



Curchorem Sex Scandal Probe Shifted to **Crime Branch**

■ Delay in police action sparks allegations of pressure, cover-up; locals demand transparent investigation.

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: The high-profile sex scandal in Curchorem has now been transferred from the local police to the Crime Branch, as scrutiny intensifies over the handling of the case. Police have arrested Soham Sushant Naik, who is accused of circulating explicit videos linked to the scandal. Investigators are currently conducting an in-depth interrogation of the accused, who is being treated as the prime suspect. Authorities are also questioning several



other individuals believed to be connected to the case, with officials stating that those summoned have been cooperating so far. Superintendent of Police Santosh Desai personally visited the Curchorem police station

to assess the progress of the investigation. The case has triggered significant public concern, not only due to the nature of the allegations but also because of the perceived delay in police response. Curchorem councillor

Balakrishna Hodarkar has emphasized that the police must be allowed to carry out their duties independently and without any external influence. The controversy first surfaced after a report in a local vernacular publication alleged the involvement of Soham Naik, a 20-year-old resident of Madegal-Cacora and the son of a municipal councillor. The report also raised serious concerns that minors could be among the victims. Despite the seriousness of these

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Kejriwal slams BJP over alleged Curchorem sex scandal, demands strict action

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party over the alleged sex scandal reported from Curchorem, accusing the party of protecting the accused and failing to ensure safety for women and minors. Reacting strongly to the allegations that the son of a BJP councillor sexually exploited around 30 minor girls over a period of three years, filmed them and blackmailed them, Kejriwal termed the incident "extremely repulsive" and said such acts have created fear among people in Goa.



"What kind of demons are there in the BJP? In Goa, an extremely repulsive case has come to light where the son of a BJP councillor has been sexually exploiting 30 minor girls for three years, filming them, and blackmailing them. The BJP has turned people's lives in Goa into hell. Everyone is living under the shadow of fear," Kejriwal said.



Petitions Challenging Ponda By-Election: ECI Seeks Time To Respond

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa heard two petitions challenging the Ponda by-election scheduled to be held on April 9, with petitioners contending that the by-election is not required as the elected MLA will not get the mandatory minimum term of one year as provided under the law. During the hearing, counsel representing the Election Commission

of India and the Chief Electoral Officer sought time to file their responses to the pleas. The petitioners argued that conducting the by-election at this stage would defeat the legal provision, as the remaining tenure of the Assembly would be less than one year. After hearing the submissions, the High Court granted time to the respondents and adjourned the matter to March 30 (Monday) for further hearing.

Main Accused in Gulistan Masjid Murder Case Detained at Mumbai Airport

■ Goa Police team heads to Mumbai to take custody; accused also wanted by ED.

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: The main accused in the Gulistan Masjid murder case has been detained by authorities at Mumbai Airport upon his arrival from abroad, officials said. A Goa Police team has left for Mumbai to take

the accused into custody. Further details regarding the arrest and transit are awaited. Sources indicated that the accused is also wanted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with another case. The case pertains to the killing of 40-year-old Ali Khan,

Vice-President of the Sunni Gulistan Masjid in Gogol, Margao, in January 2026. The incident had sent shockwaves across the region and triggered an intensive police investigation. Three of the eight persons arrested in connection with the murder outside the Sunni

Gulistan Masjid have been granted conditional anticipatory bail by a local court. The incident occurred on January 31, 2026, and the case was registered at Fatorda Police Station following a violent altercation reportedly arising from an internal committee rivalry.



India Moves LPG Tankers Through Hormuz as War Disrupts Gulf Shipping

■ Six Vessels Carrying Cooking Gas Await Transit While Two Ships Cleared to Reach Indian Ports

New Delhi: India has accelerated efforts to secure its liquefied petroleum gas supplies as the ongoing conflict in West Asia disrupts

maritime trade routes across the Gulf region. With domestic demand for cooking gas remaining high, authorities have prioritised the movement

of LPG cargo currently stranded in the Persian Gulf due to heavy fighting near the Strait of Hormuz. Around six LPG vessels carrying nearly 300,000

tonnes of cooking gas have been anchored in the Gulf as security concerns prevented safe passage through the narrow shipping corridor.



Iran Signals Willingness for Talks as Reports Claim Mojtaba Khamenei Open to US Negotiations

■ Trump Says "Major Points of Agreement" Emerging Amid Ongoing Conflict and Global Market Concerns.

New Delhi: Iran's newly installed Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has reportedly agreed to negotiate with the United States, raising the

possibility of a diplomatic breakthrough during the ongoing conflict involving Washington and Iran. Reports citing regional media suggested that



Tehran may be open to discussions aimed at reaching an agreement with Washington. The development comes as US President Donald

Trump said recent talks between the two sides had produced what he described as "major points of agreement", indicating

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When Justice Waits, Trust Collapses

The transfer of the Curchorem sex scandal probe to the Crime Branch Goa, is being projected as a step towards fairness. In truth, it also underscores a deeper institutional failure that allowed doubt and public anger to build in the first place.

This case goes beyond the arrest of Soham Sushant Naik, a 20-year-old from Madegal-Cacora. It raises a fundamental question. Why did it take so long for the system to act when the allegations were already in the public domain? Reports pointing to the circulation of explicit content and the possibility that minors could be involved should have triggered immediate intervention. Instead, the response was marked by hesitation.

The explanation that no formal complaint had been filed does little to inspire confidence. The law does not bind the police to silence in the absence of a complaint, especially in cases involving sexual offences. It allows and, in many ways, expects proactive action. In a digital age where evidence often surfaces before victims come forward, waiting passively is not a procedure. It is a failure of responsibility.

The visit by Superintendent of Police Santosh Desai to the Curchorem police station indicates that the seriousness of the situation eventually registered at higher levels. But intervention after public outrage is not the same as timely policing. By the time senior officers step in, the damage to public trust is already done. What followed was a familiar pattern. Public protests intensified. Citizens gathered outside the police station, demanding action. Ultimatums were issued. Only then did the system begin to move with urgency. The FIR was registered, and the arrest was made. This sequence

The political dimension has only sharpened the scrutiny. The accused's link to a councillor has inevitably led to speculation about influence. Whether or not such influence exists, the perception alone is damaging. In sensitive cases, even a hint of delay feeds suspicion. Institutions must therefore operate with a sense of urgency that leaves no room for doubt. The charges invoked, including provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Information Technology Act, reflect the gravity of the allegations. But legal sections alone do not define justice.

is as telling as it is troubling. It suggests that action was driven less by institutional reflex and more by public pressure.

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The charges invoked, including provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Information Technology Act, reflect the gravity of the allegations. But legal sections alone do not define justice. The credibility of the process matters just as much. When people begin to question whether the system is willing to act without pressure, the issue extends far beyond a single case. The decision to hand over the probe to the Crime Branch now places the responsibility on a specialised agency to restore confidence. This is not just about conducting a thorough investigation. It is about demonstrating that the system can correct itself. Transparency will be key. Clear communication, steady progress and accountability for earlier lapses will determine whether public faith can be rebuilt. There is also a larger lesson that cannot be ignored. Crimes involving digital exploitation and vulnerable victims require immediate and decisive action. Waiting for victims to come forward in such cases overlooks the very reasons they often hesitate. Fear, stigma and power dynamics frequently silence them. The system must step in before that silence deepens.

Curchorem today reflects a wider concern. Trust in institutions is not eroded by a single incident, but by repeated patterns of delay and hesitation. Each such episode reinforces the belief that justice is not automatic, that it must be demanded, pushed and extracted.

The Crime Branch now has an opportunity to change that narrative. A swift, impartial and transparent investigation can begin to repair the damage. But if the process once again appears slow or opaque, the consequences will go beyond this case. Because when justice is seen to wait, people stop believing that it will arrive at all.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Policing Social Media Must Not Silence Free Expression

The recent report on the Goa police filing multiple FIRs over "objectionable" social media posts raises serious concerns about the balance between law enforcement and freedom of expression. While maintaining public order is important, the increasing use of suo motu cases, often against unidentified individuals, risks creating a climate of fear among ordinary citizens. Social media today is a vital space for opinions, satire and dissent. Not every critical or humorous post should be treated as a threat to public peace. The cases cited, including satirical content and allegedly misleading videos, underline how subjective the interpretation of "objectionable" can be. More troubling is the absence of public complaints in some instances. When authorities act preemptively without clear and transparent standards, it raises questions about arbitrariness and possible overreach. Such actions may discourage healthy democratic debate and weaken public trust in institutions. At the same time, misinformation, abusive language and content that incites hatred must be dealt with firmly. The real challenge lies in clearly distinguishing between legitimate expression and harmful content. This calls for well-defined guidelines, accountability and appropriate oversight. Goa has long been known for its openness and tolerance. Preserving that character requires ensuring that policing does not inadvertently stifle the freedoms it is meant to protect.

-Cyril D'Cunha, Bastora

A Wake-Up Call on Safety in Goa's Public Spaces

The shocking incident of the alleged gang rape of a young woman at Bambolim Beach is deeply disturbing and demands urgent attention. Goa, long known for its vibrant tourism and relaxed atmosphere, now finds itself confronting serious questions about safety, particularly for women in public and tourist spaces. That the accused could allegedly lure the victim, take her several kilometres away, and commit such a heinous crime reflects troubling gaps in vigilance and preventive policing. While the swift arrest of the suspects, aided by CCTV tracking, is commendable, it does not lessen the gravity of the incident or the fear it generates among residents and visitors alike. Incidents like these erode public confidence and tarnish Goa's image as a safe destination. Beaches and surrounding areas, especially those frequented by tourists, must have stronger surveillance, visible policing, and better coordination between law enforcement agencies. Safety cannot be reactive; it must be proactive and constant. At the same time, there is a pressing need for greater awareness, stricter enforcement against substance abuse in public places, and accountability at all levels. Women should not have to navigate fear in spaces meant for leisure and freedom. This incident must serve as a wake-up call. Ensuring safety is not just the responsibility of the police, but a collective obligation of authorities and society. Goa must act decisively to restore trust and ensure such crimes are not repeated.

-Melwyn D'Souza, Candolim

GFP Signals Bigger Role Ahead Of 2027 Polls

■ Party eyes contesting up to 25 seats while backing Congress in Ponda bypoll.

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: The Goa Forward Party (GFP) has indicated a more ambitious electoral roadmap ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, announcing that it may field candidates in as many as 25 constituencies, even as it continues to support the Congress in the upcoming Ponda by-election. The decision emerged



from the party's State Executive meeting held on Monday, where leaders resolved to expand the organisation's reach across Goa. The move is being viewed as part of a strategy to build a stronger and more independent political presence in the state. GFP General Secretary Mohandas Loliengar said the party is focused on strengthening its grassroots network and is preparing to contest a larger number of seats. While he reiterated

that the primary goal remains to defeat the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, the announcement has sparked talk of the party positioning itself for a more prominent standalone role. Despite this expansion plan, GFP confirmed that it will not field a candidate in the Ponda bypoll and will instead extend support to the Congress. Party leaders, however, made it clear that future alliance decisions would depend on feedback from the ground and the party's organisational growth.

Cabral Targets Sardesai, Denounces Curcholem Scandal

■ MLA backs locals, rejects political interference and factionalism claims.

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: Curcholem MLA Nilesh Cabral has launched a sharp attack on Goa Forward Party chief and Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai, even as he voiced strong condemnation of the alleged sex scandal that has shaken his constituency. Reiterating his support for the residents of Curcholem, Cabral said the incident has damaged the reputation of the area and must be dealt with firmly. Taking exception



to Sardesai's remarks, he asserted that he would not hesitate to act against any form of misconduct, underlining that his role in public life is rooted in serving

people, not protecting illegal or unethical acts. Addressing questions over his absence, Cabral clarified that he was in Kerala for election-related work and not in Goa when the issue came to light. He cautioned leaders from outside the constituency against using his absence as an opportunity to enter Curcholem and make statements for political advantage. Dismissing talk of divisions within the BJP in the constituency, Cabral said there is no internal grouping and that party workers are united in their efforts.

HC Quashes FIR In Mapusa Meat Case

■ Court finds no evidence to support charges under BNS and Goa Animal Preservation Act

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has set aside an FIR filed by Mapusa Police against two individuals accused of illegal extraction and storage of meat, ruling that the allegations did not meet the legal requirements of the offences invoked. In an order passed on Monday, Justice Ashish Chavan quashed proceedings against Meerasab Bepari and Appalal Bepari, who had been booked under Sections 271 and 280 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, along with Section 8 of the Goa Animal Preservation Act, 1995. The case dates back to October 29, 2024, when police acted on a complaint about suspected unlawful



meat-related activity at the petitioners' residence. A crowd had gathered outside the premises, following which a search was conducted. During the operation, authorities seized meat, animal fat and certain utensils. However, forensic examination later established that the meat and fat were from buffalo. While reviewing the matter, the court noted that the charge under Section 271 of the BNS, which pertains to acts likely to spread infectious diseases, was not supported by any claim or evidence suggesting a risk of infection.

HC Quashes Goa Human Rights Commission Notice, Calls It Jurisdictional Overreach

■ Court Says Complaint Over Assembly Secretary's Husband Sleeping In Office Not A Human Rights Issue

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a significant ruling, the Bombay High Court has quashed and set aside a notice issued by the Goa Human Rights Commission, observing that the Commission had clearly overstepped its



jurisdiction by entertaining a complaint that did not involve any human rights violation. The case

arose from a complaint filed by Guronath Naik against Namrata Ulman, Secretary of the Goa Legislative Assembly. The complaint alleged that Ulman's husband, a retired individual, would visit her office and was seen sleeping on a sofa.

Based on the complaint, the Goa Human Rights Commission issued a notice initiating an inquiry. The action was subsequently challenged before the Bombay High Court as an abuse of law and misuse of power.

HC Extends Deadline For Panchayat Affidavits In Arpora Fire Probe

■ Village bodies given time till March 30 to disclose permissions to commercial units.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has granted additional time to village panchayats to submit sworn statements detailing approvals issued to commercial establishments, extending the deadline to March

30. The directive forms part of the court's ongoing examination of the deadly fire at the Birch by Romeo Lane venue in Arpora on December 6, 2025, which resulted in 25 fatalities. The court has broadened the scope of the proceedings to scrutinise possible systemic failures

in the grant of licences and building permissions. A Division Bench comprising Justice Valmiki Menezes and Justice Amit Jamsandekar passed the order during Monday's hearing, noting that while some panchayats had filed affidavits on the day of the hearing, several



others had yet to comply. The matter is being heard suo motu as a public interest litigation. In earlier proceedings, a Bench led by Justice Suman Shyam had observed that the tragedy reflected a serious violation of fundamental rights.

Demands To Streamline Gas Distribution Process Gain Momentum In Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Demands to streamline the LPG distribution process in Canacona have gained momentum, with Congress leaders submitting a memorandum

to the Deputy Collector highlighting hardships faced by residents due to long queues and limited supply. The memorandum calls for measures to ensure hassle-free distribution of LPG cylinders and



the appointment of an additional distributor to meet rising domestic and commercial demand in the taluka. Congress leader Janardhan Bhandari said long queues are regularly seen outside the lone distributor,

M/s Prabhudesai Gas Service at Chaudi, causing mental stress to consumers. He added that concerns over the West Asia war situation and rising cylinder prices have further fuelled panic among the public.

Man Held For Depositing Fake ₹500 Notes In Porvorim Bank CDM

■ Accused From Karnataka Brought To Goa, Court Grants Four Days Police Custody.

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Porvorim Police arrested a 46-year-old man from Karnataka for allegedly depositing counterfeit currency notes into a Cash Deposit Machine (CDM) of a bank at Alto Porvorim. According to police, the offence was registered at Porvorim Police Station under Crime No. 22/2026 based on a complaint filed by Vikas Jarial, Branch Manager of HDFC Bank Limited, Alto Porvorim.



The complaint stated that on March 5, 2026, in the morning, the accused, identified as Maibuba D. Yalagi, a resident of

Yalawar village in Bijapur district of Karnataka, deposited counterfeit ₹500 notes amounting to ₹3,500 into the bank's CDM by projecting them as genuine currency into his own account. The notes reportedly had common serial numbers. During investigation, police traced the accused to Karnataka. A team from Porvorim Police Station comprising PSI Sachin Shirodkar, PC Bhikaji Parab, PC Nitesh Gawade and PC Jayesh Gadekar was deputed

to Karnataka under the supervision of PI Rahul T. Parab, SDPO Porvorim Vishvesh Karpe and SP (North) Harishchandra Madkaikar. With assistance from local police, the team apprehended the accused and brought him to Porvorim Police Station, Goa. He was subsequently produced before the JMFC Court in Mapusa, which remanded him to four days of police custody. Further investigation is in progress.

Man Found Dead Behind Resort In Anjuna

■ 27-Year-Old Hotel Employee Declared Dead; Police Initiate Inquest

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: A 27-year-old man was found hanging from a tree in a jungle area behind a resort in Anjuna on Sunday morning, with police stating that no foul play is suspected at this stage. According to police, a call was received from PCR Panjim at around 7:48 am on March 23, 2026, informing that a male person was found hanging from a tree in the jungle behind Anjuna Blue Resort. PSI Saish Shetgaonkar along with



police staff rushed to the spot and found the man hanging from a jamun tree using a nylon rope. Police said liquor bottles were also found lying at the spot. The services of the 108 ambulance were utilised, and the man was declared dead at the scene. During inquiry, the deceased was identified as Rohit, 27, son of Premgiri Goswami, residing near Oxford Supermarket in Anjuna.



Driver Booked After Fortuner Driven Into Sea At Vagator Beach

■ Anjuna Police Register Case For Rash Driving; Investigation Underway

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered an offence against a 22-year-old driver for allegedly driving a vehicle in a rash and negligent manner and taking it into the sea at Vagator beach, endangering human life. According to police, the offence was registered on March 22, 2026 at 17:06 hrs vide Anjuna Police Station Crime No. 20/2026 under Sections 281 and 125 of the BNS, Rule 51 of CMVR read with

Section 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act, based on a state complaint filed by HC Sandeep Pednekar attached to Anjuna Police Station. Police said that at around 9:00 am on March 22, near Estoria Restaurant at Vagator beach, the accused, identified as Arjun Singh Rawat (22), originally from Manadunga Digalichour, Champawat, Uttarakhand, was driving a black Toyota Fortuner bearing registration number GJ-01-WY-0090 in a rash and negligent manner.

19-Year-Old Found Dead From Cashew Tree In Pernem, Body Shifted To PHC

■ Unnatural Death Case Registered By Mopa Police

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: A 19-year-old youth from Ozarim in Pernem was found hanging from a cashew tree in the early hours of Sunday, police said. According to police, at around 1:37 am on March 23, Rahul Parab, a resident of Madkai Wada, Ozarim, approached the police and informed about his brother Ruthwik Parab (19). Police obtained the



mobile phone location and rushed to the spot, where they found a male person hanging from a cashew tree using ligature material. Rahul Parab, who was at a short distance, was called to the spot and identified the deceased

as his brother. The body was carefully lowered and shifted in a police vehicle to PHC Casarvarnem, where the medical officer on duty declared him brought dead.

Mopa Airport Police registered an unnatural death case vide U.D. No. 02/2026 under Section 194 of BNSS. Inquest panchanama was conducted and post-mortem examination carried out at the

Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, GMC Bambolim. The autopsy report stated the cause of death as "asphyxia as a result of constriction of neck," with injuries described as ante-mortem and fresh in nature. The body was later handed over to the family for final rites. Further investigation is in progress with PSI Ashish Porob of Mopa Airport Police Station.

Man Drowns While Swimming In Sattari River, Body Recovered After Search

■ Fire Brigade, Police Conduct Overnight Operation At Dhadhyar Khadki

Team Goemkarponn

SATTARI: A 28-year-old man from Fatorda drowned while swimming across a river at Dhadhyar Khadki in Sattari, with his body recovered after a search operation by

police and fire personnel. According to police, a call was received at around 5:40 pm on March 22 informing that a person had drowned in the river at Dhadhyar Khadki.

PSI Soham Malik along with police staff rushed to

the spot, where personnel from Fire Station Valpoi were already present.

On inquiry, police learned that the deceased, identified as Mabuli Patel (28), a resident of Housing Board, Gogal, Fatorda, had gone swimming

across the river when he suddenly drowned. An intensive search operation was launched with the help of fire force personnel, however the body could not be traced due to low visibility and darkness.



Painter dies of electrocution injuries days after shock incident at Birla painting site

Team Goemkarponn

BIRLA: A 35-year-old painter succumbed to injuries at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, days after suffering severe electric burns while carrying out

painting work at a site in Birla. The deceased, identified as Ram Babu Bind, a resident of Baina, Vasco, had been admitted to GMC after the incident that occurred on March 17. He was initially taken to Sub-District Hospital



(SDH), Chicalim, before

being referred to GMC for further treatment. According to police, Bind was engaged in painting work at a house in Birla when the incident took place. While working with a paint roller attached to an aluminium rod, the

rod accidentally came in contact with a high-tension electric line passing over the terrace, resulting in him being electrocuted and sustaining serious burn injuries. He remained under treatment for several days before he

was declared dead at GMC on March 22 at 23:37 hrs. Following the incident, Verna police conducted an inquest panchanama over the body, which was later sent for post-mortem examination at GMC.

Seven Rescued, Five Missing Children Traced Across Goa Beaches

■ Drishti Marine Lifesavers Respond To Multiple Incidents Along Coastline.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Seven persons were rescued from drowning and five missing children were traced and reunited with their guardians by Drishti Marine lifesavers across various beaches in Goa on Sunday. Lifesavers also administered first aid to a beachgoer during the day. At Morjim beach, two kitesurfers aged 24 and 29 from Mumbai were rescued after getting into difficulty during a kite and windsurfing event while swimming. Lifesavers Navnath Ghatawal, along with Manish Narvekar and Raghvendra Kaskar on jetskis, brought both men



safely ashore. In another incident at the same beach, a 24-year-old man from Vasco participating in the event was rescued after his gear detached and he fell into the water. Lifesavers also secured a stray kiteboard that had drifted from Morjim to Vagator and returned it to the organisers. At Baga beach, a 64-year-old man from Assam was pulled out of a flash rip current

after drifting into deeper waters while swimming. Lifesaver Sourabh Kumar used a rescue board to bring him back safely. At Calangute beach, a 32-year-old man from Bengaluru was rescued after being caught in a flash rip current while swimming. Lifesaver Soma Lataye brought him ashore safely. The beach also reported multiple missing child cases, including a five-year-old girl from Delhi and an eight-year-old girl from Telangana, who were traced and reunited with their families. A seven-year-old boy reported missing was later found at another section of

the beach and handed over to his parents. At Colva beach, a seven-year-old child sustained a dog bite while playing near the water and was administered first aid before being taken for further care. Two separate lost-and-found incidents involving young children were also reported, with both children safely reunited with their families. At Palem beach, two men aged 26 and 27 from Punjab and Odisha were rescued after their kayak overturned nearly 700 to 800 metres into the sea. Lifesaver Sameer Kankonkar used a jetski to bring both victims back to shore.

Diarrhoea cases at Prabhu Violetta rise to 162 as flats lie shut amid outbreak

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: The diarrhoea outbreak at the Prabhu Violetta residential complex in Dabolim showed a marginal rise on Monday with two fresh cases reported, taking the total count to 162, even as several flats in the complex remain locked with residents temporarily moving out fearing contamination. Health teams continued their surveillance with door-to-door visits across the complex; however, officials found many flats closed, indicating that a number of families have vacated their homes amid ongoing concerns over water safety and sanitation. The outbreak, which has affected over



160 residents so far, had already triggered panic in the area, with several families shifting to rented accommodations or staying with relatives as a precautionary measure. Residents have maintained that the situation appears to be under control only because of this large-scale temporary relocation. Medical teams from the Primary Health Centre, Cortalim, along with officials from the Directorate of Health Services, are continuing to monitor patients, provide treatment and track fresh symptoms among those still residing in the complex.



Security Reviewed For Ponda By-Election, Authorities Say Arrangements In Place

■ IGP, District Election Officer Hold Meeting; Focus On Law & Order And Accessibility.

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: A meeting to review law and order and security arrangements for the upcoming by-election to the 21-Ponda Assembly Constituency was convened by IGP Goa Police Keshav Ram Chaurasia and South Goa Collector & District Election Officer Egna Cleetus in the presence of Police Observer Vinita Sahu. The meeting was attended by senior officials including the ADM (Law & Order), SP South, SP (Election), DySPs and representatives from various departments. During the meeting, preparedness for the smooth conduct of the election was reviewed. Officials informed that adequate law and order arrangements are in place, with two Additional

District Magistrates already appointed. Flying Squad Teams, Static Surveillance Teams and Sector Magistrates have been deployed, and no vulnerable or critical polling stations have been identified. Authorities also stated that polling personnel have been appointed and training schedules finalised. Management of EVMs and VVPATs, including randomisation and secure storage, is being carried out as per Election Commission of India guidelines. Arrangements for postal ballots, including home voting for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, were also discussed. The role of District Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) in monitoring media and paid news was highlighted.

Form 12-D Distributed To Absentee Voters In Ponda For By-Election

■ Senior Citizens Above 85, PwDs To Vote From Home Through Postal Ballot

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: In connection with the upcoming by-election to the 21-Ponda Assembly Constituency, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have completed the distribution of Form 12-D to all eligible

absentee voters. Officials said the forms were distributed to absentee voters in the categories of AVSC (senior citizens aged 85 and above) and AVPD (persons with disabilities duly tagged). These voters will be able to exercise their franchise

through postal ballot under the home voting facility. Polling teams will visit the residences of such voters to facilitate the voting process, ensuring that they can cast their votes without the need to travel to polling stations. The initiative aims to



enhance accessibility and inclusiveness in the electoral process and enable eligible voters to participate conveniently in the upcoming Ponda by-election.

Goa Forward Party Backs Congress For Ponda Bypoll, Plans May 30 Rally.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Leaders of the Goa Forward Party on Tuesday outlined their strategy ahead of the Ponda by-election, reiterating support for the Congress as part of the pre-poll understanding and stressing efforts to strengthen the party's organisation across the state.

Party leader Durgadas Kamat said that in line with the pre-poll alliance with the Indian National Congress, the Goa Forward Party has decided not to field a candidate for the Ponda by-election.



He said the focus would be on united efforts to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party. Kamat also announced a public meeting on May 30 at Lohia Maidan to mark 10 years of the party.

Meanwhile, party leader Prashant Naik said the party will focus

on strengthening its organisation across Goa.

He added that both the party and its president Vijai Sardesai have support from across the state, and efforts will continue to build strength and emerge as a stronger political force.

Senior leader

Mohandas Loliengar said the real opposition in Goa is the Goa Forward Party. He stated that Sardesai has taken up various issues from across the state and that many people view him as the opposition leader despite not being the official Leader of Opposition.

vivo Y51 Pro 5G: A Power-Packed Smartphone Built for Endurance and Smart Everyday Performance

vivo recently expanded its popular Y-series portfolio with the launch of the vivo Y51 Pro, a smartphone designed for users who want dependable performance, strong battery life, and intelligent features in a stylish package. With a focus on everyday usability and long-lasting power, the device combines capable hardware with thoughtful software enhancements to seamlessly meet our everyday needs.

Exceptional Endurance At the heart of the device is the MediaTek Dimensity 7360 Turbo chipset, which delivers reliable performance for daily



tasks, entertainment, and gaming. Built on an efficient architecture, the processor handles multitasking and long

hours of gaming with ease while maintaining good thermal efficiency. Backed by an AnTuTu benchmark score of over 920,000, the chipset ensures smooth, responsive performance, making the phone well-suited for extended everyday use as well as demanding gaming sessions. Combined with up to 8GB RAM and additional extended RAM support and 128GB or 256GB storage, the device ensures smooth app transitions and stable background performance. One of the smartphone's key highlights is its massive 7200 mAh battery supported by 44W

FlashCharge, positioning the device as a strong contender for users who prioritize long-lasting power throughout the day. Whether it's streaming content, browsing social media, or gaming, the phone comfortably powers through an entire day and much beyond, at least 2 days. vivo has also integrated battery management technologies that help preserve battery health over time and provides up to 6-Year Battery Health, ensuring the device continues to deliver reliable endurance even after prolonged use.

Reverse charging support further adds

convenience, allowing the phone to power other compatible devices when required. Reliable Camera for Everyday Photography For photography enthusiasts, the 50MP HD wide-angle main camera delivers a reliable imaging experience, capturing sharp, vibrant photos in various lighting conditions. The camera is supported by AI-driven enhancements that automatically refine images for better clarity and color balance, while Electronic Image Stabilization (EIS) helps keep photos and videos steady. Creative features like Dual-View Video

allow users to record simultaneously with the front and rear cameras, ideal for vlogging, travel stories, or capturing reactions in real time with customizable split-screen layouts. Meanwhile, Live Photo captures a few moments before and after the shutter, preserving motion and ambient sound to bring memories to life. The device also supports Underwater Photography, backed by IP68 and IP69 ratings, enabling users to confidently capture moments at water parks, beaches, or pools while ensuring durability even under splashes, rain, or brief submersion.

Don Bosco College Secures Overall Runners Up at Agnelite Whimsical 2026

■ Students Shine Across Multiple Events with Strong Performances and Team Spirit.



Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Students of Don Bosco College, Panjim delivered an impressive performance at the Agnelite Whimsical Intercollegiate Sports Event 2026, held on March 18 at the campus of Fr. Agnel College of Arts and Commerce in Pilar. The event, organised

by the Department of Physical Education and Sports, brought together participants from seven colleges and provided a lively platform for sports, creativity and teamwork. Throughout the day, the Don Bosco contingent displayed enthusiasm, discipline and competitive spirit while taking part in a wide range of

events. Their consistent performances helped the college secure the Overall Runners Up position, marking a proud achievement for the institution. One of the standout moments of the event came in the Anthem of Champions category, where the team of Yarden Vaz, Jaeden Diniz, Veloshka Amberly

Pereira, Zarah Rodrigues, Agnel Faria and Shavin Da Costa claimed first place with a well coordinated and energetic presentation. Shavin Da Costa also excelled individually by winning first place in the Voice of Game competition, demonstrating strong communication skills and confident stage presence.

"Saligao Festival'26 Celebrates Tradition And Community Spirit In Grand Finale"

■ Vibrant performances, cultural showcases and enthusiastic crowds mark the successful conclusion of the two day celebration.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The second and final day of the Saligao Festival 2026 concluded with vibrant celebrations, bringing together culture, music and community spirit in a lively evening that drew large crowds from across the constituency and visiting areas. The festival once again highlighted Goa's rich traditions while providing a platform for local talent and cultural expression. The evening opened with a powerful Women Power performance featuring an all women Dhol Tasha Pathak comprising nearly 100 participants. The energetic drumming created a spirited atmosphere and symbolised unity, strength and cultural pride, setting the tone for the rest of the programme. The audience was then treated to

melodious performances by singers Akshay Naik, Gautami Hede and Samruddha Chodankar along with their band, delivering a soulful musical experience that captivated the crowd. The entertainment continued with an energetic dance performance by the Siddhant Gadekar Dance Academy, adding excitement and colour to the evening's celebrations. One of the key highlights of the programme was the Kunbi Fashion Show presented by Verma D'Mello. The showcase beautifully highlighted traditional Goan attire and celebrated the cultural identity of the state. The event also included the felicitation of several notable personalities from the Saligao constituency in recognition of their achievements and contributions to the community.

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Curchorem Sex Scandal Probe Shifted to Crime Branch

claims, no immediate action was taken by the police, citing the absence of a formal complaint. This stance led to widespread criticism, with residents arguing that authorities could have initiated action on their own based

on the media report. Public frustration soon escalated, with groups of citizens gathering at the Curchorem police station to demand swift action. Under mounting pressure, police eventually called in the reporter, collected

preliminary information, and registered a First Information Report (FIR). The delay has fueled suspicions among locals that there may have been attempts to suppress or downplay the issue initially. Concerns have

also been raised about possible political influence, given the accused's alleged connections to a prominent local family, though no official confirmation of such interference has been made.

Iran Signals Willingness for Talks as Reports Claim Mojtaba Khamenei Open.....

that negotiations may be gaining momentum. Speaking to reporters, Trump said discussions

had taken place over the weekend and were expected to continue, raising hopes that a resolution to

the conflict could emerge soon. He noted that his Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and his son in law

and senior adviser Jared Kushner were involved in the discussions with Iranian representatives.

“Indians’ Safety Is Our Top Priority”: PM Modi Lists Key Concerns Over West Asia Conflict

■ Prime Minister Warns of Economic, Energy and Security Impact While Urging Diplomatic Resolution

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Lok Sabha on the escalating conflict in West Asia, outlining its potential impact on India’s economy, energy supplies, global trade routes and citizens living in the Gulf region. The Prime Minister described the situation as alarming and said the government is closely monitoring developments while coordinating efforts across ministries. During his address, Modi stressed that



disruptions in international waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz are unacceptable, highlighting the strategic importance of the route for India’s energy imports. A large share of the country’s crude oil, natural gas and

fertiliser shipments pass through the strait, making uninterrupted maritime movement essential for supply stability.

The Prime Minister said the ongoing conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran has created economic, security and humanitarian challenges for India. According to him, global markets have already begun to feel the impact, and the government is working to minimise disruptions to domestic supply chains. Modi also

highlighted concerns for the large Indian diaspora in the Gulf region, noting that nearly one crore Indians live and work across these countries. He said the government has taken extensive measures to ensure their safety and assistance during the crisis. Emphasising the priority given to citizen safety, the Prime Minister said round the clock control rooms and emergency helplines have been set up both in India and in affected countries.



Jaishankar and Marco Rubio Discuss Energy Security Amid West Asia Conflict

■ India and US Hold Telephonic Talks as War Raises Concerns Over Global Markets and Supply Chains

New Delhi: India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a detailed telephonic conversation with Marco Rubio, the United States Secretary of State, to discuss the escalating situation in West Asia and its impact on global energy security and the international economy. The discussion focused on the ongoing conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran, which has unsettled global markets and triggered concerns about disruptions to vital energy supplies. Both sides also reviewed the broader economic implications of the crisis and agreed to remain in close contact as the situation develops. The conversation came shortly after Jaishankar spoke with Iran’s Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi regarding recent developments in the conflict. During that interaction, he conveyed greetings on the occasions of Nowruz and Eid and discussed the evolving situation in the region and its potential impact on neighbouring countries. India has consistently emphasised the

importance of dialogue and diplomacy since the beginning of the conflict. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly underlined that peaceful engagement remains the only viable path to reduce tensions and address the underlying issues driving the crisis. Since the war began on February 28, Jaishankar has maintained communication with leaders from both Israel and Iran while urging restraint and de escalation through diplomatic engagement. India has also highlighted the need to protect international shipping routes and maintain uninterrupted global supply chains, which are critical for energy imports and trade. The ongoing tensions have also influenced global oil markets. Prices slipped after US President Donald Trump extended a deadline for Iran to reopen the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. Trump also said that discussions were underway to resolve the conflict, though Iranian authorities have rejected claims of negotiations and dismissed them as misinformation.

“Denial Was Result of Discrimination”: Supreme Court on Permanent Commission for Women Officers

■ Court Invokes Constitutional Powers to Grant Pension Relief and Calls for Transparent Selection Process.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court of India has ruled that denying Permanent Commission to women officers serving under Short Service Commission in the armed forces amounted to systemic discrimination. Delivering a significant judgment, the court invoked its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India to ensure what it described as complete justice. The decision came while hearing a batch of petitions, including one filed by Sucheta Edan and other officers, who challenged the denial of



Permanent Commission following policy changes introduced in 2019 and earlier rulings of the Armed Forces Tribunal. Permanent Commission in the armed forces allows officers to serve until retirement, unlike Short Service Commission which has a fixed tenure. It also provides long

term career progression, pension benefits and opportunities for promotion to senior ranks. A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant, along with Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and N. Kotiswar Singh, observed that male officers could not expect vacancies to remain exclusively

reserved for them. The court noted that women officers had long faced structural disadvantages that affected their career progression. According to the judgment, evaluation tools such as Annual Confidential Reports were historically prepared with the assumption that women would not remain in service long enough to advance in their careers. As a result, they were rarely given key appointments or access to career enhancement courses that would normally improve merit scores during selection for permanent roles.

Centre Calls 10 Kg LPG in 14.2 Kg Cylinders Reports “Highly Speculative”

■ Government Says Domestic LPG Supply Stable Despite Hormuz Disruptions.

New Delhi: The Union government has dismissed reports suggesting that oil marketing companies may begin supplying only 10 kilograms of cooking gas in standard 14.2 kilogram domestic LPG cylinders. Officials clarified that such claims are speculative and urged consumers not to believe rumours

circulating amid concerns over supply disruptions. Responding to the reports, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Sujata Sharma said there was no official decision or explanation regarding the proposal. She described the claims as “highly speculative” and assured that the



supply of domestic LPG cylinders across the country remains stable. The clarification comes as the ongoing conflict in

West Asia has disrupted maritime movement through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, a key route

used for transporting oil and gas shipments. The instability in the region has affected energy supply chains globally, raising concerns about the availability of LPG imports. While government officials denied any immediate plan to reduce the quantity of LPG in cylinders, sources within oil marketing companies

indicated that a proposal has been submitted for consideration. According to refinery officials, any decision on the matter would ultimately have to be taken by the government. Despite the uncertainties in global supply routes, authorities say domestic availability of cooking gas has not been significantly affected.

“I’m Absolutely Flabbergasted”: Sourav Ganguly Questions Shreyas Iyer’s Absence From India’s T20I Squad

■ Former India Captain Highlights Depth of Talent After T20 World Cup 2026 Triumph.

New Delhi: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has expressed surprise over the absence of Shreyas Iyer from India’s T20I squad, saying the country possesses such depth in the format that even a second team could compete strongly against international sides. Following India’s triumph at the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2026, Ganguly pointed out that several high quality players were not included in the final 15 member squad. According



to him, the sheer strength of India’s talent pool means that another Indian lineup could still challenge and defeat many international teams. Among the players he mentioned were Shubman



Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal, both considered among the brightest young talents in world cricket.

Ganguly also referred to the presence of experienced names such as Virat Kohli, Rohit

Sharma, KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant in the broader pool, underlining the competition for places.

However, Ganguly admitted he was particularly surprised that Iyer has not been part of India’s T20I setup despite his recent performances. The middle order batter has not played a T20 international since December 2023, even though he enjoyed strong seasons in the Indian Premier League in both 2024 and 2025.

Rising Star Agonda Crush Cotigao Warriors By 88 Runs In Chetan Manju Desai T20 Tournament

■ Jana Sena Warriors also register commanding 89 run victory on Day 4 at Mashem grounds.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The fourth day of the 1st Chetan Manju Desai Leather Ball T20 Cricket Tournament witnessed two dominant performances as Rising Star Agonda and Jana Sena Warriors secured convincing wins in their respective league matches held at the GCA Grounds Mashem. In the opening match of the day, Rising Star

Agonda delivered an impressive all round performance to defeat Cotigao Warriors by 88 runs.

Batting first, Rising Star Agonda posted a strong total of 175 for 4 in their allotted 20 overs.

The innings was anchored by Mahendra Velip, who played a superb knock of 68 runs from 47 balls, striking 9 boundaries and a towering six.



Young Tennis Players Power Into Semi Finals at Bandodkar Panjim Gymkhana Open 2026

■ Dominant Wins and Close Battles Mark Progress Across Junior and Masters Categories

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Several players advanced to the semi final stage across different categories at the Bandodkar Panjim Gymkhana Tennis Open 2026, currently taking place at the Panjim Gymkhana courts in Panaji. The tournament witnessed a mix of commanding victories and closely fought contests as participants from various age groups competed for places in the next round. In the girls under 12 singles category, Tanisha Kulkarni secured a solid 6 to 3 victory over Maahi Chodankar to move ahead in the competition. Urvi Pai Panandiker delivered one of the most dominant performances of the round with a convincing 6 to 0 win against Samaira Patil. Anindita Sarwate also progressed comfortably after defeating Tisyaa Neal

Gandhi 6 to 0, while Aaliya Metry booked her semi final berth with a 6 to 1 win over Jiyaana Amit Kotecha.

The boys under 14 singles category featured one of the most competitive encounters of the day as Shaurya Verlekar edged past Kaivalya Devaraya in a tightly contested match that ended 7 to 6.

Arsh Sardesai also secured his place in the semi finals after progressing from his scheduled match against Adianta Devaraya. Ethan Luis De Ataide produced a steady performance to defeat Ivan Henriques 6 to 3, while Kyan K Mavany advanced with a convincing 6 to 1 victory against Adam Godinho. In the boys under 12 singles category, several players delivered strong performances to move forward in the draw.

Geno SC, Panjim Gymkhana and Salgaocar CC Take Crucial First Innings Points

■ All Three Opening Round Matches in Goa Premier Division League End in Draws.



Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The opening round of the Goa Premier Division League, organised by the Goa Cricket Association, concluded with all three matches ending in draws. Despite the stalemates, Geno Sports Club, Panjim Gymkhana and Salgaocar Cricket Club secured valuable points after gaining first innings leads over their

respective opponents. At the NAPEX ground, the contest between Panjim Gymkhana and Margao Cricket Club produced a dramatic finish. Panjim Gymkhana resumed their second innings at 82 for 2 and declared at 214 for 6 in a bid to force a result.

Dishank Misquin anchored the innings with an unbeaten 70, while Ishan Gadekar added a solid 51. Anuj Yadav was the most effective bowler

for Margao with three wickets. Chasing a target of 274, Margao Cricket Club mounted a strong reply through Deepraj Gaonkar, who scored an impressive 88, and Aryan Narvekar, who contributed 61.

With Margao just 15 runs away from victory and Panjim Gymkhana needing one wicket, the match ended when the allotted overs ran out.

At the Bandodkar

Ground in Campal, Geno Sports Club and Chowgule Sports Club also shared the spoils. Geno resumed their second innings at 124 for 3 and were eventually bowled out for 225. Vikas Singh scored 47, while Kaushal Hattangadi made 38.

Chowgule captain Darshan Misal delivered a standout bowling performance, claiming seven wickets for 67 runs.

‘Tribal Pride, Sporting Glory’: First Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 To Unite Athletes From Across India

■ Goa Sends 62 Athletes And 19 Officials As Historic Multi Sport Event Begins In Chhattisgarh.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The inaugural edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 will take place in Chhattisgarh from March 25 to April 6, marking a major step toward empowering tribal athletes and celebrating indigenous sporting



traditions. The multi city event will be hosted across Raipur, Jagdalpur, and Surguja, bringing

together participants from tribal communities across the country. The games aim to highlight traditional

talent and encourage broader participation in sports from tribal regions under the theme “Tribal Pride, Sporting Glory (Janajatiya Garv, Khel Samman)”. The official mascot, Morveer, symbolises courage, valour, and the energetic spirit of India’s tribal youth.