



# BJP BREACHES BENGAL;

## VIJAY

## BLOCKBUSTER IN TN



**New Delhi:** The 2026 Assembly election results are pointing towards a major political reshaping across India, with the Bharatiya Janata Party gaining decisive ground in West Bengal, actor C. Joseph Vijay's party making a dramatic debut in Tamil Nadu, and

TAMIL NADU  
**109**  
**234**

ASSAM	KERALA	PUNJAB	TAMIL NADU	WEST BENGAL
Assembly Constituencies 127 / 126	Assembly Constituencies 127 / 140	Assembly Constituencies 147 / 130	Assembly Constituencies 226 / 234	Assembly Constituencies 297 / 294
Parties Leading Won	Parties Leading Won	Parties Leading Won	Parties Leading Won	Parties Leading Won
BJP 78 1	INC 55 7	AIAP 0 9	TVK 109 0	BJP 193 0
INC 34 0	CP(M) 25 3	IND 2 1	ADMK 59 0	AITC 94 0
BOPF 9 1	KMA 21 1	BJP 1 1	DMK 49 0	AJP 2 0
ADP 8 0	CHI 8 0	INC 0 1	PMK 5 0	INC 1 0
AUDF 2 0	KCC 7 0	LJK 1 0	INC 4 0	CP(M) 1 0

the Indian National Congress leading the race in Kerala. In West Bengal, early counting trends show the BJP crossing the majority mark in the 294 seat Assembly, signalling a potential end to the long rule of the All India Trinamool Congress led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The result, if confirmed, would mark a

**People have reposed faith in PM Modi, says Sawant after poll trends**



**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday said the electorate has reaffirmed its trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi following the NDA's strong performance in the ongoing Assembly election trends across five states.

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**BJP closes in on Bengal breakthrough, Vijay stuns Tamil Nadu in debut, Congress poised for comeback in Kerala**



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# Goa's Tigers Are Dying : The State Cannot Look Away

Another tiger has been found dead in Goa. This time in Dharbandora, with its teeth and nails missing, raising fresh suspicions of poaching. The discovery is disturbing, but it is hardly unprecedented. Goa has seen too many tiger deaths over the years for this latest case to be dismissed as an isolated tragedy.

The uncomfortable truth is that Goa's forests have become increasingly dangerous for the very wildlife they are supposed to protect.

For years, successive governments have tried to avoid acknowledging Goa as a serious tiger habitat. Officially, the argument has often been that tigers merely "pass through" the State from neighbouring Karnataka and Maharashtra and that Goa does not have a resident tiger population. Yet the repeated deaths of tigers inside Goa's forests tell a different story. Animals do not keep dying in landscapes where they supposedly do not belong.

The latest case once again exposes the contradictions in the State's approach to conservation. On one hand, Goa proudly markets its forests and biodiversity. On the other, it has consistently resisted stronger legal protection for key wildlife areas, especially the long pending proposal for a tiger reserve in the Mhadei landscape.

That hesitation has come at a cost.

The most shocking reminder came in 2020, when four tiger deaths were reported in quick succession in and around Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary. Among them was a tigress and her cubs, allegedly poisoned. The incident drew national attention and forced central authorities to intervene. The National Tiger Conservation Authority later issued strong observations about the state of wildlife protection in Goa.

The findings were uncomfortable. The report criticised weak monitoring systems, inadequate scientific management, lack of proper protection mechanisms and poor preparedness within the Forest Department. It noted that despite the ecological importance of the Mhadei region, conservation efforts remained fragmented and insufficient. The central team effectively warned that Goa risked becoming unsafe for tigers if urgent corrective steps were not taken.

Years later, very little appears to have changed.

The larger issue is not merely poaching. It is the absence of a coherent conservation vision. Goa today finds itself trapped between environmental responsibility and political hesitation. Governments fear backlash from sections opposed to the declaration of a

*"For years, successive governments have tried to avoid acknowledging Goa as a serious tiger habitat. Officially, the argument has often been that tigers merely "pass through" the State from neighbouring Karnataka and Maharashtra and that Goa does not have a resident tiger population. Yet the repeated deaths of tigers inside Goa's forests tell a different story. Animals do not keep dying in landscapes where they supposedly do not belong.*

*The latest case once again exposes the contradictions in the State's approach to conservation. On one hand, Goa proudly markets its forests and biodiversity."*

tiger reserve. Concerns about land rights, livelihoods and restrictions on development are repeatedly amplified. But instead of addressing these concerns through consultation and balanced policy, the easier route has been delay and denial.

Meanwhile, the forests continue to shrink under pressure.

Linear infrastructure projects, railway expansion, highways, transmission lines, mining interests and tourism driven construction have steadily fragmented wildlife habitats across the Western Ghats belt in Goa. Forest corridors that once allowed

safe movement for animals are now increasingly vulnerable. Tigers moving through these areas become exposed not only to poachers but also to human conflict, traps and habitat stress.

This is where the State's contradiction becomes impossible to ignore. Goa wants the ecological prestige of rich biodiversity without accepting the responsibility that comes with protecting it.

The reality is simple. Tigers are apex predators. Their presence indicates the health of an ecosystem. If tigers are dying unnaturally, it reflects deeper ecological distress. A forest where poaching networks operate unchecked or where wildlife protection remains weak is a forest under threat in every sense.

Goa has witnessed this before. In earlier instances too, tiger carcasses were recovered under suspicious circumstances, including cases involving poisoning and mutilation. Each episode triggered outrage for a few days before fading from public attention. Investigations slowed, accountability weakened and political focus shifted elsewhere.

That cycle cannot continue.

What makes the latest death especially alarming is the condition in which the carcass was found. Missing teeth and nails immediately raise the possibility of illegal wildlife trade. Even if investigations are ongoing, such signs point toward organised criminal activity rather than accidental death. Wildlife trafficking networks do not emerge overnight. They survive where enforcement gaps exist.

Goa's forests are ecologically critical not only for the State but for the larger Western Ghats landscape. They form an important corridor connecting tiger habitats across state boundaries. Protecting these forests is therefore not optional environmental idealism. It is a national conservation responsibility.

The State government must now decide whether it wants to confront reality or continue avoiding it. Better anti poaching systems, stronger field surveillance, scientific monitoring and faster wildlife crime investigations are essential. Equally important is political clarity. Goa cannot indefinitely oppose stronger protection measures while repeatedly dealing with tiger deaths.

A tiger found dead with its claws and teeth removed is not just another wildlife story. It is a symbol of institutional failure.

If Goa continues to treat each death as an isolated event instead of recognising the larger pattern, the consequences will only grow more severe. The forests are already sending a warning. The question is whether anyone in power is prepared

## EDITOR'S SPEAK

### Firm Action Needed Against Those Hurting Religious Sentiments

The Goa police were right in filing FIRs against individuals accused of hurting Hindu religious sentiments. Freedom of expression is important in a democracy, but it cannot become an excuse for making irresponsible or offensive remarks about any religion. Across the country, people are becoming increasingly sensitive to statements that target their faith and beliefs. In a diverse society like India, public figures, activists and social media users must understand that words carry consequences.

Deliberately provocative comments can disturb communal harmony and create unnecessary tension among communities. Goa has always been known for peace and coexistence among different religions. Maintaining that harmony requires strict and timely action whenever any group feels insulted or targeted. If authorities fail to act, it can lead to anger, protests and a breakdown of law and order. Filing FIRs in such matters sends a clear message that no one is above the law and that religious sentiments deserve respect. At the same time, the law must be applied equally to all communities and all religions. Any insult directed at Hinduism, Islam, Christianity or any other faith should be treated with the same seriousness. Selective action only creates mistrust and division. Public debate and criticism are acceptable in a democracy, but mocking religious beliefs in the name of free speech should not be normalised. Responsible speech is essential for preserving social peace.

The Goa police deserve support for acting swiftly before the situation escalated further.

- Rohan Naik, Ponda, Goa

### Respect the Media, Even in Disagreement

The remarks reportedly made by Gautam Khatta against Goan journalists and sections of the media after securing bail from the Vasco court are deeply unfortunate and irresponsible. Criticising news coverage is every citizen's right, especially if one believes reporting has been unfair or biased. However, branding journalists as unethical and accusing the entire media fraternity of lacking decorum is both unfair and damaging. Such sweeping statements undermine the role of the press in a democracy. Goan journalists work under difficult conditions, often covering politically sensitive issues, crime, corruption and public controversies while facing pressure from multiple sides. Like every profession, journalism too may have shortcomings in individual cases, but it is wrong to paint the entire media with the same brush simply because coverage appears uncomfortable or unfavourable. Public figures, especially those involved in legal controversies, must recognise that media scrutiny is part of democratic accountability. Courts decide guilt or innocence, but journalists have every right to report developments that are in the public interest. Attacking the credibility of the media after receiving bail only creates unnecessary hostility and distracts from the actual legal process. If Gautam Khatta had concerns about factual inaccuracies or unethical reporting, there are proper legal and institutional mechanisms available to seek redress. Publicly insulting journalists serves no constructive purpose. Goa has a vibrant and independent media culture that has historically played an important role in protecting public interest. Attempts to discredit journalists collectively should be firmly rejected.

- Sandeep Borkar, Vasco, Goa

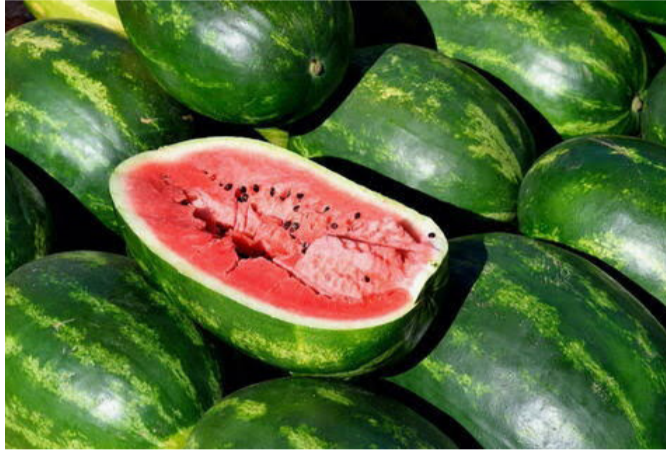
# FDA Cracks Down To Ease 'Watermelon Panic' In Goa

■ State Intensifies Market Checks, Urges Public Not To Fall For Rumours

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goa's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has stepped up surveillance across fruit markets following widespread concern over the safety of watermelons, sparked by a recent incident in Mumbai.

The fear gained momentum after reports linked a family's deaths to possible food poisoning, with watermelon initially suspected. This led to a noticeable decline in demand and anxiety among consumers, even though the exact cause



has not been established.

In response, FDA teams in Goa have begun inspecting vendors and sampling produce to ensure food safety standards are being met.

Officials have clarified that, so far, there is no indication of contamination or harmful substances in watermelons sold within the state. Authorities stressed that the

investigation into the Mumbai case is still ongoing and warned against drawing premature conclusions.

They appealed to the public to rely on verified information rather than circulating unconfirmed claims. Consumers have been encouraged to maintain basic hygiene practices such as thoroughly washing fruits before consumption and buying from trusted sellers. Vendors, on their part, have been advised to act responsibly and don't spread misinformation that could trigger panic.



## Goa, Karnataka Set For Fresh Tussle Over Coastal Islands

■ Parallel surveys and tourism plans spark jurisdiction concerns along Karwar-Bhatkal belt

Team Goemkarponn

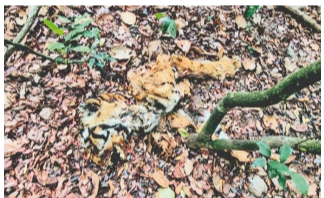
**PANAJI:** A renewed territorial disagreement is taking shape between Goa and Karnataka over a cluster of islands located off the Karwar-Bhatkal coastline, with both states moving to assert their presence in the region.

The issue has gained momentum after Karnataka carried out a detailed mapping exercise of several offshore islands and began exploring their potential for tourism development. The move has prompted a response from Goa, which is now preparing to conduct its own assessment of islands believed to fall within its limits.

Officials in Karnataka have already catalogued multiple islands, assigning them names and

survey identifiers, while describing the initiative as a significant administrative step. Some of the names are derived from long-standing references used by local fishing communities.

In Goa, the state government has directed departments to verify territorial boundaries and examine the status of these islands. Authorities are also considering consulting central agencies to clarify jurisdiction and regulatory aspects before proceeding further. Karnataka, however, has maintained that the islands lie within its territory and has indicated it will continue with its plans. At the same time, it has signalled that any external survey activity would require formal clearance.



## Tiger carcass found in Goa forest, postmortem conducted

**DHARBANDORA:** A tiger carcass discovered in a forested area of Dharbandora prompted swift action from authorities, with a postmortem conducted to determine the cause of death.

Forest officials and veterinary experts reached the site soon after the animal was reported and carried out the examination as per prescribed wildlife procedures. The carcass was found in a decomposed condition, indicating that the death may have occurred several days earlier.

Due to the state of the remains, officials said the exact cause could not be established on the spot. However, samples collected during the postmortem have been sent for further forensic and toxicological analysis.

Authorities stated that the findings of the postmortem will be crucial in ascertaining whether the death was natural or involved any external factors. The case has been documented.

## Crime branch to chargesheet PSI Shirvoikar in Edberg assault case

■ Custodial violence probe reaches final stage; CCTV, medical findings and witness statements to back prosecution

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa Police Crime Branch is preparing to submit a chargesheet against suspended Police Sub-Inspector Nilesh Shirvoikar in the alleged assault of Edberg Pereira, a case that has drawn significant public attention over claims of custodial violence.

The incident dates back to October 2025 at the Margao Town Police



Station, where Pereira, a resident of Navelim, suffered serious injuries while in police custody. Initial explanations suggested he was injured after a fall, but doubts over

the version of events led to calls for an independent probe. Amid growing pressure, a formal case was registered against the officer, invoking sections related to causing injury and misuse of official authority.

After taking over the case, the Crime Branch carried out a detailed inquiry, recording statements from police staff and others present at the station.

## Subletting trend dents shack business in North Goa

■ Operators link falling standards and early closures to outsourcing and drop in foreign tourists

Team Goemkarponn

**CALANGUTE:** Beach shack owners in North Goa have raised concerns that the increasing practice of subleasing licensed shacks is hurting both revenue and service quality across the sector.

Representatives of local bodies say several licence holders are choosing to rent out their shacks to outside operators for high returns rather than running them themselves. This arrangement, they claim, has weakened



responsibility on the ground and led to a noticeable decline in standards, especially toward the end of the tourist season. John Lobo, general secretary of the Shack Owners

Welfare Society (SOWS), said the issue has been repeatedly brought to the government's attention. He stressed that firm enforcement is needed so that only those genuinely interested in operating

shacks retain licences.

Industry estimates suggest that a large number of shacks along the Calangute-Candolim belt have already shut operations, largely due to a significant fall in foreign tourist arrivals. Of the total establishments, only those in busy stretches such as Baga, the main Calangute beachfront and parts of Candolim continue to see steady footfall, mainly driven by domestic visitors.

Although authorities had taken action in 2025 by cancelling licences in cases of illegal subletting, operators say the practice

still continues in various pockets.

Manuel Cardozo, who heads the Traditional Shack Owners Association, questioned why certain shacks remain open despite low customer turnout. He noted that several units in areas like Tivaiwaddo had closed earlier in the season due to lack of business. Stakeholders also pointed to a broader slowdown in international tourism, attributing it to global uncertainties and increased travel expenses.

# Cousin Killed in Brutal Axe Attack Following Dispute in Borim

■ Police Launch Hunt for Main Accused After Fatal Assault Near Ponda-Margao Highway

Team Goemkarponn

**BORIM:** A violent quarrel between two cousins in Borim ended in a gruesome murder on Sunday, after a 58-year-old man was allegedly attacked with an axe near the Sai Baba temple area along the Ponda-Margao highway. The deceased has been identified as Deepak Raya Naik, a



resident of Khajorda, Borim. According to Goa Police, the prime accused, Gauresh Kushan Naik, 20, fled the scene after the attack and is currently absconding. Police have meanwhile detained his

brother, Saideep Naik, in connection with the case.

Investigators said the incident stemmed from an ongoing dispute within the family. What reportedly began as a verbal confrontation quickly escalated into violence, during which the accused allegedly struck Deepak on the neck with a sharp weapon, believed to be an axe. The victim

collapsed on the spot and succumbed to his injuries before help could arrive.

Police sources said there had been tension between the cousins over the past few days following an earlier scuffle over a minor issue. On Sunday, another disagreement allegedly broke out over the shifting of roof tiles, leading to the deadly assault.



## Delhi Man Booked in Goa for Alleged Sexual Exploitation on Promise of Marriage

■ Mandrem Police Register Case Under BNS After Woman Accuses Accused of Sexual Assault, Forced Abortion and Recording Private Videos

Team Goemkarponn

**MANDREM:** Goa Police have registered a case at Mandrem Police Station in connection with alleged sexual exploitation of a woman on the pretext of marriage.

According to police sources, Mandrem P.S. Crime No. 42/2026 has been registered under Sections 69, 88 and 77 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Police said the offence was registered on May 1, 2026 at around 9.07 pm based on a complaint lodged by a woman originally from Madhya Pradesh and presently residing in Siolim. As per the complaint, the accused,

identified as Puneet Kakkar, 39, son of Om Prakash Kakkar, allegedly maintained a relationship with the complainant from November 23, 2024 to February 3, 2026 at Ashvem in Mandrem, Goa, on the promise of marriage and allegedly engaged in sexual relations with her during the period.

The complainant further alleged that after she conceived, the accused forced her to terminate the pregnancy and later failed to fulfil his promise of marriage. She also alleged that the accused clicked and recorded photos and videos of their private moments without consent.

## Man Found Floating in Zuari River at Cortalim; Verna Police Register Unnatural Death Case

■ Body of 46-Year-Old Fisherman Sent for Medico-Legal Examination at SGDH Margao

Team Goemkarponn

**CORTALIM:** Goa Police have registered an unnatural death case at Verna Police Station after a 46-year-old man was found floating in the Zuari River at Cortalim.

According to police information, Verna P.S. U.D. No. 26/2026 has been registered under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

Police said that on May 2, 2026 at around 6.32 am, Verna Police received a phone call from PCR Panaji informing that a



person was seen floating in the water at Cortalim.

During enquiry, police visited the spot and found a male person lying at the edge of the Zuari River near Canoe Jetty, Cortalim. The deceased was identified as Swami Krishnaiah, 46, a resident of Canoe Jetty, Cortalim and native of Karnataka.

Police enquiry with the roommates of the deceased revealed that he was last seen at his residence on May 1, 2026 at around 10.00 pm. On May 2, 2026 at about 4.00 am, when his roommates got ready to leave for fishing, they reportedly could not find him at the residence.

## Teen Dies at GMC After Alleged Accidental Consumption of Kerosene Mixed With Pesticide

Team Goemkarponn

**CUNCOLIM:** Goa Police are conducting an enquiry following the death of an 18-year-old youth who allegedly consumed kerosene mixed with pesticide by mistake at his residence in South Goa.

According to police information, on May 2, 2026, police received a wireless message from Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim, informing that patient Rohit Kumber alias Rohit Naik, 18, resident of Assolna, had expired during treatment. During enquiry, police found that the deceased had been admitted to GMC.

## Two Arrested for Alleged Murder of 61-Year-Old Man in Bardez

Team Goemkarponn



**CUCHELM:** Goa Police have registered

a murder case following the death of a 61-year-old man who was allegedly assaulted at Cuchelim in Bardez. According to police information, the complaint was lodged on May 2, 2026 at around 5.28 pm by Sneha Pandurang Dhargalkar, 33, a resident of Dulatwado, Cansa Board, Thivim, Bardez Goa.

## Ten Booked in Ponda for Assault, Outraging Modesty and Criminal Intimidation

■ Woman Alleges Family Was Attacked by Group at Bandora; Police Register FIR Under Multiple BNS Sections

Team Goemkarponn

**PONDA:** Goa Police have registered a case at Ponda Police Station against ten persons and others for allegedly assaulting a woman and her family members at Bandora in Ponda.

According to police sources, Ponda P.S. Crime No. 48/2026 has been registered under Sections 115(2), 74,

189(2), 190, 352 and 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The complaint was lodged by a lady complainant whose identity has been withheld. Police said that on May 1, 2026 at around 2.45 pm at Undir, Bandora, Ponda, the accused persons and all residents of Bandora, Ponda, along with others, allegedly formed an unlawful assembly and assaulted the complainant.

## Russian National Arrested in Goa for Alleged Illegal Stay Without Valid Visa

■ Mandrem Police Register Case Under Immigration and Foreigners Act After Foreigner Found Without Valid Travel Documents

Team Goemkarponn

**MANDREM:** Goa Police have registered a case at Mandrem Police Station against a Russian national for allegedly staying illegally in India without valid travel documents.

According to police information, Mandrem P.S. Crime No. 43/2026 has been registered under Section 23(a)



of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

Police said the offence was registered on May 1, 2026 at around 10.30 pm based on a complaint filed by PSI Paresk Kale attached to Mandrem

Police Station.

As per the complaint, on May 1, 2026 at about 12.45 pm, while conducting patrolling duty near Arambol Beach Parking at Arambol in Pernem, police traced the accused identified as Vladimir Kiriuthin, 30, son of Andre Kiriuthin, a Russian national presently residing at Arambol, Goa.

# Villagers oppose mega projects in sancoale, warn of agitation over sewage-hit fields

■ Agricultural lands situated below elevated construction zones are continuously receiving sewage discharge from existing complexes

Team Goemkarponn

**VELSAO:** Farmers and residents of Bellem, Velsao on Sunday strongly opposed proposed mega residential projects in Sancoale, alleging that unchecked development has already left agricultural fields inundated with sewage water and further construction could irreversibly damage the



village ecosystem.

Raising serious concerns, members of the farming community said that agricultural lands situated below elevated construction zones are

continuously receiving sewage discharge from existing complexes, making cultivation nearly impossible and posing health risks to farmers.

Social worker and

president of Pale Tollem Xetkaranche Association, Roquezinho Dsouza, said farmers have been grappling with worsening conditions over the past few years. "Our fields were never flooded in the month of May earlier, but now they remain filled with sewage water almost throughout the year due to runoff from mega complexes situated on higher ground.



## MLA Sankalp Amonkar chases down hit-and-run accused after fatal accident near dabolim airport

Team Goemkarponn

**DABOLIM:** A 60-year-old woman lost her life in a fatal hit-and-run accident near Dabolim airport on late Saturday evenings, triggering a dramatic chase by Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar, who pursued and helped nab the fleeing driver.

The accident occurred when a four-wheeler driven by 30-year-old Sachin Chopda, a native of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, allegedly struck Siddamma Madar, a resident of Mangor Hill. The impact threw the victim flying in the air and onto the road, leaving her critically injured. She was rushed to Chicalim hospital, where she was declared dead. Amonkar, who was passing through

the area at the time, said the speeding vehicle had overtaken him moments before the incident. "I reached the spot and saw the woman lying motionless. I immediately stopped, asked people nearby to assist her, and then went after the vehicle," he said.

What followed was a high-speed chase across multiple stretches, with the MLA attempting to intercept the car twice. However, the driver managed to evade him and continued speeding towards Vasco.

During the pursuit, Amonkar alerted police across jurisdictions, including Airport, Vasco and Mormugao police stations, while also requesting an ambulance for the victim.



## Nanoda Crash Leaves 15 Injured After Head-On Collision Between Mini Bus and Thar

**NANODA:** A major road accident was reported at Nanoda after a private mini bus and a Thar vehicle collided head-on, leaving at least 15 passengers injured.

According to local sources, the mini bus was travelling from Asnoda towards Dodamarg when the oncoming Thar rammed into it with great force. The impact of the collision was so severe that both vehicles suffered extensive damage.

At the time of the accident, nearly 25 to 30 passengers were travelling in the mini bus. Following the crash, injured passengers were immediately shifted to the Community Health Centre at Bicholim for treatment.

Hospital sources said that several injured persons were discharged after primary treatment, while two seriously injured passengers were referred to Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim, for advanced care.

Three other passengers continue to undergo treatment at the Bicholim health centre.

## Foundation Stone Laid for Renovation of Anganwadi Centre at Khalchawada-Mauxi

■ MLA Dr Deviya Rane Says Better Infrastructure for Children Remains a Top Priority

Team Goemkarponn

**MAUXI:** MLA Dr Deviya Rane laid the foundation stone for the repair and renovation of the Anganwadi Centre at Khalchawada-Mauxi, aimed at improving infrastructure and facilities for children in the area.

The renovation project, estimated at ₹17 lakh, will include replacement and upgrading of roofing with double-skin sheets,



installation of new flooring and wall tiles, painting of the building, and essential plumbing works to create a safer and more comfortable environment for children and staff.

Speaking on the

occasion, Deviya Rane said investing in better spaces for children remains a priority as their future depends greatly on the environment created for them during their formative years.

## Merces Housing Society Becomes Goa's First Fully Solar-Powered Residential Community

■ Residents Turn Power Producers as Rooftop Solar Initiative Enables Zero Electricity Bills and Surplus Energy Generation

Team Goemkarponn

**MERCES:** A housing society in Merces has become the first residential community in Goa to fully transition towards maximum solar energy adoption, marking a significant step in the state's renewable energy movement. The initiative, spearheaded by Goa-based climate technology company Anmax Energy, was formally inaugurated in the presence of Rodolfo



Fernandes, MLA of St. Cruz, along with Anupa Khorjuvekar, Assistant Manager Engineering at Goa Energy Development Agency (GEDA), Prashant Mantri, Secretary of Vision Royale Cooperative Housing Maintenance Society, residents and

other stakeholders. The solar transition has been implemented under the Central Government's PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and the Goa State Solar Subsidy Scheme. Organisers described the project as a practical model for

other cooperative housing societies looking to adopt clean energy solutions.

Officials said the initiative transforms residents from conventional electricity consumers into energy producers. Rooftop solar systems installed across the society now generate electricity that can be consumed domestically while excess power is exported back to the grid, enabling several residents to achieve net-zero electricity bills. In some instances, residents

reportedly receive credit payments for surplus energy supplied. Apart from reducing electricity costs, the project also introduced a blockchain-based circular economy model developed by Anmax Energy. Residents using solar power are rewarded with Climate Action Tokens (CATs), which can be redeemed within a dedicated marketplace for locally grown produce, solar services and other circular economy products.

# “Commodity Derivatives Not Suitable for Banks and Insurers,” Signals Regulatory Reluctance

■ SEBI indicates pause in push to expand participation as MCX shares decline following remarks

Team Goemkarponn

**New Delhi:** India’s financial regulators are showing little interest in allowing banks and insurance companies to invest in commodity derivatives, according to the head of the country’s market regulator. The statement highlights a cautious approach toward expanding participation in commodity markets, despite earlier discussions aimed at broadening access.

The regulator had previously explored the possibility of enabling banks and pension funds to participate in commodity trading as part of efforts to deepen and strengthen these markets. However, recent remarks suggest that key financial authorities are not aligned with this proposal at present.



It was indicated that commodity derivatives may not suit the investment strategies of insurance firms, which typically prioritize long-term, stable returns. These instruments are often associated with higher volatility and shorter-term trading, making them less compatible with the risk profiles and obligations of insurers.

There were also

considerations regarding pension funds potentially entering the commodity derivatives space. While discussions have taken place, no clear decision has been disclosed on whether such investments will be permitted.

The regulator acknowledged the differing perspectives of financial authorities and confirmed that it will not actively pursue the matter further

for now. This signals a temporary halt in efforts to expand the scope of commodity market participation among institutional investors.

Following these developments, shares of a leading commodity exchange operator dropped by 3.4 percent, reflecting market reaction to the reduced likelihood of broader institutional involvement in commodity trading.

In a separate development, the regulator is preparing to issue guidance to market intermediaries concerning emerging risks linked to advanced artificial intelligence tools. The advisory is expected to focus on potential system vulnerabilities and the need for preparedness as technology continues to evolve within the financial ecosystem.



## “Court Rejects SpiceJet Plea, Upholds ₹144 Crore Deposit Order”

■ Delhi High Court refuses property substitution, imposes costs on airline and its chief

**New Delhi :** The Delhi High Court has dismissed a review petition filed by SpiceJet and its Managing Director Ajay Singh in a long-running ₹144 crore arbitration dispute with Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways Pvt Ltd. The court also imposed a cost of ₹50,000 while reaffirming its earlier directive for the airline to deposit the full amount.

The bench declined SpiceJet’s request to replace the monetary deposit with a Gurugram property owned by Ajay Singh. The airline had argued that it was facing financial constraints and that depositing such a large sum would be challenging. As an alternative, it proposed offering the property, stating that it was free from any encumbrances.

However, the court was not convinced by the submission and refused to alter its earlier order. It also rejected the airline’s claim that the previous ruling contained errors, including observations regarding similar

arguments being raised earlier and a lack of sufficient proof about the property’s status.

Opposing the plea, counsel representing Kal Airways and Kalanithi Maran argued that the issue of financial difficulty had already been presented before the Supreme Court, which had dismissed the challenge and imposed costs. It was further contended that the review petition was an attempt to reopen matters that had already been settled.

The dispute stems from an arbitration award in favour of Kal Airways and Kalanithi Maran. The Supreme Court had earlier upheld the High Court’s direction requiring SpiceJet to deposit ₹144 crore. In March 2026, a separate application by the airline seeking to substitute the deposit with property was also rejected, prompting the latest review petition.

With this ruling, the High Court has reinforced its earlier stance, leaving SpiceJet obligated to comply with the deposit order as part of the ongoing legal proceedings.

## “India–Jamaica Ties Blend Continuity With Change,” Says S Jaishankar

■ External Affairs Minister highlights shared history, diaspora links, and growing cooperation during Jamaica visit

**New Delhi:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has described the relationship between India and Jamaica as one defined by both continuity and change, underlining its deep historical roots and evolving future potential. His remarks came during his first official visit to the Caribbean nation, aimed at strengthening bilateral ties.

He emphasised that the partnership is built on a shared past, strengthened by ongoing cooperation, and focused on expanding opportunities ahead. A key pillar of this relationship is the Indian diaspora in Jamaica, which



traces its origins back around 180 years and continues to play a vital role in connecting the two nations.

The historical bond dates back to 1845, when the first group of Indian workers arrived in Jamaica. Today, a community of nearly 70,000 people of Indian origin stands as a living bridge, contributing significantly to the country’s social and economic fabric. During

his visit, Jaishankar visited Old Harbour Bay, the site where the first Indians landed, and interacted with members of the diaspora.

He noted that cultural exchanges have further deepened ties, with Indian traditions influencing Jamaican life through cuisine, festivals, and shared cultural practices. Both countries also share common ground as democracies, pluralistic societies, and members of global groupings such as the Commonwealth and the Global South.

On the economic front, bilateral trade has crossed 100 million US dollars in recent years. India’s capabilities in sectors such as pharmaceuticals,

engineering goods, and digital technology complement Jamaica’s ambitions to grow as a regional logistics hub.

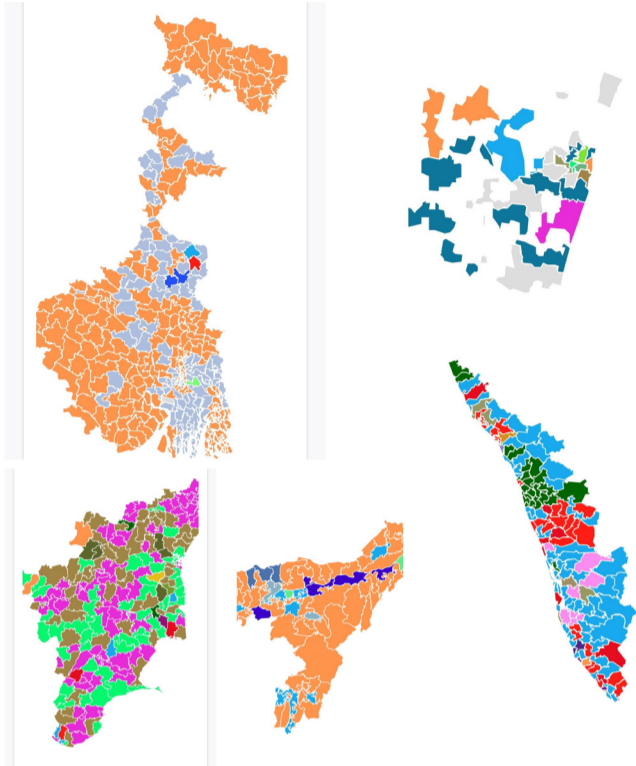
The minister also highlighted cooperation in global initiatives, including climate action and disaster resilience. India has extended assistance to Jamaica during natural disasters, reinforcing its support for small island nations facing climate challenges.

Looking ahead, Jaishankar stressed the need to expand collaboration through education, tourism, and sports, signalling a broader vision for a stronger and more resilient partnership between the two countries.



...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

## BJP BREACHES BENGAL; VIJAY BLOCKBUSTER IN TN



historic breakthrough for the party in the state after years of political contest.

Tamil Nadu is witnessing one of its biggest political surprises in decades. Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam has surged ahead in early trends, leading in a significant number of seats in the 234 member Assembly. The party has outpaced both the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, indicating a possible shift away from the state's long standing two party

dominance. In Kerala, the Congress led United Democratic Front has taken an early lead over the incumbent Left government headed by Pinarayi Vijayan. If sustained, this could mark a return to power for the Congress in a state known for alternating political mandates.

Elsewhere, the BJP led alliance is ahead in Assam, while in Puducherry, the ruling alliance under Chief Minister N. Rangasamy is maintaining its lead.

With counting still underway, these early trends suggest a day of significant political change, with new power equations emerging across several key states.

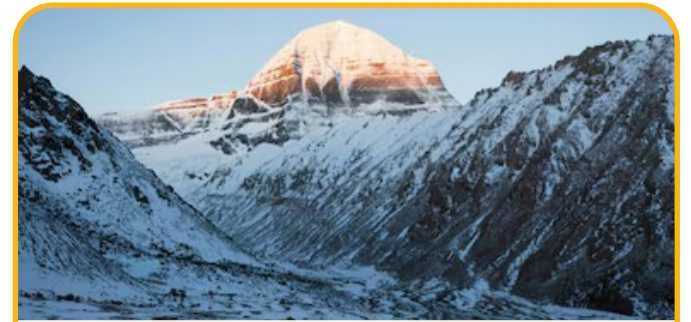
## People have reposed faith in PM Modi, says Sawant after poll trends

Reacting to early results, Sawant congratulated the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president Nitin Nabin and other party leaders for the impressive showing. He said the party's surge, particularly in West Bengal, reflects the clear mandate of the people.

"The results indicate that citizens across the country have placed their confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Sawant said, adding that the trend in West Bengal marks a significant political shift.

He also expressed gratitude to voters for their support and said the outcome reinforces the belief that both the country and West Bengal would remain secure and progress under Modi's leadership.

The Chief Minister's remarks come as counting trends point to strong gains for the BJP and its allies in multiple states, with West Bengal emerging as a key battleground showing a decisive tilt in favour of the party.



## "Claims Are Unjustified": India Rejects Nepal's Objection To Kailash Mansarovar Route

■ Government reiterates long standing position on Lipulekh Pass as Yatra resumes after years

**New Delhi:** India has firmly dismissed Nepal's to the use of the Lipulekh Pass route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, stating that its position on the matter remains consistent and based on historical practice. The annual pilgrimage, scheduled to take place from June to August, will be conducted through two established routes and Nathu La in Sikkim. The

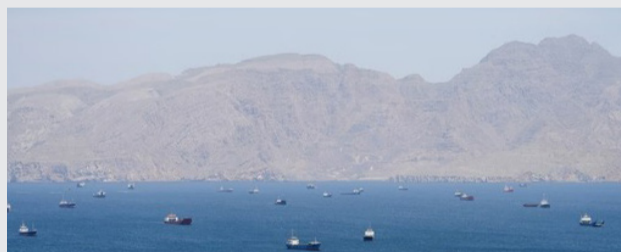
and Mansarovar Lake in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China holds deep religious significance for Hindus, Jains, and Buddhists. Authorities emphasised that Lipulekh Pass has been used as a traditional route for the Yatra since 1954. Officials underlined that the current plan does not represent any new development, but rather a continuation of a long followed practice.

## "Any US Move in Hormuz Will Breach Ceasefire," Iran Issues Warning

■ Tehran cautions against American naval escort plan amid rising tensions in key oil route

**New Delhi:** Iran has warned that any attempt by the United States to intervene in the Strait of Hormuz will be treated as a violation of the existing ceasefire, escalating tensions in one of the world's most critical maritime corridors. A senior Iranian lawmaker stated that any American involvement in what was described as a new maritime arrangement in the strait would be seen as a direct breach of the ceasefire understanding. The warning signals a firm stance from Tehran as concerns grow over potential military and strategic developments in the region.

The Strait of Hormuz holds immense global significance, serving as a vital route for a large share of the world's oil shipments. Any



disruption or escalation in this narrow waterway can have far reaching economic and geopolitical consequences.

The statement from Iran follows an announcement by US President Donald Trump regarding a plan to deploy American forces to escort commercial vessels through the strait. The move comes amid reports of disruptions affecting maritime traffic in the area, raising concerns about security and freedom of navigation.

Iran's response suggests that such an action would not be viewed as a protective

measure but rather as an escalation that could undermine the fragile ceasefire arrangement. The warning highlights the delicate balance in the region, where military movements and strategic decisions carry the risk of triggering wider confrontation.

As both sides signal their positions, the situation in the Strait of Hormuz remains tense. The coming days are expected to be crucial in determining whether diplomatic channels can prevent further escalation or if the standoff intensifies in this strategically vital zone.

## Delhi Metro Expansion to Add 7 Corridors and 65 Stations Under ₹48,000 Crore Plan

■ Phase V project aims to improve connectivity across outskirts and fast growing urban zones

**New Delhi:** Delhi is set to witness a major boost in urban transport with an ambitious metro expansion plan that will add seven new corridors and 65 stations under Phase V. The project, estimated at over ₹48,000 crore, is designed to significantly enhance connectivity across the capital, especially in developing and peripheral areas.

The expansion will cover nearly 97 kilometres, integrating several parts of the city through new routes and interchange points. Out of the seven corridors, four have been prioritised for completion by 2029, while the remaining three will be taken up in subsequent phases.

Among the key routes, the Dhansa to Nangloi corridor will strengthen connectivity in southwest Delhi with



an elevated stretch and multiple access points to existing lines. Another important project, linking Central Secretariat to Kishangarh, will largely run underground and connect major institutional and residential zones, including areas around Jawaharlal Nehru University.

In north Delhi, the Badli to Narela extension of the Yellow Line will improve access to industrial and residential clusters. Meanwhile, the Kirti Nagar to Palam corridor

will enhance connectivity in west Delhi, covering industrial areas and residential pockets.

The Jor Bagh to Mithapur corridor will serve as a crucial link in southeast Delhi, connecting several densely populated neighbourhoods while offering multiple interchange options. In east Delhi, the Shastri Park to Mayur Vihar corridor will improve accessibility in busy commercial and residential hubs.

## No Issue With Families, But Girlfriends Under Review": BCCI Considers Stricter IPL Rules

■ Board weighs tighter off-field guidelines amid concerns over discipline and security during tournament

**New Delhi:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India is examining the possibility of introducing stricter off-field regulations in the Indian Premier League, focusing on the presence of players' partners at team hotels. The move comes amid rising concerns around discipline, professionalism, and adherence to anti-corruption measures during the high-profile tournament.

Discussions within the board have intensified after several prominent players were frequently



seen accompanied by their girlfriends in team hotels and around match-related environments this season. The issue is expected to be formally taken up in an upcoming meeting, where clearer policies may be outlined.

Current thinking within the board suggests there is no objection to players staying with their wives and immediate family

members. However, there is a growing view that guidelines regarding girlfriends may need to be tightened to maintain a more controlled environment.

Officials have pointed out that similar rules applied during national team assignments have helped maintain structure and discipline, although those guidelines mainly address spouses and close family. In contrast, the franchise based nature of the IPL presents additional challenges, as teams operate

independently, making consistent enforcement more difficult. Another area of concern is the growing social media presence of some partners, which could potentially lead to sensitive or inside information being shared publicly. This has raised red flags from a security standpoint, especially in a tournament where maintaining integrity is critical. Earlier, restrictions on girlfriends staying in team hotels were more strictly followed, but this practice appears to have relaxed over time.



## Kuldeep Kumar Breaks National Record With 5.41m Vault

■ Young athlete outshines rivals in Bhubaneswar, setting new benchmark ahead of outdoor season

**New Delhi:** Kuldeep Kumar delivered a standout performance by setting a new national record in men's pole vault, clearing 5.41 metres in his very first attempt during an indoor competition in Bhubaneswar. The 21 year old athlete surpassed the previous national mark of 5.40 metres, establishing himself as one of the country's most promising talents in the event. Competing in his first indoor meet, Kuldeep faced initial challenges adapting to the fast track surface. Despite this, he steadily built momentum through the event. His successful clearance of 5.35 metres on the second attempt proved to be a turning point, boosting his confidence before he went on to

achieve the record breaking jump. The competition featured a strong field, including former record holder Dev Kumar Meena and Reagan G. While Meena entered as the favourite, he struggled to find his rhythm and secured the bronze medal with a best effort of 5.20 metres. Reagan G finished second with a clearance of 5.25 metres after failing to clear 5.35 metres in three attempts.

Kuldeep attempted to extend his record further by aiming for 5.46 metres but was unable to clear the height in three tries. Nevertheless, his performance marked a significant milestone and set a positive tone for the upcoming outdoor competitions scheduled later this month.



## "India-Jamaica Story Is Written in Runs": New Scoreboard at Sabina Park Celebrates Sporting Bond

**New Delhi:** India has reinforced its long standing cultural and sporting relationship with Jamaica by gifting a modern electronic scoreboard to the iconic Sabina Park stadium. The facility was formally dedicated during a joint event attended by India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness. Describing the moment, Jaishankar emphasised the deep connection shared by the two countries through cricket. He noted that the relationship between India and Jamaica is built on mutual respect, friendship, and a shared passion for the sport, expressing hope that the new scoreboard will witness many memorable performances in the years ahead. Sabina Park, one of the most historic cricket venues in the Caribbean, has hosted numerous landmark matches over decades.

## "Disappointed but Ready to Fight Back": India U17 Midfielder Eyes Strong Response After Defeat

■ Team shifts focus to Japan clash after narrow loss to Australia in Asian Cup return

**Goemkarponn desk**

**New Delhi:** India's campaign at the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup resumed after more than two decades with a 0-2 defeat against Australia, but the mood within the camp remains focused on recovery and improvement. Midfielder Thandamoni Baskey acknowledged the disappointment but



stressed the team's determination to bounce back in the upcoming fixtures. Head coach Pamela Conti described the match as challenging against a physically strong opponent, noting that both

goals conceded resulted from avoidable errors. Despite the scoreline, she highlighted the team's defensive discipline, pointing out that Australia was limited in creating clear chances.

## "Squad Ready for Asian Challenge": Bibiano Fernandes Names India U17 Team for 2026 Cup

■ 23-member squad announced as Blue Colts prepare for Group D clashes in Saudi Arabia

**Panaji:** India's Under 17 men's national team head coach Bibiano Fernandes has announced a 23 member squad for the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026, marking a key step in the team's preparations for the continental tournament. The squad is currently training in Doha, Qatar, where they recently played two friendly matches against the hosts, finishing with a 1-1 draw and a



goalless result. The team is set to travel to Jeddah ahead of their opening fixtures. India have been placed in Group D alongside Australia and

Uzbekistan. With DPR Korea withdrawing from the competition, the group will feature only three teams. The Blue Colts will begin their campaign

against Australia on May 6, followed by a clash with Uzbekistan on May 10.

The squad includes three goalkeepers, Alok Nishad, Manashjyoti

Baruah and Rajrup Sarkar. The defensive unit features Abhishek Kumar Mondal, Indra Rana Magar, Korou Meitei Konthoujam, Lawmsangzuala, Lesvin Rebelo, Md Aimaan Bin and Shubham Poonia.

In midfield, the team will rely on Dallalmuon Gangte, Denny Singh Wangkhem, Diamond Singh Thokchom, Moosa Ashiq Sofi and Nitishkumar Meitei Yengkhom to control the tempo and link play.