



MOVE OUT OF GOVT & DO WHAT YOU WANT: GAUDE TO MGP

- Says party's central leaders do not know the ground reality
- Supports CM's statement saying he has to reply to the party karyakartas
- Gaude says frequent interferences in his constituencies have led to the rift



Goemkarponn Editor Suraj Nandrekar speaks to Art & Culture Minister Govind Gaude on the current political rift between the alliance partners BJP and the MGP. Gaude says the central party leaders do not know the ground reality and also question the need for an alliance with the MGP.

Excerpts:

Goemkarponn: In the last few days we have seen temperatures soar, not only in the weather

but also in Goa's political arena with indications of cracks within the ruling alliance partners - BJP and MGP. What is the crux of the whole issue?

Govind Gaude: I think whatever the Chief Minister of Goa has said is considering the ground reality and present circumstances at least I feel that. When we talk of alliance or coalition, the coalition dharma has to be followed in letter and spirit by the partners. Despite this, there seem to be attempts to pull another partner

down and that may be the reason why CM made such a statement. Otherwise, he would not make such a statement. Secondly, the karyakartas of the party are its real strength and if the karyakarta keeps complaining of a particular party every day then as a Chief Minister he has the responsibility to look into it.

Goemkarponn: Was this the only reason?
Govind Gaude: Since I have been at the party for the last three years many others have joined me and the party. I have seen attempts to interfere in the constituency and this has been conveyed to the CM by the workers. CM understands that if the karyakartas are
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Waqf Amendment Bill Sparks Controversy in Lok Sabha

■ The Waqf Amendment Bill was first tabled in the Lok Sabha in August last year amid furious protests from the opposition, which slammed the proposed law as "draconian"

New Delhi: In the heart of India's legislative hub, a contentious debate unfolded as the Waqf Amendment Bill was tabled in the Lok Sabha, sparking fiery exchanges between the ruling party and the opposition.



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Someone Misguided CM: MGP Prez

■ BL Santosh has assured us on alliance till 2027: Deepak Dhavalikar

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: MGP President Deepak Dhavalikar claimed that Chief Minister Pramod Sawant was misguided by someone that MGP is eyeing Priol.

"We met BJP leader BL Santosh to know whether our alliance still exists or not; party



has assured us that we will go together in 2027; constituency wise survey

will be conducted before deciding on seat sharing," said Deepak. He further said that it looks like CM was misguided by someone that MGP is eyeing for Priol but that was not the case. "The CM has provided clarification on that
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9 eateries in Anjuna-Vagator shut for hygiene & safety violations

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: In a recent inspection drive, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) evaluated 20 eateries in the Anjuna-Vagator area, resulting in the closure of nine businesses for failing to meet hygiene standards. Four of these establishments were also found to be operating without the proper FDA license. The closures included a well-known Rajasthani restaurant, a popular Goan food spot, and several cafes, all of which were found to have

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2 arrested for smuggling teak wood At Shigao

Team Goemkarponn

MOLLEM: In a major crackdown, officials from the Mollem Forest Department arrested two individuals on charges of smuggling teak wood at Matojem, Shigao.

The team seized 5 logs of approx 0.5 cubic meters teak wood, along with a mini tempo used in the illegal transportation of the material.

The accused have been identified as Sadanand P. Sawant (42) r/o Matojem, Shigao & Deepak S. Raut (58) r/o Dhade Sanvordem.

The operation underscores the forest department's persistent



initiatives to combat the illegal smuggling of teak in the area. Those apprehended are now being investigated, and officials are pursuing additional measures to break down the network engaged in this illicit trade. Recently, Forest department officials had detained four individuals for their alleged involvement in smuggling
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Technical Glitch Disrupts Land Registration Website in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: In a state where land transactions are an integral part of economic activity, a technical snag has brought land registration services to a standstill in Goa.

The website used by Sub-Registrar offices across the state has crashed, affecting the processing of essential documents such as land deeds and sale deeds. This



disruption, which began on Saturday, has caused inconvenience to citizens relying on these services.

The issue, while unfortunate, highlights the reliance on digital infrastructure in modern

land transactions. As the National Informatics Centre (NIC) works diligently to resolve the technical problems, citizens and businesses alike await the restoration of these vital services.

Without these platforms, transactions are significantly delayed, underscoring the importance of maintaining robust digital systems in the governance of land use and registration.

Is This Some Kind of a Joke, Mr. Sanjit?



"Tourists and locals alike regularly traverse these roads, which makes their omission from the Smart City blueprint seem especially perplexing. With an investment of ₹1000 crore directed toward Smart City projects, one must wonder why vital arteries would be left out of the equation."

Rodrigues continued to clarify that the Goa government is aware of this situation and has earmarked special funding in the 2025-26 budget to address these roads in the future.

However, this effectively means that for the foreseeable future, these principal avenues will remain untouched, essentially failing to meet the core objectives of transforming Panaji into a smarter, more efficient urban area."



In a baffling turn of events, the CEO of Smart City, Sanjit Rodrigues, has stated that critical thoroughfares in Panaji—AB Road, 18 June Road, and Pandurang Pissurlekar Road—will not be included in the ongoing Smart City Mission.

This announcement came just after the deadline of March 31, marking the completion of various projects under the initiative. During a recent press conference, Rodrigues emphasized that these roads could not be developed as part of the Smart City Mission due to the presence of central drains running beneath them.

His remarks raised eyebrows, provoking questions about the rationale behind sidelining the very infrastructure that serves as the lifeblood of Panaji. Tourists and locals alike regularly traverse these roads, which makes their omission from the Smart City blueprint seem especially perplexing. With an investment of ₹1000 crore directed toward Smart City projects, one must wonder why vital arteries would be left out of the equation.

Rodrigues continued to clarify that the Goa government is aware of this situation and has earmarked

special funding in the 2025-26 budget to address these roads in the future. However, this effectively means that for the foreseeable future, these principal avenues will remain untouched, essentially failing to meet the core objectives of transforming Panaji into a smarter, more efficient urban area. The implications of excluding AB Road, 18 June Road, and Pandurang Pissurlekar Road from Smart City renovations raise significant concerns. Are we left with merely superficial enhancements, such as expensive surveillance cameras, an extravagant administrative office, and uneven pavements? If the essential roads that facilitate daily commutes and tourism are neglected, what does that say about the city's vision for a "smart" future? Moreover, these developments beg crucial questions about the planning and execution mechanisms within the Integrated Planning and Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL).

Did they overlook these roads during the planning stages? Or was there some miscommunication regarding their status? As deadlines rapidly approach and buzz surrounding these projects grows louder, one cannot

help but ponder if there are underlying motives at play—perhaps an attempt to manoeuvre around potential legal ramifications tied to the High Court's scrutiny over Smart City implementations.

The situation in Panaji serves as a stark reminder of the complexities involved in urban development projects, particularly those of such magnitude and significance. The local populace deserves transparency and accountability as they seek out modern amenities and enhanced infrastructure. With smart city initiatives heralded as the future of urban living, it is crucial to ensure that foundational roads and services are prioritized, rather than being left behind.

Mr. Sanjit Rodrigues' announcement raises more questions than it answers. As Panaji advances towards its Smart City aspirations, stakeholders must strive to comprehend how these road omissions will affect the project's integrity and the overall experience for residents and visitors alike. Without significant thoroughfares being integrated into the Smart City Mission, can we genuinely claim to be progressing towards a smarter and more sustainable urban environment?

EDITOR'S SPEAK

Panjim Smart City: A Spectacular Marvel!

Sandeep Heble

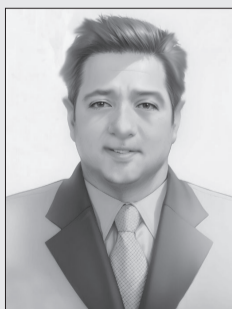
The CEO of Panjim Smart City has proudly announced today the completion of the Smart City project. "The Smart City Mission officially ended on March 31, with the Central government considering all projects completed", he declared.

With the completion of the works, Goa's capital has now transformed into a truly breathtaking urban paradise. Citizens who waited for many long years for this day can now expect world-class footpaths, well-structured underground ducts, neatly arranged cables, fully

functional Smart services, lush greenery, and beautifully designed traffic islands making Panjim as stunning as the other charming cities of the world.

Welcome to the Smart City. Panjim now stands tall among the world's most beautiful cities, like Rome, Venice, Tokyo, and Paris. Some say it rivals Singapore, others compare it to New York.

Every small detail is perfectly in order. No dimly lit street lights, no incomplete pavements, no misplaced drains, no open trenches,



no potholes. Step out, and you'll witness this transformation firsthand.

The footpaths are smooth and spacious, the underground ducts and cables have been meticulously structured, and the roads no longer need to be dug up every other week. Smart services

will now be available to every tourist and resident round the clock, with digital boards flashing information, and traffic gardens adding a touch of beauty, offering drivers a scenic view with no traffic congestion or

chaos. The landscaping is simply breathtaking like the beautiful gardens of Mughal times. Just as flawless as the consultants had promised in their grand presentations at Hotel Fidalgo.

As citizens soak in the sheer brilliance of this urban masterpiece, one can't help but appreciate the impeccable timing of this announcement.

After all, what better day to declare Panjim's Smart City transformation complete than April 1st—April Fools' Day!

April Fool, folks!

Make maximum use of barren land for cultivation purposes: Goa CM

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has urged farmers to make maximum use of barren land for cultivation purposes available in villages.

CM Sawant was speaking after inaugurating the newly constructed Panchayat Building of V. P. Karapur - Sarvan.

Addressing the gathering Chief Minister appealed to the farmers to consider undertaking community farming in villages.

He said community farming would be profitable as it is

supported by various schemes by the Agriculture Department.

Chief Minister urged farmers to make maximum use of barren land for cultivation purposes available in villages.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant underscored that Swayampurna Goa programme, the government-led initiative, is to make every village and city in the State self-reliant. The success of Swayampurna Goa Mission mainly depends upon local panchayats, he added.

Premendra Vishnu Shet, MLA & Chairman, Goa State Horticulture



Corporation; Mahesh Anant Sawant, ZP Member, Tanvi Tukesh Sawant, Sarpanch, V.P. Karapur - Sarvan, Divya D. Naik (Dy.Sarpanch) Omkar Mandrekar, Block Development Officer, and other ward members were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Premendra Shet stressing on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen

Kaushalya Yojana said panchayat buildings became a reality because of such Government schemes.

Till date developmental works of Rs 27 crores have been completed in Mayem constituency, he informed.

Shet said he intends to make Mayem constituency a model for others to emulate and sought cooperation from the public.

Earlier Tanvi Tukesh Sawant Sarpanch, V.P. Karapur - Sarvan welcomed the guests. Mementos were presented to the Chief Minister and other dignitaries.

Man Dies After Being Hit by Train at Curchorem Railway Station

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: A tragic incident occurred at Curchorem Railway Station, where a man was found dead on the railway tracks.

The deceased has been identified as Jayant Parmar (41), a resident of Chawakwado, Curchorem. As per the inquiry conducted by the Vasco Railway police, Parmar, who was reportedly suffering from epilepsy, is believed to have suffered a seizure while walking alongside the tracks. He lost consciousness and was struck by a passing train, resulting in death due to fatal injuries.



The incident took place at Km 69/300 on Road No. 3 of Curchorem Railway Station. The police, after conducting an inquest panchnama, sent the body for a postmortem examination at SGDH, Margao. The autopsy confirmed that the cause of death was due to severe blunt force damage to the head, chest, and abdomen, along with the transection of both thighs.

IMD forecasts Yellow alert for Goa till April 3

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: With the continuation of pre-monsoon showers, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Goa has issued a Yellow Alert, predicting light to very light rainfall over the next two days.

Despite the rain, heat persisted in Goa, with Panaji registering a maximum temperature of 34.2°C on Tuesday. The feels-like temperature reached 44°C, while Mormugao recorded a slightly lower maximum temperature of 33.4°C. The minimum temperatures across both districts fell to around 26°C. Ponda experienced approximately 9 mm of light rainfall, while Sanquelim and Panaji recorded 1.8 mm and 1.2 mm, respectively, classified as very light rain.

The IMD anticipates widespread rainfall throughout Goa on April 2,



which will be accompanied by thunderstorms and wind gusts of 40-50 km/h in isolated areas, with scattered rainfall expected on April 3.

These current weather conditions are linked to a cyclonic circulation that has moved from Marathwada to Madhya Maharashtra, located at 0.9 km above mean sea level. According to the IMD, "A trough runs from south Chhattisgarh to this cyclonic circulation, traversing through Vidarbha and Marathwada at the same altitude. Additionally, another north-south trough extends from the cyclonic circulation over Madhya Maharashtra to the Comorin area, passing through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu."

HC disposes of ISP' plea against Electricity Dept

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court in Goa has closed a case brought by the All Goa Internet Service Providers Association that contested the Electricity Department's "unjust" severing of fibre optic cables.

The association decided to withdraw the case after reaching an agreement, which was communicated to Justices

Bharati Dangre and Nivedita Mehta during the final proceedings. The court allowed the withdrawal and concluded the matter.

The association claimed that, despite following the proper procedures, the Electricity Department acted in an arbitrary manner. It pointed out that its application for Right of Way (RoW), submitted on November 22, 2023, to the Department of Information



Technology, was still unresolved.

The group requested authorization to install fibre networks across seven talukas in Goa but did not receive any approval despite their follow-up inquiries. The

petition underscored the National RoW Policy, which is set to take effect on January 1, 2025, and requires states like Goa to support the deployment of fibre using electricity poles.

The association asserted that it complied with this policy but faced cable severing by the Electricity Department before a decision could be reached. The dispute's resolution prompted the withdrawal of the petition.

SEIAA nod to clear ore dump outside the lease area

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has granted environmental clearance (EC) to previous mining leaseholders for managing iron ore dumps located outside their lease boundaries.

In a recent meeting, SEIAA decided to issue an EC to Chowgule and Company Pvt Ltd for a

five-year term, following the recommendations of the Goa State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), for the handling of ore dumps on a private property situated in Sirigao village in Bicholim taluka.

The authority has instructed the Project Proponent to adhere to the State government's dump policy, established on September 13, 2023, which sets a ceiling limit of 25 million tonnes



per annum for the transportation of dumps.

The company is required to install at least two online sensor-based ambient air quality monitoring stations to assess air quality along the transportation route and at the dump site.

"The validity of the granted EC will last for five years, and restoration, rejuvenation, or reclamation of the dump site must be completed within this period. If the Project Proponent is unable to finish the activity within the allocated time, they may seek an extension from the Authority, as long as it is within the validity period of the EC," the statement added.

Coastal Belt Sterilisation Camp 2025 Launched at Colva

Team Goemkarponn

COLVA: In a significant step towards managing the rising population of stray dogs along Goa's coastal belt, the much-awaited Coastal Belt Sterilisation Camp 2025 was launched in Colva.

The sterilisation drive aims to address the increasing concerns over stray dog population growth and rising cases of dog bites along the coast.

Director of Tourism, Kedar Naik* stated "We had promised this initiative, and we made

sure that it has happened. The well-being of our residents and visitors is our top priority, and this sterilisation drive is a crucial step in mitigating the issues caused by the increasing stray dog population. With this initiative, we are taking a

step towards a long-term, sustainable solution to this challenge."

As part of the campaign, awareness drives were conducted at Cavelossim-Mobor beach, where citizens and shack owners were sensitized about the importance of

sterilisation. The initiative will continue until April 19, 2025, covering multiple locations along Salcete's coastal belt.

With a number of reported incidents of dog attacks on visitors, including international tourists, the authorities

have sought the cooperation of tourism stakeholders and local communities to effectively address the issue. The camp aims to ensure a humane and sustainable solution while promoting responsible pet care and animal welfare.

MOVE OUT OF GOVT & DO WHAT YOU WANT: GAUDE TO MGP

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demoralised then the party cannot progress. BJP is not a party like MGP.

It is the biggest political party today, in Goa and also it has a presence in every constituency.

On the other hand, MGP is limited to just one or two persons and not beyond that and they do not have existence beyond one or two constituencies.

If they want to play politics in the alliance partners' constituency, then they should move out of government and do whatever they like.

This is the reason why CM has made a statement, it is CM who has to reply on all these issues and I am happy he has stood for the right.

Goemkarponn: Don't you think the Chief Minister kicked up the controversy by making a statement on Mandrem's seat first, which belongs to MGP?

Govind Gaude: See, I cannot speak on the Mandrem Constituency, whatever is there in my

constituency I can speak. On that issue, I can only say, that whenever there are BJP party melavas issues are being raised before the CM and party president, based on that CM may have made that statement.

On Priol, I can say, we will not tolerate interference in the constituency by any alliance partners.

Goemkarponn: You made a statement the BJP does not need an alliance to win the Ponda taluka seats that is - Priol, Ponda, Madkai and Shiroda but the BJP has not won Madkai for five terms. Your say?

Govind Gaude: Well, this question has been posed before me several times and I have said this to BJP leaders also. Even in 2012, I had discussions with BJP leaders and told them the same. I was asked by BJP top leaders whether I am ready to take responsibility for Ponda taluka. I said yes.

There have been by-elections in the taluka and we have won that comfortably and proved



Since I have been at the party for the last three years many others have joined me and the party. I have seen attempts to interfere in the constituency and this has been conveyed to the CM by the workers.

ourselves. Based on the strength of the party karyakartas I have made this bold statement.

If you remember I have fought elections from the Madkai constituency and I have sizeable supporters but I have never interfered in that constituency following alliance dharma. I had even told the late Manoharabhai that I would support the BJP but there should not be any interference in my constituency.

Goemkarponn: MGP says the alliance is at the Central level. Your opinion.

Govind Gaude: Let the MGP leaders tell us which BJP leaders approached them for an alliance. Karyakartas must also know about that. I am not against any party or any leader, I am taking the issues

of my karyakartas, who are my strength. We have supported the BJP without any expectations and hence we must know who invited MGP for alliance. The central leaders may not know the ground reality.

Goemkarponn: Did you Oppose the alliance in 2022?

Govind Gaude: See Party's central leaders many times do not know what the ground reality is. The Chief Minister is the person who has to listen to the complaints of the karyakartas. My question is why there was no pre-poll alliance. Also, this alliance was without any need, we had 20 MLAs and the support of three independents. Let any BJP MLA or worker say there was a need for an alliance.

Goemkarponn: So

your complaint about MGP is only interference in your constituency?

Govind Gaude: See today's MGP is only about power you may have seen that from 2000, whoever is in power they are with them. Earlier also BJP extended an Olive branch to them which they ditched when they joined Congress, then they left Congress and joined the BJP. I will not talk of anyone else, I will speak to only my constituency. My issue is if they are in alliance they have to follow the dharma at least till they are part of the government and take a decision when elections come. I am happy this issue has cropped up well before the elections otherwise they would have definitely ditched the BJP again.

Goemkarponn: Talking about the 2027 elections, don't you think the "Anti-Incumbancy" factor would come into play again?

Govind Gaude: The same thing was

said during the 2022 elections. The Exit Polls had ruled the BJP out with 12-13 seats. I would only say that the one who works with honesty and commitment is not worried about the outcomes or what his opponents say. Every MLA of the BJP is working today and looking at our work, 8 MLAs of Congress joined us and even in 2019 10 MLAs joined. Where is the anti-incumbency?

Goemkarponn: Don't you think the rise in protests and the agitations could affect the party's prospects?

Govind Gaude: Not at all. I have become an MLA from activism. Anti-incumbency is a word manufactured by the opposition, who have no issues to take up. Protests happening are all political. If there is something wrong the people will make the MLA's seat home. But BJP as a party I feel will have no impact.

(Watch the full interview on the goemkarponn YouTube channel)

ECI Conducts Engagement Drive With Political Parties

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) conducted a series of structured engagements with political parties at the level of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), District Election Officer (DEO), and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) across the country. In a span of 25 days and as of March 31, 2025, a total of 4,719 meetings were conducted, with 40 meetings by CEOs, 800 by DEOs, and 3,879 by

EROs, engaging over 28,000 representatives of political parties nationwide.

These meetings were held in accordance with the directives issued by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Shri Gyanesh Kumar along with ECs Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr Vivek Joshi, during the Chief Electoral Officers' conference held on March 4-5 2025, at IIDEEM, New Delhi. The engagements are aimed to resolve any pending issues by the



concerned competent authority i.e. ERO or DEO or CEO within the existing legal framework of the Representation of the People Act 1950 and 1951; the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960; the Conduct of Elections

Rules, 1961 and the manuals, guidelines, and instructions issued by ECI from time to time.

An action taken report has been sought from all State/UT CEOs for further assessment and any issue, if unresolved within the existing legal framework will be taken up by the Commission.

These engagements have been well-received by political parties, with active and enthusiastic participation across Assembly Constituencies, districts and States/UTs.



Canacona Electricity dept act swiftly to responses in undertaking repair works

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Assistant Engineer and a Junior Engineer of Canacona Electricity came in for sharp appreciation for swiftly taking up a job and completing it within a couple of hours time at Ourem Palolem.

'We highly appreciate the commendable job taken up and completed by the A.E of the electricity department Govind Bhatt and J.E. Dattanand Chari incharge of the section along with his staff for replacing the faulty and nagging transformer at Ourem Palolem. One of the phases has failed in this transformer and the same has begun to malfunction, providing an erratic power supply to the area.' Said Gaspar Coutinho, Congress District (South) General Secretary (Org)

and a social worker. On getting the information both the officers reportedly immediately rushed on and made necessary arrangements of the crane and brought a new transformer and got it replaced in a couple of hours time and restored the nagging power supply to the consumers.

In a social post Coutinho said, 'It is a great honor that we have a person like Govind Bhat as the A.E of Canacona Electricity department, and to assist him the J.E Dattanand Chari incharge of the Section.

Incidentally, Coutinho went on to say that they and their team always work very tirelessly to provide uninterrupted electricity to the people of Canacona and also thanked the entire staff of Electricity dept of Canacona.

'Palshetchi Vihir' to be staged at ManoShobha Kalaghar on Sat

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Palshetchi Vihir, the widely appreciated Marathi drama, written by late Vijaykumar Naik and produced by Rudreshwar Panaji will be staged at ManoSobha Kalaghar in Canacona on 5 April.

Originally directed by the playwright late Mr Naik himself, performances of this famous play had stopped due to several unavoidable circumstances for the last couple of years, though there was public demand.

Deepak Amonkar of Rudreshwar Panaji has re-directed this play. Its first performance was held at the most prestigious Bharat Rang



Mahotsav organised by the National School of Drama, in Goa in January. The play is based on a painful struggle Hirabai Pednekar, the first-ever Marathi script writer, went through while coming up as an artist. Hailing from Devdasi community, the most talented singer, actor and writer Hirabai had to face several obstacles to

establish herself as a successful theatre personality, from the male-dominated society and the upper-caste hegemony.

The play depicts how Hirabai fought it with a progressive outlook. "It's the painful experience of women's empowerment, though equally inspiring for the womenfolk", says Amonkar.

Goa's movement to liberate the Devdasi community is considered to be the most successful silent revolution in India to date. This play in the taluka of Canacona holds special significance since this inspiring movement began from the villages of Poinguinim and Loliem in the southernmost taluka of the state.

6 Rescued from Drowning off Goa's Coast

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Two kayakers from Pune were rescued from drowning off Palolem beach in South Goa by Drishti Marine lifesavers during the extended Eid weekend, which also witnessed the rescue of two foreign nationals off the state's coastline.



Palolem beach: Two men from Pune, aged between 30 and 33 years, who were kayaking off the Palolem coast, panicked when seawater flooded their boat when they were around 500 mts into the sea. Spotting their distress, lifesaver Laxmikant rushed into the water using a jetski and brought the persons safely

ashore.

Calangute beach:

Despite repeated cautions advising him to not venture into a demarcated watersport zone, a 38-year-old man from

Maharashtra received injuries to his leg, while tugging the rope of a water sports boat. The person's shorts got caught in the vessel's rotor, injuring his leg.

He was immediately administered first aid by lifesaver Vinod Gaonkar.

Zones demarcated exclusively for water sports are no-go for swimming purposes. Arossim beach: A minor girl from Russia was suddenly pulled into the sea by rough waves when she and her parents were swimming off Arossim beach.

Consumer Welfare Club launched at Deepvihar Higher Secondary School

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: "Consumer Welfare Clubs are an excellent platform for students to be aware about the Rights & Responsibilities provided under the Consumer Protection Act 2019" said Roland Martins Co-ordinator GOACAN and member Goa State Consumer Protection Council. He was speaking at the launch of the Consumer Welfare Club (CWC) at the Deepvihar Higher Secondary School, Headland Sada in Mormugao Taluka.

The CWC was launched in presence of Sanjay S. Banaulikar, the HSS Manager who expressed his happiness that a CWC was being



launched in the institution as it would help the students' families and the community at large in addressing their consumer grievances.

In her welcome address Principal Maria Petornila Ivana Godinho Dias, reminded the students that the process of launching the CWC began earlier with an

orientation session conducted by GOACAN for the Teaching & non-teaching staff on the importance of the Consumer Protection Act. She said the CWC will be fully active in the coming academic year and called on the students to be active volunteers and take up various projects on

consumer awareness. She also announced that teachers Nandkumar Satardekar and Nidhi Sherlekar will be the Co-ordinators of the CWC and they will guide the students in taking the activities ahead with the financial assistance from the Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

How Trump's 'Liberation Day' Tariffs Could Reshape the World Economy

■ It is also possible that the tariffs are short-lived if Trump feels he can cut a deal after imposing them.

New Delhi: On April 2, US President Donald Trump is set to unveil his highly anticipated "Liberation Day" tariffs, a move designed to reduce America's reliance on foreign goods. Dubbed "Liberation Day," this initiative is poised to send shockwaves through global markets and reset the dynamics of international trade. By imposing tariffs on countries with significant trade deficits, Trump aims to revitalize American manufacturing and protect US jobs.

Countries in the Crosshairs: Trump's tariffs will primarily target countries like the European Union, China, and Mexico, which have historically maintained



large trade deficits with the United States. These tariffs are expected to include "reciprocal" levies, mirroring the rates charged by these countries, as well as additional taxes on subsidies.

Consumer Impact: The tariffs are likely to lead to higher prices for American consumers, affecting household budgets and potentially slowing

economic growth. The auto sector is particularly vulnerable, with a proposed 25% tariff on imported vehicles and parts. This could result in new car prices rising by at least \$5,000, impacting both domestic sales and consumer affordability. Existing Tariffs and Expansion Plans: Trump has already imposed tariffs on imports from China, Canada, and

Mexico, primarily aimed at countering drug smuggling and illegal immigration. He also plans to expand these tariffs to include auto parts and other goods. Additionally, imports from China face an extra 20% tax due to their role in fentanyl production.

Global Criticism: Foreign leaders, including those from China and the EU, have echoed concerns that these tariffs will harm the global economy. China, Japan, and South Korea are developing strategies to counter these measures, including shifting supply chains and fostering greater trade cooperation. The EU has threatened retaliatory tariffs but prefers a negotiated resolution.

Zomato Lays Off 600 Amid AI Push and Market Challenges

■ The reported layoffs came as the company faces challenges in its core food delivery business and rising losses in its quick commerce subsidiary, Blinkit.

New Delhi: In a bold move to navigate the challenges of a slowing food delivery market, Zomato has laid off up to 600 customer support employees, just a year after they were hired. This decision marks a significant pivot towards cost-cutting and AI-driven automation, as the company seeks to bolster its operational efficiency. The layoffs, predominantly affecting employees in Gurugram and Hyderabad, follow Zomato's introduction of 'Nugget,' an AI tool designed to handle a substantial portion of customer support interactions.

The layoffs are closely tied to Zomato's broader strategy to automate customer support using AI, a move aimed at reducing operational expenses as



the company grapples with a downturn in its core food delivery business and mounting losses in its quick commerce subsidiary, Blinkit.

Zomato had previously hired nearly 1,500 employees through its Associate Accelerator Program (ZAAP) for customer support roles, but many were let go without prior notice, receiving only a month's salary as compensation.

Shimla To Get Asia's Longest Ropeway

■ The Tara Devi-Shimla Ropeway Project, which has already begun, is being undertaken at a cost of Rs 1,734.40 crore by the Ropeway and Rapid Transport System Development Corporation.

New Delhi: Shimla is on the cusp of a transportation revolution as the city prepares to launch Asia's longest ropeway, a monumental project designed to alleviate traffic congestion and energize the local tourism industry. This ambitious venture, the Tara Devi-Shimla Ropeway Project, will not only be the second largest in the world but also a hallmark of modern infrastructure, costing a substantial Rs 1,734.40 crore.

At the heart of this initiative is the Ropeway and Rapid Transport System Development Corporation, partnering with the Himachal Pradesh government under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The ropeway will dissect the scenic landscape between Maa Tara Devi and Sanjauli, interconnecting 15 pivotal stations across Shimla



and its surroundings.

This comprehensive network will ensure that nearly 2,000 passengers can travel in both directions every hour, significantly easing the strain on the city's roads.

The ropeway will feature a fleet of 660 cabins, each equipped to carry 8-10 passengers. These cabins will arrive at stations with a frequency of two to three minutes, guaranteeing smooth and efficient movement across the city.

Key boarding points include Maa Tara Devi, Court Complex (Chakkar), Tutikandi Parking Area, ISBT, Railway Station, among others.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

9 eateries in Anjuna-Vagator shut for hygiene & safety violations

unsanitary conditions and violations of safety regulations during the inspections. The FDA stressed that these actions are part of their ongoing efforts to safeguard public health and ensure food establishments comply with hygiene requirements. The affected businesses must rectify the violations before they can reopen. The FDA also stated that they will continue conducting such inspections to ensure accountability in the food industry.

Someone Misguided CM: MGP Prez

statement. BJP General Secretary BL Santosh has assured the MGP-BJP alliance to continue for the 2027 Goa Assembly and Lok Sabha elections," he added. Deepak also claimed that MGP is actively working in eight constituencies, with a stronghold in four.

Meanwhile, Sudin Dhavalikar said that message which is given to BJP high command is passed on to CM Sawant.

"All is well between MGP-BJP," said MGP Sudin Dhavalikar

Waqf Amendment Bill Sparks Controversy in Lok Sabha

At the center of the argument was Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who vociferously criticized the UPA government for past changes to Waqf laws, including the denotification of key properties. Rijiju's assertions were met with skepticism by the opposition, which labeled the proposed legislation as "draconian." The bill, designed to overhaul the administration of Muslim charitable properties known as Waqfs, has been a point of contention. It includes provisions to ensure secular and inclusive management, sparking heated political exchanges.

The debate kicked off with Rijiju accusing the Congress of questionable actions, including transferring 123 properties to the Waqf Board. He pointed out that without the current amendment, significant structures, including the Parliament building itself, could have been claimed as Waqf properties. Rijiju emphasized that the bill is primarily a property management issue, with the aim of enhancing transparency and efficiency in Waqf boards. Among the proposed changes are the inclusion of non-Muslim and female members on Waqf boards to ensure a more inclusive and secular approach. However, these

provisions have been met with resistance from opposition parties, who argue that the bill infringes upon constitutional rights. Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi criticized specific clauses, such as restrictions on donations to Waqf boards, which he saw as problematic and overly restrictive. The bill's journey through the Joint Parliamentary Committee was marked by controversy, with 14 changes suggested by BJP or allied party MPs being adopted. Originally, the draft proposed 44 changes, including the addition of non-Muslim and female members to Waqf boards.

2 arrested for smuggling teak wood At Shigao

Khair wood near Curti. The officials had seized wood worth approximately Rs 2 lakhs in the operation. In addition to

the wood, authorities also confiscated a mini tempo and two motorcycles used in illegal transportation.

Days After Mega Delimitation Huddle, MK Stalin's Letter To PM Modi

■ Opposition parties fear southern states losing representation in parliament due to their success in population control under the delimitation process.

New Delhi: As the nation grapples with the implications of delimitation, a crucial issue that threatens to redraw the political landscape of India, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has sounded a clarion call. He has requested a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the potential consequences of delimitation on parliamentary seats, a concern shared by many opposition parties. The fear is palpable that southern states, which have successfully controlled their population growth, may find their representation in parliament diminished—a



scenario that could significantly alter the balance of power in India's legislative bodies.

The backdrop of this appeal is a recent gathering of top opposition leaders hosted by Stalin. This meeting aimed to strategize against the proposed delimitation process, which could favor northern states with higher

population figures. On March 27, Stalin penned a letter to PM Modi, seeking an audience to present a Memorandum on Delimitation. This document emerges from the deliberations of the Joint Action Committee (JAC), which convened on March 22 in Chennai. The JAC meeting brought together an eclectic mix

of leaders, including Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers, underscoring the gravity of the issue that transcends party lines.

A key resolution passed during the JAC meeting highlighted the need for transparency and dialogue. It proposed that state governments and political parties should be involved in the delimitation process to ensure fairness. Delimitation, by its very nature, reassesses how states are represented in parliament based on changes in population. This process could potentially benefit northern states, further marginalizing southern regions.

Omar Abdullah Stands Firm Against Waqf Bill Ahead of Key Debates

■ Earlier, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju informed that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill will be tabled in the Lok Sabha on April 2

Srinagar: In a bold move to assert his government's commitment to empowering women and to voice his opposition to federal policies, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated a free bus service for women across all districts of the state while reiterating his strong stance against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill.

The free bus service, launched at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre in Srinagar, is part of Omar Abdullah's initiative to make transportation more accessible to women. This initiative marks a significant step in



empowering women and promoting inclusivity. Meanwhile, Abdullah's vocal opposition to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill reflects growing tensions over federal interventions perceived to target religious institutions.

The bill, set to be tabled in the Lok Sabha on April 2, has been a subject of controversy, with Abdullah labeling it "not acceptable" and promising to oppose it steadfastly.

India's Defence Exports Soar to All-Time High of Rs 23,622 Crore

■ Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the achievement as a "proud milestone" in India's progress in the defence manufacturing sector.

New Delhi: In a significant milestone for India's defence sector, exports have reached an unprecedented high of Rs 23,622 crore in the financial year 2024-25, marking a substantial 12.04% increase from the previous year. This achievement has been hailed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a crucial step towards self-reliance and global leadership in defence manufacturing. As India positions itself as a major player in the global defence market, its evolving defence capabilities are increasingly recognized worldwide.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced this record figure on Tuesday, highlighting India's strategic progress. In the previous fiscal year, defence exports had stood at Rs 21,083 crore, reflecting the rapid growth the sector is experiencing. The Defence Public



Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) have played a pivotal role in this, with a remarkable 42.85% surge in their exports during 2024-25.

This growth underscores the expanding global acceptance of Indian defence products and their integration into the global supply chain.

The private sector and DPSUs collectively contributed Rs 15,233 crore and Rs 8,389 crore, respectively, to the defence exports in 2024-25. This compares to Rs 15,209 crore and Rs 5,874 crore in the previous year, demonstrating the substantial increase in DPSU contributions.

"Operation Brahma": India Delivers 625 Metric Tonnes Of Relief To Myanmar

■ India launched Operation Brahma to provide necessary support, including Search and Rescue (SAR), humanitarian aid, disaster relief and medical assistance, following the devastating earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28.

New Delhi: In a remarkable display of regional solidarity and rapid response, India has launched Operation Brahma, a comprehensive humanitarian effort aimed at supporting earthquake-stricken Myanmar.

Following the devastating earthquake on March 28, India swiftly activated its emergency response mechanisms, mobilizing an impressive fleet of six aircraft and five naval ships to deliver a staggering 625 metric tonnes of

humanitarian aid to Myanmar.

This operation embodies India's commitment to serving as a "first responder" in the region, providing crucial assistance in the form of Search and Rescue (SAR) missions, humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and medical support to those affected.

Operation Brahma represents a whole-of-government effort by India to address the multifaceted needs of Myanmar in the aftermath of the earthquake.



Pakistan Army Violates Ceasefire, India Retaliates

■ The troops of the Nangi Tekri Battalion, under the aegis of the Krishna Ghati Brigade of the Indian Army, retaliated strongly.

New Delhi: The fragile peace along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir was disrupted once again when the Pakistan Army engaged in unprovoked firing on Indian positions in the KG Sector of Poonch. This blatant ceasefire violation prompted a robust response from the Indian Army, with the Nangi Tekri Battalion under the Krishna Ghati Brigade leading the retaliation.



The latest incident of ceasefire violation by Pakistan occurred on Tuesday across the Line of Control in Poonch. The Indian Army's swift and strong response was backed by the Nangi

Tekri Battalion, which operates under the Krishna Ghati Brigade, reflecting the seriousness with which India views such provocations. This development points to increasing tensions,

despite the clear signaling of peace through previous agreements. In a separate but related development, security forces in the region have stepped up their vigilance. Following an exchange of fire with terrorists in the Panjirthi area of Kathua, a joint operation involving the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was launched.

Jaiswal to Depart Mumbai Cricket, Take Over as Goa's Captain Next Season: Sources

Indian opening batter Yashasvi Jaiswal has reportedly decided to change his state team.

New Delhi: In a stunning turn of events, Indian cricketer Yashasvi Jaiswal has decided to bid farewell to his longtime state team, Mumbai, and join Goa for the



upcoming domestic cricket season. This bold move marks a significant shift in his career trajectory, as he prepares to don the Goa jersey in a bid to explore new opportunities. Jaiswal, known for his meteoric rise in Indian cricket, has applied for a No Objection Certificate from the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), signaling the end of an era for him in Mumbai. Yashasvi Jaiswal has been an integral part of the Mumbai cricket setup since his under-19 days, making a name for himself with

impressive performances in domestic competitions. His decision to leave Mumbai and join Goa comes on the heels of other notable players like Arjun Tendulkar and Siddhesh Lad, who have also made the switch in recent years. Jaiswal's participation in the 2024-25 Ranji Trophy, following an underwhelming performance in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, was part of the BCCI's initiative to ensure star players contribute to domestic red-ball cricket. Jaiswal's recent form in the Indian Premier

League (IPL) has been underwhelming, with just 34 runs in three matches for the Rajasthan Royals during IPL 2025. His past season with the Royals was equally challenging, with 435 runs at an average of 31.07 and a strike rate of nearly 156. Despite these challenges, Jaiswal remains one of India's most promising talents, having made his Test debut in 2023. His move to Goa may provide him with a fresh canvas to explore his captaincy skills, as rumors suggest he could take on a leadership role in Goa.



ISL Semi-Finals Kick Off: Bengaluru FC and FC Goa Battle for Supremacy

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: As the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 reaches its pivotal moment, Bengaluru FC is set to host FC Goa at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in the first leg of their semi-final showdown. This encounter marks a significant juncture for both teams, with Bengaluru entering the fray after an emphatic 5-0 win over Mumbai City FC in the playoffs, while FC Goa secured a strong second-place finish in the league standings.

Bengaluru FC's impressive victory was a testament to their strength and tactical prowess under head coach Gerard Zaragoza. The Blues have been unbeatable at home against FC Goa, remaining unbeaten in their last six matches at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium. However, FC Goa has been resurgent

in recent matches, going unbeaten in their last four encounters with Bengaluru, with two wins and two draws.

Zaragoza stands on the cusp of history, as he could become only the third coach in ISL history to win his first two playoff games if Bengaluru emerges victorious against FC Goa. Historically, FC Goa boasts an impressive playoff record, having scored 22 goals, tied with Bengaluru FC, and only behind Chennaiyin FC. Both teams are led by key players, with Bengaluru's Sunil Chhetri one goal away from becoming the leading scorer in the fixture, and FC Goa's Iker Guarrotxena nearing his best ISL season tally. The head-to-head statistics between the two teams show a closely contested rivalry, with Bengaluru winning seven matches and FC Goa five out of 17 encounters.

Shreyas Iyer Deserved More Credit: Sunil Gavaskar

Shreyas Iyer scored his second half-century of IPL 2025 as Punjab Kings comfortably defeated Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday.

New Delhi: The Indian Premier League (IPL) is once again abuzz with stellar performances, and at the forefront is Shreyas Iyer, whose batting prowess has been electrifying.

Recently, Iyer scored his second half-century of IPL 2025, helping the Punjab Kings secure a commanding victory over the Lucknow Super

Giants. This impressive display earned him praise from cricket legends like Sunil Gavaskar, who highlighted that Iyer did not receive the credit he deserved for leading the Kolkata Knight Riders to a title win in 2024.

As captain of KKR in the previous season, Iyer played a pivotal role, not just with his bat but also with his leadership

skills. Gavaskar emphasized that despite his achievements, Iyer remained underappreciated.

"Shreyas was the captain of the KKR side that won in 2024, and I believe that he did not get the credit that he deserved.

His captaincy record is quite impressive," Gavaskar noted.



Rajgir Ready for Action: Hosting the Prestigious Hockey Asia Cup

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Hockey India and the Bihar State Sports Authority was signed on Monday to finalise the historic city as the venue for the marquee event.

New Delhi: In a historic decision, Rajgir has been chosen as the host city for the prestigious Hockey Men's Asia Cup, setting the stage for a thrilling competition that will determine which Asian team will secure a coveted spot in the 2026 FIH World Cup, jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands.

This tournament, a beacon of excellence in Asian hockey, promises high-stakes matches filled with passion and skill. As the festivities unfold from August 29 to September 7, 2025,



the city of Rajgir will once again prove its mettle as an exceptional host, following the successful conduct of the women's Asian Champions Trophy. The Memorandum of

Understanding signed between Hockey India and the Bihar State Sports Authority formalized Rajgir's selection, marking a significant milestone for Indian hockey.

Ambaulim Quepem Beats JK Caterers 3-1

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a thrilling kickoff to the 18th Rebello Pandal All Goa Football tournament, Ambaulim Quepem secured a decisive 3-1 victory over JK Caterers Maina. This inaugural match set the stage for an exciting tournament, showcasing the skills of both teams at the St. Rita Church ground, Maina.

The tournament, organized by Rebello Pandal Maina, began on a high note with intense competition between the two teams. Ambaulim Quepem's early lead was crucial, as Selton Fernandes struck the first goal in the 5th minute with a powerful shot that left JK Caterers' goalkeeper helpless.

This initial success



did not deter JK Caterers, as Joywin's aggressive play resulted in a shot that was deflected by Ambaulim's goalkeeper Ivon Fernandes, ending the first half with a score of 1-0 in favor of Ambaulim. In the second half, both teams escalated their efforts, but Ambaulim managed to increase their lead. Dylon Fernandes scored in the 40th minute, pushing the

score to 2-0. JK Caterers refused to give up and managed to narrow the gap when Joywin scored in the 55th minute, reducing the deficit to 2-1. However, Ambaulim sealed their victory with a third goal by Bradley Fernandes in injury time. The tournament was officially opened by sports reporter Inacio Noronha, highlighting the event's significance.