



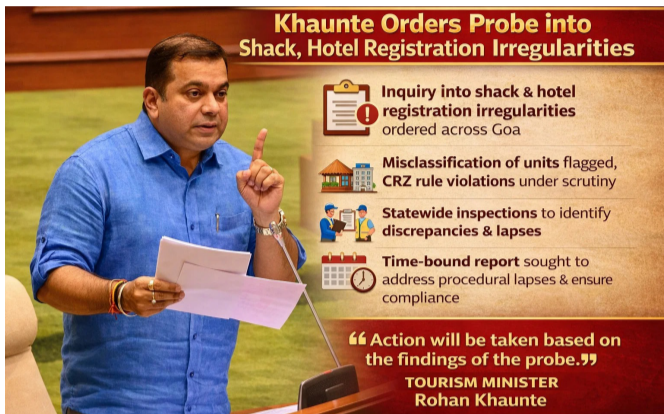
## Khaunte Orders Statewide Probe into Shack, Hotel Registration Irregularities

■ Minister flags misclassification, CRZ-linked concerns; time-bound report sought.

Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte has ordered a detailed inquiry into alleged irregularities in the registration and categorisation of tourism establishments, including beach shacks and hotels, following reports of procedural lapses and possible violations.

The Minister said preliminary inputs indicate that certain units may have been wrongly classified under different categories, raising concerns over



compliance, revenue leakage, and adherence to regulatory norms. He noted that some cases related to shack registrations, including those linked to Coastal

Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules and pre-1991 permissions, have come under scrutiny.

Khaunte stated that the issue appears to involve the exercise of delegated

powers at the deputy director level, prompting the department to initiate a comprehensive review. A team has been directed to carry out a statewide inspection of tourism establishments across North and South Goa.

The exercise will cover hotel registrations, renewals, and private shack operations to identify discrepancies and irregularities. The Minister said a time-bound report has been sought from the Director of Tourism, based on which further action will be initiated.



CM Seeks Opposition Support for Women's Reservation Bill

- ✓ Calls for unified support for 33% quota in Lok Sabha
- ✓ 33% reservation for women long overdue
- ✓ Ensuring stronger women's participation in governance
- ✓ Urges opposition to back the bill without politicizing
- ✓ Emphasizes collective effort for smooth passage of bill

## CM Seeks Opposition Support for Women's Reservation Bill

■ Says 33% quota in Lok Sabha long overdue; calls for collective political backing

Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has called for unified political support to ensure the passage of the

Women's Reservation Bill, describing it as a crucial step towards strengthening women's participation in governance and decision-

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- ✓ Pending & future FAR applications linked to PIL on building norms
- ✓ 255 applications for FAR enhancement pending
- ✓ No interim relief granted by court

## HC Links FAR Applications to Outcome of Pending PIL on Building Norms

■ Bombay High Court directs Town and Country Planning Board to mark all proposals subject to final verdict; no interim relief granted.

Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** The Bombay High Court has directed the Town and Country Planning Board to ensure that all pending and future applications seeking enhanced Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and height permissions are made subject to the outcome of an ongoing Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging recent amendments to building regulations.

The direction was issued by a division bench after noting that approximately 255 applications related to FAR enhancement are

currently pending before the TCP Board.

As per the court's order, all applicants—both existing and prospective—must be formally informed that their proposals will be governed by the final decision in the pending PIL. The litigation pertains to the validity of amendments to the Goa Land Development and Building Construction Regulations, 2010. The High Court also declined to grant any interim relief, indicating that the existing regulatory framework will remain in force until a final verdict is delivered.

## PWD Tightens Road Digging Permissions; Committee System Introduced for Strict Oversight

■ New approval mechanism, centralised portal and restoration norms aim to curb violations and improve accountability.

**Panaji:** In a move aimed at strengthening regulation and ensuring accountability in infrastructure works, Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Digambar Kamat has announced a stricter framework for granting road cutting permissions across the state. The Minister said that despite earlier



directives mandating prior approvals for road excavation, violations

continued to be reported in several areas. To address this,

the government has introduced an Assembly-level Constituency Inter-Departmental Committee, led by Sushil Kumar, to regulate and monitor all such activities.

A formal notification has been issued, and the committee will review all applications related to road cutting and infrastructure works.

## "No One Will Be Spared": Fadnavis Orders Probe in TCS Nashik Harassment Case

■ Government activates agencies as company shifts employees to work from home amid ongoing investigation

**New Delhi:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has termed the allegations emerging from the Nashik office of Tata Consultancy Services as serious, assuring that a thorough investigation is underway and strict action will be taken against those found responsible. Addressing the issue, Fadnavis said the matter is highly sensitive and confirmed that multiple



agencies, including central authorities, have been activated to examine the case in

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## "International Law Must Be Respected": India Calls for Safe Navigation in Strait of Hormuz at UN

■ Concerns over maritime security and seafarer safety highlighted amid West Asia tensions.

**New Delhi:** India has urged the immediate restoration of safe and uninterrupted navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, stressing the need to uphold international law amid escalating tensions in West Asia. The appeal was made at the United Nations General Assembly during discussions on the



situation in the Middle East. India's Permanent Representative to the UN

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# Crackdowns or Convenient Optics? Calangute's Policing Question

The recent detention of hundreds of touts by Calangute Police following viral videos of alleged drug and prostitution activities along Goa's coastal belt raises a deeper, uncomfortable question: is this genuine enforcement, or merely a reaction to public embarrassment?

On the surface, the numbers appear impressive. Detentions, fines, and visible police presence - all the elements of a crackdown are in place. But scratch beneath the surface, and the reality looks far less reassuring. Most of those detained were reportedly released after paying fines of ₹5,000.

For individuals engaged in lucrative illegal activities, such penalties are hardly a deterrent. Instead, they risk becoming a routine "cost of doing business."

This raises a fundamental concern: if touts can operate openly, repeatedly, and without fear, what does that say about sustained policing on the ground? It is difficult to believe that such activities suddenly emerged overnight. Locals have long complained about touting, illegal solicitation, and related offences in tourist hotspots like Calangute and Baga. The viral videos may have triggered action, but they certainly did not create the problem. The pattern is all too familiar. Public outrage erupts - often fueled by social media - followed by swift police action. A few establishments are shut down, several individuals are detained, and statements are issued. Then, as attention fades, normalcy quietly returns. Dance bars that were once sealed reopen months later. The same touts reappear. The cycle continues.

This begs the question: where is preventive policing? What are beat officers observing during their daily

*The pattern is all too familiar. Public outrage erupts - often fueled by social media - followed by swift police action. A few establishments are shut down, several individuals are detained, and statements are issued.*

*Then, as attention fades, normalcy quietly returns. Dance bars that were once sealed reopen months later. The same touts reappear. The cycle continues.*

*This begs the question: where is preventive policing? What are beat officers observing during their daily rounds? What inputs are being generated by local intelligence units?*

rounds? What inputs are being generated by local intelligence units? Effective law enforcement is not about reacting to viral content - it is about anticipating and preventing violations before they spiral into public scandals. Equally concerning is the perception of selective enforcement. When action only follows public exposure, it undermines trust in

the system. It creates an impression - fair or not - that authorities are aware of these activities but choose to act only under pressure. Such perceptions are damaging, not just to policing credibility, but to Goa's image as a safe and well-regulated tourist destination. The issue also highlights a structural gap. If fines are insufficient to deter repeat offenders, then the legal and enforcement framework needs re-evaluation. Habitual offenders should face stricter consequences, including sustained surveillance, cancellation of licences where applicable, and stronger legal action. Without escalation, enforcement risks becoming symbolic rather than effective. At the same time, accountability must extend beyond street-level actors. Touting networks, by their very nature, are organised. They do not operate in isolation. Identifying and dismantling these networks requires coordinated effort, intelligence gathering, and follow-through investigations - not just detentions at the ground level. To be fair, policing a high-density tourist belt like Calangute is not easy. The sheer volume of visitors, combined with economic incentives for illegal activities, creates a challenging environment. But that is precisely why consistency, not episodic action, is critical. Goa's tourism economy depends not just on its beaches, but on the perception of safety and order. Repeated cycles of exposure and reaction erode that perception. What is needed now is a shift from reactive crackdowns to sustained, intelligence-driven enforcement.

Otherwise, the question will persist: are these crackdowns real, or are they just well-timed optics?

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR Concerns Over Attempts to Dilute "Enough is Enough" Movement

I write with deep concern over recent developments surrounding the "Enough is Enough" movement led by Justice Ferdino Rebello, which calls for the scrapping of Sections 39A and 17B. At a time when many Goans are coming together to raise their voice on issues impacting the state's future, it is troubling to see attempts that may weaken or divert this collective effort. Recent remarks by Tukaram Parab questioning the movement have raised doubts among citizens about the intent behind such interventions. Instead of strengthening public discourse, such actions risk creating confusion and division at a crucial moment. Goa has, in the past, witnessed how internal differences can dilute larger causes that affect the interests of its people. The concerns surrounding Sections 39A and 17B are not merely political—they touch upon larger questions of development, affordability, and the long-term impact on local communities. Many fear that policies enabling large-scale projects could alter the social and economic fabric of the state if not carefully scrutinised. It is essential that public representatives and voices of influence act with responsibility and sensitivity, ensuring that genuine concerns are addressed rather than fragmented. Constructive dialogue is welcome, but it should aim to strengthen, not weaken, people's movements. At this juncture, unity among Goans is paramount. Any attempt—intentional or otherwise—that risks dividing public opinion must be approached with caution. The focus should remain on safeguarding Goa's interests through informed and inclusive discussions.

-Santosh Naik, Margao

## Are We Thinking Less in the Age of AI?

The growing dependence on artificial intelligence tools for everyday thinking, writing, and decision-making raises an important concern—are we slowly outsourcing our ability to think? The convenience offered by platforms like ChatGPT and similar systems is undeniable. However, this ease comes with a subtle cost that many may not immediately recognise. When we rely excessively on machines to analyse, summarise, or even articulate our thoughts, we risk weakening our own cognitive abilities. This phenomenon, now being referred to as "cognitive atrophy" or more casually as "brain rot," deserves serious attention. Just like muscles weaken without use, our thinking capacity too can decline if not actively exercised. It is not about rejecting technology altogether. AI can be a powerful tool when used wisely—assisting rather than replacing human thought. The danger lies in overdependence, where individuals begin to trust machine-generated responses more than their own reasoning. This can lead to a passive mindset, reducing curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity. In a world increasingly driven by automation, it is crucial to strike a balance. We must continue to question, analyse, and form independent opinions rather than blindly accepting what algorithms produce. After all, technology should enhance human intelligence, not diminish it. If we are not careful, we may wake up one day to realise that while machines have become smarter, we have grown intellectually weaker.

- Rohan D'Souza, Panaji

# Section 163 Imposed at Headland Sada Amid Shivaji Statue Row

■ Bombay High Court directive triggers strict curbs; gatherings, protests banned to prevent unrest

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Panaji:** Amid escalating tensions over the proposed removal of the Shivaji statue at Headland Sada, authorities have imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, enforcing strict restrictions to maintain law and order.

The order, issued by Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Mormugao, Prataprao P. Gaunkar, follows directions from



the Bombay High Court dated April 7, 2026, in connection with a writ petition related to the site.

Police reports and deliberations during a law and order meeting held

on April 13 indicated the likelihood of large-scale mobilisation.

The Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Vasco, noted that around 1,000 to 1,500 persons could

gather at Headland Sada to oppose the dismantling of the statue, raising concerns over possible road blockades and disturbance to public peace. A site inspection by local authorities on April 16 further confirmed an escalating situation, with groups already assembling, performing rituals, and raising slogans. Under the order, any assembly of five or more persons has been prohibited within a 50-metre radius of the notified property at Headland Sada Junction.

# Goa's STEM Push Goes Global as Robotics Initiative Gains Recognition in Zimbabwe

■ Pramod Sawant's vision drives international collaboration; Goa-based firm secures key approvals and partnerships.



**Team Goemkarponn**

**Panaji:** Under the leadership of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Goa is emerging as a global hub for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Robotics,

and Artificial Intelligence, with the state's education initiatives now gaining international recognition. The state government's focus on future-ready education and technology-driven learning has begun yielding global outcomes, positioning Goa as a

## Goa's Rise as a Global STEM Hub...

▶ Goa emerging as global hub for STEM, Robotics, and AI education.

▶ Curious Mind Infotainment Pvt. Ltd. gains recognition from Zimbabwe government.

▶ Cabinet clearance granted for Robotics and AI training programmes.

model for innovation-led

▶ Robotics kits certified and recommended by Zimbabwe's education ministry

▶ Firm appointed Development Partner under Zimbabwe's national tech framework

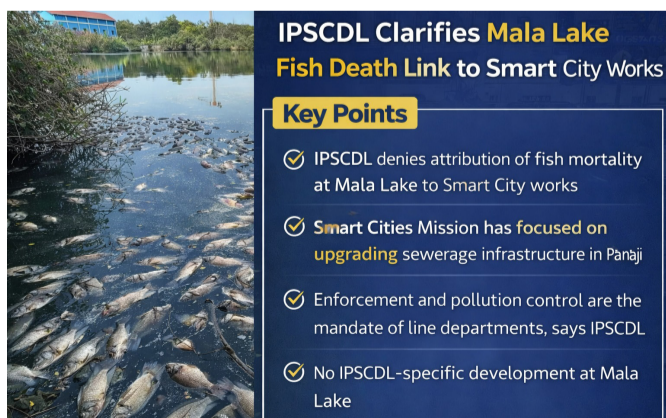
▶ Zimbabwe delegation visits Goa to explore collaboration in STEM education

education systems.

# IPSCDL Denies Link Between Mala Lake Fish Mortality and Smart City Works

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Panaji:** Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited has clarified that recent reports linking fish mortality at Mala Lake to Smart City works are misleading and not based on facts. In a statement issued on April 16, IPSCDL said that while extensive efforts have been undertaken under the Smart Cities Mission to upgrade sewerage infrastructure across Panaji and adjoining areas, enforcement, monitoring of pollution sources,



and prevention of illegal discharge fall under the jurisdiction of concerned line departments. The agency further stated that sewerage-related works in the area have been

executed by the Public Works Department Goa under the Smart Cities Mission framework, based on requirements and in coordination with relevant authorities.

# Action Over Viral Video Illegal, Reflects Tourism Policy Failure: Aldona MLA

■ Carlos Alvares Ferreira says sharing video is protected under Article 19; urges govt to address ground realities

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Panaji:** Aldona MLA Carlos Alvares Ferreira has criticised the Goa government and police over their response to a viral video allegedly showing a foreigner soliciting customers for prostitution, terming the action "wrong and illegal." In a statement, Ferreira said that uploading and sharing such a video falls under the fundamental right to freedom of



# Fire Guts 30 Cottages at Pernem Resort

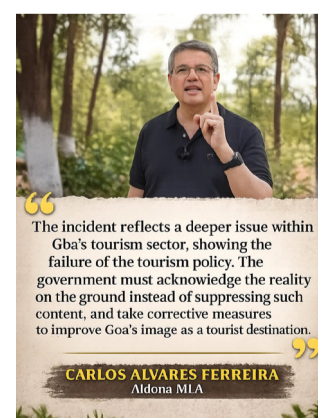
■ Swift response by fire services averts major disaster; access constraints flagged during operation.

**Team Goemkarponn**

**Pernem:** A major fire broke out at Hotel Dallas cottages in Pernem late on Thursday night, destroying several structures before being brought under control by fire personnel after a prolonged operation. No casualties or injuries were reported.

According to Fire Station Officer Namdev H. Parwar, the control room received a distress call at around 8:45 pm from a caller identified as Anup Sawant, reporting the blaze. A fire tender from Pernem Fire Station was immediately dispatched, with additional support mobilised from Mapusa and Porvorim fire stations as the fire intensified. Upon arrival, firefighters

found that the flames had already spread extensively across the cottage units. Teams initiated firefighting operations without delay, deploying reinforcements to contain the blaze. Officials said the presence of highly flammable materials, including mattresses inside the cottages, contributed to the rapid spread of the fire. Firefighters used approximately five to seven cans of foam, as water alone proved insufficient to douse the flames effectively. Around 30 cottages were affected in the incident. However, prompt action by the fire department helped save nearly 26 adjacent cottages from being completely destroyed. Fire personnel also



expression and the right to know, as guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution. He stated

that the incident reflects deeper issues within Goa's tourism sector, calling it a "failure of the tourism policy" and describing the episode as "only the tip of the iceberg." The MLA further said that the government must acknowledge the reality on the ground rather than attempt to suppress such content, and instead take corrective measures to improve Goa's image as a tourist destination.

# Kadamba Plateau Dumping Row Raises Alarm Over Possible Damage to Heritage Fort Wall

■ Joint inspection conducted; residents allege illegal waste disposal and seek strict action.

## Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Concerns have escalated over alleged garbage dumping and possible damage to a historic fort wall at Kadamba Plateau, prompting a joint inspection by multiple government agencies following complaints from local residents. The inspection was carried out by officials from the Village Panchayat Karmali, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Goa Waste Management Corporation, State Archaeology Department, along with representatives from the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP)



and Village Panchayat Taleigao. During the site visit, residents alleged that vegetable waste and other garbage were being dumped in the area, resulting in foul odour and environmental nuisance. They also raised concerns about the dumping of soil and other materials without proper authorisation,

claiming it may have altered the landscape and affected the integrity of a nearby heritage structure. Locals further questioned the handling of waste transportation in the region, citing a lack of clarity regarding permissions and compliance with established disposal norms. They demanded

strict action against those responsible and called for improved monitoring mechanisms, particularly due to the site's proximity to a historically significant fort wall. Officials present during the inspection are understood to have taken note of the complaints and are examining whether due procedures and approvals were followed in the dumping and movement of waste. Residents have urged authorities to fix accountability and ensure immediate corrective measures to prevent further environmental degradation and potential damage to the heritage structure.



## Gold Theft at Kadamba Plateau Bungalow in Old Goa

■ No signs of forced entry; police scan CCTV, say leads obtained

### Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Unidentified thieves decamped with gold ornaments from a three-storey bungalow at Kadamba Plateau in Old Goa, police said.

The theft occurred on Sunday night on the second floor of the house and came to light on Monday morning when the owner, Rajiv Arora, found a wardrobe open and a jewellery box lying on the bed. Police said there were

no signs of forced entry into the bungalow, raising suspicion about how the accused gained access. House staff were initially questioned but have been ruled out.

The value of the stolen ornaments has not yet been disclosed. Old Goa police are scanning CCTV footage from the area and said they have obtained some leads.

Efforts are underway to identify and trace the accused.

## Goa Constable Arrested for Allegedly Supplying Drugs to Jail Inmates

Accused caught with suspected ganja; investigation underway

- ✓ **Constable from Sattari arrested for supplying drugs to inmates inside Colvale Central Jail**
- ✓ **Caught red-handed with approx 165 grams of suspected ganja in his possession**
- ✓ **In custody; detailed investigation underway to determine extent of his involvement and possible wider links**
- ✓ **Concerns raised over security lapses within prison system**

## Goa Constable Arrested for Allegedly Supplying Drugs to Jail Inmates

■ Accused caught red-handed with suspected ganja; investigation underway into possible wider nexus

### Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** A police constable from Sattari has been arrested for allegedly supplying drugs to inmates inside Colvale Central Jail, officials said. The accused was apprehended during a planned operation and was caught red-handed. Authorities seized around 165 grams of suspected ganja from his possession

at the time of arrest. He is currently in custody, and officials have launched a detailed investigation to ascertain the extent of his involvement and whether other individuals are connected to the case. The incident has raised concerns about security lapses within the prison system. Further details are awaited as the probe continues.

## Colva Police Probe E-Cigarette Sale Allegations, Detain 13 for Questioning

■ Residents' complaint triggers action; Vikram Naik warns of strict crackdown

### Team Goemkarponn

**Margao:** Colva Police have launched an investigation into alleged illegal sale of e-cigarettes in the Seraulim-Colva area following a complaint by local residents. Police said that residents approached the Colva Police Station on Tuesday evening, prompting authorities to dispatch



a team to verify the claims. During the inquiry, officials identified a scrap yard in the locality where 13 suspicious

individuals were found. All were brought to the police station for further questioning and verification, police said.

Officials also noted that a similar case had been reported a few months ago, during which e-cigarettes worth ₹70,000 were seized and two persons were arrested. Police Inspector Vikram Naik warned that strict action will be taken against anyone found involved in the illegal sale or distribution of e-cigarettes.

## Tensions Rise in Panaji Market as Unsafe Building Faces Demolition, Traders Seek Relief

■ Corporation of the City of Panaji plans action on sealed structure; vendors demand rehabilitation and clarity.

### Team Goemkarponn

Tension has escalated in the Panaji market area as the Corporation of the City of Panaji prepares to demolish a structurally unsafe building that has remained sealed for over a year. The structure, which was shut on safety grounds, is now set to be removed following

## Tensions Rise in Panaji Market as Unsafe Building Faces Demolition, Traders Seek Relief

Corporation of the City of Panaji plans action on sealed structure; vendors demand rehabilitation and clarity



concerns over its stability. However, the proposed demolition has triggered

strong reactions from nearby traders and vendors, who say they

have already suffered significant losses due to prolonged restrictions around the site. Shopkeepers operating in the vicinity alleged that access to their businesses was severely impacted over the past year due to barricading and safety measures, effectively affecting daily operations and income.

# Zero Load Shedding Smart Meter Rollout, Upgrades on Track: Minister

■ Sudin Dhavalikar highlights stable power supply, underground cabling progress and billing reforms.

## Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Power Minister Sudin Dhavalikar on Wednesday said Goa has not experienced load shedding in the past three years, asserting that the state now has one of the most stable electricity systems in the country.

He said the power distribution network has seen significant improvement, resulting in better and more reliable service for consumers. However, the Minister noted that

✓ **No load shedding in 3 years,** Goa now among the most stable power systems.

✓ **Underground cabling 40%** complete in some areas, 20% progress reported overall

✓ **Smart meters** installed in 70,000 govt units, rollout is expanding to all sectors.

✓ **Focus on continuous upgrades** to boost power infrastructure and ensure reliability.

scheduled maintenance shutdowns remain necessary, particularly in parts of North Goa,

and are planned and communicated in advance.

Dhavalikar stated

that he has approved scheduled shutdowns, emphasising that such maintenance is essential to ensure long-term efficiency of the system.

On infrastructure, he informed that underground cabling work is progressing across the state, with around 40 per cent completion in certain areas and approximately 20 per cent overall progress. He added that the remaining network, including around 11 kilometres, will be completed in phases.

# POCSO Court in Panaji Convicts Vasco Resident in Minor Rape Case

■ Accused sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment; fined Rs 50,000

## Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** The POCSO Court in Panaji has convicted Toufiq Kotur, a resident of Vasco, in connection with a 2020 case involving



the sexual assault and rape of a minor girl. The court sentenced the accused to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 50,000.

In default of payment,

he will undergo an additional two months of simple imprisonment. The case was investigated by LPSI Prajoti Dessai of Vasco Police Station under the supervision of DYSP Nilesh Rane.

# Dabolim Flyover Set for Partial Opening by May-End;

■ Mauvin Godinho reviews progress; one carriageway to ease traffic soon, public space to host cultural events

■ Garden Space Planned Beneath

## Team Goemkarponn

**Vasco:** Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho on Friday inspected the ongoing construction of the Dabolim flyover along with officials from the Public Works Department Goa, National Highways authorities, and MVR, reviewing the progress of a key infrastructure project in South Goa. Following the inspection, the Minister said that one side of the flyover is likely to be opened for public use by the end of May, or by early June at the latest, depending on the completion of pending works. He noted that the partial opening is expected to significantly



ease traffic congestion and reduce inconvenience for daily commuters in the Dabolim stretch. Godinho stated that the inspection was part of continued follow-up on coordination meetings held with all stakeholders, including MVR and National Highway authorities, where timelines were set to expedite the project. He added that sustained inter-departmental coordination has helped address on-site challenges and accelerate construction.



# MMC Clears Temporary Handover of HPCL Land to KTCL

■ Councillors raise concerns over traffic, transparency and project details

## Team Goemkarponn

**Vasco:** A stormy meeting at the Mormugao Municipal Council has ended with a key decision. The council has approved the temporary handover of HPCL land to KTCL for a proposed project under the public private partnership model. The decision came after prolonged discussions marked by chaotic scenes inside the council hall.

Several councillors voiced strong concerns over the project's feasibility, warning of a possible traffic surge due to increased bus movement in the city.

Questions were also raised over the lack of prior information and the absence of a formal presentation. Members have now demanded greater clarity from authorities before the project moves forward.



# Nari Shakti Padyatra in Mapusa Backs Women's Reservation Bill

■ Joshua DeSouza, Delilah Lobo join rally; leaders push for 33% quota in legislatures

## Team Goemkarponn

**Mapusa:** A Nari Shakti Padyatra held in Mapusa witnessed strong support for the proposed Women's Reservation Bill, with leaders reaffirming their commitment to women's empowerment and inclusive governance. Mapusa MLA Joshua DeSouza participated in the padyatra and expressed firm backing for the legislation, which seeks to reserve 33 per cent of seats for women in legislative bodies. He termed the move a significant step towards enhancing women's participation in decision-

making processes. The rally saw active participation from women across Bardez, reflecting growing awareness and grassroots support for the initiative.

Among those present were Siolim MLA Delilah Lobo, Mapusa Mahila Morcha President Roshan Naik, Councillors Dr Nutan Bicholkar and Shubhangi Vaigankar, along with several Mahila members from the region. The Nari Shakti Vandan rally aimed to spread awareness about the importance of the 33 per cent reservation and mobilise public support at the grassroots level.

# CM Sawant Pushes Goan Cuisine, Women Empowerment at G-Food Fest

■ Pramod Sawant urges promotion of local food, backs women's quota Bill and traditional livelihoods

## Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday called for stronger promotion of Goan cuisine and enhanced support for women-led self-help groups while inaugurating the G-Food Fest at Dona Paula under the Goa State Rural Livelihood Mission. Addressing the gathering, Sawant urged caterers and hospitality stakeholders to prioritise traditional Goan dishes in their menus, promoting "G-Food" over cuisines from other states. He highlighted that food prepared by rural women is not only culturally significant but also healthy and organic.



Emphasising sustainable food practices, the Chief Minister encouraged citizens to adopt healthier diets, suggesting jackfruit-based vegan alternatives as substitutes for meat, linking them to both health and environmental benefits while supporting local producers. Sawant also stressed the need to protect traditional livelihoods, particularly Goa's fish-selling trade, stating it should remain with local communities.

# “Prices Set to Fall Further”: Soybean Crisis Deepens in Madhya Pradesh Amid Global Disruptions

■ West Asia conflict and weak export demand push farmers and traders toward uncertainty.

**New Delhi:** Madhya Pradesh's soybean sector is facing a severe downturn despite strong production, as global disruptions linked to tensions involving Iran and the United States begin to impact demand. The state, which contributes nearly half of India's soybean output, is witnessing declining exports and mounting pressure on farmers. The ongoing conflict in West Asia has disrupted key shipping routes, significantly affecting the export of soymeal, a major agricultural commodity used in poultry and livestock feed. Export volumes are projected to drop sharply, falling from 93,000 tonnes in February to around 40,000 to 50,000 tonnes in March, with further decline expected in April. At local mandis, including markets in Bhopal and Sehore, traders report weakening demand and rising uncertainty. Farmers are



increasingly worried about falling prices. Many have already sold their produce at rates around Rs 3,700 to Rs 3,800 per quintal, but fear prices could fall as low as Rs 2,500. With cultivation costs ranging between Rs 9,000 and Rs 10,000 per acre, shrinking returns are placing significant financial strain on farming households. Industry experts highlight that the issue extends beyond short term disruptions. Indian soymeal is currently

priced significantly higher than global competitors, making it less attractive in international markets. While Indian exports are priced at around 500 dollars per tonne, countries like Brazil and Argentina offer the same product at considerably lower rates, leading to reduced demand from key buyers in West Asia and beyond. The situation has resulted in a buildup of unsold stock in the domestic market, further depressing prices. Experts

also point to structural challenges, noting that India's soybean yield remains far lower than that of leading producers. Without improvements in productivity and competitiveness, the sector is likely to continue facing difficulties. The crisis underscores the vulnerability of agricultural markets to global geopolitical developments, leaving farmers in Madhya Pradesh grappling with uncertainty and declining incomes.

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## CM Seeks Opposition Support for Women's Reservation Bill

making. Addressing the issue, the Chief Minister said that the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam Bill has already entered the discussion phase and reiterated that the BJP and NDA are fully committed to its implementation. He emphasized that the proposal to reserve 33 percent of seats for women in the Lok Sabha is a long-pending reform that must now be translated into action.

Sawant urged opposition parties to support the bill without politicising the issue, stating that the focus should remain on empowering women rather than engaging in political disagreements. He added that all stakeholders must come together to ensure that the legislation is passed smoothly in Parliament. Highlighting the broader support for the initiative, the Chief Minister said that letters

and endorsements have been received from various sections of society, including women's groups, chambers of commerce, and other organisations. He noted that discussions around the bill have gained momentum across multiple platforms, reflecting growing consensus on the need for increased representation of women in legislative bodies.

He further remarked

that the government has taken consistent efforts to communicate the importance of the bill and build awareness among the public and stakeholders. Describing the legislation as a “need of the hour,” Sawant expressed confidence that the Women's Reservation Bill will be passed with collective backing, marking a significant milestone in the country's democratic and social progress.

## “No One Will Be Spared”: Fadnavis Orders Probe in TCS Nashik Harassment Case

detail. He emphasised that the government is committed to uncovering the truth and ensuring accountability at all levels. The controversy involves allegations of harassment and religious conversion at the company's

Nashik facility, which has prompted a broader investigation by law enforcement agencies. According to officials, a total of nine cases have been registered so far, with one at Deolali Camp police station and others at Mumbai Naka,

indicating the scale of the probe. In response to the situation, TCS has directed employees at its Nashik office to work from home as a precautionary measure, citing safety and convenience. The move comes as

investigations continue and concerns around workplace conditions remain under scrutiny. Meanwhile, Natarajan Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons, described the allegations as deeply concerning and distressing.



### Key Highlights

- ✓ CM met Verna industries dears to discuss local employment drives
- ✓ GHRDC to partner with industries as a staffing provider
- ✓ Focus on promoting skilled local Goan workforce
- ✓ Leaders from Verna Industries Association and GSIA joined discussions
- ✓ Job fair set for April 23 at GIDC Hall, Verna Industrial Estate

## Goa CM Pushes Industry Partnership to Boost Local Employment at Verna

■ Pramod Sawant highlights role of GHRDC as staffing partner; job fair announced for April 23

### Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** A meeting convened by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant with representatives from industries in the Verna Industrial Estate focused on strengthening local employment through enhanced collaboration with the Goa Human Resource Development Corporation.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister emphasised the potential of GHRDC to act as a staffing partner for industries by providing skilled local talent, thereby promoting employment generation within the state. The proposal was discussed in detail with industry leaders and HR representatives from several companies operating in Verna.

Key industry representatives present included Kalpak Arware, President of the Verna Industries

Association; Pramod Sulakhe; and Pradip da Costa, President of the Goa State Industries Association. Officials said their participation would play a vital role in linking the initiative with companies across the industrial estate. Senior government officials, including Gurudas Dessai and Rajesh Ajgaonkar, were also present along with their teams. The Chief Minister also announced that GHRDC, in collaboration with the Verna Industries Association, will organise a job fair on April 23, 2026, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the GIDC Hall in Verna Industrial Estate. He urged companies to actively participate, stating that the event will serve as a launchpad for strengthening industry-government collaboration and enhancing employment opportunities for local youth.

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## “International Law Must Be Respected”: India Calls for Safe Navigation in Strait of Hormuz at UN

Representative, Harish P, raised serious concerns about the impact of the ongoing conflict on commercial shipping routes that are vital for global trade and India's energy security. He emphasised that disruptions in the region have directly affected maritime operations and pose risks to economic stability. Highlighting the human cost of the crisis, the ambassador noted that Indian seafarers have also been among those affected, underlining

the urgency of ensuring safety for civilian crews. He strongly condemned attacks targeting commercial vessels, stating that such actions threaten both lives and the free flow of global commerce. India reiterated that any interference with civilian maritime activity or obstruction of navigation is unacceptable. It called on all parties to adhere strictly to international legal norms and ensure that shipping routes remain secure and accessible.

## “Deep Commitment to US India Ties”: Trump Congratulates TS Sandhu on Delhi Role

■ Former diplomat appointed Lieutenant Governor as global experience draws praise.

**New Delhi:** US President Donald Trump has congratulated veteran diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu on his appointment as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, highlighting his contributions to strengthening India United States relations. In a public message, Trump described Sandhu as a seasoned diplomat who has consistently



demonstrated strong commitment to enhancing bilateral ties between the two countries. He also expressed confidence

in Sandhu's ability to contribute to Delhi's development while continuing to foster global engagement.

Sandhu, who served as India's Ambassador to the United States from 2020 to 2024, played a key role during a period marked by expanding cooperation between the two nations. His tenure saw progress in strategic, economic, and diplomatic partnerships, reinforcing the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership between India and the United States.

## “It Is My Duty to Take Everyone Along”: PM Modi Responds to OBC Remark in Parliament

■ Former diplomat appointed Lieutenant Governor as global experience draws praise.

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday responded to remarks by Samajwadi Party MP Dharmendra Yadav, stating that his responsibility is to work for all sections of society, regardless of caste. The exchange took place during a discussion in the Lok Sabha, where



Yadav had alleged that

despite belonging to the Other Backward Classes, the Prime Minister does not adequately represent the community's interests. In response, Modi acknowledged his background but emphasised his commitment to inclusive governance. He noted that the Constitution guides his

approach and highlighted that his position reflects the opportunities created by its framework. The debate unfolded in the context of discussions around the proposed Women's Reservation Bill, which seeks to provide 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

## “Time to Seal Bengal Border”: Himanta Sarma Targets Mamata Banerjee in Poll Campaign

■ Assam Chief Minister pitches strict measures and legal reforms ahead of West Bengal elections.

**New Delhi:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma intensified his campaign in West Bengal, calling for stricter border controls and projecting a strong electoral performance for the NDA in the upcoming assembly elections. Addressing rallies in Alipurduar and Cooch Behar South, Sarma asserted that measures similar to those implemented in Assam and Tripura should be adopted in West Bengal. He stated that sealing the border would be a key priority if the BJP comes to



power in the state, linking the issue to concerns over illegal immigration and demographic changes. Sarma also made sharp remarks against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, alleging that her government is apprehensive about a possible BJP administration in the state.

## “Political Demonetisation”: Shashi Tharoor Criticises Link Between Women's Quota and Delimitation

■ Congress leader urges immediate passage of reservation bill, calls for separate debate on constituency redraw.

**New Delhi:** Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Friday strongly opposed the proposed linkage between women's reservation in legislatures and the delimitation process, warning that it



could delay long awaited representation for women.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Tharoor argued that tying the implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill to delimitation effectively puts women's aspirations on hold, as delimitation

remains a complex and politically sensitive exercise. He called for the reservation bill to be passed independently, without being contingent on future constituency restructuring.

## “FIR Filed After Deadly Blast”: Vedanta Chairman Named in Chhattisgarh Plant Tragedy Case

■ Investigation underway as 20 workers killed in boiler explosion at power facility

**New Delhi:** An FIR has been registered against Anil Agarwal, chairman of Vedanta Group, along with several others following a fatal explosion at a power plant in Chhattisgarh that claimed 20 lives. The incident occurred on



April 14 at the company's facility in Singhitarai village in Sakti district,

when a high pressure steam pipe connected to a boiler burst. The explosion caused severe burn injuries to multiple workers, resulting in 20 deaths and leaving at least 16 others injured. According to police

officials, the case has been registered under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including charges related to causing death by negligence, negligent handling of machinery, and common intention.

## “Am I a Terrorist?”: Supreme Court Declines Relief to Pawan Khera in Bail Plea

■ Top court directs Congress leader to approach Assam court for anticipatory bail

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court of India on Friday refused to extend the transit anticipatory bail granted to Congress leader Pawan Khera in connection with a case filed in Assam.

The decision requires him to seek relief from the appropriate court in the state. A bench comprising Justice J K Maheshwari and Justice Atul S Chandurkar declined Khera's request to continue his interim protection until Tuesday. The plea was made to allow him time to approach a competent court in Assam following the registration of a First Information Report.

The case stems from a complaint filed by Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, wife of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, over allegations related to the holding of multiple passports. During the hearing, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Khera, argued that his client



required temporary protection to pursue legal remedies. He questioned the urgency of the proceedings, expressing concern over the lack of immediate access to filing mechanisms and the need for reasonable time to approach the appropriate jurisdiction. However, the court declined to grant any extension and clarified that Khera must move his anticipatory bail application before the competent court in Assam. It further stated that the matter would be decided independently by the concerned court based solely on the evidence and submissions presented.

# T20 World Cup Under Cloud as Match Fixing Allegations Trigger ICC Probe

■ Cricket Canada faces scrutiny after claims of suspicious play and selection pressure.

**New Delhi:** Fresh concerns over match fixing have emerged in international cricket, with the International Cricket Council initiating an investigation into alleged violations involving Cricket Canada. The controversy is linked to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka. The allegations gained attention following a documentary that raised questions about possible irregularities during Canada's match against New Zealand national cricket team. A specific



over bowled by Canadian captain Dilpreet Bajwa has come under scrutiny.

In that over, Bajwa conceded 15 runs, including a no ball and wides, which has been flagged as suspicious in the context of the investigation. Canada had posted a competitive total

of 173, and their bowlers initially maintained control

However, the momentum appeared to shift during the phase in question, prompting concerns that are now being examined as part of a broader probe. Beyond on field incidents, the investigation has

also expanded to include serious allegations regarding team selection and internal pressure. Former coach Khurram Chohan has claimed that he was pressured by senior board officials to pick certain players, along with suggestions of attempts to influence match outcomes. Another former coach, Pubudu Dassanayake, has alleged that he faced threats to his position after refusing to comply with similar demands during preparations for a previous tournament.



# IPL Ticket Racket Exposed as Stadium Worker Arrested and Insider Link Surfaces

■ Probe widens to corporate channels as police track larger black market network

**New Delhi:** A major illegal ticket resale operation linked to the Indian Premier League has been uncovered in Bengaluru, leading to the arrest of a stadium canteen employee and the identification of a wider network involving insiders and corporate entities. The action took place at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, where authorities cracked down on the black marketing of match tickets.

The accused, Chandrashekhar, was employed at a canteen within the stadium premises and is alleged to have sold over 100 Indian Premier League tickets at highly inflated rates. Investigators revealed that tickets were being sold for prices ranging between Rs 15,000 and Rs 19,000, far exceeding their original value. These transactions

were reportedly arranged directly with buyers through phone calls.

The tickets in question included high demand matches featuring Royal Challengers Bengaluru against Kolkata Knight Riders and Lucknow Super Giants. Authorities found that the accused had access to multiple seating categories, raising concerns about how such tickets were sourced and distributed. During questioning, Chandrashekhar disclosed that the tickets were allegedly supplied by a member of the Karnataka State Cricket Association, identified as Ganesh Parikshit, who is currently absconding. Police suspect that tickets were initially allocated through corporate channels before being diverted to intermediaries for resale in the black market.

# DBO Panjim Deliver Decisive Final Quarter to Clinch State Junior Basketball Title

■ Champions overpower DBSA Fatorda with dominant finish in high intensity final.

## Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Don Bosco Oratory Panjim produced a commanding performance to defeat defending champions Don Bosco Sports Academy Fatorda and secure the State Junior Basketball Championships 2026 title. The final, held at the Don Bosco College of Engineering outdoor court



in Fatorda, served as the selection tournament for the upcoming 76th Junior National Basketball

Championship. Panjim set the pace early, establishing a 15 to 6 lead at the end of the first

quarter. Their disciplined approach and sharp execution allowed them to extend the advantage to 22 to 14 by halftime, keeping Fatorda under pressure. However, the defending champions responded strongly after the break, mounting an impressive comeback in the third quarter to level the scores at 31 all and revive the contest.

# "More Positive Cases Could Mean Better Enforcement," WADA Signals Tougher Crackdown in India

■ Global agency pushes intelligence driven approach and stricter laws to dismantle doping networks.

**New Delhi:** India has come under sharp global focus in the fight against doping, with World Anti-Doping Agency intensifying its engagement and calling for stronger enforcement measures. During a recent visit to New Delhi, WADA President Witold Banka held high level discussions with Indian authorities, highlighting both concerns and cautious optimism over the country's anti



doping framework. The visit coincided with a major conference marking the expansion of WADA's Global Anti

Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network across Asia and Oceania. India's continued presence among countries with high doping violations has prompted a shift in strategy, moving beyond routine testing toward intelligence led investigations. The focus is now on identifying and dismantling networks that facilitate the supply and use of banned substances.

# Goa Athletes Shine with 4 Medals at Tribal Games, Felicitated by Sports Minister

■ State contingent earns recognition for strong performance across multiple disciplines at national event

## Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Medal winners from the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 were honoured in a special felicitation ceremony, where Ramesh Tawadkar, Minister for Sports, Government of Goa, commended the athletes for their achievements and dedication. The event celebrated the success of Goa's contingent at the recently concluded games held in Chhattisgarh. Goa delivered an



impressive performance at the national-level competition, securing a total of four medals across different sporting categories. The tally included one gold, one silver, and two bronze medals,

reflecting a balanced and commendable effort by the athletes. The achievements came in disciplines such as athletics, weightlifting, and football, highlighting the state's growing strength in diverse sporting arenas.