



Governor Arlekar Flags Lack Of Educational Criteria In Politics

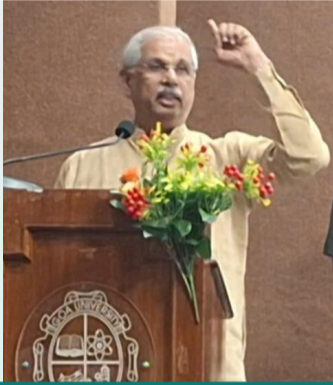
Urges Youth To Join Public Life With Knowledge And Vision; Says Viksit Bharat Must Mean Inclusive National Progress

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Tamil Nadu and Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar on Saturday expressed concern over the absence of any minimum educational qualification for entering politics, saying the issue deserves serious national debate at a time when governance requires informed decision-making and accountability.

Speaking at the National Youth Parliament programme in Panaji,

Recalling observations often shared by veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani and references made in satirical works by Hindi poet Kaka Hathrasi, Arlekar said the contrast between politics and other professions reflects a larger systemic gap.



Arlekar said almost every profession in the country mandates some form of education, skill training or certification, whereas politics — despite its critical role in shaping

public policy — has no such benchmark. The event was inaugurated by Arlekar in the presence of Goa Governor P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju.

Using examples

from everyday life, the Governor remarked that even driving a vehicle legally requires training and licensing, while professions such as law, medicine, teaching and government service prescribe educational standards. He noted that even entry-level employees in offices are expected to meet academic requirements, yet individuals can occupy high political office, including ministerial positions, without formal

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Goa Records Sharpest Fall in Birth Rate in the Country

Fertility levels plunge below replacement mark, raising concerns over ageing population and workforce decline

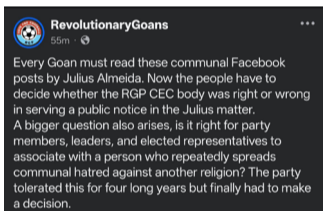


Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has emerged as the state with the lowest birth rate in India, highlighting a steady demographic shift that experts say could have wide-ranging social and economic consequences in the years ahead.

Recent demographic data indicates that Goa's crude birth rate has fallen to around 10.8 births per 1,000 people, significantly lower than the national average of over 18. The decline has been gradual but consistent over the past several years. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in the

state has also dropped to approximately 1.3, well below the replacement level of 2.1 required for a stable population. This suggests that, on average, women in Goa are having far fewer children than needed to maintain population levels in the long term. Earlier years figures shows a clear downward trend. About a decade ago, Goa's fertility rate stood near 1.7, before continuing its fall in subsequent years. Similarly, annual birth registrations have reduced from over 21,000 in the past to around 17,000 in recent years.



RGP cites alleged communal posts to justify action against Julius Almeida

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) has issued a strong public statement defending disciplinary action taken in connection with party member Julius Almeida, alleging that several of his past social media posts promoted communal division and religious hostility.

In a post shared on the party's official social media platform, RGP stated that the matter was no longer an internal issue but one that concerned the wider public. The party urged citizens to examine the controversial posts and decide whether the action initiated by the party's Core Executive Committee (CEC) was justified. RGP questioned whether political workers, elected representatives and party leaders should continue to maintain ties with individuals accused of repeatedly posting content targeting another religious community.

Fuel Prices Climb Again, Petrol and Diesel Costlier Across India

Third Hike in 10 Days Pushes Up Petrol, Diesel and CNG Rates Across Major Cities

New Delhi: Fuel prices across India witnessed another increase on Saturday, with petrol and diesel becoming costlier for the third time in just 10 days. The latest revision pushed petrol prices up by 87 paise per litre and diesel by 91 paise per litre, adding to the financial burden on consumers amid rising global energy costs linked



to tensions in the Middle East. In Delhi, petrol is now priced at ₹99.51 per litre, while diesel has reached ₹92.49 per litre.

Oil companies had earlier raised prices on May 15 by ₹3 per litre, followed by another increase of around 90 paise on May 19. With the latest revision, fuel prices have risen by nearly ₹5 per litre within a short span.

Bengal To Hand Over Detained Bangladeshi Infiltrators Directly To BSF, Says Suvendu Adhikari

New Deportation Mechanism Comes Into Effect As State Revises Handling Of Illegal Migrants

New Delhi: Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday announced that Bangladeshi infiltrators detained in West Bengal will now be handed directly to the Border Security Force for deportation instead of being produced before courts under a newly implemented mechanism.

Speaking after an administrative review meeting, Adhikari said the revised process had already come into force



and instructions regarding the new system had been communicated to the city police commissioner as well as the Railway Protection Force.

According to the new arrangement, individuals identified as illegal migrants from Bangladesh

will be transferred directly to BSF border outposts after being detained by state agencies. Adhikari stated that key handover points would include border locations such as Petrapole in Bongaon and areas in North 24 Parganas.

He described the move as part of a broader "detect, delete and deport" framework aimed at strengthening action against illegal infiltration. The revised mechanism, he said, removes the

requirement of producing such detainees before courts before deportation procedures are initiated.

Adhikari also directed officials to submit weekly reports on all such detentions to the Chief Minister's Office through the Director General of Police. Authorities were instructed to ensure proper coordination and handling procedures while transferring detainees to border security agencies.

Fr. Bolmax Pereira Suffers Health Scare At Vasco Railway Station

Team Goemkarponn



VASCO: A brief health scare involving Chicalim Parish Priest

Fr. Bolmax Fidelis Pereira triggered concern at the Vasco railway station on Saturday after he reportedly collapsed before boarding a train for a picnic outing. Fr. Bolmax was part of a group of nearly 60 people scheduled to travel on the Vasco-Kulem train when he suddenly felt uneasy while still at the station premises.

RGP Split: Who Really Gains?

The internal crisis within the Revolutionary Goans Party is more than a routine regional fallout. It reflects the deeper instability that continues to haunt Goa's non mainstream politics. The resignation of key faces and visible factionalism inside the RGP may appear like an isolated party issue, but its political consequences could reshape opposition space ahead of future elections.

The central question is simple: who benefits when a regional force weakens in Goa?

The immediate answer appears obvious. The BJP stands to gain the most whenever opposition forces fragment. Goa's political history repeatedly shows that divided anti BJP votes eventually strengthen the ruling party's electoral machine. The BJP does not always need overwhelming popularity to win. It often benefits from a fractured opposition unable to consolidate anger into a single political direction.

The RGP emerged as a response to precisely that frustration. It tapped into anxieties over land conversion, demographic change, unemployment and the fear that Goa's cultural identity was steadily being diluted. More importantly, it attracted young voters who had emotionally disconnected from both the Congress and traditional regional outfits.

For many first time voters, the RGP represented assertion rather than governance. It spoke the language of local identity at a time when national parties increasingly dominated the state's political discourse. That emotional energy gave the party visibility beyond its electoral strength.

But regional parties in Goa often struggle with longevity. Most begin as movements driven by sentiment and agitation but eventually confront the realities of leadership battles, organisational weakness and ideological confusion. The RGP now risks entering that familiar cycle.

If the split deepens, the BJP gains strategically in three ways.

First, it weakens the organised articulation of Goan identity politics outside the BJP framework. The ruling party has increasingly adapted itself to regional sensitivities while retaining national dominance. A fractured RGP reduces pressure on the BJP from the cultural and emotional flank.

Second, it divides anti establishment voters. Young voters angry with mainstream politics may now scatter between Congress, AAP and smaller independents or simply disengage from politics altogether. Lower enthusiasm traditionally benefits the BJP because of its

"The immediate answer appears obvious. The BJP stands to gain the most whenever opposition forces fragment. Goa's political history repeatedly shows that divided anti BJP votes eventually strengthen the ruling party's electoral machine. The BJP does not always need overwhelming popularity to win. It often benefits from a fractured opposition unable to consolidate anger into a single political direction.

The RGP emerged as a response to precisely that frustration. It tapped into anxieties over land conversion, demographic change, unemployment and the fear that Goa's cultural identity was steadily being diluted. More importantly, it attracted young voters who had emotionally disconnected from both the Congress and traditional regional outfits."

disciplined booth level machinery and strong cadre network.

Third, the BJP benefits psychologically when opposition parties appear unstable. Political perception matters in Goa's fluid electoral culture. Voters often gravitate towards parties they believe can survive and govern. Public infighting damages the credibility of alternatives far more quickly than ideological disagreement.

Yet the story does not end there.

Congress could still emerge as a silent beneficiary if it understands the opening before it. Despite repeated organisational failures, Congress retains a residual social base in Goa, particularly among

older voters, minorities and sections of rural constituencies. Many anti BJP voters who experimented with the RGP may eventually drift back to Congress if they conclude that regional alternatives cannot sustain themselves.

However, Congress faces a credibility deficit that goes beyond elections. Younger Goans increasingly view the party as reactive rather than visionary. Defections, internal factionalism and weak local leadership have damaged its image as a serious challenger. Simply inheriting disappointed RGP voters will not automatically revive Congress unless it demonstrates organisational energy and ideological clarity.

AAP enters this situation from a different angle.

Unlike Congress, AAP still carries the image of a newer political alternative. Its appeal remains stronger among urban and educated voters looking for governance focused politics. The weakening of the RGP may help AAP attract younger anti establishment voters searching for another platform outside Congress.

But AAP faces a structural limitation in Goa. The state's politics is deeply emotional and rooted in local identity concerns. AAP's governance model, successful in Delhi and Punjab, has not fully adapted itself to Goa's regional anxieties. Development narratives alone rarely dominate Goan elections. Questions of land, culture and local control continue to shape voter psychology.

This means AAP can gain organisationally from RGP's troubles, but emotionally it still struggles to occupy the same political space.

There is also another possibility that larger parties may underestimate. Many RGP supporters were not loyal to a party structure but to a protest sentiment. If that sentiment collapses into disappointment, those voters may not transfer neatly to any political formation. Some may simply withdraw from electoral participation altogether.

That outcome could prove most beneficial to the BJP.

The larger concern for Goa is not merely which party gains seats. It is whether regional political imagination in the state can survive repeated fragmentation. Every time a regional platform collapses under internal contradictions, national parties become even more dominant in defining Goa's future.

The RGP's crisis therefore represents something larger than one party's decline. It highlights the continuing inability of alternative politics in Goa to transform emotional mobilisation into durable political institutions.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fuel Price Hike After Elections Raises Serious Questions

The steady rise in petrol and diesel prices immediately after the assembly elections in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Assam has once again strengthened public suspicion that fuel rates are linked more to political timing than economic reality.

During election campaigns, fuel prices often remain stable despite fluctuations in global crude oil rates. The moment elections conclude, however, prices begin rising almost daily. Such timing creates the impression that governments deliberately avoid burdening voters before polling and quietly pass on the burden once the electoral process is over.

The consequences are severe for ordinary people. Rising fuel prices increase transportation costs, push up prices of vegetables and essential goods and worsen inflation. Fishermen, taxi operators, farmers, small businesses and middle class families struggle the most. Every increase in fuel cost ultimately affects the entire economy.

What is equally worrying is the lack of transparency. Citizens are repeatedly told that international market conditions determine fuel prices, yet taxes imposed by both central and state governments continue to remain extremely high. When global crude prices decline, consumers rarely receive proportional relief.

Fuel has become an easy source of revenue for governments while public hardship is treated as secondary. Political parties speak of welfare and development during elections but avoid meaningful debate on excessive fuel taxation.

People deserve consistency and honesty in policymaking. Fuel pricing should not appear to follow the election calendar. Such practices damage public trust and deepen the feeling that economic decisions are driven by political calculations rather than public interest.

- Santan Rodrigues, Margao, Goa

Rising Fatal Road Accidents Demand Urgent Action

The alarming rise in fatal road accidents in Goa has become a matter of serious concern. Hardly a week passes without reports of lives being lost on highways, village roads and busy junctions across the state. What is even more disturbing is that many of these accidents involve young people, leaving families shattered forever.

Goa's roads have become increasingly unsafe due to reckless driving, speeding, drunk driving and poor traffic discipline. Many motorists ignore basic safety rules such as wearing helmets and seat belts. Rash overtaking, use of mobile phones while driving and dangerous late-night speeding have become common sights. At the same time, poor road conditions and inadequate infrastructure also contribute to accidents. Potholes, poorly lit roads, missing signboards and unsafe road diversions create additional risks for motorists and pedestrians. During the tourist season, heavy traffic and irresponsible driving by visitors further worsen the situation. While police conduct drives and impose fines, enforcement alone is not enough. There is a need for stricter monitoring on highways, installation of speed cameras and stronger awareness campaigns in schools and colleges. Road safety education must become a continuous public effort rather than an occasional campaign after major accidents.

Every road death reflects not just personal tragedy but collective failure. Goa cannot continue to normalise such accidents as routine news items. Authorities, drivers and citizens must act responsibly before more innocent lives are lost on our roads.

- Melroy Fernandes, Vasco, Goa

RGP dissolves all Block Committees ahead of polls

■ Party to reconstitute new committees soon in preparation for upcoming elections

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) has dissolved all its existing Block Committees with immediate effect following a decision taken by the party's Core Executive Committee (CEC).

According to a press release issued by RGP General Secretary Vishvesh Naik, the resolution was passed during the CEC meeting



held on May 17, 2026. The party stated that the move has been taken in view of the forthcoming elections and organisational restructuring. RGP

further announced that new Block Committees will be formed at the earliest as part of its preparations for the electoral process. Party leaders said the reconstitution exercise is aimed at strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level across Goa.

Massive ganja consignment seized in Maharashtra; Goa links under scanner

■ NCB intercepts truck carrying 702 kg of narcotics, arrests two suspects

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has seized a huge quantity of ganja weighing around 702 kilograms during an operation in Maharashtra, while investigators are also probing suspected links to drug distribution networks connected to Goa. The raid was carried out in Gondia district where officials intercepted a truck allegedly transporting the narcotics concealed beneath consignments of everyday commercial goods. Authorities said the contraband had been packed in multiple bundles and hidden carefully to escape routine checks.



Two persons were taken into custody during the operation. Preliminary investigation suggests the seized consignment originated from Odisha and was meant for supply to various interstate drug syndicates operating across Maharashtra and neighbouring regions. Officials suspect

the narcotics were intended for circulation in major urban centres including Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur, while investigators are also examining possible connections with illegal drug networks active in Goa. According to the NCB, traffickers are increasingly using

commercial transport vehicles carrying legal cargo to move large quantities of narcotics across states. Investigators believe organised groups are working together in a coordinated supply chain rather than operating independently. The agency said further inquiries are underway to identify other members involved in the racket and trace the wider network linked to the consignment. NCB officials noted that the seizure highlights a growing trend of large-scale ganja trafficking along interstate routes connecting eastern and western parts of the country.



Court clears forensic handwriting test in Rs 11.28 cr co-op fraud case

■ Investigators to examine signatures and documents linked to accused in ongoing probe

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A Goa court has granted permission to the Economic Offences Cell (EOC) to obtain handwriting and signature samples from an accused in the multi-crore Ashtagandha Urban Credit Co-operative Society fraud case. The order was issued by the North Goa District and Sessions Court after investigators sought approval to collect specimen writings for forensic comparison during the course of the investigation. According to investigators, several documents recovered during the probe contain handwritten entries and signatures that are believed to be connected to the accused. The samples collected will be sent for scientific examination to help verify the authenticity of records and establish possible links with the alleged financial irregularities.

The case relates to

the alleged Rs 11.28 crore scam involving the Pirna-based co-operative society, where former office-bearers and others are suspected of sanctioning fraudulent loans and carrying out illegal financial transactions through forged paperwork. The complaint was filed by the committee currently managing the co-operative society after suspected discrepancies surfaced during scrutiny of accounts and loan records. Following the complaint, police registered offences including cheating, forgery, criminal breach of trust and conspiracy, along with charges under provisions meant to protect depositors' interests. Police recently arrested one of the accused in connection with the case and said the investigation is continuing to identify the role of other persons linked to the alleged scam.



Nanoda Youth Killed In Truck-Scooter Collision At Bicholim

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A 42-year-old man from Nanoda died in a tragic truck-scooter accident reported at Nanoda in Bicholim on Friday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Prashant Kerkar, a resident of Nanoda-Bicholim. According to available information, the accident occurred around 4 pm when Kerkar was travelling on his scooter.

Goa is closer to launching Water Metro system

■ State prepares for next phase after completion of feasibility assessment

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's proposed Water Metro project has gained momentum after authorities completed the initial feasibility exercise for the ambitious transport initiative. The report has now been forwarded to both the State and Central governments for further action.

Officials said the study indicates strong scope for introducing a water-based public transport network in Goa, drawing inspiration



from the metro ferry model implemented in Kerala. The project will now move into the Detailed Project

Report (DPR) stage, which is expected to be completed in the coming months.

The assessment, carried out over nearly a year, examined multiple riverine and coastal routes across the State. Around eight corridors have been identified for the proposed network, covering key areas including Panaji, Vasco, Old Goa, Dona Paula, Chapora, Narve and Cumbarjua. Authorities estimate that several dozen modern passenger vessels may be required to operate the service once the full network is developed. The Centre is expected to play a major role in funding the project. The

Water Metro initiative is being planned as an alternative transport system aimed at easing pressure on Goa's road network while improving connectivity through inland waterways. The project is also expected to enhance tourism by offering faster and scenic travel options.

Officials are additionally studying the possibility of extending the concept through a larger coastal connectivity route linking northern coastal areas such as Chapora, Keri and Tiracol.

Hit-And-Run Truck Driver Arrested After Pedestrian Killed Near Mopa Toll Plaza

■ Elderly man from Patradevi dies after being knocked down on NH-66 at Torxem

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: Mopa Airport Police have arrested a container truck driver in connection with a fatal hit-and-run accident that claimed the life of a 65-year-old pedestrian near the new toll plaza at Torxem on NH-66.

According to police, the accident occurred in the early hours of Wednesday when the truck was travelling



from Torxem towards Patradevi. Investigators said the driver allegedly drove the Ashok Leyland container truck in a rash and negligent manner

and knocked down pedestrian Narayan Sawal, a resident of Patradevi in Pernem.

The victim sustained grievous injuries in the impact and later succumbed to them.

Police further stated that the truck driver fled the scene without informing authorities or arranging medical

assistance for the injured man.

Following the registration of the case, police launched an investigation and, based on intelligence inputs and witness statements, identified and tracked down the accused driver.

The accused, identified as 25-year-old Mohd Ajim Khan from Uttar Pradesh, was arrested later the same night.

Woman Injured In Assault Over Property Dispute At Revora

■ Brother-in-law booked after alleged attack with iron "thapi" leaves woman bleeding

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Colvale police have registered an assault case against a man from Revora following a violent dispute linked to a family property matter. According to police, the complaint was lodged by Riya Varkhandkar, 31, a resident of Karkecho Vhal, Revora in Bardez. The incident reportedly occurred on Wednesday evening.

Police stated that the accused,



identified as Aakash Varkhandkar, who is the complainant's brother-in-law, allegedly attacked her using an iron instrument locally known as a "thapi" during an argument over family property issues. The complainant sustained cut and bleeding injuries to her right foot in the assault, police said.



Passenger Caught With E-Cigarette Hidden In Socks At Mopa Airport

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: Mopa Airport Police have registered a case against an airline passenger after an electronic cigarette was allegedly found concealed inside his ankle socks during security screening at Manohar International Airport.

According to police, the complaint was filed by CISF personnel Rahul Layak attached to the airport security unit.

The incident took place on Wednesday afternoon at the Domestic Security Hold Area of the airport.

Police identified the accused as 27-year-old Ashish Jalan from Jalgaon, Maharashtra, who was scheduled to travel to Jalgaon on a Fly91 flight from Mopa airport.

During frisking and baggage screening, security staff reportedly detected an electronic vape device hidden inside the passenger's ankle socks. The seized e-cigarette is valued at around Rs 4,200.

Couple Booked For Assaulting Woman After Children's Cricket Dispute

■ Bicholim woman suffers injuries after neighbours allegedly trespass into backyard and attack her

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A neighbourhood dispute triggered by a quarrel between children playing cricket allegedly turned violent at Velguem in Bicholim, leaving a woman injured.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by Suhasini Gaonkar, 35, a resident of Sawribhat, Velguem. The incident reportedly took place on



Wednesday evening.

Police said an argument first broke out between children from the two families while they were playing cricket on a nearby ground. Following the quarrel, the children informed their parents about the incident.

Truck Driver Booked After Dhuler Road Mishap Injures Scooter Rider

■ Two-wheeler rider suffers serious injuries after collision near Agriculture Department in Mapusa

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA : A truck driver from Maharashtra has been booked by Mapusa police in connection with a road accident at Dhuler, Mapusa, which left a scooter rider seriously injured earlier this month.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by Stanistaus Dennis Martins, a resident of Madel, Thivim, Bardez. The incident reportedly occurred on May 9 at around 11 am near the



Agriculture Department at Dhuler.

Police said the accused, identified as Maruti Ganesh Acharya of Hatkanangale in Kolhapur district, Maharashtra, was driving a goods carrier truck when the accident took place. Investigators stated that the truck was

allegedly being brought onto the main road from a roadside premises towards Dhuler without proper caution.

During the manoeuvre, the truck allegedly collided with a scooter travelling from Dhuler towards Court Junction, Mapusa. The impact caused the scooter rider to suffer grievous injuries, while the two-wheeler was extensively damaged. A case has been registered against the truck driver for rash and negligent driving.

Gambling Racket Busted Near Mapusa Hotel, Accused Escape

■ Police seize gambling materials abandoned at spot after suspects flee raid

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Police have registered a gambling case after unidentified persons were allegedly caught operating a game of chance near a hotel in Mapusa on Wednesday night.

According to police sources, the complaint was filed by Shreha Dhargalkar, a resident of Corlim, Old Goa. The incident reportedly took place at around 8.50 pm



near Vrundavan Hotel in Mapusa.

During the operation, police found several

persons allegedly engaged in gambling activities at a public place. However, upon noticing

police presence, the suspects reportedly fled from the scene, leaving behind gambling-related articles and materials used for the illegal activity. The seized items were taken into custody as evidence, and a case has been registered against unknown persons under relevant provisions related to gambling activities.

Further investigation is being conducted by HC Keshav Naik.



Fan Repair Technician Accused Of Stealing Gold Jewellery In Shiroda

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Ponda police have registered a theft case against a technician accused of stealing gold jewellery from a house in Shiroda while carrying out repair work.

According to police, the complaint was filed by Kaustubh Pandit, a resident of Shiroda.

Congress Slams Shift Of Public Records Office To Ribandar

■ GPCC says relocation from Panaji will make access difficult for citizens seeking vital documents

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has strongly criticised the BJP government's decision to shift the Office of Public Records from Altinho, Panaji to Kadamba Plateau, Ribandar, calling the move anti-people and inconvenient for the public.

Addressing the issue on Thursday, GPCC Media and Communication Department chairman



Amarnath Panjikar said the Office of Public Records is an essential public service institution frequently visited by citizens for obtaining birth and death certificates, travel records and other important archival documents required for education, employment, passports, legal procedures

and family matters. Panjikar alleged that relocating the office from a centrally accessible location to Ribandar would create difficulties for the public, especially senior citizens, students, daily wage earners and residents from South Goa. He further stated that despite the government's claims of promoting "ease of living" and good governance, such decisions were making public services more difficult and expensive

for ordinary citizens. "The government is forcing people to travel longer distances, spend more money and waste valuable time merely to access basic services," Panjikar claimed.

The Congress leader also pointed out that the Kadamba Plateau-Ribandar route lacks adequate public transport connectivity, which could further inconvenience people dependent on buses and other public transport facilities.

Repeat Drug Offender Held Again With Ecstasy Near Calangute Cricket Ground

■ Accused Out On Bail In Earlier NDPS Case, Remanded To Four Days Police Custody

Team Goemkarponn

SALIGAO: The Anti-Narcotic Cell (ANC) has arrested a 23-year-old man from Saligao for allegedly possessing suspected ecstasy tablets during a raid conducted near the Calangute Cricket Ground on Thursday. According to ANC officials, the accused, Vaibhav Vinayak Gawade, a resident of



Salmona Wado in Saligao, Bardez, was apprehended at the bus parking area adjacent to the cricket ground on the road leading towards Nagoa, Calangute. Police said they seized suspected ecstasy tablets weighing around 6.59 grams along with a scooter and a mobile phone from his possession.



Goa's Manohar International Airport Achieves ACI Airport Carbon Accreditation Level 3+

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: Manohar International Airport has achieved the prestigious ACI Airport Carbon Accreditation Level 3+ certification, further strengthening its commitment to sustainable and environmentally responsible airport operations.

The recognition highlights GOX's continued efforts towards reducing carbon emissions, improving operational sustainability and implementing impactful environmental initiatives. Officials said the achievement marks another significant milestone in the airport's vision of building a greener and more climate-resilient future for the aviation sector.

The Airport Carbon Accreditation programme, led by Airports Council International (ACI), recognises airports worldwide for their efforts in carbon management and reduction.

SP Jivba Dalvi Felicitated At National Youth Parliament Goa 2026

■ Polling To Be Held Across 10 States As Several Senior Leaders Prepare To Retire From Upper House

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Governor of Goa, Pusapati Ashok Gajapati Raju, felicitated Superintendent of Police Jivba Dalvi during the National Youth Parliament Goa 2026

held at the Goa University complex on May 23. The felicitation ceremony was held in the presence of Rajendra Arlekar. SP Jivba Dalvi was honoured and appreciated for his dedicated and commendable service.



MMC Cracks Down On Illegal Fish Trade At Kharewado

■ Authorities issue final warning to wholesalers operating outside notified Baina fish market

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: The Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC), along with revenue and police authorities, on Friday launched a crackdown on illegal wholesale fish trading activities at Kharewado and warned operators to immediately shift to the notified Baina fish market.

MMC Chairperson Girish Borker, Deputy Collector Prataprao Gaonkar, MMC Chief Officer Siddhivinayak Naik and Vasco PI Vaibhav



Naik conducted a joint inspection of the area where wholesale fish business has allegedly continued despite repeated notices from authorities. Speaking to reporters after the

inspection, Borker said wholesale fish trading at Kharewado would no longer be allowed following the notification of the Baina fish market and the new Vasco fish market for such activities.

Goa DRS Completes First Live Pilot at Panjim Potluck with QR-Coded Beverage Packaging

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS) officials recently conducted the initiative's first live pilot at the Panjim Potluck festival held at Garcia de Orta Garden, marking a major step in the state's push towards a cleaner and technology-driven waste recovery system.

The pilot project was conducted in collaboration with Goa-based beverage brands Rosita, Borecha, Maka



Di, Kati Patang and Thirsty Crocodile. The initiative demonstrated how the DRS model can function in a live public environment through consumer participation and traceable packaging recovery.

For the first time under the Goa DRS framework, participating brands integrated DRS QR codes onto beverage packaging, including glass bottles and tin cans. Festival-goers purchasing beverages

were able to scan the QR-coded packaging and participate directly in the return-and-recycling process aimed at encouraging responsible disposal and reducing litter. Rohit Monserrate also experienced the DRS process during the event, adding to the growing support the initiative has received from local communities, panchayats and public representatives through awareness campaigns and live demonstrations across Goa.

Officials said that

during the two-day festival, more than 1,300 units of DRS-compatible packaging, including glass bottles, PET bottles and cans, were returned through the pilot system, indicating strong public willingness to participate in organised waste-return mechanisms supported by technology and on-ground engagement.

"At Rosita, we've always believed that great experiences shouldn't come at the planet's expense.



“Goa Is Moving Beyond Traditional Tourism”: Shackathon Showcases State’s Innovation Vision

■ Two Day Event at Baga Beach Blends Creativity, AI and Workation Culture to Position Goa as a Digital Hub

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The first edition of the Goa Shackathon concluded successfully at Baga Beach, turning Goa’s coastline into a vibrant space for innovation, collaboration and creative exchange. The two day initiative highlighted the state’s growing focus on technology, entrepreneurship and flexible work culture while reinforcing its image as one of India’s leading workation destinations.

Held under the leadership of Rohan Khaunte, the event brought together creators, startups, tech professionals, digital nomads and entrepreneurs from across the country. Throughout the programme, participants engaged in discussions, workshops and interactive sessions focused on creativity, communication, artificial intelligence and digital



innovation.

Speaking during the event, Minister Khaunte said Goa is steadily expanding beyond conventional tourism and building a future ready digital economy. He noted that the enthusiastic response to the Shackathon demonstrated how Goa’s environment can inspire innovation and support emerging creators, startups and technology driven businesses. The second day of the event revolved around the theme “Creators and Coastlines”.

Sessions included discussions on creativity in business, communication skills and the growing role of artificial intelligence and robotics. A major attraction was a session on the future of AI and robotics led by Akanksha Anand alongside humanoid robot Nino. Another workshop introduced participants to AI powered multimedia tools and emerging technologies shaping the future of work.

A panel discussion titled “Designing from Goa” explored how the state’s relaxed lifestyle,

creative environment and evolving ecosystem are encouraging designers and entrepreneurs to build businesses locally. Speakers discussed the increasing appeal of Goa for professionals seeking a balance between innovation, productivity and quality of life.

Participants and founders attending the event praised the concept for combining professional collaboration with Goa’s unique beach culture. Many described the initiative as a fresh and innovative approach that reflects changing workplace trends and the rise of remote and flexible working lifestyles. With strong participation from the creative and technology sectors, the Goa Shackathon showcased Goa’s ambitions to become a hub for digital communities, AI driven entrepreneurship and creator led innovation in India.

Centre Clears Major Space Manufacturing Hubs In Gujarat And Tamil Nadu

■ New Facilities Aim To Boost Private Sector Participation And Strengthen India’s Space Manufacturing Ecosystem

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Centre has approved the establishment of advanced space manufacturing facilities in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu as part of a major push to strengthen India’s private space sector and expand indigenous manufacturing capabilities.

The initiative comes after the government opened the space sector to private participation and is aimed at creating dedicated plug and play infrastructure for startups, MSMEs and large industries involved in space technology and manufacturing.

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center, commonly known as IN-SPACe, has approved the creation of common technical facilities within specialised manufacturing clusters identified by the two state governments. Gujarat will develop a Space Manufacturing Park at Khoraj near Ahmedabad, while Tamil Nadu will establish a Space Vehicles Cluster at Thoothukudi. According to officials, the facilities will allow private companies to access advanced testing and manufacturing infrastructure without

the need to build expensive systems independently. The clusters are expected to support manufacturing, integration and testing of spacecraft systems, launch vehicles and payload technologies.

The Gujarat facility will focus primarily on spacecraft systems, payloads and space based applications. It is expected to provide end to end support for development and testing of spacecraft components using advanced shared infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu’s cluster at Thoothukudi will cater to launch vehicle manufacturing and integration. Located close to the upcoming launch complex at Kulasekharapatnam, the facility will support structural testing, propulsion validation and full system integration for small launch vehicles. The Centre has sanctioned ₹100 crore for the Space Vehicle Common Testing Facility Centre in the state.

Officials said both projects have already attracted strong interest and investment commitments from private industry players. Around ten other states have also reportedly expressed interest in developing similar space manufacturing ecosystems.



Governor Arlekar Flags Lack Of Educational Criteria In Politics

educational qualifications. Arlekar also raised questions over the absence of any structured system to groom political leadership in the country. While civil servants such as IAS and IPS officers undergo specialised

training before taking charge of administration, there is no institutional mechanism to prepare political leaders for governance, he said. The Governor urged young people to take a greater interest in public affairs and equip themselves with knowledge of India’s Constitution, history and geography before entering politics.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call for greater youth participation in politics, Arlekar said the country needs

committed and informed young leaders capable of guiding India through future challenges.

Speaking on the vision of “Viksit Bharat 2047”, he said the idea of a developed India should not be confined to economic indicators alone.

According to Arlekar, true development must extend to social progress, cultural preservation, educational advancement and effective governance alongside economic growth.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

“India And Cyprus Ties Upgraded To Strategic Partnership”: PM Modi After Talks With Cyprus President

■ Leaders Discuss Trade, Technology, Defence And Investment During High Level Meeting In Delhi

New Delhi: Narendra Modi on Friday announced that India and Cyprus have elevated their bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership following extensive talks with Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides in New Delhi.

Sharing details of the meeting, Prime Minister Modi said the decision reflected the close friendship and growing



cooperation between the two nations. He described the relationship as future oriented and rooted in

shared democratic values, while expressing optimism about expanding trade, investment and economic

engagement in the coming years. The high level discussions focused on strengthening cooperation across sectors including infrastructure, energy, agriculture, technology and financial services. Emerging areas such as artificial intelligence and fintech also featured prominently during the talks as both countries explored opportunities for deeper collaboration.



Pakistan Terror Gathering Sparks Fresh Questions After Wanted Militants Attend Funeral

■ Presence of Globally Wanted Terror Figures at Islamabad Funeral Revives Scrutiny Over Pakistan's Terror Links

New Delhi: Pakistan has once again come under intense scrutiny after several internationally wanted terrorists were seen attending the funeral of senior Al Badr commander Arjumand Gulzar Dar, also known as Hamza Burhan, in Islamabad. The gathering has triggered renewed debate over the presence and activities of extremist networks operating openly within the country.

Among those seen at the funeral were Syed Salahuddin, the chief of Hizbul Mujahideen and a US designated global terrorist, along with Bakht Zameen Khan, head of the banned militant outfit Al-Badr. Videos and photographs circulating online showed heavy security arrangements at the funeral, including armed

militants carrying assault rifles and forming security cordons around senior extremist figures.

Hamza Burhan, a native of Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir, was allegedly involved in building militant recruitment and funding networks linked to Al Badr. Indian security agencies had accused him of radicalising youth, facilitating terror financing and expanding militant operations in the Kashmir Valley. He was designated a terrorist in India in 2022. Burhan had reportedly been living in Pakistan occupied Kashmir under a different identity and was said to be associated with a private educational institution in Muzaffarabad. He was shot dead by unidentified gunmen outside the college premises earlier this week.



Marco Rubio Arrives In India, High-Level Talks With PM Modi And Jaishankar Scheduled

New Delhi: Marco Rubio arrived in India on Saturday for a four day official visit aimed at strengthening strategic ties between India and the United States. Rubio landed in Kolkata early in the morning and is scheduled to hold key meetings with Narendra Modi and S. Jaishankar in New Delhi later in the day.

The visit marks Rubio's first trip to India as US Secretary of State and is expected to focus on major areas of bilateral cooperation including trade, defence, energy security, technology and strategic coordination under the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue framework.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor confirmed Rubio's arrival and highlighted that discussions over the coming days would cover several important issues aimed at advancing the partnership between the two countries.

“Ladakh Will Get Legislature”: Leaders Announce Breakthrough After Talks With Centre

■ Centre Agrees To Constitutional Safeguards For Ladakh Following Years Of Protests And Negotiations

New Delhi: Leaders from Ladakh on Saturday announced a major breakthrough in their long standing demand for constitutional safeguards and political representation after fresh discussions with the Centre. Representatives of the Ladakh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance said an understanding had been reached with the Union government to provide constitutional protections for Ladakh along with a



legislative framework for the Union Territory. The announcement followed a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, where both sides reportedly held detailed discussions on Ladakh's future political and administrative structure.

According to the leaders, the proposed framework would grant protections similar to Articles 371A, 371F and 371G, which

currently provide special safeguards to states such as Nagaland, Sikkim and Mizoram. The plan is expected to introduce a Union Territory level legislature with legislative, executive and financial powers vested in elected representatives.

India Conducts Agni-1 Missile Test In Odisha

■ Strategic Forces Command Validates Operational Readiness Of Nuclear Capable Ballistic Missile

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India on Friday successfully test fired the Agni-1 short range ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha, further strengthening the country's strategic defence capabilities.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the launch was carried out under the supervision of the Strategic Forces Command and successfully validated all key operational and



technical parameters of the missile system.

Officials said the trial reaffirmed the reliability and effectiveness of India's strategic deterrence framework.

Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the Agni-1 missile is capable of striking targets at a range between 700 and 1,200 kilometres. The missile can carry payloads weighing up to 1,000 kilograms and is designed to deliver both conventional and nuclear warheads.

India regularly

conducts routine trials of missile systems that are already operational under the Strategic Forces Command as part of maintaining readiness and ensuring the reliability of its defence infrastructure. The Strategic Forces Command functions under India's Nuclear Command Authority and is responsible for handling the country's strategic nuclear assets.

The latest missile test comes shortly after India successfully carried out a flight trial of an advanced Agni missile equipped with

Multiple Independently Targeted Re Entry Vehicle technology. The advanced system is capable of engaging multiple targets simultaneously and was tested earlier this month from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.

Officials had stated that extensive telemetry and tracking systems, including ground and ship based stations, monitored the entire flight path during that trial and confirmed the successful completion of all mission objectives.

“To Even Be In The Conversation With Sachin Is Enough”: Joe Root On Chasing Tendulkar’s Record

■ England Star Praises Sachin Tendulkar’s Legacy While Reflecting On His Own Test Cricket Journey

New Delhi: Joe Root has finally opened up about the possibility of surpassing Sachin Tendulkar as the highest run scorer in Test cricket, admitting that merely being mentioned alongside the Indian legend already feels like a massive achievement.

Root, who is currently England’s leading run scorer in Test cricket and second on the all time list behind Tendulkar, said the Indian icon’s achievements



remain extraordinary and difficult to match. Speaking about the constant comparisons, the England batter acknowledged

that the topic has become impossible to ignore due to repeated questions surrounding the record chase. Praising

Tendulkar’s remarkable longevity and consistency, Root highlighted how the Indian great made his Test debut before Root was even born and was still playing when Root himself entered international cricket. He described that level of endurance and sustained excellence as truly incredible. Root also pointed out that Tendulkar’s greatness was not limited to Test cricket alone.



“Full-fledged ISL Will Return Next Season”: AIFF Chief After East Bengal’s Dramatic Title Triumph

■ East Bengal End 22 Year Wait For National League Glory As AIFF Promises Stronger ISL Future

New Delhi: Kalyan Chaubey has assured that the Indian Super League will return in a full fledged format next season after a turbulent yet dramatic 2025-26 campaign concluded with East Bengal FC lifting the title. East Bengal secured a thrilling 2-1 victory over Inter Kashi in the final at Kishore Bharati Krirangan, ending a 22 year wait for a national league title.

Mohammed Rashid emerged as the match winner with a decisive second half strike after league top scorer Youssef Ezzejjari had cancelled out Alfred Planas’ early opener.

The victory saw East Bengal finish level on 26 points with arch rivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant but claim the championship on superior goal difference.

Chaubey praised the intense rivalry between the two Kolkata giants, calling it one of the biggest football rivalries in the world and stating that its continued presence is vital for both Bengal and Indian football.

The 2025-26 ISL season was heavily impacted by uncertainty surrounding the expiry of the Master Rights Agreement between the All India Football Federation and Football Sports Development Limited.

Due to financial and governance issues, the tournament started five months late and teams played only 13 matches instead of the usual 24. Despite the challenges, Chaubey said the successful completion of the season was a significant achievement for Indian football.



Ashmita Chaliha’s Brave Run Ends In Malaysia Masters Quarterfinals

■ Indian Shuttler Pushes Higher-Ranked Danish Opponent Before Exiting Super 500 Tournament

Goemkarponn desk

New Delhi: Ashmita Chaliha produced a determined performance before bowing out in the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Masters after a hard fought defeat against Denmark’s Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt on Friday.

Competing at the Axiata Arena, the Indian shuttler started strongly and claimed a closely contested opening game before eventually going



down 23-21, 18-21, 11-21 to the world No. 23 and tournament eighth seed in a match lasting just over an hour.

The performance marked another

encouraging step in Chaliha’s comeback journey after returning from an eight month rehabilitation period following a medial meniscus tear in her right knee. Ranked world No. 71, she showed resilience and attacking intent against the higher ranked Dane for much of the contest.

Chaliha began confidently, edging the first game after a tense exchange of rallies and momentum shifts.

Delhi HC Questions WFI’s Move To Bar Vinesh Phogat From Trials

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday strongly questioned the decision of the Wrestling Federation of India to bar Vinesh Phogat from participating in domestic competitions, observing that the federation’s approach appeared unfair towards an athlete of international standing.

Hearing Phogat’s appeal against a single judge order denying interim relief, a bench headed by Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia directed the Centre to constitute an expert panel to assess the wrestler’s fitness and facilitate her participation in the upcoming Asian Games selection trials.

Phogat, who is attempting a return to competitive wrestling after taking a maternity break, has challenged the WFI’s decision declaring her ineligible for the May 30 and 31 selection trials.

Erica Clinches K1 State Title, Earns Special Honour for National Success

■ Goa Kickboxer Continues Winning Streak with Gold Medal Performances at State and National Level

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa’s rising kickboxing talent Erica De Sequeira delivered an impressive performance on home soil by winning the Gold Medal in the K1 Fight under 50 kg category at the WAKO Goa State Championship 2026, held at the Ravi Naik Sports Complex. The championship brought together some of the state’s top fighters and was



organised by the WAKO Kickboxing Association

Goa. Representing the Academy of Combat Sports Goa, Erica emerged as champion in her category after displaying determination, discipline, and strong fighting skills throughout the tournament. Her victory added another major achievement to her growing career and brought recognition to her academy as well as Goa’s kickboxing circuit. Apart from securing the state title, Erica also received special appreciation from

the organisers for her exceptional achievement at the Khelo India National Championship, where she had earlier won a Gold Medal. Her performance at the national event was regarded among the standout displays of the tournament, further strengthening her reputation as one of the promising young athletes in the sport. Erica has been training under Coach Ronnyy, whose consistent guidance and

professional coaching have played a major role in her development as a competitive fighter. His support and training methods have helped her perform successfully at both state and national competitions.

Speaking after her achievement, Erica thanked her coach, parents, academy, supporters, and well wishers for standing by her throughout her journey.