



New Digital Taxi Policy Soon; Aggregator Rules To Be Scrapped

Goa plans ₹4,500-₹5,000 crore interest-free loan for capital projects

LoP flags concerns over control of taxi market; govt gives 36 taxi associations eight days to submit views.

Opposition raises alarm over rising debt; govt says borrowings are within limits and used only for development.

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: The issue of Goa's taxi sector once again took centre stage in the Legislative Assembly, with the government announcing that the existing Transport Aggregator Policy will be scrapped once a new Digital Taxi Policy is finalized. Responding to concerns raised by Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that



the current aggregator policy has already been kept in abeyance and will be withdrawn once the



new digital taxi policy is brought into force. "The aggregator policy has been kept on hold

for the last eight months. Once the new Digital Taxi Policy is finalized, the existing policy will be scrapped," Sawant told the House. During the discussion, Alemao raised concerns over who controls the taxi market in Goa and questioned the role of taxi aggregators. He also pointed out that a majority of taxi operators have opposed the draft Transport Aggregator Guidelines. According to

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PORVORIM: The Goa government informed the Legislative Assembly on Monday that it intends to avail loans worth between ₹4,500 crore and ₹5,000 crore in the next financial year under the Centre's Special Assistance for Capital Investment



scheme, which provides funds with a 50-year interest-free repayment period. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the State had already utilised ₹4,148 crore this year under the scheme to finance capital expenditure and infrastructure works.

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Probe ordered into Mirabag Bandara protest in Assembly gallery

Speaker Ganesh Gaonkar condemns incident; report to be presented before House

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly Ganesh Gaonkar has ordered an inquiry into the protest related to the Mirabag Bandara issue that took place in the visitors' gallery of the Assembly. Condemning the incident, Gaonkar said such actions disrupt the decorum of the House and cannot be tolerated. He informed members that an investigation has already been initiated to determine how the protest occurred inside the Assembly premises. The Speaker stated that a detailed report on the matter will be prepared and subsequently tabled before the House.



On March 6, 2026, four individuals were detained after protesting in the visitors' gallery of the Goa Legislative Assembly regarding the Mirabag Bandara project. The protest caused significant disruption during the first day of the budget session, leading Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to call the protesters "terrorist-minded" and order their immediate arrest.

Yuri Alemao Flags LPG Order Impact on Goa's Hospitality Sector

Urges government to take up issue with Centre to protect tourism and livelihood

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao has raised concerns over a recent order issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas restricting the supply of LPG cylinders to domestic consumers, warning that the move could severely affect Goa's



hospitality sector. Referring to the order dated March 5, 2026, Alemao said the restriction could potentially paralyse operations

of hotels, restaurants, eateries and catering businesses across the state. He cautioned that the decision may have a ripple effect on Goa's tourism-driven economy, impacting employment and the livelihoods of thousands of people dependent on the hospitality industry.

Vijai Sardesai Raises Dual Citizenship Demand for Goans with Portuguese passports

Urges Centre to create legal framework recognising Goa's unique history

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: MLA Vijai Sardesai on Monday raised the issue of dual citizenship for Goans with Portuguese ties during Zero Hour in



the Goa Legislative Assembly, urging the state government to take up the matter with the Government of India. Sardesai highlighted that many Goans had

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MLA Viresh Borkar Clarifies Visit to TCP Office in Assembly

Denies wrongdoing, says he accompanied villagers to raise public concerns.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: MLA Viresh Borkar clarified in the Goa Legislative Assembly regarding his presence at the Town and Country Planning Department office along with a group of villagers, stating that his visit was part of his duty as a public representative. Borkar told the House that he had accompanied the villagers to the office to address their concerns related to planning matters. However, he alleged that police personnel present at the premises obstructed them, which led to unnecessary tension at the site. The MLA maintained that his actions were within legal and constitutional limits and were aimed at ensuring that the grievances of the villagers were heard by the authorities.

"Think Of The Unthinkable": IMF Chief Warns Middle East Conflict Could Push Global Inflation Higher

New Delhi: The ongoing tensions in the Middle East could create new risks for the global economy, particularly if oil prices remain



high for an extended period, according to

Rising oil prices and geopolitical tensions threaten global economic stability as governments prepare for potential market shocks.

Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. Speaking at an economic symposium organised by Japan's

finance ministry, Georgieva said the conflict in the region is once again testing the resilience of the global

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Holi Bloodshed in Delhi: A Brutal Crime That Demands More Than Condemnation

The brutal murder of a young man in Delhi's Uttam Nagar on the day of Holi is not just another crime that will fade into the daily cycle of news. It is a horrifying reminder of how quickly violence can erupt in society and how fragile the sense of safety has become in our neighbourhoods. When a festival meant to celebrate joy, colour and togetherness turns into the setting for a savage killing, it forces society to confront an uncomfortable truth. Something is deeply wrong. A young life has been lost in an act of shocking brutality. The victim, Tarun, was beaten to death in a dispute that reportedly began with a trivial incident during Holi celebrations. What should have ended with a few harsh words or an apology escalated into mob violence. A group of people allegedly attacked him with rods and sticks, leaving him fatally injured.

Such barbarity cannot be explained away as anger, provocation or neighbourhood rivalry. It is a crime that exposes the dangerous erosion of restraint in public life. The fact that a group of individuals could collectively assault an unarmed young man shows how mob mentality can overpower basic human decency. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has condemned the incident and said the government follows a zero tolerance policy towards such heinous crimes. She has directed the administration to ensure that all those involved are arrested and that strict legal action is taken against them. She has also assured the victim's family that the government stands firmly with them in this difficult time.

These assurances are important. But statements of condemnation alone cannot address the deeper issue that incidents like this reveal. The real question is why such extreme violence is becoming increasingly common in everyday disputes. Across many cities in India, small arguments are turning into deadly confrontations. Disputes over parking, neighbourhood

Across many cities in India, small arguments are turning into deadly confrontations. Disputes over parking, neighbourhood issues, festival celebrations or minor misunderstandings are escalating far beyond proportion. In many cases, a moment of anger is quickly amplified when groups gather and emotions spiral out of control. What happened in Uttam Nagar reflects this disturbing pattern. A trivial dispute should never end with someone losing his life. Yet the ease with which people now resort to violence suggests a growing breakdown of social restraint. When anger replaces reason, and mobs replace dialogue, tragedy becomes inevitable.

The consequences go far beyond one family's grief. Incidents like this shake the confidence of ordinary citizens in the safety of their communities. If a young man can be beaten to death in a residential area during a public festival, it sends a chilling message about the vulnerability of everyday life.

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grief. Incidents like this shake the confidence of ordinary citizens in the safety of their communities. If a young man can be beaten to death in a residential area during a public festival, it sends a chilling message about the vulnerability of everyday life.

For Tarun's family, the loss is irreparable. Parents who once dreamed about their son's future are now left with memories and unanswered questions. No legal action, however strict, can truly compensate for such a loss. But justice must still be delivered swiftly and decisively. Anything less would be a betrayal of the values that hold society together. Law enforcement agencies must ensure that every person involved in the crime is held accountable. Investigations must be thorough and transparent. The legal process must be swift so that the message is clear that such brutality will not go unpunished.

At the same time, society must look inward. Violence does not emerge in isolation. It grows in environments where anger is normalised and aggression is tolerated. When abusive behaviour becomes common in everyday interactions, it gradually lowers the threshold for more serious acts of violence.

Festivals like Holi symbolise the triumph of harmony over hostility. They are meant to bring communities together. When such occasions turn into scenes of bloodshed, it reflects a failure not just of law enforcement but also of social responsibility. The tragedy in Uttam Nagar must therefore serve as a wake up call. Justice for Tarun is essential. But equally important is a collective determination that such brutality will never be accepted as part of normal life.

A society that tolerates violence over trivial disputes slowly loses its moral foundation. That line must be drawn firmly and clearly. The message must be unmistakable. No grievance, no provocation and no argument can ever justify the taking of a human life.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Support and Protest: The Real Issue Behind Goa's Section 39A Debate

The recent gathering of thousands of supporters in Valpoi to express solidarity with Goa minister Vishwajit Rane highlights how deeply the debate over Section 39A of the Goa Town and Country Planning Act has divided public opinion. While such demonstrations of support are part of a democratic society, they should not distract from the larger concerns that have triggered protests across the state. Section 39A has become controversial because it allows authorities to alter land-use plans and zoning provisions under certain circumstances. For many citizens and environmental groups, this raises serious questions about transparency, accountability and the long-term impact on Goa's fragile ecology. In a state already facing rapid urbanisation and pressure on land resources, any provision that enables changes to development plans must be examined carefully. The protests outside the minister's residence earlier reflected public anxiety about whether such provisions could open the door to arbitrary decisions or favour powerful interests. The subsequent show of support in Valpoi indicates that the issue has also taken on a political dimension, with supporters and critics lining up on opposite sides. However, governance should not be reduced to a contest of crowds. What matters most is clarity and trust. The government must address the concerns surrounding Section 39A in a transparent manner, clearly explaining how the provision will be used and what safeguards exist to prevent misuse. Goa's future depends on balanced development that respects both people and the environment. Public confidence can only be restored through open dialogue and responsible policy decisions.

-Santosh Salve, Ponda

A Moment of Pride for Indian Cricket

India's emphatic victory over New Zealand in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final has filled millions of cricket lovers with pride and excitement. By defeating New Zealand by a massive margin of 96 runs, India not only lifted the trophy but also became the first team to successfully defend the T20 World Cup title, marking a historic moment in the sport. The triumph was a result of remarkable teamwork and fearless cricket. Batting first in the final, India posted a formidable total of 255 for five, the highest score ever recorded in a T20 World Cup final. Explosive performances by the top order, particularly Sanju Samson's brilliant knock, laid the foundation for this massive total. Equally impressive was the team's bowling display. Jasprit Bumrah led the attack with exceptional precision, taking four crucial wickets and dismantling New Zealand's batting line-up. The disciplined bowling ensured that New Zealand could only manage 159 runs, handing India a commanding victory in front of a packed stadium in Ahmedabad. Beyond the statistics, this victory symbolises the strength and depth of modern Indian cricket. The team demonstrated confidence, aggression and unity throughout the tournament. Winning the World Cup on home soil and defending the title after their previous triumph makes the achievement even more special. Such victories inspire young cricketers across the country and reinforce India's growing stature in international cricket. The team deserves immense appreciation for delivering a performance that will be remembered as one of the greatest moments in Indian sporting history.

-Manju Morajkar, Mandrem

₹40 Lakh Spent On Sarkar Tumchya Dari Event At Sankhali: Govt Reply In Assembly

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji/Sankhali: The Goa government informed the State Legislative Assembly that over ₹40 lakh was spent on a 'Sarkar Tumchya Dari' programme held at Ravindra Bhavan, Sankhali in 2021, making it one of the most expensive outreach events conducted under the initiative. The information was tabled in the Assembly in response to questions raised by



MLAs Vijai Sardesai and Carlos Ferreira regarding expenditure and implementation of the government's public outreach programmes. According to the reply, the Sankhali event cost ₹40,30,145, while other events under the programme recorded

expenditures ranging from around ₹2.46 lakh to over ₹40 lakh. The government also stated that a recent Sarkar Tumchya Dari event held on February 6, 2026 at Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir, Ponda, is still awaiting billing. Meanwhile, the General Administration Department (GAD) clarified that it has not incurred any expenditure for the Janata Darbar programmes, which are conducted monthly with cabinet ministers interacting directly with

citizens. The government further admitted that it does not maintain records of the number of grievances received or their disposal status during Sarkar Tumchya Dari events, as complaints are immediately forwarded to the concerned departments. The reply also confirmed that no formal review or impact assessment has been conducted so far to evaluate the effectiveness of the outreach programmes.



AERA Determines Tariffs At Dabolim And Mopa Airports: CM

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The tariffs, fees and operational charges levied on airlines at Goa's Dabolim International Airport and Manohar International Airport at Mopa are determined by the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA), the Goa Legislative Assembly was informed. Replying to an unstarred question tabled by Viresh Borkar, Chief Minister and Civil Aviation Minister Pramod Sawant stated that the tariffs at Mopa airport are governed by AERA Order dated August 26, 2022, while the tariffs for Dabolim airport are determined under an AERA order dated August 17, 2021. Sawant further informed the House that the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority,

established under the AERA Act, 2008, regulates tariffs and monitors performance standards at major airports across India. The statutory body functions under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and aims to protect user interests while promoting fair competition. Regarding financial details of the two airports, the government said the audited financial statements and profit-and-loss records from 2022 onwards are voluminous in nature and not feasible to provide under the rules of procedure of the Goa Legislative Assembly. The Chief Minister also informed that the gross revenue share of 36.99 percent from the concessionaire operating Mopa airport has commenced from December 7, 2024.

7 Electrical Workers Die in Electrocution Accidents in Goa Over 3 Years

■ 29 on-duty incidents reported; government outlines compensation, jobs for kin, and new safety steps.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Seven electrical workers lost their lives and 22 others were injured in electrocution accidents while on duty in Goa over the past three years, according to information provided by Power Minister Ramkrishna Dhavalikar. Official records show that a total



of 29 incidents involving electrical workers were reported during the period.

Of these, seven proved fatal while 22 workers sustained non-fatal injuries. The government has provided financial assistance depending on the severity of the incident. Injured workers were generally given compensation of around Rs 20,000. In cases of death, the families of the deceased were

sanctioned higher compensation, amounting to about Rs 27 lakh. As part of its relief measures, the government has also offered compassionate appointments to family members of deceased employees. Jobs have already been granted to the wives of late Manoj W. Jambavalikar and late Ladu Pednekar.

₹14.97 Cr Needed to Clear Hazardous Waste at Cuncolim Industrial Estate

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Goa government has stated that administrative and financial approval is awaited to begin the process of lifting hazardous waste lying for several years at the Cuncolim Industrial Estate. In a written reply to an unstarred Legislative Assembly question tabled by MLA Yuri Alemao, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pramod Sawant informed that the Goa Waste Management Corporation (GWMC) has sought administrative and financial approval from the government. Once approval is granted, the corporation will commence the work of removing the hazardous waste. The proposal for



disposal of the waste was forwarded by the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB), along with a quotation from M/s Ponda Envocare Limited, Pissurlem, which operates the Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility in the state. According to the government, the estimated cost for transportation and disposal of the legacy hazardous waste from Sunrise Zinc Limited at Cuncolim IDC to the treatment facility is ₹14,97,98,050.

Govt Says No Drop in Jackfruit Production in Goa, Farmers Prefer Open Market Sales

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Goa government has clarified that there is no evidence to suggest a decline in jackfruit production in the state, stating that farmers prefer selling the fruit directly in the open market rather than through government procurement schemes. The clarification was provided by Chief Minister and Agriculture



Minister Pramod Sawant in response to an unstarred Legislative Assembly Question tabled

by Cuncolim MLA Yuri Alemao regarding the promotion of local produce in Goa. According to the government, jackfruit is traditionally sold on a per-piece basis in local markets, where prices depend on size, quality, demand and location. Farmers often secure better returns through direct sales, especially during periods of high demand.



Goa Govt Monitoring Situation of Goan Diaspora in Gulf Amid West Asia Conflict: CM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government is closely monitoring the safety of the Goan diaspora residing in Gulf countries amid the ongoing conflict in the West Asian region, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant informed the Legislative Assembly on Monday. The statement was made in response to a Calling Attention Motion moved by MLAs Ulhas Tuenkar and Michael Lobo, who raised concerns over the safety of Goans working in Gulf nations in view of escalating tensions in the region.

Congress Leader Mamata Maben Quits Party, Joins AAP

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: In a political development in Goa, Congress leader Mamata Maben resigned as the South Goa Mahila Congress District President and joined the Aam Aadmi Party during a joining



ceremony held in Panaji. Maben formally joined the party in the presence of Goa AAP president Valmiki Naik and Senior

Former South Goa Mahila Congress president cites internal democracy concerns.

Vice President Sandesh Teleikar Dessai. Speaking on the occasion, Maben said she was motivated to join AAP due to the party's grassroots work in the health sector, its focus on honest politics, and the responsibility it entrusts to women leaders.

Woman Booked For Hiding Portuguese Nationality To Enrol As Voter In Vasco

Team Goemkarponn

Vasco: Vasco Police have registered a case against a woman for allegedly suppressing her Portuguese nationality and fraudulently enrolling her name in the electoral roll of the 25-Vasco Assembly Constituency. According to police, the case was registered following a complaint



filed by the Executive Magistrate and Mamlatdar of Mormugao Taluka,

who is also the Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) for the constituency. The accused, identified as Elizabeth Luis, a resident of Bhute Bhat in Vasco, allegedly concealed the fact that she had acquired Portuguese nationality and was holding a Portuguese passport. Police said she submitted an enumeration form during the Special

Intensive Revision conducted by the Election Commission of India through a Booth Level Officer of the Mormugao Municipal Council. By allegedly suppressing this information and submitting documents as genuine, the accused fraudulently enrolled her name in the 25-Vasco Assembly Constituency electoral roll, police said. Further

Man Held With Over 1 Kg Ganja In Sinqerim Narcotics Raid

Team Goemkarponn

Calangute: Calangute Police have arrested a 31-year-old man after seizing more than one kilogram of suspected ganja during a narcotics raid at Sinqerim in Bardez.

According to police, the offence was registered on March 7 following a complaint filed by PSI Dinesh Kanolkar of Calangute Police Station. During a raid conducted between 2.50 pm and 4.10 pm at the helipad area in Sinqerim, police found a black polythene carry bag containing a greenish leafy and flowering substance suspected to be ganja. The contraband weighed 1,146.5 grams and is estimated to be



worth around ₹1.14 lakh.

The substance was allegedly found in the possession of the accused, identified as Gopal Gogoi (31), currently residing in Nerul, Bardez, and originally from Golaghat district in Assam.

The seized narcotic substance was attached under a search and seizure panchanama. Further investigation in the case is being carried out by PSI Paresh Sinari.

Passenger Booked For Smoking Inside Aircraft Lavatory On Delhi-Goa Flight

Team Goemkarponn

Pernem: Mopa Airport Police have registered a case against a passenger for allegedly smoking inside the lavatory of an aircraft during a

Delhi-Goa flight, thereby endangering the safety of passengers and crew. According to police, the offence was registered on March 7, 2026, following a complaint filed by Preetam Malvankar, Manager

Security of Akasa Air at Manohar International Airport, Mopa. The accused, identified as Ashish, a resident of New Ashok Nagar in Delhi, was travelling from Delhi to Goa on Akasa Air flight



QP-1625. During the flight, he was allegedly found smoking a beedi inside the aircraft lavatory and was also in possession of a lighter.



Illegal Stone Extraction Racket Busted In Quepem Village

Team Goemkarponn

Quepem: Cuncolim Police have registered a case against unknown persons for allegedly carrying out illegal extraction of rubber stones at Naquerim village in Quepem without obtaining the required permits. According to the complaint filed by Nathen Afonso, Mamlatdar of Quepem Taluka, the accused persons allegedly conducted illegal extraction operations at four different locations

in Naquerim prior to February 11, 2026.

Police said the accused illegally extracted rubber stones without securing licences or permission from the competent authority and transported the material to unknown destinations, causing loss to the State Government.

A case has been registered and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Sahil Pagui of Cuncolim Police Station.

Nigerian National Booked Under Immigration And Foreigners Act In Goa

Team Goemkarponn

Saligao: Saligao Police have registered a case against a Nigerian national under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 following a complaint filed by the Crime Branch. According to police, the

offence was registered on March 7, 2026, based on a complaint lodged by PI Mahesh G. Gadekar of the Crime Branch Police Station, Ribandar. The accused has been identified as Omorigo Friday (42), a Nigerian national, presently

residing at Barrosawadda, Sangolda in Bardez. Police said the accused is currently in judicial custody in connection with another case registered at the same police station under Section 21(b) of the NDPS Act. Saligao Police have initiated proceedings



to obtain a transit warrant for the accused as his custody is required for investigation in the newly registered case. Further investigation is in progress.

Three Injured After Car Hits Scooter In Canacona, Driver Flees

Team Goemkarponn

Canacona: Three persons were seriously injured after a car allegedly driven in a rash and negligent manner rammed into an Ola electric scooter at Mashem in Canacona. According to a complaint filed by LHC Riya Khandekar of Canacona Police Station, the accident occurred on

March 7 at around 5 pm near God's Gift Hall at Dapot, Mashem on NH-66. Police said the accused driver, identified as Bijo Georg, a resident of Kottayam in Kerala, was driving an Innova car from Canacona towards Pollem when he allegedly dashed against an oncoming Ola electric scooter travelling from Pollem towards

Canacona.

As a result of the impact, the scooter rider Rajesh Pagi, a resident of Canacona, along with pillion riders Divya Pagi and Dashva Pagi, both residents of Galjibag, Canacona, fell on the road and sustained grievous injuries. Police said the car driver initially stopped the vehicle but later fled from the spot along with



the occupants without providing medical aid to the injured or informing the police.

Further investigation in the case is being carried out by ASI Rohidas Gaonkar of Canacona Police Station.

Man Booked For Using Forged NOC To Organise Event At DoubleTree By Hilton

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Police have registered a case against a man for allegedly preparing and using a forged licence/NOC of

Novex Communications Private Limited to organise an event at DoubleTree by Hilton Goa.

According to the complaint filed by Suraj Kumar of Novex

Communications Pvt Ltd, the accused, Jesus Da Costa, proprietor of Cube Arts Pvt Ltd and a resident of Colva in South Goa, allegedly

prepared a forged licence/NOC of the company and produced it before the management of DoubleTree by Hilton Goa to portray it as genuine.

Police said the accused allegedly used the forged document prior to February 20, 2026, in order to organise an event at the hotel, thereby cheating Novex

Communications Pvt Ltd.

Based on the complaint, an offence has been registered and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Manohar Dhulapkar.

Call For SIT Probe Into Alleged ₹10,000-Crore Illegal Betting During T20 World Cup Final

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: 'Surajya Abhiyan', supported by the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti, has demanded a high-level probe into an alleged ₹10,000-crore illegal betting racket reportedly linked to the T20 World Cup final between India and New Zealand in Ahmedabad. According to a press release issued on Sunday, Raibandar



resident Dilip Shetye has filed a written complaint with the Panaji Police Commissioner and the Director General of Police, alleging the

operation of a large illegal betting network through high-tech applications and offshore servers. A similar complaint has also reportedly been sent from Nagpur via email. The organisation has urged authorities to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the alleged racket and identify links between local bookies and international betting syndicates. It

also called for action by agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate and cyber-crime units to shut down hawala channels and digital payment gateways linked to illegal betting. 'Surajya Abhiyan' stated that large-scale betting related to cricket could harm India's global reputation and affect the credibility of the sport if strict action is not taken.



Atal Asra Yojana Goes Online; Govt Launches Application Portal

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Government of Goa has onboarded the Atal Asra Yojana on an online platform to make it easier for eligible beneficiaries to apply for housing assistance. The scheme, notified on October 21, 2021, aims to provide financial support for the construction, reconstruction and repair of houses for economically weaker sections of society, including SC and OBC communities. The assistance is provided in addition to benefits received under schemes such as Indira Awas Yojana or Rajiv Awas Yojana. Under the scheme, financial

assistance of ₹1.5 lakh is provided for house repairs, while ₹3 lakh is granted for construction or reconstruction of houses. The income eligibility criteria for applicants is up to ₹3 lakh per annum. The government has now launched the online portal atal.asra.com, which became operational on February 16, 2026. Citizens have been urged to apply through the portal and spread awareness about the scheme so that eligible beneficiaries can avail its benefits. The information was issued by Dipak Desai, Director of Social Welfare and Ex-Officio Additional Secretary (Social Welfare).

International Women's Day Celebrated In Porvorim; Min Rohan Khaunte Highlights Women's Empowerment

Team Goemkarponn

Porvorim: International Women's Day was celebrated at the Salvador do Mundo Panchayat Hall in Porvorim, where women from the local community, social organisations and residents gathered to honour the achievements and contributions of women in different fields.



Tourism and IT Minister Rohan Khaunte attended the event as the chief guest. Also present on the dais were Zilla

Panchayat members Sandeep Salgaonkar (Penha de França) and Amit Asnodkar (Socorro), Sarpanch of Penha

de França Swapnil Rama Chodankar, Socorro Sarpanch Sonia Pednekar, panch members from the village panchayats of Penha de França, Salvador do Mundo and Socorro, and Dr Milind Sakhardande, Joint Director of the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (DITE&C).



Sankalp Amonkar Lays Foundation Stone For Road Works Near Baina Beach

Team Goemkarponn

Vasco: Sankalp Amonkar, MLA of Mormugao, on Saturday laid the foundation stone for hotmixing, drainage and road furniture works at Ravindra Bhavan Junction near Baina beach, marking the start of long-pending road development works in the area. The project includes hotmixing of the road stretch, construction of drainage lines and installation of road furniture to improve road safety and convenience

for motorists and pedestrians. The works are expected to streamline traffic movement near the busy junction and enhance connectivity in the locality. Speaking on the occasion, Amonkar said improving road and civic infrastructure remains a priority in the constituency, particularly in areas that witness heavy movement of vehicles and visitors. He added that the works near Ravindra Bhavan Junction will address long-standing concerns raised by residents and commuters.

Goan Music Video 'Ganpati Tu Sarvashreshtha' Wins Top Honour at International Film Festival

■ Bagged 1st Best Music Video Award at PCIFFI 2026 in Pune

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa has earned national recognition after the music video "Ganpati Tu Sarvashreshtha" won the 1st Best Music Video Award at the Pimpri Chinchwad International



Film Festival of India held in Pune. The award was announced during the 4th edition of the festival, which took place from March 3 to 5 at the Ga. Di. Madgulkar Natyagruh in Akurdi under the Pimpri-Chinchwad

Municipal Corporation. The prestigious festival was organised with the Film and Television Institute of India, functioning under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as the official partner.

Mega Medical Camps Held Across Goa On International Women's Day

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: On the occasion of International Women's Day, several mega medical camps for women were organised across Goa with a focus on strengthening preventive healthcare and encouraging women to

prioritise their wellbeing. The camps offered free health screenings, preventive check-ups and medical consultations, enabling women from different communities to access timely diagnosis and medical guidance. The initiative also included awareness sessions on

lifestyle diseases and specialised screenings aimed at promoting early detection and better health management. Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said the initiative reflects the government's commitment to strengthening healthcare services for women and



promoting preventive care. "Jab Nari Swasth Rahegi, tab Parivar Sashakt Hoga aur Desh Mazboot Banega.

Mock Drill On Chemical Disaster Management Conducted At Verna

Team Goemkarponn

Verna: The South Goa District Disaster Management Authority,

in association with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the Verna Industries Association and various line departments

of the Government of Goa, conducted a mock drill on chemical disaster management at Lupin Pharma in Verna on Sunday.

The exercise aimed at strengthening preparedness, building response capacity and spreading awareness on handling chemical

emergencies. Officials said the drill helped assess coordination among different agencies during disaster situations.



“Victory Fills Every Indian Heart With Pride”: Leaders Applaud Team India’s T20 World Cup Triumph

Political leaders and business figures congratulate the Indian team after historic title win.

New Delhi: India’s historic triumph in the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup sparked celebrations across the country, with political leaders and prominent figures congratulating the team for their remarkable achievement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the squad for their outstanding performance throughout the tournament, describing the victory as a reflection of exceptional skill, determination and teamwork. He said the triumph had filled every Indian heart with pride and joy, applauding the players for their grit and resilience during the competition. India secured the title with a commanding 96 run win over the New Zealand national cricket team at the Narendra



Modi Stadium. The victory made India the first team to successfully defend the T20 World Cup title while also claiming a record third crown.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also congratulated the team, calling it a proud moment for the nation and praising the players for their consistent performances and fighting spirit throughout the tournament.

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President Droupadi Murmu extended her congratulations to the players, support staff and team management, noting that India had become the only country to win the T20 World Cup three times and retain the trophy consecutively.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi also lauded the team, describing them as champions once again and highlighting the standout performances

of Sanju Samson and Jasprit Bumrah during the tournament. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia joined in the celebrations, calling the Indian side the best team in the world and praising their flawless campaign on home soil. The victory also drew praise from global business leaders. Satya Nadella applauded the match winning performances of Bumrah and Samson, while Sundar Pichai congratulated the team and highlighted the electrifying atmosphere at the stadium during the final. The win has been widely celebrated as a defining moment in Indian cricket, marking another historic chapter for the national team on the global stage.

New Digital Taxi Policy Soon; Aggregator Rules To Be Scrapped

Alemao, nearly 93 per cent of taxi operators have expressed opposition to the draft guidelines, submitting objections and suggestions to the department. He emphasized that taxi owners and drivers are not merely service providers but ambassadors of Goa’s tourism industry. “Since this government has come to power, our taxi brothers are in pain. There should not be any compromise on their welfare,” Alemao said. Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho informed the House that the

government is attempting to build consensus among stakeholders before implementing the new digital taxi system. He said that a committee comprising representatives from all 36 taxi associations has been constituted to submit their views and objections on the proposed digital taxi policy. Godinho added that the associations have been given eight days to provide their feedback so that the government can move forward with the policy after taking all stakeholders on board.

Goa plans ₹4,500–₹5,000 crore interest-free loan for capital projects

He indicated that the government would continue to rely on this mechanism to support development initiatives. Sawant also noted that the State had borrowed only ₹1,250 crore from the open market during the current year despite having a borrowing ceiling of ₹4,500 crore. For the coming year, he said the government plans to raise about ₹1,000 crore from the market. Citing fiscal indicators, the Chief Minister said Goa ranks third in the country in fiscal management according to NITI Aayog

assessments. He added that the State’s debt-to-GSDP ratio, which had earlier approached 30 per cent, has now been reduced to around 27 per cent and is expected to decline further to about 25 per cent. However, Opposition members expressed concern about the State’s overall debt levels. AAP MLA Venzy Viegas pointed out that Goa’s outstanding liabilities have increased sharply over the past several years, rising from roughly ₹16,000 crore to nearly ₹35,000 crore in about nine years.

“Think Of The Unthinkable”: IMF Chief Warns Middle East Conflict Could Push Global Inflation Higher

economy. She warned that persistent increases in energy prices could significantly influence inflation trends worldwide. According to Georgieva, if oil prices rise by around

10 percent and remain elevated for most of the year, global inflation could increase by nearly 40 basis points. She urged policymakers to prepare for unexpected economic

shocks in the current geopolitical environment and to develop strategies that can address worst case scenarios. Concerns over energy markets have grown amid escalating

tensions involving Iran, Israel and the United States. The developments have raised fears about potential disruptions to key oil supply routes in the region.



“Gateway To Gurudongmar Lake Reopens”: Route To Lachen Restored After Yearlong Disruption

Tourist movement resumes in North Sikkim as rebuilt bridge allows vehicles to travel again on the crucial mountain route.

New Delhi: Tourist access to the scenic village of Lachen in North Sikkim has resumed after authorities reopened the key road that had remained shut since heavy rains and landslides caused widespread destruction in June 2025. The disaster severely damaged roads and bridges across North Sikkim, cutting off connectivity to several popular high altitude destinations and halting tourist travel for months. The affected route included the stretch leading to Lachen, a crucial gateway for visitors heading to the iconic Gurudongmar Lake, one of the highest lakes in India located at an elevation of about 17,000 feet. Officials confirmed that the road between Chungthang and Lachen has now been restored and tourist permits are being issued again. The reopening follows the completion

of a newly constructed bridge along the route, which had been the final obstacle preventing the resumption of traffic. The bridge, measuring roughly 400 feet in length, was inaugurated recently, allowing vehicles to travel along the previously blocked stretch. With this development, tourists can once again reach Lachen and continue their journey to Gurudongmar Lake, a major attraction known for its dramatic Himalayan setting and spiritual significance. Authorities have issued a safety advisory for vehicles using the bridges along the route. Because the structures allow only single lane movement, only one vehicle will be permitted to cross at a time to avoid safety risks. Drivers have also been instructed to follow load capacity guidelines and maintain sufficient distance between vehicles while crossing.

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Vijai Sardesai Raises Dual Citizenship Demand for Goans with Portuguese passports

acquired Portuguese citizenship due to historical circumstances but continue to maintain strong family, cultural and emotional ties with Goa. He said these individuals deserve a proper legal framework that allows them to preserve their connection with India. The Goa Forward Party president further advocated for dual citizenship for eligible

Goans with Portuguese nationality, noting that India’s growing partnership with Europe provides an opportunity to address the long-standing issue. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrating the Overseas Citizen of India status of António Costa, Sardesai said the move reflected India’s strengthening global ties and openness to deeper international engagement.

“Shameful And Unprecedented”: PM Modi Attacks Trinamool After President’s Remarks In Bengal

■ Political row erupts after President raises questions over event arrangements and tribal development in West Bengal.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly criticised the All India Trinamool Congress after President Droupadi Murmu raised concerns about the arrangements for the International Santal Conference during her visit to north Bengal. The President, who attended the event as chief guest, questioned why the venue was shifted from Bidhannagar to Goshaiপুর, where the turnout was reportedly lower. She also noted that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and members of her cabinet were not present



to receive her during the visit.

Reacting to the development, Modi described the situation as “shameful and unprecedented” and said it had hurt people who believe in democratic values and the empowerment of tribal communities. He

emphasised that the President comes from a tribal background and that her concerns had resonated with citizens across the country. The Prime Minister also criticised the state government for what he described as a casual approach toward Santal culture. He said the

office of the President stands above politics and its dignity and protocol should always be respected.

During her address at the conference, Murmu spoke about the need to strengthen development efforts for tribal communities and questioned whether government schemes and facilities were effectively reaching Santals and other tribal groups in the region. She also expressed surprise over the change in venue, stating that the earlier location had sufficient space for the event.

“Interest Of Indians Will Always Be Paramount”: Jaishankar On West Asia Conflict

■ Government says energy security and safety of Indian citizens remain top priorities as tensions escalate in the region.

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar on Monday said India will place the interests of its citizens and national priorities above all else amid the escalating conflict in West Asia. Addressing the Rajya Sabha during the Budget session, he stressed that the government is closely monitoring the situation and remains focused on protecting Indian nationals and ensuring energy security. Jaishankar highlighted that West Asia plays a crucial role in meeting India’s oil and gas requirements, warning that the ongoing war could disrupt supply chains and create wider economic instability. He said the region is essential for India’s energy needs and any prolonged conflict could have significant implications for global markets. The minister noted that nearly one crore Indians live and work across Gulf countries, while several thousand others are present in Iran for education and employment. Given the



large Indian diaspora in the region, the government is paying close attention to their safety and well being as hostilities continue to intensify. Describing the developments as a matter of serious concern, Jaishankar said the conflict has gradually expanded beyond its initial flashpoints, causing widespread destruction and affecting normal life across several countries. He warned that the deteriorating security environment and disruptions to supply chains could have long term consequences for regional stability. India has already conveyed its concerns over the conflict and continues to urge all sides to exercise restraint.

India Denies Refusing Docking To Iranian Ships, Says Refuge Granted On Humanitarian Grounds

■ New Delhi says humanitarian considerations guided decision as West Asia conflict disrupts naval movements.

New Delhi: India has rejected claims that it refused docking access to Iranian naval vessels during the ongoing conflict in West Asia, clarifying that requests for refuge were accepted promptly on humanitarian grounds. According to defence officials, India approved Iran’s request for safe



harbour for its naval ships after tensions escalated in the region. The vessels had earlier

participated in the MILAN Naval Exercise and had departed Visakhapatnam around February 25 and 26 following the conclusion of the event. The three ships involved were IRIS Dena, IRIS Lavan and IRIS Bushehr. Officials said the ships were heading back to Iran through the Indian Ocean

when military strikes targeting Iranian facilities took place on February 28, forcing Tehran to seek urgent refuge for the vessels to avoid entering the conflict zone. India approved the request on March 1. IRIS Lavan was allowed to dock at Kochi after reporting engine and technical problems.

“Is Mamata Banerjee Upset With Me?” President Questions Absence During Bengal Visit

■ Remarks at tribal event trigger sharp political exchange ahead of West Bengal Assembly elections

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday raised questions over the absence of the West Bengal government during her visit to north Bengal, asking whether Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was upset with her. The remarks, made at a gathering linked to the International Santal Conference, triggered a political exchange between the Centre and the ruling party in the state. Addressing



members of the tribal community, the President questioned why neither the chief minister nor any minister from the state cabinet was present to receive her during the visit. She also expressed surprise over the change in venue of the conference, which was

shifted from Bidhannagar to Goshaiপুর, reportedly leading to a smaller turnout. Murmu said she did not understand why the state administration had not allowed the event to be held at the earlier venue despite adequate space. She added that she considered herself a daughter of Bengal and described Banerjee as a younger sister, while wondering whether the chief minister was unhappy with her.

“Numbers Favour NDA”: No Confidence Motion Against Om Birla Puts Lok Sabha Arithmetic In Spotlight

■ Opposition move to remove Speaker sparks political debate, but House numbers appear to favour the government

New Delhi: A no confidence motion seeking the removal of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has intensified political tensions in Parliament, with attention now focused on whether the Opposition has the numbers required to push the resolution through the House. The notice for the motion has been submitted by Opposition leaders, including members of the Indian National



Congress, accusing the Speaker of acting in a partisan manner during proceedings of the Lok Sabha. According to reports, the notice carries the signatures of 118 Members of Parliament,

indicating support from multiple opposition parties. Opposition leaders have alleged that the Speaker restricted their opportunities to raise issues during debates and favoured the ruling side during heated exchanges in the ongoing Budget Session. Under parliamentary rules, the motion must first meet a procedural requirement before it can be discussed.

Gautam Gambhir Dedicates India's T20 World Cup Win To Rahul Dravid And VVS Laxman

India's dominant win over New Zealand brings validation for head coach Gautam Gambhir after months of criticism

New Delhi: Head coach Gautam Gambhir described India's triumph in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup as a moment of validation after a challenging period that saw the team face criticism following Test series defeats against New Zealand national cricket team, Australia national cricket team, and South Africa national cricket team.

India sealed the title with a commanding 96 run victory over New Zealand national cricket team in



the final, becoming the first side to win three T20 World Cups and the first team to successfully defend the title. The win also marked the first time the tournament

was retained on home soil. Reflecting on the triumph, Gambhir said his accountability lies with the people inside the team environment rather than external voices.

He emphasised that a coach's success depends on the players and credited the squad for making him the coach he is today. Despite the historic achievement, Gambhir chose to dedicate the victory to former India coach Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman. He praised Dravid for helping build a strong foundation within the national team and acknowledged Laxman's work in developing young talent through the National Cricket Academy pipeline.

"We Were Outplayed By A Great Team": Mitchell Santner After New Zealand's World Cup Final Defeat

New Zealand captain praises India's dominant display as hosts defend T20 World Cup title

New Delhi: New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner admitted that his team was comprehensively outplayed by India in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup after the hosts secured a massive 96 run victory to successfully defend the title.

Speaking after the match, Santner expressed pride in his team's journey to the final, highlighting the effort shown by the squad despite facing several challenges during the tournament. He acknowledged that India produced a superior performance in front of a passionate home crowd. Santner noted that his team fought hard throughout the competition and delivered strong performances in the earlier stages, but the final proved to be a difficult contest against a powerful Indian side. He also pointed out the overwhelming support for the hosts in the stadium, describing the atmosphere as a sea of



blue backing the home team. The New Zealand skipper also spoke about the unique pressure of playing a World Cup on home soil. According to him, such expectations can weigh heavily on a team, but he praised India for handling that pressure with confidence and composure throughout the tournament.

He also congratulated India captain Suryakumar Yadav and his teammates for their consistent performances.

In the final, India produced a dominant display after being put in to bat. Explosive knocks from Sanju Samson, Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan powered the hosts to a formidable total of 255 for five.

"You Can't Cheat The Man In The Mirror": Suryakumar Yadav Reflects On Mindset After World Cup Glory

India captain highlights resilience, honesty and team understanding after historic T20 World Cup triumph.

New Delhi: India captain Suryakumar Yadav reflected on the values behind the team's success following their historic triumph in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, stressing the importance of mental strength, honesty, and strong team relationships. India secured a record



breaking third T20 World Cup title after defeating the New Zealand national

cricket team by 97 runs in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday. After the victory, the skipper spoke about how personal struggles and setbacks played a role in shaping the team's approach to success. Suryakumar admitted that failure is an unavoidable

part of sport and shared his own experience from the previous year, when he went through a difficult phase with the bat. He revealed that it took him more than 400 days to score a half century for India, highlighting how even top players face challenging periods.



Tanaya Naik's Unbeaten 95 Guides Goa to Thrilling 6 Run Victory

Captain's match winning knock helps Goa secure first win in Women's Under 23 Elite One Day Trophy

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Captain Tanaya Naik produced a magnificent unbeaten innings of 95 to lead Goa to a narrow six run victory over Chandigarh in the Women's Under 23 Elite One Day Trophy match played at the Abhimanyu Cricket Academy Ground

in Dehradun on Saturday. Goa posted 201 for 8 in their allotted 50 overs before restricting Chandigarh to 195 in 49.2 overs in a closely fought contest. Goa began their innings on a steady note with Harshita Yadav contributing 35 runs while Urvashi Govekar added 13.

Priority Titans, CD Fountainhead Dominate With Powerful Wins in GSB Unity Cup 3.0

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Priority Titans and CD Fountainhead delivered commanding performances to secure convincing victories in the league matches of the GSB Unity Cup 3.0 cricket tournament played at the MCC Ground in Margao on Saturday.

Both matches featured aggressive batting displays supported by effective bowling efforts as the teams asserted their dominance. In the opening match, Priority Titans defeated Vimson Panjim Powerplay by 45 runs after posting an imposing total. Batting first, the Titans piled up 209 for 8 in their allotted

20 overs. Captain Yash Prabhugaonkar led the charge with a blistering 50 off just 19 balls, setting the tone for the innings. Sahil Mandrekar provided solid support with a well played 48 from 27 deliveries, while Anish Mahambre contributed a valuable 31 to help the team cross the 200 run mark.



Avengers Hold Nerve to Seal Thrilling 9 Run Win Over K.K. Strikers

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Desserts N More Avengers secured a thrilling nine run victory over K.K. Strikers in a league match of the GSB Unity Cup 3.0 cricket tournament at the MCC Ground in Margao. A disciplined all round performance with both bat and ball helped the



Avengers hold their nerve

and close out the contest. Batting first, Desserts N More Avengers put up an impressive total of 188 for 7 in their 20 overs. Siddhesh Prabhu Alvenkar anchored the innings with an unbeaten 45, providing stability and acceleration in the latter stages. Venkatesh Verlekar played a lively knock of 34 off 22

balls, while captain Kaushal Hattangadi chipped in with a quick 24 off 15 deliveries to strengthen the total. The bowling effort for K.K. Strikers was shared evenly as Ramnath Prabhu Bam, Nikit Naik Dalal, Aditya Dalal, Vidhi Bhandare, and Rasik Pai Khot picked up a wicket each to keep the scoring under control.