



Goa vs Goa in Tamil Nadu power game

■ Chodankar steers Congress support for Vijay while Governor Arlekar weighs majority claim, delaying swearing-in

Team Goemkarponn

Chennai/Panaji: Two politicians from Goa have found themselves at the centre of a high-stakes political battle in Tamil Nadu after actor-turned-politician Vijay led his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) to emerge as the single largest party in the Assembly elections but failed to secure a clear majority.

Senior Congress leader Girish Chodankar, who is the party's Tamil Nadu desk in-charge, has been playing a key role in negotiations between



the Congress leadership and the TVK camp. At the same time, Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar, a former BJP minister from Goa, is now tasked with deciding whether Vijay has the

numbers required to form the next government.

The political deadlock has delayed Vijay's swearing-in ceremony as intense negotiations continue behind closed doors in Chennai.

TVK fell short of the majority mark by 10 seats despite emerging as the biggest party in the Assembly. Congress has now agreed to support Vijay's party with conditions attached, taking the alliance tally to 113 seats. However, the combine still needs support from at least five more MLAs to comfortably cross the halfway mark and satisfy the Governor on the question of stability.

Sources in Congress said Chodankar has been actively coordinating discussions between the party high command and

“Prove Majority First”: Governor Asks Vijay To Submit Support Of 118 MLAs

TVK explores legal options as government formation in Tamil Nadu turns into high stakes numbers battle



New Delhi: Vijay has been asked by Tamil Nadu Governor R. V. Arlekar to prove majority support before being invited to form the next government in the state, intensifying the political uncertainty following the Assembly election results.

According to sources, the governor has insisted that the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam chief must submit letters of support from at least 118 legislators, the majority mark in the Assembly, before taking oath as Chief Minister.

Vijay reportedly met the governor twice within two days after TVK emerged as the surprise force in the election with 108 seats in its debut contest.

However, the governor is understood to be unconvinced that the party currently has the numbers needed to form a stable government.

The Congress has already extended support with its five MLAs, taking the alliance tally to 113. Sources said Vijay informed the governor that he was prepared to face a floor test in the Assembly if given the opportunity to form the government.

TVK is now believed to be considering approaching the courts over the governor's stand. Party leaders reportedly feel that the governor should invite the single largest alliance to prove its majority on the Assembly floor instead

Goa Cabinet Focuses On Livelihood Boost Through Processing Centres Initiative

■ State backs Goa Livelihood Forum with ₹1 crore annual support; also clears rehabilitation board posts and wage access scheme

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Giving priority to livelihood generation and community-based economic activity, the Goa Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Goa Livelihood Forum

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CM Sawant To Visit Assam, West Bengal For Oath-Taking Events

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant will travel to Assam and West Bengal

to participate in the swearing-in ceremonies of the newly formed governments in the two states.

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Enough Is Enough Movement Files Caveat In SC Over Deltin Vessel Row

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PANAJI: The Enough Is Enough Movement has filed a caveat in the Supreme Court in connection with the ongoing dispute over the new Deltin casino vessel after the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court restrained the ship from entering the Mandovi River without necessary permissions.

“Pakistan Army Fought For Hafiz Saeed And Masood Azhar”: Pakistani Politician Sparks Major Row

■ Viral speech revives allegations of military links with terror groups after references to Operation Sindoor and funerals of militants

New Delhi: Pakistani politician's remarks at a public gathering in Rawalpindi have triggered fresh controversy after he openly spoke about the Pakistan Army's alleged association with terror groups linked to Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar.

Shaheer Sialvi, chairman of the Pakistan Nazriyati Party, made the comments during



an event organised by Pakistan based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba. A video of

his speech has gone viral on social media, drawing sharp attention because

of the direct references to Pakistan's military involvement and support for militants killed during India's Operation Sindoor in 2025.

During his address, Sialvi spoke about Indian strikes on Muridke and Bahawalpur, locations that India has repeatedly identified as terror hubs associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. He stated that, for the first time, the

Pakistan Army itself took responsibility for conducting funerals of those killed in the strikes, with soldiers reportedly carrying coffins in uniform and military officials leading the ceremonies.

The remarks have gained further significance because Pakistan has consistently denied offering direct institutional support to militant groups operating from its territory.

Goa's Tiger Debate Cannot Be Reduced to Politics

The discovery of yet another tiger carcass in Goa's forests has reopened an uncomfortable question the state has tried to avoid for years: should Goa finally declare a tiger reserve in the Mhadei forest belt? What should have been a serious ecological discussion has instead become a political tug of war, where conservationists, politicians and local communities are speaking past one another instead of confronting the real issue.

The tiger's death is not merely a wildlife incident. It is a warning. Goa's forests are under increasing stress, and the state's hesitation over long term conservation is becoming harder to justify. For years, the government has argued that Goa does not host a permanent tiger population and therefore does not require a tiger reserve. Officials maintain that the animals passing through the forests are only "transient" tigers moving between Karnataka and Maharashtra.

But nature does not operate according to administrative language. Whether tigers are permanent residents or passing through, the forests of Goa clearly form part of an active wildlife corridor in the Western Ghats. Corridors matter because they allow species to move, breed and survive across fragmented habitats. In modern conservation, protecting movement is as important as protecting territory.

That is why the argument for a tiger reserve carries weight. A reserve would provide stronger safeguards against unchecked infrastructure expansion, mining pressure and environmentally destructive projects in fragile forest zones. Goa's forests are not simply scenic backdrops for tourism campaigns. They are ecological lifelines that sustain biodiversity, water systems and climate resilience in a rapidly urbanising state.

The irony is impossible to ignore. Goa proudly markets its beaches and green landscapes to the world, yet struggles to commit fully to protecting one of the country's most critical forest ecosystems. The state cannot continue celebrating nature as a tourism asset while resisting stronger ecological protections whenever they threaten political convenience or commercial interests.

At the same time, dismissing public opposition to the tiger reserve would be equally irresponsible. The fears among local communities are genuine. Villagers living near proposed reserve areas worry about displacement, restrictions on traditional forest access and growing state control over land they have depended on for generations. For many families, the tiger reserve debate is not about wildlife ideology.

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It is about survival.

Their concerns are not imaginary. Across India, conservation projects have too often treated forest dwelling communities as obstacles rather than stakeholders. Relocation, bureaucratic harassment and shrinking livelihood access have created deep mistrust in many protected areas. When governments promise that "no one will be affected,"

people living closest to the forests often hear something very different.

This is where the Goa debate becomes dangerously simplistic. Political leaders have framed the issue as a choice between people and tigers, development and conservation. That framing may win applause at rallies, but it solves nothing. Forest protection and community welfare cannot exist in separate worlds. A successful conservation policy must recognise that local communities are not enemies of the forest. In many cases, they have protected these landscapes far longer than governments have.

The state's reluctance also reflects another uncomfortable reality. A tiger reserve could place tighter scrutiny on future infrastructure and commercial projects in ecologically sensitive zones. That naturally creates resistance from interests that view forests primarily through the lens of economic expansion. Conservation becomes politically inconvenient when it slows down roads, resorts, mining proposals or real estate ambitions.

Yet delaying decisions comes with its own cost. Every tiger death, every shrinking habitat patch and every degraded corridor pushes the ecosystem closer to irreversible decline. Goa may be India's smallest state, but its forests form part of a much larger environmental network in the Western Ghats. Damage done here does not remain confined within state borders.

The answer, however, is not blind approval of a reserve without safeguards. If Goa eventually moves toward tiger reserve status, it must do so differently from many past conservation models. Forest rights must be protected transparently. Local communities must have a direct role in decision making. Compensation, livelihood security and coexistence policies cannot remain empty promises drafted in official files.

The latest tiger death should force Goa to move beyond symbolic politics. The state can no longer avoid responsibility by arguing over definitions of "resident" or "transient" wildlife. If tigers continue to appear, die and move through Goa's forests, then those forests are ecologically significant whether the government formally accepts it or not.

The real challenge is bigger than a reserve notification. It is whether Goa can prove that environmental protection and human dignity can coexist in the same policy vision. If the debate continues to be reduced to slogans and political calculations, both the forests and the people living around them will ultimately lose.

OPED

Parasailing Panic Should Be a Wake Up Call

The clarification by Goa Tourist Police that the viral parasailing scare actually occurred in Malvan and not Goa may temporarily protect the State's tourism image, but it should not become an excuse for complacency. The larger issue raised by the incident remains deeply relevant for Goa as well. Adventure tourism across the Konkan coast has expanded rapidly over the years, often faster than safety oversight. Parasailing, jet skiing and other water sports are marketed aggressively to tourists seeking thrills and speed, but questions about operator training, equipment quality and emergency preparedness continue to linger. Whether the viral incident happened in Goa or Malvan, the fear and panic experienced by the tourist exposed how quickly a recreational activity can turn life-threatening. Goa cannot afford to respond only with technical clarifications. The State's tourism economy depends heavily on public confidence, and confidence comes from visible safety standards, not damage control after videos go viral. Authorities must conduct stricter inspections of water sports operators, ensure mandatory safety briefings and enforce accountability for violations without compromise. Tourists too often assume that licensed operations automatically guarantee safety. Unfortunately, that is not always true. Many visitors are unfamiliar with sea conditions, equipment risks or emergency procedures. This makes regulation even more important. In today's social media age, one incident can shape perceptions far beyond geographical boundaries. Goa should therefore treat this episode not as "someone else's problem" but as an opportunity to strengthen safety systems before a real tragedy occurs closer home. A thriving tourism industry cannot survive on promotion alone. It must also earn trust.

- Gopan Naik, Ponda, Goa

Development Must Improve Daily Life, Not Just Headlines

The announcement of Rs 140 crore worth of development projects in Vasco is undoubtedly significant and reflects the government's intention to modernise the port town. Improved connectivity, sports infrastructure and commercial facilities are all welcome initiatives for a region that has long struggled with traffic congestion, inadequate civic amenities and uneven urban planning. However, large announcements alone cannot guarantee meaningful development unless execution remains transparent, timely and people centric. Vasco residents have heard promises of transformation for years, yet many continue to deal with poor roads, drainage issues, garbage management problems and overcrowded public spaces. The real test of these new projects will not be foundation stone ceremonies but whether they genuinely improve the daily lives of ordinary citizens. The upgraded Road Under Bridge may help traffic flow, but authorities must ensure that construction does not create prolonged inconvenience or safety risks. Similarly, sports and recreational facilities should remain accessible to local youth and not become expensive commercial spaces beyond the reach of common residents. The proposed commercial complex for the municipal council could generate economic activity, but the government must also focus on strengthening basic civic administration and accountability. Urban development should not only prioritise infrastructure visibility but also maintenance and sustainability. Vasco has enormous potential due to its strategic location and historical importance. Yet the town requires balanced planning that combines economic growth with environmental protection, public transport improvement and better quality of life. Citizens will ultimately judge these projects not by their cost, but by their impact.

- Gopan D'Souza, Vasco-da-Gama

AAP Alleges Political Misuse Of Goa Police

■ Party Stages 'Chatai-Ushe Andolan' Outside Panjim Police Station; Claims Rising Crime And Drug Menace Being Ignored

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Leaders and workers of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday staged a protest outside the Panjim Police Station, accusing the BJP-led government of using the police machinery to target opposition voices and social activists.

The protest, termed as the "Chatai-Ushe Andolan", was led by senior AAP functionaries who alleged that repeated police summons were being issued to party leaders and activists in connection with protest-related cases



in an attempt to suppress dissent. Addressing the gathering, AAP leaders claimed that the law and order situation in Goa was deteriorating, citing recent murder incidents reported from Borim and Calangute as well as the growing drug

problem in the state. They alleged that instead of focusing on serious criminal activities, the police force was being diverted towards politically motivated actions against opposition parties.

The party further accused the BJP

government of indulging in political vendetta and misusing state machinery to intimidate critics and protestors. AAP leaders said activists raising public issues were allegedly facing harassment through repeated questioning and legal notices. The protesters demanded that the government allow police agencies to function independently and focus on maintaining public safety rather than targeting political opponents. The agitation continued for some time before police intervened and brought the situation under control.



Goa Denies Any Unfortunate Parasailing Incident at Its Beaches

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: With the monsoon season approaching, the Bicholim administration has intensified preparedness efforts by directing departments and local bodies to take urgent preventive measures against potential rain-related hazards, including dangerous trees, flooding and road damage. A high-level coordination meeting on pre-monsoon preparedness and disaster management was held at the Office of the Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Officer, Bicholim, under the chairmanship of Shubham M. Naik.

India's coastal state of Goa has denied reports circulated by certain sections of the media claiming that an unfortunate parasailing incident took place at one of its beaches.

According to Goa

Police, the incident dates back to 2019 and did not occur within the jurisdiction of the state.

The clarification was issued after an old video resurfaced on social media and went viral.

According to a senior official from the Department of Tourism, Goa, the public at large is requested to avoid believing or sharing unverified reports that may create fear in the minds of tourists without proper fact-checking.

Goa Tourism continues to ensure that its beaches remain safe for all tourists, subject to adherence to strict local guidelines and respect for seasonal ocean conditions.

The department has implemented comprehensive safety protocols, including the "Safe & Clean Beaches" mission aimed at reducing crime and ensuring public decorum, the official

Two Booked For Assaulting Moira Panch Near Bastora

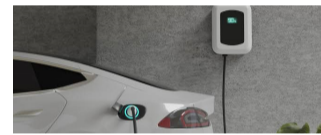
■ Police launch search for father-son duo after alleged attack linked to old rivalry

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Mapusa police have registered a case against two persons for allegedly attacking Moira Panch member Lavu Thakur on Wednesday afternoon following a dispute reportedly linked to past animosity. According to police sources, the incident occurred around 12.40 pm when Thakur was travelling home from Mapusa on his scooter. Near Belekar Hall in



Bastora, Chirag Belekar of Moira allegedly followed Thakur on a motorcycle and rammed into his two-wheeler from behind, causing him to fall onto the road. An argument reportedly broke out immediately after the collision. Police said Chirag later contacted his father, Jayesh Belekar, who arrived at the spot soon after. The duo is accused of physically assaulting Thakur and allegedly issuing threats during the confrontation.



Goa Ranks Second In India For Personal EV Adoption

PANAJI: Goa has secured the second spot in the country for adoption of electric vehicles in the personal transport category, reflecting the State's growing shift towards sustainable mobility solutions.

Latest figures available on the Vahan portal up to April this year show that Goa achieved an overall electric vehicle penetration of 13.11 per cent in the personal.

DoP Directs Inclusion Of PwDs In Village Bodies

■ Action initiated after DRAG ultimatum seeks accessibility measures and nominations in all panchayats within fixed deadlines

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Panchayats has initiated steps to ensure representation and accessibility for persons with disabilities across village panchayats in Goa following an ultimatum issued by the Disability Rights Association of Goa (DRAG).

In a communication addressed to all Block Development Officers, the Directorate has instructed officials



to complete the nomination of persons with disabilities in all panchayats by May 30,

2026.

The memorandum also directs authorities to ensure that public places across villages are made accessible to persons with disabilities within a period of six months.

The move comes after

DRAG warned of possible legal action if accessibility measures were not implemented

within the stipulated timeframe.

The association had demanded immediate intervention to improve inclusion and remove barriers faced by persons with disabilities in public spaces and local governance.

DRAG President Avelino de Sa said the association has also appealed to eligible persons with disabilities who are interested in being nominated to panchayat bodies to contact the organisation at the earliest.

Widow Receives New Home Under Shramdham Initiative in Poinguinim

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A newly constructed house under the Shramdham initiative was formally handed over to a widow at Mahalwada in Poinguinim on Thursday. Goa Minister and Canacona MLA Ramesh Tawadkar inaugurated the house and handed over the keys to Smt. Kavita Chari, who has been living with her daughter after the demise of her husband. According to sources, Kavita Chari had been facing financial hardship and was unable to afford a home following



her husband's death. Moved by the family's condition, Tawadkar extended support through his ambitious Shramdham initiative to help fulfil their dream of owning a house.

The house was built with the collective efforts of the "Shramdham Warriors," whose contribution and dedication helped transform the project into reality.

Human Rights Commission Resolves 165 Complaints, Relief Payments in Several Cases Still Awaited

■ Annual Report Highlights Pending Compensation of More Than Rs 54 Lakh and Ongoing Public Grievances

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) has disposed of 165 complaints during the 2025-26 reporting period, even as compensation exceeding Rs 54 lakh recommended in multiple cases is yet to be disbursed.

The details were revealed in the



Commission's 14th annual report submitted to the State Government, which reviewed the functioning of the body between April 2025 and March 2026.

According to the report, the Commission had 81 pending matters at the beginning of the

period and received 105 new complaints during the year. A total of 165 cases were subsequently resolved. The Commission stated that recommendations were issued in 21 matters concerning alleged human rights violations. Out of these, compensation amounting to Rs 10.83 lakh was paid in five cases. However, relief

totalling approximately Rs 54.77 lakh recommended in three separate matters is still pending payment.

The report also pointed out that complaints relating to police conduct, unlawful detention, delayed pension and salary disbursement, and denial of access to property continued to feature prominently before the Commission.



Illegal Land Filling Case Registered at Verna Police Station

■ *Property Owner Booked for Alleged Unauthorized Activity at Pale in Mormugao Taluka

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Verna Police have registered a case against a property owner for allegedly carrying out illegal land filling activities without obtaining the necessary permissions from the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department.

According to police, the case was registered under Crime No. 45/2026 under Section 17-A of the TCP Act following a complaint filed by Yatish Yothambikar, Draftsman Grade-II attached to the Office of the Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Goa, Mormugao, Vasco.

As per the complaint, the alleged violation took place on March 27, 2026, at TNK, Survey No. 14/3 of village Pale in Mormugao Taluka. The property is stated to belong to Selwyn Quelebino Sa Rebello.

Authorities alleged that the accused undertook land filling work on the property without securing prior approval or permission from the Chief Town and Country Planner for Mormugao Taluka, thereby violating provisions of the TCP Act.

Further investigation in the matter is being conducted by PSI Mahesh Bhomkar of Verna Police Station.



Pedestrian Injured After Motorcycle Collision at Curchorem

CURCHOREM:

Curchorem Police have registered a case against a motorcycle rider following an accident in which a pedestrian sustained head injuries at Madhegal, Kakoda, on Monday morning.

According to police, the incident occurred on May 5, 2026, at around 11:15 am when the accused rider, identified as Tukaram Naik of Khodwamol, Kalay in Sanguem Taluka, was riding a Hero Splendor motorcycle from Shivaji Chowk, Curchorem towards Sanguem.

Police stated that when the rider reached Madhegal, Kakoda, he allegedly rode the motorcycle in a rash and negligent manner without proper care and caution, thereby endangering human life. The motorcycle reportedly hit pedestrian Raju Naik, a resident of Kakoda, Curchorem, while he was crossing the road from the left side towards the right.

As a result of the impact, the pedestrian sustained head injuries and was provided medical treatment.

Elderly Woman Found Unconscious in Backyard at Chinchinim, Declared Dead

■ Police Register Unnatural Death Case After 95-Year-Old Collapses Near Her House

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Cuncolim Police have registered an unnatural death case following the death of a 95-year-old woman who was found unconscious in the backyard of her residence at Santmoddi, Chinchinim.

According to police, information regarding the incident was received on May 5, 2026, through a phone call from Jerson Gomes, a panch member of Chinchinim, who informed authorities that an elderly woman was lying unconscious near



her house.

Police personnel rushed to the spot and found the woman lying unconscious in the backyard of her residence. During preliminary inquiry, she was identified as Esperance Mascarenhas, aged 95, a resident of Santmoddi, Chinchinim in

Salcete Taluka.

Initial inquiry revealed that the deceased, who lived alone, had reportedly gone behind her house to pluck mangoes and was later found unconscious on the ground.

A 108 ambulance was called to the scene and shifted her to the Primary Health Centre at Cuncolim, where the on-duty doctor declared her dead. Police thereafter conducted the scene of occurrence panchanama and inquest proceedings. The body was later referred to the South Goa District Hospital,

Man Held for Allegedly Accepting Matka Bets Near Taleigao Bus Stop

■ Panaji Police Seize Cash and Gambling Materials During Public Gambling Raid

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered a gambling case against a 40-year-old man who was allegedly caught accepting money bets on numerical digital figures near the Taleigao bus stop.

According to police, the accused, identified as Suraj Kumar Sahani, son of Shankar Sahani, originally from



Badona in Samastipur district of Bihar and

presently residing at Caranzalem, North Goa,

was apprehended on May 5, 2026, at around 2:50 pm during a police operation conducted near the bus stop at Taleigao in Tiswadi.

Police said the accused was allegedly found accepting cash bets in an open public place in connection with numerical gambling activities. During the raid, officers seized cash amounting to Rs 1,340 in different denominations along with

other gambling-related materials.

Based on a complaint lodged by Head Constable Chandrakant Ghadi of Panaji Police Station, an offence under Section 11(2) (a) of the Goa Public Gambling Act has been registered at Panaji Police Station under Crime No. 83/2026.

Further investigation into the case is in progress.

South Goa Vigilance Committee Reviews Atrocities Act Cases

■ Officials Directed to Ensure Timely Disposal and Strict Compliance With Legal Provisions

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A meeting of the District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee for South Goa under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, was held to review the implementation of the Act and monitor the status of cases in the district. The meeting was chaired by Egna Cleetus and attended by South Goa



Member of Parliament Viriato Fernandes, Superintendent of Police Santosh Desai, and officials from the Social Welfare Department. During the meeting, officials stressed that all pending cases registered

under the Prevention of Atrocities Act must be disposed of strictly as per prescribed legal procedures and within the stipulated time frame.

The Superintendent of Police informed the committee that no cases

under the Act have been reported in South Goa during the current year. He further stated that only two cases were registered in the previous year and that charge sheets in both matters have already been filed. Officials also informed the committee that the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) has been conducting awareness programmes related to the Act, while compensation has been provided to victims in eligible cases.



Bicholim Cracks Down on Monsoon Hazards Ahead of Rainy Season

■ Administration Orders Identification of Dangerous Trees, Drain Clearance and Emergency Readiness Measures

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: With the monsoon season approaching, the Bicholim administration has intensified preparedness efforts by directing departments and local bodies to take urgent preventive measures against potential rain-related hazards, including dangerous trees, flooding and road damage. A high-level coordination meeting on pre-monsoon preparedness and disaster management was held at the Office of the Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Officer, Bicholim, under the chairmanship of Shubham M. Naik.

The meeting focused on minimising risks to public safety through advance planning and

coordinated emergency response measures before the onset of heavy rains. During the review, Village Panchayats and Municipal Councils were directed to immediately identify dangerous trees within their jurisdictions and initiate proposals for necessary action to prevent accidents during storms and strong winds.

The Public Works Department was instructed to undertake roadside bush cutting, pothole repairs and other road safety works, while ensuring the availability of JCBs and heavy machinery for emergency response. Authorities also directed officials to clear drains and nallahs to avoid waterlogging and flooding in vulnerable areas.



Knife Attack Near Benaulim Parking Area Triggers Attempt to Murder Case

CURCHOREM: An early-morning knife assault near a busy parking area at Benaulim has led Colva Police to register an attempt to murder case against two accused persons after a Nuvem resident suffered multiple injuries in the attack.

The victim, identified as 32-year-old Zion Alvares

Saligao Gears Up for Grand Annual Heritage Festival 2026

■ Police Register Unnatural Death Case After 95-Year-Old Collapses Near Her House

Team Goemkarponn

SALIGAO: Preparations for the Grand Annual Heritage Festival 2026, scheduled to be held from May 8 to 10 in Saligao, are underway, with local leaders and government officials holding a detailed review meeting to coordinate arrangements for the event.

The meeting was chaired by Saligao MLA Kedar Naik, who said the focus was on planning, coordination and ensuring a safe and memorable



experience for visitors attending the three-day festival celebrating Saligao's cultural heritage.

Officials from the Department of Tourism, Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC), Traffic Cell, Saligao Police and Fire Department participated in the meeting

to review logistics, crowd management and safety measures. Among those present were Director of Tourism Kedar Naik, GTDC Managing Director Kuldeep Arolkar, Dy. GM Marketing Deepak Narvekar, Dy. Director Jayesh Kankonkar and IT Manager Pritesh Palyekar.

Rs 140 Crore Development Push Launched in Vasco

■ Pramod Sawant Inaugurates Key Infrastructure, Sports and Commercial Projects in Port Town

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for development projects worth around Rs 140 crore in Vasco, aimed at improving connectivity, boosting urban infrastructure and creating

modern recreational facilities in the port town.

The projects include the upgraded Road Under Bridge (RUB) at Vasco, an Integrated Sports, Recreational and Commercial Facilities Project, and a new Commercial Complex for the Mormugao Municipal Council.



Protection Wall Projects Launched to Combat Soil Erosion in Parye and Keri

■ Deviya Rane Says Works Will Help Protect Roads, Prevent Land Loss and Reduce Monsoon Damage

Team Goemkarponn

PORIEM: In a move aimed at tackling increasing soil erosion and monsoon-related damage in vulnerable areas, Poriem MLA Deviya Rane on Wednesday laid the foundation stones for two major protection wall projects in Parye and Keri.

The projects include the construction of a protection wall along



the nallah at Survey No. 64/1 at Zariwada Podocem in V.P. Parye and an urgent protection wall at Ghoteli No. 1 in Keri.

The works are being undertaken to address persistent soil erosion caused by heavy rainwater flow, which has threatened adjoining

roads and nearby land in the two localities over the years.

Officials said the protection walls will help stabilise vulnerable stretches, prevent further land degradation and reduce the risk of road collapse during the monsoon season. The projects are also expected to improve water flow management and ensure safer connectivity for residents.

“Celebrating The Soul Of Goa”: Heritage Festival 2026 To Begin In Saligao From May 8

■ Three day cultural festival to showcase Goa’s music, traditions, cuisine and community spirit

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Department of Tourism Goa, in association with Goa Tourism Development Corporation, will organise the Goa Heritage Festival 2026 at the Football Ground in Saligao from May 8 to 10, beginning daily from 6 pm onwards.

The three day festival is aimed at celebrating Goa’s cultural heritage through music, traditional performances, fashion showcases, local cuisine and community participation. The event is designed to offer visitors and residents an immersive experience of Goa’s traditions and cultural identity beyond its beaches.

The festival will be inaugurated on May 8 in the presence of Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant along



with Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte and other dignitaries from the tourism and cultural sectors.

Speaking ahead of the event, Rohan Khaunte said the festival reflects Goa’s cultural richness and the state government’s vision of promoting year round tourism driven by local experiences and community involvement.

He said the initiative aims to strengthen cultural pride while encouraging regenerative

tourism.

GTDC Chairman Kedar J Naik said the festival has been carefully curated to bring together multiple aspects of Goa’s heritage under one platform. He invited locals and tourists alike to participate in the celebrations and experience Goa’s vibrant traditions.

The opening evening on Friday will begin with a brass band procession and Ganesh Vandana, followed by performances by David Furtado

Productions, Harmony Orchestra and Band Forefront.

Saturday’s schedule includes the screening of a Konkani film, LED performances by Vajra Aigal, a fashion show by Ninoshka and musical performances by Band Shine and singer Sudesh Bhosle along with Band Lehre.

The concluding day on Sunday will feature another Konkani film screening, traditional dance performances including Kalshi and Dekhni, live music by Band Archies and Band Raagas 2 Riches, and a felicitation ceremony honouring prominent personalities from the Saligao constituency.

The festival is expected to draw large crowds and further promote Goa’s cultural tourism landscape.

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Goa Cabinet Focuses On Livelihood Boost Through Processing Centres Initiative

as the implementing agency for the operation and maintenance of the Sustainable Development Goa Multi-Product Processing Centres across the state.

The government will provide annual financial assistance of ₹1 crore for the initiative, which is aimed at strengthening local production, processing activities and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Apart from the livelihood-focused decision, the Cabinet also approved the creation of 23 permanent posts in different categories under the Goa Rehabilitation Board to improve its functioning and service delivery mechanisms.

In another major decision, the state approved an MoU with Instape Synergies Pvt. Ltd. to introduce earned wage access along with salary and pension-linked advance facilities for government employees and pensioners.

Officials said an agency has been appointed to accelerate implementation of the scheme.

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said the decisions were aimed at improving livelihoods, strengthening welfare institutions and enhancing financial accessibility for citizens and employees in Goa.

CM Sawant To Visit Assam, West Bengal For Oath-Taking Events

According to official information, the oath-taking function in West Bengal is tentatively scheduled for May 9, while the ceremony in Assam is expected to take place on May 12.

The visit forms part of the Chief Minister’s official engagements and inter-state political interactions following the formation of the new governments.

“World Leaders To Unite For Big Cat Conservation”: India To Host First Global IBCA Summit In June

■ Representatives from nearly 95 countries to attend landmark New Delhi summit focused on protecting seven iconic big cat species

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: New Delhi is set to host the first ever International Big Cat Alliance Summit on June 1 and 2, bringing together senior representatives, conservationists and policymakers from nearly 95 countries to discuss the protection of the world’s seven major big cat species.

The summit, organised under the International Big Cat Alliance, marks the first major global gathering since the alliance was launched in 2023 during celebrations marking 50 years of Project Tiger.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav unveiled the official summit logo featuring the seven big cat species including the lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, snow



leopard, jaguar and puma. He described the alliance as a unique international platform aimed at strengthening cooperation among countries that are home to these species.

According to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the summit is expected to witness participation from heads of state, government representatives, scientists,

conservation experts, financial institutions, corporate leaders and community groups from around the world.

Headquartered in India, the International Big Cat Alliance has emerged as a treaty based intergovernmental organisation focused on global big cat conservation. The alliance currently includes more than 24 member nations,

while several other countries are participating as observers. Membership remains open to all United Nations member states interested in supporting conservation efforts.

Officials said the summit will focus on promoting international cooperation, strengthening transboundary conservation efforts and aligning wildlife protection strategies with global

biodiversity and climate goals.

One of the most significant outcomes expected from the event is the adoption of the “Delhi Declaration”, the first global declaration dedicated exclusively to big cat conservation. The declaration is expected to outline shared conservation priorities, encourage coordinated international action and promote habitat based conservation strategies across continents.

The inaugural sessions of the summit will be held at Bharat Mandapam, followed by technical discussions involving government officials, wildlife experts and conservation organisations working across major big cat habitats worldwide.

CM Sawant Condemns Post-Poll Violence In West Bengal

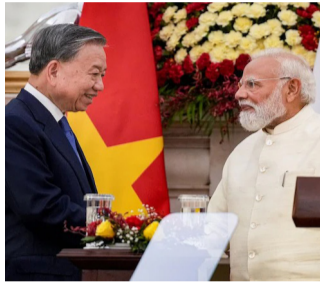
Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Wednesday expressed concern over the killing of Chandranath Rath, considered a close associate of West Bengal opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari, stating that violence has no place in a democratic setup after elections. Reacting to the incident, Sawant said such occurrences should not take place once the electoral process is over. He stressed that India functions on democratic principles and political parties must honour and accept the mandate delivered by the people. The CM further said that maintaining peace and respecting democratic values is essential in a healthy political environment.

“India - Vietnam Share Common Indo-Pacific Vision”: PM Modi Announces Upgrade In Bilateral Ties

■ New Delhi and Hanoi elevate relationship to Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with focus on defence, economy and regional stability

New Delhi: India and Vietnam have elevated their bilateral relationship to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership following high level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vietnamese President To Lam in New Delhi. The announcement came during President To Lam's three day state visit



to India, his first overseas visit since assuming office earlier this month. Both leaders agreed

to deepen cooperation across defence, economic connectivity, security and regional affairs, while also reaffirming their shared commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Addressing the media after delegation level talks, PM Modi described Vietnam as a key pillar of India's Act East Policy and Vision

Ocean initiative. He said both countries shared a common outlook for the Indo-Pacific and would continue working together to strengthen rule of law, regional stability and prosperity.

The discussions also focused on expanding defence and security cooperation between the two nations.



“Zero Tolerance Towards Violence”: Bengal Police Register 200 Cases After Poll Results

■ 433 arrests made and over 1,100 people detained preventively as security tightened across West Bengal

New Delhi: West Bengal Police have registered 200 cases and arrested 433 people in connection with incidents of post poll violence reported across the state following the declaration of Assembly election results on May 4.

Director General of Police Siddh Nath Gupta said authorities have also placed more than 1,100 individuals under preventive detention as part of efforts to maintain law and order and prevent further unrest.

The developments come after the Election Commission of India directed the West Bengal administration and security agencies to adopt a zero tolerance approach towards post poll violence in the state.

According to the police chief, strong preventive measures are being implemented across sensitive areas with the support of Central Armed Police Forces.

Around 500 companies of CAPFs continue to remain deployed in West Bengal even after the conclusion of the election process. Officials said the forces will stay in the state until further instructions are issued by the Election Commission.

The DGP also addressed concerns regarding changes in the security arrangements of outgoing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee.



“Let Them Dismiss Me”: Mamata Banerjee Refuses To Step Down Amid Political Storm

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.

“Operation Sindoor Reflected India’s Firm Response Against Terrorism”: PM

■ Prime Minister marks first anniversary of military operation, praises armed forces for precision, coordination and resolve

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday marked the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, describing it as a symbol of India's uncompromising stand against terrorism and a demonstration of the strength and preparedness of the country's armed forces.

In a message posted on X, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the courage and professionalism shown by Indian forces during the operation launched after the Pahalgam terror attack in 2025, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians.

PM Modi said



the armed forces displayed exceptional courage, precision and determination while responding to the attack. He added that the operation reflected India's firm resolve to safeguard national security and eliminate terrorism along with its supporting networks.

The Prime Minister also changed his display

picture on X to an image associated with Operation Sindoor as a tribute to the armed forces on the anniversary of the mission.

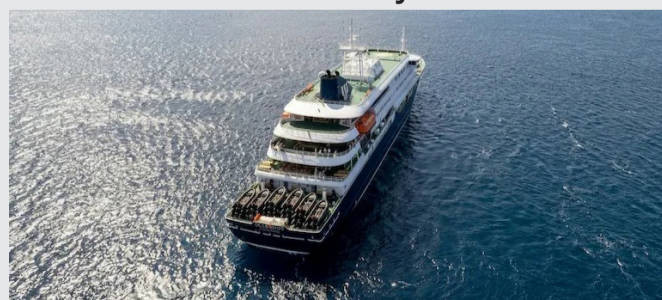
Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7, 2025, as a targeted military campaign aimed at destroying terror infrastructure across the Line of Control and deeper inside Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir. The operation was carried out following detailed intelligence inputs identifying multiple terror camps linked to militant activities.

“Only One Of 38 Hantavirus Strains Can Spread Between Humans”: Concern Grows After Cruise Ship Outbreak

■ Health authorities confirm Andes strain behind Atlantic cruise cluster as experts stress transmission remains extremely rare

New Delhi: Global health authorities have confirmed that the recent hantavirus outbreak aboard the cruise ship MV Hondius was caused by the rare Andes strain, the only known variant among dozens of hantavirus strains capable of spreading from person to person.

The confirmation by the World Health Organization and South African health authorities has drawn international



attention because human to human transmission of hantavirus is considered extremely uncommon. Officials stressed that such spread usually requires prolonged close contact

and does not occur as easily as common respiratory infections. South African Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi stated that preliminary tests identified the Andes

strain as the source of the outbreak. He noted that, although the strain can spread between humans, transmission remains very rare and typically happens only through close personal interaction.

Hantavirus belongs to a family of rodent borne viruses carried mainly by mice, rats and voles. These animals act as natural carriers and release the virus through urine, saliva and droppings. Humans are

generally infected after inhaling contaminated airborne particles, especially in enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces. Scientists have identified nearly 38 hantavirus strains worldwide. Most are geographically linked to specific rodent species and are not capable of spreading between humans. The Andes strain, found mainly in South America, remains the only documented exception.

“It Has Become A Virus”: Ricky Ponting Slams Punjab Kings’ Fielding After Third Straight Defeat

■ Sunrisers Hyderabad climb to top of IPL table as dropped catches and sloppy fielding hurt Punjab Kings again

New Delhi: Punjab Kings suffered their third consecutive defeat in IPL 2026 after a costly fielding display allowed Sunrisers Hyderabad to secure a commanding 33 run victory and move to the top of the points table.

Punjab Kings dropped three catches and missed a routine stumping opportunity during the match, prompting head coach Ricky Ponting to describe the repeated errors as a “virus” affecting



the team throughout the season. Batting first on a batting friendly surface, Sunrisers Hyderabad piled up a massive 235 for 4 in 20 overs. Heinrich Klaasen

continued his outstanding form with a powerful 69 off 43 balls, while Ishan Kishan smashed 55 from 32 deliveries. Both batters benefited from dropped

chances that proved extremely costly for Punjab. Openers Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head laid the platform with an explosive start, adding a quick half century partnership. Nitish Reddy later provided the finishing touch with an unbeaten 29 off just 13 balls. Punjab spinner Yuzvendra Chahal endured a frustrating evening as catches were dropped off his bowling and a stumping opportunity was missed.



India Shock 10-Time Olympic Champions South Korea To Enter Archery World Cup Final

■ Deepika Kumari led women’s recurve team stuns Korea with dominant display as Indian men crash out against Bangladesh

New Delhi: India’s women’s recurve team delivered a sensational performance to defeat record 10 time Olympic champions South Korea and book a place in the final of the Archery World Cup Stage 2 on Thursday. The Indian trio of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and teenage archer Kumkum Mohod defeated the Korean side 5-1 in the semifinals to assure the country of its first medal of the tournament.

The Indian team displayed remarkable composure throughout the contest and will now face second seeded China in the gold medal clash on Sunday.

India made an aggressive start in the semifinal, scoring four perfect 10s from six arrows to comfortably

take the opening set 58-55. The Korean team struggled to settle into rhythm early in the match, giving India a strong advantage.

The second set was closely fought, but India held firm to secure a 56-56 tie and extend their lead to 3-1. With victory within reach, the Indian trio produced another impressive round in the third set, once again scoring 58. South Korea managed only 56 under pressure, allowing India to complete a memorable straight sets victory. The Korean squad featured several inexperienced archers as part of preparations for the upcoming Asian Games in Japan later this year. Debutants Lee Yunji and Oh Yejin were included alongside reigning world champion Kang Chaeyoung.

“MCC Storm Into Semifinals After Thrilling Chase; Geno Crush Panjim Gymkhana”

■ Aryan Narvekar’s explosive knock powers MCC to second straight win as Geno register commanding 53 run victory

Panaji: Margao Cricket Club sealed a place in the semifinals of the Goa Premier Division League T20 tournament with a thrilling four wicket win over Dempo Cricket Club, while Geno Sports Club produced a dominant all round display to defeat Panjim Gymkhana by 53 runs on Tuesday. In the morning match played at the GCA ground in Sanguem-Cotarlim, Geno Sports Club took



control from the beginning after electing to bat first. Openers Rajat Shet and Veer Yadav provided a strong start with an attacking partnership. Rajat struck 39 runs from 30 balls with three boundaries and two sixes,



while Veer contributed 36 off 26 deliveries. Nihal Surlikar added valuable runs in the middle order with a quick 27 off 18 balls as Geno posted a competitive total of 164. For Panjim Gymkhana, Suyash Prabhudesai

claimed three wickets, while Abhinav and Amit Yadav picked up two wickets each. Panjim Gymkhana struggled throughout the chase after losing early wickets. Shivam Singh top scored with 22 runs, but the batting lineup failed to build partnerships. Geno bowlers dominated proceedings, with Shiven Borkar delivering an outstanding spell of 3 for 9 in three overs.

“What Is The Value Of A Khel Ratna Awardee When An Influencer Gets Priority?” Satwiksairaj Questions Recognition For Athletes

■ Thomas Cup bronze medallist opens up on lack of support, struggles behind success and the growing disconnect between achievements and public attention

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India’s historic bronze medal finish at the Thomas Cup has once again highlighted the growing concern among athletes over the lack of recognition for achievements outside

cricket. Star badminton player Satwiksairaj Rankireddy expressed disappointment over the indifferent reception the Indian team received after returning from Denmark despite securing a podium finish at one of badminton’s most prestigious tournaments.

Last Ball Thriller Seals West Zone’s Dramatic BVCI Veterans Triumph

■ Shalabh Shrivastava’s unbeaten fifty and Anup Fulper’s four wicket spell power West Zone to a one wicket win

Panaji: West Zone emerged champions of the BVCI All India Veterans 2026 tournament after edging past North Zone by one wicket in a thrilling final at the Grand Arena Cricket Ground in Hyderabad. The contest went down to the final delivery, producing a dramatic finish that kept spectators captivated throughout the match.

After winning the toss, North Zone elected



to bat first but struggled to maintain momentum against a disciplined West Zone bowling attack. Early dismissals of captain Ajit

Chandila, Vijay Singh and Vimal Sharma pushed the side under pressure and disrupted their start.

The innings was

revived by a quickfire knock from Amardeep Sonkar, who smashed 34 runs from just 16 deliveries. Ahmed Farooq added 28 while Abhilash Kaushik contributed 23 runs to help North Zone recover. However, wickets continued to fall at regular intervals, preventing the batting side from building a substantial total. North Zone were eventually bowled out for 149 in 18.4 overs.