



River Pollution **Triggers** Concern In Assembly

MLAs Flag Sewage Discharge, Govt Plans Monitoring System, Labs And River Rejuvenation Works.



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: River pollution and the deteriorating condition of water bodies in Goa dominated discussions in the Legislative Assembly, with several MLAs raising concerns over sewage discharge,

contamination levels and the need for urgent corrective measures.

Water Resources Department (WRD) Minister Subhash Shirodkar acknowledged that untreated sewage and wastewater flowing into water bodies that connect to rivers is

one of the major causes of pollution. He appealed to the public to refrain from discharging waste into such water bodies. The government is also examining a proposal to levy fees on the PWD and Drinking Water Department for the discharge of

untreated wastewater into water bodies, following a model adopted in Maharashtra. In addition, two dedicated water testing laboratories are planned in North and South Goa.

Shirodkar also informed the House that under Mission Amrit

The minister informed the House that the government has decided to set up dedicated sub-divisions within WRD divisions across the state to monitor and maintain the quality of water bodies. Each subdivision will regularly test water quality and submit reports.

"If even 80 per cent improvement in water quality is achieved, it will make Goa a much better place to live."

- Min Subhash Shirodkar, (WRD)

Sarovar, a Central government scheme, Goa has taken up 175 water bodies for rejuvenation and development, and work on these projects is currently ongoing.

During the discussion, MLA Carlos Ferreira

complimented the WRD Minister for being proactive but raised concerns over pollution in 11 rivers in Goa, including the Mandovi river. He sought details on the steps taken by the government to ad

CONTD TO PAGE 06...



Opposition MLA Questions Law Dept Vetting of Private Member Bills; Speaker Assures Review

PANAJI: An Opposition MLA on Wednesday raised concerns in the Goa Legislative Assembly over the continued practice of Private Member Bills being vetted by the Law Department before they are taken up in the House.

The MLA questioned the necessity of such vetting and urged Speaker Ganesh Gaonkar to give a ruling on the matter, stating that the process could affect the independence of legislators in introducing Private Member Bills.

60%+ Turnout Recorded As CCP Elections Conclude In Panaji

March 13 counting to decide fate of 30 wards

PANAJI: The elections to the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) concluded on March 11 with the voter turnout crossing the 60 per cent mark across the state capital. Polling was held from 8 am to 5 pm across 30 wards, with 48 polling booths set up to facilitate voters. While some wards had a single polling station, larger wards were provided with two booths to manage voter turnout



smoothly. Earlier in the day, election officials reported that by 4 pm a total of 20,227 votes had been cast, including 9573 men and 10,654 women voters, record-



ing a turnout of 47.84 per cent. The turnout increased further in the later hours of polling, eventually crossing the 50 per cent mark by the close of voting.

The otherwise routine civic election turned into a high-profile political contest with several prominent leaders actively campaigning.

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Govt Cracks Down On Escort Websites, MLAs Raise Concerns Over Trafficking In Goa

CM Says 512 Sites Blocked; Opposition Seeks Stronger Action, Monitoring Mechanism

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant today clarified in the Goa Legislative Assembly that no escort service websites are based in Goa, stating that many such platforms

are scams designed to defraud people. He said the government has directed the police to take strict action against any such websites operating or targeting the state. Sawant informed the House that the Goa

Police has so far blocked 512 escort websites and registered cases under the Information Technology Act and the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act. He added that the action has led to arrests and the rescue of victims.



The Chief Minister also highlighted measures taken by the police to strengthen safety and support for women.

Govt Mulls Fee On Untreated Wastewater Discharge

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government is examining a proposal to levy fees on government departments for the discharge of untreated wastewater into water bodies, WRD Minister Subhash Shirodkar informed the Legislative Assembly.

The minister said the proposal involves charging the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Drinking Water Department if untreated wastewater is released into rivers and other water bodies.

Shirodkar noted that the move is being consid-



ered on the lines of a model adopted in Maharashtra, where departments are charged for discharging untreated wastewater.

The proposed measure is aimed at discouraging the release of untreated sewage and strengthening accountability in managing wastewater, as pollution in rivers and water bodies continues to be a growing concern in the state.

LPG Shortage Could Shut 50% of Goa Hotels, MLAs Warn in Assembly

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A looming shortage of commercial LPG cylinders could force nearly 50 per cent of hotels in

Goa to shut down, MLAs warned in the Legislative Assembly, raising serious concerns about the impact on the state's hospitality sector. During Zero Hour,

MLA Kedar Naik flagged the alarming shortage of commercial LPG cylinders, stating that restaurants, small businesses, trawler owners and the hospitality



industry could be severely affected if supplies are not restored immediately.

When War in West Asia Reaches Goa's Kitchens

Wars fought thousands of kilometres away often seem distant, their consequences confined to diplomatic circles and international headlines. Yet the ongoing tensions involving Iran are now beginning to ripple through everyday life in India. In Goa, the warning from Calangute MLA Michael Lobo that nearly 50 per cent of the hotel industry could shut down without commercial LPG supply highlights how a global conflict can quickly become a local economic crisis.

Goa's economy runs on tourism. Hotels, restaurants, beach shacks and cafés are not just businesses. They are the lifeline for thousands of Goans who depend on tourism for their daily income. From cooks and waiters to taxi drivers, fishermen, vegetable suppliers and small shop owners, an entire ecosystem survives on the flow of visitors and the functioning of the hospitality sector.

This is why the shortage of commercial LPG is not a routine supply issue. For restaurants and hotels, LPG is the most basic operational requirement. Without it, kitchens cannot function. Without functioning kitchens, hotels cannot serve guests. And when restaurants close, the tourism economy begins to stall. The warning from Michael Lobo that half of Goa's hotels could shut by tomorrow afternoon if the issue is not resolved is therefore alarming. It underlines the fragile nature of an industry that depends heavily on uninterrupted energy supply. If the shortage continues even for a few days, the consequences could quickly snowball across the state.

What makes the situation even more worrying is the timing. Goa is a global tourist destination, and the hospitality sector is already preparing for the upcoming holiday rush. If commercial gas remains unavailable, restaurants may be forced to shut their kitchens just when tourists are arriving in large numbers. A tourist destination where restaurants cannot serve food sends a

What makes the situation even more worrying is the timing. Goa is a global tourist destination, and the hospitality sector is already preparing for the upcoming holiday rush. If commercial gas remains unavailable, restaurants may be forced to shut their kitchens just when tourists are arriving in large numbers. A tourist destination where restaurants cannot serve food sends a disastrous signal to visitors.

A prolonged shortage during the holiday season could spell doom for many businesses that rely on these peak months to sustain themselves through the year.

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant's response reflects the seriousness of the crisis. By acknowledging that the LPG shortage is a matter of grave concern and stating that he will take up the issue with the Centre and the Petroleum Ministry, the government has recognised the potential economic damage the situation could cause.

disastrous signal to visitors. A prolonged shortage during the holiday season could spell doom for many businesses that rely on these peak months to sustain themselves through the year. Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant's response reflects the seriousness of the crisis. By acknowledging that the LPG shortage is a matter of grave concern and stating that he will take up the issue with the Centre and the Petroleum Ministry, the government has recognised the potential economic damage the situation

could cause. The Chief Secretary has already spoken with central authorities, and further intervention is expected.

However, the episode exposes a deeper structural vulnerability. India remains heavily dependent on imports of LPG and other energy supplies from West Asia. When tensions rise in that region, whether due to war, sanctions or disruptions in shipping routes, the impact inevitably travels through global supply chains. Even states far removed from the conflict, like Goa, feel the consequences.

For Goa's hospitality industry, the problem is compounded by limited alternatives. Unlike large metropolitan cities where many commercial establishments are connected to piped natural gas networks, most hotels and restaurants in Goa rely primarily on LPG cylinders. For beach shacks and small eateries, switching to alternative fuels is neither quick nor easy.

This crisis should therefore serve as a wake up call. While the immediate priority is to restore LPG supply and prevent the shutdown of hotels and restaurants, policymakers must also look at long term solutions. Diversifying energy sources, expanding piped natural gas networks and encouraging energy efficient commercial kitchens could reduce dependence on a single fuel source. Goa's tourism economy cannot afford to be vulnerable to every disruption in global energy markets. If the state is to remain a reliable destination for millions of visitors each year, it must ensure that essential infrastructure and supplies remain stable even during international crises.

The conflict involving Iran may be unfolding far from India's shores, but its economic tremors are already being felt in Goa's hotel kitchens. When restaurants begin to worry about whether they can cook tomorrow's meals, it becomes clear that global geopolitics and local livelihoods are far more closely connected than they appear.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Protecting Goa's Image as a Safe Tourist Destination

The recent statement that authorities have stepped up action against tourists harassing foreign nationals on Goa's beaches is a welcome step. Such incidents, where visitors are forced into photographs or subjected to uncomfortable behaviour, have raised serious concerns about the state's image as a safe and welcoming destination. Goa has built its reputation over decades as a global tourist hotspot where people from across the world come to relax and enjoy its beaches, culture and hospitality. However, incidents of harassment, even if isolated, can quickly damage that carefully built reputation. In today's digital age, a single viral video can undo years of tourism promotion and create the impression that visitors are not safe. The behaviour of a few irresponsible individuals should not be allowed to tarnish the name of the state. Harassing foreign tourists by forcing selfies, touching them without consent, or crowding around them is not just disrespectful but also deeply damaging to Goa's tourism industry. Authorities were right to intensify beach patrols and take strict action against offenders. At the same time, enforcement alone may not be enough. Public awareness is equally important. Domestic tourists must understand that responsible behaviour and respect for personal space are essential while visiting popular destinations. Tourism stakeholders, including shack owners and local businesses, can also help by reporting such incidents immediately. Goa's charm lies not just in its scenic beauty but also in its culture of openness and hospitality. Protecting that image is a shared responsibility. Swift action against harassment will send a strong message that Goa remains a safe and respectful destination for visitors from across the world.

-Cynthia Fernandes, Sangolda

A Welcome Move for Long-Serving Contract Workers

The Goa government's decision to grant permanent status to contractual employees who have completed ten years of service is a significant and long-awaited step. For years, thousands of workers across departments have served the government faithfully while remaining in contractual positions without the security and benefits enjoyed by regular employees. The announcement by Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant that such employees will now be regularised offers hope and recognition to those who have spent a decade or more contributing to public service. Contractual workers form the backbone of many government departments. They handle administrative duties, assist in public services and often work under challenging conditions with limited job security. Despite their long years of service, many of them have lived with uncertainty about their future. Regularising employees who have completed ten years acknowledges their contribution and provides them with stability, dignity and better working conditions. At the same time, the implementation of this policy must be carried out transparently and fairly. Clear guidelines will be necessary to ensure that all eligible employees benefit from the decision and that there are no delays or bureaucratic hurdles in the process. This move could also serve as a model for addressing similar issues in other states where contractual employment has become widespread. While contractual hiring may sometimes be necessary, long-serving workers deserve recognition and security. If implemented effectively, this decision will not only improve the lives of many employees but also boost morale within government departments.

-Sangeeta Naik, Sanvordem

Tourism Body Flags LPG Shortage Risk in Goa

■ TTAG Writes to CM Pramod Sawant Seeking Assured Supply of Commercial LPG for Hotels, Restaurants

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) has written to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant seeking urgent intervention to ensure uninterrupted supply of commercial LPG cylinders to the hospitality sector in the state. In a letter dated March 11, TTAG said the hospitality and restaurant industry in India is facing a growing shortage of commercial LPG due to disruptions in global energy supply chains following escalating



tensions in West Asia. The association pointed out that India imports around 62 per cent of the LPG it consumes, with a majority of shipments passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy route that is currently under strain because of the ongoing geopolitical tensions

in the Middle East. TTAG warned that the shortage could severely impact Goa's tourism-dependent economy as most restaurants, beach shacks and catering establishments rely heavily on LPG for their operations. The association said that the government's move to temporarily limit cooking gas cylinders to priority sectors such as education and hospitals could lead to the closure of several food and beverage establishments and hotels in the state.

TTAG Seeks Stakeholder Consultation on Proposed Digital Taxi Policy

■ Tourism body writes to CM Pramod Sawant seeking copy of draft policy, calls for fair competition among taxi apps

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) has written to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant seeking a copy of the proposed Digital Taxi Policy and urging the government to include all stakeholders in consultations before finalising the framework. In a letter dated March 11, TTAG said it had learnt about the proposed

policy through the State Budget announcement and discussions held recently in the Goa Legislative Assembly. The association stated that the government intends to standardise taxi fares and bring the sector under a digital platform to improve transparency and accountability. It also noted that the government had recently held consultations with taxi owners and indicated



that only the state-run apps GoaMiles and the Goa Taxi App would be authorised platforms under the new system. While welcoming the government's initiative to address issues related to taxi services and app-based operations, TTAG said consultations should be carried out with all stakeholders as the proposed policy would affect multiple sectors in Goa.



Goa Sees Steady Rise in Tourist Arrivals, Over 1.02 Crore Domestic Visitors in 2025

■ Foreign tourist numbers also rebound strongly as state reports steady post-pandemic recovery

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Tourism in Goa has continued to grow steadily, with the state recording over 1.02 crore domestic tourists and 5.17 lakh foreign visitors in 2025, according to data tabled in the Assembly by Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte. The figures were provided in response to an unstarred question by Cuncolim MLA Yuri Alemao regarding tourist arrivals in the state over the last five years. As per the data, domestic tourist arrivals increased significantly from 33.08 lakh in 2021 to 1.02 crore in 2025, while foreign tourist arrivals rose from 22,128 in 2021 to 5,17,802 in 2025, indicating a strong post-pandemic recovery in the tourism sector. Year-wise data presented

in the Assembly shows a consistent rise in tourist footfalls. The state recorded 33,08,089 domestic and 22,128 foreign tourists in 2021, followed by 70,18,945 domestic and 1,69,005 foreign tourists in 2022. Arrivals further increased to 81,75,460 domestic and 4,52,702 foreign tourists in 2023, while 2024 saw 99,41,285 domestic and 4,67,911 foreign visitors. In 2025, the numbers climbed to 1,02,84,608 domestic tourists and 5,17,802 foreign tourists. Khaunte informed the House that there has been no decline in tourist footfalls in 2025 compared to 2024, amid concerns that negative or misleading content on social media could impact the state's tourism reputation.

Mormugao Dialysis Patients May Get Relief; MLA Seeks Extra Shift at Chicalim Hospital

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: Dialysis patients in Mormugao may soon get some relief, as the issue of limited dialysis timings at the Sub District Hospital in Chicalim was raised in the Goa Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar made a Zero Hour mention urging the government to introduce an additional dialysis shift



at the hospital's dialysis unit to cater to the growing number of patients in the taluka. Addressing the matter to Health Minister Vishwajit Rane, Amonkar pointed out that the existing 12-bed dialysis unit currently functions

only until 6 pm. As a result, several patients from Mormugao Taluka are forced to either wait for long hours for their turn or travel to hospitals in Bambolim or Margao to undergo dialysis treatment. To address the issue, Amonkar has requested the state government to introduce a fourth dialysis shift from 6 pm to 10 pm at the Sub District Hospital in Chicalim.

CMC Shifts Chaudi Street Traders to Municipal Market Over Safety Concerns



Team Goemkarponn

Canacona: Taking strong cognisance of safety concerns caused by street trading near the municipal office at Chaudi, the Canacona Municipal Council (CMC) on Tuesday removed all roadside traders and relocated them to the municipal market complex. The action was carried out by CMC staff in the presence of Chairperson Laxuman Pagui and Chaudi ward councillor Ramakant Naik Gaunkar, who supervised the shifting of traders and their goods from the roadside to the nearby market complex. According to Pagui, traders operating on the road in front of the Vernekar building had been posing a serious safety risk, as motorists often stopped in the middle of the road to purchase goods, leading to traffic congestion and potential accidents.

122 Dengue Cases Reported at GMC in Pre-Monsoon Months Over 3 Years

■ Improper water storage, waste accumulation among key causes; health department intensifies preventive measures

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A total of 122 dengue cases were reported at Goa Medical College and Hospital during the pre-monsoon months over the last three years, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane informed the Assembly. Replying to an unstarred question tabled by Curtorim MLA Aleixo Lourenco, the minister said the cases were recorded between



January and May during 2023, 2024 and 2025. Data from GMC shows that 2024 recorded the highest number of cases, particularly in May.

According to the figures, four dengue cases were reported in January 2023, three in February, none in March, two in April and six in May. In 2024, the numbers rose with eight cases in January, nine in February, 13 in March, 10 in April and a sharp spike of 44 cases in May. In 2025, 10 cases were reported in January, four in February, five in March, two in April and two in May.

Man from Shiroda Duped of ₹1.61 Lakh in WhatsApp Parcel Scam

■ Fraudsters posed as Facebook friend and fake customs officer to cheat complainant.

Team Goemkarponn

SHIRODA: A man from Shiroda in Ponda was allegedly cheated of ₹1.61 lakh in an online parcel scam after fraudsters posed as a Facebook friend and a customs officer.

According to a complaint lodged by Andrew Godinho, a resident of Shiroda, Ponda, the incident began on February 7, 2026 when he received a message on WhatsApp from a person impersonating his Facebook friend, identified



as Dr. Anna Donat.

The accused allegedly informed the complainant that on the occasion of her birthday on December 14, 2025, she had sent a parcel from the United Kingdom to his home address in Goa containing gifts and cash.

The parcel was said to include items such as a mobile phone, perfumes, a wristwatch, a gold chain and a gold bracelet. The complainant was also told to donate 40 percent of the cash amount to an orphanage. Subsequently, between December 15

and December 22, 2025, the complainant received WhatsApp calls and messages from different mobile numbers from an unknown person who identified herself as Deepika Sharma, claiming to be a customs officer from Delhi. The caller informed the complainant that the parcel sent from the UK to Goa had been held for customs clearance and asked him to make payments for its release, assuring that the parcel would be delivered once the charges were cleared.



Daylight Theft at Viliar Bhati House in Sanguem; Jewellery and Cash Stolen

■ Villagers question police action as similar temple theft cases remain unsolved

Team Goemkarponn

SANGUEM: A daylight house break-in was reported from Viliar Bhati in Sanguem after unidentified persons allegedly broke into a residence and stole jewellery and cash while the family members were away. According to information, the accused persons broke open the door of the house belonging to Manisha M. Naik and gained entry using a mattock (paray). After entering the house, the burglars allegedly broke open a cupboard and stole jewellery worth approximately ₹2.5 lakh along with cash amounting to ₹20,000.

The incident is suspected to have occurred around 11:30 am when no one was present in the

house. When the family members returned home, they found the door and cupboard broken and noticed that the jewellery and cash were missing. They immediately informed Sanguem Police. Police personnel rushed to the spot along with a forensic team and a dog squad and conducted a panchanama at the scene. However, no major clues were reportedly found during the preliminary investigation. Meanwhile, villagers expressed concern over the incident and alleged that such crimes are occurring due to police failure. They pointed out that last month a temple fund box was stolen in the Rivona panchayat area of Sanguem, but the accused are yet to be traced.

2 Held in Separate Matka Betting Cases in Calangute

■ Police seize cash and betting materials during raids at Agarwado and Naikawaddo

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have registered two separate offences and apprehended two persons for allegedly accepting matka bets from the public at different locations in Calangute, Bardez.

In the first case, an offence was registered on March 9, 2026 at 9:51 pm based on a state complaint

filed by Nareshkumar Salgoankar of Calangute Police Station. Police stated that between 8:50 pm and 9:20 pm near Capital Wines at Agarwado, Calangute, the accused Matiru Sarkar, 42, son of Iyachin Ali Sarkar, residing at Agarwado, Calangute and originally from Angina Kanura, Dakshin Dinajpur, was caught red-handed while allegedly accepting

matka bets from members of the public in an open place.

During the raid, police recovered a matka slip book, two pieces of blue carbon paper, one ball pen and cash amounting to ₹1,850 in different denominations from his possession. Further investigation in the case is being conducted by ASI N.V. Salgoankar. In another



incident, Calangute Police registered an offence on March 10, 2026 at 1:22 pm based on a state complaint filed by Gurudas Gadekar, 46, of Calangute Police Station.

Tempo Traveller Driver Booked After Porvorim Flyover Crash

■ Scooter rider sustains grievous injuries after three-vehicle collision at cross junction

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: A case has been registered following a road accident at Porvorim in Bardez that left a scooter rider grievously injured. The offence was registered on March 8, 2026 at 4:42 pm based on a complaint lodged by Mohammed Kabir Abdul Hakkiwale, 21, a resident of Ramnagar, Reis Magos. According to the complaint, the accident occurred on March 6, 2026 at around 11:30 am below the flyover bridge opposite Training College at the cross junction in Porvorim. Police said the accused driver of Tempo Traveller bearing registration



number GA-07-T-0686, identified as Shaikh Aiyaz Kousar of Ponda, allegedly drove the vehicle in a rash and negligent manner while proceeding from Mall De Goa in Porvorim towards Gauri petrol pump. The tempo traveller allegedly dashed against a Honda Activa scooter bearing registration number GA-03-AX-6078 which was coming from the opposite direction towards Training College.

Tipper Truck Driver Booked for Illegal Sand Transport at Kasarpal Junction

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A case of illegal sand extraction and transport has been registered by Bicholim Police after a tipper truck carrying sand worth approximately ₹25,000 was intercepted at Kasarpal Junction in the early hours of Tuesday. According to police, the



complaint was lodged by Shri Laxman H. Ghadi, Assistant Sub-Inspector of Bicholim Police Station, on March 10, 2026 at 11:44 am. The incident reportedly occurred earlier the

same day at around 3:50 am at Kasarpal Junction in Bicholim. Police stated that the accused, identified as Ranjit, 32, son of Mahendra Singh, a driver residing at C/o Vikas Tendulkar, Kudal, Maharashtra, was found transporting sand in an Eicher tipper truck bearing registration number GA-11-T-6656.

Man Found Dead at Batim House; Police Register Unnatural Death Case

Team Goemkarponn

AGACAIM: Police have registered an unnatural death case after a 32-year-old man was found dead at a residence in Batim, Tiswadi, on Tuesday morning. According to police, a call was received from

PCR Panaji at around 8:25 am on March 10, 2026 informing that a person had allegedly committed suicide behind the Batim Panchayat.

Following the information, LPSI Raksha Naik visited the spot at the residence of Joanita Antao

at Portal Bhat, Batim. At the scene, police found a man identified as Harish Bhovi, 32, son of Devendra Bhovi, lying on the floor of the house. He was residing at the same address and was originally from Shivamogga district in Karnataka.

Man Held with E-Cigarettes Worth ₹18,500 in Canacona



CANACONA: Canacona Police have arrested a man after seizing e-cigarettes worth ₹18,500 from his possession near the Char-rasta area in Canacona. According to police, the offence was registered based on a state complaint filed by PSI Ramdas Doifode of Canacona Police Station. The incident occurred on March 9, 2026 between 2:46 pm and 6:20 pm below the highway bridge at Char-rasta, Canacona. Police stated that the accused, identified as Pushkar Mishra, a resident of Maharashtra and native of Uttar Pradesh, was found in possession of eight boxes of e-cigarettes.

Government Failed in Debt, Health, Tourism and Employment Management: LoP Yuri Alemão

■ Opposition leader criticises budget, says public debt has crossed ₹35,000 crore

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemão on Tuesday criticised the government while replying to the State Budget, alleging failure in debt management, employment generation, health administration and tourism promotion. He claimed that instead of addressing core issues,



the government was focusing on events that only serve as avenues to drain the State exchequer. Alemão said the government has failed to

manage and repay debt, adding that there have been violations of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM Act). He pointed out that Goa's public debt has crossed ₹35,000 crore and has doubled over the last decade. According to him, interest payments, salaries, pensions, freebies and other fixed commitments together

consume nearly 54 paisa out of every rupee earned by the State. He also accused the government of lacking clarity on employment figures. Alemão questioned the effectiveness of the Goa Investment Promotion Board, stating that although several projects have been approved, many remain in cold storage.

Dog Rescued from Cave in Chicalim After Joint Effort by Firefighters and Volunteers

■ Animal pulled out safely after locals alert authorities

Team Goemkarponn

CHICALIM: A dog that had fallen into a cave in Chicalim was rescued on Tuesday following a coordinated effort by firefighters and animal welfare volunteers after locals raised an alarm about the incident. According to information, a distress call was received from a local resident informing that a dog had slipped into a cave in the Chicalim area and was unable to come out. Acting on the alert, firefighters rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. Animal welfare volunteer Aman from People for Animals, Vasco, and Kelly Menezes, South Goa officer of the District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA), also reached the site to assist in the rescue efforts. After careful coordination,



the team managed to safely pull the dog out of the cave. The dog was rescued without any major injuries and was later moved to safety. Speaking after the rescue, DSPCA South officer Kelly Menezes appealed to local bodies and residents to take preventive measures to avoid such incidents. She said that open wells, caves and similar structures pose a serious danger to animals. "We often receive calls to rescue animals that fall into open wells, pits or caves.

Porvorim to Celebrate Shigmo with Romtamel and Folk Performances on March 15

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Porvorim is set to celebrate the vibrant festival of Shigmo on March 15 with traditional Romtamel and folk performances at Shivaji Maharaj Chowk. The annual celebration will be



held under the leadership of Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte along with Saligao MLA Kedar Naik, with the inauguration scheduled for 4 pm. Speaking ahead of the event, Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte said Shigmo represents Goa's

rich cultural identity and community spirit. He said celebrations like the one in Porvorim provide an important platform for traditional art forms such as Romtamel and folk dances to flourish while bringing people together in a festive atmosphere.

Goan Actor Shankar Naik Shines on International Stage

■ Artist from Ponda to feature in upcoming Georgian film 'Field'

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: It is always inspiring to see local talent making its mark on the international stage, and Goan artist Shankar Naik from Kapileshwari in Ponda has achieved just that. Naik is set to appear in an upcoming international film titled Field, directed by renowned Georgian filmmaker Giorgi Tskvitindze. The film is expected to be released worldwide soon in both Georgian and English languages. In the film, Shankar Naik will be seen playing a pivotal comic role, marking an important milestone in his acting career. Naik has built a strong portfolio over the years. He has portrayed various character roles



in several Hindi films and OTT web series and has also featured in numerous advertisement films. Apart from screen acting, he has been actively involved in the Goan theatre circuit for many years. His achievement has brought pride to Goa, and he has been receiving appreciation and accolades from various sections of society for representing Goan talent on the global cinema platform.

Vasco Set for Major Transformation with ₹140 Crore Smart City Projects: MLA Krishna Salkar

■ Plans include modern market complex, international-level bus stand and infrastructure upgrades.

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco is set to witness major development over the next two years with the implementation of Smart City projects worth ₹140 crore aimed at upgrading infrastructure and civic amenities in the port town, said Krishna Salkar on



Tuesday. Addressing a press conference along with Mormugao Municipal Council Chairperson Girish Borker and

councillors, the Vasco MLA said the government has sanctioned substantial funds under the Smart City initiative to revamp

key facilities and improve the overall appearance of the town.

Salkar said several development works are planned as part of the project, including the demolition of old and dilapidated structures and their reconstruction into modern buildings to better serve residents.

GAIL conducts level-III off-site mock drill at Zuari Nagar

Team Goemkarponn

ZUAR-NAGAR: An off-site Level-III mock drill on natural gas pipeline emergency response was conducted by GAIL (India) Limited at Zuari Nagar, Sancoale on Tuesday to test preparedness and coordination among emergency response teams and local authorities. Deputy Collector and SDO of



Mormugao attended the exercise as the chief guest. Officials from Goa Police, fire fighting teams and customers associated with GAIL were also present during the drill. Personnel from the Verna Fire Service took part in the operation

along with GAIL's Quick Response Team (QRT) and maintenance team. The drill simulated a situation involving gas leakage and fire on a natural gas pipeline. During the exercise, the teams demonstrated coordinated action to

control the leak and contain the fire, while ensuring safety protocols and emergency response procedures were followed. The operation was carried out in close coordination with senior officials and the Regional Gas Management Centre (RGMC) of GAIL in Bengaluru, along with local government emergency response teams.

“Platforms Like Prarambh Inspire Youth Creativity”: Ritesh Ravi Naik At Cultural Finale

■ Students Honoured At Vibrant Grand Finale Held At Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Ritesh Ravi Naik attended the grand finale of Prarambh 2026, a lively cultural celebration organised by the Students' Council of Goa Vidyaprasarak Mandal's Gopal Govind Poy Raiturcar College of Commerce and Economics in Farmagudi. The event was held at the Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir and witnessed the presence of students, faculty members and many supporters who gathered to celebrate the talents of young performers. During the programme, Naik presented awards to the winners of Prarambh 2026, congratulating them for their impressive performances across various cultural activities. He encouraged the students to continue



developing their abilities and to use such opportunities to strengthen their confidence and creative expression. The cultural festival showcased the enthusiasm and talent of students who participated in multiple competitions and performances throughout the event. The grand finale served as a platform to recognise their achievements and dedication, bringing

together participants and supporters in a festive atmosphere. Addressing the audience, Naik commended the efforts of the Students' Council and the institution for organising an event that promotes creativity and holistic development among students. He noted that such initiatives help young people build confidence, express their talents and gain valuable experiences beyond



the classroom. He also praised the energy and commitment displayed by the students during the programme, stating that the enthusiasm of the youth reflects a strong spirit of creativity and ambition. Naik concluded by extending his best wishes to all participants, encouraging them to continue pursuing their passions and striving for excellence in their future endeavours.



India Now Sourcing Oil From 40 Countries As Hormuz Blockade Forces Major Supply Shift

■ Government Expands Import Network And Alternative Routes To Protect Energy Security

New Delhi: India has expanded its crude oil sourcing network to 40 countries as the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz disrupts global energy supply routes.

The move is aimed at strengthening the country's energy security as tensions continue during the conflict involving Iran, the United States and Israel. Government data

indicates that about 60 percent of India's crude imports now arrive through alternate corridors rather than the traditional shipping route. The change represents a major shift from the country's decade long reliance on around 27 suppliers, as authorities move to diversify supply chains and reduce vulnerability to disruptions.

“Digital Skills Are the New Power”: Women From Socorro Join Training to Build Online Confidence

Mahila Digital Sashaktikaran Yojana programme equips participants with practical technology skills and cyber safety awareness

Team Goemkarponn

Porvorim: Eighteen women from Socorro took part in a digital empowerment training programme organised at the Ambewada Temple hall in Socorro, Porvorim. The initiative was conducted under the Mahila Digital Sashaktikaran Yojana, a programme designed to strengthen digital literacy among women and encourage greater participation in the digital world. The training focused on helping participants develop



practical technology skills that can assist them in everyday life. Sessions included guidance on basic smartphone operations, navigating digital applications and performing online tasks such as purchasing products through e-commerce platforms and paying utility bills digitally. Participants also learned

to use popular social media features such as video calling and creating online groups. Additional guidance was provided on accessing and navigating Goa Online services along with other digital tools that simplify communication and daily activities. A key part of the programme addressed digital safety. With cyber fraud cases

increasing, participants were educated about protecting their personal information while using online services. Special emphasis was placed on safeguarding one time passwords and avoiding financial transactions with unknown individuals on digital platforms. The Mahila Digital Sashaktikaran Yojana aims to make digital learning accessible to women within their own communities. The programme provides hands on training in using digital devices,



exploring online platforms and accessing various e-governance services. Training sessions are delivered through Information Technology Knowledge Centres, Common Service Centres and Village Level Entrepreneurs, often conducted in local panchayat halls and community spaces. The session concluded with active participation and enthusiasm from the attendees. Many women expressed greater



confidence in using digital tools for communication, online payments and other daily needs. More training batches are planned in the coming days, and women from nearby communities are encouraged to participate. Such initiatives are helping bridge the digital gap while enabling women to access government services, engage with the digital economy and support their families through technology driven opportunities.

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River Pollution Triggers Concern In Assembly

Addressing pollution in these rivers and other water bodies across the state. MLA Krishna Salkar raised the issue of desilting of water bodies and highlighted the unhygienic condition of a sluice channel opposite Goa Shipyard Limited in

Vasco da Gama. In response, the WRD Minister assured that the department will inspect the area and carry out desilting wherever necessary. MLA Venzy Viegas said the Sal River is among the most polluted rivers in India,

citing reports that indicate high coliform levels. He raised concerns over sewage discharge into the river and suggested installing temporary plugs to stop the flow. Shirodkar assured that the department would inspect the affected locations

and take necessary measures. AAP MLA Cruz Silva also raised concerns about pollution in the Cavelossim River, questioning whether sewage from nearby hotels was being discharged into the water and why strict action had not been taken.

50%+ Turnout Recorded As CCP Elections Conclude In Panaji

Revenue Minister Atanasio (Babush) Monserrate campaigned for his panel of candidates, while Utpal Parrikar, son of former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, supported the Ami Panjekar panel. Leaders

from the Opposition were also visible during the campaign, including Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemão, South Goa MP Captain Viriato Fernandes, and AAP leaders Venzy Viegas and Valmiki Naik.

“Canada Is An Energy Superpower Ready To Meet India’s Growing Demand”: Mark Carney

■ Ottawa Offers LNG And Critical Minerals As Strategic Partnership Amid Global Supply Uncertainty

New Delhi: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has positioned Canada as a key energy partner for India, stating that the country is well placed to support India’s rapidly rising energy needs over the coming decades. Speaking alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a



video statement, Carney highlighted Canada’s capacity to supply reliable and low carbon Liquefied

Natural Gas. He noted that Canadian LNG is already widely used across Asia and Europe for heating, electricity generation and industrial purposes. India’s demand for energy is projected to grow significantly, with expectations that consumption could double by 2040. Against this

backdrop, Carney said Canada could play a major role in supporting India’s long term energy security. The Canadian leader also pointed to the country’s strong position in the global mining sector, noting that a large share of the world’s mining companies are listed in Canada.



LPG Shortage Forces Restaurants To Return To Wood And Coal Cooking

■ War Driven Energy Disruptions Push Eateries Across Indian Cities Into Crisis Mode

New Delhi: A shortage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas triggered by global energy disruptions has forced many restaurants across India to return to traditional cooking methods such as wood and coal fires. The supply crunch has emerged amid volatility in energy markets following the conflict involving United States, Israel and Iran, which has affected fuel shipments from the Middle East. LPG is widely used by over 33 crore Indian households as well as thousands of restaurants and food

businesses, making the disruption particularly difficult for the hospitality sector. In major cities including Chennai, Bengaluru and Kolkata, many commercial kitchens have started using firewood, often sourced from scrap lumber, to keep basic cooking operations running. Several restaurants have also reduced their menus, focusing only on items that require minimal cooking fuel. One example is Bangalore Thindies, which previously offered a menu of 11 dishes such as dosa, idli and rice preparations.

“There Is Absolutely No Shortage Of Fuel”: Piyush Goyal Assures Stability Amid Global Energy Crisis

■ Government Activates Emergency Measures To Protect Domestic Supply As West Asia Conflict Disrupts Global Markets

New Delhi: Union Minister Piyush Goyal has assured that India is not facing any shortage of fuel despite rising uncertainty in global energy markets caused by the ongoing tensions in West Asia. Speaking to the media in Tiruchirappalli,



the minister said the

government is closely monitoring developments and taking necessary measures to ensure uninterrupted fuel availability across the country. He emphasised that authorities remain vigilant as the conflict

continues to impact international energy supplies. Goyal explained that various government departments are constantly reviewing the evolving situation and will provide updates when required.

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers Steps Down After Operational Crisis Shook Airline

■ Flight Disruptions, Pilot Shortages And New Duty Rules Triggered Major Turmoil For India’s Largest Carrier

New Delhi: Chief Executive Officer Pieter Elbers has stepped down from his role at IndiGo as the airline continues to recover from a major operational crisis that unfolded in December 2025. Despite the turbulence, the carrier still commands nearly 60 percent of India’s domestic aviation market. Following his resignation, Managing Director Rahul Bhatia will oversee operations until parent company InterGlobe Enterprises appoints a new chief executive. The crisis stemmed from the airline’s failure to fully comply with revised Flight Duty Time Limitation rules introduced to enhance aviation safety. These regulations restrict the number of hours pilots can fly before mandatory rest periods are required.



When the updated norms came into force, IndiGo struggled to adjust its crew scheduling and staffing levels, resulting in widespread disruptions. Between December 3 and 5, more than 2,500 flights were cancelled and nearly 1,900 were delayed across the country. The sudden disruption left thousands of passengers stranded and severely affected the airline’s operational performance. IndiGo’s on time performance dropped sharply to around 35 percent before falling below 10 percent within two days.

“Future Warfare Demands Innovation And Integration”: Rajnath Singh Unveils Vision 2047 For Indian Military

■ Roadmap Focuses On Advanced Technology, Joint Operations And Indigenous Defence Capabilities

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday unveiled a long term strategic blueprint aimed at transforming the country’s armed forces into a technologically advanced and future ready military. The document titled “Defence Forces Vision 2047: A Roadmap for a Future



Ready Indian Military” was released at an event in South Block. The initiative outlines a comprehensive

plan to modernise the armed forces and strengthen their ability to meet emerging global security challenges as the country works toward its development goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047. The vision document has been prepared by the Headquarters Integrated

Defence Staff and lays out key reforms required to build a modern and integrated defence force. It highlights the importance of adopting advanced technologies, strengthening training systems and improving coordination among the three services to prepare for future forms of warfare.

“Safe And Sound”: Mojtaba Khamenei’s Condition Clarified After Injury Rumours

■ Iran’s New Supreme Leader Reportedly Unhurt As Power Dynamics Shift During Ongoing Conflict

New Delhi: Iran’s newly appointed Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei is safe despite reports suggesting he had been injured during the ongoing conflict involving Israel and the United States, according to a statement shared by the son of Iran’s president. Yousef

Pezeshkian, who also serves as a government adviser, addressed the speculation in a message posted on his Telegram channel. He said he had reached out to contacts with knowledge of the situation and was informed that Mojtaba Khamenei was in good

health. Earlier reports had described the Iranian leader as a “wounded veteran” of the conflict, though no official details were provided about any possible injuries. The absence of clear information had fuelled widespread speculation about his condition.



Sources within Iran also indicated that the powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps played a decisive role in backing Mojtaba Khamenei’s appointment as the country’s supreme leader.

“Be Courageous And You Will Win”: Suryakumar Yadav Reveals MS Dhoni’s Advice Before T20 World Cup Triumph

■ India Captain Says Back To Back World Cup Titles Bring Special Pride, Sets Olympic Gold As Next Target

New Delhi: India’s T20 World Cup winning captain Suryakumar Yadav has revealed that a meeting with former skipper MS Dhoni before the tournament played an important role in shaping his approach during the campaign. According to Suryakumar, he met Dhoni shortly before the start of the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2026 and received valuable advice on how



to handle the pressure of a major international tournament. Dhoni encouraged him to trust the strength of the Indian team and emphasised the importance of playing



with courage throughout the competition. Suryakumar said the legendary wicketkeeper batter reminded him that India had a strong squad and that confidence and

fearless cricket would be key to defending the title successfully. He added that Dhoni’s reaction after India’s victory was memorable and reflected his happiness at the team’s achievement. India eventually lifted the trophy on March 8 in Ahmedabad, with Suryakumar becoming only the third Indian captain to win the T20 World Cup after Dhoni and Rohit Sharma.



“I Was Better Prepared This Time”: Lakshya Sen Opens Up On Handling Pressure At All England

■ Indian Shuttler Says Focusing On One Match At A Time Helped Him Reach Second All England Final

New Delhi: Indian badminton star Lakshya Sen has spoken about dealing with the pressure of carrying the country’s expectations, saying a focused mindset helped him navigate a challenging campaign at the prestigious All England Open Badminton Championships. The 24 year old shuttler finished runner up in the men’s singles event after losing 21 15, 22 20 in the final to Lin Chun-Yi of Chinese Taipei. Despite the defeat, Sen created history by becoming only the second Indian player to reach the All England final twice. Sen said he avoided thinking about the overall draw or future opponents

and instead concentrated on the immediate challenge in front of him. According to him, focusing on one match at a time helped him stay mentally disciplined throughout the tournament and prevented outside expectations from becoming a burden.

The Indian star also reflected on how his approach had changed since his first appearance in the final in 2022. At that time, he had entered the tournament with little pressure and simply enjoyed the experience of competing at the highest level.

This year, however, he felt more prepared to handle the pressure that comes with big matches.

“There Was No Need To Say Sorry”: Gautam Gambhir Defends Arshdeep Singh After World Cup Final Incident

■ India Coach Supports Fast Bowler’s Aggression And Responds To Criticism Over Team’s Post Victory Temple Visit.

New Delhi: India head coach Gautam Gambhir has backed fast bowler Arshdeep Singh following his on field clash with Daryl Mitchell during the final of the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2026. The incident occurred

despite India’s dominant victory over New Zealand national cricket team in Ahmedabad. The controversy began when Arshdeep’s throw struck Mitchell on the body during the match, prompting a brief exchange between

the two players. The situation was quickly brought under control by the on field umpires along with India captain Suryakumar Yadav. After reviewing the incident, the International Cricket Council found Arshdeep



guilty of breaching Article 2.9 of the ICC Code of Conduct, which relates to throwing the ball or equipment at or near a player in an inappropriate or dangerous manner during an international match.

“You Can’t Say No To Me”: Gautam Gambhir Reveals How Jay Shah Persuaded Him To Become India’s Head Coach



New Delhi: Gautam Gambhir has revealed that his appointment as head coach of the Indian men’s cricket team came as a major surprise, recalling how Jay Shah personally persuaded him to accept the role despite his initial hesitation. Gambhir took charge of the national team in July 2024 following the end of Rahul Dravid’s tenure. While his

time as head coach has included notable success with two ICC titles, it has also seen difficult moments, including disappointing home series defeats against New Zealand and South Africa. The former India opener admitted that he had not expected to receive the offer and initially felt unprepared for such a high responsibility.

“Goa Premier Division League Is A Key Platform For Talented Cricketers”: GCA President Mahesh Dessai

■ Auction for 2025–26 Season Concludes in Porvorim as Six Teams Prepare for Competitive League



Team Goemkarponn

Porvorim: The Goa Cricket Association successfully conducted the auction for the Goa Premier Division League 2025–26 at the GCA Hall in Porvorim on Tuesday, marking an important step ahead of the upcoming domestic cricket season in the state. Six teams will compete in the

tournament, setting the stage for an exciting contest among some of Goa’s leading cricket clubs. The participating teams include Panjim Gymkhana, Geno Sports Club, Salgaocar Cricket Club, Margao Cricket Club, Chowgule Sports Club and Dempo Cricket Club. The league is expected to feature several talented players and competitive

matches throughout the tournament. In the auction pool, Darshan Mishal finished with the highest points tally of 32,500 points and will represent Chowgule Sports Club. Vikas Singh followed closely with 32,000 points and will play for Geno Sports Club. Suyash Prabhudessai secured the third spot with 28,500 points and will represent Panjim Gymkhana.

Several other players also attracted attention during the auction. Abhinav Tejrana, representing Dempo Cricket Club, secured 22,500 points, while Deepraj Gaonkar of Margao Cricket Club earned 19,500 points. Their performances and selections are expected to strengthen their respective squads ahead of the tournament.