



Dabolim Outbreak: Cases Dip, Anger Rises as Residents Allege Official Apathy

Suraj Nandrekar

DABOLIM: Even as authorities claim the diarrhoea outbreak in Dabolim is “under control,” residents of the affected Prabhu Violetta complex say the crisis is far from over, accusing officials of inaction and indifference even 12 days after the first cases emerged. The official line rests on a decline in new infections, with only two cases reported in the past two days. But for residents, that number reflects a coping mechanism, not a solution. “We have



stopped using tap water completely. That is the only reason cases have come down,” said Rohan Naik, a resident. “Every day, you see delivery boys bringing in cans of packaged drinking water. We are spending our own money to stay safe.”

The outbreak, which has affected over a hundred residents, has already been linked to contaminated water. Tests have confirmed high levels of coliform bacteria, rendering the supply unfit for human consumption. Despite this, residents

say there is still no clarity on when safe water will be restored. “What does ‘under control’ even mean when the water is still unsafe?” asked Anita D’Souza. “We are living in uncertainty. We cannot use the water, and no

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Control without solution....

▶ Cases dropped because residents stopped using tap water, not because the issue is resolved.

▶ Water supply still unsafe with high coliform levels. Residents dependent on packaged drinking water, facing added expense.

▶ No government official has visited the site in 12 days. No response from opposition or ruling party, including Dabolim minister.

▶ Only Chicalim

Sarpanch Kamla Prasad Yadav has supported residents

▶ RGP yet to take final call; internal discussions ongoing.

▶ Residents feel ignored as focus shifts to Corchorem issue and Ponda elections.

▶ Authorities yet to identify and fix contamination source. Growing fear that action will come only after a major tragedy

▶ Residents demand immediate intervention and safe water supply.



Digital arrest fraud: Goa cyber police arrest Kerala youth in ₹90.85 lakh scam

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Cyber Crime Police Station, Goa, has arrested a 21-year-old man from Kerala in connection with a “digital arrest” cyber fraud case involving ₹90,85,000. The offence was registered on February 23, 2026, following a complaint by a Panaji resident who was allegedly cheated through impersonation and online threats. According to police, the accused and his associates contacted the complainant via multiple WhatsApp numbers, impersonating officials of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Mumbai. They allegedly claimed that the victim had misused personal information and was linked to a money laundering case involving Naresh Goel. The complainant was then placed under a so-called “digital arrest” and coerced into transferring ₹90,85,000 to settle the fabricated case.

Excise Duty On Petrol Reduced To ₹3, Diesel To Zero

Government cuts fuel taxes to cushion global oil shock but pump prices may remain unchanged.

New Delhi: The Union government has reduced central excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre amid rising global oil prices triggered by escalating tensions in West Asia. The move brings the central tax on petrol down to ₹3 per litre,



while diesel will now carry zero excise duty.

Despite the sharp CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Goa CM Welcomes Centre's Excise Duty Cut On Petrol, Diesel

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has welcomed the Union

Government's decision to slash excise duty on petrol and diesel, stating that the move reflects the Centre's

commitment to protecting citizens from rising global crude oil prices. In a statement, Sawant said he “wholeheartedly welcomes the Union Government's decision, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to slash excise duty on petrol from ₹13 to ₹3 per CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Rohit Monserrate, Vasant Agshikar File Nominations For CCP Mayor, Deputy Mayor Posts; Poll On March 30

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Rohit Monserrate and Vasant Agshikar on Friday submitted their nominations for the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP), with the election scheduled for March 30. Speaking after filing his nomination, Monserrate described the upcoming vote as largely procedural and expressed gratitude for the chance to serve the city again. He said he and his team were thankful for the confidence reposed in them. Monserrate also hinted that his tenure as Mayor may be short-lived, as he is expected to contest the forthcoming Assembly elections. He said he would hold the position only briefly and that the party leadership would decide



the constituency from which he would contest. Despite his future political plans, Monserrate said his immediate attention would remain on civic administration in Panaji. He stated that several commitments made during the campaign would be taken up on priority, adding that a list of multiple works is planned to be completed within the next six months. On governance, he emphasised that assistance would be extended to all citizens irrespective of political affiliation.

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Control or Concealment: The Dabolim Water Crisis

The official narrative around the recent diarrhoea outbreak in Dabolim is one of reassurance. With only two new cases reported over the past two days, authorities have declared the situation “under control.” On paper, the numbers appear encouraging. On the ground, however, they tell a far less comforting story.

Walk through the affected housing complex today and a different reality unfolds. Delivery personnel move in and out, hauling large quantities of packaged drinking water. Residents, wary and shaken, have abandoned the very taps meant to serve them. This visible shift in behaviour is not incidental. It is central to understanding why the number of new cases has dropped. People are no longer consuming the contaminated water. They are protecting themselves from it. To interpret the decline in fresh infections as administrative success is therefore misleading. It overlooks the most crucial fact: the source of the outbreak has not been resolved. The health department itself has confirmed that the water supply is not potable, with coliform levels far exceeding safe limits for human consumption. In such circumstances, a reduction in cases reflects avoidance, not recovery.

This distinction matters. Public health outcomes cannot be evaluated in isolation from public behaviour. When citizens are forced to opt out of a basic service for their own safety, the system has already failed. The absence of new patients is not evidence that the system is functioning again. It is evidence that people have lost faith in it. The Dabolim outbreak also raises deeper questions about oversight and accountability. Contaminated water does not become hazardous overnight. Elevated coliform levels typically point to systemic issues such as sewage intrusion, poor maintenance, or compromised infrastructure. Were routine water quality checks being conducted? If so, how did such a serious lapse go undetected until more than a hundred residents fell ill? If not, why were these safeguards absent in the first place?

These are not questions that can be brushed aside with assurances. Nor can the

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response be limited to crisis management once the damage is done. Temporary medical camps and advisories, while necessary, do not substitute for structural fixes. The immediate priority must be to identify and eliminate the exact source of contamination. Anything less risks turning a contained outbreak into a recurring hazard. Equally troubling is the burden now placed on residents. Access to safe drinking water is not

optional. It is a fundamental public service. Yet, in Dabolim, that responsibility has effectively been outsourced to private suppliers of bottled water. For many families, this means an unplanned and ongoing expense. For others, it raises questions about sustainability. How long can such a workaround continue? And why should it have to?

The framing of the situation as “under control” also risks normalising a dangerous precedent. It suggests that as long as case numbers fall, the underlying cause can be treated as secondary. This approach may offer short-term relief in public perception, but it undermines long-term trust. Citizens are unlikely to be reassured by statistics when their lived experience tells them otherwise. More broadly, the episode serves as a reminder of the fragility of urban infrastructure. Housing complexes, often perceived as self-contained and secure, remain dependent on larger systems that can fail without warning. Water supply, in particular, demands constant vigilance. Regular testing, transparent reporting, and swift corrective action should be the norm, not the exception triggered by a crisis.

There is also a communication gap that needs addressing. Transparency is not merely about sharing results; it is about acknowledging uncertainty and outlining clear steps forward. Residents deserve to know what went wrong, what is being done to fix it, and how similar incidents will be prevented in the future. Without this clarity, confidence cannot be rebuilt.

The Dabolim incident should not be viewed as an isolated disruption but as a warning signal. It exposes vulnerabilities that likely exist beyond a single complex. If anything, it calls for a broader review of water safety protocols across similar residential clusters in Goa. Declaring the situation “under control” may close a chapter in official records, but it does not close the issue. That will only happen when safe, potable water is reliably restored and residents can return to using it without fear. Until then, the calm is not a sign of resolution. It is a pause sustained by caution, expense, and a deep erosion of trust.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fuel Pricing Reality and the Missing Consumer Benefit

The recent excise duty cut on fuel has once again sparked debate, but for ordinary consumers, the outcome feels all too familiar: little to no relief at the pump. While such measures are often presented as pro-consumer, the lived reality suggests that the primary beneficiaries continue to be oil marketing companies. For years, fuel pricing in India has followed what many describe as a “rocket and feather” pattern. Prices rise sharply with global crude increases, yet decline slowly, if at all, when crude prices fall. This asymmetry raises a fundamental question about transparency and accountability in price setting. The much-publicised import of discounted Russian crude is a case in point. While it boosted the margins of oil companies, consumers did not witness any corresponding reduction in retail prices. Similarly, the blending of ethanol into petrol, often highlighted as a cost-saving and eco-friendly measure, has not translated into visible savings for the end user. The argument that companies are “recovering past losses” only adds to public frustration. For consumers, this resembles an open-ended burden, where they continue to pay more without clarity on when, or if, the benefit will ever reach them. Excise duty cuts, ideally meant to ease inflationary pressure, risk becoming mere cushions for corporate balance sheets unless mechanisms ensure direct consumer benefit. At a time when household budgets are under strain, greater transparency and a fairer pass-through of global price advantages are not just desirable, but necessary.

-Uday Barad

Too Late: Fuel Tax Cut Falls Short

The recent decision to reduce excise duty on petrol and diesel has been presented as a major relief for consumers. However, it is difficult to see this move as anything more than a delayed and limited correction of past policy choices. Between 2014 and 2016, when global crude oil prices had fallen sharply, the government repeatedly increased excise duties on fuel. These hikes ensured that the benefit of lower international prices was never fully passed on to the public. Instead, consumers continued to pay high prices while government revenues expanded significantly. Now, with global crude prices rising amid international tensions, the government has reduced excise duty by Rs 10 per litre on petrol and eliminated it on diesel. While any reduction is welcome, it is important to recognise that this is not a fresh benefit, but a partial rollback of earlier increases. If consumer welfare had truly been the priority, taxes would have remained moderate when oil prices were low, allowing citizens to enjoy sustained relief. Instead, the current reduction appears to be reactive, driven by mounting pressure from rising fuel costs. What people need is a consistent and transparent fuel pricing policy that protects them from volatility, not periodic adjustments presented as relief.

-Martin D'Costa

Mormugao Port emerges as fuel lifeline for Goa amid war concerns

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: Amid rising tensions in the Middle East and growing anxiety over fuel availability, the Mormugao Port has quietly turned into a crucial lifeline for Goa, ensuring uninterrupted supply of petrol and diesel to the state. Berth No. 8 at the port has been witnessing steady activity, with tanker vessels docking to replenish Goa's fuel reserves sourced from refineries across India.



On March 26, the tanker vessel M.V. Sanmar Sitar docked at Mormugao Port carrying a substantial cargo of 18,000 metric tonnes of diesel and 8,000 metric tonnes of petrol. The vessel arrived from Paradip, marking the

third such fuel shipment to reach Goa this month.

Earlier in the month, tanker vessels Jag Pankhi and Sanmar Songbird had docked at the port on March 3 and later in the month respectively, maintaining a consistent

inflow of fuel supplies. Port and depot sources confirmed that Goa typically receives three tanker loads every month, a cycle that has continued without disruption despite the ongoing geopolitical situation.

Officials at the fuel depot assured that the state currently maintains a buffer stock sufficient for at least 15 days, urging citizens not to panic or fall prey to misinformation circulating on social media.



AAP Alleges 'Political Setting' Between BJP-MGP-Congress in Ponda By-Poll

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday alleged a "political setting" between BJP, MGP and Congress in the ongoing Ponda by-poll, claiming that leaders linked to MGP were simultaneously campaigning for a Congress candidate. AAP State President, along with Senior Vice President Sandesh Teleikar Dessai, addressed the media and presented what they described as "concrete proof" of overlapping political activity. According to AAP, during an MGP meeting held at Nandanvan in Ponda in support of BJP candidate Ritesh Naik, at least four attendees — former MGP ZP member Priya Chari,

MGP Block President Mangesh Kundaikar, councillor Geetali Talauliker and Raju Kavlekar — were also seen actively campaigning for Congress candidate Ketan Bhatikar since the start of his campaign. AAP termed the development a blatant attempt to mislead voters, questioning how individuals associated with MGP and supporting the BJP candidate were simultaneously working on the ground for a Congress nominee. "This is a political setting by the BJP for post-election defection," Sandesh Teleikar Dessai alleged, adding that the arrangement indicated a pre-planned understanding among parties.

Ponda Bye-Polls: Senior Citizens Above 85, Persons With Disability to Vote March 29-31

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Senior citizens aged 85 and above and persons with disabilities will be able to cast their votes for the Ponda Assembly bye-polls over a three-day period, from March 29 to 31, according to a notification issued by Returning Officer Pandurang Talgaonkar on

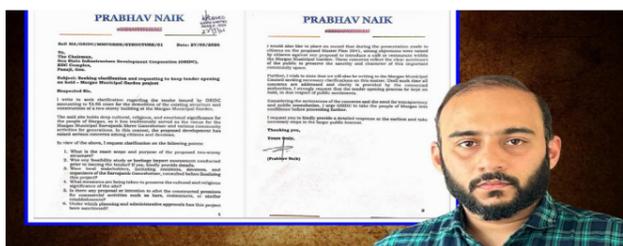


Thursday.

Voting for these absentee voter categories will be conducted from

9 am to 5 pm, and the Election Commission of India has provided them the facility to vote via Postal Ballot. The Returning Officer's office has already received duly filled Form 12-D submissions from eligible absentee voters. Separate polling teams will visit the registered addresses listed in these

forms to facilitate voting. In a separate notification, Talgaonkar also announced that voters on election duty who opted for the Postal Ballot facility by submitting Form 12 by March 27 will cast their votes at the Facilitation Centre in the Mamlatdar Ponda office, 3rd floor, Government Complex, on the scheduled dates.



Halt Tender Process For Margao Municipal Garden Project: Prabhav Naik

Team Goemkarponn

Margao: Raising objections to the proposed development at the Margao Municipal Garden, Madganvcho Awaaz and youth leader Prabhav Naik has written to the Chairman of the Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation (GSIDC), urging that the tender process be immediately put on hold and detailed clarifications be provided. In his communication, Naik stated that the ₹3.96 crore proposal reportedly involves demolishing an existing structure and constructing a two-storey building at a location

that holds cultural and religious importance for residents. The garden has traditionally hosted the Sarvajanic Shree Ganeshotsav and several community events over the years, he noted. Naik said the proposed project has triggered concern among citizens and devotees, particularly regarding the possible impact on the heritage and sanctity of the site. He sought clarity on the purpose and scope of the construction, and questioned whether feasibility studies, heritage impact assessments, and consultations with local stakeholders were conducted before issuing the tender.

Hunger Strike Against Margao Garden Project Begins; Leaders Demand Scrapping Of Two-Storey Plan

■ Chirag Naik sits on protest; Yuri Alemao, Vijai Sardesai extend support as police raise objections

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Congress leader Chirag Naik on Friday began a hunger strike opposing the Margao Municipal Council's proposal to construct a two-storeyed building at the Margao Municipal Garden,



demanding that the project be scrapped immediately. Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao extended support to Naik, describing the

proposed construction as unnecessary. He pointed to existing parking constraints in the city and stressed the social and emotional importance of the garden for residents, while accusing the government of disregarding public sentiment.



Vijai Sardesai Alleges Hafta Racket at Margao Wholesale Fish Market

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai on Thursday accused the SGPDA of delaying the inauguration of the redeveloped Margao wholesale fish market due to alleged collection of haftas (illegal weekly fees) from market vendors.

Speaking to the media, Sardesai, a member of the SGPDA, claimed he would expose the hafta racket to reveal who benefits from these collections.

He criticized the PDA Chairman, MLA Krishna Salkar, for awarding the housekeeping tender worth Rs 2.5 lakh to a BJP worker from Ponda, despite the market being located in Madel-Fatorda.

Mirabag-Sanvordem Bandhara Protest Enters 45th Day, Agitators Demand Written Cancellation Order

Team Goemkarponn

SANVORDEM: The protest against the Mirabag-Sanvordem bandhara has now reached its 45th consecutive day, with demonstrators insisting that the government provide a written order scrapping the project. The agitators have set a two-day deadline for the authorities, warning that



a "Chalo Azad Maidan" march will be launched on Monday if their demand is ignored. At a press briefing, Sanket Bhandari stated that the government would be held accountable for any consequences if the agitation escalates.

Protesters emphasized that previous verbal assurances from officials have not produced tangible results, and they will not end their strike without official written confirmation. Former minister Deepak Pauskar recalled that elected representatives had previously assured locals that the project would be shelved if public opposition persisted.

Man booked for rape on pretext of marriage in Margao

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police have registered a case against a man for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman on the pretext of marriage and impregnating her.

According to police, the complaint was filed by a woman from Navelim stating that between August 2025 and January 2026, the accused, identified as Santosh



Budapnavar, a resident of Verna and native of Karnataka, allegedly forced sexual intercourse with her on multiple

occasions on the promise of marriage.

The complainant further alleged that she became pregnant as a result.

Based on the complaint, Margao Town Police registered an offence against the accused. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Aanushka Parab of Margao Town Police Station.

53-year-old Cuncolim man found dead, UD registered

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police have registered an unnatural death case after a 53-year-old man from Cuncolim was found dead in an alleged hanging incident. Police said that on March 24, 2026, at around 11:45 pm, information was received from South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, that Manoj Naik Dessai, a resident of



Murida, Cuncolim, was brought dead by a 108 ambulance in a suspected case of hanging. Following the intimation, police conducted the occurrence and inquest panchanama over the body and referred it for post-mortem examination at SGDH,

Margao. The police surgeon who conducted the autopsy certified the cause of death as "asphyxia as a result of constriction of neck". After completion of medico-legal formalities, the body was handed over to the family members for final religious rites. Further enquiry is being conducted by LPSI Aanushka Parab of Margao Town Police Station.



Two injured after car collision at Nandran Mollem

Team Goemkarponn

COLLEM: Collem Police have registered a case following a road accident at Nandran, Mollem, which left two persons injured.

According to police, the complaint was filed by Ramakrishna Gadkari, a resident of Sindhudurg, stating that on March 18, 2026, at around 5.30 pm, the accused, identified as Babu Shelke, resident of Aldona, Bardez, was driving his Ertiga car in a rash and negligent manner, endangering human life, while proceeding

from Belgaum towards Mollem.

When the vehicle reached Nandran, Mollem, the accused allegedly dashed against the complainant's Renault Kwid car which was coming from the opposite direction.

As a result of the impact, the complainant's wife Radhika Gadkari and mother-in-law Laxmi Gauda sustained injuries. Collem Police have registered a case and further investigation is being carried out by HC 4644 Deepak Gawas of Collem Police Station.

AC unit copper pipes worth ₹60,400 stolen from Zudio store at Dabolim

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: A retail outlet at Dabolim was targeted by unknown thieves who made away with copper pipes from the store's air-conditioning unit, causing losses amounting to ₹60,400. According to a complaint lodged by Hemant Avhad, store manager of Zudio store and a resident of Dabolim, the thefts took



place on 22/09/2025 at an unspecified time and again on 27/10/2025 at 02:00 hrs. The accused allegedly removed copper pipes from the AC unit

installed outside the premises before fleeing the scene. Following the complaint, Vasco police registered an offence under Sections 305

and 62 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Police said the accused remain unidentified and efforts are in progress to trace them as well as recover the stolen property. The investigation is being handled by Head Constable Saish Ajgaonkar of Vasco Police Station under the supervision of PI Vaibhav Naik and Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.

Ponda man dies after scooter crash into electrical panel at Quellossim

Team Goemkarponn

QUELOSSIM: A 48-year-old man from Ponda lost his life after his scooter rammed into an electrical distribution panel at Quellossim late Wednesday night. The deceased, identified as Jeevan Naik, a resident of Agapur, Durbhat, was returning home from Quellossim when the accident occurred at Uddo, Quellossim. Police said he lost control over his Access scooter and



crashed into the roadside electrical panel. Naik was initially rushed to South Goa District Hospital, Margao, and later referred to Goa Medical College, Bambolim, where doctors declared him brought

dead.

Police conducted an inquest and sent the body for post-mortem examination at GMC. The autopsy report stated the cause of death as "haemorrhage and shock due to blunt chest trauma

consequent to blunt force impact."

After completion of medico-legal formalities, the body was handed over to the family for final rites. Verna police have registered a case of unnatural death under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Further enquiry is being conducted by PSI Mahesh Bhomkar under the supervision of PI Anand Shirodkar and guidance of Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.

Unidentified man found dead on railway track between Kulem and Kalem

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: An unidentified man, suspected to be around 40 years of age, was found dead on the railway track between Kulem and Kalem in the early hours of Thursday. According to information

received from the Deputy Station Master, Vasco, at 01:19 hrs on 26/03/2026, a man was reported lying on the tracks. A police team rushed to the spot and found the body of an unknown male person lying on the railway line. Police conducted a



scene of occurrence panchanama and inquest over the body

at the site. The body has been preserved at South Goa District

Hospital, Margao, for medico-legal formalities and identification. Vasco Railway Police have registered a case of unnatural death under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Efforts are underway to ascertain the identity

of the deceased and determine the exact cause of death. Further inquiry is being carried out by PSI Krishna Talpi of Vasco Railway Police Station under the supervision of PI Amarnath Passi and guidance of Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.

Nyaya Sanhita exhibition inaugurated at Kala Academy, Goa tops implementation

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Nyaya Sanhita Exhibition was inaugurated at Kala Academy, Panaji, by Director General of Police Alok Kumar, IPS, in the presence of senior officers from the judiciary, prosecution, administration and Goa Police. The exhibition highlights India's transformative criminal



justice reforms following the implementation of the Nyaya Sanhita framework from July 1, 2024. Addressing the gathering, the DGP said the country is moving from a colonial-era "Dand"

(punishment) system to a citizen-centric "Nyaya" (justice) framework aimed at faster, transparent and technology-driven delivery of justice.

He noted that Goa has emerged as a national

leader in implementing the Nyaya Sanhitas, securing the top position in the country.

Goa recorded 100 per cent achievement in administrative reforms and system integration across police, courts, prisons, forensic science and prosecution, along with 92 per cent implementation of ICT applications such as e-Summons, Nyaya Shruti and MedLeaPR.



Future Of Goa Under Threat: LoP Yuri Alemo Slams BJP

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemo said that the future of Goa is under threat due to rising corruption and mounting public debt. He stated that Congress will focus on eradicating corruption, controlling the state debt which has crossed ₹35,000 crore, and generating employment opportunities for youth. Alemo also alleged that the BJP's "dadagiri" must be

stopped, claiming that the Assembly session was curtailed when opposition members were exposing issues. He further accused the government of selling land to crony capitalists. He was speaking at a corner meeting held at Khandepar. Congress candidate Dr Ketan Bhatikar, Quepem MLA Altone D'Costa, Congress Senior Vice President M K Sheikh, Mahila President Pratiksha Khalap, John Pereira and others were present.

Mormugao Municipality urges evacuation from landslide-prone areas ahead of monsoon

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: With the monsoon approaching, the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) on Thursday issued a public advisory calling on residents living in vulnerable locations to shift to safer places as a precautionary step.



The council identified several areas with a history of landslides and waterlogging, including Bogda (behind MPT Quarters and Bogdeshwar

Temple), Desterro (behind El-Monte Theatre), Upper Jetty-Mormugao, Islampur-Baina, Sasmolem near Holy Cross, Candelaria, areas around Goa Shipyard Limited, New Vaddem, Driver Hill, Khariwada, Sada, Harbour Jetty, Mangor Hill and Vaddem. According to the notice,

these localities remain highly susceptible to natural hazards during the monsoon, and the possibility of fresh incidents cannot be ruled out. Residents have been advised to take timely precautions and relocate wherever necessary to avoid any untoward situations.



'Together for Mapusa' civil society formed, aims to act as parallel opposition

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Disturbed over what they termed as rapid deterioration of Mapusa town, a coalition of doctors, lawyers, professionals and activists across political ideologies has announced the formation of a civil society platform named "Together for Mapusa" (TFM) to reclaim the city's future.

The group said it will function as a "parallel opposition" to hold the current governance accountable, citing issues such as garbage accumulation, poor infrastructure, rising crime and stalled public projects including the sewage treatment plant and Ravindra Bhavan.

Addressing the media, TFM president Adv Mahesh Rane said participating in democracy goes beyond voting and requires constant public oversight of governance. He said the organisation will reach out to residents across wards to identify civic issues and push for solutions. General secretary Jitesh Kamat stated that the society plans to participate in the upcoming municipal electoral process by fielding a panel of "clean and capable" candidates. He alleged that the municipal council has for decades been influenced by political interference and said the group aims to ensure a council free from party control.

Archdiocesan Chrism Mass celebrated at Old Goa, priests renew promises

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: The annual Chrism Mass of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman was celebrated at the Se Cathedral, Old Goa, on March 26 at 10 am, with Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao presiding over the solemn liturgy along with Auxiliary Bishop Simião Purificação Fernandes, Bishop Alex Dias, Bishop Emeritus of



Port Blair, Bishop-elect of Sindhudurg Most Rev Agnelo Pinheiro, and priests from across the archdiocese.

The Chrism Mass,

a significant annual celebration, reflects the bond between the Bishop, priests and the faithful. During the Mass, the Oil of the Catechumens and

the Oil of the Sick were blessed, while the Holy Chrism was consecrated.

These oils will be used for administering sacraments throughout the Archdiocese during the coming year. During the celebration, priests renewed the promises made at their ordination, reaffirming their commitment to serve under the guidance of the Bishop.

Goa Joins ICPB As Lifetime Member To Boost MICE Tourism

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a strategic move to position Goa as a premier destination for corporate travel and large-scale business events, the Department of Tourism, Goa has secured Lifetime Membership with the India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB). The collaboration aims to expand the state's tourism portfolio beyond

beaches and establish Goa as a year-round hub for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE). The Lifetime Membership certificate was handed over to the Department of Tourism, Goa by Joint Director General, Ministry of Tourism Arun Srivastava, ICPB Treasurer Neeraj Dhawan and ICPB Executive Director Dr Poonam

Rajput at a ceremony held at Assembleia, Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon on March 26. Officials said Goa is transforming its tourism landscape to cater to growing "bleisure" travel, with business-ready infrastructure including upcoming convention centres at Rua-de-Ourem Creek and Margao, along with improved global connectivity through Manohar International



Airport, Mopa.

The Department highlighted that after hosting major global events such as G20 working group meetings, Goa is promoting a sustainable tourism model integrating heritage, eco-tourism, wellness and hinterland experiences into corporate travel offerings.

LPG Tanker 'Jag Vasant' Reaches Gujarat After 23 Days Near Strait of Hormuz

■ Arrival of vessel carrying 47,600 tonnes of LPG eases concerns over cooking gas supply amid regional tensions

New Delhi: An LPG tanker named Jag Vasant arrived at Vadinar Port late Thursday, bringing relief as concerns persisted about possible disruptions to cooking gas supplies due to tensions in West Asia. The vessel, carrying about 47,600 metric tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas, had remained stranded for nearly 23 days near the Strait of Hormuz. The crucial waterway has witnessed disruptions in recent weeks amid ongoing regional conflict, affecting the movement of several energy shipments. The arrival of Jag Vasant adds a significant volume of LPG to India's existing reserves at a time when authorities have been working to reassure the public about adequate fuel



supplies. Officials said the shipment will help stabilise domestic availability of cooking gas. Another LPG tanker, Pine Gas, carrying around 45,000 metric tonnes of LPG, is also expected to arrive soon at New Mangalore Port. Together, the two vessels will add more than 92,000 metric tonnes of LPG to the country's supply, roughly equivalent to one day of India's national cooking gas consumption. Authorities confirmed that all 60 seafarers aboard

the vessels are safe. Their successful arrival comes after a challenging passage through the heavily monitored maritime corridor. Government officials have said that about 20 Indian flagged vessels remain stranded near the Strait of Hormuz due to the continuing conflict in the region. Among them are five large LPG tankers carrying a combined cargo of approximately 2,30,000 metric tonnes of cooking gas. Another tanker is

expected to load cargo shortly before departing for India. India imports nearly 60 percent of its LPG from international markets, and close to 90 percent of these imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz, making the route vital for the country's energy security.

The government has acknowledged that geopolitical tensions have affected shipping schedules but emphasised that no disruption has been reported at distributor outlets. Officials also urged citizens to rely on verified information and avoid spreading rumours about fuel shortages, noting that the country currently holds around 60 days of crude oil reserves and roughly a month of LPG supply.



Rupee Falls To Record 94.29 As Iran Conflict Sparks Market Turmoil

■ Surging oil prices and a stronger US dollar trigger sharp losses in Indian currency and equities.

New Delhi: India's financial markets faced significant pressure on the final trading day of the week as the rupee slipped to a historic low of 94.29 against the US dollar while stock markets recorded steep losses within the first hour of trade. The domestic currency crossed the psychologically important 94 per dollar level for the second time on Friday. It opened weaker at 94.16 compared to the previous close of 93.98. At the same time, the benchmark index BSE Sensex dropped more than 1,000 points in early trading, reflecting widespread investor anxiety. The sharp movements in both the currency and equity markets have been largely driven by developments outside India. Escalating tensions involving Iran have disrupted crucial oil supply routes in the Middle East, causing global crude prices to surge. For India, which imports more than 80 percent of its crude oil requirements, higher oil prices quickly translate into a larger import bill. This increases the demand for US dollars, placing downward

pressure on the rupee. At the same time, investors worldwide are moving funds into the United States Dollar, widely considered a safe haven during periods of geopolitical uncertainty. The combination of rising dollar demand for oil payments and global capital shifting toward the dollar has accelerated the rupee's decline. The currency has weakened by roughly 3.5 percent since the latest phase of the conflict began on February 28, highlighting the impact of global tensions on India's financial stability. The pressure on the rupee has also been reflected in the stock market.

Foreign investors have been reducing exposure to emerging markets amid concerns over higher energy costs and global risk. A weaker rupee further reduces the attractiveness of Indian assets when measured in dollar terms, encouraging additional selling in equities. The impact was visible almost immediately after markets opened. Within minutes of trading, investors saw nearly ₹7 lakh crore wiped off market value.

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Dabolim Outbreak: Cases Dip, Anger Rises as Residents Allege Official Apathy

one is telling us when this will be fixed." Anger has intensified over what residents describe as a complete absence of political and administrative response on the ground. "For the past 12 days, people here have been falling sick, but not a single government official has visited the site," said Sandeep Kamat. "We feel abandoned." Residents also pointed out that neither opposition leaders nor members of the ruling party, including the minister representing the Dabolim constituency, have stepped in to address their concerns. "The only person who has been helping us from day one is Chicalim Sarpanch Kamla Prasad Yadav," a resident said. "Apart from that, there has been silence." The perceived lack of urgency has left the community frustrated, particularly as political attention appears to be focused elsewhere. "It is disheartening to see leaders busy with other issues like the Corchorem

scandal or the Ponda elections while we are dealing with a health crisis here," said another resident.

"Are we not a priority?" Residents are now openly questioning whether authorities are waiting for the situation to escalate further before acting. "Are they waiting for a tragedy?" Kamat asked. "How many more people need to fall sick before something concrete is done?" Officials, however, maintain that the situation is being monitored. A senior health department official said surveillance has been intensified and that precautionary measures have been advised. "The situation is stable at present. We are keeping a close watch and conducting regular testing of water samples," the official said. An अधिकारी from the local administration acknowledged that the water remains non-potable and said efforts are underway to identify the exact source of contamination.

Excise Duty On Petrol Reduced To ₹3, Diesel To Zero

reduction in duties, fuel prices at retail pumps may not fall immediately. Industry estimates suggest the benefit of the tax cut will largely be absorbed by oil marketing companies that are currently facing heavy losses on fuel sales. According to industry calculations, oil companies are losing nearly ₹48.8 per litre on petrol and diesel sold at current pump prices. The losses have been driven by a steep surge in global crude oil rates, with Brent crude crossing the \$100 per barrel mark after the conflict involving the United States and Israel with Iran and the resulting disruption to key energy supply routes. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said international crude prices have surged dramatically in recent weeks, rising from about \$70 per barrel to roughly \$122 per barrel. He noted that many countries across Asia, North America, Europe and Africa have already seen fuel prices increase sharply due to the spike in

global energy costs. The government opted to absorb part of the financial burden rather than pass the entire increase to consumers. Officials indicated that this approach aims to protect citizens from sudden fuel price hikes while maintaining stability in the domestic market. The global oil disruption has been intensified by developments around the Strait of Hormuz, a vital corridor that carries a large portion of the world's crude oil and gas shipments.

A significant share of India's crude imports normally passes through this narrow passage, making the situation particularly important for the country's energy security.

To address supply concerns, authorities have emphasised that India currently holds sufficient reserves. Government data indicates the country has roughly 60 days of crude oil stock and about 30 days of liquefied petroleum gas supply available.

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Goa CM Welcomes Centre's Excise Duty Cut On Petrol, Diesel

litre and reduce diesel duty from ₹10 to nil." He added that the decision comes at a crucial time when global crude oil prices are witnessing volatility due to the conflict in West Asia. According to the Chief Minister, the timely intervention by the Centre will help maintain fuel price stability and provide significant relief

to citizens. Sawant further stated that the reduction will also support Oil Marketing Companies and ease the burden on the common man. He emphasized that the move demonstrates the Government's continued focus on safeguarding public interest while ensuring economic stability.

“Modi And I Get Things Done”: Trump Message Shared By US Embassy

■ Post highlights strong India US ties as leaders discuss West Asia tensions.

New Delhi: The United States Embassy in India on Friday shared a message from Donald Trump praising Narendra Modi and highlighting the close relationship between the two leaders.

In a post on X, the embassy quoted Trump as saying that he and Modi are leaders who deliver results. The message also expressed confidence that the partnership between India and the United States will grow stronger



in the future. The post stated that the relationship between the two countries is exceptional and emphasised the strong personal rapport between the leaders. Trump

described Modi as a respected and influential leader while reiterating his confidence in continued cooperation between the two nations. The timing of the message comes as

global attention remains focused on rising tensions in West Asia. However, it is not clear when the remarks referenced in the embassy's post were originally made. Earlier this year, Trump had made similar comments while speaking about a major trade agreement between the United States and India. During that announcement, he described Modi as one of his closest friends and praised his leadership.

“Rumours Of Lockdown Completely False,” Says Hardeep Singh Puri

■ Government clarifies no proposal for nationwide restrictions and urges citizens not to panic

New Delhi: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has dismissed speculation about a nationwide lockdown, stating clearly that the government is not considering any such move. The clarification comes amid growing rumours circulating on social media that suggested restrictions similar to the pandemic period could be imposed across the country.

Addressing the issue through a post on X, Puri said the reports of a lockdown are entirely false and urged people not to spread misinformation. He stressed that there is no proposal under consideration by the Government of India to impose restrictions on public movement or economic activity. The minister said the global situation remains uncertain, particularly in relation to energy markets, supply chains and essential commodities. However, he assured that the government is closely monitoring developments and has

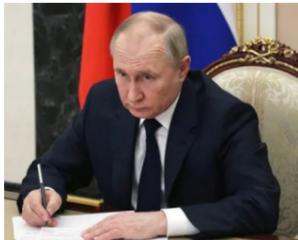


taken steps to ensure uninterrupted availability of fuel, energy resources and other essential supplies for citizens. He also highlighted that under the leadership of Narendra Modi, authorities are maintaining constant vigilance to respond quickly to emerging global challenges. According to Puri, India has repeatedly demonstrated resilience during periods of international uncertainty and will continue to act proactively to safeguard national interests. The rumours had intensified following concerns about global oil and gas shortages, which triggered speculation about possible supply disruptions. Some online discussions also linked the situation to potential shortages of Liquefied Petroleum Gas, further fuelling anxiety among the public.

Russia Set To Gain \$760 Million As Iran Conflict Pushes Oil Prices Higher

■ Rising crude prices and disrupted Gulf shipping routes boost Moscow's energy revenues while India increases Russian oil imports

New Delhi: The ongoing conflict in West Asia and disruptions to global energy supply routes are expected to significantly boost oil revenues for Russia, with estimates suggesting the country could earn at least \$760 million in additional income from crude exports. According to analysis cited in



international reports, the sharp rise in global oil prices combined with temporary sanctions relief could dramatically

increase Russia's monthly earnings from oil and gas. Estimates indicate that revenues may surge from roughly \$12 billion to nearly \$24 billion as the conflict disrupts supply from key Middle Eastern producers. Oil prices have already climbed close to \$100 per barrel after tensions affected shipping through

the Strait of Hormuz. The narrow passage is one of the world's most critical energy corridors, carrying a large share of global crude and gas shipments. Disruptions to this route have reduced the availability of Middle Eastern oil in international markets, indirectly benefiting other producers such as Russia.

“India And China's Rise Built On Hard Work, Not Generosity”: Chinese Envoy

■ Ambassador calls for stronger cooperation between the two neighbours while warning against attempts to create discord.

New Delhi: Xu Feihong has said that the economic progress of India and China over the past several decades has been driven by the hard work and determination of their people rather than the generosity of other nations. Speaking at the 14th China India Youth Dialogue, the envoy stated that both countries have achieved remarkable development through their own efforts while also benefiting from global cooperation. He emphasised that the growth of the two Asian economies cannot be attributed to external assistance alone. The remarks were widely



viewed as a response to recent comments made by Christopher Landau, who had suggested that past economic support from the United States helped accelerate China's rise and described that policy as a mistake Washington would avoid repeating with India. Without naming any country directly, the Chinese ambassador suggested that some forces seek to drive a wedge between India

and China by amplifying differences and promoting narratives about a so called China threat. According to him, such efforts are intended to create discord and benefit from tensions between the two neighbours. Xu said India and China should instead focus on strengthening cooperation and pursuing development through mutual support. He described the two nations as neighbours whose relationship carries significance beyond bilateral ties, given their position as the world's largest developing countries and major emerging economies. He also referred to

“Citizens Shielded From Price Rise”: Sitharaman Welcomes ₹10 Fuel Duty Cut

■ Government reduces excise duty on petrol and diesel to protect consumers amid global energy volatility.

New Delhi: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has welcomed the government's decision to reduce central excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre, saying the move will help protect consumers from rising fuel prices amid the ongoing tensions in West Asia. The decision lowers the central excise duty on petrol to ₹3 per litre while diesel will now carry no excise duty. The measure comes as global oil markets face uncertainty due to geopolitical developments in the region. In a message shared on X, Sitharaman said the step reflects the government's commitment



to shielding citizens from volatility in international energy prices. She also praised Narendra Modi for ensuring that the public remains protected from fluctuations in the cost and supply of essential commodities. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri also welcomed the decision, describing it as a timely

and forward looking measure. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister and the finance minister for taking steps aimed at stabilising fuel prices during a period of global uncertainty. The duty reduction was announced as rising geopolitical tensions continue to influence global crude oil prices.

“I Have Most Runs In IPL For 3–4 Seasons”: Shubman Gill Responds To Critics

■ Gujarat Titans captain backs his record and expresses confidence ahead of the 2026 IPL season.

New Delhi: Shubman Gill has responded firmly to critics ahead of the 2026 season of the Indian Premier League, saying his consistent run scoring over the past few years speaks for itself. The 26 year old batter, who currently captains Gujarat Titans, said he does not feel the need to prove anything to anyone after emerging as one of the most consistent performers in the league over the last four seasons.



Since 2022, Gill has accumulated 2449 runs in the IPL at an impressive average of 46.2 and a strike rate of 149.78. His tally is the highest in the league during this period.

The only player close to him in terms of total runs is Virat Kohli of Royal Challengers Bengaluru, who has scored 2378 runs in the same timeframe. Gill also compared

favourably with other Indian T20 batters competing for national team spots. Abhishek Sharma has scored 1575 runs with a higher strike rate, while Sanju Samson has accumulated 1636 runs and Ishan Kishan has registered 1546 runs in the league during that period. Speaking ahead of the new season, Gill emphasised that his performances over the last several years demonstrate his value as a batter.

Payment Dispute Leaves India Coach, Players Locked Out Of Kochi Stadium

■ Payment dispute blocks national team officials and media ahead of AFC Asian Cup qualifier in Kochi

New Delhi: A fresh controversy has struck Indian football after members of the national team, including head coach Khalid Jamil, were denied entry to the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium due to a payment dispute ahead of an upcoming international match. The incident occurred when the team arrived at the stadium in Kochi for



a scheduled pre match press conference before

their AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Hong Kong. The match marks the national team's return to the Kochi venue after nearly a decade. However, as the coach and players attempted to enter the stadium, security personnel stopped them at the gate, citing non payment of certain dues linked to the venue. Among those reportedly denied entry were players

Ashique Kuruniyan, Sahal Abdul Samad and Bijoy Varghese. Journalists present to cover the press interaction were also prevented from entering the stadium, leading to confusion and disruption. The venue is managed by the Greater Cochin Development Authority, which reportedly insisted on the settlement of pending payments before granting access.

Tunish Sawkar's 81 Powers Salgaocar As Geno Cross 300 In Goa Premier League

■ Salgaocar, Geno take control on Day 1 while Dempo post 262 in second round matches.

New Delhi: The second round of the Goa Premier Division League three day matches began on Thursday with strong performances from Salgaocar Cricket Club and Geno Sports Club across different venues in Goa. At the Bandodkar Ground, Salgaocar Cricket Club posted a competitive total of 285 in 74.5 overs after choosing to bat first against Chowgule Sports Club. Tunish Sawkar led the charge with a brisk 81, while Shaantanu Nevagi provided stability with a composed 45. Captain Yash Kasvankar



contributed 32 runs and Azaan Thota added 26 at the top of the order. Lower order contributions from Ruthvik Naik with 21, Ayush Verlekar with 18 and Yogesh Kauthankar with 16 helped push the score close to the 300 mark.

For Chowgule Sports Club, Shubham Tari impressed with the ball, claiming four wickets. Darshan Misal took two wickets, while Mithil

Karekar and Kaustubh Pingulkar picked up one each. In response, Chowgule made a steady start and reached 41 for 1 in 13 overs by stumps. Sanath Nevagi scored 23 while Gauresh Kambli remained unbeaten on 9 as the team trailed by 244 runs. At the NAPEX Ground, Dempo Cricket Club were bowled out for 262 in 87.3 overs after electing to bat against Margao Cricket Club.

Young Basketball Talent Shines at St. Thomas U 14 Invitational Tournament

■ Two day event in Aldona highlights teamwork, sportsmanship and rising school athletes.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Aldona witnessed an energetic display of school level basketball talent as St. Thomas Higher Secondary School hosted the Under 14 Invitational Basketball Tournament on March 24 and 25 at its basketball court. The event was organized in collaboration with the Aldona Basketball Club and brought together several schools for two days of competitive matches and spirited performances. The tournament featured enthusiastic participation from young players who



demonstrated impressive skills, teamwork and determination throughout the competition. The matches drew attention from students, teachers and sports enthusiasts who gathered to support the budding athletes. In the girls category, St.

Mary's High School from Mapusa delivered a strong performance to claim the championship title. St. Thomas Girls High School, Aldona finished as runners up after putting up a commendable fight in the tournament. St. Xavier's High School from Moira secured the third position with a determined effort. The boys category witnessed equally intense competition. St. Britto's High School from Mapusa emerged as champions after defeating St. Francis Xavier's High School from Siolim in an exciting final encounter.



“Based On Science”: IOC Reintroduces Gender Testing For Women's Events

■ New policy to determine eligibility for female category ahead of 2028 Los Angeles Olympics

New Delhi: The International Olympic Committee has announced the reintroduction of gender testing to determine eligibility for athletes competing in the female category at Olympic events. Under the new policy, participation in women's competitions at the 2028 Summer Olympics will be limited to biological females. The rule is also expected to exclude athletes with differences in sexual development from the women's category. The decision replaces guidelines introduced in 2021 that allowed individual sports federations to create their own eligibility rules. The IOC has now opted for a unified approach across all Olympic sports to ensure consistency in participation criteria. According to the policy, eligibility for female

events will be determined through a one time screening for the SRY gene, which is typically associated with male biological development. The screening may be conducted using a saliva sample, cheek swab or blood test. IOC President Kirsty Coventry said the decision was guided by scientific evidence and recommendations from medical experts. She emphasised that fairness in competition is crucial at the Olympic level, where even the smallest performance differences can influence results. Coventry also stated that allowing biological males to compete in the female category could raise concerns about fairness and, in some sports, potential safety issues for athletes. The move comes after controversy surrounding the women's boxing competition at the 2024 Summer Olympics.