressed the prosecution's apprehension of flight risk.

"There is nothing to demonstrate that further investigation may reveal involvement of respondent in larger organized activity of money laundering that would disentitle him to seek exemption from twin test," it held.

Goa wilts amid 32% rain deficit, extreme feel-like temperature

Monsoon withdrawal between October 10 and 15

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

Goa's heat continues to feel increasingly oppressive, with the "feel like" temperature touching 42°C in recent days as the State enters the southwest monsoon's withdrawal phase with a sharp rainfall deficit.

Goa has so far received around 32 percent less rainfall than normal since the monsoon set in on June 1. Rainfall activity has weakened further in recent days, leaving the State substantially short of the rainfall it would normally have received by this stage of the season.

North Goa has recorded 1,784.8 mm of rainfall against the normal 2,943.4 mm for the corresponding period, a deficit of 39 percent. South Goa, meanwhile, has received 1,956.6 mm against its normal 2,810.4 mm, leaving a shortfall of 30 percent.

Goa is among 15 states that have recorded a significant rainfall deficit since the onset of the monsoon. The southwest monsoon began withdrawing from west Rajasthan last Saturday, while Goa's normal withdrawal window falls between October 10 and 15.

Despite the weakening rainfall activity, the India Meteorological Department has forecast light to moderate rain over both North and South Goa from September 22 to 24. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are also likely at isolated places during the period.

The forecast, however, offers little immediate relief from the heat, with similar conditions expected over the next 48 hours. "Generally cloudy skies, high humidity and light rain likely. Maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to remain around 32°C and 25°C respectively," the IMD said.

'FEEL LIKE' TEMP AROUND 42 C

- Goa is experiencing oppressive heat, with the "feel like" temperature reaching around 42°C in recent days
- The State has recorded a 32% rainfall deficit since the monsoon began on June 1
- North Goa has a 39% deficit, while South Goa has a 30% deficit
- Goa is among 15 states reporting significant rainfall deficits this monsoon
- The IMD has forecast light to moderate rain from September 22–24, with isolated thunderstorms and lightning possible
- Temperatures are expected to remain around 32°C maximum and 25°C minimum, with high humidity and generally cloudy skies

Congress seeks wider Opposition support for Goy Rakhonn Yatra

27-day drive to cover all 40 constituencies; party invites political groups, NGOs, activists and citizens to join

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

Seeking to turn its 27-day long 'Goy Rakhonn Yatra' into a broader Opposition mobilisation ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, the Congress has appealed to like-minded political parties, NGOs, students, social activists and non-Congress people to join the campaign.

The yatra will traverse all 40 Assembly constituencies from September 22 to October 18. The Congress' official campaign schedule confirms the 27-day programme across the State, with the party describing it as a campaign focused on protecting Goa's future. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to attend the concluding programme on October 18.

AICC general secretary (organization) KC Venugopal will officially flag off the Yatra from Cumbharjua on September 23.

Addressing media persons on Monday, Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao said the party wants to bring people together around issues concerning Goa's land, identity and communal harmony.

Alemao said the yatra would move from north to south, with Congress leaders interacting with residents and listening to local concerns. He appealed to political groups and individuals to set aside their differences and join the campaign.

"We appeal to all the like-minded people, political parties, social activist, individuals, NGOs and citizens to come together and be part of the yatra," he said.

"The focus is to protect our harmony and Goemkarpon," Alemao said, while alleging that the BJP government was responsible for a series of scams and controversies, including Section 39A, the jobs-for-cash issue, smart meters and the Porvorim flyover.

He said Congress, if voted to power in 2027, would withdraw and cancel Section 39A and conduct a detailed inquiry into the jobs-for-cash issue.

GPCC chief Girish Chodankar said the yatra would provide a platform for people to raise their concerns directly with Congress leaders. He said a 'Goenkarancho Maand' programme would be held in the evenings to allow people to interact with the party leadership.

YATRA FLAG OFF

- KC Venugopal will flag off the yatra from Cumbharjua on September 23
- Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to attend the concluding programme on October 18
- Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao said the campaign will focus on Goa's land, identity and communal harmony

Forged marriage poster targeting minister, woman circulated on social media

Vasco police register offence

THE GOAN I NETWORK

VASCO

Vasco police have registered an offence against an unknown person on charges of creating and circulating a fake electronic poster featuring a minister and a woman, falsely claiming that the two were legally married.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred on September 19 at Vasco, where the accused allegedly created a forged electronic poster/document containing the complainant's image and that of the minister, along with congratulatory messages claiming that they had been legally hitched.

The complainant alleged that the accused deliberately circulated the fabricated content as genuine through various social media handles with the intention of damaging her reputation and causing harm to her image.

Vasco police have registered an offence against the unknown accused under Sections 336(4), 340(2), 356(2) and 356(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Suresh Velip of Vasco Police Station under the supervision of PI Vaibhav Naik and the guidance of Mormugao DySP SP Gurudas Kadam.

THE OFFENCE

- The poster falsely claimed that a minister and a woman were legally married
- The fabricated poster allegedly used the complainant's image and the minister's image with congratulatory messages.
- The content was circulated through various social media handles as genuine, allegedly with the intent to damage the woman's reputation

THE GOAN EVERYDAY

Better to fight for something than live for nothing.
George S. Patton

High-speed havoc: When luxury cars, youth crash rules

When high-powered luxury cars, alcohol and youthful recklessness come together, roads can quickly turn from public spaces into scenes of tragedy. The horrific crash on Mumbai's Coastal Road early Sunday morning is the latest reminder that carelessness on roads can cost lives.

A black BMW, reportedly travelling at around 120 kmph, lost control, smashed through a barrier and plunged nearly 75 feet onto an under-construction site. Three young lives were lost in an instant, leaving families shattered and a community struggling to come to terms with the tragedy, while the fourth occupant was battling for his life.

What makes such incidents even more disturbing is that they are rarely without warning. The Mumbai crash points to a wider problem playing out across India's cities and tourist destinations — from Mumbai's expressways to Goa's roads. The Mumbai case has also brought into focus repeat offending. The 21-year-old reportedly at the wheel, Shanay Gajjar, had earlier been booked in March for speeding and hitting another vehicle. In August, he was again booked following a public disturbance in an allegedly intoxicated condition and for allegedly harassing police personnel.

The question is about the strange connection between youth, premium cars, drunken driving and overspeeding. For some young and affluent motorists, expensive cars and the financial ability to absorb fines can create a dangerous sense that the rules are negotiable.

Goa, too, has seen the consequences of this dangerous combination. The state recorded 7,808 cases of underage driving in 2025, according to official figures. The mix of a party-oriented tourism culture, easy availability of rental vehicles and poor adherence to traffic rules has made some of the state's roads increasingly dangerous. In April 2026, a 21-year-old, identified as the son of a prominent businessman, was speeding in a Mini Cooper S when the vehicle struck and killed a 23-year-old hotel employee who was on her way home. In February 2026, a 19-year-old visitor driving a rented Mahindra Thar allegedly rammed into a hatchback in Assagao, killing a 65-year-old tourist from Bhopal and injuring several others.

Goa has seen a lot of accidents involving Thar vehicles; the common grouse is that rented vehicles are often resorting to reckless driving. The transport department needs to consider stronger verification systems for high-performance rental vehicles, along with speed governors and telemetry systems that can flag dangerous driving. Goa now has expansive highways with speed restrictions. The Porvorim flyover has a speed limit of 65 kmph. Unfortunately, vehicles don't follow these simple rules. The accident that claimed two lives days after the flyover was thrown open saw the car speeding before crashing into a moving truck.

There needs to be a cultural shift in the way reckless driving is viewed. Parents who place high-performance vehicles in the hands of young drivers have a responsibility to ensure that those drivers understand what is at stake. A car may be a status symbol, but on a public road it is first and foremost a responsibility.

Until reckless high-speed driving is treated as a serious threat to public safety rather than brushed aside as youthful indiscretion, the cycle will continue. And each time it does, it is not only the reckless driver who pays the price, but also innocent road users, families and ordinary citizens who are left to bear the consequences.

OPEN SPACE ››

Goa Rakhon Yatra will be litmus test for Oppn unity

As Goa heads toward another crucial electoral battle, voters seeking change in governance find themselves caught in a web of mixed signals. The Congress party, through its AICC Goa desk in-charge Manikrao Thakare, has reiterated its commitment to forging a pre-poll alliance with like-minded parties. However while Goa Forward Party (GFP) chief Vijai Sardesai has spoken about bringing together "like-minded secular forces" to build a "credible, inclusive, people-centered alternative," his reluctance to fully commit to a formal alliance raises questions about his commitment to the alliance. For voters, this ambiguity is unsettling. On one hand, the promise of a united opposition offers hope for a stronger challenge to the ruling establishment. On the other, the lack of firm commitments risks fragmenting the vote and weakening the very cause of change. Against this backdrop, the 27-day "Goa Rakhon Yatra" or "Save Goa March," beginning today, September 22, could serve as a litmus test. Covering all 40 Assembly constituencies, the march provides an opportunity for alliance partners to demonstrate unity in action. If Congress, GFP, and other potential allies walk together, it would send a powerful signal of solidarity to the electorate.

ADELMO FERNANDES, *Vasco*

Catholics, as the caste whipping boy

Education has helped many rise from their deprived position, even if equality (of opportunity) is a distant goal



›Frederick Noronha, besides writing, also publishes books

FREDERICK NORONHA



For a community which is perhaps among the least caste-conscious in India, the Goan Catholic tends to get lambasted about its "casteism" all too often, quite strongly, and undeservedly. Why this happens is a story in itself, worthy of being understood and dissected.

Before going further, let's get one thing clear. Catholics in Goa are not all free of caste sentiments. Scratch below the surface, and one can see traces of it emerge. But, relatively speaking, the encoded feelings of superiority and inferiority are not so deeply embedded.

It doesn't have religious sanction; even if informal bias might linger on in some ways. Since the 1940s at least, the Church has taken steps to minimise the influence of a trend that can only divide its flock. Caste discrimination has been termed as "structural sin" too.

At one level, our Portuguese rulers saw caste within Catholicism as unacceptable. At other points in history, the rulers and religious of those times also saw the hierarchies here as parallel to their own. So the attitude towards it ranged from attempts at reform, building a single community, or sometimes just tolerating it.

Local interests also got their way. It is impossible to deny that that much of Goa's past history is one of caste-based conflict. There were attempts at one group to fight another, and claim supremacy; Bamons versus Chardos, or vice versa.

This situation changed in the post-1961 scenario, where numbers and electoral strength turned important. (But the power to manipulate also remained crucial, admittedly.)

We can find occasional references to attempts at battling bias. Yet, not much has been studied about the Church's role on this. Occasionally, from older priests, one can hear about caste-based camps emerging; but that hopefully might be a thing of the past.

Today, subaltern Catholics have entered seminaries in a significant way. This is a welcome development for the Church and the community. Maybe one can expect a more representative Church in the times ahead, not long into the future.

The latest talking point to emerge in cyberspace is a video which notched up 68,000 views in two days, focussed on 'Roman Catholic Brahmins' or 'Bamon Catholics'. It comes from a YouTube channel called Scholarspace with ANubhav.

Casteism does show its bias in social and economic terms, with caste-based dominant groups getting a disproportionate share of the resources even in our times

Occasions like these should not be an excuse to simply feel outraged over how a tiny, miniscule, minority community gets projected. Rather, it should also be an opportunity to see how one is perceived, what's right with the criticism, and what we can learn from it.

The problem is that when discussions about Goa, and its people, get 'outsourced' to someone who barely knows the place, then stereotypes, misreadings and bias clothe the debates. It might be ignorance.

Scholarspace with Anubhav's hurried work has obvious mispronunciations. The Goan poet Bakibab (BB) Borkar's photo is shown as "Lucio Rodrigues". People's caste has been wrongly identified (not that this matters, but just a debating point).

The video makes the point that a number of Catholics achievers from Goa trace their roots to a particular caste. It doesn't go further to say that some of them might actually be proud--covertly or otherwise--of the generations-old caste affiliations, pre-conversions. If the video had to say this, it would have not been wrong; at least in some cases. We grew up in the 1970s and 1980s, when Nehruvian secularism ensure that it was impolite to even mention this five-letter word.

Given a chance to brag, some would do so about caste as well. The most odd line goes something like this: "I don't believe in caste of course, but incidentally, I'm a Brahmin." Or whatever.

As someone curious to understand how exactly this played out--but steadfast in refusing to feel an iota of inferiority or superiority due to supposed caste connections--one was keen to understand how this worked among Catholics.

It is true that caste has left its mark on almost all religions and groupings that entered South Asia. Even those who came in without caste, were assigned some status. Take the case of the Siddhis, slaves or soldiers originally from Africa.

In Goa, casteism among Catholics doesn't have ritual status though. It does show its bias in social and economic terms, with caste-based dominant groups getting a disproportionate share of the resources even in our times. Privilege gets inherited, especially among the 'upper' groupings.

Caste rears its head at the time of marriage, for reasons of endogamy (wanting to marry within a closed group) or whatever.

Goan Catholics have had these biases somewhat unsettled however. Not because they are more liberal, but because of two powerful forces that changed them after conversions---education and out-migration. For families in the Daizpora, this institution is often alien and even unknown.

(A rider here: some writers on the Goans in East Africa point to caste in the clubs there. In a recent reading, it was surprising to find how class- and race-conscious the British clubs there too were, in the pre-Independence era. Now only class remains. Were the Goans mimicking those divides with one they know of back home?)

But caste in Catholicism has little to do with 'impurity'. Some of the best cooks and 'raanpins' (traditional chefs) from the community are from the most deprived segments. Everyone relishes the food they cook, without bigotry.

Education has also helped many rise from their deprived position, even if equality (of opportunity) is a distant goal. But some of Catholic Goa's greatest musicians, sports persons, and achievers in some fields come from once-deprived background.

So yes, why does a community which has limited biases about caste have to face the rough end of such a strong stick over it? Is it because much more is expected from a supposedly egalitarian religion? Surely, it is time to wipe out the biases that still exist.

THE INBOX ››

Sanction projects for contract teachers

The Goa government has assured that tens of contract teachers with 10 years of continuous service in colleges and Goa University would be made permanent. Presently, contract teachers cannot write and submit project proposals to funding organisations as they may quit, continue or be replaced. We have Goa State Research Foundation (GSRF), Department of Science, Technology and Environment (DST&E), Directorate of Higher Education (DHE), and Goa State Council for Science and Technology (GSCST) who sponsor research in sciences, humanities, commerce, economics, engineering etc. Though funding is for permanent teachers, but many do not submit project proposals for various reasons. Because contract teachers are ineligible to be funded, their enthusiasm and ideas fizzle off. They could be motivated by allowing them to submit proposals (to some pre-determined budget) as principal investigators. The head of the department or a senior permanent faculty could be the co-investigator, to handle the project if the teacher quits or is replaced.

SRIDHAR D IYER, *Caranzalem*

Soaring prices make life tough for common man

In Goa, festival seasons like Ganesh Chaturthi bring joy, but they also bring soaring prices. We saw sugar prices spike to Rs 70 per kg during the festival, and now onion prices are rising steadily. Petrol, gas cylinders, and other essentials are also becoming increasingly expensive, making life harder for the common man. The budget and pricing in Goa seem to follow market demands unchecked. Authorities have lost control over fixing fair prices as per government regulations. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shows no courage to intervene, allowing traders to exploit people openly. It feels as if money grows on trees for those hiking prices, but for ordinary citizens, these hikes create unbearable burdens. It is high time the government and regulatory bodies step up and protect the people from such blatant exploitation.

RONNIE DSOUZA, *Chandor*

Dissent cannot be mutiny in democracy

In a constitutional democracy like India, the government must listen to citizens, give space for dissent, and have institutions that are accountable to society, it should not treat expression of an alternative ideology as a threat. In a democracy, the right to question is not an act of defiance. It is an essential expression of citizenship, liberty and constitutional responsibility.The Constitution guarantees free speech, thinking and believing differently. If we want a democratic society that respects liberty and difference, that culture has to begin somewhere. It can only begin in our universities. A university should be one of the first places where the habit of thinking freely begins, but an autocratic government is hellbent on crushing thinking and dissent, which in their book equates to mutiny. The recent happenings at Jadavpur University, AMU, JNU and other such bastions of liberal thought and vigorous debate are proof that the sarkar wants everyone to toe their line.

REKHA SARIN, *Benaulim*

Banks under CSR must observe Teachers Day

Both private and government banks operating under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) framework should support and observe Teachers' Day as a gesture of gratitude, appreciation and recognition of teachers. Banks are patronised by villagers and have been functioning profitably in our communities. The Bank of India (BOI) and Union Bank of India (UBI), Chinchinim branches, have been sponsoring Teachers' Awards since 2011, presenting cash awards of Rs 5,500 along with citations. Other banks, including HDFC Bank, IDBI Bank, ICICI Bank, Lokmanya Tilak Bank and others, should also recognise this social responsibility as a gesture of goodwill and appreciation. They could organise such programmes at their premises. Society, schools, parents and students would appreciate this symbolic gesture of gratitude towards teachers, who help shape future generations.

NELSON LOPES, *Chinchinim*

Send your letters to us at editor@thegoan.net. Letters must be 150-200 words and mention the writer's name and location

When strategy matters more than technology

Long ago, Chhatrapati Shivaji, and in more recent times, the Viet Cong, taught the world that even the mightiest armies can be challenged by being nimble and using guerrilla warfare. Iran has demonstrated the same principle. You do not necessarily need cutting-edge technology to prevail in a war; you need the means and strategy to use whatever technology is available to counter sophisticated systems. Heat-seeking missiles have brought down advanced aircraft. Drones operated through fibre-optic cables have been used to target costly tanks while evading countermeasures. Small and nimble missile boats can pose a threat to massive warships. Mines have also created the threat of disruption in the Strait of Hormuz. These examples show that high technology does not always guarantee victory. Iran has demonstrated how a country with comparatively limited resources can challenge a power widely regarded as one of the world's strongest military forces. Technology certainly helps, but warfare also demands innovation, adaptability and strategic thinking. To prevail, you do not always have to be the most high-tech force. You have to be smart.

VINAY DWIVEDI, *Benaulim*

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Single application for multiple BharatNet power connections

ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT STREAMLINES PROCESS TO SPEED UP TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE ROLLOUT

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

The State Electricity Department has streamlined the process for providing electricity connections required for the implementation of the Amended BharatNet Programme, allowing a single application to cover multiple connections at different locations across Goa.

Under a notification issued by the Office of the Chief Electrical Engineer, the department has adopted a Common Application Form (CAF) for electricity connection requests related to the programme. The move

The Electricity Department has simplified the process for BharatNet power connections, allowing one application for multiple locations, treating them as government connections and enabling consolidated monthly billing

is aimed at reducing procedural delays and speeding up the implementation of the telecom infrastructure project in the State.

Under the new framework, electricity connections provided at gram panchayats and villages under the Amended BharatNet Programme will be classified and treated as government connections, in accordance with directions issued by the Ministry of Power.

The department will also facilitate the consolidation of monthly electricity bills for all connections held by a single applicant under the programme. The provision will cover telecom service providers, infrastructure providers, Bharat Broadband Network implementation agencies and other authorised agencies, subject to applicable regulatory and operational requirements.

The notification directs engineers of the Electricity Department to take immediate action to implement the new provisions. Electricity connections required under the programme are to be expedited and processed in accordance with the directives.

The decision follows references from the Ministry of Power and the Union Ministry of Finance regarding the implementation of Right of Way rules and the BharatNet programme.

The Goa government approved the measures through an order dated August 26, 2026, while the Electricity Department issued its notification on September 9, with immediate effect.

Ex-Mapusa councillor hospitalised after chest pain complaint

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MAPUSA

Former Mapusa municipal councillor Tarak Mangesh Arolkar, who is in judicial custody in connection with an alleged Rs 40 lakh property fraud case, was rushed to the North Goa District Hospital in Mapusa on Monday after complaining of chest pain.

Arolkar was taken to the hospital for medical evaluation and treatment. Details of his condition were not immediately available. It was also not clear whether he would be kept under observation or sent back to judicial custody.

Arolkar was arrested by the Crime Branch in August following a complaint by businessman Pankaj Bajaj over an alleged property transaction involving land at Assagao.

According to the complaint, Arolkar allegedly represented himself as the owner and sole authorised person to transact the property bearing Survey No. 37/4 and induced Bajaj to pay Rs 40 lakh towards the proposed sale.

The Crime Branch alleged that Arolkar failed to execute and register the sale deed despite receiving the money.

A case was registered under Sections 420, 406, 467, 468 and 471 of the IPC.

The case has also seen further investigative action, with the Enforcement Directorate conducting searches at premises linked to Arolkar in Mapusa as part of its probe into his financial and property-related dealings.

Arolkar's bail plea was subsequently rejected by the Mapusa JMFC court, according to reports.

High Court dismisses NGT orders over CRZ challenge

Tribunal asked to reconsider appeal after HC finds facts were incorrectly appreciated

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

The High Court of Bombay at Goa has come down heavily on the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for dismissing a challenge over alleged CRZ violations at Casa Britona without hearing the petitioner.

A Bench of Justice S G Chapalgaonkar, in its order on Monday, quashed the NGT orders, terming them a prima facie incorrect appreciation of the facts, and remanded the matter to the Tribunal for fresh consideration. The NGT, in its December 2, 2022 order, had dismissed the appeal as time-barred. It subsequently refused to recall that decision in its March 19, 2026 order.

Partly allowing the writ petition, the High Court noted that petitioner Shetye had complained to the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) in 2016, alleging illegal construction in the CRZ area at Survey Nos 62/2 to 62/6 at Salvador-do-Mundo, involving Casa Britona, within 100 metres of the high tide line. The GCZMA subsequently directed the demolition of the extensions and restoration of the land.

The dispute before the High Court centred on the limitation period. The NGT had proceeded on the basis that the appeal was delayed by more than 114 days. However, the High Court found that the record showed Shetye had initially filed the appeal with an application seeking condonation of a 42-day delay. He later withdrew the appeal with liberty to re-file and submitted a fresh appeal within two days.

"This Court finds that petitioner's Appeal has been dismissed without hearing him, that too on point of limitation and prima facie on incorrect appreciation of facts. Although petitioner had moved application for recall of order giving necessary particulars to demonstrate delay in filing Appeal is less than 60 days, which can be condoned by Tribunal, has been ignored," the court said.

The matter has now been remitted to the NGT for reconsideration on merits, with the parties directed to appear before the Tribunal on October 16.

Man assaults couple, attacks police in New Vaddem

THE GOAN | NETWORK

VASCO

Vasco police have registered an offence against Samir alias Chammu, a resident of New Vaddem, for allegedly assaulting a man and his wife and later attacking police personnel who intervened to control the situation.

According to a complaint filed by Santosh Prajapati of Vaddem, the incident took place around 8.30 pm on September 19 near the water tank at New Vaddem.

The accused allegedly assaulted Prajapati and his wife with his fists and later attacked Prajapati with a stone and a knuckle, causing injuries to both.

The accused also allegedly obstructed traffic at the spot. When police personnel intervened to control the situation, he allegedly resisted and assaulted them while they were discharging their official duties.

Vasco police registered an offence under Sections 109, 115(2), 118(1), 121(1) and 132 of the BNS.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Suresh Velip of Vasco Police Station under the supervision of PI Vaibhav Naik and guidance of Mormugao DySP SP Gurudas Kadam.

New MRF to be constructed at Cunchelim waste plant

GSUDA issues tender for ₹57.61 lakh

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MAPUSA

In a bid to strengthen solid waste management infrastructure in the city, the Mapusa Municipal Council (MMC) has proposed setting up a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) on 400 sq. m at the Cunchelim Waste Plant under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan 2.0.

The proposal comes as the existing MRF is overloaded with waste. The Goa State Urban Development Agency (GSUDA) has issued a tender for the proposed facility at an estimated cost of Rs 57.61 lakh.

The existing MRF at Cunchelim is equipped with a conveyor belt and baling machine, a bio-methanation plant with a capacity of 5 tonnes per day (TPD) for wet waste, an incinerator with a capacity of 1.5 TPD and a weighbridge.

However, the increase in waste generation and the closure of the waste disposal site on the Assagao plateau have put considerable pressure on the existing facility.

Municipal officials said the MRF currently has 10-12 tonnes of recyclable waste, exceeding its handling capacity.

As a result, the lack of space and infrastructure is affecting the smooth and systematic operation of waste segregation, sorting, baling and storage of recyclable waste.

"The MMC sent a letter to GSUDA requesting it to take up the construction of the proposed 400 sq. m MRF shed under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan 2.0," an official said.

"The proposed MRF facility will strengthen our waste management infrastructure and help in better management of dry waste collected within the municipal limits."

Apart from the new MRF, the MMC has also proposed setting up a composting unit at the Solid Waste Management (SWM) site at Cunchelim to process wet waste at an estimated cost of Rs 30.27 lakh.

The proposal also includes developing the premises of the bio-methanation plant and constructing a leachate tank to collect leachate generated at the SWM site.

MMC clears waste dumped on Pedda footbridge

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

Margao Municipal Council on Monday got its garbage contractor to clear waste dumped on the two-wheeler-cum-footbridge connecting the city to Pedda, which had become an eyesore and a nuisance for users.

Taking cognisance of a report published in The Goan that waste dumped on the two-wheeler-cum-footbridge was causing inconvenience to users, civic officials instructed the garbage contractor to clear the footbridge and surrounding area.

By evening, the waste dumped on the footbridge had been collected and disposed of, while the surrounding area was also cleared.



A garbage worker clears waste dumped on the two-wheeler-cum-footbridge and in the surrounding area.

While users welcomed the action initiated by the civic body, questions remain unanswered as to how the garbage contractor failed to clear the waste from the two-wheeler-cum-footbridge and other black spots on a daily basis, as mandated under the agreement with the civic body.

The agreement requires the garbage contractor to lift waste from and clean black spots on a daily basis. The Margao Municipal Council spends around Rs 6.5 crore annually on garbage contractors for door-to-door waste collection in the city.

Camurlim locals demand action over tree felling

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO:

Camurlim village in Salcete witnessed an uproar over the felling of trees along the roadside, with residents demanding immediate action by the authorities, including the Panchayat and Forest Department.

The residents have also vowed to raise the issue at the gram sabha and demand accountability for the destruction of tree cover along the roadside. Fr Eremito Rebello, along with local residents, including Jesus Romao, condemned the felling of the trees. Fr Rebello said the removal of trees along the roadside could loosen the soil and ultimately lead to a landslide.

The residents questioned why the authorities had failed to act against those involved in cutting down the trees.



Fr Eremito Rebello along with local residents of Camurlim briefs the media on the destruction of roadside tree cover in the village.

Goan-origin Major honoured for service in Manipur



Lt Gen Bhuwanan Krishnan presenting the Commendation Medal to Maj Jeffrey Carvalho.

THE GOAN | NETWORK

BELAGAVI

Major Jeffrey Carvalho has been conferred with the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) Commendation Card of the Eastern Command, in recognition of his distinguished service, exceptional leadership and professional excellence during his operational tenure in Manipur.

The honour, which was announced on the occasion of Independence Day, recognises Major Carvalho's exemplary performance and commitment to duty while serving in the challenging operational environment of Manipur.

As part of the honour, Major Carvalho was presented with a Commendation Medal and an appreciation letter from Lt Gen Bhuwanan Krishnan, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command.

A parishioner of St Anthony Parish, Shivajinagar, Pune, Major Carvalho completed his schooling at Vidya Bhavan, Pune, and graduated from Fergusson College before joining the armed forces.

While based in Pune, Major Carvalho has maintained strong family and cultural roots in Goa. He is the son of John and Jacinta Carvalho and the nephew of Goa-based Jesuit priest and Konkani scholar Fr Pratap Naik SJ.

His family's connection with Goa has added a special significance to the recognition among relatives, friends and the Goan community.

The distinction has been warmly welcomed by the local community and well-wishers, who congratulated Major Carvalho and his family on the prestigious military honour and wished him continued success in his service to the nation.

Goa Auto Show gears up for second edition

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

The second edition of the Goa Auto Show will be held at Kala Academy, Darya Sangam, Panaji, from September 25 to 27, bringing together electric vehicles, premium automobiles, two-wheelers, automotive technology and classic and vintage vehicles.

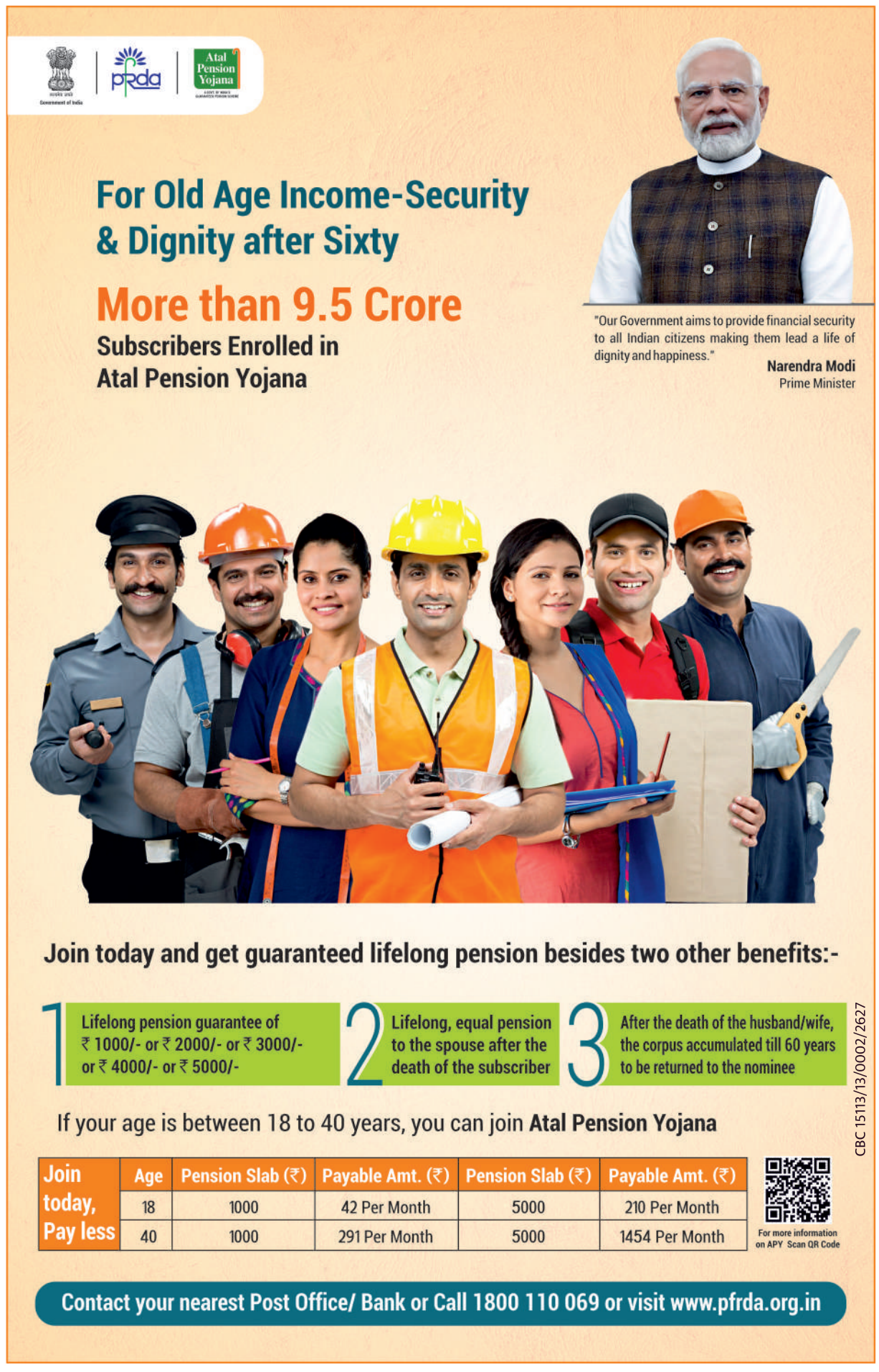
The three-day exhibition, organised under the theme 'The Future of Mobility Returns to Goa', will feature brands including VinFast, BYD and MG Select, along with newly launched BMW models and other automotive products.

A collection of classic and vintage vehicles will also be displayed in association with Jatin Pal Singh, popularly known as Yardshark. The collection is expected to showcase vehicles from different periods of automotive history.

The exhibition will also feature LUXE – Premium Car Brands and REVV – The Two-Wheeler Arena, covering luxury cars, motorcycles, scooters and performance vehicles.

Entertainment, visitor activities and food options will also be part of the event.

Exhibition Director Satish Menon said the second edition aims to go beyond displaying cars and two-wheelers by combining new technologies and models with classic and vintage automobiles. The Goa Auto Show will remain open to visitors from 11 am to 7.30 pm on all three days. The first edition was held in 2025.



THE GOAN EVERYDAY

Life

Share your story with us
If you have an interesting story to share or want us to highlight any issue that you think matters to Goans, send it to us at editor@thegoan.net

Tuesday Trivia
Crows can recognise human faces and can remember people they associate with danger

The artistry hanging above Goa's Ganesh idols





THE GOAN I PANAJI

As Ganesh Chaturthi enters its eighth day across Goa, the initial flurry of activity has settled into joyful reverence. A week ago, homes were busy frying modaks, preparing nevryos for naivedya, completing dekhavos and tying the matoli. While the bustle of the first day has passed, the magnificent matolis hanging above the idols remain a focal point of the celebrations.

From collecting rare fruits and flowers to spending days hand-tying each piece, creative matolis across Goa stand as vibrant testaments to an age-old Chaturthi tradition infused with new ideas

Creative canopies

The traditional matoli finds a place in homes across Goa, but some families take the practice a step further, adding their own creative touch. Over the years, these elaborate canopies have taken on different forms, with families creating figures of Lord Shiva, Goddess Saraswati, Lord Nataraja and, this year, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Searching nature

For Tanaji Gaude from Taluli, the preparations begin long before Chaturthi. Once the previous year's visarjan is over, he and his friend Datta Naik take to roads less travelled in search of different varieties of fruits, flowers and plants. "While people usually go for a picnic beside the sea, we go for treks, forest walks, and so on, to search for different varieties of plants, flowers, and fruits. And as Shravan begins, we go there again to make sure the plant, fruit, or flower really exists," he says.

The search can take days, with no guarantee that the required flora will be available. "Although we take a few days to search for the required flora, the last 5-6 days of collecting before the festival were extremely crucial for us," explains Naik from Priol. Having made artistic matolis for nearly 10 years, he says the team often struggles to find specific plants or discovers that they have not produced flowers or fruits that year.

Bringing ideas together

Once the collection is ready, another challenge begins: deciding how to bring everything together. "In the end, I believe it is teamwork. Our team sits together and discusses the ideas put forth. The one that is liked the most is then finalised," Naik says.

Keeping it fresh

The work does not end once the matoli is tied. With the canopy remaining in place for several days, the team also has to ensure that the fruits and flowers last through the festival. Naik says they avoid sprays and pesticides and keep the produce away from direct heat while tying the matoli. "We make sure there is proper ventilation. But then, after eight days, the fruits which have to fall will anyway fall," he says with a laugh.

This year, the weather added another challenge. Heat and humidity affected several varieties, with some plants wilting and fruits getting damaged. "There are some plants which, even if they receive a little heat, droop. This year, a lot of our fruits and other items got burnt by the heat and Goa's humidity, which became more apparent as the days went by," says Gaude.

Guided by tradition

The timing of the preparations is also governed by tradition. The matoli can be started only after the coconut is tied on Tay. "Once the coconut is tied on Tay, only then could we start. But since you can't tie anything more once the main matoli is fully tied, we did the competition matoli separately by keeping a place in the middle for the coconut," Gaude explains.

For Vishant Gaude from Curti and his team, the actual tying began nearly a week before Chaturthi. Everything had to be attached by hand with thread to a wooden frame, a process that took three to four days. Vishant maintains a list of around 450 species that can be used for a matoli. But even an extensive list cannot account for the vagaries of nature. "Some species that need regular rain did not grow properly, some were delayed, some had just started flowering during Ganesh Chaturthi, while some got destroyed because of the heat. Many that we proudly displayed on day one lost their colour within 2-3 days," he says.

Design from nature

The availability of fruits, flowers and leaves also determines the final design. Ranganath Govind Gaonkar from Vaiginim says there is rarely a fixed blueprint. This year we had shortlisted 3 figures, and then we made the final figure according to what fruits, flowers, and leaves we got," he says. The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj matoli created by his team took almost four full days to build and featured 290 different types of fruits, flowers, and leaves. "The idea was to keep it traditional but also full and balanced," Gaonkar says.

From Shiva and Saraswati to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, creative matolis may take different forms each year, but the effort behind them remains constant. As Chaturthi begins to wind down, the families behind these creations are left with more than just a striking display.

Even as leaves dry and fruits begin to fall, the matoli remains a fleeting reflection of nature, creativity, teamwork, and devotion, preserving an age-old tradition while giving it a new form each year.

From classroom learning to hands-on farming



THE GOAN I PANAJI

Agriculture education stepped outside the classroom walls as fourth-year students of the Goa College of Agriculture introduced schoolchildren across Goa to innovative methods of food production through a series of practical demonstrations on hydroponics and kitchen gardening.

The initiative, conducted in approximately 30 schools across the state, was organised under the Institute Attachment component of the Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) Programme, in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The programme aimed to familiarise young learners with simple, space-efficient and environmentally responsible approaches to growing food.

Rather than limiting agricultural education to textbooks, the students were encouraged to use live demonstrations to explain how plants can be cultivated even where conventional farming space is limited. Students were introduced to the principles of soil-less cultivation, water and nutrient management, crop selection, and hydroponic production systems.

Kitchen gardening was presented as yet another practical way of connecting children with food production. Demonstrations showed how vegetables and other useful crops can be grown in school premises, household spaces, containers, pots and other small available areas. The approach encouraged students to view food production as something that can be practised even within their immediate surroundings.

A significant feature of the initiative was its integration with the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) curriculum. Concepts prescribed under Kitchen Gardening for Class VI and Hydroponics for Class VIII were reinforced through demonstrations and activity-based learning. This provided students with an opportunity to experience concepts that they normally encounter through classroom instruction.

Dr Suresh Kunkalikar, Principal, Goa College of Agriculture and Chairman of the RAWE Programme, said that agricultural institutions have an important role in taking knowledge beyond the boundaries of the campus. "Such initiatives create a connection between agricultural education and the community. They encourage schoolchildren to see agriculture as a dynamic field driven by science, technology, innovation and sustainability," he said.

Aditya Kakodkar, Goa State Coordinator, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), welcomed the initiative and highlighted the importance of experiential learning. He said that connecting SCERT curriculum topics with practical demonstrations can help students understand sustainable food production, efficient use of natural resources, and environmentally responsible practices in a more meaningful manner.



According to programme coordinator Dr Shreyas Jadhav, agricultural education should begin by creating curiosity among young minds. "When students see and experience technologies such as hydroponics and kitchen gardening, concepts become more meaningful and relatable. The initiative also provides our agriculture students with an excellent opportunity to practise extension education and scientific communication in a real-world setting."

The programme generated considerable enthusiasm among participating students and teachers. Students actively interacted with the agriculture students, raised questions about hydroponic systems and showed interest in establishing kitchen gardens in their homes and schools. Teachers also appreciated the initiative for providing a practical dimension to concepts already included in the school curriculum.

The initiative represents more than just an outreach activity; it demonstrates how agricultural universities and colleges can become catalysts for developing scientific curiosity and environmental awareness among the next generation. Through the combined efforts of the Goa College of Agriculture and WWF, modern farming technologies were brought closer to schoolchildren, creating an early connection between education, agriculture, sustainability, and responsible use of natural resources.



Goa College of Agriculture and WWF join hands to promote hydroponics, kitchen gardening and sustainable food production among school students



Bob's Banter
By Robert Clements

Rahul the comedian..!

A ruling party spokesman has suggested that Rahul Gandhi should consider becoming a stand up comedian.

I am sure it was meant as an insult.

But it may have accidentally become the finest compliment the party has paid him.

After all, a stand up comedian became President of Ukraine and has spent years standing up to a superpower trying to bully his country. Volodymyr Zelensky did not stop being courageous because he once made people laugh. In fact, his ability to communicate may have helped him rally a nation when bombs began falling.

Perhaps the spokesman should have checked the job prospects of comedians before offering Rahul career advice.

In earlier times, comedians were found in royal courts. They were called jesters or the king's fools. They wore ridiculous clothes, made strange faces and said things nobody else dared to say.

The ministers praised the king.

The courtiers applauded the king.

The generals saluted the king.

Only the fool told the king that his crown was crooked.

That required courage. It also required intelligence, because the joke had to reach the king's mind without causing the comedian's head to leave his shoulders.

A good comedian does more than make people laugh.

He makes them think.

He holds up a mirror and allows the powerful to see themselves as others see them. Sometimes the reflection is so uncomfortable that the mirror is blamed.

The thing about humour is that it travels where speeches cannot. A joke slips past barricades, ignores television anchors and enters the mind before the guards can demand its credentials. By the time authority understands what happened, the audience has laughed, understood truth and carried it home. No wonder people look nervous when ordinary citizens begin smiling.

Perhaps that is the real problem.

Those who follow orders blindly are considered loyal. Those who ask questions are called disruptive. Those who applaud are patriots. Those who laugh at the absurdity of power are suddenly dangerous.

"Why are you laughing?" demands the ruler.

"Because your crown is slipping," says the comedian.

"Arrest him!" shouts the ruler.

We certainly need more stand up comedians in India. We need millions of them. We need citizens who can stand up and point out that a pothole does not become a swimming pool merely because a minister inaugurates it.

We need students who can laugh when an examination paper leaks before the water supply arrives.

We need voters who can smile politely when told that unemployment is actually extended leisure.

Most of all, we need people who can recognise the biggest joke of all, that democracy means remaining silent before those we elected.

So, Rahul, accept the compliment.

Stand up.

Speak.

Use wit, facts and intelligence.

And let millions become comedians with you.

Because when citizens stop laughing at foolishness, they may soon be forced to applaud it..!

bobsbanter@gmail.com

SUDOKU

	5			7		3	2	9
4					8	5	6	
			6	5				
2		7				4		
		3				8		6
				3	1			
	1	8	7					4
5	3	9		8			7	

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

- Each row, column, and 3 by 3 square must have the numbers 1 through 9. These numbers can't be repeated in each row, column, and square.
- When solving an easy Sudoku, the first thing you should do is look for definites. Definites are numbers that are definitely going to be there. Starting at 1, draw imaginary lines through boxes in that 1's row and/or column. When there is only one box left in the 3x3 box, you know that is a definite.
- If you get stuck, go back alook at everything. That one number is usually all you need to get going again. If you still cannot find any solutions, start labeling every block with every number that could possibly go in that box.

8	5	6	1	7	4	3	2	9
4	7	2	3	9	8	5	6	1
3	9	1	6	5	2	7	4	8
2	8	7	5	6	9	4	1	3
1	6	5	8	4	3	2	9	7
9	4	3	2	1	7	8	5	6
7	2	4	9	3	1	6	8	5
6	1	8	7	2	5	9	3	4
5	3	9	4	8	6	1	7	2

Court quashes order denying probe into Sonia Gandhi's voter list entry

MANDATES FRESH, REASONED HEARING ON ALLEGATIONS OF PRE-CITIZENSHIP VOTER REGISTRATION

PTI

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday paved the way for rehearing of a plea seeking registration of an FIR on inclusion of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's name in the electoral roll three years before she acquired Indian citizenship in 1983.

A sessions court set aside a magistrate's order refusing to order a probe into the allegations against Gandhi.

The order of Special Judge Vishal Gogne came on a revision plea against the magisterial court's order on a complaint filed by advocate Vikas Tripathi, vice-president of the Central Delhi Court Bar Association of the Rouse Avenue courts.

Pronouncing substantive portions of the order orally, the judge said, "An order of the court must maintain fidelity towards the law, and not flirt with facts. This court finds itself unravelling the impugned order rendered by the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) on this yardstick."

The judge said Tripathi's complaint was that Sonia Gandhi's name was unlawfully entered in the electoral roll of New Delhi Parliamentary Constituency in 1980, whereas she attained Indian citizenship only in 1983, and although the name was deleted in 1982, it was re-entered in 1983.

"It alleged that even this re-entry was before she acquired citizenship on April 30, 1983," the judge noted.

Gogne said the magistrate's order dismissed the complaint, stating that it was based on bald assertions, unaccompanied by essential particulars of cheating and forgery, and based on a photocopy of the photocopy of the uncertified electoral roll in 1980.

"The sanctity of the electoral roll is an article of faith for every citizen in a parliamentary democracy. The mightiest in the land may only be a voter or citizen at par with others less powerful," the judge said.

"Any allegation of tampering with the electoral rolls, fraudulent inclusion of the name of a voter, inclusion of the name of a non-citizen, and possible use of false declarations or documents merits a reasoned order to determine whether allegations relating to cheating and forgery have been disclosed," Gogne said.

He said the ACJM's order recorded no discussion on the sequence in which Sonia Gandhi's name was included, deleted, and included again in the electoral roll in 1980, 1982 and 1983 respectively.

Rather than finding whether these allegations constituted a cognisable offence, the impugned order simply branded the complaint as lacking essential particulars, the judge said, adding that an extract of the electoral roll was casually dismissed as being "a photocopy of the photocopy of the alleged extract of the uncertified roll of 1980." He said, "The limited prayer before the ACJM was to consider the extract of the electoral roll and other allegations as being adequate, or otherwise direct an investigation for the allegedly fraudulent entry of the name of Sonia Gandhi." In effect, it is a non-speaking order on the question of disclosure of a cognisable offence, Gogne said.

The judge said the order "suffers from a manifest error in law" when it comes to compliance with Section 175(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita -- which empowers a magistrate to order police investigation into a cognisable offence -- by "not hearing the submissions of the police officer concerned and non-calling of a status report from the police station concerned".

He said the magistrate failed to consider the twin options permissible in law: one, directing the registration of an FIR; and two, the conduct of proceedings under Section 223 of the BNSS, which governs the magistrate taking cognisance of an offence and examining the complainant and witnesses.

Toddler injured after 2 stray dogs attack her

SHIMLA: A one-and-a-half-year-old girl was seriously injured after two stray dogs allegedly attacked and dragged her in Shimla. The incident triggered strong criticism of the Shimla Municipal Corporation, with residents alleging that the administration filed to address the stray dog issue, despite repeated complaints. According to the girl's father, Ramandeep, the incident occurred on Sunday evening when his daughter was playing in the courtyard of their house in the Shankli area.

Newborn stolen from hospital in UP

PTI

SAHARANPUR

A newborn boy was on Monday allegedly taken away from the district women's hospital here by an unidentified woman, who posed as a hospital staff, police said.

According to a complaint lodged by the infant's father Nazim, his wife Shabana was admitted to the hospital on Sunday and gave birth to a boy late that night.

On Monday afternoon, when Nazim took the newborn near the operation theatre for vaccination, an unidentified woman approached him and introduced herself as a hospital staff. A police team has been formed to search for the suspect and recover the infant, Cheema said.

Classifieds

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PREMISE AVAILABLE

Office / Commercial Premises Available (Prime Area) in Panjim (35.35/ 34.45 sqmts.) Ground Floor/ Mezzanine. Opposite Tato's Cafe. Contact: 8010527784 / 8956505360.

Government of Goa,

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,

Works Division XXII(M&E),
Public Works Department, Fatorda.

(E-Tendering)

Online Tender Notice No. 3/26-27/PWD/WDXXII (M&E)/ASW/TN-21 Dt. 21/09/2026 has been issued:

For eligibility and participation log on to web site **https://eprocure.goa.gov.in/**

DI/ADVT/1522/2026

Village Panchayat Mauxi, Sattari, Goa

Ref. No.VPM/SAT/Quotation Notice /2026-27/ 1065 Date: 21/09/2026

QUOTATION NOTICE

The Sarpanch of this Village Panchayat Mauxi Sattari, Goa on behalf of V.P. Mauxi Sattari Goa, invites the sealed quotations from the interested suppliers / dealers / agency for Supply and Installation of CCTV Camera , for V.P. Office building of VP Mauxi Sattari Goa to be procured under XV F.C. Fund.

The details are as follows:

Sr. No.	Description	Quantity	Rate per Unit
1.	8 CH CP Plus DVR 0801F!V-I- 5 MP	1 Nos.	
2.	1 TB Surveillance Hard Disk	1 Nos.	
3.	CP Plus SMPS 10 AMS	1 Nos.	
4.	CP –URC-TC51PL3C BULLET 5 MP	1 Nos.	
5.	CP-URC-DC51PL3C DOM 5 MP	1 Nos.	
6.	CP Plus 2U RAKRK3535VM-2U-T	1 Nos.	
7.	CP Plus 3 +1Cable	1 per mt	
8.	19 inch Monitor	1 Nos.	
9.	Artist Spike Guard 4 socket	1 Nos.	
10.	Wall Mount Movable	1 Nos.	
11.	BNC Connector	1 Nos.	
12.	DC Connector	1 Nos.	
13.	Installation charges	Per Cam	

Terms and conditions: **1.** Dealers should submit their sealed quotations along with GST, Pan card, Bank Account details on or before 03/10/2026 up to 5. P..to this Panchayat Office. **2.** The Quotations will be open on 05/10/2026 at 11.00. a.m. the lowest quotation will be accepted. **3.** Payment shall be made through eGrmswaraj after the delivery of items/goods in good condition at Village Panchayat Mauxi Sattari Goa. **4.**The rate shall be quoted per item and should be inclusive of all taxes with door delivery. **5.** For complete description of above items/goods, specification details contact VP Office of V P Mauxi, Sattari, Goa.

The village Panchayat Mauxi,Sattari, Goa reserves the right to accepting or rejecting any or all quotations without assigning any reason there off. Seal Sd/- **Sarpanch, Village Panchayat Mauxi**

PUBLIC NOTICE

By this notice it is made known to all the banks/financial institutions and the members of Public in general that my clients are desirous of purchasing from. MRS. LUNA TERANCE JUSTINA DOS MATOS also known as LUNA TARENCE JUSTINA DOS MATOS E MASCARENHAS, widow of late Mr. Canisio Antonio Perpetuo Domnic Joao Joaquim Mascarenhas, resident of H.No.58/A, Murda-Grande, Nuvem, Salcete South-Goa, Goa 403604; and her son (2) MR. CLINTON FRANCIS MASCARENHAS, aged about 25 years, son of late Mr. Canisio Antonio A. P. D. J. J. Mascarenhas, resident of H.No.58/A, Murda-Grande, Nuvem, Salcete South-Goa, Goa 403604, All that immoveable Property bearing Survey No. 137/15-C of village Nuvem, admeasuring 1275 square meters, originally forming the part of larger known as "XIRA MURDA" bearing Survey No. 137/15, situated at Nuvem, within the Jurisdiction of Village Panchayat of Nuvem, South Goa District, State of Goa, which Property is not described in the Land Registration Office of Salcete however found enrolled in the Taluka Revenue office of Salcete under Matriz No. 730 and this property under Survey No.137/15-C of village Nuvem is bounded as under:-

EAST: By property of Menino Sebastiao Mascarenhas and presently under Survey Nos. 125/12-A, 125/12-C and 125/12 of Village Nuvem;

WEST: By property of Manuel Santana Fernandes and presently Surveyed under No. 137/14 of Village Nuvem;

NORTH: By property of Menino Sebastiao Mascarenhas and Jose Agostinho Mascarenhas and presently under survey No. 137/7 of Village Niuvem;

SOUTH: remaining half of the said larger property known as "XIRA MURDA" presently belonging to Mr. Menino Lucas Carvalho & Maklino Ubaldino Carvalho presently under survey No. 137/15-A of Village Nuvem.

Any person/ persons/ banks/ financial institutions having any legal claim/claims/ objections of whatsoever nature with respect to the said property may lodge such claim/claims in the office of the undersigned along with copies of supporting documents, within a period of 15 days from the publication of this notice during any working days between 9 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., failing which it shall be presumed that there is no legal impediment of whatsoever nature in carrying out the aforesaid transaction of the said property in favour of my clients.

Place: Margao, Goa
Dated: 21/09/2026

Sd/-
Reagan A. Pinto
ADVOCATE
Seal Off: Shop No.3, Placido Residency, Pedda, Margao, Salcete Goa.
Mob: 9850483240 Email id: reagan0401@gmail.com

NOTICE

I, **Mrs. Francisca Ana Maria Fernandes** wife of late Rolando Carvalho alias Miguel Rolando Pascoal Carvalho hereby inform that upon the death of my husband the four wheeler vehicle **Maruti Udyog Ltd., Maruti Zen, Regd. No. GA08 A 3587** having **Chassis No.MA3EYE31S00793058 Engine No. G10BIN54829** will be transfered in my name.

If anyone has any objection, please notify the R.T.O South Goa at Margao within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

IN THE COURT OF MAMLATDAR OF BARDEZ AT MAPUSA, GOA

Case No. MAM / TNC / DEC / ANJ / 15 / 2025

1. Shri. Tulsidas Datta Betkar, son of late Datta Betkar, 76 year in age, residing a NO, 1075 Kutchem Bhatt, Mazal Waddo, Anjuna, Bardez Goa .....Applicant

V/s

1. Mr. Stephen Eusebio De Souza, son of late Jose Vasco De Souza, major in age, Indian National, Anjuna, Bardez, Goa, Married, r/o, H.No. 1237, Gaunwadi, 2. Mrs. Maria Agusta De Souza, wife of Mr. Stephen Eusebio DeSouza, married, major in age, Indian National, married, r/o, H.No. 1237, Gaunwadi, Anjuna, Bardez, Goa 3. Miss. Rosy Linda DeSouza, daughter of late Jose Vasco De Souza, major in age, Indian National, spinster, r/o, H.No. 1237, Gaunwadi, Anjuna, Bardez, Goa. (legal heirs of the deceased, Jose Vasco De Souza, Victor De Souza alias Vitorino De Souza & Catharine De Souza) 4. Mr. Owen Menezes, major in age, r/o, Gama Grandeur, 401, 4th floor, Chembur, Mumbai (All legal heirs of the deceased Maria Inas Dsouza) ..... Respondents

PUBLIC NOTICE

To, The Applicant/Opponents

Whereas the applicant above named has made an application dated 26/3/2025 u/s 7A of the Goa Daman & Diu Agricultural Tenancy Act 1964, for declaration with regards to property Surveyed under Survey. No. 7/21 situated at Anjuna, Bardez Goa, in this court against you.

And whereas the applicant by application dated 19/8/2026 informed that the notice issued to opponent through Register A.D. However the notices are returned unserved with the postal remark "Address not traceable" and that the applicant is not aware of any other addresses of the said opponent and it is therefore prayed for substitute service to the said opponent and their heirs by way of publication in daily newspaper.

Now therefore, notice is hereby given to you under Order V of Rule 20(1)A of the C.P.C. 1908 to appear before this Court either in person or by duly authorization on 14/10/2026 at 10.30 a.m. to answer the claim.

Take notice that in default of your appearance as aforesaid on the date and time mentioned above, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court on this 9th day of September, 2026.

Sd/- **Krisha S. Gauns**
Mamlatdar of Bardez Taluka
Seal Mapusa, Goa

IN THE COURT OF THE MAMLATDAR OF TISWADI TALUKA, PANAJI GOA

Case No: MAM/MUND/DECL/75/2023

Shri Crispino Dias Sapeco (since deceased through his LR's) **a) Lourencinha Monteiro b) Ermelinda Claudia Dias Sapeco c) Eufemia Dias Sapeco d) Evelyn Dias Sapeco** All R/o H. No. 1180, Segund Bairro, St. Cruz, Tiswadi Goa. ..... ***Applicants***

V/s

1. Mr. Xavier Machado 2. Mrs. Conception Machado 3. Mr. Manuel Machado All r/o. Sai Bhavan Co-op. Housing Society Ltd. Bldg. No. 93, Room no. 2795, Pantnagar, Ghatkopar, Mumbai 400075 **4. Mrs. Lira Ana Rose Noronha E Machado alias Lira Machado 5. Mr. Feliciano Noronha** Both r/o. Abhyudaya Nagar, 9-6888, Kalachowki, Mumbai, 400038 **6. Mr. Lourenco Justiniano Oliveira 7. Mr. Aureliano Mario Palmira Oliveira 8. Mr. Lamberto Cruz Celestino Oliveirav. 9. Mr. Carlos Stanley Libano Oliveira** All r/o. Salem Bhat, Merces, Tiswadi, Goa **10. Mr. Jose Arleto A. L. Da Costa Campos alias Arleto Da Costa Campos 11. Mrs. Maria Zemira Divina Fernandes alias Zemira da Costa Campos** Both r/o. 31st January road, Panaji, Goa **12. Mrs. Celeste Angela Gonsalves Machado E Fernandes alias Celeste Machado alias Celeste Machado Fernandes (since deceased repts. 13,14,15,16) 13. Miss Maria Thereza Fernandes 13(a).Elvis Barretto** R/o 2/58, Bairo Nobre, Ribandar, Tiswadi Goa **14. Mr. Pieter Francisco Fernandes 15. Miss Maria Rebecca Joan Fernandes 16. Mr. Cecil John Jude Fernandes** all r/o. 2/58, Bairo Nobre, Ribander, Ilhas, Tiswadi, Goa.. ***.....Respondents***

PUBLIC NOTICE

To,
The Respondents No. 4 & 5

Whereas the above applicants have filed an application before this court under the provisions of Section 8(A) read with section 29 (4) of the Goa, Daman and Diu, Mundkars (Protection from Eviction) Act, 1975 for declaration.

WHEREAS, the notices were issued to the **Respondent No. 4 & 5** through the registered A. D.

AND WHEREAS, the notices issued to **Respondent No. 4 & 5** is returned back unserved with remarks **" Address left"** by the Postal authority.

AND WHEREAS, the applicants submits that they are not aware of the where about nor any other alternative address and desires to make service to the respondents by way of substitute service vide his application dated 16/04/2025 and prayed for service of summon by issuing public notice in any local daily newspaper under **order V Rule 20 (I-A) of civil procedure Code 1908.**

AND WHEREAS, I am satisfied that this is a fit case for such publication, therefore notice is hereby given to the proposed **Respondent No. 4 & 5** to appear before this Hon'ble court on **27/10/2026 at 10.30 A. M.** and file the reply, if any on the above mentioned date and time, failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 8th day of September, 2026.

sd/-
Seal **(Dattaprasad S. Toraskar)**
Mamlatdar Tiswadi Taluka
Panaji Goa.

vikaspublicity0921a

JAYASRI NAGESWARA RAO AND PARTNERS LLP
LLPIN : ACB-2865

Registered Office : Flat No.301, Siddahakala, Sankul Adarsh Nagar Vasco, Chicalim, South Goa, Mormugao, Goa-403711, India.
Email : sandeep.devarapalli@gmail.com

NOTICE

In the matter of sub-section (3) of Section 13 of Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and rule 17 of the Limited Liability Partnership Rules, 2009.

In the matter of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, Section 13 (3)
And
in the matter

JAYASRI NAGESWARA RAO AND PARTNERS LLP having its registered office at Flat No.301, Siddahakala, Sankul Adarsh Nagar Vasco, Chicalim, South Goa, Mormugao, Goa, India, 403711,

.....Applicant LLP

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the LLP proposes to make an application to Registrar of Companies, Goa under Section 13 (3) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 seeking permission to change its Registered office from the State of Goa to the state of Karnataka.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the Registered Office of the LLP may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by speed post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition supported by an affidavit to the Registrar of Companies, Goa, within 21 (twenty one) days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the Applicant LLP at its Registered Office at the address mentioned below:

Flat No.301, Siddahakala, Sankul Adarsh Nagar Vasco, Chicalim, South Goa, Mormugao, Goa-403711, India.
Email Id : sandeep.devarapalli@gmail.com

For and on behalf of
Jayasri Nageswara Rao And Partners LLP
Sd/-
Date : 18.09.2026 Sandeep Devarapalli
Place : Goa (Designated Partner)
DIN : 08602506

UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20(1-A)
IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE, JUNIOR DIVISION 'C' COURT, AT BICHOLIM

Regular Inventory Proceeding No. 151 / 2021 / C

Trevor Bryan Mascarenhas @ Trevor Mascarenhas .....Applicant

V/s

Late Joaquim Mariano De Souza @ Joaquim Mariano Egidio De Souza .....Deceased

To, Interested Parties No. **2.** Mrs. Maria Thrasilla Isabel Desouza alias Thrasilla Maria Isabela Vaz alias Thrasilla Maria Isabela Vaz Desouza alias Maria Thrasilla Isabel Vaz, W/o late Elpidio Everson Braz Jeronimo Lino Desouza alias Elpidio Everson Braz Jeronimho Lino Desouza alias Elfidio Everson Braz Jeronimho Lino Desouza **3.** Michelle Josette DeSouza alias Michelle Josette D'souza, S/o late Elpidio Everson Braz Jeronimo Lino Desouza alias Elpidio Everson Braz Jeronimho Lino Desouza alias Elfidio Everson Braz Jeronimho Lino Desouza **4.** Daniel Joseph De Souza alias Daniel Joseph D'Souza, S/o late Elpidio Everson Braz Jeronimo Lino Desouza alias Elpidio Everson Braz Jeronimho Lino Desouza alias Elfidio Everson Braz Jeronimho Lino Desouza **5.** Andrea Jolene Desouza, d/o late Elpidio Everson Braz Jeronimo Lino Desouza alias Elpidio Everson Braz Jeronimho Lino Desouza alias Elfidio Everson Braz Jeronimho Lino Desouza, All r/o H.no. 133, Bonglo Tivim, Bardez, Goa **6.** Mrs Daria Mascarenhas alias Daria De Souza (Deceased) w/o late Elaides Thomas Nola De Souza alias Elaides Thomas Nola D'Souza **7.** Gordon Antonio De Souza, married to Blossom Effie Castellino, S/o late Elaides Thomas Nola De Souza alias Elaides Thomas Nola D'Souza **8.** Florentyna Evanova De Souza alias Florentyna De Souza, d/o late Elaides Thomas Nola De Souza alias Elaides Thomas Nola D'Souza **9.** Cara Cassandra De Souza, d/o late Elaides Thomas Nola De Souza alias Elaides Thomas Nola D'Souza, All r/o H.No. 500/1, St Ann's Colony, Tivim, Bardez, Goa **15.** Mrs. Karen Ann De Souza alias Mrs. Karen Ann D'Souza, w/o Mr. Ian Shane Noronha **16.** Mr. Ian Shane Noronha, s/o Mr. Sylvester Noronha **17.** Miss Stephanie Genevieve De Souza, d/o Fidelis Elvino Baptista De Souza alias Fidelis Desouza alias Fidelis Elvino Batista De Souza alias Fidelis Elvino Batista De Souza, All r/o Souza Fernandes, Enclave Building A4 Flat G3/G4 Vanelim, Colva, Salcete, Goa

WHEREAS the above named Applicant has filed an application for publication.

AND WHEREAS, Head of the family has filed an application in this Court praying to serve the interested parties for auction that you be served by substituted service by publishing the same in local newspaper having circulation in the State of Goa and whereas this Court is satisfied that this is a fit case for ordering such a service.

NOW, therefore, notice is hereby given to you to appear before this Court either in person or by a pleader duly instructed on **4th day of November, 2026 at 2.30 p.m.** to remain present and to take part in auction.

TAKE further notice that, in default of your appearance on that day and time aforementioned, the matter will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this 22nd day of September, 2026

Sd/- (**Ms. Dolorosa C. Tulkar**) SEAL
Civil Judge Junior Division 'C' Court, Bicholim

VILLAGE PANCHAYAT ANJUNA- CAISUA

Ref. No. VP/ANJ-CAI / 2026-27 / 2591 **PUBLIC NOTICE** Date : 19.09.2026

WARD-WISE SURVEY OF STRAY DOGS, PET DOGS AND STRAY CATTLE WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF VILLAGE PANCHAYAT ANJUNA-CAISUA

Ref. No: 1. 15/DP/All VPS / Stray dog / Petsguy / Cattle / HC 2 of 2026/2026/8576 dated 11/09/2026 Memorandum issued by Directorate of Panchayats.

2. Suo Motu Writ Petition No. 2 of 2026 of the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa.

The Village Panchayat Anjuna-Caisua hereby informs all the residents of the Village of Anjuna-Caisua that, in compliance with the directions issued by the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa and the Directorate of Panchayats, Government of Goa, a ward-wise survey of stray dogs and stray cattle shall be conducted in the jurisdiction of the Village Panchayat.

The survey is being undertaken to collect accurate information regarding stray animals and to facilitate appropriate measures relating to animal birth control, sterilization, vaccination, responsible feeding and stray animal management.

Accordingly, all concerned are hereby informed as follows:

1. **Animal Feeders and Volunteers**: All animal feeders, animal welfare volunteers and persons involved in feeding stray dogs and stray cattle are requested to contact their respective Ward Member and provide information regarding stray animals in their ward on or before 25/09/2026
2. **Ward-Wise Survey**: A ward-wise survey shall be conducted by the respective Ward Members along with the nominated volunteers and local representatives during the period from 01/10/2026 to 15/10/2026.
3. **Information to be Collected**: The survey shall include, among other details
   I. Total number of stray dogs in each ward. II. Gender identification.
   III. Sterilization status. IV. Locations/clusters where stray dogs are found.
   V. Details of stray cattle and locations where stray cattle frequently congregate.
   VI. Photographs and geo-tagging of identified stray animals, wherever applicable.
4. **Cooperation of Residents**: All residents, animal feeders, volunteers and concerned persons are requested to extend their full cooperation to the Ward Members and Survey Teams during the survey.
5. **Information Regarding Stray Animals**: Residents are requested to share information regarding stray dogs and stray cattle in their respective wards with the concerned Ward Member to ensure that the survey data is complete and accurate.

The cooperation of all concerned is solicited for the successful completion of the survey.

Sd/- **Surendra Govekar (Sarpanch)**
Seal **Village Panchayat Anjuna-Caisua**

GANG01-001114-2021 PGANG010011142021_8

Form No. 4
DISTRICT AND SESSIONS COURT, MERCES
IN THE COURT OF Smt. Vijaya Ambre
SESSIONS Court

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
(See Section 82)

NDPS/26/2021
State of Goa Vs Antonio Obinna
ANC PS/24/2020
NEXT DATE: 28-09-2026

PUBLISHED THROUGH
State of Goa

Through P.I./I.O., Anti Narcotic Cell Police Station, Panaji - Goa., GOA

WHEREAS complaint has been made before me that Antonio Obinna, Age - 42 years, R/o. - R/o. Arambol, Pernem Goa. N/o Nigeria. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence of punishable under section 22(C)21(b) of the NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES ACT, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Antonio Obinna cannot be found, and whereas It has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Antonio Obinna has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Antonio Obinna, Age - 42 is required to appear at DISTRICT AND SESSIONS COURT, MERCES before POCSO Court to answer the said complaint on the day of 28-09-2026.

Dated, this day of 07-08-2026

Sd/-
Sessions Judge.
Sessions Court North-Goa, Merces Court

Matter is fixed for proclamation report on 28.09.2026 at 10.00 a.m

Note:Investigating Officer Shri Shitakant Nayak, PI, ANCPS, Altinho Panaji- Goa to remain present before this Court along with the service report on the date of hearing.

The Proclamation shall be published as follows:-

a) It shall be publicly read in some conspicuous place of the town or village in which such person ordinarily resides. b) It shall be affixed to some conspicuous part of the house or homestead in which such person ordinarily resides or to some conspicuous place of such town or village. c) A copy thereof shall be affixed to some conspicuous part of the Court house. d) To be published in a daily newspaper circulating in the place in which such person ordinarily resides.

Visit ecourts.gov.in for updates or download mobile app "eCourts Services" from Android or iOS

DI/ADVT/1519/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex Mumbai – 400051.

GOLD AUCTION & INVITATION NOTICE

The Borrower(s) mentioned below was/were issued a notice to pay off the outstanding amount towards the loan availed against gold ornaments, from ICICI Bank Limited.
Due to failure in repayment of dues, auction of the pledged gold ornaments will be conducted on October 22, 2026 In case of a deceased borrower, all the Terms and Conditions will be applicable to the respective legal heir(s).

Loan A/C No.	Borrower Name	Auction Branch Address
Branch Name: Margao		ICICI Bank Ltd., Panandikar Chambers, New Fatima Convent, Miguel Loyola Furtado Road, Margao Goa. - 403601
002357000482	Tina Caetano Dias	
002357000487	Tina Caetano Dias	
Branch Name: Sanquelim		ICICI Bank Ltd., Shop No. 2,3,4,,Carapur Tisk, SanquelimBicholim Goa - 403505
260357000081	Shubhada Shivanand Pednekar	
260357000043	Deepesh Tulshidas Wadkar	

The auction will be conducted at the address/es & on the date/s mentioned above in the table. Time: 3.00 P.M. -6.00 P.M.
Please note that ICICI Bank reserves the right to change the auction date/ place/ mode of auction without any prior notice.
Interested parties may visit the above-mentioned Branch/es for the detailed Terms and Conditions of the auction.

Date : 22.09.2026 Sincerely, Sd/- Authorised Signatory
Place : North Goa, South Goa For ICICI Bank Limited

STATE BANK OF INDIA

State Bank of India SMEC, PANAJI,
2nd Floor Panaji Main Branch, D.B Road Panaji
Goa 403001 Te: 0832-2420337 Fax 2420229 Email: sbi.10290@sbi.co.in

TENDER NOTICE FOR SALE OF VEHICLE

Application invited for sale of vehicle which is under possession with State Bank of India through offline/E-auction. The details are as under:-

Branch &Contact	Description of the Vehicle	Type of registration	Registration No. &date of registration	Reserve Price
Panaji Secretariat (Goa) Branch 9529327541	SML ISUZU EXECUTIVE LX 3335 ACBUS 23 SEATER AC BUS	Commercial	GA-11-T-6385 14.08.2024	18,50,000/-

Terms and condition of sale: 1. Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS"&"AS IS WHAT IS"basis through offline / E-auction on 21.10.2026 at 11.00 a.m. Intending purchaser/bidder is required to submit EMD by way of demand draft favoring State Bank of India on or before 17.10.2026 5:00 PM. 2. The person declared to be the successful bidder shall deposit 100% of sale price, less EMD deposited within seven days of the auction i.e. 28.10.2026. 3.Auction will be conducted at SMEC Panaji, 2ndfloor above SBI Panaji Main Branch, D B Road, Panaji 403001 on 21.10.2026 between 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM. 4.The Bank reserves the right to accept/ reject/cancel/postpone the offer without giving any reason thereof. 5. On the sale being confirmed against payment/deposit of the amount the vehicle sold will be delivered to the successful bidder in as is where condition. 6.Unsuccessful bidders who have deposited EMD shall be entitled to have the deposit refunded without any interest immediately after the confirmation of the sale. 7. Bank shall not be responsible or liable for any defects in the hypothecation and there is no warranty whatsoever. 8.The bidders/Purchaser have to ascertain from RTO office such as Road/passenger Taxes dues etc. and parking charges payable before participating in the auction. Any due outstanding towards RTO/insurance company/any other authority is to be borne by the bidder. 9.In the event of the failure of the successful bidder to deposit the balance amount of the bid on 28.10.2026, the EMD deposited shall be forfeited to the Bank and the bid accepted shall stand cancelled automatically. 10. The bidders may, if they choose, inspect the movables to be sold during the weekdays with prior appointment, contact no. 8282944449.

Place: Panaji
Date: 21.09.2026

Sd/-
Authorised officer
State Bank of India

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
CIN: U67100MH2007PLC174759
Retail Central & Regd. Office: Edelweiss House, Off CST Road, Kalina, Mumbai 400098

E-Auction Sale Notice For Sale Of Immovable Secured Assets Under The Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read With Proviso To Rule 8 (6) & 9(1) Of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules")

That **HDB Financial Services Limited** (hereinafter referred as HDB Financial Services Limited/Original Lender) has assigned the financial assets to **Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited** on its own /acting in its capacity as trustee of **EARC-TRUST-SC-483** (hereinafter referred as "EARC") pursuant to the Assignment Agreement dated **28-02-2023** under Sec.5 of SARFAESI Act, 2002. EARC has stepped into the shoes of the Original Lender and all the rights, title and interests of Original Lender with respect to the financial assets along with underlying security interests, guarantees, pledges have vested in EARC in respect of the financial assistance availed by the Borrower(s) and EARC exercises all its rights as the secured creditor.

The earlier auction conducted by selling institution i.e. to Original Lender failed due to want of bidder hence Notice of 30 days is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable secured assets mortgaged in favor of the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of the mortgage property which has been taken by the Authorised Officer (AO) of the Selling institution i.e. to Original Lender, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis,** for recovery of the amounts mentioned herein below due to EARC together with further interest and other expenses/costs thereon deducted for any money received by EARC from Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are mentioned below for the property.

DETAILS OF SECURED ASSET PUT FOR E-AUCTION:

S. No.	Loan Account No/ Name of the Selling Institution	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor	Trust name	Total Outstanding Dues in INR as on 19-09-2026	Reserve Price INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of Auction	Type of Possession
1	'7401128/ HDB Financial Services Limited	M/s. KALANGUTKAR MINI MARKET (Borrower) Mrs. BABITA CHETAN KALANGUTKAR (Co-Borrower) Mr. CHETAN CHANDRAKANT KALANGUTKAR (Co-Borrower) Mrs. GEETA CHANDRAKANT KALANGUTKAR ("Co-Borrower")	EARC-TRUST SC 483	Rs.95,13,287.29/-	₹ 3,35,00,000/-	₹ 33,50,000/-	28-10-2026 at 12:00 PM	Physical

Property Description: Alt that Shop along with Plot admeasuring 8728 Sq. Mts. situated in all that right, title and interest to the 1/61 h part of the property known as "Predio Oiteiral Sem Denomina- Cao Especial", situated at Serula Village, Ward Forpagem, Penha De Franca Parish, within the Grampanchayat Limits of Pehna De Franca, Bardez Taluka, Sub-District of Ilhas, Panaji, Goa, District which is described in the Land Registration Office of the Sub-District of Ilhas, (Conservatoria Do Registo Predial) at Panaji, under No. 15824, of Book B-41, Now (Number Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Four of Book B - Forty One, New) and registered in the Revenue Register (Matrix Predial), in Taluka Revenue Office at Mapusa, Under 640 (Number Six Hundred and Forty), North Goa, Goa.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING AUCTION PROCESS:

1.	EMD Demand Drafts (DD) shall be drawn in favor of "EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED - EMD ACCOUNT" payable at Mumbai	
2.	EMD Payments made through RTGS shall be to : **Name of the Account No.** EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED - EMD ACCOUNT" **Account No :** 000405158602 ; **Name of the Bank -** ICICI BANK; **IFSC Code :** IFSC ICIC0000004	
3.	**Last Date of Submission of EMD**	Received 1 day prior to the date of auction
4.	**Place for Submission of Bids**	1st Floor, Edelweiss House, off CST Road, Kalina, Mumbai-400098
5.	**Place of Auction (Web Site for Auction)**	E-Auction (https://auction.edelweissarc.in)
6.	**Contact Person with Phone No.**	Customer care: 1800 266 6540
7.	**Date & Time of Inspection of the Property**	As per prior appointment

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in EARC's website i.e. **https://auction.edelweissarc.in**

Date: 22-09-2026, **Sd/- Authorized Officer,**
Place: GOA **For Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited**

Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction

St Joseph Vaz College holds outreach prog



PANAJI: As part of its ongoing Outreach and Extension initiatives, St Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim, organised an engaging outreach programme at its adopted village, Dabolim Ward No 2. The programme was coordinated by the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Cell, Nature's Club, Department of Botany and Department of Library, with the objective of strengthening community engagement and promoting awareness of traditional knowledge, cultural practices and sustainable living. A key focus of the programme was to familiarise the community with the 21 sacred plants or patri traditionally associated with Ganesh Chaturthi.

The programme was conducted on September 11, commenced with a hands-on session conducted by SYBSc student Kshitija Gawas, who demonstrated and taught the residents and participants how to make colourful flowers using pipe cleaners.

This was followed by a Traditional Ganesh Chaturthi Dish-Making Competition. The competition witnessed participation from the residents. Meena Bandodkar secured the first prize, while Sneha Salkar won the second prize and Reshma Bandodkar was awarded the third prize.

A highlight of the programme was the awareness activity on "Matoli Magic – Sacred Flora of Ganesh Chaturthi", conducted by the BSc students

VMSCL hosts ECO-LEX 2026 in Pernem



PANAJI: With the objective of creating awareness among students about environmental conservation, legal awareness and sustainable development, the Pernem Free Legal Aid Cell of VM Salgaocar College of Law, Miramar in collaboration with the office of the Assistant District Educational Inspector, Pernem, organised 'ECO-LEX 2026 – Legal Debate and Poster-Making Competition'.

Students from 15 schools in Pernem taluka participated in the initiative.

For the debate competition, Assistant Professor Dr Viren Amonkar of Sant Sohirobanath Ambiye and Assistant Professor Varsha Redkar of VM Salgaocar College of Law served as judges. The poster-making competition was judged by senior Goan artist Sanjay Harmalkar. Assistant District Educational Inspector (Administration) Alisha Vincent Da Cunha attended as the chief guest, while social worker Joseph Lobo guided the participants as the resource person.

In the poster-making competition, Parse High School secured first place, while Ideal High School stood second. Bhagwati High School and Harmal Panchkroshi High School won the first and second consolation prizes respectively.

In the debate competition, Our Lady of Rosary High School secured first place, while RD Kholap High School emerged runners-up. The Best Speaker award was presented to a student of RD Kholap High School.

The programme was coordinated by Diya Bhagat, in-charge of the Pernem Free Legal Aid Cell. Sania Parab assisted as deputy in-charge, while Govind Bhagat compered the debate competition. The competition proceedings were conducted by Jiviksha Desai. Seventeen members of the Legal Aid Cell actively participated in organising the programme. Students who participated in the competition were presented with certificates, while the winners received prizes and trophies. The initiative, which combined legal education with awareness about environmental conservation, proved informative and inspiring for the students.

Vidya Vikas Mandal elects new Board of Management

PANAJI: Vidya Vikas Mandal, Margao held its 53rd Annual General Meeting at its premises on September 12. The outgoing President Nitin Kunkolienker read the Annual Report and also apprised members about the various initiatives taken by the outgoing Board of Management during its 3-year term 2023-26. Members were briefed about the major developments in respect of Shree Damodar College of Commerce & Economics, GR Kare College of Law, RMS Higher Secondary School and Vidya Vikas Academy. Eleven members were elected unopposed as members of the Board of Management. Election of Office bearers took place during the Board of Management meeting immediately following the AGM.

The Board of Management of Vidya Vikas Mandal 2026-29 is as follows: Nitin A Kunkolienker (President), Adv Pritam Morais (First Vice-President), Vinayak Angle (Second Vice-President), Madhukar R Mallya (Hon Secretary), CA Uttam N Bene (Treasurer), Deepak Chodankar (Jt Secretary), CA Sheela HN Gaunekar, Blaise Costabir, Vikram Verlekar, Adv Prasad Naik, Jitendra Agarwal and Suhas M Mallya (Coopted Member).

Families in transition: Helping children navigate divorce

EXPERT LECTURE CONDUCTED BY SOCIAL WORK DEPT AT GU

THE GOAN I NETWORK



PANAJI

The trauma experienced by children caught in divorce, separation and custody disputes, and the critical role that social workers and psychologists can play in supporting the judiciary, were highlighted at an interdisciplinary expert lecture organised by the Social Work Programme, DD Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies, Goa University, on September 11.

Speaking on "Families in Transition: Understanding Family Dynamics, Parental Alienation, Divorce and Child Custody through a Social Work and Legal Lens," Adv Caroline Colaco, Advocate, High Court of Bombay at Goa, used case studies to illustrate the emotional and psychological trauma children can experience when exposed to prolonged parental conflict and contentious custody proceedings.

Drawing from cases, Colaco highlighted that while courts are required to make difficult decisions concerning custody and the welfare of children, understanding a child's emotional world, family relationships and lived experiences requires specialised psychosocial inputs.

She emphasised that trained social workers and psychologists can help bridge this gap by supporting children through family transitions, understanding family dynamics and providing professional inputs that can assist the judiciary in making decisions centred on the best interests of the child.

The lecture also examined parental alienation, divorce and custody conflicts, highlighting how children can become caught between competing parental narratives. It stressed the importance of ensuring that children do not become instruments in disputes between adults and that their emotional wellbeing, dignity and voices remain central to interventions.

Around 40 participants, comprising students and faculty members, attended the interactive session. The discussion underscored the need for stronger interdisciplinary collaboration between the judiciary, legal professionals, social workers and psychologists to ensure that children navigating family disputes are adequately heard, supported and protected.

The programme marked Lecture I of "Connecting the Dots – Interdisciplinary Expert Lecture Series," an initiative of the Social Work Programme aimed at connecting classroom learning with professional expertise across disciplines.

The programme was coordinated by Peter F Borges, Assistant Professor, Social Work Programme, Goa University.

St Xavier's HSS wins All Goa Boardroom Challenge



PANAJI: The Board of Studies in Secretarial Practice, in collaboration with the Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, organised the All-Goa Inter-Higher Secondary Mock Meeting Competition – 'Boardroom Challenge' at Mantan Hall, Goa Board, as part of the Board's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Goa Board Chairman Bhagirath Shetye appreciated the Board of Studies in Secretarial Practice for organising the event. Secretary Sermia Cynthia Gonsalves said such programmes reflected the kind of education the Board sought to promote.

Convenor of the Board of Studies in Secretarial Practice, Tr Sandhya Fernandes, welcomed the gathering, while Tr Anup Naik introduced the jury members. Tr Rohan Manerkar proposed the vote of thanks.

The competition saw participation from 20 higher secondary schools across Goa. Each team comprised six students who performed the roles of Chairperson, Secretary, Director, Auditor, Banker and Solicitor.

The competition consisted of three rounds — drafting a Notice and Agenda based on a topic selected by participants, conducting the meeting, and preparing the Minutes of the Meeting.

Following the elimination round, 10 teams qualified for the subsequent stage. St Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Mapusa, secured first place, followed by Rosary Higher Secondary School, Navelim, in second place and People's Higher Secondary School, Panaji, in third place.

The first consolation prize went to SES Purushottom Walawalkar Higher Secondary School, Mapusa, while the second consolation prize was awarded to Diogo Vaz Higher Secondary School, Colvale.

The Best Chairperson Award was won by Randell Dias of St Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Mapusa. Sneha Biswas of Rosary Higher Secondary School, Navelim, won the Best Secretary Award, while Jolan Fernandes of St Theresa of Jesus Higher Secondary School, Canacona, received the Best Member Award.

The jury comprised Salu Bhagat, Adv Ruzela Da Cruz and Dr Priya Onsker. Tr Alice Mathias compered the proceedings.

The prizes and awards will be formally presented at the closing ceremony of the Golden Jubilee year.

Fr Bolmax Pereira Memorial Lecture calls for climate action



PANAJI: The Rev Dr Fr Bolmax Pereira Memorial Lecture was held at St Anne's Church, Ponda, on September 13 as part of the 8th Centenary Celebration of the Transitus of St Francis of Assisi (1226–2026) and Season of Creation 2026. The programme was held on the theme "Faith, Science and Action for Our Common Home".

The programme began with a prayer for creation, followed by a welcome by Rev Fr Francis Rozario OFM, Parish Priest of St Anne's Church, and an address by Fr Anthony Carvalho, Convener of the Diocesan Commission for Ecology (DCE). An audio-visual tribute recalled the life, ministry and ecological commitment of Rev Dr Fr Bolmax Pereira (1976–2026). Fr Anthony Carvalho and Miguel Braganza, Executive Member of the DCE, also highlighted his contribution to ecological awareness in Goa.

The principal lecture was delivered by climate scientist Dr Roxy Mathew Koll on "Climate Change: Understanding the Challenge and What It Means for Goa". Dr Roxy, recipient of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar in 2024 and the AGU Devendra Lal Medal in 2022, spoke of Goa's position between a rapidly warming Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats, which face growing pressure. He stressed that individuals can contribute to climate action by taking responsibility for a small sphere of the environment within their influence.

Padma Shri Norma Alvares, speaking on "Protecting Goa: From Environmental Awareness to Community Action", said Goa was not merely a tourist destination but a home comprising its villages and cultural heritage.

Ganesh Chaturthi marked at Jnyan Vikas School

PANAJI: Jnyan Vikas School, Porvorim, celebrated the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi with devotion and festive spirit. The celebration, organised by the Primary Section, brought together students and staff in a tribute to Lord Ganesha.

The programme commenced with a soulful prayer led by Tr Siddhi Malik, followed by the recitation of the Ganpati Stotra by the students of Std IV. A special speech highlighting the significance of the festival was delivered by Greva Teli of Std III B.

Students of Std II, III and IV presented a dance performance to a Ganesha song. An Aarti was also performed by the students of Std IV and Std X.

The programme was compered by Srija Chimulkar and Siya Prabhugaokar of Std III. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Adhira of Std IIIB.



The programme was coordinated under the guidance of Tr Siddhi Malik. The Director of the school, Devidas Kudav; Headmistress, Saroj Pawaskar; Coordinator, Swati Vernekar; staff members; students of Std X; and the Primary Section students graced the occasion.

DBC hosts PsychAura 2.0



PANAJI: Emotions took centre stage at Don Bosco College, Panaji, on September 10 as 11 higher secondary school teams participated in PsychAura 2.0. Organised by the Department of Psychology, the fest marked World Suicide Prevention Day and the college's Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Under the theme "Emotions Unmasked", each team adopted an emotion as its identity. Students explored psychology through duet singing, dance, role play, poetry, models, an escape room, reels, memes and a mascot showdown. Chief Guest Dr Peter Castelino, Founder and Managing Director of COOJ Mental Health Foundation, highlighted the importance of emotional regulation and the influence of the digital age.

Sharda Mandir HSS claimed both first and second place, while St Xavier's HSS secured the third position. Principal of Don Bosco College, Prof Teotone Vaz, presented the trophies to the winners.

'Go Yellow!' treasure hunt at GCHS



PANAJI: The Goa College of Home Science (GCHS), in association with the COOJ Mental Health Foundation, organised the 'Go Yellow! All-Goa Intercollegiate Treasure Hunt Competition' on September 11, to mark World Suicide Prevention Day. The Rotaract Club and MPower COPE Club of GCHS organised the event, which brought together teams from several colleges across Goa.

The programme opened with a short session by Donna Noronha and her team from the COOJ Mental Health Foundation, who spoke to the participating students about suicide prevention. The participants then set off on the treasure hunt across different locations in Panaji. Goa College of Agriculture emerged as the winner, followed by St Xavier's College, Mapusa and Don Bosco College, Panaji in second and third place, respectively. Cash prizes of Rs 8,000, Rs 5,000 and Rs 3,000 were awarded to the winning teams along with certificates, while all other participants received participation certificates. The event was coordinated by Assistant Professors, Carolyn Cardoso and Dr Nadisha Coelho.

Damodar College hosts BitBuzz 8.0



PANAJI: VVM's Shree Damodar College of Commerce and Economics, Margao, hosted BitBuzz 8.0, a State-level IT Technical Fest organised by the Department of Computer Science. The fest brought together 340+ students from Higher Secondary Schools across Goa, providing them with a platform to showcase their technical knowledge, creativity, innovation and teamwork.

Held under the theme "Think. Create. Transform." BitBuzz 8.0 witnessed registrations from 14 Higher Secondary School teams, with 13 teams participating in the fest. The event featured a variety of technology-oriented competitions and activities designed to encourage students to think creatively and apply their technical skills in an engaging and competitive environment.

The event was graced by Chinmay Sanjiv Kamat, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Coper Codes, as the Chief Guest. Addressing the participants, Kamat emphasised the importance of developing technical skills, creativity, problem-solving abilities and an innovative mindset to keep pace with the rapidly evolving world of technology.

Rosary Higher Secondary School, Navelim emerged as the Winner of BitBuzz 8.0, St Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Mapusa secured the Runners-Up position. The fest was conducted under the Convenorship of Amogh S Pai Raiturkar, with Samuel Godinho as Co-Convenor. The event was held under the guidance and support of Principal Sanjay P Sawant Dessai and Programme Coordinator Sweta P Shet Verenkar.

The successful execution of BitBuzz 8.0 was also made possible through the dedicated efforts of Student Incharges Simran Ghadi and Student Co-Incharge Saniya Idrisi, along with the faculty members, student coordinators and volunteers.

STUDENT SUICIDE

IIT-Bombay removes dean of Administrative Affairs

INSTITUTE ALSO ISSUES PUBLIC APOLOGY FOR EARLIER COMMUNICATION

PTI

MUMBAI

The IIT-Bombay on Monday removed Suryanarayana Doolla as the dean of Administrative Affairs following protests by students and political activists over the suicide of a 22-year-old student, which led to a case of abetment and caste discrimination registered against him.The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay also issued a public apology for its earlier communication that characterised the events preceding the death of the student, Sahil Wakode, before a detailed inquiry was completed.

Wakode, a second-year B.Tech student in the Department of Energy Science and Engineering hailing from Maharashtra's Yavatmal district, was found hanging in his hostel room on the Powai campus on Friday evening, hours after he was allegedly caught using a mobile phone to access ChatGPT during a mid-semester examination.

The Mumbai Police have booked Doolla under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Section 108 (abetment of suicide) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, following a complaint lodged by Sahil's family.



Police personnel stand guard as students protest following the death of a 22-year-old Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay student at the Powai campus, in Mumbai.

In an email to students, IIT Bombay Director Shireesh Kedare confirmed the removal of Doolla, who previously served as the Dean of Student Affairs, from the current post.

Doolla, who is a professor, continues to remain in the faculty. "In view of the ongoing investigation, it was inappropriate to have set out or characterised details relating to the events preceding Sahil's demise before they had been duly established through the appropriate investigative process," the institute said in its statement on Monday, retracting its earlier assertion that Sahil was caught cheating but faced no disciplinary action.

However, student groups expressed dissatisfaction with the move, demanding his suspension as a faculty member.

On Monday evening, the faculty members held a march in the institute's campus to support Doolla. The Faculty Forum said that he followed "Senate-approved exam procedure" when he reported the student for alleged phone use on September 18.

Sahil's family alleged that he was subjected to systematic institutional harassment and caste-based discrimination.

"He was our only son. We reached this stage after immense struggle and now they have finished him. The staff harassed him using casteism. I want justice," said his father, Ravindra Wakode, demanding a comprehensive probe into the administration's role.

Defending Doolla, the forum issued a statement, noting his key role in launching several student welfare initiatives during his tenure as Dean of Student Affairs.

"We are distressed by the vilification of our colleague's reputation through false and misleading media reports," the forum stated.

The decision to remove Doolla as dean of Administrative Affairs failed to impress the protesting students, who said they had sought his suspension as a professor and not merely his removal from an administrative position.

The forum said that during his long tenure as Dean, Student Affairs, Doolla was instrumental in setting up several initiatives for the welfare of the student community on campus. The forum also said it was "distressed by the vilification of our colleague's reputation by false and misleading media reports".

6 children drown while bathing in pond in Bihar

PTI

BHAGALPUR

Six children drowned while bathing in a pond in Bihar's Bhagalpur district on Monday, police said.

Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary expressed grief over the incident and announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased children, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

The incident occurred around 10.30 am in Taraita Bahiyar in the Sultanganj police station area when the children had gone for a ritual bath on the occasion of the Karma-Dharma festival, a senior police officer said.

The deceased were identified as Pooja Kumari (13), Rahul Kumar (14), Vikas Kumar (13), Ayush Kumar (12), Meenakshi Kumari alias Minki (12) and Jyoti Kumari (14), the officer said.

"Locals claimed that one of the children waded into deep water and the others tried to rescue him. But all six drowned. The children were taken out of the pond and sent to the Sultanganj Referral Hospital, where doctors declared them dead," he said.

Sultanganj Circle Officer Raman Kumar said the bereaved families would be provided all possible assistance.

Girl and boy harassed in Bihar, police arrest three perpetrators

PTI

JAMUI

Bihar was on the boil on Monday over a viral video showing a boy and a girl allegedly being harassed by a group of people on a roadside in Jamui district two days ago, even as police said three of the alleged perpetrators had been arrested.

State Women's Commission Chairperson Apsara Mishra said a detailed report had been sought from the district administration on the incident, which has triggered criticism of the BJP-led government over the safety of women and girls.

Earlier, Jamui SP Bishwajeet Dayal had told reporters that the incident took place on September 19 evening and a Special Investigation Team, headed by a woman officer, was conducting raids to arrest all the culprits.

"Although the incident is two days old, no complaint was made before us by the boy or the girl till Sunday. Today, when the video went viral, we traced the victims with the help of the registration number of a vehicle visible in the clip", the SP told reporters. "An SIT headed by Sub-Divisional Police Officer Deepti Monali has been set up. The accused have not been named by the victims in the FIR lodged at Jamui police station, but we have identified around seven perpetrators with the help of the clip. Three persons have been arrested, and raids are being conducted to nab the others," Dayal said.


A screengrab from a viral video showing a boy and a girl allegedly being harassed by a group of people on a roadside in Bihar's Jamui district two days ago.

The FIR has been lodged under the POCSO Act and relevant sections of the BNS, and steps have been initiated for the "takedown of the video", the SP said.

He said the boy and girl were friends and attended the same coaching institute, but declined to provide further details, saying, "We must keep some information private." The video, which purportedly shows the two being harassed by a group of people, has drawn criticism on social media as well as from political leaders.

PTI, however, could not independently verify the video's authenticity.

Reacting to the incident, the state Women's Commission Chairperson told PTI Videos, "We have spoken to the Jamui DM, who told us that the incident took place near the district's border with adjoining Lakhisarai. He also said all the accused have been identified. He has promised to keep us informed about the action taken in this regard".

Meanwhile, the episode triggered a political slugfest, with criticisms coming from several opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi.

Gandhi, who is Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, came out with an angry post on X, describing the incident as "deeply disturbing".

"This is not culture, it is patriarchy," the Congress leader said, alleging that "andhbhakts" were responsible for such attitudes being "normalised".

The Rae Bareli MP demanded that the persons identified in the video be "prosecuted under POCSO" and asked the BJP-led government in the state "why a girl is not safe on a public road". The Aam Aadmi Party also shared the video clip on its X handle, reminding Prime Minister Narendra Modi of his "beti bachao" slogan and alleging "in your BJP-ruled state of Bihar, a daughter's dignity is being torn to shreds".

SBSP chief reignites debate of division of UP

PTI

LUCKNOW

Cabinet minister and NDA ally, SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar, has said that Uttar Pradesh will be divided into four parts after a caste census, freshly stoking a nearly two-decade-old debate on the division of the country's most populous state.

Speaking at the 'Samajik Samrasta Maha Rally' organised by the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) in Deoria on Sunday, Rajbhar claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "assured" him that the division of the state could happen after the caste census.

"We want to assure you regarding the 27 per cent reservation. I spoke with the prime minister about this," Rajbhar, whose party is currently allied with the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, said.

"He (Modi) said, 'Om Prakash ji, your point is justified, but some people are opposing it.' I asked him how we could move forward, and he replied, 'I will conduct a caste census, and once we have counted the castes, there will be no difficulty,'" Rajbhar said.

He added, "The state will be divided into four parts. And on the day the Purvanchal state is formed, if the chief minister is to be from any caste, then a Rajbhar's son will become the chief minister." Uttar Pradesh minister and Nishad Party chief Sanjay Nishad dismissed the claim as misleading, saying his party was not in favour of any such furcation.

At a press conference in Lucknow on Monday, Akhilesh Yadav too dismissed the idea and warned against attempts to divide the country and the state.

Naga teenager shot dead in Manipur

PTI

IMPHAL

A teen was shot dead by suspected militants in Manipur's Tamenglong district on Monday, police said.

The Naga youth, identified as NK Wiphenbou (17), was walking alone from Upper Nkou village to Tamei town when he was attacked around 10.30 am.

Naga village volunteers later found his body along a narrow path, they said.

Former chief minister N Biren Singh condemned the killing and said, "Manipur cannot continue to lose innocent lives to this endless cycle of violence."

In a social media post, Singh said, "The authorities must act decisively, establish accountability and bring those responsible to justice without delay."

Pak says 28 terrorists killed in airstrikes in Afghanistan

PTI

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Monday said its security forces carried out airstrikes on terrorist camps and hideouts in the border region with Afghanistan, killing 28 terrorists, including multiple suicide bombers.

The Pakistan information ministry said the strikes followed a "well-planned intelligence-based" ground operation carried out by security forces in Kohat and Hangu districts of northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The ground operation was followed by "calibrated air strikes" against hideouts and safe havens of terrorist organisations that Pakistan said were responsible for recent attacks in the province.

"Based on credible intelligence, selective targeting of terrorist camps and hideouts belonging to Fitna al Khawarij and its affiliates has also been carried out in the border region with Afghanistan with precision and accuracy," the ministry said.

Fitna al-Khawarij is a term used by Pakistan's government and military to refer to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and associated militant groups.

The ministry said three targets were destroyed, including a training centre for suicide bombers, while large quantities of weapons and ammunition stored at the targeted centres and hideouts were also destroyed.

Pakistan's claim that 28 terrorists were killed could not be independently verified.

ED chargesheets EaseMyTrip promoter in betting app case

PTI

NEW RAIPUR

The Enforcement Directorate has chargesheeted EaseMyTrip co-founder Nishant Pitti in the Mahadev online betting app money laundering case, charging him with "facilitating" the proceeds of illegal betting into the equity market under the guise of foreign portfolio investments.

The federal agency also attached Pitti's DEMAT shares worth Rs 59.60 crore through a provisional order issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) when filing the chargesheet on September 10 before a special court in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sought the court's nod to "confiscate" these shares, calling them "proceeds of crime" under the anti-money laundering law.

Officials told PTI that the charges against Pitti (40), chairman-cum-managing director at EaseMyTrip, were detailed in the fifth supplementary chargesheet filed before a special PMLA court in Raipur.

Pitti later issued a statement, saying he was not aware of any chargesheet, nor was he summoned by the court. "Hence, I have nothing to say on the matter. I have always cooperated with and shall continue to cooperate with all the law enforcement bodies. I shall submit detailed evidence to establish my bona fide conduct, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law," he said.

The company said in a statement that Easy Trip Planners Limited, the holding company of EaseMyTrip, has not received any formal intimation of legal proceedings against the firm or its director Nishant Pitti.

The ED named 42 individuals and companies in the chargesheet, including EBIX Group Chairman Vikas Garg (53). The agency arrested Garg in July after raiding his Delhi home. He is currently lodged in jail under judicial custody.

Soon after his arrest, the Delhi BJP removed Garg as its economic cell convenor and also cancelled his primary party membership.

The Mahadev app, also known as the Mahadev Online Book (MOB), is primarily promoted by two Chhattisgarh-based absconding businessmen Sourabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal. It is alleged to have generated proceeds of crime worth Rs 80,000 crore since 2019.

The duo has an Interpol Red Notice issued against them. The ED carried out searches against Pitti in April 2025 and questioned him thrice, including twice this August.

The agency said in the chargesheet that the evidence gathered shows that Pitti was a close associate of Hari Shankar Tibrewal, the Dubai-based owner of illegal betting platform Skyexchange.

According to officials, the chargesheet said evidence revealed that Pitti was directly involved in facilitating the entry of crime proceeds into the Indian equity market under the guise of foreign portfolio investments (FPIs).

It added that Pitti, on behalf of the promoters of Easy Trip Planners Ltd, entered into a pre-arranged stock price manipulation deal with an associate of Tibrewal to artificially inflate the share price and market capitalisation of that company.

FROM PAGE 1 ››

Entry, exit points on Porvorim flyover to reopen with curbs

movements.
The measures are aimed at addressing one of the major complaints following the corridor's opening – motorists travelling from Atal Setu towards Porvorim currently have to take a circuitous route via Guirim because of the closure of the access points.
Safety measures before reopening
The government has decided to install rumblers at its entry-exit areas to control vehicle speeds. Speed-limit signboards will also be installed at various locations, while cameras will be used to monitor motorists.
Traffic Police have already begun using speed cameras on the corridor, with motorists exceeding the prescribed 65 kmph limit liable for challans. Police said the automated cameras record speeding vehicles and enable challans to be issued.
The cameras, however, currently operate only during the daytime and are not functional at night, according to Traffic Police.
The decision to modify the access arrangements comes even as the corridor continues to see accidents.
The latest measures are therefore expected to restore some of the local connectivity lost after the corridor was opened, while retaining restrictions intended to address safety concerns at its entry and exit points.

Casinos, luxury hotels face steep p'yat licence fee hike

panchayats.
The draft also proposes a new multi-year licensing option, allowing businesses to obtain licences for one, three, five or 10 years, provided the fee is paid upfront.
Delays, meanwhile, could prove costly. A 10 percent late fee for every month of delay is proposed, capped at 50 percent of the annual fee.
Operating without a valid licence could also attract a fine of up to Rs 5,000, besides an additional penalty of up to Rs 500 per day for a continuing violation.
Seasonal beach shacks and water sports operators would also come under the proposed fee structure, with ceilings of Rs 15,000 per season and Rs 10,000 annually respectively in Category A panchayats.
Traditional artisans, weavers and small agricultural producers selling their own produce within the village would be exempt, subject to conditions laid down in the draft.

Protective bund repairs to get 100% govt financial support

Daman and Diu Agriculture Tenancy Act, 1964 through an ordinance, increasing its contribution towards bund repairs from 50 per cent to 90 per cent, while requiring tenant associations to bear the remaining 10 per cent.
Before the ordinance, it was 50:50 arrangement that had made it difficult for tenant associations to undertake repairs.
Protective bunds are critical to Goa's agricultural landscape, particularly in low-lying areas along rivers and the coast. The structures prevent the entry of seawater into agricultural fields and help protect cultivated land from salinity.
Several of these bunds are old and require regular repairs and strengthening. Their upkeep is particularly important for traditional agricultural areas, including khazan lands, where bunds and sluice gates help regulate tidal water and prevent saline water from entering fields.
The Agriculture Department is responsible for undertaking maintenance of protective bunds to ensure that breaches and deterioration do not result in seawater entering agricultural fields and affecting cultivation.

Double tragedy in Canacona: 2 elderly sisters found dead

decomposed bodies, one lying in the bedroom and the other in the kitchen.
Police also found a handwritten note along with cash of Rs 15,000 at the scene, as well as a bottle of spirit.
During the initial scene investigation, police confirmed that nothing inside the house appeared disturbed, suggesting no immediate signs of forced entry or ransacking of the premises.
Stating that the two sisters were last visited by their elder brother in the first week of September, police said local enquires also indicated that they had recently expressed about having no interest in living any more.
After conducting the panchanama, police sent the two bodies to the South Goa District Hospital at Margao for required medico-legal procedures and post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death.
Canacona police have initiated a detailed investigation following the information received from the informant that his two aunts were found dead in their house.
Samples of visceral organs have been preserved for chemical analysis and both bodies were later handed over to family members for final rites. PSI Ramdas Doifode of Canacona Police Station is conducting further investigations in the matter.

Big push to revive khazan land, govt seeks ₹476 cr

aquaculture. Most are located in the floodplains of the Mandovi and Zuari estuaries. While estimates of the total khazan area vary, the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), as part of the CZMP 2011 assessment, has estimated Goa's khazan land at 13,166 ha.
A preliminary study conducted by TERI in January this year identified Poinguinim, Amona and Virdi as priority sites where science-backed interventions, coupled with community-based resource management, could support sustainable agricultural activity.
According to the study, the upstream khazan fields at Poinguinim retain near-natural freshwater conditions, making them suitable for immediate revitalisation efforts. The khazans at Amona and Virdi in Bicholim taluka, meanwhile, are in a transitional ecological state and have potential for restoration if appropriate hydraulic controls and water-management systems are introduced.
However, the TERI assessment also cautioned against a blanket revival approach. It noted that downstream khazan areas in Batim, Tiswadi, and Poinguinim have undergone ecological conversion into marine-dominated systems, making them unsuitable for revival as freshwater-based khazan agricultural systems.

Xi to visit US from Sept 23 to 25 for talks with Trump

China calls it 'milestone of historic significance'

PTI

BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit Washington from September 23 to 25 for summit talks with his US counterpart Donald Trump, marking their second meeting in four months, a development Beijing has described as a "milestone of historic significance".

Xi will visit the US for three days at the invitation of Trump, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun announced at a media briefing here on Monday.

During his talks with Trump, Xi will have in-depth exchanges on key issues concerning China-US relations, as well as world peace and development, Guo said.

"The reciprocal visits by the two heads of state within a span of six months will mark a milestone of historic significance," he said.

The two leaders last met in Beijing in May during Trump's China visit, when they held talks aimed at improving ties between the world's two largest economies.

"China will work with the US to enrich the dimensions of the China-US constructive relationship of strategic stability, strengthen dialogue and cooperation and properly manage differences so as to deliver greater benefits to our two peoples and to further contribute to world peace, stability and prosperity," Guo said.

Trump plans to accord a rare airport reception to Xi by personally receiving him on the tarmac at Joint Base Andrews, according to the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post.

From trade tariffs and technology to AI, military-to-military ties, the conflict in West Asia, the Russia-Ukraine war, the space arms race and US arms sales to Taiwan, a range of issues are expected to figure in the meeting between the two world leaders.

Ahead of Xi's visit, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer held "candid, in-depth and constructive" talks on economic and trade issues, including AI, on Sunday in New York.

In his talks with He, Bessent said the US had proposed a new notification mechanism for artificial intelligence incidents that could affect national security.

"We want a shared vision of common goals and common threats," Bessent told the media in New York. "We think that just like any cross-border activity, that moving from opaque to more transparency between the No. 1 and the No. 2 AI powers in the world is very important."

Briefs

Fx inflows under RBI swap facility rise to $143.6 bn

The Reserve Bank of India's measures to boost foreign capital inflows have attracted $143.60 billion from June 8 till Friday, the central bank said on Monday, based on data from authorised dealer banks. Inflows were from foreign currency non-resident (bank) deposits, overseas foreign currency borrowings by banks, and external commercial borrowings by public sector undertakings. Nearly 93% of the inflows came from FCNR(B) deposits at $132.98 billion, which closed on August 31.

FCNR inflows revised upward to $133 bn

The RBI on Monday upwardly revised the collections under the special Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR-B) deposit scheme to $133 billion till August 31, the closing date, which was advanced by a month following a robust response from the Indian diaspora. According to the provisional data released on September 2, the mobilisation by banks under FCNR (B) stood at $127.226 billion. According to the RBI's latest data reported by authorised dealer banks till September 18 on FCNR(B), ECBs and OFCBs, the total inflows stood at $143.596 billion.

FM meets JPMorgan CEO in Mumbai

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday met Jamie Dimon, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of JPMorgan Chase & Co., during the 11th edition of the JPMorgan India Investor Conference in Mumbai. According to the Finance Ministry, Dimon interacted with the finance minister on the sidelines of the conference, which brought together investors, policymakers and corporate leaders to discuss India's economic outlook and investment opportunities.

EFSL to raise up to ₹300 cr via NCDs

Edelweiss Financial Services Limited (EFSL) on Monday said it proposes to raise up to ₹300 crore through a public issue of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) of face value of ₹1,000 each. The issue closes on October 5, 2026, EFSL said in a statement. At least 75% of the funds raised through this issue will be used for the repayment/prepayment of interest and principal of existing borrowings of the company, and the balance is proposed to be utilised for general corporate purposes, subject to such utilisation not exceeding 25% of the amount raised, it said.

Global rate hike cycle begins: MOFSL

The global monetary policy regime is entering a tighter phase, with major central banks shifting away from the ultra-loose conditions of the past decade, while India could face 75-100 basis points of cumulative rate hikes if elevated crude prices persist, brokerage firm Motilal Oswal Financial Services said in a research report. The brokerage said an October rate hike by the RBI is a meaningful possibility if crude remains elevated and inflation expectations begin to rise.

RBI simplifies KYC compliance for FPIs

PTI
NEW DELHI

The RBI on Monday eased compliance procedures for foreign portfolio investors, allowing Indian banks to accept original certified copies of specified KYC documents that have been certified by authorised officials overseas.

The change, issued through the Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks-Know Your Customer) Amendment Directions, 2026, took effect immediately and extends to foreign portfolio investors a facility previously available to non-resident individuals and persons of Indian origin. Banks could accept original certified copies of know-your-customer documents provided they are certified by authorities recognised under the RBI framework, the statement said. **-IANS**

MOMENTUM MEETS VULNERABILITY | Core output grows 4.8%, upstream retreats

India's industrial pulse quickens, energy weakness clouds picture

Palazhi Ashok Kumar
MUMBAI



India's industrial pulse quickened in August, with core-sector output expanding 4.8% year-on-year, government data revealed on Monday — a consequential production signal arriving just as India's headline economic statistics face unusually intense scrutiny.

The timing gives the numbers added resonance. A vigorous debate around recent GDP revisions and methodology has sharpened attention on underlying indicators illuminating activity across the real economy. The core-sector print does not arbitrate that debate, but provides another important window into India's industrial foundations.

And the picture is strikingly two-speed.

Although August growth moderated from July's revised 5.0%, cumulative core output expanded 4.3% during April-August, almost twice the 2.4% recorded in the corresponding period last year.

Infra takes command

The Commerce and Industry Ministry said cement production surged 12.5%, electricity 11.6%, iron ore 5.5%, steel 3.4% and refinery products 2.6%. The government identified iron ore, electricity and cement as major drivers of recent growth. That composition carries considerable economic heft. Double-digit cement expansion signals vigorous construction and infrastructure throughput, while electricity growth indicates elevated power utilisation. Firmer steel and iron-ore production reinforces the capex narrative across engineering, construction, logistics and industrial supply chains. For industrialists, sustained throughput can lift capacity utilisation, improve fixed-cost absorption and strengthen confidence for fresh investment commitments.

Energy becomes the Achilles' heel

Beneath that resilience sits a conspicuous upstream fracture. Fertiliser output contracted 12.4%, natural gas 4.9%, coal 3.8% and crude oil 3.6%.

Persistent weakness across energy and feedstock production risks amplifying import dependence, exposing manufacturers to global commodity shocks and squeezing operating margins. This creates a potentially troublesome counterweight to the infrastructure-led acceleration.

The bigger economic test

The index, rebased to 2022-23, now tracks nine strategically important industries after iron ore was added, giving policymakers, businesses and investors a broader lens on industrial activity. For domestic and foreign investors, therefore, 4.8% is encouraging, but hardly the entire story. Infrastructure offers horsepower; upstream energy remains the vulnerability. The investment multiplier could travel through machinery, contracting, transport and ancillary manufacturing into employment, although the core index itself does not measure job creation.

RBI sells ₹25K cr G-Secs in second OMO tranche

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday accepted bids worth ₹25,000 crore in the second tranche of its open market operation sale of government securities, as it stepped up efforts to absorb surplus liquidity from the banking system.

The RBI accepted ₹11,512 crore of the 6.10% GS 2031, ₹8,758 crore of the 7.95% GS 2032, ₹2,300 crore of the 6.75% GS 2029, ₹2,250 crore of the 7.17% GS 2030, and ₹180 crore of the 7.17% GS 2028, according to the release.

However, the central bank did not accept any bids for the 8.28% GS 2027, the release said.The open market operation sale comes amid a large liquidity surplus in the banking system.

Liquidity surplus was estimated around ₹6.05 lakh crore as of September 20, according to the Reserve Bank of India data. **-PTI**

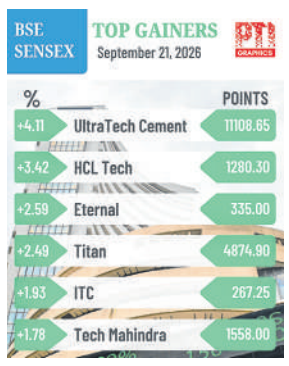
Mkts rises for 4th day on easing oil prices

Benchmark stock index Sensex climbed 564 points while the Nifty rose for the fourth consecutive session on Monday, supported by cooling crude oil prices, fresh foreign fund inflows and a positive trend in global equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 564.03 points, or 0.76%, to settle at a more-than-a-week high of 74,858.99. During the day, it surged 692.44 points, or 0.93%, to 74,987.40.

Rising for the fourth day, the 50-share NSE Nifty closed higher by 67.90 points, or 0.29%, at 23,414.30.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "Improving sentiment ahead of the upcoming US-China talks, renewed hopes of diplomatic engagement between the US and Iran at the UN, and the decline in oil prices and bond yields have provided relief to



investors. The easing of concerns around inflation and energy costs has supported a broad-based recovery across sectors and supported overall market sentiment." Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, tanked 2.36% to $101.4 per barrel.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, Realty jumped 1.71%, Consumer Durables 1.55%, Healthcare 1.12%, FMCG 1.07%, Housing Finance 0.80% and Top 10 Banks 0.71%.

RBI issues final Basel III mkt risk cap rules for bks, to take effect from April 2027

Banks will not be allowed to reclassify instruments between the trading book and the banking book for regulatory arbitrage with the intention of achieving lower capital requirements, according to the Reserve Bank of India's directions on minimum capital requirements for market risk. The directions, issued on Monday, aim to align the market risk guidelines with the revised Basel III framework, while ensuring simplicity of regulations, providing flexibility, and easing adoption. The directions apply to all commercial banks, except small finance banks, payments banks and local area banks.The Reserve Bank of India said the directions will take effect from April 1, 2027, ensuring sufficient lead time for banks. **-PTI**

India studying details of US Act on Russian sanctions: Goyal

Informist
NEW DELHI



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said it is too early to comment on recent US legislation proposing tariffs on buyers of Russian oil, as India is studying its details. His comments came after US President Donald Trump signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 into law Friday. The law gives Trump the authority to impose tariffs of up to 100% on countries that continue to purchase energy from Russia.

Since the Russia-Ukraine war began in 2022, India has emerged as one of the world's largest buyers of discounted Russian crude oil, with Russia now accounting for a substantial share of India's crude oil imports. "It has been only two days since the bill was passed. We are still studying the details," Goyal said.

The proposed tariffs do not automatically mean that India is subject to 100% tariffs. However, the legislation gives the US the authority to impose such tariffs.

Negotiations on the India-US trade pact have seen many ebbs and flows, with both countries continuing to negotiate a bilateral trade agreement. Goyal reiterated that the deal will be finalised as soon as the US gives India preferential treatment compared to its peers. "The deal is 99% done. The 1% is left for

CEPA: India, Canada to hold next round of talks from Oct 5

The next round of talks for a comprehensive economic partnership agreement between India and Canada will be held from October 5, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

"The next 90 days should be a very defining period in the Canada-India relationship," he told reporters in New Delhi. The fourth round of negotiations concluded here on September 18. "Both sides have resolved to fast-track negotiations, in view of which our team is now slated to go for the fifth round on October 5," Goyal said. The five-day talks may end on October 9. **-PTI**

Def Ministry inks ₹586-cr contract to procure power units for T-72 and T-90 tanks

The Defence Ministry on Monday signed a ₹586-crore contract with a group to procure auxiliary power units for T-72 and T-90 tanks to bolster the operational readiness and reliability of the Indian Army's mechanised formations, officials said. The contract was signed with Accurate Industrial Controls Pvt Ltd in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh in Delhi. The auxiliary power unit is an alternate source for the generation of electric power for the fire control system, the ministry said. "The induction of indigenously developed auxiliary power units will further strengthen the operational readiness, reliability and sustainability of the Indian Army's mechanised formations," it said in a statement. **-PTI**

Govt should continue with zero-fee UPI transactions for few more years: Ex-NITI VC

Former NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Monday suggested the government continue with zero-fee unified payments interface transactions for at least a few more years until the currency-to-GDP ratio shows some tendency to decline, and then review the situation.

Kumar told PTI that he is not in favour of charging any fee from merchants for using unified payments interface for any transaction value, and the government should treat it as a public good with extensive positive externalities.

"Their overall benefits well far outweigh the cost of ₹20,000 crore that the public exchequer has to bear for maintaining the unified payments interface infrastructure," he said.

"So let's continue with zero-fee unified payments interface transactions for at least a few more years until the currency-to-GDP ratio shows some tendency to decline," he added.

"For now, best to continue with status quo for keeping a good thing going," the eminent economist added. **-PTI**

US retail diesel price hits record high

US retail diesel prices have surged to a record nominal high of $6.29 per gallon amid tight global supplies, with global distillate fuel production expected to remain below last year's levels in the coming months, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Govt asks Microsoft to locate future data centres closer to power generation hubs

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Secretary S Krishnan on Monday urged Microsoft to consider locating its future data centre capacity closer to power generation centres, saying this could reduce the cost of transporting electricity over long distances and make such infrastructure more economical.

Speaking at the Microsoft AI Infrastructure Summit India, Krishnan said data centre capacity should increasingly move closer to locations where power is generated rather than being concentrated only around cable landing stations.

"My request to Microsoft would be that eventually you'll have to go and install capacity closer to where the power itself is generated so that we don't have to wheel it all across. There are costs involved there," Krishnan said. "It'll be from a cost perspective for India, for the ecosystem and for you also. It'll be much more economical if you go closer to where the power itself is generated," he added. **-ANI**

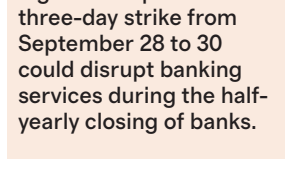
Govt taking steps to build harmonised data infra: MoSPI Secy

The government is taking steps to build a harmonised data infrastructure to ensure that information can be systematically discovered, understood, connected and utilised, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) Secretary Saurabh Garg said on Monday.

Garg was addressing a session at the All India Management Association's 53rd National Management Convention in New Delhi.

Oil above $100 could push inflation towards 6%; RBI may raise rates by 50 bps this fiscal

KOTAK REPORT



Elevated crude oil prices pose a direct threat to India's macroeconomic stability, with retail inflation projected to inch toward the 5.8 to 6.0% mark by next quarter if prices stay elevated, according to Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency at Kotak Securities.

Speaking exclusively to ANI on Monday, Banerjee highlighted that Brent crude remaining above $100 per barrel will exert multiple rounds of pressure on the domestic economy.

He noted that India's current account deficit could widen to 1.8 to 2.0% of GDP in FY26, up from 0.5 to 0.6% last fiscal. "The longer the oil prices stay above $100—why even $100, above $90—it will start to have multiple rounds of impact on the economy," Banerjee said.

He added, "It kind of acts as a tax on households. How much is the tax depends on who takes how much hit because there are three balance sheets on which this impact goes through: OMCs, government, corporates, and retail households."

He noted that while physical spot grades are commanding massive premiums, large capital inflows via external commercial borrowings and special foreign currency non-resident deposit windows keep the deficit manageable to finance. **-ANI**

Non-life premiums rise 10% in August

Non-life insurance premiums in India grew 10% y-o-y in August to ₹27,455 crore, driven by strong growth in premiums of standalone health insurers, a report has said. The report from CareEdge Ratings said the monthly headline numbers were driven by a timing shift in crop enrolment and that April-August FY27 growth rose to 9.6% from 6% a year earlier. "Surge in crop premium has also cut the fire and crop-drag from 11.1 pp to 4.2 pp," said the report. **-IANS**

Govt dissolves 37-yr-old Digital Communications Commission

PTI
NEW DELHI

The government has notified the dissolution of the Digital Communications Commission, an apex inter-departmental decision-making body at the Department of Telecom formed around 37 years ago to decide on policy matters and subjects with significant financial implications.

Formed in 1989 as the Telecom Commission, it was renamed as the Digital Communications Commission in 2018.

"...the Government of India has decided that the Digital Communications Commission be dissolved. Now, therefore, with effect from the date of publication of this resolution, the Digital Communications Commission shall stand dissolved," a notification dated September 19 said.

The apex decision-making body comprising senior officials from NITI Aayog, the Finance Ministry, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and other departments helped resolve contentious issues.

Govt bonds rise on fall in Brent oil price

Informist
MUMBAI

Government bond prices ended higher on Monday, tracking an intraday fall in Brent crude oil prices as trading neared its close, dealers said. Volumes were low for most of the session, with traders positioned lightly amid uncertainty on several fronts. Cut-off prices at the Reserve Bank of India's sale of government bonds through an open market operation auction improved from those at last week's open market operation sale auction, indicating better demand, dealers said.

The 10-year benchmark 6.94%, 2036 gilt ended at ₹99.23, up from ₹99.10 on Friday. The bond's yield fell to 7.0497% from 7.0686% at the end of the previous session. The bond underperformed other maturities due to fresh supply of ₹340 billion of a 10-year bond on Friday, dealers said.

Govt urges bank staff to refrain from proposed strike

The government on Monday has urged employees of public sector banks and regional rural banks to refrain from the proposed strike and resolve the remaining issues through dialogue, warning that the planned three-day strike from September 28 to 30 could disrupt banking services during the half-yearly closing of banks.

'India likely to emerge as global leader in number of AI projects'

India is likely to emerge as a global leader in the number of artificial intelligence projects, said Rajiv Kumar, Managing Director and President of the Microsoft India Development Center.

Addressing the Microsoft AI Infrastructure Summit India, Kumar highlighted that the transition to artificial intelligence presents companies with the challenge of building new solutions while continuing to maintain and evolve their



existing core capabilities.

"As you build AI-based solutions, the question is what happens to your existing core competencies. You have to maintain them, you have to evolve them. So...as you evolve...you have to invent something new that is going to eat your own lunch. This is the paradox that we all are dealing with. Microsoft is dealing with that," Kumar said.

"India will probably take over in the number of AI project," he noted further. Speaking about the broader impact of artificial intelligence, Kumar said the technology should ultimately be judged by whether it improves people's lives rather than by its ability to replace humans. **-ANI**

FCNR boost, a 'shot in the arm' for Indian banks

S&P Global Ratings on Monday said the $127 billion mobilised by Indian banks through a special deposit scheme to attract US dollars is a "shot in the arm" for Indian banks as it has eased the tough funding conditions and boosted liquidity. Indian banks raised a record $127 billion in deposits through FCNR (B) accounts between June 8 and August 31, 2026. S&P said the amount is equivalent to about 4.5% of the banking system's deposit base as of March 31, 2026. **-PTI**

Miracles of God

Dada J. P. Vaswani

Once upon a time, there was a seed and because it was only a seed, nobody cared to notice it. Thus, gripped by a sense of inferiority, the seed gave no importance to his existence. Then one day, a wind picked him up – randomly or otherwise he didn't know – and threw him mercilessly on an open field under the sweltering sun. He was confused. Why would one do such a thing? But, instead of any answers, he was provided with rain (in addition to sunlight); sometimes in drizzles and sometimes in torrents.

Meanwhile time flew and years later he saw a traveller sitting by his side. "Thank You God for this. I really needed some rest," he heard the traveller say.

guiding Light

"What are you talking about?" The seed promptly asked. He thought the man was making fun of him.

"Who is this?" The man was startled.

"This is me. The Seed."

"The Seed?" The man looked at the giant tree. "Are you kidding me? You are no seed. You are a tree. A goliath of a tree!"

"Really?"

"Yes! Why else do you think people come here?"

"To feel your shade! Don't tell me you didn't know you had grown over time."

The seed, now a beautiful, spreading tree, thought awhile and smiled for the first time in his life.

You who are looking for miracles, open your eyes and see! All around us are the miracles of God. A tiny seed grows into a huge banyan tree.

(Dada J P Vaswani was a humanitarian, philosopher, educator, acclaimed writer, powerful orator, messiah of ahimsa, and non-sectarian spiritual leader.)

Indulge Your Skin:

How a chocolate scrub unlocks a youthful, radiating glow

Neeta Senacha

Chocolate is no longer just a sweet treat; it has become a staple in holistic skincare routines. Rich in potent bio-compounds, cocoa transforms skin care into a deeply nourishing experience. Applying a chocolate scrub to your face and body harnesses these natural properties to buff away dullness, boost vitality, and give your skin a smoother, younger-looking appearance.Here is a breakdown of how a chocolate scrub revitalizes your skin and the key benefits it offers.



How chocolate works to reverse signs of aging

The key to cocoa's anti-aging power lies in its exceptionally high concentration of antioxidants, particularly flavonoids and polyphenols. Environmental stressors like UV radiation and pollution generate free radicals—unstable molecules that break down collagen, leading to premature fine lines, wrinkles, and sagging.

When applied topically via an exfoliating scrub, cocoa neutralizes these free radicals before they can damage skin cells. Simultaneously, the physical action of gently massaging the scrub stimulates blood microcirculation. This increased blood flow delivers vital oxygen and nutrients directly to the skin's surface, accelerating cellular repair and imparting an instant, healthy glow.

Key benefits of using a chocolate scrub for youthful skin

Combats fine lines and wrinkles: Cocoa flavonoids neutralize free radicals that destroy collagen and elastin. Regular use helps preserve the skin's structural matrix, keeping it firm, supple, and noticeably smoother.

Gently exfoliates dead cells: Combined with natural exfoliants like fine sugar, oats, or coffee grounds, cocoa powder buffs away dead skin cells without stripping natural oils. Clearing this surface buildup reveals fresh, vibrant skin underneath and prevents a dull, aged complexion.

Intensely hydrates and restores the barrier: Raw cocoa contains natural fats like cocoa butter, which are rich in fatty acids. It forms a protective moisture barrier that locks in hydration, plumping up fine dehydration lines and restoring softness.



Boosts circulation and cell turnover: The massage motion required to apply the scrub enhances blood circulation to the epidermis. Higher oxygenation improves cellular regeneration, resulting in a naturally flushed, youthful radiance.

Protects against environmental stress: Polyphenols in dark cocoa offer photoprotective qualities that help shield skin against UV-induced oxidative stress, reducing the appearance of sunspots and hyperpigmentation over time.

Soothes inflammation and irritation: Cocoa possesses natural anti-inflammatory properties that calm redness, soothe sensitive patches, and promote an even, uniform skin tone.

Simple tips for the best results

Choose high cocoa content: Look for scrubs made with dark cocoa powder (70% or higher) or raw cacao powder to maximize antioxidant density.

Exfoliate wisely: Use the scrub 1 to 2 times a week. Over-exfoliating can disrupt your delicate skin barrier and cause unnecessary irritation.

Always follow up: Apply a lightweight moisturizer or facial oil after rinsing to lock in the nourishing benefits of the scrub.

DIY cocoa & honey glowing face scrub

This recipe pairs antioxidant-rich cocoa with raw honey for hydration and finely ground oats or brown sugar for gentle, non-damaging exfoliation.

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon Dark Cocoa Powder (70% or higher, or raw cacao powder)
- 1 tablespoon Fine Brown Sugar or Finely Ground Oats (oats for sensitive skin, sugar for normal to oily skin)
- 1 tablespoon Raw Honey (a natural humectant that locks in moisture)
- 1 teaspoon Cold-Pressed Oil (sweet almond, jojoba, or coconut oil)

Step-by-step preparation

- **Mix the dry ingredients:** In a small bowl, combine the dark cocoa powder and finely ground oats or brown sugar.
- **Add the liquids:** Stir in the raw honey and cold-pressed oil until it forms a smooth, spreadable paste. If the mixture feels too thick, add a few drops of oil or water.
- **Apply:** Wash your face with warm water to open your pores. Gently massage the scrub onto damp skin using light, circular motions for 1 to 2 minutes. Avoid the delicate eye area.
- **Rinse & glow:** Leave it on as a nourishing mask for an extra 5 minutes, then rinse thoroughly with tepid water and pat dry.



Quick usage tips

Frequency: Use once a week to maintain a smooth, radiant skin barrier without over-exfoliating.

Storage: Make it fresh per use, as natural kitchen recipes without preservatives can spoil quickly if stored.

After Blood Cancer Treatment:

Why regular follow-ups and monitoring matter

Dr. Suraj Goyenka

Hemato Oncologist, TGH Onco Life Cancer Centre Talegaon

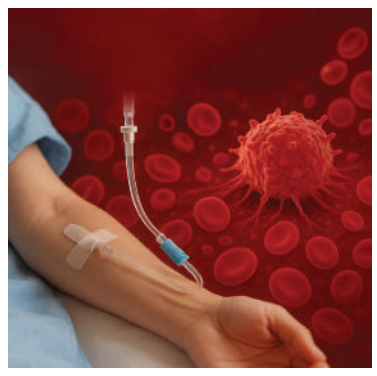
Completing blood cancer treatment is an important milestone, but recovery does not end when treatment does. Regular follow-ups help doctors monitor recovery, detect complications early and watch for signs of recurrence.

Finishing treatment for blood cancer can bring a sense of relief and hope, but it is also the beginning of an important follow-up phase. Cancers such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma can require long-term monitoring even after treatment has been completed. Regular medical visits allow doctors to check whether the disease remains under control, monitor blood counts and assess the body's recovery from chemotherapy, radiation, immunotherapy or other treatments.

Why do regular follow-ups matter?

Blood cancer treatment can affect the blood cells, immune system and other organs. Even after successful treatment, some patients may experience low blood counts, infections, weakness or other treatment-related effects. Follow-up appointments allow doctors to identify these problems early and provide appropriate treatment.

Monitoring is also important because some blood cancers can return after a period of remission. Doctor may recommend blood tests, physical examinations, imaging or bone marrow tests, depending on the type of cancer and the individual's treatment history. Regular monitoring does not mean that the cancer has returned; rather, it provides an opportunity to detect any changes at an early stage.



Don't ignore unexplained symptoms

People who have completed treatment should pay attention to new or persistent symptoms. Unexplained fatigue, repeated fever, frequent infections, unusual bruising or bleeding, unexplained weight loss, swollen lymph nodes, night sweats or persistent bone pain should be discussed with the doctor. Fatigue, for example, can occur during recovery and does not always indicate cancer recurrence. However, persistent or worsening fatigue along with other symptoms may require investigation. Similarly, unexplained bruising or bleeding could be linked to low platelet levels and should not be ignored.

Follow-up is part of recovery

Regular follow-ups are not simply about looking for cancer recurrence. They also help doctors assess nutrition, immunity, emotional well-being and long-term treatment effects, while guiding patients on maintaining a healthy lifestyle and completing recommended vaccinations or screenings. For blood cancer survivors, staying connected with their healthcare team and following the recommended monitoring schedule can provide reassurance and help address problems early. Completing treatment is a major victory, but continued monitoring helps protect that progress and supports a healthier recovery.

The Science of Timing:

When is the best time for brisk walking?

Aparna Rao

Brisk walking—moving at a purposeful pace of roughly 3 to 4 miles per hour—is one of the most accessible and effective forms of cardiovascular exercise. While accumulating the recommended 150 minutes of moderate activity per week is essential, timing your walk interacts directly with your circadian rhythm, body temperature, and digestion to optimize specific physiological benefits.

Early morning

Walking in the morning aligns with your body's natural wake cycle. Natural sunlight exposure halts melatonin production and boosts serotonin, setting a strong circadian rhythm that sharpens daytime alertness and improves night-time sleep quality. Additionally, brisk walking before breakfast encourages your body to tap into stored fat for fuel, while a morning routine minimizes schedule disruptions, making it easier to build a lasting habit.

Post-meal windows

Taking a 10- to 20-minute brisk walk shortly after eating—especially after lunch or dinner—delivers immediate metabolic advantages. Engaging your large leg muscles prompts them to absorb circulating glucose directly for fuel, which blunts post-meal blood sugar spikes and reduces the load on your insulin response. This gentle movement also stimulates gut motility, speeding up digestion and relieving post-meal sluggishness or bloating.



Late afternoon to early evening

Your body reaches peak physical performance in the late afternoon as core body temperature naturally rises. Warmer muscles and lubricated joints increase flexibility, lower your perceived exertion, and reduce the risk of strain or injury. Beyond physical gains, an early evening walk serves as an effective mental transition, lowering stress hormones like cortisol and separating the workday from evening relaxation.

Times to avoid

To protect your rest and safety, avoid brisk walking within two hours of bedtime, as the elevated body temperature and adrenaline spike can disrupt sleep onset. Similarly, skip intense midday walking between 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM to protect yourself from peak heat, severe dehydration, and excessive solar radiation.

Core goals and timing

Fat loss & habit building: Aim for the Early Morning. Walking in a fasted state taps into fat stores for fuel, while an early start ensures daily schedule consistency before disruptions arise.

Blood sugar control: Walk 10 to 20 minutes Post-Meal. This immediately uses circulating blood glucose for muscle energy and promotes smooth, comfortable digestion.

Peak fitness & strain prevention: Schedule walks for the Late Afternoon (4:00 PM – 6:00 PM). You take full advantage of peak muscle warmth, lung capacity, and joint flexibility to minimize injury risk.

Stress relief: Choose the Early Evening. A brisk pace helps clear cortisol built up during the workday, making it easier to mentally transition and unwind.

Ultimately, consistency outweighs perfect timing. The single best time to brisk walk is whenever your schedule reliably allows you to step out and keep moving.

Why you should avoid bathing right after meals:

Physiology, timing, and safe habits

Namrata Sharma

Taking a warm shower or bath immediately after a meal is a common habit, but wellness traditionalists and modern physiological science both advise against it. Washing up right after eating can trigger digestive discomfort, sluggishness, and bloating. Understanding how bathing impacts your body's circulatory system after a meal helps you structure a safer daily routine.

The physiology: Why bathing distracts digestion

When you eat, your body initiates a process known as postprandial hyperaemia—a shift in blood flow away from peripheral tissues directly to the stomach and small intestine to power digestion.

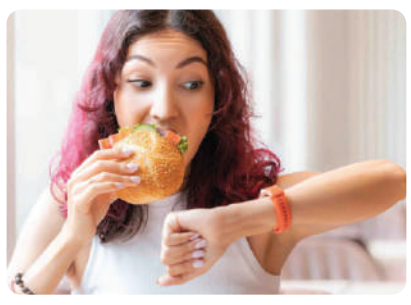
Here is what happens when you introduce water immersion or showering into that window:

Vasodilation and blood diverting: Warm water causes peripheral blood vessels near the skin's surface to dilate (expand). Blood that should be concentrated around your stomach gets diverted toward your skin and extremities to regulate body temperature.

Sluggish digestion: Deprived of optimal blood flow, gastrointestinal motility slows down. Food remains in the stomach longer, increasing the likelihood of fermenting gases, acid reflux, or feeling uncomfortably heavy.

Core temperature spikes: Cold water can cause rapid blood vessel constriction (vasoconstriction), while hot water spikes skin surface temperature. Both rapid thermal shifts shock the nervous system, interrupting the parasympathetic "rest and digest" state necessary for breakdown and nutrient absorption.





Guidelines: The right way and best timing

To give your digestive system uninterrupted time to work, follow these timing principles:

Wait 30 to 45 minutes: Allow at least 30 to 45 minutes after a light meal or snack before taking a bath or shower.

Extend wait time for heavy meals: After a large, high-fat, or heavy meal, wait 60 to 90 minutes. Dense proteins and fats require prolonged digestive effort and higher concentrated blood flow.

Shower before eating: The ideal sequence is to shower or bathe first, then sit down to eat. This allows your body temperature and heart rate to stabilize, placing you in a calm, parasympathetic state optimal for digestion.

Opt for room-temperature water: If you must bathe close to mealtime, avoid extreme hot or ice-cold temperatures to prevent thermal shock to your circulatory system.

What steps to take if you already showered after eating

If you took a shower right after eating and begin feeling bloated, sluggish, or nauseous, take these immediate recovery steps:

- **Sip warm water:** Drink a few sips of room-temperature or warm water to soothe the stomach lining. Avoid iced water, which further slows gut motility.
- **Sit upright:** Avoid lying down flat immediately. Staying seated upright or standing gently for 20 to 30 minutes prevents stomach acid from flowing upward into the oesophagus.
- **Engage in light walking:** Take a slow, gentle 5-minute walk around the room. Gentle movement stimulates gut motility and helps redistribute blood flow back toward the digestive organs.
- **Avoid tight clothing:** Loosen belts or tight waistbands to reduce external pressure on your abdomen while digestion resumes.
- **Rest your stomach:** Refrain from consuming any additional food, sugary drinks, or caffeine for the next 2 to 3 hours until your stomach feels light again.

How long to wait before exercising after a full meal

For a full, heavy meal (containing significant protein, fats, and complex carbohydrates), you should wait 2 to 3 hours before engaging in moderate-to-intense exercise.

If you had a smaller meal or light snack (such as a banana, oatmeal, or toast), waiting 30 to 60 minutes is typically sufficient.

Why timing matters: The science behind the wait

When you consume a substantial meal, your body prioritizes digestion through a process called postprandial hyperemia—diverting a large volume of blood flow to your stomach and intestines to break down food and absorb nutrients.

Exercising creates a physiological conflict:

Blood flow diversion: Working muscles demand oxygen-oxygenated blood. When you exercise intensely right after eating, your body diverts blood away from your digestive tract toward your active muscles.

Gastrointestinal distress: Without adequate blood flow, food sits undigested in your stomach. The jostling motion of exercise combined with slowed digestion can cause stomach cramps, nausea, bloating, diarrhea, or severe acid reflux.

Reduced performance: Because your body is dividing its energy and circulatory resources between digesting food and powering your movement, both your exercise performance and digestive efficiency suffer.

Digestion guidelines by activity & meal type

Heavy / Full meals (2–3 Hours): Dishes high in protein and fat (e.g., steak, pasta, fried foods) require two to three hours to digest before high-intensity workouts, running, or heavy lifting to prevent stomach cramps and nausea.

Light meals (1–2 Hours): Moderate meals like a chicken salad, sandwich, or rice bowl digest faster, requiring a one- to two-hour break before moderate cardio, cycling, or yoga.

Pre-workout snacks (30–60 Mins): Simple, fast-digesting options like a banana, toast with jam, or a smoothie can be eaten 30 to 60 minutes before any exercise for quick energy without digestive strain.

Tips for managing your pre-workout fuel

- **Prioritize quick-digesting carbs before workouts:** If you need energy 30–45 minutes before training, choose simple carbohydrates low in fiber and fat (e.g., a ripe banana or a small handful of dried fruit) so your body digests it rapidly without stomach heaviness.
- **Save fats and fiber for post-workout:** Dietary fat, protein, and dietary fiber slow down gastric emptying. Keep them low in your immediate pre-workout window and save high-protein, high-fat meals for recovery after your session.
- **Hydrate smartly:** Avoid chugging large amounts of water immediately before or during exercise after a meal, as filling an already-full stomach with liquid increases sloshing and nausea. Sip water steadily instead.

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Photos: Instagram

Ganpati Bappa Morya

Jackie Shroff seeks blessings at Chinchpokli *Cha* Chintamani



Actor Jackie Shroff recently visited Chinchpokli *Cha* Chintamani and offered prayers to *Bappa.* He joined devotees at the iconic pandal to seek blessings during Mumbai's *Ganeshotsav* celebrations.





Genelia and Riteish visit Lalbaugcha *Raja* bare feet

Riteish Deshmukh and Genelia Deshmukh recently visited Lalbaugcha *Raja* for *Bappa's darshan.* The couple arrived barefoot and made their way through the massive crowd gathered at the iconic pandal.

Rashmika turns fearless warrior

Actress' *Mysaa* teaser introduces her in an intense action avatar

The makers of Rashmika Mandanna's upcoming film *Mysaa* have released its teaser, giving viewers a first look at the actress in a physically intense action role. Directed by debutant Rawindra Pulle, the pan-India film has already prompted reactions online, with viewers discussing Rashmika's transformation, the darker visual tone and the teaser's action sequences.

The teaser begins with Rashmika's voiceover as Mysaa, setting up the character's emotional state. She says, "I am tired, I have stopped, I have lost." The glimpse then shifts towards action, showing her character taking on difficult situations and confronting those around her.

One of the more striking portions of the teaser shows Rashmika underwater, sitting at the bottom while holding a sickle. The sequence has caught viewers' attention, with several reactions describing the visuals as intense and unsettling. Rashmika plays a Gond tribal woman in the film, a role that involved physical preparation and action sequences. The teaser shows her riding a bike, engaging in combat and appearing in underwater sequences.

The teaser has also led to discussion around Rashmika's departure from some of her more familiar roles. While some viewers appeared impressed by the darker setting and her action-heavy look, others are waiting to see how the character and story develop beyond the teaser.

The teaser indicates that the film will lean heavily on action and atmosphere, with cinematographer Shreyaas P Krishna handling the visuals. Jakes Bejoy has composed the background score, while international action choreographer Andy Long has worked on the combat sequences.



A still of Rashmika Mandanna from *Mysaa*



Photo: Instagram_@rashmika_mandanna



Photos: Instagram

Dakota on kissing Anne in *Verity*

The kiss between Dakota and Anne has become one of the most discussed moments from the film's promotional material. Their chemistry is expected to be an important part of the story, which explores attraction, obsession and manipulation against the backdrop of a disturbing mystery.

The much-talked-about kiss between actresses Dakota Johnson and Anne Hathaway in their film *Verity* has already caught the attention of fans, even before its theatrical release.

Now, in one of her interviews, Dakota has opened up about sharing the intimate moment with her co-star, and her response was anything but shy. Dakota was asked about the kiss between her and Anne, which was teased in the trailer of the upcoming psychological thriller.

The actress responded playfully, making it clear that she had no complaints about the scene.

"I would kiss Annie for the rest of my life. Every day. If you need me, I'm there," Dakota said, before jokingly apologising to Josh Hartnett, who stars alongside the two actresses in the film.

Anne also spoke about the intimate scenes in *Verity* and revealed that the cast had several kissing moments while filming. "We all kissed each other. It's a miracle nobody got sick. Let's put it that way," she joked.

'Mahadev, Krishna guide her'

Raveena reveals emotional story behind Rasha's butterfly tattoo for late *Nana*

Bollywood star Raveena Tandon, who appeared as a special guest on the dance reality show, shared heartfelt memories and stories from her life. In one such segment, contestant Anshika asked Raveena to convince her mother to let her get a tattoo, prompting the actress to open up about her own meaningful tattoos, their emotional significance, and the special story behind her daughter Rasha's butterfly tattoo.

Raveena explained that the practice of *'gudhwana'* has existed in India for centuries, particularly in villages and tribal communities. Raveena then shared the deeply personal story behind daughter Rasha's butterfly tattoo. She said, *"Rasha ne kiya kyunki Nana guzar gaye, unka dehant jab hua. Unko lagta hai ek* butterfly *ke roop mein, har baar woh* shooting *karti hai, ek* butterfly *unpe aake baithta hai,* which has been happening to her all the time. *Toh usko* always *lagta hai unke Nana unko kahin na kahin* bless *kar rahe hain."*

Explaining the significance of the tattoo, she added, *"Toh uss hisaab se unhone* butterfly *ka tattoo banaya jisme Mahadev ke rang aur Krishna ji ke rang usme bhare hain."*



Photo: Instagram

Looking forward to creating more magic

Allu Arjun

Actor Allu Arjun said that he is looking forward to creating more magic with the *Raaka* director Atlee, as he wished him on his birthday on Monday. The *Pushpa* actor shared a monochrome picture with the filmmaker on his official handle, in which the two of them were seen sharing a laugh. Saying that he is proud of the work Atlee has been doing, Allu wrote on the micro-blogging site, "Happy Birthday to my director @Atlee_dir garu. Extremely proud to work with a director of your vision and calibre. Looking forward to creating more magic. (sic)."



Photo: Instagram

SNIPPETS



KJo announces film on R&AW founder RN Kao

Karan Johar has announced a feature film on Rameshwar Nath Kao, the founder and first chief of India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW). The film, based on Nitin Gokhale's book *Gentleman Spymaster,* is scheduled to release in cinemas worldwide on August 11, 2028. Karan announced the project on September 21, marking 58th anniversary of the founding of R&AW. Presently in the development stage, the yet untitled film is looking at a theatrical release on August 11, 2028, which coincides with Independence Day weekend.



Naga film *Angh* wins Platform Award at TIFF

Nagaland-set *Angh*, the feature directorial debut of Theja Rio, has won the prestigious Platform Competition at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2026, which makes the film automatically eligible for the International Feature Film category at the 2027 Oscars. The film was the only Indian entry selected for TIFF's Platform Competition this year where it won the top prize on Sunday.

Renowned Bengali star Mithu Mukherjee passes away at 71



Renowned Bengali actress Mithu Mukherjee passed away at the age of 71 after a prolonged battle with cancer. The news about the actress' passing was shared by sources from the Breach candy hospital in Mumbai. The All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) on X, formerly called Twitter, paid a tribute to the actress, who made her cinematic debut with *Shesh Parba* in 1971. "AICWA Pays Tribute to Legendary Actress Mithu Mukherjee 21 September 2026 Mithu Mukherjee was a celebrated Bengali and Hindi film actress who made her cinematic debut with *Shesh Parba* and went on to become a familiar and respected face of Indian cinema during the 1970s and 1980s," the AICWA wrote on X.

India's Rising Sun challenge

T20 WORLD CHAMPIONS TAKE ON JAPAN IN A HISTORIC ONE-OFF T20I AHEAD OF THEIR ASIAN GAMES CAMPAIGN

PTI

SANO
Japan will get their much-awaited moment under the sun when they host cricketing giants India for a historic one-off T20 International here on Tuesday with the hope that the game's impact extends well beyond the field of play in a country that loves baseball.

The match was announced recently and is being accommodated ahead of India's Asian Games campaign in Aichi-Nagoya, launching celebrations of the 75 years of India-Japan diplomatic relations.



MATCH STARTS AT 9.30 AM IST

India are the reigning T20 World Cup champions while Japan are ranked 41st, making it a no contest on paper.

But beyond the statistics, the game presents an opportunity of a lifetime for Japanese cricketers to rub shoulders with the best in the business.

A typhoon threat looms large on the landmark game but even if a ball is not bowled, the scheduled fixture has already made an impact in a country where cricket is pushing to emerge from the margins and become mainstream like baseball.

"There's been an awful lot going on in the background of Japan cricket for many, many years, and it's great now that we are above sea level, I guess, and we're actually visible to a few more people," said Japanese Cricket Association COO Alan Curr said ahead of the game.

"A lot of the success has almost already happened. The fact that India has agreed to come, the fact that I'm sitting here talking to you guys, the fact that there's already a lot of Japanese media coming tomorrow to find out more about this game and about the sport -- I think success is already here," he added.

It also helps that that cricket is being played in the ongoing Asian Games as well, raising more awareness for the general public in Japan.

The match will be played at Sano International Cricket Ground, roughly 100km from the bustling city of Tokyo where the Indian team landed on Sunday.

The 2000-capacity ground, which is likely to accommodate a larger crowd in tomorrow' game, is also used for baseball.

THE SQUADS

JAPAN: Kendel Kadowaki-Fleming (c), Charlie Hara-Hinze, Benjamin Ito-Davis, Alester Kadowaki-Fleming, Kohei Kubota, Jake Kusuda-Nairn, Wataru Miyauchi (wk), Reo Sakurano-Thomas, Alex Shirai-Patmore (wk), Shoma Sugaya-Slater, Declan Suzuki-McComb, Tsuyoshi Takada, Ibrahim Takahashi, Makoto Taniyama, Lachlan Yamamoto-Lake

INDIA: Sanju Samson(w), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Shreyas Iyer(c), Shivam Dube, Ishan Kishan, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Yash Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Washington Sundar, Vipraj Nigam, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

STATS AND TRIVIA

- Japan have a 41-19 win-loss record in T20I cricket.
- Among those who have batted at least 20 times in T20Is since Abhishek Sharma's debut in July 2024, nobody has struck as quickly as Abhishek's 194.55 per 100 balls.

Unlike many other non cricketing nations, majority of the cricketers in the Japan are native and the game's promoters are not relying on the South Asian diaspora to grow the game in the country.

Kendel Kadowaki-Fleming, Japan's leading run scorer in T20s, will lead the side in the milestone game on Tuesday.

As part of their Asian Games preparation, the side have opted not to include players who are eligible to play T20Is under ICC regulations but ineligible under Asian Games rules.

Kadowaki-Fleming has made it clear that his team is not here merely to turn up. They know the importance of this occasion and are itching to show their talent to the cricketing world.

"As exciting as the occasion will be of playing India, we're not there to just celebrate the occasion. We're there to show what we can do as a men's team," Kadowaki-Fleming said earlier this month.

For the Shreyas Iyer-led India, it would be good preparation ahead of their Asian Games campaign, which begins on September 28 in the quarterfinal stage against a yet-to-be-decided rival.

EYES ON THE SKIES

- There is a small glitch in this big occasion for Japan cricket. It will be a big test for the draining facilities in Sano as there has been heavy rain in the city a day before the match, which ended up cancelling India's training session as well.
- The match against Hong Kong on September 20, two days before the big India fixture, was also abandoned without a ball bowled. The Japan authorities will hope the rain relents and they can get a game going.

Zaheer Khan named Chennai Super Kings head coach

PTI

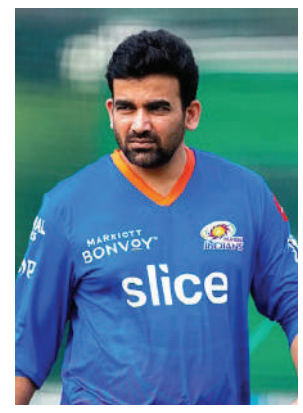
CHENNAI
Chennai Super Kings on Monday named former India pace great Zaheer Khan as their new head coach for the upcoming season.

Zaheer replaced Stephen Fleming, who was at helm for 18 seasons.

"Welcoming Zaheer Khan as the Head Coach of Chennai Super Kings," CSK announced on 'X'.

"It's an honour to be a part of one of the most successful teams in the history of the IPL. As a cricketer, I have faced CSK on the field and have thoroughly enjoyed the contests. The atmosphere created by the Superfans at Chepauk make it even more special," Zaheer was quoted as saying in a press release issued by the franchise.

"I can't wait to join the legacy franchise with such a rich history." The soon-to-be 48



Zaheer played 92 Tests, 200 ODIs and 17 T20Is for India. He was the highest wicket-taker during the historic 2011 World Cup campaign with 21 scalps.

Zaheer had mentored the Lucknow Super Giants during the 2024 season.

Fleming had announced last year in July that he was parting ways with the five-time champion side.

It is understood that CSK's cricket management committee comprises MS Dhoni, skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad and owner Rupa Gurunath wanted an Indian coach this time.

In the IPL, Zaheer played 100 matches and turned to coaching roles post his retirement.

"Zaheer's distinguished playing career and proven ability to nurture young talent make him a valuable addition to our set-up. We are confident that his guidance will help strengthen the core of this franchise," owner Rupa Gurunath said.

CSK MD Kashi Viswanathan added: "Zaheer is a world class bowler and has been a mentor to many young cricketers, especially fast bowlers, over the years. As a player, Zaheer was one of the key reasons for India's success in the 2000s. He's one of the finest cricketing brains and we look forward to having him in our family."

Karan Yadav appointed Indian Super League CEO

PTI

MUMBAI
The Indian Super League (ISL) on Monday appointed former Chief Commercial Officer of JSW Sports, Karan Yadav, as its CEO to steer the troubled event the under a new club-led model.

As CEO, Yadav will lead the League Office and the strategic, commercial and organisational direction of the ISL, working closely with its clubs and the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

His mandate will include shaping the League's overall strategy and commercial direction, strengthening relationships with clubs, broadcasters, sponsors and other stakeholders, while building a high-performing League Office that supports the long-term growth and sustainability of the competition.

The club-led model also creates greater opportunity for alignment between the League Office and clubs across commercial strategy, partnerships, broadcast, fan engagement and the development of the competition.

Yadav will lead this effort while working with the clubs to build a cohesive League strategy and strengthen the ISL's position within the wider Indian football ecosystem "The ISL is entering an important new chapter, and I am excited by the opportunity to help shape what comes next. The club-led model gives us a strong foundation to work with the clubs and the Managing Committee of ISL, with a shared ambition for the League and for Indian football," Yadav was quoted as saying in a press release by ISL.

Xhaka apologises for fake COVID certificate

PTI

BERN
Switzerland captain Granit Xhaka acknowledged errors Monday and withdrew from the national team squad after admitting he used fake documents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 33-year-old Xhaka was suspected of getting a fake vaccination certificate in 2022 from a doctor under investigation by prosecutors in Lucerne, Swiss media reported at the weekend.

"It was a mistake. I am sorry," Xhaka said Monday in a post on his Instagram account, explaining he had at the time felt a "deep distrust" of COVID-19 vaccines. He added he will cooperate with authorities.

Switzerland's most capped player, with 152 games for the national team, will not join the squad ahead of four games in the Nations League.

Swiss soccer federation president Peter Knabel said in a statement it welcomed Xhaka taking responsibility to fully clarify the matter.

Chess Olympiad: India lose to Uzbekistan in clash of titans

PTI

SAMARKAND
The reigning champions Indian men went down to a local and spirited Uzbekistan side in what was termed as the first clash of the titans in the sixth round of the 46th Chess Olympiad here.

The Indian men were outdone by Nodirbek Yakubboev on the third board, while the other matches ended in a draw.

R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw against Nodirbek Abdusattorov, and Arjun Erigaisi drew with Javokhir Sindarov.

On the fourth board too, the parity was maintained as D Gukesh drew with Shamsiddin Vokhidov.

But tables were turned on Nihal Sarin who has had some exemplary performances coming into this round. On Monday, he just could not match the expertise of Yakubboev.

Sarin missed on the tactical front as the Uzbek capitalised on unforced errors. Having sealed a queen versus two-piece endgame, Yakubboev was never in trouble, and as it turned out, the Indian could do little to salvage himself.

With a 1.5-2.5 loss, the Indian team lost the lead and now has to work its way back into contention.

The Indian eves, meanwhile, were poised to bounce back as they led 2-1 against the USA.

Koneru Humpy played out a draw, and so did Divya Deshmukh, while Savitha Shri was the only one who could provide the sole victory.



ROUND 6 RESULTS

R Praggnanandhaa drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov; Arjun Erigaisi drew with Javokhir Sindarov; Nihal Sarin lost to Nodirbek Yakubboev; D Gukesh drew with Shamsiddin Vokhidov).

Aaryan's fifty keeps Goa afloat against Chhattisgarh

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI
Goa reached 143 for five in reply to Chhattisgarh's first-innings total of 330 on the second day of the Gujarat Cricket Association Under-23 multi-day practice match at Gujarat College Cricket Ground 'A' in Ahmedabad on Monday.

Goa still trails by 187 runs with only one day remaining in the match. Resuming at 210 for four, Chhattisgarh added 120 runs before being bowled out for 330 in 96.2 overs. Shashwat Sharda (67) and opener Shobhit Sharma (68) scored half-centuries for Chhattisgarh.

Off-spinner Rudresh Sharma was Goa's leading bowler, claiming four wickets for 118 runs, while left-arm spinner Anuj Yadav took three for 82. Rahul Vishwakarma and Fardin Khan picked up one wicket each. Goa made a poor start, slipping to 13 for two. Aman Dhooper (30) and Dishank Prabhu Misquin (33) then steadied the innings with a 53-run partnership for the third wicket. \ Goa captain Aryan Narvekar remained unbeaten on 53 at the close. He faced 77 balls and hit five fours and two sixes. Chhattisgarh left-arm spinner Manraj Singh Dhillon claimed all five Goa wickets to fall.



BRIEF SCORES

›**CHHATTISGARH, 1ST INNINGS:** (overnight 210/4) all out 330 in 96.2 overs (Kumar 37, S Sharda 67, A Sahu 37, D Singh 5, D Bhat 4, J Kumar 8, M Dhillon not out 5; R Sharma 4-118, A Yadav 3-82, R Vishwakarma 1-55, F Khan 1-37).

›**GOA, 1ST INNINGS:** 143/5 in 47.3 overs (Sarthak Bhike 0, Shaantanu Nevagi 4, Aman Dhooper 30, Dishank Prabhu Misquin 33, Aryan Narvekar not out 53, Pradnesh Gaonkar 18; Manraj Singh Dhillon 5-53).

IN SHORT ››

Spain tie down World Cup-winning coach Luis de la Fuente with a deal through 2032

MADRID: Spain has agreed to extend the contract of World Cup-winning coach Luis de la Fuente until 2032.
The Spanish soccer federation's board of directors unanimously approved the contract extension on Monday, the federation said.
The new contract will keep De la Fuente in for the 2030 World Cup that Spain will co-host with Morocco and Portugal, and the 2028 and 2032 European Championships. "We are looking for a project built on stability and trust," federation president Rafael Louzan said. "It is a proposal based on confidence in Luis de la Fuente and the sporting project he leads, spanning a multi-year competitive cycle that includes major tournaments.

Betalbatim SC reach Mansion House Cup semis

MARGAO: Betalbatim SC defeated Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, in a penalty shootout to advance to the semi-finals of the 2nd Mansion House Cup 2026 at the Cuncolim Government School Ground on Monday.
The first half witnessed a closely fought contest, with both teams unable to break the deadlock. Betalbatim took the lead in the 34th minute through Riyan Asampur, but Don Bosco Oratory fought back to equalise through Roque Borges in the 49th minute, forcing the match into a tie-breaker. Betalbatim SC prevailed in the penalty shootout, with Dickson Rogtao, Brenson Fernandes, Joel D'Silva, Raj Kerkar and Gladwin Braganza converting their attempts. For Don Bosco Oratory, Roque Borges, Robin Gomes and Alfred Noronha found the net. Roque Borges was named Man of the Match, with the award presented by Santosh Velip of Tilaknagar Industries. Betalbatim SC will face Guardian Angel's SC in the semi-finals on September 23.

St Anthony Boys thump RYA Rassiam 7-0

MARGAO: St Anthony Boys Vanxem registered a convincing 7-0 victory over RYA Rassiam to advance to the next round of the Socio-Cultural Club of Loutulim Football Tournament at the Saviour of the World Church Ground, Loutulim, on Sunday.
Kavin and Laster scored two goals each, while Adrian, Wilson and Shawn added one goal apiece to complete the rout. Adrian Oliveira was named Man of the Match and received the award from chief guest Snowden Fernandes.

Raia Sporting get better of CAC Cansaulim

MARGAO: Raia Sporting Club secured a place in the semi-finals of the 47th St Joseph Festival Inter-Village Football Tournament 2026 after defeating CAC Cansaulim 3-2 in the third quarter-final at Dramapur Football Ground.
CAC Cansaulim took the lead through Jeremy Barretto in the 14th minute, but Raia Sporting responded with two goals from Sidney Gauncar (26th, 39th) to go into the break with a 2-1 lead. CAC fought back immediately after the restart, with Aloysius Mesquita equalising in the 46th minute. Raia Sporting, however, regained the lead four minutes later through Swedon Barbosa, whose 50th-minute strike proved decisive. Sidney Gauncar was named Player of the Match. The award was presented by GFA executive Andrew Ferrao.

Fitness Conscious Goa to host 7 km run in Farmagudi on October 18

MARGAO: Fitness Conscious Goa will organise a 7km running event on October 18, at Farmagudi Residency, Farmagudi, Ponda, to promote fitness, healthy living and an active lifestyle in Goa.
The run will begin at 6 am and is open to participants across age groups. Participants will be divided into four categories: 12–29 years, 30–44 years, 45–59 years, and 60 years and above.
All registered participants will receive a T-shirt, finisher's medal, participation certificate and breakfast.
Registrations are open online at fitnessconsciousgoa.in. For registration and further details, contact Krunal Naik at 7507014838.

Goa bowled out for 108 runs against Vidarbha

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI
Goa U-16 were bowled out for 108 in 48.4 overs after opting to bat first against Vidarbha U-16 in the All India Under-16 J.Y. Lele Invitation Cricket Tournament (two-day matches) at the Infipro Sports Academy Ground in Vadodara.

Vidarbha responded strongly, reaching 177 for four in 39 overs by the close of play to take a 69-run first-innings lead. Tuesday will be the final day of the match.

Shaurya Chodankar top-scored for Goa with 30, while Ishant Tivrekar made 16 and opener Nanthan Sawant contributed 14. Vidarbha's Devansh Bhoyar was the pick of the bowlers, claiming three wickets for seven runs.

At stumps, Arjun Mahajan was unbeaten on 55 and Krishna Nagargoje on five. Manav Wakode scored 36 and Shabd Thakur made 30 for Vidarbha. Vedant Egal took two wickets for Goa, while Mrunal Naik and Shaurya Chodankar claimed one each.

BRIEF SCORES

›**GOA, 1ST INNINGS:** 48.4 overs, all out 108 (Shaurya Chodankar 30, Ishant Tivarekar 16, Nanthan Sawant 14, Tanishk Naik 13; Devansh Bhoyar 3-7, Khilesh Wankhede 2-8, Jasdeep Singh 2-25, Krishna Nagargoje 1-6, Manav Wakode 1-22).

›**VIDARBHA, 1ST INNINGS:** 39 overs, 4-177 (Arjun Mahajan 55, Manav Wakode 36, Shabd Thakur 30, Laksh Masrkar 21; Vedant Aigal 2-22, Mrunal Naik 1-48, Shaurya Chodankar 1-45).

St Sebastian Union lift Holy Trinity trophy

THE GOAN I NETWORK

MARGAO
St Sebastian Union Benaulim defeated St Anthony's Club Colva 3-1 to lift the Holy Trinity Trophy Benaulim Constituency Inter-Village Football Tournament, organised by Football Friends Benaulim in association with PYA Consua.

In an action-packed final, Benaulim took the lead in the 10th minute when winger Maxwell Rodrigues converted a fine pass from Claudsen Goes with a right-footed strike past Colva goalkeeper Steward Falcao.

Colva responded two minutes later, with defender Beevan Goes heading home a cross from midfielder Samson Gomes to level the score.

Maxwell restored Benaulim's lead in the 15th minute with a neat finish following an assist from Vishal Fernandes, giving his side a 2-1 advantage.

Colva pushed forward in search of an equaliser after the break, but Benaulim capitalised on the openings. Striker Arif Pathan sealed the victory ten minutes before full-time with an intelligent lob over the advancing Colva goalkeeper.

Chief guest Capt Venzy Viegas presented the winners with the trophy and cash prize in the presence of ZP member Colva Anthony Leo Mam Fernandes, GFA executive committee member Andrew Ferrao, PYA Consua president Fausto Monteiro and other dignitaries.

Elias Fernandes welcomed the gathering, while organising coordinator Anthony Rodrigues compered the function.

St Sebastian Union Benaulim received Rs 35,000 and the trophy, while runners-up St Anthony's Club Colva were awarded Rs 30,000 and a trophy.



INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

›**BEST PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT:** Ashton Rodrigues (St Sebastian Union)

›**BEST STRIKER OF THE FINALS:** Arif Pathan (St Sebastian Union)

›**BEST MIDFIELDER OF THE FINALS:** Mitson Barbosa (St Anthony's Club Colva)

›**BEST GOALKEEPER OF THE FINALS:** Tino Fernandes (St Sebastian Union Benaulim)

›**BEST DEFENDER OF THE FINALS:** Beevan Goes (St Anthony's Club Colva)

›**BEST TEAM MANAGER OF THE TOURNAMENT:** Dominic Lourenco (St Anthony's Club Colva)

›**MAN OF THE FINALS:** Maxwell Rodrigues (St Sebastian Union)

GAMES CORNER

Shuttlers team outplay Bangladesh to enter quarters

The Indian men's badminton team blanked Bangladesh 3-0 to enter the quarterfinals of the Asian Games.

The trio of Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty and K Srikkanth did not drop a single game in a domineering performance to set up a clash with hosts Japan on Tuesday. The women's team will also be playing Japan in the last-eight stage. Lakshya was the first to take the court on Monday, up against Ibn Ayman Jaman, and it took him less than half an hour to clinch a 21-4 21-12 win, which set the tone for India.

Next up was Ayush Shetty against Gourab Singh and he too got the job done in 25 minutes, closing it 21-4 21-13 in another facile win for the country. Srikanth then made sure that the doubles matches need not take place as he romped to a 21-15 21-9 triumph over Jumar Al Amin in a 23-minute contest.

Boxer Kundu moves into pre-quarters

India's boxing campaign at the Asian Games got off to a fine start with Sumit Kundu clinching a unanimous decision win over Thailand's Bunjong Sinsiri in the 70kg opening round. Kundu, one of the two Indian boxers who failed to medal at the Commonwealth Games last month, put on a dominant show in the last round to defeat Sinsiri 5-0 and move to the pre-quarterfinals. He will now take on Iraq's Ali Qasim Hamdan Al-Sarra.

Kabaddi team begins title defence with win

The Indian men's kabaddi team began its title defence at the Asian Games with a resounding 49-24 win over hosts Japan in their opening Group fixture here on Monday.

India dominated from the outset, establishing a 31-9 lead by half-time as Ayan Lohchab and Devank Dalal combined effectively in the raiding department at the Tokai Citizens Gymnasium.

The defending champions then added 18 more points in the second half. India finished with 36 out points, eight all-out points and two super-tackle points. India are placed in Group A alongside Japan, South Korea, Chinese Taipei and Bangladesh.

Srihari qualifies for 50m backstroke final

Srihari Nataraj qualified for the 50m backstroke final at the Asian Games here on Monday, but the rest of the Indian swimmers endured a disappointing day, failing to make it beyond the heats.

The two-time Olympian clocked 25.37 seconds, the same as Homer Abbasi of Iran, to finish third in his heat and joint-ninth overall to book his place in the final.

Rishabh Das, who finished sixth in the men's 100m backstroke on Sunday, clocked 25.41 seconds to narrowly miss the final. He finished 11th overall and was the reserve.

In the men's 50m freestyle, Akash Mani and Geetesh Shah finished 26th and 28th respectively, while South Korea's Youngbeom Kim set a new Games record with 21.71 second effort.

Wangsu finishes 15th in women's changquan

Indian wushu athlete Nyeman Wangsu finished 15th in the women's Changquan final at the Asian Games here on Monday.

She scored 9.573 points in a 16-strong field to finish second from bottom at the Aichi Prefectural Martial Arts Hall.

Hong Kong's Hui Yu Lydia Sham won the gold medal with 9.713 points. Macau's Cho Man Sou took silver with 9.710, while Indonesia's Eugenia Diva Widodo claimed bronze with 9.706.

India's rifle revolution takes aim at the podium

YOUNGSTERS HIMANSHU AND RUDRANKKSH SHINE IN INDIVIDUAL FINAL, JOINING PARTH MANE FOR TEAM SILVER

Youngsters Himanshu Dhillon and Rudrankksh Patil held their nerve in a gripping shoot-out to win the individual silver and bronze medals respectively in the men's 10m air rifle while the duo also combined with teenager Parth Mane to add a team silver at the Asian Games here on Monday.

The three medals took India's shooting tally to five -- four silver and a bronze -- but once again there was no getting past China's Paris Olympics double gold medallist Sheng Lihao, who lived up to his billing as the world No. 1 with another commanding performance.

Sheng produced a Games and Asian record 254.2 to take gold, while Himanshu, who celebrated his 21st birthday on Monday, shot 252.4 for silver. Rudrankksh (230.9), who had looked capable of challenging for the top spot after a strong start, finished third.

For India, it was nevertheless a significant finish in an event where every decimal can separate a medal from disappointment.

The individual medals came barely an hour after Himanshu, who is competing in his maiden Asian Games, former world champion Rudrankksh and 18-year-old Mane had combined for silver in the team event.

China, once again, set the benchmark.

Its trio of Sheng, Changhong Zhang and Sihan Ma amassed 1899.0 points to improve its own world record of 1898.4 set in Cairo last year. South Korea took bronze with 1884.2, while India's 1890.1 secured silver.

But the individual final had a distinctly Indian storyline, with Himanshu and Rudrankksh locked in a tense battle for the minor medals while Sheng steadily pulled away.



RIFLE RHAPSODY

- Celebrating his 21st birthday, Himanshu Dhillon delivered a composed performance in the men's 10m air rifle final to secure silver on his Asian Games debut. He finished with 252.4 points, holding off teammate Rudrankksh Patil in a tense battle for the minor medals.
- Former world champion Rudrankksh Patil claimed bronze with 230.9 points after initially looking capable of challenging China's Sheng Lihao. The Paris Olympics double gold medallist dominated the final, producing a Games and Asian record of 254.2 for gold.
- Himanshu, Rudrankksh and 18-year-old Parth Mane combined for India's silver in the team event with 1890.1 points. China improved its own world record with 1899.0, while South Korea took bronze with 1884.2.

Rudrankksh had initially looked the likelier Indian to challenge the Chinese star. After the second series, the 2022 world champion had an aggregate of 106.0, leading Sheng by 1.1 points, while Himanshu was on 104.8.

The momentum, however, shifted in the elimination series.

Rudrankksh faltered with a 9.7, while Himanshu responded with a 10.6 to move into second on the 22nd shot in the 24-shot final. The debutant finished 0.1 point ahead of his vastly more experienced teammate.

It was a performance built as much on temperament as on marksmanship.

Himanshu spent a year at a gurukul at his father's insistence, an experience he credits with teaching him discipline. He also had a brief stint in wrestling before shooting became his calling.

"Yes, my brief stint on the mat did help me fight till the last shot," Himanshu said.

He certainly did that.

With Rudrankksh breathing down his neck and the silver medal hanging on the smallest of margins, Himanshu stayed composed and refused to blink. His reward was a silver on his Asian Games debut and a second medal of the Games after the team event.

Weight rule denies Suchika place in MMA final bout

Indian fighter makes history with MMA bronze after controversial semifinal decision

Suchika Tariyal settled for a bronze medal in the women's traditional 60kg mixed martial arts event of the Asian Games here on Monday as Singapore's Hui Hoon Teo was awarded the semifinal on the basis of her lesser weight after the two fighters drew a fiercely-contested bout.

This was India's maiden medal in the discipline that made its debut at the 20th edition of the Games here. Tariyal, however, was shattered by the result and wept bitterly on the mat once the final decision was announced in Teo's favour.

The bronze took India's overall medal tally to six at the continental showpiece. Shooters have bagged four silver medals and one bronze so far.

Hailing from Kiloi village in Haryana's Rohtak district, the 36-year-old Suchika is a 2024 world champion in jiu-jitsu, represented the country in the 2022 Commonwealth Games in judo and as a kurash fighter at the 2022 Asian Games.

"I am a little disappointed with the result of today's bout because I thought I won the fight. I am not able to agree with the result. I was saying that this is not fair," Suchika told PTI in an exclusive interaction after her bout.

"This is not fair. Because if you look at a player, he or she gives 100 per cent everywhere. And if you feel that the decision is unfair, then it is my right (to express myself).

"I won both my rounds very well because I took her down. She did not even take me down. Yes, there could have been two-three connecting punches. I also landed a connecting punch. And in the last minute, she was going back and forth. Then I was applying my kick. I was hitting her again and again." She, however, was proud of becoming the first Indian athlete to win a medal in the Asian Games in Mixed Martial Arts.

"I have given my 100 per cent and worked hard to reach here. I am happy I have won a bronze medal for the country." The closely-fought bout was initially ruled in Teo's favour but after an Indian challenge, the result was declared a draw with six judges rendering split decision.



GAINS & PAINS

- The winner was determined on the basis of weights of the fighters during the morning weigh-in under the international federation's rules.
- Since the Singaporean weighed 700gm lesser than Suchika, she was declared the winner and advanced to the final. Suchika settled for bronze.
- According to the MMA SF president, Suchika weighed around 59.2kg in the morning while her opponent was found to be 58.5kg.

Indian TT teams sweep aside Pak to enter QFs

India's women's and men's table tennis teams advanced to the quarterfinals of the Asian Games following identical 3-0 wins over their respective Pakistani rivals, here on Monday.

At the Sky Hall here, Sutirtha Mukherjee, who won a bronze medal in the women's doubles event at the last edition in Hangzhou, got India off to a flying start, beating Aleena Khan 11-3, 11-3, 11-4 in just 10 minutes.

Syndrela Das then made it 2-0 with an 11-6, 11-7, 11-5 win over Kalsoom Khan.

Currently ranked 99th in the ITTF women's singles rankings, Syndrela was rewarded for her impressive form on the domestic circuit with a call-up to the senior side for the Asian Games. Sreeja Akula sealed the tie, breezing past Fatima Khan 11-4, 11-4, 11-5 in 11 minutes.



World No. 97 **Harmeet Desai** took India to a winning start with a 3-0 (11-4, 11-3, 11-5) victory over Pakistan's Muhammad Khan in the opening match, while the 82-ranked captain G Sathiyan consolidated India's hold on the contest with another 3-0 (11-1, 11-8, 11-9) win over Abbas Khan.

In the third match, Payas Jain blanked the other Muhammad Khan 3-0 (11-2, 11-5, 11-7) to put India back on the winning track after a disappointing outing in the first match.

Women in Blue golden reign faces final Sri Lankan test

Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma lead India's charge

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side comes into the final on the back of two commanding wins over Japan and Bangladesh.

India's undisputed continental supremacy is expected to remain intact but a spirited Sri Lanka would aim to present a strong challenge when the two teams clash in yet another Asian Games women's cricket final, here on Tuesday.

Both the Indian women and men are certain to stand on the top of the podium again and only a very bad day in office can stop them from doing so. With a gold on Tuesday, India would extend their supremacy in the region after outplaying Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final earlier this month.

ri Lanka have beaten India in the past but the gulf between India and the other Asian team has only increased in recent past.

A sublime 50-ball 82 from captain Chamari Athapaththu helped Sri Lanka got over the line in a challenging chase against Pakistan.

Sri Lanka will surely need more moments of brilliance if they are to down India who are firing on all cylinders.

The openers, especially Shafali Verma, are in devastating touch while the management continues to experiment with the number three spot.

G Kamalini batted at three in the semifinal against Bangladesh while Bharti Fulmali was tried in the same position against Japan.

Kamalini, who is yet to fire in the tournament, opened with Shafali in the quarters.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur was far from her best in the Asia Cup and her fans would be hoping that she returns to her fluent ways in the all-important final.

Considering the first two games, majority of the wickets have been picked by the spinners and the trend is expected to continue.

India's hockey hurricane hits Indonesia

Three hat-tricks seal another massive double figures victory

The troika of destructive young forward Deepika Sehrawat, Rutuja Dadaso Pisal and Navneet Kaur fired a hat-trick each as the Indian women's hockey team hammered Indonesia 17-1 to register its second consecutive Pool B win at the Asian Games here on Monday.

The 22-year-old Deepika (8th, 28th, 40th minutes), who scored eight goals in India's 19-0 drubbing of Uzbekistan in the lung-opener, converted three penalty corners, while Rutuja (15th, 20th, 38th) found the net thrice from field play. Navneet's goals came in the 35th, 56th and 57th minutes.

In addition, Sunelita Toppo (11th, 30th), Lalremsiami (12th, 16th) and Sakshi Rana (25th, 57th), scored a brace each while skipper Salima Tete (35th) Ishika Chaudhary (36th) also found the net once.

Indonesia's solitary goal was scored by Innes Aditiya in the 32nd minute.

After the resounding 19-0 thrashing of Uzbekistan on Sunday, the Indians made a steady start.

India had the first chance in the fourth minute in the form of a penalty stroke but Navneet's attempt was saved by the Indonesia goalkeeper.

It was Deepika who gave India the lead by converting a penalty corner in the eighth minute. The goal opened the floodgates as Sunelita doubled the lead three minutes later, tapping in a pass from Neha.

Two minutes after that, Lalremsiami scored from a rebound after Deepika's flick from a set piece was saved by the Indonesian custodian.

It was raining goals thereafter with Rutuja next to register her name on the score-sheet, pushing the ball in after Sakshi Rana's attempt was saved.



A minute later, Lalremsiami scored her second goal of the match from a field effort and then Rutuja followed suit, stretching full to guide home Neha's pass.

Sakshi made the scoreline 7-0 in the 27th minute scoring from a rebound before Deepika converted another penalty corner. Sunelita then sent in Navneet's hit from a penalty corner to hand India a commanding 9-0 lead at half-time.

Two minutes after the change of ends, Indonesia pulled a goal back when Innes Aditiya scored from a penalty corner before India skipper Salima found the back of the net from a field try.

India kept toying with the inexperienced Indonesian defence and scored goals at will to register their second consecutive resounding victory. The team needs to win a gold to earn direct qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

India suffer loss to Japan in sepaktakraw

Indian men's sepaktakraw team squandered a one-match lead to lose 1-2 to hosts Japan in the its opening Group B regu event fixture here on Monday.

India had started on a bright note, winning the first match 15-13, 15-9 but couldn't keep up as Japan mounted a comeback.

India fought hard but went down 2-1 (12-15, 15-17, 11-15) in the second match before surrendering the third one 2-0 (9-15, 12-15). India will next face Malaysia in its second group-stage match on Tuesday.

At the previous edition in Hangzhou, India won a bronze in the women's team regu event. Sepak Takraw, which directly translates to kick the ball, has been part of the Games program since 1990. India has participated in it since the 2006 edition and is slowly catching up with South East Asian countries,

INDIA SCHEDULE FOR ASIAN GAMES

Following is the Asian Games schedule of Indian athletes on Tuesday, September 22.

EQUESTRIAN: Dressage: Fouaad Mirza/Camouflage 38 and Arjan Nagra/Cooley Goodwood (4.30 am); Cross Country: Fouaad Mirza/Camouflage 38 and Arjan Nagra/Cooley Goodwood (9.30 am)

SEPAKTAKRAW: Men's Team Regu Group B: India vs Malaysia (5:30 am)

SOFT TENNIS: Women's Singles Group D: Aadhya Tiwari vs Alisha Ziegler (Thailand) (5:30 am); Men's Singles Group D: Jay Meena vs Hussain Arain (Pakistan) (7 am); Men's Singles Group C: Aryan Thakur vs Bold-erdene Altangerel (Mongolia) (9:30 am); Women's Singles Group D: Aadhya Tiwari vs Kainaat Shallwani (Pakistan) (10:30 am); Men's Singles Group C: Aryan Thakur vs Chen Po-Yi (Chinese Taipei) (12 am)

BADMINTON: Women's Team Quarterfinal: India vs Japan (6 am); Men's Team Quarterfinal: India vs Japan (11:30 am)

SHOOTING: 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team Qualification and Medal Matches: Elavenil Valarivan and Parth Mane (6:15 am); Skeet Qualification and Women's Team Final, Day 2: Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Mairaj Khan and Bhavtegh Singh Gill (6:30 am); Skeet Qualification and Women's Team Final, Day 2: Raiza Dhillon, Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Maheshwari Chauhan (6:30 am)

WUSHU: Women's Nanquan Final: Langlentombi Devi Hanjabam (6:29 am); Women's Nandao Final: Langlentombi Devi Hanjabam (11:59 am); Women's 60kg Quarterfinal: Roshibina Devi vs TBC (around 3:15 am)

FENCING: Men's Individual Foil Bouts: Sachin and Hemash Singh (6:30 am onwards); Women's Epee Pool Bouts: Mitva Chaudhari and Tanishka Khatri (6:30 am onwards); Women's Individual Epee: Tanishka Khatri and Prachi Lohan (8:15 am)

SWIMMING: Men's 1500m Freestyle Final B: Aryan Nehra (7:29 am); Men's 4x100m Medley Relay Heats: Rishabh Das, Akash Mani, Benediction Beniston and Dhanush Suresh (8:05 am)

KARATE: Men's Kumite -84kg Semifinal: Chetan Bhatt vs TBC (7:35 am); Women's Kumite -55kg Round of 16: Alisha Choudhary vs Cok Istri Agung Sanistyarani (Indonesia) (9:20 am); Women's Kumite -55kg Quarterfinal: Alisha Choudhary (if she qualifies) (10:04 am); Men's Kumite -84kg Final: Chetan Bhatt (if he qualifies) (10:35 am); Women's Kumite -55kg Bronze Medal Match: Alisha Choudhary (if she qualifies) (10:40 am); Men's Kumite -84kg Final: Chetan Bhatt (if he qualifies) (12:40 p.m.); Women's Kumite -55kg Gold Medal Match: Alisha Choudhary (if she qualifies) (12:50 am)

CRICKET: Women's Gold Medal Match: India vs Sri Lanka (10:30 am)

HOCKEY: Men's Pool A: India vs Sri Lanka (3:30 pm)

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