



Luthra Brothers Get Conditional Bail In Birch Fire Case

■ Court grants relief in main case; accused remain in custody in fake NOC matter.

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Gaurav and Saurav Luthra have been granted conditional bail by a court in connection with the December 6, 2025 Birch fire tragedy at Arpora, which claimed 25 lives. The development was confirmed on April 1 by their counsel, Advocate Parag Rao.

According to Rao, the court allowed bail on a surety of ₹50,000 along with an equivalent bail bond. He stated that while the order has been pronounced, a detailed copy of the judgment is yet to be received. The bail comes with standard conditions imposed by the court. Addressing questions regarding a separate case



involving alleged forgery of a No Objection Certificate (NOC), Rao clarified that the defence has opted not to pursue anticipatory bail. Instead, a regular bail application has been filed before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Mapusa.

The Luthra brothers are currently in police custody in connection with the fake NOC case. On March 30, the JMFC court remanded them to five days of police custody to facilitate further



MAINS POINTS:

- ▶ **Luthra brothers granted conditional bail.**
- ▶ ₹50,000 surety and equal bail bond.
- ▶ **Birch fire incident claimed 25 lives.**
- ▶ Arrested after deportation from thailand.
- ▶ **Charged with culpable homicide and forgery.**
- ▶ Fake noc case under investigation.
- ▶ **Currently in mapusa police custody.**
- ▶ 4,000+ page chargesheet filed.

investigation. The duo was arrested on December 16, 2025,

at Delhi Airport by Goa Police after being **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

Man Booked Under POCSO for Repeated Sexual Assault of 15-Year-Old in Sancoale

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: The Verna Police on registered a First Information Report (FIR) against a 23-year-old man from Baina for the alleged repeated sexual assault of a minor girl over the span of nearly two years. The accused has been identified as Arun Chawan, a resident of Baina, Vasco. According to the police, the complaint was filed by the victim's 44-year-old mother. The minor, aged 15, was allegedly subjected to repeated forceful sexual intercourse by the accused between April 2024 and March 30, 2026. The police report indicates that the offenses took place at the complainant's residence



in Sancoale and at Velsao Beach. Verna Police have registered Crime No. under the following sections: Section 65 (1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 8(2) of the Goa Children's Act (GCA) Sections 4 and 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The case is currently being investigated by PSI Pramila Fernandes of the Verna Police Station under the supervision of the Police Inspector Anand Shirodkar and guidance of Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.



Goa CM submits self enumeration for Census 2027, urges public participation

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday said that "every count matters and every voice shapes Goa and India's future," after submitting his Self Enumeration for Census 2027 and urging citizens to actively participate in the nationwide exercise. Sawant stated that Goa has joined the countrywide effort to build a comprehensive and accurate database for both the State and the nation. He emphasized that the Census is not merely a statistical exercise but a crucial foundation for effective

planning and inclusive governance. "The Census is not just a statistical exercise, it is the foundation for effective planning, inclusive governance, and ensuring that every citizen's needs are recognized and addressed. From infrastructure and healthcare to education and welfare schemes, accurate data helps us make informed decisions for a stronger and more progressive Goa and the nation," the Chief Minister said. He further urged citizens to make use of the Self Enumeration facility, which is available till April 15, and contribute to the

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

South Goa Administration Cracks Down On Illegal Bullfights, Warns Landowners Of Action

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: In a move to curb illegal bullfight activities in South Goa, a coordination meeting was chaired by District Magistrate Ms. Egna Cleetus, IAS, and co-chaired by Superintendent of Police (South) Shri Santosh Desai. Additional Collector-I Shri Srinet Kothwale was also present at the meeting. The meeting was attended by the SDM of Salcete, Police Inspectors and Mamlatdars of Salcete



taluka, and focused on strengthening inter-departmental coordination to prevent unlawful bullfight events. During the meeting, directions were issued

to concerned Police Inspectors to initiate action against landowners where such bullfights are being organized. Mamlatdars were instructed to furnish **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

Commercial LPG Price Raised by ₹195.50 as Global Oil Surge Hits Energy Market

■ Domestic cooking gas rates remain unchanged despite sharp increase in commercial cylinder prices.

New Delhi: Commercial liquefied petroleum gas prices have been increased by ₹195.50 per cylinder, reflecting the sharp rise in global energy costs triggered by the escalating conflict in West



Asia. The

CONTD TO PAGE 06...



Goa GST Collections Rise 6% in March, Indicating Steady Growth

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa recorded a 6% increase in GST collections in March 2026, signalling stable economic activity in the state. SGST collections rose to ₹243 crore from ₹229 crore in March last year, as per official data. The growth highlights consistent consumption trends, with Goa maintaining a steady revenue trajectory despite being a smaller contributor compared to larger states. For the financial year 2025-26, SGST collections saw a modest 3% rise to ₹2,676 crore, reflecting gradual expansion in the state's tax base. Post-settlement revenues, including Goa's share from IGST, also grew by 5% in March, reaching ₹396 crore compared to ₹378 crore a year ago.

Green Fields to Casino Floors: Who Is Goa Really Being Built For?

In Goa, land is not just a resource—it is memory, livelihood, and identity. Which is why the recent decision to denotify vast stretches of irrigated land in Dhargalim has triggered more than political criticism; it has struck at the heart of what Goa stands for. This is not an isolated administrative move. It is a signal. A signal that fertile, irrigated land—painstakingly developed under long-term public projects—can be reclassified, repurposed, and ultimately handed over for commercial exploitation. And not just any commercial use, but one linked to high-end tourism and casino-driven development.

The implications are stark. Irrigated land is not barren land waiting to be “developed.” It is already productive. It sustains farmers, supports local economies, and contributes to food security in a state that is increasingly dependent on external supplies. When such land is declared “unfit” for irrigation, the question is unavoidable: unfit for whom? The Tillari command area was envisioned as a lifeline for agriculture—a project that would secure water access, increase crop yields, and provide stability to rural communities. To now reverse that vision without a compelling and transparent justification is not just contradictory; it is deeply concerning.

The government’s push for investment and development is understandable. Goa’s economy relies heavily on tourism, and diversification is often seen as necessary. But what is unfolding here is not diversification—it is displacement. A quiet but steady shift where agriculture is being edged out, not by necessity, but by design. Even more troubling are the concerns around due process. Laws governing irrigated land are not ornamental—they exist to ensure that such decisions undergo scrutiny, consultation, and accountability. If these procedures are being diluted or bypassed, it raises a larger institutional question: are safeguards

Irrigated land is not barren land waiting to be “developed.”

It is already productive. It sustains farmers, supports local economies, and contributes to food security in a state that is increasingly dependent on external supplies. When such land is declared “unfit” for irrigation, the question is unavoidable: unfit for whom? The Tillari command area was envisioned as a lifeline for agriculture—a project that would secure water access, increase crop yields, and provide stability to rural communities. To now reverse that vision without a compelling and transparent justification is not just contradictory; it is deeply concerning.

The government’s push for investment and development is understandable. Goa’s economy relies heavily on tourism, and diversification is often seen as necessary.

being respected, or are they becoming inconvenient hurdles in the path of rapid commercialisation?

Then there is the issue of financial discretion. Waivers, concessions, and selective relaxations—especially when extended to large corporate players—inevitably create a perception problem. It begins to look less like governance and more like preference. In a democracy, perception matters almost as much as policy. But beyond policy and process lies a deeper concern: the direction in which Goa is

heading. For years, the state has struggled with the consequences of over-tourism, unregulated construction, and ecological strain. Rivers under pressure, hills cut for projects, villages transformed beyond recognition—these are not abstract fears, but lived realities. In this context, converting irrigated farmland into commercial hubs is not just risky; it borders on reckless. What makes this particularly sensitive is the casino linkage. Casinos in Goa have long been a contentious issue, symbolising both economic gain and social unease. Expanding that footprint onto land that once fed communities adds a layer of moral discomfort. It reinforces the perception that profit is being prioritised over people. Supporters of the move may argue that development requires tough choices. That progress cannot be stalled in the name of nostalgia. But this is not about nostalgia—it is about sustainability. It is about asking whether the choices being made today will leave Goa stronger or more fragile tomorrow. Because once irrigated land is lost, it is lost forever. You can build resorts in a few years, but you cannot recreate an agricultural ecosystem that took decades to nurture. There is also a democratic deficit in how such decisions are perceived. People are not resistant to development—they are resistant to being excluded from it. When decisions appear top-down, when communities feel unheard, resistance is inevitable. And justified. Goa today stands at a delicate crossroads. It can choose a path where economic ambition coexists with ecological wisdom and social balance. Or it can slide into a model where land becomes a commodity, governance becomes transactional, and identity becomes negotiable. This is not just about Dhargalim. It is about the future of Goa. And the question that must be asked—loudly and repeatedly—is simple: development for whom, and at what cost?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Justice Must Not Burn Out in Goa’s Nightclub Tragedy

The recent bail developments in the Goa nightclub fire case have once again raised serious concerns about accountability and justice. The tragic incident, which claimed 25 lives, was not merely an accident but a stark reminder of what happens when safety norms are ignored and regulations are treated as optional. At the heart of the issue lies a deeper systemic failure. Establishments operating without strict adherence to fire safety rules, authorities failing to enforce compliance, and a culture of cutting corners have all contributed to this devastating loss. When such negligence leads to the death of innocent people, the response must go beyond routine legal procedures. The question is not just about bail, but about the message it sends. For the families who lost their loved ones, justice cannot appear diluted or delayed. There must be visible seriousness in pursuing those responsible, and equal accountability for officials who allowed such violations to continue unchecked. Goa’s identity as a vibrant destination must not come at the cost of human lives. Safety cannot be compromised for profit or convenience. This tragedy should compel authorities to tighten regulations, ensure strict inspections, and enforce real consequences for violations. If lessons are not learned now, the cost will be repeated in future disasters. Justice, in this case, must be firm, transparent and uncompromising. Anything less would be a disservice to the victims and a warning ignored.

-Savio Fernandes, Brittona

Where Has Our Humanity Gone?

A recent incident reported in the news once again forces us to ask a troubling question: where has our humanity gone? At a time when compassion, empathy and basic human decency should guide our actions, we are increasingly witnessing behaviour that reflects the exact opposite. What is most disturbing is not just the incident itself, but the attitude surrounding it. Whether it is indifference to suffering, failure to help those in distress, or a tendency to look away instead of stepping forward, these actions point to a deeper social disconnect. As a society, we seem to be losing the instinct to care. In moments of crisis, humanity is measured not by words, but by actions. A helping hand, timely support, or even a simple act of kindness can make the difference between hope and despair. Yet, such responses are becoming rare, replaced by apathy and silence. This is not just a moral issue, but a societal one. When people begin to feel that no one will come to their aid in times of need, it erodes trust and weakens the very fabric of community life. We must ask ourselves if progress and modern living have come at the cost of compassion. It is time for introspection. Laws and systems can only do so much; the real change must come from within us. Humanity must not become a forgotten value.

-Melroy D’Souza

Concerns Rise Over Falling Water Levels in Bandhura Nullah Near Goa Border

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Residents living in and around Bandhura, near the Goa-Karnataka border, have expressed concern after noticing a sharp drop in water levels in the nullah this year. The Bandhura nullah, a key perennial stream that merges with the Mhadei river near Nerse, plays a crucial role in sustaining both local communities and wildlife. It originates in the forests of Jamgao and flows towards Goa after joining the Mhadei. A team of villagers from the Mhadei basin in Karnataka visited Nerse on March 29 and observed a significant



decline in water levels compared to the previous year. Environmentalist Rajendra Kerkar, who accompanied the group, warned that the reduced flow could have serious ecological consequences. "The drop in water levels is clearly noticeable and could impact the region's environment in the long run," he said. The development has also reignited concerns over Karnataka's proposed

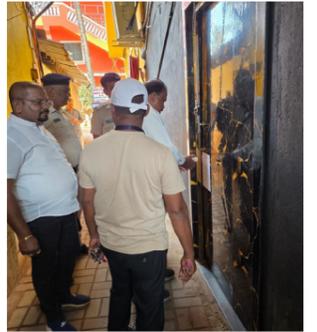
Bandhura project, which involves diverting 2.18 TMC of water into the Malaprabha basin. The plan includes construction of a diversion weir, a jackwell-cum-pump house, an electrical substation, as well as pipelines and power lines in Nerse and Manturga villages of Khanapur taluka. While the Central Water Commission has already granted technical clearance to the revised project report,

the proposal is yet to receive full environmental approval. The Regional Empowered Committee of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently deferred forest clearance, seeking additional details from Karnataka regarding the project's environmental impact. Adding to the concerns, a detailed study by scientists and experts from Karnataka has flagged potential violations of key environmental laws, including the Wildlife Protection Act (1972), the Forest Conservation Act (1980), and the Environment Protection Act (1986).

Calangute Panchayat seals club for operating without valid licences

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: The Calangute Panchayat sealed a club in the locality for allegedly operating without valid licences and engaging in illegal activities. The action was taken following inspections by panchayat authorities, who found multiple violations of regulatory norms. According to officials, the establishment was functioning without mandatory permissions and was reportedly involved in activities not permitted under existing rules. After verifying the



documents and noting the irregularities, the panchayat issued orders to seal the premises with immediate effect. Authorities stated that the move is part of ongoing efforts to ensure compliance with licensing requirements and maintain law and order in the area.



Goa Airport Secures Global Silver in ASQ Awards

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: In a landmark achievement for Indian aviation, Goa International Airport has been ranked 2nd among AAI Airports and 59th globally in the latest Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards. This prestigious recognition, awarded by the Airports Council International (ACI), places Goa International Airport among the elite gateways worldwide for passenger experience and operational efficiency. The ASQ Awards are the aviation industry's highest accolade, based directly on passenger feedback regarding service quality, cleanliness, and overall

terminal experience. A Message of Gratitude from the Leadership In a statement released today, Flt Lt Akash Deep, Airport.

Director of Goa Airport expressed profound pride in the collective effort that led to this silver milestone: "This achievement is a testament to our unwavering commitment to passenger delight. Securing the 2nd position globally is not just a win for the airport, but a win for the entire state of Goa. It reflects the tireless dedication of our staff, the operational brilliance of our partners, and the warm hospitality that defines our region."

Administrators Appointed to Six Municipal Councils as State Prepares for Civic Polls

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: With the tenure of several municipal councils coming to an end, the State government has stepped in to appoint administrators for six civic bodies, paving the way for municipal elections expected to be held in May. As per an official notification, administrators will assume charge in phases—Bicholim,

Curcholem-Cacora, Canacona, and Pernem from April 1, Cuncolim from April 6, and Valpoi from April 9. Akshay Potekar, director (administration) in the DGP's office, has been assigned to Bicholim. Sagar Gaude, managing director of the Goa Education Development Corporation, will oversee

Curcholem-Cacora. Shankar Gaonkar, member-secretary of Kala Academy, has been appointed for Canacona, while Assistant Excise Commissioner Shrikant Pednekar will take charge of Pernem. In Cuncolim, responsibilities have been handed to South Goa Zilla Panchayat

CEO Vikas Kamble, and Valpoi will be administered by Forest Settlement Officer Raju Dessai. Officials clarified that these are routine interim arrangements aimed at maintaining uninterrupted civic services until newly elected councils take over. The administrators will manage daily operations such as sanitation, infrastructure upkeep, and revenue collection.



IMD Issues Yellow Alert for Goa, Predicts Thundershowers and Gusty Winds

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has placed Goa under a yellow alert for April 1 and 2, warning of thundershowers, lightning, and gusty winds reaching speeds of 30–40 kmph at isolated locations across both North and

South Goa. According to the latest forecast, areas such as Sattari and Sanguem may experience rainfall activity within the next few hours. The IMD has indicated that light showers or thunderstorms are likely to occur during the late afternoon and evening on both days. While no official warning has been issued for April

3, parts of the state may still receive light rain or brief thundershowers later in the day. Conditions are expected to stabilise from April 4 to April 6, with the weather turning largely dry and sunny and no alerts in place during this period. In the next 24 hours, temperatures are likely to hover around 33°C during the day and 25°C at night.



Skies over Panaji and Mormugao are expected to remain partly cloudy, with hazy conditions likely in the morning. The IMD has not issued any heatwave warning for Goa at present.

FDA Cracks Down on Panaji Eateries, Issues Notices Over Hygiene Lapses

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has intensified inspections across Panaji, issuing improvement notices to around 30 restaurants and food outlets in recent days for

failing to meet basic safety standards. The drive, led by senior food safety officer Richard Noronha, uncovered several shortcomings related to hygiene, maintenance of kitchen spaces, and water purification systems. According to Noronha,



officials inspected 21

establishments last week and another 10 earlier this week before taking action. "Most violations were linked to poor cleanliness, damaged flooring such as broken tiles, and inadequate upkeep of water filtration units," Noronha said, adding that

all establishments have been given 14 days to address the deficiencies. Inspectors also found that some eateries had resorted to temporary cooking setups due to disruptions in LPG supply, reportedly linked to the ongoing Middle-East

conflict. In such cases, makeshift chullahs were being used.

Noronha said these arrangements were reviewed, and necessary changes were recommended to ensure food safety is not compromised.

Economic Offences Cell Arrests Absconding Accused In ₹6.69 Crore Sahara Fraud Case After 8 Years

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Economic Offences Cell (EOC) of Goa Police has apprehended an accused who had been absconding for nearly eight years in connection with a multi-crore cheating and fraud case linked to the Sahara India office at Vasco. The accused, identified as Raghuveer Yamavaram alias Sharma, was arrested by a team led by PI Razashad A. Shaikh, along with HC



Rafik Magod and PC Deeptesh Parab. He had been evading arrest since the registration of the

offence in 2018 involving alleged misappropriation of ₹6,69,66,077. The case was registered on February 17, 2018, following a complaint by A.K. Tripathi, then Zonal Chief of Sahara India. The complaint alleged that Raghuveer Yamavaram, who was working as Branch Manager, along with cashier K.Y. Sharif and field worker Md. Zaki Khan, conspired to misappropriate company funds while posted at the Sahara

India office located at Khalap Mansion, Vasco-da-Gama. Police said the accused allegedly falsified account books, made forged entries in day books and records, and processed fraudulent maturity payments to hundreds of accounts. Investigations revealed that false maturity payments were shown for 273 accounts, many of which were purportedly opened without actual deposits under different Sahara schemes.



Nine Held In Crime Branch Gambling Raid At Honda

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Crime Branch of Goa Police arrested nine persons during a raid on a gambling den at Honda in Sattari in the wee hours of March 31. According to SP Jivba Dalvi, the raid was conducted following reliable information about illegal gambling activities at Honda.

A Crime Branch team swooped down on the premises and found several individuals engaged in card gambling, locally known as "Andhar Bahar," a game of chance. Police identified Surya Pandurang Gaonkar, 40, a resident of Honda, Sattari, as the person allegedly operating the gambling den. The others arrested were Gopal Jilla Gaonkar (43) of Saleli, Honda;

Gundu Nakul Gaonkar (51) of Honda; Dinesh Rama Naik (40) of Saleli, Sattari; Rajaram Krishna Gawade (61) of Pisurlem; Manohar Laximan Gaonkar (62) of Honda; Ramesh Gangaram Chari (54) of Honda; Pandurang Krishna Gaonkar (50) of Honda; and Sunil Subhash Godyalkar (24) of Honda, Sattari. During the raid, police seized cash amounting to ₹52,300 along with other gambling articles from the premises and from the possession of the accused persons. An offence has been registered under Sections 3 and 4 of the Goa, Daman and Diu Public Gambling Act. Further investigation is being carried out by PI Sangodkar under the supervision of SP Jivba Dalvi.

Guirim Woman Duped Of ₹2.23 Lakh In Online 'Premium Task' Scam

Team Goemkarponn

SALIGAO: A 31-year-old woman from Guirim was allegedly cheated of ₹2.23 lakh in an online "premium task" scam, prompting Saligao Police to register an FIR against unknown persons. As per the complaint, the incident began prior to March 20,



2026, when the woman was contacted by an unidentified individual who offered her an

opportunity to earn money by completing "premium tasks" on Facebook. The tasks initially involved engaging with social media content and were accompanied by small commission payments, which reportedly helped the accused gain her confidence. Police said the scam later escalated

when the accused informed the complainant that she had committed a "mistake" during one of the assignments, allegedly causing losses to a merchant. Under the pretext of rectifying the error and continuing the tasks, she was persuaded to transfer multiple payments.



Worker Dies After Fall From Under-Construction Warehouse At Verna

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: A 29-year-old worker died after reportedly falling from the rooftop of an under-construction warehouse at Verna on Sunday morning. According to police, information was received at around 10:00 am from PHC Cansaulim that an unknown male had been brought dead. Police visited the health centre and during enquiry identified the deceased as Peshkar Ashok Kumar, 29, a native of Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh. Police said

the deceased had been working as a helper for the past two months at an under-construction warehouse of NDR Varma, India Logistic Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. During the course of work, he allegedly fell from the rooftop of the structure. An inquest panchanama was conducted over the body.

The body has been preserved at SGDH Margao for further medico-legal formalities. Further enquiry is being carried out by PSI Prisly Carvalho of Verna Police Station.

Tourist Bus Hits Motorcycle At Usgao, Rider Suffers Grievous Injuries

Team Goemkarponn

USGAO: A motorcyclist sustained grievous injuries after a tourist bus allegedly driven in a rash and negligent manner dashed against his vehicle at Usgao in Ponda on Thursday evening. According to police,

the incident occurred prior to 7:55 pm on the bypass road at Tisk, Usgao. Based on the complaint filed by LHC 6852 Nidhi Nanshekar of Ponda Police Station, the accused has been identified as P. Aravind Pushparaj, a resident of Bangalore, Karnataka,

who was driving an Eicher tourist bus from Ponda towards Dharbandora. Police said the driver allegedly crossed the white central divider line and moved into the right-side lane, colliding head-on with an oncoming Splendor motorcycle. The rider, Prasad



Kalekar of Sacordem, Dharbandora, fell onto the road and sustained grievous injuries in the crash. He was subsequently shifted for medical treatment. Further investigation is being carried out by LHC 6852 Nidhi Nanshekar of Ponda Police Station.

Drunk Driver Flees After Hitting Scooter In Quepem; Rider Succumbs To Injuries

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: A scooter rider died while his pillion rider sustained grievous injuries after a car allegedly driven under the influence of alcohol rammed into their two-wheeler at Copramoddi, Assolda, on Sunday night. According to police,

the incident occurred at around 10:10 pm based on the complaint filed by HC 4224 Sanjiv Patil of Quepem Police Station. The accused has been identified as Mandeshwar Paiginkar, a resident of Tilamol, Quepem, who was driving a Zen car in a rash and negligent manner.

Police said the accused, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, dashed against an oncoming Jupiter scooter at Copramoddi, Assolda. As a result, the rider Utpal Naik and pillion rider Ashlesh Bhandari, both residents of Dhadem, Sanvordem, sustained grievous injuries. After



the accident, the driver allegedly fled the spot without informing police and without providing medical assistance to the injured. Both victims were shifted to CHC Curchorem for treatment, where Utpal Naik succumbed to his injuries while undergoing medical care.

Fuel-Contaminated Water Pumped Out From Sancoale Church Well

Team Goemkarponn

SANCOALE: Acting on directions from the State administration, officials of ZIAV Private Limited carried out pumping operations at a well located within the premises of Our Lady of Health Church at Shindole, Sancoale, on Tuesday, removing fuel-contaminated water. The operation was undertaken as an immediate



measure to address the contamination, with officials coordinating on site to safely extract the polluted water. The pumping exercise continued for several hours, during which

around five barrels of contaminated water were removed and secured for further action. CEO Shriprasad Nayak said the company complied with instructions issued by the administration and

completed the initial phase of pumping. He added that the firm will now await further directions from State authorities regarding disposal, noting that the process requires adherence to technical and environmental norms. Nayak also assured that ZIAV Private Limited will extend full cooperation for any further steps, including additional pumping or logistical support, if required.

Dual Milestones, Singular Resolve Strengthening India's Maritime Future

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), a premier Defence Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence, marked a significant milestone in India's maritime capability enhancement with the ceremonial launch of the Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) INS Shachi (Yard 1280) for the Indian Navy, followed by the successful delivery of Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS Achal (Yard 1274) to the Indian Coast Guard. The ceremonial launch of INS Shachi—a key platform under the Indian Navy's NGOPV programme—was carried out by Shagun Sobti in the esteemed presence of Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, UYSM, AVSM, VSM, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff, along with senior officials from the Indian Navy and GSL. The launch marks a major step forward in strengthening



India's indigenous naval capabilities. On the same day, GSL achieved another critical milestone with the delivery of ICGS Achal, which was formally accepted by Commanding Officer in presence of DIG VK Parmar, TM, PDMAT, Indian Coast Guard. Its induction will significantly enhance capabilities in coastal surveillance, maritime law enforcement, and national security operations.

GSCPCR To Conduct Awareness And Outreach Programmes On Child Rights

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (GSCPCR) has announced that it will conduct awareness and outreach programmes for children, teachers, parents, police personnel and other stakeholders on child rights and child

protection laws. The Commission stated that it will also address complaints related to child rights violations, conduct inquiries, take necessary action and monitor the implementation of relevant child protection laws. Pending cases



before the Commission will be taken up on priority to ensure timely redressal. The newly constituted body said it will work with dedication towards safeguarding the welfare of children and protecting their rights. The public has been

encouraged to approach the Commission for any concerns related to child rights. The Commission is headed by Chairperson Shashikant Punaji, along with members Snehal Salgaonkar, Sanjiwani Dessai, Shalaka Dessai, Esther Roe Torres and Sofia De Souza, who have recently assumed charge.



Health Camp At PHC Chinchinim Focuses On Women's Well-Being

Team Goemkarponn

CHINCHINIM: A health camp focusing on community healthcare, particularly women's well-being, was organised at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Chinchinim with active participation from local residents. Smt. Ranjana Pai, Chairperson of the Goa State Women's Commission, attended the camp as chief guest and encouraged efforts aimed at improving access to healthcare services. Smt. Anita Thorat, Vice President of South Goa District BJP, also graced the occasion and extended her support

to the initiative. Medical consultations and health check-ups were conducted during the camp, with many residents availing the services. Organisers said the initiative aimed to promote preventive healthcare and ensure early detection of health issues. Appreciation was extended to Dr. Nixon, Health Officer of PHC Chinchinim, along with the medical and support staff, for organising and conducting the camp smoothly. Members of Velim BJP Yuva Morcha and Mahila Morcha also participated and assisted in coordinating the programme.

Statewide 'Check By Doctor' Drive Boosts Preventive Screening For Women

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: The State government's month-long "Check by Doctor" initiative has intensified preventive healthcare outreach for women across Goa, with screening camps being organised at health facilities statewide. A special camp held at the Community Health Centre in Sankhali saw 935 women availing services,



while more than 40,000 beneficiaries across Goa have undergone health check-ups since the campaign began on March 8. The initiative focuses on early detection of common health conditions and improving awareness among women about regular medical screening.

The camp provided tests for hypertension, diabetes, breast and oral cancer, anaemia and reproductive tract infections. Services such as Pap smear tests, sputum testing, AYUSH OPD consultations and family planning counselling were also offered.

CMC ends tenure on high note, inducts 5 vehicles for solid waste management

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Canacona Municipal Council (CMC) concluded its five-year tenure on a high note by inducting five vehicles worth ₹1.83 crore into its fleet for solid waste management on the last day of its term. The vehicles — two



compactors, two trucks and one soil tanker — were inaugurated on Tuesday by Vice-Chairperson and Acting Chairperson Gandesh

Madganvkar in the presence of councillors and municipal officials. The fleet was lined up in front of the new CMC building, where the vehicles were garlanded and a traditional ritual, including applying sindoor on the front bonnet of a truck, was performed to mark the inauguration.



Digambar Kamat Failed to Notify Mhadei Tiger Reserve: Prabhav Naik

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Madganvcho Awaaz & youth leader Prabhav Naik has alleged that former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat failed to act on a proposal to declare the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve, despite a recommendation from the Union government in 2011. Referring to Project Tiger, launched on April 1, 1973, under then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Naik said the initiative was a visionary step to protect India's national animal. He stated that on June 28, 2011, then Union Environment and Forests Minister Jairam Ramesh had written to the Goa government urging the declaration of the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve, but no action was taken.

“From Goa to the National Stage”: Pratap Naik Shines at National STEM Quiz Grand Finale

■ Class X student from Kendriya Vidyalaya INS Mandovi secures place among India’s top 40 participants.



Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Pratap Naik, a Class X student of PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya INS Mandovi, has brought pride to Goa by securing a place among the top 40 finalists at the prestigious National STEM Quiz 4.0 Grand Finale. The event was held at Gujarat Science City on March 25 and 26, 2026. The competition, organised by the Gujarat Council on Science and Technology under the Department of Science and Technology Government of Gujarat, witnessed participation

from more than 15 lakh students from across the country. The quiz is recognised as one of the major platforms encouraging young learners to deepen their understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Pratap reached the national finale after progressing through a rigorous multi stage selection process.

The journey began with an online virtual round and moved through several competitive elimination levels, where only the highest scoring participants advanced

to the next stage. His consistent performance through these rounds earned him a coveted place among the top 40 students at the national level. The National STEM Quiz follows an innovative format designed to promote analytical thinking and problem solving skills.

It is conducted in two categories, Junior for students of Classes 9 and 10 and Senior for students of Classes 11 and 12.

Apart from the quiz competition, the programme also features specialised STEM learning camps that introduce

students to advanced subjects such as artificial intelligence, coding, mathematics and science.

Participants in the competition also stand a chance to receive scholarships of up to ₹1.5 lakh along with exposure visits to leading educational and research institutions across the country. Pratap Naik's achievement at the national level highlights the growing talent among young students in Goa and serves as an inspiration for others to pursue excellence in STEM related fields.



“Sonics Dominate Every Category” at ASMITA Khelo India Women’s 3x3 League

■ Club secures titles in U-14, U-18 and Women’s sections during North Goa leg.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Sonics Basketball Club delivered an outstanding performance by sweeping all three categories at the North Goa leg of the ASMITA Khelo India Women's 3x3 Basketball League held at the Youth Hostel Miramar. The club emerged as the most dominant side of the tournament, claiming the Under 14 Girls, Under 18 Girls and Women's titles with impressive displays throughout the competition. In the Under 14 Girls category, Sonics fielded a strong team comprising Alya, Samaira Godinho, Ganriella and Zeva. The quartet produced a confident performance in the final to defeat the side from St Mary's Mapusa Basketball Team, represented by Ima Fernandes, Ancila Fernandes and Adelina D'Souza. Their coordinated play and effective teamwork ensured Sonics secured the first title of the tournament. The club continued its winning momentum in the Under 18 Girls section. The Sonics lineup of Kim D'Souza, Keiya Fernandes, Enaira Fernandes

and Lisa Fernandes delivered another strong performance to overcome the challenge from Jades Basketball Team. Jades, represented by Laxmi Kewat, Pratigya Gupta, Aloysia Lobo and Varalika, fought hard but Sonics maintained control to claim the second championship. Sonics then completed a remarkable clean sweep in the Women's category. The team of Kim D'Souza, Keiya Fernandes, Enaira Fernandes and Radya faced Jades once again in the final. Jades featured Sarah Hussain, Gabriella, Alya and Samaira Godinho, but Sonics displayed superior coordination and consistency to secure the title and complete their dominance across all divisions. The closing ceremony was attended by Sandeep Heble, Andriel Fernandes and sports promoter Amey Joshi. The tournament formed part of the ASMITA – Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action under the Khelo India Programme, which aims to encourage greater participation of women in sports and strengthen grassroots development across the country.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Luthra Brothers Get Conditional Bail In Birch Fire Case

deported from Thailand. Investigators allege that they had left the country soon after the fire incident at the Birch venue, located at the Romeo Lane nightclub in Arpora.

Authorities have

charged the brothers with culpable homicide and forgery of government documents, alleging that falsified permissions were used to operate the establishment.

The case has seen significant progress, with

police filing a chargesheet exceeding 4,000 pages

The incident remains one of the deadliest fire tragedies in Goa's recent history, and the legal proceedings continue across multiple cases linked to the disaster.

South Goa Administration Cracks Down On Illegal Bullfights, Warns Landowners Of Action

necessary details and prepare an inventory of landowners to support enforcement measures.

Authorities also discussed preparedness for any emergency or law and order situation arising from such incidents.

Commercial LPG Price Raised by ₹195.50 as Global Oil Surge Hits Energy Market

hike applies to the 19 kilogram commercial LPG cylinders widely used by restaurants, hotels and other businesses.

Following the revision, the price of a 19 kilogram commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi now stands at ₹2,078.50, according to state owned oil marketing companies. The increase comes just a month after a previous revision on March 1, when prices were raised by ₹114.50 per cylinder. In contrast, domestic cooking gas prices have remained unchanged. A standard

14.2 kilogram household LPG cylinder continues to cost ₹913 in Delhi. The last revision in domestic LPG prices took place on March 7, when rates were increased by ₹60 per cylinder. Fuel pricing adjustments are carried out monthly by state run oil companies including Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. These revisions are based on international fuel benchmarks and fluctuations in currency

exchange rates. The latest increase in commercial LPG prices follows a sharp surge in global crude oil rates. Energy markets have been under pressure as the ongoing conflict in West Asia continues to disrupt supply chains and transportation routes. Analysts estimate that global oil prices have risen by nearly fifty percent since the outbreak of the conflict, placing additional strain on fuel dependent industries. Despite the rise in LPG prices for commercial users,

retail petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged. Fuel rates were last adjusted in March last year when the government reduced prices by ₹2 per litre. At present, petrol is priced at ₹94.72 per litre in Delhi while diesel costs ₹87.62 per litre. The divergence between commercial and domestic LPG pricing reflects efforts to protect household consumers from immediate cost increases, even as global energy volatility continues to influence the broader fuel market.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Goa CM submits self enumeration for Census 2027, urges public participation

data collection process. “Every Count Matters, Every Voice Shapes Goa & India's Future. I urge all citizens to actively participate in this important exercise. Your participation is vital in shaping policies that reflect the true

aspirations of our people,” Sawant added. The Self Enumeration initiative forms part of Census 2027 data collection, enabling residents to submit details online, aimed at improving accuracy and streamlining planning for development initiatives.

“India China Relations Moving in Correct Direction,” Says Chinese Consul Qin Jie

■ Diplomat highlights leadership dialogue and upcoming BRICS summits as opportunities to strengthen cooperation

Mumbai: Qin Jie, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Mumbai, expressed optimism about the future of relations between China and India, stating that bilateral ties are progressing in a positive direction under the leadership of both nations. Speaking to reporters, the diplomat referred to recent interactions between Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping, noting



that the two leaders have met twice in the past two years. According to him, these engagements have helped guide the relationship toward stability and constructive engagement. Qin Jie also

pointed to the upcoming BRICS summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi later this year as an important opportunity for strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

He said the summit in India, followed by the next edition in China, would allow both sides to deepen connections and work together for the benefit of their citizens while contributing to

global stability.

The diplomat emphasised that such high level engagements provide a platform for advancing dialogue and collaboration across multiple sectors.

According to him, regular meetings between leaders and diplomatic exchanges are essential for building trust and addressing challenges while exploring areas of mutual interest.



Census 2027 Begins with Houselisting Phase and 33 Key Questions

■ Nationwide survey to run in two stages with caste enumeration returning for the first time since Independence

New Delhi: India has begun preparations for the nationwide Census of India 2027, with the first phase of the exercise starting on April 1. The houselisting operations, which form the initial stage of the census process, will continue until September 30 across states and union territories. During this phase, officials will record details of structures, houses and households to create a comprehensive database for the next stage, known as population enumeration. The exercise will involve 33 questions covering housing conditions, access to essential services and the availability of household

amenities. According to Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan, enumerators will collect information about the type of building, construction materials, ownership status, number of rooms and the number of people residing in each household.

The survey will also gather details about access to drinking water, electricity supply, sanitation facilities and waste disposal systems. The questionnaire further includes queries about household assets such as televisions, radios, computers, mobile phones and internet access. Residents will also be asked whether they own registered two wheelers or four wheelers.

“Political Vultures Trying to Exploit Crisis,” Says PM Modi in Sharp Attack on Congress

■ Prime Minister accuses opposition of spreading fear during global instability linked to West Asia tensions.

New Delhi: Vav Tharad, Gujarat: Narendra Modi launched a strong criticism of the Indian National Congress while addressing a public gathering in Gujarat, accusing the opposition party of attempting to exploit global tensions for



political gain. Speaking at an event in Vav Tharad, the Prime Minister said

certain political groups were trying to create panic in the country at a time when unity and trust were needed. Referring to the ongoing instability in West Asia, the Prime Minister noted that many nations around the world are facing difficulties due

to rising concerns over fuel supplies such as petrol, diesel, and gas. Despite these challenges, he stated that India has managed to maintain stability while several other countries continue to struggle with economic and supply disruptions.



“Final Phase of Maoist Insurgency”: Extremist Activity Now Limited to Few Districts

■ Security operations and rising surrenders shrink Left Wing Extremism footprint across India.

New Delhi: India's decades long struggle against Left Wing Extremism has entered what authorities describe as its concluding phase, with extremist activity now confined to a small number of districts. Security reviews indicate that the insurgency, once spread across a vast stretch of the country, has significantly weakened due to sustained operations, development initiatives and rehabilitation programmes. Recent assessments

show that the remaining Maoist presence is concentrated largely in parts of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. In Chhattisgarh, districts such as Bijapur, Sukma, Narayanpur, Dantewada and Kanker continue to report some level of extremist activity. Among them, Bijapur, Sukma and Narayanpur are considered the most affected areas due to the presence of Maoist leadership networks and armed groups operating in forested border regions.

Government Caps Jet Fuel Price Surge to Protect Domestic Airlines

■ Partial increase in aviation turbine fuel aimed at preventing sharp airfare hikes amid Middle East conflict.

New Delhi: The government has stepped in to cushion the impact of rising aviation fuel costs by limiting the increase in jet fuel prices for domestic airlines. The decision comes amid global

energy disruptions triggered by the conflict in Middle East, which has pushed fuel markets into volatility. Earlier in the day, Indian Oil Corporation announced a sharp rise in aviation turbine fuel prices in

Delhi, increasing rates to ₹2.07 lakh per kilolitre for April. However, within hours the price was revised downward to about ₹1.04 lakh per kilolitre after government intervention aimed at reducing the burden on



airlines. Officials said the move was necessary after projections showed that jet fuel prices in the domestic market could surge by more than 100 percent from April 1, 2026 if global rates were passed on fully.

Iran Expands Attacks Across West Asia as War Enters 32nd Day

■ Rising tensions, energy market shocks and global warnings mark another escalation in the ongoing conflict

New Delhi: The conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States entered its 32nd day with tensions intensifying across West Asia. Fresh attacks launched by Iran reportedly targeted locations linked to Israel

as well as regional states including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain, signalling a widening scope of the confrontation. Military, diplomatic and economic pressures have continued to shape developments

in the conflict, with no immediate signs of a breakthrough. Over the past 24 hours, the situation has remained volatile as governments and global markets reacted to the escalating hostilities. Former US



President Donald Trump is expected to address the nation regarding the situation in Iran. The announcement comes shortly after he suggested that the conflict could conclude within two to three weeks.

“Replacing a World Champion Player Is Not Easy”: Urges Patience on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi’s India Call

■ Teenage sensation impresses in IPL but experts say national team debut may take time.

New Delhi: Teenage cricket sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has once again drawn attention with a remarkable performance in the Indian Premier League 2026 season, sparking conversations about a potential call up to the national team. The 15 year old batter produced a dazzling half century while representing Rajasthan Royals in their clash against Chennai Super Kings, further strengthening his reputation as one of India’s most promising



young cricketers. Having recently turned 15, the youngster has now become eligible for national selection, leading many fans and cricket analysts to suggest that he should be considered

for India’s T20 squad. His fearless stroke play and calm approach under pressure have impressed viewers throughout the tournament.

However, former Indian international Ambati Rayudu has advised caution, saying that while the young batter is highly talented, a place in the national side is not easy to secure. According to Rayudu, the current Indian team is a world champion unit, making competition for places extremely intense. He

pointed out that several players have been performing consistently over the past few years and remain ahead in the selection queue. Team combinations are often built keeping upcoming international tournaments in mind, particularly major events such as the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup. Despite urging patience, Rayudu praised the teenager’s exceptional ability and described him as a standout among emerging talents in the country.

Goa Cricket Association Opens Talent Hunt to Discover Under-15 Girls

■ Statewide initiative aims to identify and nurture emerging female cricket talent.

Team Goemkarponn

Porvorim: The Goa Cricket Association has announced an open talent hunt for Under 15 girls as part of its continued efforts to discover and develop promising young cricketers from across the state. The selection trials will take place on April 4, 2026 at the GCA Ground, Porvorim, with participants required to report at 8:30 AM. The initiative is designed to provide aspiring players with an opportunity to showcase

their skills and potentially progress to higher levels of competitive cricket.

Girls eligible to participate must be born between September 1, 2011 and August 31, 2014. The programme seeks to identify talented youngsters and guide them through structured development pathways within the state’s cricket system.

Interested players must complete the registration process before the deadline of April 2, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

Nevagi’s Century Puts Salgaocar in Command as Premier League Encounters Intensify

■ Teenage sensation impresses in IPL but experts say national team debut may take time.



Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The third round of the Goa Premier Division League 2025 to 26 began with competitive action across three venues, producing closely fought contests between bat and ball. While a couple of teams strengthened their position with impressive performances, one match remains finely balanced heading into the next day. At the NAPEX ground

in Sankhali, Salgaocar Cricket Club produced a commanding batting display against Panjim Gymkhana after electing to bat first. The innings was set in motion by Azaan Thota, who struck a brisk 53 to provide early momentum.

The middle order then consolidated the advantage through a crucial partnership between Shaantanu Nevagi and captain Yash

Kasvankar.

Nevagi anchored the innings with a well crafted 110, while Kasvankar remained unbeaten on 100. With additional support from Yogesh Kauthankar, who stayed not out on 19, Salgaocar ended the day strongly placed at 318 for 4 in 88 overs.

Vijesh Prabhudesai led the bowling effort for Panjim Gymkhana with two wickets.

“GMC and Don Bosco Storm into Final” of Goa University Inter Collegiate Cricket Championship

■ Semi final victories set up title clash between Goa Medical College and Don Bosco College Panjim.

Team Goemkarponn

Bambolim: The semi final stage of the Goa University Inter Collegiate Cricket Men’s Championship 2025–26 concluded with two exciting matches, confirming Goa Medical College and Don Bosco College Panjim as the finalists of the tournament. In the first semi final, Goa Medical College secured a four wicket victory over Dnyanprassarak Mandal’s College and Research Centre Assagao after a competitive encounter.

DM’s College won the toss and opted to bat first,



posting 137 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs. Rohan Zantye led the scoring with a steady 55 from 49 deliveries, while Rayyan Sajjad Shah added 28 runs.

For Goa Medical College, Tanish Prabhudesai and Rohan Vadyekar impressed with the ball, claiming two wickets each.

Chasing the target, Goa Medical College

reached 141 for 6 in 19.1 overs to seal the win.

Adarsh Naik anchored the innings with a composed 58 from 54 balls, while Tanish Prabhudesai and Arsh Sardesai contributed valuable knocks of 31 runs each.

Rohan Zantye tried to keep his side in the contest with three wickets, while Rohan Phadte picked up two.

Goa Cricket Association Opens Talent Hunt to Discover Under-15 Girls.

■ Statewide initiative aims to identify and nurture emerging female cricket talent.

Team Goemkarponn

Porvorim: The Goa Cricket Association has announced an open talent hunt for Under 15 girls as part of its continued efforts to discover and develop promising young cricketers from across

the state. The selection trials will take place on April 4, 2026 at the GCA Ground, Porvorim, with participants required to report at 8:30 AM. The initiative is designed to provide aspiring players with an opportunity to showcase their skills and

potentially progress to higher levels of competitive cricket. Girls eligible to participate must be born between September 1, 2011 and August 31, 2014. The programme seeks to identify talented youngsters and guide them through structured development

pathways within the state’s cricket system. Interested players must complete the registration process before the deadline of April 2, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

Registration can be completed through an online form available on the official website of the

Goa Cricket Association.

Alternatively, participants can collect an offline registration form from the GCA office reception during working hours or download the form from the association’s website. All participants are required to report for

the trials dressed in proper cricket attire, specifically white clothing, and must bring their personal cricket kit. For verification purposes, players must also carry a digital birth certificate, Aadhaar card, and their latest bonafide certificate.