



## Crime Branch Expands Probe Into Gautam Khattar's Past Speeches

Investigators to review earlier remarks amid St Francis Xavier row; legal options, including entry curbs, under consideration

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** With the Crime Branch taking custody of Gautam Khattar following the controversy over his remarks on St Francis Xavier, investigators are now widening the scope of the inquiry to include his previous public statements and activities.

According to official sources, sleuths are expected to analyse whether Khattar's earlier speeches, delivered across multiple states, provide a broader context to the present case



and could influence any subsequent legal proceedings. The probe is

likely to involve scrutiny of video recordings, transcripts, and other material from his past addresses.

Khattar, who heads the Sanatan Mahasangh and often identifies himself as a "spiritual beat journalist," has previously faced criticism from civil society groups and opposition voices over alleged inflammatory



Investigators are expected to assess whether any of these statements fall under provisions related to hate speech, incitement, or actions that could disturb communal harmony.

Some speeches delivered during 2024 and 2025, particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, had sparked controversy after circulating widely on social media, with allegations that he advocated social and economic boycotts.

rhetoric. Several of his speeches in states such as Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh have drawn attention for comments targeting

minority communities. Sources further indicated that authorities are also examining the possibility of imposing preventive restrictions on Khattar's entry into Goa.

## Top Military Chiefs to Meet in Jaipur as Theatre Command Plan Nears Final Stage

Joint Commanders' Conference to focus on integration, procurement and future war strategy



Team Goemkarponn

**Jaipur:** Senior leadership from the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force is expected to gather in Jaipur on May 7 and 8 for a crucial Joint Commanders' Conference, where key military strategies and structural reforms will be discussed.

The meeting comes at a significant time, as India's long-pending plan to establish integrated theatre commands is close to receiving final approval. The conference is likely to focus on strengthening coordination among the three services, along with discussions on procurement

priorities and emerging operational challenges.

Earlier this month, General Anil Chauhan indicated that internal consultations on the theatre command structure have largely been completed. He noted that the proposal is now set to move to the Defence Minister and eventually to the Cabinet Committee on Security for final clearance. While there is broad agreement among the services, some differences remain regarding how the structure will be implemented.

The proposed model is expected to introduce theatre commanders with four-star rank, placing them on par with the service chiefs.

## PWD Contract Workers Escalate Regularisation Demand

Plan Silent Protest

Memorandum submitted to Minister Digambar Kamat and PCE; over 1,700 workers cite long-term insecurity

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Contract workers associated with the Public Works Department (PWD) have intensified their demand for regularisation, submitting a formal memorandum to PWD Minister Digambar Kamat and the Principal Chief Engineer (PCE). The workers, many of whom have spent years in



temporary roles, say they continue to be deprived of full service benefits despite limited provisions

under the 6th Pay Commission.

Announcing their next step, the workers said

a and non-disruptive protest will be held at Azad Maidan on May 1, with participation expected from more than 300 employees. They emphasized that the demonstration will be silent in nature, without slogans, and will not interfere with public movement.

A representative stated that the memorandum has already [▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06](#)

## MLA Ferreira Seeks NSA Action, Flags 'Unverified History' in Old Goa Row

Calls religious insults a national security concern; urges evidence-based decisions on heritage renaming



Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Congress MLA Carlos Ferreira has taken a hardline position

on remarks perceived to hurt religious sentiments, stating that such acts should be treated as threats to public order and national security rather than mere law-and-order violations.

Referring to the controversy involving Gautam Khattar, Ferreira said individuals responsible for inciting religious discord should

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## "One Person Can Be Wrong, But Not All Seven" Raghav Chadha Defends Switch to BJP

Former AAP leader cites internal issues as reasons behind high-profile political move

**New Delhi:** Raghav Chadha has publicly defended his decision to leave the Aam Aadmi Party and join the Bharatiya Janata Party, addressing criticism over his sudden political shift. In a video statement, the Rajya Sabha MP explained that his move was driven by concerns over the party's internal functioning and direction.

Chadha, who was among seven leaders to exit the AAP and align with the BJP, stated that his decision was not made lightly.



Emphasising his long association with the party, he recalled contributing to its growth over the years. However, he claimed that the organisation had changed significantly, describing the current

environment as restrictive and unproductive.

He pointed to what he called a "toxic work atmosphere," alleging that he was increasingly prevented from performing his duties, including limited

opportunities to speak in Parliament. According to him, this situation made it difficult to contribute meaningfully, prompting him to reconsider his position within the party.

Responding to allegations of betrayal, Chadha said his entry into politics was not motivated by personal ambition. He highlighted that he had left behind a successful professional career to pursue public service and insisted that his recent move was guided by principles rather than personal gain.

## Delay in Action Raises Serious Questions on Law Enforcement Response

Concerns over the alleged delay in police action against individuals

accused of posting derogatory content targeting Hindu deities have brought into focus a critical issue—how swiftly and effectively law enforcement responds to sensitive matters that carry the potential to disturb communal harmony.

Multiple complaints are reportedly filed across police stations, yet the absence of visible action or arrests has raised uneasy questions among the public. This is not merely about one incident; it reflects a broader anxiety about whether institutions tasked with upholding the law are acting with the urgency such cases demand. When citizens approach authorities through proper legal channels and perceive inaction, it risks eroding confidence in the system.

The role of the Goa Police in such situations becomes especially significant. While due process must be followed and investigations must be conducted thoroughly, delay cannot become an excuse for inaction. In cases involving religious sentiments, time plays a decisive role. Swift intervention can prevent escalation, while prolonged silence can lead to speculation, resentment, and even unrest.

The digital dimension of such offences further heightens the need for prompt action. Social media content is volatile—posts can be deleted, accounts can disappear, and evidence can be altered within moments. Any delay in securing electronic devices or preserving digital trails risks weakening the case itself. Ensuring that evidence is protected at the earliest stage is fundamental to delivering justice that is both credible and sustainable.

Equally important is the perception of fairness. Goa has long been known for its communal harmony and social cohesion. Any impression that cases involving sensitive issues are being handled selectively or with hesitation can damage this delicate balance. The law must not only be impartial but must also be seen to be impartial. Transparency and timely updates from authorities can help counter

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misinformation and restore public confidence.

At a time when social media often acts as a trigger point for larger societal tensions, the responsibility on enforcement agencies has grown manifold. Offensive or provocative content—particularly when it targets religious beliefs—can quickly spiral into wider unrest if not addressed decisively. The absence of visible action may unintentionally embolden individuals who seek to exploit

such platforms to provoke or divide communities.

Leadership within the police force has a crucial role to play in such circumstances. Clear direction from the top, coupled with accountability at all levels, can ensure that sensitive cases are handled with the seriousness they deserve. Public reassurance, backed by concrete steps, can go a long way in preventing escalation and maintaining trust.

However, maintaining peace is not the sole responsibility of law enforcement. Public discourse around such issues must also remain measured and responsible. Amplifying tensions or turning the issue into a political contest risks overshadowing the real objective—ensuring that justice is delivered and harmony is preserved. A collective commitment to restraint and respect is essential during such times.

The larger concern extends beyond a single case. It points to a recurring challenge in today’s digital age—balancing freedom of expression with respect for religious and cultural sentiments. While the right to express opinions is fundamental, it does not extend to content that deliberately provokes or insults. Clear and consistent enforcement of this boundary is necessary to deter future violations.

Ultimately, the lingering question—why no action—demands a credible response. The Goa Police must address this perception of delay, either by demonstrating that action is already underway or by clearly explaining the reasons for the time being taken. Silence, in such cases, only deepens doubt.

If not addressed promptly, such situations risk creating an environment where mistrust takes root and tensions escalate unnecessarily. On the other hand, timely and decisive intervention can reaffirm the principle that the rule of law prevails, regardless of the circumstances.

In matters involving communal sensitivity, delays carry consequences far beyond the case itself. Justice must not only be done—it must be seen to be done, without hesitation and without ambiguity.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Rising Burglaries Demand Urgent Attention

The recent burglary reported at the Housing Board Colony in Madel, Thivim, under the jurisdiction of Colvale Police, is yet another reminder of the growing concern over house break-ins in North Goa. The incident, involving theft of gold jewellery worth ₹1.9 lakh from a locked residence, highlights the vulnerability of homes left unattended for even short periods. Such cases are no longer isolated. Increasingly, residents are waking up to reports of forced entries, stolen valuables, and the unsettling realisation that basic security is being breached. The method seen here—breaking open gates and doors—suggests not only intent but also a level of confidence among culprits that raises serious questions about deterrence. While investigations are underway, the larger issue lies in prevention. There is a pressing need for stronger night patrolling, better surveillance systems in residential areas, and active community policing. Housing colonies, in particular, should be encouraged to install CCTV cameras and coordinate with local authorities to report suspicious movements promptly. At the same time, residents must also take basic precautions—informing neighbours when leaving homes locked, ensuring proper lighting, and securing entry points. Safety cannot be left solely to law enforcement; it must be a shared responsibility. Authorities must treat this rise in burglaries with urgency before it escalates further. Swift detection and visible action in such cases will not only bring culprits to justice but also restore public confidence.

- Rohan Naik, Mapusa, Goa

## A Humane Step Beyond Rules

The recent report on the Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education stepping in to support students in crisis is a welcome and much-needed initiative. At a time when academic systems are often seen as rigid and rule-bound, such a compassionate approach offers hope and reassurance to students facing extraordinary difficulties. Education cannot be reduced to marks, deadlines, and examinations alone. Behind every student is an individual dealing with pressures that may not always be visible—mental stress, personal challenges, or unforeseen crises. In fact, studies and reports have repeatedly highlighted the growing burden of stress and anxiety among students in Goa, underlining the urgent need for a more empathetic system. By choosing to go beyond strict regulations and extend support, the Board has demonstrated that the system can adapt when it matters most. Such flexibility not only safeguards a student’s academic future but also acknowledges their emotional well-being. This is particularly important in today’s competitive environment, where fear of failure often outweighs the joy of learning. However, this initiative should not remain an exception triggered only by extreme circumstances. It must evolve into a structured support system—one that includes regular counselling, academic flexibility, and mechanisms to identify students in distress early. Schools and colleges, too, must work in tandem with the Board to ensure that no student feels isolated during difficult times. This step sets a positive precedent. It sends a strong message that education in Goa is not just about enforcing rules, but about nurturing individuals. One hopes that such sensitivity becomes a permanent feature of the system, ensuring that no student is left behind due to circumstances beyond their control.

- Nilesh Fernandes, Margao, Goa

# Protest Held Over Alleged Forest Damage at Salvador do Mundo Hill

Residents and activists raise alarm over suspected construction activity on private forest land in North Goa

Team Goemkarponn

## SALVADOR DO MUNDO:

A large group of residents, environmentalists, and villagers assembled at Salvador do Mundo hill to protest against what they claim is the destruction of forest land for a proposed construction project. The demonstration was organised under the banner "Our Forest, Our Future – Save It Before It's Gone," drawing participation from members of the Save Goa Environment group and locals from nearby areas.



Protesters alleged that nearly 35,000 square metres of privately classified forest land is being cleared, raising serious concerns about ecological damage. Many locals expressed distress over the potential loss of biodiversity, including traditional forest produce such as wild fruits like "Kanta," which have long

been part of local culture.

Residents warned that continued destruction could deprive future generations of access to natural resources and forest experiences that have been cherished for decades. "Children today may still see these forests, but the next generation might not," one villager remarked.

Environmental activist Dhiren Phadte claimed that the land in question is a notified private forest area. According to him, initial approvals were granted only for fencing, but heavy machinery was later brought in, leading to tree removal. He further alleged that dry leaves are being piled and set on fire near tree bases, potentially as a tactic to degrade the forest cover.

Phadte added that residents intervened after noticing the activity and managed to halt the work temporarily.



## Gautam Khattar Remanded To Police Custody For Six Days

Arrested In Himachal, Brought To Goa Over Xavier Remarks Case

Team Goemkarponn

**VASCO:** A Vasco court on granted six days of police custody to YouTuber Gautam Khattar, who is facing charges over alleged derogatory remarks about St Francis Xavier.

Khattar was apprehended in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district after Goa Crime Branch officials traced his location during their investigation.

Following his detention on April 24, Goa Police obtained a transit remand a day later and brought him to the state on Sunday via Manohar International Airport. Security was heightened around the Crime Branch office amid fears of public unrest, with several locals gathering to demand strict action. After landing in Goa, Khattar was taken for a routine medical

examination at Goa Medical College before being produced before the Vasco Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), which remanded him to police custody. While interacting briefly with reporters, Khattar chanted "Jai Shri Ram" and appeared calm during the process.

The case originates from a speech delivered at a Parshuram Jayanti event in Vasco on April 18, where Khattar allegedly made offensive statements referring to St Francis Xavier and his relics. The remarks sparked protests across the state, leading to multiple police complaints and eventual transfer case to the Crime Branch.

Authorities said Khattar had evaded arrest after the FIR was filed, prompting an extensive search before he was eventually located in Kullu.

## Forest Report On Private Lands To Be Finalised By May 30

State To Submit Findings To NGT After Fresh Assessment

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Forest Minister Vishwajit Rane said the Goa government will complete a detailed factual report on private forest areas by May 30, following which it will be placed before the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Speaking to reporters, Rane stated that the exercise is intended to ensure an accurate and fair evaluation of private lands. He acknowledged that several landowners were affected due to discrepancies in earlier



demarcation exercises and stressed that the current process is being carried out with full transparency to rule out any manipulation.

As per the State's guidelines, land can be classified as private forest

if it is contiguous with government forest areas.

In cases where such land is isolated, a minimum area of five hectares is required to qualify. In 2024, the government issued two notifications identifying 45.5 sq km and 46.1 sq km of land respectively as private forest, in line with NGT directions.

A Review Committee led by the Chief Conservator of Forests is presently re-examining areas previously identified by the Thomas and Araujo Committees.



## Goa SSC Results 2026: Pass Percentage At 94.51%

Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** The Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (GBSHSE) announced the Class X (SSC) results for 2026 on Sunday, with the state recording an overall pass percentage of 94.51 per cent. Out of 20,618 candidates who appeared for the examinations conducted between March 13 and April 9 at 32 centres, 19,486 students successfully passed.

## Illegal Night Fishing Busted on Mandovi River, Six Coracles Seized

Coastal police act on fishermen's complaints; nets, equipment and catch confiscated during early morning raid

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Acting on inputs from local fishing communities, coastal police launched a late-night crackdown on illegal fishing activities in the Mandovi river, seizing six traditional coracle boats. The operation was carried out at approximately 2:30 AM, during which authorities also recovered fishing nets,



LED torches, and the fish caught by those involved. According to police, the individuals operating

the boats are believed to be from Karnataka and were found fishing during prohibited hours.

Officials confirmed that further legal proceedings and investigation are currently underway.

## Sunil Kawthankar Flags Delay in Action Over Derogatory Social Media Posts

Seeks suo motu intervention by Goa Police, urges swift arrests to safeguard communal harmony

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Congress leader Sunil Kawthankar has raised concerns over what he described as a delay in police action against individuals accused of posting derogatory content on social media targeting Hindu deities. Referring to multiple complaints reportedly filed at various

police stations, Kawthankar questioned why no arrests

have been made so far. He said the lack of immediate action could undermine public confidence and potentially embolden those attempting to disrupt communal harmony.

## Online Gambling Racket Busted In Colva; Four Held

Police raid at Florida Garden leads to seizure of laptops, phones worth ₹3.1 lakh

Team Goemkarponn

**COLVA:** Colva Police busted an alleged online gambling racket during a late-night raid at Florida Garden, Vanelim, Colva, arresting four persons who were reportedly caught red-handed accepting illegal bets.

The raid was carried out between 10:20 pm on April 25 and 1:00 am



on April 26 based on a complaint filed by PSI Prashant Bhagat of Colva Police Station.

According to police, the accused — Praful alias Jiger Thakar, Dhaval,

Jay Kamlesh Pattel (all natives of Gujarat), and Vishal Chawla (native of Haryana) — were operating from a closed premises in a common gaming house setup.

Investigations revealed that the accused were actively involved in accepting online bets and conducting computer-based gambling activities from within the premises.

## Pedestrian Injured In Rash Driving Case At Panaji

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** A 57-year-old woman sustained injuries after being hit by a car in a case of alleged rash and negligent driving reported in Panaji. According to Panaji Police, the offence has been registered under Crime No. 76/2026 under Sections 281 and 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, based on a complaint filed by HC Pandurang Gawas. The incident occurred on April 21 near the Majestic Pride Casino junction.



## Train Theft Accused Arrested by Vasco Railway Police, stolen items recovered

Team Goemkarponn

**VASCO:** Vasco Railway police have arrested a 24-year-old man in connection with a theft reported on board the Velankanni-Vasco Express. The accused, Ambrish Beggar, a resident of Bagalkot, Karnataka, was taken into custody on April 24.

The case was registered following a complaint by Afroza Begum Hukkeri (59), a Vasco resident, who reported that her handbag was stolen

while travelling in the general coach between Sanvordem and Chandor in the early hours of April 23.

The stolen items included a Samsung mobile phone and a pair of silver anklets weighing around 250 grams, with a total value of approximately ₹67,000. Police have registered the offence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The accused is currently in police custody, and further investigation is underway.



## Youth Found Dead In Verna; Police Launch Inquiry

Team Goemkarponn

**VERNA:** An 18-year-old youth was found dead at Old Mardol, Verna, on Sunday morning, following which Verna Police initiated an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death. Police said they received information at around 7:45 am on April 26 about a youth lying motionless in the area. A team rushed to the spot and confirmed the death. The deceased has been identified as Chandrash Oraon (18), a native of Jharkhand who was residing at Old Mardol, Verna.

## Play Turns Fatal: Two Boys Drown While Bathing In River

Villagers pull out children, but doctors declare them dead; police confirm accidental drowning

Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA** A routine outing turned tragic in South Goa's Canacona after two young boys drowned while bathing in a river at Ozrem, Dhupemol on April 25.

The victims, identified as Dhruv Wadar (5) from Vasco and Rigved Naik (10) from Karwar, Karnataka, had reportedly entered the river for a bath when they slipped into deeper waters and drowned.

Police swung into action after receiving a PCR alert from Margao at around 1:09 pm. A team rushed to the spot,



and with the help of local villagers, both children were retrieved from the water and immediately shifted to the Community Health Centre (CHC), Canacona. However, doctors declared them brought dead.

Initial inquiry points to accidental drowning. An inquest was conducted,

and the bodies were sent for post-mortem at South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, where

the cause of death was confirmed as asphyxia due to drowning.

After completing formalities, the bodies were handed over to the grieving families for last rites.

Further inquiry is being carried out by PSI Shivram Gawas of Canacona Police Station.

## Man Found Dead Inside Rented Room In Curtorim

43-year-old discovered after remaining unresponsive for two days; police register unnatural death case

Team Goemkarponn

**CURTORIM:** A 43-year-old man was found dead inside a rented room at Ralloi, Curtorim, after reportedly not being seen for two days.

According to police, information was received on July 26, 2024, at around 1:46 pm from a beat constable regarding a person who had not come out of his room for the past two days. A police



team immediately visited the spot to conduct an inquiry.

During inspection, the man was found lying inside the toilet of the rented premises. He was later identified as Sunil Nair (43), a resident of Ralloi, Curtorim.

## Mini Bus Driver Booked After Crash Near Banastari Bridge

Passenger injured as accused flees spot after colliding with tempo traveller

Team Goemkarponn

**BANASTARIM:** A rash and negligent driving case has been registered by Old Goa Police following a collision between a mini bus and a tempo traveller near Banastari Bridge that left one passenger injured.

According to police, the offence was registered on April 25 based on a state complaint filed by HC Vinod Fondvekar of Old Goa Police Station.

The incident occurred on April 23 at around



2:02 pm near Banastari Bridge at Dhulapi. Police said the accused driver, identified as Deepak Naik (50), a resident of Shiroda, Ponda, was driving a Tata mini bus (GA-05-T-3708)

from Old Goa towards Ponda.

He allegedly drove the vehicle in a rash and negligent manner, without proper care and caution, and collided with

an oncoming Force tempo traveller (GA-04-T-9893) coming from the opposite direction. After the accident, the accused reportedly fled the scene.

As a result of the collision, a passenger in the tempo traveller, Rajesh Korgaonkar (32) from Bicholim, sustained injuries and is currently undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim.

Old Goa Police have registered the case, and further investigation is being carried out by HC Vinod Fondvekar.

# Concerns Mount Over Suspected Forest Clearing In Olaulim-Pomburpa

Locals allege large-scale damage to green cover; seek immediate halt and official intervention

Team Goemkarponn

**OLAULIM:** Tension is brewing in the Olaulim-Pomburpa belt of North Goa as residents and environmental groups voice strong objections to alleged destruction of forested land in the area.

Villagers claim that a sizeable stretch of privately owned forest, known for its rich biodiversity, has been subjected to extensive clearing activity. The issue has sparked protests, with locals demanding transparency and urgent action from authorities.

According to residents, heavy machinery was brought into the site, resulting in removal of trees and disturbance to the natural terrain. Concerns have also been raised over reported



incidents of burning vegetation, which activists fear could be an attempt to alter the land for future development.

The affected area is considered environmentally sensitive, supporting diverse flora and fauna. Locals warn that continued degradation could disrupt wildlife habitats and permanently damage the ecological

balance of the region.

Members of the local Biodiversity Management Committee are said to have previously flagged irregularities at the site, citing the secluded nature of the land as a factor enabling unchecked activities. Citizens and activists have urged the government to step in immediately, with demands ranging from a

complete stop to ongoing work to declaring the land a No Development Zone (NDZ) to safeguard it from further harm.

The controversy has once again highlighted growing concerns over preservation of Goa's forest cover, with calls for stricter monitoring and enforcement to prevent similar incidents elsewhere in the state.



## Fast Track Probe, Constitute Special Court in Gautam Khattar Case- Cuncolkars

Team Goemkarponn

**CUNCOLIM:** Amidst rising communal remarks and widespread public outrage, the citizens of Cuncolim, supported by prominent political and civic leaders, have demanded 'fast tracked' investigation into the derogatory remarks made by YouTuber Gautam Khattar against St. Francis Xavier who for most Goans is Goencho Saib.

Speaking at a meeting in Cuncolim to

discuss such frequent incidents that pose threats to communal harmony, former bureaucrat and political leader Elvis Gomes lauded the Himachal Police and the Goa Police for coordinated efforts in arresting the accused.

He asserted that the offence appeared to be a calculated design to disturb the centuries-old communal fabric of Goa and demanded that the government should constitute a special court to fast track trial.

# Mormugao Summer Fest concludes on a high note with massive turnout

Team Goemkarponn

**MORMUGAO:** The two-day Mormugao Summer Fest concluded on Sunday on a vibrant note, drawing an overwhelming response from people across the taluka, with crowds far exceeding expectations and the venue packed to capacity.



Organised under the leadership of MLA Sankalp Amonkar, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals and visitors

alike, turning the festival grounds into a lively hub of music, culture and entertainment. The closing day saw the presence of Minister

Subhash Faldessai, Minister Subhash Shirodkar and BJP State President Damu Naik, adding prominence to the occasion. One of the key highlights of the evening was a fashion show curated by Verma Dmello, which received an encouraging response from the audience.



## Loliem-Polem Gram Sabha Draws Red Line Against Mega Villas, Smart Meters

Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA:** In a strong show of collective resolve, the Loliem-Polem Gram Sabha on Sunday unanimously rejected a

proposed 49-villa mega housing project and opposed the installation of electricity smart meters, citing concerns over environmental impact and transparency.

## 11 Canacona schools get 100% success in SSC examinations

Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA:** Including PM Government High School, Gaval-Khol and two other Government High Schools, Eleven schools in Canacona got 100% pass percentage in the SSC Board Examinations-2026 for which results are declared on Sunday. PM SHRI Government High School, Gaval Khol, Canacona secured 100% results in the Goa Board SSCE - March 2026 is one amongst the 3-Govt. High School's

## Goa Strengthens Push for Youth Employability Under PM Internship Scheme

State-level coordination meeting brings departments, institutions, and industry together to streamline implementation

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Goa convened a State Coordination Meeting under the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) at the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Porvorim, on Thursday, bringing together key



stakeholders to accelerate the rollout of the initiative across Goa. Delivering an overview of the scheme, Prof. Niyam Marchon, Program Director at DHE and Goa State Nodal Officer for PMIS, outlined its objectives and implementation framework.

## Complaint Filed at Vasco Police Over Objectionable Social Media Posts Targeting Hindu Deities

Team Goemkarponn

**VASCO** A formal complaint has been lodged at Vasco Police Station by concerned citizens alleging circulation of obscene and offensive content against Hindu deities on social media.

The complaint comes amid the ongoing controversy involving Gautam Khattar, with complainants claiming that certain



individuals deliberately posted derogatory and provocative content on Facebook and Instagram. The complaint names multiple users accused of sharing vulgar comments and objectionable material, including during

live streams of religious events.

Citizens have urged police to take strict action, stating such acts hurt religious sentiments and could disturb communal harmony in Goa.

# Nestlé India reports strongest quarterly growth in nearly a decade, driven by double-digit volume growth

**Mumbai:** The Board of Directors of Nestlé India today approved the financial results (standalone and consolidated) for the fourth quarter and financial year ended 31st March 2026. Details of the standalone results are below:

Commenting on the standalone results, Mr. Manish Tiwary, Chairman and Managing Director of Nestlé India, stated, "I am pleased to share that this quarter, Nestlé India delivered high double-digit growth and recorded its highest-ever domestic sales, at INR 6,445 crore. This performance was powered by double-digit volume growth, driven by over 50% increase in advertising spends, whilst delivering a healthy EBITDA margin of 26.3%.

Total sales and domestic sales for the quarter increased by 23.4% and 23.1%, respectively. Encouragingly, all product groups contributed to this performance. Mr. Tiwary extended his sincere appreciation to Nestlé India colleagues for their steadfast teamwork and



shared sense of purpose, as the company continued to serve consumers amidst a demanding external environment. Penetration and premiumization, combined with disciplined resource allocation and strong execution, have been key in driving growth.

During the financial year ended 31st March 2026, Nestlé India remained focused on the fundamentals and executed with resilience, delivering double-digit, volume-led growth alongside strong market share gains. Over the last five years the company's power brands MAGGI noodles consistently maintained its leadership position in the market, while KITKAT and NESCAFÉ have accelerated their market share growth.

The company progressed on its structural cost-efficiency agenda and delivered its highest-ever operational cost savings,

which enabled higher reinvestments behind brands, accelerated digital, tech-enabled capabilities across sales and operations. Nestlé India maintained tight discipline on profitability and cash generation and continued to upgrade and expand capacity prudently to meet growing consumer and customer demand and support future growth. Technology was leveraged to eliminate costs that did not add value to consumer and customers. These structural cost savings created headroom to channel those savings back into brand investment, higher advertising, consumer facing activation, stronger penetration and distribution.

The Confectionery product group grew at a high double-digit pace in both value and volume underpinned by strong underlying transaction growth across the company's powerhouse brands. Increased distribution, enhanced freshness through the visicooler programme and a slew of innovations helped

sustain this momentum. The Powdered and Liquid Beverages product group achieved another year of high double-digit growth, driven by increased coffee penetration, accelerated premiumization, and deeper category relevance across consumer segments, supported by strong brand equity and an expanded footprint. The Prepared Dishes and Cooking Aids product group posted strong volume-driven growth, fuelled by engaging urban consumers and expanding rural reach, leading to gains in both market share and penetration.

The Milk Products and Nutrition product group showed resilience, delivering steady growth. The company expanded portfolio accessibility and value by introducing new and larger pack sizes to support consumer needs. The Pet food business reported high double-digit growth, driven by a strong innovation pipeline to expand penetration and trials, wider distribution and a sharper focus on building deeper bonds between pets and pet parents.

## "Once in a Generation Deal" India, New Zealand Set to Sign Landmark Trade Pact

■ Agreement expected to boost exports, jobs and economic ties between the two nations

**New Delhi:** India and New Zealand are set to sign a major Free Trade Agreement, with Prime Minister Christopher Luxon describing it as a "once in a generation" opportunity that could significantly reshape economic ties between the two countries.

The agreement is expected to open up vast market access for New Zealand exporters, allowing them to tap into India's large and rapidly growing consumer base. Luxon highlighted that the deal would provide unprecedented access to over a billion consumers, positioning New Zealand businesses to benefit from one of the world's fastest expanding economies. He emphasised that the pact would enhance New Zealand's global competitiveness by placing its exporters on equal or stronger footing compared to international rivals.

The agreement is also expected to create new opportunities across sectors such as agriculture, horticulture and food products, enabling increased exports of items like

fruits, wine, seafood and meat.

Trade plays a central role in New Zealand's economy, supporting a significant share of employment. The new agreement is expected to generate additional jobs, particularly in rural and export driven industries, while boosting incomes and economic activity across local communities.

Luxon noted that stronger trade links would not only benefit businesses but also have a broader economic impact. Increased revenue and growth could translate into greater public investment in infrastructure, healthcare, education and essential services.

The deal is also seen as a step towards deeper strategic and economic engagement between the two nations, strengthening bilateral relations while supporting long term growth.

As both countries prepare to formalise the agreement, expectations remain high that the partnership will unlock new opportunities, drive exports and contribute to sustained economic development on both sides.



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## PWD Contract Workers Escalate Regularisation Demand

been submitted to the PCE and will also be presented to the minister, who has scheduled a meeting with the group at the Secretariat later in the day.

The workers highlighted that the issue extends beyond a single department, claiming that over 1,700 personnel across various government bodies—including PWD, Labour Societies, the RDA, and the Health Department—remain in temporary positions without basic employment security.

Several workers pointed out that some employees have spent over a decade and a half in service without being made permanent. Despite this, they said, they receive only partial financial benefits under the existing pay commission framework. They also urged fellow contract workers not to rely solely on verbal assurances from authorities, cautioning that many employees have reached retirement age without securing permanent status. Expressing frustration over repeated delays, the workers said they have engaged with the government on multiple occasions, including meetings with the Chief Minister and discussions during the budget period. However, they claim progress has been stalled due to what officials describe as "technical issues."

With little movement on their demands, the workers indicated a shift toward formal and legal measures. They warned that if their representations continue to be overlooked, they are prepared to seek judicial intervention to secure their rights.

## MLA Ferreira Seeks NSA Action, Flags 'Unverified History' in Old Goa Row

face detention under the National Security Act (NSA).

Rejecting the idea of restricting entry as a sufficient measure, he argued that stronger legal intervention is necessary to deter attempts that could disturb communal harmony.

Ferreira alleged that such statements are often aimed at creating division and eroding Goa's social and cultural fabric, warning that authorities must act decisively to prevent escalation.

He further underlined that any insult directed at religion must invite strict legal consequences to ensure peace and stability in society.

In a separate but related concern, Ferreira questioned the move to rename a historical structure in Old Goa from "Pelourinho Novo" to "Hath Katro Khamb."

He maintained that there is no verifiable historical evidence supporting claims associated with the proposed name, including narratives of punitive practices linked to the site. Calling for restraint, the MLA emphasized that heritage-related decisions must be grounded in documented history and credible research.

He cautioned against relying on anecdotal accounts or interpretations drawn from unverified sources, stating that such approaches risk distorting Goa's historical record.

# “End the War First” Iran Lays Out Three-Stage Plan for Talks With US

■ Tehran links ceasefire, Hormuz control and nuclear negotiations in proposed roadmap

**New Delhi:** Iran has outlined a three-stage framework for resuming negotiations with the United States, setting clear conditions that prioritise an end to hostilities before addressing broader strategic issues. The proposal comes after the second round of indirect talks between the two sides failed to produce a breakthrough.

According to the plan, the first stage focuses on a complete cessation of the ongoing conflict, along with guarantees that military action will not resume against Iran and its regional allies. This step is presented as a prerequisite for any further diplomatic engagement.

The second stage



shifts attention to the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global shipping route. Iran has proposed discussions on its management and administration, highlighting its importance in international trade and regional security.

Only after progress is made on these two fronts does the third stage come into play, which involves negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme.



This sequencing marks a significant stance by Tehran, as Washington has consistently pushed for immediate restrictions on uranium enrichment and the transfer of nuclear stockpiles out of Iran.

The proposal follows stalled talks held in Pakistan, where indirect discussions failed to bridge key differences. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

reportedly avoided direct engagement with US representatives, underscoring the continuing mistrust between the two sides.

Meanwhile, US officials have responded cautiously, indicating that such sensitive diplomatic matters would not be addressed publicly. The situation remains complex, with both sides holding firm positions on core issues. As diplomatic efforts continue, regional tensions remain high despite a fragile ceasefire. With no immediate resolution in sight, the proposed framework highlights the challenges involved in restarting meaningful dialogue between the two countries.

## “Ready to Bear Consequences” Kejriwal Declines Court Appearance in Letter to Judge

■ AAP leader cites loss of confidence in fairness, invokes Gandhian principle of satyagraha

**New Delhi:** Arvind Kejriwal has written a detailed letter to a Delhi High Court judge, stating that he will no longer participate in proceedings related to the alleged liquor policy case. In the communication addressed to Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, he expressed serious concerns about receiving a fair hearing while maintaining respect for the judiciary as an institution.

Kejriwal clarified that his decision was not driven by anger or disrespect but by what he described as a deep sense of unease



about the impartiality of the proceedings. He emphasised that his faith in the judicial system remains intact, even as he raised doubts about fairness in this specific case.

The letter followed the rejection of his earlier request seeking the judge's recusal.



## “She Fought 82 Cases and Lost Them All” Amit Shah Hits Back Amid Bengal Poll War of Words

**Team Goemkarponn**

**West Bengal:** Amit Shah intensified his attack on Mamata Banerjee during the ongoing Assembly election campaign, responding sharply to her warning of legal action over his remarks. Addressing rallies across the state, he said Banerjee was free to approach the courts but claimed that she had previously fought multiple cases and lost them, adding that the truth would emerge through judicial processes. The exchange follows Banerjee's criticism of Shah's earlier comments, which she described as inappropriate and unacceptable. She indicated plans to pursue legal action, accusing him of using aggressive language during the campaign. Shah, however,

## “Let the Show Go On” Trump Evacuated After Gunfire Disrupts White House Dinner

■ Shooter arrested as swift security response prevents casualties during high-profile Washington event

**Washington:** Panic briefly unfolded at the White House Correspondents' Dinner after gunshots were reported inside the venue, prompting an immediate evacuation of Donald Trump and other top officials. The incident occurred on Saturday night as hundreds of journalists, celebrities, and political leaders gathered for the high-profile event.

Witnesses reported hearing between five and eight gunshots, triggering chaos inside the packed banquet hall. Guests were seen taking cover under tables as security personnel rushed in, instructing attendees to stay low and move to safety. Despite the alarming situation, officials confirmed that Trump was unharmed and no immediate casualties were reported. The venue was quickly cleared as security forces, including Secret Service agents, secured the premises. National Guard personnel



were deployed within the building, while strict security measures were enforced outside. Attendees were allowed to exit but were not permitted to return once evacuated.

Authorities confirmed that a suspect had been apprehended shortly after the incident. According to officials, the individual allegedly opened fire in a hallway near the dining area before being overpowered by law enforcement officers. The suspect is expected to face serious charges, including the use of a firearm during a violent crime and assault on a federal officer. Following the incident, Trump praised the swift response of security agencies and suggested that the event continue despite the disruption.

In a public message, he commended law enforcement for their quick and decisive action, stating that their intervention prevented further harm. The annual gathering, often attended by senior political leaders and members of the media, was significantly disrupted by the incident. The event had already drawn attention due to Trump's presence, marking a notable moment in his relationship with the press. The shooting also revived memories of a previous assassination attempt during Trump's 2024 campaign, underscoring ongoing concerns around security at major public events involving high-profile leaders.

## “Miscreants Who Rape, Torture Women Will Be Brought to Justice” PM Modi Targets TMC

**West Bengal:** Narendra Modi on Sunday launched a sharp attack on the Trinamool Congress, accusing it of protecting individuals involved in crimes against women and asserting that strict action would follow if the Bharatiya Janata Party comes to power in the state.

Addressing a rally in Thakurnagar, a key centre of the Matua community, the Prime Minister said that those responsible for crimes such as rape and violence against women would face justice after the election results. He linked the BJP's commitment to women's safety with its decision to field candidates like Rekha Patra from Hingaljanj and Ratna Debnath from Panihati, highlighting their symbolic importance in the party's campaign.

Referring to incidents that drew national attention in recent years, Modi alleged that the current state administration had failed to protect women and instead allowed such



issues to persist. He claimed that the political environment had enabled criminal elements to operate with confidence, urging voters to bring change through the ongoing elections.

The Prime Minister also pointed to the high voter turnout in the first phase, stating that it reflected a shift in public sentiment. He expressed confidence that the remaining phases would further strengthen the BJP's position in the state.

In addition to law and order, Modi reiterated that refugees who entered India due to religious persecution would be granted citizenship under the provisions of the Citizenship Amendment Act. He also issued a warning regarding illegal infiltration, stating that appropriate action would be taken in accordance with the law.

# “You Back Your Best Players” Call Sparks Debate After Pooran’s Super Over Dismissal

■ Justin Langer defends decision as Lucknow Super Giants face criticism following costly gamble

**New Delhi:** Lucknow Super Giants’ decision to send Nicholas Pooran to face Sunil Narine in a crucial Super Over has drawn sharp reactions, especially after the move backfired instantly. The call, made during their clash against Kolkata Knight Riders, saw Pooran dismissed on the very first ball, intensifying scrutiny around captain Rishabh Pant and the team management.

The decision raised eyebrows due to a notable past encounter between Pooran and Narine. In a rare moment in T20



history, Narine had bowled a maiden Super Over to Pooran during a Caribbean league match in 2014. Despite that precedent, the franchise opted to trust Pooran again in a high-pressure situation, pairing him with Aiden Markram.

Addressing the

criticism, head coach Justin Langer explained that the decision was rooted in confidence and long-term performance data. He highlighted that Pooran has faced Narine more frequently than most players and was still considered the best option for the challenge.

The management chose to support their key batter despite his recent dip in form. Langer acknowledged that Pooran has not been at his best and admitted that confidence plays a critical role in performance. He described the batter as one of the leading T20 players in recent years, while noting that even top athletes experience phases of struggle. According to him, rebuilding rhythm and confidence remains a priority, with continuous effort being put in behind the scenes.



## Oxford Storm Into Final with 9-Wicket Rout Over MCC

■ All-round brilliance powers dominant win as Banjara Cricket Club awaits in title clash

**Panaji:** Oxford delivered a commanding performance to secure a place in the final of the All Goa Under-17 Leather Ball Cricket Tournament, defeating Margao Cricket Club (MCC) by nine wickets in a one-sided semifinal at the NAPEX ground on Sunday. After winning the toss, Oxford captain Tanishq Naik opted to bowl first, a decision that proved decisive. The bowling unit executed its plans effectively, restricting MCC to 131 for 8 in their allotted 20 overs. MCC skipper Vinit Kamat top-scored with a steady 52 off 45 balls, while Armaan Nadaf and Darsh Sawant contributed 22 runs each. However, early setbacks prevented MCC from building momentum and posting a more competitive total. Oxford’s bowling

attack was led by Rudra Patil, who claimed three wickets for 16 runs, while Tanishq Naik supported strongly with figures of three for 28. Shivam Singh also chipped in with a wicket, ensuring MCC remained under pressure throughout their innings. Chasing 132, Oxford approached the target with confidence and aggression. After an early wicket, the pair of Usman Ghani and Afrid took control of the chase with a composed yet attacking partnership. The duo remained unbeaten, adding a match-winning stand that completely neutralised MCC’s bowling efforts. Afrid led the charge with an impressive 64 not out, striking seven boundaries and two sixes, while Usman Ghani provided support with an unbeaten 55.



## Asian Games Set for Major Calendar Shift to Boost Olympic Relevance

**New Delhi:** A significant change in the international sports calendar could see the Asian Games shifted to odd-numbered years starting from 2031, a move designed to enhance its importance in the lead-up to the Olympic Games.

The proposed change would position the continental event within a year of the Olympics, allowing it to serve as both a preparatory platform and a potential qualification pathway for athletes.

Under the plan, the upcoming edition in Japan scheduled for September and October will proceed as planned. However, the 2030 edition, set to be hosted in Doha, could be deferred to 2031.

Following this transition, the Games would continue on their traditional four-year cycle but would take place in odd years instead of even ones.

## Chowgule, Salgaocar Cruise to Big Wins as Semi-Final Line-Up Confirmed

■ Dominant performances seal final four spots in Goa Cricket Association Premier Division League

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Chowgule Sports Club and Salgaocar Cricket Club delivered commanding performances in the final league round of the Goa Cricket Association Premier Division One-Day League, as the semi-final line-up was officially confirmed on Sunday. The first semi-final will see Geno Sports Club, who topped Group 1,



take on Margao Cricket Club, the runners-up from Group 2, on the morning of April 29. Later in the day, Chowgule Sports Club will face Salgaocar Cricket Club in the second semi-final clash. At the GCA Academy ground

in Porvorim, Chowgule Sports Club secured a convincing seven-wicket win over Dempo Cricket Club. Batting first, Dempo posted a competitive 283 for 8 in 40 (o), powered by a superb 160 off 112 balls from Abhinav Tej Rana.

## Hat-Trick Hero Powers Shree Damodar Vidyalaya to Commanding South Zone Triumph

■ Clinical all-round performance seals eight-wicket victory in Under-14 President’s Cup final

### Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Shree Damodar Vidyalaya High School delivered a dominant performance to secure the South Zone title in the Under-14 President’s Cup cricket tournament, registering an emphatic eight-wicket win over St. Joseph High School, Mormugao. The final was played at the MCC Ground in Margao on Saturday.

After opting to bat, St. Joseph High School struggled to build momentum and were



bowled out for 124 runs in 24.3 overs. Gandhik Satardekar top-scored with 27 runs, while Aarav Kerkar added 16. Despite brief contributions, the batting side failed to form lasting partnerships, losing wickets at regular intervals. Extras also contributed to pushing their total past the 120

mark.

The highlight of the innings was an exceptional bowling spell from Mohammad Ehtesham, who turned the game decisively in his team’s favour. He picked up five wickets, including a remarkable hat-trick, conceding just 12 runs in 4.3 overs. His impactful

spell dismantled the opposition’s middle order. Abhisek Lamani and captain Rumaan Mulam provided strong support, claiming two wickets each to keep the pressure firmly on the batting side.

Chasing a modest target, Shree Damodar Vidyalaya approached the task with confidence and

composure. Openers Usman Ghani scored a steady 30, while Abhiyan chipped in with 15, giving the team a solid start. The chase was then anchored by captain Rumaan Mulam, who remained unbeaten on 39, alongside Mohammad Ehtesham, who capped off a stellar all-round performance with an unbeaten 37.

The pair built a crucial third-wicket partnership, guiding their side comfortably to 128 for the loss of just two wickets in 20 overs.