



Karapur Protest Day 15: Will Mega Project Face Mirabag, Unity Mall, 39(A) Fate?

■ Sustained villagers' protest raises questions over future of controversial development amid environmental and transparency concerns.

Panaji: The agitation against the proposed mega project at Karapur has entered its 15th day, with villagers continuing their protest with renewed intensity, raising questions over whether the project could meet the same fate as stalled developments like Mirabag, Unity Mall and the contentious 39-A proposals.

What began as a localised protest has now evolved into a sustained movement, with residents from Karapur-Sarvan and adjoining areas participating in large numbers. Women, youth



and elderly villagers have been actively involved, underlining the depth of opposition and the

growing unity within the community against the project. At the core of the

protest are concerns over environmental degradation, pressure **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**



All Accused in Goa Nightclub Fire Case Granted Bail

■ The Sessions court relief to managers; trial proceedings to continue.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: In a key development in the Goa nightclub fire case, a sessions court in Mapusa has granted bail to the remaining accused, including the managers of the nightclub, bringing all accused persons in the case out on bail. The order was passed by a sessions court in

North Goa in connection with the fire incident at a nightclub in Arpora, which had led to multiple casualties and injuries. With this latest order, all those arrested in the case have now secured bail at different stages of the proceedings. Earlier, bail had been granted to other accused, including the owners, **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

Heat & Humidity Push 'Feels Like' 42°C in Goa!

34.2°C in Panaji
Feels Like **42.2°C**

Brief Isolated Showers Reported

Hot & Humid Days Ahead

APRIL 19-22
Isolated Showers Expected April 19-22

Stay Hydrated Avoid Heat Stress

Heat and Humidity Push 'Feels Like' Temperature Past 42°C in Goa

■ IMD forecasts continued hot weather with brief isolated showers in coming days.

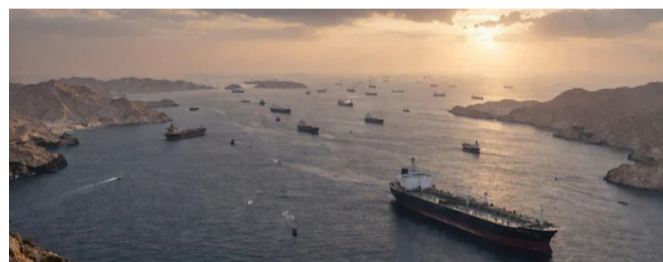
Panaji: Goa continued to witness hot and largely dry weather conditions, with Panaji recording a maximum temperature of 34.2°C over the past 24 hours. However, high humidity levels pushed the 'feels like' temperature to a sweltering 42.2°C, adding to public discomfort.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the prevailing conditions are expected to remain predominantly hot across the state. Isolated light rain and thundershowers were reported in some areas on Friday evening, offering brief relief.

Strait of Hormuz Will Remain Fully Open During Ceasefire, Iran Announces

■ Global oil route reopens as tensions ease, while diplomatic efforts continue amid fragile truce.

New Delhi: Iran has declared that the Strait of Hormuz will remain fully open for commercial shipping during the ongoing ceasefire period. The announcement was made by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who stated that all vessels can safely pass through the



crucial maritime corridor along designated routes coordinated by Iranian

authorities. The development comes in the backdrop

of a temporary ceasefire linked to the conflict involving Israel and Lebanon. The reopening of the strait, one of the world's most vital oil transit routes, is expected to ease global supply concerns and stabilise shipping movements in the region.

US Reverses Course on Russian Oil Waivers, Extends Relief Until May 16

■ Policy shift amid Iran conflict offers India short term energy security despite rising crude prices

New Delhi: In a significant policy shift, the United States has extended temporary waivers allowing the purchase of Russian oil already

loaded onto tankers, reversing its earlier stance against such relief. The move comes amid ongoing geopolitical tensions linked to the

conflict involving Iran and is expected to stabilise global energy markets. The revised general license effectively replaces the earlier waiver

and pushes the deadline to May 16. This allows countries to continue receiving oil shipments that were **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**



Sundae Scoops Edition Update

Due to technical issues, the Sundae Scoops Edition will **not be available tomorrow, 19 April 2026**. We regret the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding. We'll be back soon with more scoops. Thank you for your support!

Goa's Fish Markets Are Slipping Away - and the State Is Watching It Happen

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has once again raised concern about protecting Goa's traditional fish trade from slipping out of local hands. It is a sentiment that carries weight, but also one that exposes an uncomfortable truth: the erosion of this sector is no longer a distant risk. It is already underway.

This is not merely a story of migration. Goa has long been a meeting ground of communities and livelihoods. The deeper issue is the vacuum that has allowed this informal system to grow unchecked. Traditional fish markets have not been replaced by something better; they have simply been bypassed.

A critical factor in this shift is the growing disinterest among Goan youth. Fishing and fish vending, once seen as respectable and integral to local identity, are now viewed as hard labour with limited financial reward. Younger generations are moving towards tourism, services, and white-collar work, leaving behind a sector that has not evolved with the times. The result is predictable: when locals step away, others step in. Yet this transition has not been managed. It has been ignored. The state government's response has largely been confined to statements and sporadic enforcement drives. Meanwhile, the structural problems remain. Traditional markets suffer from poor infrastructure, inadequate hygiene, and lack of modern facilities. Vendors operate in conditions that make it difficult to compete with the convenience and flexibility of roadside sellers. The irony is stark. While local vendors struggle with outdated systems and minimal support, informal sellers operate with speed and adaptability. They meet customers where they are, offer competitive prices, and work longer hours. In a market driven by convenience, they are simply responding to demand more effectively.

Step onto any busy roadside in Goa today and the shift is unmistakable. Fish is no longer confined to traditional markets or the hands of local vendors who have sustained the trade for generations. Instead, migrant sellers have carved out a parallel system. They arrive on motorcycles, crates strapped to the back, stopping at junctions and along highways to sell directly to customers. The model is simple, mobile, and efficient. It is also largely outside the formal structure that once defined the trade.

Consumers, too, are complicit in this shift. The ease of buying fish on the way home, without entering a crowded market, has changed purchasing habits. Tradition has quietly given way to convenience. In doing so, the very system that supported local livelihoods has been weakened from both ends.

The government's approach has so far failed to grasp this complexity. Targeting migrant sellers without addressing the underlying decay of traditional markets is a short-term, superficial response. Enforcement, when applied selectively, risks appearing more like a reaction than a policy. Without strengthening the formal system, such measures are unlikely to produce lasting change.

If the concern about losing control of the fish trade is genuine, the response must be far more serious. Goa needs to modernise its fish markets, not merely preserve them as relics. Clean, well-equipped, and efficiently managed markets can compete with informal setups if given the right investment. Cold storage, transparent pricing, and better facilities are not luxuries; they are necessities. Equally important is making the trade viable for younger Goans. This will not happen through appeals to tradition alone. It requires economic incentives, training, and a shift in perception. Fish vending must be seen as a business opportunity, not a leftover occupation. Regulation, too, must be consistent. If roadside selling is to be controlled, it should apply to everyone. But enforcement must come with alternatives. Without designated spaces or structured systems, removing sellers from one location will only push them to another.

What is unfolding in Goa's fish markets is not an isolated issue. It reflects a broader pattern of neglect where traditional sectors are left to decline without adaptation. In that space, more agile and less regulated systems inevitably take over. The Chief Minister's warning is valid, but it comes late. The question now is whether the state is willing to act with urgency and clarity. Because if current trends continue, the loss of Goa's traditional fish trade will not be a future concern. It will be a completed transition, unfolding in plain sight.

OpEd

Selective Outrage on Animal Welfare Needs Deeper Reflection

By Saisha Shetye

A recent viral video from Goa showing a young boy riding a horse on a public road has stirred a predictable wave of concern. A complaint alleging animal cruelty followed swiftly, prompting police to call for a medical examination of the horse. On the face of it, this is how the system should work—citizens raise concerns, authorities respond, and animal welfare is taken seriously. But the intensity and speed of this response have also exposed an uncomfortable question: why does public outrage appear so selective? Across Goa, the presence of stray cattle on busy roads is not a rare or shocking sight. It is routine. These animals wander through traffic, rest on highways, and often become the cause of serious accidents. Over the years, there have been numerous cases where both humans and animals have lost their lives in such incidents. Yet, these recurring dangers rarely provoke the same level of urgency or sustained public pressure.

The contrast is difficult to ignore. A single viral clip triggers immediate complaints and official action, while a systemic issue affecting public safety and animal welfare continues with little meaningful intervention. This disparity reflects a broader pattern in how issues gain attention today—visibility often outweighs scale, and virality drives response more than consistency. This is not to dismiss the importance of addressing individual cases of alleged cruelty. Every complaint deserves to be examined fairly, and any harm to animals must be prevented. However, focusing disproportionately on isolated incidents risks diverting attention from larger structural failures that demand long-term solutions. The stray cattle issue in Goa is not new. It has been discussed in policy circles, raised by citizens, and acknowledged by authorities. Yet, tangible progress remains limited. Questions around ownership, accountability, and enforcement continue to linger. In many cases, cattle are abandoned or allowed to roam freely, with little consequence for their owners. The burden then shifts to municipalities and local bodies, which often lack the infrastructure and resources to manage the problem effectively. This points to a deeper gap—not just in enforcement, but in planning. Animal welfare cannot be reduced to reactive measures taken in response to complaints. It requires a coordinated approach that includes proper shelters, veterinary support, tagging and tracking systems, and clear accountability mechanisms. Without these, the cycle of neglect and hazard is bound to continue. Equally important is the role of public perception. Outrage, when driven by incomplete context or momentary visibility, can sometimes overshadow more pressing concerns. A balanced approach demands that attention be distributed based on impact, not just immediacy. It also calls for a shift from episodic reactions to sustained engagement with policy issues.

Authorities, for their part, must ensure that responses are not only swift but also consistent. Selective enforcement undermines credibility and weakens the overall framework of animal protection. At the same time, citizens and advocacy groups must broaden their focus, pushing for systemic reforms rather than limiting interventions to high-profile cases.

The Goa incident, then, is more than just a viral moment. It is a reminder of how fragmented the conversation around animal welfare has become. If the goal is to ensure safety and dignity for animals, as well as reduce risks for people, the approach must be comprehensive.

Animal welfare is not a matter of isolated outrage. It is a long-term responsibility—one that demands consistency, planning, and a willingness to address uncomfortable realities beyond what trends online.

Man Booked for Allegedly Pouring Boiling Water on Stray Dog in Velim

■ FIR registered by Cuncolim Police under animal cruelty laws; injured dog undergoing treatment.

Team Goemkarponn

Cuncolim: The Cuncolim Police have registered an FIR against a man accused of pouring boiling water on a stray dog in Velim, causing severe burn injuries to the animal.

The complaint was filed by an animal welfare volunteer, following which police initiated swift action and registered the case.

Authorities have invoked provisions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, along with relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The injured dog is currently undergoing



Severely Injured Stray Dog Undergoing Treatment

Cuncolim Police Arrest Accused

Animal Activists Demand Strict Action

medical treatment, while police have launched a detailed investigation into the incident.

The case has triggered strong reactions from animal welfare activists, who have demanded

strict punishment for the accused and called for stronger enforcement of animal protection laws.



Junta House Demolition Deferred

■ Depts yet to secure alternative accommodation

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji, April 18: The proposed demolition of Junta House in the capital has been delayed as multiple government departments continue to face challenges in securing alternative accommodation.

Despite earlier notices issued to vacate the premises, the relocation

process remains incomplete, with several offices yet to shift to new locations. Officials said the demolition work will be taken up only after all departments are successfully relocated. Sources indicated that the lack of suitable office space has slowed down the transition, prompting authorities to defer the exercise for now.



HC Directs Goa Govt to Submit Action Plan to Tackle Child Begging

■ Court calls for rehabilitation-focused, coordinated response to curb exploitation.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Bombay High Court has directed the Goa government to submit a comprehensive action plan to address the rising concern of children being forced to beg at traffic signals across the state. The directive came during the hearing of a public interest litigation highlighting increasing instances of child begging and the likelihood of organised exploitation. Taking serious note, the court stressed the need for a structured and coordinated response from authorities. The High Court observed that merely removing children from traffic signals

would not be sufficient, underscoring the importance of a holistic approach that includes rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society. It also emphasised the need for proper monitoring and regulation to prevent children from being pushed back into begging networks.

The court asked the state to examine suggestions put forward by the petitioner aimed at safeguarding children's welfare and rights. The directive brings attention to concerns over possible organised rackets exploiting children, raising issues related to their safety, education, and basic rights.

Porvorim Residents Protest Over Alleged Illegal Dog Shelter, Seek Rescue of Pet 'Brownie'

■ Demonstration at Mapusa Police Station raises concerns over animal welfare and legality of facility.

Team Goemkarponn

Porvorim/Mapusa: Residents of Porvorim staged a protest at the Mapusa Police Station, alleging the operation of an illegal dog shelter in their locality and demanding the immediate rescue of a pet dog named 'Brownie'. According to residents, the protest was



triggered by concerns over the condition and legality of the shelter, with locals claiming that several dogs are being kept in an improper environment. They further

alleged that Brownie, a pet dog from the area, is currently at the facility and needs to be rescued. Protesters gathered at the police station seeking swift intervention from

authorities, urging them to inspect the premises and take necessary action if any violations are found. They also raised broader concerns about animal welfare and the need for proper regulation of such shelters. Police officials acknowledged the complaints and assured residents that the matter would be looked into as per legal provisions.

South Goa MP Seeks Special Summer Train to Velankanni

Team Goemkarponn

Vasco: South Goa Member of Parliament Viriato Fernandes has urged Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to sanction an additional weekly summer special train between Vasco-da-Gama and Velankanni, citing a sharp rise in demand from pilgrims. In a letter dated April 18, Fernandes highlighted that the existing weekly Vasco-da-Gama-Velankanni train (No. 17315) is insufficient to accommodate the growing number of devotees,



particularly during the peak summer holiday season in May. He noted that the current service, which takes approximately 27 to 28 hours, often leaves many passengers without confirmed seats. The MP pointed out that Goa witnesses a significant movement of pilgrims to Velankanni during this period, driven by school and college vacations.



"Body of 37-year-old man from Manipur retrieved after he slipped into a well while washing clothes; fire personnel from Small Vagator-Ozran and Mapusa carried out the rescue before handing over to police."

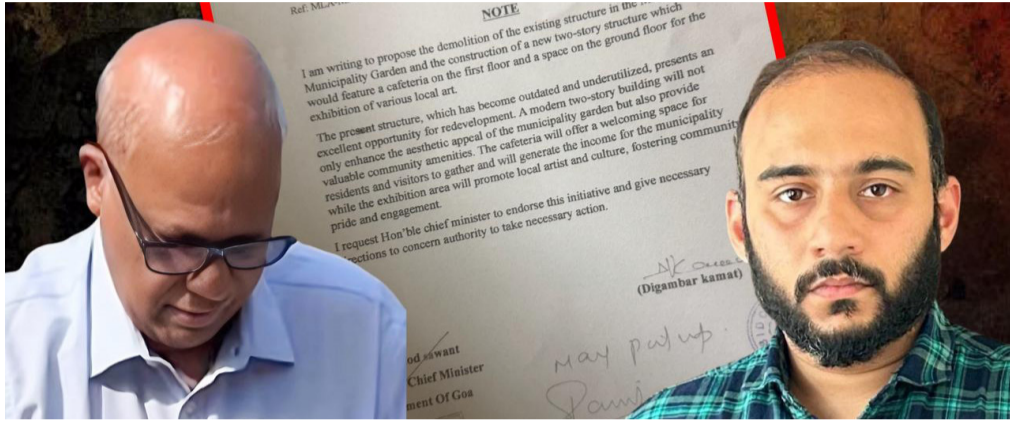
Prabhav Naik alleges Digambar proposed "Garden Cafeteria"

Team Goemkarponn

Margao: In a serious revelation raising questions over intent and transparency, Madganvcho Awaaz & Youth Leader Prabhav Naik has alleged that the proposal by PWD Minister Digambar Kamat to construct a cafeteria and exhibition hall in the Margao Municipal Garden is driven by ulterior motives rather than genuine public interest.

Referring to an official note dated 28 November 2024 submitted by Digambar Kamat to the Chief Minister of Goa, Naik pointed out that the proposal explicitly seeks demolition of the existing structure and construction of a two-storey building comprising a cafeteria and an exhibition space.

Prabhav Naik strongly



contended that this move appears to be part of a larger design to displace the long-standing and culturally significant Ganeshotsav celebrations from their traditional venue within the garden.

He further questioned why Digambar Kamat's note makes no mention whatsoever of Ganeshotsav, despite its deep-rooted association with the garden. Prabhav Naik also raised concerns over

the selective approach, asking why there was no comprehensive plan proposed for the overall renovation and upkeep of the garden, which has long been in need of attention. Madganvcho Awaaz has already demanded that authorities immediately halt the tendering process for the proposed project in Margao Garden. The "Mhaje Madgao Mhaje Garden" campaign is witnessing an

overwhelming response, with citizens coming forward in large numbers through video messages passionately urging authorities to protect and preserve the garden. Warning of strong public opposition, Prabhav Naik stated that the people of Margao will not remain silent if any attempt is made to undermine their heritage, cultural identity, and traditions for politically motivated agendas.



Woman Electrocuted While Plucking Mangoes in South Goa Village

Locals raise alarm over high-tension wires near residential areas

Team Goemkarponn

Margao: A tragic incident was reported from Tilamol village, where a 42-year-old woman, identified as Noquel Alivero, died due to electrocution. According to sources, the incident occurred when the woman was attempting to pluck raw mangoes using an iron rod, which accidentally came into contact with a live 11 KV high-tension

wire in the vicinity. She sustained a severe electric shock and died on the spot. The incident has sparked concern among local residents, who have pointed out the dangers posed by high-tension wires running close to residential and agricultural areas. Locals have urged the electricity department to take immediate measures to ensure safety and prevent such incidents in the future.



Scooter Crushed in Mapusa Mishap, Rider Escapes with Minor Injuries

Team Goemkarponn

Mapusa: Panic gripped the busy area near Mapusa Court Junction after a scooter was crushed under a lorry in a road accident on Tuesday. According to eyewitnesses, the incident occurred when the lorry collided with a scooter, causing it to get trapped beneath the heavy vehicle. The impact left bystanders shocked as the two-wheeler was severely damaged. Fortunately, the rider had a narrow escape and sustained only minor injuries. He was immediately attended to and provided medical assistance at the scene before being moved for further check-up. Police personnel rushed

to the spot soon after the accident and managed that traffic movement was restored. The lorry driver was taken into custody for questioning, and a case has been registered. Preliminary reports suggest that the accident may have occurred due to negligence, but officials have stated that a detailed investigation is underway to determine the exact cause. The incident has once again raised concerns about road safety in high-traffic areas like Mapusa, especially near busy junctions where heavy vehicles and two-wheelers frequently share limited space. Authorities have urged motorists to exercise caution and follow traffic rules to avoid such mishaps.

Man Sentenced to 10 Years in Rape Case Linked to False Promise of Marriage

Court orders ₹50,000 compensation to survivor; acquits accused of forced abortion charge due to lack of evidence

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: A Fast Track Court in Panaji has sentenced a man from Baina to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a woman on the false promise of marriage, underlining the serious consequences of deception in intimate relationships. The court also imposed a fine of ₹50,000, directing that

- Victim lured with false promise of marriage
- Accused's plea for leniency rejected
- Acquitted of forced abortion charge

the amount be paid to the survivor as compensation. According to the prosecution, the case dates back to 2015, when the woman was allegedly

lured into a relationship by the accused, who had assured her of marriage. The court observed that the survivor's consent was obtained under a misconception of fact, as the promise of marriage was not fulfilled. In its order, the court noted that the accused failed to provide any credible justification for reneging on his commitment, which had a direct bearing on the survivor's decision to engage in the relationship. The accused had sought leniency during sentencing, citing family responsibilities.

Eye Scan Delays Disrupt Ration Distribution in South Goa

Mandatory biometric upgrade triggers long queues, concerns over accessibility

Team Goemkarponn

Margao: The introduction of compulsory eye-scanning for biometric authentication at fair price shops in South Goa has led to widespread inconvenience among ration card holders, with many reporting significant delays in the distribution process.

According to residents, the new system has replaced

EYE SCAN DELAYS DISRUPT RATION DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH GOA

- 15 MINUTES PER PERSON: Slow, Time-Consuming Process
- LONG QUEUES: Crowded & Frustrating for Locals
- ELDERLY & DAILY WAGERS STRUGGLE: Hardship for Vulnerable Groups
- CALLS FOR CHANGE: Demand for Faster, Easier System

LOCALS URGE QUICKER, USER-FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS

the earlier fingerprint-based verification, but

has proven to be time-consuming, with each

transaction taking up to 15 minutes. The situation has resulted in long queues at ration outlets, causing hardship particularly for elderly citizens and daily wage earners. Beneficiaries have raised concerns over the efficiency and accessibility of the new mechanism, stating that the process is not user-friendly and often leads to overcrowding at shops.

CM Sawant Launches 7 Development Projects in Cuncolim

Healthcare, infrastructure and sports facilities get major boost; leaders pay tribute to Chieftains.

Team Goemkarponn

Cuncolim: Pramod Sawant on Friday launched and inaugurated a series of seven development projects in the Cuncolim constituency, marking a significant push towards strengthening healthcare, infrastructure, and sports facilities in the region. The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of a 15-bedded Urban Primary Health Centre, aimed at improving access to primary healthcare services. He also initiated the renovation of the historic Chieftains'



Memorial Park and the construction of Panchayat Ghars at Guirdolim and Paroda to enhance local administrative infrastructure. In addition, underground cabling works were launched in Chandor and Guirdolim to improve power distribution and reduce overhead

wiring hazards. As part of the development initiatives, the Chief Minister inaugurated a newly constructed futsal ground at Madicotto, Cuncolim, providing a modern sports facility for youth and sports enthusiasts. Further strengthening healthcare

services, Pramod Sawant also inaugurated the Urban Ayushman Aarogya Mandir (UAAM) — a Wellness Centre — in Cuncolim Municipality. The centre is expected to offer a range of medical services, including outpatient care (OPD) and various diagnostic tests, benefiting residents of the area. Yuri Alemao, Altone D'Costa, along with other dignitaries, were present during the events. During the visit, the Chief Minister and the Leader of Opposition also paid tribute to the Cuncolim Chieftains at the memorial site.



Sankalp Amonkar Launches Sewer Line Relaying Project at Baina

₹1.75 crore infrastructure upgrade to address overflow, expand capacity, and improve sanitation in Mormugao constituency

Team Goemkarponn

Mormugao: Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar on Wednesday launched the relaying of a sewer line and reconstruction of chambers at Baina, in the presence of councillor Shradha Amonkar and other officials, marking the beginning of a key infrastructure upgrade

in the area. The project is aimed at resolving long-standing issues of overflow and blockages in the existing sewerage system, which has been under strain due to increasing population. Speaking at the site, Amonkar said the existing pipeline had outlived its utility and required urgent replacement.



Venzy Initiates Water Pipeline Upgrade to Meet Future Demand in Benaulim

40-year-old AC pipelines are being replaced with a modern DI network; the project is aimed at ensuring a reliable supply for the next 20–25 years

Team Goemkarponn

Benaulim: Venzy Viegas has initiated a major drinking water infrastructure upgrade in his constituency, with the replacement of over 40-year-old asbestos cement (AC) pipelines with modern ductile iron (DI) pipelines to improve efficiency and water pressure. Speaking on the project, the MLA said the existing pipeline system, laid decades ago, has weakened over time and is unable to cope with the growing population and increasing construction activity in the area. He noted that frequent issues such as low pressure, leakages, and pipe bursts have

been affecting several localities. Under the project, the old pipeline network is being upgraded to a stronger DI system, with key sections seeing an increase in diameter from 100 mm to 200 mm. This enhancement is expected to significantly improve water pressure and ensure smoother distribution across various wards. Viegas emphasised that the initiative is part of a long-term planning strategy aimed at meeting the constituency's water requirements for the next 20 to 25 years. He added that the project has been designed keeping in mind rapid urbanisation, new housing developments, and rising consumption needs.

AAP Seeks Time-Bound Plan for ID Hospital Upgrade, Reminds BJP of By-Poll Promise

Party submits memorandum to CM, demands conversion into full-fledged district hospital with modern facilities.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa unit has demanded a time-bound commitment from the BJP government for the upgradation of the ID Hospital, reiterating its promise to convert the facility into a full-fledged district hospital.

Addressing a press conference, AAP Goa Senior Vice President



Sandesh Teleikar Dessai, Mahila Wing President Mamata Maben, and Ponda leader Geetesh Naik said that a memorandum had been submitted to Chief

Minister Pramod Sawant, urging immediate action on the issue.

The leaders stated that the BJP must be held accountable for its by-poll promise of upgrading the

ID Hospital with improved infrastructure, including specialist doctors, modern equipment, a blood bank, and a critical care unit within a defined timeline.

Criticising the government for alleged neglect, AAP leaders stressed the urgent need to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in the state and called for prompt steps to fulfil commitments made to the people.

Goa to Host Gomantak Janak Bhagwan Parshuram Avtaran Mahotsav 2026 at Mandovi Promenade from April 19–26

Week-long spiritual and cultural festival in Panaji to feature Katha Vachan, Mahaartis, light and sound shows, and national participation.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad (Goa Pradesh Chapter) and Panaji Nav Varsha Swagat Samiti, in collaboration with the Department of Information and Publicity, Government of Goa, and the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), are set to organise the Gomantak Janak Bhagwan Parshuram



Avtaran Mahotsav 2026 at the Mandovi Promenade in Panaji from April 19 to April 26, 2026. The seven-day Mahotsav will be inaugurated on April 19 by Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant. The festival commemorates the birth anniversary

of Gomantak Janak Bhagwan Parshuram Ji and is expected to draw devotees, spiritual leaders, dignitaries, and cultural representatives from across India. It aims to celebrate India's spiritual heritage, promote cultural values,

and highlight Goa as a prominent destination for pilgrimage and spiritual tourism. Shri Prempal Singh, President of the Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad (Goa Pradesh Chapter), stated that the Mahotsav is not merely a celebration of Bhagwan Parshuram's birth anniversary but a reaffirmation of spiritual heritage and cultural traditions.

Using Yuan for Iran Oil Deals Is Within Rules, Says Centre

■ Government defends payment mechanism as Indian refiners secure energy supplies amid global tensions

New Delhi: The Centre has clarified that Indian refiners settling payments for Iranian oil in Chinese yuan are operating within established regulations, dismissing concerns over the arrangement. The response comes after reports indicated that transactions for limited Iranian crude purchases were being routed through ICICI Bank using the yuan.

Officials emphasised that meeting domestic energy requirements remains the top priority, and oil marketing companies are adhering to all applicable rules while conducting such transactions. The development follows temporary sanctions relief granted by the United States, allowing countries



to purchase Iranian and Russian oil already in transit to stabilise global markets affected by geopolitical tensions involving Iran.

Indian refiners have resumed limited imports of Iranian crude under this waiver, including a notable purchase by Indian Oil Corporation, which acquired a significant cargo after several years. Multiple vessels carrying Iranian oil have also been

permitted to dock at Indian ports, reflecting a cautious but active approach to securing supply.

Payment challenges, often a hurdle in such transactions due to sanctions, appear to have been addressed through the use of alternative currency channels. The use of the Chinese yuan has enabled smoother settlement processes, even as some global buyers remain hesitant.

The waiver for Iranian oil is set to expire soon, and there is uncertainty over whether it will be extended. In contrast, relief for Russian oil transactions has already been prolonged, adding another layer of complexity to global energy trade.

The broader backdrop includes ongoing disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global oil shipments. Despite these challenges, India has managed to maintain relatively stable energy supplies compared to several other regions. The government's stance underscores a pragmatic approach focused on ensuring uninterrupted fuel availability, even as international dynamics continue to evolve.

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Karapur Protest Day 15: Will Mega Project Face Mirabag, Unity Mall, 39(A) Fate?

on natural resources, and the long-term impact on livelihoods. Villagers fear that the large-scale development could strain water sources, increase infrastructure burden, and disturb the ecological balance of the area. Many have also questioned the level of transparency in the approval process, alleging inadequate public consultation before the project was pushed forward. The protest has also reignited a familiar debate in Goa—

development versus sustainability. In recent years, several major projects have faced stiff resistance from local communities, leading to delays, revisions, or in some cases, complete halts.

The mention of Mirabag, Unity Mall and 39-A has become symbolic of how sustained public opposition can significantly alter the course of large-scale projects in the state. Political observers believe the Karapur agitation could

follow a similar trajectory if authorities fail to engage with stakeholders and address concerns in a credible manner. The longer the protest continues, the greater the pressure on the government to respond, either through dialogue, policy adjustments, or a rethink of the project itself. For now, there has been no definitive response indicating any rollback or modification.

However, the persistence of the

agitation suggests that villagers are unlikely to relent without concrete assurances.

Protesters have maintained that their movement will continue until their demands are met and the project is reconsidered.

The unfolding situation places the spotlight once again on governance and planning in Goa, particularly the need for inclusive decision-making in projects that directly impact local communities.

All Accused in Goa Nightclub Fire Case Granted Bail

subject to conditions such as cooperating with the investigation, not tampering with evidence, and seeking permission before leaving the country. While granting relief to the managers, the court is understood to have imposed similar conditions to ensure their availability during the trial. The case had sparked widespread

concern over alleged lapses in fire safety measures and regulatory compliance at the establishment, prompting scrutiny of safety standards at nightlife venues across the state. Further proceedings in the matter will continue as the court examines evidence and determines accountability in the case.

US Reverses Course on Russian Oil Waivers, Extends Relief Until May 16

already in transit, helping prevent immediate disruptions in supply chains. The decision marks a notable change after initial indications that no extension would be granted. For India, a major importer of Russian crude, the extension provides crucial short term relief. With nearly 90 percent of its

crude oil needs dependent on imports, India faces significant exposure to global supply fluctuations. A large share of these imports passes through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, which has been under pressure due to regional tensions, leading to delays and increased shipping risks.



Fuel Panic Subsides as Hormuz Reopens, After Surge in Demand Across India

■ War driven anxiety triggers spike in petrol and diesel consumption, while online searches reflect public concern

New Delhi: The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz during the ongoing ceasefire has eased fuel related anxiety in India, following weeks of heightened concern triggered by tensions in the Middle East. The strategic route, critical for global oil supply, had been at the centre of uncertainty, prompting precautionary behaviour across the country. During the peak of the crisis in March, long queues were reported at petrol pumps in several cities as consumers rushed to secure fuel. Many motorists filled tanks in advance, while fuel stations experienced unusually high demand, reflecting fears of potential shortages and price increases.

Official data indicates a sharp rise in consumption during this period. Diesel demand surged to 8.72 million tonnes in March, up significantly from 7.66 million tonnes in February. Petrol consumption also climbed to 3.77 million tonnes, marking one of the highest levels recorded in recent months. The spike aligned closely with escalating geopolitical tensions, suggesting that the increase was largely driven by precautionary buying rather than routine usage.

In contrast, consumption of Liquefied Petroleum Gas showed a decline, dropping to 2.38 million tonnes despite visible public concern. The dip is believed to be linked to rising commercial LPG prices, which may have led businesses such as restaurants and small eateries to cut back usage. Households may also have moderated consumption in response to higher costs.

Public sentiment during the period was also reflected online. Data from Google Trends revealed a sharp increase in searches related to petrol, peaking in late March as concerns intensified. Interest in LPG spiked earlier but declined quickly, while searches for alternatives like induction cooking rose, indicating shifts in household planning.

Regional patterns showed that northern and eastern states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Delhi, recorded the highest levels of online concern, while southern regions remained comparatively stable.

The combined data highlights how global conflict translated into tangible effects on daily life in India, influencing both consumption habits and public behaviour.

India Reaffirms Push for Dialogue as Zelensky Aide Holds High Level Talks

■ Meetings with Ajit Doval and S Jaishankar focus on peace prospects and strengthening bilateral ties.

New Delhi: A senior aide to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky held key discussions with Indian leadership on advancing efforts toward a peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Rustem Umerov, Secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, met separately with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval during his visit to India. The meetings focused on assessing the current situation in Ukraine and



exploring pathways to achieve a lasting and sustainable peace. Umerov briefed Indian officials on developments along the frontline and shared updates on ongoing negotiations aimed at resolving the conflict.

India reiterated its consistent position of advocating dialogue and diplomacy as the only viable route to ending hostilities. The discussions underscored New Delhi's emphasis on a peaceful settlement that ensures long term stability in the

region.

In addition to the conflict, both sides reviewed bilateral relations and explored opportunities to enhance cooperation. The talks also revisited commitments made during earlier engagements between President Zelensky and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reflecting continuity in diplomatic efforts.

The Ukrainian delegation expressed appreciation for the constructive exchanges and India's balanced approach to the crisis.



Navy Veteran Still Held in Qatar Despite Earlier Sentence Relief

■ Separate legal case delays return of former officer cleared in espionage matter

New Delhi: A former Indian Navy officer remains in Qatar despite receiving relief in a high profile espionage case, with officials confirming that his continued detention is linked to a separate legal matter. Purnendu Tiwari was among eight ex naval personnel arrested in 2022 on espionage charges, a case that had drawn significant attention. While the death sentences awarded to all eight were later commuted by a Qatari court in 2023, and the others have since returned to India, Tiwari continues to remain in Qatar due to a different case filed against him. The Ministry of External Affairs clarified that the ongoing issue is unrelated to the earlier espionage charges. Officials stated that Tiwari has been detained under a separate

case, for which a court in Qatar has already delivered a verdict. Authorities also confirmed that Indian officials are in regular contact with him, as well as with his family and legal representatives, as efforts continue to monitor the situation. It is understood that the case pertains to alleged financial irregularities connected to his former employer. However, details of the proceedings remain limited. Concerns about his condition have been raised by family members, who claim he has been in custody for several months and is facing serious health challenges. They have highlighted that he is dealing with post traumatic stress along with other medical issues, and have expressed worry over his deteriorating condition.

Women Are Watching Who Blocks Reservation Bill, Says Amit Shah in Lok Sabha

■ Home Minister links delimitation to fair representation and expansion of SC, ST and women's seats

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday strongly defended the government's push for women's reservation, asserting that the public is closely observing which political forces stand in the way of its implementation.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha, he accused opposition parties of



indirectly resisting the proposal despite publicly supporting it.

Shah was replying to a debate on key legislative proposals, including the Constitution amendment related to women's reservation and bills aimed at initiating the delimitation process.

He argued that delimitation is essential to

ensure fair representation by balancing the number of voters across constituencies.

According to him, disparities currently exist, with some constituencies having as many as 40 lakh voters while others have significantly fewer, undermining the principle of equal value for each vote.

Linking Delimitation with Women's Bill Is a Panic Move, Says Rahul Gandhi

■ Congress leader alleges attempt to reshape electoral map ahead of key elections.

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday sharply criticised the Centre's move to link the women's reservation framework with the delimitation exercise, calling it a "panic reaction" aimed at political advantage rather than genuine empowerment. Speaking in the Lok Sabha during a debate on proposed legislative changes, Gandhi argued that the government's approach to implementing 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies



is designed to alter the country's electoral landscape. He suggested the timing of the move is influenced by upcoming Assembly elections in key states, where women voters are expected to play a decisive role. Gandhi maintained that the original Women's Reservation Bill, passed

earlier with broad political support, did not require linkage with delimitation. He contended that the current proposal introduces conditions that could disadvantage states which have effectively managed population growth, particularly in southern and northeastern regions.

No Internal Complaints Received, Nida Khan Not HR Head: TCS Responds to Nashik Case

■ Company forms oversight panel as police probe into alleged misconduct and conversion continues

New Delhi: Tata Consultancy Services has stated that it did not receive any internal complaints regarding the allegations under investigation at its Nashik unit, as police continue probing claims of misconduct and attempted religious conversion. The company clarified that a preliminary review of its internal systems, including ethics and prevention of sexual harassment channels, found no record of complaints matching the nature of the allegations. The firm



also announced the formation of an oversight panel to examine the matter internally, with independent director Keki Mistry appointed to lead the committee.

External experts have also been engaged to ensure an impartial review process. The case came to light following a complaint by a woman who accused a colleague,

Danish Sheikh, of entering into a relationship with her under the false promise of marriage while already being married.

Police investigations have since expanded, with multiple individuals arrested and additional complainants coming forward alleging harassment and misconduct over a period spanning several years.

Smriti Mandhana Becomes India's Highest T20I Run Scorer

■ Historic milestone achieved in series opener against South Africa despite team's narrow defeat

New Delhi: India's vice captain Smriti Mandhana etched her name in the record books by becoming the highest run scorer in T20 Internationals among Indians, surpassing Rohit Sharma. The landmark was reached during the opening match of the series against South Africa women's national cricket team in Durban. Mandhana entered the match level with Rohit Sharma's tally of 4,231 runs and overtook the mark with a single early in her innings. She went on to score 13 runs, taking her total to 4,244 runs from 155 innings, further cementing her place among the game's leading batters.

On the global stage, Mandhana now stands as the second highest run



scorer in women's T20 Internationals, behind Suzie Bates, who leads the chart. Among men, the top spot is held by Babar Azam. Despite the personal milestone, the match result went against India women's national cricket team, who suffered a six wicket defeat. Batting first, India posted 157 for 7, with captain

Harmanpreet Kaur leading the scoring with an unbeaten 47. Mandhana and Shafali Verma had earlier provided a solid start, putting together a 46 run opening partnership. In response, South Africa chased down the target with one ball remaining. Captain Laura Wolvaardt scored a composed half century, while Annerie

Derksen contributed an unbeaten 44 to guide the hosts to victory. India's bowling unit struggled to maintain discipline, conceding several extras which proved costly in a closely contested match. With the hosts leading 1-0 in the five match series, India will aim to bounce back in the next encounter at the same venue.



Over 180 IPL Tickets Sold Illegally, Stadium Insider Arrested in Bengaluru

■ Probe uncovers organised black market network linked to corporate entities and cricket officials

New Delhi: A major ticketing irregularity has come to light in Bengaluru after a stadium canteen worker was arrested for allegedly selling Indian Premier League tickets at inflated prices. The incident is linked to the high demand match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Lucknow Super Giants held on April 15 at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. The accused, identified as Chandrashekhar, was

employed at a canteen inside the stadium. He was apprehended by the Central Crime Branch while allegedly selling more than 180 tickets in the black market. The tickets were reportedly sold at prices ranging between Rs 15,000 and Rs 19,000 each, far above their original value. Investigations began following credible inputs about bulk ticket purchases being diverted for illegal resale.



Shree Damodar High School Cruise to Comfortable 8 Wicket Title Win

■ Clinical chase and disciplined bowling power dominant victory in inter school final

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Shree Damodar Vidyalyaya High School delivered a commanding performance to secure an emphatic eight wicket victory over Bhatikar Model High School in the inter school leather ball taluka level final held in Fatorda on Friday. The tournament was organised by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs. Opting to bat first, Bhatikar Model High School struggled to build momentum and finished with a modest total of 86 for 7 in their

allotted 20 overs. Vansh Naik emerged as the top scorer with 20 runs, while Aarav Gaude added an unbeaten 10. Extras contributed a small portion to the total, but the batting unit found it difficult to counter disciplined bowling. Shree Damodar's bowling attack kept things tight throughout the innings. Ansh Kashyap led the effort with figures of 2 for 11, while Affan Shaikh supported well with 2 for 16. Usman Ghani also chipped in with a wicket, helping restrict the opposition to a manageable target.

Sonics Dominate from Start to Finish to Secure Back to Back Junior Girls Title

■ Clinical performance seals convincing 38-22 victory over DBSA Fatorda in state championship final.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Sonics successfully defended their crown in the State Junior Girls Basketball Championships 2026 with a commanding 38-22 win against Don Bosco Sports Academy, Fatorda. The tournament, which serves as the selection platform for the upcoming 76th Junior National Basketball Championship,



saw Sonics deliver a composed and dominant performance in the final held at the Don Bosco College of Engineering outdoor court in Fatorda. From the opening whistle,

Sonics asserted control over the game, taking an early 10-3 lead in the first quarter. Their disciplined defense and steady scoring ensured they maintained the

upper hand throughout the contest. The team continued to outplay their opponents across all four quarters, with consistent scoring patterns reflected in the period-wise tally of 10-3, 10-9, 6-4, and 12-6, comfortably closing the match with a 16-point margin. Kim D'Souza emerged as the standout performer in the final, leading the scoring charts with 17 points.

Sandeep Heble Secures National Recognition with Second Rank in BAI Examination

■ Goa official becomes first from the state to achieve distinction in elite match control certification.

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: In a significant achievement for Goa's badminton community, Sandeep Heble secured second rank in the



Badminton Association of India National Match Control Examination 2025. The examination was conducted in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, during the Senior National Badminton Championships, and saw participation from

top nominees across the country. The results placed Heble among the highest performers in a highly competitive process where only a limited number of candidates qualified. With just one nominee representing each state, the examination maintains

strict standards, making the certification both selective and prestigious. Heble's accomplishment marks a milestone as he becomes the first official from Goa to attain this recognition at the national level in badminton officiating.