



## Goa Sizzles as Mercury Climbs Amid Peak Summer Heat

IMD Flags Hot, Humid Conditions; Thunderstorms Likely in Isolated Areas

Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Goa experienced its hottest spell of the ongoing summer, with maximum temperatures soaring to 36.5°C — around 2.4 degrees above normal — as residents grappled with intense heat and humidity across the State.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the temperature marks the highest recorded so far this season. The minimum temperature also stayed elevated at 26.5°C, adding to the overall warm conditions. IMD official Nahush Kulkarni noted that while the



current heat is significant for the season, Goa has witnessed similar levels in the past.

He said, "This is the highest maximum temperature recorded in Goa this summer, but historically the State has crossed 36°C on at least eight occasions."

The past 24 hours

saw largely dry weather conditions across Goa. However, the IMD has predicted a shift in weather patterns with isolated thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds ranging between 30–40 kmph expected in parts of North and South Goa during late afternoon and

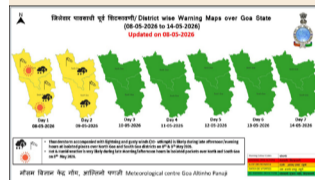
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### Thunderstorm, Gusty Wind Alert Issued for Goa Till May 9

Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Meteorological Centre Goa, has issued a yellow alert for North and South Goa districts,

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## Environmentalism Rajendra Kerkar Threatens Hunger Strike Over Tiger Death Mystery

Environmentalism demands full disclosure within days as Forest Department submits report to government

**PANAJI:** Environmental activist Rajendra Kerkar has warned that he will launch a hunger strike if the government fails to publicly reveal complete details surrounding the recent tiger death reported from Dharbandora within the next two to three days.

Kerkar accused the Forest Department of withholding crucial information related to the case and alleged that authorities were not being transparent about the investigation. He also criticised senior forest officials for remaining silent despite growing public concern over the incident.

"The public deserves to know the truth behind the tiger's death. If all findings and reports are not disclosed within the next few days, I will be forced to begin a hunger strike," Kerkar said.

The controversy comes even as the Forest Department on Thursday submitted its report on the tiger death to the government. Deputy Conservator



of Forests Jiss Varkey confirmed that a detailed report had been forwarded for further action.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant declined to comment extensively on the issue, stating that the final forensic findings were still awaited.

"The postmortem has been completed and the forensic report is pending. I will speak on the matter after the department submits the final findings," Sawant told reporters.

The tiger carcass was discovered last week in a private forested area at Aalot in Sacorda near the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary. The remains were badly decomposed, and the animal's teeth

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## Outsiders Made Goa Their Dubai: CM Sawant

Goan Youth Must Shift From Job-Seeking to Entrepreneurship:CM

**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that while both the State and Central governments are actively promoting entrepreneurship and extending support to businesses, many Goan youths continue to remain complacent, allowing outsiders to dominate the state's business landscape.

Addressing a gathering, Sawant



remarked that "outsiders have made Goa their Dubai" due to the lack of initiative among

local youth in taking up entrepreneurial ventures.

He stressed that instead of depending solely on jobs, young people in Goa should develop the mindset of starting their own businesses. The Chief Minister said several schemes and support systems are being implemented by the government to encourage entrepreneurship and self-

employment. He urged the youth to take advantage of these opportunities and become job creators rather than job seekers.

Sawant further said that Goa has immense potential for growth in sectors such as tourism, hospitality, services and startups, and local youth should come forward to tap these opportunities and strengthen the state's economy.

## "Assembly Dissolved": Mamata Banerjee No Longer Bengal Chief Minister

**New Delhi:** A major constitutional development unfolded in West Bengal after Governor R. N. Ravi officially dissolved the state Legislative Assembly under Article 174(2)(b) of the Constitution, bringing the tenure of the Mamata Banerjee led government to an end. The notification stated that the West Bengal Assembly stood dissolved with effect from May 7, 2026, formally ending the five year term of the House constituted in 2021.

## TVK Warns Of Mass Resignation As Tamil Nadu Faces Political Deadlock

Vijay's Party Says 107 MLAs Will Quit If DMK And AIADMK Form Government Together

**New Delhi:** Tamil Nadu's post election political crisis has deepened after Vijay led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam warned that all its MLAs would resign if the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam come together to form the next government in the state.

TVK emerged as the single largest party in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections with 108 seats but remains



short of the majority mark of 118 in the 234 member House. The political uncertainty has intensified amid speculation over possible support

arrangements and alliance talks between rival parties.

The warning from TVK has triggered fresh debate over what would happen if all its MLAs

resign simultaneously. Under Article 190(3) (b) of the Constitution, resignations of MLAs do not take immediate effect and must first be accepted by the Speaker, who has the authority to verify whether each resignation is voluntary and genuine.

If all 107 resignations are eventually accepted, the effective strength of the Assembly would reduce from 234 to 127, lowering the majority mark from 118 to just 64. In such a

situation, a potential DMK AIADMK alliance could still legally form and sustain a government if it crosses the revised majority figure.

However, the process is far from automatic. Since the new Assembly has not yet completed the formal process of oath taking and election of a permanent Speaker, the resignations cannot immediately alter the Assembly's numbers.

# Mala Lake Stinks of Institutional Failure, Not Just Sewage

The stench rising from Mala lake is not just the smell of sewage. It is the smell of institutional failure.

Authorities have identified 31 houses allegedly discharging sewage into drains connected to the lake. Notices have been issued, inspections ordered, and the familiar machinery of civic enforcement has swung into motion. But the attempt to frame this crisis as the wrongdoing of a few households is both convenient and dishonest.

The real scandal is far bigger.

Panaji was showcased as part of India's ambitious Smart City Mission, a project sold to the public as a transformation of urban life through modern infrastructure, scientific planning, and sustainable development. Roads were dug up for years. Citizens endured endless diversions, dust, delays, and disruption in the name of progress. Thousands of crores were spent on redevelopment works, sewerage systems, drainage upgrades, and urban renewal.

So the obvious question now is this: after all that money and all those promises, how are homes still dumping sewage into a lake in the middle of the capital city?

This is not merely a failure of compliance by residents. It is a collapse of governance.

A functioning sewerage system is not optional infrastructure in a modern city. It is one of the most basic responsibilities of urban administration. If dozens of houses around a sensitive water body remain

*"It is easy to issue notices to residents. It is far more difficult to explain why the administration failed to prevent the situation from arising in the first place. Were these homes ever connected to the new sewerage lines? If not, why not? Were there gaps in planning? Was the network left unfinished? Did agencies fail to coordinate? Or did officials simply move on after ribbon cuttings and project announcements while critical last-mile work remained neglected?"*

*These are the questions that deserve answers.*

*Instead, what the public gets is the usual cycle of reactionary governance. Environmental damage occurs. Fish die. Public outrage builds. Courts intervene. Authorities conduct inspections. Notices are issued. Statements are made. Then the system waits for the next crisis."*

outside the network, then the project itself stands exposed. Either the infrastructure was incomplete, the execution was flawed, or the authorities simply failed to ensure universal connectivity.

In every scenario, accountability points upward.

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These are the questions that deserve answers.

Instead, what the public gets is the usual cycle of reactionary governance. Environmental damage occurs. Fish die. Public outrage builds. Courts intervene. Authorities conduct inspections. Notices are issued. Statements are made. Then the system waits for the next crisis.

This is not governance. It is damage control.

The Mala lake episode also reveals the hollow nature of much of what passes for "smart" urban development today. Cities are being redesigned for appearances rather than functionality. Beautification takes priority over fundamentals. Decorative infrastructure receives attention while underground systems that actually determine public health and environmental sustainability remain broken, incomplete, or poorly monitored.

A city does not become smart because it installs fancy streetlights, colourful pavements, or redesigned junctions. A city becomes smart when sewage does not enter its lakes.

## OPED

### A Statue Cannot Replace Civic Sense

What exactly is this ridiculous notion that a place suddenly deserves "dignity" merely because a statue of Lord Parshuram has been installed there?

And if there were no statue, would that automatically give citizens a free licence to behave as they please?

There is so much hullabaloo whenever tourists cook on roadsides or behave irresponsibly in public spaces. Is such behaviour considered acceptable merely because there is no statue of a God or Saint nearby?

Let us not forget - there once existed a beautiful beach here: the old Campal beach. Those who grew up in Campal, St. Inez and nearby areas carry countless childhood memories of playing there. Sadly, that beach no longer exists today, courtesy the land refilling (while we kept our eyes shut) and might be even coastline changes. Yet, the destruction of nature never seems to disturb us as much.

I remember - when Surendra Furtado was Mayor, he had banners displaying images of Gods put up in the hope that people would stop throwing garbage in the area after seeing those divine images. But perhaps that itself reflects the real tragedy of our society - we start treating a place as "holy" only when there is a statue or photo of a God placed there. Otherwise, it is open to neglect, abuse and filth.

If one truly believes that God created the entire universe, then by that logic every place is sacred and deserving of respect. But are we behaving that way? Clearly not.

So what real difference does a statue make? Or the absence of one?

Get real, folks!

- Sandeep Heble, Panaji

### Goa Cannot pretend the Drug Problem Is Under Control

Sir, Almost every day, newspapers in Goa carry reports of ganja seizures from different parts of the State. The quantities may vary, the locations may change, and the names of the accused may be different, but the larger question remains the same: where exactly is all this coming from, and how has the trade become so normalised?

The frequency of these seizures suggests that the drug network is operating with alarming confidence. It is difficult to believe that such activities can continue on this scale without organised supply chains, local distribution systems, and people willing to take the risk repeatedly. The fear of law enforcement appears to be disappearing.

What is even more worrying is the growing public desensitisation to the issue. Every seizure makes headlines for a day, followed by arrests and routine police statements, but the flow of drugs continues uninterrupted. This creates the impression that enforcement is only scratching the surface while the larger network remains untouched.

Goa's image has long suffered because of its association with drugs, and repeated incidents only deepen that perception. Beyond tourism and reputation, there is also a serious social impact on local youth and communities.

The government and police must go beyond isolated seizures and focus on dismantling the supply chains that keep feeding this trade. Unless there is visible accountability and sustained action, these daily reports will continue to become an accepted part of life in Goa.

- Damodar Naik, Mapusa

# Goa Tops National List In Rape Rate In 2024 As NCRB Data Flags Low Conviction Levels

■ Majority Of Cases Involve Minors While Trial Pendency Remains Above 90 Per Cent

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Data released by the National Crime Records Bureau for the year 2024 indicates that Goa has recorded the highest rape rate in the country when adjusted for population, reporting 13.3 cases per lakh people—more than three times the national average of 4.3.

The report shows that 105 rape cases were registered in the



state during the year under relevant criminal provisions, with 106 survivors identified. A significant share of the victims, about 61 per cent, were children below 18 years, while the rest were adults.

On a per capita basis, Goa also recorded the highest incidence of sexual offences against minors at 8.1 per lakh population. Nationally, Rajasthan reported the highest total number of rape cases, whereas Chandigarh recorded the highest rate among states and Union Territories at 16.6 per lakh population.

The findings also point to weak conviction outcomes in the state,

with crimes against women registering a conviction rate of 9.4 per cent. Case pendency remains a major concern, with 91.2 per cent of cases still pending trial. This includes 1,682 older cases carried forward and 237 new cases that were sent for trial in 2024.

Despite these figures, the overall rate of crimes against women in Goa stands at 45.2 per lakh women population.

## Fire Breaks Out At Bakery Near Mapusa Market, No Injuries Reported

■ Margao Town Police seize 464 grams of suspected narcotic substance worth Rs 46,400

Team Goemkarponn

**MAPUSA:** A fire incident was reported at Shree Ganesh Bakery located near the Mapusa Municipality Market opposite Canara Bank.

Fire and emergency personnel rushed to the spot soon after the blaze was noticed and managed to control the fire before it could spread to nearby establishments or escalate further.



No injuries or casualties were reported in the incident. Authorities are yet to determine the exact cause of the fire, while details regarding the extent of property damage and financial losses are still awaited.

## Court Backlog Persists As Conviction Rate Remains Low, NCRB Data Reveals In 2024

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The criminal justice system continued to operate under significant strain in 2024, with the majority of cases under IPC and BNS provisions yet to be resolved. Figures released by the National Crime Records Bureau show that more than 92 per cent of cases remained pending before courts by the end of the year, while convictions accounted for just 17.1 per cent.

## TiNCRB Data Exposes Failure Of BJP Government To Control Crime In Goa: Yuri Alemo

■ LoP Questions Low Conviction Rate And Rising Crimes Against Women

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemo has criticised the BJP-led Goa government over the latest National Crime Records Bureau figures, alleging that the data reflects a serious collapse in law and order across the state. Alemo stated that despite repeated claims by the government regarding crime detection and policing efficiency, the NCRB report paints a contrasting picture,



with the conviction rate in 2024 remaining at only 17.1 per cent. He also expressed concern over Goa recording the highest rape rate in the country during 2024, saying the figures have raised serious questions about public safety and policing standards in the state.

## Major Water Pipeline Damaged During Excavation, Lakhs Of Litres Wasted Near Atal Setu

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI :** A major water supply pipeline was reportedly damaged during excavation work carried out using a JCB machine, resulting in the leakage of a large volume of water and partial submergence of a road leading towards Atal Setu.

According to available information, the pipeline was struck accidentally during digging operations in the area, causing it to burst and release a continuous flow of water



onto the surrounding road network.

The incident led to flooding on nearby stretches and affected vehicular movement for a

period of time.

The overflow reportedly resulted in the wastage of several lakh litres of water, raising concerns among residents about poor safety precautions during utility-related excavation

work. Locals have urged authorities to ensure stricter monitoring of digging activities to prevent similar incidents in the future.

## EAC Clears Terms Of Reference For ₹500 Crore Mining Project At Codli Mineral Block

■ JSW Steel Iron Ore Proposal Moves Forward With Environmental Study Mandate Amid Key Conditions

Team Goemkarponn

**DHARBANDORA:** The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recommended the issuance of Terms of Reference (ToR) for an



Environmental Impact Assessment study for a proposed iron ore mining project at the Codli Mineral Block.

## Curcholem Residents Oppose Alleged Unsafe Transport Of Hazardous Waste

■ Concerns Raised Over Open Truck Movement Of Toxic Material From Cuncolim To Pissurlem

Team Goemkarponn

**CURCHOREM:** Residents have voiced strong concerns over the alleged transportation of hazardous waste from Cuncolim to Pissurlem, claiming that the material is being moved without adequate safety precautions and necessary safeguards.

According to local reports, residents objected to the



movement of the suspected toxic waste through the town in open trucks, alleging that the transportation process lacked proper containment measures. They demanded that the

material be shifted only in sealed containers and handled using scientific methods to avoid potential risks to public health and the environment.

It is reported that nearly 50,000 tonnes of hazardous material are proposed to be transported to a designated treatment facility. Locals also alleged that several truck operators engaged in the transportation were not

fully informed about the possible dangers associated with the waste being carried.

Residents have appealed to the government and concerned authorities to immediately halt what they described as unsafe transportation practices and to enforce strict safety protocols before allowing further movement of the material.

# Woman Duped of Rs 2 Lakh by Fraudsters Posing as Delhi Police

■ Cyber accused allegedly threatened complainant with arrest warrant and FIR to extort money through online transfers

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** A woman was allegedly cheated of approximately Rs 2 lakh by unidentified cyber fraudsters who posed as officials of the Delhi Police and representatives of Google Chrome.

According to the complaint lodged with police, the unknown accused persons impersonated themselves as law enforcement officials and company representatives and



criminally intimidated the complainant by falsely claiming that an FIR and arrest warrant would be issued against her unless

she paid the demanded amount.

Believing the threats to be genuine and acting under fear and

inducement created by the accused, the complainant allegedly transferred around Rs 2,00,000 through multiple online transactions to various bank accounts and UPI IDs provided by the fraudsters.

Police said the accused persons dishonestly cheated the complainant, causing wrongful loss to her and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves.

Further investigation into the cyber fraud case is in progress.

## Pune Man Arrested With Suspected Ganja in Fatorda

■ Margao Town Police seize 464 grams of suspected narcotic substance worth Rs 46,400

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** Margao Town Police have arrested a 32-year-old man for allegedly possessing suspected ganja at Fatorda in Salcete. According to a complaint lodged on behalf of the State by PSI Subhash Gaonkar of Margao Town Police Station, the accused, identified as Aritra Majumdar, was found in illegal possession of 464 grams of dried greenish leafy and



flowery substance suspected to be ganja, valued at approximately Rs 46,400. Police said the accused is a resident of Leandra Heritage Icon, Fatorda, and originally hails from Pune, Maharashtra. In connection with the seizure, Margao Town Police registered Crime No. 47/2026 under Section 20(b)(ii)(A).

## Disabled Woman Allegedly Harassed, Denied Basic Necessities in Cuncolim

■ Complaint alleges family members abused visually impaired victim and prevented her from using toilet

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CUNCOLIM:** Police have registered a case following a complaint alleging cruelty and harassment towards a visually disabled woman at Becklem Wado in Cuncolim. According to the complaint lodged by the sister of the victim, the accused, identified as Bhiku Naik Dessai of Becklem Wado, Cuncolim, along with

**HARASSMENT**

his family members, allegedly abused and threatened the visually impaired woman prior to April 28, 2026. The complainant alleged that the victim had approached the accused persons seeking food and money for medical treatment, which were allegedly kept in their custody.

## Husband Booked for Assaulting Wife With Knife Near Bambolim Stadium

**Team Goemkarponn**



**BAMBOLIM:** A 47-year-old man from Siridao has

been booked by police for allegedly assaulting his wife with a knife near the Athletic Stadium at Bambolim in Tiswadi.

According to the complaint lodged by Mrs. Hema Soares (45), a resident of Palem, Siridao, the incident occurred on May 6 at around 4:30 pm on the NH-66 service road near the stadium.

## Ukrainian National Arrested for Illegal Stay in Mandrem

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

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MANDREM :** Mandrem Police have arrested a 41-year-old Ukrainian national for allegedly staying illegally in India without valid travel documents.

According to the complaint lodged by PSI Laximan S. Dessai of Mandrem Police Station, the accused, identified as Dmytro Stepanov, son of Nikolai Stepanov, was found at Madhalmaz in Mandrem, Pernem, on



May 6 at around 1:30 pm.

Police alleged that the foreign national was residing in Goa without a valid visa or other legal travel documents, thereby violating provisions of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

Based on the

complaint, Mandrem Police registered Crime No. 45/2026 under Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act,

2025. The accused was placed under arrest at Mandrem Police Station later the same evening. Police said intimation regarding the arrest was given to Norman T. Fernandes, a resident of Margao and a friend of the accused.

## Two Booked for Illegal Sand Transportation Near Patradevi

■ Mopa Airport Police seize truck allegedly transporting government-owned sand without valid permission

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PATRADEVI:** Mopa Airport Police have registered an FIR against two persons for allegedly transporting sand illegally near the Forest Check Post at Patradevi in Pernem.

According to the state complaint lodged by ASI Ketan Atmaram Samant of Mopa Airport Police Station, the incident was detected on May 7 at



around 12:30 am. Police alleged that accused Sanjay Ram Ashish (26), a native of Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, was driving an Eicher truck bearing

registration number GA-09-U-6123 while transporting sand mineral without valid permission. The sand allegedly belonged to co-accused

Shafin Khan, a resident of Xeldem, Quepem, who is stated to be the owner of the truck. Police said the accused were found transporting approximately nine cubic metres of sand, valued at around Rs 20,000, allegedly extracted illegally from river areas. The sand, being government property, is prohibited from unlawful extraction and transportation.

## Four Booked for Assault Over Bill Payment Dispute in Mapusa

■ Complainant and his son allegedly attacked with metal utensils near fast food outlet in Bardez

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MAPUSA:** Police have registered a case against four persons, including staff members of a fast food outlet, for allegedly assaulting a man and his son following a dispute over bill payment in Mapusa.

According to the complaint lodged by



Raian Vaman Haldankar, a resident of Ansabhat, Mapusa, the incident took place on May 7 at around 12:30 am near Papa Fast Food Corner in Mapusa, Bardez.

# Goa Orders Machinery for India's First Maritime Cluster

■ Konkan Maritime Cluster at Verna set to boost shipbuilding, create jobs, and strengthen Goa's blue economy ambitions

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** In a major boost to Goa's maritime and shipbuilding sector, the state government has placed orders for advanced machinery for the upcoming Konkan Maritime Cluster (KMC), being developed at Verna Industrial Estate.

The Konkan Maritime Cluster is India's first maritime cluster under the Micro and Small Enterprises – Cluster Development Programme



(MSE-CDP) of the Union Ministry of MSME.

Officials said the procurement marks a

significant step in moving the project from the infrastructure stage to operational readiness.

The Common Facility Centre (CFC) is expected to provide local MSMEs access to modern technology and shared industrial infrastructure that individual units may otherwise find difficult to afford.

The machinery ordered for the cluster includes advanced CNC cutting machines, specialized welding systems, modern painting booths, and industrial waste disposal facilities.



## Margao Sterilisation Camp Concludes With 745 Community Dogs Sterilised

■ Three-week campaign led by veterinary team highlights animal welfare and responsible community participation

Team Goemkarponn

**MARGAO:** A three-week Community Dog Sterilisation Camp in Margao concluded successfully on May 4 with a total of 745 community dogs sterilised during the campaign. The concluding function was held at the Manohar Parrikar Stadium in the presence of Digambar Kamat, who commended the efforts of the organisers and veterinary teams involved in the initiative.

The sterilisation drive was conducted over 18 days under the leadership of Dr. Sachin Naik and his team, which included Dr. Erica, Dr. Bharath, Dr. Anveet and other veterinary professionals. Dr. Stacy Sequeira and Dr. Murugan also attended

the event and praised the successful execution of the campaign.

Addressing the gathering, Kamat stressed the need for compassion towards animals and called for collective responsibility in managing community dog populations humanely. The entire sterilisation camp was funded by Model Margao, an initiative of Yogiraj Kamat.

Sandeep Azrekar, President of SGWTA, welcomed the guests at the function, while Sonia Fernandes, Secretary of SGWTA, proposed the vote of thanks. Staff members and volunteers associated with the campaign were felicitated for their dedicated service and contribution to the initiative.



Admissions

## DTE Goa Opens Admissions for Professional Degree Courses 2026

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Goa, has announced the admission process for First Year Professional Degree Courses for the academic year 2026-27. The Centralized Admission Division (CAD) issued a notification stating that the prospectus containing details of admissions to various professional degree programmes has been uploaded on the official DTE website.

The admission process covers a wide range of courses including MBBS, BDS, BHMS, BAMS, B.V.Sc. & A.H., B.E., B.Pharm., BNYS, B.Arch., Allied Health Sciences (AHS), and B.Sc. Nursing.

According to the notification, application forms can be collected and submitted along with self-attested copies of relevant documents from May 11 to May 22, 2026, except on Sunday, May 17. The forms will be accepted between 10 am and 5 pm at designated application receiving centres across Goa.

## BJP Government Faces Criticism Over Women's Safety in Goa

■ Congress Leader Cites NCRB Data Claiming Rise in Sexual Assault Cases in State

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa unit of the Congress party has launched a sharp attack on the state government, alleging a serious breakdown in law and order following the release of recent National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) figures. According to the opposition, the latest data indicates that Goa recorded 105 rape cases and 19 FIRs related to stalking in 2024, a statistic that reportedly places the state among



those with the highest crime rate against women in the country. The Congress has described these numbers as deeply concerning and reflective of deteriorating public safety. Amarnath Panjikar, who heads the Media and Communication Department of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee, said the

figures expose what he termed as a failure of governance under the current administration led by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. He argued that the situation on the ground contradicts repeated government claims about women empowerment and effective administration. Panjikar further alleged that instead of prioritising policing and justice delivery, the government has been focusing more on publicity efforts and promotional campaigns.

## Massive Tree Collapse Disrupts Traffic at Chorla Ghat Amid Fierce Storm

■ Thunderstorms, strong winds and heavy rain lash parts of North Goa

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.

The scope of work includes the construction of RCC retaining walls using durable M30 grade concrete, along with excavation, PCC laying, reinforcement, formwork and concreting as per technical specifications. Drainage arrangements, including weep holes and

proper backfilling, are also being incorporated to reduce water pressure and improve the lifespan of the structures.

Speaking at the programme, MLA Deviya Rane said the projects were crucial to protecting both infrastructure and the environment in erosion-prone areas.

"Soil erosion has been a serious concern in several parts of the constituency, especially during heavy rains.



## Oben Electric Launches Rorr EVO at an Introductory Price of ₹99,999

### Land Acquisition Process Reviewed To Accelerate Key Infrastructure Development In Pernem

**New Delhi:** A high level review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Ankit Yadav, Collector of North Goa, to discuss the land acquisition process for the proposed approach road to the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) at Tuem in Pernem.

Oben Electric, India's homegrown R&D-driven electric motorcycle manufacturer, today announced the launch of the all-new Rorr EVO at a special introductory price of ₹99,999 (ex-showroom) for the first

10,000 customers. Designed to mark a clear shift in the category, the Rorr EVO brings together design, performance, and functionality into one cohesive package, redefining what riders can expect from an electric motorcycle.

Built around the idea that riders should not have to choose between thrill and practicality, the Rorr EVO is engineered as a complete, no-compromise motorcycle for real-world riding. It combines aggressive streetfighter design with

strong performance and thoughtfully integrated features that make it as engaging to ride as it is easy to live with.

At first glance, the Rorr EVO stands out with its bold, muscular proportions and commanding stance. The front is defined by a projector headlamp with a signature front position lamp, delivering both strong visual identity and enhanced visibility for everyday riding conditions. Sculpted body panels, premium detailing, and a well-

balanced silhouette further reinforce its road presence. Underneath this design is performance built to deliver consistently. The Rorr EVO reaches a top speed of 110 km/h and offers a certified range of 180 km IDC, ensuring it is equally capable for even demanding daily rides. It supports 0-80% fast charging in just 90 minutes with Oben Plug (fast charger), and comes equipped with Oben Port, its onboard charger, for convenient everyday charging.

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## Goa Sizzles as Mercury Climbs Amid Peak Summer Heat

evening hours.

Despite the possibility of brief weather disturbances, hot and humid conditions are likely to persist during late morning and afternoon hours on Friday. The IMD has also indicated chances of light to moderate rainfall or thundershowers later in the day. At present, no formal weather warning has been issued until May 13. The forecast suggests mainly sunny and dry conditions to continue over the coming days. Meanwhile, the rising temperatures have raised moderate health concerns, particularly for vulnerable groups such as infants, senior citizens, and those with chronic illnesses. The IMD has advised caution during peak afternoon hours between 11 am and 3 pm, warning of risks such as dehydration, heat cramps, and heat-related skin irritation.

## Thunderstorm, Gusty Wind Alert Issued for Goa Till May 9

warning of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds over the next two days. According to the district-wise warning map updated on May 8, thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds reaching speeds of 30 to 40 kmph are likely to occur at isolated places across Goa during the late afternoon and evening hours on May 8 and 9. The IMD has also warned of hot and humid weather conditions likely to prevail during the late morning and afternoon hours in isolated pockets of both districts on May 8. The warning map shows yellow alerts for May 8 and 9, indicating residents should remain alert and be prepared for adverse weather conditions. No warning has been issued from May 10 to 14, with green signals displayed for the remaining days of the forecast period.

## Environmentalist Rajendra Kerkar Threatens Hunger Strike Over Tiger Death Mystery

and claws were found missing, raising suspicion. However, forest officials earlier maintained that there was no prima facie evidence of foul play.

Sources said that a team from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Bengaluru, is expected to visit Goa to examine the circumstances surrounding the tiger's death.

## “Clear Roadmap Finalised” For EMC Tuem Connectivity Project

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#### Team Goemkarponn

**Pernem:** A high level review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Ankit Yadav, Collector of North Goa, to discuss the land acquisition process for the proposed approach road to the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) at Tuem in Pernem.

The meeting brought together senior officials from multiple departments to strengthen coordination and ensure faster execution of the project. Among those present were Kabir Shirgaonkar, Director of the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications,



Shivprasad Naik, who is also the Land Acquisition Officer, along with representatives from the Public Works Department and the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and

Communications. Discussions during the meeting focused on streamlining the land acquisition process, improving planning coordination between departments,

and ensuring that all necessary procedures are completed within the required timelines.

Officials also highlighted the importance of the proposed approach road

in improving connectivity to the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster, which is expected to play a major role in Goa's industrial and technology growth.

The EMC project at Tuem spans nearly six lakh square metres and is aimed at developing a globally competitive ecosystem for the IT and electronics sector in Goa. The cluster is expected to attract investments in advanced and emerging sectors including semiconductors, drones, clean technology, and electric vehicle components.

Officials stated that the project is also expected to generate significant

employment opportunities for local youth through high value industries and technology driven enterprises.

The Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications reiterated its commitment to ensuring steady progress on the project while complying with all regulatory requirements. The meeting concluded with officials finalising a roadmap for the next phase of the land acquisition and infrastructure development process, underlining the government's focus on strengthening industrial infrastructure in the state.

# Bengal Awaits New Chief Minister As BJP Prepares Historic Swearing In

■ Suvendu Adhikari Emerges As Frontrunner As BJP Prepares To Form First Government In West Bengal

**New Delhi:** West Bengal is witnessing a major political transition as the Bharatiya Janata Party prepares to form its first government in the state following its massive victory in the 2026 Assembly elections. Suspense continues over the announcement of the next Chief Minister, with Suvendu Adhikari emerging as the leading contender for the top post.

According to party sources, senior BJP



leader Amit Shah is expected to hold a crucial meeting with newly elected BJP MLAs on Friday to finalise the leadership decision. BJP leaders have indicated

that clarity on the Chief Minister's name is likely to emerge by evening.

The party has already announced that the swearing in ceremony of the new government

will take place on May 9, coinciding with Rabintra Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also expected to attend the oath taking ceremony. During his final election rally in Barrackpore, Modi had expressed confidence that the BJP would form the next government in the state and said he would return for the swearing in ceremony after the results.



## Election Commission Lifts Model Code Of Conduct Across Poll Bound States

■ MCC To Remain In Force Only In Bengal's Falta Constituency Ahead Of Fresh Voting

**New Delhi:** The Election Commission of India has officially lifted the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) across multiple states and the Union Territory of Puducherry following the completion of the latest Assembly elections and declaration of results.

The Commission announced that the MCC has ceased to operate with immediate effect in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and the Union Territory of Puducherry. The code had come into effect from the date the election schedule was announced and remained active throughout the electoral process. The decision also covers by elections held in Assembly constituencies across Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland, and Tripura. However, the Election Commission clarified that the MCC

will continue to remain in force in the 144-Falta Assembly constituency in West Bengal, where fresh polling has been ordered due to alleged electoral irregularities and disruption of the democratic process during voting held on April 29. The Commission has directed that fresh voting will be conducted across all 285 polling stations in the Falta constituency on May 21. Repolling had already taken place in 15 booths located in the Paschim Magrahat and Diamond Harbour Assembly segments. Counting of votes for Falta is scheduled for May 24. According to the Election Commission, the decision to order fresh polling was taken after reports of severe electoral offences and large scale disturbance during the original voting process in the constituency.



## Iran Tightens Grip On Strait Of Hormuz With New 'Pay To Pass' Shipping Rules

**New Delhi:** Iran has significantly tightened its control over the strategically important Strait of Hormuz by introducing a new regulatory system for commercial shipping through the establishment of the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA). Under the new framework, all commercial vessels entering the Strait are required to follow an extensive reporting procedure before being allowed passage. Shipping operators must reportedly submit detailed information about cargo, vessel ownership, crew nationalities, identification numbers, and even previous names used by ships.

Iranian authorities have warned that vessels failing to comply with the new procedures could face severe consequences, including seizure by naval forces, drone attacks, or missile strikes. The move marks a major shift in how Tehran is asserting authority over one of the world's most critical energy trade routes.

## "Somnath Will Continue To Stand Tall": PM Modi Marks Temple's 75th Anniversary

■ Prime Minister Highlights India's Civilisational Strength And Spirit Of Unity During Historic Milestone

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the 75th anniversary of the restored Somnath Temple by describing the shrine as a symbol of India's unbreakable civilisational spirit and unity.

In a special article released ahead of the anniversary celebrations, Modi said Somnath represents the journey "from ruin to renewal" and reflects the strength of a civilisation that has endured repeated attacks and destruction over centuries while continuing to rise again.

He stated that every part of Bharat is sacred and connected through a



deep sense of unity that goes beyond geography. According to him, this spirit remains especially relevant in a world often divided by conflict and differences.

The Prime Minister paid tribute to the countless individuals who fought to protect and rebuild the temple over generations. He recalled the contributions of rulers,

saints, scholars, and warriors who helped preserve Somnath's spiritual and cultural identity

through difficult periods in history.

Modi announced that special pujas would be held at the temple for the next thousand days in remembrance of the courage and sacrifices linked to Somnath's history. He also encouraged people from across the country to visit the temple during this significant period.

## "This Is Not Covid": WHO Says Hantavirus Outbreak Spreads Very Differently

■ Health Officials Say Current Cases Are Limited And Public Risk Remains Low

**New Delhi:** The World Health Organization has clarified that the ongoing hantavirus outbreak is very different from Covid-19 and is unlikely to develop into a large scale global pandemic.

Speaking during a media briefing, Maria Van Kerkhove, Director for Epidemic and Pandemic Management at the WHO, said the virus spreads in a completely different



manner compared to coronavirus or influenza.

She explained that the current outbreak linked to a cruise ship involved the Andes strain of hantavirus, which is the

only known strain capable of limited human to human transmission. However, she stressed that such transmission requires very close and prolonged contact between

individuals.

WHO officials confirmed that there are currently no symptomatic passengers or crew members onboard the affected ship. They also noted that earlier outbreaks involving the Andes strain mainly spread among close personal contacts rather than through casual interaction. Abdirahman Mahamud from the WHO Emergencies Health

Programme compared the present situation to a previous outbreak in Argentina between 2018 and 2019, where infections spread within a confined social setting involving close contact.

He stated that public health measures such as contact tracing, monitoring, and isolation can effectively break the chain of transmission and prevent the outbreak from expanding further.

# Shreyas Iyer Emerges As Front Runner For India's White Ball Captaincy

■ BCCI Plans Major Leadership Shift Ahead Of Upcoming International Season

**New Delhi:** Team India's white ball setup could witness a major leadership change after the conclusion of IPL 2026, with Shreyas Iyer emerging as the leading candidate to captain both the ODI and T20I teams.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India is reportedly considering appointing a single captain for both limited overs formats as part of its long term strategy. The move comes amid discussions within the selection committee led by Ajit Agarkar regarding the future direction of the national side.



According to reports, the board is highly impressed with Iyer's performances and leadership during IPL 2026. His consistency in white ball cricket and ability to guide his franchise under pressure have reportedly strengthened his case for a return to India's T20I

squad and a possible elevation to captaincy.

The development could also impact the future roles of current T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav and ODI skipper Shubman Gill. While Suryakumar led India to the T20 World Cup 2026 title, concerns over his recent form have reportedly prompted

discussions about a leadership change. Gill, who was seen as a long term ODI captaincy option after succeeding Rohit Sharma, may also face competition for the role if the board decides to go ahead with a unified white ball captaincy structure.

Sources indicate that the BCCI wants to strike a balance between developing young talent and retaining experienced players within the setup. Iyer's recent performances are believed to have placed him at the centre of those plans despite injury setbacks in previous seasons.



## "Honey Trapping Risks Cannot Be Discounted": BCCI Issues Strict IPL Conduct Warning

■ Franchises Told To Tighten Security After Protocol Breaches During IPL 2026

**New Delhi:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has issued a strict eight page directive to all 10 IPL franchises after identifying several instances of misconduct and protocol violations during the ongoing IPL 2026 season. The advisory warns teams, players, support staff, and franchise owners about security threats, disciplinary breaches, and legal risks that could damage the reputation of the tournament.

The directive highlights concerns over unauthorised individuals being allowed into players' hotel rooms without the knowledge or approval of team managers. According to the BCCI, several

incidents were reported where visitors gained access to players and support staff in private hotel areas, raising major security concerns.

The board has now made it mandatory that no visitor, regardless of their identity or relationship with the player, can enter hotel rooms without prior written approval from the team manager. Guests are only permitted in designated public areas such as hotel lobbies or reception lounges unless special approval is granted.

The BCCI also warned franchises about the growing risks of "targeted compromise" and honey trapping in high profile sporting environments.

# "Consistent On Ground Football Is Key," Says GFDC At Agonda Summer Camp Finale

■ Young Players Encouraged To Stay Disciplined And Build A Strong Footballing Future

**Goemkarponn desk**

**Panaji:** The Goa Football Development Council (GFDC), in association with St Anne's Institute, Agonda, successfully concluded a football summer camp aimed at promoting grassroots football and encouraging young talent in the state.

The closing ceremony was attended by GFDC Member Secretary Fransquinha Oliveira, PTA



Chairperson Abel Borges, Headmaster Cedrico Montero, PE Teacher Angelo Silva, coaches Gilbert Fernandes and Zenifa Pedroso, along with staff members and other dignitaries.

Addressing the

gathering, Oliveira highlighted the importance of such initiatives in developing young footballers and providing them with opportunities to improve their skills and confidence through regular training and competition.

She said that camps like these help children understand the discipline, teamwork, and commitment required in sports while also creating a pathway for coaches to identify and nurture hidden talent. She added that the GFDC remains committed to supporting grassroots football programmes across Goa and appreciated the efforts taken to organise similar camps over the years.

# Tejashwini Shines As GCA Yellow Clinch Super Over Thriller

■ GCA Blue Register First Win Of Queen Cup Women's T20 Trophy

**Goemkarponn desk**

**Panaji:** GCA Yellow continued their impressive run in the Goa Cricket Association's Queen Cup Women's T20 Trophy 2025-26 with a thrilling Super Over victory against GCA Green, while GCA Blue secured their first win of the tournament after defeating GCA Red by four wickets on Wednesday at NAPEX, Porvorim.

The opening match of the day produced a nail biting finish as Yellow and Green ended level



after both teams scored 145 runs in their allotted 20 overs. Opting to bat first, Green posted 145 for 3 with Tanaya Naik remaining unbeaten on 51. Divya Naik also played a valuable knock of an unbeaten 38, while Krupa



Patel added 38 runs. For Yellow, Savali Kolambkar and Vidika Sawant picked up one wicket each.

In reply, Yellow matched the target thanks to a superb innings from Tejashwini Duragad, who smashed 63 runs off 46



balls. Diksha Amonkar provided strong support with a well made 50 as the match ended in a tie. Green bowlers Pooja Kalel, Tanaya Naik, Harshada Kadam and Poorva Bhaidkar claimed one wicket each.

The Super Over saw Yellow take control with Tejashwini once again leading the charge. She hammered an unbeaten 13 off just six deliveries as Yellow scored 15 runs. Green could manage only 8 runs in response, handing Yellow their second straight victory in the competition. In the second match, GCA Blue defeated Red by four wickets to open their account in the tournament. Red were bowled out for 105 in 18.1 overs with Ruchi Kumbhar top scoring with 17 runs. Tanisha Gaikwad, Joya Meer

and Mitali Gawander contributed 14 runs each. Blue's bowling attack was led by Pooja Yadav, who claimed 3 wickets for 15 runs. Athashree Shivarkar and Purvaja Verlekar also impressed with two wickets apiece.

Chasing 106 for victory, Blue reached the target in 18.5 overs. Captain Purvaja Verlekar anchored the innings with a fine 51 off 40 balls, while Atashree Shivarkar chipped in with 11 runs. Siddhi Savase fought hard for Red with figures of 3 for 19, but Blue held their nerve to seal the win.