

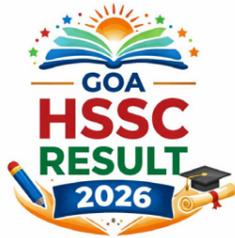


92.96% students clear Goa Board Class 12 results

Girls Outperform Boys; Science Stream Records Highest Success Rate

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI:The Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education on Friday declared the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) results for February 2026, recording an overall pass percentage of 92.96 per cent, marking an improvement over last year's 90.64 per cent.



Out of 17,283 regular candidates who appeared for the examination, 16,067 students successfully passed,

while 23 results have been kept reserved. The examinations were conducted between February 10 and February 27 across 20 centres in the state. Stream-wise performance showed that the Science stream recorded the highest pass percentage at 93.90 per cent, followed by Commerce at 92.90 per cent, Vocational at 92.27

per cent, and Arts at 92.21 per cent. Girls once again outshone boys, registering a pass percentage of 93.93 per cent compared to 91.89 per cent among boys. A total of 9,080 girls appeared for the exams, of whom 8,529 passed, while 7,538 out of 8,203 boys cleared the examination. In terms of performance distribution,

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₹3.97 Cr Solar Ferry St. Pedro Lies Idle After Just 3 Months

Govt Withholds ₹59 Lakh, Hands Vessel to Private Operator After Technical Faults.



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a major setback to Goa's push for sustainable transport, the Solar Electric ferry St. Pedro (PNJ-880), built at a cost of ₹3.97 crore, is

currently non-operational after running for only three months. Information tabled in the Legislative Assembly reveals that the ferry was withdrawn from service due to electrical

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Goa to Begin First Phase of Census 2027 from April 16

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Government of Goa has notified that the first phase of Census 2027 — Houselisting and Housing Census — will be conducted across the state from April 16 to May 15, 2026. The exercise will collect data on housing conditions, household amenities and assets. According to the notification issued in the Official Gazette, the census will be conducted through digital means. A provision for self-enumeration has also



been made for a 15-day period from April 1 to April 15, 2026, ahead of the houselisting phase. The second phase, Population Enumeration, will be carried out in February 2027, followed by a revisional round from March 1 to March 5, 2027. During this stage, individual-

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

'No Increase In Regular Fuel Prices': IndianOil Reassures Consumers After XP95 Price Revision

Premium Petrol Price Raised By ₹2 Per Litre While Regular Fuel Rates Remain Unchanged.

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation has assured consumers that prices of regular petrol and diesel remain unchanged across India despite a sharp surge in global crude oil prices. The clarification comes after the state run oil marketing company



announced a limited price revision for premium petrol XP95 petrol,

increasing its price by ₹2 per litre. The company emphasised that the adjustment affects only a small segment of fuel consumption since premium petrol accounts for a relatively minor share compared to regular petrol and diesel.

'Unacceptable': India Condemns Attacks On Commercial Ships In Strait Of Hormuz

Calls For Dialogue And Maritime Safety As Iran-US Conflict Threatens Global Shipping.

New Delhi: India has strongly condemned the targeting of commercial vessels in international waters amid rising tensions linked to the conflict between Iran and



the United States.

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Government of Goa

HAPPY RAMADAN EID

Eid-ul-Fitr marks the culmination of the holy month of Ramadan and celebrates the values of compassion, gratitude, charity, and unity. May this blessed festival bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to every home.

Happy Eid!

Issued by: Department of Information and Publicity, Government of Goa

2025 International Year of Cooperatives

Cooperatives Build a Better World

A Preventable Crisis, A Systemic Failure

The recent diarrhoea outbreak in Goa is not just a public health scare. It is a stark reminder of how governance fails in the most basic of responsibilities. When over a hundred people fall ill within days due to suspected water contamination, the issue goes far beyond a temporary crisis. It exposes a deeper, long-standing pattern of neglect, poor oversight, and unchecked irregularities.

Clean drinking water is not a privilege. It is the most fundamental public service any government is expected to guarantee. Yet, incidents like this show how fragile that assurance has become. Contamination does not occur overnight. It is the result of cumulative failures, leaking pipelines, illegal connections, poor-quality infrastructure, and a lack of regular monitoring. Each of these reflects not just technical lapses, but administrative indifference.

What is most concerning is the predictability of such outbreaks. This is not the first time residents have complained about water quality, nor will it be the last if systemic issues are not addressed. The response from authorities often follows a familiar script. Once people fall sick, teams are rushed, samples are collected, advisories are issued, and temporary measures are put in place. But by then, the damage is already done. Public health cannot be managed as a reaction. It requires consistent vigilance long before symptoms appear in the population.

At the heart of the problem lies the failure to control illegalities. Unauthorised water connections, unregulated construction, and poor compliance with safety norms are not hidden activities. They thrive in plain sight. Their continued existence points to weak enforcement and, in some cases, a troubling tolerance within the system. When rules are not implemented strictly, they gradually lose meaning. Over time, this creates an environment where shortcuts become the norm and accountability becomes optional.

Substandard work in public infrastructure further compounds the issue. Contracts are awarded, funds are allocated, but execution often falls short.

“What is most concerning is the predictability of such outbreaks. This is not the first time residents have complained about water quality, nor will it be the last if systemic issues are not addressed. The response from authorities often follows a familiar script. Once people fall sick, teams are rushed, samples are collected, advisories are issued, and temporary measures are put in place. But by then, the damage is already done. Public health cannot be managed as a reaction. It requires consistent vigilance long before symptoms appear in the population.

At the heart of the problem lies the failure to control illegalities. Unauthorised water connections, unregulated construction, and poor compliance with safety norms are not hidden activities.

Pipelines that should last decades begin to fail within years. Poorly laid systems allow contamination to seep in, especially in areas where sewage and water lines run close to each other. These are not isolated technical errors. They are the consequences of compromised quality and inadequate supervision.

The cost of such negligence is ultimately borne by ordinary citizens. Families are forced to deal with illness, medical expenses, and disruption to daily life. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable.

For many, especially those dependent on daily wages, even a few days of sickness can have lasting economic consequences. These are invisible costs that rarely feature in official statements, but they define the real impact of administrative failure.

There is also a broader environmental dimension that cannot be ignored. Water systems are part of a delicate ecological balance. When infrastructure is poorly planned or executed, it not only affects human health but also damages surrounding ecosystems. Contaminated water sources can have long-term effects on soil, agriculture, and biodiversity. The consequences extend far beyond the immediate outbreak.

What makes the situation more troubling is the absence of visible accountability. Investigations may be announced, but they rarely lead to meaningful action. Without fixing responsibility, the cycle continues. Officials are transferred, reports are filed, and the system moves on until the next crisis emerges. This lack of consequence weakens public trust and sends a message that such failures are acceptable.

The way forward is neither complex nor unknown. It requires consistent enforcement of existing rules, regular audits of water infrastructure, and strict quality control in public works. Illegal connections must be identified and removed without exception. Monitoring mechanisms must be strengthened, not activated only during emergencies. Most importantly, there must be a clear chain of accountability where lapses are identified and addressed decisively.

The outbreak in Goa should not be dismissed as an unfortunate incident. It is a reflection of deeper systemic weaknesses that demand urgent attention. When something as basic as drinking water becomes a source of illness, it raises serious questions about priorities and governance.

This is not just about one outbreak. It is about a pattern that has been allowed to persist. And unless that pattern is broken, such crises will continue to repeat themselves, each time at the cost of public health and public trust.

EDITOR'S SPEAK

Defeat is Not the End: A Stand for Panaji's Future and Principles

Public life is not measured only by electoral victories but by the courage to stand for truth, transparency, and the welfare of the people. I sincerely appreciate the sincere efforts of Utpal Parrikar, Surenda Furtado and all the dedicated candidates of the Ami Panjekar panel who fought the CCP election with honesty, commitment, and a genuine intention to protect the identity and future of Panaji. Your campaign was not merely about power; it was about awakening citizens and reminding them that the city belongs to its people. Sometimes in public life, sincere efforts may face strong powers and circumstances beyond control. Losing an election does not mean losing the battle for values and principles. In fact, such efforts plant the seeds of awareness and inspire many citizens to think about responsible governance. Your courage to stand independently, your dedication towards transparent administration, and your love for Panaji will always be remembered and respected. Do not feel disheartened by the results. Every great movement begins with a few determined voices who refuse to give up. Panaji still needs committed leaders who will continue to speak for its heritage, environment, and future development. Your efforts have already created a strong foundation of public awareness and civic participation. Keep your spirit strong and continue this journey of public service with the same integrity and determination. The people of Panaji will always respect those who stand with honesty and conviction. Panaji's future is a long journey and this is only one chapter of it. Stay strong. Keep serving. The city is watching, learning, and hoping.

-Surendra Furtado

Diarrhoea health tragedy is part of Dabolim.

MLA's Legacy #MauvinGodinho. A major health scare has erupted at the Prabhu Violetta 200- Apartment residential complex in Dabolim, where 149 cases of diarrhoea including children and the elderly have been reported within days, triggering panic among residents and prompting a multi-agency probe into suspected water contamination. The outbreak, concentrated within the nearly 200-apartment housing complex, saw cases surge to 149 in just a week, with residents reporting vomiting, dehydration and severe stomach cramps. Whilst the Goa Govt administration has now being fully into action mode to address this health crisis, a critical question must be asked? 1) Why is the action of the Goa Govt/ GSPCB ETC more reactive vs proactive, particularly with so many complaints over so many years on water contamination, be it bore wells/ground water, tankers supplied water, etc.? 2) Surely people should not think that this is just a one-off case at Dabolim, and surely the problem of water contamination is widespread at Dabolim! The Current MLA has been representing Dabolim for so many terms, and it is heartbreaking to see Rampant construction activity in this constituency, particularly during his full time as MLA, which surely cannot happen with the active support/participation of the Local MLA and panchayat members "reporting" to him (as panchayat minister!) Can anyone argue that such destructive development is not a major contributor to health hazards now at Dabolim? Is it Fair to say that such a man-made health crisis is a legacy of the Dabolim MLA Mauvin Godinho?

-Arwin Mesquita

From 100% Tap Coverage To Smart Water Governance

Goa enters Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 with focus on sustainability, tech-driven monitoring

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: With 100% tap water connectivity already achieved in rural households, Goa has now entered the next phase of water management with a strong focus on sustainability and technology-driven governance under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant virtually participated in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department



of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, and the Government of Goa. The event was held in the presence of Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil, Goa Minister for Drinking Water and Social Welfare Subhash Phal Dessai, and senior

officials. Highlighting Goa's achievement under Phase 1, Sawant said the state has ensured "Har Ghar Jal" by providing tap water connections to every rural household. He noted that Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 marks a significant transition—from building infrastructure to ensuring its long-term functionality, efficiency, and reliability. "The next phase is about strengthening service delivery and moving towards smart, technology-enabled water governance.



Goa Moves To Become Global Wellness Hub With New Policy Push

Framework focuses on regulating sector, boosting credibility and attracting health tourism

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has taken a major step towards developing the state as an international wellness destination by introducing a new policy framework for the sector. The initiative

lays down guidelines to organise and regulate wellness services such as Ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy and other holistic therapies. Authorities aim to bring uniform standards across the industry through proper registration,

certification and monitoring of wellness centres. Officials said the move is intended to enhance the quality and authenticity of services offered, while also strengthening Goa's image among global travellers seeking health and wellness experiences.



Goa Ranks Among Top Power Utilities, Secures 3rd Spot in National DUR Report

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has been ranked among the leading power distribution utilities in India, securing the third position in its category in the Distribution Utilities Ranking (DUR) Report for the financial year 2024–25, released by the Ministry of Power. The rankings, announced during the Power Minister's Summit on Friday, place the Goa Power Department (Goa PD) with a total score of 78.5. It stands third among 41 comparable utilities—excluding those from urban and special category states—and 11th overall out of 66 utilities evaluated across the country. Within its category, Goa trailed Gujarat's Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited (DGVCL) and Odisha's TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), indicating a consistently strong performance across

several key indicators. The assessment was based on six major parameters, including financial and operational efficiency, consumer service delivery, renewable purchase obligations (RPO), smart metering, demand-side management, and resource adequacy. Goa performed exceptionally well in renewable purchase obligations and system metering, achieving a perfect score in both areas. However, its performance in demand-side response was relatively weak, scoring just 19, which impacted its overall ranking. The report suggests that Goa can further improve its position by strengthening demand-side measures, particularly through wider implementation of Time-of-Day (ToD) tariffs and expanding the installation of ToD meters across all consumer segments, excluding agriculture.

Mapusa Court Hears Fresh Bail Plea in Birch Fire Case; Next Hearing on March 24

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: The Additional Sessions Court in Mapusa on Friday began hearing arguments on the second set of bail applications filed by Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra in connection with the Birch fire case.

The matter has been adjourned for further submissions on March 24. Counsel representing the accused contended that there has been a significant shift in circumstances since their earlier bail pleas were rejected. The defence highlighted that the



Anjuna police have now filed a chargesheet in the case, arguing that this development limits the need for further custodial interrogation and supports their request for bail. On the other hand, the prosecution is likely to strongly resist the plea, citing the gravity of the

allegations and the circumstances linked to the fire incident. Meanwhile, in a separate but related matter, the court has postponed its decision on the anticipatory bail applications filed by the Luthra brothers in a document forgery case

registered by Mapusa police. The order, which was expected earlier, will now be delivered on March 24. Both proceedings stem from the ongoing legal challenges faced by the brothers following the Birch fire incident, which had attracted widespread attention over concerns related to safety compliance.

With further arguments in the fire case and the ruling in the forgery matter scheduled for the same day, March 24 is set to be a key date in determining the immediate legal course for the accused.

Goa Beaches Among Most Contaminated, Govt Must Act: Congress

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has raised serious concerns over environmental and public health risks in the state, citing recent findings by the National Institute of Oceanography that place Goa's beaches among the most contaminated along India's western coastline. GPCC President Amit Patkar, in a press statement, said alarming levels of toxic Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) detected on



microplastics pose a grave threat not only to marine biodiversity but also to public health and Goa's tourism-driven economy. He further pointed out that the Indian Space Research Organisation had earlier warned about increasing coastal erosion

along Goa's shoreline, highlighting that repeated alerts from credible scientific institutions cannot be ignored. Criticising the government, Patkar alleged that despite such warnings, the BJP-led administration has remained "indifferent

and inactive." He also referred to the recent water contamination incident in Dabolim, where around 149 residents were reportedly affected by diarrhoea, calling it a reflection of administrative failure.

The Congress has demanded immediate and time-bound measures, including a comprehensive coastal pollution audit, stricter regulation of industrial and urban waste discharge, steps to curb microplastic pollution, and a transparent action plan to address coastal erosion.

Man Held For Depositing Fake Currency In Porvorim Bank

■ Accused allegedly used cash deposit machine to deposit counterfeit Rs 500 notes

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: An offence has been registered at Porvorim Police Station against a 46-year-old man for allegedly depositing counterfeit currency notes at a bank in Porvorim. According to police, the case was registered on March 20, 2026, at 2:04 pm based on a complaint filed by Vikas Jarial, Branch Manager of HDFC Bank, located at Sukan Building, NH-17, Alto Porvorim. The accused, identified as Maibuba D Yalagi, a resident of Yalawar in Bijapur, Karnataka, reportedly deposited seven fake currency notes of Rs 500 denomination, amounting



to Rs 3,500, into a cash deposit machine at the bank on March 5, 2026, at around 10:20 am.

The notes allegedly bore a common serial number. Police said the accused deposited the counterfeit notes into his bank account

maintained at HDFC Bank in Bagewadi, Karnataka, by presenting them as genuine currency.

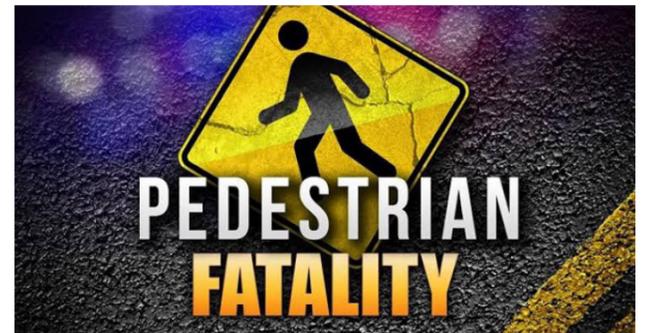
An offence of counterfeiting has been registered, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Sachin Shirodkar.

Pedestrian Killed In Bike Accident Near Karmali

■ Rider booked for rash and negligent driving; victim died on way to hospital

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: Old Goa Police have registered an offence in connection with a fatal motor vehicle accident that occurred near Karmali Railway Station in Carambolim. According to police, the case was registered on March 20, 2026, at 11:16 am based on a complaint filed by Head Constable Vinod Fondvekar, attached to Old Goa Police Station. The accident took place on March 19, 2026, at around 6:30 pm when the accused, identified as Sanket Gawade (30), a resident of Old Goa, was riding a Royal Enfield Himalayan motorcycle.



Police said the accused was allegedly riding in a rash and negligent manner from Mandur Dongri towards Old Goa. Upon reaching near Karmali Railway Station, the rider reportedly dashed against a pedestrian, Badshah Shaikh (58), a resident of Baiguinim, Old Goa, causing him serious

injuries. The injured was being shifted to GMC Bambolim but succumbed to his injuries on the way and was declared brought dead at the hospital casualty. An offence under sections 281 and 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been registered, and further investigation is underway by LPSI Jasvita Naik.



Missing Teen Found Dead In Kushavati River

■ Body recovered from Assolda bridge area; police register unnatural death case.

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: In a tragic development, the body of a 16-year-old boy who had been reported missing was found in a decomposed state in the Kushavati river on Thursday evening.

According to police, information was received from PCR Margao on March 19, 2026, at around 7:21 pm about an unidentified body floating beneath the Assolda bridge. A police team rushed to the spot, retrieved the body from the river, and conducted preliminary enquiries.

The deceased was later

identified as Roydon Giggs Noronha (16), a resident of Avedem, Quepem, who had been missing from his residence.

Police have registered an offence under Section 137(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act at Quepem Police Station. A scene of offence panchanama was conducted, and the body has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for medico-legal formalities.

Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Gaurav Naik of Maina Curtorim Police Station.

Builder Booked For Discharging Untreated Sewage In Chicalim

■ Residents allege illness and public nuisance due to hazardous waste discharge.

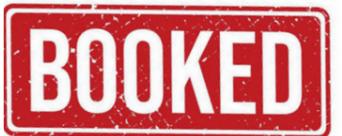
Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco Police have registered an offence against a builder following allegations of discharging untreated sewage into a residential area at Chicalim.

According to police, the complaint was filed by Lucas Fernandes, Secretary of Prabhu Violetta society, Chicalim. He alleged that the accused, Amith Prabhu, associated with Prabhu Realtors, deliberately and

continuously released untreated sewage from a sewage treatment plant into open drains and the garden परिसर of the society. The discharge reportedly created a public nuisance and posed health risks,

with several residents complaining of illnesses such as diarrhoea. Police have taken cognisance of the matter, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Nikhil Dessai of Vasco Police Station.



Youth Dies After River Diving Incident In Quepem

■ 23-year-old succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment at GMC Bambolim.

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: A 23-year-old youth from Balli, Quepem, died while undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, following a river diving incident. According to police, a wireless message was received from GMC on March 20, 2026, informing about the death of Nitin Gaonkar (23). During enquiry, family members stated that the deceased had gone swimming at Konimol

in Balli, Quepem. While swimming, he reportedly jumped into the river and sustained serious injuries to his head and neck. He was immediately shifted to GMC Bambolim for treatment, where he later succumbed. Police conducted an inquest panchanama, and the body was sent for post-mortem examination. The autopsy conducted by the police surgeon certified the cause of death as "bilateral consolidation of lungs in a person undergoing treatment for cervical spine injury."

Minor Boy Kidnapped In Quepem

■ Police register case against unknown persons; search underway

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: Quepem Police have registered a case of kidnapping following a complaint filed by a resident of Quepem.

According to police, the incident occurred on March 17, 2026, at around 11:00 pm at Avedem in Quepem, when unknown accused persons allegedly kidnapped the complainant's minor brother from lawful guardianship. The identity of the complainant has been withheld. Police have registered an offence



against unidentified persons, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Siddesh Naik of Quepem Police Station.

GSPCB flags prior sewage violations at Chicalim complex

■ STP samples exceed limits amid diarrhoea cases.

Team Goemkarponn

CHICALIM: Amid 149 reported cases of diarrhoea at Prabhu Violetta Phase-I in Chicalim, detailed directions issued by the Goa State Pollution Control Board have revealed that the establishment had been earlier directed to halt sewage violations even before laboratory findings confirmed excess pollution levels in its treatment systems. According to official directions dated



20/03/2026, based on an inspection conducted on 16/03/2026, the Board had observed that untreated sewage was being discharged into the open from the premises of M/s Prabhu Violetta Phase-I at Alto-Dabolim, causing environmental pollution in the surrounding area. In response, the

establishment was directed to immediately stop the discharge of untreated sewage into open drains and surrounding spaces. The Board further directed that sewage generated at the premises be collected in designated tanks and transported on a daily basis through night soil

tankers to the sewage treatment plant of the Public Works Department, Government of Goa. This arrangement was mandated to continue until both in-house sewage treatment plants (STPs) of 135 KLD and 85 KLD capacity were rectified, made fully functional and operational under the Board's supervision, and until the establishment obtained a valid Consent to Operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.



Goa Haj Committee chairman seeks Ajmer train at Vasco Iftaar

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: An Iftaar gathering held in Vasco on Thursday evening witnessed the presence of Goa Haj Committee Chairman Urfan Mulla along with Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar, Mormugao Municipal Council Chairperson Girish Borker and other dignitaries, with the event highlighting communal harmony and unity. Addressing those present, Mulla said the programme stood as a strong example of social cohesion, pointing out that members of the Hindu community attended the Iftaar despite it coinciding with the festival of Gudi Padwa. He noted that such participation sends a positive message of mutual respect and togetherness among communities in Goa. Speaking on community-

related demands, Mulla said that the Muslim community has requested the introduction of an Ajmer train under the Dev Darshan Scheme, which would benefit pilgrims travelling to Ajmer. He added that the proposal has been placed before the authorities and expressed hope that it would receive due consideration. Touching upon the political scenario, Mulla expressed confidence in the victory of BJP candidate Ritesh Naik in the upcoming Ponda by-election.

He said that the party has been receiving support from various sections of society. Mulla further stated that the BJP has consistently worked towards strengthening and supporting the Muslim community in Goa, adding that development and inclusive governance remain key priorities.

Two bikes set on fire at Bellem, Velsao; foul play suspected

Team Goemkarponn

VELSAO: A mysterious fire in the early hours of Friday gutted one motorcycle and partially damaged another at Bellem in Velsao, triggering suspicion of deliberate arson among local residents. The incident is believed to have occurred sometime

after 2.00 am, at a time when the area had largely fallen silent following a late-night religious function at the Krishna temple nearby. According to residents, people were present in the vicinity till around 1.00 am, and everything appeared normal before the fire broke out later in the night. One of the motorcycles

was completely reduced to a charred shell, while the second vehicle sustained partial damage in the blaze.

Locals who noticed the burnt vehicles in the morning alerted the owners and raised concerns over possible foul play, pointing out that the timing and nature of the fire appeared



suspicious. The owners of the two-wheelers have lodged a complaint with Verna police, seeking a thorough probe into the incident.

WCD Appoints Dowry Prohibition Officers Across Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a move to curb dowry-related harassment and strengthen enforcement of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, the Directorate of Women & Child Development (WCD), Goa, has appointed Dowry Prohibition Officers across all districts in the state. The appointed officers include Collectors, Additional Collectors, and Deputy Collectors across North Goa, South Goa, and Kushavati districts. They will exercise powers under the Act to prevent dowry practices and take action against violations. According to the WCD Department, these officers will serve as key points of contact for victims and



the public, ensuring timely intervention in cases of dowry harassment. The department has urged citizens to refrain from engaging in dowry practices, stressing that both giving and taking dowry is a punishable offence. Under the law, offenders can face a minimum of five years' imprisonment along with a fine of at least ₹15,000 or the value of the dowry, whichever is higher. Residents have been encouraged to report cases or seek assistance by contacting their respective Dowry Prohibition Officers.

Full-Scale Preparations Underway for Ponda By-Election, Officials Told to Ensure Timely Execution

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: With the bye-election to the 21 Ponda Assembly Constituency approaching, election authorities have stepped up preparations, reviewing readiness across departments at a high-level joint meeting chaired by Egna Cleetus, Collector



and District Election Officer, South Goa. The meeting was attended by General Observer Pooja Parth and Expenditure

Observer Sharayu H. Aadhe, along with senior officials including the ADM (Law & Order), SP South, SP (Election), DYSP, and representatives from key departments such as DRDA, Social Welfare, IT, and NIC. A comprehensive review of election preparedness was undertaken, covering

logistical arrangements, law and order, expenditure monitoring, and coordination among departments. The Observers emphasised strict adherence to timelines and directed nodal officers to immediately address any gaps or delays in execution.

Governor, CM Extend Eid-ul-Fitr Greetings to People of Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Governor Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant have extended warm greetings to the people of Goa on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, wishing peace, harmony, and prosperity. In his message, the Governor said Eid-ul-Fitr marks the



culmination of the holy month of Ramadan, a period devoted to prayer, reflection, compassion, and self-discipline. He described the festival

as a celebration of faith, gratitude, and the spirit of sharing and caring, while recalling the teachings of Prophet Mohammed that emphasise peace, compassion, and unity among all sections of society. "May this blessed occasion strengthen the bonds of harmony, brotherhood, and unity among all

communities and bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to everyone. Eid Mubarak," the Governor stated. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, in his message, extended greetings especially to the Muslim community and noted that Eid signifies the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer, and charity.

“Floodlights Meet International Standards”: GCA Unveils New Lighting System At Porvorim Ground

■ ₹4 Crore Upgrade Enables Night Training And High Quality Telecasts As Association Expands Cricket Infrastructure

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Cricket Association inaugurated newly installed floodlights at its ground in Porvorim on Friday, marking a major step in upgrading cricket infrastructure in the state. The lighting system has been installed at a cost of ₹4 crore and is designed to meet international standards required for modern cricket matches. The floodlights are capable of producing illumination levels of 2,500 lux, making the ground suitable for high quality match telecasts and night training sessions. The installation will allow players to practise during evening hours and gain experience playing under lights, a key aspect of contemporary cricket formats.

Officials said the facility meets the standards required for top level competitions, including Indian Premier League matches. The improved lighting will also help players prepare



for international and domestic tournaments where day night fixtures have become increasingly common.

The installation is part of the association's broader plan to strengthen cricket development in Goa. As part of this initiative, the association has already established 20 cricket centres across the state to nurture young talent and provide a structured training platform for aspiring players.

The association is also working on additional infrastructure upgrades to support athlete development. Plans are underway to set up a state of the art physiotherapy

centre along with a modern gymnasium to provide players with better fitness and recovery facilities.

Officials noted that significant progress has been made in infrastructure development since the current managing committee assumed office. While earlier efforts helped establish the groundwork for development, the present committee has focused on expanding and improving existing facilities to support the growth of cricket in the state.

Concerns were also raised about reduced cricket activity during the monsoon season in Goa,

which often limits match opportunities for players. To address this challenge, the association plans to send young cricketers to other states during the off season so they can gain more competitive exposure and increase their number of matches each year.

The evening also featured a special performance by Bollywood singer Shabir Kumar, who rendered the national anthem ahead of an exhibition match between the President's XI and Secretary's XI. Goa Cricket Association President Mahesh Dessai and Secretary Tulshidas Shetye were present at the event.



Indians Returning From War-Hit Middle East Allowed One-Time Pet Import Relaxation

■ Government Eases Rules For Dogs And Cats As Evacuations Continue Amid Regional Conflict

New Delhi: Amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the return of many Indian nationals, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has announced a one time relaxation allowing stranded citizens to bring their pet dogs and cats back to India.

The move follows a memorandum issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, which acknowledged that in emergency situations many standard pre export procedures may not be completed before travel. Under the temporary relaxation, returning pet owners must declare that the animal has lived with them for at least one month. They are also required to present available vaccination records such as a pet passport, vaccination certificate, or pet health booklet wherever possible. Authorities indicated that even if vaccination schedules are delayed or documentation is incomplete, pets may still be cleared after undergoing clinical examination and receiving necessary rabies vaccination at the port of entry. Final clearance for entry into the country

will be granted by the Animal Quarantine and Certification Services after verification and health checks. The decision aims to support Indians evacuating from conflict affected regions who faced uncertainty over transporting their pets due to disrupted documentation and travel arrangements.

In a separate development linked to the regional crisis, India's aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, has granted temporary relaxations in flight duty time norms for long haul flights operated by Air India. Airspace restrictions over Iran and Iraq have forced the airline to take longer routes, including flying through Egypt, for services to Europe and North America. The altered flight paths have increased journey durations and crew duty hours. The regulator has allowed temporary flexibility in pilot Flight Duty Time Limitation norms to ensure operational continuity. These relaxations are expected to remain in effect until April 30 as airlines adjust to longer routes caused by the ongoing regional conflict.

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92.96% students clear Goa Board Class12 results

2,034 students secured marks in the 81-100 per cent range, while the majority — 8,280 candidates — scored between 60 and 80 per cent. Another 5,201 students fell in the 46-59 per cent bracket, and 550 students scored between 33 and 45 per cent.

Among special categories, 888 divyang candidates appeared for the examination, with 850 passing, resulting in a pass percentage of 95.72 per cent.

For private candidates, the pass percentage stood at 42.45 per cent, while repeater candidates

recorded a slightly higher pass rate of 48.80 per cent.

The consolidated result sheets will be made available to schools from 4:30 pm onwards, while students can also access their results through the official website and DigiLocker platform.

₹3.97 Cr Solar Ferry St. Pedro Lies Idle After Just 3 Months

faults and “non-feasibility” in operations. The vessel has remained idle since, raising concerns over the viability of the project

The government has withheld ₹59.37 lakh as performance guarantee from the contractor, M/s Aquarius Shipyard Pvt. Ltd., citing incorrect machinery installation.

The dispute is now pending before the Goa Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council.

In a bid to revive the vessel, authorities have handed over the solar ferry to a private party on a monthly rental basis, with the responsibility of repairs and making it operational resting with the operator.

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‘Unacceptable’: India Condemns Attacks On Commercial Ships In Strait Of Hormuz

The reaction came as attacks on merchant shipping in the Strait of Hormuz raise serious concerns over maritime safety and global trade routes. Speaking during the 36th extraordinary session of the Council of

the International Maritime Organization in London, India's envoy to the United Kingdom, Vikram Doraiswami, expressed deep concern over the escalating situation and called for restraint.

Goa to Begin First Phase of Census 2027 from April 16

level information on demographic, socio-cultural, economic, migration and fertility parameters will be collected. The government stated that census data serves as the primary source of information at the lowest administrative levels, including villages and urban wards, covering

housing condition, amenities, demography, literacy, religion, economic activity, migration and fertility. The data is widely used for planning, policy formulation and public administration by central and state governments, and also for delimitation and reservation of constituencies for

Parliament, Assembly, Panchayats and other local bodies. The notification emphasized that the success of the census depends on public cooperation and urged residents to provide accurate and unambiguous information to enumerators during the exercise.

“Condemned Attacks On Energy Infrastructure”: PM Modi Speaks With Bahrain King On Eid

■ Leaders Discuss Regional Tensions And Stress Need For Secure Shipping Routes.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday extended Eid al Fitr greetings to Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain, during a telephone conversation in which the two leaders also discussed the evolving security situation in West Asia. In a message shared after the call, Modi conveyed his warm wishes to the Bahraini monarch and the people of the Gulf nation on the occasion of Eid. The conversation also focused



on the rising tensions in the region and their wider global impact. During the discussion, the Prime Minister strongly condemned recent attacks targeting energy and civilian infrastructure across the region. He highlighted that such incidents have serious

consequences not only for regional stability but also for global supplies of food, fuel and fertilisers. Modi also emphasised the importance of safeguarding international shipping routes and ensuring freedom of navigation. Secure sea lanes are vital for

global trade and supply chains, particularly as many key energy shipments pass through West Asian waters. The Prime Minister also expressed appreciation for the continued support extended by Bahrain's leadership to the large Indian community living in the country. The conversation reflected India's ongoing diplomatic engagement with partners in the Gulf amid the evolving geopolitical situation.



India Classifies Energy Data As National Security Amid Global Oil Crisis

■ West Asia Conflict And Oil Supply Disruptions Push India To Tighten Control Over Strategic Energy Information.

New Delhi: The Government of India has classified energy related data as a matter of national security amid a severe global supply crisis triggered by the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The decision comes as disruptions in global oil and gas supplies threaten economic stability and energy availability. The crisis escalated after the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical shipping routes for crude oil and liquefied natural gas. Nearly 20 percent of global oil and LNG shipments usually pass through this narrow waterway. The conflict has also seen drone and missile attacks damage major refineries and oil fields in countries such as Saudi

Arabia, Kuwait and Israel, further tightening supply. The International Energy Agency has described the situation as the largest oil supply disruption in modern history.

The crisis has significantly affected India's energy imports. India depends heavily on foreign energy supplies, importing about 88 percent of its crude oil, half of its natural gas and around 60 percent of its LPG. A large share of these imports passes through the Strait of Hormuz, making the country vulnerable to disruptions in the region. Global oil prices have surged beyond 100 dollars per barrel, at times reaching 126 dollars, driving inflation and weakening currencies in several economies.

“67% ADG Posts For IPS Deputation”: Centre’s New CAPF Bill Proposes Major Leadership Changes

■ Proposed Law Aims To Create Unified Framework For Recruitment, Promotions And Service Conditions In Paramilitary Forces.

New Delhi: The Union Government has proposed a major restructuring of leadership positions in India's paramilitary forces through a new legislative framework governing the Central Armed Police Forces. The proposal outlines fixed deputation quotas for senior ranks, significantly increasing the



presence of Indian Police Service officers in top command positions. According to the draft provisions, at least 50 per cent of posts at the

rank of Inspector General and a minimum of 67 per cent of positions at the Additional Director General level will be filled through deputation.

The highest positions of Special Director General and Director General are proposed to be filled entirely through deputation. The remaining posts at these levels would be occupied by cadre officers from within the respective forces, leaving limited but defined opportunities for internal promotions.

“Zero Water, Zero Talks”: India Issues Strong Warning To Pakistan At UN

■ Links Indus Treaty Suspension To End Of Cross Border Terrorism.

New Delhi: India delivered a sharp message to Pakistan at the United Nations, declaring that there will be “zero water and zero talks” until Islamabad decisively ends support for cross border terrorism against India. Speaking at a World Water Day event, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Harish Parvathaneni, said the decision follows the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty after the April 22, 2025 attack in Baisaran Valley, Pahalgam that killed 26 Hindu tourists.



Parvathaneni stated that India had signed the treaty over six decades ago in good faith and in a spirit of cooperation. However, he said Pakistan repeatedly violated the spirit of the agreement while continuing to wage wars and support terrorist attacks targeting Indian

civilians. Referring to the Pahalgam attack, the envoy said investigations traced the operation to the militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, allegedly backed by Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence. According to India, continued support for such groups left the government with no choice but to suspend the water sharing agreement. The Indian diplomat emphasised that Pakistan must prioritise the protection of human life before demanding adherence to international treaties.

Haryana Government Takes Over Al-Falah University After Inquiry Flags Irregularities

■ IAS Officer Appointed Administrator As State Steps In To Stabilise Governance.

New Delhi: The government of Haryana has taken control of Al-Falah University in Faridabad following an inquiry that identified several statutory violations and administrative irregularities in the institution's functioning. Senior IAS officer Amit Aggarwal has been appointed as the university's administrator and has assumed charge of its financial and administrative operations. The intervention aims to restore governance while ensuring academic activities continue



smoothly for nearly 1,700 enrolled students. As part of the restructuring process, officials from JC Bose University of Science and Technology have been deputed to key positions. Ajay Ranga has been appointed vice chancellor, while Rajeev Kumar Singh will serve as controller

of examinations. Ravi Kumar Sharma has been named chief finance and accounts officer and Meha Sharma will take charge as registrar. Authorities said teaching staff will remain unchanged to avoid disruption to academic schedules. The action follows an investigation that reportedly uncovered multiple violations of statutory norms. The move also comes amid heightened scrutiny after individuals linked to the institution were investigated in connection with the Delhi Red Fort blast.

BCCI Announces Post-IPL Schedule As India Set To Tour Ireland For Two T20Is

■ Short Belfast Series In June To Be Followed By White Ball Tour Of England.

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India has confirmed India's international schedule following the conclusion of IPL 2026, announcing a short T20I series against Ireland in June. The two match series will take place less than a month after the Indian Premier League season ends on May 31. India will face Ireland in two T20 Internationals in Belfast, marking the team's return to the city



for the first time since 2007. The opening match is scheduled for June 26 at 7:30 pm IST, while the second game will be played on June 28 at the same time. Both fixtures

will be hosted in Belfast. India have regularly toured Ireland in recent years, with previous visits taking place in 2018, 2022 and 2023. Those matches were played at Malahide

near Dublin and attracted large crowds, highlighting the growing popularity of cricket in Ireland. The upcoming series also comes at a time of transition for Ireland's T20 side. Senior player Paul Stirling recently stepped down as the team's captain in the format following the side's disappointing campaign at the T20 World Cup, where Ireland exited in the group stage with just one win in four matches.



Elora Crasto Double Sends Ambelim SC Into U14 GFA Girls Final

■ Second half goals seal convincing 4-0 win over Laxmiprasad SC.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Ambelim Sports Club delivered a strong all round performance to defeat Laxmiprasad SC 4-0 and secure a place in the Under 14 GFA Girls Football Tournament final in Canacona. The first half remained tightly contested with both teams displaying disciplined defending, resulting in a goalless scoreline at the break. Laxmiprasad SC attempted to break through, but Ambelim's defence led by Avan Velip, Saima Pagi, Kanchan Velip and Reeva Fernandes stood firm and cleared every attacking threat. Ambelim returned after the break with greater attacking intent and soon took control of the match.

The breakthrough came in the 36th minute when Vardhana Velip calmly finished to give her side the lead. The advantage doubled in the 40th minute as Elora Crasto scored with a well taken strike. Ambelim continued to dominate and in the 46th minute Uriel Fernandes produced a fine individual run, dribbling past defenders before making it 3-0.

Elora Crasto completed the scoring in the 55th minute when she finished from a precise cross delivered by Valaika Monteiro, sealing a convincing 4-0 victory. With solid defending and an impressive attacking display, Ambelim Sports Club marched into the final with confidence after a dominant performance.

"My Aim Is To Develop Young Players Through Structured Coaching": Rutuj Sonawane Honoured By Panjim TT Club

■ Club Announces 2026 Table Tennis Development Calendar Including Camps, Talent Hunts And School Programs

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Panjim Table Tennis Club honoured emerging coach Rutuj Sonawane with its Young Sports Achievers Award, recognising his achievements and contribution to the growth of table tennis in Goa. The award celebrates Goan talents who have excelled



in sports while playing a

role in developing and promoting their discipline. A former state level player, Rutuj held the No.1 ranking in Goa from 2018 to 2020. After his competitive career, he successfully transitioned into coaching and has built an impressive profile through both domestic and international exposure. He has served as a state

team coach for Goa at the National Championship and also worked as a coach at St. Britto's High School in Mapusa. Rutuj further strengthened his experience through an international coaching stint at the Dudley and Sandwell Table Tennis Club in the United Kingdom between 2022 and 2023.

Barhaan Dash's Blazing 58 Powers Oxford CC To Second Straight Win

■ Dominant Chase Helps Oxford Cruise Past Ved Sports Club In U16 Rajan Bhai Angane Memorial Tournament

PANAJI: Oxford Cricket Club from Goa continued their strong campaign with a convincing eight wicket victory over Ved Sports Club, Gadhinglaj, in the Late Rajan Bhai Angane Memorial Under 16 Cricket Tournament organised by Aim Cricket Academy, Sawantwadi. The match was played at the Boarding Ground in Malvan on Friday. Oxford produced an impressive all round performance to register their second consecutive win in the tournament. Chasing a target of 163,



the team approached the innings with aggressive intent and completed the chase comfortably, scoring 165 for 2 in just 14.3 overs. Earlier, Ved Sports Club posted 162 for 7 in their allotted 40 overs after being asked to bat. Krish Verma was the top scorer with a steady 46, while captain Hardik Biramble

added valuable runs with an unbeaten 31. Despite these contributions, the team struggled to accelerate as Oxford's disciplined bowling attack kept the scoring under control. Abhisek Lamani delivered another strong performance with the ball, picking up three wickets for 26 runs and maintaining pressure on the opposition. He received good support from Farhan Shaikh, who claimed two wickets for 21 runs, and Harsh Nain, who finished with figures of two for 20.

Granthik Buyao Stars In 159 Run Rout As Shree Damodar College Dominates

■ Government College Khandola Also Registers Strong Win On Day 13 Of Goa University Inter Collegiate Cricket Championship.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Day 13 of the Goa University Inter Collegiate Men's Cricket Championship 2025 to 26 featured two matches at the Goa University Ground in Bambolim, with Shree Damodar College Margao and Government College Khandola registering convincing victories. In the first match of the day, VVM's Shree Damodar College of Commerce and Economics defeated St. Xavier's College Mapusa by a massive



margin of 159 runs. After winning the toss, Shree Damodar College chose to bat first and produced an impressive batting display, scoring 216 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs. Granthik Buyao led the charge with a blistering 60 runs from just 27 balls, striking six boundaries and four sixes. He received strong support from Badal

Naik, who hammered 55 off 25 deliveries, while Rijul Pathak contributed a valuable 39 runs. Tanmay Gawas was among the bowlers who managed to pick up a wicket for St. Xavier's. In reply, St. Xavier's College struggled against a disciplined bowling attack and were bowled out for just 57 in 15.1 overs.