



Cabinet Reshuffle a 'Political Compulsion': Goa CM



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Putting rest all speculations surrounding cabinet reshuffle, chief minister Pramod Sawant today confirmed changes in the cabinet while admitting it to be "political compulsion".

Indirect hinting at cabinet reshuffle, Sawant said that the development will have nothing to do with the performance of any Minister.

"The current cabinet is doing a good job, if we need to accommodate someone, I, along with the party high command, will take a decision," he said.

"If anyone is dropped, it's not a reflection of their performance; it's a political compulsion," he said.

Earlier this month, Sawant along with party president Damodar Naik met BJP top leaders including Home Minister

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I am in favour of new Regional Plan for Goa: CM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant headed steering Committee will be the ultimate final authority to decide on the mega projects in the State, which is currently under fire for granting rampant permissions for such residential and commercial projects.

Sawant led government is also considering having a new Regional Plan for Goa, the planned process which is already been delayed by more

than five years. Currently 2021 plan is in force.

"Steering Committee headed by CM will take decisions on giving nod or rejecting mega projects in Goa," Sawant said. The formation of Steering Committee of TCP was announced in the State Budget. The committee will have multiple stakeholders including heads of Government Department who are crucial in the planning aspect of the State Government.

"Further, the

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Ground water in Goa is in 'SAFE ZONE': WRD Min

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: WRD Minister Subhash Shirodkar said that due to constant efforts of the state government, the ground water in the State is in safe zone.

"The Government is consistently working on water harvesting structures, like Dams, MI tanks, bandharas, rain water harvesting structure etc.," said Shirodkar

He further said that department have constructed around 300 bandharas, rejuvenated 164 lakes under Amrut Sarovar and have recently constructed 33 nos of rain water Harvesting Structures.

"The dynamic Ground Water estimation is a regular exercise conducted jointly by Water Resources Department and Central Ground Water



Board(GOI), where in the performance of the Ground water is being monitored through the observation wells located in the State," he said

Shirodkar said that the observations are published in the form of report once in two years. The report of the year 2025 is under preparation and will be released shortly.

He also issued stern warnings had been issued, and fines ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh will be imposed on anyone found guilty. "Some individuals have dug illegal borewells in Chimbol.

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'Operation Brahma': First Responder India Ships Medicines, Food To Earthquake-Hit Myanmar

■ Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India is ready to offer "all possible assistance" to quake-hit Myanmar and asked the authorities to be on standby.

New Delhi: A sweeping gesture of solidarity from India, as it swiftly initiated 'Operation Brahma,' dispatching a vital lifeline to earthquake-devastated Myanmar. This significant humanitarian effort follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pledge to offer "all possible assistance" to the quake-hit nation.

In a remarkable display of readiness, the Indian government has seized the initiative as a first responder, ensuring that aid reaches those in dire need. The operation is headlined by the transport of nearly 15 tonnes of relief material aboard an Indian Air Force

C-130J aircraft from the Hindon air force station to Yangon. External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar underscored the swift delivery of this aid by sharing visuals on social media, highlighting India's decisive role in supporting Myanmar during this critical period.

At the heart of the relief package are essential supplies such as tents, blankets, sleeping bags, food packets, hygiene kits, generators, and crucial medicines. These include paracetamol, antibiotics, syringes, gloves, and bandages, selected to address both immediate and ongoing medical needs.



Goa Police HQ gets IED attack threat

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Police received an anonymous email warning of an IED attack targeting the DGP's office prompting the bomb disposal squad to respond and conduct a thorough sweep of the police headquarters. At 9:09 am, an email was received on DGP Goa email id containing threat of IED attack targeting DGP office.

"Will Probably Never Come Back": Tourist's Viral Post On Goa Horror

■ Two locals on a scooty allegedly followed the tourist to the railway station, blocked his car and threatened to smash his windshield.

Goa: a destination once synonymous with tranquility and beauty, now faces a challenge to its reputation as a haven for tourists. A recent incident near Madgaon railway station has shocked the community, as a tourist recounted a harrowing experience of assault and verbal abuse at the hands of locals. The confrontation began over a traffic dispute, leaving the visitor vowing never to return to this



popular destination. The tourist took to social media to share his ordeal, posting a detailed account titled 'Got physically abused in Goa, will probably never

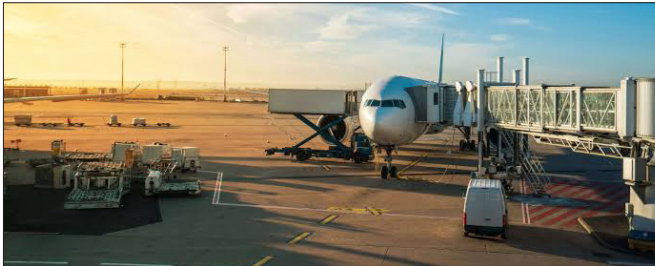
come back.' According to his post, he had rented a car during his trip to avoid the scorching heat and was heading to Madgaon station after

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Mopa Airport witnesses significant surge in passenger traffic

Team Goemkarponn

In a remarkable turn of events, Goa's Mopa Airport has become the choice of travelers, enjoying a significant surge in passenger traffic since its opening in 2022. Meanwhile, the once-thriving Dabolim Airport has seen a notable decline. This trend has



sparked intense debate among stakeholders about whether Goa's tourism industry is

genuinely growing or if travelers are merely shifting between airports. As international travelers

Domestic passenger at Mopa have grown significantly, to 22,44,497 in 2024

increasingly prefer Mopa, its passenger numbers have skyrocketed. In 2023, Mopa welcomed just 13,845 international passengers, but by 2024, this figure had impressively jumped to 101,804. Conversely, Dabolim Airport witnessed a stark drop from 481,913 international passengers

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Irrespective of What They Say, Goa is Far Safer For Women Than Other States In India

“Notably, the state’s law enforcement agencies achieved an impressive 96.6% detection rate for heinous crimes and 88% for overall cases in 2024. These figures reflect a robust and effective policing system dedicated to ensuring the safety of all individuals. The state’s commitment to women’s safety is further evidenced by innovative initiatives like the 1364 tourist helpline and the Pink Force. The 1364 tourist helpline is a 24x7 multi-language service offering immediate assistance to visitors who may find themselves in distressing situations. Whether dealing with theft, harassment, medical emergencies, or lost belongings, this helpline provides critical support without the bureaucratic delays often associated with traditional law enforcement responses. The convenience of this helpline has made it easier for travellers to access the support they need quickly, contributing to a more secure experience in Goa.”

In recent years, Goa has become known not only for its stunning beaches and vibrant nightlife but also as one of the safest states for women in India. While every destination has its challenges, Goa stands out for its progressive approach and low crime rate, making it a welcoming space for both local and international women travellers.

According to recent statistics, Goa’s crime rate is significantly lower than the national average. In 2021, India reported a national average of 445.9 incidents per 100,000 people, which marked a decrease from 487.8 incidents the previous year. Additionally, Goa consistently showcases a lower crime rate, reinforcing its reputation as a safe haven.

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The convenience of this helpline has made it easier for travellers to access the support they need quickly, contributing to a more secure experience in Goa. In addition to the helpline, Goa has introduced the Pink Force, a dedicated team within the police department that focuses on women’s safety.

This unit patrols key tourist areas, public spaces, and transport hubs, ready to intervene in emergencies or provide assistance to women facing issues. The visible presence of the Pink Force has not only enhanced the sense of security among local women but also among tourists. For women travelling solo, the existence of this specialized team can significantly ease concerns about personal safety.

Further strengthening the state’s safety measures, strict

legal frameworks ensure that offenders are swiftly brought to justice. This diligence in law enforcement plays a vital role in deterring criminal activities and ensuring that perpetrators face the consequences of their actions. By fostering a culture of accountability, Goa promotes a safer environment where women can participate actively in social and cultural activities.

Ultimately, safety in Goa transcends mere statistics; it embodies proactive measures and unwavering commitment to the well-being of all residents and visitors. With a high crime detection rate, accessible support systems for tourists, and specialized units like the Pink Force, Goa is setting a precedent for safety in tourism. It illustrates that a concerted effort in community safety can create an inviting and secure atmosphere, making it a top choice for solo women travelers looking to explore the beauty and culture of this serene coastal paradise.

As Goa continues to prioritize women’s safety, it strengthens its position as a leading travel destination, ensuring that every visitor experiences its charm without worry.

EDITOR’S SPEAK

Where is the Accountability in Smart City Works?

By Suraj Nandekar

The vision of transforming Panaji into a Smart City has long been a topic of discussion and anticipation among Goans. However, the reality on the ground has been far from the promised ambitious innovations and urban rejuvenation. As we approach yet another promised deadline for the completion of ongoing projects, the question that arises is: where is the accountability in the Smart City works?

Several years have passed since the Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd. (IPSCDL) initiated its transformative projects aimed at improving infrastructure, enhancing connectivity, and promoting sustainable urban development in the capital city of Goa. Yet as construction sites are as pervasive as ever, Panaji still bears the burden of unfinished works, debris-strewn streets, and a general sense of disarray. Last month, IPSCDL presented an undertaking to the court, pledging

that all works would be completed by March 31. This declaration raised hope among residents who have been waiting with bated breath for any signs of progress. However, observations from the streets suggest that the city is unlikely to meet this deadline once again.

The unfinished projects clutter the landscape with ongoing digging and construction, presenting a daunting picture for a city that aspires to be both modern and livable.

What is most concerning is the apparent lack of accountability from both the IPSCDL and the authorities overseeing its operations. The absence of visible consequences for missed deadlines raises questions about the effectiveness of oversight mechanisms in place.

Residents are left wondering if there is any genuine commitment to ensuring the timely completion of these works or if deadlines are merely



a formality without real implications.

Beyond the daily inconveniences faced by citizens, this situation reflects poorly on governance in Goa. It appears that the urgency of public works has diminished over time, leading to a cycle

of inaction that could tarnish the reputation of the Smart City initiative altogether. When the ruling body offers an undertaking to complete works and fails to adhere to it, the message conveyed is one of disregard for the public’s time and concerns.

Furthermore, the looming question now is whether the IPSCDL will seek yet another extension from the High Court, which has already expressed its frustration over the continuous delays. The government and Chief Minister must recognize that the relentless cycle of missed deadlines and broken promises will erode public trust in their leadership and the initiatives they

champion.

It is not just about constructing buildings or laying down roads; it is equally about ensuring that the public feels heard and valued in the decision-making process. Accountability is essential for the success of any development project, particularly in a Smart City context, where citizen engagement and satisfaction are paramount.

As Panaji continues to grapple with incomplete works and infrastructural challenges, it is imperative that the authorities address these accountability issues head-on. Only through transparent communication, strict monitoring, and genuine commitment to deadlines can the Smart City vision for Panaji be revived. Ultimately, the success of Smart City initiatives hinges on the authorities’ readiness to stand accountable to the very people they serve. Residents deserve a city that lives up to its vision, not one that is perpetually caught in the web of delays and neglect.

PAPER LEAK: GU Initiates Disciplinary Proceedings Against Dr. Pranav Naik

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Executive Council of Goa University has decided to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Dr. Pranav Naik as per the provisions of the Goa University statutes and the CCS CCA rules applicable to service matters in the alleged paper leak case.

In order to support a follow-up investigation into what it has described as Dr. Naik's alleged unlawful and unapproved activities, the university has also lodged a complaint against him with the Agassaim Police.

Prof. Harilal Menon, the university's vice chancellor, had previously said that Dr. Naik had not leaked any papers. He did point out, nevertheless, that the professor had stolen some chemicals from another assistant



professor's cabin.

According to reports, the incident happened in September of last year.

When activist Kashinath Shetye and others lodged a police complaint on March 16, 2025, the situation became more heated. The Goa Pradesh Youth Congress and the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) thereafter filed more complaints at the police station.

On March 17, the university suspended Dr. Naik in response to criticism from the public

and students. After that, a two-person fact-finding team was established, and on March 19, it delivered its findings to the Governor, who serves as Chancellor, and the Vice-Chancellor.

After the report was given to the Executive Council on Friday, the council agreed to start Dr. Naik's disciplinary action.

A four-person high-level inquiry group that was established to look into the purported paper leak convened on Thursday.

The committee has

made the decision to request information and supporting documentation from a number of parties, including Goa University student organizations, students from the suspected paper leak class, the teaching staff of the School of Physics and Applied Sciences, the dean and vice-dean/head of the department of the School of Physics and Applied Sciences, and any other people with reliable information about the alleged incident.

The committee has asked that all information be sent to Dr. Gervasio S F L Mendes, the liaison officer at the Office of the Additional Directorate of Higher Education, Goa Education Complex, Porvorim, in the form of an affidavit in a sealed cover. via April 1, submissions can be made in person or via speed post.

Maina Curtorim Police Crack Down on Motorcycle Theft with Daring Recovery

Team Goemkarponn

CURTORIM: In a significant crackdown on motorcycle theft, the Maina Curtorim police have successfully recovered three stolen Yamaha motorcycles and apprehended two suspects from Kirbhat-Nuvem and Ambaji-Margao.

This operation unfolded following a complaint filed on March 27 by a resident of Rumbordem, Curtorim, who reported the theft of his Yamaha motorcycle, which had been parked near his house. Notably, a child in conflict with the law was also involved and has been sent to Apna Ghar in Mercedes for appropriate care.

The investigation, led by PSI Sanket S. Naik under the guidance of PI Arun A. Gauns Dessai, uncovered crucial evidence that led to the



recovery of a Maruti Suzuki Swift car allegedly used in the thefts.

Among the recovered motorcycles are a Yamaha RXG 135cc linked to the initial case, another stolen from within Colva police station limits, and a Yamaha RX-100 pilfered from Margao Town police station limits.

The police team worked under the supervision of SDPO Margao, Siddhant U. Shirodkar, and overall supervision of SP (South) Margao, Tikam Singh Verma.

During questioning, the accused confessed to their involvement, providing vital information that aided in the recovery of the stolen vehicles.



Buffalo Smuggling Busted: Valpoi Police Book Two for Animal Cruelty

Team Goemkarponn

Keri: In a bold move to combat animal cruelty and illegal transportation, the Valpoi Police have arrested two individuals for their involvement in smuggling buffaloes across the border. This incident unfolded on March 28, 2025, at 3:30 pm at the Keri Border Check Post, where alert police officers intercepted a suspicious vehicle, uncovering a shocking case of animal mistreatment.

The operation, led by

Shri Devanand Gawade and Home Guard Shailesh Gaonkar, successfully intercepted a white Tata DI Pickup bearing registration number KA-26-A-1792. Upon inspection, it was discovered that the vehicle was carrying two she-buffaloes, two she-calf buffaloes, and two he-calf buffaloes, all being transported in inhumane conditions. The driver, Mr. Harshad Bepari, 24, and the occupant, Mr. Gouskadir Chowdhary, 40, both residents of Belgaum, were promptly booked.

New Academic year to begin on April 7

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: According to new rules announced by the government on Friday under the Goa School Education Act of 1984, the academic year 2025-2026 will start on April 7 rather than April 1.

According to the new rules, students in Classes VI through X and XII will begin their academic year in April and end in March, while students in Classes I through V and XI will begin their term in June and finish in March.

Students in grades I through V will begin

classes on June 4.

In a corrigendum, Director of Education Shailesh Zingade stated, "The date of the commencement of the Academic year 2025-26 may be read as April 7 instead of April 1."

On March 30, the current Academic Year 2024-25 will come to a close.

With this new academic calendar change, State Board schools will now follow the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) timetable, which starts in April and finishes



on March 31.

According to the government, the Director of Education may issue an order that appropriately divides the academic year into terms. Thus, April 7-October 15 will be the dates of the first term, and November 4-March 24, 2026, will be the dates of the second.

The dates of the Ganesh Chaturthi and Diwali vacations

are August 26-September 1 and October 16-November 3, respectively. All classrooms will have a five-week summer break starting on May 1. December 24 to January 2 will be the dates of the yearly Christmas break.

The DoE has instructed schools to make sure that the Second Summative exams are held, ideally by March 13, 2026, and that the First Summative or Terminal examinations must conclude by October 7. The findings must be made public at any point after April 4, 2026.

IMD forecasts pre-monsoon showers

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Pre-monsoon showers are predicted for the weekend by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Goa, providing much-needed respite from the intense heat.

The State reported a high temperature of 34.3 degrees Celsius on Friday, with the "feels-like" temperature reaching



almost 41 degrees Celsius. The humidity stayed on the upper

side even though the "feels-like" temperature dropped slightly to 39 °C

after 4 pm. Around 28 °C was the lowest recorded temperature.

With light to moderate rainfall predicted to lower the temperature, relief is anticipated on Saturday and Sunday. Along with the rains, the IMD has forecast lightning and thunderstorms for the entire state.

On March 25, Goa had its first pre-monsoon rainfall.

Goa CM urges farmers to invest in organic manure business

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant highlighting the importance of organic manure appealed to the farmers to start investing in organic manure business. He said organic manure has numerous benefits for the environment, human health, and the economy.

The Government will purchase organic manure and will supply again to needy farmers at subsidised rate said Chief Minister. Chief Minister was speaking after inaugurating Buyer Seller Meet 2025 at Ravindra Bhavan, Sankhali.

The two days meet is organised by Directorate of Agriculture in association with Agricultural Technology Management Agency, North and Agriculture Office, Sankhali.

Present on the occasion were Shri Premendra Shet, MLA



and Chairman, Goa State Horticulture Corporation, Smt. Siddhi Prabhu Porob, Chairperson Sankhali Municipal Council, Shri Vijayakumar Natekar, Chairperson, Bicholim Municipal Council, Shri Shankar Chodankar, President, North Goa Zilla Panchayat, Smt. Sanjana Velip, President, South Goa Zilla Panchayat, Shri Gopal Surlikar and Shri Mahesh Sawant, ZP Members, Shri Sandeep Phaldesai, Director,

Directorate of Agriculture, Shri Chandrahas Desai, Managing Director, Goa State Horticulture Corporation, Smt Nilima Gawas, Zonal Agriculture Officer and others.

Addressing the farmers Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant stressed upon the farmers to make maximum use of barren land for cultivation.

He said, by adopting innovative approaches and technologies, it is possible to transform

barren land into productive agricultural land, promoting sustainable development and improving livelihoods.

Speaking on the Automated Agriculture project at Surla in Bicholim taluka the Chief Minister said the Government has taken initiatives to set up this unique plant under Swayampurna Goa Mission by spending 4.5 crores benefitting 100 farmers in the locality.

Urging the farmers to take advantage of various schemes of Agriculture Department Shri Shet said, the Chief Minister has a vision of development and has announced three new Boards in the budget speech, in a bid to make Goa self-sustain state.

Earlier, Sandeep Phaldesai, Director, Directorate of Agriculture welcomed the guests and highlighted the main motive behind organising the buyer seller meet.

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I am in favour of new Regional Plan for Goa: CM

approvals for mega residential/commercial projects shall be decided by this committee and the decision taken by the Steering Committee shall be binding on all departments," Budget had stated. On Regional Plan, Sawant said "I am in favour of new RP. Will speak to cabinet and take decision".

Cabinet Reshuffle a 'Political Compulsion': Goa CM

Amit Shah. During their meeting, CM and party submitted performance report of each Minister. The news of cabinet reshuffle gained momentum after Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar announced likely changes within a fortnight or a months time. The news of cabinet reshuffle has been making rounds for

quite sometime as the party has to accommodate Congress turncoat as promised to them while switching over.

BJP has so far accommodated only Alexio Sequeria into cabinet while Names of Digambar Kamat, Michael Lobo, Sankalp Amonkar's inclusion in cabinet are making rounds.

Ground water in Goa is in 'SAFE ZONE': WRD Min

Based on the information, there are about 60 to 70 such borewells. The Assistant Engineer and Junior Engineer from WRD will conduct inspections, and, with police assistance, they

will ensure these wells are disconnected," Shirodkar said.

He added that under the Goa Ground Water Act 2002, fines of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh can be imposed for illegal borewells.

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Mopa Airport witnesses significant surge in passenger traffic

in 2023 to 302,130 in 2024. This redistribution suggests that travelers are moving from Dabolim to Mopa rather than an overall increase in tourism numbers. Critics argue that Mopa's growth mirrors this shift rather than attracting new tourists. Domestically, Mopa experienced a considerable rise in passenger numbers, growing from 15,63,130 in 2023 to 22,44,497 in 2024. On the other hand, Dabolim's domestic

traffic slightly declined from 69,55,313 in 2023 to 67,41,415 in 2024. In January 2025, Mopa handled 3,62,600 domestic and 50,319 international passengers, while Dabolim recorded 6,86,149 domestic and 24,612 international passengers. This trend not only highlights Mopa's growing popularity but also raises questions about the future of Dabolim, sparking concerns that it might become a "ghost airport" if not supported.

"Will Probably Never Come Back": Tourist's Viral Post On Goa Horror

dropping his girlfriend at the airport. The situation escalated when he allegedly cut off two local men on a two-wheeler, although he claimed there was no physical contact between the vehicles. The incident has triggered a wave of safety concerns among fellow travelers familiar with Goa. Many have expressed distress over what appears to be a growing culture of mob justice and vigilantism in the region. Several users shared similar accounts of negative experiences, highlighting a broader trend of dissatisfaction with the local environment. Despite the widespread attention, there is no confirmation on whether the tourist filed a formal complaint about the incident.

PCB promises Yuri Alemao to address pollution of Cuncolim IDC

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao has welcomed the measures promised by the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) to address the pollution issues plaguing the Cuncolim Industrial Estate. However, he also issued a stern warning to the concerned departments, stating that they will face public backlash if they fail to deliver on their promises.

Following repeated complaints by Cuncolim MLA Yuri Alemao, GSPCB has written to him promising to address the pollution issues.

GSPCB has promised to carry out Ground Water Monitoring within and outside Cuncolim Industrial Estate, Ambient Air Quality Monitoring, carrying out odour study, steps in regards to Common Effluent Treatment Plant,



installation of indicative dust monitoring devices, installation of continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring, study of hazardous waste and bring treated water to usage.

"We have continuously taken up the issue of pollution in Cuncolim Industrial Estate. This forced the health department to conduct health survey, wherein many people are found facing health issues. People should not suffer because of this pollution taking place. This should stop permanently," Alemao said. "After I

wrote to GSPCB, they have assured me to take measures to stop pollution. But I warn them that it should not be mere eye wash. Along with people, I will keep fighting against this pollution," Cuncolim MLA said.

Alemao said that as per report of Primary Health Centre-Balli, people are suffering from Cancer, respiratory problems, Psoriasis, kidney disease and other.

As per the report of PHC-Balli, around 28 people have been suffering from Respiratory problem, 29 have Skin allergy, 11 people suffering from Asthma, one is found with Chronic Kidney disease, 8 people have sinus problem, 8, two have past history of Tuberculosis, one is suffering from Psoriasis, and others have complained of dust allergy and eye burning sensation. One is also found with Chronic

Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

PHC had conducted this survey in Simplear, Kegdicotto, Masconi, Bellathemb, Gullecotto, Bhatti, Takaband and IDC.

Alemao said that along with hazardous waste dumped in Cuncolim Industrial Estate, the escalating levels of water and air pollution in Cuncolim, particularly due to the fish processing units, Steel manufacturing units at the Cuncolim Industrial Estate, had demand immediate and thorough investigation as people are facing health issues.

"Now in the budget 2025-26, government has promised to make provision to shift this hazardous waste, and hostel for women, on which we were stressing. Now, it is crucial that the government stays true to its word and ensures timely implementation of these projects," he said.

Goa State Consumer Protection Council Meeting Held

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: The second meeting of the State Consumer Protection Council was held under the Chairmanship of Minister for Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Ravi Naik, at Mantralaya, Porvorim.

Sanjit Rodrigues, IAS, Secretary, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs underscored the collective responsibility in upholding and safeguarding consumer rights, emphasizing the need for every department to contribute actively in this endeavour.

The meeting deliberated on the proposed initiatives to strengthen consumer protection in Goa wherein a range of valuable suggestions emerged during the meeting. One key focus area was the enacting of Goa State Consumer Protection



Rules, to finalise direct selling monitoring authority mechanism Rules for the State of Goa after getting suggestions from the Council Members, administrative issues of State Commissions and District Commissions pending with the State Government.

Additionally, plans were discussed to have a sub office of BIS in the State of Goa and to have integrated flying squad of the Consumer Affairs with other member departments, proposed

to have Consumer Conciliation Committee at South Goa among other matters.

Earlier the Assistant Director, Consumer Cell Shri Ketan Phal Desai briefed about the Goa State Consumer Protection Council and presented on the Consumer Protection Act 2019.

Assistant Director, Bureau of Indian Standard, Shri Ashutosh Agarwal explained about the role and responsibilities of Bureau of Indian

Standards, their working and also regarding the BIS app to register the complaint online.

Ajay Ukrande, Scientist C, National Test House explained about their institution, specializing in Testing, Evaluation, and Quality Control of various engineering materials and finished products.

Adv. Yatish Naik, Member of council proposed to formulate a sub-committee to notify the Consumer Protection Rules specific to the State of Goa.

Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay, CMD, GSL re-elected as vice chairman, SCOPE

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: In a significant development, Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Goa Shipyard Limited, has been re-elected as the Vice Chairman of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) for a second consecutive term. This prestigious reappointment is a testament to Mr. Upadhyay's exemplary leadership, strategic foresight, and unwavering commitment to the advancement of India's public sector enterprises.

The Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) is the apex professional organization representing the interests of central public sector enterprises (CPSEs). It plays a pivotal role in fostering excellence in CPSEs, advocating policy reforms, and driving initiatives that enhance



the growth and global competitiveness of India's public sector.

The election results were declared during the SCOPE Biennial Elections 2025-27 by Shri Atul Sobti, Director General, SCOPE, in the presence of representatives from member CPSEs. Mr. Upadhyay's re-election underscores the trust and confidence the public sector fraternity has in his leadership and vision.

As Vice Chairman of SCOPE, Mr. Upadhyay will continue to be at the forefront of promoting CPSE interests, championing progressive policies, and steering initiatives that drive sustainable growth and development.



Foot & Mouth disease control programme from April 1

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services is implementing 30 days "Foot & Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP) under National Animal Disease Control Programme (6th Round)" a Government of India Scheme from April 01, 2025.

The vaccination is to eradicate Foot & Mouth Disease which is highly contagious disease. It causes economic losses in milk production, draught power, growth and reproduction in animals

The efforts are being made to vaccinate all the cattle and buffalo population including stray animals. Pre and post vaccination sera samples will be collected from selected villages, as per the list provided by Government of India to ascertain the immune status of the herd. As per the guidelines it is mandatory to Eartag all the vaccinated animals for identification and upload the details on INAPH Portal.

The dairy farmers are requested to extend their full hearted cooperation to the vaccination teams/staff of the Department.

CANACONA: Shree Mallikarjun Higher Secondary School of Science, Arts, and Commerce, Char Rasta, has achieved a remarkable success in the Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (GBSHSE) Class XII Examinations, reaffirming its reputation as a center of academic excellence.

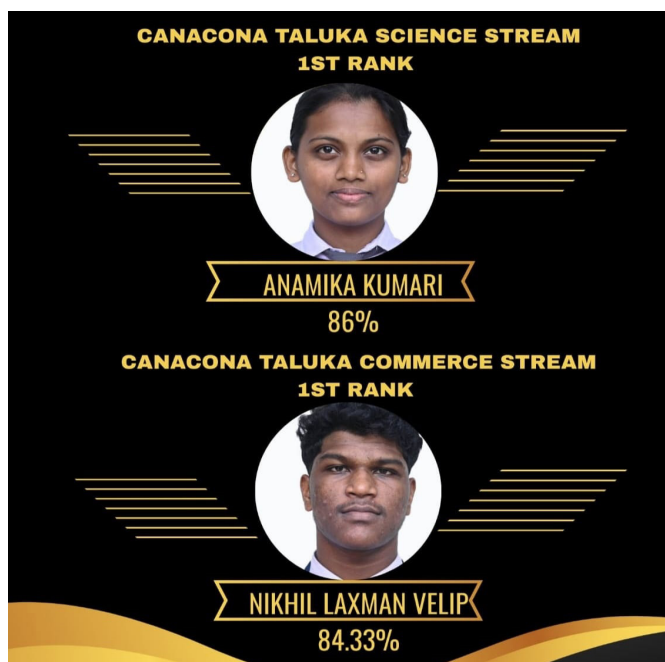
With an impressive 97% success rate in Science, a flawless 100% in Arts, and a commendable 96% in Commerce, the school has once again set high standards for education in the region.

In the Science stream, where 61 students appeared and 59 passed, Anamika Kumari emerged as the topper with 85.66%, followed by Sujal Chandrakant Gaonkar (80.66%) and Kirti Maruti Naik

Shree Mallikarjun Higher Secondary Excels in Goa Board HSSC Results

■ CPI Chairman praises Educators, Parents and credits Students for the success.

Team Goemkarponn



(80.16%).

The Arts stream saw all 46 students pass successfully, with Harshad Rohidas Pagi and Divya Dharmu Velip leading with 82% each, closely followed by Siya Kust Velip with 81.83%.

The Commerce stream, with 23 successful candidates out of 25, was topped

by Nikhil Laxman Velip (84.33%), Sunadia Shabu Raikar (83.83%), and Afnan Sayed (64.83%).

Adding to the school's pride, Anamika Kumari has not only topped the Science stream but also created history by scoring 99/100 in Geography, making her the highest scorer in the subject across Goa, bringing

state-wide recognition to the institution.

Master Nikhil Laxman Velip who scored the highest marks in Commerce Stream with 84.33% has emerged as a topper in Canacona taluka.

Miss Sunadia Shabu Raikar scored second highest marks in commerce stream in the institute with 83.83% has stood second place in Canacona taluka.

Chairman of Centro Promoter de Instrucao (CPI), Shamba Naik Dessai, along with the Managing Committee, praised the dedication of students, teachers, and parents for this outstanding achievement.

"This success is a reflection of the relentless efforts of our educators, the determination of our students, and the unwavering support from parents. We are immensely proud of this achievement," he stated.



CM Sawant Launches Buyer-Seller Meet in Sankhali

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: In a concerted effort to boost the agricultural sector and fortify Goa's vision of self-sufficiency, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant recently inaugurated the 2025 Buyer-Seller Meet in Sankhali.

This strategic event,

organized by the Directorate of Agriculture in collaboration with the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (North) and the Zonal Agriculture Office, Sankhali, kicked off on March 28, 2025. It aimed to create a vibrant marketplace where farmers could seamlessly

connect with buyers, thus ensuring a stable income for local producers.

At the heart of this initiative lies the Swayampurna Goa program, which has proven instrumental in significantly reducing horticultural imports by 30%. This achievement underscores

the government's commitment to empowering farmers through comprehensive training, fair pricing mechanisms, and the adoption of cutting-edge technology.

Particular emphasis was placed on organic farming with the announcement of an ₹18

crore project, backed by both the Union and State Governments, to further propel organic cultivation in Goa.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant emphasized the importance of leveraging governmental schemes to enhance agricultural production, supporting the overarching goal of

a prosperous and self-reliant Goa.

During the event, CM Sawant also released a documentary titled "Mati Bolti Tewhach Sheti Futil," produced by the Department of Agriculture, highlighting the critical role of soil testing in improving agricultural yields.

Centre Clears Rs 62,000-Crore Deal To Buy Made-In-India Attack Helicopter

■ This would be the biggest order for Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) so far, and the choppers would be built at their plants in Bengaluru and Tumkur in Karnataka

New Delhi: In a monumental step towards bolstering national defense and self-sufficiency, India's Cabinet Committee on Security has greenlit a historic deal worth over ₹62,000 crore to acquire 156 Light Combat Helicopters from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).

This ambitious initiative not only represents the largest order HAL has ever received but also underscores India's commitment to manufacturing indigenous defense systems.

The helicopters, to be produced in HAL facilities in Bengaluru and Tumkur, Karnataka, will play a pivotal role in enhancing India's combat capabilities along sensitive borders. The purchase of these helicopters, also known as Prachand, marks a significant milestone



in India's military modernization efforts. Split between the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force, 90 will be allocated to the Army and 66 to the IAF. These helicopters will be strategically deployed for operations along the China and Pakistan borders, where their ability to operate at altitudes of over 5,000 meters will prove invaluable.

HAL received the tender for these helicopters in June of the previous year, with the IAF acting as the lead agency for this joint procurement.

The Prachand, renowned as the world's only attack helicopter that can land and take off at such extreme altitudes, is equipped with advanced weaponry, allowing it to fire a wide array of air-to-ground and air-to-air missiles.

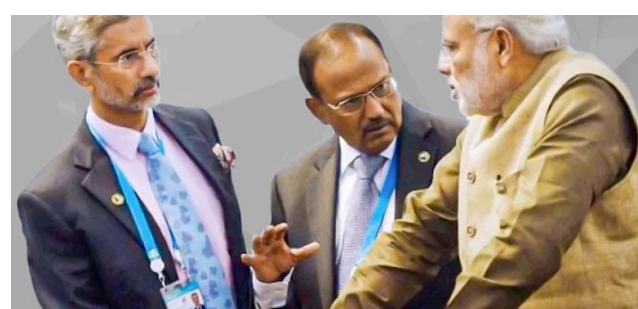
This capability makes it perfectly suited for high-altitude terrains such as the Siachen glacier and eastern Ladakh. The deal aligns with India's broader push for self-reliance in defense manufacturing through the Make in India initiative.

10,000 Indians Jailed Abroad Freed In A Decade - How Diplomacy Played A Part

■ Many of the Indian prisoners overseas were in jail for petty reasons - like fishermen, who unknowingly ventured into the territorial waters of a neighbouring nation, or villagers who inadvertently crossed an unmarked border post, or travellers who accidentally overstayed their visa limit.

New Delhi: In a decade marked by significant diplomatic victories, the Government of India has successfully secured the release of nearly 10,000 Indians imprisoned abroad. This achievement is a testament to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to the welfare of Indian citizens overseas. Since Modi took office in 2014, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Prime Minister personally have engaged in proactive diplomatic efforts to ensure the safe return of Indian nationals.

At the heart of these diplomatic efforts are instances where strong bilateral ties and personal rapport with global leaders have played a crucial role. The



United Arab Emirates, for example, has pardoned hundreds of Indian prisoners each year from 2022 to 2025, including nearly 500 in the holy month of Ramzan in 2025. In 2019, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the release of 850 Indian prisoners during his visit to India. Qatar, after intense negotiations, released eight Indian Navy veterans who faced death sentences, and most have returned to

India. Iran released 43 Indian nationals in 2023, including 12 fishermen, and 77 more in 2024.

Bahrain freed 250 Indians in 2019, while Kuwait released 22 and reduced sentences for 97 others in 2017. Regular diplomatic interventions with Sri Lanka have led to the release of 3,697 Indian fishermen since 2014. Similarly, repeated efforts with Pakistan have resulted in the release of 2,639 fishermen and 71 civilian prisoners over the same period.

India's Opinions Receiving Importance Today Like Never Before: PM Modi

PM Modi said India is not only participating in the world order but also contributing to making its future safe and secure.

New Delhi: In an era where global influence is increasingly shaped by innovation and strategic leadership, India has emerged as a pivotal player. At the forefront of this transformation is Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who recently underscored India's burgeoning influence at the TV9 Summit in New Delhi. The Prime Minister highlighted that India is not merely a participant in the global order but a proactive contributor to shaping and securing its future.



Modi emphasized that India's efforts, innovations, and opinions are now accorded unprecedented global importance.

This recognition is reflected in India's substantial contributions to global security, economic development, and technological advancements. However,

this newfound status has also made it a focal point for scrutiny, including opposition criticism over the role of institutions like the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The ED, despite facing constant criticism, has recovered a substantial amount of over Rs 22,000 crore, marking a significant step towards accountability.

Under Modi's leadership, India has transitioned from aspiration to tangible achievements. The government has launched extensive welfare

programs aimed at improving healthcare through initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, sanitation with the Swachh Bharat Mission, and ensuring piped drinking water to millions. These efforts have transformed India into a nation that not only dreams but delivers on its promises.

Furthermore, according to new data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is the only major economy that has doubled its GDP in the past decade.



Over 1,000 Dead, 2,376 Injured: Myanmar-Thailand Quakes Flatten Buildings

Myanmar Earthquake: Tremors from the earthquake were felt across eastern India and parts of China as well.

New Delhi: The Southeast Asian region has been left reeling following a catastrophic earthquake that struck Myanmar and Thailand, causing widespread destruction and a mounting death toll that now exceeds over 1,000. The powerful tremors from the quake were felt across a vast area, including eastern India and parts of China, highlighting the immense seismic impact of this disaster.

The 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck northwest of Sagaing, Myanmar, at 12:50 pm on Friday, followed by a significant 6.7-magnitude aftershock. This series of quakes affected regions from India to China, with Myanmar's death toll rapidly surpassing 1,000 due to extensive building

collapses and infrastructure damage. The Ava Bridge, a nearly century-old historic structure spanning the Irrawaddy River, tragically collapsed into the water, further underscoring the quake's destructive power.

Myanmar's ongoing civil war has severely weakened its emergency services, complicating the response efforts to this disaster. The military junta, despite its isolationist stance, made a rare appeal for international humanitarian aid, acknowledging the overwhelming scale of the crisis. In neighboring Thailand, the earthquake claimed the lives of 10 people, primarily due to the collapse of a high-rise building under construction near Bangkok's Chatuchak market.

Jaishankar Says India Can't Change Pakistan's 'Bigoted Mindset': 'Even Indira Gandhi Couldn't Do It'

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, speaking in Lok Sabha on Friday, highlighted incidents involving attacks on minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

New Delhi: In a stark reflection of the complex relationship between India and Pakistan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar underscored the deep-seated challenges in altering Pakistan's "fanatical and bigoted mindset" towards minorities. This perspective was reinforced by highlighting various

incidents of attacks on minority groups in both Pakistan and Bangladesh. Jaishankar's address in Lok Sabha not only revealed India's close monitoring of these situations but also its commitment to raising these issues on the international stage. At the heart of these developments are the



stark statistics on minority persecution. In February alone, Pakistan witnessed ten significant incidents

against Hindus, including seven cases involving abduction and forced conversion. Moreover, two instances of abduction and a police crackdown on students celebrating Holi were documented. Beyond Hindus, Sikhs and other minority communities, such as Ahmediyas and Christians, faced similar hardships.



Trump Praises Modi Amid Tariff Discussions: 'A Very Smart Man'

Trump had said that India was a high-tariff nation and reciprocal tariffs on countries that impose levies on American goods would kick in on April 2.

New Delhi: US President Donald Trump has expressed a favorable outlook on tariff negotiations with India, praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "very smart man." This statement comes amid growing concerns over trade practices, as Trump prepares to implement reciprocal tariffs on imports, including vehicles, starting April 2.

Trump, speaking at a press conference, highlighted that India is among the nations with the highest tariffs globally. He conveyed his belief that Modi, who recently visited Washington, is not only a wise leader but also a close associate. "We had very good talks," Trump noted, expressing optimism that the ongoing dialogue will yield beneficial outcomes for both countries.

16 Naxals Killed In Chhattisgarh Encounter With Security Forces, Shah Reiterates Vow To Eradicate Naxalism

An encounter broke out between the security forces and Naxals in Chhattisgarh on Saturday.

New Delhi: In a daring anti-Naxalite operation, security forces in India have delivered a significant blow to Naxalism by neutralizing 16 Naxals in the Sukma-Dantewada border region of Chhattisgarh. This major success resonates with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's vow to eradicate Naxalism by March 31, 2026, as he commended the bravery of the security forces involved.

Saturday's encounter in the Upampalli Kerlapal forest area marked a robust response to the Naxal threat, with two jawans sustaining minor injuries during the



operation. The gunfight began early in the morning near the Kerlapal police station as the joint forces, comprising personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), launched an anti-Naxalite offensive. The

operation was initiated late on Friday night following intelligence reports indicating the presence of Maoists in the area. A substantial cache of arms, including AK 47s, SLRs, INSAS Rifles, 303 Rifles, rocket launchers, BGL launchers,

and explosives, was recovered from the site. This haul underscores the determined effort by security forces to dismantle the Naxalite infrastructure in the region.

In response to the successful operation, Home Minister Amit Shah not only praised the bravery of the security forces but also reiterated his appeal to Naxalites to lay down arms. Shah emphasized that peace and development, not violence, are the keys to fostering positive change, reiterating India's resolve to combat Naxalism under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Need To Find Balance": Ex-India Star's Take On Controversial BCCI Family Diktat

■ Former BCCI national selector Saba Karim weighed in on the board's SOP, which relates to the significant reduction in a player's time with family during overseas tours.

New Delhi: The issue of family time during international cricket tours has ignited a passionate debate, with former BCCI national selector Saba Karim emphasizing the need for balance between cricket commitments and personal life.

This comes after India's cricket stalwart, Virat Kohli, voiced his concerns about the emotional toll of prolonged separations from loved ones during grueling overseas tours. As the cricketing world navigates this sensitive topic, the pursuit of equilibrium has become a pressing matter.

Finding the right balance is crucial, according to Saba Karim, who suggests that both the BCCI and its players must work together to



ensure that rules are fair and beneficial for everyone. The current BCCI policy allows players' immediate families to stay with them for up to 14 days after the first two weeks of a tour lasting more than 45 days.

For shorter tours, families can accompany players for up to a week, but this has not been enough to quell dissatisfaction

among players. The strict regulations were introduced following India's disappointing performances in Test cricket, but the reaction from players like Kohli highlights the emotional strain of these policies.

Virat Kohli's candid views at the Royal Challengers Bengaluru Innovation Lab Indian Sports Summit underscored

the importance of family support during intense cricket commitments.

He noted that having family nearby helps maintain a sense of normalcy and responsibility towards the game. Despite these sentiments, the BCCI has maintained that its current policy is necessary for maintaining team cohesion and discipline.

The ongoing debate about family time during tours also coincides with the excitement around the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), where new talents are expected to shine. Players like Ashutosh Sharma, Vignesh Puthur, and Vipraj Nigam have already made headlines with their performances, signaling a promising season ahead.

Rohit Sharma Opens Up On What Has Changed For Him At MI: 'Now I'm Opening.. Not The Captain'

■ Rohit Sharma opened up on what the difference is since his first time in MI colours and now at Mumbai Indians.

New Delhi: As Rohit Sharma steps into another season with the Mumbai Indians, he reflects on a journey that has seen him evolve from a middle-order batsman to the team's iconic opening batter and from captain to a vital team leader.

This transformation underscores his remarkable adaptability and dedication to the franchise he has led to unprecedented success. With six IPL titles under his belt—five of which he secured as captain of Mumbai Indians—Rohit is undoubtedly one of the IPL's most successful players.

Over the years, Rohit Sharma has experienced significant changes in his role within the Mumbai Indians. Acquired by the team during the IPL 2011 mega auction, Rohit



initially played in the middle order. However, his recent transition to opening the batting marks a significant shift in his responsibilities. This change is complemented by another major development: Rohit is no longer the captain of the team. Hardik Pandya took over the reins, leaving Rohit to focus on his batting and provide leadership in different ways.

Rohit also noted that some of his former teammates have moved into coaching roles, a testament to the evolving dynamics within the team.

My Career Of 17 Years Has Always Been About Ups And Downs: Rohit Sharma

■ Rohit Sharma believes one has to find a way to smile and make peace with failures, citing the example of his own India career.

New Delhi: In the world of cricket, where triumph and defeat often walk hand-in-hand, Rohit Sharma has learned a vital lesson: it's not about the highs and lows but how you respond to them.

With a career spanning 17 years, Sharma has experienced his fair share of both, including the disappointment of missing the 2011 World Cup squad and the exhilaration of leading India to victory in the 2024 T20 World Cup. Sharma's journey is peppered with moments that remind us that in cricket, as in life, resilience is key.

Whether he faced setbacks or celebrated successes, his approach has been consistent: finding peace and happiness regardless of the outcome. This mindset has guided him through a career marked by significant milestones and setbacks alike. In recent months, Rohit



has navigated a range of experiences that typify his resilience. His IPL franchise, Mumbai Indians, finished at the bottom of the league table, a stark contrast to his subsequent T20 World Cup win and later, the ICC Champions Trophy victory. Meanwhile, India faced a setback by failing to qualify for the World Test Championship (WTC) final for the first time in three attempts.

Rohit Sharma's

approach to these highs and lows serves as a testament to his ability to stay positive.

He emphasizes that regardless of whether you win or lose, the path forward involves finding peace and moving on with a smile. This philosophy has been integral to his career, influencing not just his personal approach but also the team's. Sharma encourages his teammates to adopt a similar mindset, recognizing that overcoming failures isn't easy but is crucial for progress.

For Sharma, each day brings new challenges, and it's how you face them that matters. His message is simple yet profound: life doesn't end with a loss, and every sunrise brings another chance to fight. This perspective has been instrumental in his journey, as he continues to inspire with both his bat and his leadership.



Betalbatim Moves Forward: A 3-0 Victory Over Fr. Agnelo YSC

Team Goemkarponn

Panjim: In a thrilling display of skill and strategy, Betalbatim Sporting Club decisively defeated Fr. Agnelo YSC Paroda with a 3-0 scoreline, securing their place in the quarterfinals of the United Trophy. Organized by the United Club of Taulim, this pivotal match took place at the Rosary Church ground in Navelim, marking a significant step forward for Betalbatim.

The match saw Betalbatim's Elroy



Fernandes lead the charge, scoring the first goal in the 17th minute, assisted by Dickson Rogtao. Despite efforts from Fr. Agnelo YSC Paroda, they failed to equalize, allowing

Betalbatim to maintain a 1-0 advantage at halftime. The second session brought further success for Betalbatim as Elroy Fernandes completed his brace with a goal in the 42nd minute.

Klusner Pereira sealed the victory with a third goal in the 63rd minute, securing Betalbatim's place in the quarterfinals. Elroy Fernandes's outstanding performance earned him the man of the match award, presented by Donald Rocha, coach of Cavelossim Club.