



## Bee Swarm Triggers Chaos At Bicholim Function, MLA Among Injured

■ Sudden attack during transformer ceremony at Bhatwadi-Latambarcem leaves several hospitalised, one critical

Team Goemkarponn

**BICHOLIM:** A public function in Bhatwadi-Latambarcem turned chaotic on Friday after a sudden swarm of honeybees attacked attendees, injuring several people, including Chandrakant Shetye.

The incident occurred during a transformer foundation-laying ceremony that was attended by local representatives and



residents.

According to eyewitnesses, the programme was proceeding as planned when a swarm of bees suddenly descended on the gathering, catching

*In the immediate aftermath, five to six injured persons were taken to the Bicholim Health Centre for treatment. One individual, who suffered more serious injuries due to multiple stings, was later shifted to a private hospital for advanced medical care.*

everyone off guard.

Panic spread quickly as people ran in different directions to escape the attack. The MLA was seen rushing away from the venue as the swarm intensified. A Zilla Panchayat member and several others were also

stung during the incident.

The situation created tension in the area for some time, but locals and organisers acted swiftly to assist the injured and restore order. Prompt response ensured that those affected received timely medical attention.

## Khattar Nabbed In Himachal, Multi-State Hunt Comes To An End

■ Crime Branch team heads to Kullu for custody; arrest brings relief amid protest threats in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Bringing an end to an intense search operation across states, Gautam Khattar has been detained in Kullu by local police in coordination with Goa authorities.

Khattar had been on the run after a case was registered in Vasco over alleged offensive remarks made during



a public appearance, which sparked strong reactions

from various sections of society. The issue quickly escalated, with organisations warning of protests and calling for strict action. Following specific intelligence inputs, police teams

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## “We Sail or Sink Together”: Ajit Doval Calls for Unity and Shared Responsibility

**New Delhi:** Ajit Doval underscored the importance of national unity while addressing a gathering of prominent members and scholars from the Muslim community, describing India as a shared journey where every citizen plays

## “No Aircraft Crash Near Kishtwar”: Indian Air Force Dismisses Viral Claims

**New Delhi:** The Indian Air Force has categorically denied reports suggesting that one of its aircraft crashed near Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir, calling the circulating claims false and misleading. The clarification comes after several media outlets and social media platforms shared unverified information about a supposed incident in the region.

In an official statement, the IAF confirmed that no such crash had occurred and urged both media organisations and



## Casinos On Mandovi Accused Of Allowing Minors On Board

■ PAC Complaint At Panaji Police Station Seeks FIR For Alleged Violations Of Gambling And Children’s Laws

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** A citizens’ group, Ponnjekars Against Casinos (PAC), has lodged a criminal complaint at the Panaji

Police Station alleging that six offshore casinos operating in the Mandovi River are allowing entry to children and persons below

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GOA TOURISM PRESENTS

# THE SPIRIT OF GOA

FESTIVAL 2026

SAT 25TH & SUN 26TH APRIL

Organised by: DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, GOVERNMENT OF GOA

**DAY 2 SATURDAY 25th APRIL**

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OVER 40 STALLS OF AUTHENTIC GOAN CUISINE & HOME GROWN BREWS. LIVE DEMOS CASHEW STOMPING MASTERCLASSES

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# Is Khattar's Arrest the End of the Story?

The arrest of Gautam Khattar by the Goa Crime Branch, following his controversial remarks about St Francis Xavier, may offer a sense of immediate closure. It responds to public anger. It signals that the state is listening. But to assume that this moment marks the end of the story is to misunderstand the pattern that keeps repeating itself.

This is not an isolated episode. Goa has seen similar tensions before, including the remarks made by Subhash Velingkar. Across India, offensive comments targeting religious figures from multiple faiths surface with troubling regularity. Hindu deities such as Ram and Sita have been mocked in some spaces, just as Christian, Muslim, and other religious icons have been disparaged elsewhere. Each incident sparks outrage, protests, and demands for action. Each time, the cycle resets.

The question, then, is not whether Khattar should have been arrested. The law has taken its course, as it should when speech crosses into deliberate provocation. The more uncomfortable question is why this keeps happening at all.

Part of the answer lies in the ease with which outrage is manufactured and amplified. Social media has flattened consequences while magnifying reach. A remark made in one corner of the country can ignite anger thousands of kilometres away within hours. The architecture of these platforms rewards provocation, not restraint. Controversy travels faster than nuance, and the incentive structure quietly encourages those seeking attention to push boundaries.

But technology alone does not explain the persistence of this pattern. There is a deeper erosion at work, one that concerns how we understand both faith and freedom.

Faith, at its core, is personal. It is rooted in belief, devotion, and identity. When it is reduced to a tool for political or cultural

*"The question, then, is not whether Khattar should have been arrested. The law has taken its course, as it should when speech crosses into deliberate provocation. The more uncomfortable question is why this keeps happening at all.*

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assertion, it becomes fragile, easily threatened, and quick to retaliate. The irony is stark. The more loudly communities claim to defend their faith, the more they expose its vulnerability to the words of strangers.

At the same time, the idea of free expression is often invoked without responsibility. Freedom of speech is not a licence to wound with intent. Nor is it meant to be selectively defended. Those who demand action when their beliefs are

insulted must also be willing to condemn similar insults directed at others. Consistency is the missing ingredient in most of these debates.

What we are witnessing is not just a clash of beliefs. It is a collapse of mutual restraint.

Goa, with its long history of cultural coexistence, should be particularly alert to this danger. The state has prided itself on a syncretic identity where different communities have lived side by side with a degree of ease. Incidents like this threaten to chip away at that legacy, not in dramatic bursts, but through a slow accumulation of distrust.

The response, therefore, cannot be limited to arrests and protests. Law enforcement can address individual acts, but it cannot rebuild the social fabric. That requires a broader shift in how we engage with difference.

Religious leaders, community figures, and educators have a role to play in reinforcing the idea that respect is not a concession but a necessity. Public discourse must move away from the reflex of outrage towards a culture of accountability that applies across the board. And individuals must confront an uncomfortable truth: not every provocation deserves amplification.

Silence, in some cases, is not weakness. It is discipline.

The arrest of Gautam Khattar may close one chapter, but the book remains open. Unless there is a conscious effort to break the cycle, another remark, another protest, and another arrest will follow. The pattern is predictable because the underlying conditions have not changed.

The real test for Goa, and for the country at large, is whether it can move beyond reactive justice to proactive coexistence. The question is not why people insult each other's gods. The question is why we continue to give such insults the power to define our collective peace.

Until that changes, there is no end to this story.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Selective Outrage on Animal Welfare Needs Deeper Reflection

The recent viral video of a young boy riding a horse on a public road in Goa, followed by a complaint alleging animal cruelty and a police call for the horse's medical examination, has sparked a wider debate on how animal welfare issues are being viewed and addressed in the state. While concerns for animal safety are important and must be taken seriously, the incident has also raised questions about consistency in public response and enforcement. Many citizens have pointed out that while isolated cases such as this attract immediate attention and formal complaints, other long-standing issues involving animals on public roads often go unaddressed. Across Goa, it is a common sight to see stray cattle roaming freely on busy roads, often leading to accidents and, in several cases, the death of both animals and humans. Despite repeated incidents, the issue of stray cattle management continues to remain unresolved, raising concerns about responsibility and long-term planning. This contrast has led to a growing public debate—why does a single viral incident trigger swift action, while larger, persistent problems involving animal safety receive limited sustained attention? Animal welfare, many argue, should not be selective or reaction-based, but part of a broader and consistent policy framework. At the same time, it is also important to recognize that concerns raised through complaints must be addressed in a lawful and humane manner. However, enforcement alone is not enough. There is a need for proper infrastructure, designated animal care systems, and clearer accountability regarding stray livestock management. Ultimately, the issue goes beyond one viral video. It highlights the urgent need for balanced, practical, and long-term solutions that ensure the safety of both animals and people on Goa's roads.

- Saisha Shetye

### Clarity Needed in Ongoing Probe

There is a growing sense of unease among the public regarding the ongoing Crime Branch probe involving Madhav Khattar. While reports confirm that he has been brought to Goa for questioning, there remains a lack of clarity on a few fundamental points that deserve immediate attention. Is Madhav Khattar being treated as an accused, or is he only a person of interest? What is the precise nature of his alleged involvement? Most importantly, if Gautam Khattar is identified as the main accused, where is he at present, and what concrete steps are being taken to ensure he is brought before the law? These are not questions born out of speculation or agitation. They arise from a reasonable expectation of transparency, especially in a case that touches upon sentiments deeply rooted in Goa's cultural and religious fabric, including the reverence associated with St. Francis Xavier. Public trust is not built through partial disclosures or vague updates. It is strengthened when authorities communicate clearly, responsibly, and with respect for the people they serve. Institutions like the Goa Police carry the responsibility of ensuring that information shared is both accurate and sufficient to address public concerns. This is not a call for outrage, but for accountability. A society that continues to ask questions does so not out of defiance, but out of a desire to maintain faith in its institutions.

- Anthony D'Souza, Sirlim, Goa

## Tourism Dept Mandates Timely Submission of Tourist Data

■ "Warns hotels, guest houses and Airbnb operators of penalties for non-compliance"

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Department of Tourism has directed all C and D category hotels registered in Goa to ensure timely submission of tourist check-in data through the TIME (Tourist Information Management Enterprise) application.

The department reiterated that submission of guest data is mandatory under the Goa Tourist Trade Registration Act. Despite repeated reminders, several establishments have failed to comply, affecting effective tourism management and



monitoring.

Authorities have warned that failure to submit the required data will attract penalties and fines as per provisions of the Act.

The department has also flagged that a number of hotels and guest houses are

operating without valid registration licences. Such unauthorised operations will face strict action, including closure and legal proceedings.

It further clarified that individuals offering accommodation through platforms like Airbnb and similar short-term rental services must also register with the Department of Tourism, failing which action will be initiated.

Officials will conduct inspections and site visits across the state to verify compliance with data submission, registration validity, and other tourism regulations.

## Court Finds Man Guilty In Homicide Case, Orders His Release

Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** A Sessions Court in Goa has convicted a man in connection with a homicide case but ordered his immediate release after concluding that he has already served the full duration of his sentence while in custody. The accused, Rashbihari alias Rasso Mahato, was held guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The court awarded him six years of rigorous imprisonment, but granted him the benefit of set-off, noting that he had already spent an equivalent period behind bars during the course of investigation.

## Goa Sets FY27 Deadline to Achieve Malaria-Free Status

■ Focus shifts to preventing imported cases as local transmission nears zero

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa is working towards securing a malaria-free tag by the end of the 2026–27 financial year, with health authorities stepping up measures to eliminate the disease completely.

Officials said the state has nearly halted local transmission, with recent cases largely traced to individuals arriving from outside regions where malaria is still prevalent. The current strategy is centred on preventing these imported cases from sparking fresh infections within the state.

Health teams have intensified surveillance,



early diagnosis and timely treatment, while also strengthening monitoring systems in vulnerable areas. Authorities believe maintaining zero local transmission over a sustained period will be key to achieving official malaria-free recognition.

The state's efforts are part of a broader push to move from control to elimination, backed by coordinated action across departments and continued public awareness.

## Café Manager Booked for ₹7.7 Lakh Theft in Panaji

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Panaji Police have registered an offence against a café manager for allegedly stealing cash and misusing an ATM card belonging to his employer, resulting in a total loss of ₹7.7 lakh.

According to a complaint filed by Mrs. Bijal Shah, a resident of Milroc Society, Kadamba,



Old Goa, the accused, Tamshuk Saha, was working as a manager at her café "House by B" in Panaji.

The complaint states that between October 29, 2025, and April 17, 2026, the accused allegedly

stole the complainant's ATM debit card and withdrew ₹6,00,000 from her account.

He is also accused of stealing ₹1,70,000 in cash from the café during the same period.

Police said the offence was registered on April 23 at 9:03 PM, and further investigation is in progress with PSI Deepesh D. Shetkar.

## Goa Notifies Separate AYUSH Department Under Allocation Rules

■ New department to handle AYUSH mission, hospitals, education and wellness tourism

Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** The Goa Government has officially created a separate Department of AYUSH by amending the Business of the Government of Goa (Allocation) Rules, 1987.

The notification, issued by the General Administration Department, introduces the Business of the Government of Goa (Allocation) (Fifty-seventh Amendment) Rules, 2026, which came into effect upon publication in the Official Gazette.

As per the amendment, the newly formed



Department of AYUSH will be responsible for implementation of the National AYUSH Mission and other central schemes, along with administration and development of AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries across the state. The department will also oversee AYUSH Integrated Hospitals at Velguem and Monti Hill

in Margao, and manage the development and monitoring of AYUSH wellness centres.

In addition, it will focus on promoting Yoga, Naturopathy and Panchakarma therapies, and handle matters related to the Goa Homoeopathy Council and the Goa Council of Ayurvedic and Other Allied Indian Systems of Medicine. The mandate further includes promotion of AYUSH education, research and training, as well as boosting medical and wellness tourism based on traditional systems of medicine.

**GOA TOURISM PRESENTS**

**Mormugao Summer Fest 2026**

**25 & 26 APRIL**  
5 pm onwards

**Grand Inauguration Today**

**Chief Guest**  
**Dr. Pramod Sawant**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister

**Guest of Honour**  
**Shri Rohan A. Khaunte**  
Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications and Printing & Stationery

**In the Distinguished Presence of**

**Shri Kedar J. Naik**  
Hon'ble MLA Saligao Constituency & Chairman, GTDC

**Shri Sankalp Amonkar**  
Hon'ble MLA Mormugao Constituency & Chairman, SIDCGL

**Shri Sandip Jacques, IAS**  
Secretary Tourism & Revenue, Government of Goa

**Shri Kedar Naik**  
Director, Department of Tourism

**Shri Kuldeep Arolkar**  
Managing Director, GTDC

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS TODAY**

- A prayer to **Lord - Ganesh Vandana** performance by Danceboard, Margao
- A devotional **Dhindi Utsav** – a bhajan procession from Mormugao
- **SHIGMO** winners Shree Mandaleshwar Managuru Group
- Vibrant **Gondhal folk dance** by Nrithyanjali Dance Academy, Ponda
- **Shiv Tandav, Krishna, Dashavtar & India Flag Act** by Prince Dance Troupe **Winner of India Got Talent**
- Live performance by **Renowned Playback singer HEMA SARDESAI** with **Rockers Band**

**TOMORROW - 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

- High-energy traditional performance by **Jagdamb Dhol Tasha Pathak**, Ponda & **Kalashree Mahila Mandal**, Margao
- A vibrant dance by Siddhant Gadekar Dance Academy, bringing **Vitthal-Rakhumai to life**
- Stand-up comedy by the **Goan Vhni Show**
- A soulful Goan harmony of **'Geet & Kantar'** by Sidhart Yaji & band
- Stylish **Summer Fashion Show** by Renowned designer Verma Dmello
- Electrifying **LED Light Show** with flow artist Vajra Aigal
- **Voice of Amitabh: SUDESH BHOSLE** live in Concert with **Band Lehre**

**Live**  
**Renowned Playback Singer**  
**HEMA SARDESAI**  
Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April

**Live**  
**Voice of Amitabh:**  
**SUDESH BHOSLE**  
Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> April

Watch the sky come alive with a spectacular **DRONE SHOW** – for the first time in Mormugao

# Illegal Mining Case Registered in Quepem, Govt Loss Over ₹11.6 Lakh

The accused, who are yet to be identified allegedly excavated minerals

**Team Goemkarponn**

**QUEPEM:** Cuncolim Police have registered a case of illegal mining against unknown persons for allegedly extracting and transporting minerals without permission, causing significant loss to the State exchequer.

According to a complaint filed by PSI Sudan Bhosale of Cuncolim Police Station, the illegal activity took



place prior to July 3, 2024, at various survey numbers in Naquerim village, Quepem. The accused, who are yet to

be identified, allegedly excavated minerals without obtaining the required licence or permit from the competent

authority.

Police said the illegally extracted minerals were subsequently transported to unknown locations for personal gain. The unauthorised activity has resulted in an estimated loss of ₹11,63,866 to the Government of Goa.

An offence has been registered, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Kishor Velip of Cuncolim Police Station.



# Woman Robbed on Moving Train, Valuables Worth ₹67,000 Stolen

**Team Goemkarponn**

**VASCO:** Vasco Railway Police have registered a theft case after a woman was robbed of her belongings while travelling in a train from Hubballi to Vasco. According to a complaint filed by Afroza Begum Hukkeri, a resident of New Vaddem, Vasco, the incident occurred in the early hours of April 23, 2026, before 2:00 AM, while she was travelling in a general coach. The theft reportedly took place

between Sanvordem and Chandor railway stations.

An unknown accused allegedly stole her handbag containing a Samsung mobile phone and a pair of silver anklets with small bells, weighing approximately 250 grams. The total value of the stolen items is estimated at ₹67,000.

Police said an offence has been registered, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Krishna Talpi of Vasco Railway Police Station.

# Man Booked for Assault, Vandalism in Loutolim

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** Maina Curtorim Police have registered an offence against a man for allegedly assaulting

an elderly person and damaging property in Loutolim.

According to a complaint filed by Sebastian Gomes, a resident of Vanxem,

Loutolim, the incident occurred on April 21, 2025, at around 11:39 AM at Angdi, Loutolim. The accused, identified as Sebastiao Agnel Gomes alias Babush, a resident

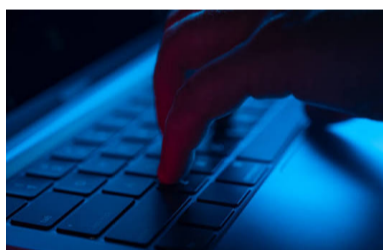
of Sonarbhat, Loutolim, allegedly assaulted the complainant's father, Caetano Philip Gomes, using a wooden danda, causing injuries to his head and hand.

# Man Booked for Posting Objectionable Content Targeting Hindu Deities

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MAPUSA:** Mapusa Police have registered an offence against a man for allegedly posting and circulating vulgar and derogatory content on social media targeting Hindu deities, with intent to outrage religious sentiments.

According to a complaint filed by Ms. Nisha Vernekar of Goenchi Nari Shakti, Mapusa, the incident occurred on April 22, 2026, in Mapusa, Bardez.



The accused, identified as Babit Fernandes, allegedly shared objectionable content on social media platforms aimed at hurting the religious feelings of the complainant and members of the Hindu community.

# Fake Call Centre Busted in Verem, Nine Held for Cheating US Citizens

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Saligao Police have busted a fake call centre operating from Verem in Bardez and arrested nine accused for allegedly cheating citizens of the United States through online fraud. According to a complaint filed by PI Dinesh D. Gadekar of Saligao Police Station, the raid was conducted at Joeys Palace, Verem, between 10:30 PM on April 23 and 1:00 AM on April 24, 2026.

The accused had allegedly set up a bogus call centre and

were running an organised cyber fraud operation.

Police identified the accused as Sandipkumar Priyadarshi (Ahmedabad, Gujarat), Akash Kale (Mumbai, Maharashtra), Kavish Tharivala (Ahmedabad, Gujarat), Akshay Nair (Thane, Maharashtra), Hiren Bhayani (Mumbai, Maharashtra), Ajay Kishor Das (Kolkata, West Bengal), Tanmay Pawar (Mumbai, Maharashtra), Vikiho Yevisho Shohe (Dimapur, Nagaland), and Lhosheto Yeshito Rochil (Dimapur, Nagaland).

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
**SMT. DEVIYA V. RANE**

Your grace, strength and love inspire me every day.  
Grateful to walk this journey of life with you.

**VISHWAJIT RANE** Minister for Health, TCP, Forest, Urban Development, Women & Child Development  
MLA - Valpoi | Government of Goa

## South Goa Reviews Stray Dog Control Measures At District-Level Meet

■ Officials directed to speed up fencing works, identify hotspots and ensure coordinated action across departments

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** A high-level meeting to assess measures for managing and controlling the stray dog population was convened under the chairmanship of Additional Collector-II, South Goa, Ramesh Gaonkar, at the Kushavati district headquarters, in line with directions issued by the Supreme Court in a suo motu matter.

The review was held in the presence of the Deputy Collector, South Goa-II, and brought



together senior officials including the Additional Director of the Directorate of Higher Education, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Mamlatdars, Block Development Officers, and representatives from key departments such as Transport, Kadamba Transport Corporation, Urban Development, and

airport authorities.

During the meeting, officials evaluated taluka-wise progress on fencing public premises such as schools, hospitals, bus stands, and railway stations. Authorities were instructed to fast-track pending work and submit compliance updates at the earliest.

Local bodies were tasked with mapping areas with a high incidence of stray dogs, conducting field inspections, and strengthening waste management practices to curb the issue. These findings are to be reported to the respective Deputy Collectors and Sub-Divisional Magistrates.

Municipal councils and village panchayats were also asked to earmark appropriate sites for designated feeding zones and shelters for stray dogs.



## Taxi Driver Brutally Attacked In Pernem, Robbery Attempt Foiled

■ Six unidentified men assault 65-year-old driver with sharp weapon during hired trip on NH-66

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PERNEM:** A shocking case of violent assault and attempted robbery has been reported in Pernem, where a taxi driver was attacked by six unidentified passengers late Wednesday night.

According to police, the incident took place between 8:45 pm and 9:00 pm on July 9 along the Malpe-Naibag stretch of National Highway 66. The victim, Sanjivan Vengurlekar (65), a resident of Calangute and owner-driver of an Ertiga taxi (GA-03-W-4180), had been hired by the accused for a journey from Calangute to Patradevi.

Midway through the

trip, the passengers allegedly turned on the driver, restraining him before assaulting him with a sharp weapon. He sustained grievous injuries to his face, head, left shoulder, and forearm. Police said the attack was carried out with an intention to kill, while also attempting to rob his vehicle.

The robbery bid, however, did not succeed.

Pernem Police have registered Crime No. 45/2025 under sections 109, 310(2), 311, 312 read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Vivek H. Halarnkar, and efforts are underway to trace the accused.

## District Panel Reviews Mental Health Measures In Higher Education Institutions

■ BITS Pilani initiatives highlighted as officials push for stronger counselling and student support systems

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** A meeting of the District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC) focusing on mental health and suicide prevention in higher education institutions was convened under the leadership of District Magistrate, South Goa, Ms. Egna Cleetus, IAS, at the Kushavati district headquarters.

The session, held in the presence of Director of Higher Education Bhushan Savaikar, brought together



representatives from multiple departments including Health, Social Welfare, Law, Tribal Welfare, Technical Education, and the Institute of Psychiatry and Human Behaviour (IPHB). Faculty members and the Director of BITS

Pilani also participated in the review. During the meeting, BITS Pilani showcased a series of initiatives aimed at enhancing student well-being. These included integrating yoga into academic schedules, promoting sports and

physical fitness activities, extending access to gym facilities, and organising regular health camps and motivational programmes. The institution also highlighted round-the-clock counselling services available to students through platforms such as Tele-MANAS and Myndwell. Emphasising the importance of a coordinated approach, the Chairperson urged all departments to work closely and maintain continuous oversight of mental health initiatives.

## North Goa Court Invites Objections From Rejected Candidates, Postpones Exams

■ Aspirants given deadline to submit representations as recruitment tests for MTS and LDC rescheduled to June

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Senior leaders of The Court of the Principal District and Sessions Judge, North Goa, has issued a notice allowing candidates whose applications were rejected for various posts to raise objections within a specified timeframe.

As per the notification, applicants who figure in the rejected lists released earlier this month for the posts of Peon



(MTS), Watchman (MTS), and Lower Division Clerk (LDC) can submit representations if they wish to challenge the decision. Candidates

must provide supporting documents and submit their claims in person at the court office within seven days, with the final deadline set for April 22,

2026, during working hours.

The court has made it clear that no submissions will be accepted after the deadline. If no

objections are received within the stipulated period, the previously published rejection lists will be treated as final, and the outcome will be announced on the department's official website as well as in local newspapers.

Meanwhile, the screening tests and written examinations for the recruitment process have been deferred. The exams for Peon and Watchman posts, originally scheduled for April 19, and the test for

the Lower Division Clerk post, earlier fixed for April 26, have now been pushed to June 2026.

Officials stated that the revised examination dates will be announced in advance, depending on the availability of examination venues, through official channels and newspaper notifications.

Candidates have also been informed that no fresh applications or additional documents will be accepted beyond the objection process.

# Vedanta Fixes 1st May as record date for demerger; announces share allotment details

**Mumbai:** Vedanta Limited today announced that its Board of Directors has approved key steps to operationalize its previously announced composite scheme of arrangement, marking a significant milestone in the company's ongoing strategic reorganization. The Board has fixed 1st May, 2026 as the effective date and record date for demerger to determine shareholders eligible to receive shares in the resulting entities under the demerger.

A significant step, the demerger will help in simplifying Vedanta's corporate structure with sector focussed independent businesses and provide opportunities to global investors, including sovereign wealth funds, retail

## Key Highlights of the Reorganization

▶ The demerger will result in the creation of four independent, sector-focused entities across aluminium, power, oil & gas, and iron ore & steel. Talwandi Sabo Power Limited and Malco Energy Limited will be rebranded to Vedanta Power and Vedanta Oil and Gas respectively, to reflect their sectoral focus.

▶ The demerger will allow sharper

operational focus and agility, helping the demerged businesses align more closely with their respective market cycles, customer requirements and investment needs. It will also enhance the visibility of individual business performance, making it easier for markets to appropriately value each vertical, thereby unlocking embedded value.



investors and strategic investors, with direct investment opportunities in dedicated pure-play companies linked to

India's remarkable growth story through Vedanta's world class assets. It will also provide a platform for individual units to pursue

strategic agendas more freely and better align with customers, investment cycles and end markets.

Eligible shareholders of Vedanta Limited will receive shares in the resulting companies as per the following ratios:

Vedanta Aluminium Metal Limited (VAML): 1 equity share (₹1 face value) for every 1 Vedanta share held, Talwandi Sabo Power Limited (to be renamed Vedanta Power Limited): 1 equity share (₹10 face value) for every 1 Vedanta share held, Malco Energy Limited (to be renamed Vedanta Oil & Gas Limited): 1 equity share (₹1 face value) for every 1 Vedanta share held, Vedanta Iron and Steel Limited (VISL): 1 equity share (₹1 face value) for every 1 Vedanta share held.



## Rolling Heatwave to Grip India for Five Days as Temperatures Shift Across Regions

■ Eastern and northeastern states likely to face highest heat stress as conditions fluctuate nationwide

**New Delhi:** A shocking case of violent assault and attempted robbery has been reported in Pernem, where a taxi driver was attacked by six unidentified passengers late Wednesday night.

India is set to experience a five day spell of rising temperatures and heatwave like conditions between April 24 and April 28, with different regions facing shifting hotspots rather than a single widespread extreme event.

While much of the country remains under moderate heat watch, certain areas in the east, northeast and southern peninsula are expected to face more intense conditions with higher health risks. The

heat pattern begins with localized stress on April 24, particularly in parts of the northeast and southern Tamil Nadu, where elevated temperatures may pose increased risk. Most other regions are expected to remain warm but within manageable limits, though vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly may still be affected. A slight easing is likely on April 25 across several regions, offering temporary relief.

However, isolated pockets in eastern and northeastern India are expected to continue experiencing heightened heat stress, indicating that conditions remain uneven across the country.

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## Khattar Nabbed In Himachal, Multi-State Hunt Comes To An End

tracked his movement to Himachal Pradesh, where he was finally located and taken into custody. Officials said a team from the Goa Crime Branch has already left to complete legal formalities and secure his transit.

Sources indicated that investigators gathered vital clues during the course of the probe, including inputs from persons known to the accused, which helped pinpoint his whereabouts. A non-bailable warrant had earlier been issued against him, tightening the legal net.

Authorities are now working on bringing Khattar back to Goa, either by flight or through transit remand, depending on procedural clearances. His detention is expected to calm tensions that had been building up, as public pressure mounted for swift police action.

Further proceedings will take place once he is produced before the appropriate court in Goa.

Officials said a team from the Goa Crime Branch has already left to complete legal formalities and secure his transit. Sources indicated that investigators gathered vital clues during the course of the probe, including inputs from persons known to the accused, which helped pinpoint his whereabouts. A non-bailable warrant had earlier been issued against him, tightening the legal net. Authorities are now working on bringing Khattar back to Goa, either by flight or through transit remand, depending on procedural clearances. His detention is expected to calm tensions that had been building up, as public pressure mounted for swift police action.

Further proceedings will take place once he is produced before the appropriate court in Goa.

## "We Sail or Sink Together": Ajit Doval Calls for Unity and Shared Responsibility

At the core of his message was the idea that internal harmony is essential for national security. He stressed that divisions within society weaken the country's resilience, while unity strengthens its ability to face both internal and external challenges. His remarks focused on fostering a shared national identity that transcends differences and reinforces a "nation first" approach.

A significant part of the discussion highlighted the increasing participation of Muslim youth in the country's defence forces. Doval noted a steady rise in recruitment into the Indian Army and paramilitary units such as the Central Reserve Police Force and Border Security Force over the past decade. This shift, he indicated, reflects growing trust, inclusion and a stronger connection with national institutions. The meeting also addressed concerns related to misinformation and the spread of extremist narratives, particularly in the digital space. Doval urged community leaders to play an active role in countering such influences, positioning them as key contributors in maintaining social stability and safeguarding younger generations from radicalisation. He emphasised that dialogue remains central to resolving differences in a diverse democracy like India. By highlighting the contributions of Muslim personnel serving on the frontlines, he reinforced the message of shared responsibility and equal stake in the nation's future. The interaction comes at a time of evolving global and regional challenges, where domestic unity is seen as a critical pillar of national strength. The discussions concluded with a shared understanding on the need for continued engagement and cooperation to ensure long term stability and progress

## "No Aircraft Crash Near Kishtwar": Indian Air Force Dismisses Viral Claims

areas linked to national security. The rumours gained traction after visuals showing smoke rising from mountainous terrain were widely circulated online, with claims that the footage was linked to an aircraft crash. However, authorities have made it clear that these claims are not connected to any IAF activity. The IAF's response highlights the growing challenge of misinformation in the digital age, where unverified content can spread rapidly and lead to confusion. Officials stressed the importance of cross checking facts with authorised sources before publishing or forwarding such reports. By issuing a prompt clarification, the Indian Air Force has effectively put an end to the speculation surrounding the alleged incident. The development serves as a reminder of the need for responsible communication, particularly when dealing with defence related matters, where accuracy is critical.

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## Casinos On Mandovi Accused Of Allowing Minors On Board

21 years in violation of the law.

In the complaint, PAC has urged police to register an FIR under Section 5

(xiii) of the Goa Public Gambling Act, 1976, along with relevant provisions of the Goa Children's Act, 2003. The group claimed that casino operators are "wilfully and deliberately" permitting minors to board casino vessels anchored in the Mandovi estuary.

The complainants further alleged that offshore casinos are promoting kid-centric facilities such as play zones, crèches, babysitting services and entertainment activities aimed at attracting families with children. The complaint specifically mentions promotional material by casinos such as Deltin Royale Casino and Deltin Jaqk Casino, where children are allegedly allowed in certain onboard areas.

PAC has stated that the law clearly prohibits entry of persons below 21 years onto offshore casino vessels and places the responsibility on licensees to enforce the restriction.

The complaint also includes photographic evidence purportedly showing minors onboard the vessels. Police are yet to confirm whether an FIR has been registered, and further action is expected following examination of the complaint.

# “Mamata Banerjee Leaving, BJP Is Coming”: Amit Shah Signals Shift After High Bengal Turnout

Record voter participation fuels political claims as parties gear up for next phase of elections

**New Delhi:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed confidence in a political shift in West Bengal following an exceptionally high voter turnout in the first phase of the Assembly elections. Addressing a press conference in Kolkata, he described the participation as a strong indication of public support for the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The opening phase of polling covered 152 Assembly constituencies



across 16 districts and recorded an impressive turnout of nearly 93 percent, one of the highest in the state's recent electoral history. Shah stated that such

large scale participation reflected a desire for change after years of governance by the All India Trinamool Congress led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Projecting strong electoral prospects, Shah said internal assessments suggested the BJP could secure over 110 seats in the constituencies that voted in the first phase. He indicated that this momentum could translate into a decisive majority

as the remaining phases conclude.

Highlighting governance priorities, Shah outlined promises including improved safety for women, transparent administration and action against corruption. He alleged large scale financial irregularities under the current government and said such cases would be investigated thoroughly, with accountability ensured through legal



## Forex Reserves Rise Past \$703 Billion Despite Global Tensions

RBI data shows steady growth in reserves even as geopolitical uncertainty impacts rupee

**New Delhi:** India's foreign exchange reserves recorded a notable increase of over 2.3 billion dollars, reaching 703.3 billion dollars for the week ending April 17, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India. The rise follows a previous weekly gain, reflecting continued resilience in the country's external financial position despite global uncertainties.

The reserves had earlier touched a record high of 728.49 billion dollars in late February before declining in subsequent weeks amid escalating tensions in West Asia. The geopolitical situation has exerted pressure on the Indian rupee, prompting the central bank to step in through dollar sales to stabilise the currency. A major contributor to the latest

increase was the growth in foreign currency assets, which rose by 1.48 billion dollars to 557.46 billion dollars. These assets form the largest component of the reserves and are influenced by fluctuations in global currencies such as the euro, pound and yen.

Gold holdings also strengthened during the week, increasing by 790 million dollars to reach 122.13 billion dollars. This rise added further support to the overall reserves position, reflecting diversification in the country's asset base.

In addition, Special Drawing Rights held with the International Monetary Fund saw a modest increase of 78 million dollars, while India's reserve position with the IMF rose slightly to 4.87 billion dollars.

# “People Doubted Ram Temple, But It Happened”: Bhagwat Expresses Confidence in India's Rise

RSS chief links national progress to unity, cultural values and collective resolve

**New Delhi:** Mohan Bhagwat expressed strong confidence in India's future, stating that the country is certain to emerge as a global leader and guide. Speaking in Nagpur after laying the foundation stone of the Bharat Durga Shakti Sthal temple, he drew parallels between the construction of the Ram Temple Ayodhya and India's anticipated rise as a “Vishwaguru”.

He noted that just as there was skepticism in the past about whether the



Ram temple would ever be built, similar doubts now surround India's global role. According to him, both are outcomes of sustained effort and determination, and he expressed confidence that the vision of India guiding the world will be realised.

Bhagwat emphasised that achieving this goal requires discipline, courage and a strong sense of self reliance among citizens. He urged people to move beyond uncertainty and work steadily towards strengthening the nation, adding that consistent efforts at both individual and collective levels are key to progress. Highlighting the importance of cultural identity, he called on citizens to understand and embrace India's

civilisational values. He suggested that reconnecting with traditional practices in daily life such as language, food and customs can play a role in building a stronger national identity. According to him, true appreciation of the country its roots and living those values in everyday conduct. The RSS chief also stressed that the idea of national pride goes beyond symbolic gestures and requires personal transformation.

## “Two Thirds of AAP RS MPs Exit”: Chadha Leads Major Shift to BJP

Political tremors hit AAP as multiple Rajya Sabha members switch sides ahead of Punjab polls



**New Delhi:** In a significant political development, Raghav Chadha, along with Sandeep Pathak and Ashok Mittal, has left the Aam Aadmi Party to join the Bharatiya Janata Party, triggering a major shake up within the party's parliamentary ranks. The announcement

was made during a press conference in New Delhi, where Chadha stated that two thirds of AAP's Rajya Sabha MPs have exited and are aligning with the BJP as a group. The move has sparked speculation about whether the remaining MPs will follow suit.

## “Not an Inch Lost”: General Naravane Defends Stand on Ladakh Standoff

Former Army Chief stresses apolitical role of armed forces amid memoir controversy

Team Goemkarponn

**New Delhi:** Former Chief of Army Staff Manoj Mukund Naravane has reaffirmed that India did not lose any territory to China during the 2020 eastern Ladakh standoff, standing firmly by his earlier position amid ongoing political debate.

His remarks come in the backdrop of controversy surrounding his unpublished memoir, Four Stars of Destiny, which has triggered



differing interpretations.

Addressing the issue, Naravane maintained that his stance remains unchanged, asserting that there was no territorial loss during the confrontation along the Line of Actual Control.

He acknowledged that differing opinions may persist but emphasised that his position is based on his understanding of events during his tenure.

He also clarified how decisions are made within India's civil military framework, noting that key strategic calls are taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security, which operates under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

Within the armed forces, operational decisions are executed through established

chains of command, ensuring clarity and discipline without the need for constant attribution.

A significant part of his remarks focused on the importance of keeping the military insulated from political narratives.

Naravane stressed that the Indian Armed Forces have long maintained an apolitical character, which he described as a cornerstone of India's democratic strength.

# “I Want to Be Better Than Yesterday”: Kohli’s Relentless Drive Wins Praise

■ Gujarat Titans coach highlights intensity, fitness and mindset behind match winning performance

**New Delhi:** Gujarat Titans assistant coach Vijay Dhaiya praised Virat Kohli for his exceptional mindset and intensity following Royal Challengers Bengaluru’s five wicket win over Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League 2026. Speaking after the match, Dhaiya emphasized that Kohli’s greatness extends far beyond technical skill. He pointed to the veteran batter’s sharp awareness, high energy levels, and



constant desire to improve as qualities that continue to set him apart.

Despite playing a decisive innings, Kohli remained dissatisfied with his performance, feeling he could have converted it

into a century.

Dhaiya noted that such self criticism reflects Kohli’s incredibly high standards. He explained that the experienced batter made a challenging pitch appear far easier

through his control over the game. By dictating terms to the bowlers and managing the situation effectively, Kohli showcased his ability to dominate even under difficult conditions. Another standout aspect of Kohli’s performance was his capacity to keep pressure on the opposition.

Dhaiya described this mental edge as one of Kohli’s defining strengths, allowing him to outperform many of his peers.

## “When the Time Comes, the Board Will Decide”: Clarity on Agarkar’s Future

■ BCCI signals continuity as India’s chief selector retains role amid strong track record



**New Delhi:** The future of Ajit Agarkar as India’s chief selector has been the subject of discussion, especially with the ICC Cricket World Cup 2027 approaching.

Addressing the speculation, Rajeev Shukla clarified that decisions regarding such key positions are made collectively by the board at the appropriate time.

He indicated that the Board of Control for Cricket in India follows a structured approach, ensuring that any call is taken with the broader interests of Indian cricket in mind.



## “My Goal Is Paralympic Gold”: Record Throw Boosts Haney’s Confidence

**New Delhi:** A remarkable performance at the 24th National Para Athletics Championship has propelled 20 year old javelin thrower Haney into the spotlight, strengthening his ambitions for future international success. Competing in the F37 category, he registered an impressive throw of 58.80 metres, the farthest recorded globally in his category, though it does not qualify as an official world record due to the event not being recognised by the International Paralympic Committee.

Despite the lack of formal recognition, the achievement has significantly boosted Haney’s confidence as he prepares for major upcoming events, including the 2026 Asian Para Games and the Paralympic Games. His focus remains firmly on maintaining consistency and delivering medal winning performances on the international stage.

## Don Bosco Sports Academy Dominates with Clean Sweep Across All Categories

■ Strong performances across age groups highlight depth and growing women’s basketball talent in South Goa

Goemkarponn desk

**Panaji:** Don Bosco Sports Academy, Fatorda delivered an outstanding performance at the ASMITA Khelo India Women’s 3x3 Basketball League South Goa leg, securing top honours across multiple categories and establishing itself as the standout team of the tournament. The matches were held at Don Bosco College of Engineering in Fatorda and featured competitive



participation from ten teams.

The academy’s A team proved unbeatable in both the Under 18 Girls and Senior Women’s divisions, clinching the championship titles in convincing fashion. Adding

to their dominance, the B teams from the same academy finished as runners up in both categories, highlighting the institution’s impressive bench strength and consistent training standards.

## India Men Dominate Canada While Women Fall Short Against Denmark

■ Mixed results for Indian teams in opening ties of Thomas and Uber Cup Finals

**New Delhi:** India’s men’s team began their Thomas Cup Finals campaign with a convincing 4-1 win over Canada, while the women’s side faced a narrow 2-3 defeat against hosts Denmark in the Uber Cup Finals.

The men’s tie started with a setback as Lakshya Sen went down in a hard fought three game match against Victor Lai.



However, India quickly bounced back through the doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who delivered a dominant straight game victory to level the contest.

## MCC Dominate, Geno Edge Ahead in Action Packed League Fixtures

■ All round performances and disciplined bowling define victories in Goa Premier Division One Day League

**Panaji:** Margao Cricket Club and Geno Sports Club delivered commanding performances in the Premier Division One Day League, showcasing a blend of sharp bowling and steady batting to secure convincing wins in their respective matches.

At the GCA Academy ground in Porvorim, Margao Cricket Club produced a clinical display to defeat Panjim Gymkhana with ease.



Batting first, Panjim Gymkhana struggled to build momentum and were bowled out for 110 runs in 31 overs.

Mohit Redkar top scored with 33, while Dishank Prabhu Misquin added 24, but the rest of the lineup failed to provide meaningful support.



The MCC bowling attack was led brilliantly by Heramb Parab, who claimed four wickets for just 17 runs, breaking the backbone of the opposition batting. Deepraj Gaonkar chipped in with three wickets, ensuring constant pressure on the scoring

rate.

In reply, MCC chased down the target comfortably in 18.2 overs. Aryan Narvekar anchored the innings with an unbeaten 51, striking boundaries with confidence. He was supported by Chigurupati Venkata, who remained

not out on 14, guiding the team home despite a few early setbacks.

In the second match at the GCA ground in Sanguem Cotarlim, Geno Sports Club registered a four wicket victory over Dempo Cricket Club.

Dempo posted 186 runs in 37.3 overs, with Jeevan Chittem leading the effort with a solid 77. Contributions from Aditya and Abhinav Tej Rana helped build a competitive total.