



Tourist Stabbed To Death After Money Dispute In Calangute

Argument among casino-visiting group turns violent; victim chased into hotel and fatally attacked with sharp weapon.

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: A dispute among a group of tourists turned fatal in Calangute after one of them was allegedly stabbed to death following an argument over money late on Friday. Police said the group had travelled to Goa to visit a casino and were staying at a guest house in the Calangute area.

According to preliminary information, a heated argument broke out among the tourists over financial matters. As the quarrel escalated, the



victim reportedly fled from the scene and ran towards a nearby hotel in an attempt to seek safety. However, the accused allegedly chased him into the hotel premises and attacked him with a sharp weapon.

The victim sustained grievous injuries in the assault and collapsed on

the spot. He was rushed for medical assistance but succumbed to his injuries. Police teams reached the location soon after being alerted and have begun an investigation.

The accused has been identified, and efforts are underway to ascertain the exact sequence of events and motive

behind the fatal attack. Further details, including the identities of those involved, are awaited.

Authorities are also verifying CCTV footage from the guest house and hotel premises to reconstruct the incident. A case is being registered, and further investigation is in progress.

Man Arrested for Exposing Himself to Minors at Margao Store

Ponda resident apprehended after traumatizing two children at Borda DIY outlet.

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: The Fatorda Police have arrested a man from Ponda for allegedly exposing himself to two minor children inside a popular retail store in Borda, Margao. The incident, which occurred on the evening of March 26, 2026, has led to charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). According



to the official complaint filed by Mrs. Veena Da Costa, a resident of Fatorda, the ordeal took place between 6:15 PM and 6:30 PM while she was occupied paying bills at the counter of the Mr. D.I.Y. store. An unknown

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Over 40,000 Women Screened Under 'Checked by Doctor' Drive in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: More than 40,000 women across Goa have undergone health check-ups under the "Checked by Doctor" campaign, with nearly 2 percent of those screened diagnosed with health concerns and placed under treatment. The initiative, aimed at addressing women's health issues, is being carried out through government hospitals along with select private medical facilities that are offering screenings



at affordable rates. The program includes routine examinations such as blood parameter tests, diabetes screening, tuberculosis detection, and cervical cancer checks, followed by necessary treatment for those found with medical conditions.

Mahila Congress Holds Justice March In Panaji Over Crimes Against Women, Minors

Pratiksha Khalap, Amit Patkar target BJP over alleged links in Curchorem sex scandal.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Mahila Congress on Saturday organized a Justice March from Congress House in Panaji to protest the increasing crimes against women and minors in the state. The march saw participation from party leaders and workers, who raised slogans demanding strict action and accountability in recent cases. Goa Pradesh Mahila



Congress President Pratiksha Narulkar Khalap expressed serious concern over the recent Curchorem sex scandal allegedly involving the son of a BJP councillor. She said such incidents

highlight the need for stronger measures to ensure safety of women and children. GPC President Amit Patkar also joined the march and spoke on the issue, alleging that

Soham Sushant Naik, son of councillor Sushant Naik, has links with the BJP. Patkar displayed photographs purportedly showing Soham Naik with BJP president Damu Naik to support the claim. Earlier, BJP Goa president Damu Naik had denied the allegation, stating that Sushant Naik was never even a primary member of the BJP. The development has triggered a political war of words between the Congress and the BJP over the controversy.

Elon Musk Joined Modi-Trump Call During Iran War Discussions: Report

Unusual participation by tech billionaire during conversation between Indian Prime Minister and US President.

New Delhi: A phone conversation between Narendra Modi and Donald Trump regarding the ongoing conflict involving Iran reportedly included the participation of billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk. The call took place earlier this week and



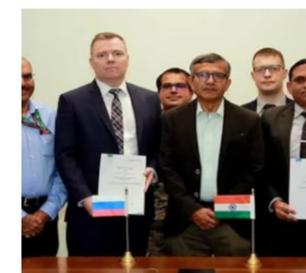
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CONTD TO PAGE 06...

India Signs Rs 858 Crore Defence Deals For Missiles And Navy Aircraft Support

Agreements include air defence missile procurement for the Army and maintenance of maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

New Delhi: The Ministry of Defence India has signed defence contracts worth Rs 858 crore to strengthen the country's air defence capabilities and support the maintenance of key naval aircraft. One agreement valued at Rs 445 crore



has been finalised with

Rosoboronexport for the procurement of advanced air defence missiles for the Indian Army. The deal involves the acquisition of the Tunguska Air Defence Missile System. According to officials, the system is designed

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Invisible Relief: Reading Between the Lines of Fuel Duty Cuts

When fuel prices remain unchanged at the pump, it is easy to assume that nothing has really shifted. The recent decision by the Centre to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel falls into this category of "invisible relief" a move that may not immediately reflect in lower prices for consumers, but carries significant implications beneath the surface.

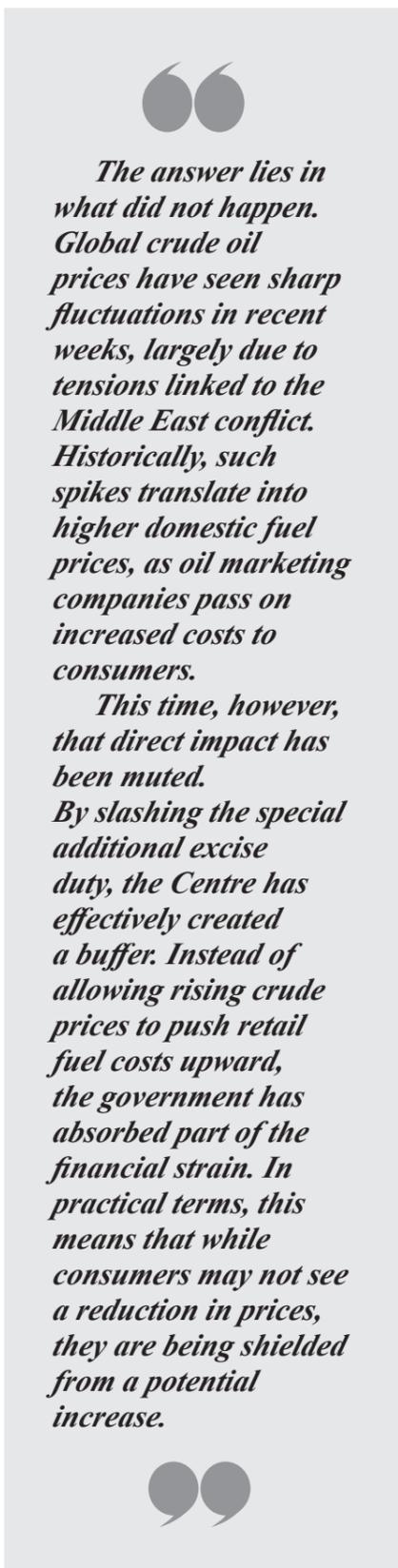
Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant was quick to welcome the decision, calling it a timely intervention to stabilise fuel prices and protect citizens from global volatility. At first glance, such optimism may appear misplaced. After all, if consumers are not paying less at the pump, where is the relief? The answer lies in what did not happen.

Global crude oil prices have seen sharp fluctuations in recent weeks, largely due to tensions linked to the Middle East conflict. Historically, such spikes translate into higher domestic fuel prices, as oil marketing companies pass on increased costs to consumers. This time, however, that direct impact has been muted.

By slashing the special additional excise duty, the Centre has effectively created a buffer. Instead of allowing rising crude prices to push retail fuel costs upward, the government has absorbed part of the financial strain. In practical terms, this means that while consumers may not see a reduction in prices, they are being shielded from a potential increase. This distinction is crucial.

Public discourse around fuel pricing often focuses on visible changes the rise or fall of rates displayed at petrol pumps. But economic policy does not always operate in visible ways. Sometimes, its most significant effects are measured in the burdens it prevents rather than the benefits it showcases.

Had the duty cut not been implemented, oil companies facing higher input costs would have had little choice but to raise prices. Petrol and diesel would likely have become more expensive, adding to inflationary pressures across sectors. Transport costs would



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rise, pushing up the prices of essential goods and services. In that context, maintaining current price levels itself becomes a form of relief.

This is where Sawant's argument finds some validity. The benefit may not be immediately tangible, but it exists in the form of price stability. For households already navigating tight budgets, the absence of further increases can be as important as a direct reduction.

However, this approach is not without consequences. The government's decision to absorb these costs comes at a fiscal price. Excise duties on fuel are a significant source of revenue. Cutting them, especially at a time of global uncertainty, means reduced inflows to the exchequer. This, in turn, could constrain public spending or widen the fiscal deficit.

There is also the question of sustainability. How long can the government continue to cushion consumers in this manner if global crude prices remain elevated or rise further? At some point, the pressure may become too great to absorb, forcing either a rollback of such measures or a delayed pass-through to consumers.

The reintroduction of export duties on diesel and aviation turbine fuel suggests that the Centre is attempting to balance competing priorities stabilising domestic markets while managing revenue streams. It reflects a broader strategy of fine-tuning fiscal levers to navigate an uncertain global environment.

Yet, communication remains a challenge. For the average consumer, the absence of a price cut can feel like a missed opportunity rather than a protective measure. This gap between perception and policy underscores the need for clearer public messaging. Economic decisions of this nature must be explained not just in technical terms, but in ways that connect with everyday experiences. Ultimately, the excise duty cut represents a trade-off. It prioritises short-term stability over immediate visibility, and consumer protection over government revenue.

Whether this balance proves effective will depend on how global conditions evolve and how long the government can sustain such interventions. For now, the relief may be invisible, but it is not insignificant. In a climate where prices could easily have climbed higher, holding the line is, in itself, a quiet form of intervention one that deserves recognition, even if it does not immediately register at the fuel pump.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR Recurring Fraud, Repeating Failures

The registration of a ₹2.48 crore investment fraud case by the Economic Offences Cell (EOC) of Goa Police once again exposes how easily unsuspecting citizens continue to fall prey to unregulated financial schemes. According to reports, investors were lured into putting their savings into a so-called investment platform promising high returns, only to be cheated when the promised payouts never materialised. What is particularly alarming is not just the scale of the fraud, but the pattern it reflects. The accused reportedly travelled across Goa promoting the scheme and convincing people to invest through both cash and online transactions. This suggests that such operations are not isolated or accidental but organised and deliberate, exploiting trust and financial aspirations. Despite repeated instances of similar scams in recent years, awareness among the public remains limited, and enforcement mechanisms appear reactive rather than preventive. The fact that such schemes operate for extended periods before being exposed raises serious concerns about regulatory gaps and the lack of early warning systems. Equally concerning is the growing use of digital platforms to lend legitimacy to fraudulent schemes. The promise of quick and high returns continues to override caution, particularly among small investors who may not fully understand the risks involved in unregulated deposits or cryptocurrency-linked ventures. While the filing of an FIR is a necessary step, it comes after significant financial damage has already been done. The focus must now shift towards prevention through stronger monitoring, stricter enforcement of financial regulations, and widespread public awareness campaigns. Unless authorities move beyond reactive policing and address the systemic loopholes that enable such frauds, these cases will continue to recur, leaving more citizens vulnerable to financial ruin.

-Melroy Fernandes, Curchorem

When the Kitchen Slows, the Economy Feels the Heat

The ongoing LPG crisis in Goa is no longer just a supply issue it is steadily turning into a disruption of everyday life, particularly in a state where food and tourism are deeply intertwined. Reports of shrinking menus, slower cooking, and anxious restaurateurs reflect a crisis that is quietly unfolding across kitchens. The shortage of commercial LPG, largely linked to global supply disruptions triggered by the West Asia conflict, has forced restaurants to rethink how they operate. What we are witnessing is not merely inconvenience, but adaptation under pressure. Dishes that require longer cooking times or high heat are being dropped, while chefs turn to alternatives like induction stoves or even traditional methods to keep kitchens running. This has a direct impact on Goa's identity. The state's culinary diversity, from elaborate seafood preparations to multi-step local delicacies, cannot be sustained on limited fuel. When menus shrink, it is not just business that suffers but the very experience that defines Goa for residents and tourists alike. More worrying is the broader economic ripple effect. Goa has over 3,000 restaurants, many of which rely entirely on LPG for daily operations. A prolonged shortage threatens not only these businesses but also the livelihoods of thousands employed in the hospitality sector. Already, there are fears that continued disruption could lead to partial closures or reduced operations. While authorities have acknowledged the issue and linked it to global factors, the response must go beyond monitoring. Supply chain coordination, prevention of black marketing, and prioritisation of commercial users alongside domestic needs are critical. If kitchens slow down, the economy will inevitably follow. Addressing this crisis urgently is not just about fuel it is about protecting livelihoods, tourism, and the cultural fabric of Goa.

-Alina D'Costa, Betalbatim

No Shortage Of Fuel, Gas, Fertilizer: PM Modi Reviews West Asia Situation

■ CM Sawant Says Centre Assures Energy Security, Stresses Role Of Border And Coastal States.

Team Goemkarponn

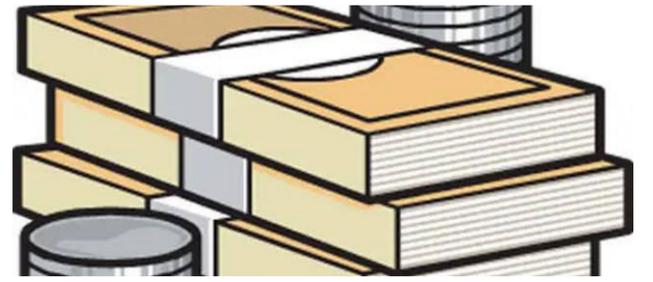
PANAJI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured that there will be no shortage of fuel, gas, or fertilizers in the country and emphasised the crucial role of border and coastal states in maintaining supply stability, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said after attending a high-level review meeting. Sawant virtually joined the meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, which



was attended by Union Ministers, the Cabinet Secretary, and Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories to review preparedness in light of the evolving situation in West Asia. The Chief Minister

said the Prime Minister stressed that the spirit of "Team India" remains the nation's greatest strength and assured that all necessary steps are being taken to safeguard energy security, stabilise supply chains, and protect

the interests of citizens. He further stated that the Union Government has diversified energy sources, strengthened non-fuel-based energy initiatives, and reduced additional excise duty to ease the burden on consumers amid rising crude oil prices. Sawant added that under the Prime Minister's leadership, strong Centre-State and inter-state coordination will remain a priority to effectively respond to any emerging challenges.



Centre Releases Rs 12.40 Crore to Strengthen Panchayats in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Union government has sanctioned Rs 12.40 crore to Goa as the first instalment of untied grants under the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) for the financial year 2024-25, aimed at boosting grassroots governance and rural infrastructure. As per official information, the funds will benefit both District Panchayats in the state along with 191 eligible Gram Panchayats. The allocation is meant to support local development initiatives, particularly in areas such as sanitation, water supply, and other essential civic services. This latest release comes after the Centre last month disbursed Rs 18.61 crore, which had been pending under the XVFC grants for 2023-24. The total allocation for that financial year stood at Rs 58 crore.

Figures from the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj indicate that Goa has received around Rs 221 crore so far under the XVFC cycle spanning 2020 to 2026, out of an approved total of Rs 368 crore. For the current financial year 2024-25, the Centre has earmarked Rs 62 crore for the state, with the initial tranche now released. In addition, about Rs 61 crore has been set aside for the ongoing fiscal cycle. Officials clarified that untied grants provide flexibility to local bodies to address region-specific requirements, whereas tied grants are allocated for key services such as maintaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, managing solid and liquid waste, and ensuring access to safe drinking water, including initiatives like rainwater harvesting and recycling.

Curchorem Case: FIR Count Likely to Rise Against Soham Naik as Probe Widens

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: The investigation into the alleged sex scandal involving Soham Naik is intensifying, with the Crime Branch already registering four FIRs and preparing to add another based on fresh victim statements. Officials have so far documented statements from two victims, while testimonies from at least



three more individuals — reportedly siblings — are currently being recorded. This development संकेत that the case could expand further as more

accounts come to light. According to sources, Naik is accused of deceiving multiple women by promising marriage and then exploiting them after gaining their trust. An officer involved in the probe said that statements from five victims have been confirmed so far, and a fifth FIR is expected to be filed shortly, possibly within the next day. Investigators are also

considering presenting the victims before a magistrate to formally record their statements, a move aimed at strengthening the case. Statements from members of the accused's family may also be taken as part of the ongoing inquiry. In a related development, the Children's Court on Friday extended the 20-year-old accused's police custody by an additional four days.

Goa Cracks Down on Loose Fuel Sales; Rumours Trigger Panic Buying

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a bid to tackle hoarding and ensure public safety, Goa authorities have banned the sale of petrol and diesel in loose quantities at fuel stations. District Collectors on Friday directed that fuel be dispensed strictly into vehicle tanks, prohibiting filling in cans, bottles, or any containers brought by customers. Petrol pump dealers across the state have been instructed to adhere to the order and follow all prescribed safety norms. Officials cautioned that any breach would invite stringent action under various laws, including the Essential



Commodities Act, the Petroleum Act and Rules, and relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Penalties may include prosecution as well as suspension or cancellation of licences. To ensure compliance, Superintendents of Police, local police stations, and Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been tasked with carrying out surprise inspections.

Hunger Strike Extended Over Margao Garden Project; Chirag Naik Alleges Public Misled

■ Youth Congress extends support; claims project involves demolition and new two-storey building costing ₹3.96 crore

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Congress leader Chirag Naik has decided to extend his ongoing hunger strike opposing the proposed project at the Margao Municipal Garden, alleging that authorities are attempting to push it



forward through different means while misleading

the public about its nature. Speaking to the media, Naik strongly condemned statements made by the chairperson during a recent press conference, accusing him of misleading the public. He claimed that while the project was described as a "renovation," official

documents clearly mention demolition of the existing structure and construction of a two-storey building under GSIDC at an estimated cost of ₹3.96 crore. Naik alleged that the information shared by the chairperson was false and intended to misguide people.

Goa Sets Up Single-Window System to Fast-Track PNG and Utility Projects

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a move aimed at speeding up piped natural gas (PNG) rollout and streamlining

infrastructure works, the Goa government has established a high-level Coordination Committee and appointed the Public Works Department (PWD)

as the sole authority for granting road-cutting permissions. The decision follows directions from the Centre to accelerate approvals for PNG



projects and is expected to ease delays that have affected the ongoing 16-km gas pipeline expansion in Tiswadi and Ponda.

Hydroponic Cannabis Worth ₹8.34 Crore Seized At Mopa Airport; 5 Passengers Arrested

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of Goa Customs at Manohar International Airport, Mopa, seized 23.832 kilograms of hydroponic cannabis valued at around ₹8.34 crore in the illicit market and arrested five passengers in connection with the case. According to officials, two of the passengers had arrived from Bangkok via Muscat, while another had travelled from Abu Dhabi



via Muscat.

They were intercepted after landing at the airport on March 25, 2026, based on passenger profiling. During a detailed examination of their checked-in baggage, AIU officers discovered the contraband concealed inside food packets. The recovered substance

was tested using an NDPS field testing kit and confirmed to be narcotic drugs. The entire quantity of 23.832 kg hydroponic cannabis was seized and all five passengers were taken into custody under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

Taxi Drivers Booked For Wrongfully Restraining Rival Cab Outside Varca Resort

Team Goemkarponn

COLVA: Colva Police have registered a case against a taxi driver and two unidentified accomplices for allegedly wrongfully restraining another taxi and its passengers outside a resort in Varca. According to police, complainant Mohamad Isaik Emam Hussien, a resident of Bhagbhat, Raia, reported that the incident occurred on March 26 at around 11 am outside Club



Mahindra, Varca. The accused, identified as Anthony along with two other taxi drivers from Varca, allegedly acted with common intention to block the complainant's taxi.

Police said the complainant was

transporting five guests in his vehicle when the accused allegedly restrained the taxi, objecting to the guests choosing another tourist taxi instead of theirs. Based on the complaint, Colva Police registered FIR No. 23/2026 under Section 126(2) read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Manju Vantamuri of Colva Police Station.



2 Injured After Rash Bike Hits Three Near Pernem Toll; Case Registered

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: Mopa Airport Police have registered a case against a 24-year-old motorcyclist from Maharashtra for allegedly riding rashly without a valid driving licence and hitting three persons near the new toll naka at Sakral, Torxem in Pernem. According to police, the incident occurred on March 23 at around 4.23 pm when the accused, Govind Rajendra Naik, a resident of Khalchiwadi, Kinale, Kavathani in Sindhudurg district, was riding a Yamaha FZ motorcycle bearing registration number MH-07-AR-1667.

He allegedly drove in a rash and negligent manner, endangering

human life, and rammed into three persons who were standing beside the road.

The victims were identified as Raju Dasharath Chavan (40) of Gogol, Margao; Amit Dasharath Chavan (31) of Paushi, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra; and Gautam Tari (40) of Chodana, Bicholim. Police said Raju Chavan and Amit Chavan sustained grievous injuries in the accident. Based on a complaint filed by Head Constable Tukaram Anant Chavan of Mopa Airport Police Station, a case has been registered under Sections 281, 125(a) and 125(b) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) along with Section 181 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Three Booked For Harassment, Obscene Remarks And Threats In Dabolim

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco Police have registered a case against three persons from Dabolim for allegedly harassing a woman, passing obscene remarks, seeking sexual favours and issuing threats to withdraw a police

complaint. According to police, the complainant, a resident of Dabolim, alleged that the accused — Riyaz Shaikh, Mehboob Shaikh and Prakash alias Pakay — subjected her to harassment and lewd comments

over a prolonged period from



January 1, 2024 till March 26, 2026 near Marine Resort in Dabolim. The complaint

further stated that on March 25, 2026 at around 5.15 pm, the accused allegedly insulted the complainant by making vulgar remarks and demanded sexual favours from her. The complainant also alleged that her mother was similarly targeted.

French Woman Held With Magic Mushrooms, Mushroom Chocolates Worth ₹25.15 Lakh In Siolim

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Anjuna Police arrested a 43-year-old French national after allegedly finding her in possession of magic mushrooms and mushroom-infused chocolates collectively valued at ₹25.15 lakh during a late-night narcotics raid in Siolim. Police said the raid was carried out on March 26 between 8.35 pm and 11.20 pm near the crematorium at Aradi,



Oxel, Siolim, Bardez, following specific and reliable information. The accused, identified as Gaelle Louise Daniele Pavillon, currently residing at Tropical Dreams, Gublo Waddo, Oxel, Siolim, was intercepted

during the operation. During the search, officers recovered 136 grams of brown and off-white dried magic mushrooms suspected to contain psilocybin, estimated to be worth ₹3.15 lakh. In addition, police seized 37 transparent packets containing dark brown "magic mushroom chocolates" suspected to contain psilocybin, weighing a total of 1.811 kg and valued at approximately ₹22 lakh. The contraband,

collectively valued at ₹25.15 lakh, was allegedly found inside a yellow Yamaha Fascino scooter bearing registration number GA-03-AU-6720, which was in the possession of the accused. Based on a complaint filed by LPSI Leesha Garudi on behalf of the State, Anjuna Police registered Crime No. 21/2026 under Section 22(c) of the NDPS Act. The accused was placed under arrest in the early hours of March 27.

Man Threatened With Knife, Car Damaged After Honking Incident Near Navelim

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police have registered a case after a motorist was allegedly wrongfully restrained, threatened with a knife and his car damaged following a road rage incident near

Navelim. According to police, complainant Roy Mascarenhas, a resident of Uttorda presently staying at Assolda, Quepem, was driving from Gudi towards Margao on March 25 at around 6.05 pm. During the journey, the accused, identified



as Anthony Rebello of Chinchinim, who was

riding an Activa scooter, allegedly followed the complainant from Gudi towards Shantinagar, Navelim. Police said that upon reaching near Praful Super Store, the accused allegedly blocked the complainant's car by placing his scooter

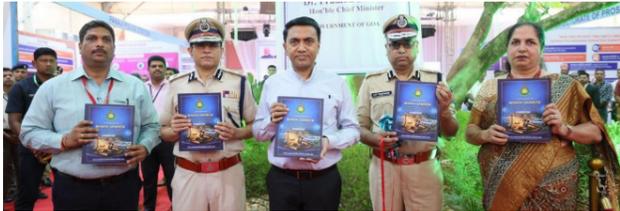
across the road, thereby wrongfully restraining him. He then allegedly abused the complainant in filthy language and threatened him with dire consequences while armed with a knife. The accused also allegedly damaged the

complainant's vehicle by breaking the rear side glass and front windshield, causing an estimated loss of ₹1 lakh. The incident reportedly occurred after the complainant had blown the horn while attempting to overtake the accused.

India Has Moved From Colonial Laws To A Modern, Citizen-Centric Justice System: CM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said India has transitioned from colonial-era laws to a modern, citizen-centric justice system, highlighting Goa's leading role in implementing the new criminal laws. He was speaking at the Nyay Sanhita Exhibition which commenced on March 26 at Kala Academy. The three-day State-level exhibition



showcases Goa's progress in implementing the new criminal laws and strengthening the justice delivery system. It aims to create awareness among the public, especially students and youth, by presenting complex legal processes in a simple

and accessible manner. The exhibition provides a comprehensive overview of the criminal justice process, from crime scene investigation to courtroom proceedings, while highlighting the State's focus on modern, efficient and citizen-

centric governance. Interactive displays explain the functioning of various departments including Police, Fire Services, Prosecution, Forensic Science and Judiciary, demonstrating strong inter-departmental coordination. It also highlights advancements in forensic infrastructure, modern policing systems and digital integration, along with career opportunities in policing and forensic science.



Tribal Sub Plan Review Meeting Held For South Goa And Kushavati District

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A review meeting of the District Level Planning and Monitoring Committee for South Goa and Kushavati District was held under the Tribal Sub Plan to assess the progress of various schemes and deliberate on fund allocation and expenditure. The meeting was chaired by Additional Collector-II, South Goa and Head of Kushavati District, Ramesh Gaonkar.

Officials from departments including Tribal Welfare, Agriculture, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Electricity, Forest, Health Services, Labour and

Employment, Panchayats, Public Works Department (PWD), Science and Technology and Social Welfare attended the meeting. During the session, all line departments presented updates on the implementation status of their respective schemes.

Detailed discussions were held on financial allocations and utilization of funds under the Tribal Sub Plan. The chair directed officials to improve inter-departmental coordination, enhance efficiency and ensure effective implementation of schemes aimed at benefiting targeted tribal communities.

NGT Compliance Meeting Reviews Solid Waste Management In South Goa, Kushavati

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A review meeting in compliance with National Green Tribunal (NGT) directives was chaired by Additional Collector-II, South Goa and Head of Kushavati District, Ramesh Gaonkar, in the presence of Deputy Collector,



South-II and Head of Kushavati District, Prajeet Chodankar,

to evaluate the status and challenges of solid waste management in Panchayat and Municipal areas. Officials from various departments including BDOs, Municipal Councils, Health Department, Public Works Department (PWD) and Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB)

attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed waste management infrastructure such as garbage sites and Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). While some facilities are operational, gaps remain in achieving full door-to-door waste collection across Panchayats.

MGP-BJP Alliance Confident Of Majority Win In Ponda By-Election

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Leaders of the BJP-MGP alliance expressed confidence of securing a clear majority in the upcoming Ponda by-election, stating that joint campaigning by workers of both parties is gaining momentum across the constituency. BJP Goa President Damu Naik said party cadres from the BJP and MGP are actively reaching out to voters and strengthening grassroots support, adding that the alliance is well-positioned for victory. Senior MGP leader and Minister Sudin Dhavalikar urged workers of both parties to adhere to alliance "dharma" and work in coordination to reinforce unity. He also clarified that he stands with loyal MGP workers and emphasized collective efforts to secure success in the by-election. BJP candidate Ritesh Ravi Naik expressed confidence of winning



with a strong margin, stating that the campaign is in full swing with joint teams from both parties reaching voters across the constituency. MLA Govind Gaude said the contributions of late Ravi Naik will be remembered and noted that the coming days are crucial for ensuring victory. He appealed to workers to function as a united team, intensify outreach efforts and ensure maximum voter turnout on April 9 to secure a decisive mandate.

Shree Ram Navami held at Partagali Jeevottam Math

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Shree Ram Navami was observed with great devotion at Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math, Partagali, on Friday. The rituals began as early as 1:00 am with the conduct



of Shree Maharasthotsav and Agniholla Samarpan to Narayan Bhoot. The day's celebrations commenced in the afternoon at around 1:40

pm, when HH Shrimad Vidhyadheesh Teerth Swami, also referred to as Shri Vidhyadhish Teerth Swamiji, ceremonially broke a coconut at the wheel of the Rath to mark the beginning of the Ram Janmahotsav celebrations.

Re-scheduled demolitions of CRZ violation structures called off at Agonda

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The re-scheduled demolition of remaining illegal structures, part of 33 tourism-related constructions found in violation of CRZ regulations at Agonda shore, was called off on Friday after the police squad failed to arrive at the site. GCZMA representative Rounak Desai arrived to identify the alleged illegal structures, followed



by the demolition team comprising PWD workers, a JCB, gas cutter with operator, and other necessary equipment. To maintain law and order, Canacona Mamlatdar Gajesh Shirodkar and

Joint Mamlatdar Gayatri Desai, along with their staff, also reached the site and awaited the arrival of the police force to begin the demolition process. Meanwhile, a restaurant listed for demolition but left untouched on Wednesday was being dismantled by the owner using private workers. On Wednesday, the demolition squad had instead levelled land of an already demolished illegal structure in the same vicinity.



Over 20,000 Blood Units Collected In 2025; GMC Strengthens Patient Care Systems: Rane

Team Goemkarponn

BAMBOLIM: More than 20,000 units of blood were collected through 322 donation camps in 2025, significantly strengthening emergency and routine patient care across Goa, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said while highlighting system upgrades at Goa Medical College (GMC). According to the minister, a total of 20,362 units of blood were collected and processed into components to support patients at GMC, district hospitals and private healthcare facilities across the state.

Manipal Hospital Goa Launches First-of-its-Kind Pulmonary Embolism Response Team

■ Advanced AI-enabled thrombectomy systems introduced; landmark clot removal cases successfully performed.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Manipal Hospital Goa on March 28 launched the region's first Pulmonary Embolism Response Team (PERT), a multidisciplinary initiative aimed at enabling rapid diagnosis and immediate treatment of pulmonary embolism (PE), a leading cause of sudden and preventable deaths. The programme was formally inaugurated by distinguished medical experts including Dr. Charudutt Jayant Sambhaji, Consultant Endovascular Surgery and Interventional Radiology; Dr. Rakesh Deshmane, Consultant CTVS; Dr. Elaine Rodrigues, Consultant Critical Care & Anaesthesiology; Dr. John Muchahary, Consultant Interventional Pulmonology; Dr. Dalia Dipchand Bhandare, Consultant Anaesthesiology; Dr. Mahadeva Swamy B C, Consultant Hemato-Oncology and BMT; and Dr. Shekhar Salkar, Senior Consultant Surgical Oncology. The launch marked a new step in emergency cardiac and pulmonary care in the



region. The PERT model brings together specialists from interventional radiology, pulmonary medicine, critical care, emergency medicine, cardiothoracic surgery and hematology, ensuring real-time, coordinated decision-making in high-risk emergencies.

A key highlight of the initiative is the integration of AI-enabled thrombectomy systems — Penumbra Lightning FLASH and Lightning Bolt — allowing faster and minimally invasive clot removal.

The launch follows the hospital's recent success in managing complex thromboembolic conditions through advanced mechanical thrombectomy procedures. In a major clinical milestone, the hospital performed Western India's first Pulmonary Artery Mechanical Thrombectomy and the second in the country in a young patient with acute-on-chronic pulmonary embolism. In another

complex case, the team successfully carried out a Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) thrombectomy in an elderly patient with advanced malignancy.

Both minimally invasive procedures were performed in the Cath Lab using the Penumbra Lightning Bolt 12 modulated aspiration system, enabling rapid catheter-based clot removal and immediate clinical stabilisation.

Doctors said the elderly patient had a massive iliofemoral clot burden blocking critical venous pathways. Through mechanical thrombectomy, the clot was physically removed, restoring venous outflow and reducing the risk of further complications. In the second case, the young patient with acute-on-chronic pulmonary embolism had new clots forming over existing clots in the pulmonary arteries, severely affecting blood flow and straining the heart. Pulmonary artery mechanical thrombectomy

helped achieve rapid clot removal, improving pulmonary circulation and ensuring prompt recovery. Dr. Charudutt Jayant Sambhaji, Lead of the PERT programme, said the cases highlight the expanding role of advanced mechanical thrombectomy in managing complex and high-risk thrombotic conditions.

He added that PERT ensures timely treatment and improves survival outcomes through coordinated care. Hospital Director Surendra Prasad said the procedures reflect the team's clinical expertise and commitment to offering advanced, life-saving therapies to patients across Goa and neighbouring regions.

The hospital also acknowledged the coordinated efforts of the Cath Lab team, ICU staff and supporting personnel in the success of the procedures. With the launch of PERT, Manipal Hospital Goa aims to strengthen emergency and vascular care in the state by delivering timely, technology-driven interventions for life-threatening conditions.



Centre To Review Fuel Duty Every 15 Days After Excise Cut On Petrol, Diesel

■ Government says move aims to manage global oil price surge amid West Asia tensions

New Delhi: The Government of India has announced that fuel duty rates will be reviewed every 15 days after reducing the special additional excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre each.

Following the revision, the total central excise duty now stands at Rs 11.9 per litre for petrol and Rs 7.8 per litre for diesel. Officials clarified that the duty reduction will not immediately affect retail fuel prices.

Vivek Chaturvedi said the move is intended to offset losses faced by oil marketing companies due to rising crude oil prices and disruptions in global supply.

The surge in crude prices has been triggered by escalating tensions in West Asia following the conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States. The situation has significantly affected global energy markets.

The conflict, which began on February 28 with strikes targeting Tehran and later expanded to energy infrastructure across the region, also led to a blockade in the strategic

Strait of Hormuz. The disruption caused a sharp rise in global oil prices, with Brent Crude climbing from around 68 dollars per barrel before the conflict to above 100 dollars in early March. Prices later rose further to about 110 dollars per barrel.

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical supply route for India, as roughly 40 to 50 per cent of the country's crude oil imports pass through the corridor. India also receives a significant share of its liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas shipments through the same route, including supplies from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Despite concerns over possible shortages, officials have reassured the public that supplies remain stable. According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India currently holds around 60 days of crude oil stock and about 30 days of LPG reserves.

Authorities have also moved to diversify import sources and ensure uninterrupted supply while refineries continue operating at high capacity to meet domestic demand.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Man Arrested for Exposing Himself to Minors at Margao Store

A male suspect approached her children, aged 7 and 5, who were waiting in the ground floor passage, and suddenly pulled down his trousers to intentionally expose himself before fleeing the premises. Following the report, Fatorda Police initiated an immediate search for the accused. On the night of March 27, 2026, at approximately 9:41 PM, police successfully apprehended Tiburcio Monteiro, son of the late Joao Alberto Eusibio Monteiro, a resident of Tariwada Orgao, Ponda. The accused has since been booked under Fatorda PS

Crime No. 12/2026. The legal proceedings involve several serious charges, including Section 296(a) and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 for obscene acts and outraging modesty, as well as Section 8(2) of the Goa Children's Act. Additionally, he faces charges under Section 11(ii) read with Section 12 of the POCSO Act, 2012, which specifically addresses sexual harassment through the exhibition of private parts to minors. The police are continuing their investigation into the matter to ensure a robust case for the upcoming trial.

Elon Musk Joined Modi-Trump Call During Iran War Discussions: Report

direct interaction between the two leaders since military strikes involving Israel and the United States targeted Iran on February 28, escalating tensions in West Asia. The conversation focused on the evolving regional situation and its wider global implications. According to officials cited in the report, Musk joined the discussion between the two leaders, an uncommon development given that conversations between heads of government during periods of conflict typically remain limited to official representatives. It remains unclear why

Musk was included in the exchange or whether he actively participated in the conversation. The White House later described the discussion between Trump and Modi as constructive and emphasized the strong relationship between the two leaders. Officials indicated that the call addressed concerns related to regional stability and ongoing developments linked to the conflict. During the conversation, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the importance of maintaining open and secure maritime routes in the region, particularly the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

India Signs Rs 858 Crore Defence Deals For Missiles And Navy Aircraft Support

to strengthen India's multi-layered air defence network by providing protection against a range of aerial threats, including aircraft, drones and cruise missiles. The procurement is also expected to reinforce the strategic defence partnership between

India and Russia. In a separate agreement worth Rs 413 crore, the defence ministry signed a contract with Boeing India Defence Private Limited for the maintenance of the Indian Navy's long range maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

Work As 'Team India', Ensure Supplies: PM Modi Tells States Amid Gulf Crisis

■ Prime Minister reviews preparedness with Chief Ministers, stresses supply chain stability and energy security.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual meeting with Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors of states and union territories to review India's preparedness in light of the ongoing tensions in the Middle East and their potential impact on the country. The meeting focused on assessing possible disruptions to supply chains, energy availability and essential commodities



as the conflict in the region continues to evolve. The Prime Minister stressed the need for coordinated efforts between the Centre and the states to effectively manage any emerging challenges.

Highlighting the

importance of collective action, Modi urged states to function as "Team India" and expressed confidence that the country could successfully navigate the situation through cooperation and preparedness. He recalled how the Centre

and state governments had worked closely during the COVID-19 crisis to manage supply chains and maintain essential services. The Prime Minister noted that the situation in the Middle East remains dynamic and requires constant monitoring. He said an inter ministerial group has been reviewing developments daily and taking timely decisions to address any concerns.



Adani Ports Launches India's First Port Of Refuge For Ships In Distress

■ New maritime safety framework set up with global partners to handle emergencies and protect coastal environment.

New Delhi: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited has operationalised India's first Port of Refuge, creating a dedicated system to support vessels facing maritime emergencies and improving the country's coastal safety infrastructure. The initiative introduces a structured framework that allows ships in distress to seek shelter at designated locations where conditions can be stabilised while protecting human life, cargo and the environment. A Port of Refuge is defined by the International Maritime Organization as a safe location where damaged

or troubled vessels can receive assistance and prevent further risk at sea. The project has been launched through a tripartite memorandum of understanding between Adani Ports, SMIT Salvage and the Maritime Emergency Response Centre. The collaboration is aimed at bringing international expertise and coordinated emergency response capabilities to India's shipping network. Two ports have been designated as Port of Refuge locations. Dighi Port on the west coast will support maritime traffic moving through the Arabian Sea and routes toward the Persian Gulf.

Clashes During Ram Navami Processions Spark Tension In Murshidabad

■ Stone pelting, arson and vandalism reported as security tightened in parts of the district ahead of state elections

New Delhi: Tension prevailed in parts of Murshidabad on Friday after clashes broke out during Ram Navami processions, with incidents of stone pelting, vandalism and arson reported from several locations. Police



said the violence was reported from areas

including Jangipur and Raghunathganj, where security forces have been deployed in large numbers to prevent further escalation. Officials stated that no arrests had been made at the time of the report. According to police, the situation

turned volatile when an altercation during a procession escalated into clashes between two groups. Participants in a large procession were heading towards Mackenzie Park when the first signs of trouble emerged.



KP Sharma Oli Taken Into Custody Over Last Year's Deadly Protests In Nepal

■ Detention comes a day after Balendra Shah takes oath as Nepal's new Prime Minister.

New Delhi: Former KP Sharma Oli has been arrested in connection with last year's deadly youth protests in Nepal, a development that comes just a day after Balendra Shah was sworn in as the country's new prime minister.

Police detained Oli from his residence in Gundu in Bhaktapur district as part of an investigation into the violent crackdown during

the anti corruption demonstrations led largely by young protesters. Authorities also took into custody former Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak in connection with the same case. Officials confirmed that both leaders were arrested as part of legal proceedings related to allegations of negligence and culpable homicide linked to the suppression of the protests.

Election Commission Publishes Second Supplementary Voter List In West Bengal

■ Updated electoral roll released ahead of assembly polls as booth wise data goes online.

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India has released the second supplementary electoral roll list in West Bengal as part of the ongoing revision of voter records ahead of the upcoming assembly elections.

According to officials,



the updated list was published late on Friday

night and made available booth wise on the Election Commission's official website.

However, authorities did not disclose details regarding the total number of inclusions or deletions in the latest list. An official from the

commission confirmed that the second list had been uploaded but declined to provide further details. Some sections of the website that contain data on additions and deletions were reportedly inaccessible due to technical issues.

Avalanche At Zojila Pass Kills Seven, Traps Vehicles On Srinagar Leh Highway

New Delhi: At least seven people lost their lives and five others were injured after a massive avalanche struck the Srinagar-Leh Highway on Friday, trapping several passenger vehicles under heavy snow and debris. The avalanche occurred on the Zojila Pass on the

Ladakh side of the route. Following the incident, traffic on the highway was completely halted as rescue teams rushed to the spot to assist victims and clear the blocked road. Authorities immediately launched large scale rescue and clearance operations.

Teams from the Border Roads Organisation along with local police personnel began removing snow and debris while searching for any additional victims who might still be trapped. The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh said the situation was being closely monitored and



directed district authorities and senior police officials from Kargil to reach the site without delay and coordinate relief efforts. Disaster response teams and other government agencies were also placed on high alert to manage the emergency.

AB de Villiers Warns Mumbai Indians Against Complacency Over Key Bowler

■ Former RCB star cautions MI about relying too heavily on Trent Boult ahead of IPL 2026 campaign

New Delhi: Five time champions Mumbai Indians are preparing to begin their campaign in the Indian Premier League 2026 season, but former South African great AB de Villiers has warned the team about developing a false sense of security around one of their key bowlers. Mumbai Indians last lifted the IPL trophy in 2020. Since that triumph, the franchise has struggled to return to the



final despite possessing a strong squad. During this period the team also went through a major leadership change, with Hardik Pandya taking over captaincy

duties from long time skipper Rohit Sharma. The side continues to boast a powerful batting lineup capable of turning matches single handedly. Rohit Sharma is expected

to open alongside either Quinton de Kock or Ryan Rickelton. The middle order features dynamic players such as Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Will Jacks and Hardik Pandya, while uncapped batter Naman Dhir has impressed with his aggressive hitting in recent seasons. Mumbai's bowling attack also appears formidable on paper, led by premier fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah.



Virat Kohli 'At His Best' As RCB Begin IPL 2026 Title Defence

■ Royal Challengers Bengaluru focus on fresh start ahead of season opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

New Delhi: Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru will begin their title defence in the Indian Premier League 2026 season with a home clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday. Despite entering the tournament as defending champions, head coach Andy Flower stressed that the team is approaching the new campaign with a fresh mindset rather than relying on last year's success. According to him, every season brings different challenges as

teams evolve and squads change. A major positive for the Bengaluru side ahead of the season is the form and mindset of senior batter Virat Kohli. The experienced opener has looked sharp during training sessions, with the coaching staff expressing confidence that he is in excellent physical and mental condition heading into the tournament. Kohli's performance is expected to play a key role in the team's batting plans, especially at the high scoring Chinnaswamy Stadium where strong starts often shape match outcomes.

Two Time Olympic Medallist Gurjant Singh Retires From International Hockey

■ Indian forward ends decade long career after 130 caps and key role in Olympic medal wins.

New Delhi: Gurjant Singh has announced his retirement from international hockey, bringing an end to a distinguished career with the India men's national field hockey team. The 31 year old striker made the announcement during



the Hockey India Annual Awards held in New Delhi.

Gurjant concludes his international journey with 130 appearances and 33 goals for India, playing an important role in the team's resurgence on the global stage over the past decade. Born on January 26, 1995 in Khailara near Amritsar, Gurjant rose

quickly through the junior ranks with his speed and attacking instinct. One of the early highlights of his career came during the 2016 Men's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup in Lucknow, where he scored in the final to help India secure the title.

Siddharth Nunes Storms Into Semi Finals At Bandedkar Panjim Gymkhana Tennis Open

■ Strong performances across categories as players advance in the 2026 tournament in Panaji

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Competitive matches marked another day of action at the Bandedkar Panjim Gymkhana Tennis Open 2026 as several players secured places in the semi finals across multiple categories. In the men's open singles quarter finals, Siddharth Nunes produced a dominant performance to defeat Punit Fante 6-0 and move into the last four. Akhil Shirwaikar also advanced after registering a convincing 6-2 victory against Cherian Joseph. Rushil Anikar progressed



comfortably with a 6-1 win over Santosh. The mixed open doubles category saw two pairs booking their semi final spots with impressive victories.

Sapnish Satarkar's Fifty Guides Don Bosco To Win As Damodar College Register Big Victory

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The 17th day of the Goa University Inter Collegiate Cricket Championship 2025-26 witnessed two matches with Don Bosco College, Panaji and Shree Damodar College of Commerce and Economics, Margao



registering convincing victories. In the first match, Don Bosco College Panaji defeated Padre Conceicao College of Engineering

Verna by five wickets in a well controlled chase. After winning the toss, Don Bosco opted to bowl first and restricted the

Verna side to 112 for 9 in their 20 overs. Drish Narvekar top scored with 27 runs while Namish Shirodkar added 21. For Don Bosco, Sankalp Prabhu delivered an impressive spell claiming two wickets for 13 runs, while Ajay Raj also picked up two wickets conceding just 15 runs.

"I Have Most Runs In IPL For 3-4 Seasons": Shubman Gill Responds To Critics

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: 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.