



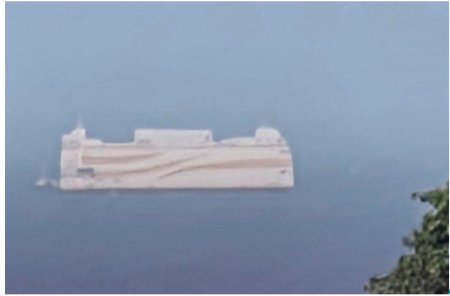
HC Restrains Sailing of New Casino on Mandovi River

Operator Reiterates It Won't Enter Mandovi Without Court Nod; MLA Cites CM's Assurance

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa on Tuesday took up the matter concerning the induction of a high-capacity casino vessel into the River Mandovi, even as the ship has been temporarily stationed at Mormugao Port.

The 112-metre vessel, designed to accommodate around 2,000 passengers, has been berthed at Berth No. 4 of the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA). It is expected to remain there during the monsoon period while



► The 112-metre vessel, designed to accommodate around 2,000 passengers, has been berthed at Berth No. 4 of the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA). It is expected to remain there during the monsoon period while undergoing maintenance work, minor alterations, documentation formalities, and sea trials to establish seaworthiness.

undergoing maintenance work, minor alterations, documentation formalities, and sea trials to establish seaworthiness.

The case stems from a public interest litigation filed by citizens' group 'Enough is Enough', which has challenged the permission granted

by the Captain of Ports to replace an existing 70-capacity casino vessel in the Mandovi with the significantly larger ship.

During the hearing held today, the casino company reiterated before the Court that the vessel will not be moved into the Mandovi river without obtaining

prior approval from the High Court, along with all mandatory permissions, certifications and licences from competent authorities.

The operator had earlier informed the Court that the vessel would not enter the Mandovi before

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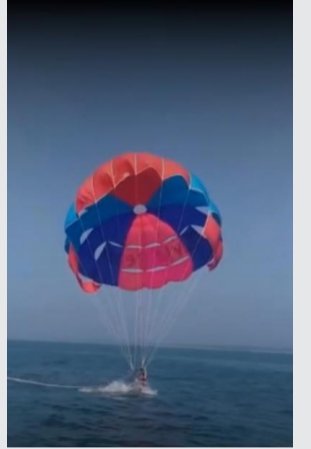
Parasailing Incident In Goa Raises Fresh Safety Questions

Tourist's chilling account of mid-air mishap goes viral, calls for stricter checks

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A recreational parasailing activity off the coast of Goa turned into a harrowing experience for a tourist, whose first-hand account has rapidly spread across social media, drawing attention to safety lapses in water sports.

The visitor, Sushmitha Gowrav, narrated that the ride took a dangerous turn while she was airborne. In her account, she described losing stability



before ending up in the water, during which the harness line allegedly tightened around her neck, triggering panic.

► CONTD TO PAGE 06



HC Widens Mala Lake Case To Mandovi, Orders Detailed Water Quality Study

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Taking serious note of rising water pollution concerns, the High Court of Bombay at Goa has extended the ambit of its suo motu public interest litigation (PIL) on the Mala Lake fish mortality issue to include the River Mandovi.

During the hearing, the Court expressed concern over significantly elevated levels of fecal coliform detected in the Mandovi, particularly in zones where offshore casinos and tourism-related vessels are stationed. Observing the potential health and environmental risks, the Court directed the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the river's water quality.

Vijay Steps Up Alliance Push to Form Government in Tamil Nadu

TVK reaches out to key parties as numbers edge close to majority mark



New Delhi: Actor turned politician Vijay has intensified efforts to secure support from regional allies after emerging as the single largest party leader in the recent Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. His

party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, is now working to gather the numbers required to form the next government in the state.

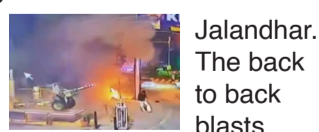
Vijay has written to Thol Thirumavalavan,

► CONTD TO PAGE 06

Second Blast Near BSF Camp Raises Alarm Over Punjab Security

Back to back explosions in Jalandhar and Amritsar spark political reactions and safety concerns

New Delhi: A second explosion near a Border Security Force camp in Amritsar has heightened security concerns in Punjab, coming just hours after a similar incident outside the BSF Punjab Frontier headquarters in



Jalandhar. The back to back blasts have triggered alarm in the sensitive border state, with a Khalistan linked group claiming responsibility.

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In India, Politicians Rarely Pay the Price

The Bombay High Court's decision to grant relief to former Goa chief minister Digambar Kamat and former minister Churchill Alemao in the Louis Berger bribery-linked money laundering case once again highlights an uncomfortable reality about Indian politics: powerful politicians almost never face lasting consequences.

The court's ruling is based on the law. The Enforcement Directorate failed to obtain prior sanction before prosecution, and the High Court correctly pointed out that legal procedure cannot be ignored. But while the judgment may be legally sound, it also exposes the deeper failure of India's anti-corruption system. Cases involving politicians drag on for years, investigations weaken, technicalities emerge, and eventually accountability disappears into procedural loopholes.

The Louis Berger scandal was never a minor controversy. In 2015, executives of the US-based engineering firm admitted before an American court that bribes had been paid in India and other countries to secure contracts. Goa's water and sewerage project, funded by JICA, became part of that international corruption scandal. Soon after, the Goa Police named Digambar Kamat and Churchill Alemao in the investigation. Raids were conducted, documents seized, and the ED later entered the picture with money laundering charges.

At the time, the case was projected as proof that corruption at the highest levels would no longer go unpunished. Politicians promised transparency. Agencies promised aggressive prosecution. Public outrage was intense.

More than a decade later, what remains?

No convictions. No political isolation. No moral accountability.

Instead, Goa's political landscape has demonstrated how corruption allegations in India often become temporary inconveniences rather than career-ending events.

Digambar Kamat, once accused in one of Goa's most high-profile corruption scandals, today sits comfortably within the BJP-led establishment as a minister. Churchill Alemao, though politically drifting across parties over the years, has also remained an influential figure despite repeated controversies. The same politicians once attacked as symbols of corruption somehow regain respectability when political equations change.

That is the real story here. Indian politics no longer

“The Louis Berger scandal was never a minor controversy. In 2015, executives of the US-based engineering firm admitted before an American court that bribes had been paid in India and other countries to secure contracts. Goa's water and sewerage project, funded by JICA, became part of that international corruption scandal. Soon after, the Goa Police named Digambar Kamat and Churchill Alemao in the investigation. Raids were conducted, documents seized, and the ED later entered the picture with money laundering charges.

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operates on ideology or ethics. It operates on utility. Leaders accused of corruption are condemned when they sit in opposition and embraced when they become politically useful. Parties that once demanded investigations suddenly fall silent after defections or alliances. Anti-corruption rhetoric exists mainly for elections and television debates.

The message this sends to the public is devastating. Ordinary citizens are punished swiftly for far smaller offences, but politicians with influence can navigate the system endlessly through adjournments, technical objections, delayed investigations and political negotiations.

Even more troubling is the erosion of public memory. Corruption scandals that once dominated headlines slowly disappear from public discourse. New controversies replace old ones. Voters become cynical. Accountability weakens not because evidence vanishes, but because outrage has a short lifespan.

The Louis Berger case is not unique. Across India, countless high-profile corruption cases involving politicians have followed the same trajectory. Initial sensationalism. Dramatic raids. Political accusations. Endless court proceedings. Eventual dilution.

Sometimes cases collapse legally. Sometimes investigations lose momentum. Sometimes witnesses turn hostile. And often, the accused simply reinvent themselves politically before the system reaches any conclusion.

This creates a dangerous culture where corruption allegations carry little long-term cost. In fact, many politicians accused of major scams continue winning elections because the public increasingly believes that legal outcomes depend more on power than innocence.

None of this means courts are wrong to insist on due process. Legal safeguards exist for a reason. Investigative agencies cannot bypass procedure simply because public sentiment demands punishment. But that is precisely why institutions must build stronger, faster and more professional cases from the beginning. If agencies repeatedly fail in politically sensitive investigations, citizens will naturally suspect either incompetence or selective intent.

The tragedy is not only that politicians escape punishment. It is that the public slowly stops expecting accountability at all.

That may be the greatest damage corruption has inflicted on Indian democracy. Not merely financial loss, but the normalisation of impunity.

The Louis Berger case should have been a turning point for political accountability in Goa. Instead, it risks becoming another reminder that in Indian politics, allegations fade, alliances change, and power ultimately protects its own.

OPED

Lord Parshuram under Fire: Can Faith be put on Trial by Science?

- Sandeep Heble

The Gods must be laughing over the silliness at which we seem to be creating one controversy after another while the day-to-day issues get increasingly sidelined.

Just when we thought the SFX issue was done with, we have the next one - another storm brewing over a recent video by Seby Vaz, who has ignited controversy by attempting to scrutinise Lord Parshuram's narrative through a scientific and historical lens. No doubt, when seen through rational-historical angle, the portrayal does look problematic. In the epics, Lord Parashuram is depicted as a fierce Brahmin warrior-sage, an avatar of Lord Vishnu, who undertook repeated campaigns to eliminate Kshatriya rulers in retaliation for injustice. This depiction of relentless violence, spanning generations, does seem extreme when viewed literally, or put through scrutiny of scientific validation. Even Lord Shiva's depiction, for instance, when he severs the head of his own son, can appear problematic. But in return, we get a lovable, endearing deity in the form of Lord Ganesha - that may well have been the essence of that storytelling.

From this perspective, should we view scriptures or ancient books literally from scientific perspective? Were we to do so, all religions will end up looking damn silly.

Religion, at its core, is a matter of faith. It does not lend itself to courtroom standards of proof or scientific validation. A Christian questioning a Hindu text, or a Muslim critiquing another faith's scripture through a purely rational or scientific lens, misses the point and vice versa. In doing so, one often ends up projecting a "my religion is superior to yours" mindset - seeking to put other religions to a scientific test while holding one's own as unquestionable truth.

The Ramayana is one story, the Mahabharata another. The Bible, the Quran, the Guru Granth Sahib, the Tripitaka, the Torah, the Avesta - each shaped, interpreted, and passed down by those who wrote or compiled them, reflecting the beliefs, cultures, traditions and understanding of their times.

Through these mediums, humans have tried to reach the spiritual divine, to imagine the mysteries of the universe, to find hope and reason in times of happiness and distress, and to believe that someone up there will protect them and their families.

Arguing over what is written in religious books and asking for it to be proved historically or scientifically is silly and futile. Losing sleep over what someone else has said to your God - even more so. No religious text can pass any scientific test. Each has its own imagination, its own merits and drawbacks - understandably so, as they were written in times when the understanding of science and nature was still in its infancy.

What we need is for science and spirituality to go hand in hand - eliminating superstition, avoiding attacks on each other's religions, and working towards reform within every faith. To gradually create and enter into a place where citizens can live peacefully, nations can prosper and progress scientifically, rational thought can replace blind belief, and unity can prevail over division. But if our sentiments are going to be bruised by every Social media post while we allow the larger issues to get sidelined, we are not going to get anywhere anytime soon.

(The Writer is Jt. Secretary of Goa RTI Forum. Views expressed above are personal.)

HC Pushes Goa Govt To Fast-Track Open Prison Reforms

■ Orders immediate notification of monitoring panel; seeks concrete plan for OCI by June

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has directed the State government to promptly issue a formal notification constituting a State Monitoring Committee, highlighting delays in implementing the Supreme Court's mandate on Open Correctional Institutions (OCI).

A Division Bench of Justice Valmiki Menezes



and Justice Amit Jamsandekar issued the directive after the State informed the court that a proposal was already in motion to appoint a senior prisons official to the panel. The committee, expected to be in place by May 12, will be led by

the Home Department—either by the Secretary (Home) or an RIGHTS not below the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Prisons.

Hearing a suo motu public interest litigation, the Bench stressed that the process must not remain on paper and insisted on immediate formalisation through notification.

During proceedings, the government also

shared that it has granted preliminary approval to establish a semi-open prison on a 30,000 sq m site at Colvale, next to the existing correctional facility. However, the court pointed out that a semi-open prison does not fully meet the framework prescribed by the Supreme Court for OCIs.

In response, the State indicated it is open to revising the proposal to align with OCI



ENRICHMENT
HUB

Panaji Plans ₹4 Crore Enrichment Hub For Neurodivergent Youth

■ First-of-its-kind facility at Caranzalem to offer therapy, play, and life skills support

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a major step towards inclusive urban development, the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) has proposed setting up a dedicated enrichment centre for neurodivergent children and young adults at Caranzalem Garden, with an estimated cost of ₹4 crore. The planned "Respite, Play and Enrichment Centre" is envisioned as a comprehensive support space catering to the developmental, recreational, and therapeutic needs of neurodivergent individuals. The facility will include specially designed sensory play zones, creative spaces for art and music activities, landscaped sensory gardens, and dedicated respite care rooms.

In addition to recreational features, the centre will also focus on equipping older youth with essential life skills through structured training areas, helping them build independence and confidence. Authorities said the project will incorporate elements of traditional Goan architecture to ensure the space is both functional and culturally resonant, while maintaining a calming and accessible environment for users and their families. To move the project forward, the CCP has invited tenders to appoint a design consultant.

Once completed, the initiative is expected to serve as a pioneering model in the region, providing much-needed infrastructure and support for neurodivergent communities in Goa.



Pocso Court Rejects Bail Plea Of Married Accused In Minor Rape Case

PANAJI: The Fast Track Special POCSCO Court in Panaji has refused to grant bail to a 34-year-old man accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting a minor girl, observing that the defence claim of a consensual relationship holds no legal ground as the victim was underage.

The accused, identified as Basavaraj Harijan, is facing serious charges of rape and molestation under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. According to the prosecution, the alleged offences took place over several months, from July 2025 to early February 2026, at his residence in Porvorim as well as at other locations where he allegedly took the victim in his car.

During the bail hearing, the defence argued that the interactions between the accused and the girl were consensual, presenting chat exchanges as supporting material. It was also claimed that the victim was being pressured to oppose the bail application.

Court Denies Bail To Man In Viral Harassment Video Case

■ Judge flags damage to Goa's image and impact on tourism livelihoods

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The North Goa Additional Sessions Court has refused bail to Saurabh Sahni, a 47-year-old from Lucknow, who was arrested by the Crime Branch for allegedly circulating a viral video showing the sexual harassment of a foreign woman.

The case originated after the Goa Police's Social Media Monitoring Cell flagged an objectionable clip that began spreading on



Facebook. The video, said to have been shot in 2024 at Tito's Lane in Baga, depicts a group of men surrounding a foreign national, making explicit advances and allegedly soliciting sexual services.

Investigators carried out a technical probe

which traced the social media account used to share the footage to Sahni. He was subsequently arrested on April 15, 2026.

While rejecting the bail plea, the court noted that uploading and distributing such content for online traction and potential financial gain amounts to a grave offence. The judge also underscored the broader consequences, stating that such acts harm Goa's reputation as a safe destination for visitors.

Public Consultation On CZMP Faces Fresh Delay

■ Pending reports and slow inter-departmental coordination stall coastal plan process

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The long-awaited public consultation on Goa's draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) 2019 has been delayed once again, with authorities citing incomplete submissions and lack of timely inputs from key departments.

Officials indicated that several crucial components—required before the draft can be opened for public feedback—are still pending. These include detailed environmental management strategies



for sensitive coastal regions, a comprehensive island management framework, and an eco-tourism plan.

The responsibility for preparing these documents has been divided among different

agencies. Scientific institutions have been tasked with environmental and island-related plans, while departments such as tourism and forests are expected to finalise the eco-tourism component. However, delays in

compiling and submitting these reports have slowed the overall progress.

Sources said that although the base draft of the CZMP had already been submitted earlier, the environment department is yet to receive complete inputs from all stakeholders. As a result, authorities have been compelled to extend deadlines and hold back the consultation process.

Officials stressed that these additional plans are not optional, but form an essential part of the final coastal regulation framework. Without them, the draft cannot be

presented for objections and suggestions from the public. The CZMP draft also includes provisions aimed at supporting traditional fishing communities, including conditional permissions for housing within a specified distance from the High Tide Line—marking a shift from earlier norms.

In the meantime, supporting plans related to mangroves, khazan lands, and turtle nesting areas have already been prepared and are expected to be integrated into the final document.

Three Booked For ₹10 Lakh Dowry Demand In Vasco

■ Accused allegedly threatened to call off marriage if demands not met

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco Police Station has registered a case against three persons from Chimbel for allegedly demanding ₹10 lakh and gold as dowry in connection with a marriage proposal.

According to the complaint filed by Razak Shaikh, a resident of Mangor Hill in Vasco, the



accused—Rashid Ahmed Chapparband, Nabi Rasul Lalsab Chapparband and

Bibijan Chapparband—had initially agreed to the marriage of his daughter without any dowry conditions. However, on April 29 at around 1:00 pm at Mangor Hill, they allegedly demanded ₹10 lakh and five tolas of gold and threatened that the marriage would not proceed unless their demands were fulfilled.

Based on the

complaint, police have registered an offence under Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI David Costa under the supervision of PI Vaibhav Naik and guidance of Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.



Russian National Held In Goa For Illegal Stay

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: The Mandrem Police Station has registered an offence against a 42-year-old Russian national for allegedly residing in India without valid travel documents.

According to police, the accused, identified as Evgenii Kalashnikov, was intercepted on May 4 at around 4:00 pm near Arambol Beach parking during routine patrolling. Upon verification, he was found staying in Goa without a valid visa.



Man Held For Public Gambling In Panaji

■ Accused caught accepting bets; cash and materials seized

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police Station has registered an offence against a 32-year-old man for allegedly engaging in illegal gambling activities in a public place. According to police, the accused, identified as Nawazkhan Khanazade, a resident of Reis Magos, was caught red-handed on May 4 at around 6:45 pm near a wine store in Panaji while accepting money bets on numerical digital numbers from members of the public. Police seized cash amounting to ₹1,300 in different denominations along with other gambling-related articles from his



possession. The action was initiated based on a state complaint filed by Head Constable Rajesh Shirgaonkar. The accused was arrested at 7:45 pm and later released on the same day at 7:55 pm after completing legal formalities.

An offence has been registered under Section 11(2)(a) of the Goa, Daman and Diu Public Gambling Act. Further investigation is being carried out by HC Rajesh Shirgaonkar.

Man Booked For Assault With Hockey Stick In Chimbel

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: Old Goa Police Station has registered an offence against a Chimbel resident for allegedly assaulting a man with a hockey stick and causing injuries.

According to the complaint filed by Shivesh Dessai (27), a resident of Kadamba Housing Society, the incident occurred on May 4 at around 6:40 pm within the housing society premises. His father, Sandip Dessai, was on an evening walk when the accused, identified as Arun Talaulikar, allegedly abused him and later attacked him with a hockey stick.

Calangute Police Crack Down On Touts To Protect Tourists

■ 37 booked in a week; total cases rise to 235 in 2026

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute Police Station has intensified its crackdown on illegal touting activities in a bid to safeguard tourists and maintain the area's reputation as a premier destination. According to a press note, police booked 37 touts in the past week alone, taking the total number of cases registered in 2026 to 235. The drive is aimed at ensuring that tourists visiting Calangute can enjoy a hassle-free experience without being harassed or inconvenienced.

Officials stated that strict action is being taken under the Tourist Trade Act, 1982, which prescribes a fine of ₹5,000 for each offender involved in touting activities.

Police reiterated their commitment to maintaining law and order and ensuring that visitors leave Calangute with positive memories. The ongoing enforcement drive highlights the department's proactive approach towards curbing nuisance and protecting tourist interests in the coastal belt.

Decomposed Body Found In Caranzalem Room

■ Police register unnatural death; body sent for medico-legal examination

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police Station has registered an unnatural death case after a decomposed body was found in a rented room at Caranzalem.

According to police, the incident came to light in the early hours of May 5 following a call received from the PCR unit. PSI Manjunath Naik visited the spot at Mitra Bazar, opposite a salon near an Indian Oil petrol pump, where the deceased was



found lying on a bed inside a rented room.

Police said the body was in a decomposed state and emitting a foul smell when discovered. An inquest panchanama was conducted at the scene, and the body was later shifted to Goa Medical College and Hospital for preservation and further medico-legal formalities.

Nada brahma experience draws praise for Yogiraj Kamat in Margao

■ Sound and meditation session at Ravindra Bhavan sees enthusiastic participation

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A deeply immersive "Nada Brahma" sound and meditation session was successfully organised by Model Margao, an initiative of Yogiraj Digambar Kamat, at the Ravindra Bhavan Margao on Tuesday.

Held at the Black Box auditorium, the session was conducted by Gautam Garudi Naik, a certified Nada



Yoga practitioner, who facilitated a powerful sound therapy experience using a range of sound healing instruments.

Welcoming participants, Kamat highlighted the importance of such wellness initiatives in

today's fast-paced lifestyle, stressing the need for spaces that allow individuals to pause, relax, and reconnect with themselves. His wife, Neha Kamat, was also present and supported the initiative.

Unlike conventional lecture-based formats, the session guided participants through a calming, meditative sound therapy experience.

Authorities Issue Monsoon Safety Advisory Across South Goa

Warning boards installed; entry into waterbodies restricted to prevent mishaps

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: With the onset of the monsoon, authorities across parts of South Goa have stepped up safety measures to prevent drowning incidents and ensure public safety. As per directions of the Deputy Collector, Canacona, "Danger: Deep Water" warning boards have been installed at vulnerable



locations to alert residents and visitors. Similarly, in Ponda, safety banners highlighting "Risk of Drowning" have been put up on the instructions of

the Deputy Collector to caution the public and tourists.

In Dharbandora taluka, entry into rivers, lakes and other waterbodies

has been restricted as a precautionary measure amid rising water levels and strong currents during the monsoon season.

Officials have urged citizens and visitors to strictly adhere to these advisories and avoid venturing into waterbodies, stressing that such measures are crucial to prevent accidents and save lives during the rainy season.



Regional Workshop On Ddu-Gky 2.0, Rseti 2.0 Concludes In Panaji

States deliberate on skill development, jobs and rural entrepreneurship

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A two-day regional workshop on DDU-GKY 2.0 and RSETI 2.0 concluded in Panjim, bringing together key stakeholders from multiple states to strengthen skill development, employment generation and entrepreneurship opportunities for

rural youth. The workshop focused on improving programme implementation, enhancing inter-state coordination, and aligning state-level action plans with national priorities. Discussions also emphasised scaling up impact through better convergence between institutions and schemes.



BJP Celebrates Poll Wins With Victory Rally In Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Ramesh Tawadkar, Canacona MLA and Goa Minister, led a BJP victory rally in the town to celebrate the party's electoral victories in West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry.

Addressing party workers outside Ravindra Bhavan, Tawadkar termed the West Bengal result as "astonishing," saying it reflected the people's mandate against what he described as years of "gunda raj."

Prashanti Film Festival To Be Held At Manoshobha Kalaghar From May 14

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

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA : ManoShobha Kalaghar in Loliem will host a four-day 'Prashanti Film Festival' from May 14 to 17, 2026, celebrating noted Goan artist Prashanti Talpalkar, the first from the state to receive an international honour at the International Film Festival of South Asia in Toronto for her performance in the short film 'Ancessao'.

The festival will be inaugurated by ZP member Ajay Lolayekar and will feature daily screenings of three award-winning Konkani feature films at 6:30 pm. The



line-up includes 'Amori' by Dinesh Bhonsle, 'Baga Beach' by Laxmikant Shetgaonkar, and 'Juze' by Miransha Naik, which has received international recognition and multiple awards at the Goa Film Festival.

The short film 'Ancessao' will be screened on the concluding day as part

of the "Khonn Khonn Kankonn" programme series. Each screening will be followed by interactive sessions with directors, producers, technical artists, and actors, along with Talpalkar. On May 17, Talpalkar will be interviewed by Urvee Phaldesai, focusing on her work in theatre, films, writing, and her journey as a cancer survivor and social activist. A dedicated educator and artist, Talpalkar has received several state-level honours for her contribution to drama and cinema, along with two national awards for her writing in Konkani.

Goa launches mentoring programme for NET/SET aspirants

Registrations open till May 15; sessions aimed at computer-based exam candidates

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Higher Education (DHE), Government of Goa, has announced a mentoring programme for candidates preparing for the computer-based National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by the National Testing Agency and the State Eligibility Test (SET) conducted



by Savitribai Phule Pune University. Candidates interested in availing the mentoring sessions can register by filling out the prescribed Google form on or before May 15, 2026.

Act Clinic Strengthens Post-Treatment Cancer Care At GMC

New initiative to provide holistic, long-term support for survivors

Team Goemkarponn

BAMBOLIM: In a significant step towards comprehensive cancer care, the "After Completion of Treatment (ACT) Clinic" was

inaugurated at Goa Medical College and Hospital to support patients beyond active treatment and help them transition to long-term health and well-being.



Govt Assures Relief To Traders After High-Level Meeting

Mapusa MLA Joshua D'Souza Expresses Confidence In Timely Resolution Of Issues

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has assured positive and timely solutions to concerns raised by the trading community following a high-level meeting held in Panjim with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and key stakeholders.

The meeting saw detailed discussions on challenges faced by traders, with participants highlighting issues affecting day-to-day business operations.



The government reiterated its commitment to resolving these concerns and improving the ease of doing business in the state. Among those present

were Urban Development Minister Vishwajit Rane, PWD Minister Digambar Kamat, District Magistrate and Collector Brijesh Manerkar, Chief Officer

of Mapusa Municipal Council Chandrakant Shetkar, and All Goa Merchants Federation President Narayan Karekar, along with members of the Mapusa Merchants Association. Mapusa MLA Joshua D'Souza said the meeting was a positive step towards addressing long-pending issues of traders. "Today's meeting reflects the government's commitment to listening to the concerns of our trading community."



Bharat Innovates Roadshow in Paris Sets Stage for Global Deep Tech Collaboration

■ June event in France aims to connect Indian innovation ecosystem with global investors and institutions

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: A key international push to position India as a global innovation hub gained momentum with the Bharat Innovates roadshow held in Paris. The event serves as a precursor to the main Bharat Innovates 2026 summit scheduled to take place in June in Nice, bringing together startups, investors, and academic institutions from across the world.

The initiative, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to showcase India's rapidly growing deep tech ecosystem and strengthen global partnerships.

The Paris roadshow saw participation from representatives of the Government of India, the Indian Embassy in France, industry bodies, and over 50 stakeholders from innovation and business sectors.

The primary objective of the event was to engage global investors, corporates, and research institutions while highlighting opportunities within India's expanding startup ecosystem. Leading French innovation platforms and educational institutions also took part, underlining growing international interest in India's technology driven growth.

Bharat Innovates

2026 is envisioned as a global accelerator that connects university led innovations with markets, helping ideas transition from research labs to real world applications. The initiative focuses on emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, semiconductors, climate technology, and advanced manufacturing.

India's innovation ecosystem continues to expand rapidly, supported by a large talent pool, policy reforms, and increased investment in research and development. With over a million engineering graduates each year and a strong startup base, the

country is positioning itself as a key player in global technology development.

The roadshow also highlighted India's collaborative approach, particularly under the India France strategic partnership, encouraging cross border innovation and investment. The upcoming summit in Nice is expected to attract global attention, providing a platform for startups to scale internationally and for investors to tap into India's high growth potential.

As preparations continue, the initiative marks an important step in strengthening India's presence in the global innovation landscape.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

HC Hears Casino Vessel Plea As Ship Berths At Mormugao

the monsoon and had accordingly made interim berthing arrangements at Mormugao.

Reacting to the development, Saligao MLA Kedar Naik, who has opposed the proposed anchoring of the vessel near Verem and Reis Magos, said the Chief Minister has assured him that the ship will not be allowed to operate in those areas.

Parasailing Incident In Goa Raises Fresh Safety Questions

A video she posted online has since gained significant traction, with many expressing concern over the risks involved in such activities. She remarked that the terror she experienced in those moments was far greater than what the footage could convey.

Rescue efforts were carried out in time, preventing what could have escalated into a fatal situation. Gowra later reflected that she was fortunate to have survived the incident, acknowledging that outcomes in similar cases may not always be as fortunate.

Following the episode, she appealed to travellers to exercise caution when opting for adventure sports, advising them to verify safety arrangements, check equipment condition, and ensure that operators adhere to proper guidelines.

The incident has once again highlighted concerns surrounding oversight in Goa's water sports industry. With reports of similar mishaps surfacing periodically, questions are being raised about enforcement of safety norms and accountability among operators.

While officials have not yet responded publicly to this specific case, the episode has intensified discussions on the need for tighter regulation to ensure tourist safety without compromising the appeal of adventure tourism.

Vijay Steps Up Alliance Push to Form Government in Tamil Nadu

seeking the backing of the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi. Leaders from the party have indicated that a final decision on extending support is still under consideration.

In addition to this, Vijay has also approached other allies previously aligned with the DMK, including the Indian National Congress, Communist Party of India, and Communist Party of India (Marxist). The Congress, which secured five seats, has already indicated its willingness to support the formation of a government led by Vijay.

Celebrating Cultural Bridges Through Language and Tradition

■ Herança Portuguesa event at St. Xavier's College highlights Portuguese heritage and student talent

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: St. Xavier's College in Mapusa hosted Herança Portuguesa, a vibrant celebration of Portuguese language and culture, in collaboration with Fundação Oriente. The event, organised by the college's Cell for Promoting Diversity and Inclusion, brought together 12 teams from schools and higher secondary institutions across North Goa.

The programme began with a prayer, followed by a welcome address from the event coordinator, Rev. Dr. Ramiro Luis, who highlighted the importance of preserving



and appreciating Goa's Portuguese cultural heritage. Officiating Principal Ursula Barreto encouraged students to actively engage in such initiatives, noting that they promote cultural exchange, dialogue, and inclusivity. The chief guest, Dr. Paulo Gomes, spoke about the significance of cultural collaborations

and emphasised the value of learning foreign languages to foster global understanding. A series of cultural performances and competitions formed the highlight of the event. The musical presentation "Fado meets Dekhnni" offered a unique blend of Portuguese and Goan traditions. Students also participated in a

Portuguese reading contest, showcasing their fluency and confidence in the language. A creative painting activity allowed participants to depict Portuguese cultural themes through art.

The programme featured lively dance performances, including a traditional Goan dance and a Portuguese

dance presentation by BBA students. A reel making contest added a modern touch, with teams creatively exploring Portuguese influences in Goa. One of the key attractions was the Personalidade Portuguesa contest, where participants demonstrated their knowledge and connection to Portuguese

culture. The event was compered by Dr. Sharmila Pais and Arina Frank, ensuring smooth coordination throughout. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by prize distribution and the college anthem, marking the successful culmination of a culturally enriching celebration.

“I Will Not Resign”: Mamata Banerjee’s Stand Triggers Constitutional Face-Off in Bengal

■ Governor’s role and possible court intervention come into focus after disputed election outcome

New Delhi: A political and constitutional standoff has unfolded in West Bengal after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee refused to step down despite her party losing the 2026 Assembly elections. Her decision has raised serious questions about the next course of action, with attention now turning to the Governor and potential judicial intervention.

Banerjee, whose All India Trinamool Congress



secured only 80 seats, rejected the outcome that gave the Bharatiya Janata Party a decisive 207 seats in the 294 member Assembly. She alleged irregularities in the electoral process and

claimed the mandate was influenced by unfair practices. Maintaining that she has not lost, she has declined to submit her resignation.

The situation has no clear precedent, but constitutional conventions provide some guidance. While there is no explicit legal requirement for a chief minister to resign after losing an election, the principle of majority support in the legislative assembly remains central.

Once results indicate a loss of majority, the expectation is that the chief minister steps down to allow a smooth transfer of power.

In the current scenario, the role of the Governor becomes crucial. Under Article 164(1) of the Constitution of India, the chief minister holds office at the Governor’s discretion. The Governor may ask Banerjee to prove her majority on the floor of the House.



Government Unveils Rs 18,100 Crore Lifeline for MSMEs and Airlines

■ New credit guarantee scheme aims to ease financial stress caused by West Asia conflict

New Delhi: The Centre has announced a major financial relief package to support businesses affected by the ongoing West Asia conflict, introducing the latest version of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme.

The initiative, known as ECLGS 5.0, comes with an outlay of Rs 18,100 crore and is designed to assist micro, small and medium enterprises as well as the aviation sector.

The scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet, is expected to enable additional credit flow of up to Rs 2.55 lakh crore, including a dedicated provision of Rs 5,000 crore for airlines. Addressing the announcement, Ashwini Vaishnaw said the initiative aims to reduce financial stress in key sectors impacted by

global disruptions.

Under the scheme, passenger airlines will be eligible for credit support of up to 100 per cent of their peak credit requirement, capped at Rs 1,500 crore.

Other eligible institutions can access up to 20 per cent of their working capital needs, subject to a limit of Rs 100 crore. The move is intended to ensure that businesses can continue operations despite liquidity challenges.

The government highlighted that the scheme will help maintain supply chains, safeguard employment, and support uninterrupted production. It also seeks to strengthen overall economic resilience by ensuring that businesses have access to timely financial assistance.



India and US Near Final Breakthrough on Trade Deal

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India and the United States are on the verge of finalising a long awaited trade agreement, with only a few outstanding issues left to resolve. According to Christopher Landau, both countries are “very close” to sealing the deal after months of detailed negotiations. Speaking during the SelectUSA Investment Summit in Maryland, Landau emphasised the importance of concluding the agreement soon. He noted that while progress has been steady, both sides must overcome the final hurdles to reach closure and shift focus to other strategic priorities.

The proposed agreement builds on a framework announced earlier this year between India and the United States. It aims to strengthen bilateral economic ties and expand trade volumes significantly, with a long term goal of reaching 500 billion dollars in trade by 2030. India is seeking improved access to American markets as part of the deal, while the United States has proposed tariff reductions on Indian goods.

Suvendu Adhikari Likely to Lead Bengal as BJP Eyes Government Formation

■ Key legislative meeting expected to confirm leadership ahead of swearing in ceremony

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party is preparing to form its first government in West Bengal, with Suvendu Adhikari emerging as the leading contender for the chief minister’s post. A crucial meeting of the party’s legislative wing is scheduled in Kolkata on May 8, where he is expected to be formally chosen as leader.

The meeting will bring together the party’s newly elected legislators following its decisive victory in the recent Assembly elections. With a large number of winning candidates, arrangements are being



made to accommodate the gathering. During the session, senior leaders are likely to propose and endorse Adhikari’s name, paving the way for him to stake claim to form the government. After the selection process, Adhikari is expected to meet the Governor to formally initiate government formation. The swearing in ceremony is likely to

take place the following day, coinciding with Rabindra Jayanti, adding symbolic significance to the occasion. Several top leaders, including Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, are expected to attend the event.

Adhikari has emerged as a central figure in the party’s success, having delivered a strong electoral performance.

“Step Aside for Fair Probe”: Pressure Mounts on Arunachal CM Amid Corruption Inquiry

■ Civil society protests intensify as Pema Khandu denies allegations and backs investigation

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Protests have intensified in Arunachal Pradesh with civil society groups demanding that Chief Minister Pema Khandu step aside while a corruption probe against him is underway. The demonstrations, led by the Arunachal Civil Society, follow a directive by the Supreme Court of India ordering a preliminary inquiry into the matter.



The court has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to examine allegations related to public works contracts reportedly linked to the chief minister’s family over the past decade. The

order triggered protests across parts of the state, with demonstrators calling for greater transparency during the investigation.

Protesters have stressed that their demand is not a judgment of guilt

but a step to ensure fairness. They argue that individuals holding high office should distance themselves from ongoing investigations to prevent any perceived influence. According to them, such a move would strengthen public confidence in the process.

Leaders of the civil society group have maintained that the protests are not politically driven but are rooted in the principles of accountability and due

process. They have also stated that if the inquiry finds no wrongdoing, the chief minister should continue in office without question.

Responding to the allegations, Khandu has firmly denied any involvement and rejected claims of corruption. He has expressed his willingness to cooperate fully with the investigation and welcomed the court’s decision to initiate a preliminary inquiry.

Playoff Race Wide Open as All 10 IPL Teams Remain in Contention

■ Chennai Super Kings revive campaign while tight points table keeps qualification battle intense

New Delhi: The race for the playoffs in Indian Premier League 2026 has taken a dramatic turn, with all ten teams still mathematically in contention as the league stage nears its conclusion. After a slow start, Chennai Super Kings have reignited their campaign, winning three of their last four matches to stay in the hunt.

At the top of the table, Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru lead the standings with 13 and 12 points respectively, both having a game



in hand over several rivals. Close behind are Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan Royals, and Gujarat Titans, all tied on 12 points, making the competition for the top four spots extremely tight.

Punjab Kings are well placed, needing

just two wins from their remaining matches to secure qualification. Royal Challengers Bengaluru also hold a strong advantage due to their superior net run rate, which could prove decisive even if they fall short of the typical qualification mark.

Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals require at least two wins each to reach the safer 16 point mark, while Gujarat Titans must not only win but also improve their net run rate, which currently puts them at a disadvantage.

For Chennai Super Kings, the equation is straightforward but challenging. They must win at least three of their remaining four matches to stay in contention, with their positive net run rate offering some hope in tight scenarios.



“No One Really Knows”: Thomas Cup Medallists Call for Greater Recognition

■ Indian badminton stars highlight lack of visibility despite historic bronze finish

New Delhi: India's bronze medal performance at the Thomas Cup has sparked a wider conversation about recognition and promotion of the sport, after players expressed disappointment over the muted response to their achievement.

Shortly after returning home, doubles star Satwiksairaj Rankireddy shared a social media post reflecting the team's frustration over the lack of attention surrounding their campaign. His partner Chirag Shetty echoed the sentiment, amplifying concerns that such a major accomplishment had gone largely unnoticed.

While acknowledging the support received from authorities over the

years, senior shuttler HS Prannoy pointed out that the issue lies more with visibility and promotion. He noted that major events like the Thomas Cup fail to generate excitement unless the team reaches the final stages, limiting public engagement with the sport.

Prannoy emphasised the need for stronger pre tournament promotion, suggesting that building anticipation through sustained coverage in the days leading up to competitions could significantly improve awareness.

He also highlighted efforts made by players themselves, including initiatives to create fan interest and bring attention to key tournaments.

MCC and Chowgule Start Strong with Opening Wins

■ Strong individual performances power opening victories in Goa Premier Division T20 League

Panaji: Margao Cricket Club and Chowgule Sports Club opened their campaigns with impressive wins in the Goa Premier Division T20 League 2025–26, with both matches held at the GCA Ground in Sanguem-Kotarli.

In the opening afternoon fixture, Salgaocar Cricket Club posted a total of 138 runs, getting bowled out just before completing their 20 overs. The innings saw a steady start, with useful contributions at



the top, while a quick 35 added momentum in the middle overs. Despite a few partnerships, frequent wickets prevented them from building a commanding total. Margao's bowling attack proved decisive, with two bowlers claiming four wickets each to restrict the



opposition effectively. In response, Margao faced early setbacks but recovered strongly thanks to a match defining innings. A fluent knock of 60 off 39 balls shifted the momentum, supported by a steady contribution from the middle order. The team successfully chased

down the target, finishing at 142 for 6 in 19 overs to secure a four wicket victory.

The second match under lights featured Panjim Gymkhana setting a competitive total of 153 for 7. After losing early wickets, the innings was stabilised by two half centuries, including an unbeaten effort that helped the team reach a respectable score. Chowgule's bowlers kept things controlled, picking up key wickets at regular intervals.

Summer Badminton Camp Opens Doors for Young Players in Goa

■ Training programme at Campal and Ponda offers professional coaching for beginners and intermediate players

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Goa Badminton Association will conduct an intensive summer badminton coaching camp from May 11 to June 6, 2026, at the Indoor Stadium in Campal, Panaji, and the Ponda Indoor Complex. The initiative aims to provide young players with structured training and an opportunity to develop their skills in a

professional environment.

Organised under the Centre of Excellence programme and supported by the Padukone School of Badminton, the camp is open to boys and girls aged six years and above. It is designed to cater to both beginners and intermediate level participants, with focused one hour training sessions scheduled in the morning from 9:30 am and again in the evening from 3:00 pm.

Green Dominate, Yellow Edge Thriller in Queen Cup Opener

■ Strong all round display and a tense chase mark exciting start to women's T20 tournament

Panaji: The Queen Cup Women's T20 tournament, organised by the Goa Cricket Association, commenced at the Napex Ground with two engaging matches that saw GCA Green and GCA Yellow begin their campaigns with victories.

In the opening match, GCA Green delivered a commanding performance to defeat GCA Blue by 61 runs. Batting first, Green posted a competitive total of 136 for 5 in their allotted 20 overs. The innings was built on steady contributions from

the top and middle order, with key batters ensuring a solid foundation and acceleration towards the end. In response, GCA Blue struggled to gain momentum against a disciplined bowling attack. The team was bowled out for 75 runs

in just 14.3 overs, as Green's bowlers maintained consistent pressure throughout the innings. Multiple bowlers contributed with crucial wickets, preventing any meaningful partnerships and sealing a comprehensive win.

