



Manoj Parab Resigns As RGP Chief, Announces Exit From Active Politics

■ Founder member cites organisational failures and growing internal divisions within party

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Revolutionary Goans Party founder member and president Manoj Parab on Thursday announced his resignation from the top post of the party and declared his withdrawal from active politics amid escalating internal discord within the organisation.

Addressing a press conference in Panaji,



Parab said he was stepping down after accepting responsibility for what he described as his inability to effectively manage and strengthen

the party structure during a period of mounting internal tensions.

The development comes after days of visible friction between

supporters of MLA Viresh Borkar and another faction led by Parab, with disagreements within the regional party increasingly surfacing in public.

Parab, accompanied by party leader Ajay Kholkar and General Secretary Vishwas Naik, became emotional while speaking about the situation inside the party.

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Sawantwadi Native Arrested For Alleged Murder Of Woman In Sankhali

Goa Police, with Maharashtra Police assistance, nab accused after search operation



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PANAJI: Goa Police, with assistance from Maharashtra Police, have arrested a 34-year-old man from Sawantwadi for allegedly murdering a woman inside her residence at Chikne-Kudne in Sankhali and fleeing the scene.

The accused, identified as Sagar Rawool, is suspected to have trespassed into the house of 58-year-old Shaila Sanjay Ghadi and assaulted her while she was alone at home. Police said the process of bringing the accused back to Goa is currently underway. According

to investigators, the accused was known to the victim's family and frequently visited the house. Police suspect he allegedly took advantage of the absence of other family members during the afternoon before attacking the woman inside the residence. Shaila Ghadi reportedly sustained serious injuries in the assault and later succumbed to them. After the incident, the accused allegedly escaped with the victim's mobile phone.

Following information about the crime, a team from Bicholim Police rushed to the spot and began an investigation.

CM Sawant Highlights Goa's 'Work-From-Beach' Vision At Shackathon

■ State aims to combine tourism, remote work and startups to attract young entrepreneurs and innovators

Team Goemkarponn

BAGA: Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday launched a strong attack on the Indian National Congress, accusing the opposition of acting as obstructionists and creating unnecessary fear among the public through its criticism of the Centre's economic



Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Thursday said Goa is emerging as a preferred "work-from-beach" destination, with the state

government promoting a mix of tourism, innovation and entrepreneurship to attract startups and remote professionals.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Goa Shackathon, Sawant said the younger generation today seeks flexibility, creativity and meaningful work environments, and Goa is creating

opportunities for people to stay longer, work remotely and build ventures while enjoying the state's lifestyle and natural surroundings.

The Chief Minister said the initiative is also expected to strengthen Goa's growing startup ecosystem and position the state as a hub for innovation-driven tourism.



"Detect, Delete And Deport": Suvendu Govt Launches Crackdown On Illegal Bangla Infiltrators

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Days after assuming office as Chief Minister of West Bengal, Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday announced a major crackdown on illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators residing in the state.

It's Sankalp Amonkar vs NHAI over retaining wall project

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said India continues to be one of the safest and most inclusive countries for minorities, asserting that communities from neighbouring nations often look towards India for protection, dignity and opportunities.

A fresh confrontation has erupted between Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar and the National Highways



Authority of India (NHAI) over the retaining wall project along the Sada Highway, with the MLA openly questioning the safety of the structure and

warning of public agitation against the authorities.

During a joint inspection conducted on Thursday along with the Additional Collector

and other officials, Amonkar expressed strong dissatisfaction over the condition and execution of the retaining wall works, alleging that the highway stretch had been opened for traffic even before the mandatory safety report and completion certificate were furnished. The inspection was carried out in the wake of growing public concern over the stability of the retaining wall, especially after recent

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Pahalgam Attack Was Controlled From Pakistan, NIA Chargesheet Names Lashkar Handler In Lahore

New Delhi: The 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 26 tourists was directed and controlled from Pakistan, according to a chargesheet filed by the National Investigation Agency.



Goa's Tourism Boom Must Now Focus on Quality, Responsibility

Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte is right when he says Goa no longer has an "off-season." The State today attracts visitors throughout the year, including during the monsoon months, proving that Goa remains one of India's strongest tourism brands despite global economic uncertainty and geopolitical tensions affecting international travel.

Tourism trends are clearly changing. Younger travellers are choosing flexible holidays, destination weddings are shifting from foreign countries to Indian locations and monsoon tourism is steadily gaining popularity. Goa's tourism department deserves credit for recognising these shifts and aggressively positioning the State as a year-round destination.

From promoting MICE tourism to encouraging hinterland tourism and improving tourism infrastructure, the government's efforts have undoubtedly helped maintain tourist inflow even during traditionally lean months.

But while Goa celebrates the end of the "off-season," another problem is growing rapidly and cannot be ignored any longer.

A section of tourists now arrives in Goa not to experience its culture, heritage or natural beauty, but purely in search of alcohol, drugs and cheap thrills. Increasingly, locals feel that some visitors treat Goa as a lawless playground where normal rules of behaviour no longer apply.

This growing frustration among Goans is real and understandable.

Tourism is the backbone of Goa's economy. Lakhs of people depend on it directly and indirectly. Hotels, taxi operators, shack owners, restaurants, small businesses and local vendors survive because tourists come here. Nobody is arguing against tourism or against attracting more visitors.

The real concern is about the quality and conduct of tourism.

Goa cannot become a destination where nuisance behaviour is normalised in the name of freedom and nightlife. Over the years, repeated incidents involving drunken driving, drug abuse, public indecency, loud behaviour, littering and disrespect towards local culture have damaged the

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State's image.

Social media has worsened the situation further.

A small section of influencers and content creators now project Goa merely as a destination for intoxication and excess. Viral videos showing reckless behaviour, public nuisance or drug culture may gain online attention, but they silently damage Goa's reputation globally. The tragedy is that while the government spends crores promoting Goa responsibly, some tourists themselves end up defaming the State through irresponsible conduct and online content.

This is where tourism management becomes as important as tourism marketing.

Arrival numbers alone cannot define success. Goa must ask itself an important question: what kind of tourism does it want to encourage in the long run?

If the State becomes identified only with uncontrolled parties and lawlessness, the long-term consequences will be serious. Locals will become increasingly hostile towards tourists, public infrastructure will face greater pressure and Goa's cultural identity will slowly erode.

Minister Rohan Khaunte's emphasis on regulated tourism and registration of operators in eco-sensitive hinterland areas is therefore an important step. The State cannot afford unchecked tourism expansion without proper regulation.

However, stricter enforcement is equally necessary.

Goa needs stronger action against drug networks, nuisance tourism, illegal activities, drunk driving and public misconduct. Visitors must understand that Goa welcomes tourists, but not irresponsible behaviour.

Many Goans today openly complain that some tourists behave in ways they would never dare to in their own cities. Beaches are littered, villages are disturbed late at night and locals often feel disrespected in their own spaces. Such behaviour creates resentment and damages the relationship between tourism and local communities.

The solution is not moral policing or discouraging tourists from visiting Goa. Nor should Goa become hostile towards visitors. Tourism must continue to grow because it remains central to the State's economy.

But growth must come with discipline.

The government's push towards quality tourism, conferences, weddings, wellness tourism and cultural experiences is the correct direction. Goa must attract tourists who value the State, not merely consume it irresponsibly.

There may truly be no off-season in Goa anymore.

But unless the State balances tourism growth with stricter regulation, responsible behaviour and protection of local culture, Goa risks losing the very charm that makes tourists return year after year.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reflecting at 66: A Renewed Resolve to Serve Goa and Humanity

With the continued prayers and good wishes of my friends and well-wishers, as I prepare to turn 66 on May 24, it is a moment to reminisce about the past, live meaningfully in the present and look ahead with hope for a brighter future for our beautiful Goa. Life has been memorable, and the last few years especially eventful, shared with my dearest wife Liz Gracias and blessed by the Almighty. Our travels across several countries have helped us build lasting friendships, largely because of Liz's loving, caring and considerate nature towards people, along with her deep concern and passion for Goa. Your prayers, encouragement and guidance have always inspired me to embrace life with positivity and determination. As I now look ahead to future milestones, my 75th birthday and hopefully even a century of life, I do so with renewed resolve and gratitude for the affection and friendship that so many have showered upon me over the years. Having studied Political Science, I remain deeply passionate about politics and public affairs. Today, I feel privileged to closely observe political developments across various countries. I had once dreamt of becoming a "Global Goan", and that distant dream now feels closer to reality. It has always been my firm belief that our greatest strength lies in our friendships and well-wishers spread across the world. With this vision, I remain committed to serving fellow Goans globally, while continuing to work in the best interests of Goa, especially my beloved birthplace Ribandar, which remains very close to my heart. As a humble soldier in the service of humanity, I remain committed to this path for as long as I live. With God's grace, renewed hope and stronger determination, I pray for guidance and strength in the years ahead. The "Enough is Enough" crusade inspired by retired Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Ferdino Rebello may well be among the last hopes to protect and preserve Goa's identity and values. For me, this movement itself is the greatest birthday gift, symbolising unity, brotherhood and the true spirit of Goa beyond all barriers of caste, creed and religion.

- Aires Rodrigues, London

Roads Are Not Racetracks

The outrage following the viral BMW crash videos in Goa is completely justified. The incident has once again exposed a dangerous and growing culture of reckless driving, public nuisance and social media-driven irresponsibility on Goa's roads.

Luxury cars speeding through public roads, risky stunts, loud behaviour and the obsession with recording everything for online attention are becoming alarmingly common. Unfortunately, many young drivers now appear more interested in creating viral content than respecting traffic laws or public safety. Goa's roads are already under pressure due to increasing traffic, tourism and poor road conditions in several areas. Rash driving in such an environment is not just irresponsible, it is potentially deadly. One moment of recklessness can destroy lives forever. What is equally disturbing is the attitude often displayed after such incidents. Instead of remorse, many offenders treat these episodes casually, almost as if they are part of a thrill-seeking lifestyle. Social media validation has created a dangerous mindset where risk-taking is celebrated rather than condemned. The BMW crash videos have triggered anger because people are tired of seeing repeated violations without strong consequences. Citizens want stricter enforcement, faster action and visible deterrence against reckless driving. Goa cannot allow its roads to become racing tracks for privileged thrill-seekers. Whether it involves luxury vehicles or ordinary bikes, traffic rules must apply equally to everyone. Strict penalties, licence suspensions and criminal action wherever necessary are essential to send a clear message that public safety cannot be compromised for social media attention or reckless entertainment. Road discipline is not optional. It is a responsibility owed to every person using public roads.

- Melwyn D'Souza, Panaji

NEP Relaxation In Goa Allows Continuation Of French, Portuguese In Schools

■ State Grants Temporary Relief To Schools Offering Foreign Languages Under Three-Language Policy

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has provided a relaxation under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, permitting schools that currently offer foreign languages such as French and Portuguese in Classes 8, 9 and 10 to continue with their existing language programmes.



The move comes amid concerns that the implementation of the NEP's three-language formula could impact the availability of widely

preferred foreign language options in the state. The issue has gained attention in the wake of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) adopting the language framework under NEP.

As per the policy, students are expected to

study three languages, typically comprising two Indian languages and one additional language, with English treated as a foreign language. This has raised apprehensions among parents and schools regarding the continuation of Portuguese and French, which are popular choices among students in Goa.

Goa 2027: Battle To Protect Democracy And Free Speech, Says Girish Chodankar

■ AICC Leader Extends Support To Swapnesh Sherlekar Amid Police Complaints

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: AICC leader Girish Chodankar on Thursday said that the political atmosphere in Goa is becoming increasingly hostile towards activists and citizens questioning those in power, while extending his support to activist



Swapnesh Sherlekar. Reacting to police complaints filed against

Sherlekar, Chodankar alleged that attempts are being made to silence voices speaking against corruption, intimidation and misuse of power.



Damu Naik Criticises Rahul Gandhi Over Remarks Against PM, Amit Shah

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: BJP Goa President Damu Naik on Thursday criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his recent remarks targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, describing the comments as "irresponsible" and "deeply disrespectful."

Saligao Residents Seek Action Against Alleged Illegal Filling Of Farmland

■ Complaint to Bardez Deputy Collector cites High Court directions, demands immediate halt to land

Team Goemkarponn

SALIGAO: Residents of Saligao have approached the Bardez Deputy Collector alleging illegal filling of cultivable agricultural land in Survey No. 296 and seeking urgent intervention to stop the activity.

In a complaint submitted on Thursday, local resident Pradeep Padgaonkar and others alleged that debris and soil were being dumped on the farmland, resulting in major alteration of the land's natural topography and destruction of fertile agricultural soil.



Union Team Inspects Farmagudi Land For IIT Goa Campus

■ Six-member Ministry panel reviews proposed site inside Goa College of Engineering; report likely within a week

Team Goemkarponn

FARMAGUDI: A six-member team from the Union Ministry of Education on Tuesday inspected a proposed 4.5 lakh square metre land parcel within the Goa College of Engineering campus at Farmagudi, identified for the permanent campus of IIT Goa.

Officials said the committee conducted a detailed assessment of the site and is expected to submit its report within



a week. Preliminary observations indicate that the team found the location suitable for the institute's long-pending permanent campus.

Sources said the Centre has relaxed the earlier requirement of 10 lakh square metres of land for establishing

the institute. If approved, the identified land will be formally transferred to IIT Goa, with provisions for additional land in the future to support expansion.

Established in 2016, IIT Goa continues to operate from a temporary campus at Farmagudi.

Phal Dessai Calls For Employment Audit Of NIT Goa Campus At Cuncolim

■ Minister Seeks Review Of Recruitment Process, Flags Concerns Over Jobs For Local Youth

CUNCOLIM: Nearly a decade after the establishment of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Goa campus at Cuncolim, Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Dessai has demanded an employment audit to examine the extent of job opportunities extended to local residents at the institute.

The minister recalled that BJP leaders, including former Cuncolim MLA Rajan Naik, had



earlier engaged with local communities and assured them that the project would bring benefits in both education and employment for Goans.

Speaking during a visit to Cuncolim on Wednesday, Phal Dessai said he would seek a detailed review of recruitment practices at the campus.

Fresh Complaint Against BMW Crash Accused Surfaces From January Incident

■ Complainant Alleges Assault, Threat With Knife And Drunk Behaviour Near Dona Paula Domino's

Team Goemkarponn

DONAPAUZA: Another police complaint has surfaced against the same youth allegedly involved in the recent BMW crash incident at Dona Paula, bringing renewed attention to his past conduct.

According to a statement recorded at the Panaji Police Station in January 2026, a complainant alleged that the BMW driver assaulted him and his



wife near Domino's Pizza at Dona Paula.

As per the complaint, the complainant was sitting inside his car with his wife and others when

a BMW allegedly arrived at high speed and stopped next to their vehicle. The complainant claimed there was enough space for the BMW to pass, but the

driver allegedly stepped out, abused him and physically assaulted him.

The complaint further stated that when the complainant's wife attempted to intervene, she too was allegedly assaulted during the altercation.

The complainant also alleged that the BMW driver later returned carrying a knife, prompting him to drive to the Dona Paula police outpost seeking assistance.

House Break-In Reported At Pomburpa; Gold Ornaments Worth ₹5 Lakh Stolen

■ Unknown Accused Entered House Through Back Door, Police Launch Investigation

Team Goemkarponn

POMBURPA: A theft case has been registered at Pomburpa in Bardez after unknown accused persons allegedly broke into a house and decamped with gold ornaments worth around ₹5 lakh.

According to police, the offence was registered on 19 May 2026 at 5:29 PM based



on a complaint lodged by Anant Madhu Salgaonkar, a resident of Velotim, Pomburpa, Bardez.

The complainant stated that on 18 May

2026, before 5:30 PM, unidentified persons gained entry into his residence through the back door and stole several gold ornaments

from the house.

The stolen valuables reportedly include two gold necklaces, three gold bangles, one surnacho vaisar, six earrings, two mascots, three finger rings, one locket and one ati, collectively valued at approximately ₹5 lakh.

Police have registered a case and further investigation is underway to identify and trace the accused persons.

Man Assaulted With Metal Rod Over Parking Dispute In Ponda

■ Accused Also Allegedly Damaged Car And Issued Threats
Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Ponda Police have registered a case against a man accused of assaulting another person with a metal rod following an argument over vehicle parking near a shop in Ponda. According to police, the complaint was lodged by Martin Estiber, a resident of Ponda, who stated that the incident occurred on 19 May 2026 at around 4 PM. As per the complaint, the



accused identified as Sankalp Naik allegedly abused the complainant in filthy language before assaulting him with a metal rod. The complainant sustained injuries to his right leg and the backside of his head, resulting in serious bleeding injuries.



Minor Girl Assaulted Amid Property Dispute At Bhati

Team Goemkarponn

SANGUEM: Sanguem Police have registered an offence against four persons following an alleged assault and intimidation incident linked to an ongoing property dispute at Bhati.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by a minor girl, whose identity has been withheld, a resident of Bhati.

The incident reportedly occurred on 8 May 2026 at around 12:15 PM.

As per the complaint, the accused identified as Suraj Velip allegedly assaulted the complainant by punching and slapping her on the face and head while she was attempting to take photographs of a loaded tipper truck. He also allegedly abused her using filthy language.

Police said that during the altercation, the complainant's mother arrived at the spot, following which the accused allegedly started his motorcycle and dashed it against her, causing her to fall onto the road.

Man Booked For Publicly Insulting Woman At Pilar

■ Accused Allegedly Made Derogatory Remarks About Complainant's Past Marriage

Team Goemkarponn

AGACAIM: Agacaim Police have registered an offence against a man from Agacaim for allegedly insulting the modesty of a woman and making derogatory remarks against her in public at Pilar.

The offence was registered on 19 May 2026 at 7:54 PM following a complaint lodged by a woman resident of Pilar, Tiswadi.

As per the complaint,



the incident occurred on 16 April 2026 at Pilar, where the accused, identified as Cletus Fernandes of Malwara, Agacaim, allegedly passed offensive remarks regarding the complainant's past marriage and publicly called her a "whore" in a loud voice.

Heroin Worth ₹90,000 Seized Near Taleigao Football Ground

■ Panaji Police Arrest Nepalese National During Narcotics Raid

Team Goemkarponn

TALEIGAO : Panaji Police arrested a 29-year-old Nepalese national during a narcotics raid conducted near the Taleigao football ground on Monday evening.

According to police, the offence was registered on 19 May 2026 at 10:44 PM based on a state complaint filed by PSI Nitin Naik of Panaji Police Station.

Acting on prior information, a police team led by PSI Nitin Naik, along with two panch



witnesses, conducted a raid between 5:30 PM and 8:00 PM near the Magsons shop located opposite the backside gate of the Taleigao football ground in Panaji. During the operation, the police apprehended the accused identified as Ramesh Jilli Bahadur (29), currently residing at

Santa Cruz and originally from Dhanj Tushipur, West Nepal.

Police said the accused was found in possession of 9 grams of suspected heroin valued at approximately ₹90,000.

Cash amounting to ₹15,000 in different denominations and one Nokia mobile phone were also seized under panchanama. The accused was formally arrested at 10:44 PM on 19 May 2026.

Housekeeping Staff Accused Of Stealing ₹2.88 Lakh From Chimbel Hotel

■ Hotel Employee Allegedly Fled After Taking Cash From Counter

Team Goemkarponn

CHIMBEL: A theft case has been registered against a housekeeping staff member accused of stealing ₹2.88 lakh from a hotel cash counter in Chimbel. According to police, the offence was registered on 19 May 2026 at 9:53 PM based on a complaint lodged by Jagdish Shivram Shetty (49), residing at Abidya Hotel near DoubleTree Hotel,



Chimbel, Goa.

The complainant alleged that on 15

May 2026 at around 12:37 AM, the accused identified as Mahesh

Hanumantappa, a native of Dharwad, Karnataka, who was employed as housekeeping staff at Abidya Hotel, allegedly stole cash amounting to ₹2.88 lakh kept at the hotel's cash counter.

Police said the accused fled from the spot after committing the theft.

A case has been registered and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Sanket S. Pokhare.

Quepem Resident Loses ₹1 Lakh In Fake Investment App Fraud

Team Goemkarponn



QUEPEM: A cyber fraud case has been

registered in Quepem after a resident was allegedly cheated of more than ₹1 lakh through a fake investment application promising high returns. According to police, the complaint was lodged by Pradip Jadhav, a resident of Quepem, who stated that the fraud took place on 5 May 2026 at Cotta, Amona in Quepem.

Mapusa Police Book Two For Illegal Bike Racing On NH-66

■ Viral Video Prompts Action; Police Probe Reckless Midnight Race Between Bastora And Guirim

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Mapusa Police have registered an FIR against two youths for allegedly conducting an illegal motorcycle race on the NH-66 highway between Bastora and Guirim in the early hours of May 19. The accused have been identified as Samarth Khorjuvekar and Ayush Deuskar. Police said the action was initiated after a video of the alleged race went



viral on social media. According to police, the incident reportedly took place around 1 AM on the busy highway stretch,

raising serious safety concerns for motorists and daily commuters. The accused have been booked under relevant

provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Motor Vehicles Act, National Highways Act and Goa Police Act for rash and dangerous riding, endangering public safety and allegedly using modified motorcycles. Bardez Sub-Divisional Police Officer Salim Shaikh said police have launched an investigation into the incident and efforts are underway to trace all riders involved and verify their addresses.



Goa Anganwadis Promote Safety, Digital Awareness And Confidence Among Girls

■ Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Activities Focus On Self-Defence, Cyber Safety And Community Participation

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A series of awareness and empowerment programmes conducted across Anganwadis in Goa under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative are helping adolescent girls build confidence, improve awareness and strengthen personal safety skills through community-based learning activities. The initiatives included advanced self-defence training sessions aimed at equipping girls with practical skills to protect themselves and respond confidently in challenging situations.

Officials said the programmes were designed to encourage resilience, self-belief and personal safety awareness among young participants. Interactive sessions were also organised on digital literacy, cybercrime awareness, cyber safety, responsible screen usage and provisions of the PC &

PNDT Act. These sessions involved adolescent girls, Anganwadi workers and beneficiaries, focusing on issues that are increasingly relevant in the digital age. Authorities noted that the programmes witnessed strong participation from local communities, reflecting growing awareness and collective responsibility towards creating a safer and more supportive environment for girls. Alongside educational sessions, special creative activities and awareness programmes highlighting the importance of the girl child were organised through community engagement initiatives involving children and beneficiaries. Women and Child Development Minister Vishwajit Rane said empowering girls through knowledge, safety awareness and confidence-building was essential for creating a progressive and inclusive society.



Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards 2025 Announced

Team Goemkarponn

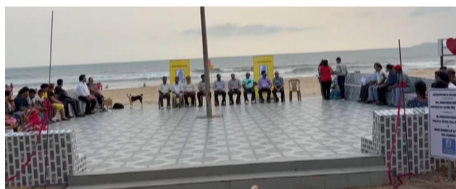
PANAJI: The Goa State Biodiversity Board has announced the "Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards 2025" to honour individuals, Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), researchers and environmentalists for their outstanding contribution towards biodiversity conservation, ecology and environmental protection in the state. The award presentation ceremony will be held on May 22, 2026 at Lok Bhavan, Dona Paula. In the BMC category, Parcem-Pernem BMC from North Goa and Navelim BMC from South Goa have been selected for the top awards carrying a cash prize of ₹50,000 each. Parcem-Pernem BMC has been recognised for its efforts in preparing the People's Biodiversity Register through a participatory and scientifically validated process. Navelim BMC has been honoured for promoting biodiversity conservation and community participation under the leadership of Chairperson Priya Almeida and former Chairperson Celly Quadros.

Velsao Beach Circle Revamped Through CSR Support

■ Paradeep Phosphates Funds Restoration Of Erosion-Damaged Landmark; Villagers Seek More Industry Participation

Team Goemkarponn

VELSAO: The erosion-damaged beach circle at Velsao has been restored and beautified by the Velsao Panchayat with support from Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The revamped beachfront landmark was welcomed by local residents and members of the fishing



community, who praised the initiative and called on more industries operating in Cortalim and the Verna industrial belt to contribute towards village infrastructure and community welfare projects through CSR funding. Speaking at

the event, PPL Unit Head Suresh Pramanik said the company considered

Velsao its neighbouring community and aimed to ensure that both the village and the company grow together. He also stated that the company intends to support future initiatives related to health, hygiene and community welfare in the village.

Goa Amrutkumbh Honey Brand Launched To Boost Farmers' Livelihoods

■ DMF Trains Farmers In Beekeeping Across Mining-Affected Areas Of North Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The North Goa District Mineral Foundation (DMF) on Tuesday launched the "Goa Amrutkumbh Honey" brand as part of a livelihood enhancement initiative aimed at supporting farmers from mining-affected areas through beekeeping.

The brand was launched by North Goa Collector and Chairman of North Goa District



Mineral Foundation, Ankit Yadav, IAS, at the Conference Hall of the North Goa Collectorate in Panaji.

The initiative, titled "Enhancing Livelihoods by Skilling in Beekeeping

for Farmers in Mining Affected Areas," has been funded by the North Goa DMF with technical support from ATMA.

Under the first phase of the programme, 20 farmers from the mining

belt of North Goa were trained in beekeeping and provided with the required equipment. The Bardez Beekeepers Society has been entrusted with implementation of the project, including procurement and farmer support. Officials stated that participating farmers have already sold more than 30 kilograms of honey to the society, generating an assured income of ₹900 per kilogram through structured procurement.

The Bardez Beekeepers Society has provided end-to-end assistance to farmers including training, supply of equipment, honey extraction support, procurement assurance and continuous handholding. The newly launched "Goa Amrutkumbh Honey" has been promoted as a completely local Goan product produced by farmers from mining-affected regions of North Goa.

Delhi, Mumbai Slash Jet Fuel Tax as Airlines Battle Soaring Fuel Costs

■ VAT Cuts on Aviation Fuel Expected to Ease Pressure on IndiGo, Air India and Other Carriers

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Delhi and Maharashtra have sharply reduced taxes on aviation turbine fuel in a major relief move for airlines struggling with soaring global fuel prices, rising operational costs and supply chain disruptions.

The governments of New Delhi and Maharashtra announced cuts in Value Added Tax on aviation turbine fuel, bringing the rate down to seven per cent at India's two largest aviation hubs. Delhi reduced VAT from 25 per cent to seven per cent for six months, while Maharashtra lowered Mumbai's ATF VAT from 18 per cent to seven per cent for domestic operations.

The move comes as airlines face mounting pressure following a sharp rise in global jet fuel prices linked to tensions involving Iran and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz. According to industry estimates, fuel costs now account for nearly 55 to 60 per cent of airline



operating expenses, compared to around 30 to 40 per cent earlier.

The tax reduction is expected to significantly improve operating economics because Indira Gandhi International Airport and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport together handle a major share of India's passenger traffic, long haul connectivity and aircraft refuelling activity.

Airlines such as Air India and IndiGo are expected to benefit the most because of their extensive hub operations

in Delhi and Mumbai. Industry experts believe the VAT cuts could also reduce the need for "fuel tankering", a practice where airlines carry extra fuel from lower tax airports to avoid expensive refuelling at major hubs.

Despite the relief, passengers may not see immediate reductions in ticket prices. Analysts say airfare trends continue to be driven mainly by demand supply dynamics, aircraft shortages and operational constraints rather than direct fuel cost pass through. The aviation industry has also renewed

demands for bringing aviation turbine fuel under the GST regime to create a uniform tax structure nationwide. Currently, ATF remains outside GST, leading to varying VAT rates across states and increasing operational complexity for airlines.

While the tax cuts are expected to improve airline margins and route viability, both Delhi and Maharashtra governments have acknowledged substantial revenue losses from the decision as they seek to strengthen their positions as competitive aviation hubs.

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Manoj Parab Resigns As RGP Chief, Announces Exit From Active Politics

Despite his resignation, he clarified that the Revolutionary Goans Party would continue its political activities.

He also expressed disappointment over a recent press conference allegedly organised by certain block-level leaders without consulting the party leadership or committee members. According to Parab, some individuals within the organisation were attempting to create divisions and weaken the party from within.

Reflecting on the party's journey, Parab admitted that he failed to act decisively when early signs of internal conflict began emerging. He said the organisation functioned with a strong ideological foundation between 2017 and 2022 while fighting against forces that, according to him, harmed Goa's

interests.

However, Parab claimed that after 2022 the party gradually began resembling the conventional political system it had initially opposed.

"Earlier the movement operated with a revolutionary spirit, but over time political structures and internal filters slowly entered the organisation," he said.

He thanked party workers and supporters who stood by him throughout the journey and confirmed that he had resigned both as party president and as a member of the organisation.

It's Sankalp Amonkar vs NHA over retaining wall project

rains triggered fears among local residents and commuters using the busy highway stretch daily.

Amonkar stated that he was not convinced about the safety standards followed in the project

and accused the authorities of rushing to reopen the road despite unresolved technical and safety concerns. He maintained that commuters' lives could not be put at risk merely to speed up project completion.

Targeting NHA Project Director Christopher Furtado, the MLA warned that the official would be held directly responsible in the event of any mishap or disaster arising out of the retaining wall works. Amonkar said the situation had triggered anger among local residents, many of whom have been demanding accountability from the NHA over what they described as "shabby and dangerous" execution of works at the site.

The MLA further cautioned that a law-and-order situation could arise as locals are now planning to stage a morcha to the NHA office at Sada to question officials over the project. He said residents have repeatedly raised concerns over the quality of work and safety measures but alleged that these concerns were ignored by the NHA authorities.

India Launches PRAGATI 2026 Military Drill With 12 Nations in Meghalaya

■ Multinational Counter Terror Exercise Highlights India's Expanding Security Role in Indo Pacific Region

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Indian Army on Wednesday launched the multinational military exercise PRAGATI 2026 at the Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya, bringing together troops from India and 12 partner nations for joint counter terror and warfare training.

Held in the rugged jungle and semi mountainous terrain near Shillong, the exercise is aimed at improving coordination, interoperability and intelligence sharing among participating armies during complex security operations. The drill comes as India continues to strengthen its strategic presence and defence partnerships across the Indo Pacific and South Asian regions.

The countries participating alongside India are Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

The Umroi Military Station was selected because its dense forests, hilly terrain and counter insurgency training infrastructure closely resemble real world operational environments faced during anti terror missions and jungle warfare. The exercise also reflects India's

broader effort to integrate the Northeast into its strategic outreach under the Act East Policy.

Under PRAGATI 2026, participating troops are expected to conduct a series of tactical drills including hostage rescue simulations, building clearing operations, helicopter troop insertions, combat casualty evacuation and intelligence coordination exercises. Reports indicate the exercise will conclude with a large scale validation mission designed to test planning, endurance and multinational coordination under simulated combat conditions.

Beyond military training, the exercise carries strong diplomatic and geopolitical significance. India is using such engagements to deepen defence cooperation with neighbouring and ASEAN countries while projecting itself as a key regional security partner.

The exercise is also expected to showcase indigenous defence technologies under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, including Indian made surveillance systems, communication equipment and tactical platforms. Through initiatives like PRAGATI 2026, India continues to expand its role in regional security cooperation, military diplomacy and strategic engagement across the Indo Pacific.



\$40 Billion Investment Push Marks Major Outcome of PM Modi's Five Nation Diplomatic Tour

■ Energy Security, Semiconductor Partnerships and Strategic Alliances Dominate High Level Talks Across Europe and the Gulf

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned from his five nation diplomatic tour with major investment commitments, strategic agreements and expanded global partnerships that are expected to strengthen India's position in manufacturing, technology, energy and global geopolitics.

The visit, which covered the United



Arab Emirates, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands and

Italy, reportedly generated investment interest and expansion plans worth nearly Rs 3.5 lakh crore, or around USD 40 billion. During the tour, Modi met executives from more than 50 global companies with a combined valuation of approximately USD 3 trillion.

A major focus of the visit was India's push to become a global manufacturing and

technology hub. Several discussions centred around semiconductors, artificial intelligence, logistics, clean energy and infrastructure development.

One of the key highlights was a semiconductor related agreement between ASML and Tata Group in the Netherlands, aimed at strengthening India's chip manufacturing ecosystem.



Centre Teams Up With Meta, Google And Telegram Ahead of NEET UG Re Exam Crackdown

■ Government Orders Strict Action Against Fake Paper Leak Claims and Misinformation Networks

New Delhi: The Centre has stepped up efforts to secure the upcoming NEET-UG 2026 re examination by involving major technology platforms including Meta, Google and Telegram to tackle misinformation and fake paper leak claims circulating online.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan chaired a high level meeting on Wednesday with central security and intelligence agencies to review preparations for the re examination and assess possible security vulnerabilities ahead of the test scheduled on June 21. Senior officials from the Ministry of Education and the National Testing Agency were present during the review meeting, where authorities discussed preventive and corrective measures

to ensure the smooth and fair conduct of the examination.

In a parallel meeting with representatives from Meta, Google and Telegram, the government raised concerns about the increasing spread of misinformation related to competitive examinations through anonymous online groups and Telegram channels.

Officials said several fake channels become highly active before major examinations, spreading false paper leak claims, unverified messages and misleading content that create panic among students and parents. According to officials, many of these channels redirect users to automated bots and fraudulent groups designed to amplify misinformation.



"Long Tainted Record of Genocidal Acts": India Slams Pakistan at UNSC Over Terrorism and Afghan Strikes

New Delhi: India launched a strong diplomatic attack on Pakistan at the United Nations Security Council, accusing Islamabad of having a "long tainted record of genocidal acts" and continuing to destabilise the region through terrorism and cross border violence.

Speaking during the UNSC Open Debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Harish Parvathaneni criticised Pakistan for raising issues related to Jammu and Kashmir while allegedly ignoring its own human rights record.

Parvathaneni said it was ironic for Pakistan to comment on India's internal matters despite its own history of violence and civilian targeting.

23 Legislators Sworn In as Ministers in Vijay Led Tamil Nadu Government

■ TVK Dominates New Cabinet Inductees as Government Balances Regional and Alliance Representation

New Delhi: The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam government led by Joseph Vijay expanded its cabinet on Thursday with 23 legislators taking oath as ministers in a significant reshuffle aimed at strengthening governance and alliance coordination across Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office and secrecy to the newly inducted ministers during a ceremony attended by senior political leaders and alliance partners. Among those present was Thol



Thirumavalavan, chief of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, which is supporting the new government.

Of the 23 ministers inducted, 19 belong to the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, while two are from the Indian National Congress. The cabinet expansion is being seen as a strategic move by the Vijay administration to maintain regional

balance, address caste equations and strengthen its coalition structure.

Sources indicated that two ministerial positions have been kept vacant for alliance partners Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi and Indian Union Muslim League, both of which currently have two MLAs each and are considered crucial allies for the government.

India, South Korea Deepen Defence Ties With Cyber, Training And Innovation Agreements

■ Rajnath Singh Holds High Level Talks in Seoul as Both Nations Push Strategic Defence Cooperation

New Delhi: India and South Korea have signed a series of defence cooperation agreements aimed at strengthening collaboration in cyber security, military training, defence innovation and industrial partnerships during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Seoul.

Singh held comprehensive bilateral



talks with South Korean Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back on May 20, where both sides reviewed the full spectrum of defence

ties and discussed expanding cooperation in defence manufacturing, maritime security, emerging technologies,

logistics and regional security. The two countries exchanged agreements related to defence cyber cooperation, training partnerships between India's National Defence College and Korea National Defence University, and collaboration in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Officials described the agreements as a significant step

towards making the India South Korea defence partnership more multidimensional and strategically aligned.

Both countries also acknowledged the growing convergence between India's Act East Policy and South Korea's regional strategic vision, reaffirming their shared commitment to a free, open and rules based Indo Pacific region.

“Would You Treat Jasprit Bumrah The Same Way?” Wasim Jaffer Slams Selectors Over Mohammed Shami Snub

■ Former India Batter Calls Decision to Ignore Veteran Pacer

New Delhi: Former India cricketer Wasim Jaffer has strongly criticised the exclusion of Mohammed Shami from India's Test and ODI squads for the upcoming Afghanistan series, calling the selectors' reasoning unfair and disrespectful towards one of India's most experienced fast bowlers.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar clarified that Shami was not considered for selection as the medical feedback available to the selection committee



suggested that the pacer is currently fit only for T20 cricket. According to Agarkar, despite Shami participating in domestic cricket this season, his body was not ready for the demands of longer formats at present.

The decision has triggered debate among cricket followers, especially considering Shami's performances in domestic cricket and his contributions to Indian cricket over the years. The veteran pacer last

represented India in March 2025 in an ODI and is currently playing in the 2026 edition of the Indian Premier League, where he has claimed 10 wickets in 12 matches.

Reacting sharply to the selectors' explanation, Wasim Jaffer described the logic behind Shami's omission as “bakwaas” and questioned what more the bowler needed to do after a successful domestic season in which he reportedly picked up over 40 wickets.



GCA Boosts Vasco Cricket Infrastructure with Six New Pitches at Chicalim

■ Vasco Region Gets Major Cricket Infrastructure Boost with Turf and Concrete Practice Facilities

PANAJI: The Goa Cricket Association on Wednesday inaugurated six new cricket pitches at the Chicalim Ground, strengthening cricket infrastructure in the Vasco region and providing a major boost for aspiring cricketers. The newly developed facilities include five turf pitches and one concrete pitch, built at an estimated cost of around Rs 35 lakh.

Speaking after the inauguration, GCA President Mahesh Dessai said the Chicalim venue now has the highest number of practice pitches at a single location in Goa. He noted that the association was prioritising Vasco due to the consistent emergence of talented cricketers from the region.

According to Dessai, the association has focused on creating maximum practice opportunities for young players in Vasco, adding that plans are also underway to operationalise a Pink Centre in the area soon.

Coaches have already been appointed for the centre, while senior coaches are expected to mentor upcoming players from Vasco.

Dessai further stressed the need for an international standard cricket stadium in Goa, calling it a necessity for the state's growing sporting ambitions. He expressed confidence that the proposed stadium project would move forward soon with support from Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.



Ranji Trophy From October 11, Duleep Trophy Returns in Zonal Format From August 23

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India on Wednesday unveiled the schedule for the 2026-27 domestic cricket season, with the prestigious Ranji Trophy set to begin on October 11 and the Duleep Trophy commencing on August 23.

The upcoming domestic season will feature a massive 1,788 matches across senior and age-group categories for both men and women. Competitions will be organised across Under 16, Under 19, Under 23 and senior categories in men's cricket, while women's tournaments will include Under 15, Under 19, Under 23 and senior levels. In a significant move, the BCCI has decided that the Under 23 white-ball tournament and the inter-zonal university competition for the Vizzy Trophy will now be played in the T20 format, aligning with the evolving demands of modern cricket.

FC Goa Among Seven ISL Clubs Granted AIFF Premier 1 Licence for 2026-27 Season

■ AIFF Club Licensing Committee Clears Seven Top Flight Teams with Sanctions for 2026-27 Season

Goemkarponn desk

PANAJI: The All India Football Federation has granted the Premier 1 club licence with sanctions to seven Indian Super League clubs for the 2026-27 season, while rejecting applications from several major teams including Mohun Bagan Super Giant and Kerala Blasters FC.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the Club Licensing Committee First Instance



Body held on May 17. The Premier 1 licence is mandatory for participation in national and continental club competitions involving Indian Super League sides.

The clubs that successfully secured licences with sanctions

are NorthEast United FC, East Bengal FC, Jamshedpur FC, Mumbai City FC, Bengaluru FC, FC Goa and Punjab FC.

Meanwhile, licence applications from Sporting Club Delhi, Odisha FC, Mohun Bagan Super Giant, Chennaiyin FC, Kerala Blasters FC, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Inter Kashi were turned down.

Porvorim Ready for Four Days of Cricket Action with “Amdar Chashak” Tournament

■ Over 70 Men's and Women's Teams to Compete in Four Day Cricket Tournament at Salvador do Mundo Ground

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Porvorim is gearing up for an exciting cricketing spectacle as the much anticipated “Amdar Chashak” cricket tournament begins on May 21 and will continue till May 24 at the Salvador do Mundo ground in Porvorim. Organised under the leadership and guidance of Tourism Minister and Porvorim MLA Rohan A. Khaunte, the tournament promises



four days of competitive cricket and vibrant sporting action.

The event will feature participation from more than 70 men's and women's teams from across the Porvorim constituency, bringing

together young talent, sports enthusiasts, and local supporters on one platform.

The finals of the tournament are scheduled to be played on Sunday.

Ahead of the tournament, the Trophy and



Jersey Unveiling Ceremony was held at Art Park in Porvorim, where jerseys of the participating teams were officially revealed in a celebratory event attended by several dignitaries and local representatives. Among those present

were ZP member Sandip Salgaonkar, Amit Asnodkar, Sarpanch Swapnil Chodankar, Sonia Pednekar, BJP Porvorim Mandal President Vinit Parab, panch members, and other guests.