



High Court Cancels Ponda By-Election Hours Before Poll

Court holds prospective MLA would not meet one-year tenure requirement; rejects EC plea.

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: In a last-minute development, the Bombay High Court at Goa on Wednesday set aside the Ponda Assembly by-election that was scheduled for April 9, halting the poll process just hours before voting. The order came amid an intense multi-cornered contest after weeks of campaigning by major political parties.

The decision followed two petitions filed by voters from the constituency challenging the conduct of the bypoll. The petitioners argued that any candidate elected would not be able to complete the minimum one-year tenure contemplated under the Representation of



the People Act, 1951. The Court accepted this argument and also declined the Election Commission of India's request to stay the order.

The plea pointed out that the present term of the Goa Legislative Assembly ends on March 14, 2027. Since the new MLA would assume office only after completion of the election process, the remaining period in office would be around ten months. The petitioners contended that the law

provides an exception to holding a by-election when the remaining tenure is less than one year, and therefore the poll should not be conducted.

They further submitted that the short tenure would severely limit the legislative role of the elected representative, who may get an opportunity to attend only one Assembly session. In case of early general elections, the MLA might not even participate in a session, the court was

told. The petitions also flagged the financial and administrative implications of conducting a by-election for a brief period. It was argued that the exercise would involve substantial public expenditure and impose additional costs on candidates, while the Model Code of Conduct would disrupt routine governance and divert administrative machinery.

The by-election
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HC CANCELS PONDA BY-ELECTION:

▶ High court cancels ponda by-election hours before april 9 poll

▶ Order passed by bombay high court at goa on wednesday

▶ Court accepts petitions filed by ponda voters challenging bypoll.

▶ Rules elected mla would not complete minimum one-year tenure

▶ Representation of the people act provision cited by petitioners

▶ Goa assembly term ends on march 14, 2027

▶ New mla would have tenure of around 10 months only

▶ Court rejects election commission's plea for stay

▶ Petitioners flag limited legislative role for short-term mla

▶ Financial and administrative burden of bypoll highlighted

▶ By-election was triggered by death of mla ravi naik in october 2025

▶ Constituency had already entered 48-hour silence period

▶ Triangular contest between ritesh naik, ketan bhatikar and geetesh naik

▶ Eci argued tenure should be counted from date of vacancy

Mapusa Court Grants Bail To Luthra Brothers In Forgery Case

■ Relief granted on personal bond of ₹50,000 each.

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: The Mapusa JMFC Court has granted bail to brothers Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra in a document forgery case registered by the Mapusa Police. The court allowed their release on execution of a personal bond of ₹50,000 each.

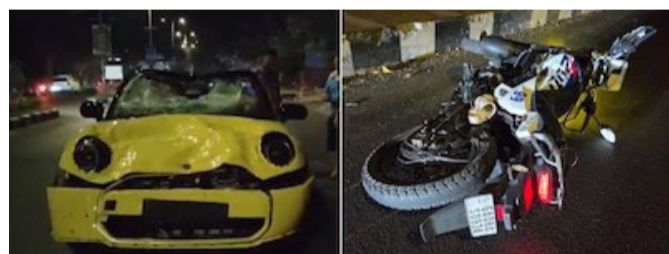
The bail order was pronounced after hearing arguments from both the prosecution and the defence. The case involves allegations of forgery and the use of fabricated documents, which were opposed by the prosecution citing the seriousness of the charges. The defence, however, sought their release on bail,



following which the court granted relief subject to conditions, including furnishing a personal bond of ₹50,000 each.

The Luthra brothers had earlier approached the court after being named in the case that has drawn attention due to the nature of the allegations. Although they were granted bail last week in the Birch by Romeo Lane fire incident, they remained in custody in connection with the separate forgery case until the present order.

Is Accused "Myles High" Above Law?



SURAJ NANDREKAR

PANAJI: The tragic death of a young woman in a late-night road accident in Goa should have triggered outrage, debate, and an uncompromising demand for justice. Instead, what stands out is an uncomfortable silence. It is the kind of silence that raises more questions than answers.

A speeding luxury car, allegedly driven by a young man from an influential family, crashes into a two-wheeler, killing a 23-year-old woman and critically injuring another. The circumstances are deeply disturbing. Yet, the public response has been muted. There are no

widespread protests, no sustained public pressure, and no visible urgency in demanding accountability. Why?

One cannot ignore the possibility that influence plays a role. When ordinary citizens are involved in such incidents, outrage is swift and unforgiving. Arrests are demanded, negligence is condemned, and justice becomes a rallying cry. But when the accused belongs to a powerful background, the narrative often softens, and the scrutiny weakens. This double standard erodes public trust in the system.

Several aspects of this case demand serious attention. It has

THE MINI COOPER CRASH...

1. Deafening silence -

The lack of public outrage raises suspicion of influence suppressing accountability.

2. Double standards in justice -

Powerful families appear to receive softer scrutiny than ordinary citizens

3. Misuse of TC registration -

The vehicle had temporary registration meant only for transit, not public road use at midnight.

4. Alcohol test ambiguity -

No clear disclosure on whether the driver was under the influence raises serious concerns.

5. Police opacity -

Police have not shared full details with the media or the victim's family, undermining trust.

6. Wider accountability needed -

Responsibility must extend beyond the driver to parents and others if negligence is established.

7. Dealership liability -

The showroom must be probed for allowing a vehicle to be used without proper registration.

emerged that the vehicle bore a temporary (TC) registration, which is strictly meant only for transportation from one place to another. It is not legally permitted for regular use on public roads, especially not for

late-night driving. How, then, was such a vehicle being driven at midnight? Who authorised its use? This is not a minor procedural lapse but a clear violation of the law.

Equally crucial is the
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“Myles High” Wealth Is Not a Licence to Kill

The tragic death of a young woman in a late-night accident in Goa is not just another case of reckless driving. It is a stark reminder of a deeper and more uncomfortable truth: the failure of responsibility, not just by an individual behind the wheel, but by those who enable such behaviour.

At the centre of this case is a young driver, allegedly at the wheel of a powerful car, whose actions have cost a life. But the focus cannot remain limited to the individual alone. When a young person is given access to a high-end vehicle, especially one that was not even fully registered for road use, it raises serious questions about parental responsibility.

Parenting does not end with providing wealth, comfort, and opportunity. It extends to instilling discipline, accountability, and respect for the law. When parents hand over the keys to a powerful machine without ensuring maturity, responsibility, and adherence to legal norms, they are not merely being negligent. They are putting lives at risk.

In this case, the vehicle reportedly bore a temporary registration, meant strictly for transit purposes. It was not authorised for regular use, let alone late-night driving on public roads. This was not a grey area or a technical loophole. It was a clear violation. The fact that such a vehicle was in use points to a chain of irresponsibility that goes beyond the driver.

Equally troubling is the silence surrounding crucial aspects of the case. What were the results of the alcohol test? Was the driver under the influence? Why have these details not been clearly communicated? The lack of transparency only deepens suspicion and erodes public trust.

The police, too, must answer difficult questions. Why has there been no detailed and consistent briefing to the media? Why is the victim's family not being

Parenting does not end with providing wealth, comfort, and opportunity. It extends to instilling discipline, accountability, and respect for the law. When parents hand over the keys to a powerful machine without ensuring maturity, responsibility, and adherence to legal norms, they are not merely being negligent. They are putting lives at risk. In this case, the vehicle reportedly bore a temporary registration, meant strictly for transit purposes. It was not authorised for regular use, let alone late-night driving on public roads.

kept fully informed? In cases involving loss of life, the investigation must not only be fair but must be seen to be fair. Silence from authorities does not reassure. It alarms.

There is also the question of the environment in which such behaviour becomes possible. When young individuals grow up with the belief that money can shield them from consequences, it creates a dangerous mindset. Rules become optional. Laws become negotiable. And, tragically, human life becomes expendable.

This is where parental responsibility intersects with

societal responsibility. Parents are not just accountable for their children within the confines of their homes. Their responsibility extends to society at large. The actions of their children can and do impact others, sometimes with irreversible consequences.

No amount of wealth can compensate for a life lost. No financial settlement can bring back a daughter, a friend, or a colleague. Yet, too often, there is an attempt to reduce such tragedies to compensation and closure, as if money can substitute justice. It cannot.

Accountability, in this case, must be comprehensive. If negligence or complicity is established, it must extend to all those who played a role in enabling the circumstances that led to the tragedy. This includes not just the driver, but also those who allowed, facilitated, or ignored the misuse of the vehicle.

The larger issue, however, is the message society chooses to send. If such incidents are allowed to pass with minimal scrutiny because of influence or wealth, it sets a dangerous precedent. It tells others that power can dilute responsibility. That money can soften consequences.

Goa, like any society, cannot afford to normalise this. Roads are shared spaces. Safety on them depends on a collective respect for rules and for each other's lives. When that respect is eroded, the consequences are borne by the most vulnerable.

This is not just about one family or one incident. It is about a culture that must be challenged. A culture where privilege does not translate into impunity, and where responsibility is not optional.

Wealth may open doors, but it does not grant immunity from the law. And it certainly does not give anyone the right to endanger lives.

Because in the end, no amount of money can justify a life lost. And no influence should be strong enough to silence justice.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Correction 24 Years Too Late

The recent decision of the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) to finally correct its long-standing error and officially refer to its 30 elected representatives as “Councillors” instead of “Corporators” deserves both acknowledgment and scrutiny. For over two decades, the CCP persisted in using a term that finds no mention in the governing legislation. The CCP Act is unambiguous in its language, clearly designating elected members as “Councillors.” The continued use of “Corporator” was not merely a semantic oversight but a deviation from the law itself. This raises a fundamental question: how could such an error go unnoticed or unaddressed for 24 years? Administrative precision is not a trivial matter. Terminology in law carries weight, and consistency with statutory provisions is essential for maintaining institutional credibility. The delayed correction reflects a troubling complacency within the system, where even basic adherence to legal terminology was overlooked. While the move to rectify this mistake is welcome, it also underscores the need for greater vigilance and accountability within civic bodies. Errors, especially those embedded in official practice, must be identified and corrected promptly rather than allowed to persist for decades. It is hoped that this episode serves as a reminder that governance must be rooted in legality, accuracy, and respect for established statutes. Truth may have prevailed, but its journey has been unnecessarily long.

-Aires Rodrigues, London, UK

Ponda By-Election: An Exercise in Futility?

As campaigning falls silent ahead of the Ponda by-election, one question continues to linger: what real purpose does this exercise serve for the people of the constituency? The bypoll, necessitated after the demise of the sitting MLA, will elect a representative who will effectively serve only the remainder of the current Assembly term. With the next Goa Assembly elections due in the near future, the incoming MLA will have, at best, a limited window of meaningful governance. By the time results are declared and the new representative settles into office, precious months would already have passed, leaving little scope for initiating or completing substantive development works. In reality, such a short tenure reduces the role of the new MLA to little more than a stopgap arrangement. Large-scale projects require planning, approvals, and execution timelines that stretch well beyond a few months. Even routine constituency issues demand continuity and sustained follow-up, something difficult to achieve in such a truncated term. Instead, the bypoll risks becoming a political spectacle rather than a genuine opportunity for governance. Parties will test their strength and political narratives, but the ordinary citizen may see little tangible benefit. This raises a broader concern about the utility of such elections so close to a general Assembly poll. While constitutionally mandated, one cannot ignore the cost, effort and expectations involved, all for an outcome that offers minimal long-term impact. The people of Ponda deserve representation that is not merely symbolic, but effective and lasting.

- Suresh Naik, Ponda, Goa

Mapusa Market Shutdown Called Off After MMC Assurance

Traders suspend protest following relief on licence renewal

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Shops in the Mapusa Municipal Market that remained shut on Wednesday as part of a protest over the ongoing rent dispute reopened after traders called off their strike following an assurance from the Mapusa Municipal Council (MMC). Earlier in the day, a large number of shopkeepers downed shutters to press for resolution of issues related to pending rent arrears and proposed fee



revisions.

Traders said the prolonged uncertainty had affected their businesses and demanded clarity on payment terms before any recovery process is initiated. Members of the trading community had gathered and planned to march to the municipal council office seeking

immediate intervention.

However, the situation eased after the MMC Chief Officer assured them that licences would be renewed without insisting on immediate payment of rent until a final decision is taken by the State Government. Following the assurance, leaders of the Merchants'

Association announced that the strike would be suspended for the time being. They stated that traders were willing to cooperate but expected a transparent and fair mechanism to resolve the dispute. While most establishments in the main market had participated in the shutdown earlier, fish, vegetable and some roadside vendors continued operating, resulting in partial activity in the market area before normalcy gradually resumed.



ANC busts drug network in Mapusa; one held, 2 juveniles apprehended

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: In a late-night operation near Bodgeswar Temple in Mapusa, the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) busted a suspected drug distribution network and arrested one accused while apprehending two juveniles in conflict with law. According to police, Crime No. 09/2026 has been registered under relevant provisions of the NDPS Act. During the raid, the team detained Vijay Singh (24), who was allegedly found in possession of 5 grams of suspected ganja.

A 17-year-old juvenile was also intercepted at the spot and found with around 5 grams of suspected

methamphetamine, valued at approximately ₹25,000. During interrogation, both reportedly revealed the involvement of two more juveniles in the network.

Acting on the leads, ANC personnel traced and apprehended one more juvenile from Karaswada, while another accused remains absconding despite sustained search efforts. Police said the arrested accused, Vijay Singh, has been remanded to three days of police custody.

The juveniles were produced before the Juvenile Justice Board and remanded to three days' detention at Apna Ghar, Mercedes. Further investigation is being carried out by ANC Police Station, St. Cruz.

Professor Killed In Wrong-Side Crash At Dapot-Loliem

Team Goemkarponn

DAPOT: A 27-year-old professor, Suchita Bandekar, lost her life in a tragic road accident at Dapot-Loliem on Wednesday morning after a Karnataka-registered car allegedly drove on the wrong side and crashed

into her scooter. According to reports, the incident occurred when Bandekar was on her way to college. The car, coming from the opposite direction, is said to have veered onto the wrong side of the road and collided head-on with her two-wheeler, causing severe injuries.

Local residents rushed to assist the victim and arranged to shift her for medical treatment. However, she succumbed to her injuries, leaving the academic community and locals shocked. Police reached the spot and conducted a panchanama. The damaged vehicles



were later removed from the road to restore traffic. Authorities have begun an inquiry into the circumstances leading to the accident and are verifying details of the Karnataka-registered vehicle and its driver. Further investigation is in progress.



Colvale Jail Lapse: Job Scam Accused Released, Brought Back Hours Later

Team Goemkarponn

COLVALE: In a major lapse at Colvale Central Jail, job scam accused Puja Naik was mistakenly released after securing bail in one of the cases, despite her judicial custody continuing in other pending matters. The error came to light shortly after her release.

Sources said Naik spent a few hours outside before authorities realised that she was still required to remain in custody in connection with additional cases. Jail officials then

contacted her and she was subsequently brought back to the prison.

The incident has triggered concern over procedural checks followed during inmate releases. Following the goof-up, a show-cause notice has been issued to a senior jail officer, seeking an explanation for the oversight.

Authorities are expected to review internal procedures to prevent such lapses in future, while further inquiry into the incident is underway.

Court Grants Bail In Gogol Masjid Murder Case

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The South Goa Sessions Court has granted bail to an accused arrested in connection with the murder reported near the Gogol Masjid, observing that continued custody was not necessary at this stage of the investigation. The accused, Altaf Sayed, was ordered to be released on bail upon furnishing a personal bond of ₹25,000



along with two sureties of the like amount. The court also laid down conditions requiring him to cooperate with the ongoing probe and appear before investigating officers whenever summoned. As part of the bail terms,

the accused has been directed not to influence witnesses or interfere with evidence. He has also been instructed not to leave the state without prior permission of the court and to deposit his passport, if any, with the authorities. The court further restrained him from visiting the area around the Sunni Gulistan Masjid at Gogol until the filing of the chargesheet. He has also been asked to

provide contact details and remain accessible to the investigating team. While granting relief, the court noted that the accused had already spent time in custody and that the investigation could continue without his further detention. The judge also observed that certain forensic reports were still awaited, but this alone did not justify prolonged incarceration at this stage.

Cops To Follow Drug Trail In MP Student Death

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Police have widened their investigation into the death of a student from Madhya Pradesh after autopsy findings pointed to a fatal drug overdose, shifting the focus towards identifying how the narcotics reached him in the coastal party belt of North Goa.

Sources said medical opinion indicated consumption of more than one substance, prompting officers to examine the possibility of a drug cocktail. Investigators are now working to trace suppliers and determine whether the substances were procured locally. The youth had reportedly

come to attend a music event in the Anjuna-Vagator area. After the programme was cancelled, attendees were permitted to enter a nearby nightclub, where the student later fell unconscious. He was



taken for treatment but was declared dead. Police are also expected to revisit the statements of the victim's companions. Earlier accounts suggested that only alcohol had been consumed, but the overdose findings have led officers to verify the claims and reconstruct the timeline.

Mumbai Woman, Husband Booked For ₹10 Crore Misappropriation At Margao Bank

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police have registered a case of alleged criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of funds amounting to ₹10 crore based on a complaint filed by a Mumbai resident.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by



Pritam Vaid, a resident of Goregaon West, Mumbai, stating that on November 18, 2025, at TNK, State

Bank of India, Margao, accused Neha Saini allegedly conspired with her husband Yatinder Saini and dishonestly misappropriated funds belonging to the deceased, who was the complainant's uncle.

Police said the accused allegedly converted the amount

of ₹10 crore into fixed deposits for their own use, thereby violating the trust reposed in them and acting without the consent of the lawful heir.

Margao Town Police have registered the offence and taken up further investigation. The case is being investigated by PSI Swadesh Dessai.



Man Murdered In Siolim; Anjuna Police Register Case

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered a murder case following the death of a 53-year-old man in Siolim. According to police, Anjuna PS Crime No. 26/2026 under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 was registered on April 6, 2026 at 11:58 pm based on a complaint filed by Siddesh Rohidas Mandrekar (38), a businessman and resident of Deul Wada, Anjuna.

The complainant stated that on April 5, 2026, prior to 4:15 pm, at Portawado, Siolim, an unknown accused person allegedly murdered his cousin brother, Sushant Manohar Palyekar (53), resident of Dando, Siolim, by compressing his neck.

Police have registered the offence against unknown accused persons. Further investigation is being carried out by PI Suraj H. Gawas of Anjuna Police Station.

Pet Dog Dies After Being Left Inside Parked Car in Panaji; Owner Booked

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered an offence against a man after his pet dog allegedly died due to extreme heat and lack of ventilation while being left inside a parked vehicle in the city. According to police, the offence was registered on April 6, 2026 at 7:55



pm based on a complaint filed by Mr. Stephen Samuel of the District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Goa).

The complaint stated that prior to 4:00 pm on the same day, the accused, identified as Bharath KC, son of Chandrashekhar KS, a resident of Saharash Nilaya, Maharaja Park Road, Hassan, Karnataka, had knowingly left his pet Golden Retriever inside his Kia Sonnet car. The vehicle was parked at

the parking lot opposite the old Directorate of Accounts in Panaji. Due to extreme heat and lack of ventilation inside the car, the dog reportedly suffered distress and died. Authorities said the act amounted to cruelty to animals, and a case has been registered. Further investigation is in progress.

Aquem Resident Cheated of ₹4 Lakh in Fake Australia Job Offer

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police have registered a cheating case after an Aquem resident was allegedly duped of ₹4 lakh on the pretext of securing an overseas job in Australia.

According to police, the complaint was filed by Moises Fernandes, resident of Aquem, Margao, stating that on March 23, 2026, at around 11:50 am, an unknown person approached him with an offer of employment in Australia. The accused allegedly dishonestly induced the complainant to transfer ₹4,00,000 through an



RTGS transaction.

Police said the accused failed to provide the promised job after receiving the money, thereby cheating the complainant. Margao Town Police have registered the offence and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Swadesh Dessai.

Mobile Phone Stolen From House In Siolim; Anjuna Police Register Theft Case

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered a theft case following a house break-in reported from Siolim in Bardez.

According to police, Crime No. 27/2026 under Section 305 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 was



registered on April 7, 2026 at 1:10 pm based on a complaint filed by Akash

Vidhyadhar Narvekar (23), resident of House No. 221, Bandirwado, Oxel, Siolim, Bardez.

The complainant reported that the incident occurred on April 5, 2026 between 3:00 am and 4:30 am, when an unknown person gained entry into his house by opening the slab door. The accused

allegedly committed theft of a mobile phone, Redmi 10 Prime, valued at ₹15,000, which was kept in the hall.

Anjuna Police have registered the offence and taken up further investigation. The case is being investigated by HC 4885 Rupesh Shetgaonkar

Minor Girl Kidnapped From Ponda; Police Register Case

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Ponda Police have registered a kidnapping case following a complaint regarding a minor girl allegedly

taken away from lawful guardianship. According to police, the complaint was filed by the brother of the minor girl (name withheld), stating that on April 6, 2026, at around 12:45 pm,

at Upper Bazar, Ponda, an unknown person allegedly kidnapped his minor sister from his lawful guardianship. Ponda Police have registered an offence against unknown



accused persons, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Ashish Velip.

Three Booked For Public Gambling In Bicholim; Cash Seized

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: Bicholim Police booked three persons in separate cases for allegedly accepting money bets in public places during a crackdown on illegal gambling on

April 7. In the first case, PSI Sumant P. Gaonkar of Bicholim Police Station lodged a state complaint stating that at around 12:45 pm near Kanekar Fast Food at Karapur Junction, Sanquelim, accused Girish Prabhakar

Gade (46), resident of



Maulingtod, Sankhalim, and

native of Vasai, Thane, Maharashtra, was caught red-handed while accepting money bets from members of the public. Police seized cash amounting to ₹950 in different denominations along with other gambling

articles. In another case, PSI Rashmir Parab Matonkar filed a complaint stating that at about 12:55 pm near Shantadurga Temple, Pali, Bicholim, accused Satyavan Sakharam Gaonkar (43), resident of Gaonkarwada,

Advalpal, Bicholim, was caught red-handed accepting money bets in an open public place. Cash of ₹1,620 in different denominations and other gambling articles were seized from his possession.

Baina water sports equipment sabotaged; sugar poured into jet ski engine

Team Goemkarponn

BAINA: In a suspected act of deliberate sabotage, water sports equipment at Baina Beach was damaged by unknown miscreants, causing significant losses to operators and raising concerns over safety at the popular tourist spot. According to a complaint filed by Jose Philip Dsouza, president of the Baina Beach Water Sports Association, the incident occurred during the intervening night of Tuesday when unidentified persons trespassed into the premises where the equipment was kept. The association stated that a jet ski was rendered completely non-functional after sugar was allegedly



poured into its engine, causing severe internal damage. In the same incident, a banana bumper used for rides was also damaged, reportedly with a sharp object such as a blade. The association pointed out that although equipment belonging to other operators was stored at the same location, only their property was selectively targeted, indicating a planned and malicious

act. "The damage caused is not only financial but has also directly impacted the livelihood of several members dependent on water sports activities," Dsouza said, adding that such acts create a negative impression among tourists visiting the beach.

The association has demanded immediate installation of CCTV cameras at Baina Beach



to prevent such incidents in the future and to ensure safety of both tourists and operators.

"There is an urgent need for surveillance to deter anti-social elements and safeguard beach activities," Dsouza stated.

The matter has been brought to the notice of the Mormugao Harbour Police, and further investigation is expected to identify those responsible for the act.



Royal Enfield bullet stolen from Dabolim building basement

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: A Royal Enfield Bullet motorcycle was reported stolen from the basement parking of Prabhu Signature building at TNK, Dabolim, resulting in a loss of around ₹2.7 lakh. As per the complaint filed by Punit Pole, a resident of Dabolim, the theft is suspected to have taken place between 12/02/2026 and 19/03/2026.

The motorcycle had been parked in the basement of the

residential building when unknown persons allegedly stole it. Following the complaint, Vasco police registered an offence against unknown accused under section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Further investigation is being carried out by head constable Gauresh Pandye of Vasco Police Station under the supervision of Police Inspector Vaibhav Naik and guidance of Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.



Centre doubles supply of 5 kg LPG cylinders for migrant labourers

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has announced that the daily allocation of 5 kg FTL LPG cylinders available for distribution to migrant labourers in each State will be doubled.

The decision has been taken based on the average daily supply of cylinders provided to migrant labourers during March 2-3, 2026, and will be implemented beyond the earlier cap of 20 percent. These 5

kg FTL cylinders will be placed at the disposal of the respective State Governments or their Food and Civil Supplies Departments.

The cylinders are to be supplied exclusively to migrant labourers, with operational assistance from Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The move is aimed at improving access to clean cooking fuel for migrant workers and ensuring uninterrupted supply through state-level distribution mechanisms.

Six Sancoale panch members seek early meeting on no-confidence motion

Team Goemkarponn

SANCOALE: The political developments within the Sancoale Panchayat gathered pace on Tuesday afternoon as six panch members met the Block Development Officer (BDO), urging early convening of a special meeting to decide the no-confidence motion moved against the Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch. The delegation, led by Panch Tulshidas Naik, called on the BDO seeking clarity on the next course of action after the motion was submitted. The members informed that the no-confidence motion had been formally filed a few days ago, following which they are now awaiting official communication on the date of the special



meeting as per the prescribed procedure. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Naik said that all panch members remain united on the issue and are keen that the process be completed at the earliest.

"We met the BDO today and requested that the date for the special meeting be declared without delay. All members are together on this decision, and we are committed to taking it

forward democratically," he said. Naik further maintained that there was no external pressure influencing their stand. "There is absolutely no pressure from any political leaders or government departments regarding this motion. We have taken this step collectively, and we continue to stand with the government," he added.

The members also expressed confidence that the administrative

process would move swiftly. According to them, the BDO assured that the required procedures are being followed and that the date for the special meeting would be announced soon.

The BDO has informed us that once the formalities are completed, the special meeting will be convened shortly. We are hopeful that the process will now move ahead without unnecessary delay," Naik said.

Theft at under-construction house in Issorcim; wires, tools stolen

Team Goemkarponn

ISSORCIM: Unknown persons broke into an under-construction house at Issorcim village and decamped with electrical materials and tools, causing losses to the owner. As per the

complaint filed by Raju Kotar, a resident of Assoi Dongri, Dabolim, the incident occurred on 01/04/2026 between 20.00 hrs and 21.30 hrs. The accused allegedly entered the premises and stole wall-concealed electrical wiring.



They also broke open the lock of a store room

and took away a grinder, five bundles of electrical wires and a hand breaker before fleeing the spot. Based on the complaint, Vasco police registered an offence against unknown accused under sections 331(4) and 305 of the Bharatiya

Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Plato Carvalho of Vasco Police Station under the supervision of Police Inspector Vaibhav Naik and guidance of Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.

“AI Policy to Be Finalised Within 100 Days”: Goa Pushes Ahead With Ambitious AI Mission

■ Stakeholder consultations refine draft policy as state builds roadmap for AI driven innovation.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa is moving closer to finalising its Artificial Intelligence policy as the state continues consultations with industry and academic stakeholders to refine the draft framework. The initiative is part of a broader effort to position Goa as a hub for innovation and responsible AI adoption. A meeting held at Paryatan Bhavan in Panaji brought together officials from the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications and representatives from the Goa Technology Association to review the revised policy draft. The discussion focused on the policy's objectives, core pillars and potential sectoral applications that could drive the adoption of artificial intelligence across governance, industry and education. During the interaction, industry representatives shared their suggestions and feedback aimed at strengthening the



policy framework. The discussions also addressed the challenges faced by startups working in the field of artificial intelligence and explored ways to incorporate their requirements into the final policy to ensure practical implementation. The policy development process began earlier this year with a high level stakeholder consultation where the initial draft was circulated for feedback. The exercise resulted in 57 suggestions from industry groups, institutions and government bodies. These inputs have now been incorporated into the revised draft to create a more comprehensive and implementation focused policy. Many of the recommendations

centred on accelerating AI adoption through partnerships, ensuring time bound implementation of initiatives and improving citizen centric services using technology. Stakeholders also highlighted the need to strengthen AI education and skill development through curriculum integration and targeted training programmes. The upcoming policy forms a key part of the Goa AI Mission 2027, a wider strategy aimed at expanding the use of artificial intelligence in governance, education and industry. The mission includes initiatives such as workshops on AI for governance and social impact, development of an AI based chatbot

for citizen services and the organisation of a statewide AI hackathon to encourage innovation. Plans are also underway to introduce AI learning modules in schools and colleges, establish dedicated AI laboratories and provide training for teachers. Other initiatives include the development of a Konkani language model, creation of an AI readiness index for government departments and the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for artificial intelligence in the state. Through these initiatives, Goa is working toward building an inclusive and forward looking AI ecosystem that supports innovation while delivering practical benefits for governance, education and industry.



Comprehensive Upgrades Transform Pilerne Industrial Estate”: Major Infrastructure Boost for Industry

■ Road improvements, traffic systems and worker facilities upgraded to strengthen industrial ecosystem.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Pilerne Industrial Estate has undergone a major infrastructure transformation as part of a wide ranging upgrade aimed at improving industrial efficiency, safety and business operations in one of Goa's key industrial hubs. The extensive works carried out at the estate reflect a comprehensive approach to strengthening infrastructure, combining road improvements, modern traffic management systems, enhanced logistics facilities and better amenities for workers. A major component of the upgrade is the improvement of all internal roads through White Topping, a durable and long lasting solution designed to enhance connectivity within the estate while reducing long term maintenance requirements. The project also includes the development of a dedicated truck terminal parking facility, a step expected to ease congestion and enable smoother movement of heavy vehicles. To further improve safety and traffic regulation within the estate, a complete traffic management system has been introduced. The measures include installation of traffic signage, road markings and reflective road studs, along with the construction of concrete speed breakers at key junctions and stretches to regulate vehicle movement and enhance safety for

workers and commuters. Security within the estate is also being strengthened through the introduction of a comprehensive CCTV surveillance system. Cameras are being installed at strategic and high traffic locations to enable real time monitoring, improve traffic control and deter unauthorised activities while creating a safer industrial environment. The upgrade has also focused on improving the overall appearance and environmental quality of the estate. Roadside shoulders have been beautified and kerb stones painted with synthetic enamel, contributing to a cleaner and more organised industrial landscape. Worker welfare has also been prioritised through the renovation of the estate's canteen building. Additional improvements include the laying of interlocking pavers in front of the facility to improve accessibility and usability of shared spaces. Further works currently underway include widening sections of internal roads and raising the height of drainage systems between plots 79 and 80 B. These measures are expected to strengthen stormwater management, prevent waterlogging and ensure smooth industrial operations during the monsoon. The upgrades mark an important step toward creating modern, efficient and future ready industrial estates in Goa while supporting industrial growth and improving ease of doing business across the state.

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High Court Cancels Ponda By-Election Hours Before Poll

had been necessitated following the death of sitting MLA and former Agriculture Minister Ravi Naik in October last year. Campaigning had ended and the constituency had already entered the mandatory 48-hour silence period when the court delivered its ruling.

The contest had shaped into a triangular fight involving BJP

nominee Ritesh Naik and candidates Ketan Bhatikar and Geetesh Naik, with senior leaders from various parties actively canvassing in the constituency. During the hearing, counsel for the petitioners argued that the new legislator would likely take office only around May 2026, leaving less than a year before the next Assembly elections.

They maintained that proceeding with the poll in such circumstances would be arbitrary and lead to unnecessary expenditure from the public exchequer. The Election Commission, however, offered a different interpretation, submitting that the remaining tenure should be calculated from the date the seat fell vacant in October 2025, when

more than one year of the Assembly term remained. It was also noted during proceedings that the State government had not filed an affidavit in response to the petitions. With the High Court's order, the by-election process has been halted, leaving the future course for the Ponda constituency to be decided after further legal and administrative steps.

Is Accused “Myles High” Above Law?

question of whether the driver was under the influence of alcohol. What were the results of the alcohol test? Why have these details not been clearly placed in the public domain? In cases of this magnitude, transparency

is essential. Any delay or ambiguity only deepens suspicion. The silence of the police is equally troubling. Why has there been no detailed briefing to the media? Why has the victim's family not been fully informed

of the progress of the investigation?

In a democratic system, law enforcement agencies are accountable not just for action, but for communication. A lack of transparency fuels doubt and erodes confidence.

Responsibility cannot rest solely on the driver.

If a young individual had access to such a vehicle under questionable circumstances, then accountability must extend to the family.

“10-Point Ceasefire Plan Is Workable”: Trump Pauses Strikes After Iran Proposal

■ Two week truce opens door for negotiations as Tehran sets conditions on sanctions, enrichment and Strait of Hormuz control

Washington: A temporary pause in hostilities between the United States and Iran has been announced after Washington agreed to a two week ceasefire proposal presented by Tehran, creating an opportunity for negotiations aimed at ending the conflict. US President Donald Trump said the proposal, which includes a 10 point framework from Iran, offers a “workable” basis for further dialogue and long term peace in the region. As part of the agreement, US military strikes on Iranian targets have been suspended while diplomatic efforts



continue. The proposal requires the reopening of the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, a vital maritime route through which roughly one fifth of the world’s oil supply passes. During the ceasefire period, Iran’s military is expected to coordinate safe passage of vessels through



the waterway while maintaining oversight of the route. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi confirmed that Tehran had accepted the ceasefire arrangement, stating that Iran would halt its defensive operations if attacks by the United States and Israel stop during the two week

period. The conflict began on February 28 following coordinated strikes by the United States and Israel on Iranian targets, which triggered retaliatory actions by Iran and heightened tensions across the Middle East. Tehran later claimed the ceasefire negotiations reflected a diplomatic victory after presenting its conditions for ending the hostilities. Iran’s proposed framework includes commitments on non aggression, recognition of its nuclear enrichment programme and the lifting of both primary and secondary sanctions imposed by the United States.



2 Pakistani Militants Among five Arrested in Srinagar Terror Crackdown

■ Security forces dismantle Lashkar-e-Taiba module; one suspect had evaded capture for 16 years.

New Delhi: Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have dismantled a suspected terror module linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba following the arrest of five individuals in Srinagar, including two Pakistani militants who had been operating in India for several years. Among those arrested is Abdullah, also known as Abu Hureira, who had reportedly managed to evade security agencies for nearly 16 years after infiltrating India. Officials said he had played a key role in establishing a network of operatives across Jammu and Kashmir and in other parts of the country. The second Pakistani militant arrested in the operation has been identified as Usman, also known as Khubaib. Authorities have categorised both militants as “A+” operatives due to their involvement in building and coordinating the terror network. Investigators believe Abdullah had

commanded around 40 foreign militants over the years, many of whom were later neutralised by security forces during counterterror operations. As part of the crackdown, security agencies conducted coordinated searches at 19 locations across multiple states, including Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Haryana. During these raids, officials recovered a significant quantity of weapons and ammunition, including four AK rifles, along with other incriminating materials linked to the network. Three residents of Srinagar were also arrested during the investigation. The suspects were identified as Mohammad Naqeeb Bhat, Adil Rashid Bhat and Ghulam Mohammad Mir, also known as Mama. According to investigators, the trio allegedly provided logistical support to the militants, including food, shelter and assistance in maintaining safe houses.

“If They Eye Bengal, Pakistan Could Be Split Again”: Rajnath Singh Issues Strong Warning

■ Defence Minister responds to remarks from Pakistan amid rising tensions and recalls lessons of the 1971 war.

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh issued a strong warning to Pakistan following provocative remarks by its Defence Minister Khwaja Asif regarding potential future conflict with India. Addressing an election rally in Barrackpore, Singh criticised the statement made by his Pakistani



counterpart and cautioned Islamabad against

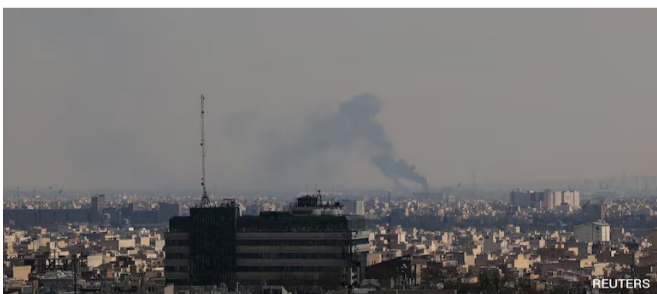
escalating tensions. Referring to the outcome of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, he reminded that the conflict led to Pakistan being divided into two parts and the creation of Bangladesh. He warned that any aggressive move targeting Bengal could lead to severe consequences

for Pakistan. The remarks came after Khwaja Asif suggested that Pakistan could target Kolkata if India carried out what he described as a “false flag operation”. The statement intensified the ongoing exchange of rhetoric between the two countries amid heightened regional tensions.

“Expeditiously Exit Iran”: India Issues Fresh Advisory to Citizens Amid Tensions

■ Indian Embassy urges nationals to leave the country using designated routes and avoid approaching borders without coordination.

New Delhi: India has issued a fresh advisory asking its citizens in Iran to leave the country at the earliest as tensions continue in the region. The Indian Embassy in Tehran urged nationals to exit the country through the routes identified by the mission and remain in close coordination with officials. In a message shared online, the embassy strongly advised Indian citizens to “expeditiously exit” Iran and cautioned them



against approaching any international land border without prior consultation with the embassy. Officials emphasised that citizens must coordinate with the mission before making any travel plans to ensure their safety and smooth

evacuation. The embassy also shared emergency contact numbers and an official email address to assist Indian nationals who may require support or guidance while preparing to leave the country.

“Rahul Gandhi’s Hands Are Not Clean”: Himanta Biswa Sarma Hits Back at Corruption Allegations

■ Assam Chief Minister says repeated claims against him lack evidence and predicts strong mandate in upcoming polls

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has strongly responded to corruption allegations made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, asserting that the accusations are baseless and unsupported by any legal action. Speaking during an interaction, Sarma questioned the repeated claims that he would be jailed if the Congress returned to power. He said that allegations must be supported by evidence and asked whether any public interest litigation



or police complaint had been filed against him. According to the Chief Minister, such statements without proof only undermine the credibility of those making them. Sarma also criticised Rahul Gandhi’s frequent visits to Assam, describing him as a political outsider in the state. He argued

that if leaders from outside make such remarks without local context, it only increases sympathy among voters and strengthens his support base. Reflecting on his political communication strategy, Sarma said his approach to public speeches has changed over the past decade. Instead of traditional formal speeches, he began interacting with people in a more informal and engaging manner, encouraging them to participate, sing and celebrate at public events.

“Amazing to See His Fearlessness”: Hardik Pandya Praises Teen Sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

■ Mumbai Indians skipper applauds youngster's explosive batting after Rajasthan Royals' strong IPL performance

New Delhi: Hardik Pandya praised teenage batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for his fearless batting display after Rajasthan Royals defeated Mumbai Indians in a rain shortened match of the Indian Premier League 2026. Pandya described the youngster's performance as remarkable, noting that it was impressive to watch such a young player perform with confidence on a big stage. He said the team had discussed



Sooryavanshi during their preparations but still found his fearless approach striking once the match began. Rajasthan Royals posted a commanding 150 for 3 in 11 overs after being asked to bat first.

The innings was powered by a brilliant unbeaten knock from Yashasvi Jaiswal, who scored 77 off just 32 deliveries, while Sooryavanshi provided explosive support with a rapid 39. The teenage

batter showed remarkable composure while taking on some of the most experienced bowlers in the opposition attack. He confidently attacked Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, smashing him for consecutive sixes, including a towering hit over deep square leg. Sooryavanshi continued his aggressive approach against Shardul Thakur as well, striking two sixes and a boundary before his innings was eventually ended.



Little Andaman Pro 2026 to Put Islands on Global Surfing Map

■ National championship at Butler Bay highlights Andaman and Nicobar Islands' growing potential as a surfing destination.

New Delhi: The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are emerging as one of India's most promising surfing destinations with the launch of the Little Andaman Pro 2026, the first national surfing and stand up paddling championship to be hosted in the region. Scheduled from April 9 to April 12 at Butler Bay in Little Andaman, the event marks a major step in expanding India's surfing landscape beyond traditional coastal locations. The championship is organised by the Surfing Federation of India with support from the Andaman and Nicobar Tourism Department, reflecting a broader effort to promote ocean sports and adventure tourism in the islands. Little Andaman is widely known for its untouched coastline, coral reefs and consistent ocean swells, making it a favourable location for high performance surfing.

The reef break at Butler Bay has increasingly gained recognition among surfers as one of the most promising surf spots in the country, capable of hosting competitive events and attracting athletes from across India. The championship is expected to provide a significant boost to tourism in the islands while helping develop India's competitive surfing ecosystem. Officials believe the event will showcase the region's natural advantages while encouraging sustainable tourism that focuses on outdoor experiences and adventure travel. Organisers have also highlighted the role of the event in expanding the reach of surfing within India. Competing in reef break conditions offers athletes the chance to test their skills on more technical waves, which is important preparation for international competitions.

Kapila-Crasto Pair Opens With Strong Win at Badminton Asia Championships

■ Indian mixed doubles duo advances to Round of 16 after three game victory in Ningbo.

New Delhi: India's leading mixed doubles pair Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto began their campaign at the Badminton Asia Championships with an impressive opening round victory at the Ningbo Olympic Sports Center in Ningbo, China. The Indian duo faced Thailand's Phuwanat Horbanluekit and Benyapa Aimsaard in their first round encounter. Kapila and Crasto made



a confident start, taking control of the opening game and securing it 21 to 14. The Thai pair fought back strongly in the

second game, dominating proceedings to level the match with a 21 to 11 win. However, the Indians quickly regained their rhythm in the deciding game. Maintaining better control of rallies and applying consistent pressure, they wrapped up the final game 21 to 15 to seal the match and progress to the Round of 16. The next challenge for the Indian pair will be

a tough clash against Malaysia's Cheng Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei, who currently hold a 2 to 0 head to head advantage over Kapila and Crasto. In other mixed doubles matches involving Indian players, Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh were eliminated after losing to Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien in straight games 21 to 16 and 21 to 15.

Hyderabad Set to Host Rugby Premier League 2026 at Gachibowli Stadium

■ Second edition of India's premier Rugby 7s league scheduled from June 16 to 28.

New Delhi: The second edition of the Rugby Premier League will take place in Hyderabad, marking another important step in the development of rugby in India. The tournament will be staged at the Gachibowli Stadium from June 16 to June 28, 2026, bringing together leading domestic and international players for an action packed competition. Organised by Rugby India, the national governing body for the sport, the



league will continue in the fast paced Rugby 7s format.

The tournament aims to strengthen the sport's profile in the country while providing athletes with a

competitive platform that matches international standards.

The upcoming edition follows the success of the inaugural season held in Mumbai last year.

“We Knew the Danger but Failed to Execute”: Jayawardene After MI's Loss to RR

■ Mumbai Indians coach admits missed bowling plans and early wickets cost the team in rain-shortened IPL clash

New Delhi: Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene admitted his side failed to execute their strategies after a defeat to Rajasthan Royals in a rain-shortened match in the Indian Premier League 2026. Speaking after the game, Jayawardene acknowledged that his team was aware of the threat posed by Rajasthan's aggressive batting lineup but could not deliver on their plans



during the match. He noted that the bowlers struggled to maintain the right line and length, allowing the opposition to take advantage of favourable conditions. Rajasthan Royals

secured a 27 run victory, powered by explosive batting performances and disciplined bowling. Yashasvi Jaiswal led the charge with an unbeaten 77 from 32 balls, striking 10 fours and four sixes, while Vaibhav Sooryavanshi added a quick 39 off 14 deliveries, including five sixes. Their aggressive approach helped Rajasthan post a strong total of 150 for 3 in the rain-truncated 11 over contest.