



No Development Within 200m of Bondvoll Lake Until Fresh Demarcation: TCP Board

■ Santa Cruz residents hail decision as victory for lake protection

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a significant development for residents of Santa Cruz, the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Board has resolved that no development permissions or technical clearances will be granted within 200 metres of Bondvoll Lake until the Wetland Authority re-demarcates the buffer zone and defines the zone of influence. The decision



was taken during the 228th meeting of the TCP Board, effectively placing

a temporary restriction on construction activity around the lake pending

fresh delineation by the concerned authority. Welcoming the move, Inacio Domic Pereira termed the decision a "victory for the people of Santa Cruz." He expressed gratitude to parish priest Fr Richard Pinheiro and residents who supported the campaign to safeguard the lake. Pereira stated that the collective effort of locals played a crucial role

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India's First Fully Digital Census Begins in Goa from April 1

■ Self-enumeration opens till April 15; Konkani included for the first time in data collection

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa will mark the beginning of India's first completely digital census on April 1, with the launch of the self-enumeration phase for houselisting. For the first time, residents will be able to submit their household details online through a dedicated portal, accessible via mobile devices as well. The self-enumeration window will remain open until April 15. Following this, officials will conduct a field verification exercise from April 16 to May 15 as part of the first phase, which focuses on houselisting and housing data collection. Director of Census Operations,

IAS officer Cheshta Yadav, announced that the census process in Goa will unfold in two stages. While the initial phase begins this April, the second phase—covering population enumeration—will take place nationwide between February 9 and February 28, 2027. This census will be conducted using the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS), making Census 2027 a first-of-its-kind digital initiative in the country. According to officials, the exercise will include 33 questions, with approximately 3,086 enumerators assigned across the state to carry out the process efficiently.

Goa advances PNG transition to enhance reliability for tourism sector

■ High-level stakeholder meeting addresses LPG shortages, pushes hospitality industry to shift to piped natural gas.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In response to ongoing challenges affecting the hospitality sector, the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa convened a high-level stakeholder meeting to address commercial LPG supply



disruptions and accelerate the transition to Piped Natural Gas (PNG). The

meeting was chaired by Sandip Jacques, Commissioner-cum-

Secretary, Department of Tourism, along with Sanjiv Gadkar, Secretary, Civil Supplies, and attended by officials from the Tourism Department. It brought together key stakeholders from oil and gas companies, PNG providers, and

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"Eight Devotees Killed In Stampede At Sheetla Temple": Tragedy Strikes Religious Gathering In Bihar

■ Massive crowd on the last Tuesday of Chaitra month triggers panic at Nalanda temple, leaving several injured.

New Delhi: At least eight devotees lost their lives and several others were injured after a stampede broke out at the Sheetla Mata Mandir on Tuesday morning. The tragic incident occurred in Maghra village of Nalanda district as a large number of worshippers gathered

at the temple to offer prayers. Authorities said the temple witnessed an unusually heavy rush because it was the last Tuesday of the Chaitra month, a day considered significant by many devotees. As the crowd continued to swell inside

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No Youth Should Remain Unemployed, Says CM Sawant; Promotes Skill Training Under DDU-GKY

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant today said the government is working to ensure that no young person remains unemployed, highlighting skill development initiatives being implemented under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya



Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY). He stated that the programme

encourages youth to pursue professional training instead of waiting

solely for government employment, enabling them to explore diverse career opportunities across sectors. Sawant pointed out that training is available in multiple fields, including home nursing, housekeeping for the tourism industry, and various roles in the IT sector.

"Willing To End Iran War Even If Strait Of Hormuz Stays Closed": Trump's Reported Strategy

■ US President prioritises limiting Iran's military capabilities while leaving the reopening of the crucial oil route for later diplomatic efforts

New Delhi: US President Donald Trump is reportedly open to ending the ongoing military operation against Iran even if the vital Strait of Hormuz remains largely



closed to shipping. According to reports,

Trump conveyed to his advisers that reopening the strategic chokepoint would involve a complicated and extended military mission that could push the conflict beyond

the four to six week timeline he had envisioned for the operation. As a result, the administration is believed to be focusing first on weakening Iran's

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Mirabag's 49 Days: A People's Stand That Forced Power to Bend

When the agitation at Mirabag was finally called off after 49 days, following the Chief Minister's assurance that the project would be scrapped, it was quickly framed as a victory. And in many ways, it is. But to stop there would be to miss the deeper story. This was not just a win. It was a moment that exposed how power responds only when pressure becomes impossible to ignore.

For nearly seven weeks, residents held their ground. This was not symbolic resistance. It was sustained, visible and determined. In a state where protests often fade within days, Mirabag stood out because people refused to step back.

They questioned, organised and persisted. That persistence is what ultimately forced a response. But the timing of that response raises uncomfortable questions. If the concerns of the people were valid, and they clearly were, why did it take 49 days for the government to concede? The facts did not suddenly change in the final week.

The environmental worries, the local opposition and the demand for accountability were present from the beginning. Yet, the assurance came only after the agitation gathered momentum and began to carry political consequences. This is where the narrative shifts. Ponda is not just any constituency. It is politically significant, and developments here are closely watched. With electoral calculations always in play, whether immediate or on the horizon, a prolonged agitation in such a region becomes more than a local issue. It becomes a political risk. Ignoring it can come at a cost. Seen in that light, the Chief Minister's assurance appears less like



If the concerns of the people were valid, and they clearly were, why did it take 49 days for the government to concede? The facts did not suddenly change in the final week. The environmental worries, the local opposition and the demand for accountability were present from the beginning. Yet, the assurance came only after the agitation gathered momentum and began to carry political consequences.

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a sudden realisation and more like a response shaped by compulsion. Elections have a way of sharpening political sensitivity. What may be ignored at one time becomes urgent at another.

This does not take away from the people's role. In fact, it strengthens it.

Because what Mirabag demonstrates is that public pressure works, but only when it is sustained. The protestors did not settle for vague promises.

They pushed for clarity. Even after the assurance, there is caution. Residents have made it clear that they

will wait for formal action, not just words.

That scepticism is important. It reflects a growing awareness that, in governance, announcements are easy. Implementation is what matters. At the same time, the episode exposes a troubling pattern. Why must citizens protest for weeks to be heard? Why are decisions that affect local communities taken without meaningful consultation? And why does engagement happen only after resistance builds up?

This is not just about one project. It is about how governance functions. A system that listens early avoids confrontation. A system that listens late creates conflict. Mirabag falls into the latter category. It shows a government reacting rather than engaging, responding under pressure rather than through process. Calling it a victory for the people is justified.

But it is also, undeniably, a reminder of how difficult it is for ordinary citizens to be heard. Forty-nine days is not a small number. It represents time, effort, uncertainty and, often, personal cost. So whose win is it? It is the people's win because they refused to give up. But it is also a moment shaped by political timing. The assurance did not come in isolation. It came when ignoring the agitation was no longer an option.

That is both empowering and unsettling. Empowering because it shows that collective action can work. Unsettling because it suggests that without such pressure, decisions may simply move ahead unchecked.

Mirabag, in the end, is not just about stopping a project. It is about forcing a system to listen. And perhaps that is the bigger victory, even if it came 49 days late.

EDITOR'S SPEAK

Unchecked Thrill: Goa's Watersports Boom Is Playing With Lives

By Suraj Nandrekar

The image of a tourist soaring above the sea, harnessed to a parachute, is often sold as the perfect Goa postcard. Blue water, clear skies, and a promise of adrenaline. But beneath that glossy surface lies a question that refuses to go away: how safe are these watersports activities, really? Every season, thousands of tourists sign up for parasailing, jet skiing, banana boat rides and more, trusting that the systems in place are robust. That trust may be misplaced. Watersports, by their very nature, carry risk. Equipment failure, sudden weather changes, human error, or poor maintenance can turn a routine ride into a life-threatening situation in seconds. A snapped cable, an engine failure, or an untrained handler is all it takes. Unlike controlled amusement parks, these activities take place in an unpredictable natural environment. The sea does not forgive mistakes. The problem is not that risk exists. The problem is how casually it is managed. In Goa, the watersports sector has grown rapidly, driven by demand and competition. Beaches are lined with operators offering similar experiences, often at competitive prices. In such an environment, safety can quietly become secondary. Equipment maintenance costs money. Skilled staff demand higher wages. Regular inspections require discipline. When margins are tight, corners are easily cut. This raises a fundamental concern. Who is checking these operators? On paper, there are rules. Licences are issued. Guidelines exist. There are agencies tasked with oversight. But on the ground, enforcement appears inconsistent. Inspections are not always visible. Accountability is often reactive rather than preventive. It tends to intensify after an accident, then fades as public attention shifts. That is not how high-risk activities should be regulated.

There is also the question of expertise. Watersports safety is not a casual matter. It requires trained personnel who understand equipment, weather patterns, emergency response and risk assessment. It demands technical knowledge and constant vigilance. Do all operators on Goa's beaches meet that standard? It is difficult to say with confidence. For tourists, the situation is even more opaque. Most do not know how to assess whether an operator is certified, whether equipment has been recently checked, or whether staff are properly trained. Life jackets and quick instructions are often taken as sufficient reassurance.

They are not. The absence of visible, credible certification creates a dangerous illusion of safety. Globally, adventure tourism thrives on strict systems. Equipment is routinely audited. Operators are certified through rigorous processes. Weather conditions are closely monitored. Violations invite heavy penalties. Most importantly, safety is treated as non-negotiable. Goa, despite its popularity, does not always project that level of discipline. This is not an argument against watersports. These activities are an important part of the tourism economy and offer memorable experiences when conducted safely. But the current approach raises uncomfortable questions. If something goes wrong mid-air or mid-sea, there is little room for correction.

The margin for error is thin, and the consequences are severe. What is needed is not just regulation, but visible regulation. Regular checks that people can see. Clear certification that tourists can trust. Strict penalties that operators cannot ignore. And a system that prioritises prevention over post-incident action. Until then, every ride carries an unspoken gamble. Goa's watersports industry sells excitement. It must now prove that it can also guarantee safety.

Mirabag Protest Ends After 49 Days as CM Assures Bandhara Project Will Be Dropped

■ Sawant promises to close project file; agitators call off stir after breakthrough meeting.

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The 49-day-long agitation at Mirabag was called off on Monday evening after Chief Minister Pramod Sawant assured protest leaders that the bandhara project would not be pursued and that the file would be formally closed. The decision followed a crucial meeting at the government rest



house in Margao, where Sawant, along with Social Welfare Minister Subhash Faldessai and Goa Assembly Speaker and Sanvordem MLA Ganesh Gaonkar, held discussions with a

delegation of protest leaders. The delegation included former Deputy Chief Minister Deepak Pauskar and other representatives of the agitation. Addressing the media after the meeting,

Sawant reiterated the government's stand against moving forward with the project. He said he would officially record his remarks on the file and ensure its closure, reaffirming assurances he had earlier given to the public. Following the announcement, leaders of the agitation expressed satisfaction and confirmed that the protest would be withdrawn.

CM Indicates Relief for Four Booked During Assembly Protest

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: In a significant development linked to the Mirabag agitation, protest leader Upendra Naik stated that the Chief Minister has indicated a positive response towards withdrawing cases filed against four protestors.

The cases were registered against the individuals for carrying placards and staging a protest inside the Goa Legislative Assembly



premises during the agitation.

The demand for withdrawal of these cases was one of the key points raised by the protestors as part of their charter of demands.

Fifth FIR Filed in Curchorem Scandal Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Crime Branch has registered a fifth FIR in connection with the Curchorem obscene videos case, naming a 20-year-old man from Cacora for alleged rape of a 19-year-old woman. According to sources, the alleged incident took place in 2025. The accused is also suspected to have recorded the act on a mobile phone and circulated the video. Based on the complaint, police have invoked Section 69 of the



Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) along with Section 67 of the Information Technology Act. Officials indicated that additional FIRs may be filed as the investigation progresses. The accused was earlier arrested on March 23 by Curchorem police in connection with three FIRs already registered in the case. Further probe is underway.

GHRC Issues Notices Over Suspected Water Contamination at Dabolim Complex

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) has issued notices to government departments and a private developer following a suspected water contamination incident at a residential complex in Dabolim that reportedly affected over 150 residents. Notices have been sent to the Chief Executive Engineer of the Drinking Water Department, the Assistant Engineer of the Water



Resources Department, and M/s Prabhu Realtor, the builder of Prabhu's Violetta Complex in Alto-Chicalim. The Commission has scheduled a hearing in the matter on April 10 at 10:30 am. The action follows a complaint by residents of the nearly

200-flat complex, where a large number of people reported diarrhoea cases last week, sparking fears of contaminated water supply. Residents also approached the police, alleging that untreated sewage was being discharged within the premises, creating serious

health risks. In response, authorities collected water samples from several locations, including individual flats, the underground water storage supplying households, the swimming pool, and treated wastewater lines used for gardening. The Goa State Pollution Control Board also carried out an independent inspection and sampling to determine the source and extent of the contamination. Further proceedings are awaited as investigations continue.

High Court Grants Final Deadline to Panchayats in Commercial Licence Probe

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has given a last extension to village panchayats that have not yet submitted sworn affidavits detailing permissions granted to commercial establishments, setting April 7 as the new deadline. The direction came during the hearing of a suo motu public interest litigation initiated after the deadly fire at the "Birch by Romeo Lane" outlet in Arpora on December 6, 2025, which resulted in 25 fatalities. The court has since expanded the scope of the case to examine



broader issues related to licensing and construction approvals. A Division Bench comprising Justice Valmiki Menezes and Justice Amit Jamsandekar noted earlier that while some panchayats had complied, several had failed to file the required affidavits. The court had then termed the extension

as a final opportunity. At the latest hearing, the Bench observed continued non-compliance by certain panchayats and granted one final extension, scheduling the next hearing for April 8. Panchayat secretaries have been instructed to submit detailed affidavits outlining permissions such as construction approvals, trade licences, and occupancy certificates issued to commercial entities, as part of a wider review process. In earlier proceedings, another Bench had described the Arpora fire incident as a serious violation of fundamental rights.

South Goa Collector Issues Heatwave Advisory, Urges Public to Take Precautions

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: With temperatures rising steadily across Goa, South Goa District Collector Eгна Cleetus has issued a public advisory urging citizens to take necessary precautions to stay safe during the ongoing heatwave. The Collector emphasized the importance of preventing heat-related illnesses and called on residents to remain alert to weather updates through television, radio, newspapers, or mobile applications. As part of the guidelines, people have



been encouraged to stay well-hydrated by drinking water frequently, even if they do not feel thirsty. Wearing light-coloured, loose cotton clothing and using protective items such as hats, umbrellas, and sunglasses while stepping outdoors has also been advised. Those travelling or working outside should carry water and take measures like covering their head

and neck with a damp cloth. The advisory also recommends consuming fluids such as ORS, coconut water, buttermilk, lemon water, and traditional drinks to maintain hydration levels. Residents are urged to keep their homes cool by using curtains or shades during the day and allowing ventilation at night. Taking cool baths and using fans can further help manage body temperature. Special attention has been drawn to vulnerable groups, including outdoor workers, pregnant women, and individuals with health conditions.

Knife Attack Over Old Enmity In Corgao; Three Arrested

Team Goemkarponn

CORGAO: Pernem police have arrested three persons for allegedly stabbing and assaulting a man and his cousin over previous enmity at Bhatwadi, Corgao, on Sunday afternoon. According to police, an offence was registered on March 29 at 9.29 pm vide Crime No. 14/2026 under Sections 352, 324(4), 115(2), 118(2) and 351(2) (3) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, based on a complaint filed by Mukand Dinanth Narse of Bhatwadi,



Corgao, Pernem. The complainant alleged that at around 3 pm, accused Rushikesh Santosh Narse (35), Snehal Santosh Narse (29) and Shubham Navnath Narse (30), all residents of Bhatwadi, Corgao, Bardez, abused him in filthy language and, due to previous enmity, attacked him with a knife. The accused

also allegedly assaulted the complainant and his cousin brother Sachidanand Narse using a wooden danda and plastic pipe, besides punching and kicking them, causing bleeding injuries. Police said the accused also damaged an Activa scooter bearing registration number GA-11-F-1148, resulting in a loss of approximately ₹15,000, and allegedly threatened the complainant with dire consequences. All three accused were placed under arrest at 10.28 pm on March 29. Police

UK National Booked For Carrying Satellite Phone At Mopa Airport

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: Mopa Airport police have registered a case against a United Kingdom national for allegedly carrying a prohibited satellite phone at Manohar International Airport, Mopa. According to police, the offence was registered on March 30 at 2.19 pm vide Crime No. 14/2026 under Section 3 read with Section 6(1A) of the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, based on a complaint filed by Vijay Yadav, CT/GD, CISF ASG Unit, Manohar International Airport.



Police said that at around 7.33 am, the accused, identified as William James Buchanan Smellie (62), a resident of 23 Winsham Grove, London SW1 6NB, United Kingdom, was scheduled to travel to Mumbai from Manohar International Airport on Air India Express flight IX 2368 (STD 9.10 am). During

security screening in the Domestic SHA, ATRS-G detected a satellite phone of "Garmin" make in the handbag of the passenger. Satellite phones are prohibited in India without prior permission from competent authorities. The accused allegedly failed to produce any valid licence or authorization for carrying the device. Police stated that the accused was summoned with notice under Section 35(3) of the BNSS on March 30. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Sagar Vazarkar of Mopa Airport Police Station.



Worker Dies After Fall From Under-Construction Site In Anjuna

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: A 40-year-old labourer from Bihar died while undergoing treatment at GMC Bambolim after accidentally falling from an under-construction building at Anjuna. According to police, a wireless message was received from CP GMC Bambolim on March 29 at 8.24 pm informing that Rakesh Mahato (40), son of Jugeshwar, a labourer and resident of Ward No. 08, Marsaiti, Teghra, Begusarai, Bihar, expired in Ward No. 120 of GMC as a case of fall from

height at Anjuna under MLC No. 23/2460

Enquiry revealed that on March 28 at around 10 am, the deceased was working at an under-construction site at Survey No. 287/3, Anjuna, identified as "Amoria", when he accidentally fell from the first floor of the structure.

Police said he was immediately shifted to Asilo Hospital, Mapusa, and later referred to GMC Bambolim for further treatment, where he succumbed to his injuries. Further enquiry is being carried out by IO PSI Sahil Warang.

Supervisor, Associate Booked For ₹1.14 Crore Gold Theft In Ponda

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Ponda police have registered a case against two women for allegedly stealing gold ornaments worth over ₹1.14 crore from a jewellery establishment in Ponda. The case was registered based on a complaint filed



by Damodar Raikar of Shukra Jewelers, Ponda. As per the complaint, the incident occurred prior to March 26, 2026, at TNK.

Police said accused Pratiksha Shinde, a resident of Savoi-Verem, Ponda, who was working as a supervisor-cum-manager, allegedly conspired with Jiya alias Kirti Shigaokar, a resident of Shiroda, Ponda, and dishonestly committed theft of gold ornaments of different make.

The stolen ornaments are reported to weigh 695.080 grams and are valued at ₹1,14,66,782. Police said the accused allegedly cheated the complainant to the tune of the said amount. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Prajyot Bakhale of Ponda Police Station.

Mormugao man booked for obstructing electricity inspection team, tearing official order

Team Goemkarponn

SADA: An inspection drive by the electricity department at Headland Sada turned tense on Momday morning after a local resident allegedly obstructed officials on duty, abused them, and destroyed an official document during the course of their work. According to a complaint filed by Joao Joquim Lukas (56), Assistant Engineer (O&M), Division

XI Sub Division 3, Vasco, he along with his staff had visited the residence of the accused at around 10.22 hrs to carry out inspection of temporarily disconnected installations, as per directions issued by the Assistant Engineer (Commercial). During the inspection, the accused, identified as Shekhar Dabolkar, son of Mangesh Dabolkar, resident

of Headland Sada, Mormugao, allegedly restrained the team and prevented them from discharging their official duties. The complaint states that the accused used abusive language against the officials and further snatched the original order copy issued by the Assistant Engineer (Com). He allegedly tore the document and threw

it away, and also hurled a rubber ball towards the complainant during the altercation, creating a hostile situation at the site. Based on the complaint, Mormugao police have registered an offence against the accused under Sections 126, 221 and 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, along with Section 9 of the Goa Public Records Act, 2023. Police said further investigation into the matter is in progress.

BOOKED

Six Rescued, Two Children Traced in Weekend Incidents Along Goa Coast

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Six persons were rescued, including four from drowning, along Goa's coastline over the weekend, while two missing children were traced and reunited with their families. Drishti Marine Lifesavers also assisted in recovering a lost

mobile phone while continuing routine patrols across the state's beaches. At Baga beach, a 12-year-old girl from Uttar Pradesh was rescued after she lost balance and drifted into deeper waters while swimming close to shore. Lifesavers responded immediately and brought her safely back. In a



separate incident at the same beach, a child reported missing by parents was traced after announcements were made along the stretch and reunited

with the family. Lifesavers and beach marshals also recovered a lost mobile phone during patrol and returned it to its owner after due verification in the presence of police. At Calangute beach, two men aged 21 and 28 from Bengaluru were rescued after drifting into deeper waters and struggling

to return to shore. Lifesavers carried out a timely intervention and brought both safely ashore. In another incident, a seven-year-old boy from Jaipur, Rajasthan, who had gone missing, was located after a coordinated search and reunited with his father following proper identification protocol.

Joint inspection held after fuel contamination detected in Sancoale church well

Team Goemkarponn

SANCOALE: A joint meeting of multiple departments was convened on Monday by Mormugao Deputy Collector Bhagwant Karmali along with MLA Anton Vaz to assess the situation arising out of fuel contamination detected in a well at the premises of Our Lady of Health Church at Sancoale. Officials from the Water



Resources Department, Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Health Department, Civil Supplies and the Goa State Pollution Control

Board attended the meeting.

Representatives of fuel handling company Zuari Indian Oil Aviation Private Limited and two

nearby petrol pumps were also called for discussions as part of the probe into the source of contamination. During the meeting, officials reviewed the situation on the ground and discussed immediate and long-term measures to address the issue. Samples from the well have been collected and sent for analysis, while nearby wells, springs and water bodies have also been inspected.



CM Sawant Inaugurates PHC, Dialysis Facility In Sanguem

Team Goemkarponn

SANGUEM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Sunday inaugurated a new Primary Health Centre and dialysis facility in Sanguem, aimed at strengthening rural healthcare services in the region. The facility was inaugurated in the presence of Health Minister Vishwajit Rane, Minister Subhash Phal Dessai, healthcare professionals and other dignitaries. Highlighting the importance of the initiative, Sawant said the government is committed to expanding quality healthcare access in rural areas. "With the launch of this new Primary Health

Centre and dialysis facility in Sanguem, life-saving care is now available closer to home for kidney patients. This will significantly reduce the burden on families and improve timely treatment," he said.

The Chief Minister also announced that the centre includes a trauma care unit to enhance emergency and critical care services for the region. "We are strengthening healthcare infrastructure across Goa. Goa is the only state establishing dialysis units across Primary Health Centres, ensuring equitable access to essential medical services," Sawant stated.

6 Sancoale panch members move no-confidence motion against Sarpanch, Dy Sarpanch

Team Goemkarponn

SANCOALE: In a fresh political development, six out of the eleven members of the Sancoale Panchayat have moved a no-confidence motion against Sarpanch Anusha Lamani and Deputy Sarpanch Derrick Valles, citing dissatisfaction over the functioning of the



panchayat and decision-making processes. The motion was signed

by panch members Tulsidas Naik, Maria Azevedo, Nidhi Naik,

Rohini Torskar, Valento Rodrigues and Jaisia Kadar, and submitted to the Mormugao Block Development Officer on Monday afternoon. The group has also expressed strong resentment against former Deputy Sarpanch Girish Pillai and Derrick Valles, accusing them of dominating the functioning of the panchayat.



11 COTPA Violations Booked In Balli; ₹2,200 Collected As Fine

Team Goemkarponn

BALLI: The Quepem Taluka Enforcement Squad booked 11 cases of violations under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) during an inspection drive conducted at Balli on March 30.

The enforcement squad was led by Joint Mamlatdar-I Quepem Surendra Gaonkar. The team included Talathi Balli Rasika Gaurav, PSI Suhas P. Velip of Cuncolim Police Station, Circle Inspector Quepem Dattaram Velip,

Sanitary Inspector PHC Balli Laxmikant Pagi, and GOACAN Secretary Lorna Fernandes.

During the drive, the squad inspected supermarkets and grocery shops and found violations of Section 4 of COTPA. Authorities issued 11 challans and recovered a total fine amount of ₹2,200.

Officials stated that such inspections will continue to ensure compliance with tobacco control regulations and to discourage violations in public places.

Tribal Delegation Meets Law Minister On ST Representation In Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A delegation of tribal leaders from Goa, led by Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar, met Union Minister for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal in New Delhi to follow up on the early implementation of "The Readjustment



of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Act, 2025."

The delegation

included Chairperson of the Goa Commission for SC/ST Ravindra Gaonkar, former minister Prakash Velip, Rajendra Borkar and Ravindra Velip.

Congress Congratulates Newly Appointed DCC Presidents

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee has extended congratulations to the newly appointed District Congress Committee (DCC) Presidents of Goa, stating that the appointments reflect a renewed commitment to strengthening the party at the grassroots level. In a press release issued on March 30, the party said



the appointments were made by the leadership of the All India Congress Committee with the aim of enhancing organizational effectiveness across the state. The party conveyed best wishes to Rajesh Shivdas Verenkar, Mangaldas V. Naik, Adv.

Shashank Narvekar, and Assiz Jacklis Noronha as they assume their respective responsibilities. The Congress expressed confidence that their leadership would be marked by dedication, unity, and strong connect with the people.



High Court Sets Aside Vasco Magistrate's Order in Food Safety Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has quashed an order passed by a Vasco Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) in a food safety case, observing that it lacked adequate reasoning and did not reflect proper judicial application of mind. Justice Ashish Chavan set aside the March 28, 2022 order, which had initiated proceedings against seven individuals based on a complaint filed by the Directorate of Food and Drugs Administration. The decision came while hearing two related writ petitions filed by traders and individuals, including a shop owner from Vasco and suppliers based in Margao and Kolhapur.

STELLANTIS INDIA STRENGTHENS ITS PRESENCE IN GOA WITH THE LAUNCH OF JEEP® AND CITROËN BRAND HOUSE WITH CACULO MOTORS

■ Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant, graces the inauguration ceremony.

Goa: Stellantis India marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of its Stellantis Brand House (SBH) in Goa in partnership with the Caculo Group of Companies. The state-of-the-art 3S (Sales, Service, and Spares) facility was inaugurated in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Pramod Sawant, along with Shailesh Hazela, Managing Director and CEO, Stellantis India, and Manoj M. Caculo, Chairman & Managing Director, Caculo Group. Also present on the occasion were Suraj Caculo, Dealer Principal; Rajveer Caculo, Manager – Operations and Oscar Fernandes, Vice President – Automobile Division, Caculo Group.

Bringing together Jeep® and Citroën under one roof, the new SBH introduces a modern, immersive retail experience designed to meet evolving customer expectations. The facility integrates a seamless



“phygital” ecosystem, allowing customers to explore and engage across both digital and physical touchpoints, ensuring convenience, transparency, and personalization.

The newly inaugurated facility strengthens Stellantis India's presence in Goa and enhances access to Jeep's performance-driven SUVs and Citroën's comfort-focused vehicles for customers across North and South Goa.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said, “Heartiest congratulations to the Caculo family on completing 100 remarkable years in the automobile industry. As a proud Goan family,

they have played a pioneering role in bringing automobiles to Goa, with four generations dedicated to this business. From introducing international brands through Caculo Mall to creating employment for over 500 people, their contribution to both the automobile and service sectors has opened immense opportunities in the state. It is encouraging to see how they have made global brands accessible in Goa, reflecting the rising purchasing capacity of our people. The automobile sector here continues to grow, paving the way for new brands to enter the Goan market.”

The Goa SBH offers:

- * Complete Sales, Service, and Spares



support for both Jeep and Citroën

- * Trained technical teams with modern diagnostic tools

- * A spacious, customer-friendly showroom spread across 4000 sq. m.

- * A 10-bay service workshop for routine and specialized maintenance

- * A seamless digital showroom experience

Shailesh Hazela, CEO and Managing Director, Stellantis India, stated, “Goa is an important and evolving market, with customers who value comfort, reliability, design, and capability. With this new dealership in partnership with Caculo Motors, we are strengthening our commitment to the region and ensuring seamless

access to our offerings.

The Caculo Group's legacy of trust and customer satisfaction aligns strongly with our values.”

Manoj M. Caculo, Chairman & Managing Director, Caculo Group, added, “For more than ten decades, the Caculo Group has remained committed to delivering quality and trust to customers across Goa. We are proud to partner with Stellantis to bring global automotive excellence and customer-first experiences to the state through this modern facility.” The new SBH reinforces Stellantis' multi-brand strategy: Jeep®, with over 80 years of heritage, represents capability and adventure,

while Citroën stands for comfort, innovation, and human-centric design. Together, the brands offer a comprehensive portfolio ranging from rugged SUVs to family vehicles and EVs tailored to diverse customer needs in Goa. With a growing network of Stellantis Brand Houses across India, the Goa facility marks another step in the company's commitment to innovation, accessibility, and customer satisfaction. About Stellantis Stellantis N.V. is a leading global automaker with a portfolio of iconic brands including Jeep®, Citroën, Fiat, Peugeot, Maserati, and more. The company focuses on delivering innovative mobility solutions and value to customers worldwide.

About the Caculo Group sWith a legacy spanning over 100 years, the Caculo Group is one of Goa's leading business houses with diverse interests in mobility and retail, known for its commitment to quality and customer satisfaction.

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No Development Within 200m of Bondvoll Lake Until Fresh Demarcation: TCP Board

in bringing attention to the issue and ensuring that protective measures were considered. He further assured that the

movement to preserve Bondvoll Lake would continue. “Our fight will continue until Bondvoll Lake is fully protected,”

he said, reiterating the commitment to conserving the water body and preventing unregulated development in its vicinity.

Goa advances PNG transition to enhance reliability for tourism sector

representatives from travel, tourism, restaurant, and shack associations. Discussions focused on overcoming the shortage of commercial LPG impacting restaurants, beach shacks, and allied tourism businesses across the state. The government reiterated that, in line with directives from the Central Government, commercial establishments currently dependent on LPG must

transition to PNG to ensure a more stable and scalable energy supply ecosystem

Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte said Goa remains committed to strengthening its tourism ecosystem through reliable and future-ready infrastructure.

He stated that the transition to PNG is a key step towards ensuring consistent energy supply and enhancing ease of

operations for tourism stakeholders, adding that the government will continue to work closely with all concerned to facilitate a smooth and timely transition.

Sandip Jacques emphasized that the shift to PNG is not just a regulatory step but a necessary move to ensure uninterrupted supply and long-term sustainability for Goa's tourism ecosystem.

“Eight Devotees Killed In Stampede At Sheetla Temple”: Tragedy Strikes Religious Gathering In Bihar

the temple complex, sudden movement among worshippers reportedly led to panic and chaos, triggering the stampede. Several people sustained injuries during the incident and were quickly rushed to a hospital in Bihar Sharif for medical treatment. Local residents and police personnel reached the site soon after the incident and began rescue and relief

operations to assist the injured and control the situation. Visuals from the temple premises showed large crowds surrounding the complex as authorities worked to disperse the gathering and ensure safety. Officials are currently assessing the circumstances that led to the sudden surge in crowd movement. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed grief over the loss of

lives and announced financial assistance for the families of the victims. According to an official statement, the next of kin of each deceased devotee will receive compensation amounting to six lakh rupees. The aid will include four lakh rupees from the Disaster Management Department and two lakh rupees from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

“Willing To End Iran War Even If Strait Of Hormuz Stays Closed”: Trump's Reported Strategy

military capabilities before moving toward de escalation. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical maritime trade routes, connecting the Persian

Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

Nearly a quarter of global oil shipments pass through this narrow sea passage, making it essential for international

energy supply.

For India, the route is particularly important as a large share of the country's imported energy travels through the corridor.

“India Has Become Naxal Free”: Amit Shah Announces Major Decline In Maoist Violence

■ Home Minister tells Parliament that decades of insurgency are nearing their end as development and security operations transform affected regions.

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah declared in Parliament that Maoist violence in India is nearing its complete end, stating that the country has effectively become free from Naxal influence after years of sustained security operations and development initiatives. Addressing a discussion



in the Lok Sabha ahead of the government's deadline to eliminate Left Wing Extremism, Shah said the insurgency that

once affected large parts of the country has now almost disappeared. He noted that the process of completely eliminating the threat is in its final stage and the nation will be officially informed once it is formally concluded. Shah highlighted the transformation taking place in Bastar in Chhattisgarh, which was

long considered one of the most prominent strongholds of Maoist activity. According to him, the region is now witnessing steady development after decades of violence and instability. He explained that extensive welfare and infrastructure initiatives have been implemented across the region.



“Eight Indians Dead, One Missing”: MEA Confirms Casualties Amid Escalating West Asia Conflict

■ Government intensifies assistance efforts as thousands of Indians return home from the conflict affected region

New Delhi: India's Ministry of External Affairs has confirmed that eight Indian nationals have lost their lives while one person remains missing in separate incidents linked to the ongoing conflict across parts of West Asia. At an inter ministerial briefing in New Delhi, Additional Secretary for Gulf affairs Aseem R Mahajan stated that the deaths occurred in different situations across the region as tensions and violence intensified in recent weeks. He also confirmed that an Indian national was killed in an attack in Kuwait, though detailed circumstances surrounding the incident were not disclosed. The government expressed condolences to the

bereaved families and said that Indian diplomatic missions are coordinating with local authorities to support relatives and facilitate the early return of the mortal remains to India.

Officials also noted that the Embassy of India in Saudi Arabia had earlier reported the death of another Indian citizen in Riyadh following violent incidents that occurred on March 18. Despite the difficult situation, the government said a large number of people have managed to travel back home. Since February 28, approximately 5.5 lakh passengers have returned from various countries in the region to India through scheduled and special travel arrangements.

“Missiles Were Falling Around Us”: Indian Sailors Return Home After Months Of Detention In Iran

■ Crew of tanker recounts ordeal of arrest, war zone fear and dramatic escape after being cleared of smuggling allegations

New Delhi: A group of Indian sailors has returned home after spending nearly three months stranded in a conflict affected region of Iran, describing a traumatic ordeal that included detention, legal uncertainty and the terrifying experience of witnessing missiles fall near their vessel. The crew members were working on the tanker MT



Valiant Roar when they were detained by Iranian authorities in December last year over allegations of diesel smuggling. The sailors maintained that the vessel was carrying only Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil

and not diesel as claimed. According to Captain Vijay Kumar, the incident began on December 8 when the ship slowed down in international waters due to a generator malfunction. While the crew was

attempting repairs, Iranian authorities intercepted the vessel. Armed personnel boarded the ship, separated the crew and reportedly detained them without providing a clear explanation. The captain alleged that officials pressured the crew to sign documents stating that the vessel had entered Iranian territorial waters, a claim he said was contradicted by the ship's GPS records.

“Terror Plot Targeting Major Temples Foiled In Delhi”: Police Arrest Lashkar Linked Suspect

■ Security agencies intensify surveillance after accused allegedly carried out reconnaissance at key religious and crowded locations.

New Delhi: A suspected terror plot targeting prominent religious sites and crowded areas in the national capital was foiled after the arrest of a suspected operative by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police. The accused, identified as Shabbir Ahmed Lone, was detained during a counter terror operation and is believed to have links with the Pakistan based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba. During interrogation, investigators uncovered details of alleged reconnaissance activities carried out at several high profile locations in the city. According to officials, the suspect reportedly



conducted surveillance at major religious landmarks including the Kalkaji Temple, the Lotus Temple and the Chhatarpur Temple. Investigators believe that the accused recorded videos of these sites and shared them with handlers based in Pakistan. Security agencies are also examining reconnaissance reportedly conducted around Connaught Place, one of

the busiest commercial and tourist areas in the capital. The presence of surveillance footage from such locations has raised concerns that the suspected plot may have aimed at targeting crowded public spaces. During questioning, officials also found indications of possible coordination involving Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence.

“Naxalism Was Rooted In Leftist Ideology”: Amit Shah Targets Congress Over Past Policies

■ Home Minister says improved governance and security efforts have significantly reduced Maoist influence across affected regions.

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a strong criticism of the Congress party while addressing the issue of Naxalism, asserting that the spread of the insurgency was linked to earlier political decisions and ideological support that allowed the movement to expand across several states. Speaking about the situation in Bastar in Chhattisgarh, Shah stated that tribal communities were drawn toward Maoist ideology because government institutions failed to effectively reach and support them for many years. According to him, the absence of development and



governance created conditions that allowed extremist groups to gain influence in remote regions. He further traced the origins of the problem to earlier decades, alleging that the spread of Naxalism intensified during the tenure of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Shah argued that

the ideological backing given during that period contributed to the growth of the movement. He claimed that the roots of Naxalism lay not in developmental demands but in a broader left wing ideological framework that gained momentum during the political developments of the 1970s. At the height of the insurgency, Shah noted that the problem extended across several states including Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Maharashtra. These regions formed what became widely known as the “Red Corridor”, an area where Maoist groups held considerable influence for many years.

“I Am Not Even Thinking About Retirement”: Mohammed Shami Responds To India Snub

■ Veteran pacer says he will continue playing as long as he enjoys cricket despite prolonged absence from national team.

New Delhi: Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami has dismissed speculation about retirement, stating that he remains fully motivated to continue playing cricket despite being out of the national team for more than a year. The experienced pacer said he does not allow retirement thoughts to



influence him, explaining that such thinking can negatively affect a player's mindset. According to Shami, he will only

consider stepping away from the sport when he feels physically exhausted or loses the enjoyment of playing. Shami last appeared for India national cricket team over a year ago, and since then a return to the side has not materialised despite his recovery from injury. The reasons behind his

absence from international selection remain unclear, with decisions resting with the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the selection committee headed by Ajit Agarkar. During the 2025 to 2026 domestic season, Shami continued to demonstrate strong form for Bengal cricket team.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Set For Historic Expansion With Final Qualifying Spots To Be Decided

■ European playoffs and intercontinental tournament will complete the first ever 48 team World Cup lineup.

New Delhi: The race for the final places at the FIFA World Cup 2026 is entering its decisive phase as the last six qualifying spots are set to be determined through playoff competitions. The tournament will feature a historic expansion to 48 teams, making it the largest edition of the global football event. For the first time, the World Cup will be jointly hosted by three countries: United States, Canada and Mexico. The tournament will begin on June 11 at the iconic Estadio Azteca and conclude with the final on July 19 at MetLife Stadium, which will be referred to as New York New Jersey Stadium during the event. European Playoffs Decide Four Remaining Spots Eight European teams



remain in contention for the final four places from the continent. The playoff matches will be single game encounters, with the winners securing qualification. The fixtures include Bosnia Herzegovina against Italy national football team, Sweden against Poland, Kosovo against Turkey and the Czech Republic facing Denmark. Among these teams, four time world champions Italy are under particular pressure as they attempt to avoid missing the tournament for a third consecutive time. Europe will have the highest representation in the tournament with 16 teams. Intercontinental Playoff Tournament The remaining two places will be decided through a special playoff tournament organised by FIFA and staged in Mexico.

Praggnanandhaa Joins Caruana At The Top After Opening Round Of Candidates Tournament

■ Indian grandmaster begins campaign with victory over Anish Giri as three players share early lead in Cyprus.

New Delhi: Indian chess prodigy R Praggnanandhaa made an impressive start to the FIDE Candidates Tournament by defeating Dutch grandmaster Anish Giri in the opening round, joining Fabiano Caruana and Javokhir Sindarov at



the top of the standings.

The prestigious event, being held in Paphos, features eight elite players competing in a double round robin format to determine the challenger for the next World Championship match. Praggnanandhaa produced a confident

performance against Giri, gradually breaking through the Dutch player's solid defence. The Indian opted for the Grand Prix Attack against Giri's Sicilian Defence and managed to gain an early advantage on the clock.



Tithee Bhoomkar, Siddharth Nunes Dominate Bandodkar Panjim Gymkhana Tennis Open

■ Both players secure two titles each as tournament draws strong participation across age groups.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Tithee Bhoomkar and Siddharth Nunes emerged as the standout performers at the Bandodkar Panjim Gymkhana Tennis Open 2026, each clinching two titles across categories in the recently concluded tournament held in Panaji. Bhoomkar completed an impressive double by winning both the ladies open singles and doubles titles. She secured the singles crown with a 6 to 3, 6 to 4 victory

over Tvisha Sardesai. Bhoomkar then partnered with Bhaavya Bhoomkar to capture the ladies open doubles title, defeating Poojal Naik and Raisa Menezes 6 to 4, 6 to 1. The duo had earlier displayed commanding form in the semifinals with a dominant 6 to 0, 6 to 0 win. Nunes also achieved a double triumph, winning the men's open singles and mixed doubles titles. He claimed the men's singles crown after defeating Rushil Anikar 7 to 5, 6 to 3 in the final.

Don Bosco Panjim Edge Past MES Zuarinagar to Reach Women's Cricket Semi Finals

■ Seven run victory in quarter final sets up clash with Government College Khandola.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Don Bosco College Panjim secured a narrow seven run victory over M.E.S. Vasant Joshi College of Arts and Commerce Zuarinagar in the quarter final of the Goa University Inter

Collegiate Women's Cricket Championship 2025-26 held at the Dayanand Bandodkar Krida Sankool Cricket Ground in Peddem, Mapusa. After losing the toss and being asked to bat first, Don Bosco College posted 73 for

four in their allotted 10 overs. Asmee Palav top scored with 27 runs off 32 balls, striking four boundaries and providing stability to the innings. Captain Kanwiksha Rekdo contributed an important 18 runs from 16 deliveries, including a six, helping the



team reach a competitive total. For MES College, Priya Gupta delivered an impressive bowling spell, picking up two wickets for just seven runs, while Deepali Pal claimed one wicket.

Government College Borda, Don Bosco Panjim Enter Semi Finals of Inter Collegiate Cricket Championship

■ Dominant quarter final victories set up crucial semi final clash at Goa University ground.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa University witnessed two exciting quarter final encounters on Day 19 of the Inter Collegiate Men's Cricket Championship 2025 to 26 at the Goa University Ground in Bambolim, with Government College



Borda and Don Bosco College Panjim advancing to the semi finals after convincing victories. In the first match,

Government College of Commerce and Economics, Borda registered a commanding 107 run win over Govind

Ramnath Kare College of Law. Opting to bat first after winning the toss, Borda posted a competitive total of 187 for seven in 20 overs. Bansil Pandya led the batting effort with a quickfire 50 off 28 balls, striking six fours and two sixes.