



Domestic LPG Price Hiked By Rs 60, Commercial Cylinder Up Rs 115 Amid Iran War

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New Delhi: The price of domestic LPG cylinders has been increased with effect from Saturday, March 7, with the cost of a 14.2-kg household cooking gas cylinder rising by Rs 60 across the country, according to sources.

Similarly, the price of a 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder has also been increased by Rs 115 from the same date, impacting businesses such as hotels, restaurants and small commercial establishments. As per the source, the price of a 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder in Delhi has increased

from Rs 853 to Rs 913. In Mumbai, the new rate of a domestic LPG cylinder now stands at Rs 912.50, up from Rs 852.50 earlier. In Kolkata, the price has risen from Rs 879 to Rs 930, while in Chennai it has increased from Rs 868.50 to Rs 928.50. The revised rates will come into effect immediately from today.

The hike also applies to commercial LPG cylinders used by businesses. In Delhi, the price of a 19-kg commercial cylinder has increased from Rs 1768.50 to Rs 1883. In Mumbai, the price has risen from Rs 1720.50



to Rs 1835. Similarly, in Kolkata, the price has gone up from Rs 1875.50 to Rs 1990, while in Chennai it has increased from Rs 1929 to Rs 2043.50.

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The hike also **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

Sr.no	Year	No. of farmers	Area in ha.
1	2020-21	676	546
2	2021-22	584	473.44
3	2022-23	577	454.66
4	2023-24	526	415.64
5	2024-25	497	381.04
6	2025-26	298	254.07

Sugarcane Farmers Decline as Sanjivani Sugar Factory Remains Shut

■ Government makes third attempt to revive Dharbandora plant through PPP ethanol project

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closure of the Sanjivani Sahakari Sakhar **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

Panaji: The prolonged

Talent Development Centre Nears Completion; IGNOU Seeks Land for Regional Centre at Farmagudi

■ Government says IRIS research projects underway; ₹6.52 crore utilised for faculty training facility.

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Panaji: The Goa government informed the Legislative Assembly that research projects under the Interdisciplinary Research Interventions Scheme (IRIS) for Local Development are currently underway, while the proposed Talent Development Centre for faculty training



is in the final stages of completion. Replying to an unstarred question tabled by Carlos Ferreira, Chief

Minister and Education Minister Pramod Sawant stated that the IRIS scheme was implemented with effect from July 19, 2024. As the funded projects are still ongoing, research reports are not yet available. However, details of the selected villages or communities, interdisciplinary research teams and funds sanctioned have been

compiled in an annexure. The government also confirmed that the proposed Talent Development Centre for faculty training, being developed with the support of the Indian Institute of Science, is nearing completion. The centre will include four laboratories dedicated to Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Mathematics.

Mystery Surrounds Death Of Cavellossim Man Found In Well

Team Goemkarponn

CAVELLOSSIM: The death of 64-year-old Teofolio Cardozo has left the local community alarmed after his body was discovered inside a well near his residence on Thursday morning. Residents are calling for a thorough investigation to determine whether foul play was involved. The



Colva police, however, have stated that the post-mortem report will provide clarity on the exact cause of death. Cardozo's passing has sparked suspicion after he was found with a **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

40 Flights From West Asia Bring 7,205 Passengers To India As Government Monitors Air Travel Disruptions

Civil Aviation Ministry coordinates with airlines and watches fares amid regional tensions

New Delhi: India received 40 inbound flights from West Asia carrying 7,205 passengers on March 5 as authorities closely tracked the impact of the ongoing regional conflict on air travel. The Ministry of Civil Aviation



said it is continuously monitoring the situation and coordinating with airlines to manage

passenger movement and maintain safe flight operations. According to official data, these flights were operated by Indian carriers and brought travellers from various destinations across West Asia.

Protest, Privilege and the Limits of Assembly Decorum

The brief disruption inside the Goa Legislative Assembly by protesters opposing the proposed Zuari dam has sparked a debate that goes beyond a single incident. At its core are larger questions about democratic dissent, institutional sanctity and the responsibility of those in power.

A group of protesters in the visitors' gallery raised slogans and displayed placards against the project, forcing the Assembly to halt proceedings briefly. Security personnel removed them and they were detained. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant reacted strongly, describing the act as a "terrorist kind of attitude" and calling for strict action. The episode deserves careful reflection rather than instant outrage.

To begin with, the concerns of villagers and activists opposing the dam cannot simply be dismissed. Development projects, especially large water infrastructure, inevitably bring difficult trade offs. While governments argue such projects are necessary for long term water security, people living in the affected areas worry about displacement, loss of homes and ecological damage. These anxieties are neither irrational nor illegitimate. In any democracy, citizens have the right to question projects that may alter their lives and landscapes. Yet, the method of protest used inside the Assembly is difficult to justify. A legislature is not a street corner or a public rally ground. It is the state's highest deliberative body where elected representatives debate and decide policy. The visitors' gallery exists so citizens can observe the proceedings of their government, not intervene in them. Allowing demonstrations from the gallery would set a dangerous precedent. If one group can shout slogans inside the Assembly today, another group with a different cause might attempt the same tomorrow. Soon the chamber could become vulnerable to disruptions that undermine the very process of democratic decision making. Security considerations alone make such acts unacceptable. The Assembly must remain a controlled and orderly space. That said, the government's reaction has also raised uncomfortable questions.

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behaviour to terrorism is a serious exaggeration. Terrorism involves violence, intimidation and threats to life. What happened in the Assembly was a breach of decorum and security, not an act of terror. Political leaders must be careful with their language. When dissenters are casually labelled as terrorists, it weakens democratic discourse and turns political disagreement into criminal suspicion.

Governments have every right to enforce rules and maintain order. Those who disrupt the Assembly can face legal consequences for violating security protocols. But the state must distinguish between maintaining institutional discipline and demonising dissent.

Another important issue is

how the protesters entered the visitors' gallery in the first place. Access to legislative galleries is not random. Visitors typically receive passes issued through legislators or authorised channels. If individuals were able to enter with placards and stage a coordinated protest, the Assembly administration must examine whether there were lapses in screening or oversight.

Blaming the protesters alone would ignore this procedural failure. A proper inquiry should establish who recommended the passes and whether security checks were followed.

There is also a political dimension that cannot be ignored. In many states, protest movements often have shifting alliances with political parties. Individuals who once supported a party or its leaders sometimes turn into critics when policy decisions affect their communities. Such shifts are part of the messy reality of democratic politics.

That complexity, however, should not be used to discredit the substance of their concerns. Even if some protesters once sympathised with the ruling party, their fears about displacement or environmental impact still deserve to be heard.

The real challenge for the government lies not in suppressing protests but in addressing the underlying grievances. If the Zuari dam project is essential, the administration must explain its benefits clearly, publish detailed impact assessments and present credible rehabilitation plans for affected families. Transparency is the most effective antidote to suspicion. The Assembly disruption was clearly wrong. Legislative spaces must remain protected from such intrusions. But the response must also remain proportionate. Democracies weaken when institutions lose authority, but they weaken just as much when governments treat dissent as hostility.

In the end, both sides crossed a line. Protesters should not have turned the Assembly gallery into a stage for agitation. The government, in turn, should resist the temptation to brand critics as enemies of the state.

Democracy survives when institutions remain strong and dissent remains legitimate. Neither should be sacrificed in the heat of political confrontation.

OpEd

Justice and the Right to Protest in Goa

By Norbert Noronha

The arrest of four individuals for protesting from the visitors' gallery of the Goa Legislative Assembly has stirred an important debate about justice, dissent and the responsibility of the state towards its citizens.

It is undeniable that the Assembly is a place meant for orderly debate among elected representatives. The visitors' gallery is intended for observation, not participation. Any attempt to disrupt proceedings from the gallery is a breach of the decorum expected in such a sensitive institution. Maintaining discipline and security within the Assembly is therefore necessary.

At the same time, the larger context cannot be ignored. Those who raised slogans did so because they believe certain policies and projects threaten the future of Goa's environment, heritage and communities. When citizens feel deeply about issues affecting their land and livelihood, they sometimes resort to dramatic gestures in order to draw attention to their concerns. While their method may have been inappropriate, their intentions appear to stem from a desire to safeguard what they see as the interests of Goa and its people.

Justice must always be balanced and fair. If the law has been violated, the authorities may take action in accordance with legal procedures. However, the response should not create the impression that citizens who raise their voices for the protection of their land are being treated as enemies of the state.

Democracy thrives on dialogue and listening. When people feel unheard or ignored, frustration often leads to protest. Instead of responding only with arrests or accusations, the government would do well to engage with the concerns of those who fear that development may come at the cost of Goa's natural and cultural wealth.

There is also a deeper moral dimension to every action. The principle of karma reminds us that justice ultimately works through the law of cause and effect. As Paramahansa Yogananda once wrote, "Karma is the law of action or cosmic justice, based upon cause and effect. Your every act, good or bad, has a specific effect on your life. The effects of actions in this life remain lodged in the subconsciousness."

If injustice is perceived to be done to Goans who believe they are fighting to protect their homeland, the moral consequences will not simply disappear with arrests or harsh words. Truth and fairness have a way of asserting themselves over time.

The Assembly must remain a respected institution and disruptions within it cannot become the norm. But governments must also recognise that protest, however inconvenient, is often the voice of a concerned citizenry.

At this moment, Goa needs understanding rather than confrontation. The state's leaders must reassure people that development will not come at the cost of justice or environmental destruction. Dialogue, transparency and compassion will strengthen public trust far more than punitive measures.

In the end, justice must prevail not only through the law but also through fairness and wisdom. That is the foundation on which a healthy democracy stands.

Goa Aims to Become Global Aviation Hub with Dual-Airport Strategy

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Goa government is ramping up efforts to position the state as a premier international aviation and tourism hub through a dual-airport system, leveraging both Manohar International Airport (Mopa) and Dabolim Airport. The strategy prioritizes direct international connectivity,



particularly from Europe and the Middle East, to attract more global travelers. Over the last five years, Manohar International Airport has established links with key international destinations,

including London (Gatwick), Manchester, Warsaw, Moscow, Sharjah, Muscat, and Doha, among others. Some routes are temporarily suspended, but the state plans to revive and expand them under a new incentive scheme. The Department of Tourism has introduced a Rs 2 crore incentive fund to attract airlines and strengthen direct flight

connectivity. Civil Aviation Minister Pramod Sawant said, "Our goal is to make Goa a global aviation and tourism hub. By maximizing the operational capacity of Mopa Airport and supporting Dabolim, we are creating a time-bound, incentive-driven roadmap to boost direct international connectivity and open new opportunities for travelers and airlines alike."



Two Booked for Noise Pollution at Morjim Resorts

Team Goemkarponn

Pernem: Mandrem Police have registered two separate cases against resort operators in Morjim for allegedly playing loud music without permission and causing noise pollution. In the first case, Mandrem Police registered Crime No. 23/2026 on March 4 at 4:46 pm based on a complaint filed by PSI Pratik V. Garudi of Mandrem Police Station. Police said that at around 2:25 pm on March 4, the accused, Anand Rudrappa Herekar (37), manager of Marbella Beach Resort at Gaude Waddo, Morjim in Pernem, allegedly played loud music during a Holi party organised at the resort without

obtaining permission from the concerned authority, thereby causing noise pollution and violating sound level regulations. In another case, Mandrem Police registered Crime No. 20/2026 on February 23 at 1:47 am following a complaint filed by Sagardeep Sirsaiker, a resident of Chapora Dabholwada in Bardez. According to the complaint, on February 22 at around 11:55 pm, the accused Agnelo Dsouza, a resident of Vithaldas Wada in Morjim, allegedly played loud music beyond the permitted time limit at Orion Beach Resort, Morjim, without obtaining the required permission from authorities, resulting in noise pollution.

Govt implementing Agristack digital agriculture project in Goa: CM

■ Digital crop survey completed in three villages; farmer data to be stored on cloud

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Goa government has begun implementing the Agristack – Digital Agriculture Project under the Digital Agriculture Mission to create a centralized digital system for farmer records and agricultural data management.

Responding to an Unstarred Legislative Assembly Question tabled by Cuncolim MLA Yuri Alemao, Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister Pramod Sawant informed the House that the project is currently under implementation in the state. According to the government, a state-level committee headed by the

Chief Secretary has been constituted to oversee the implementation of the Agristack initiative. An MoU has also been signed with the Government of India for executing the project. As part of the initial phase, a digital crop survey has been carried out on a pilot basis in three villages in Goa. The government



is also collecting land records data from the Department of Land Records to assign unique farm IDs to land parcels. The state government further stated that it plans to store farmers' data on a cloud-based system, and the process of setting up a Project Management Unit by onboarding a consultant is underway.

Goa Maintains Good to Moderate Air Quality Across State, Says GSPCB

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) continues to monitor ambient air quality across 18 locations in the state, reporting Air Quality Index (AQI) levels ranging from good to moderate. The monitoring is conducted under the National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP) of the Central Pollution Control Board, which requires air quality checks twice a week. The GSPCB laboratory,



accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), follows ISO/IEC 17025 standards to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and impartiality of its testing and calibration

results. All sampling, monitoring, and analysis activities are carried out strictly within the scope of NABL accreditation, with periodic audits conducted to verify the competency of analysts and compliance with prescribed methodologies. Of the 18 air quality monitoring locations, 16 are outsourced to MoEF&CC-recognized and NABL-accredited laboratories, while two are monitored directly by GSPCB laboratories.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah Pushes for Kalasa-Bhandura Project Amid Clearance Delays

Team Goemkarponn

BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, during the presentation of the state budget on Friday, announced that work on the Kalasa-Bhandura water diversion project will commence once mandatory environmental and forest approvals are secured from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate



Change (MoEF&CC) and the National Board for Wildlife (NBW). Presenting the Karnataka Budget 2026–27 in the Assembly, Siddaramaiah outlined a comprehensive Rs 4.48 lakh crore expenditure plan

focused on enhancing welfare programs, strengthening education, boosting infrastructure, and modernizing state governance. The Chief Minister confirmed that the contract for the Kalasa-Bhandura project has already been awarded, but construction will only start after the required environmental and forest clearances from the central authorities are obtained.

"BJP Govt's Silence Forced Mirabag Protesters to Act:" Vijai Sardesai Stands Strong With Protestors

Team Goemkarponn

Fatorda: The indefinite protest against the controversial Mirabag bandhara project intensified dramatically

yesterday when agitating villagers, frustrated after 27 days of government apathy, took their fight to the doors of the Goa Legislative Assembly. Goa Forward Party (GFP)

President and Fatorda MLA, Shri Vijai Sardesai along with Senior leaders of GFP, and activists have strongly condemned the government's response and demanded immediate

justice. Senior Leader and General Secretary, Goa Forward Party, Mohandas Loliengar, stated that the step taken by the protestors was a direct outcome of the government



turning a deaf ear to their legitimate demands. He asserted that their action

was a reaction to the complete lack of response from the authorities.

Illegal Transport of 750 Kg Meat Foiled at Keri Check Post; Driver Booked

Team Goemkarponn

Valpoi: Valpoi Police intercepted a pickup vehicle transporting a large quantity of meat illegally at the Keri border check post in Sattari during the early hours of Thursday. According to police, the offence was registered on March 6 at 10:17 am based on a complaint filed by Police Constable Anuksh Gaonkar (PC-



8151), attached to Valpoi Police Station. As per the complaint, at around 1:30 am on March 6, police at the Border Check Post (BCP) Keri stopped a white Bolero Pickup bearing registration

number KA-22-B-3542. The vehicle was allegedly found transporting about 750 kg of red meat valued at approximately Rs 2.10 lakh. Police stated that the meat was being transported in unhygienic

conditions and without any bill or authorization letter from the competent authority. The driver of the vehicle, identified as Sadiq B. Naikawadi (33), son of Basirahmed and a resident of House No. 278, Ankalgi, Belgaum in Karnataka, has been booked in connection with the offence. Further investigation is being carried out by LPSI Sanisha Naik of Valpoi Police Station.

AAP Leaders Booked for Unlawful Protest, Effigy Burning in Panaji

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Panaji Police have registered a case against several Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders and their supporters for allegedly staging an unlawful protest and burning effigies during the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct for the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) elections. According to police, the offence was registered on March 5 at 8:07 pm based on a complaint filed by Umesh Shirodkar, Flying Squad Officer for the General Election to the Corporation of the City of Panaji, 2026.

As per the complaint, at around 4:30 pm on March 5, AAP leaders including Valmiki Naik, Sandesh Talekar alias Dessai, Sarfarz Ankalji, Gerson Gomes, Prashant Naik, Michal Cardozo, Herton Fernandes, Vishwajit Shirodkar, Hemant Kumar, Shekar Awasthi and Adv. Vishwanath Lotlikar, along with 30 to 40 supporters and party workers,

allegedly formed an unlawful assembly in front of the BJP office on Dr A.B. Road in Panaji. Police said the group organised the protest without obtaining prior permission from the competent authority. The protest was held under the pretext of the imprisonment of former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in connection with the alleged liquor scam, claiming that the cases were politically motivated. During the protest, the demonstrators allegedly burned effigies of the Prime Minister and the Goa Chief Minister in front of the BJP office, which police said posed a risk to human life and the safety of people residing and working in the vicinity. Police further stated that the incident occurred while the Model Code of Conduct and Section 163 of the BSS Act, 2023 were in force, amounting to disobedience of orders duly promulgated by the Election Authority.

Four Booked for Assault with Beer Bottles in Mapusa; Gold Chain Missing

Team Goemkarponn

Mapusa: Mapusa Police have registered a case against four persons for allegedly assaulting a group of youths with beer bottles and fists at Bodgini in Mapusa, causing injuries and financial losses. The offence was registered on March 5 at 6:28 pm based on a complaint filed by Shourya



Ramkrishna Mayekar, a resident of Shetyewado, Dhuler, Mapusa in Bardez. According to the

complaint, the incident occurred on March 4 at around 8:30 pm at Bodgini, Mapusa. The accused persons have been identified as Vithal Suresh Kudnekar of Reismagos, Betim; Mallikarjun Lakhan Hosagowdar of Sonar Bhat, Reismagos; Sayed Rafiq Bhandari of Malim, Betim; and Nitesh Vijay Karapurkar of Near Ice

Factory, Betim. Police said the accused, acting with common intention, allegedly abused the complainant, his sister Nikita Frankey Carvalho, his brother Divyam Virendra Mayekar, and their friends Krish Navelkar of Colvale and Vinit Vinay Dhuri of Mapusa in filthy language and threatened them with dire consequences.

Man Caught Red-Handed Accepting Matka Bets at Goa Velha Market

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Agacaim Police have apprehended a 58-year-old man for allegedly accepting matka gambling bets at Goa Velha Market in Tiswadi on Wednesday evening. According to police, the offence was registered on March 5 at 9:19 pm based on a complaint lodged by Head Constable Sudesh Mangadkar (HC-7110) of Agacaim Police Station on behalf of the State. The accused has been identified as Shiddappa Hosmani (58), son of Durgappa Hosmani, a resident of House No. 122, Padrihat, St. Laurenceo, Agacaim in Tiswadi. Police stated that at around 7:45 pm, the accused was caught red-handed while allegedly accepting matka gambling bets by soliciting and collecting



wagers on numerical digits using paper slips at the Goa Velha Market. During the raid, police seized cash amounting to Rs 1,050 in different denominations (Rs 500x1, Rs 200x1, Rs 100x3, and Rs 50x1) along with gambling-related materials including a ball pen, one piece of carbon paper, a calculator, and a paper slip book containing numerical entries from the possession of the accused. Further investigation in the case is being carried out by HC Sudesh Mangadkar (HC-7040) of Agacaim Police Station.

Minor Girl Kidnapped from Calangute; Police Launch Search

Team Goemkarponn

Calangute: A minor girl was allegedly kidnapped by an unknown person from Khobra Vaddo in Calangute on Thursday evening, prompting police to register a case and launch a search operation.

According to police, the offence was registered at around 3:39 am on March 6 based on a complaint filed by the girl's father, a resident of Calangute in Bardez and a native of Gujarat. The complainant stated that on March 5 at around 5:00 pm,

an unknown accused allegedly kidnapped his minor daughter from his lawful guardianship at Khobra Vaddo, Calangute. Police described the missing girl as approximately 150 cm in height, with a whitish complexion, thin build and



long black hair. At the time she went missing, she was wearing a black half-sleeve T-shirt, pink pants and slippers. Calangute Police have registered an offence in the matter and further investigation is in progress.

Pedestrian Seriously Injured in Hit-and-Run Accident at Porvorim

Team Goemkarponn

Porvorim: A 33-year-old woman sustained grievous injuries after being hit by a car in a hit-and-run accident near Majestic Hotel on NH-66 at Porvorim.

According to police, the offence was registered on March 5 at 5:02 pm following a complaint filed by Lalhminghlui, daughter of F. Thangkama,



a resident of Skylark Apartment, Pundalik Nagar, Porvorim and a native of Aizawl, Bethlehem Vengthlang, Mizoram.

As per the complaint, the incident occurred on March 3 at around 5:45 pm when the victim was crossing the NH-66 road near Majestic Hotel in Porvorim. At that time, a white Swift Dzire car bearing registration number GJ-08-CR-4720, which was proceeding from Panaji towards Mapusa, allegedly dashed against her.

The impact caused

grievous injuries to her left hand, right leg and face. After the accident, the driver allegedly fled the spot with the vehicle without providing medical assistance to the injured pedestrian or informing the police.

Porvorim Police have registered a case and further investigation is being carried out by HC Vikram Naik (Buckle No. 5315).

Goa Budget 2026–27 a Misleading ‘Surplus’ Budget: Amit Patkar

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee President Amit Patkar has criticised the Goa Budget 2026–27, calling it a misleading “surplus” budget that fails to address rising debt, unemployment and challenges in the tourism sector. In a press note issued on Thursday, Patkar said the BJP-



led Government of Goa has claimed a revenue surplus of ₹1,666 crore, which he described as disconnected from the state’s actual financial

condition. He pointed out that Goa’s total liabilities are projected to rise to ₹35,608 crore by March 2026 and the state will face debt repayment obligations of over ₹11,370 crore in the next five years beginning 2026–27. “When such massive liabilities exist, presenting the budget as financially comfortable raises serious questions about fiscal management,”

he said. Patkar further stated that nearly 70 per cent of the state’s revenue is already committed to salaries, pensions and welfare expenditure, leaving limited scope for development or capital investment. According to him, the government’s claim of a revenue surplus appears more like a headline figure rather than reflecting the true financial reality.

Goa Budget Lacks Accountability, Says AAP President Valmiki Naik

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa Aam Aadmi Party President Valmiki Naik on Friday criticised the Goa Budget 2026–27, alleging that it was filled with announcements but lacked accountability and concrete outcomes. Reacting to the budget



presented by the Government of Goa, Naik said a budget should not merely list promises but must also report achievements and outcomes from the previous year’s budget. He stated that the budget failed to address major issues affecting the state, including unemployment, rising prices and the deteriorating law and order situation.

CM Orders Thorough Probe into Pernem Assault on Advocate

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has taken serious cognisance of the assault on advocate Sadanand D. Vaingankar reported from Pernem on March 6. Police have registered an offence in connection

with the incident and begun an investigation. The Chief Minister has directed authorities to carry out a thorough probe and ensure that the accused involved in the act of violence are identified and brought to book in accordance with the law.

‘It’s War Time, Show Must Not Go On’: Prabhav Naik Slams Govt Publicity Events

Team Goemkarponn

Margao: Madganvcho Awaaz and youth leader Prabhav Naik has strongly criticised the State Government’s decision to organise large-scale publicity events at a time when citizens are struggling with rising prices of



essential commodities, particularly the latest hike in LPG cylinder prices. Naik said that when

households are finding it difficult to manage basic expenses, the government should prioritise relief for the people instead of spending crores on publicity-driven programmes. Referring to the Budget speech of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Naik pointed out that the “Sarkar

Tumchya Daari” initiative was announced to take governance to the people. “Governance must certainly reach the people, but it should be through efficient and service-oriented administration rather than through grand publicity events across the state at a huge cost to the exchequer,” he said.

Taxi Operators’ Concerns Addressed at Dabolim Airport: Mauvin Godinho

Team Goemkarponn

Dabolim: Goa Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho held an interaction with members of the taxi community at Dabolim Airport to discuss their concerns and suggestions related to operations and facilities at the airport. Speaking after the meeting, Godinho said taxi operators play a crucial role in Goa’s tourism sector as they are often the first point of interaction for visitors arriving in the state. “Goa’s economy thrives on tourism, and taxi operators



represent the hospitality and service spirit of our state. It is important that their concerns are heard and addressed through constructive dialogue,” Godinho said. The minister said taxi operators had earlier requested the removal of certain rate boards installed at the airport.

Mapusa Advocates Forum Condemns Assault on Advocate Sadanand Vaingankar

Team Goemkarponn

Mapusa: The Mapusa Advocates Forum has strongly condemned the physical assault on advocate Sadanand Vaingankar, stating that the incident is not just a criminal act but an attack on the justice system and the legal fraternity. In a statement, the forum said the assault on Adv. Vaingankar allegedly took place while he was performing his professional duties and in the presence of state functionaries and police personnel. The matter is currently under



investigation by Dhargal Police Station. The forum emphasised that advocates are officers of the court and any attack on a lawyer undermines the functioning of the justice system.

The Mapusa Advocates Forum has demanded an immediate and transparent investigation into the

incident and called for proactive measures to ensure the safety of the legal fraternity. The forum also urged the government to consider special legislation to protect advocates and the legal community. Expressing solidarity, the forum wished Adv. Vaingankar a speedy recovery.



KTC Launches Special Bus Service from Vasco to Cujira–Bambolim for Students

Team Goemkarponn

Vasco: A special bus service of Kadamba Transport Corporation (KTC) was launched on Thursday to facilitate students travelling from Vasco to the Cujira–Bambolim complex. The service was flagged off by Transport Minister and Dabolim MLA Mauvin Godinho. The bus service has been introduced mainly for the benefit of students studying at S. S. Dempo College of Commerce and Economics. As per the schedule, the bus will depart from Vasco at 7:15 am, while the return service will leave Cujira–Bambolim at 1:00 pm.

Braille Signages Installed at Madgaon Railway Station for Visually Impaired Passengers

Team Goemkarponn

Madgaon: In a step towards improving accessibility and inclusive infrastructure, Braille signages for visually impaired passengers have been installed

at Madgaon Railway Station in collaboration with the Kamalaksh Naik Foundation. The initiative was inaugurated by Goa’s Minister for Social Welfare, River Navigation and Drinking Water, Subhash Phal Dessai, in

the presence of officials of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited and other dignitaries. On the occasion, the minister also donated four wheelchairs for the benefit of passengers at the railway station.



According to officials, the Braille signages have been installed at key locations across the station to help visually

impaired passengers identify important facilities and navigate the premises more independently.

“Empowering Women Entrepreneurs”: WTC Goa Launches Two New Business Initiatives

■ Programmes aim to strengthen women led enterprises and expand global trade opportunities.

New Delhi: The World Trade Center Goa has launched two new initiatives focused on empowering women entrepreneurs and strengthening the regional business ecosystem ahead of International Women's Day 2026. The programmes, introduced on March 6, are designed to support women led businesses and help enterprises from Goa connect with wider global markets.

The first initiative, EnterprisingWomen@WTC Goa, aims to identify and nurture women entrepreneurs across the state. The programme will focus on strengthening women led enterprises by addressing skill gaps and providing specialised training and capacity building support. Through structured programmes, the initiative will help



entrepreneurs improve management practices, enhance product quality and increase productivity within their businesses. By equipping entrepreneurs and their teams with better business and operational skills, the programme aims to help women run enterprises more efficiently and improve their long term economic sustainability. The broader objective is to enable women owned businesses to expand operations and compete more effectively in growing markets. Alongside this

effort, the organisation has also introduced BusinessStudio@WTC Goa, a platform designed to promote member businesses and help them access international trade opportunities. The initiative will guide enterprises in preparing for global markets by offering support related to trade readiness, market access and international business connections. Through BusinessStudio, businesses will receive assistance in understanding export opportunities,

strengthening global partnerships and building linkages with international trade networks. The programme is expected to help companies from Goa expand their presence beyond domestic markets and explore new avenues for growth. Both initiatives will be led by a dedicated women led team within the organisation. The leadership structure reflects the centre's commitment to promoting inclusive economic development and creating stronger opportunities for women entrepreneurs. By launching these programmes, the World Trade Center Goa aims to build a supportive ecosystem where women entrepreneurs can grow their businesses, develop leadership capabilities and contribute more significantly to the state's economic development.



“Up To 85% Compensation For Digital Fraud”: RBI Unveils Draft Customer Protection Scheme

■ Proposed guidelines aim to reduce losses and speed up complaint resolution as digital payments surge

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India has released draft guidelines proposing a new compensation framework to protect customers affected by digital payment fraud. The proposed scheme aims to reimburse victims for a significant portion of their financial losses as cases of online fraud continue to rise with the rapid expansion of digital transactions.

Under the proposal, customers may receive compensation covering up to 85 percent of the amount lost in a fraudulent digital transaction. However, the total payout will be capped at Rs 25,000 per case. According to the draft framework, the central bank would bear the larger share of the compensation. The Reserve Bank of India would cover 65 percent of the loss, while the remaining 20 percent would be paid by the customer's bank. This shared responsibility is intended to strengthen consumer protection while encouraging financial institutions to improve fraud prevention measures.

The proposed scheme will initially be implemented for a period of one year. After this trial phase, authorities will review the contribution structure and evaluate

the effectiveness of the framework before making further adjustments.

To qualify for compensation, customers will be required to report fraudulent transactions within five days of noticing the activity. Complaints must be registered through the national cybercrime reporting system or by contacting the official helpline number 1930, along with notifying their bank.

The central bank has also specified that individuals will be eligible to use the compensation facility only once during their lifetime. This condition is intended to encourage responsible digital transaction practices while still providing a safety net for genuine victims of fraud. The new guidelines are designed to strengthen existing customer protection rules and shorten the time required to resolve complaints related to digital fraud.

Faster processing and clearer procedures are expected to help victims recover part of their losses more efficiently.

If finalised, the compensation scheme is scheduled to come into effect from July 1.

The proposal reflects growing efforts by regulators to strengthen trust in India's rapidly expanding digital payments ecosystem.

CONTINUATION PG 1

Domestic LPG Price Hiked By Rs 60, Commercial Cylinder Up Rs 115 Amid Iran War

applies to commercial LPG cylinders used by businesses. In Delhi, the price of a 19-kg commercial cylinder has increased from Rs 1768.50 to Rs 1883. In Mumbai, the price has risen from Rs 1720.50 to Rs 1835. Similarly, in Kolkata, the price has gone up from Rs 1875.50 to Rs 1990, while in Chennai it has increased from Rs 1929 to Rs

2043.50. Earlier, the price of a domestic LPG cylinder had remained unchanged since April 2025, when the non-subsidised rate in Delhi stood at Rs 853. The latest revision marks a significant increase for household consumers as well as commercial users who rely on LPG for daily operations. The increase comes amid discussions around India's

energy supply and fuel availability. Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri earlier assured that there is no shortage of energy in the country and that consumers need not worry about supply disruptions.

"Our priority is to ensure the availability of affordable and sustainable fuel for our citizens, and we are doing it

comfortably. There is no shortage of energy in India, and there is no cause of worry for our energy consumers," the minister said in a post on X. Meanwhile, Indian Oil Corporation also dismissed reports circulating on social media suggesting a shortage of petrol and diesel in the country, terming them baseless.

Sugarcane Farmers Decline as Sanjivani Sugar Factory Remains Shut

Karkhana Limited (SSSKL) at Dayanandnagar, Dharbandora has led to a sharp decline in sugarcane cultivation in Goa, with the number of farmers dropping by more than 50 percent over the past five years. According to information tabled in the Legislative Assembly, the number of farmers cultivating sugarcane in Goa has

steadily declined from 676 farmers cultivating 546 hectares in 2020-21 to 298 farmers cultivating 254.07 hectares in 2025-26. The data was provided in response to an Unstarred Legislative Assembly Question raised by Benaolim MLA Venzy Viegas and answered by Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister Pramod Sawant.

Mystery Surrounds Death Of Cavlossim Man Found In Well

nylon rope around his neck and a chair inside the well. Villagers are questioning if he was harmed before ending up in the well. Colva police station in-charge PI Diego Gracias said, "We have registered a case of unnatural death. The post-mortem, scheduled for Friday, will reveal the cause, and

further inquiries will follow based on its findings." A forensic team visited the site to collect evidence and assist in the investigation. A senior police officer added that the main focus of the inquiry is to determine whether Cardozo was killed before being placed in the well or if drowning was the cause of death.

“Indians Have Been Good Actors”: US Allows Temporary Purchase of Russian Oil Amid Global Supply Concerns

■ Short term waiver aims to stabilise oil markets during ongoing West Asia conflict.

New Delhi: The United States has granted India temporary permission to purchase Russian oil that is already loaded on ships at sea, a move aimed at stabilising global energy supplies during the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The measure is intended to address short term disruptions in the oil market while ensuring that supply continues to reach global refineries. The decision allows Indian refiners to receive Russian crude that had already been shipped before the



latest restrictions were introduced. The limited waiver applies only to oil currently floating on vessels and does not represent a broader policy shift on sanctions against Russia. US officials indicated that the global

oil market remains well supplied overall. However, temporary pressure on supply has emerged due to disruptions linked to the conflict involving Iran and tensions affecting shipping routes in the region. By permitting India to process

oil already stranded at sea, the measure is expected to help bring additional barrels into the market more quickly. Officials noted that India had previously reduced purchases of sanctioned Russian oil after being requested to do so and had planned to increase imports from the United States. The current permission is being treated as a short term arrangement designed to ease market pressure rather than a long term policy change.



“Uttarkashi Flood Was Triggered by Ice Sheet Collapse, Not Cloudburst”: ISRO Study

■ Satellite analysis reveals hidden glacier related hazard behind the devastating 2025 Dharali disaster

New Delhi: A detailed scientific investigation has revealed that the devastating flood that struck Dharali village in Uttarkashi in August 2025 was not caused by a cloudburst or a glacial lake outburst flood, as initially suspected. Scientists from the Indian Space Research Organisation have concluded that the disaster was triggered by the sudden collapse of a large exposed ice sheet high in the Himalayas. Dharali is located along the Bhagirathi River, near the point where the glacier fed Khir Gad stream descends from the Srikanta Glacier. On August 5, 2025, a powerful surge of water, mud and rocks rushed through the village, destroying homes, hotels and markets along the narrow valley. Videos recorded

by residents showed a sudden and violent wave of debris followed by slower muddy flows that continued for several hours. Initially, the disaster was widely believed to be the result of either a cloudburst or a glacial lake outburst flood. However, scientists analysed rainfall records from the India Meteorological Department and found that rainfall in the area during the days leading up to the event had been only light to moderate. Satellite imagery also confirmed that there were no glacial lakes in the upper catchment that could have burst. Further analysis using satellite data and digital elevation models traced the origin of the flood to a steep slope more than 5,200 metres above sea level, just below the glacier.

“Foreign Policy Cannot Be Outsourced”: Rahul Gandhi Criticises Government Over US Waiver on Russian Oil

■ Congress leaders say temporary US approval raises concerns about India’s strategic autonomy.

New Delhi: The opposition has strongly criticised the central government after the United States announced a temporary 30 day waiver allowing India to purchase Russian oil that is already loaded on ships. The decision has triggered a political debate in India, with several opposition leaders questioning the country’s foreign policy approach and energy



independence. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi criticised the government’s handling of foreign policy, saying India’s international

decisions should be guided by its own national interests and democratic values. He argued that the country’s energy security should not depend on approval from another nation. Gandhi also shared a video of his earlier speech in Parliament where he warned that India could lose control over critical decisions related to energy imports. In that speech, he

claimed that the United States was effectively deciding from whom India could purchase oil, raising concerns about the country’s strategic independence. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also criticised the development, saying the language used in the announcement suggested that India required permission to carry out its energy trade.

4 Lakh Tonnes of Basmati Rice Stuck as Iran War Disrupts India’s Export Supply Chain

■ Shipping uncertainty and rising war risk costs slow trade with key Middle East markets

New Delhi: Escalating tensions in West Asia are beginning to affect India’s agricultural exports, with the basmati rice industry facing significant disruption. Trade movement has slowed sharply as the conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran creates uncertainty over shipping routes, insurance costs and delivery schedules. Industry estimates indicate that nearly four lakh tonnes of basmati rice consignments



are currently stranded either at international ports or while in transit. The disruption has created serious challenges for exporters, millers and traders who rely heavily

on markets across the Middle East. India remains the world’s largest exporter of basmati rice, and countries in West Asia account for a large share of the trade. Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen together represent nearly half of India’s basmati export market. With shipping routes now facing disruptions and additional risk charges, the flow of consignments to these destinations has slowed considerably.

“Iranian Cities Are Being Attacked Indiscriminately”: Tehran Accuses US and Israel of Targeting Civilians

■ Iran raises allegations at UN Security Council as war enters second week with rising casualties

New Delhi: Iran has accused the United States and Israel of deliberately targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure during the ongoing conflict, rejecting claims that the attacks are focused only on military sites. The accusations were made during a session of the United Nations Security Council, where Iran’s envoy warned of mounting civilian casualties and widespread destruction across the country. Iran’s ambassador to



the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani, said that residential neighbourhoods and key civilian facilities were being struck during the military campaign. According to him, densely populated urban areas are being hit repeatedly, resulting in significant

loss of life and damage to critical infrastructure. He claimed that heavy bombs were being used in populated areas, causing extensive destruction and severe human suffering. Iranian authorities say the attacks have resulted in large scale civilian casualties, including women and children. According to figures presented by Iran at the Security Council, at least 1,332 civilians have been killed since the conflict began, while thousands more have been injured.

India Eye Third Title As New Zealand Chase Maiden T20 World Cup Glory

■ Mixed soil surface at Narendra Modi Stadium likely to favour batters as both teams chase the title.

New Delhi: India will face New Zealand in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 on Sunday at the Narendra Modi Stadium after a dramatic semifinal stage that set up the title clash between the two teams. India secured their place in the final after edging past England in a high scoring semifinal. Batting first, India posted a massive total of 253 for seven, powered by a brilliant 89 from Sanju Samson. England nearly chased the target but eventually fell short by seven runs in a tense



finish.

New Zealand, meanwhile, delivered a dominant performance in their semifinal against South Africa. The team chased down a target of 170 in just 12.5 overs to seal a convincing nine wicket victory and book



their spot in the final.

The pitch for the final in Ahmedabad is expected to be a mixed soil surface containing both red and black soil, with a greater proportion of red soil. Such a surface is likely to provide consistent bounce and better

conditions for batters, making it similar to the pitch used in the Mumbai semifinal. Experts believe the conditions could lead to another high scoring match, with a par score likely to be around 200. So far in the tournament, the stadium has hosted only one match, in which South Africa scored 213 to defeat Canada. New Zealand have played one game at the venue during the tournament, while India have appeared twice, including a match where they suffered a loss to South Africa.



Lakshya Sen Storms Into All England Open Semifinals With Dominant Win Over Li Shi Feng

■ Indian shuttler produces commanding performance to keep title hopes alive.

Panaji: Indian badminton star Lakshya Sen advanced to the men's singles semifinals of the All England Open Badminton Championships after defeating China's sixth seed Li Shi Feng in straight games. Lakshya delivered an impressive display to secure a 21-13, 21-16 victory in the quarterfinal, maintaining control throughout the contest with aggressive shot making and consistent pressure. The win marked a significant result for the Indian shuttler, who had previously lost all three of his earlier meetings against the Chinese player. With this victory, Lakshya moves into the semifinals where he will

face the winner of the quarterfinal between Canada's Victor Lai and Japan's Koki Watanabe. Earlier in the tournament, the world number 12 had battled through a demanding round of 16 match against Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus. In a fiercely contested encounter filled with long rallies, Lakshya prevailed 21-19, 21-23, 21-10 to progress to the last eight. During the quarterfinal clash against Li Shi Feng, Lakshya initially trailed in the opening game but quickly regained control with sharp attacking strokes and precise placements. After turning a 4-6 deficit into a comfortable lead, he maintained momentum to close out the first game.

Aravindh Chithambaram Wins At Prague Chess Festival As Gukesh Settles For Another Draw

■ Nodirbek Abdusattorov takes sole lead ahead of final round in Prague

New Delhi: Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram secured an important victory while world champion D Gukesh continued his winless run in the eighth round of the Prague Chess Festival in Prague, Czech Republic. Chithambaram defeated Dutch Grandmaster

Jorden van Foreest to move up the standings, while Gukesh had to settle for a draw against Germany's Vincent Keymer. The Indian world champion has yet to record a victory in the tournament and remains near the bottom of the leaderboard with

one round left to play. Meanwhile, Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov moved into the sole lead after defeating Czech Grandmaster David Navara. Abdusattorov now leads the standings with 5.5 points, holding a half point advantage over van Foreest going into the final



round. The young Uzbek, who recently won the Tata Steel Chess Tournament Masters earlier this year, is now close to securing another major title. Navara currently sits in third place with 4.5 points.

Rosary College and PES Ravi S. Naik College Register Wins on Day Two of Goa University Inter Collegiate Cricket Championship

■ Two matches played at Goa University Cricket Ground as teams compete in the 2025 to 26 tournament

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Goa University Inter Collegiate Cricket Men's Championship 2025 to 26 continued with two matches on the second day of the tournament at the Goa University Cricket Ground. Several colleges from across the state are participating in the annual competition, which began on March 5. In the first match of the day, Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim secured a convincing nine wicket victory over PES Rajaram and Tarabai Bandekar



College of Pharmacy, Farmagudi. After winning the toss, Rosary College chose to bowl first. Bandekar College was bowled out for 69 runs in 16.1 overs.

Niraj Sangodkar scored 14 runs from 20 balls while Rudresh Kudalkar added 13 runs from 19 deliveries. Rosary College bowlers dominated the innings

with Aaryan Kumar taking two wickets for five runs, Sangamnath Pujari claiming two for ten and Abdul Ahmed picking up two for eight. Chasing the modest target, Rosary College reached 72 for one in just seven overs. Abdul Ahmed led the batting effort with 30 runs from 17 balls, while Alfaz Halgi contributed 22 runs from 19 deliveries.

Rajasthan Regals Clinch Inaugural PGTI's 72 The League Title With Dominant Final Victory

■ Team defeats UP Prometheans 12-3 to lift trophy and claim Rs 1 crore prize

New Delhi: Rajasthan Regals were crowned champions of the inaugural edition of PGTI's 72 The League after delivering a commanding 12-3 victory over table toppers UP Prometheans in the final. The triumph marked a strong comeback for the Regals, who had earlier suffered a heavy defeat against the same opponents during the league stage. Having qualified for the final as the second placed team, the Regals produced a dominant performance to overturn their earlier loss and secure the title. The winning side was awarded the championship



trophy along with prize money of Rs 1 crore, while the runners up received Rs 50 lakh. UP Prometheans began the final by fielding their strongest singles lineup, placing unbeaten captain Shaurya Bhattacharya and Arjun Prasad at the top. However, the strategy

was quickly disrupted as Rajasthan Regals delivered impressive victories in the opening matches. Jairaj Singh Sandhu defeated Bhattacharya with a convincing 4 and 3 result, while Akshay Sharma overcame Prasad with a 2 and 1 victory.