



## Bus Overturns On Mumbai-Goa Highway Near Nagothane, 2 Killed And 38 Injured.

Passengers Allege Rash Driving; Several Critical After Early Morning Accident At Sukeli Ghat.

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI/GOA: Two persons lost their lives and 38 others sustained injuries after a private passenger bus overturned on the Mumbai-Goa Highway near Sukeli Ghat in Nagothane, Raigad district, in the early hours of Friday.

According to initial reports, the bus was travelling from Mumbai to Goa when it met with the accident at a sharp



bend along the ghat section. The driver is suspected to have lost control of the vehicle due to overspeeding, causing the bus to topple. The sudden crash created panic among passengers,



with many getting trapped inside the damaged vehicle.

Local residents who heard the loud impact rushed to the scene and began rescue efforts even before emergency

responders arrived. Police personnel from Nagothane, along with local rescue teams, later pulled out the injured and shifted them to nearby hospitals for medical

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

## Curchorem Sex Scandal: Victim Refuses Medical Examination, Probe Faces Setback

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: The investigation into a second FIR in the Curchorem sex scandal has encountered a setback after the 19-year-old complainant refused to undergo a medical examination, police sources said. According to officials, the survivor had alleged in her complaint that she was sexually assaulted by accused Soham Naik between July 2025 and March 2026 under the pretext of marriage. She further claimed that obscene images of her were later circulated on social media without her consent. As part of



the probe, police sought to conduct a medical examination of the victim to corroborate the allegations.

However, the complainant declined to undergo the procedure, complicating the investigation process.

Police stated that despite the refusal, the probe into the FIR will continue and other forms of evidence, including digital records and witness statements, are being examined.



## India Only Nation to Lose Mariners in Strait of Hormuz Attacks, Says Foreign Secretary

New Delhi Calls for De-Escalation and Safe Maritime Transit at UK-Led Talks on West Asia Crisis.

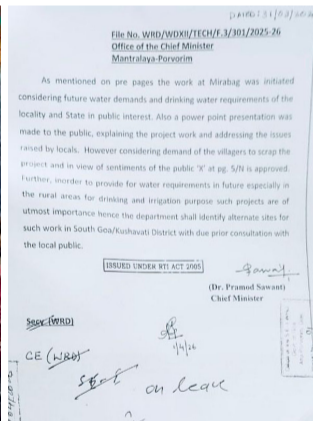
NEW DELHI: India highlighted the human and economic impact of the ongoing conflict in West Asia during international discussions on the security of the Strait of Hormuz, with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri stating that India is the only country to have lost mariners in recent attacks on merchant vessels in the region. Misri represented India at a virtual meeting led

by the United Kingdom that brought together representatives from more than sixty countries to discuss reopening and safeguarding the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy shipping routes. The discussions focused on the ongoing tensions in West Asia and the need to ensure the free movement of commercial shipping through the vital maritime corridor.

## Mirabag-Sanvordem Bandhara project officially cancelled, protesters receive written order

Team Goemkarponn

MIRABAG: Agitators opposing the proposed Bandhara at Mirabag-Sanvordem were on Thursday officially handed a government order confirming the project's cancellation, ending weeks of uncertainty. The written confirmation comes nearly a week



after villagers called off their 49-day continuous sit-in protest, following assurances from Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in a meeting at Margao that the project would be scrapped. Residents had awaited the official order, which the chief minister had promised would be issued within

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

## Mapusa Market Break-In: 6 Shops Targeted, Probe Underway

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Six shops at the Mapusa Market were reportedly broken into late at night in an attempted theft, causing concern among traders in the area. Police rushed to

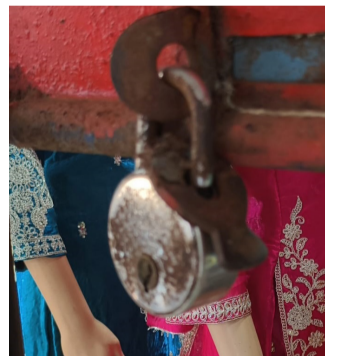
the spot after receiving information about the break-ins and conducted a preliminary inspection of the affected shops.

According to initial reports, no items were found stolen, suggesting that the attempt may have

been unsuccessful.

Traders expressed worry over the incident and called for increased night patrolling in and around the market area to prevent such occurrences.

Police have registered the case and launched an



investigation to identify those involved. Further inquiries are in progress.

## Government Prepares Landmark Bill to Expand Lok Sabha and Implement Women's Quota

NEW DELHI: Both Houses of Parliament were adjourned on April 2, with the government planning to reconvene the session on April 16 to introduce

a significant legislative proposal that could expand the strength of the Lok Sabha from 543 to 816 seats. The proposed move is closely connected to



the implementation of the women's reservation law, formally known as the Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam. Once implemented, the law will reserve one

third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women, a step expected to substantially increase female representation in

India's political system. If the Lok Sabha's strength rises to 816, approximately 273 seats would be set aside for women under the reservation provision.

Session to Reconvene on April 16 to Take Up Bill Linked to Women's Reservation

# Safety Promised, Lives Forgotten: Who Answers for Shirgao?

Every year, the Shirgao Lairai Devi jatra draws lakhs of devotees in a powerful expression of faith. Every year, the state machinery promises “comprehensive safety.” And yet, after lives were lost in last year’s tragedy, one question continues to haunt Goa: where is accountability? The Goa government has now assured the High Court that “adequate safety measures” are in place—traffic regulation, police deployment, crowd monitoring, CCTV surveillance, and staggered entry systems. On paper, it sounds reassuring. In court, it appears sufficient. But outside the courtroom, on the narrow roads of Shirgao where faith meets chaos, such assurances ring hollow. Because this is not the first time.

Last year’s stampede during the same jatra claimed multiple lives and left many injured—a tragedy widely described as preventable.

That single word—preventable—should have triggered resignations, independent inquiries, and systemic reform. Instead, it has been buried under bureaucratic language and seasonal promises. The uncomfortable truth is that India, and Goa in particular, suffers from a dangerous pattern: tragedy, outrage, assurances, and then amnesia. The government’s affidavit to the High Court lists logistical improvements. But logistics are not accountability. Regulating traffic or installing CCTV cameras may reduce risk, but they do not answer the most basic question: who was responsible for last year’s deaths?

Was any official held liable? Was any department reprimanded? Were protocols audited by an independent authority? Or did the system simply reset, hoping better arrangements this year would erase the failures of the past? Accountability is not just about punishment—it is about trust. When citizens see that lives can be lost without consequences, confidence in governance erodes. Faith,

*“Was any official held liable? Was any department reprimanded? Were protocols audited by an independent authority? Or did the system simply reset, hoping better arrangements this year would erase the failures of the past?”*

*Accountability is not just about punishment—it is about trust. When citizens see that lives can be lost without consequences, confidence in governance erodes. Faith, ironically, becomes safer than the systems meant to protect it.*

*The Shirgao jatra is no ordinary gathering. It is a high-risk, high-density religious event involving fire-walking rituals and massive crowds concentrated in a geographically constrained area.*

ironically, becomes safer than the systems meant to protect it. The Shirgao jatra is no ordinary gathering. It is a high-risk, high-density religious event involving fire-walking rituals and massive crowds concentrated in a geographically constrained area.

The risks are not unknown. The vulnerabilities are not new. Which makes last year’s tragedy even more damning—it was not an unforeseeable disaster, but a failure of planning and execution. And yet, the government’s

current stance reflects a troubling complacency. By focusing solely on “measures in place,” it avoids confronting the deeper issue of institutional failure. It is easier to promise better policing than to admit past negligence.

Even the High Court’s role, while crucial, appears limited to procedural satisfaction. The court has accepted the government’s assurances and disposed of the petition, albeit with liberty to raise future concerns.

But should judicial closure be mistaken for administrative absolution?

There is also a deeper moral question. In a democracy, are lives lost in public events simply collateral damage? Do we accept that large gatherings will inevitably result in casualties, as long as “efforts” were made?

This normalisation of preventable deaths is perhaps the most dangerous outcome of all.

What is needed is not just better crowd control this year, but a structural shift in how such events are governed. Independent safety audits must be mandatory. Responsibility must be clearly fixed across departments. Real-time decision-making should be backed by accountability frameworks, not just protocols. And most importantly, when lives are lost, there must be consequences—visible, transparent, and just. Without this, every assurance becomes a ritual in itself—repeated annually, believed selectively, and forgotten conveniently.

The devotees who gather at Shirgao do so in faith. They trust that the state will safeguard their lives as they honour their beliefs. That trust cannot be repaid with affidavits alone.

Until accountability is established, every claim of “adequate safety” will remain incomplete. Because safety is not measured by plans made, but by lessons learned. And in Shirgao, it seems the most important lesson is still being ignored.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Public Health Cannot Be Compromised

The recent developments in the Prabhu Violetta health case have raised serious concerns about public safety and regulatory accountability in Goa. The statement by Health Minister Vishwajeet Rane linking the issue to alleged water contamination in Dabolim is deeply alarming and warrants an urgent, transparent investigation. Access to clean water is not a privilege but a basic necessity. If contamination is indeed linked to construction activities, it exposes glaring lapses in oversight and enforcement. The decision to hold the builder accountable and suspend all associated projects is a necessary first step, but it must not end there. Accountability must be comprehensive and extend to all authorities responsible for granting approvals and monitoring compliance. The directive to the Town and Country Planning department to submit all relevant files is welcome. However, the public deserves clarity, not just action behind closed doors. The proposed special committee must function independently, with its findings made public to restore trust. This incident highlights a broader issue. Rapid development cannot come at the cost of public health. Goa’s fragile ecology and densely populated areas demand stricter scrutiny, not relaxed norms. The Minister is right in asserting that no one has the right to endanger lives. The real test now lies in sustained action, not momentary outrage. Goa must set a precedent where negligence is met with consequences and citizens’ well-being is placed above all else.

-Rohan D’Souza, Margao

### Illegal Nightlife Must Not Disturb Local Peace

The concerns raised by Calangute MLA Michael Lobo regarding the rise of illegal clubs in residential areas reflect a growing problem that many Goans are quietly enduring. What were once peaceful neighbourhoods are increasingly being disrupted by loud music, late-night disturbances, and unruly behaviour, all stemming from establishments operating without proper permissions. Residential homes being illegally extended and converted into dance bars or clubs is not just a violation of building norms but also a direct assault on the quality of life of local residents. The failure to enforce existing regulations raises questions about oversight by local authorities. If permissions are being misused or bypassed, accountability must be fixed without delay. Strict action by panchayats and police, as directed by the High Court, is essential. However, enforcement must be consistent, not selective. Authorities must ensure that illegal structures are shut down promptly and that those responsible face consequences strong enough to deter repeat violations. On another note, the improvement in LPG doorstep delivery is a welcome relief for residents and small businesses in Calangute. Yet, the rising cost of LPG and supply uncertainties continue to strain household budgets and the hospitality sector, which remains vital to Goa’s economy. Development and tourism cannot come at the cost of residents’ peace and affordability. It is time for authorities to act decisively and restore balance.

- Anthony Fernandes, Calangute

## Centre Forwards Rebello's Plea; Goa Govt Told To Check Village Construction Surge

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa government has been asked to examine concerns over rapid and largely unregulated construction in villages after a representation by former Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Ferdino Rebello was forwarded from the President's Secretariat to the State authorities. Acting on the communication, the state Home Department has directed the Town and Country Planning



(TCP) Department and the Revenue Department to look into the issues raised and take necessary action. The representation flags a surge in construction activity across rural Goa, warning

that it is transforming village landscapes and placing pressure on infrastructure and natural resources. Rebello, in his submission, outlined a 10-point charter seeking stricter regulation of development in village areas. The memorandum highlighted concerns about large-scale land conversions, increased building activity and the potential impact on ecology, traditional village character and demographic balance. The representation had earlier been addressed

to national authorities, seeking intervention to regulate what was described as unchecked development. Following this, the matter was forwarded to the Goa government for appropriate action. The state's direction to the TCP and Revenue departments is seen as an initial step towards reviewing planning permissions and ensuring that construction in rural areas adheres to regulations and sustainable development norms.



## LPG pilferage caught in Chandor-Guirdolim amid supply crunch

Residents alarmed as delivery staff allegedly siphon gas from cylinders during West Asia-related shortage

Team Goemkarponn

**CHANDOR-GUIRDOLIM:**

Allegations of LPG pilferage resurfaced as residents in Chandor-Guirdolim caught employees of a Margao-based gas agency allegedly siphoning gas from one cylinder to another inside a delivery van, raising fresh concerns amid ongoing supply disruptions linked to the West Asia conflict.

Eyewitnesses said the incident unfolded during routine deliveries when alert locals noticed suspicious activity. After confronting the staff, the delivery driver and loaders reportedly fled the scene, jumping over nearby railway tracks. The agency owner, whose office is in Malbhat, later arrived

and assured residents that the three employees involved would be terminated immediately. A local resident said such incidents have been recurring, with customers often inconvenienced by delivery personnel. Suspicion arose when a woman noticed a black cloth covering the cylinders; underneath, she found pipes allegedly used to transfer gas. She recorded a video of the activity, rejecting attempts by workers to bribe her with free cylinders in exchange for deleting the footage. The episode sparked outrage, especially among women residents, who confronted the agency owner demanding strict action and compensation for losses.

## Illegal Clubs In Residential Areas Of Calangute To Face Action: MLA Michael Lobo

Team Goemkarponn

**CALANGUTE:** Calangute MLA Michael Lobo has said that several houses in residential areas have been illegally modified and turned into clubs, with some allegedly functioning as dance bars under the pretext of operating as clubs. He noted that the absence of a clear government policy for clubs has contributed to



the growing issue. Lobo stated that, in line with High Court directives, action must be taken against illegal constructions, and the responsibility for initiating such action lies with

the local panchayat. He added that authorities have already begun the process of identifying establishments operating without proper permissions. Highlighting concerns raised by residents, Lobo said these illegal clubs are creating disturbances in otherwise peaceful neighbourhoods. Complaints include loud music late into the night, chaotic scenes,

and unruly behaviour by tourists consuming alcohol in residential localities. The MLA said he has instructed the panchayat to take strict action against violations. He also assured that detailed inquiries would be conducted into the functioning of these clubs, including examining how they managed to obtain licenses, if any, and whether due procedures were followed.

## Goa govt recovers Rs 1.60 crore from ineligible Griha Aadhar beneficiaries

Department of Women and Child Development cracks down on misuse of welfare scheme for low-income women

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa government has recovered Rs 1.60 crore from hundreds of women who had improperly availed benefits under the Griha Aadhar scheme, officials said, as part of an ongoing effort to prevent misuse of public funds.

The recoveries, carried out by the Department of Women and Child Development, targeted 304 beneficiaries who continued receiving monthly assistance despite being ineligible. The scheme provides Rs 1,500 per month to women with an annual



income below Rs 3 lakh. In 2019, the government revised eligibility rules to exclude women in government employment, as well as those whose spouses are regular government employees. However, a departmental survey later revealed widespread violations, with over 3,000 women continuing to receive payments despite falling under the exclusion criteria.

## Goa CM Welcomes Jan Vishwas Bill 2026, Calls It Boost for Ease of Doing Business

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has welcomed the Jan Vishwas Bill 2026, describing it as a progressive reform aimed at creating a more trust-based and citizen-friendly governance system. In a statement, Sawant said, "The Jan Vishwas Bill 2026 marks a significant step towards removing outdated laws and building a future-ready Bharat based on trust and ease of compliance." Highlighting its impact on Goa, the Chief Minister noted that the rationalisation of provisions under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the removal of obsolete regulations in sectors like the coir



industry will help reduce the compliance burden and encourage entrepreneurship. He further stated, "These reforms will directly benefit MSMEs and traditional sectors in Goa by promoting ease of doing business and creating a growth-oriented regulatory framework." Sawant also emphasised that the changes would support the AYUSH sector and small manufacturers by replacing punitive provisions with practical measures, ultimately boosting local industries and economic growth in the state.

## Major water supply disruption in Bardez as Colvale pipeline leak worsens

Residents of multiple areas to face shortage for two days as urgent repairs are carried out.

Team Goemkarponn

**BARDEZ:** A minor leak in a key water pipeline at Colvale has escalated into a serious problem, forcing authorities to shut down supply and impacting large parts of Bardez over the next two days. The affected pipeline is a 1,000 mm main line near a canal crossing in Colvale. What started as a small leak quickly worsened, prompting the Department of Drinking Water (DDW) to initiate urgent repair work. Executive Engineer officials confirmed that repair work is ongoing. Water supply will be suspended on April 3



and will gradually resume by late April 4 after completion of the repairs. Immediate action was deemed necessary to prevent further damage and avoid a prolonged disruption. Areas affected include Mapusa, Calangute, Candolim, Guirim, Nerul, Reis Magos, Saligao, Sodiem, Marna, Oxel, Revora, Nadora, Tivim, Camurlim, Colvale, Moira, Bastora, Bhutkiwado, Aaradi, Vaddem, and Carrem.

## Latvian National Arrested in Arambol for Using Multiple Fake Identities, Passports

Team Goemkarponn

**MANDREM:** Mandrem Police have arrested a Latvian national for allegedly using forged documents and obtaining multiple passports under different names to travel and stay in India, particularly in Goa. According to police, the offence was registered on April 1, 2026 at 7:23 pm based on a complaint filed by Police Inspector Mahesh Gadekar of the Crime Branch, Ribandar. The accused, identified as Buda Ozolins (52), son of Ivans Nikitin and a native



of Latvia, was residing at House No. 05, Oceanic Villa, Madhalawada, Arambol in Pernem. Investigations revealed that prior to April 1, the accused allegedly submitted forged documents to cheat competent authorities

and obtained multiple passports in different names.

Police said he used these identities as genuine while travelling and staying in Goa and other parts of India. He is also accused of suppressing his original identity and

using different names while moving from one place to another, thereby allegedly cheating Indian authorities.

Based on the complaint, Mandrem Police registered Crime No. 29/2026 under Sections 336(2), 336(3), 340(2), 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, along with Section 22 of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

The accused was arrested on April 1, 2026 at 8:37 pm. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Abhishek Chodankar.



## Man Fires Rifle in Air After Dispute Over Tap Water in Quepem

Team Goemkarponn

**QUEPEM:** Quepem Police have registered a case after a man allegedly fired a rifle in the air following a dispute over a roadside water tap at Cavorem. According to the complaint filed by Kushali Velip of Gaonkarwadda, Cavorem, the incident occurred on April 1, 2026 between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. The accused, identified as Ram Velip of Velipwada, Cavorem, allegedly abused the complainant and family members in filthy language over

the issue of a tap water connection installed at the roadside. Police said the accused then allegedly threatened to kill the complainant's family members.

He later went inside his house, brought a firearm rifle and negligently fired one round in the air, thereby endangering human life and the safety of the complainant's family.

Quepem Police have registered the case and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Yogesh Gaonkar.

## Woman Injured After Jeep Hits Scooter Near Farmagudi Circle

Team Goemkarponn

**PONDA:** Ponda Police have registered a case following a road accident at Farmagudi that left a woman grievously injured. According to the complaint filed by Vaibhavi Lamgaonkar, a resident

of Bicholim, the incident occurred on March 28, 2026 at around 4:00 pm near the GVMS circle at Farmagudi, Ponda. The accused driver, identified as Abhijit Borkar of Farmagudi, was allegedly driving a jeep in a rash and negligent manner

while proceeding from Borim towards Panaji. Police said that upon reaching near the GVMS circle, the jeep allegedly dashed against an Access scooter travelling from Ponda towards Panjim. As a result of the impact, the scooter rider,



Vaibhavi Lamgaonkar of Gaonkarwada, Bicholim, sustained grievous injuries to her left hand. Further investigation is being carried out by ASI Rohidas Bhomkar of Ponda Police Station.

## Minor Threatened With Knife At Candolim Shack; Case Registered

Team Goemkarponn

**CANDOLIM:** Calangute Police have registered an offence after a minor was allegedly threatened with a knife at a shack in Candolim. According to police, the complaint was lodged on April 1, 2026 at 7:24 pm by the complainant (name withheld), a resident of Candolim, Bardez. The



complainant alleged that on December 30, 2025, at around 10:30 pm at Siora Paradise Shack, Candolim, the accused Samuel Bobby Fernandes, residing at

the same shack premises, allegedly placed a knife on the complainant's neck and threatened with dire consequences. Police stated that the complainant was below 18 years of age at the time of the incident. Calangute Police have registered the case and further investigation is in progress under PSI Vishwajit Dhavalikar.

## Man Held With Suspected Ganja Worth ₹20,000 at Tilamol

Team Goemkarponn

**QUEPEM:** Quepem Police have arrested a man for allegedly possessing suspected ganja during a house search conducted at Tilamol. According to a state complaint filed by PSI Digamber Bondre of Quepem Police Station, the search was carried out



on April 1, 2026 between 5:39 pm and 6:55 pm at Crossville, Tilamol, Quepem. During the search at the residence

of the accused, Rohit D'Silva of Crossville, police reportedly found him in illegal possession of 202 grams of greenish leafy substance with flowering and fruiting tops suspected to be ganja. Police stated that the seized contraband is valued at approximately ₹20,000.

## Ponda Man Duped of ₹4 Lakh in Online Stock Market Scam

Team Goemkarponn

**PONDA:** Ponda Police have registered a cheating case after a local resident was allegedly duped of ₹4 lakh in an online stock market investment scam. According to the complaint filed by



Nishad S. Bakhale of Varkhandem, Ponda, between February 28 and March 23, 2026, unknown persons contacted him from different mobile numbers claiming to be brokers and advisors in the online stock market. The accused allegedly

identified themselves as Ajay Choudhary, Udayan Gupta and Manish. Police said the accused induced the complainant to invest money by promising high returns. Believing their claims, the complainant initially transferred ₹1,00,000 through multiple UPI transactions to IDs provided by the accused.

## Unidentified Male Body Found Floating in Mandovi Near Casino Jetty

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Panaji Police have registered an unnatural death case after an unidentified male body was found floating in the Mandovi river near the Deltin Royal Casino jetty.

According to police, the incident was reported on April 1, 2026 at around 4:45 pm after a PCR call informed authorities



that a body was seen floating in the river. Fire and emergency services personnel retrieved the body from the water.

Police said the deceased is an unknown male aged approximately

30-35 years. He was found wearing yellow innerwear and navy blue shorts. The body is described as having a dark complexion, about 5 feet in height, with beard and moustache. A scene of occurrence panchanama was conducted and the body was shifted to the GMC morgue at Bambolim for further procedures and identification.

## 3 Nominated as Councillors to Corporation of City of Panaji

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Department of Urban Development (Municipal Administration) has nominated three persons as councillors to the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) with immediate effect.

As per the notification dated April 2, 2026, issued under Section 9(1)(b) of the City of Panaji Corporation Act, 2002, the government



nominated individuals with special knowledge and experience in municipal administration.

The nominated councillors are Dennis Edward Francis Jorge, Shekhar Degvekar and Maria Regina Almeida.

The order was issued by Director of Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Brijesh Manerkar, by order and in the name of the Governor of Goa.

The notification has been forwarded to the State Election Commission, CCP Mayor, Commissioner of the Corporation of the City of Panaji and other concerned authorities for necessary action.

## Goa Moving From Treatment-Based To Wellness-Based Healthcare: CM

### Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant on Thursday said Goa is moving from a treatment-based healthcare system to a wellness-based model, as he inaugurated the AYUSH Wellness Centre at the Secretariat in Porvorim. The centre, inaugurated in the presence of Health Minister Vishwajit



Rane, aims to promote preventive healthcare, healthy lifestyles and overall well-being by integrating traditional AYUSH systems with

modern medical practices. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said the initiative reflects the government's vision of shifting focus from curing diseases to preventing them. He stressed that preventive healthcare, fitness and mental well-being will be key pillars of Goa's healthcare model going forward, and urged citizens to take shared responsibility for their health.

## Liquor Transport Banned in Ponda for By-Election; Possession Limits Set

### Team Goemkarponn

**PONDA:** The Department of Finance (Revenue & Control) has notified that transport of liquor within the jurisdiction of the Ponda Assembly Constituency will be prohibited from 6:00 pm on April 7, 2026 till 6:00 pm on April 9, 2026, or till closure of poll, whichever is later.

The restriction will also apply on May 4, 2026, on account of counting of votes for the Ponda Assembly by-election. Authorities have also



fixed limits on possession of liquor within the constituency.

A person, including family, can possess a maximum of three quart bottles of Indian Made Foreign Liquor or foreign liquor (other than beer), six bottles of 650 ml beer, and three quart bottles of country liquor.

## Goa Notifies 15 Loudspeaker Days for 2026; Music Allowed Till Midnight

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Department of Environment & Climate Change has notified 15 days in 2026 on which loudspeakers and public address systems will be permitted to operate till midnight across Goa. As per the order issued by Director and Ex-Officio Joint Secretary (Environment & Climate Change) Sachin S. Desai, the relaxation allows use of sound systems between 10:00 pm and 12:00 midnight on specified cultural and religious occasions. The notified dates include Easter

SCHEDULE		
Sr. No.	Cultural/Religious Festive occasion	Date
1	Easter Eve	04 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026
2	Ester Day	05 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026
3	Ganesh Chaturthi (2 <sup>nd</sup> day of idol immersion)	15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2026
4	Ganesh Chaturthi (5 <sup>th</sup> day of idol immersion)	18 <sup>th</sup> September, 2026
5	Anant Chaturdashi	24 <sup>th</sup> September, 2026
6	Navaratri (last day of Navaratri)	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2026
7	Diwali Eve	07 <sup>th</sup> November, 2026
8	Christmas Eve	24 <sup>th</sup> December, 2026
9	Christmas	25 <sup>th</sup> December, 2026
10 to 15	New Year's Eve	26 <sup>th</sup> December, 2026 to 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2026

Eve (April 4), Easter Day (April 5), Ganesh Chaturthi immersions on September 15 and 18, Anant Chaturdashi (September 24), Navaratri last day (October 20), Diwali Eve (November 7), Christmas Eve (December 24), Christmas Day (December 25) and New Year celebrations from December 26 to 31. The

government clarified that permission will not be automatic and must be obtained from the competent authority such as the Deputy Collector or Sub-Divisional Magistrate. Applications are required to be submitted in advance, and authorities will monitor noise levels to ensure compliance with permissible limits.



## Tripura Biodiversity Board Delegation Interacts With Shristhal BMC

### Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA:** A delegation from the Tripura State Biodiversity Board, currently on a visit to Goa, met and interacted with the award-winning Shristhal Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) at Shristhal in Canacona on Wednesday. During the interaction, members of the Tripura delegation gathered information on the functioning of the Shristhal BMC and the various initiatives undertaken by the committee. The visiting team included Amina Das, Rakesh Das, Kaushik Mujumdar, Sougat Deb, Animesh Saha and Biprajit Roy. The delegation appreciated the activities implemented by the Shristhal BMC, with special mention of the recently organised Ran-Bhaji (wild vegetable) festival. They were also briefed on the committee's awareness campaigns, tree plantation drives and other conservation initiatives. The visiting members showed particular interest in obtaining details of the 'Vaidya Mitra' scheme. The delegation was welcomed by Shristhal BMC Chairman Vinay Tubaki, followed by a presentation on the committee's work by member Shirish Pai.

## Rajya Sabha MP Demands Independent Postal Circle for Goa, Cites Jobs for Youth

### Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade has demanded creation of an independent Postal Circle for Goa, stating that the move would boost employment opportunities for local youth and improve postal service efficiency in the state. Raising the issue during a Special Mention in the Rajya Sabha, Tanavade pointed out that Goa is currently administered under the Maharashtra Postal Circle despite being a separate state with distinct administrative and linguistic needs. He said the existing arrangement no longer meets Goa's requirements and has led to practical challenges



affecting governance and service delivery. The MP highlighted that recruitment to postal services is conducted at the circle level, where candidates from larger states dominate due to higher competition. This, he said, restricts employment opportunities for Goan youth and reduces their representation in public services within the state. Tanavade further stated that many employees recruited from outside Goa seek transfers back

to their parent states after short tenures, leading to frequent vacancies. These gaps, he noted, are often handled through temporary arrangements, affecting efficiency and continuity of postal services. He stressed that creation of an independent Postal Circle would enhance job opportunities for locals, improve administrative accountability and ensure a more responsive, citizen-centric postal system tailored to Goa's needs. Tanavade urged the



## Canacona BJP Mandal Holds Preparatory Meeting For Party Foundation Day

### Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Canacona Mandal convened a preparatory meeting at the Shristhal Panchayat Hall on Thursday to plan activities for the party's upcoming Foundation Day celebrations.

The meeting was attended and addressed by Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs, Art & Culture and Tribal Welfare, and

Canacona MLA Ramesh Tawadkar.

He guided mandal office-bearers on the planning and conduct of programmes, outlining key do's and don'ts while organising the Foundation Day and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti events in the constituency. Discussions focused on ensuring coordinated efforts, active participation and smooth execution of all scheduled programmes across Canacona.

# “Goa Has the Talent the World Needs,” Says McLaren Chairman While Recruiting Local Engineers

■ Global tech firm expands hiring in the state as 20 engineering students secure international career opportunities



## Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Goa continues to strengthen its reputation as an emerging technology hub as global technology firm McLaren Strategic Solutions inducted 20 final year engineering students from leading technical institutes in the state into its global workforce. The students received their Letters of

Intent during a special interaction session held in Panaji.

The event was attended by the Minister for Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, who joined the chairman of the company in presenting the appointment letters to the selected candidates. Senior representatives from the technology sector

and state institutions were also present, reflecting the growing collaboration between industry and government to support the state's digital ecosystem.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister described the moment as a proud milestone for the students, their families and the technology sector in Goa. He highlighted that while

Goans possess immense talent, limited exposure and opportunities in the past often forced many to seek careers outside the state. Strengthening industry partnerships and expanding technology investments within Goa aims to create sustainable career paths so that young professionals can build successful futures without leaving their home



state.

During an interactive session, the students engaged with the company chairman on various topics including business growth, global market opportunities and the importance of strong organisational values. The discussion provided aspiring engineers with insights into the rapidly evolving international technology landscape and the expectations of global companies.

The chairman explained that Goa was

chosen because of its untapped potential, educated talent pool and strong communication skills among young professionals. He also pointed to the state's positive environment, quality of life and supportive governance as key reasons behind the company's decision to expand operations locally.

The recruitment drive began earlier this year, with candidates evaluated not only on academic performance but also on practical exposure.

# “Goa Is Witnessing a Steady Rise in Innovative Ventures,” Says IT Director During Startup Screening

■ Government evaluates emerging startups for financial support under the Seed Capital Scheme.



## Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** The Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications of the Government of Goa conducted a Screening Committee meeting to assess startup proposals submitted under the Seed Capital Scheme of the Goa Startup Policy 2025. The meeting was held at the department's conference room in Altinho with the aim of identifying promising ventures eligible for financial assistance and strengthening the state's growing innovation ecosystem.

The session brought together representatives from government departments, industry professionals and domain experts who reviewed proposals presented by

startup founders. The committee evaluated ventures operating across a wide range of sectors including information technology, artificial intelligence, healthcare, education technology, sustainability, digital services, tourism solutions, clean energy and community driven innovation. During the session, entrepreneurs presented their ideas, product concepts and business models before the committee. Each proposal was assessed based on several parameters such as level of innovation, technical feasibility, scalability, market relevance, social impact and the potential to generate employment and entrepreneurial opportunities within the state.

The Director of the Department of Information Technology, who chaired the meeting, highlighted the importance of supporting early stage innovation. He noted that the Seed Fund Scheme has been designed to identify entrepreneurs who are developing practical solutions with strong growth potential. According to him, Goa is witnessing a steady increase in innovative startups across multiple sectors, and the initiative aims to help these ventures transition from early concepts to impactful businesses. He further emphasized that the scheme is not only about financial assistance but also about creating an environment where startups can experiment, validate their ideas and

expand their operations from Goa.

Under the Seed Fund Grant Scheme, eligible startups that have developed a Minimum Viable Product can receive one time financial support of up to ₹10 lakh. The assistance is intended to help founders refine their products, conduct pilot projects and move closer to commercial deployment.

Startup founders who participated in the evaluation described the process as encouraging and constructive. They noted that initiatives like the Seed Fund Scheme provide young entrepreneurs with both financial backing and institutional recognition during the crucial early stages of building their ventures.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

# Bus Overtakes On Mumbai-Goa Highway Near Nagothane, 2 Killed And 38 Injured.

treatment. Officials said that out of the 38 injured passengers, at least 10 are in critical condition. All the victims were first taken to a nearby medical facility, while those with serious injuries were later transferred to MGM Hospital for advanced care. In a troubling development, several survivors claimed the accident was caused by the driver's reckless driving rather than any mechanical fault. Passengers alleged that the driver had been speeding and driving erratically from the start of the journey.

Despite repeated warnings from travellers, he reportedly ignored their requests to slow

down. Some passengers also stated that they had submitted an online complaint regarding the driver's rash driving on the RedBus platform while the journey was still in progress. However, the mishap occurred before any corrective action could be taken. The identities of the deceased have not yet been officially confirmed. Police have launched a detailed investigation and indicated that a technical inspection of the bus will also be conducted. The Sukeli Ghat stretch is known to be accident-prone, and the latest incident has once again raised concerns over highway safety and stricter enforcement of traffic regulations.

# Mirabag-Sanvordem Bandhara project officially cancelled, protesters receive written order

two days. Upendra Naik, speaking at the handover of the order, expressed gratitude to all who supported the movement, including political parties, social organizations, clubs, activists, the

media, local businesses from Curchorem, and citizens from Sanguem, Savordem, and Curchorem. He highlighted the crucial role of women participants in the agitation.

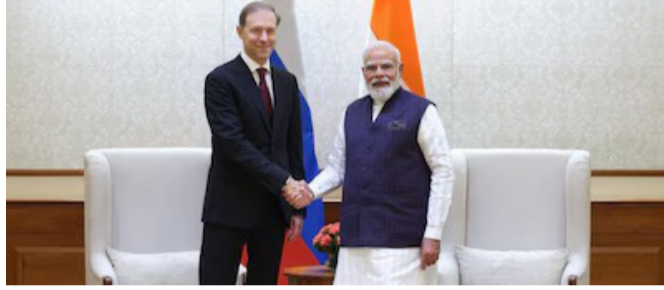
# India and Russia Step Up Cooperation as Deputy PM Meets PM Modi

■ Talks Focus on Trade, Energy, Defence Cooperation and Stronger People to People Ties.

**NEW DELHI:** Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi to review bilateral relations and explore ways to expand cooperation in key sectors including trade, investment, energy and fertilisers.

Manturov, who is on a two day visit to India, also held separate discussions with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The meetings took place amid rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia, adding strategic significance to the visit.

During the interaction,

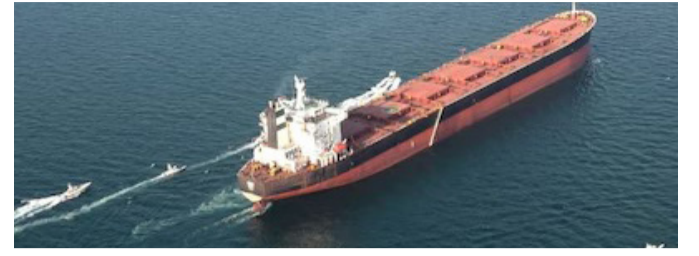


Manturov briefed the Prime Minister on progress in several areas of partnership between the two countries. These included economic cooperation, trade expansion, connectivity initiatives and people to people exchanges aimed at strengthening long standing ties between India and Russia. Prime Minister Modi also recalled the visit of Russian President

Vladimir Putin to India in December for the 23rd India Russia Annual Summit. He expressed satisfaction over the progress made in implementing the decisions taken during that meeting and conveyed greetings to the Russian President while expressing hope for continued high level engagements between the two nations. The discussions placed strong

emphasis on enhancing economic cooperation and boosting trade. Both sides are working towards a long term goal of significantly increasing bilateral trade and expanding collaboration in sectors such as energy, industrial development and investment.

Security and defence cooperation also figured in the talks. Manturov's visit comes shortly after India cleared the procurement of an additional batch of S 400 air defence missile system from Russia. India had earlier signed a major agreement with Russia in 2018 to acquire the advanced missile defence system, with several units already delivered.



## Iranian Oil Tanker Changes Course From India to China Amid Rising Regional Tensions

■ Sanctioned Vessel Carrying Iranian Crude Alters Route as Geopolitical Pressures Continue to Shape Global Energy Trade.

**NEW DELHI:** A tanker carrying Iranian crude oil that was earlier expected to arrive in India has changed its course and is now heading toward China, reflecting the complicated geopolitical environment surrounding global oil trade amid ongoing regional tensions. The vessel, identified as Ping Shun, is an Aframax class tanker built in 2002. Ship tracking data

indicates that the tanker is now signaling Dongying in China as its destination. Earlier in the week, the vessel had indicated an arrival at Vadinar Terminal on India's western coast, with an expected arrival date of April 4.

However, recent tracking information shows that the tanker has veered sharply south, suggesting a change in route.



## "File a Complaint If You Have Proof": DK Shivakumar Hits Back at 'Suitcase Politics' Charge

■ Karnataka Deputy CM Challenges BJP Leaders as Davangere South Bypoll Campaign Heats Up.

**NEW DELHI:** Political tensions escalated in the run up to the Davangere South bypoll as Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar challenged leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party to substantiate their allegations of "suitcase politics" by filing a formal complaint. Speaking to reporters in Davangere, Shivakumar questioned why former Chief Minister D. V. Sadananda Gowda had not taken legal action despite making public accusations. He remarked that if there was credible evidence behind the claims, a complaint should have already been filed instead of raising the issue during the election

campaign. Taking a swipe at Gowda's remarks, Shivakumar asked whether the senior leader had come to the constituency to campaign or to speculate about the alleged controversy. He reiterated that the matter should be pursued legally if there was any proof rather than through public statements. Responding to Gowda's suggestion that BJP workers should try to secure a larger share of minority votes, Shivakumar reacted sarcastically, saying the opposition was free to win all the votes if they could. His comments came amid intensifying campaigning in the constituency ahead of the bypoll.

## Only Two Districts Now Classified as LWE Affected, Says Home Ministry Review

■ Bijapur and West Singhbhum Remain in Highest Category While Kanker Tagged as District of Concern.

**NEW DELHI:** In a significant update on the country's security landscape, the Ministry of Home Affairs has identified only two districts in India as actively affected by Left Wing Extremism under the revised classification of the Security Related Expenditure scheme.



According to the latest categorisation that came into effect on March

27, 2026, Bijapur in Chhattisgarh and West Singhbhum in Jharkhand have been designated as the only districts falling under the "LWE Affected Districts" category. Meanwhile, Kanker in Chhattisgarh has been placed in the "District of Concern" category. The revised list was

circulated to the Directors General of Police of states affected by Left Wing Extremism as well as to the Director General of the Central Armed Police Forces. The classification is used as a basis for allocating central funds and security resources to states dealing with Maoist related violence.

## Record 2.4 Lakh CAPF Personnel Deployed in West Bengal Ahead of Assembly Elections

■ Election Commission Intensifies Security Measures to Ensure Free and Peaceful Polling.

**KOLKATA:** The Election Commission of India has planned the deployment of nearly 2.4 lakh personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces in West Bengal for the upcoming Assembly elections, marking the largest ever security deployment in a single state during an electoral process. Officials said the extensive deployment reflects heightened security concerns and

the Commission's determination to ensure free, fair and violence free polling across the state. Polling is scheduled to conclude on April 29, 2026, after which a comprehensive security plan will remain in place to safeguard the electoral process. Under the plan, around 200 companies of central forces will remain stationed across the state to guard Electronic Voting Machines, strong rooms

and counting centres until the completion of vote counting. Additionally, about 500 companies will continue to handle law and order duties until further instructions are issued. The security decision follows a recent incident in Malda district where judicial officers were reportedly surrounded by a group of people, raising serious concerns over safety arrangements. The matter



drew the attention of the Supreme Court of India, which directed authorities to ensure adequate protection for judicial officers. The case has since been handed over to the National Investigation Agency for investigation.

# IPL Reprimands Abhishek Sharma for Code of Conduct Breach

■ Sunrisers Hyderabad All Rounder Fined and Given Demerit Point Despite Strong Performance Against KKR

**New Delhi:** The Indian Premier League has reprimanded Abhishek Sharma of Sunrisers Hyderabad for breaching the tournament's Code of Conduct during their match against the Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens. The all rounder has been fined 25 percent of his match fee and handed one demerit point following the incident. The disciplinary action was taken after Sharma admitted to committing a Level 1 offence under Article 2.3 of the IPL Code of Conduct, which



relates to the use of audible obscenities during a match. Level 1 breaches are considered minor offences within the league's disciplinary system, and the decision taken by the match

referee in such cases is final and binding. Although the exact moment that led to the sanction was not specified, Sharma accepted the punishment imposed by the officials.

The penalty means he will lose a quarter of his match earnings and will now carry a demerit point on his disciplinary record.

Repeated violations of the code can result in stricter penalties, including possible suspension from matches.

Despite the disciplinary action, Sharma delivered an impressive performance with the bat in the same game.

The opening batter scored a quick 48 runs from just 21 deliveries, hitting four fours and four sixes.



## Strong Youth Participation Shows the Growing Spirit of Volleyball in Aldona

■ Shree Gopalkrishna Crowned Champions at Aldona Volleyball Champions League 2.0.

### Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Shree Gopalkrishna lifted the title at the Aldona Volleyball Champions League 2.0 after a thrilling three day tournament that concluded at Galvar Ground in Aldona. The event, organized by Shri Sateri Bhagwati Youth Aldona, ended with an exciting final where Sushant XI finished as runners up. The championship match on Sunday attracted a large and energetic crowd, highlighting the growing popularity of volleyball in the area. The tournament featured eight teams representing different parts of the Aldona constituency, creating a highly competitive atmosphere throughout the event. The participating teams

included OPG, Pajeshwar Boys, Sushant XI, Punola United Sports and CC, Siddhi Sports and Cultural Association, Shree Ram Yodha's, Shree Balpurush Titans, and Shree Gopalkrishna. Over three days, players displayed impressive skill, teamwork and determination, making the league both entertaining and closely contested. During the league phase, Shree Gopalkrishna delivered a strong performance on the opening day to secure the top position, while Shree Balpurush Titans finished second to advance to the playoff stage. On the second day, Punola United Sports and CC topped their group standings, with Sushant XI finishing second to complete the four team playoff lineup.

## "Dominant First Innings Give Salgaocar and Geno the Edge in Third Round"

■ Both Matches End in Draws as Geno Sports Club Tops Goa Premier Division League Table.

### Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** The third round of the Goa Premier Division League witnessed two closely contested matches ending in draws, but Salgaocar Cricket Club and Geno Sports Club secured valuable points after gaining first innings leads in their respective encounters. The tournament is organized by the Goa Cricket Association. At the NAPEX Ground, Salgaocar Cricket Club delivered an impressive batting



display against Panjim Gymkhana by piling up a massive total of 530 runs in their first innings. Yash Kasvankar anchored the innings with a composed knock of 191 runs, while Shaantanu Nevagi provided strong support with a fine century, scoring 110 runs. In response,

Panjim Gymkhana fought back to post 365 runs. Suyash Prabhudessai led the scoring with a solid 92, while Soham Panvankar added 57 runs. Salgaocar bowler Ruthvik Naik played a key role with the ball, claiming four wickets. Although the match concluded in a

draw, Salgaocar secured the advantage through their first innings lead. In the other third round match played at the Goa Cricket Association Ground, Margao Cricket Club faced Geno Sports Club in another competitive contest. Margao Cricket Club posted 238 runs in their first innings, with Aryan Narvekar contributing a valuable 84. Geno Sports Club responded strongly, scoring 344 runs to establish a first innings lead.

## New Cricket Centre Will Help Discover and Nurture Young Talent

■ Goa Cricket Association Inaugurates Training Facility at Parse High School.

### Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** A new step towards strengthening grassroots cricket development in the state was marked with the inauguration of a Cricket Centre at Parse Citizen's Education Society, Parse High School. The facility has been established to encourage young players and provide them with better opportunities to learn and grow in the sport. The centre was



inaugurated by Tulshidas Shetye, Secretary of the Goa Cricket Association, along with Treasurer Abdul Majid. The event was attended by GCA member Viraj Phadke, Principal Mr. Belgaunkar, along with

school authorities and teachers who welcomed the initiative aimed at developing cricket at the grassroots level. The newly opened centre is expected to play a vital role in introducing structured



cricket training to students and young players from the surrounding areas. With proper facilities and guidance, the initiative aims to create a platform where budding cricketers can learn the

fundamentals of the game and gradually enhance their skills through regular practice and coaching. Addressing the gathering, Secretary Tulshidas Shetye highlighted that the establishment of the centre is an important step towards expanding cricket opportunities for young players. He emphasized that nurturing talent at the grassroots level remains a key priority and that such centres help identify promising players who



can be groomed for higher levels of competition. Treasurer Abdul Majid also underlined the association's continued commitment to strengthening cricket infrastructure and providing better training facilities.