



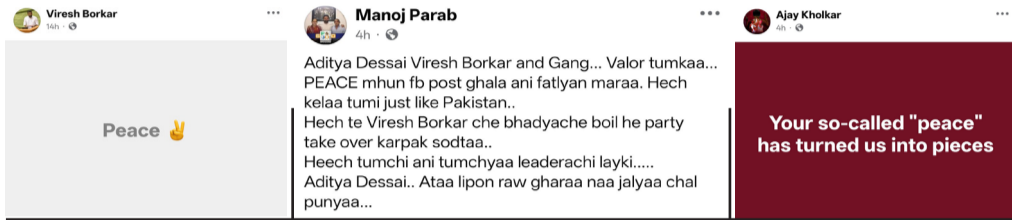
RGP Infighting Continues As Rival Camps Keep Up Online War

■ Fresh Social Media Exchanges Between Supporters Of Manoj Parab And Viresh Borkar Signal No End To Party Turmoil

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The internal conflict within the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) continued to intensify on Wednesday, with supporters of party president Manoj Parab and St Andre MLA Viresh Borkar engaging in another round of social media sparring.

The ongoing online exchanges have once again exposed divisions within the regional party, as members and supporters from both camps openly defended



their respective leaders while taking indirect swipes at the opposing faction.

Posts shared by supporters aligned with Borkar portrayed the MLA as concentrating on constituency development despite the political controversy surrounding him. Several messages circulating online praised

his decision to avoid publicly escalating the dispute and maintain restraint amid the criticism.

Meanwhile, supporters of Parab continued backing the party leadership and stressed the need to preserve organisational discipline within the RGP. A number of cryptic and pointed

social media posts from the camp were widely viewed as criticism aimed at individuals associated with the rival faction.

Sources within the party indicated that tensions escalated after disciplinary action was reportedly initiated against certain local-level members believed to be

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CM Orders Probe Into BITS Pilani Goa Student Death Case

■ Assurance Given on Preventive Steps

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has ordered an inquiry into the death of a student at the BITS Pilani Goa Campus, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Wednesday, adding that steps will be taken to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The Chief Minister stated that the South Goa Collector has been directed to conduct a detailed investigation into the case, which marks the seventh student death reported at the campus in the last two years.

According to police, a 26-year-old PhD scholar from Kerala was found hanging at his rented



flat located behind the institute on Tuesday night.

Authorities said a purported suicide note was recovered from the spot, though its contents have not been officially disclosed.

Officials further noted that in previous cases, students were found dead within the campus premises, raising concerns over student safety and mental health support systems. The investigation is currently underway.

Jammu And Kashmir Teacher Arrested For Allegedly Sheltering Jaish Terrorists

■ Police say government school teacher provided food, shelter and logistical support to Pakistani militants in Kishtwar

New Delhi: A government school teacher from Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district has been arrested under anti terror laws for allegedly aiding operatives linked to the Pakistan based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed in the Chatroo region.



under multiple sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Arms Act. Investigators claim that Mashkoor Ahmed provided shelter, food and other logistical assistance to terrorists associated with Jaish-e-Mohammed operating in Chatroo.

The case is connected to an encounter that took place on February 4, 2026, in the Dichhar area of Chatroo, where a Pakistani terrorist identified as Adil was killed during a security operation. During the investigation, agencies reportedly uncovered evidence linking the teacher to the militant network.

Officials also claimed that a photograph of slain Jaish commander Saifullah Balochi decorated with currency notes was found inside

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CCP Conducts Enforcement Drive In Panaji, 41 Taxis Booked For Illegal Parking

■ CCP Mayor Rohit Monserrate Says Move Aimed At Improving Mobility, Reducing Congestion And Ensuring Better Use Of Public Spaces

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP), in coordination with the RTO, conducted a targeted enforcement drive across Panaji aimed at improving traffic movement, reducing congestion, and reclaiming public spaces



for citizens.

During the drive, 41 taxis were booked for

unauthorized parking within city limits. Officials said the action was

taken to ensure that designated parking areas remain available for the public and to prevent road obstructions that contribute to traffic bottlenecks.

CCP Mayor Rohit Monserrate stated that ensuring smoother mobility, safer roads, and

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India Hosts Expanded BRICS Summit Amid Rising Tensions Over Iran And Oil Supply

■ Expanded BRICS bloc gathers in India as Middle East tensions and energy security emerge as key issues

New Delhi: Foreign ministers from BRICS nations gathered in New Delhi on Thursday for a crucial round of talks expected to focus heavily on the ongoing Iran conflict, rising oil market instability, and broader geopolitical tensions affecting global trade and energy security.

India, which currently holds the BRICS chairmanship, is hosting the two day meeting of the expanded grouping that now includes Iran and the United Arab

Emirates alongside the original members Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Egypt, Ethiopia and Indonesia are also part of the bloc after its recent expansion aimed at strengthening the coalition's global influence. Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi arrived in the national capital late Wednesday, while Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also reached Delhi for the summit. Lavrov held discussions with External Affairs

Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar shortly after his arrival, with both sides reviewing cooperation in trade, energy, investment and connectivity projects.

Jaishankar described political coordination among BRICS nations as increasingly significant amid what he called an "uncertain and volatile global environment." The meeting comes at a time when the Middle East conflict involving Iran has sharply affected global oil and gas markets, especially around key



maritime routes such as the Strait of Hormuz.

For India, the developments carry major economic implications. As one of the world's largest energy importers, India remains heavily dependent on crude oil and fertiliser supplies from the Middle East. Continued instability in the region has increased concerns over inflation, fuel costs and economic

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When Merit Is Leaked, Trust Collapses

The NEET UG 2026 controversy is no longer just about a compromised examination paper. It is about a compromised system. The alleged leak and subsequent decision to reconduct the examination have once again exposed how vulnerable India's competitive examination machinery remains despite repeated scandals, promises of reform and claims of technological safeguards. For millions of students, the crisis has become a brutal reminder that in India, even merit is not always protected from corruption.

The immediate focus is understandably on the ongoing CBI investigation. But the larger question is whether this probe will uncover merely a chain of middlemen or the deeper institutional failures that repeatedly make such leaks possible. Previous examination scandals across the country have shown that paper leaks rarely occur in isolation. They often involve networks that stretch from printing units and transport systems to coaching operators, digital handlers and insiders with privileged access. The real test for the CBI will therefore not be limited to identifying who circulated the paper, but determining how the system itself became vulnerable enough for organised rackets to infiltrate it.

That is where public scepticism begins. India has witnessed several high-profile paper leak investigations before. Arrests are made, a few accused are paraded before cameras, and political outrage dominates headlines for weeks. Yet the structural weaknesses remain unchanged. Rarely do investigations fully expose the institutional chain of negligence, complicity or administrative failure that allows such breaches to occur repeatedly. If the present probe ends only with the arrest of local operators while larger accountability disappears into bureaucratic silence, it will deepen the already fragile trust students place in national examinations.

The tragedy is particularly severe because NEET is not merely another entrance test. It is one of the most competitive examinations in the country, determining the future of lakhs of aspirants hoping to enter the medical profession. Students spend years preparing, often sacrificing ordinary adolescence under intense academic pressure. Families exhaust savings on coaching, hostel fees and study materials. In rural India, many parents borrow money or sell assets believing

“That is where public scepticism begins. India has witnessed several high-profile paper leak investigations before. Arrests are made, a few accused are paraded before cameras, and political outrage dominates headlines for weeks. Yet the structural weaknesses remain unchanged. Rarely do investigations fully expose the institutional chain of negligence, complicity or administrative failure that allows such breaches to occur repeatedly. If the present probe ends only with the arrest of local operators while larger accountability disappears into bureaucratic silence, it will deepen the already fragile trust students place in national examinations. The tragedy is particularly severe because NEET is not merely another entrance test. It is one of the most competitive examinations in the country, determining the future of lakhs of aspirants hoping to enter the medical profession.”

education remains the only reliable path to upward mobility.

It is these rural and economically weaker students who will suffer the most from the reconducted examination. Urban, affluent candidates may still have access to expensive coaching institutes, private tutors and stable study environments during the additional preparation period. But poorer students do not possess the luxury of extended uncertainty. Many study under difficult conditions, balancing household responsibilities, unreliable electricity, financial stress and lack of educational infrastructure. For them, every additional month of preparation means deeper emotional exhaustion and economic burden.

A reconducted examination also disproportionately affects

students from remote areas who travel long distances to examination centres. Additional travel expenses, accommodation costs and logistical uncertainty become hidden penalties imposed not on the guilty but on honest candidates. Ironically, those who never benefited from any leak are now being forced to pay the price for the system's failure.

The social consequences are equally damaging. Every paper leak strengthens a dangerous perception among young people that success in India depends not solely on hard work but on access, influence and money. Such cynicism corrodes faith in institutions far beyond the education sector. A democracy cannot function healthily when its youth begin believing that fairness itself is negotiable.

The National Testing Agency now faces a credibility crisis of its own making. Established to ensure transparency and professionalism in high stakes examinations, it has instead become associated with recurring controversies. Institutions can survive isolated mistakes. They struggle to survive repeated failures that appear systemic. Each new scandal chips away at the legitimacy of centralised testing mechanisms and raises doubts about administrative competence.

The response to paper leaks cannot remain confined to stronger laws announced after every controversy. India already has stringent legal provisions for examination fraud. The real issue is enforcement, institutional accountability and technological preparedness. Secure digital protocols, independent audits, encrypted paper transmission systems and tighter monitoring of printing and logistics networks are no longer optional reforms. They are necessities.

Most importantly, accountability must travel upward. If repeated leaks occur under the watch of examination authorities, responsibility cannot stop with small operators and criminal intermediaries. Senior administrative officials must also face scrutiny for lapses in oversight, preparedness and crisis management.

The NEET crisis is ultimately about more than one examination. It is about whether India can still guarantee a fair opportunity to those who possess nothing except talent and hard work. If merit itself becomes vulnerable to organised corruption, then the country risks betraying the very students who believe education remains their only chance at dignity and mobility.

LETTERS

NEET Chaos Is Crushing Honest Students

The cancellation and reconduct of NEET UG 2026 following allegations of a paper leak has once again exposed the alarming weakness of India's examination system. While authorities promise investigations and strict action, it is ordinary students who continue to suffer the consequences of repeated institutional failures.

For lakhs of aspirants, NEET is not just an entrance test but the result of years of sacrifice, discipline and financial struggle. Students from rural and economically weaker families are the worst affected. Many travel long distances to examination centres, spend heavily on coaching and accommodation, and study under extremely difficult conditions. A reconducted examination means additional expenses, emotional stress and prolonged uncertainty for families already under pressure. The ongoing CBI probe must not become another symbolic exercise limited to arresting a few middlemen. The investigation should reveal whether there were lapses within the examination system itself and whether insiders enabled the leak. Unless institutional accountability is fixed, such scandals will continue to repeat themselves. Repeated paper leaks also create a dangerous message among young people that honesty and hard work are no longer enough to succeed. This damages public trust not only in examinations but in institutions meant to protect fairness and merit. India cannot aspire to become an educational power while its most important competitive examinations remain vulnerable to corruption and organised cheating networks. Students deserve transparency, accountability and a system that rewards genuine merit.

- Melroy D'Souza, Panaji, Goa

Land Records and the Crisis of Accountability in Goa

The growing disputes over land ownership and destructive development in Goa demand urgent public attention and legal scrutiny. At the centre of this crisis lies the questionable reliance on the Record of Rights, Form I and XIV, and property cards that, in many cases, are allegedly treated as proof of ownership without lawful State grants under the Goa Land Revenue Code, 1968.

The issue is not merely administrative but deeply connected to governance, environmental protection and the rule of law. Land use regulations can only be meaningfully enforced where ownership and occupancy rights are lawfully derived through State grants and recognised tenure systems under existing legislation. Where such lawful conferment does not exist, the continued use of land records as conclusive ownership documents raises serious concerns.

Goa has already witnessed the consequences of unchecked and often controversial development. Hills are flattened, agricultural land disappears and ecologically fragile zones face mounting pressure. If land records themselves are under dispute, then authorities must ensure that verification processes are transparent, legally sound and subject to public accountability. It is equally important to remember that several laws governing land and property rights in Goa existed prior to December 20, 1961 and were protected under Section 5 of the Goa, Daman and Diu (Administration) Act, 1962. These legal safeguards cannot be ignored in the rush for commercial expansion and real estate interests. The government must initiate an independent review of disputed land records and restore public confidence through lawful and transparent processes.

- Orlando Mesquita

IndiGo Reduces Flights to Goa Airports in June Network Revision; SpiceJet Exits Mopa Operations

■ Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad routes see frequency cuts; Kolkata–Mopa connection dropped from revised domestic network

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: IndiGo has scaled down operations to both Goa airports — Dabolim (GOI) and Manohar International Airport, Mopa (GOX) — as part of its June 26 network revision compared to May schedules.

According to the updated network summary, Bengaluru recorded a reduction of



8 weekly frequencies to Goa-Dabolim and 6 weekly frequencies to Goa-Mopa.

Chennai routes also saw cuts, with 2 fewer

weekly flights to Dabolim and 1 reduction to Mopa.

Hyderabad witnessed a sharper decline, with IndiGo reducing 4 weekly frequencies to Dabolim and 8 weekly frequencies to Mopa.

The Kolkata–Mopa route has also been dropped from the airline's updated domestic network list.

Meanwhile, SpiceJet has terminated operations

at Goa's Manohar International Airport (Mopa) as part of its 2026 route network rationalisation.

The combined reductions signal a broader realignment of airline capacity on Goa routes, with adjustments across key metro connections and selective route withdrawals impacting both of the State's airports.

Ponda Police Arrest Man For Alleged Job Fraud At GMC

Accused Subhash Sitaram Naik Held For Cheating Victims With False Promise Of Employment at GMC

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Ponda Police have arrested Subhash Sitaram Naik from Pali for allegedly cheating three individuals by promising them jobs at Goa Medical College. According to police sources, the accused allegedly collected money from the victims by assuring them employment opportunities at the medical institution located in Bambolim.

Acting on complaints lodged by the victims, Ponda Police initiated an investigation and subsequently apprehended the accused.

High Court Stays Transfer Of Special School Employee

■ Worker alleges transfer was retaliatory after raising wage and pension issues

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa bench of the Bombay High Court has stayed the transfer of an employee attached to a special education institution after she challenged the order, claiming it was issued to victimise her for supporting staff grievances against the management.

Sujata Zore, who works as an attendant at the Sanjay Centre for Special Education, approached the High Court questioning the legality of an April 30 transfer order that affected her and seven other employees.

During the hearing, counsel appearing for Zore argued that the transfer order was issued in the backdrop of disputes between employees and the management over salary-related concerns and provident fund deductions. The petition stated that Zore had supported fellow staff members in legal proceedings connected to these disputes, following which the management allegedly targeted her through the transfer order.

The plea further contended that the transfer decision had been taken without the approval of the institution's



governing body and that no valid reasons were cited for shifting the employees.

After hearing the submissions, the Vacation Bench headed by Justice Jitendra Jain granted interim relief and stayed the transfer order until further orders.

The matter is likely to be taken up again after the court reopens following the summer vacation in June.

ST Panel Orders Probe Into Alleged Leak Of Autopsy Report In Home Guard Death Case

■ South Goa Collector directed to investigate circulation of confidential post-mortem details in Dinesh Gaude case amid concerns over unauthorised public disclosure

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Goa State Commission for Scheduled Tribes has ordered a formal inquiry into the suspected leakage of sensitive post-mortem findings related to the death of home guard Dinesh Gaude, after portions of the autopsy report allegedly surfaced in the public domain.

The commission has directed the South Goa Collector to ascertain how confidential medical details from the ongoing investigation were accessed and subsequently shared, despite the case still being



under active scrutiny by authorities.

The matter came to light after a senior forensic medical officer attached to the South Goa District Hospital lodged a complaint, alleging that sections of the post-mortem report had been circulated on social media and discussed publicly without official authorisation.

TCP Revokes Technical Clearance Granted To Tarun Tahiliani Project

■ Town & Country Planning Department Withdraws Approval For Residential House, Staff Quarters, Swimming Pool And Compound Wall At Salvador Do Mundo In Bardez

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department, North Goa, has withdrawn the technical clearance earlier issued for a proposed construction project linked to fashion designer Tarun Tahiliani at Salvador Do Mundo village in Bardez taluka. As per the official order issued by the Office of the Senior

Town Planner, Mapusa, the clearance pertaining to the construction of a residential house (revised) along with staff quarters, swimming pool and compound wall on Survey No. 292/1-L-7 has been revoked. The withdrawal order, referenced as TPB/3208/SDM/TCP-2026/4864, effectively cancels the permission that had been granted earlier for the project.

BJP hits back at Congress over criticism of Modi's austerity appeal

■ Party says Centre's call for restraint is aimed at protecting economy amid international uncertainty

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The BJP defended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for austerity and responsible consumption, accusing the Congress of turning a serious economic issue into a political debate.

Speaking in Panaji, BJP spokesperson Yatish Naik said the Prime Minister's message was



linked to concerns arising from global instability and increasing fuel prices,

which could impact the country's economy and cost of living.

Coastal Authority Seeks Status Report on Action Against Illegal Jetties

■ GCZMA asks officials to confirm compliance after six unauthorised structures sealed along Goa's coastline

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has directed concerned authorities to submit a detailed compliance report on the action taken against six illegal jetties identified along the State's coastal belt.

The authority has sought confirmation



that the unauthorised structures have been sealed in line with earlier directions issued after

inspections and complaints regarding violations of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms.

Four Booked For Attempt To Murder In Taleigao Assault Case

■ Youth Allegedly Attacked With Iron Rod And Wooden Stick Over Previous Enmity

Team Goemkarponn

TALEIGAO: Panaji Police have registered an attempt to murder case against four persons following a violent assault on a 21-year-old youth at Taleigao late on Monday night.

According to police, complainant Sahil Kuttikar, a resident near Mahalaxmi Temple at Taleigao, alleged that he was attacked on May 12

at around 8.30 pm near a general store close to Asha Mahal in Taleigao.

Police said the accused — Hemant Shirodkar of Chimbel, Eknath Gawas, Raju of Nagali Hills, Dona Paula, and Vamnesh Kuttikar of Odxel — allegedly restrained the complainant and assaulted him using an iron rod and a wooden stick. The complainant reportedly sustained a bleeding head injury in the

attack.

The accused are also alleged to have abused the victim with filthy language and threatened him with dire consequences. Police stated that the assault was allegedly linked to previous enmity between the parties.

Based on the complaint and after consultation with senior officers, Panaji Police registered Crime No.



88/2026 under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including charges related to attempt to murder, assault, criminal intimidation and wrongful restraint.

Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Mahadev Pednekar of Panaji Police Station.

One Arrested In Nagoa Assault Case

■ Youth Injured After Alleged Attack With Beer Bottles Near Nagoa Circle

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have arrested one person in connection with an assault case reported near Nagoa Circle in Bardez.

According to police, the case was registered following a complaint filed by 20-year-old Karan Gohel, a resident of Verla-Parra, Mapusa. The complainant alleged that on May 12 at around 3 pm, four accused persons — identified as Ajay Pujar, Mubarrak

Nadaf, Raj and Bishnu — wrongfully restrained, abused and assaulted him and his friend near Nagoa Circle.

Police said the accused allegedly attacked the victims using fists and beer bottles, resulting in injuries to the complainant's head and the backside of his neck. The victim was referred for medical examination, while the medical opinion regarding the nature of injuries has been kept reserved.

Colva Police Arrest Youth With Suspected Ganja Worth Rs 40,000

■ NDPS Case Registered Following Raid At Cavelossim

Team Goemkarponn

COLVA: Colva Police have registered a case under the NDPS Act after a 21-year-old man was allegedly found in possession of suspected ganja at Cavelossim in Salcete.

According to police, PSI Nikhil Khajekar of Colva Police Station lodged the complaint following a raid conducted on the basis of reliable and specific information received from sources.

Police said that during the operation carried out on May 13 between 4 pm and 5 pm at Betty Waddo, Cavelossim, the accused, identified as



Abhishak Dundappanavar, a resident of Cavelossim, was allegedly found in possession of fruiting and flowering tops suspected to be ganja weighing around 400 grams.

The seized contraband has an estimated market value of approximately Rs 40,000, police said.

Following the seizure, Colva Police registered an offence under Section 20(b)(ii)(A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Woman Alleges Assault, Robbery And Outraging Of Modesty In Curchorem

■ FIR Registered Against Four Accused After Violent Dispute At Kakoda

Team Goemkarponn

Curchorem Police have registered a case against four persons following allegations of assault, vandalism, robbery and outraging of modesty during an incident reported at Kakoda in Curchorem.

According to police, the case was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by a woman complainant who alleged that the incident took place on May 11 at around 8.15 pm.

Police said the accused persons, identified as Shreya Kamat, Salil Kamat, Dhruv Bhende and Pradnya Bhende,



allegedly damaged the complainant's Celerio car. The complainant stated that the front windscreen of the vehicle was damaged by Shreya Kamat and Salil Kamat, while Dhruv Bhende allegedly broke the rear windscreen by throwing a large stone.

The accused are also alleged to have formed an unlawful assembly and, in furtherance of their common object, punctured

the rear tyre of the vehicle and damaged its wiper.

According to the complaint, when the woman questioned the accused regarding the incident, Shreya Kamat and Pradnya Bhende allegedly caught hold of her hair, while Dhruv Bhende allegedly assaulted her by punching her on the face. The complainant further alleged that Dhruv Bhende outraged her modesty by

tearing her clothes.

Police said the accused also allegedly threatened to kill the complainant and her family members. The complainant further alleged that Shreya Kamat wrongfully restrained her, snatched her car keys and took away her mangalsutra valued at approximately Rs 2.7 lakh.

Based on the complaint, Curchorem Police registered Crime No. 18/2026 under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita relating to assault, criminal intimidation, unlawful assembly, robbery, wrongful restraint and outraging of modesty.

FIR Filed Against 11 Villagers Over Alleged Confinement Of Acting Sarpanch

■ Karapur-Sarvan Panchayat Meeting Turns Tense Over Lodha Project Issue

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: Bicholim Police have registered an offence against 11 persons and others following allegations of wrongful confinement, intimidation and obstruction of official duties during a meeting at the Karapur-Sarvan Village Panchayat office.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by

Bibi Ayesha Magod, acting Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch of the Karapur-Sarvan Village Panchayat, on May 12 at around 10.55 pm. Police said the incident occurred earlier in the day during a meeting held in the chamber of the Panchayat Secretary regarding the ongoing Lodha project at Sarvan village. The complainant alleged that the accused persons — identified

as Siddhesh Jana Tari, Ujwala Kavlekar, Neeta Morajkar, Manjita Chandekar, Sanjivani Gaonkar, Chitra Nansekar, Mina Ghadi, Pritesh Salgaonkar, Abdul Rahim Mulla, Savlo Kavlekar and Reema Gaonkar, along with others — visited the Panchayat office to question her regarding the proposed issuance of a show cause notice to the project.

Class 12 Student Found Dead At Curtorim

■ Police Register Unnatural Death Case After Teen Found Hanging At Residence

Team Goemkarponn

MAINA: Maina Curtorim Police have registered an unnatural death case following the death of a 17-year-old student at Nessai in Curtorim.

According to police, a phone call was received from PCR Margao on May 12 at around 11.15 pm informing that a teenage boy had allegedly died by suicide at his residence.

Police identified the deceased as Siddharth



Hegde, a resident of Nessai, Curtorim. Upon reaching the spot, police found that the boy had allegedly hanged himself using a nylon rope inside the house.

He was immediately shifted to South Goa District Hospital at Margao, where the on-

duty doctor declared him dead. Police conducted the occurrence panchanama and inquest proceedings, while the body was preserved at the hospital for further medico-legal formalities.

During preliminary inquiry, family members informed police that the teenager was allegedly under pressure related to his examination performance, following which he took the extreme step.

Committee Urges Sensitive Reporting After Student Suicide Incidents At BITS Goa

■ Mental Health Support Strengthened; Stakeholders Asked To Avoid Sensationalism

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The District Level Monitoring Committee constituted to review recent student suicide incidents at BITS Pilani K. K. Birla Goa Campus has reiterated the importance of mental-health support and appealed to all stakeholders to act with sensitivity and restraint while dealing with such incidents.

The Committee, which submitted its report to the Government on February 2, 2026, conducted a detailed assessment



of the institutional ecosystem, student support systems and mental-health response framework at the campus.

According to the Committee, suicide is a complex and multi-dimensional issue influenced by psychological, emotional, social and environmental factors and cannot be attributed to any

single cause or isolated circumstance.

The report observed that students in highly competitive academic environments often face stress arising from academic pressure, performance expectations, emotional vulnerability, social isolation, sleep disturbances and personal issues. The Committee noted that while counselling and peer-support systems already existed at the institute, there was a need for further strengthening of counselling services,

preventive wellness initiatives, faculty sensitisation and awareness regarding available mental-health resources.

During a review meeting held on April 24, 2026, the Dean of the institute informed the Committee that the recommendations made in the report had been implemented. The institute also informed the panel that it had increased the number of mental-health professionals and established a 24x7 mental-health support facility for students.



Rina Fernandes Appointed President Of Porvorim BJP Mahila Morcha

■ 38-Member Committee Constituted In Presence Of Minister Rohan Khaunte

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: A 38-member committee of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Porvorim Constituency Mahila Morcha has been constituted with Rina Fernandes being appointed as its President.

The committee includes two vice-presidents, two general secretaries and two secretaries.

The selection process was held in the presence of Rohan Khaunte, Tourism and Information

Technology Minister and Porvorim MLA.

Also present on the occasion were Kunda Chodankar, Penha de Franca Sarpanch Swapnil Chodankar, Succoro Sarpanch Sonia Pednekar, Zilla Panchayat member Sandeep Salgaonkar, BJP Minority Morcha President Dattaram Redkar, Porvorim Mandal President Vineet Parab, Secretary Ashok Shetty and Porvorim Constituency BJP Mahila Morcha in-charge Dr Sneha Bhagwat.



Facilitation Camp To Address Long-Pending Compensation Claims Of Surla Farmers

■ Three-Day Camp At Government High School Surla From May 20

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: The Office of the Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bicholim, will organise a facilitation camp at Surla to process long-pending compensation claims of farmers affected by mining-related siltation.

The camp will be held at Government High School, Surla, from May 20 to May 22, 2026, between 10 am and 5 pm.

The exercise is being conducted in accordance with orders passed by the Bombay High Court at Goa in Writ Petition No. 443 of 2004, with the Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bicholim, functioning as

Court Commissioner for the matter.

Officials said beneficiaries linked to nearly 300 sub-divisions of land would be eligible to submit claims during the camp, subject to verification and due procedure.

Claimants have been advised to first verify their entitlement from the list available at the office of the Village Panchayat Surla. Only those whose names, or whose predecessors' names, appear in Form I and XIV of the affected survey numbers and whose entitlement is reflected in the official list will be permitted to submit claims.

MoU Signed To Supply Certified Seeds To Goa Farmers

■ Agreement Aims To Boost Crop Productivity And Support Agricultural Welfare Schemes

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Tuesday between Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Ltd. and Adarsh Krishi Sahakari Kharedi Vikri Parakriya Sauntha Maryadit (AKSKVPS), Balli-Quepem, to ensure the availability of certified and high-quality seeds for



farmers in Goa.

AKSKVPS has been designated as the nodal agency for the State of Goa under the agreement.

According to officials,

the MoU aims to create a framework for collaboration between the two organisations to improve seed distribution and enhance

productivity of key crops in Goa through the use of superior seed varieties.

The agreement also seeks to align agricultural initiatives with various State and Central Government subsidy programmes and welfare schemes while establishing a system for joint monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes.



South Goa Administration Reviews Monsoon Preparedness Measures

■ Desilting Work Progresses; Flood-Prone Areas Identified Ahead Of Rainy Season

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A review meeting on monsoon preparedness in South Goa district was chaired by Egna Cleetus in the presence of Ramesh Gaonkar and Velton Tellis.

The meeting was attended by Sub-Divisional Magistrates,

Mamlatdars, Chief Officers of municipalities and Block Development Officers from various talukas of South Goa.

During the meeting, concerned BDOs informed that nearly 50 per cent of the desilting work of nallas and drainage systems had been completed across the talukas.

North Goa Consumer Protection Council Reviews Consumer Rights Initiatives

■ Officials Discuss Grievance Redressal And Awareness Measures At District Meeting

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A meeting of the District Consumer Protection Council (DCPC), North Goa, was held at the North Goa Collectorate under the chairmanship of Pravin Parab. The meeting was attended by officials from various government departments, stakeholders

and representatives of consumer forums. Amit Sawant served as the Member Secretary for the meeting. During the meeting, discussions were held on key issues related to consumer rights, grievance redressal mechanisms and strengthening consumer awareness initiatives across North Goa district.



Cabinet Approves Higher MSP For 14 Kharif Crops Ahead Of 2026-27 Season

■ Sunflower seed, cotton and oilseeds receive biggest hike as Centre aims to boost farmer income

New Delhi: The Centre has approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 kharif crops for the 2026-27 marketing season, aiming to provide better returns to farmers and encourage cultivation of pulses, oilseeds and nutri cereals.

The decision was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to the government, sunflower seed received the highest absolute increase in MSP with a hike of Rs 622 per quintal over the previous year. Cotton followed with an increase of Rs 557 per quintal, while nigerseed and sesamum saw hikes of Rs 515 and Rs 500 per quintal respectively.

The revised MSP structure is in line with the Centre's policy announced



in the Union Budget 2018-19, which aimed to fix MSP at a minimum of 1.5 times the all India weighted average cost of production. Officials said the move is intended to ensure remunerative prices for farmers and

strengthen agricultural income security.

Among the crops covered, moong is expected to provide the highest return over production costs with an estimated margin of 61 per cent. Bajra and maize

are projected to offer margins of 56 per cent each, while tur or arhar is estimated to give farmers a margin of 54 per cent. The remaining crops are expected to provide returns of around 50 per cent over production

costs.

The government said it has been actively promoting diversification beyond traditional cereal cultivation by encouraging production of pulses, oilseeds and Shree Anna or nutri cereals through

higher MSP incentives.

The Cabinet also highlighted procurement data to underline increased government support to farmers in recent years. Paddy procurement between 2014-15 and 2025-26 stood at 8,418 lakh metric tonnes, significantly higher than the 4,590 lakh metric tonnes procured during 2004-05 to 2013-14.

For all 14 kharif crops combined, procurement during 2014-15 to 2025-26 reached 8,746 lakh metric tonnes compared to 4,679 lakh metric tonnes in the previous decade.

The government further stated that MSP payments to paddy farmers during the same period totalled Rs 16.08 lakh crore, while total MSP payments for all 14 kharif crops stood at Rs 18.99 lakh crore.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

RGP Infighting Continues As Rival Camps Keep Up Online War

aligned with Borkar. Since then, the disagreement has increasingly shifted into the public domain through social media posts, comments and reactions from party workers and supporters. Despite the mounting political chatter, Borkar has so

far refrained from issuing any direct response to the allegations or criticism levelled against him. His public communication has largely remained focused on constituency-related activities and developmental matters. The latest developments have further fuelled

speculation over growing divisions within the RGP at a time when the party is attempting to strengthen its position in Goa's political landscape. With neither side showing signs of backing down, the public confrontation within the organisation appears set to continue.

CCP Conducts Enforcement Drive In Panaji, 41 Taxis Booked For Illegal Parking

a more organized city remains a key priority for the administration. He said the ongoing comprehensive plan is intended to provide long-term relief to residents. He further added that such proactive enforcement drives will continue as part of efforts to make Panaji a more breathable and resident-friendly city.

Goa Anti Tobacco Film Festival Entry Deadline Extended Till May 20

■ ESG and Goa Dental College to host 8th edition of awareness focused film festival on May 31

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The Entertainment Society of Goa in association with the Department of Public Health Dentistry at Goa Dental College and Hospital will organise the 8th Goa Anti Tobacco Film Festival on May 31, 2026.

The festival aims to promote awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco through cinema and creative storytelling. The event will feature two competition categories, namely the Goa Section and the National Section, allowing participation from filmmakers across the state as well as the country.

Organisers have announced an extension of the submission deadline for film



entries and supporting documents. The earlier last date of May 13, 2026 has now been extended to May 20, 2026, giving participants additional time to complete their registrations.

The registration form along with the detailed rules and regulations for the competition is available on Entertainment Society of Goa under the title "8th Goa Anti Tobacco Film Festival Registration Form".

Jammu And Kashmir Teacher Arrested For Allegedly Sheltering Jaish Terrorists

the accused's residence. Balochi was killed along with two foreign militants during Operation Trashi I in Chatroo earlier this year.

Police described the arrest as the first major breakthrough in the post encounter investigation into terror support networks in the region. Following his detention,

the accused was shifted to a jail outside Kishtwar due to security concerns.

Security agencies said efforts are continuing to identify other suspected overground workers and individuals allegedly linked to militant activities in the area. Further investigation is underway, and officials have indicated that more arrests may follow.

India Hosts Expanded BRICS Summit Amid Rising Tensions Over Iran And Oil Supply

growth projections. The BRICS grouping, formed in 2009 to represent major emerging economies seeking a stronger voice in global governance, has expanded significantly in recent years. However, internal differences among members, particularly over the Middle East conflict and attitudes toward Western powers, are expected

to make consensus difficult during the Delhi discussions.

The foreign ministers are also scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of the BRICS leaders' summit planned later this year in India. It remains uncertain whether the meeting will conclude with a joint statement due to differing positions among member nations.

“Taiwan Issue Could Push US-China Ties Into Dangerous Territory,” Warns Xi Jinping

■ High Stakes Beijing Summit Sees Xi Issue Sharp Warning While Trump Pushes For Stronger Trade Relations

New Delhi: Chinese President Xi Jinping issued a stern warning over the Taiwan issue during a crucial meeting with US President Donald Trump in Beijing, cautioning that mishandling the matter could drive relations between the two global powers toward conflict.

Speaking at the Great Hall of the People, Xi described Taiwan as the most sensitive issue in relations between Washington and Beijing. He stressed that maintaining stability between the two countries



depended heavily on how the matter was addressed in the future. According to Xi, careful handling of the Taiwan question could help preserve stability in bilateral ties, but failure to do so could trigger confrontation and place

the broader China US relationship in a highly dangerous situation. His remarks came amid growing tensions in the Taiwan Strait and increasing military activity by Beijing around the self-governed island.

China considers Taiwan part of its territory and has repeatedly stated its goal of reunification. Over recent years, Beijing has intensified military exercises near Taiwan and has not ruled out the possibility of taking control of the island by force if necessary.

Taiwan, however, has evolved into a vibrant democracy over the past several decades, with a majority of its population opposing reunification under Beijing's proposed “one country, two systems” framework.

Rajnath Singh's Indo-Pacific Outreach To Focus On Defence, Shipbuilding And Maritime Security

■ India Eyes Stronger Strategic Partnerships With Vietnam And South Korea Amid Expanding Regional Engagement

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is expected to travel to Vietnam and South Korea in the third week of May as India intensifies its strategic and defence engagement across the Indo-Pacific region.



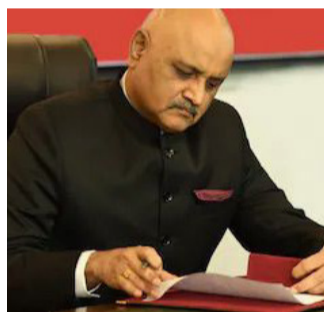
The visit is likely to focus on strengthening defence cooperation, expanding military industrial partnerships and enhancing maritime security coordination with both countries. Discussions are expected to involve senior political leaders, defence officials and industry stakeholders as India seeks to deepen its presence in East and Southeast Asia.

In Vietnam, talks are expected to revolve around coastal defence and maritime security, particularly amid rising tensions in the South China Sea. Interest in India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system is likely to feature prominently during the discussions. India has already exported the missile system to the Philippines and continues to explore defence export opportunities with several nations in the region.

Vietnam has been steadily enhancing its naval and coastal defence

capabilities as regional security concerns grow. During the recent India visit of Vietnamese President To Lam, both countries had explored broader defence industrial cooperation, including potential collaboration in missile technology and military platforms. The South Korea leg of the visit is expected to focus heavily on defence manufacturing, naval cooperation and shipbuilding technology. India has been looking to strengthen its domestic shipbuilding sector under the “Make in India” initiative, with South Korean companies regarded among the global leaders in advanced shipbuilding and maritime technology.

Officials are expected to discuss industrial partnerships, shipyard modernisation and technology sharing aimed at boosting India's naval and commercial vessel production capabilities.



Centre Extends CBI Chief Praveen Sood's Tenure Till May 2027

Decision taken by high level selection panel amid opposition dissent over appointment process

New Delhi: The Centre has extended the tenure of Praveen Sood as Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation for another year, allowing him to continue in office till May 2027. The extension marks the second consecutive continuation granted to the senior IPS officer since he took charge of the country's premier investigative agency in 2023.

An official order issued by the Personnel Ministry stated that the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the extension based on recommendations made by the high level selection committee responsible for appointments to the post of CBI Director.

Sood had originally assumed office on May 25, 2023, with a two year term. He was granted his first one year extension in 2025, and the latest decision will now keep him in the role beyond May 24, 2026.

Jaishankar, Lavrov Hold Key Talks Ahead Of BRICS Meet

■ India and Russia review energy, trade and global security issues as BRICS ministers gather in Delhi

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held extensive discussions in New Delhi on Wednesday, focusing on strengthening bilateral cooperation in areas such as energy, trade, connectivity and strategic coordination ahead of the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting. The talks took place shortly after Lavrov arrived in the national capital to participate in the

two day BRICS conclave hosted by India. Foreign ministers from several member nations, including Iran, Brazil and South Africa, have also reached Delhi for the meeting.

During the discussions, both sides reviewed the growing India Russia partnership amid evolving geopolitical tensions and global uncertainty. The leaders are also understood to have exchanged views on the ongoing West Asia crisis and the Ukraine



conflict. In a statement following the meeting, Jaishankar described the interaction as a “productive exchange of views” and said the conversation covered several aspects of the India Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. Key areas discussed included trade and investment, energy cooperation, science and technology, connectivity and facilitating movement of skilled professionals between the two countries.

6 Months Jail, Rs 1,000 Fine Under Bengal's New Animal Slaughter Regulations

■ New regulations mandate fitness approval, designated slaughter facilities and jail term for violations

New Delhi: The West Bengal government has introduced a new set of regulations governing animal slaughter, making it mandatory to obtain official certification before any cow, buffalo or related cattle can be slaughtered in the state. The notification imposes strict conditions on eligibility, location and enforcement, with violations carrying penalties including



imprisonment and fines.

Under the new rules, no bulls, bullocks, cows, calves, buffaloes or castrated buffaloes can be slaughtered unless they are officially certified as fit for slaughter by authorised authorities.

RBI Governor Warns Fuel Prices May Rise If Middle East Crisis Continues

■ Prolonged conflict and supply disruptions could force government to pass on higher oil costs to consumers

New Delhi: Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra has indicated that petrol and diesel prices in India could increase if the ongoing Middle East conflict persists for an extended period, as disruptions in global energy supplies continue to push crude oil prices higher.

Speaking at a conference in Switzerland, Malhotra said the Indian government has so far maintained fiscal discipline



and stayed committed to fiscal consolidation despite growing pressure from global economic uncertainties. However, he warned that the prolonged crisis could eventually compel authorities to transfer part of the rising

fuel burden to consumers.

The conflict in the Middle East, along with disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, has significantly affected oil and gas shipments, creating volatility in global energy markets.

Virat Kohli's Century Pushes RCB Closer To Playoffs, KKR Face Elimination Threat

■ Bengaluru climb to top of IPL table after six wicket win as Kolkata's qualification hopes suffer major setback

New Delhi: Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru moved a step closer to the IPL 2026 playoffs after a commanding six wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders on Wednesday, powered by a stunning unbeaten century from Virat Kohli.

Chasing a target of 193 in Raipur, Kohli delivered a match winning knock of 105 not out from 60 balls, helping Bengaluru climb to the top of the IPL points table on net run rate ahead of Gujarat Titans. The veteran batter smashed 11 boundaries and three sixes while registering his ninth IPL century and first hundred of the ongoing season.



The win marked RCB's eighth victory in 12 matches, taking them to 16 points and placing them on the verge of sealing a playoff berth. Historically, teams reaching 16 points almost always qualify for the knockout stage, making Bengaluru one of the strongest contenders this

season. For Kolkata, however, the defeat proved costly. The three time IPL champions suffered their sixth loss in 11 games and can now finish with a maximum of 15 points, leaving their playoff hopes hanging by a thread. Kohli, who had entered the match after back

to back ducks, looked determined from the start. He stitched together a crucial 92 run partnership with Devdutt Padikkal, who contributed 39 runs. Despite losing wickets at intervals, Kohli anchored the chase calmly before Jitesh Sharma struck the winning runs.

Earlier, Kolkata posted 192 for 4 after a brilliant 71 off 46 balls from Angkrish Raghuvanshi. Rinku Singh added late momentum with an unbeaten 49 from 29 deliveries, while Cameron Green chipped in with 32.

For Bengaluru, bowlers Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood and Rasikh Salam picked up one wicket each.



Sindhu, Lakshya And Srikanth Storm Into Thailand Open Second Round

■ Indian shuttlers register impressive wins in Bangkok as young stars also shine despite mixed results

New Delhi: Indian badminton stars PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the second round of the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament with commanding straight game victories in Bangkok on Wednesday.

Two time Olympic medallist Sindhu produced a dominant display against Chinese Taipei's Tung Ciou Tong, securing a comfortable 21-9, 21-12 win. The former world champion looked in control throughout the contest and will now face Denmark's Amalie Schulz in the round of 16.

Lakshya Sen, seeded seventh in the tournament, also progressed after defeating Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh 21-16, 21-17. Returning after injury concerns during the Thomas Cup, the Indian shuttler displayed sharp movement and confidence during the match. He is set to meet either Chinese

Taipei's Wang Po Wei or China's Zhu Xuan Chen in the next round.

Former world number one Srikanth delivered one of the standout performances of the day, stunning Singapore's eighth seed Loh Kean Yew 21-14, 21-15 in just 30 minutes. The Indian veteran dominated the rallies with aggressive attacking play and will next take on Chinese Taipei's Su Li Yang.

Young Indian shuttler Devika Sihag also impressed after overcoming Japan's world number 26 Natsuki Nidaira in a hard fought three game contest. Devika secured a 21-19, 13-21, 21-15 victory to continue her promising form after winning the Thailand Masters earlier this year. Malvika Bansod too advanced after battling past Canada's Wen Yu Zhang in three games, while several Indian players suffered narrow defeats despite spirited performances.

Neeraj Chopra Heads To Switzerland, Manu Bhaker To Italy After Government Clears Foreign Training Plans

■ Sports Ministry approves overseas exposure programmes ahead of Commonwealth and Asian Games

New Delhi: India's top athletes Neeraj Chopra and Manu Bhaker have received approval from the Sports Ministry for overseas training programmes as part of preparations for this year's Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

The proposals were cleared during the 173rd meeting of the Mission Olympic Cell under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme. Chopra, who is currently recovering from a back injury, will travel to the Olympic Training Centre in Bienne, Switzerland for a 47

day training camp from May 25 to July 10. The Sports Authority of India said the Olympic gold medallist is presently undergoing rehabilitation in Türkiye and will continue his preparations in Switzerland ahead of the major multi sport events later this year. The



Commonwealth Games are scheduled to take place in Glasgow from July 23 to August 2, while the Asian Games will be held in Aichi Nagoya, Japan from September 19 to October 4.

Varun Sahakari Leads Goa's Bright Start at U-13 National Ranking Badminton Tournament

■ Hosts See Mixed Results as India's Top Young Shuttlers Battle It Out in Navelim

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The opening day of the Yonex-Sunrise U-13 National Ranking Badminton Tournament witnessed a blend of encouraging performances and tough exits for Goa's young shuttlers at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium in Navelim on Wednesday. Goa's campaign got off to a positive start with Varun

Sahakari moving into the next round after receiving a walkover against Karnataka's Sankeerth M.M. Suven Sawant also progressed in similar fashion after Telangana's Abhiram Mahan Puttapakula conceded his match, giving the hosts an early boost in the qualification rounds.

However, several Goan players faced stiff competition against

opponents from across the country. Ayansh Sanke suffered a one sided 15-4, 15-3 defeat to Uttarakhand's Purab Karki, while Mihir Chafadkar went down 15-4, 15-8 against Atif Hoque of West Bengal. Shourya Sinari too bowed out after losing 15-7, 15-11 to Kerala's Hadhi Hamdhan, underlining the strong depth of talent present at the national event. Among the leading

contenders, second seed Aaditya P. Guna from Karnataka delivered a commanding performance to beat Kerala's Parvan K. 15-2, 15-3. Maharashtra's McDonald Colaco also impressed with a dominant 15-9, 15-1 victory over Telangana's Aarsh Kashyap. In another closely contested encounter, Telangana's Arnav Prakash edged past Karnataka's Vaibhav



Harish Udupa with a 15-8, 17-15 win. One of the most thrilling matches of the day saw Gujarat's Aaryan Choksi overcome Madhya Pradesh's Abhinav Arya in a hard fought three game battle, winning 21-19, 16-18, 16-14.

The tournament was formally inaugurated by sports promoter Yogiraj

Kamat in the presence of Goa Badminton Association officials, including president Manoj Patil, secretary Praveen Shenoy, vice president Vrushali Cardozo and organising secretary Vinayak Kamat, setting the stage for an exciting week of sub junior badminton action in Goa.