



Hundreds March To Vasco Police Station Demanding Arrest Of Gautam Khattar

Protesters call action on brother an eyewash, warn of intensified agitation if main accused not traced

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Hundreds of residents assembled at Tilak Maidan on Thursday morning before proceeding in a disciplined march to the Vasco police station, demanding the immediate arrest of Gautam Khattar in connection with the recent controversy.

Raising slogans and carrying placards, protesters voiced strong dissatisfaction over the pace of the investigation and questioned the intent behind the arrest of his brother, Madhav Khattar. Participants included local



residents, community members and leaders, all united in their demand for swift and decisive action.

Protesters alleged that the arrest of Madhav Khattar was a "mere eyewash" aimed at deflecting attention from the main accused. They stressed that authorities must act firmly to maintain

public confidence and ensure justice is not seen to be selective or delayed.

The demonstrators made it clear that partial action would not be accepted. They demanded that all organisers associated with the event be arrested and kept in custody if Gautam Khattar is not apprehended at

the earliest. According to them, accountability must extend to everyone involved, not just symbolic arrests.

The rally remained largely peaceful, with police personnel deployed along the route to maintain order. However, the scale of participation and intensity of slogans reflected mounting public pressure on authorities to expedite the investigation.

Protesters warned that they would escalate their agitation in the coming days if their demands are not met, indicating that the issue is likely to intensify further.

Crime Branch Arrests Madhav Khattar in Vasco Case

Gautam Khattar Brought to Goa Late Night

Investigation links Madhav Khattar to coordination and dissemination of alleged controversial speech; LOC issued against main accused



Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: The Goa Crime Branch, which has taken over the investigation from Vasco Police Station, has arrested Madhav Khattar, brother of Gautam Khattar, in connection with a case involving alleged derogatory remarks against St. Francis Xavier made during a public event in Vasco.

Officials said Madhav Khattar was detained by a Crime Branch team that had been camping in Uttarakhand and is being brought to Goa for further investigation. He will be handed over to the Crime Branch upon arrival.

In a significant development, Gautam

Khattar was also brought to Goa late on Wednesday night amid ongoing investigation in the case, officials said.

During questioning of event organisers, it has emerged that Madhav Khattar was allegedly involved in coordinating logistics for Gautam Khattar's participation in the Vasco event. Statements further suggest that arrangements were discussed with him regarding travel, accommodation, and a payment of ₹51,000 for Gautam Khattar's appearance.

Investigators also claim that Madhav Khattar allegedly recorded the speech

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

"2,500 Govt Jobs To Be Filled Soon Through SSC"

CM Pramod Sawant

Transparent recruitment process; results available instantly after exams

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has announced that around 2,500 government jobs in Goa will soon be filled through the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), reinforcing the state government's push for transparent recruitment.

Addressing youth at the GHRDC Job Fair 2026, Sawant said the recruitment process introduced by his

government ensures complete transparency. He highlighted that candidates are able to view their results immediately after completing the examination, eliminating doubts over fairness.

The Chief Minister said the upcoming examinations for the remaining vacancies will be conducted shortly, opening up significant employment opportunities for job seekers across the state. ▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Transport Issues In Verna Industrial Estate To Be Resolved Soon: CM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday assured that transportation challenges faced by workers at the Verna Industrial Estate will be addressed soon, with plans already underway to improve connectivity.



Speaking at the GHRDC Job Fair, Sawant said that

the government has already launched bus services from the main gate of the industrial estate as part of the first phase of the initiative.



Clashes and Intimidation Claims Mark Early Hours of Bengal Polls

Election Commission seeks report after tensions surface in Murshidabad during Phase 1 voting

New Delhi: The opening phase of elections in West Bengal witnessed early tensions, with allegations

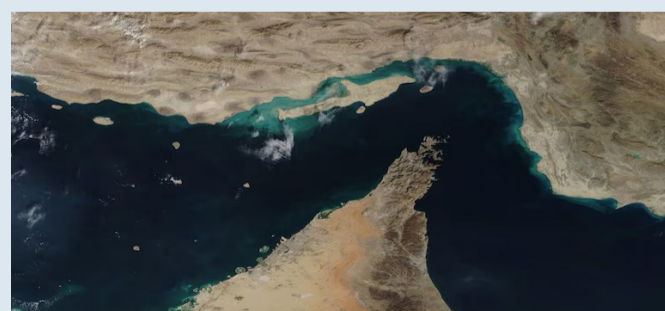
of voter intimidation and clashes involving political workers reported from

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

"India-Bound Vessel Among Ships Seized by Iran in Strait of Hormuz Tensions"

Maritime incidents escalate as geopolitical uncertainty clouds ceasefire and regional security

New Delhi: An India-bound container ship was among vessels targeted and seized by Iranian forces in the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, heightening concerns over maritime safety amid ongoing regional tensions. According to available shipping data, three container vessels came under attack while transiting the narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf to global trade routes. Of these, two were seized by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which



stated that the ships were being escorted towards the Iranian coast.

One of the vessels, identified as Epaminondas, was reportedly bound for India and was the first to face gunfire during the incident. The attack caused significant damage to the

ship's bridge after it was fired upon by an armed patrol vessel. Another ship, MSC Francesca, was also taken into custody, while a third vessel, Euphoria, was intercepted but later reported safe with its crew unharmed.

Iranian authorities

justified the seizures by alleging that the ships had violated maritime regulations, including failing to transmit accurate navigation details while passing through the Strait. The action was described as necessary to maintain order and security in the heavily trafficked corridor.

The developments come at a sensitive time, with uncertainty surrounding ongoing diplomatic efforts between United States and Iran.

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Mandovi at Breaking Point, How Many Casinos Are Too Many?

The question confronting Goa today is not merely about one more casino vessel entering the Mandovi; it is about the limits of a river that is already showing clear signs of stress. As the Bombay High Court seeks affidavits in a Public Interest Litigation challenging a new casino vessel, the debate has shifted from policy to sustainability. And rightly so.

At the heart of this issue lies a fundamental concern: does the Mandovi river have the ecological and physical capacity to accommodate yet another massive floating casino?

The Mandovi is not just a tourism corridor; it is Goa's lifeline. Stretching across the state and supporting livelihoods, fisheries, navigation, and cultural heritage, it plays a central role in maintaining ecological balance. Yet today, it is already burdened with multiple uses, transport vessels, tourism activities, and offshore casinos operating in close proximity. Adding another large capacity vessel into this ecosystem is not a neutral decision; it is one that could deepen existing pressures.

The scale of the proposed expansion raises serious concerns. A new casino vessel with the capacity to host thousands is not just another addition, it is a multiplier of impact. More people mean more waste, more sewage, more pressure on already strained systems, and greater risk of environmental degradation.

Equally alarming are the pollution indicators that have emerged over time. Elevated coliform levels in waters around casino zones point towards contamination that cannot be ignored. These are not abstract environmental concerns; they directly affect water quality, marine biodiversity, and public health. When warning signs are this clear, expansion without caution becomes difficult to justify.

The issue, therefore, is not whether casinos are legal; they are. The real issue is

“
Equally alarming are the pollution indicators that have emerged over time. Elevated coliform levels in waters around casino zones point towards contamination that cannot be ignored. These are not abstract environmental concerns; they directly affect water quality, marine biodiversity, and public health. When warning signs are this clear, expansion without caution becomes difficult to justify.”

whether the current ecosystem can sustain further expansion. Legality cannot override environmental reality. A river has limits, and those limits must be respected if long-term damage is to be avoided.

What remains unclear is whether any comprehensive carrying capacity study has been conducted. Has there been a scientific assessment of how many vessels the Mandovi can safely accommodate? Have the cumulative impacts of existing casinos, tourism load, and waste discharge been fully evaluated? Without transparent answers to these questions, decisions risk appearing driven more by short term considerations than long term planning.

There is also the matter of regulation. If concerns have already been raised about pollution and compliance, the immediate priority should be stricter enforcement and corrective action. Expanding the footprint of an industry

before addressing existing gaps raises legitimate questions about governance and accountability.

Beyond policy and regulation lies a deeper concern: the identity of Goa's riverfront. The Mandovi is not merely a commercial space; it is part of Goa's cultural and environmental heritage. Increasing congestion, visual clutter, and ecological strain threaten to alter that character in irreversible ways.

The Public Interest Litigation before the High Court reflects a broader unease among citizens. It is not simply opposition to a project, but a demand for clarity, transparency, and responsible decision making. People are asking a basic question: how much is too much?

This is not an argument against development or tourism. It is an argument for balance. Economic activity must coexist with environmental sustainability, not come at its expense. When a natural resource begins to show signs of saturation, the logical response is to pause, assess, and recalibrate, not accelerate expansion.

The government now has an opportunity to set a precedent. By placing all relevant data in the public domain, environmental assessments, compliance records, and long term planning frameworks, it can ensure that decisions are informed and credible. More importantly, it can demonstrate that growth does not have to come at the cost of ecological integrity.

The Mandovi has served Goa for generations, quietly, consistently, and without demand. But rivers do not speak; they show signs. Rising pollution, increasing congestion, and mounting public concern are all signals that cannot be ignored.

The real question is no longer about one more casino.

It is about whether Goa is willing to recognise that its river has limits, and act before those limits are breached.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

GOANS CONTESTING UK LOCAL ELECTIONS

We should be very proud that more than a handful of Goans are taking an active part in trying to shape the UK political landscape by contesting the Local elections being held on May 7th in the United Kingdom in which millions of people will be voting. Let us wish all the best to our Goan brothers and sisters who are candidates in these elections. As for England, around 5,000 seats across 136 local councils will be decided, along with six Mayoral elections five of which are in London. Elections are also being held for the devolved Welsh and Scottish Parliaments. Those aged 16 and over can vote in England whilst in Wales and Scotland those aged 14 and over can exercise their franchise. Polling day in the United Kingdom is not a public holiday and not subject to any dry days. However, polling is open from 7am to 10pm enabling all to vote, some before proceeding to work and others after returning from work.

Polling stations are so well organised, and voting is in person by ballot papers. People are also entitled to use a Postal Ballot to vote after prior registration. As soon as polling ends, the counting of votes is immediately initiated at the same venue and the results declared latest by the following day. So, no hassles of transporting and storing ballot boxes. May the best and brightest be elected to serve the community with a sense of dedication and commitment.

- Aires Rodrigues,
London

A Well-Managed Zatra: Kudos to Govt

The Shrigao Lairai Zatra stands as a powerful symbol of faith, but managing such a massive gathering demands equal responsibility. This year, the administration has demonstrated a commendable shift towards disciplined and safety-oriented planning under the leadership of Pramod Sawant.

From conducting extensive mock drills to deploying over 1,400 officials round the clock, the government has ensured strict vigil and preparedness at every level. These drills, involving police, fire, and health departments, were crucial in testing real-time emergency response and avoiding past mishaps.

The establishment of a centralised control room, coupled with CCTV surveillance, further strengthens monitoring and enables swift action in any emerging situation.

However, safety is a shared responsibility. Devotion must go hand in hand with discipline. It is essential that every bhavik follows the instructions laid down by officials and participates in the sacred rituals peacefully, without creating any scene.

This year's systematic approach sets a strong example. Other devasthanans across Goa should voluntarily adopt similar structured safety measures.

Overall, this proactive effort deserves appreciation—ensuring that faith is celebrated with order, dignity, and utmost safety.

- Vaman S Sankhalder,
Harvalem, North Goa

GCZMA Gives CRZ Nod to Zuari Bridge Twin Towers Project, EIA Still Awaited

■ Panel forwards Rs 270-crore proposal to SEAC with conditions for strict compliance

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has granted Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) approval to the proposed twin observation towers planned atop the new Zuari Bridge, even though the mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report is yet to be completed.

In its recent meeting held last month, the



authority also decided to recommend the Rs 270-crore project to the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for further

environmental clearance. The decision was taken based on clarifications submitted by the Public Works Department, which is the nodal agency for the project.

The project, being developed by Dilip Buildcon, was originally expected to begin after the monsoon season with a completion timeline of around three years from commencement. However, during an earlier meeting on December 24, 2025,

the GCZMA had directed the developer to submit a detailed EIA report and carry out a comprehensive environmental study in accordance with CRZ norms before moving ahead.

Despite the EIA still being pending, the authority has now recommended the project for clearance, subject to strict adherence to the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 (as amended).



GHRC directs Dabolim Airport to allocate more space for police station

■ Additional 121 sq m ordered; report sought by June 23

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: In a significant move to improve policing infrastructure at Dabolim Airport, the Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) has directed airport authorities to allocate additional space for the airport police station. The commission has ordered the handover of an extra 121 square metres of basement area to the police. This comes over and above the 190 square metres that had already been directed to be provided earlier.

At present, the airport police station is operating from temporary porta cabins,

which the commission noted are inadequate for efficient functioning. After reviewing the situation, GHRC observed that more space is essential to ensure proper operations of both the police station and the traffic cell.

Taking serious note of the constraints faced by personnel, the commission has instructed the airport director to comply with the directive and submit an action taken report by June 23, 2026. The order is expected to ease operational challenges and improve law enforcement readiness at the busy airport.

SEIAA Clears Iron Ore Dump Handling Project in Bicholim's Pale Village

■ Chowgule & Company to operate under strict pollution control measures, monitoring systems mandated

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has granted environmental clearance to Chowgule & Company Pvt Ltd for handling iron ore dumps situated on private land outside the mining lease area at Pale village in Bicholim.

The approval, issued under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), comes with a series of conditions aimed at controlling pollution and ensuring environmental safeguards. Acting on recommendations from the Goa State Pollution



Control Board (GSPCB), the authority has directed the company to set up a minimum of three ambient air quality monitoring stations at the site to track particulate pollutants such as PM10 and PM2.5. In addition, sensor-based online monitoring systems will be installed along the transportation route in coordination with the GSPCB. The company has also been instructed

to display real-time air quality data electronically at key entry and exit points of the project area. To address dust pollution during transportation, CCTV cameras will be installed from the mine exit gate to the jetty to ensure that trucks carrying ore are properly covered. These surveillance systems will be linked to the GSPCB server for continuous monitoring.

Goa Vehicle Scrapage Policy Sees Strong Response

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's vehicle scrapage policy has received a positive response, with as many as 1,366 old and unfit vehicles scrapped at authorised centres across the state over the past two years. Officials said the initiative is aimed at encouraging vehicle owners to phase out outdated and polluting vehicles in an environmentally responsible manner.



Mapusa Theft Renews Focus on Delayed CCTV Installation

■ Authorities promise enhanced surveillance and tight security, past delays raise concerns

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: A recent theft incident at the busy Mapusa market has once again highlighted the long-pending demand for proper surveillance, with authorities reiterating the need for CCTV cameras — a proposal that has remained largely unimplemented for years.

In response, the Mapusa Municipal Council (MMC) and Mapusa Police convened a joint बैठक to assess security



arrangements in the market and surrounding areas. Among the key decisions was the installation of CCTV cameras at strategic locations, including entry and exit points of the town. However,

similar announcements in the past have failed to materialise, raising doubts over execution.

MMC Chairperson Priya Mishal stated that the council intends to prioritise the project and has initiated preliminary

steps towards installing the surveillance system.

The absence of functional CCTV coverage in one of North Goa's busiest commercial centres continues to be a major concern, particularly in light of recurring theft cases.

Officials also discussed the need to strengthen night-time vigilance by deploying additional security personnel through Goa HRD and improving coordination between civic authorities and the police.

Court Allows Fresh Evidence in 2014 Murder Trial; Police Constable to Be Examined

■ Station diary entry linked to accused's movements permitted under Section 311 CrPC

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A 2014 murder case saw a significant procedural development after the Additional Sessions Court permitted the prosecution to introduce a police constable as a witness and place a station diary entry on record, which is said to relate to the movements of the accused on the day of the incident.



Additional Sessions Judge Dvijple Patkar allowed the prosecution's application under Section 311 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, observing that the proposed evidence could help clarify the conduct of the accused immediately after the alleged offence.

Chapora Bar Brawl Leaves Several Injured

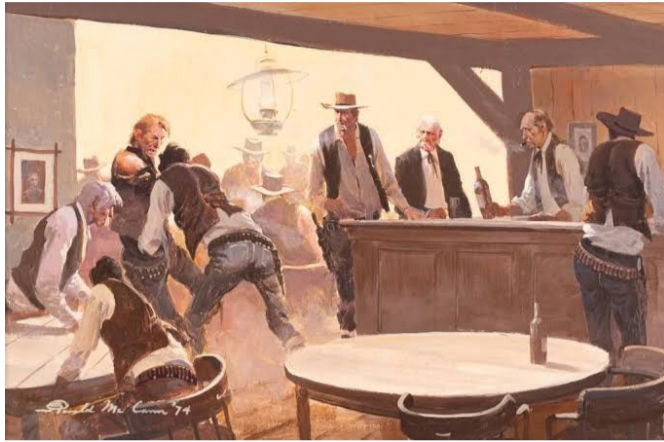
■ Staff Booked For Alleged Assault On Group Following Late-Night Dispute

Team Goemkarponn

CHAPORA: A late-night altercation at a bar in Chapora has resulted in multiple injuries, with police registering a case against staff members of the establishment.

The complaint was lodged by 29-year-old Ngaoveine Kyapaomai, a resident of Anjuna, who reported that the incident occurred in the early hours of April 16 between 12:30 am and 3:00 am at a bar in Chapora, Bardez.

According to the



complaint, her cousins and their friends, all originally from Manipur and currently staying in Anjuna, were allegedly

verbally abused by bar staff after a dispute reportedly triggered by a drink being spilled. The argument soon escalated

into violence.

The accused are alleged to have threatened the group using a baseball bat before physically attacking them with fists, glass bottles, a wooden bench, and the bat. One of the victims, a 19-year-old, sustained serious facial injuries, while others suffered comparatively minor wounds. Police have registered an offence under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and have begun further investigation into the incident.



Elderly Man Assaulted In Ucassaim Over Personal Dispute

■ Two Booked For Alleged Attack, Threats Against 81-Year-Old Complainant

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: An 81-year-old resident of Panaji has filed a complaint alleging assault and criminal intimidation following a dispute in Ucassaim, Bardez.

According to the complaint lodged on April 21, 2026, Antonio Jose Joaquim De Souza, a resident of Trionora Apartments near Panaji Market, stated that the incident occurred earlier on April 4 between 1:00 pm and 1:30 pm at Punola, Ucassaim.

The accused, identified as Valmon Valerian Barretto and Ms Pearl Nadia

Azavedo, both residents of Ucassaim, allegedly acted with common intention stemming from a personal dispute. When the complainant visited their residence, the duo allegedly abused him in filthy language and assaulted him using fists, kicks, and a bamboo stick, causing injuries.

The complaint further states that the accused allegedly threatened the elderly man with dire consequences, including death threats. Police have registered the case and initiated further investigation. Head Constable Vijay Gadekar is the investigating officer.

Verna Police Reunite Intellectually Challenged Girl With Family

■ Prompt action and sustained efforts help trace family after girl found in distress at Cortalim

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: In a swift and compassionate response, Verna Police successfully reunited an intellectually challenged girl with her family on the evening of April 22.

The incident came to light after police received information about a woman creating a disturbance in the Cortalim area. A team from Verna Police Station immediately reached the spot and found that the woman was unable to communicate her identity or provide any details about her family due to her condition.

She was brought to



the police station, where officers initiated efforts to identify her. Through sustained enquiry and local inputs, it was revealed that the girl was from North Goa and had been reported missing earlier in the day.

After persistent follow-up, police traced her

family and established contact with her parents. The girl was safely handed over to them, bringing relief to the family.

The prompt and dedicated action of Verna Police officials has been widely appreciated by citizens.

Man Dies Of Electric Shock While Fixing Power Issue

Team Goemkarponn

CUMBHARJUA: A 60-year-old man from Cumbharjua, Tiswadi, died after suffering an electric shock while attempting to fix a power issue at his residence. According to police, the incident came to light on April 22, 2026, at around 2:15 am after a call was received from the Primary Health Center in Betki, Ponda, informing that Minesh Vasudev Vengurlekar had been brought dead by EMRI-108 services.

Preliminary enquiry revealed that there was no electricity at the deceased's residence, and he was trying to restore the supply when the power suddenly resumed.

Stone Pelting Incident Triggers Panic In Usgaon

■ Unknown Miscreants Booked For Endangering Safety Of Family In Ponda

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: A case has been registered at Ponda Police Station following a complaint by Manisha Usgaonkar, a resident of Usgaon, over a late-night stone pelting incident that caused panic in the area.

As per the complaint, the incident occurred on April 20, 2026, during late night hours when unknown persons allegedly acted in a rash and negligent manner



by pelting stones at her house in Usgaon, Ponda. The act created fear among the complainant and her family members and posed a potential risk to life and property. Police said the incident led to disturbance and panic in the household, raising concerns over safety in the locality.

Burnt Dog Carcass Found In Colvale, Cruelty Case Registered

■ Autopsy Reveals Animal Was Beaten To Death Before Being Set On Fire

Team Goemkarponn

COLVALE: A disturbing case of animal cruelty has surfaced in Colvale, where police have registered an offence against an unidentified person after a burnt dog carcass was discovered.

The incident came to light on Saturday night following a call alerting authorities about the carcass in the Chicalim-Colvale area. On reaching the spot, police found the remains of a dog with a chain still around its neck. A wooden stick, along with



pieces of cardboard and cloth, were also recovered nearby, raising suspicions of deliberate abuse.

Local residents alerted officials from the District

the carcass was sent for post-mortem examination.

The autopsy, carried out on April 20, revealed shocking details — the dog had allegedly been beaten to death with a hard object, such as a rod, before its body was set on fire.

Police have registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Further investigation is underway to identify those responsible.

Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA), who visited the scene along with Colvale police. A panchanama was conducted, and

Vasco fish wholesalers to shift to Baina market complex after joint meeting

The decision was taken during a meeting in the presence of chairperson Girish Borker, MLA Krishna Salkar and officials from the RTO

Team Goemkarponn

BAINA: In a significant move aimed at resolving long-standing issues at the Vasco fish market, authorities have decided to shift fish wholesalers to the Baina fish market complex. The decision was taken during a joint meeting held on Wednesday in the presence of Mormugao Municipal Council chairperson Girish Borker, MLA Krishna Salkar, officials from the RTO, traffic cell, Vasco police and other departments.

The issue of wholesalers operating outside the newly inaugurated Vasco fish market has been a persistent concern, with retail vendors repeatedly complaining of losses due to bulk fish sales happening in close proximity. The situation had led to congestion, unregulated trading and inconvenience to both vendors and customers.

MLA Krishna Salkar said the decision was



taken after carefully considering the grievances of fish vendors and the need to bring order to the system. "The issue of wholesalers selling fish outside the new market has been pending for a long time and has caused considerable inconvenience to vendors. This step can serve as a long-term solution," Salkar said. He pointed out that retail vendors inside the market had consistently raised concerns about unfair competition. "The fish vendors in the new market have been complaining that wholesalers selling fish in kilos were affecting their business and leading to

losses. Their demand was genuine, and it needed to be addressed," he said.

Salkar stated that wholesalers have now been requested to shift operations to the Baina fish market, where both wholesale and retail activities can function in a more organised manner. "We have asked the wholesalers to move to the Baina market so that both wholesalers and retailers can benefit. This will create a more structured system and reduce conflicts," he said.

He added that the authorities will undertake temporary repair works at the Baina complex to accommodate the wholesalers. "We will

carry out small repairs on a temporary basis to make space for them. At a later stage, the entire market will be developed into a modern mega fish market through a government agency," Salkar said.

Recalling earlier commitments, Salkar said strict measures had already been outlined during the inauguration of the new Vasco fish market. "When the market was inaugurated, we had clearly stated that wholesalers would not be allowed to sell fish in its vicinity. The market was also officially notified, which means no fish sale is permitted within a two-kilometre radius as per rules," he said.



Residents seek clarity on KTC bus stand project, protest deferred

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Concerns over the proposed redevelopment of the KTC bus stand continued to grow, with residents demanding clarity and transparency from authorities before the project moves forward. A planned protest on Wednesday was deferred after MLA Krishna Salkar recently announced that the plans and presentation on the new KTC Bus stand project would be provided soon. The locals insisted that officials first present complete details of the proposal, including land use and the extent of private participation.

Former MMC chairperson

Nandadeep Raut addressing a press conference on Wednesday said the opposition was not against development but against the lack of information being shared with the public. "We are not opposing development. But people have a right to know what exactly is being planned on such a large public space. The project must be fully transparent and should benefit citizens," Raut said.

Residents have raised key questions on how much land will be handed over to private players under the proposed public-private partnership model and whether public interest will remain protected.

South Goa Reviews NEET Exam Preparedness

Security, Student Safety Measures Emphasised Case Registered

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A high-level meeting was convened under the chairpersonship of Ms. Eгна Cleetus, IAS, Collector & District Magistrate, South Goa H/c Kushavati District, to review preparedness for the upcoming NEET (UG) examination. The meeting was held in the presence of Shri Santosh Desai, Superintendent of Police, South Goa H/c Kushavati District.

The meeting was attended by DySPs, the Police Inspector of Vasco, principals and teachers of PM SHRI KV No. 1 and KV No. 2, Assistant Director (DTE), officials from NIC, Electricity Department, Medical Officers, and representatives from Urban Health Centres.

During the deliberations, detailed



discussions were held to ensure the smooth and secure conduct of the examination. Authorities stressed the need for uninterrupted electricity supply at all examination centres and the availability of emergency medical assistance throughout the exam duration.

Special arrangements for differently-abled candidates were also reviewed, including wheelchair accessibility and allocation of suitable examination rooms on accessible floors.

It was directed that first-level sensitisation of staff be carried out by Mamlatdars in coordination with the police force. SDPOs were instructed to brief personnel on the use

of Hand-Held Metal Detectors (HHMDs), while installation of CCTV cameras at all centres was mandated to strengthen security.

The meeting also discussed secure escort arrangements for the transportation of question paper trunks. Officials reiterated that valid ID cards must be strictly enforced for all candidates, along with regulated traffic management in and around examination centres.

In line with NTA guidelines, entry of press and media into examination centres was strictly prohibited, with no interviews or statements allowed inside premises.

Goa Boosts Women's Education with Rs7.25 Cr 'Ahilya' Girls Hostel at Khandola

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a major push toward women's empowerment and access to higher education, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the 'Ahilya' Girls Hostel at the Government College of Arts, Science & Commerce in Khandola, Marcela.

Positioned as a game-changer for female students—especially those from rural and remote areas—the hostel aims to remove key barriers to education by offering safe, affordable accommodation close to campus. Built by Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation at a cost of ₹7.25 crore, the facility is designed to combine security, comfort, and a supportive academic environment.

The Ground Plus Two structure includes



furnished rooms, study and reading areas, dining and canteen services, recreational spaces, a yoga hall, and CCTV surveillance. With accommodation fees expected to be around ₹1000, the initiative seeks to widen access for students from economically diverse backgrounds.

Addressing the gathering, CM Sawant stressed that empowering women through education is central to Goa's inclusive development agenda. He also

encouraged students to aim for competitive exams like UPSC and GPSC, while drawing inspiration from Ahilyabai Holkar, whose legacy of leadership and public service the hostel is named after. The project is expected to ease commuting challenges, improve enrollment and retention of girl students, and provide a secure space for academic and personal growth—marking a significant step in strengthening Goa's student-centric infrastructure.

EDII Announces National Entrepreneurship Summer Camps for Youth & Children for 2026

Goa: The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad, a pioneer in the field of entrepreneurship development, education, and training, has been organising national summer camps since 1992. These unique summer camps, organised for children in the age group of 12–16 years and youth aged 16–22 years, aim to imbibe winning skills in them, alongside building an entrepreneurial mindset at an early stage.

This year, the 46th and 47th editions of the camps on 'Entrepreneurial Stimulation for Children' will be held from May 3–8 and May 24–29, respectively, at the institute's campus. Similarly, the 49th and 50th editions of the camps on 'Entrepreneurial Adventures for Youth' will be held from May 11–20 and June 1–10, respectively.



Over the last three decades, through the national summer camps on 'Entrepreneurial Stimulation for Children', EDII has provided a platform to help children understand their strengths and weaknesses, develop a growth perspective, and imbibe in them, learning that fosters winning skills. So far, 45 camps have groomed 3,228 children. Participants develop a strong 'spirit of enterprise

and achievement', enabling them to aim for higher-order success. After the camp, parents receive a comprehensive report on their ward, highlighting personality traits and suggesting future developmental directions.

Similarly, through its national summer camps on 'Entrepreneurial Adventures for Youth', EDII has been developing entrepreneurial traits

among youth across the country. A total of 2,100 youth have been trained so far. Participants discover their hidden potential and build capabilities to face future challenges by acquiring entrepreneurial traits such as risk-taking, creative thinking, conflict management, effective communication, teamwork and problem solving. Career counselling is also extended during the camps.

Interactions with achievers and field visits to observe classroom learnings in practice leave a lasting impact on participants of both the camps. With such focussed, competency-based training, the participants have evolved into high-achieving individuals. Dr Pankaj Bharti, Faculty at EDII, is the camp leader and can be reached at pbharti@ediindia.org / camps@ediindia.org.

RBI Warns of Global Shock Risks, Flags Inflation Pressures and Emerging AI Threats

■ Central bank highlights geopolitical tensions, climate concerns, and cybersecurity challenges in latest policy insights

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India has raised concerns over multiple emerging risks to the economy, pointing to global conflict, climate factors, and technological disruptions as key challenges in its latest Monetary Policy Committee minutes.

The central bank cautioned that escalating tensions in West Asia could disrupt global supply chains, leading to higher costs and slower economic growth worldwide. It noted that any disturbance in vital trade routes such as the Strait of Hormuz could push up energy and commodity prices, placing pressure on domestic production in the coming financial year.

The RBI also flagged the potential impact of El Niño, which typically results in reduced monsoon rainfall in India. This could further drive inflation, especially when combined with volatile energy prices. Reflecting a cautious stance, the Monetary Policy Committee kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.5 percent, while maintaining a "wait and watch" approach.

Despite these concerns, India's growth outlook remains relatively stable, with

GDP projected at 6.9 percent for FY27, supported by strong domestic demand and continued momentum in the services and manufacturing sectors. However, inflation is expected to hover around 4.6 percent, with upside risks linked to global uncertainties and weather related disruptions.

In a separate development, the RBI is also examining potential risks posed by advanced artificial intelligence systems such as Mythos AI model developed by Anthropic. The central bank is engaging with international regulators and financial institutions to assess cybersecurity implications, particularly concerns that such systems could accelerate the discovery of software vulnerabilities.

Discussions are underway with global counterparts including the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England. Meanwhile, the National Payments Corporation of India is exploring early access to test potential risks.

The RBI is also working on broader guidelines to regulate the use of advanced AI in banking, with a strong emphasis on data protection and compliance with India's data localisation requirements.



...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

"2,500 Govt Jobs To Be Filled Soon Through SSC"

He reiterated that the streamlined SSC-based hiring system marks a shift from earlier recruitment practices, aiming to build trust among candidates while ensuring merit-based selection.

The announcement is expected to benefit thousands of aspiring candidates, as the government accelerates efforts to fill pending vacancies across departments.

Crime Branch Arrests Madhav Khattar in Vasco Case

delivered at the event and later circulated it on social media platforms. The speech in question is alleged to have been prepared by him and delivered by Gautam Khattar at the function.

Based on these inputs, Madhav Khattar has been added as a co-accused in the case.

Police have issued a Look Out Circular (LOC) against Gautam Khattar through the Bureau of Immigration to prevent him from leaving the country. Crime Branch teams are also continuing efforts across multiple cities to trace further leads in the case.

"India-Bound Vessel Among Ships Seized by Iran in Strait of Hormuz Tensions"

The incidents occurred shortly after an extension of a ceasefire arrangement, even as clarity remains elusive over the next round of negotiations. In parallel, reports indicate increased enforcement activity by US forces in nearby waters, including the interception of Iranian vessels in recent days. These overlapping actions have added to tensions in the region, raising concerns about the stability of one of the world's most critical energy and shipping routes. The situation continues to evolve, with global stakeholders closely monitoring developments due to the potential impact on international trade and energy supplies.

Clashes and Intimidation Claims Mark Early Hours of Bengal Polls

parts of Murshidabad district. Supporters of the Trinamool Congress confronted Humayun Kabir, founder of the Aam Janata Unnayan Party, when he arrived to vote at a polling booth in Shibnagar village under the Naoda constituency. Protesters gathered around his vehicle, raising slogans and accusing him of political alignment with rival parties, leading to a tense situation near the polling station.

Kabir, a sitting MLA from Bharatpur who recently formed his own party after being suspended from Trinamool last year, appealed for calm and urged his supporters to ensure peaceful voting. He maintained that his intention was to allow the electoral process to proceed without disruption. Tensions had already escalated the previous night, with reports of crude bomb explosions near a school in the same region, leaving at least one person injured.

Rival accusations followed, with political leaders blaming each other's supporters for the incident. Residents in some areas also reported the presence of armed individuals, creating an atmosphere of fear during the polling process.

Police intervened to control crowds at certain locations, using mild force where necessary, while maintaining that the overall situation remained under control. However, concerns over voter access emerged from parts of Domkal, where some individuals alleged they were prevented from casting their votes.

The Election Commission of India has taken note of the complaints and sought a detailed report from local authorities regarding the incidents.

The state is witnessing a closely contested election, with the Trinamool Congress aiming to retain power for a fourth term, while the Bharatiya Janata Party continues its push to expand its presence. The next phase of polling is scheduled for April 29, with counting set for May 4.

NIA Steps In After Refinery Fire Delays PM Visit, Sabotage Angle Under

Investigation widens as global pattern of energy facility incidents raises fresh concerns

New Delhi: A team from the National Investigation Agency has reached the HPCL Rajasthan Refinery in Pachpadra to investigate a fire that broke out just a day before its scheduled inauguration by Narendra Modi.

The blaze occurred on April 20, prompting authorities to examine whether the incident was accidental or involved external interference. The NIA team, comprising intelligence personnel, forensic experts, and cyber specialists, has begun a detailed assessment of the site, focusing on the Crude Distillation Unit where the fire is believed to have originated.

Initial findings from the refinery operator indicate that a possible hydrocarbon leak from a valve or flange within the heat exchanger circuit may have triggered the fire. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has stated



that the overall structure of the facility remains safe.

Alongside the central agency, the Rajasthan Anti Terrorism Squad has also conducted a site visit and interacted with refinery officials as part of the ongoing inquiry. The

involvement of specialised agencies highlights the seriousness with which the incident is being treated, particularly given the strategic importance of the refinery.

The investigation comes at a time when multiple fires and

explosions have been reported at energy installations across different parts of the world. Recent incidents in countries such as the United States, Mexico, Ecuador, Australia, and Iraq have drawn attention to a possible emerging pattern, especially amid ongoing tensions in West Asia that have already impacted global energy markets.

In India, a recent fire at the Mumbai High offshore platform further adds to the list of such events. While no direct link between these incidents has been established, the frequency has raised concerns among authorities. As the probe continues, agencies are expected to closely examine all possible angles, including technical faults and potential sabotage, to determine the exact cause of the fire and ensure stronger safeguards for critical infrastructure.

No PUC, No Fuel Rule to Be Enforced Strictly Across Delhi

Chief Minister orders zero tolerance approach to curb rising air pollution levels

New Delhi: Rekha Gupta has directed authorities to strictly implement the 'No PUC, No Fuel' rule across the national capital, reinforcing efforts to tackle worsening air pollution.

The directive mandates that fuel stations must supply petrol or diesel only to vehicles that possess a valid Pollution Under Control certificate. The move aims to ensure compliance with emission norms, as a significant number of vehicles are still operating without the required certification despite the rule being introduced in December.

Emphasising the urgency of the situation, Gupta stated that effective and firm measures are



essential to address air quality concerns. She highlighted that unchecked vehicular emissions continue to contribute heavily to pollution levels, making strict enforcement necessary.

Multiple agencies, including the transport department, food and supplies department, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and the Delhi Traffic Police, have been tasked with ensuring full compliance.

\$8 Billion Submarine Deal Marks Strategic Reset in India Germany Defence Ties

Proposed pact to boost naval strength, technology transfer, and Indo Pacific cooperation

New Delhi: India and Germany are moving closer to finalising a major submarine agreement valued at around \$8 billion, signalling a significant shift in their defence partnership. The development was confirmed by Boris Pistorius, who indicated that both sides are nearing the conclusion of talks on a project involving the construction of six advanced conventional submarines.

The agreement is being seen as a turning point in bilateral relations, with the Ministry of Defence describing ongoing discussions as part of a broader strategic reset. The proposed collaboration focuses on co production of military platforms, with particular emphasis on



advanced and specialised technologies.

At the core of the deal is the Project 75 India programme, under which ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems has emerged as a leading contender. The plan includes joint manufacturing of submarines equipped with air independent propulsion technology, enabling them to remain submerged for extended periods and significantly improving stealth and operational capability. For India, the project aligns closely with its push for self reliance in defence manufacturing.

The agreement is expected to include substantial technology transfer and increased domestic participation, strengthening long term capabilities within the country's defence ecosystem. These submarines are also critical for the Indian Navy, which is looking to modernise its fleet amid rising maritime challenges. The deal holds strategic importance in the Indo Pacific region, where India aims to maintain a strong security presence.



Trump Reposts Controversial Remarks

on Birthright Citizenship, Sparks Outrage

Team Goemkarponn

Washington: Donald Trump has triggered controversy after reposting remarks by radio host Michael Savage that included offensive references to countries such as India and China while discussing birthright citizenship in the United States. The comments were shared on Trump's Truth Social platform, amplifying a podcast episode in which Savage criticised the concept of automatic citizenship for children born in the US to non citizens. He argued that called for changes to existing laws, suggesting that the issue should be decided through a national referendum rather than judicial interpretation.

Accused Tried Using Victim's Finger to Unlock Locker After Brutal Crime

New Delhi: Disturbing details have surfaced in a brutal rape and murder case in South Delhi, where the accused allegedly attempted to unlock a biometric locker using the victim's finger after the assault.

According to investigators, the accused, identified as Rahul Meena, dragged the unconscious 22 year old woman from a rooftop study area to another part of the house in an attempt to access valuables. He reportedly

tried to use her finger to open a biometric safe, but failed as the system did not recognise the fingerprint.

Following this, the accused is believed to have forced the locker open using tools and stolen cash and jewellery from the residence. Authorities estimate that around Rs 2 lakh was taken. Investigators suspect he had prior knowledge of the house layout, having previously worked there.



You Don't Need Money, Focus on Players": Lalit Modi Slams BCCI Over Packed Schedule

Concerns grow over player workload as tight calendar raises questions on preparation and welfare

New Delhi: A fresh debate over player workload has emerged after Lalit Modi sharply criticised the Board of Control for Cricket in India for what he described as excessive scheduling that could harm players' well being.

The remarks came amid reports of unease within the Indian team setup ahead of a one off Test match against Afghanistan. Gautam Gambhir is believed to have raised concerns about the tight turnaround, with several players expected to feature in the Indian Premier League



2026 final on May 31 before quickly joining the national squad for the Test beginning June 6.

This narrow window leaves limited time for recovery and preparation, potentially forcing selectors to consider in form domestic players

as backup options. The situation has intensified scrutiny around how international and franchise commitments are being balanced. Modi voiced strong disapproval of the current structure, arguing that the board is overburdening players

despite having sufficient financial security. He called for a more player centric approach, stressing the importance of rest, family time, and overall mental and physical recovery. He also suggested structural changes within the board, including greater player representation and a stronger focus on professional management and development systems. Adding to the discussion, India's Test captain Shubman Gill highlighted the need for adequate preparation time before red ball series.



Pink Centre in Margao to Empower Women Cricketers and Expand Opportunities

New initiative aims to strengthen women's participation and build inclusive cricket infrastructure in Goa

Panaji: Public Works Department Minister Digambar Kamat highlighted the need for inclusive platforms to encourage women's participation while inaugurating a new Pink Centre at the Margao Cricket Club ground in Margao. The facility, launched by the Goa Cricket Association, is designed to promote women's cricket and provide a dedicated space for training and development. Senior officials and members of the cricketing body were present at the event, marking a significant step towards strengthening grassroots opportunities for women in the sport.

Speaking at the inauguration, Kamat

described the initiative as a progressive move that aligns with the broader vision of empowering women across sectors. He noted that concepts like Pink Centres mirror other women focused initiatives and reflect a growing commitment to creating safe and supportive environments for female participation. He emphasised that such platforms can help aspiring cricketers from diverse backgrounds pursue the sport with confidence and ambition. The minister underlined that women are increasingly making their mark across fields and should be equally represented in cricket, a sport traditionally dominated by men.



Sahil Dhuri to Captain West Zone Veterans in National Tournament

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa's veteran cricket circuit has earned recognition at the national level, with three players from the Goa Veterans Cricket Association securing spots in the West Zone Veterans squad for the upcoming All India Veterans Cricket Tournament.

Sahil Dhuri, Prasad Patil, and Basappa Madar have been selected to represent the West Zone team in the prestigious competition, which will be conducted under the aegis of the Board for Veteran Cricket in India. The tournament is scheduled to take place in Hyderabad from May 2 to May 4, 2026, at the Grand Arena, with matches set to be played under floodlights.

Among the selected players, Sahil Dhuri stands out as he has been entrusted with the captaincy of the West Zone side.

Geno and Salgaocar Secure Commanding Wins in Premier Division League

Strong individual performances and disciplined bowling shape decisive victories in Goa Cricket Association fixtures



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji witnessed two convincing results in the ongoing Premier Division One Day League, as Geno Sports Club and Salgaocar Cricket Club registered wins in their respective matches on Wednesday.

At the GCA Academy ground in Porvorim, Geno Sports Club produced a clinical all round performance to defeat Chowgule Sports Club by seven wickets. Chowgule got off to a steady start with a 51 run opening stand but failed to maintain momentum,

eventually being bowled out for 152 in 28.4 overs. Captain Darshan Misal led the resistance with a determined 62, supported by Gauresh Kambli's 39 and Shubham Desai's 25.

Geno's bowling unit maintained consistent pressure, with Manish Kakode and Nihal

148 Young Footballers Join Utorda Summer Camp, Signalling Strong Grassroots Revival

United Club of Utorda and GFDC initiative highlights rising interest and potential for development in South Goa

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The United Club of Utorda, in collaboration with the Goa Football Development Council, successfully conducted a Summer Football Camp that drew an enthusiastic response from young players in the region.

A total of 148 trainees participated in the camp, underlining the growing passion for football among youth in Utorda. The closing ceremony saw



the presence of key dignitaries, including GFDC Member Secretary Fransquinha Oliveira, club president Trindade Fernandes, Utorda Sarpanch Celina Gomes, and Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Fr Arvino Fernandes.

Addressing the gathering, Oliveira praised the organisers for the

impressive turnout and emphasised the potential for reviving Utorda as a prominent grassroots football centre. She noted that the village had previously hosted a functioning GFDC centre, which could be re-established to further nurture local talent. The strong participation, she said, reflects both



community support and the increasing enthusiasm for structured football training.

She also highlighted GFDC's broader efforts in strengthening grassroots football across the state, pointing out the presence of several active centres in South Goa and a network that spans multiple locations. The contribution

of local coaches Marcus and Jennifer was acknowledged for their role in guiding and mentoring young players, both on and off the field.

Oliveira stressed that initiatives like these camps are vital in building a solid foundation for the future of football in Goa. She expressed confidence that with continued backing from parents, clubs, and the community, Utorda could once again emerge as a thriving hub for the sport.