



Oppn Uproar Over Coal Exports, Green Cess, Govt Denies Violation

■ GSPCB monitoring coal operations: Env Min

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: A stormy debate erupted in the Goa Legislative Assembly on Friday over alleged irregularities in coal exports from the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA), with the Opposition accusing the government of facilitating illegal operations and failing to enforce environmental norms.

Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao led the charge, alleging that companies like Jindal and Adani have been granted permission to increase their coal handling capacities by the GSPCB," he said.



He specifically raised concerns over the coal and coke handling operations of South West Port Ltd., demanding clarity on berth allotments, permissions issued, cess collected, and whether the



coal handling thresholds set by the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) were being breached.

Alemao accused the government of not collecting even a single

rupee as green cess from coal handling companies and claimed that the failure amounted to a deliberate lapse in enforcement.

His remarks triggered an uproar in the



House, with Opposition members storming the Well and forcing a ten-minute adjournment of proceedings.

Environment Minister Aleixo Sequeira responded to the

allegations, firmly denying any violations. "Neither MPA nor companies such as Jindal and Adani have been granted permission to increase their coal handling capacities by the GSPCB," he said.

Sequeira asserted that the government had mandated strict pollution control measures, including the installation of domes over coal stacks, closed conveyor belt systems, and bypass arrangements to reduce dust and emissions during coal transportation.

"These steps have already led to a noticeable

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

CM assures to ramp up support for farmers; Mancurad Mango GI tag in final Stage

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Friday informed the Assembly that the state government is providing various subsidies to boost the agriculture and horticulture sectors in Goa, with an emphasis on mechanisation, manual paddy transplantation, and promotion of local crops like the Mankurad mango.

Highlighting increased financial assistance to farmers, the Chief Minister said the number of Kisan Credit Cards issued has doubled, giving farmers easier access to credit.

He also noted that payments to farmers have steadily increased, particularly in the horticulture sector, which is witnessing higher participation from Goans due to its profitability.

Dr. Sawant encouraged farmers to take up cultivation of the indigenous Mankurad mango, revealing that the government offers subsidies of ₹2 lakh per hectare for cultivation on rocky land and



₹60,000 per hectare on normal land. He further announced that the process of securing a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the Mancurad mango is in its final stage.

On the matter of paddy cultivation, the Chief Minister said that while mechanised harvesting is currently subsidised, the government will now consider subsidies for manual paddy transplantation under the New Agriculture Policy.

Guidelines will soon be drafted for the same, and the use of MNREGA workers in this area may also be explored.

Responding to concerns raised by MLA Kedar Naik regarding the current harvesting machine time of 1.18

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Goa CM Assures to Draft Coastal Erosion Mitigation Plan

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Taking serious note of recurring beach erosion across Goa, especially during the monsoon season, the state government has initiated steps to draft a comprehensive soil and coastal erosion mitigation plan.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant informed the Assembly that the



proposal, once ready, will be submitted to the Centre for support and implementation. Sawant said the plan will be grounded in scientific research and

long-term sustainability goals, adding, "We are committed to addressing the problem of soil erosion along our beaches. The government will prepare a detailed, actionable plan in

■ Proposal to Be Submitted to Centre

coordination with national agencies and experts." The government has roped in institutions like CSIR-NIO, the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), and other stakeholders to conduct a detailed study of Goa's shoreline. The Department of Environment and Climate Change is leading the effort, with support

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Will review the assured support price for horticulture produce: CM

■ CM Assures Proposal Will Be Sought from Agri Dept and Horticulture Corporation for Long-Pending Price Revision

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Goa government is set to examine key reforms to bolster the state's agricultural sector, as issues related to support prices, subsidies, and farmer empowerment dominated the Assembly discussions.

Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas criticised the minimal increase of ₹2 in the support price



for paddy cultivation, demanding a hike of ₹30 to make it more viable for farmers. In response, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant clarified that the ₹2 hike was a Central Government move, but assured that the State

Government is already offering additional support to farmers.

Mandrem MLA Jit Arolkar raised concerns over the assured support price of coconuts, saying the current ₹15 per nut was too low. He urged

an increase to ₹30 to benefit local producers. Agriculture Minister Ravi Naik assured the House that the suggestion would be considered.

On the education and training front,

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

A Welcome Step, But Goa's Land Revenue Bill Must Be Backed by Transparency and Accountability

The passage of the Goa Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025, marks a major turning point in the state's long and often contentious history of land rights. By introducing Section 38A, the government has attempted to provide long-awaited legal relief to thousands of Goan families who have built homes on government or granted land before February 28, 2014. On paper, the intent is commendable: to regularise homes that have stood for decades, offering legal protection to families who might otherwise be living in bureaucratic limbo. However, while the legislation provides much-needed clarity and security, it also raises important questions about transparency, implementation, and equity.

A Positive Framework, But Not a Cure-All

The core provision — empowering Deputy Collectors to issue Class I Occupancy certificates based on application and payment — introduces a structured pathway to legalise such properties. Limiting regularisation to the house's plinth area plus a modest buffer of 2 metres on each side (with a cap of 400 sq. mtrs) ensures the process does not become a backdoor for legalising illegal land grabs or speculative encroachments. The mandatory surrender of excess land and a 20-year prohibition on sale or transfer are, in theory, important safeguards to prevent real estate profiteering. Yet, implementation is everything.

Discretion and the Danger of Rent-Seeking

While the Deputy Collector is now empowered to issue Occupancy Certificates, the Bill does not lay down any detailed procedural transparency or accountability mechanisms. This opens the door to discretionary interpretation, and in a state where land-related corruption is not unheard of, such discretionary powers must be tightly regulated. Without oversight, these powers could easily be abused — not to serve genuine homeowners, but to benefit well-connected individuals or those willing to pay under the table.

Additionally, no grievance redressal mechanism or appellate body has been outlined for those who may be denied regularisation unfairly or are unable to afford the "occupancy price." This omission could push vulnerable families further into distress or legal limbo.

Who Truly Benefits?

One of the larger concerns is whether this legislation will genuinely serve low- and middle-income families, or whether it will primarily benefit politically

"The core provision — empowering Deputy Collectors to issue Class I Occupancy certificates based on application and payment — introduces a structured pathway to legalise such properties. Limiting regularisation to the house's plinth area plus a modest buffer of 2 metres on each side (with a cap of 400 sq. mtrs) ensures the process does not become a backdoor for legalising illegal land grabs or speculative encroachments. The mandatory surrender of excess land and a 20-year prohibition on sale or transfer are, in theory, important safeguards to prevent real estate profiteering. Yet, implementation is everything." The core provision — empowering Deputy Collectors to issue Class I Occupancy certificates based on application and payment — introduces a structured pathway to legalise such properties. Limiting regularisation to the house's plinth area plus a modest buffer of 2 metres on each side (with a cap of 400 sq. mtrs) ensures the process does not become a backdoor for legalising illegal land grabs or speculative encroachments. The mandatory surrender of excess land and a 20-year prohibition on sale or transfer are, in theory, important safeguards to prevent real estate profiteering. Yet, implementation is everything." actions may well have served to propel me to make that call on my future in 2023. But despite all that ha

connected individuals and land speculators who occupied government land before the 2014 cut-off. It's important to remember that not all "long-standing" homes were built out of desperation or due to lack of alternatives — some were constructed knowingly on government land with the hope of future regularisation.

This is not to dismiss the real struggles of many Goan families — especially in rural and semi-urban areas — who built modest homes decades ago, with no formal title but often with community knowledge and informal acceptance. For them, this law offers dignity and security. However, if implementation does not actively prioritise such families, and instead becomes a tool for selectively regularising larger, more profitable parcels, the very spirit of the legislation will be undermined.

The Risk of Future Abuse Another concern is the precedent this Bill sets. By legalising past encroachments — however well-intentioned — the state risks encouraging future unauthorised construction in the hope of eventual regularisation. While the February 2014 cut-off date provides a limit, the long history of land disputes in Goa shows how quickly such deadlines can be challenged or shifted politically. The government must send a clear message: this is a one-time opportunity, not a recurring amnesty.

What's Missing: Data, Transparency, and Dialogue

What's notably absent is any public database of eligible properties or clear guidelines for application, pricing, and verification. The entire process must be digitised, transparent, and subject to audit. Public confidence in this law will depend on the fairness and accessibility of its execution.

The government must also initiate public awareness campaigns, particularly in rural and low-income communities, to inform residents of their rights and the process involved. Without proactive outreach, the very people this law is meant to protect may be left behind — again.

Conclusion: A Step in the Right Direction, If Followed Through

The Goa Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is a significant move towards legalising and protecting long-standing homes — a goal that many successive governments have failed to achieve. But passing a law is only the beginning. What matters now is how equitably, transparently, and honestly it is implemented.

If done right, the Bill could restore dignity to thousands of Goan families. If mishandled, it risks becoming yet another tool for land speculation and political patronage. The choice — and responsibility — lies squarely with the government.

OPINION

Dev Borem Korum, Shri Amit Bhai Shah Ji

By Irfan Iqbal Gheta

Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah for a historic and deeply symbolic gesture: for the first time since Goa attained statehood, the Government of Goa has received an official letter from the Government of India written in Konkani — Goa's official and beloved mother tongue.

Calling it a moment of immense pride for every Goemkar, Dr. Sawant lauded the recognition of Konkani at the national level, highlighting that such acknowledgement by the Union Home Minister reflects a deep understanding of the emotional and cultural significance of regional languages.

Speaking to the press, Dr. Sawant's joy was unmistakable as he recalled another proud milestone earlier in July, when two women from Canacona — Samiksha Velip and Gauri Mavlingkar — were appointed as Konkani interpreters in the Lok Sabha. This, he said, was the result of sustained efforts by the state government to promote and preserve Goa's linguistic heritage.

"This is not just a symbolic gesture; it's a powerful message," said the Chief Minister, emphasizing that the move reaffirms the central government's commitment to India's linguistic diversity.

At a time when the national debate on the three-language policy has sparked tensions in states like Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, where concerns have been raised about the perceived imposition of Hindi at the cost of regional languages, this letter in Konkani stands out. In Tamil Nadu, resistance to Hindi has a long history, while in Maharashtra, recent controversies surrounding language instruction have fueled similar sentiments. In this context, the letter from Shri Amit Shah in Konkani sends a nuanced but clear message: the Union Government is not interested in linguistic hegemony but in promoting harmony through mutual respect. It underscores the NDA government's belief in linguistic equality — "All languages are equal." Dr. Sawant concluded by saying that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, India's regional languages are entering a golden era. "Dev Borem Korum, Shri Amit Bhai Shah, for recognising the sentiments of Konkani speakers and bringing immense joy to the people of Goa," he said.

Goa Assembly Passes Landmark Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025

■ New law offers legal recognition to homes built on government land before February 28, 2014; prohibits sale for 20 years and mandates surrender of excess land.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Goa Legislative Assembly has passed the Goa Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025, in a major step toward providing legal security to thousands of long-standing homeowners across the state. The legislation introduces Section 38A, allowing for the regularisation of dwelling houses built on government land prior to February 28, 2014.

The new provision empowers the Deputy Collector to grant Class I Occupancy rights upon application and payment of an occupancy fee. The regularisation process will apply strictly to the plinth area of the house, plus an additional two metres on each side, capped at a maximum of 400 square metres. Under the legislation, any excess land beyond the permissible limit



must be surrendered before regularisation is granted. Additionally, the law prohibits the sale or transfer of such regularised properties for a period of 20 years.

To ensure compliance, the law includes stringent provisions against false declarations, which will lead to revocation of occupancy rights and imposition of penalties.

The bill has been welcomed as a long-overdue corrective measure, providing legal clarity and relief to many Goan families living on government or granted lands for decades.

Key points....

- ▶ Goa Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025 Legal Security for Long-Standing Homes
- ▶ New Section 38A introduced to regularise dwelling houses built on Government land before 28th February 2014
- ▶ Deputy Collector empowered to issue Class I Occupancy on application & payment of occupancy price
- ▶ Regularisation limited to plinth area + 2m on each side, max 400 sq. m
- ▶ Excess land must be surrendered before regularisation
- ▶ No sale/transfer allowed for 20 years
- ▶ False declarations lead to revocation & penalties

Goa Government Notifies Land for High-End Resort Development at Reis Magos

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: In a key development, the Goa government has notified approximately 31,280 square metres of land at Reis Magos in Bardez as an Investment Promotion Area (IPA) to facilitate the development of luxury resorts.

The move, aimed at promoting high-end tourism infrastructure, comes following a proposal by M/s Spark Healthline Pvt Ltd. The project entails the construction of five-star and four-star resorts, complete with hotel buildings, multi-level car parking structures, landscaping, and an approach road.

The notified area falls under Survey No. 95/1-A (part) of Reis Magos village. The Investment Promotion and Facilitation Board (IPB) had earlier



granted in-principle approval for the project and had recommended notifying the area as an IPA.

Following a period of public consultation, the Directorate of Industries issued the official notification on Thursday. According to the notification, objections raised during the feedback period were classified as "insufficient" and "invalid." Under the Goa Investment Promotion and Facilitation of Single Window Clearance Act, 2021, local authority laws related to building control, taxation, and other regulations will not apply in the declared area.

Goa Leads Healthcare Transformation With Tech-Driven, Inclusive Initiatives: Vishwajit

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa's healthcare system has seen a transformative shift under the leadership of Health Minister Vishwajit Rane, who on Thursday outlined a series of significant milestones and initiatives that have positioned the state as a pioneer in digital, preventive, and inclusive healthcare delivery.

The Minister proudly declared Corlim PHC as India's first fully digitised Primary Health Centre, setting a national precedent for electronic medical records, teleconsultation, and streamlined services at the grassroots.

"This is a milestone for primary care in the country," he said. In emergency healthcare, Goa has saved over 1.38 lakh lives with its enhanced ambulance fleet and quick response system. From just 32 ambulances, the state now operates 103, achieving an average response time

Will Release White Paper on Land Conversions: TCP Min Rane

Rane stated that during his tenure as TCP Minister, approximately 16-17 lakh square meters of land have been converted. In comparison, he highlighted that prior to his term, around 1.50 crore square meters were converted, including 9.5 crore square meters during the tenure of the previous Congress government



Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Town and Country Planning (TCP) Minister Vishwajit Rane on Wednesday announced that the government will soon release a white paper detailing land conversions carried out in the state.

Rane stated that during his tenure as TCP Minister, approximately 16-17 lakh square meters of land have been converted. In comparison, he highlighted that prior to his term, around 1.50 crore square meters were converted, including 9.5 crore square meters during the tenure of the previous Congress government.

The white paper is expected to provide a comprehensive overview and transparency regarding land use changes in Goa.

of 12 minutes. Over 5,000 emergency deliveries have been carried out

in-transit, reaffirming the state's commitment to life-saving care.

Goa Faces ₹10,000 Crore Land Scam Allegation in Quepem

■ Vijai Sardesai Points to "Mayanagiri" Linked to Mayawati's Family
■ Opposition alleges illegal transfer of 10 lakh sq. mtrs. of Comunidade land to company owned by Mayawati's brother; calls it Goa's biggest land grab echoing "UP-style loot"

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: In a stunning revelation during the ongoing Assembly session, Goa Forward Party MLA Vijai Sardesai has alleged a ₹10,000 crore land scam in Quepem involving nearly 10 lakh square metres of prime Comunidade land. Sardesai claims the land has been illegally transferred to V&A Ventures Pvt. Ltd., a company owned by Mahesh Kumar — brother of former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati and a known BJP ally.

Terming it the largest-ever Comunidade land scam in the state, Sardesai dubbed the deal a "UP-style land grab transplanted into Goa" and warned that Quepem was at risk of becoming "Mayanagiri" — a political fiefdom controlled by out-of-state interests.

Alleged Illegal Transfer of Ancestral Land



Sardesai's Demands

The MLA has called for

- Immediate cancellation of fraudulent decrees and Form X entries
- Annulment of all sale deeds linked to V&A Ventures
- Restoration of ownership to the Comunidade of Quepem
- A full-scale probe into political and bureaucratic complicity

The controversy centers on a 2001 consent decree and a subsequent 2003 Form X mutation, which Sardesai alleges illegally alienated Comunidade land in Deao village — covering Survey Nos. 88/1, 89/0, 84/0, 85/0, 90/1, 94/0, and 109/0. The land is said to have passed through various entities — Aarpee Logistics, Aldeia Branca Pvt. Ltd., Millfields Developers — before ending up with

V&A Ventures.

"This isn't just a scam, it's the birth of a private empire — Mayanagiri — on Goa's ancestral soil," Sardesai said.

Bigger Than Zuari?

Real estate valuers estimate the land's worth at over ₹10,000 crore, even at a conservative rate of ₹10,000 per square metre. "This is Zuari 2.0 on steroids," said a senior property valuer familiar with South Goa's land market.

Fire at Sanvordem Petrol Pump Averted

■ Curchorem Fire Brigade Prevents Major Disaster

Team Goemkarponn

Sanvordem: A major disaster was narrowly averted this afternoon at the House of Petroleum fuel station in Sanvordem after a generator caught fire, reportedly due to a battery short circuit. The generator was situated alarmingly close to the underground petrol storage tank, raising fears of a potential explosion.

Thanks to the swift and efficient response by the Curchorem Fire Brigade, the fire was brought under control before it could reach the fuel reserves. Fire officials confirmed that, had the blaze spread to the underground tank, the resulting explosion could have impacted an area within a 1-kilometre radius.

The Curchorem Police have launched



an investigation into the cause of the fire and are currently assessing the safety compliance measures at the petrol pump. Fortunately, no injuries have been reported in the incident. repair and maintenance under a tender floated by WAPCOS on July 8, 2025.

Meanwhile, the Cortalim Jetty, along with

fish landing centres at Talpona and Cutbona, has been included in a proposal submitted to the Union Ministry of Fisheries for funding under the PMMSY. Approval is awaited.

As per PMMSY guidelines, the construction or modernization of jetties requires state governments to

undertake site selection, socio-economic surveys, environmental clearance, and post-construction operation and maintenance commitments.

These infrastructure upgrades aim to bolster Goa's marine fisheries sector, improve livelihoods of local fishermen, and increase efficiency in fish handling and transport.

Fatal Accident Near Dhargal; 18-Year-Old Scooter Rider Dies After Being Hit by Bus

Team Goemkarponn

Pernem: Pernem Police have registered a fatal accident case under Cr. No. 53/2025 U/S 281, 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, following a tragic incident on National Highway 66 near Don Khamb, Dhargal.

According to the state complaint lodged by HC-4700 P. C. Tuyekar, the accident occurred at around 2:10 PM on Tuesday, when a Tata passenger bus (MH-14-KQ-9753), driven by Udaysingh Powar (43), a resident of Kolhapur, Maharashtra, rammed into the rear of a Yamaha Fascino scooter (GA-03-AG-5628) traveling in the same direction.

The impact caused the scooter rider, Sudeep Paikar (18), a resident of Bhattiwada, Nerul, Bardez, to fall on the road and sustain severe head injuries. He was being referred to North District



Hospital in Mapusa for treatment but tragically succumbed to his injuries en route.

The accused driver has been booked for driving in a rash and negligent manner, endangering human life. Investigation Officer PSI Pravin Simepurushkar of Pernem Police Station is conducting further inquiries. Godinho confirmed that no formal Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model or MoU exists beyond the GCC agreements for the procurement or maintenance of the EV buses.

Man Arrested for Cheating Casino of 6.75 Lakh in Calangute; Traced to Haryana

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Calangute Police have arrested one Shri Pankaj Sachdeva for allegedly cheating a casino in Candolim of ₹6.75 lakh. The case was registered under Cr. No. 39/2025 U/S 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, on the basis of a complaint filed by Mr. Loyal Pradeep D'Souza, Manager of Phoenix Casino at Saipem, Candolim.

As per the complaint, in the early hours of February 27, 2025, the accused allegedly took ₹6.75 lakh from the casino's cash desk without the knowledge or consent of his friend, Shri Tanishq Bansal. He proceeded to gamble with ₹4 lakh, which he lost, and fled the premises with the remaining ₹2.75 lakh, thereby cheating the casino.

Through scientific investigation techniques,



the accused was traced to his hometown in Haryana.

A police team from Calangute Police Station, headed by PSI Harish Vaigankar and comprising PC-6644 Vijay Naik and PC-7522 Gaurav Chodankar, travelled to Haryana and successfully apprehended the accused after intensive efforts.

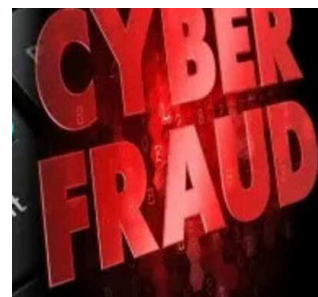
The accused was produced before the Hon'ble JMFC Court in Mapusa and has been remanded to four days in police custody. The investigation is being carried out by PSI Prajit Mandrekar under the supervision of PI Paresh Naik of Calangute Police Station, with overall supervision by SDPO Porvorim Shri Vishwesh Karpe and SP North Shri Rahul Gupta, IPS.

Cyber Crime Police Bust Digital Arrest Fraud; Accused Arrested in 25.5 Lakh Scam

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Cyber Crime Police Station, Goa, has arrested a key accused involved in a high-value cyber fraud case amounting to ₹25,50,000/-

The offence was registered under Crime No. 23/2025, U/S 318(4), 319(2) r/w 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Section



66-D of the IT Act, based on a complaint filed by a resident of Vasco da Gama, South Goa.

The accused, using WhatsApp numbers 995XXXX993, 912XXXX251, and 98XXXX77, impersonated officers from TRAI and the CBI.

He falsely claimed that the complainant's Aadhaar number was linked to money laundering activities and placed the victim under so-called digital arrest.

Through threats and coercion, the complainant was made to transfer ₹25.5 lakh via RTGS transactions.

Following detailed technical and financial analysis, the police identified and tracked down the accused Mr. S. Rakesh, a resident of Vinayaka Nagar, Banashankari, South Bengaluru.

Goa Woman Duped of 97 Lakh in 'Digital Arrest' Cyber Fraud; Accused Arrested from Surat

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: In a major breakthrough, the Cyber Crime Police Station, Goa, has arrested a 23-year-old man from Surat, Gujarat, for allegedly defrauding a woman from Tiswadi, North Goa, of ₹97 lakh through a cyber fraud scheme involving impersonation and coercion.

The accused,

identified as Arhasad Aiyyub Shaikh, allegedly posed as an official from TRAI and the CBI using WhatsApp numbers and convinced the victim that her SIM card was linked to human trafficking activities.

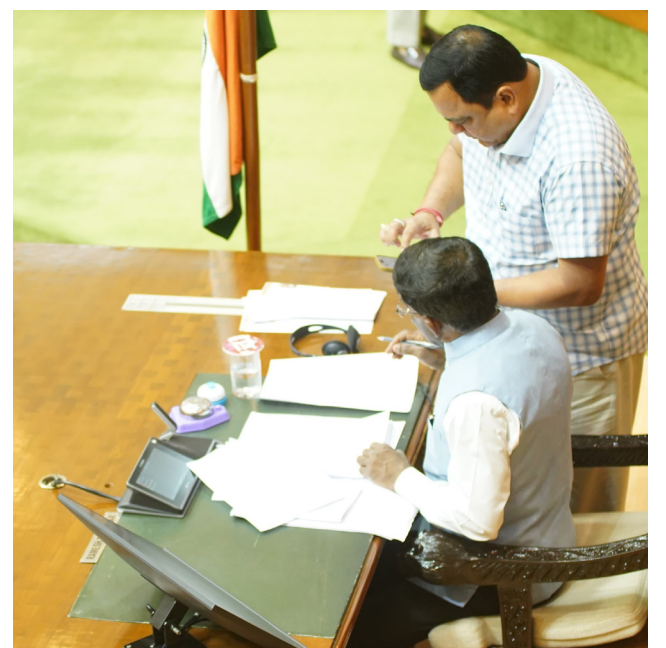
Claiming she was placed under "digital arrest," the fraudsters coerced her into transferring ₹97 lakh via RTGS in

two transactions—₹51 lakh to one YES Bank account and ₹46 lakh to another. The case has been registered under Crime No. 18/2025 under Sections 318(4), 319(2) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and Section 66-D of the IT Act.

The arrest was made by a Cyber Cell team led by PSI Navin Naik, along with PC Sunil Renati and

PC Yash Kole, under the guidance of PI Deepak Pednekar and senior officials ASP Akshat Ayush, IPS, and SP Rahul Gupta, IPS. During the investigation, it was found that the accused had received ₹51 lakh in his account, which is linked to multiple cases across Maharashtra, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka and Goa.





Elon Musk's Starlink Receives Approval to Launch Satellite Internet in India

■ Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said telephone connections in the country now stand at 1.2 billion, and internet subscriptions have surged by nearly 286 per cent to 970 million.

New Delhi: In a major boost to satellite communication services in India, Elon Musk-led Starlink has been granted a Unified License to offer satellite-based internet connectivity in the country. Announcing the development, Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia confirmed that frameworks for spectrum allocation and ground gateway installations are already in place to ensure a smooth rollout of Starlink's services.

The announcement came on the eve of the 30th anniversary of India's first cellular call, made in 1995. Alongside Starlink, other major players like Bharti Group-backed Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio SES are also awaiting final spectrum allocation to commence their satellite communications operations.

Highlighting India's digital transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Mr. Scindia noted that telecom and internet penetration has reached unprecedented levels. Telephone connections now stand at 1.2 billion, while internet



subscriptions have soared by nearly 286% to 970 million. Broadband usage has seen an exponential rise—up by 1,450%—from 60 million in 2014 to 944 million users in 2025. Additionally, the cost of mobile data has plummeted by 96.6%, making India the most affordable market globally, with an average cost of just ₹8.9 per GB.

The minister also underscored the turnaround of state-run BSNL, which has posted consecutive net profits of ₹262 crore and ₹280 crore in FY 2024–25 for the first time in 18 years. Over 83,000 4G sites have been deployed—74,000 of which are already operational—using fully indigenous technology. Enhanced infrastructure and AI-driven systems have significantly improved service

standards and response times across the network. India's rapid 5G expansion was another major highlight, covering 99.6% of districts with 4.74 lakh towers and over 300 million users.

The country also leads globally in per capita 5G consumption at 32 GB per month and is among the top six nations in 6G patent filings. Investments under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme have reached ₹4,305 crore, generating over ₹85,000 crore in sales and creating more than 28,000 jobs. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector has nearly tripled, increasing from USD 282 million to USD 710 million.

Industry leaders welcomed the milestone. SP Kochhar, Director General of the Cellular Operators Association

of India (COAI), said India's telecom sector has evolved into the world's second-largest market, with over 1.2 billion subscribers and world-class infrastructure. He noted that the country has moved from 2G beginnings to achieving over 99% district-wide coverage in 5G. HFCL Managing Director Mahendra Nahata emphasized how India, once a follower in 2G and 3G eras, has now emerged as a global leader with the fastest 5G rollout. He expressed confidence in India's ambition to not only adopt but also define global standards for 6G technology.

Echoing this vision, Paritosh Prajapati, CEO of GX Group, hailed the growing self-reliance of India's telecom sector. He credited initiatives like the PLI scheme for transforming India into not just a consumer but also a designer and manufacturer of cutting-edge telecom technologies. Looking ahead, he said the next three decades could truly belong to a self-reliant India leading innovation on the global stage.



SEBI and NSE Launch #SEBIvsSCAM Campaign to Curb Financial Frauds

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: In a major step towards investor protection, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), in collaboration with the National Stock Exchange (NSE), has launched a nationwide investor awareness campaign titled #SEBIvsSCAM. The initiative is designed to educate retail investors about financial scams and promote safer investment practices, reinforcing SEBI's commitment to safeguarding the interests of the investing public.

The campaign comes at a time when digital financial frauds are growing in complexity and frequency. Fraudsters are leveraging advanced technologies such as deepfake videos, fake trading apps, and deceptive social media tips to lure investors. Common scams include promises of guaranteed or abnormally high returns, pump-and-

dump schemes, dabba trading, and fake foreign investment opportunities. These fraudulent practices have caused significant financial harm to countless individuals, eroding trust in the securities market. #SEBIvsSCAM aims to build investor awareness by highlighting these threats and guiding the public on how to identify, avoid, and report such scams. The campaign emphasizes the importance of verifying information sources, recognizing red flags, and adopting safe investing habits to ensure informed decision-making.

To maximize its reach, the campaign will be promoted across a variety of media platforms including television, radio, print, digital, and social media. Furthermore, the NSE will conduct Investor Awareness Programs (IAPs) in physical, virtual, and hybrid formats to reach audiences across both urban and rural regions.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Oppn Uproar Over Coal Exports, Green Cess, Govt Denies Violation

improvement in air quality in Vasco over the last two to three months," he claimed, adding that the situation is under continuous monitoring and no permissions have been granted in violation of environmental regulations. Despite the government's clarification, the Opposition remained dissatisfied, insisting on

greater transparency, public disclosure of data related to coal handling, and strict enforcement of pollution control norms. Alemao reiterated that the House must be informed of the exact quantity of coal handled, cess collected, and the environmental compliance status of all firms operating at the port.

CM assures to ramp up support for farmers; Mancurad Mango GI tag in final Stage

hours per hectare, Agriculture Minister Ravi Naik assured that this would be extended to

1.30 hours and additional subsidies for crop cultivation would also be made available.

Goa CM Assures to Draft Coastal Erosion Mitigation Plan

from the Water Resources Department and coastal engineering experts. The issue came into sharp focus after MLA Kedar Naik raised concerns about severe erosion at Harmal Beach in Pernem, warning that it threatens local tourism and livelihoods. "Immediate steps are needed before more damage is done," Naik

said. MLA Jit Arolkar also stressed the urgency, stating that beaches are shrinking year after year due to climate change and stronger monsoon tides. "This is not just seasonal—it's becoming permanent. We need a long-term solution," Arolkar said. To explore softer coastal protection methods, a workshop was

held last November with Dutch institute Deltares, focusing on options like beach nourishment and the innovative sand motor technology. A committee of experts has since been formed to finalize pilot stretches for implementation. Additionally, the Water Resources Department has completed a shoreline management study under

the National Hydrology Project, while an ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Management Plan is in the works to protect ecologically critical coastal zones. The state government has assured it is working on both short- and long-term measures, aiming not only to protect the coastline but also the livelihoods and economy that depend on it.

Will review the assured support price for horticulture produce: CM

the government has introduced Agriculture as a subject at the secondary level, with mandatory field visits. CM Sawant said the state is actively promoting agri-clinics to provide expert guidance to farmers. One such clinic has already been launched, and agriculture graduates can now avail loans up

to ₹20 lakh to set up such ventures. Chief Minister Sawant also stated that Goa is among the few states that procure and sell produce directly from farmers on a large scale, a model not even followed by many agriculture-heavy states. He credited the government's dedicated corporation for the success of this

initiative. Responding to Mandrem MLA Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco, who flagged the inadequacy of ₹1 lakh loans for ST farmers and called for increasing the loan amount to ₹5 lakh and subsidies from 50% to 80%, Agriculture Minister Naik assured that the concerns would be reviewed sympathetically.

Trump Unveils Revised Tariff Plan: India Stuck at 25%, Pakistan Gets Relief

■ The order said that goods from all other countries not listed in an annex would be subject to a 10 per cent US tariff rate.

New Delhi: In a sweeping move to reshape global trade in favor of American businesses, former U.S. President Donald Trump has signed a new executive order imposing revised import tariffs on dozens of countries. The updated list raises duties as high as 50% on certain goods, with India retaining a 25% tariff while Pakistan sees a significant reduction—from 29% to 19%.

The new tariff rates, which range from 10%

to 50%, will take effect in seven days and target 69 trading partners.

Nations not specifically listed in the accompanying annex will be subjected to a standard 10% import duty. India: Stays at a 25% tariff as talks with Washington falter over agricultural market access and continued purchases of Russian oil. The U.S. is also considering additional penalties related to India's ties with Russia. Despite ongoing negotiations, New Delhi has pledged to



protect its labour-heavy farm sector, sparking political backlash at home and causing a slump in the Indian rupee.

Pakistan: Receives a relief, with tariffs cut from 29% to 19%, despite ongoing trade concern

Brazil: Hit with a steep 50% tariff, reportedly over the country's prosecution of former President Jair Bolsonaro, a Trump ally. However, key Brazilian sectors like aircraft, energy, and orange juice are exempted.

• South Korea: Struck a deal with the Trump administration, accepting a 15% tariff on exports, including autos—down from a proposed 25%—in exchange for a commitment to invest \$350 billion in U.S. projects.

68 Crore Fake Bank Guarantee Scam: ED Raids Firms Tied to Anil Ambani

■ The ED on Thursday evening conducted a series of search operations across four premises—three in Bhubaneswar and one in Kolkata.

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday strongly defended the government's actions following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, asserting that India had not declared war on Pakistan but instead launched a "limited aggression" under Operation Sindoor to target terror infrastructure.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Shah said, "We did not declare war against Pakistan. What ceasefire are they talking about? It was a targeted, legitimate response to terrorism—a matter of



self-defence."

He emphasized that India's actions were precise and concluded once their objectives were achieved, adding that no third country intervened during the operation. "We hit back decisively. Pakistan pleaded for a ceasefire after we had achieved 100% of our objectives," Shah said.

"A Proud and Satisfying Moment": ISRO Chief on Historic NISAR Satellite Launch

■ India and the US launched the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar Satellite (NISAR) - the most expensive civilian Earth observation satellite ever built - on Wednesday.

New Delhi: India's space capabilities received a major boost with the successful launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite—the most expensive civilian Earth observation satellite ever built, valued at \$1.3 billion. The satellite was launched aboard India's GSLV F-16 rocket from Sriharikota, marking a landmark moment in Indo-US space collaboration.

ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan described the mission as a "highly satisfying and exciting moment", reflecting on both the technical achievement and the emotional journey that led to liftoff. "Each launch is important, and since it was a new vehicle configuration for us, I was a little tense. But now I'm relaxed," he said.

The NISAR satellite boasts cutting-edge technology, including a dual-frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar system—the L-band built by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and the S-band developed by ISRO. Its 12-meter unfurlable antenna, resembling a giant umbrella, represents



a major technological breakthrough. The launch was also unique in its sun-synchronous polar orbit, a first for the GSLV rocket, which had previously only been used for geosynchronous missions.

"This was the 102nd launch from Sriharikota and the 18th using GSLV, but the first into a sun-synchronous orbit," he noted. ISRO's responsibilities extended beyond radar development—it built the entire spacecraft, including the structure, power systems, inertial systems, and propulsion. "ISRO built the satellite. NASA built the radar payload. Our rocket placed it in orbit.

That's what makes this mission truly special," he added. The NISAR project represents one of the most significant examples of scientific cooperation.

India Pulls Out of F-35 Deal After Trump's 25% Tariff Shock: Report

■ India has reportedly decided against buying US-made F-35 fighter jets following Donald Trump's 25% tariff on Indian exports, according to a report.

New Delhi: India has reportedly shelved plans to purchase advanced F-35 stealth fighter jets from the United States following former President Donald Trump's announcement of a 25% tariff on Indian exports. Bloomberg, citing sources familiar with the matter, stated that New Delhi is now unlikely to proceed with any major defence procurements from the US in the near future. The development comes after Trump declared that India would face steep tariffs starting August 1, accusing the country of maintaining excessively high tariffs and non-monetary trade barriers.

"India is our friend, but their trade practices have made business very difficult. Their tariffs are among the highest in the world," Trump said, adding that India's close military and energy ties with Russia also influenced his decision.

According to the report, India has communicated to the US its disinterest in acquiring the F-35s—a deal Trump had proposed during Prime Minister



Narendra Modi's visit to Washington in February 2025. Instead, India is reportedly focusing on strengthening domestic defence manufacturing through joint development initiatives, a priority for the Modi government under its 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) mission.

Despite the tariff escalation, India is not planning any immediate countermeasures. Instead, efforts are underway to maintain diplomatic balance and keep trade negotiations on track. Officials quoted in the report said India may increase imports of US natural gas, communication gear, and gold—moves that could help offset its trade surplus with the US over the next few years.

The former US President also criticized India's long-standing defence and energy partnerships with Russia, stating, "India has always bought the majority of its military equipment from Russia and is one of its largest energy customers. This isn't acceptable while the world is trying to stop the war in Ukraine."

In a sharp comment, Trump added, "I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care."

As tensions rise, the Indian government appears to be treading cautiously, aiming to de-escalate while safeguarding its economic and strategic interests. Jaishankar had used

his time in the Upper House to underline India's growing influence in international counter-terror diplomacy and highlighted how Operation Sindoor was consistent with India's strategic and sovereign rights.

Operation Sindoor was launched in May in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack, targeting terror camps across the Line of Control in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. The opposition had raised several questions during the debate, including referring to U.S. President Donald Trump's recent claims about mediating a ceasefire between India and Pakistan. Rahul Gandhi had earlier accused the Modi government of lacking political will in dealing with Pakistan.

While PM Modi delivered his initial remarks in the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha proceedings were led by Nadda, Shah, and Jaishankar. Tensions escalated during the session, especially after a heat exchange.

Karun Nair Shines on Test Comeback, Coach Praises His Versatility and Resilience

■ So far in the series, Karun Nair has made 183 runs in four Tests and seven innings at an average of 30.50, with a best score of 52

New Delhi: Making a long-awaited return to India's Test side, Karun Nair marked his comeback with a gritty unbeaten half-century on the rain-hit opening day of the fifth Test against England at The Oval. India reached 221/6 at stumps, thanks in large part to a valuable 51-run stand between Nair (52*) and Washington Sundar (19*), after the team was struggling at 153/6.

India's assistant coach, Ryan ten Doeschate, lauded Nair's temperament and adaptability in a post-day press conference. "He has handled the pressure of



returning to Test cricket after a long gap extremely well," said Doeschate.

"He's batted at No. 6, then No. 3, and now No. 5—and has never complained. He just wants to contribute to the team." Nair's half-century came after a series of promising,

yet unconverted, starts earlier in the series. He has now scored 183 runs in four Tests across seven innings at an average of 30.50. His knock at The Oval was his first 50+ score since his memorable unbeaten 303 against England in

Chennai in 2016—nearly 8.5 years ago, spanning 3,147 days.

Doeschate also praised Nair's ability to absorb pressure and play across different batting positions. "He summed up the conditions well. Six is a tough spot to bat, but five suited him today. He's a versatile player, and his mindset is always about what's best for the team."

Earlier in the innings, India faced early setbacks as openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (2) and KL Rahul (14) fell cheaply. Skipper Shubman Gill was run out for 21, and debutant Sudharsan contributed a steady 38.

India Coach Backs Shubman Gill After Costly Run-Out: "These Mistakes Happen"

■ Shubman Gill misjudged a single and was run out for 21 off 35 balls by returning England pacer Gus Atkinson.

New Delhi: India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate has come to the defence of captain Shubman Gill after his unfortunate run-out on Day 1 of the fifth and final Test against England at The Oval. Gill, who has been in sensational form throughout the series, was dismissed for 21 off 35 balls following a misjudged single, brilliantly capitalised on by England pacer Gus Atkinson.

Speaking to the media after stumps, ten Doeschate acknowledged the frustration behind the dismissal but credited Gill's continued brilliance with the bat across the series. "I'm assuming not as frustrating as it is for him. He's in the touch of his life. He made batting look really easy again today for the 40 minutes he was out there," Doeschate said. "But these mistakes do happen.

England bowled well during that little spell." The coach added that the run-out seemed to stem from positive intent rather than recklessness.

"It's about getting the balance right—putting pressure on the fielders and looking for runs where possible. It was a misjudgment, no doubt.

But given his performance throughout the series, we'll let him get



away with that one," he added. Before his dismissal, Gill had already etched his name into the history books. The 25-year-old surpassed Sunil Gavaskar's record of most runs by an Indian captain in a single Test series. Gavaskar had scored 732 runs in the 1978–79 home series against the West Indies.

St Rock YC Majorda Edge Past Parish Youth Nuvem in Thrilling Tiebreaker to Enter Quarterfinals

Team Goemkarponn

Betalbatim: In a nail-biting encounter at the Panchayat Ground in Betalbatim, St Rock YC Majorda edged out Parish Youth Nuvem 9-8 via tiebreaker to seal a spot in the quarterfinals of the 4th Betalbatim Villagers Cup. The match witnessed an electrifying display of football in front of a packed crowd, with both teams locked at 4-4 at the end of regulation



time. Parish Youth Nuvem opened the scoring through Francisco Colaco (7'), followed by goals from Albino Pereira (13'), Leroy Colaco (16'), and Joywin Costa (47').

Bumrah May Be Considered for Tests Only If Fully Fit to Play Entire Series: Report

■ Shubman Gill misjudged a single and was run out for 21 off 35 balls by returning England pacer Gus Atkinson.

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is reportedly re-evaluating its selection approach regarding pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, potentially introducing a new policy that would see him included in Test squads only if he is fit to play the entire series.

According to a report by The Times of India, the move stems from

concerns over Bumrah's partial availability during the ongoing Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy. The pacer had informed the team management prior to the series that his body could only handle three out of the five Tests, leading to a pre-planned rotation strategy.

Bumrah was rested after India's defeat in the first Test at Headingley. His return for the next

Macau Open 2025: Lakshya Sen, Satwik-Chirag Pair Advance to Quarterfinals

■ The Paris 2024 semifinalist, Lakshya Sen advanced to the quarterfinals in the men's singles competition at the ongoing Macau Open badminton tournament

New Delhi: India's badminton contingent delivered a strong showing at the Macau Open, with Lakshya Sen and the men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty storming into the quarterfinals on Thursday. Lakshya Sen, who is set to compete in the Paris 2024 Olympics semifinals, displayed grit and endurance to defeat Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo in a hard-fought Round of 16 men's singles match. The Indian shuttler edged past the world No. 48 in a match that lasted 67 minutes, with scores of 21-14, 14-21, 21-17.

Adding to India's success, young shuttler Tharun Mannepalli caused a major upset by knocking out top seed Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong. The thrilling encounter ended 19-21, 21-14, 22-20 in Tharun's favour, marking one of the most significant results of his career so far. Meanwhile, seventh seed Ayush Shetty, who recently clinched the US Open title, exited the tournament in the pre-quarterfinals after a 21-18, 21-16 loss to Malaysia's Justin Hoh.

In men's doubles action, world No. 9 pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty overcame a shaky start to defeat Japan's Kakeru Kumagai and Hiroki Nishi. After dropping the first game, the Indian pair saved a match point in the



second to turn the tide, eventually sealing victory with scores of 10-21, 22-20, 21-16.

However, the other Indian men's doubles team of Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K fell to Malaysia's fourth-seeded pair Junaidi Arif and Yap Roy King in straight games, 21-18, 21-18.

India's campaign in the women's singles and doubles categories came to an end. Rakshitha Ramraj bowed out after a valiant fight against Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan, losing 14-21, 21-10, 21-11. The women's doubles duo of Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra also crashed out, suffering a 21-14, 21-12 defeat against Indonesia's Meilysa Trias Puspita Sari and Rachel Allesya Rose. In mixed doubles, the fifth-seeded Indian pair Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto was eliminated by Malaysia's Jimmy Wong and two-time Commonwealth Games medallist Lai Pei Jing, who won 19-21, 21-13, 21-18. With Lakshya Sen and the Satwik-Chirag duo still in contention, India remains hopeful for a strong finish at the tournament.



selection should ultimately be based on a fitness assessment by the medical team," a BCCI source was quoted as saying. Despite ongoing speculation, the team has dismissed any notion that Bumrah is "picking and choosing" matches. Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate addressed the criticism at a press conference following Day 1 of the Oval Test.