



Ponda By-Election Cancellation Sparks Political Row, Matter Reaches Supreme Court



Sewage Inflow Suspected In Mala Lake Fish Deaths

Joint Meeting On April 15 To Address Pollution Crisis; Water Samples Under Analysis.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Growing concern over large-scale fish deaths in Mala Lake has led authorities to identify sewage inflow as a major factor behind the pollution. CCP Mayor Rohit Monserrate said untreated waste entering the lake has significantly impacted water quality, with similar issues also reported in St Inez Creek. Calling the situation a potential public

health risk, Monserrate announced that a joint meeting of all relevant departments will be held on April 15 to plan a long-term and effective solution. He stressed the importance of a coordinated approach to prevent further environmental damage. After the sudden fish mortality, officials from the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) carried out an inspection

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Opposition Alleges Misuse Of Institutions.

Petition Filed To Restore Voting Rights.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The abrupt cancellation of the Ponda by-election just hours before polling has triggered a major political controversy in Goa, with opposition leaders alleging misuse of constitutional institutions and calling it a setback to democratic rights.

Senior Congress leaders have claimed that the decision to call off the election barely 16 hours before voting deprived the people of Ponda of their right to elect a representative, despite campaigns being completed, ballots issued, and candidates fully prepared.

They further



questioned the role of the Election Commission for not challenging the development, stating that the move raises serious concerns about the functioning of democratic processes. Meanwhile, Congress candidate Dr Ketan Bhatkar has approached the Supreme Court seeking restoration of the election and the people's right to representation. The



petition has been filed and is expected to come up for hearing later this week.

The cancellation follows an April 8 order by the Bombay High Court's Goa bench, which set aside the Election Commission of India's notification for the by-election. The court held that conducting the poll would violate provisions of the Representation of the People Act, as the

remaining term of the Goa Legislative Assembly is less than one year.

The petition challenging the notification was filed by two registered voters from the constituency, who argued that the election was not valid given the limited tenure left for any newly elected MLA. The Assembly's term is scheduled to end on March 14, 2027.



Narendra Modi Calls Women's Reservation Bill a "Historic Leap" for Gender Equality

Landmark Reform Aims to Boost Women's Role in India's Political Future

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the Women's Reservation Bill as one of the most significant decisions of the 21st century while addressing a national gathering at Vigyan Bhawan during the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan'.

Highlighting the importance of the proposed legislation, he said the move is a tribute to the strength and dignity of women and reflects a collective national effort decades in the making.

He emphasized that the bill, which has been discussed for nearly 40 years, is expected to be implemented by 2029 and represents a defining moment in India's democratic journey.

The Prime Minister noted that there is broad political consensus on the issue, with multiple parties contributing over time to bring the proposal closer to reality.

He stressed the importance of cooperation and dialogue to ensure the bill's successful passage.

Shirgao Lairai Jatra Preparations In Full Swing With Tight Safety Measures

Two-queue system, 92 CCTV cameras and 100 volunteers to manage large crowds.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Preparations for the upcoming Lairai Jatra at Shirgao are in full swing, with authorities and temple management putting extensive arrangements in place to



ensure safety and smooth conduct of the event.

Shri Lairai Devasthan President Dinanath

Gaonkar informed that around 7,000 entry cards have been prepared for Dhonds, while nearly 20,000 applications have been received. He noted that due to limited time, the distribution process

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"Just inches away from a deal": Iran blames US stance for collapse of Islamabad talks

Tehran signals openness to diplomacy but warns against pressure after failed negotiations.

New Delhi: Tensions between Iran and United States have resurfaced after high level negotiations in Islamabad broke down despite what Iranian officials described as near success. Iran's Foreign Minister

Abbas Araghchi stated that both sides were "inches away" from reaching an agreement aimed at ending ongoing hostilities. He emphasized that Iran had approached the discussions with sincerity, but alleged that

shifting demands and rigid positions from the US side prevented the finalisation of the deal. Echoing this sentiment, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian maintained that a diplomatic breakthrough remains



possible. He indicated

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A Viral Warning Goa Cannot Afford to Ignore

A viral video showing foreign tourists alleging that drugs are being openly sold on Calangute beach, reportedly in the presence of police, has once again put Goa under an uncomfortable spotlight. The issue is not merely about whether every frame of that video reflects the complete truth. The larger concern is that such a narrative appears believable to viewers across the world. That, in itself, is an indictment.

Goa's economy is deeply tied to tourism, and its global identity rests on the promise of a safe, vibrant, and welcoming environment. When visitors begin to associate its most iconic beaches with unchecked drug activity and passive law enforcement, the damage extends far beyond a single incident. Perception, particularly in the digital age, travels faster than fact. And perception, once formed, is difficult to reverse.

Calangute is not an obscure stretch of coastline. It is among the most visible and heavily visited beaches in the country. If allegations of open drug peddling in such a location gain traction, it raises fundamental questions about policing, surveillance, and administrative intent. Is this a case of isolated exaggeration, or does it reflect a deeper, systemic failure to enforce the law where it matters most?

What makes the situation more troubling is the recurring nature of such concerns. Goa has, for years, battled a reputation linked to narcotics and party culture spilling into illegality. Successive governments have promised crackdowns, yet episodes like this suggest that enforcement remains inconsistent. Either the system is unable to act effectively, or it is unwilling to do so with the seriousness the issue demands.

The allegation that police presence does not deter illegal activity is particularly damaging. Law enforcement is not only expected to act but also to be seen acting. Visibility of policing plays a

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Equally concerning is the official response, which often tends to be reactive rather than proactive. By the time authorities issue clarifications or announce inquiries, the narrative has already taken root online.

A defensive approach does little to restore credibility. What is needed instead is swift verification, transparent communication, and demonstrable action on the ground.

There is also a larger policy failure at play. Goa's tourism model has long struggled to strike a balance between its image as a liberal destination and the need for regulation.

crucial role in shaping public confidence. When that visibility fails to reassure, it creates a vacuum that is quickly filled by suspicion and speculation.

Equally concerning is the official response, which often tends to be reactive rather than proactive.

By the time authorities issue clarifications or announce inquiries, the narrative has

already taken root online. A defensive approach does little to restore credibility. What is needed instead is swift verification, transparent communication, and demonstrable action on the ground.

There is also a larger policy failure at play. Goa's tourism model has long struggled to strike a balance between its image as a liberal destination and the need for regulation. While openness has been a key attraction, it cannot come at the cost of lawlessness. Allowing illegal activities to operate, whether due to oversight or complicity, risks normalising behaviour that ultimately harms both residents and visitors.

This is not just about protecting an image; it is about protecting an economy and a social fabric. Tourism thrives on trust. Families, solo travellers, and international visitors choose destinations where they feel secure. If Goa begins to lose that trust, the consequences will be felt across livelihoods that depend on tourism, from small vendors to large hospitality businesses.

The way forward requires more than temporary crackdowns triggered by public outrage. It demands sustained enforcement, better coordination between agencies, and the use of technology to monitor high-footfall areas. It also requires political will to confront uncomfortable realities instead of downplaying them.

Most importantly, accountability must be non-negotiable. If lapses are found, they must be addressed transparently. If allegations are false, they must be disproved with credible evidence. Silence and ambiguity only deepen mistrust. The viral video should not be dismissed as an embarrassment to be managed. It should be treated as a warning. Goa still has the opportunity to correct course, but that window will not remain open indefinitely. In an era where reputation can be reshaped overnight, inaction is no longer an option.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mass Fish Deaths Demand Immediate Action

The sudden sight of large numbers of dead fish floating in Mala Lake has caused understandable alarm among residents of Panaji. Such incidents are not only distressing to witness but also point to deeper environmental concerns that cannot be ignored. Mass fish deaths are often indicators of deteriorating water quality. Possible causes may include pollution, oxygen depletion, or the discharge of untreated waste into the lake. Regardless of the exact reason, the situation calls for urgent scientific investigation rather than speculation. Authorities must act swiftly to collect water samples, analyse contamination levels, and identify the source of the problem. Mala Lake is not just a water body; it is an important part of the city's ecological balance and a public space valued by residents. If such incidents are allowed to recur, it could lead to long-term damage to aquatic life and pose potential health risks to people living nearby. The foul odour and visual impact alone are enough to disrupt daily life. Equally important is transparency. The public has a right to know what caused this incident and what steps are being taken to prevent a repeat. Delayed or vague responses will only fuel anxiety and mistrust. This episode should serve as a wake-up call for stronger monitoring of urban water bodies. Regular inspections, stricter control of waste disposal, and accountability for violations are essential. An immediate and credible response will not only address the current crisis but also reassure citizens that such environmental threats are being taken seriously.

-Suresh Naik, Mala

Language Politics Cannot Replace Governance

The recent developments around language tensions in Maharashtra are both troubling and revealing. Promoting Marathi in the state is natural and expected. Every region has the right to preserve and prioritise its linguistic identity. However, what we are witnessing now goes beyond cultural assertion and enters the realm of calculated distraction. At a time when pressing issues demand attention, the sudden escalation of a language debate raises uncomfortable questions. It appears less about genuine concern for Marathi and more about diverting public discourse. The growing agitation against Konkani, a language with deep roots and cultural significance in the region, is particularly worrying. Equally concerning is the response, or lack of it, from the state leadership. The Chief Minister's reluctance to intervene decisively or impose restrictions to maintain harmony sends a message of indifference. Silence in such situations is rarely neutral. It can embolden fringe elements and deepen divisions that were otherwise manageable. Language should unite communities, not become a tool for political manoeuvring. Maharashtra has a long history of cultural coexistence, where Marathi and Konkani speakers have lived side by side. Disturbing this balance for short-term gains risks long-term damage. The government must act with clarity and firmness. It should ensure that law and order are upheld and that no community feels targeted or marginalised. More importantly, it must address the real issues affecting citizens instead of allowing avoidable conflicts to take centre stage.

- Salvador Fernandes, Margao

Army Backs Hughes Precision, Seeks Nod For Propellant Storage In Goa

■ Flags Defence Importance, Urges State To Ease Operational Hurdles.

Team Goemkarponn

BETUL: The Indian Army has stepped in to support Hughes Precision Manufacturing Pvt Ltd, urging the Goa government to restore the No Objection Certificate (NOC) required for storing propellant at Magazine No. 2 in Naqueri, South Goa. In a letter dated March 25, 2026, addressed to Chief Secretary Dr V. Candavelou, Lieutenant General Amardeep Singh Aujla, Master General

Sustenance and Colonel of the Rajputana Rifles, highlighted the company's crucial role in supplying ammunition to the armed forces. The Army stressed that Hughes Precision is an important contributor to defence supplies and that uninterrupted production is essential, particularly given the current geopolitical



climate. It noted that consistent delivery of ammunition is vital to sustain the operational preparedness of the military. According to the communication, the company has already approached the Army on two occasions seeking extensions for delivery deadlines. It cited operational difficulties in Goa, especially those

linked to the storage and transportation of propellant, which have hampered its ability to meet contractual commitments.

Acknowledging these challenges, the Army has requested the State government to step in and provide necessary support so that the company can adhere to its timelines. It warned that any disruption could have wider consequences beyond the company, potentially affecting defence readiness.

Man Held For Attempt To Murder In Bicholim Assault Case

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A 26-year-old man was arrested for allegedly attempting to murder a local resident in Bicholim after a violent assault on Sunday evening. According to police, the complaint was filed by Sangeeta Kanojiya (32), a housewife residing at Muslimwada, Bicholim. She alleged that the accused, identified as Shaikh Mohamad Huzef (26), a resident of Katarwada IDC, Bicholim, attacked her husband Vijay Pal (38) at a playground in Katarwada IDC around 6 pm on April 12.



Police said the accused, who resides in the same locality and is reportedly a habitual offender, assaulted the victim with a rubble stone, repeatedly striking him on the head — a vital part of the body — with the intent and knowledge that the act could cause death. The victim sustained serious bleeding injuries in the attack.



Goa ranks 7th nationwide in electoral roll cleanup during SIR drive

■ Over 1.39 lakh names removed, voter list refined with fresh additions

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has secured the 7th position among States in the country for electoral roll purification, recording a net deletion of 10.2 per cent during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, in line with trends observed across India.

Data released by the Election Commission of India shows that the highest deletion rate was reported in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands at 16.6 per cent. Among States, Uttar Pradesh (13.2 per cent), Gujarat (13.1 per cent), Chhattisgarh (11.3 per cent), West Bengal (10.9 per cent), and Tamil Nadu (10.6 per cent) ranked ahead of Goa.

In Goa, a total of 1.39 lakh entries were removed from the voter list. This included 1,00,042 voters categorized as absent, shifted, deceased, or duplicate (ASDD), along

with 39,592 "unmapped electors" whose records could not be aligned with data from the 2002 revision. Following this exercise, the State's total electorate stands at 10,57,566.

The revision also saw the addition of around 12,000 new voters, ensuring that the updated roll remains balanced and accurate.

Women make up a slight majority of the electorate in Goa, accounting for 51.6 per cent of voters. Across the country, the first phase of the SIR exercise covered 12 States and resulted in a combined net deletion of nearly 5.2 crore names. The drive largely focused on removing entries identified as absent, shifted, deceased, duplicate, or otherwise unverified.

The SIR process, which began in November last year, also included efforts to enrol new voters.

Minor Girl Kidnapped From Bicholim Rescued In Karnataka Fair

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: In a swift operation, Bicholim Police rescued a kidnapped minor girl from Karnataka within three days of the incident.

According to police, a woman from Bicholim lodged a complaint on April 5 stating that her minor daughter (name withheld) had been kidnapped by an unknown person. She also reported that gold ornaments worth ₹10 lakh and cash of ₹20,000 were missing from their residence.

An offence was registered at Bicholim Police Station, following



which special teams were formed comprising LPSI Archana Sharma, PSI Rashmir Parab Matondkar, and PC Dayesh Khandeparkar under the supervision of PI Vijay Rane Sardesai.

Police launched an intensive investigation using technical surveillance, human intelligence, and CCTV

footage analysis. On April 7, it was traced that the minor girl was in Bagalkot, Karnataka.

Acting swiftly, the police team rushed to Karnataka and, with assistance from Kudal Sangam Police Station, successfully traced and rescued the minor girl at around 1:30 am on April 8 from the Sangameshwara

Fair at Kudal Sangam.

Police also recovered gold ornaments worth ₹10 lakh and cash of ₹20,000 from the possession of the minor girl, which were seized under panchanama. Further investigation is being carried out by LPSI Archana Sharma under the supervision of senior officers.

Siblings Die In Cananguinim Rivulet Tragedy

■ Picnic Outing Turns Fatal For Curchorem Family As Rescue Attempt Ends In Double Drowning.

Team Goemkarponn

CUNCOLIM: A leisure outing ended in tragedy for a family from Curchorem after two siblings lost their lives in a drowning incident at a rivulet in Cananguinim on Sunday evening.

The incident occurred around 4 pm when the Naik family from Vastawaddo had gone to the spot for a picnic. According to preliminary



inquiries by Cuncolim police, eight-year-old had stepped into the rivulet while playing and soon got into difficulty in the water.

On seeing her brother struggle, his 17-year-old

sister, immediately rushed in to rescue him and called for help. However, she too began to face distress in the water.

Bystanders present at the scene managed to pull both out and rushed them to the Balli Primary Health Centre. Shloak was declared brought dead on arrival. Sanika, who had swallowed water, was initially admitted to the South Goa District Hospital at Hospicio

and later shifted to Goa Medical College and Hospital at Bambolim due to her critical condition.

Despite efforts by doctors, Sanika later succumbed, turning the incident into a heartbreaking double tragedy.

Police Inspector Diego Gracias of Cuncolim Police Station said the family had visited the area for a picnic when the mishap occurred.

Young Woman Killed In Alleged Accidental Shooting At Sanguem Gathering

Friend Held After Rifle Discharge During Casual Meet Turns Fatal.

Team Goemkarponn

SANGUEM: A tragic incident unfolded in Kazur, Sanguem, where a young woman lost her life after being shot during a get-together with friends. Both the victim and the accused are residents of Sanquelim. According to preliminary



police findings, the accused, identified as Sweth Gaude (23), a crane operator from Pale, Bicholim, was

allegedly handling a rifle at the gathering. In what is suspected to be a reckless act, he reportedly pointed the weapon at his female friend in a joking manner and accidentally pulled the trigger.

The victim, Tanvi Ghadi (20), who worked at a Maggie company

and hailed from Surla, Sanquelim, sustained critical injuries in the incident. She later succumbed to the gunshot wound.

Police have taken the accused into custody, and further investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances surrounding the incident.



Businessman Drugged And Robbed At Panaji Hotel

Woman Allegedly Decamps With Gold And Cash Worth Over Rs 15 Lakh.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A case of alleged drugging and robbery has been registered at Panaji Police Station following a complaint by a 30-year-old businessman from Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

As per the complaint, the incident took place on April 8, 2026, at a hotel in Panaji where the accused woman, identified as Roopashree C from Bengaluru, reportedly befriended the complainant and convinced him to book a room. She is alleged

to have forcibly made him consume alcohol, after which he lost consciousness.

Police said the accused then fled with valuables including a gold kada weighing around 40.50 grams, a gold chain of approximately 50 grams, and cash amounting to Rs 2.40 lakh. The total loss is estimated to be over Rs 15 lakh.

An offence has been registered, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Nitin Naik.

House Torched Over Money Dispute In Collem

Accused Threaten Complainant, Set Cupboard On Fire; Property Worth Rs 3.5 Lakh Damaged.

Team Goemkarponn

COLLEM: A case of alleged arson and criminal intimidation has been reported in Collem following a complaint by Shankar Gogalekar, a resident of Dhubandora. As per the complaint, the accused, identified as Dayanand from Halkarni,

Khanapur, along with an unidentified accomplice, allegedly threatened the complainant over the phone regarding repayment of money taken for medical expenses.

The matter is believed to be linked to previous enmity between the two parties.

Police stated that the

accused later trespassed into the complainant's house and set fire to a cupboard belonging to his mother.

The incident resulted in damage to gold ornaments worth around Rs 2 lakh, along with clothes and other items, taking the total loss to approximately Rs 3.5



lakh. The accused also allegedly damaged the complainant's Pulsar motorcycle parked outside the house.

Collem Police have registered the case, and further investigation is underway under PSI Sadanand Dessai.



Bank Manager Booked For Rs 64.25 Lakh Fraud In Panaji

Loans Sanctioned Illegally, Funds Misused Over Two-Year Period

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered an offence under Sections 409 and 420 IPC against Rajat Tripathi, a Senior Manager at Canara Bank's Caranzalem branch, for allegedly misappropriating bank funds amounting to Rs 64.25 lakh.

The case was filed on April 11, 2026, following a complaint by Arun Kumar A.G., Assistant General Manager. As per the complaint,

the accused allegedly sanctioned a loan in his own name without proper approval and further created multiple loan accounts in the names of unsuspecting customers without their knowledge. Police said these accounts were used to adjust and divert the loan amounts, resulting in financial loss to the bank.

An investigation is currently underway under PSI Deepesh Shetkar to probe the extent of the fraud and identify any additional irregularities.

IPL Betting Racket Busted In Sancoale, 4 Arrested

Police Seize Devices And Cash Worth Rs 2.5 Lakh During Late-Night Raid

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Verna Police have busted an illegal IPL betting operation in Sancoale and arrested four persons for their alleged involvement in accepting bets during a live cricket match. Acting on a state complaint filed by PSI Prissy Carvalho, police conducted a raid between late night of April 11 and



early hours of April 12 at a house in Sancoale. The accused — Amar Dawda from Chhattisgarh, and Pranjal Tiwari, Shashank Kumar Sahu,

and Sandeep Singh from Uttar Pradesh — were caught red-handed while operating the betting setup during a match between Chennai Super

Kings and Delhi Capitals. During the raid, police seized gambling-related items including 10 mobile phones, two laptops, a tablet, an internet router with signal receiver, and cash amounting to Rs 37,000. The total value of the seized items is estimated at around Rs 2.5 lakh. All four accused have been arrested, and further investigation is underway.

Hit-And-Run Truck Crushes Woman's Legs On NH 748

Driver Flees After Ramming Scooter Near Dharbandora, Two Injured.

Team Goemkarponn

DHARBANDORA: A serious hit-and-run accident was reported on NH 748 near Village Panchayat Dharbandora, where an unidentified truck driver allegedly drove in a rash and negligent manner, endangering lives.

According to a complaint filed by HC Vinod Naik of Ponda Police Station, the incident occurred on April 11, 2026, around 6:15 am



when the truck, travelling from Mollem towards Usgao, rammed into a Honda Aviator scooter from behind.

Due to the impact, both the rider and pillion fell onto the road. The

truck then ran over the legs of the pillion rider, identified as Sinetra Gaonkar from Shivdem, Dharbandora, causing severe crush injuries. The rider, Hema Gaonkar, also sustained bodily injuries

in the accident. The truck driver fled the scene without providing medical assistance or informing the police. Ponda Police have registered the case, and further investigation is underway.

'Enough Is Enough' Sets 15-Day Deadline, Warns Panaji March

■ Movement Demands Assembly Session To Pass Land Bill, Calls For Public Mobilisation.

Team Goemkarponn

SANGUEM: The "Enough is Enough" movement has issued a 15-day ultimatum to the authorities to reconvene the prorogued Assembly session and take up the pending Consolidated Land Bill, warning of a massive march to Panaji if no action is taken. Addressing a public meeting in Sanguem, former judge Ferdinando Rebello urged the Governor Pusapati Ashok



Gajapathi Raju to take the lead in reconvening the Assembly to address concerns over large-scale conversion of agricultural and green lands. He pointed out that the

budget session, initially scheduled from March 6 to 27, was cut short on March 16 following the announcement of the Ponda by-election. However, after the Bombay High Court at Goa later cancelled the bypoll, he stressed that there is now scope to reconvene the session and address the issue. Rebello warned that failure to pass the Land Bill could lead to public backlash, even suggesting

voters may reject current representatives in the next Assembly elections.

He also called on citizens to gather in large numbers at Azad Maidan, Panaji, if the government fails to act.

The meeting saw participation from several activists and local representatives, highlighting growing public concern over environmental degradation and land-use changes in Goa.

Car Falls Off Road Near MES College Amid Bridge Work

■ No Injuries Reported As Vehicle Lands Off Road In Construction Zone

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: A red Maruti Swift was found off the roadside near MES College during the ongoing construction of an overbridge on the highway. The incident is suspected to have occurred due to unstable conditions in the area, including loose gravel and uneven road surfaces. Fortunately, no casualties or injuries were reported. Authorities



and construction workers quickly reached the spot to assess the situation and ensure safety measures were in place. Traffic movement in the area was briefly disrupted but was later brought under control.



Medcon 2.0 Highlights Unity And Innovation In Medical Fraternity

■ CM Pramod Sawant Praises Role Of Doctors, Congratulates New President.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Amrut Medicos' MEDCON 2.0 was held in Goa, bringing together members of the medical fraternity on a platform focused on collaboration, knowledge-sharing and service.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant attended the event and lauded the

initiative, stating, "This platform truly reflects unity, knowledge-sharing, and service within the medical fraternity."

He congratulated Dr. Vijay Narayan Sharma on assuming office as President and appreciated the efforts of Adv. Sanjay Singh and other members for strengthening the association.

Highlighting Goa's healthcare achievements, the Chief Minister said the state continues to set benchmarks with strong infrastructure, quality public health indicators, and a focus on preventive and integrated care, including AYUSH.

He noted that initiatives in early screening, community

outreach, and advanced healthcare collaborations are contributing to improved health outcomes.

He further emphasised that associations like Amrut Medicos play a vital role in encouraging innovation, cooperation and continuous learning among medical professionals.



World Homoeopathy Day'26 Observed In Goa

■ CM Sawant Highlights Preventive Healthcare, AYUSH Vision And Early Diagnosis.

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: World Homoeopathy Day 2026 was observed in Goa at Sai Nursing Institute, Sankhali, bringing together healthcare professionals, academicians and practitioners to promote the role of homoeopathy in preventive and holistic healthcare. The event also marked the 271st birth anniversary of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann. Organised by the Goa Homoeopathy Council in collaboration with Shri Kamaxidevi Homoeopathic Medical

College, the programme was held under the theme "Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health," focusing on integrated healthcare systems and accessibility. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant emphasised the importance of prevention and early diagnosis, stating that timely intervention can save lives. He highlighted the government's focus on expanding healthcare services, promoting affordability, and strengthening preventive care initiatives across the state.

CM Sawant Calls For Political Unity On Women's Reservation Law

■ Appeals To All Parties Ahead Of Parliament Session To Implement Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has called for a united political approach to advance the implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan

Adhiniyam, stressing the need for collective action across party lines. Ahead of the special Parliament session scheduled from April 16, he described the moment as a crucial phase in India's democratic journey and

urged leaders, MPs, and stakeholders to support the move. Referring to the vision of Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister said the focus is now on translating the landmark reform into action. He emphasised that empowering women in

legislative roles is key to strengthening governance and ensuring broader representation, adding that the initiative goes beyond political differences and reflects a long-standing national commitment to gender equality.



Voluntary Blood Donation Camp Held At GDCH, 58 Donors Step Forward

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A voluntary blood donation camp was successfully organised at Goa Dental College and Hospital (GDCH) through the joint efforts of the Trained Nurses Association, Department



of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, GDCH, and the Blood Bank of Goa Medical College (GMC). The initiative witnessed participation from 58 donors who came forward to contribute towards saving lives, reflecting a strong sense of

community responsibility and compassion within the healthcare ecosystem. Praising the effort, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said, "This initiative is a powerful example of seva and collective responsibility in action. It reflects the

true spirit of care that defines our healthcare ecosystem." He further added, "Such people-led movements inspired by the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji strengthen Jan Bhagidari, where every citizen becomes

a stakeholder in nation-building." The minister also expressed gratitude to all donors and organisers, noting that their selfless contribution would help save numerous lives and reinforce the culture of compassion in society.

“We will be creators of the future for wildlife”: Anant Ambani unveils Vantara University vision

■ Global institution in Jamnagar aims to advance conservation, veterinary science, and research.

New Delhi: Anant Ambani has outlined an ambitious vision for wildlife conservation with the launch of Vantara University in Jamnagar. The institution, established under the Vantara initiative, is positioned as the world's first integrated global university dedicated to wildlife conservation and veterinary sciences. Speaking at the inauguration, Ambani described the university as a long term commitment to protecting biodiversity and advancing scientific knowledge. He emphasized that the initiative aims to build a lasting legacy that will benefit wildlife and ecosystems for generations to come. The university is designed to train future experts in veterinary medicine, conservation, and animal care, while also contributing to cutting edge research. According to Ambani, the institution



will focus on producing highly skilled veterinarians and researchers capable of addressing complex challenges in wildlife protection and environmental sustainability.

He also highlighted the broader impact of such research, noting that advancements in veterinary science can contribute to understanding and managing diseases that affect both animals and humans. The initiative seeks to combine traditional knowledge

systems with modern scientific approaches to create a comprehensive and forward looking educational model. Vantara University aims to integrate multiple disciplines within a single academic framework, linking classroom learning with real world conservation practices. Drawing from on ground experience, it plans to translate practical knowledge into structured academic programmes and professional training with global relevance. The foundation ceremony

followed traditional customs and was attended by prominent members of the Reliance Industries leadership, including chairman Mukesh Ambani and Radhika Merchant, along with experts from the fields of science, conservation, and academia.

The initiative reflects a growing emphasis on conservation driven education, positioning India as a key contributor to global efforts in wildlife protection and ecological research.

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Sewage Inflow Suspected In Mala Lake Fish Deaths

at the site on Saturday evening. Water and fish samples were collected and sent to the Board's laboratory in Saligao for detailed analysis. Officials stated that the exact cause will be confirmed only after scientific testing is completed. However, initial observations

suggest that a drop in dissolved oxygen levels may have caused the fish deaths.

This could be linked to organic pollution, algal blooms, or the entry of untreated sewage into the lake. Residents in the area also reported a strong foul odour from the water,

indicating deteriorating conditions. Mala Lake, which covers around 16,000 square metres, was once part of the floodplains of the Rio de Ourem.

Over the years, land reclamation and development disrupted its natural flow, making

it more vulnerable to stagnation and pollution. Despite earlier efforts, including a ₹5 crore beautification project in 2004 and its inclusion under the Smart City Mission, the lake continues to face persistent ecological challenges.

“Just inches away from a deal”: Iran blames US stance for collapse of Islamabad talks

that progress could be achieved if Washington respects Iran's sovereignty and adopts a more balanced approach in negotiations. According to him, mutual respect and constructive dialogue are essential for any future agreement. The developments follow heightened tensions triggered by strong warnings from Donald Trump, who signalled a

potential naval blockade targeting Iranian ports. The proposed move, which would impact maritime activity near the strategically significant Strait of Hormuz, has further escalated concerns over regional stability.

In response, Iran's parliamentary leadership dismissed the threats, asserting that external pressure would not alter

the country's position. Officials reiterated that while Iran remains open to dialogue, it will firmly respond to any form of aggression

Despite the setback, Iranian authorities highlighted that constructive proposals were presented during the talks, suggesting that groundwork for future engagement has been laid.

The situation now hinges on whether both sides can bridge their differences and return to negotiations under more favourable conditions.

The collapse of the Islamabad discussions underscores the fragile nature of diplomatic efforts between the two nations, with prospects of resolution dependent on balancing strategic interests with mutual trust.



India ramps up energy diplomacy to secure oil supplies amid Middle East crisis

■ Strategic outreach to key Gulf nations aims to stabilise imports and strengthen partnerships.

New Delhi: Amid disruptions in global energy supply caused by ongoing tensions in the Middle East, India has intensified its diplomatic efforts to restore the flow of crude oil and natural gas. With a temporary ceasefire offering limited relief, New Delhi has moved swiftly to engage major energy producing nations in the region. The initiative focuses on strengthening ties with key partners such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, all of which play a crucial role in meeting India's energy needs. High level diplomatic interactions have been prioritised to ensure continuity in supplies and address logistical challenges.

As part of these efforts, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held talks with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi. Discussions focused on enhancing the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries and ensuring the safety of Indian nationals during the regional conflict. The UAE continues to be one of India's most

important energy partners, contributing significantly to its crude oil and gas imports. Bilateral trade between the two nations has already reached the \$100 billion mark, with both sides aiming to double this figure in the coming years. Parallel efforts have also been undertaken with Qatar, a major supplier of liquefied natural gas. India relies heavily on global markets for its LNG requirements, with a substantial portion sourced from Qatar. Engagements have reaffirmed mutual commitment to maintaining stable energy cooperation despite ongoing disruptions. The crisis has impacted production and supply routes across the region, including key infrastructure and shipping lanes such as the Strait of Hormuz. These challenges have underscored the urgency of diplomatic coordination to restore normal supply chains. India's proactive outreach highlights its focus on energy security, aiming to stabilise imports while reinforcing long term partnerships in a volatile geopolitical environment.

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Shirgao Lairai Jatra Preparations In Full Swing With Tight Safety Measures

could not be completed and will continue even after the conclusion of the Devi Lairai Jatra. Highlighting the safety measures, Gaonkar said that 92 CCTV cameras have been installed across key locations at an estimated cost of ₹15 lakh to monitor the proceedings closely.

To streamline the movement of crowds,

a separate two-queue system has been introduced for devotees and Dhonds. Authorities have also restricted commercial activity along the main route, allowing only nine licensed shops and prohibiting stalls from the temple stretch to Tali. Basic amenities including lime water, tea, and snacks will be provided for attendees.

“Fictitious names cannot change reality”: India rejects China’s claims over Arunachal Pradesh

■ MEA warns such actions could strain efforts to stabilise bilateral ties.

New Delhi: India has issued a strong response to recent reports of China assigning new names to locations within Indian territory, firmly rejecting the move and cautioning that it could impact ongoing diplomatic efforts between the two nations. The statement came from the Ministry of External Affairs, with spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal asserting that any attempt to rename places in Indian territory is unacceptable.



He described such actions as misleading and emphasized that they do not alter established facts on the ground. India reiterated that regions including Arunachal Pradesh remain an integral and

inseparable part of the country. The government maintained that attempts to create alternative narratives through renaming exercises would not affect India’s sovereignty over these areas. Officials also noted

that such developments risk undermining the fragile progress made in improving bilateral relations. Both countries have been engaged in dialogue to ease tensions along the Line of Actual Control following the Galwan Valley clash, and stability remains a priority for both sides. India has consistently opposed China’s territorial claims over Arunachal Pradesh, reiterating its stance on multiple occasions.



Workers demand wage parity as protests in Noida turn violent

■ Clashes erupt after Haryana wage hike triggers unrest in industrial hub

New Delhi: Tensions escalated in Noida as protests by factory workers turned violent, leading to incidents of arson, vandalism, and major traffic disruptions across key industrial areas. Demonstrators blocked roads and damaged vehicles, including a police van, prompting authorities to deploy additional forces to restore order.

The unrest follows recent developments in Haryana, where the government approved a significant increase in minimum wages for unskilled workers. The revision has intensified demands among workers in Noida, who are now calling for similar wage adjustments, citing disparities despite performing comparable roles. The protests, which had been ongoing for several days, initially focused on demands for better pay and improved working conditions. Workers

have raised concerns about inadequate safety measures, lack of weekly holidays, and the absence of proper grievance redressal systems in many factories. As the demonstrations intensified, some groups resorted to aggressive actions, complicating efforts to manage the situation. Authorities confirmed that senior police officials were deployed to the affected areas and continuous monitoring is underway. Efforts are being made to engage with workers and de-escalate tensions through dialogue, while maintaining law and order with minimal force. Officials have also urged the public to avoid spreading or believing unverified information. Yogi Adityanath emphasized that workers are entitled to fair wages, safe workplaces, and essential facilities. At the same time, he instructed authorities to take strict action against elements

“Siliguri corridor is vital to national security”: PM Modi targets Trinamool in Bengal rally

■ Political clash intensifies as security concerns and secessionist rhetoric dominate campaign narrative.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi sharpened his attack on the ruling Trinamool Congress during a rally in Siliguri, raising concerns over national security and accusing the party of adopting a lenient stance towards separatist elements. Addressing supporters in north Bengal, Modi highlighted



the strategic importance of the Siliguri Corridor, often referred to as the “Chicken’s Neck,” which

connects mainland India to the northeastern states. He described the narrow stretch as critical

to the country’s territorial integrity and security framework.

The Prime Minister alleged that certain groups advocating divisive agendas had previously issued threats related to the corridor and claimed that such elements received indirect support from the state’s ruling party.

“Real issue is delimitation, not women’s quota”: Sonia Gandhi questions timing of special session

■ Congress leader warns proposed changes could upset constitutional balance and federal structure.

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has raised serious concerns over the Centre’s proposed special session of Parliament of India, stating that the core issue is not women’s reservation but the implications of delimitation.

In a detailed article, she cautioned that any exercise to redraw parliamentary constituencies or expand the strength of the Lok Sabha must be guided by



fairness and constitutional principles rather than purely numerical considerations.

She described the reported approach to delimitation as potentially harmful, warning that it could disturb the balance of representation across states. Sonia Gandhi also criticised the timing of the proposed session, pointing out that it coincides with ongoing assembly elections in states like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Donald Trump Announces Iran Port Blockade, Raising Stakes in West Asia Crisis

■ Naval Move Signals Sharp Escalation as Tehran Pushes Back.

New Delhi: US President Donald Trump has announced plans for a naval blockade targeting ships entering or exiting Iranian ports, marking a significant escalation in tensions across West Asia following the collapse of ceasefire negotiations. The operation is set to begin at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time (7:30 p.m. IST), with Trump describing it as a “very effective” measure aimed at increasing pressure on Iran. The announcement was made via social media, where he indicated



that the move is part of a broader effort to curb Tehran’s economic and strategic capabilities. According to the US President, the decision comes after prolonged talks failed to yield any breakthrough. He also suggested that several

countries are cooperating with Washington to restrict Iran’s oil exports, a crucial pillar of its economy. Despite initial concerns, US officials clarified that the blockade would not extend to a full closure of the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most vital oil transit routes. The narrow passage has historically handled a significant share of global crude shipments, making any disruption a matter of international concern. Iranian leaders, however, strongly rejected the announcement.

Kohli and Rohit forced off with injuries in crucial IPL clash

■ RCB and MI face uncertainty after star players exit match midway at Wankhede.

New Delhi: major setback struck both Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Mumbai Indians during their IPL 2026 encounter at Wankhede Stadium, as Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were forced to leave the game due to injuries. Kohli, who scored 50 runs off 38 balls in the first innings, did not return to the field due to an ankle issue. He remained in the dugout throughout the second innings, raising concerns for his availability in upcoming matches. Although his innings



helped provide stability, it was relatively slower compared to his usual aggressive standards. Rohit, on the other hand, encountered trouble during Mumbai's chase. After scoring 19 runs, he experienced discomfort in his hamstring during the 16th over. Following a brief on-field assessment

by the medical team, he faced one more delivery before deciding to retire hurt, leaving his team under pressure at a crucial stage.

While both players have largely maintained strong fitness records over the years, such injuries are not uncommon as players progress through

their careers. Kohli had last missed IPL action due to injury in 2017, while Rohit has dealt with multiple fitness concerns in the past despite improving his conditioning significantly. The injuries now present selection challenges for both franchises. RCB could consider options like Venkatesh Iyer or young Vihaan Malhotra to fill Kohli's role, although bringing in overseas players such as Jacob Bethell or Jordon Cox would require a reshuffle in team balance.

Ayush Shetty settles for silver after falling to Shi Yu Qi in final

■ Young Indian shuttler's remarkable run ends against world No. 2 in continental showdown.

New Delhi: India's rising badminton talent Ayush Shetty concluded an impressive campaign with a silver medal at the Badminton Asia Championships after going down in straight games to Shi Yu Qi in the final held in Ningbo. The 20 year old, who entered the tournament unseeded, struggled to match the consistency and tactical precision of the reigning world champion, losing 8-21, 10-21. Despite the defeat,



his journey to the final marked a significant achievement, ending a long wait for India to have a men's singles finalist at the event.



Chowgule seal final spot with dominant win in just two days

■ Thrilling performances headline Goa Premier Division League as matches intensify across venues.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Premier Division League witnessed high intensity action as Goa Cricket Association fixtures delivered standout individual performances and gripping contests. In a key encounter at the Porvorim academy ground, Chowgule Sports Club secured a convincing four wicket win over Margao Cricket Club, booking their place in the tournament final within two days.

Margao's decision to bat first proved costly as they were bowled out for just 101 runs. Shubham Tari led the charge with a brilliant six wicket haul, dismantling the batting lineup. Chowgule responded strongly, posting 246 runs, with Gauresh Kambli scoring

a steady half century to establish a commanding lead. Margao fought back in the second innings through an exceptional knock by Aryan Narvekar, who scored 154 runs in an aggressive display filled with boundaries and sixes.

His effort helped set a target of 145.

However, Chowgule maintained composure in the chase, with Kambli and Pradnesh Gaonkar contributing crucial half centuries to guide their team to victory.

At another venue, the clash between Panjim Gymkhana and Dempo Cricket Club remains finely balanced.

After Panjim were bowled out for 143, Dempo gained the upper hand with a total of 266, powered by Snehal Kauthankar's century.

Yug Yadav's unbeaten 102 powers Oxford to commanding title win

■ Dominant all-round performance seals 168-run victory in Under-16 T20 final

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Oxford delivered a clinical performance to secure the championship title with a massive 168 run win over Future Star Cricket Academy in the Platinum final of the 2nd All India T20 Under 16 Cricket Championship. The contest, held at Arlem Cricket Ground, saw Oxford excel in both batting and bowling to



completely outplay their opponents. Opting to bat first, Oxford got off to a brisk start with Rehan Hubli setting the tone through a quickfire 28 off 17 balls. The innings then revolved around

an outstanding knock from Yug Yadav, who showcased remarkable control and attacking intent.

He remained unbeaten on 102 runs from just 58 deliveries, striking

boundaries with ease and anchoring the innings confidently.

Barhaan Dash provided strong support in the middle order with a well-paced 54 off 34 balls, while Farhan Shaikh added late runs to push the total to an imposing 214 for 3 in the allotted 20 overs. In response, Future Star struggled from the very beginning of their chase.

GCA expands grassroots push with new coaching hub

■ New cricket centre in Ponda aims to nurture rural talent and strengthen future state representation.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Cricket Association has taken a significant step toward strengthening grassroots cricket by inaugurating a new coaching centre at Savoi-Verem in Ponda. Set up at the local Panchayat Ground in collaboration with Madanant Cricket Club, the initiative reflects a focused effort to identify and develop young talent from rural areas. The launch event saw the presence of key association officials and local cricket representatives,



highlighting the importance of the initiative for the region. The facility has been equipped with essential infrastructure, including practice nets, a pitch, and coaching support, aimed at providing

structured training to aspiring players. Officials emphasized that the centre is part of a broader vision to build a strong pipeline of cricketers from across Goa. The goal is to encourage young players to develop their skills and



eventually represent the state at various levels, including under 14, under 16, under 19, and senior teams. The association also plans to expand its grassroots network further by establishing more such centres statewide, ensuring wider access to quality cricket training. Since beginning operations in March, the centre has already attracted around 19 young players, with expectations that participation will grow as awareness spreads to nearby areas.