



Govt Clarifies: **No Land Acquisition** for Coal Handling in Double Tracking Project

PANAJI: The Goa government has strongly refuted reports claiming that additional land is being acquired for coal handling as part of the Hospet-Vasco railway double tracking project.

In an official clarification issued on Tuesday, the state government said



the limited acquisition of 0.6 hectares of land

in Cansaulim, Sancoale and Issorcim villages

is only for banking and stabilisation works to protect nearby houses, provide road access to landowners, and correct alignment mismatches identified in earlier surveys. "The project will facilitate tourism development and faster The Goa government

CONTD TO PAGE 06..

Congress Urges Govt to Appeal Mauvin Godinho Acquittal in Power Scam

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee has demanded that the BJP Government immediately file an appeal against the acquittal of Mauvin Godinho and others in the multi-crore Power Scam case.

GPCC President Amit Patkar, in a letter to Chief Secretary Dr. V. Candavelou, said the acquittal reflects serious lapses in the prosecution as no proper evidence was effectively presented before the Court.

"This is not just about one case, it is about large-scale corruption, misuse of public resources and betrayal of public trust. Silence by the



Government will set a dangerous precedent," Patkar said.

He warned that if the Government fails to challenge the judgment and act against those responsible for the lapses, the Congress will be constrained to take legal recourse in the interest of justice and accountability.

"The BJP Government cannot shield its corrupt leaders and expect Goans to remain silent. Congress will continue to fight for transparency, justice and the rule of law," Patkar asserted.

JERC Seeks Probe Into Goa's Failed Power Projects

PANAJI. The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) has directed Goa's electricity department to carry out a detailed inquiry into failed power infrastructure projects, including the aerial bunch cabling (ABC) initiative, and submit a report within three months.

The order followed a complaint from a consumer alleging poor accountability and lack of transparency in reviewing projects such as the ABC scheme, which has resulted in losses exceeding ₹140 crore.

In its response, the department assured that a committee will be



tasked with examining the lapses and reaffirmed its commitment to transparency. The JERC has asked for a comprehensive report once the committee completes its probe.

The ABC project, launched in 2017 to curb power cuts in areas unsuitable for underground cabling, has largely failed to deliver. During

the recent Assembly session, Power Minister Ramkrishna 'Sudin' Dhavalikar admitted that no meaningful progress had been made in investigating the ₹145 crore scheme.

Dhavalikar explained that while a committee was first set up in October 2023, it never convened due to transfers of its members. A revised proposal for reconstitution was cleared in May 2025, including the state health secretary as the third member. However, with fresh changes in the top bureaucracy, a new panel will now have to be

CONTD TO PAGE 06..

IMD Predicts Above-Normal Rainfall for Goa in Sept

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: After a slow start to the monsoon, Goa is now witnessing consistent showers and is expected to receive 'normal to above-normal rainfall' through September, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast. The State has been placed under an Orange alert for heavy to very heavy



rain on September 3, with intense showers likely to continue until September 6. As of September 1, Goa has recorded around 7% surplus rainfall.

CONTD TO PAGE 06..

Spike in Stolen Phones in North Goa; 50 Recovered Devices to Be Returned

PANAJI: North Goa Superintendent of Police Rahul Gupta has highlighted that Panaji, Calangute and Anjuna police stations are witnessing the highest number of stolen mobile phone cases in the State.

He advised citizens to verify the authenticity of second-hand devices before making purchases.

Gupta informed that around 50 recovered mobile phones will shortly be handed back to their rightful owners, many of whom have already expressed gratitude to the police



for tracing their devices.

Separately, the SP clarified that Telangana Police had entered Goa while pursuing a vehicle that removed its number plate at the

Maharashtra border.

He said Goa Police had extended full cooperation in the matter and added that a detailed press note will be issued.



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Why no case against parking attendants, contractor?

The recent assault in Mapusa over a parking dispute is not a minor scuffle. It is a serious breach of law and order, and one that raises urgent questions about responsibility, policing, and the way parking is being managed in our towns. At its core, this is not about a parking fee. It is about who gave parking attendants the authority to raise their hands against locals, and why accountability appears one-sided.

Eyewitnesses claim that within minutes of an argument, a group of attendants gathered to assault locals. This was not a case of tempers flaring between two individuals. It looked more like a coordinated response, which points to a larger problem. If attendants are able to assemble and attack so quickly, are they acting independently or under the protection of those who employ them? And if so, why has the case been booked primarily against local Goans, while the attendants and the contractor behind them seem untouched?

This is where the role of the police comes under scrutiny. Assault is assault, no matter who commits it. If locals are booked for their actions, then so should the attendants who resorted to violence. Justice cannot be selective. By not filing cases against the attendants and contractor, the authorities risk sending a dangerous signal: that private employees hired for public services can use force against citizens without fear of consequence.

This raises another troubling question: who is checking the background of these attendants? Parking contractors hire whoever they wish, without oversight. There is no verification of whether these men have criminal records or whether they are trained in handling disputes. A parking lot is not a battlefield, yet in Goa, it is beginning

"Responsibility, therefore, must be fixed at three levels. First, on the individuals who carried out the assault. They cannot be allowed to hide behind the fact that they are 'just attendants.' Second, on the contractor who hired them and placed them in a position of authority over the public. And third, on the municipal body that awarded the contract without insisting on safeguards. Unless these three layers of responsibility are addressed, the Mapusa incident will repeat itself elsewhere. It is worth remembering that parking attendants are not policemen."

Their role, at best, is to issue a ticket and collect a fee. They are not law enforcers. They are not supposed to intimidate. Yet, in Mapusa, they behaved as though the streets belonged to them. That inversion of roles is at the heart of this controversy. The law belongs to the people and its enforcement to the state, not to private hands."

to feel like one. Locals are expected to pay fees, but they are also expected to keep quiet if they are mistreated. That is not how a public service should function.

Responsibility, therefore, must be fixed at three levels. First, on the individuals who carried out the assault. They cannot be allowed to hide behind the fact that they are "just attendants." Second, on the contractor who hired them and placed them in a position of authority over the public. And third, on the municipal body that awarded the contract without insisting on safeguards. Unless these three layers of responsibility

are addressed, the Mapusa incident will repeat itself elsewhere.

It is worth remembering that parking attendants are not policemen. Their role, at best, is to issue a ticket and collect a fee. They are not law enforcers. They are not supposed to intimidate. Yet, in Mapusa, they behaved as though the streets belonged to them. That inversion of roles is at the heart of this controversy. The law belongs to the people and its enforcement to the state, not to private hands.

For too long, parking has been treated as an easy revenue stream rather than a public necessity. Municipalities hand out contracts, contractors hire attendants, and citizens are left to deal with the consequences. The assault in Mapusa shows what happens when accountability is missing from this chain. It is no longer just a question of inconvenience or inflated fees. It has become a matter of safety and justice.

The immediate step must be clear: the police must book cases against all those involved in the assault, including the attendants, and investigate the contractor's role. No one can be allowed to take the law into their own hands. Beyond that, municipalities must put systems in place that prevent such incidents. This could mean tighter checks on who is hired, clear instructions on conduct, and penalties on contractors when attendants misbehave.

Goans should not feel threatened when they park their vehicles in their own towns. The Mapusa assault must be treated as a warning, not brushed aside as a minor quarrel. Until responsibility is fixed, and until contractors and attendants are held to the same standards as the citizens they serve, parking will remain less about order and more about fear.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Who Benefits From Goa's Potholed Roads?

It is worth asking a simple but uncomfortable question: who benefits from Goa's potholed roads? Certainly not the commuters who risk their lives every day swerving around craters, nor the taxpayers who foot the bill for repairs that never last. The only ones who appear to gain are contractors and agencies that thrive on a cycle of shoddy work, re-tendering, and endless patch jobs.

The situation has gone from bad to worse. Even newly laid hot-mixed roads are dug up within weeks for utilities, leaving behind uneven surfaces and gaping ditches. Instead of coordination between departments, we see a free-for-all where public money is wasted, accountability is absent, and lives are put in danger. For two-wheeler riders in particular, these stretches have become nothing short of death traps.

We are told every year that road quality will improve, yet every monsoon exposes the same fragile, short-sighted approach. Road design and maintenance in Goa have become a revolving business rather than a service to the people. The result is tragic accidents, wasted resources, and daily misery for ordinary citizens.

It is time for strict accountability: blacklisting of erring contractors, criminal liability for substandard work, and coordination between departments before roads are dug. Until then, our roads will remain less a symbol of progress and more a monument to corruption and neglect.

By Neves Rodrigues
Chinchinim

Life's do-re-mi... Major!

At 65, well ensconced into the category of 'venerable' Senior Citizens -- what they call 'Terceira Idade' in the euphoric Lusitanian jargon -- I have a very adventurous life to report, albeit hilarious!

But there remains so much of the wide world for me to explore, particularly so much to see in Portugal and the United Kingdom right now. Will I be able to cover even a fraction of it in my lifetime? Of course, seeing the rest of Europe may never come to pass. And what about my dream to be in Ukraine and in Gaza? God knows!

Yes, He knows what is best for us. In the Almighty, we must repose our trust as our ultimate Friend, Philosopher, and Guide.

And I am indeed grateful to God for the prized consolation that, over the years, I was able to travel the length and breadth of my beloved Goa at least, to have my feet, as an ordinary citizen, in every city, village, and ward of the land of my birth.

And that brought a wealth of friends and well-wishers all over the place -- ever warm in their care, always ready to stand by me.

But life never turns full circle without a dose of detractors -- and I have had my fair share of those, a convoluted reward for my standing fearlessly for Truth.

Humbly, I rest my case at the feet of the Almighty -- the God of all the Faiths -- for He is the Adjudicator most kind, most just, most benevolent.

By Aires Rodrigues
Lisbon/London/Ribandar

Goa CM Assures No Excess Coal Handling

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Amid opposition concerns over coal transportation linked to the railway double-tracking project, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday reiterated that the government will not permit coal handling beyond the allowed limits.

Addressing the media, Sawant said, "We will not increase coal handling in the State. Let me be clear: coal will not exceed the permissible limit." He added that the Railway Ministry has affirmed the project's potential to boost tourism and trade in the region.



"The Opposition seems focused only on coal, but the Ministry has confirmed that the double-tracking project will benefit tourism, and there will be no increase in coal beyond the approved limit," Sawant emphasized.

In parallel, the Indian Railways has announced plans to acquire approximately 6,000 sq metres of land in South Goa for the project. The land is located in the villages of Cansaulim, Sancoale, and Issorcim, with public

feedback being sought. The notice specifies that the acquisition may include land with or without existing structures, forming part of the proposed Hospet-Tinaighat-Vasco-da-Gama track doubling initiative in Goa.



Operation 'Flush Out': North Goa Police Net Drugs, Foreign Nationals in August Drive

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Cracking down on narcotics and foreigners violating visa norms, the North Goa Police booked eight cases and arrested seven persons during August under a special drive codenamed Operation Flush Out.

Among those held was a Nigerian national from whom Anjuna Police seized

18.10 grams of cocaine worth ₹1.8 lakh. A British national was also booked under the Foreigners Act for overstaying in Goa without valid travel documents.

In all, police seized 9.194 kg of ganja valued at ₹8.93 lakh, 65 grams of hydroponic ganja worth ₹6.05 lakh, 21.10 grams of cocaine worth ₹2.40 lakh and 1.5 grams of ecstasy worth ₹25,000.



Goa Govt Considers Extending Sale of Subsidised Coconuts Beyond Ganesh Chaturthi

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Following strong public demand during Ganesh Chaturthi, the Goa government is exploring the possibility of continuing the sale of coconuts at subsidised rates through its horticulture outlets even after the festival.

To stabilise market prices and meet rising demand, the Goa State Horticulture Corporation (GSHC) had procured around 75,000 coconuts from Karnataka to supplement local supply. The coconuts were sold at Rs 45 per piece across 1,200 horticulture outlets statewide, initially planned to be available only until the 11th day of the festival.

Speaking to the media, Horticulture

Chairman Premendra Shet said, "The public response during Ganesh Chaturthi was overwhelming. In just 12-15 days, all 75,000 coconuts were sold, providing relief to citizens from soaring prices."

Shet added that the government is considering extending the scheme beyond the festive season, depending on ongoing demand. "If the programme continues, we will need to import coconuts in large quantities and explore multiple sources, not just Karnataka," he explained, noting that several options are currently under review.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's electricity authorities are stepping up efforts to curb the misuse of domestic electricity connections for commercial purposes, launching a state-wide verification drive following the rollout of the new power tariff structure.

The department plans to reassess and reclassify



all connections, ensuring properties such as rented

villas, holiday homes, and other commercial

operations are billed under the correct low-tension commercial category.

Officials said the move aims to prevent loss of revenue and ensure fair billing for all consumers. To bolster the initiative, the electricity department is coordinating with agencies like the tourism department to identify properties operating commercially under domestic rates.

CM Agrees to Slash RoRo Ferry Charges for Chorao Resident

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Responding to long-standing demands from residents, the State government has decided to reduce RoRo ferry charges for Chorao villagers.

At a meeting with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday, locals were informed that the fare for cars owned by Chorao residents will be cut from ₹30 to ₹10, while two-wheelers will be allowed to travel free of cost.

According to villagers, the CM assured that the revised rates will come into effect within 8-10



days.

The River Navigation Department will also set up a counter in Chorao to issue special passes for local vehicles.

Sawant further agreed to deploy additional ferries on

the route to ease congestion.

Residents pointed out that while 300-400 cars use the RoRo service daily, only about 50-60 of them actually belong to villagers.

GSPCB Begins Collection of Ganesh Idols for Eco-Friendly Disposal



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) has launched an initiative to collect Ganesh idols that have resurfaced after the recent Visarjan rituals, with plans to transport them to its Pissurlem facility for environmentally safe disposal. The drive is aimed at protecting local water bodies from pollution and ensuring that idol immersions do not cause ecological damage.

'Double Engine Government' exposed over coal: LoP Yuri Alemao

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The 'Double Engine Government' has been exposed in Goa over its true intentions behind the double railway tracking project, which is actually meant to transport coal for Adani, Jindal, and their crony capitalist friends. Interestingly, these companies owe over ₹4,000 crores in Green



Cess, which the BJP government has failed to recover. Chief Minister Pramod

Sawant had misled the people of Goa, claiming the project was for tourism growth, but the Central

Government has now revealed its true purpose — coal transportation. People, along with MLAs, protested against the project in a historic demonstration at Chandor. However, some MLAs who switched sides by joining the BJP seem to be supporting the destruction of Goa by facilitating coal transportation. They need to clarify their stance.



One Rescued From Drowning by Drishti Marine Lifesaver at Mapusa Tar Ganesh Visarjan site

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: A Ganesh Chaturthi reveller was rescued from drowning at Mapusa tar on Sunday night by a Drishti Marine lifesaver, bringing into focus the role of special teams of lifesavers who were deployed at various Ganesh Chaturthi immersion sites across Goa to prevent drowning or other untoward incidents.

The incident occurred at around 9:30 pm, when a 38-year-old man from Hubli entered the water at a pond near Mapusa tar to retrieve a stool that he had used for idol immersion, which had floated away.

Due to a strong current, he panicked and called for help. On-duty Lifesaver Rakesh Kumar immediately jumped

into the water, secured the victim and brought him safely ashore. The individual was found to be safe and did not require further medical assistance.

Drishti Marine had deployed trained lifesavers at 47 visarjan points across the state to supplement safety and law and order efforts undertaken by the state administration and various security agencies.

The state government-appointed lifesaving agency had deployed its lifesavers across 47 immersion points — 35 beaches and 12 inland locations — on all designated visarjan days. Drishti Marine lifesavers will also be deployed on the forthcoming visarjan days, namely September 2, 4, 6 and 17 (21st day immersion).

South Goa MP accuses BJP of misleading Goans over Hospet–Vasco double tracking project

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: South Goa MP Captain Viriato Fernandes has strongly criticised the BJP government, accusing it of misleading Goans over the purpose of the Hospet–Vasco-da-Gama double tracking project.

Fernandes said the recent announcement by the Union government

regarding the opening of the double track has only “confirmed and exposed the lies and deceit” that the BJP in Goa has indulged in since the lockdown. “From the very beginning of our opposition to the double tracking, the Sawant government kept saying that the project was meant for passengers and not for coal. Today’s



announcement has proved otherwise,” said Fernandes. He further alleged that the BJP in Goa was functioning as a “30 percent sarkar”

and assured that Goans would not allow the state to become a coal transportation hub. “The people of Goa will throw out the corrupt 30 percent sarkar in Goa and ensure that coal transportation is stopped and Mormugao Port Authority is brought back from Adani’s private control to the public sector,” Fernandes stated.



Goencho Ekvott accuses govt of pushing coal projects despite SC ruling

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Goencho Ekvott (GE) has lashed out at Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, accusing him of “blatantly lying” in the Assembly by stating that his government would never allow an increase in coal handling at Mormugao Port Authority (MPA), but now openly supporting it to facilitate land acquisition from the Forest Department for the Hospet–Londa–Tinaighat–Vasco-da-Gama railway doubling.

GE pointed out that this support comes despite the Supreme Court having set aside the clearance granted by the National Board of Wildlife for double tracking in Kulem.

The group demanded that the government “must save and withdraw all coal expansion plans” in the UNESCO-listed Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary and Mollem National Park.

Olencio Simoes, joint secretary of GE, alleged that both the central and state governments had a “sinister plan” to destroy Goa’s environment. “Since 2015, this government has systematically approved all coal infrastructure projects to facilitate coal transportation via sea, river, road and railways at the cost of Goan lives and livelihood,” he said. Listing a series of approvals, Simoes added, “Firstly, they nationalised the six rivers of Goa.

Youth Attacked with Iron Pipe in Dicarpali

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Based on a complaint filed by Regino Vaz of Zariwado, Davorlim, police have booked one Sharook Khatip of Dicarpali for allegedly assaulting Vaz’s son, Samson, with an iron pipe near the Dicarpali bus stop.

The incident occurred between 12.30 am and

1.30 am on August 30, 2025, when Samson was in discussion along with his friend Ali Khan — a rent-a-cab driver employed by the accused — over salary-related issues. Khatip reportedly struck Samson on the head, causing blunt injuries. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Sagar Kamat of Margao Town Police Station



Goa Police Warn of WhatsApp Scam Using Fake ‘RTO CHALAN’ App

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: WhatsApp users in Goa have been cautioned about a new cyber fraud involving a malicious file named RTO CHALAN.apk. Fraudsters are sending the file through WhatsApp messages from numbers such as 72503 69682 and other unknown sources, tricking users into downloading it.

The scam message often pressures recipients with prompts like “The business won’t see if you read their messages until you reply or add them as a contact with the option: Block or Add.” Once installed, the fake app gives hackers remote access to the victim’s phone, allowing them to steal banking details.

UPI credentials, OTPs, contacts, and messages, and even initiate



unauthorized transactions. Cyber officials warn that the scam exploits fear of traffic challans by mimicking government communication. Authorities have urged the public not to download APK files or click on suspicious links. Genuine challan details can be checked only on official portals such as the Parivahan website or state RTO portals. Users are advised to keep their devices updated, enable two-factor authentication on banking apps, and install security tools.

Elderly Man Commits Suicide in Dharbandora; Police Probe Underway

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: In a tragic incident, a 79-year-old man, identified as Sajro Gaonkar of Dharbandora, was found to have committed suicide by hanging himself on a tree branch near his residence on Monday. Ponda Police have registered a case of unnatural death and are conducting a further inquiry.

The police were alerted to the incident by a phone call from PCR Margao at 10:37 AM on September 1, 2025. Upon receiving the information, LPSI Anjali Dhulapkar of Ponda Police Station and her team rushed to the scene of



the occurrence in Okamb, Dharbandora. During the initial inquiry with the deceased's family members, it was revealed that Mr. Gaonkar had taken his own life in the forest opposite his house, using a cotton rope as a ligature.

His son, Dilip Gaonkar, informed the police that his father had been suffering from chronic health issues, including severe itching for the past two years and a persistent cough. The police conducted a panchanama of the

scene and an inquest panchanama over the body before it was sent for a post-mortem examination. The Police Surgeon certified the cause of death as due to suicidal hanging. Following the necessary legal and medical formalities, the body was handed over to the family for final religious rites.

While the police investigation is ongoing, the incident highlights the issue of suicide among the elderly, which is often linked to chronic health problems, loneliness, and depression. Health experts and organizations like the COOJ Mental Health Foundation in Goa



Tourists Fined for Driving Vehicles on Morjim Beach

Team Goemkarponn

MORJIM: Two rent-a-cab vehicles (GA04T6904 and GA08Z0304) were found being driven on Morjim beach on August 31, 2025, around 6.30 pm, drawing the attention of tourists present there. Tourist Police later traced the vehicles

and imposed a fine of ₹5,000 each on the drivers — Sahil Bansal and Mayank Sharma, both residents of Delhi — under Section 9A(2) of the Goa Tourist Places (Protection and Maintenance) Act, 2021, for unauthorised driving on the beach.

Old Goa Road Accident Victim Succumbs to Injuries

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: Police have registered an Unnatural Death case (UD No. 54/2025) following the demise of 32-year-old Mahesh Chandrashekar Angadi of Mestwada, Boma, Marcela, who passed away at GMC Bambolim on September 1, 2025.



Police said that on August 29, Angadi met with an accident near

DG Mart, Kadamba bypass, Old Goa, when his Wagon R

(GA08E6898) rammed into a stationary Tata container parked along the roadside. He was rushed to GMC Bambolim by a 108 ambulance and admitted to Ward 123, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

Further inquiry is underway at Old Goa Police Station.

Hit-and-Run in Benaulim Claims One Life, Two Injured



Team Goemkarponn

COLVA: Police are investigating a fatal hit-and-run accident reported near Bharat Petrol Pump, Benaulim, around 4.10 am on August 31, 2025.

According to a complaint filed by Kakul Kumar of Carmona (native of Uttar Pradesh), an unidentified car rammed into his scooter, leaving him and two pillion riders — Raj Veer of Carmona (native of Uttarakhand) and Harikishan Maithani of Varca (native of

Uttarakhand) — grievously injured. The car driver fled the scene without rendering help or alerting authorities.

All three were rushed to GMC Bambolim, where Raj Veer succumbed to his injuries during treatment. Police conducted an inquest and autopsy, after which the body was handed over to relatives for final rites.

Further investigation is being led by LPSI Raksha Naik of Colva Police Station.

House Break-in Reported at Colva

Team Goemkarponn

COLVA: Acting on a complaint lodged by C.F. Severino Fernandes of Colva, police are investigating a case of house break-in and theft reported between August 4 and August 8, 2025.

According to the complaint, unknown miscreants allegedly forced open the rear door of Fernandes's residence and decamped with valuables, including a gold bangle, a Rado



wristwatch, ₹20,000 in cash and 3,000 Dirhams, with the total loss estimated at

around ₹1.5 lakh. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI

Nikhil Khajnekar of Colva Police Station.

Indian Army Arrives in US for Yudh Abhyas 2025 Joint Exercise Amid Trade Tensions

■ The joint exercise, scheduled from September 1 to September 14, will see the Indian contingent train with their US troops in heliborne operations, mountain warfare, UAS, counter-UAS, and joint tactical drills, the MEA stated in a post on X.

New Delhi An Indian Army contingent has arrived at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, to participate in the 21st edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025, the annual bilateral military drill with the United States. The exercise, which runs from September 1 to 14, comes against the backdrop of the ongoing India-US tariff row.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Indian troops will train alongside the US Army's 11th Airborne Division in a range of high-intensity operations, including heliborne missions, mountain warfare, unmanned aerial systems (UAS), counter-UAS tactics, and joint tactical drills. A ceremonial photograph released by the MEA showed Indian soldiers disembarking from a C-17 Globemaster III



aircraft on arrival.

The Indian contingent comprises troops from a battalion of the Madras Regiment, while their American counterparts are soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment "Bobcats", part of the Arctic Wolves Brigade Combat Team

of the US 11th Airborne Division. Over the next two weeks, soldiers from both nations will rehearse a series of tactical manoeuvres such as rockcraft, casualty evacuation, combat medical aid, live-fire drills, and high-altitude operations, with integrated

support from artillery, aviation, and electronic warfare systems. The exercise will also feature subject-matter expert exchanges on modern warfare domains like UAS operations, counter-drone measures, communications, logistics, and information warfare.

Tesla Bags 600 Orders Since India Launch, Deliveries To Begin In September: Report

■ Deliveries will initially be limited to Mumbai, Delhi, Pune and Gurugram, the report said.



New Delhi: Tesla has received just over 600 orders since opening sales in India in mid-July, falling short of the company's internal expectations, Bloomberg News reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the matter. The Elon Musk-led EV maker now plans to ship between 350 and 500 cars to India this year, with the first batch arriving from Shanghai in early September, the report said. Deliveries will initially be restricted to Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, and Gurugram, where Tesla currently has a physical presence. Shipment sizes are being determined based on full payments received, as

well as logistical feasibility beyond these cities. In July, Tesla launched the Model Y in India at around \$70,000, a price pushed up by the country's steep tariffs on imported electric vehicles. The EV giant has long lobbied for reduced import duties, but facing excess global capacity and slowing sales, Tesla opted to enter India with imported cars despite high costs. With EVs accounting for just 4% of overall car sales in India, Tesla is aiming at a small but premium segment of the domestic market. The company expects deliveries to start in the third quarter of 2025.

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Govt Clarifies: No Land Acquisition for Coal Handling in Double Tracking Project

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"The project will facilitate tourism development and faster movement of existing freight, including coal, in a manner that reduces incidental pollution by decreasing exposure time," the note stated.

The government further reiterated that no capacity expansion of coal transportation will be permitted in the state.

The clarification comes amid growing public concerns and reports suggesting large-scale land acquisition linked to coal handling, which officials termed "incorrect and misleading."

JERC Seeks Probe Into Goa's Failed Power Projects

In its response, the department assured that a committee will be tasked with examining the lapses and reaffirmed its commitment to transparency. The JERC has asked for a comprehensive report once the committee completes its probe.

The ABC project, launched in 2017 to curb power cuts in areas unsuitable for underground cabling, has largely failed to

deliver. During the recent Assembly session, Power Minister Ramkrishna 'Sudin' Dhavalikar admitted that no meaningful progress had been made in investigating the ₹145 crore scheme.

Dhavalikar explained that while a committee was first set up in October 2023, it never convened due to transfers of its members. A revised proposal for reconstitution was

cleared in May 2025, including the state health secretary as the third member. However, with fresh changes in the top bureaucracy, a new panel will now have to be reconstituted.

Of the 201 km of ABC lines laid across Panaji, Bicholim, and Mapusa, only 39 km in Bicholim is functional. The remaining 162 km remain idle and have not been dismantled.

IMD Predicts Above-Normal Rainfall for Goa in Sept

"Most parts of the country are expected to see normal to above-normal rainfall, except some areas of the Northeast, East, extreme South Peninsula, and

the northernmost region, which may receive below-normal showers," the agency said.

IMD Goa added that a fresh low-pressure system is likely to develop over the northwest Bay of

Bengal around September 2, which could further enhance rainfall activity in the State. While the outlook is positive for agriculture and water resources, the IMD has cautioned that intense

rainfall could also lead to flooding, landslides, transport disruptions, public health concerns, and ecological impacts. "Residents are advised to remain alert and take necessary precautions,"

the advisory stated.

In its monthly update, the IMD also noted that maximum temperatures are expected to stay normal to below normal across large parts of west-central, northwest,

and southern India, but remain above normal in parts of east-central, east, northeast India, and stretches along the west coast.

PM Modi Hails 7.8% GDP Growth, Hits Back At Trump's Tariff Offensive

PM Modi said the Indian economy "outperformed every expectation, estimate and forecast".

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India's economy had "outperformed every expectation, estimate and forecast" by clocking 7.8% GDP growth in the first quarter of FY 2025-26, despite global turbulence and what he called "challenges driven by economic self-interest" — a veiled swipe at former US President Donald Trump's tariff war on Indian goods. Speaking at the Semicon India Conference in Delhi, a day after returning from China and Japan, Modi underscored that the country's robust performance stood in stark contrast to other economies struggling with geopolitical and trade headwinds.



"While economies around the world are facing concerns and challenges driven by economic self-interest, India has achieved a growth rate of 7.8 per cent," Modi said in Hindi. According to government data, GDP growth beat expectations of 6.5% and marked a 1.3 percentage point jump over the same quarter last year. This also represents the fastest

expansion in five quarters, with the previous high being 8.4% in January-March 2024. Modi said the momentum was broad-based, with manufacturing, services, agriculture and construction all showing visible enthusiasm. He declared that this trajectory was steering India closer to becoming the world's third-largest economy, while countering Trump's recent

jibe describing India as a "dead economy." "The day is not far when the world will say: Designed in India, Made in India, Trusted by the World," Modi asserted. The sharp political undertone comes after Trump, who returned to power earlier this year, slapped 25% reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods, followed by an additional 25% penalty for New Delhi's continued purchase of Russian oil.

In a recent post on Truth Social, Trump accused India of exploiting a "totally one-sided relationship" with the US, alleging that New Delhi sells massive amounts of goods to America while blocking US companies



"Oil Was Black Gold, Chips Are Digital Diamonds": PM Modi At Semicon India 2025

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday, while addressing the Semicon India 2025 event, said that oil was "black gold" but semiconductor chips are a "digital diamond".

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday likened semiconductors to the new global currency of power, declaring that while oil was the "black gold" of the 20th century, chips are the "digital diamonds" shaping the 21st.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Semicon India 2025 conference in New Delhi, the Prime Minister said India is emerging as a trusted partner in the trillion-dollar semiconductor industry and highlighted the country's rapid progress in building a robust chip ecosystem.

"The last century was shaped by oil.

Today, the world runs on chips. Since 2021, we have approved 10 semiconductor projects worth \$18 billion. The world trusts India, believes in India, and is ready to build

the semiconductor future with India," Modi said.

India's Big Push In Semiconductors The Prime Minister announced that the Centre is working on the next phase of the India Semiconductor Mission along with a revamped Design-Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme to accelerate domestic innovation and manufacturing. "The day is not far when the smallest chip made in India will drive the biggest change in the world," Modi said, stressing that India's semiconductor journey is not limited to manufacturing but extends to creating a globally competitive, Atmanirbhar ecosystem.

He also noted the government's focus on securing critical rare earth minerals to meet the sector's surging demand.

Red Alert In Uttarakhand: Schools Shut Across 10 Districts, Char Dham Yatra Delayed

All schools will remain closed in 10 districts including Pauri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, and others

Dehradun: Uttarakhand remains on edge as relentless rainfall continues to lash the state, prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue red and orange alerts for Tuesday. In a precautionary step, authorities have ordered the closure of all schools up to Class 12 in 10 districts, including Pauri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Almora, Champawat, Pithoragarh, and Bageshwar. The IMD warned of "very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall, thunderstorms with lightning, and intense rain spells at isolated places."



Officials fear the persistent downpour could trigger cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides, posing grave risks in the hilly regions.

The continuous rain has disrupted life across both mountains and plains. In

Dehradun, the Tons River has risen alarmingly near Minas, and water levels are surging sharply as it joins the Yamuna. Several stretches of the National Highway remain blocked by landslides, with Chamoli Police reporting closures

at Kanchan Ganga, Bhanerpani, Kameda, and parts of the Kotdeep-Lolti-Nasir Market Tharali road. In light of the red alert, authorities have suspended the Char Dham Yatra and Hemkund Sahib Yatra until September 5, urging devotees and tourists to avoid vulnerable areas until conditions improve. The government has appealed to residents in landslide-prone and flood-hit regions to remain extremely cautious. Disaster management teams are on standby as the situation remains precarious amid fears of further weather-related hazards.

"My Late Mother Was Abused": PM Modi Slams Rahul Gandhi, Tejashwi Yadav Over Bihar Row

In a scathing attack on the Congress-RJD alliance in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said his mother was verbally abused on a campaign stage of the Opposition bloc. In doing so, he said, the Opposition alliance had humiliated every mother and sister.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched a blistering attack on the Congress-RJD alliance, accusing the Opposition of insulting

his late mother during a campaign in Bihar. Modi said the remarks were not just a personal attack but an affront to "every mother and sister in India."

"In Bihar, slangs were used for my mother from an RJD-Congress stage. This insult was not just directed at my mother, but at crores of mothers and



sisters across the country. I know you are as pained as I am," the Prime Minister said while addressing nearly 20 lakh women via video

DGCA To Step Up Safety Checks By 15% After Deadly Air India Crash

The aviation safety regulator's step follows the deadly crash of an Air India plane in Ahmedabad.

New Delhi: India's aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), will conduct 15% more safety checks this year, taking the total to 4,630 inspections compared to 4,027 in 2024, sources told NDTV on Monday. The intensified monitoring comes in the wake of the June 12 Air India tragedy in Ahmedabad, where a London-bound Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crashed minutes after take-off, killing 260 people on board and on the ground. According to officials, the additional checks will cover aircraft maintenance practices, pilot competence, and airport safety protocols. The move follows a DGCA surveillance drive on June 24, which



flagged a series of worrying lapses across airlines and airports.

Among the findings were:

- Aircraft defects reappearing repeatedly despite repairs.
- Life vests not properly secured under seats.
- A domestic flight held up due to worn-out tyres.
- A simulator that did not match actual aircraft configuration.
- Maintenance work orders not being properly followed.
- Faded runway markings and malfunctioning taxiway lights.
- Obstruction data not updated for three years, despite new construction near airports.

India, Nigeria In Race To Host 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games

India and Nigeria have submitted formal proposals to host the 2030 centenary Commonwealth Games by the deadline of 31 August 2025.

New Delhi: The stage is set for a historic showdown as India and Nigeria have officially submitted bids to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, which will mark the 100th anniversary of the sporting event. Both proposals were filed by the deadline of 31 August 2025, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) confirmed.

The 2030 edition carries special significance as the centenary Games, making the hosting rights one of the most sought-after in global sport. CGF President Dr Donald Rukare described the submissions as "exciting," calling both India and Nigeria "sporting powerhouses" with the vision to deliver an event that would not only celebrate sport but also create a lasting legacy for local communities.



An Evaluation Commission will now scrutinize the bids, with members scheduled to meet officials from both countries in London later this month.

The final decision will be announced in November at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow, Scotland. The Commission is chaired by Sandra Osborne KC and

includes:

- Helen Phillips MBE (Europe VP)
 - Brendan Williams (Athletes' Advisory Chair)
 - Ian Reid CBE (Vice Chair, Glasgow 2026)
 - Andrew Ryan MBE (Olympic sports veteran)
 - Darren Hall (Games Director, non-voting)
- The announcement comes in a landmark year for the CGF, which recently confirmed Glasgow as the 2026 host

and Malta for the 2027 Youth Games.

CEO Katie Sadleir said the Federation's flexible hosting model is inspiring more countries to step forward, adding: "The Games are evolving, and the energy is electric. It's a huge win for athletes and fans."

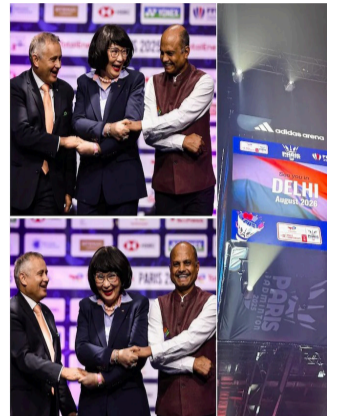
For India, buoyed by a string of recent sporting triumphs, the chance to host the centenary Games could be a transformative moment for its young athletes and fans. Nigeria, with its deep pool of talent and passion for sport, is equally determined to showcase itself on the global stage. The contest sets up a thrilling race between two nations eager to script history by hosting one of the most symbolic editions of the Commonwealth Games.

New Delhi To Host 2026 BWF World Championships After 17-Year Gap

The BWF World Championships will return to India after 17 years, with the capital city, New Delhi, chosen to host the landmark 30th edition in August 2026.

New Delhi: The BWF World Championships will return to India after 17 years, with New Delhi confirmed as the host city for the 30th edition of badminton's most prestigious tournament in August 2026.

The announcement was made at the closing ceremony of the 2025 World Championships in Paris, where the official handover took place between BWF president Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, French Federation chief Frank Laurent, and Sanjay Mishra, general secretary of the Badminton Association of India (BAI). India's selection as host reflects its transformation into a global badminton powerhouse, with 15 medals at the World Championships since Prakash Padukone's historic bronze in 1983. The country has maintained an unbroken medal streak



Fellow women's singles star Saina Nehwal added two medals to India's tally, including silver in 2015.

Indian men have also made their mark in recent editions, with podium finishes by Kidambi Srikanth (silver 2021), B. Sai Praneeth (bronze 2019), Lakshya Sen (bronze 2021), and HS Prannoy (bronze 2023). Rankireddy and Shetty made history by becoming the first Indian men's doubles medallists, with



Mitchell Starc Bids Farewell to T20Is, Focuses on Tests and 2027 World Cup

Starc played 65 T20Is for Australia from 2012 to 2024 and dismissed 79 batters.

SYDNEY: Legendary Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc on Tuesday announced his retirement from international T20 cricket, bringing an end to a distinguished career in the shortest format of the game. The 35-year-old left-arm pacer represented Australia in 65 T20Is between 2012 and 2024, picking up 79 wickets, the highest by any Australian fast bowler in the format and second overall behind spinner Adam Zampa. Starc last played a T20I in June 2024 during the World Cup clash against India

at Gros Islet, where he went wicketless while conceding 45 runs. A vital part of Australia's 2021 World Cup-winning campaign, he earned a reputation for his wicket-taking ability and match-turning spells.

According to Cricket Australia, Starc has decided to step away from T20Is to prolong his Test career and prepare for the 2027 ODI World Cup, which will be hosted by South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. "Test cricket is and has always been my highest priority," Starc said in a statement.

Asia Cup Hockey 2025: India Crush Kazakhstan 15-0 To Enter Super 4s Unbeaten

A ruthless India scored every four minutes on average to demolish Kazakhstan 15-0 in an utterly lopsided match and march into the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup hockey tournament with an all-win record.

New Delhi: A rampaging India stormed into the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup hockey tournament with a flawless record, dismantling Kazakhstan 15-0 in a one-sided clash on Monday. The Men in Blue scored, on average, every four minutes to underline their dominance and top Pool A.

Forward Abhishek led the



carnage with four goals (5th, 8th, 20th, 59th minutes), while Sukhjeet Singh (15th, 32nd, 38th) and Jugraj Singh (24th, 31st, 47th) hammered brilliant hat-tricks. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (26th), Amit Rohidas (29th), Rajinder Singh (32nd), Sanjay (54th) and Dilpreet Singh (55th) also joined the scoring spree.

Goa University to Hold Kabaddi Team Selections for Inter-University Championship 2025-26

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bowler in the format and second overall behind spinner Adam Zampa. Starc last played a T20I in June 2024 during the World Cup clash against India at Gros Islet, where he went wicketless while conceding 45 runs.

Goa Badminton Association Hands Over Kits to State Teams Ahead of West Zone Championships

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Badminton Association (GBA) on Tuesday distributed official kits to the state teams gearing up for the Yonex-Sunrise Inter-State West Zone Badminton Championships 2025, which will be held from September 3 to 6 at the Indoor Stadium, Campal, Panaji. The distribution ceremony was held in association with GBA's official equipment partners Victor and Cappella. Present



on the occasion were GBA officials Manoj Patil (President), Praveen Shenoy (Secretary), Parag Chauhan (Organising Secretary), Navneet Nasnodkar (Coach), Anup Kushwaha (Coach), Sanjay Bhohe (Team Manager), Vrushi Cardozo (Vice President), and Dr. Deepak Mayenkar (Advisor).