



TCP Reverts 10 Lakh Sq M Land to No-Development Zone in Pernem Taluka

Decision led by Minister Vishwajit Rane hailed as major correction to Regional Plan 2021; forest cover to be protected

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a significant move aimed at environmental protection, the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Board, led by Minister Vishwajit Rane, has approved the reversion of nearly 15 lakh square metres of land in Pernem taluka to No-Development Zone (NDZ), marking a major correction to the Regional Plan 2021. The decision impacts key areas across Chopdem, Mandrem, and Arambol,



where large land parcels previously classified under mixed-use categories such as settlement, orchard, and natural cover have now been restored to non-developable status. The move was

formalised through a notification published in the Official Gazette on April 23, following approval at the TCP Board's 231st meeting held on April 21, 2026. Mandrem MLA Jit Arolkar welcomed the

decision, describing it as a "birthday gift" and expressing gratitude to Minister Rane for what he termed "dynamic and timely decision-making" in safeguarding ecologically sensitive land.

Govt Moves To Streamline Land Records, Protect Acquired Properties

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a bid to plug gaps in land documentation and prevent misuse of state-owned assets, the Goa Revenue Department has issued detailed directions mandating the speedy updation of land records and completion of pending mutation and partition procedures for acquired land.

Authorities have noted that several parcels of land, though legally acquired and already in government possession, are yet



to be recorded as government property in official documents. This has led to administrative complications, disputes, and instances of unauthorized dealings involving such land.

To tackle the issue, all departments that have acquired land have been instructed to compulsorily initiate mutation proceedings

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Sitharaman Calls for Strong Cyber Defences in Banking

Team Goemkarponn



New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired a

high-level meeting with bank leaders to assess rising cybersecurity risks linked to advanced artificial intelligence systems. The discussion comes amid global concerns over powerful AI models and their potential misuse in exploiting digital vulnerabilities within financial systems.

"Uninformed And In Poor Taste": India Rebukes Trump Over 'Hell-Hole' Remark

New Delhi: India has strongly criticised remarks amplified by former US President Donald Trump after he reposted content that described India in derogatory terms. The Ministry of External Affairs stated that the comments were uninformed, inappropriate, and in poor taste, making it clear that such views do not reflect the reality of India's relationship with the United States.

CM Praises Health Ministry, Flags Rising Dialysis Needs

Ayurveda initiative lauded; Sawant stresses strengthening PHC-based dialysis services

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday praised the Health Ministry for organising the "Health with Ayurveda" initiative, which focuses on preventive healthcare through check-ups and traditional healing practices.

Speaking at the event, Sawant said dialysis units should not be set up at the panchayat level,



noting that such facilities are already available at Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and should continue to operate from there for better efficiency and management.

Man Arrested in ₹61.84 Lakh 'Digital Arrest' Cyber Fraud Case in Goa

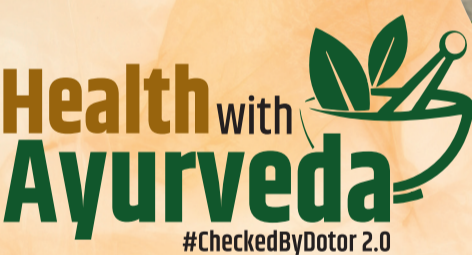
Unknown Miscreants Booked For Endangering Safety Of Family In Ponda

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The Cyber Crime Police Station in Goa has arrested a 48-year-old man from Maharashtra in connection with a major "digital arrest" cyber fraud case involving ₹61.84 lakh, police said. The case was



registered on April 13, 2026, following a complaint by a resident of Quepem who was allegedly duped by fraudsters posing as officers of the Mumbai Crime Branch.



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Date: 24 April 2026 | Time: 9 am onwards
Location: Goa College of Naturopathy and Yogic Science, Sankhali

Date: 25 April 2026 | Time: 9 am onwards
Location: Shree Damodar College of Commerce and Economics - Madgaon

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- Acidity, Ulcers, Urticaria
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Private Jobs in Goa: Opportunity or Last Resort for Youth?

The announcement that around 1,300 candidates are set to receive job offers through the Goa Human Resource Development Corporation (GHRDC) job fair sounds like progress. It suggests opportunity, participation, and a bridge between employers and job seekers. But it also raises a more uncomfortable and honest question—are Goan youth genuinely interested in private jobs, or are they simply showing up because they have no other choice?

For decades, the preference in Goa has been clear. Government jobs are seen as the ultimate goal—stable, respectable, and secure. This mindset has not changed overnight, and one job fair cannot rewrite that reality. The turnout of thousands of young people at such events may appear encouraging, but attendance should not be mistaken for enthusiasm. Many walk into these venues not with ambition for private careers, but with the practical understanding that government opportunities are limited and increasingly competitive.

Even repeated appeals by leaders like Pramod Sawant to treat private jobs with dignity reveal the underlying issue. If young people truly valued these jobs, such persuasion would not be necessary. The need to convince youth that “no job is small” reflects a deeper reluctance, rooted in concerns over job security, wages, and long-term growth.

The private sector in Goa, especially in entry-level roles, still struggles with perception. Jobs in hospitality, housekeeping, retail, and security may offer immediate income, but they rarely promise the stability or upward mobility that many young Goans aspire to. For a generation exposed to global lifestyles and higher education, these

“At the same time, the irony cannot be ignored. Government recruitment processes are now increasingly demanding experience, often pushing youth toward the very private sector they hesitate to join. In effect, private jobs are becoming stepping stones to government employment, not destinations in themselves. This further reinforces the idea that private sector work is something to pass through, not settle into.

There is also a cultural dimension that cannot be overlooked. Goa's economy has long depended on tourism, remittances, and public sector employment. “

positions often feel like temporary compromises rather than career choices.

At the same time, the irony cannot be ignored. Government recruitment processes are now increasingly demanding experience, often pushing youth toward the very private sector they hesitate to join. In effect, private

jobs are becoming stepping stones to government employment, not destinations in themselves. This further reinforces the idea that private sector work is something to pass through, not settle into.

There is also a cultural dimension that cannot be overlooked. Goa's economy has long depended on tourism, remittances, and public sector employment. Many private sector roles, particularly in manual or service-oriented fields, have historically been filled by workers from outside the state. Changing this pattern requires more than job fairs—it demands a shift in both economic structure and social perception.

To be fair, there are signs of gradual change. More Goan youth are entering private employment than before, and initiatives like GHRDC are helping connect them to opportunities. But this shift appears driven more by necessity than aspiration. Rising living costs, limited government vacancies, and evolving job requirements are nudging youth into the private sector—not pulling them in with promise.

If the goal is to truly change attitudes, then the conversation must move beyond numbers and announcements. The private sector needs to offer not just jobs, but careers—better pay, clear growth paths, and a sense of security. Without that, participation will remain superficial, and reluctance will persist beneath the surface.

The reality is simple. Goan youth are not rejecting work—they are rejecting uncertainty. Until private jobs can match the expectations of stability, dignity, and growth, they will continue to be seen as second choices. The success of job fairs may fill vacancies, but it does not necessarily signal a change in mindset.

OpEd

Enough is Enough: Goa Will Not Tolerate This Poison

By Johnson D'Silva

Calling Francis Xavier—revered across Goa as Goycho Saib—a “terrorist” is not a slip of the tongue or a moment of ignorance. It is a calculated provocation, designed to inflame passions, spread hatred, and fracture a society that has long stood as a model of coexistence. Words carry weight, and when they are used recklessly, they can wound not just sentiments but the very fabric of a community.

St. Francis Xavier is far more than a religious icon. For centuries, he has symbolised compassion, service, and humility. His work among the poor and the sick, his commitment to faith, and his enduring presence in Goan culture make him an integral part of the state's identity. To attack his legacy is to strike at something deeply personal for countless Goans, regardless of religion. It is an insult not just to Christians, but to the shared heritage of Goa itself.

Let there be no confusion about intent. Such statements are not random or harmless. They are part of a broader pattern of divisive rhetoric that seeks to pit communities against each other. Those who engage in this behaviour thrive on outrage. They rely on provocation to stay relevant, hoping that anger and reaction will amplify their message. But beneath the noise lies a clear agenda: to disrupt harmony, sow distrust, and weaken the bonds that have held Goan society together for generations.

Goa's strength has always been its diversity. Hindus, Christians, and Muslims have lived side by side, not in uneasy tolerance but in genuine respect. Festivals are shared, traditions overlap, and everyday life reflects a quiet, enduring unity. This is not accidental. It is the result of decades—indeed centuries—of coexistence built on mutual understanding. That foundation cannot be allowed to erode under the pressure of manufactured controversies.

What makes this moment particularly dangerous is the normalisation of such language. When inflammatory remarks go unchecked, they begin to seem acceptable. Silence, in such cases, can be mistaken for consent. That is why it is essential for Goans to speak clearly and collectively. Rejecting hate is not about taking sides in a religious debate. It is about defending a way of life that values peace over provocation. This is not a call for outrage, but for clarity. Those who attempt to divide must be called out—not with more hate, but with firm resolve. Civil society, community leaders, and ordinary citizens all have a role to play. The message must be consistent and unmistakable: Goa will not be a playground for those who seek to inflame tensions for personal or political gain. At its core, this is about safeguarding the soul of Goa. Today, one figure is targeted. Tomorrow, it could be another community, another belief, another tradition. The pattern is predictable, and if left unchecked, it becomes corrosive.

Goa belongs to its people—peace-loving, diverse, and resilient. Its identity cannot and will not be rewritten by those who trade in division. The response must be measured but firm, united but calm.

We will not be divided. We will not be provoked. And we will not remain silent.

Porvorim Stretch of NH-66 to Remain Closed for Six-Lane Corridor Work

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Public Works Department (PWD) has announced the temporary closure of a section of NH-66 in Porvorim to facilitate ongoing work on a six-lane elevated corridor project.

According to the Executive Engineer, Works Division-VII (NH), the right-hand side (RHS) of the existing highway

will remain closed for all types of vehicular traffic from midnight of April 24 to May 20, 2026. The affected stretch runs from the approach road near Neo Majestic Hotel (Ch. 512+900) to near Gauri Petrol Pump (Ch. 512+560).

Traffic moving from Panaji towards Mapusa will be diverted via the left-hand side (LHS) service road near Neo Majestic Hotel. Additionally, the

connecting road from Pundalik Nagar near Delfinos junction will remain closed.

Vehicles heading towards Mapusa from Betim will be allowed to use the existing RHS service road near Gauri Petrol Pump.

Authorities have assured that safe access will be provided to local residents and establishments along the affected stretch at

designated points.

The closure is required to carry out construction of the approach on the RHS of the A2 section under the project titled "Construction of six-lane Elevated Corridor from km 508.000 to km 513.150 on NH-66 in Goa."

The move aims to ensure faster and safer completion of the infrastructure project while minimizing risks to commuters.

Vasco Court grants 4-day custody to Madhav Khattar, NBW issued against main accused

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: In a significant development in the ongoing investigation, a Vasco Police team on Wednesday late night returned to Goa from Dehradun after arresting Madhav Khattar, brother of the main accused Gautam Khattar. Following the arrest, Madhav Khattar




was subsequently handed over to the Crime Branch for further investigation into the case.

Heartly Birthday Wishes


To Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa

Dr. Pramod Sawant

May your journey ahead be filled with success, wisdom, and public welfare achievements.



Shri. Sankalp Amonkar
 MLA, Mormugao Constituency



436 Raids Conducted to Curb Fuel, LPG Malpractices in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Authorities in Goa have carried out as many as 436 enforcement raids across the state to crack down on hoarding, black marketing, and irregularities in the supply of LPG and petroleum products.


The action comes amid heightened vigilance by the State Government and district administration to safeguard consumer interests and ensure fair distribution. Officials stated that strict action has been taken against violations.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE HON'BLE CM OF GOA.


To Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa

Dr. Pramod Sawant

May you keep guiding the state towards development and prosperity with your dedicated service.



Smt. Delilah Lobo
 MLA- Siolim Constituency



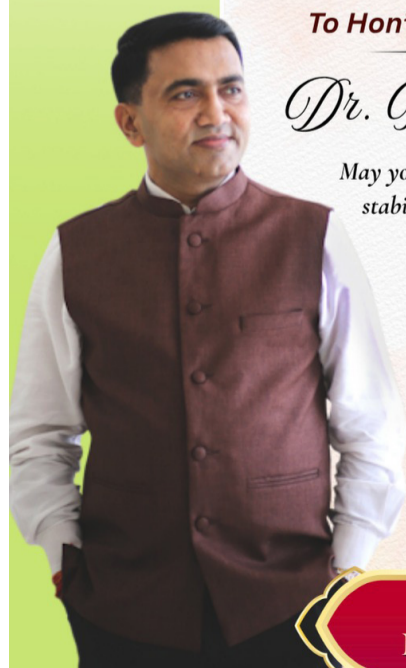
Shri. Michael Lobo
 MLA- Calangute Constituency

Heartly Birthday Wishes


To Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa

Dr. Pramod Sawant

May your leadership continue to bring growth, stability, and progress to the state of Goa.



SHRI KEDAR NAIK
 MLA Saligao Constituency




Warm Birthday Greetings to


DR. PRAMOD SAWANT
 Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa,

who is turning the dream of a **Self-Sufficient Goa** into reality.


May you be blessed with excellent health and a long, prosperous life.




Damu Naik
 State President, BJP Goa




Shripad Naik
 MoS for Power, New & Renewable Energy, Govt. of India



Sadanand Shet Tanavade
 MP Rajya Sabha



जीवित शरदः शतम्



BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY - GOA PRADESH

Two Booked for Alleged Forgery to Secure Audit Extension in Canacona

■ Police have registered a case against two individuals

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Police have registered a case against two individuals for allegedly forging documents to obtain an extension for submitting audit reports of a temple trust.

According to the complaint filed by Udhesh V & Associates, a firm

BOOKED

based in Gogol, Margao, the incident occurred on January 14, 2026, at the office of the Mamlatdar in Canacona.

The accused, identified as Prabhakar Gaonkar, a committee member

of Shree Mallikarjun Devasthan, allegedly produced a forged letter dated January 14, 2026, claiming it to be issued by the complainant firm. The letter reportedly bore a forged signature and counterfeit official seal of the Chartered Accountant.

Police stated that the forged document was allegedly prepared by

the second accused, Swapnil Pawar, a resident of Borda, with the intent of securing a six-month extension for submission of the Devasthan's audit reports.

Canacona Police have registered a case in the matter, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Shivram Gauns.



Man Held for Public Gambling in Taleigao, Released on Bail

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

Team Goemkarponn

TALEIGAO: A 51-year-old man was caught red-handed while allegedly accepting bets from members of the public at an open place in Kevney, Taleigao late on Tuesday night.

According to police, the accused, Annu Gawas, a resident of Kevney, was apprehended at around 10:15 pm near Krishna Store for engaging in illegal gambling activities involving numerical betting.

Police seized cash amounting to ₹1,200 in different denominations along with other gambling-related articles from his possession.

The action was initiated based on a complaint filed by Head Constable Rajesh Yeshi of Panaji Police Station. The accused was formally arrested at 12:12 am on April 23. He was later released on the same day at 12:23 am on a personal bond with one surety.

Further investigation is ongoing.



Man Held with Suspected MDMA Worth ₹33,000 in Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A man from Margao was apprehended during a late-night narcotics raid at the Char Rasta underpass in Canacona.

According to police, the action was carried out between 3:16 am and 4:40 am on April 23 based on a complaint filed by PSI Ramdas Doifode of Canacona Police Station.

The accused, identified as Hazratiali Salur, a resident of Davorlim, was caught red-handed in possession of a white crystalline substance suspected to be MDMA, weighing approximately 3.3 grams and valued at around ₹33,000.

Police said the accused was allegedly in possession of the contraband without any legal documents and had brought it with the intention of delivering it to prospective customers.

Further investigation is in progress.

Two Minor Girls Allegedly Kidnapped in Verna; Police Probe On

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Two separate cases of alleged kidnapping of minor girls were reported in the Verna area on Tuesday morning, prompting police to launch an investigation.

In the first case, a mother complained that her minor daughter (name

withheld) was kidnapped by an unknown person at around 7:00 am from Birla while under her lawful guardianship.

In a second incident reported the same day, another minor girl (name withheld) was allegedly kidnapped by an unidentified individual at around 7:30 am near a

mosque in Verna.

Both cases have been registered based on complaints filed by the victims' mothers. Police have not yet identified the accused in either case.

Further investigation in both matters is being carried out by PSI Prisly Carvalho of Verna Police Station.

Two Mobile Phones, Wallet Stolen from Parked Car

■ Unknown Miscreants Booked For Endangering Safety Of Family In Ponda

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A theft case has been registered following an online complaint by a Hyderabad resident after valuables were stolen from his parked vehicle in Goa earlier this month.

According to police, the complainant, Buddha Eshwar, a resident of Injapur Village in Rangareddy district, Hyderabad, reported that the incident occurred on April 12 between 4:00 am and 4:30 am. He had parked his vehicle along

with a friend and stepped away briefly to use a washroom.

Upon returning after about 20–25 minutes, he found the car door open. On checking the vehicle, he discovered that two mobile phones—a OnePlus Nord 6 and a Vivo Y75—along with his wallet had been stolen by an unknown person.

Police have registered an offence in the matter at 9:39 pm on April 22. Further investigation is being carried out by ASI Satish Sawant.



House Break-In at Seraulim; Crockery Worth ₹20,000 Stolen

Team Goemkarponn

COLVA: A house break-in and theft was reported in Seraulim, Salcete, where an unknown accused entered a residence and stole items on Tuesday evening. According to police, the complainant, Pranav Sankwalkar, a resident of Penta



Vaddo, Chicalim Church, Mormugao, stated that the incident occurred between 7:20 pm and 8:30 pm on April 21. The accused allegedly gained entry by

breaking open the ground floor bedroom balcony door. After entering the house, the accused damaged a cupboard and stole crockery items worth approximately ₹20,000. Colva Police have filed a case against an unknown person. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Bhagat.

Man Duped of ₹3 Lakh in Online Fraud in Salcete Case Registered

■ incident occurred through an online platform claiming

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A resident of Chinchinim in Salcete was allegedly cheated of ₹3 lakh by an unidentified cyber fraudster who posed as a representative of a consumer forum.

According to police, the complainant, Alphone Monteiro, reported that the incident occurred on April 18 at around 9:00 am when he



was contacted through an online platform claiming to be linked to the National Consumer Forum.

The accused allegedly convinced the complainant to share his mobile screen while processing a payment for form fees under the pretext of filing

a complaint on the portal. Believing the claim, the complainant complied, following which ₹3,00,000 was fraudulently withdrawn from his bank account in a single transaction.

Police have registered a case of cheating against an unknown accused.

Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Aditya Sawant of Cuncolim Police Station.

Drishti Marine Issues Summer Beach Safety Advisory in Goa

Temperature rising : agency warned of dehydration, sunburn and heatstroke

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Drishti Marine, the state-appointed professional lifesaving agency, has issued a summer advisory urging beachgoers to take essential precautions amid rising temperatures and increased tourist footfall in Goa. With temperatures ranging between 27°C and 35°C, the agency has warned of risks such as dehydration, sunburn, heatstroke, and dangerous sea conditions. Visitors have been advised to swim only



within designated zones marked by red and yellow flags and strictly avoid red-flag areas indicating unsafe waters. Over 450

trained lifesavers have been deployed across 54 beaches, with more than 100 demarcated swim zones, and are on duty daily from 7:30 am to 7:00 pm with first-aid facilities at towers. Speaking on the advisory, Navin Awasthi urged tourists to stay hydrated, carry caps, umbrellas, sunscreen, and water bottles, and avoid direct sun exposure between 12 noon and 3 pm. He added that lifesavers continuously monitor sea conditions, including rip and underwater currents,

to ensure swimmer safety. Lifesavers are also stationed at key tourist spots such as Dudhsagar Waterfalls, Mayem Lake, Savri waterfall, and Mhovacho Guno. Authorities have further advised visitors to avoid swimming alone, refrain from entering the water under the influence of alcohol, keep a close watch on children, and immediately alert lifesavers in case of emergencies while following all safety instructions for a safe beach experience.



Job Fair at Verna Offers 740 Opportunities Across 25 Companies

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: In a major push to boost employment among youth, the Goa Human Resource Development Corporation (GHRDC) organised "Job Fair 2026 – Empowering Yuva Shakti" at Verna Industrial Estate, bringing together 25 companies offering around 740 job vacancies across multiple sectors.

The job fair served as a platform for direct interaction between job seekers and employers, enhancing access to private sector employment opportunities in the state.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said it was the first time such a large-scale private sector job fair was being organised in Goa. He reiterated

the government's commitment to generating employment and encouraged youth to explore opportunities in the private sector as well as entrepreneurship.

He further highlighted that initiatives by GHRDC have already facilitated employment for over 5,000 youth, reflecting growing participation and trust in such programmes. He also pointed to schemes like the Chief Minister Rozgar Yojana and various skill development initiatives as key drivers in strengthening employment avenues.

The event underscores the government's continued focus on bridging the gap between job seekers and industry, while promoting skill development and career growth among young people.

Goa Naval Civilian Conferred Raksha Mantri Award at Delhi Ceremony

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: In a proud moment for Goa, Gopalkrishna Subray Kamat, associated with the Naval Armament Depot in Chicalim, Vasco da Gama, has been conferred with the prestigious Raksha Mantri Award for Bhaduri. The honour was presented during the commemorative function marking the "Year of Naval Civilians" in Delhi by Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth.

Kamat, a resident of the Housing Board Colony in Baina, Vasco da Gama, was recognised



for his exemplary service, professionalism, and consistent dedication to duty. Known among peers for his courteous nature and disciplined work ethic, he has earned widespread appreciation within the Naval Armament Depot for his punctuality, reliability,

and commitment to excellence.

Colleagues describe Kamat as a grounded and humble individual who maintains strong relationships with family, friends, and co-workers. His ability to foster a positive and cooperative

work environment has further strengthened his reputation as a dependable and respected member of the organisation.

Speaking after receiving the award, Kamat attributed his success to the unwavering support of his family and friends. He also acknowledged the guidance and encouragement of General Manager Shri Bhupendra Sharma (INAS), Naval Armament Depot, Goa, along with other officers and staff members who contributed to his professional growth.

Congress Leaders Offer Prayers at Shirgao and Mapusa for Well-being of Goans

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Senior leaders of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC), led by Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemão, visited prominent religious sites in North Goa on Friday, offering prayers for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of the people of the state.

Accompanied by Quepem MLA Altone D'Costa and other party functionaries, the delegation visited the



revered Shri Devi Lairai Temple at Shirgao and the Church of Our Lady of Miracles, popularly known as Milagres Saibinn, in Mapusa. The delegation included Congress Vice President Sunil Kawthekar,

General Secretary Moreno Rebello, District Presidents Adv. Shashank Narvekar and Mangaldas Naik, Youth President Adv. Archit Naik, Mahila President Pratiksha Khalap, and leaders Samil Volvoikar

and Adv. Amit Palekar. They were joined by Zilla Panchayat members and former representatives from across the state.

At both sacred places, the leaders offered prayers seeking divine blessings and reiterated their commitment to fostering communal harmony and upholding Goa's rich cultural traditions.

The visit underscored the party's emphasis on unity in diversity and respect for all faiths.

Panchayat Support Grows for Protest Against Lodha Project

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: The ongoing protest against the proposed project by the House of Abhinandan Lodha has gained further momentum, with more members of the Carapur-Sarvan Panchayat extending their support

to the agitating villagers. Former sarpanch Karkhande, along with panch members Bale, Sukanti Karkhande and Ujwala Kavalekar, have publicly backed the protest, taking the total number of panchayat members supporting the agitation to four.



Goa Is Not Just a Destination, It's an Experience" Takes Centre Stage at KITF 2026

Goa Tourism unveils the Grand Goa Pavilion at KITF, Showcasing Regenerative and Experiential Tourism for Kazakh Tourists

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Tourism made a strong impression at the 26th edition of the Kazakhstan International Tourism Fair in Almaty, positioning the state as a forward-looking global destination focused on sustainability, innovation, and meaningful travel experiences. Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte highlighted Goa's evolving tourism approach, emphasizing its appeal beyond beaches to a more immersive and diverse offering.

Speaking at the event, he described Goa as an experience-driven destination, noting its scenic 104 kilometre coastline along the Arabian Sea while underscoring its broader cultural and natural attractions. He also pointed to improving



connectivity between Kazakhstan and India, with airlines such as Air Astana already linking major cities, and discussions underway with FlyArystan and SCAT Airlines to expand direct and chartered routes to Goa.

A key highlight of the participation was the inauguration of the Goa Pavilion, led by Smagulov Olzhas Mukhtarovich in the presence of Indian Ambassador Y K Sailas Thangal and senior tourism officials from both

countries. The pavilion reflects Goa's shift toward regenerative tourism, promoting responsible travel that balances visitor experiences with environmental and cultural preservation.

Designed to move beyond the traditional beach image, the pavilion showcases hinterland tourism, including forests, waterfalls, and heritage villages, alongside wellness retreats, homestays, and eco conscious travel options. Visitors are also

introduced to authentic Goan cuisine and cultural experiences, offering a deeper connection to the state's identity.

The platform serves as a hub for engagement with international travel operators, investors, and media, aiming to expand Goa's presence in Central Asia's growing outbound tourism market.

Business to business meetings, cultural presentations, and networking sessions are being conducted to strengthen partnerships and improve travel access.

Through its participation, Goa Tourism aims to boost bilateral travel, enhance connectivity, and promote premium, experience-driven tourism while reinforcing its commitment to sustainable and responsible growth.

Chicalim church community condemns remarks at Vasco event, seeks accountability

CHICALIM: The Parish Priest and parish community of St Francis Xavier Church, Chicalim, on Thursday strongly condemned the alleged divisive and derogatory remarks made during the Parshuram Jayanti event held at Vasco, calling for accountability and reaffirmation of communal harmony.

Addressing a press conference, representatives of the church expressed serious concern over statements reportedly made by Gautam Khattar and Srihari Attale, stating that such content had caused deep hurt among sections of society. They maintained that the remarks were contrary to the constitutional values of secularism, dignity and fraternity, and warned against any attempts to disturb Goa's long-standing communal balance. The parish community also raised objection to the presence of Dabolim MLA Mauvin Godinho at the event, stating that his subsequent public stance appeared to justify the sentiments expressed. They termed this as disappointing and urged him to publicly withdraw any such statements and clearly condemn the remarks made at the event.

Fr Bolmax Pereira, Parish Priest, said it was necessary to publicly call out elected representatives when such incidents are

repeated, as silence could send a wrong message to the younger generation. He also urged the media to exercise responsibility while reporting sensitive issues, cautioning against misleading captions that could aggravate tensions.

Adv Fawia Misquita of the Social Cell said the remarks against St Francis Xavier were deeply hurtful to Goans, who revere the saint as a symbol of unity and faith cutting across communities. Drawing parallels with past controversial statements elsewhere in the country, she said such rhetoric only promotes division. Inacio Fernandes, PPC vice moderator, called on organisers to take full responsibility and cooperate with authorities in tracing the accused. He also criticised the silence and response of dignitaries present on the dais, urging them to take a clear stand. Other speakers, including Adv Rizerria Pacheco and parishioners, stressed the need for fairness in public discourse and cautioned against dragging unrelated individuals into controversies. They reiterated that Goa's identity is rooted in harmony and urged citizens to remain calm and united. The parish community concluded by appealing to authorities to act firmly and ensure such incidents are addressed with the seriousness they deserve.



...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Govt Moves To Streamline Land Records, Protect Acquired Properties

with the Mamlatdar. Supporting documents such as acquisition awards and possession certificates must be submitted, while affidavits from the head of the department will suffice where original documents are unavailable.

The new guidelines also address errors in land identification. In cases where survey numbers or village details were incorrectly recorded, departments can submit corrected information through affidavits, subject to verification. Following mutation, the Inspector of Survey and Land Records has been tasked with completing partition and updating records within a three-month timeframe.

Additionally, departments currently occupying land acquired by another department must formalize such transfers through proper documentation, ensuring records clearly reflect government ownership along with the department in possession.

For older acquisitions, particularly from the pre-liberation era where survey references are unclear, field inspections and identification certificates will be used to establish accurate land details before updating records.

The government has also issued a stern warning against illegal transactions involving such land, stating that any unauthorized sale, division, or transfer will invite action under the Goa Land Revenue Code, 1968.

Departments have further been directed to compile a comprehensive inventory of land acquisition records, locate missing documents, and reconstruct records where necessary using available materials such as site reports, survey plans, and modern mapping tools.

Revenue officials, including Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Mamlatdars, and survey authorities, have been asked to ensure strict adherence to these instructions within stipulated timelines. Maintaining village-wise records of all government-owned land has also been made mandatory.

Govt Reinstates Six Police Inspectors, Reverses Earlier Demotion

Officers Restored to Posts After Review of Decision Linked to Pending Cases

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has reinstated six police officers to the rank of Police Inspector, rolling back an earlier decision that had reduced them to the post of Sub-Inspector earlier this year.

The officers had been demoted in January following legal scrutiny over promotions granted despite pending criminal cases. The move came in the backdrop of court observations that questioned the practice of elevating personnel in a disciplined force while cases against them were yet to be resolved.

After reviewing the matter and considering representations submitted by the affected officers, the government has now restored them to their earlier positions. Sources indicated that the reinstatement has been granted on an officiating basis, pending further



clarity in the larger issue.

The officers who have been reinstated include Terence Vaz, Sandhya Gupta, Sunil Gudlar, Vilesh Durbhatkar, Sushant Gawas and Rahul Dharsekar.

The issue originated from a petition challenging disparities in promotions within the police department, where it was argued that some officers were promoted despite facing similar legal proceedings.

While the latest decision brings relief to the six officers, the broader question surrounding promotions in cases involving pending charges is expected to remain under examination.

“Smacks of Ulterior Motives”: Congress Pushes Back Against EC Notice to Kharge

■ Party questions procedural lapses and seeks more time to respond over controversial remark

New Delhi: The Indian National Congress has strongly criticised the notice issued by the Election Commission of India to its president Mallikarjun Kharge over his “terrorist” remark targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The party described the move as politically motivated, arguing that it does not indicate any clear violation of the Model Code of Conduct or existing laws.

In its initial response, the Congress sought additional time to file a detailed reply and requested an opportunity



for a senior delegation to present its case before the poll body. The party maintained that Kharge had already clarified his statement and that further explanation would be submitted after due consideration.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh

raised concerns about inconsistencies in the notice process. In a letter addressed to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, he pointed out that two notices carrying the same reference number were issued on the same day but signed by different officials, calling into question procedural transparency.

He also highlighted discrepancies regarding the source of the complaint. While one version of the notice reportedly referenced a complaint by Derek

O'Brien, another version available publicly did not mention the complainant, adding to the confusion.

The party further criticised what it termed a “casual approach” by the Election Commission, alleging that the notice appeared to be based largely on politically aligned complaints rather than an objective assessment. It also objected to the 24 hour deadline given to Kharge to respond, stating that such a short timeframe was unreasonable given his ongoing campaign schedule.



Record 92.89% Turnout Masks Deeper Uncertainty in Bengal Polls

■ Voter roll revision reshapes electoral math, leaving outcome harder to predict

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The first phase of the West Bengal Assembly Election 2026 recorded a striking voter turnout of 92.89 percent, significantly higher than the 2021 figure. While this headline number has been widely celebrated as a strong sign of democratic participation, a closer look suggests the picture is more complex.

A major factor behind the surge is the Special Intensive Revision of voter rolls conducted by the Election Commission of India. The exercise removed an estimated 90.8 lakh names, roughly 12 percent of the electorate, including deceased, duplicate, and relocated voters. This reduced the total voter base to about 6.75 crore, altering the baseline against which turnout is measured.

For Phase 1, the revised electorate stood at 3.61 crore, with around 3.35 crore votes cast. While this yields a turnout close to 93 percent, analysts note that a smaller voter base naturally inflates percentage figures. If earlier voter numbers were considered, turnout would appear only marginally higher than in 2021.

The revision has also sparked political debate. The ruling All India Trinamool Congress and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party have both interpreted the high turnout as support for their respective narratives. Leaders like Mamata Banerjee and Amit Shah have used the data to reinforce competing claims about voter sentiment.

Beyond percentages, the impact of deleted names could prove decisive.

“Kabhi India Aa Ke Dekho”: Iran Takes Swipe at Trump, Calls for ‘Cultural Detox’

■ Diplomatic sparring intensifies after controversial remarks trigger global reactions

New Delhi: A fresh diplomatic exchange has emerged after Iran took a sharp dig at former US President Donald Trump over remarks describing India and other countries in derogatory terms. The Consulate General of Iran in Mumbai responded with a social media post suggesting that a visit to India could serve as a “cultural detox” for the US leader. The post featured a video highlighting the cultural richness and natural diversity of Maharashtra,



while also including a pointed remark urging Trump to experience India firsthand before making such statements. The message combined humour with criticism, reflecting a broader international reaction to the controversy. The issue

traces back to Trump’s repost of content from Michael Savage, who made offensive comments about India, China, and other nations during a discussion on birthright citizenship in the United States. The remarks, which included sweeping

generalisations about immigrants, were widely condemned and sparked political and diplomatic responses. India officially responded through the Ministry of External Affairs, describing the comments as uninformed, inappropriate, and in poor taste. The government emphasised that such statements do not reflect the strong and longstanding relationship between India and the United States, which is built on mutual respect and shared interests.

Indian Seafarer Safe After Iran Detains Vessel Amid Strait of Hormuz Tensions

■ Centre confirms safety of Indian crew members as maritime escalation raises global concern

New Delhi: Amid rising tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, the Indian government has confirmed that an Indian seafarer aboard a vessel detained by Iran is safe. The development follows a series of incidents involving foreign-flagged commercial ships in the region.

According to officials, Iranian forces took control



of two container vessels, including the Epaminondas and the Francesca, while a third ship, Euphoria, came under fire but continued its journey. Of the vessels involved, only one Indian national was on board the Epaminondas, while none were present on Francesca.

“Capturing Every Drop”: Ladakh Launches ‘Him Sarovar’ Plan to Combat Water Crisis

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Facing increasing water stress due to shrinking glaciers and erratic snowfall, Ladakh has launched an ambitious initiative titled Project Him Sarovar to secure water resources throughout the year.

The project focuses on capturing and storing snowmelt and glacial runoff that would otherwise flow away unused during the brief summer season.

The plan involves



constructing 100 village level reservoirs within a year, with 50 already in progress during the first phase across Leh and Kargil. Each reservoir is designed to hold rainwater and glacial melt, helping

bridge the gap between seasonal water availability and agricultural needs. These structures are built using a blend of scientific planning and traditional conservation methods suited to the region’s

fragile cold desert ecosystem.

The first operational reservoir has been completed in Stok village near Leh.

Developed by restoring a natural depression, the site was cleaned, reinforced, and converted into a functional water body within just a few weeks.

Spanning over 1,800 square metres, it can store nearly 3.5 million litres of water, sufficient to irrigate approximately 150 hectares of land.

“He Felt Dizzy, We Followed Protocol”: MI Defend Concussion Substitute Call Amid Row

■ Questions raised over Santner’s injury and Shardul’s inclusion in IPL

New Delhi: Five-time champions Mumbai Indians have come under scrutiny during the Indian Premier League 2026 after a controversial concussion substitute decision in their match against the Chennai Super Kings. The issue arose when Mitchell Santner was replaced mid-game by Shardul Thakur.

Santner sustained an injury while taking a catch off a delivery by Jasprit Bumrah, dismissing CSK batter Kartik Sharma. He was seen clutching his shoulder and left the field, prompting Mumbai Indians



to request a concussion substitute. The match officials approved the replacement, allowing Thakur to take his place.

The decision quickly sparked debate, with critics questioning whether the injury met the



criteria for a concussion substitute. Under International Cricket Council regulations, such substitutions are permitted only in cases of head or neck injuries, supported by medical assessment. Observers pointed out

that Santner appeared to have a shoulder injury, raising doubts about the validity of the request and whether Thakur qualified as a like-for-like replacement.

Addressing the controversy, MI head coach Mahela Jayawardene stated that Santner had suffered impact to his head and neck in addition to his shoulder. He explained that the player later experienced dizziness and underwent medical evaluation, prompting the team to seek a concussion replacement.



Goa Girls Clinch Third Place With Strong Team Effort

■ State leaders and sports officials join players to celebrate a proud achievement

PANAJI: The Goa girls’ team secured an impressive third-place finish, marking a proud moment for the state’s sporting community. The achievement reflects the team’s dedication, discipline, and consistent performance throughout the competition. Their journey to the podium was defined by teamwork, resilience, and a strong competitive spirit against tough opponents.

The victorious squad was felicitated in the presence of key dignitaries, including Sports Minister Dr. Ramesh Tawadkar, who commended the players for their commitment and determination. He highlighted the importance of nurturing the young talent and reaffirmed continued

support for sports development in Goa. The recognition ceremony also saw the presence of Jit Arolkar, who praised the team’s efforts and encouraged them to aim for even greater success in future competitions.

Adding to the occasion, Director of Sports Dr. Ajay Gaude lauded the players and coaching staff for their hard work and strategic approach. He emphasized the role of structured training and proper guidance in achieving such milestones.

Dhaku Madkaikar, Vice President of the Goa Football Development Council, also extended his congratulations, acknowledging the collective effort behind the team’s success.



India Begin Thomas & Uber Cup 2026 Campaign With Crucial Opening Ties

New Delhi: India’s men’s and women’s badminton teams are set to launch their campaigns at the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2026, with opening matches scheduled in Horsens. The tournament begins with high expectations, as both squads look to secure strong starts in the group stage. The Indian men’s team, champions of the 2022 edition, will open against Canada on April 24. They will then face Australia on April 27, followed by a key encounter against China on April 29. With only the top two teams from each group advancing, early momentum will be critical.

Experienced shuttler H. S. Prannoy highlighted the team’s preparation, noting a focus on building combinations and maintaining consistency across matches. He stressed the importance of taking one match at a time in a demanding format.

On the women’s side, India will begin against host nation Denmark later on April 24.

“India Eyes 2038 Asian Games”: IOA Expands Ambitious Mega-Event Roadmap

■ Ahmedabad emerges as potential host as country builds on Olympic and Commonwealth Games bids

New Delhi: India has taken another step in its growing push to host major international sporting events, with the Indian Olympic Association expressing interest in hosting the Asian Games 2038.

The proposal has been formally communicated to the Olympic Council of Asia and was recently discussed during its governing body meeting.

An OCA delegation is expected to visit India



to assess the feasibility of the bid, marking an important stage in the evaluation process. IOA officials have confirmed ongoing discussions, signalling India’s intent to strengthen its position

as a global sporting destination. This development comes as part of a broader strategy that includes securing the Commonwealth Games 2030 and submitting a bid for the Olympics 2036.

“Meghalaya Has Arrived”: Umiam Lake Emerges as India’s New Sailing Hub

■ Back-to-back national events highlight state’s growing ambition in water sports infrastructure

New Delhi: In a significant boost to India’s sailing landscape, Meghalaya is positioning itself as a premier destination for the sport, following the successful hosting of two major events at Umiam Lake. Within just ten days, the venue welcomed over 280 sailors, including international participants, showcasing both competitive excellence and a long-term vision for sports development. The twin events included the



inaugural Indian Sailing League and the 4th North East Regatta. Together, they demonstrated how strategic planning and infrastructure investment can transform a regional venue into a national and global sporting platform. At the centre of this transformation is

the Orchid Water Sports Complex, which has been steadily upgraded to meet competitive standards.

The Indian Sailing League, the country’s first franchise-based sailing competition, featured 182 sailors, including participants from countries such as Russia, South

Korea, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka. With 14 franchise teams competing and a substantial prize pool, the event marked a new chapter for the sport in India. Immediately following this, the North East Regatta, conducted under the Yachting Association of India, brought together over 100 sailors. As a ranking event, it also served as a qualifying platform for national and international competitions, including the Asian Games, further enhancing its significance.

Chief Minister Conrad

K. Sangma described the events as part of a broader vision to establish Meghalaya on the national sporting map. The initiative has been supported through collaborations with organisations such as the Umiam Sailing Club and the United De Novo Association of Yachting.

On the competitive front, Bhopal Tritons emerged winners of the league, followed by Vizag Vikings, while local team Shillong Umiam Navigators secured a podium finish.