



# Goemkarponn

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## CM Pushes GPS Tracking Of Garbage Contractors

■ Sawant Links Village Cleanliness To Statewide Sanitation; Calls For Industry Support To Generate Jobs For Goans

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday announced stricter monitoring of garbage contractors through GPS-based tracking linked to the state's Solid Waste Management facilities, as the government intensified its focus on sanitation, environmental infrastructure and employment generation in Goa. Addressing the Goa Occupational Safety and Health Expo & Summit 2026, Sawant said the government has spent substantial funds on strengthening waste management systems and warned that accountability in garbage collection and disposal would now be closely monitored.



He maintained that keeping villages clean was critical to ensuring overall cleanliness across the state. The Chief Minister said the state is simultaneously expanding infrastructure for chemical and bio-waste treatment, besides developing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) to tackle rising environmental and

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## CM Sawant Stresses Transparency In Panchayat Spending, Backs Solar Push

“ Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday urged village panchayats to maintain complete financial transparency in development works and encouraged local bodies to adopt solar energy initiatives as part of the state's green governance agenda. Addressing a gathering, Sawant said all records related to panchayat expenditure and development projects should remain accessible so that any issues or questions raised during Gram Sabha meetings can be clarified with proper documentation. The Chief Minister stressed that transparency in financial matters would strengthen public trust and ensure greater accountability in the functioning of village panchayats. He also called on panchayats across Goa to install solar panels and promote the use of renewable energy in local administration.

## Mauvin Announces AI Monitoring in Panchayats

Minister Announces Modernisation Drive With 32 New Panchayat Ghars And Expansion Of Online Civic Services

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Panchayat Minister Mauvin Godinho on Wednesday said the Goa government has begun introducing AI-based monitoring systems in village panchayats as part of a wider push to improve transparency, accountability and digital governance at the grassroots level. The Minister said Artificial Intelligence-enabled attendance systems have already been implemented in panchayats to strengthen administrative discipline and ensure greater transparency in daily



functioning. Highlighting infrastructure development in rural local bodies, Godinho said 32 new Panchayat Ghars have been constructed and developed across the state. He added that the facilities would soon be upgraded with modern infrastructure and improved public service amenities.



## Amit Palekar Alleges Large-Scale Deletion of Voters in Goa Constituencies

■ Congress leader urges verification of names, announces assistance drive from May 10

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa Congress leader Amit Palekar has raised concerns over alleged large-scale deletions from electoral rolls in St. Cruz and Panaji constituencies, calling the development “shocking” and urging citizens to verify their voter registration status. In a social media post, Palekar claimed that names of long-time voters, including those who have participated in elections

for over three decades, have been removed. “Was just going through the deleted names from Voters list from St. Cruz Constituency as well as Panaji Constituency and it's shocking. Came across deletion of names of those who have voted for last 3 decades or more,” he said. He further alleged that nearly 5,000 names have been deleted in St. Cruz alone, amounting to around 20 per cent of the electorate.

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## Goa Releases Draft AI Policy for Public Consultation; Targets Global Innovation Hub



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**PANAJI:** The Goa government released its Draft Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy for public consultation, marking a major step under its Goa AI Mission 2027 aimed at positioning the state as a global hub for high-tech innovation. The policy was launched by IT Minister Rohan Khaunte in Panaji and has been developed in just 50 days—well within the government's 100-day commitment. It has been prepared following consultations with industry, academia, and key stakeholders. The draft policy will be open for public feedback for 15 days starting May 4 and will be available

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## Vijai Accuses Govt of Undermining Panchayats on National Panchayati Raj Day

■ Goa Forward chief calls it an “attack on Goa's soul”, vows villages will raise their voice.

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**FATORDA:** Marking National Panchayati Raj Day, Goa Forward Party president and MLA Vijai Sardesai launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led state government, accusing it of systematically weakening panchayati raj institutions and eroding grassroots democracy. Sardesai alleged that



gram sabhas are being sidelined, local voices overridden, and decision-making powers reduced to a mere formality. He said the developments

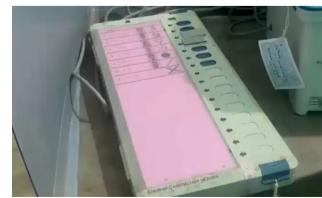
reflect not just a policy lapse but a deeper assault on Goa's long-standing tradition of community-led governance. “Goa stands at a painful crossroads,” Sardesai said, adding that the government's approach amounts to “an attack on Goa's soul and on our proud tradition of self-governance.” He further termed the situation a

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## BJP Slams Trinamool's 'Diamond Harbour Model', Says Symbol 'Taped' At Booths

■ Demand for repolling in Falta as allegations and counterclaims intensify during Bengal voting phase

**Kolkata:** A political controversy has erupted during the ongoing assembly elections in West Bengal, with the Bharatiya Janata Party accusing the Trinamool



Congress of election

malpractice in the Diamond Harbour region. The BJP has alleged that in several polling booths in Falta, the voting option for its party was obstructed,

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# When Goans Become Second Priority in Their Own University

The recent revelation that Goa University has allocated significantly more seats to non-Goan students than to local applicants in its integrated programmes is not just controversial—it is deeply troubling.

At the heart of the issue lies a stark imbalance. As per the admission structure, only 15 seats are allocated to students from Goa, while 35 additional seats are earmarked for candidates from outside the state. This effectively means that in a state-funded university, locals are outnumbered more than two to one by non-locals in certain flagship programmes.

This raises a fundamental question: who is the university meant to serve?

A state university is not merely an academic institution—it is a public investment intended primarily to uplift the educational aspirations of its own people. Goa's students, who grow up within the state's schooling system and contribute through taxes and social participation, should not find themselves competing at a structural disadvantage within their own university.

Defenders of the policy may argue that the additional seats for non-Goans are "supernumerary" and therefore do not reduce the quota for local students. But this technical justification misses the larger point. Access is not just about numbers—it is about opportunity, priority, and intent. When the scale tilts so heavily in favour of outsiders, it sends a clear message: local students are not the priority. This is particularly concerning given Goa's limited higher education infrastructure. Unlike larger states with multiple public universities, Goa relies heavily on a single state-run university to cater to its student population. In such a scenario, any dilution of local access

*The issue also touches upon a broader and increasingly sensitive concern—the gradual marginalisation of Goans in their own state. From rising property prices to employment competition, locals are already grappling with challenges posed by external pressures. When even education, the most basic tool of empowerment, appears skewed, it fuels a deeper sense of alienation*

*There is also a policy contradiction at play. Governments often emphasise inclusive growth and equal opportunity for local youth. Yet, decisions like these seem to move in the opposite direction. If the objective is to promote diversity and national integration, it must not come at the cost of disadvantaging the very population the institution is meant to serve*

has a disproportionately large impact. The issue also touches upon a broader and increasingly sensitive concern—the gradual marginalisation of Goans in their own state. From rising property prices to employment competition, locals are already grappling with challenges posed by external pressures. When even education, the most basic tool of empowerment, appears skewed, it fuels a deeper sense of alienation.

There is also a policy contradiction at play. Governments often emphasise inclusive growth and equal opportunity for local youth. Yet, decisions like these seem to move in the opposite direction. If the objective is to promote diversity and national integration, it must not come at the cost of disadvantaging the very population the institution is meant to serve.

Moreover, the lack of public consultation or transparent justification for such a seat distribution only adds to the concern. Policies affecting access to education must be debated openly, not introduced quietly through admission notifications.

This is not an argument against students from outside Goa. Educational institutions thrive on diversity, and cross-regional exchange is valuable. However, diversity should complement, not compromise, local access. A balanced approach is not just possible—it is necessary.

What is needed now is immediate review and correction. The university and the state government must reassess the seat allocation policy to ensure that Goan students receive fair and reasonable priority. Expanding infrastructure, increasing total intake, or creating separate quotas without imbalance are all viable options—but the current model is clearly flawed. If left unaddressed, this issue risks eroding trust in public institutions. It sends a dangerous signal that even in their own state, Goans must fight harder for opportunities that should rightfully be accessible to them. Education is not just about degrees—it is about dignity, identity, and belonging. When that balance is disturbed, the consequences go far beyond classrooms.

Goa must not reach a point where its own children feel like outsiders in their own university.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Goa BJP Mahila Morcha Protesting - But for Whose Agenda?

The BJP says Women's Reservation should be implemented, but only along with delimitation - otherwise, not at all. The Opposition, led by Congress, says Women's Reservation should be implemented immediately, but are not agreeing to an increase in the current number of Lok Sabha seats. The Opposition is definitely on a moral high point here. Increasing the current strength to around 850 seats, as has been proposed, will be catastrophic for the Country. It would hand even greater political power to the 5-6 northern states that already enjoy overwhelming political numbers. A 50 percent increase for Uttar Pradesh - for instance - could take its tally from 80 to 120 Lok Sabha seats, while Goa may move from 2 to just around 3. Agreeing to this is Political hara-kiri for Goa and other smaller States. So what exactly is the Goa BJP Mahila Morcha protesting against? And for whose benefit? For Goa, this is a lose-lose situation. Has the BJP Mahila Morcha even been told how this numbers game works? Or are Goa's BJP women karyakartas being pushed to protest for an agenda that could weaken Goa's voice in Parliament? The Opposition is completely right here. Why should Women's Reservation be held hostage to delimitation? When Modi took credit for this Bill in 2023, why is its implementation now being stalled by linking it to a contentious and highly dubious exercise that could alter the country's political balance? This looks less like a commitment to women's empowerment and more like a calculated agenda - one where the North Belt consolidates power while the rest of India is pushed further to become completely redundant. Sadly, the Goa BJP Mahila Morcha seems to be marching for it without even realizing what is at stake.

-Sandeep Heble, Panaji, Goa

### Tar Ball Menace Needs Lasting Solution

The resurfacing of tar balls along South Goa's coastline, particularly around Cavelossim and Mobor, is a worrying reminder of a recurring environmental problem that continues to be treated only with temporary measures. While authorities often respond with quick clean-up drives, the issue itself returns year after year. Tar balls are not just unsightly; they indicate deeper marine pollution, most likely linked to oil discharge at sea. Their presence damages Goa's image as a clean beach destination and directly impacts tourism, which remains a backbone of the state's economy. Beyond tourism, the problem affects local livelihoods. Fishermen face operational difficulties, and visitors are left with a negative impression of Goa's coastline. If such incidents continue unchecked, they risk long-term damage to both the environment and the economy. What is most concerning is the lack of a permanent solution. Clean-ups, though necessary, only address the symptom, not the cause. There is an urgent need for stricter monitoring of maritime activities, better coordination between agencies, and firm action against polluters responsible for such contamination. Equally important is the safe disposal of collected tar waste. Without proper handling, the problem could simply shift from the shoreline to another environmental hazard. Goa's beaches are its pride and identity. Protecting them requires more than reactive measures—it demands sustained effort, accountability, and preventive action. The authorities must act decisively before this recurring menace causes irreversible harm.

-Neville Fernandes, Benaulim, Goa

## Tar Balls Return to South Goa Beaches, Triggering Fresh Concerns

■ Swift clean-up at Cavelossim-Mobor, but stakeholders warn of recurring environmental threat.

### Team Goemkarponn

**CAVELOSSIM:** Sticky tar deposits reappeared along parts of South Goa's coastline on Tuesday morning, raising fresh worries among tourism operators, fishermen and local authorities. The otherwise clean Cavelossim-Mobor stretch was found dotted with oil-based lumps, unsettling early visitors including tourists and fishing

communities. Cavelossim Sarpanch Dixon Vaz, who noticed the deposits during his morning walk, said the tar balls were scattered across several sections of the beach. He promptly informed the tourism department and alerted the agency responsible for beach maintenance, calling for immediate action to restore the shoreline. Cleanup operations were launched within hours,

with workers deployed to the affected areas by midday.

The effort gained momentum with support from local stakeholders, including nearby resorts that assisted the panchayat in clearing the загрязнения on priority. Officials later confirmed that most of the affected stretch had been cleaned by evening, allowing regular beach activity to resume.



## Goa to Identify New Mineral Blocks as Next Auction Round Eyes 2027

■ DMG plans fresh survey mid-year; timeline subject to election code ahead of Assembly polls

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Buoyed by the successful auction of 16 mineral blocks across four phases, the Directorate of Mines and Geology (DMG) is preparing to initiate the identification of additional mining blocks around June–July, with the next round of e-auctions tentatively targeted for January 2027. Director of Mines Narayan Gad indicated that the proposed schedule could shift depending on the enforcement of the model code of conduct in the run-up to the Goa Legislative Assembly elections. "Our aim is to conduct the auctions early next year, but this will depend

on the election-related restrictions," he said. The state continues to operate within the Supreme Court-mandated annual cap of 20 million tonnes of iron ore production.

So far, the cumulative environmental clearance (EC) capacity of blocks auctioned through four Notices Inviting Tenders (NITs) is estimated at around 18.5 million tonnes.

Gad added that groundwork for the fifth NIT will commence mid-year, with the Geological Survey of India providing technical assistance to prepare detailed geological assessments of prospective sites.

## High Court Issues Notice To MMC Chief Officer Over Encroachments In Margao

■ Contempt petition alleges failure to remove illegal kiosks and structures from footpaths near Aquem Power House

### Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** The long-pending issue of illegal encroachments on pavements and roadside areas in Margao has once again reached the spotlight after a contempt petition was filed before the High Court against the



Margao Municipal Council (MMC). Senior power department official and civic activist Kashinath Shetye has approached the High Court alleging

non-compliance of earlier court directives regarding the removal of encroachments and kiosks near the Aquem Power House area. Acting on the petition, the High Court has issued notice to MMC Chief Officer Madhu Narvekar, directing him to respond by June 8, 2026.

In the petition, Shetye referred to the High Court's order passed on October 18, 2000 in Writ Petition No. 148 of 1997, along with directions issued on March 6, 2025 in a suo motu PIL concerning illegal encroachments on public spaces.



## Goa Gets Approval For Veterinary College At Kurti

■ Centre Grants Permission For B.V.Sc. & A.H. Course With 40-Student Intake From 2026–27

### Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** In a major boost to veterinary education and animal healthcare infrastructure in the State, the Government of India has granted the Letter of Permission (LoP) for the establishment of the Goa College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at Kurti in Ponda under Goa University.

The approval has been issued by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal

Husbandry and Dairying for starting the Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (B.V.Sc. & A.H.) degree programme with an annual intake capacity of 40 students from the academic year 2026–27.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant welcomed the development and said the institution would play a key role in strengthening veterinary education, livestock services and animal healthcare in Goa.

## Pollution Board Inspects Mapusa Market Sub-Yard Following Civic Group Complaint

### Team Goemkarponn

**MAPUSA:** Officials of the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) conducted an inspection at the Mapusa market sub-yard after a complaint was filed by the civic group Together for Mapusa over alleged



environmental violations and illegal land filling

activities. During the site visit, pollution board officials surveyed the area and collected photographic evidence. Sources in the department said a detailed inspection report would be prepared shortly, following which further action may be initiated depending on the

findings. The inspection comes after members of Together for Mapusa, headed by president Mahesh Rane, met North Goa Collector Ankit Yadav and submitted a memorandum highlighting what they described as serious environmental and civic concerns at the site.

## Min Tawadkar Assures New Home For Widow Family In Marlim

■ Dilapidated Mud House At Poinguinim To Be Rebuilt Under Shramdham Connect Initiative

### Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA:** Minister and Canacona MLA Ramesh Tawadkar on Tuesday visited the remote Marlim area in Poinguinim to inspect a severely dilapidated mud

house belonging to widow Chandrika Gaonkar. The house, located in the Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary region, was found to be in a dangerous condition with extensive internal damage, making it unsafe for habitation. Chandrika

Gaonkar currently resides there with her two children and is reportedly unable to repair or rebuild the house due to financial difficulties. After assessing the family's situation, Tawadkar assured that a new house would be constructed

through collective community efforts under the Shramdham Connect initiative. He said the effort aims to improve the family's living conditions and ensure support reaches those in need in remote areas.



## Builder, Contractor Booked After Labourer Dies in Fall at Construction Site

Police Probe Alleged Negligence Over Lack of Safety Measures at Torda Project.

### Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** Porvorim Police Station has registered a case against a builder and contractor following the death of a labourer who fell from the fourth floor of an under-construction building at Torda in Bardez. The complaint was filed by PSI Arun Shirodkar of Porvorim Police Station after an inquiry into an



unnatural death case registered under Section 194 of the BNSS. According to police, the incident occurred on April 24, 2026, at around 1 pm

at an under-construction site of the 'Nessaa' project at Torda, Bardez. The accused have been identified as Ashish Singh, a resident of Delhi and builder of the project, and contractor Sunder Kumar, resident of Caranzalem, Panaji. Police stated that the accused allegedly failed to provide adequate safety precautions and equipment for labourers working at the site,

including safety belts and helmets. The deceased labourer, identified as Ramesh Lamani (61), originally from Bagalkot district in Karnataka, was reportedly carrying out plastering work on the fourth floor while standing on a wooden plank used as support. During the work, he allegedly lost balance and fell to the ground, sustaining serious injuries.

## Man Held for Alleged Matka Gambling in Panaji

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** A man was arrested by Panaji Police Station police for allegedly operating matka gambling activities in Panaji late Sunday night. According to police, the case was registered on a state complaint filed by Head Constable Anil G. Kurtikar of Panaji Police Station. The incident took place on April 27, 2026, at around 10 pm near Madkaikar Building, Bhatlem, Panaji. Police said the accused, identified as Sandeep Gawas, son of Krishna



Gawas, was allegedly caught red-handed while accepting bets on numerical figures from members of the public at an open public place. During the raid, police seized cash amounting to ₹1,100 along with other matka gambling-related materials from the possession of the accused. He was subsequently placed under arrest.

## Scooter Theft Reported Near Panaji Restaurant

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** A scooter theft case has been registered at the Taste of Telugu Bar & Restaurant after a resident from Mapusa complained that his two-wheeler was stolen from an open parking area in Panaji. According to police, complainant Sanket Nagvekar (25), a resident of Samtanagar, Khorlim, Mapusa, reported that accused Boya Lakshman allegedly stole his red-coloured Yamaha Fascino scooter bearing registration number GA03BD1076. The theft reportedly occurred between February 28 and March 10, 2026, near



the restaurant premises in Panaji, Tiswadi. The stolen scooter, valued at around ₹60,000, was parked in an open parking space at the time of the incident. Police stated that the vehicle details include Engine No. E33SE0956945 and Chassis No. ME1SEL81550011695. Further investigation is being carried out by Head Constable Vishant Mahale of Panaji Police Station.

## Rented Scooter Stolen Near Miramar Circle in Panaji

### Team Goemkarponn

**MIRAMAR:** A scooter theft case has been registered by Panaji Police Station following a complaint by a taxi driver from Arpora alleging that his rented two-wheeler was stolen from an open parking area near Miramar Circle



in Panaji. According to police, complainant Jeevan Divkar (39), a resident of Arpora, Bardez, stated that

accused Anil Tulaskar, son of Devanand Tulaskar, allegedly stole his orange Yamaha Fascino scooter bearing registration number GA03BD2724. The theft reportedly took place on April 25, 2026, between 4 pm and 5 pm at an open parking space opposite Miramar Circle,

Panaji. The stolen scooter is valued at approximately ₹1.15 lakh. Police said the vehicle bears Engine Number E33SE0769812 and Chassis Number ME1SEK71AR0065934. Further investigation in the case is being conducted by HC Pandurang Gawas of Panaji Police Station.

## FIR Registered After House Break-In and Theft in Mercedes

### Team Goemkarponn

**MERCES:** Panaji Police Station has registered an FIR following a house break-in and theft reported from Mercedes in Tiswadi. According to police, complainant Jospine Clement, a resident of



Gauchem Bhat, Mercedes, stated that unknown accused persons allegedly entered his house by breaking open

the back kitchen door during the early hours of April 23. The incident reportedly occurred between 1.30 am and 5 am at the complainant's residence located near the panchayat and behind Goa State Co-operative Bank. Police said the

accused allegedly stole copper utensils, locally known as "Madki", along with other kitchen utensils collectively valued at around ₹10,000. Further investigation in the case is being carried out by PSI Sanket S. Pokhare.

## Man Booked for Knife Assault Outside Vasco Restaurant

### Team Goemkarponn

**VASCO:** A man from Vasco has been booked for allegedly assaulting another person with a knife following an altercation outside a restaurant in Vasco. According to police,



complainant Amir Naik, a resident of Vasco, stated that the incident took place on July 16, 2023, at around 7 pm

outside Friends Corner Restaurant. Police said the accused, identified as Pritam Naik of Vasco, allegedly abused the complainant in filthy language and pushed him during the argument. When the complainant's friend, Vithal Naik,

intervened and questioned the accused over his behaviour, the accused allegedly turned violent and attacked Amir Naik with a knife. The assault reportedly caused injuries to the complainant's cheek and other parts of the body.

## Case Registered Over Hit-and-Run Injuring Community Dog in Porvorim

### Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** A case of alleged animal cruelty has been registered following a hit-and-run incident that left a community dog seriously injured near Hotel Neo Majestic in Porvorim. According to police, the complaint was filed by Stephen Samuel, Field Officer of the District Society For Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals, residing at Tonca, Caranzalem, Panaji. The complainant stated that on April 22, 2026, at around 7.30 pm, an unidentified driver of an unknown



vehicle was proceeding from the internal road near Hotel Neo Majestic towards the main road when the vehicle was allegedly driven in a rash and negligent manner. Police said the vehicle reportedly hit a community dog about 300 metres away from the hotel, causing grievous injuries to the animal.

## FIR Filed After Fake Wedding Guests Steal Gold, Cash Worth Rs 13.65 Lakh in Arambol

### Team Goemkarponn

**ARAMBOL:** Police have registered an FIR after two unidentified men allegedly posed as wedding guests and stole gold ornaments, cash and other valuables worth ₹13.65 lakh during

a wedding ceremony in Arambol. According to the complaint filed by Rohan Naik (39), a resident of Khalchawada, Arambol, the theft occurred on April 26 between 1.15 pm and 1.25 pm inside

the changing room of the Sarvajanic Ganeshotsav Mandal Hall at Madhalawada, Arambol. Police said the accused, aged between 25 and 35 years, attended the complainant's brother's wedding pretending to be



invitees before allegedly stealing a black Louis Philippe zip handbag from inside the hall. The bag reportedly contained a gold necklace, a gold finger ring, a mobile handset and cash of ₹4.5 lakh.

## Goa Women's Forum holds awareness action in Vasco, demands scrapping of DRS

**Team Goemkarponn**

**VASCO:** The Goa Women's Forum (GWF) staged an awareness action in Vasco, calling for the scrapping of the Goa Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS) and urging consumers to oppose its implementation. The programme, held in front of the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) building, saw GWF volunteers interacting with present and former councillors as



well as citizens visiting the municipal office. The initiative marked the launch of GWF's awareness campaign targeting consumers in municipal areas across Goa. Holding placards with slogans such as "Scrap Deposit Refund Scheme

Now", "Deposit Refund Scheme is Anti-People" and "Consumer Boycott will be the response to DRS", volunteers outlined their objections to the proposed system.

They argued that unlike in other countries, where consumers receive

direct value for returning packaging through reverse vending machines without additional requirements, the Goa model proposes advance deposits and mandatory submission of personal details

GWF members claimed that under the proposed system, consumers would be required to provide mobile numbers and bank account details, which they said could create inconvenience and discourage participation.

## MP Jagadish Shettar felicitates logistics professionals at Incomex 2026 in Hubballi

**Team Goemkarponn**

**VASCO:** Jerome Clement, Traffic Manager at Mormugao Port Authority, and Raghoba A. Kotkar, Vice President of Delta Ports, were felicitated at the Industries and Commerce Exhibition "Incomex 2026" held in Hubballi, Karnataka, in recognition of their contributions to the transport and logistics



sector.

The felicitation was carried out by Karnataka MP and Former Chief minister Jagadish Shettar during the exhibition organised by the Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The event brought together industry leaders, policymakers and stakeholders from across the country, providing a platform to discuss developments and challenges in commerce and infrastructure.

Jerome Clement and Raghoba A. Kotkar were recognised for their work in strengthening port operations and logistics networks, contributing to improved efficiency in cargo movement and trade facilitation.



## CM Sawant Inaugurates Maha Loan Mela at Sankhali

**■ Scheme Aims to Boost Women-Led Rural Entrepreneurship Through Easy Access to Finance.**

**Team Goemkarponn**

**SANKHALI:** Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday inaugurated a Maha Loan Mela organised under the Goa State Rural Livelihood Mission at Navelim Panchayat in Sankhali, aimed at empowering women and self-help groups through financial assistance and entrepreneurship support. The initiative was organised in collaboration with partner banks and financial institutions, with participation from women entrepreneurs and members of various self-help groups (SHGs). The Chief Minister also congratulated the Surabhi MCLF Co-operative Multipurpose Society and participating institutions for supporting the programme. Addressing

the gathering, Dr. Sawant said the initiative would strengthen "Nari Shakti" by ensuring easier access to finance, on-the-spot banking support and opportunities for women to establish and expand businesses in sectors such as tailoring, food processing, dairy and agriculture. "When women rise, Goa rises. We are working towards a Swayampurna Goa and Viksit Bharat by creating opportunities for financial independence and rural entrepreneurship," the Chief Minister said. He further stated that the government is focusing on creating a strong ecosystem for rural enterprises through institutional support, technical guidance and market linkages to help women-led ventures grow sustainably.



## Youth Congress Organises Beach Clean-Up Drive

**■ Party workers participate in initiative promoting environmental awareness and coastal cleanliness**

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANACONA:** The Canacona Block Youth Congress conducted a cleanliness drive at Patnem Beach as the tourism season nears its annual slowdown, reaffirming its commitment towards environmental protection and maintaining clean coastal spaces.

The initiative was organised at Patnem, one of the prominent municipal beaches in Canacona, with Youth

Congress members and local volunteers participating in the clean-up activity

The drive was held in the presence of Goa State in-charge and youth leader Swapnil Patil, State Vice-President Vaishnav Pednekar, South Goa District President Pralay Bhagat, NSY President Tejas Desai and several Youth Congress workers, including Ratnakar Gaonkar, Hrishikesh Pednekar, Rajat Gaonkar and Vijay Velip.

## Shri Mallikarjun Vidyalaya High School Records 100% Result in SSC Examination '26

# 100% RESULTS

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANACONA:** Shri Mallikarjun Vidyalaya High School has achieved a remarkable milestone by securing a 100% pass result in the SSC Examination 2026.

Leading the batch with distinction, Ms. Vaishnavi D. Komarpant secured 92.18%. She was followed by Master Raghav M. Sawant with 90.50% and Master Sidhant K. Velip with 79.83%. Interestingly, the vidyalaya takes pride in the commendable performance of other students, including Ms. Kanishka P. Desai (79.67%), Ms. Puja S. Kujur (76.67%), Master Aadi S. Metri (75.50%),

and Master Suharsh S. Bhairali (75%), all of whom contributed to the school's overall success.

Chairman of the Centro Promoter De Instrucao (CPI), School Managing Committee, Shamba M. Naik Dessai, extending his heartfelt congratulations to the students and the entire staff of C.P.I. for this outstanding achievement said, 'This outstanding accomplishment reflects the dedication and perseverance of the students, along with the consistent guidance and support provided by the school's teaching staff, and more importantly consistent encouragement provided by parents'.



## North Goa DLCC Reviews Progress of PM Surya Ghar Scheme

**■ Focus Laid on Rooftop Solar Expansion and Model Solar Village Implementation.**

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The third meeting of the North Goa District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) was held under the chairmanship of North Goa Collector Ankit Yadav to review the implementation of renewable energy initiatives in the state. The meeting was attended by officials from the Electricity Department and Goa Energy Development

Agency (GEDA), along with the Chief Electrical Engineer, Superintending Engineer, Lead District Manager, representatives of Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other DLCC members. Discussions during the meeting centred on reviewing the progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in Goa and exploring measures to boost rooftop solar installations across the state.

# Goa's Daughter Sadhvi Sail Returns Home After Winning Miss India World 2026

State prepares vibrant reception and cultural events to honour national title winner.



## Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa is gearing up for a proud and celebratory homecoming as Sadhvi Sail returns after winning the prestigious Miss India World 2026 title, bringing national recognition to the state.

Representing Goa on the national stage, Sadhvi Sail's achievement has been widely celebrated as a moment of pride, highlighting her grace, confidence and dedication. Her success is being seen as a source of inspiration, especially for

young women aspiring to pursue their dreams. She is scheduled to arrive on April 30 at Goa International Airport in Dabolim, where a grand *स्वागत* is planned. Family members, supporters and well-wishers are expected to gather in large numbers to welcome her. A ceremonial procession will follow, leading to Shri Damodar Temple, where she will seek blessings. The homecoming celebrations will extend over two days, featuring a series of events designed to honour her achievement while

showcasing Goa's culture and heritage. On the day of arrival, she will participate in a reception with supporters and later interact with the media during a press meet in the evening.

On May 1, the programme includes a visit to a prominent church in Goa, symbolising harmony and gratitude. She will also tour key cultural and scenic locations, promoting Goa's tourism, cuisine and architectural heritage. Interactions with youth and admirers are planned as part of the outreach.

The celebrations will conclude with a gala dinner at Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon, attended by dignitaries, industry leaders and invited guests.

Family members expressed heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming support received, noting that the achievement is shared by the people of Goa. The occasion is expected to serve as both a tribute to her success and a motivating moment for the next generation to aim high while representing Goa on larger platforms.

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## Amit Palekar Alleges Large-Scale Deletion of Voters in Goa Constituencies

"This seems to be deliberate attempt by Election Commission of India to rig election process," Palekar stated. Highlighting individual cases, he mentioned a senior citizen from Panaji whose

name was allegedly removed despite voting consistently since liberation.

He also questioned the role of booth-level officers (BLOs), claiming that responsibility was being denied.

## Goa Releases Draft AI Policy for Public Consultation; Targets Global Innovation Hub

on the State Portal, Goa Online, and the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (DITE&C) website. Students, entrepreneurs, experts, and citizens have been invited to share their suggestions.

Speaking at the launch, IT Minister Rohan Khaunte said, "This policy reflects our vision to make Goa a leader in emerging technologies while ensuring that AI adoption is responsible, inclusive, and focused on creating opportunities. Our

## BJP Slams Trinamool's 'Diamond Harbour Model', Says Symbol 'Taped' At Booths

claiming that buttons on electronic voting machines were taped, preventing voters from casting their votes freely. The party has termed this alleged practice as the "Diamond Harbour Model," referring to the constituency represented by Abhishek Banerjee. Amit Malviya, the BJP's media in-charge, has called for repolling in

all affected booths, stating that such actions undermine the integrity of the electoral process and restrict voter choice. The allegations have been strongly denied by the Trinamool Congress. Party representatives dismissed the claims and instead raised concerns over the functioning of election authorities and security observers.

## Vijai Accuses Govt of Undermining Panchayats on National Panchayati Raj Day

"betrayal," asserting that democratic structures at the village level are being dismantled. Warning of resistance, Sardesai said that people in villages would not

remain silent. "We will not stay silent as democracy at the grassroots is dismantled. Goa's villages will rise, and their voice will be heard," he added.



## Young Siblings from Vasco Shine with Remarkable Achievements

Vanya and Gitesh Satardekar earn recognition across sports, arts and fashion platforms.

### Team Goemkarponn

**Vasco:** Siblings Vanya Girish Satardekar and Gitesh Girish Satardekar from Mormugao are making Goa proud with their exceptional achievements at a very young age, earning recognition across multiple fields. Nine-year-old Vanya Girish Satardekar has emerged as a national-level Taekwondo medalist and a standout performer in fashion pageants, holding titles at international, national and state levels. Beyond her success on stage, she has also excelled in academics and extracurricular activities, including Abacus, state-level yoga, classical dance and art. Her all-round accomplishments have earned her the prestigious Manohar Parrikar Goa Ratna Puraskar 2026, presented at Tiara Vista India 2026 in association with JCI Panaji Goa. Her younger brother, three-year-old Gitesh Girish Satardekar, has also begun his journey



with impressive success. He secured titles such as Master Goa and Fashion Model of India at the age of two. Continuing his winning streak, he recently achieved the position of second runner-up along with the "Talented" title at Tiara Vista India. Together, the siblings have showcased remarkable talent, discipline and confidence, bringing pride to their family and the state.

Their achievements at such an early age highlight their potential and set an inspiring example for young talents across Goa.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

## CM Pushes GPS Tracking Of Garbage Contractors

sanitation concerns. In a parallel push towards employment, Sawant said around 1,300 vacancies were generated during a mega job fair held at the Verna Industrial Estate in collaboration with GHRDC, with participation from 25 companies. He said appointment letters for selected candidates would be issued shortly and urged industries

to partner with the government in increasing employment opportunities for Goan youth. He further announced that similar recruitment initiatives would soon be introduced in other industrial estates across Goa. Highlighting workplace welfare, Sawant said industrial growth cannot be separated from worker protection and safety.

## “India Extends Rs 30 Billion Lifeline”: Maldives Gets Fresh Currency Support Boost

■ Swap facility under SAARC framework aims to strengthen economic stability and ease external pressures.

**New Delhi:** India has approved a Rs 30 billion currency swap drawdown for Maldives, reinforcing its role as a key economic partner and providing crucial support to the island nation's financial stability.

The assistance has been extended under the INR Swap Window of the SAARC Currency Swap Framework for 2024 to 2027, an arrangement designed to help member countries manage liquidity challenges.

The move comes alongside the Maldives successfully repaying a 400 million dollar swap facility it had availed earlier under a separate US Dollar and Euro



window. Officials in Male stated that the repayment reflects the government's commitment to meeting its financial obligations, while the newly approved facility is expected to strengthen foreign exchange reserves and support macroeconomic stability.

The agreement was formalised between the Reserve Bank of India and the Maldives Monetary Authority during President Mohamed Muizzu's visit

to India in October 2024. Authorities noted that the funds will help the Maldives navigate global economic uncertainties, including the impact of geopolitical developments in West Asia.

Since the introduction of the SAARC swap mechanism in 2012, India has extended substantial financial assistance to the Maldives, with total support crossing 1.1 billion dollars.

## “Focus on Peace Along LAC”: Rajnath Singh Engages China at SCO Meet

■ Defence talks in Bishkek highlight border stability and wider regional security concerns

**New Delhi:** Rajnath Singh held key discussions with Dong Jun on maintaining stability along the Line of Actual Control and addressing broader regional security challenges during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers' meeting.

The interaction comes at a time when India and China are working to improve ties following tensions in recent years. Both sides exchanged views on the evolving global and regional security environment, including developments in West Asia, while emphasising the importance of peace in border areas. Relations between the two countries had come under strain



after the Galwan Valley clash. Since then, sustained diplomatic and military dialogue has led to disengagement at several friction points in eastern Ladakh, including agreements covering areas such as Depsang and Demchok. On the sidelines of the meeting, Singh also held discussions with Andrei Belousov, focusing on ongoing defence cooperation, including the supply of the S-400 missile system.

India had earlier signed a major deal with Russia for multiple units of the system, with further deliveries expected soon. In addition, the Defence Minister met Viktor Khrenin to discuss expanding bilateral defence collaboration, particularly in training and capacity building. Separate engagements were also held with counterparts from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to strengthen existing partnerships.



## Probe Launched After Pro-Pakistan Poster Video Surfaces in Doda

■ Authorities verify authenticity of viral clip as investigation intensifies in Jammu and Kashmir

**New Delhi:** Security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir have launched an investigation after a video allegedly showing a pro-Pakistan poster in the Pul Doda area surfaced online, triggering concern among authorities.

The viral clip reportedly features a poster displaying images of Shehbaz Sharif and Asim Munir. The poster is said to have been placed on a parapet and contains messages praising Pakistan's role in regional matters, along with references to Kashmir. According to officials,

the content of the poster includes language that could potentially disturb public order. In response, Doda Police have registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and initiated a detailed probe. Authorities are currently working to determine whether the video is genuine or digitally manipulated. Investigators are examining the clip's origin, including its geo-tagged location, to establish whether the incident actually took place at the reported site.

## “India Moves Closer to an Impenetrable Shield”: Fourth S-400 Set to Strengthen Air Defence

■ Deployment along western borders signals major leap in layered security and surveillance capability

**New Delhi:** India is set to receive its fourth S-400 Triumf squadron in May 2026, marking a significant step toward building one of the most advanced multi-layered air defence networks in the world. The system, supplied by Russia, will be deployed along the western frontier,



enhancing surveillance and interception capabilities across sensitive regions bordering Pakistan.

The new squadron is expected to cover Punjab and Rajasthan, areas where flat terrain has historically posed

challenges for early detection of aerial threats. Equipped with advanced radar systems capable of tracking hundreds of targets at long distances, the deployment aims to eliminate coverage gaps and provide a stronger early-warning system against missiles, drones and aircraft.

## “Deplorable Attacks on Shipping”: India Raises Alarm Over Hormuz Disruptions at UNSC

■ Calls for safe navigation and diplomacy as tensions threaten trade, energy and Indian lives.

**New Delhi:** India strongly condemned attacks on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, describing such actions as unacceptable and harmful to global trade and security. Addressing the United Nations Security Council, India urged immediate steps to ensure the safety of

maritime routes and restore free navigation. India's Deputy Permanent Representative Yojna Patel stated that targeting commercial shipping and endangering civilian crew members cannot be justified under any circumstances. She emphasised that such incidents disrupt vital

economic lifelines and pose serious risks to international commerce. While not naming any country directly, India referred to its earlier support for a UN resolution that condemned attacks linked to Iran. The remarks come amid reports of assaults on vessels in the region,



including incidents involving Indian ships and casualties among Indian sailors.

India highlighted the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime corridor through which a significant portion of global oil and gas supplies passes.

## “Gill’s Calm Leadership Stands Out”: Anuj Rawat Praises Gujarat Titans Captain

■ Wicketkeeper-batter highlights improved captaincy, preparation mindset ahead of key IPL clash

**Ahmedabad:** Anuj Rawat has praised Shubman Gill for his evolving leadership, noting a clear improvement in the young captain’s approach as Gujarat Titans prepare for a crucial fixture in the Indian Premier League. Speaking ahead of their match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Rawat emphasised the importance of consistent preparation and mental readiness during a



long tournament. He highlighted that staying physically and mentally

fresh plays a key role in capitalising on opportunities when they arise. Reflecting on Gill’s captaincy, Rawat pointed to a noticeable sense of maturity and composure. He observed that the skipper has developed a strong ability to balance aggression with calm decision-making, which has positively influenced the team environment. Rawat also credited batting coach Matthew

Hayden for helping him refine his power-hitting skills. He explained that his role in the middle order requires finishing innings strongly, and the guidance he has received has focused on improving technique to generate greater hitting power. In addition, Rawat singled out teammate Glenn Phillips for his exceptional fielding, describing him as a standout performer in the field.

## “It Wasn’t Our Day”: Shreyas Iyer Admits Bowling Lapses After PBKS Suffer First Defeat

■ Punjab Kings captain calls loss a learning curve despite strong batting effort in high-scoring clash

**New Delhi:** Shreyas Iyer acknowledged shortcomings in bowling execution after Punjab Kings suffered their first defeat of the Indian Premier League 2026 season, losing to Rajasthan Royals by six wickets. Despite posting a formidable total of 222 for 4, Punjab Kings were unable to defend

the score. Iyer described the loss as a learning experience, emphasising the need to stay positive and move forward without overanalyzing the setback. He noted that the team has previously succeeded in both



chasing and defending high totals, calling this defeat an off day. Punjab’s innings was powered by strong contributions from Marcus Stoinis, who remained unbeaten with a quickfire 62, and Prabhsimran Singh, who added 59. However, Rajasthan’s aggressive chase turned the game around, with impactful knocks from Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi setting the tone early.

## “Covering Mouth Could Mean Red Card”: FIFA Introduces Tough Anti-Racism Rule

■ New World Cup regulations target misconduct, protests, and discriminatory behaviour on the field.

**New Delhi:** FIFA has announced strict new rules for the upcoming FIFA World Cup, introducing red card penalties for players who cover their mouths during confrontations, as part of a broader effort to curb racism in football.

The decision was finalised following discussions with the International Football Association Board. Under the new regulation, referees may send off players who conceal their mouths while speaking during heated exchanges, especially if such actions are suspected to hide abusive or discriminatory remarks.

The move follows recent controversies in club football, including an incident involving Vinicius Junior,

which intensified calls for stronger measures against racism. Football authorities believe that covering the mouth during altercations raises suspicion of inappropriate language and should be treated seriously.

Gianni Infantino has backed the rule, stating that players should be held accountable for their conduct and that

there should be no room for hidden offensive remarks on the pitch.

In a separate change, FIFA also confirmed that players who walk off the field in protest against refereeing decisions could face immediate red cards.

The rule extends to team officials who encourage such actions.



## “Young Tigresses Ready for Asian Challenge”: India U17 Women Arrive in Suzhou

**Suzhou:** The India U17 Women’s National Football Team has arrived in Suzhou for the AFC U17 Women’s Asian Cup China 2026, marking a significant return to the continental stage after more than two decades. The team, which recently completed a preparatory camp in Gurugram, touched down on April 27 and is set to begin training immediately as they gear up for their Group B campaign. India will open their tournament

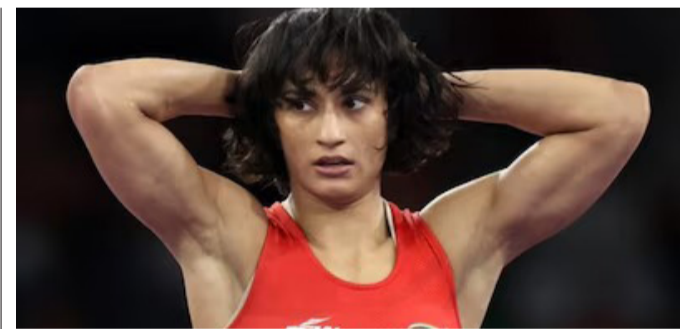
against Australia on May 2, followed by matches against Japan on May 5 and Lebanon on May 8. All fixtures will be held at the Suzhou Taihu Football Sports Centre. Qualification for the tournament marks a major milestone, with the side returning to the competition after 21 years. The stakes are high, as the top teams from the tournament will secure qualification for the FIFA U17 Women’s World Cup Morocco 2026.

## “India U17 Hold Qatar to Goalless Draw”: Blue Colts Wrap Up Preparations on Steady Note

**Doha:** The India U17 Men’s National Football Team played out a goalless draw against Qatar in their second international friendly at the Suheim bin Hamad Stadium, concluding their pre-tournament preparations on a disciplined note. The closely contested encounter saw both sides testing each other’s defensive organisation, but neither team managed to find the breakthrough. India displayed improved structure and composure, particularly at the back, to keep a clean sheet against a competitive opponent. This was the



Blue Colts’ final outing before heading into the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026. In their previous friendly, India had held Qatar to a 1-1 draw, reflecting consistent performances across both matches. With preparations now complete, India will shift focus to their opening group-stage clash against Australia on May 6 in Jeddah.



## “Vinesh Phogat Confirms Return”: Star Wrestler Registers for Gonda Tournament Amid WFI Row

**New Delhi:** Vinesh Phogat has confirmed her participation in the upcoming national ranking tournament in Gonda, bringing clarity to recent confusion surrounding her entry amid an ongoing dispute with the Wrestling Federation of India. The wrestler had earlier alleged that she was being prevented from registering for the competition. However, officials from

the federation maintained that technical issues with the online portal had affected multiple athletes, delaying the process for several participants. Phogat stated that she was able to complete her registration only after the link became accessible again. According to her, the process was finalised on Tuesday morning, allowing her to confirm her participation in the event.