



Goa STF on High Alert Over Suspected Illegal Bangladeshi Infiltration

Over 250 labourers briefly detained in Karnataka amid suspicion; later confirmed Indian nationals as Goa intensifies surveillance

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: More than 250 migrant workers travelling towards Goa were briefly detained at the Gokul Road Bus Stand in Karnataka on Saturday after suspicions were raised that they could be Bangladeshi nationals allegedly entering the country illegally. All of them were later cleared following verification.

The group, comprising workers from West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh,



was stopped after local organisations alerted authorities, claiming that a large number of labourers boarding Goa-bound buses appeared suspicious. Police from Gokul Road station immediately intervened and halted their

movement, following which senior officers and revenue officials conducted detailed document verification. Aadhaar and EPIC cards, along with other identity proofs, were examined. Officials stated that the workers were travelling towards Goa for

employment opportunities but were stranded in Hubballi after disruption of train services due to line-blocking work, forcing them to continue their journey by road.

During the verification process, local MLA Mahesh Tenginkai visited the spot and called for a thorough investigation into suspected illegal immigration. The incident triggered heightened concern over possible cross-border infiltration routes being used through interstate migrant movement.

Congress Intensifies Attack On Smart Meter Project, Demands Probe

Congress Seeks ₹570 Crore Dues Recovery, AAP Calls For Tariff Rollback; Government Rejects Allegations Of Irregularities



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) have escalated their criticism of the state government over the smart meter project and rising electricity bills, alleging financial irregularities, mounting public burden, and lack of transparency in the power sector.

The Congress has demanded recovery of approximately ₹570 crore in pending electricity dues, including ₹108 crore owed by government departments, accusing the administration of failing to clear its own liabilities while placing additional burden on

ordinary consumers through rising power bills. The party alleged that the financial stress on households is increasing due to the implementation of smart meters and associated billing changes.

As part of their protest at Vidyut Bhavan, Congress leaders alleged irregularities in the execution of the smart meter project and claimed that the tender cost had significantly increased compared to initial estimates. They demanded a detailed public explanation of the project's financial structure and warned of intensified agitation if transparency is not

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Sub-Inspector Among 6 Cops Suspended After Explosives Found Near PM Modi's Bengaluru Route

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Six police personnel, including a sub-inspector, have been suspended after gelatin sticks were discovered near the route of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Bengaluru earlier this month. The suspensions were ordered over alleged dereliction of duty following the recovery of explosive materials near the Prime Minister's convoy route on May 10. The action was taken pending completion of an inquiry into the incident, which has raised concerns over security preparedness during the high-profile visit. The suspended officers include a sub-inspector, an assistant sub-inspector, and four constables. Officials stated that the personnel will remain off duty until the investigation is completed.

Saligao POCSO Case: Accused Arrested In Alleged Sexual Assault Of Minor Girl

Probe underway under BNS, Goa Children's Act and POCSO Act; accused in judicial custody

New Delhi: Saligao Police have registered Crime No. 32/2026 under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Goa Children's Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act following a complaint regarding the alleged sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl in Saligao, Bardez.

According to police,



the accused, a 22-year-old man originally from Katihar, Bihar and presently residing in Saligao, is alleged to have committed the offence on 01 May 2026 at a

residential premises in the area. The complaint was lodged by a Saligao resident originally from Karnataka.

Police stated that during investigation, it emerged that the accused had reportedly come in contact with the victim through social media and later met her on multiple

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Fuel Price Rise Among Lowest Globally Amid Oil Crisis: Sources

Government says India remains less affected than other countries despite global surge in fuel prices

New Delhi: India has recorded one of the lowest increases in retail fuel prices globally despite a sharp rise in crude oil costs triggered by geopolitical disruptions, according to government sources. Petrol and diesel prices in the country were increased by around ₹7 per litre this month after remaining unchanged for 78 days following the closure of the Strait



of Hormuz on February 28, 2026. Oil marketing companies revised prices in four phases on May 15, 19, 23, and 25, resulting in a total hike of ₹7.35 per

litre for petrol and ₹7.53 per litre for diesel. In Delhi, petrol is now priced at ₹102.12 per litre, while diesel costs ₹95.20 per litre. India sees smaller rise

compared to global trend. Officials said the increase remains significantly lower than global averages, where fuel prices have surged sharply in several countries. Reports suggest increases ranging from 20% to over 90% in some regions during the same period.

Countries such as Myanmar reportedly saw nearly 90% hikes, while Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates recorded

increases of over 50%. Even developed economies like the United States and parts of Europe experienced rises above 20%.

Globally, petrol prices now average around ₹130 per litre, with several European countries exceeding ₹180, making India's retail fuel rates comparatively lower among non-subsidised economies.

Death Traps Hidden in Plain Sight

Every summer, Goa witnesses the same heartbreaking pattern. Youngsters enter abandoned quarry pits, lakes, or water-filled craters seeking relief from the heat, only for some never to return home. After every tragedy, authorities announce safety drives, inspections, warning boards, and awareness campaigns. Yet, the accidents continue with disturbing regularity.

The latest initiative to improve safety around quarry pits and lakes is necessary, but it also raises an uncomfortable question: why does action usually come only after lives are lost?

Across Goa, several abandoned quarries remain open, unfenced, and poorly monitored despite repeated drowning incidents over the years. These locations are not hidden deep inside forests. Many are easily accessible to the public, especially to local youth and tourists unaware of the dangers beneath calm looking waters. Quarry pits are deceptive. Their depth is uneven, underwater rocks are dangerous, and sudden drops can trap even confident swimmers within seconds.

Warning signboards alone will not solve the problem. Most victims are aware that such places are risky, but the absence of proper barriers and enforcement encourages reckless behaviour. In many cases, these abandoned sites have

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The responsibility cannot rest only with the government. Quarry owners who abandon sites without adequate safety measures must also be held accountable. Local bodies, police, disaster management authorities, and panchayats need to work together instead of responding only after tragedies dominate headlines.”

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the government. Quarry owners who abandon sites without adequate safety measures must also be held accountable. Local bodies, police, disaster management authorities, and panchayats need to work together instead of responding only after tragedies dominate headlines.

Goa promotes itself as a global tourist destination, but public safety cannot remain seasonal or reactionary. Every dangerous quarry and water body should be scientifically mapped, fenced, monitored, and regularly inspected before the monsoon arrives. Schools and colleges must also conduct awareness programmes warning students about the risks of swimming in abandoned pits and lakes.

Most importantly, safety cannot become an exercise in paperwork. Circulars and meetings may create the appearance of action, but they mean little if hazardous sites continue to remain open and unattended. The value of human life cannot be measured only after a drowning takes place.

Goa does not need another tragedy to realise that these quarry pits are silent death traps hidden in plain sight. Real governance lies not in reacting to disasters, but in preventing them before another family loses a son, daughter, or friend to negligence that could have been avoided.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fuel Price Hike: A Blow to the Common Man

The latest hike in petrol and diesel prices has once again exposed the harsh reality faced by the common man. While global oil prices may fluctuate, it is ordinary citizens who are repeatedly forced to bear the burden without any meaningful relief.

Every increase in fuel prices affects daily life in multiple ways. Bus fares rise, vegetables and essential goods become costlier, and small businesses struggle to cope with mounting expenses. Taxi operators, delivery workers, salaried employees, and middle-class families are all feeling the pressure. At a time when salaries remain stagnant and unemployment continues to worry many households, these fuel hikes only worsen the situation.

What is disappointing is the lack of protection for citizens against such recurring increases. Governments often cite international crude oil prices as the reason, but whenever global prices fall, consumers rarely receive the same level of benefit. This creates frustration and a growing sense that the common citizen is being ignored.

Fuel is no longer a luxury item. It is essential for transport, work, education, healthcare, and daily survival. Constant hikes in petrol and diesel prices amount to economic harassment of ordinary people already struggling with inflation and the rising cost of living.

The authorities must seriously consider reducing fuel taxes and introducing measures that provide relief to citizens rather than adding to their financial burden.

- Merwyn Fernandes, Margao, Goa

Activism Should Not Turn Into Extortion

The recent arrest of an RTI activist in an alleged extortion case has once again highlighted a disturbing trend that cannot be ignored any longer. While activism and the Right to Information Act were introduced to strengthen democracy, expose corruption, and protect public interest, there have been several cases where certain individuals misuse these platforms for personal and financial gain.

Many businessmen, hoteliers, contractors, and even government officials often complain about being threatened with complaints, protests, or media exposure unless money or favours are provided. Such actions amount to extortion and have nothing to do with genuine social work. Unfortunately, because of repeated incidents of this nature, the image of honest RTI activists and social workers is also getting damaged.

Goa has always had strong citizen activism, and many genuine activists have courageously raised issues concerning corruption, illegalities, and environmental destruction. Their contribution to society cannot be denied. However, those who misuse activism as a pressure tactic must face strict legal action. Otherwise, public trust in RTI and activism will continue to decline.

The authorities must ensure that complaints are properly investigated and that strict punishment is given to those found guilty of blackmail or extortion in the name of activism. Genuine activism should remain a service to society and not become a business opportunity for a few individuals seeking personal benefits.

- Neville Rodrigues, Mapusa, Goa

Audit Raises Questions Over Environmental Penalty Recovery From AIIA Dhargalim

■ SEIAA Gives Ayurveda Institute 15 Days To Submit Clarification On Alleged Dues

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The office of the Accountant General (Audit), Goa has pointed out an alleged discrepancy in the recovery of environmental violation charges from the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) at Dhargalim, stating that over Rs 1.12 crore may



still be pending.

The objection relates to the institute securing environmental clearance after construction

activities had already begun at the site without obtaining mandatory prior approvals. Audit authorities observed that, under environmental norms, the project proponent was required to pay a penalty amounting to one per cent of the project cost, estimated at nearly Rs 1.35 crore,

besides additional charges linked to turnover earned during the violation period.

As per the audit findings, the institute had deposited only Rs 23 lakh before receiving the ex-post facto environmental clearance, leading auditors to flag an alleged shortfall of Rs 1.12 crore in penalty recovery.

Create A Goa Free From Jihadis, Religious Conversions And Cow Slaughter: T. Raja Singh

■ Bhagyanagar MLA addresses Hindu Rashtra-Jagruti Sabha in Ponda; calls for cultural revival, stronger national policies and protection of Hindu traditions

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA : Bhagyanagar MLA T. Raja Singh, while addressing the Hindu Rashtra-Jagruti Sabha organised by the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti at the old bus stand in Ponda, called for stronger measures on issues relating to national security, cultural identity, and cow protection.

He stated that urgent steps are needed to



ensure that Goa does not become a hub for extremist activities and illegal infiltration, and also stressed the need for stronger action against religious conversions and cow slaughter. He further urged that national policy should prioritise protection

of cows and cultural values.

Raja Singh also appealed for greater public participation in what he described as cultural and religious awareness activities, encouraging citizens to dedicate time towards the promotion of Hindu traditions. He said that India should strengthen its cultural identity and adopt stricter population control measures.



MLA Vijai Says Educated Leadership Essential For Goa's Future

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Goa Forward Party chief Vijai Sardesai has echoed Keralam Governor Rajendra Arlekar's recent observations on the importance of educated youth entering politics, saying the remarks hold relevance in the context of Goa's present political environment.



'Matka' Row Sparks Fresh Political Face-Off In Tivim

■ Halarnkar And Kandolkar Trade Allegations As Election Heat Builds Up

Team Goemkarponn

THIVIM: With the 2027 Goa Assembly elections drawing closer, political tensions in Tivim have escalated after Fisheries Minister and BJP MLA Nilkanth Halarnkar and former legislator Kiran Kandolkar locked horns over allegations linked to illegal matka activities.

The dispute began after Halarnkar reportedly accused Kandolkar of being associated with the matka network operating in the area and alleged that such activities were harming local youth by encouraging addiction and other unhealthy practices.

Kandolkar dismissed the accusations and accused the minister of using the matka issue to divert attention from questions related to development and governance in Tivim. He said that instead of presenting achievements from his tenure, the

minister was choosing to make personal attacks.

Throwing a challenge at Halarnkar, Kandolkar said that if illegal gambling activities were indeed active in Tivim, the government should immediately crack down on them. He argued that law enforcement falls under the State administration and questioned how such operations could continue if the authorities were functioning effectively.

The former MLA also remarked that the Home Department is directly under Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, suggesting that the ruling establishment itself must answer if matka activities are thriving in the State.

Responding to remarks about youth being exposed to tobacco and similar substances, Kandolkar said such concerns come under the Health Department headed by Vishwajit Rane.



GFP Launches Statewide Membership Drive, Calls It Only Alternative For Goa's Future

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Goa Forward Party (GFP) President Vijai Sardesai has launched a statewide membership drive, appealing especially to the youth to join the party, which he described as a key alternative to safeguard Goa's interests and identity. Addressing

Petrol Price Hike Triggers Political War of Words in Goa; Congress Attacks BJP Over Rising Inflation

■ Goa Pradesh Congress Committee Says Fuel Price Surge Deepens Cost Of Living Crisis, Demands Immediate Duty Cuts

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has strongly criticised the central and state governments led by the Bharatiya Janata Party over the recent increase in fuel prices, alleging that the sharp rise has intensified the financial burden on citizens already affected by inflation.

Speaking on the



issue, GPCC Media & Communication Department Chairman Amarnath Panjikar said that petrol prices have increased significantly in a short span, which he claimed reflects policy

pressure due to rising costs of fuel, cooking gas, food items, medicines, and other essentials.

He further remarked that the "double engine government" of the BJP—referring to the Bharatiya

Janata Party Bharatiya Janata Party at both the Centre and in Goa—has instead become a source of additional hardship for citizens. According to him, the government has not adequately addressed inflation or unemployment concerns affecting the middle class, workers, and small businesses.

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Panjikar questioned the lack of direct communication on rising

inflation and urged clarity on measures being taken to control price escalation. He also alleged that greater focus is being placed on public relations activities rather than addressing domestic economic challenges. The Congress leader argued that fuel price hikes have a cascading effect on transport costs and essential commodities, ultimately impacting daily household budgets.

Man Killed After Weapon Attack At Mobor Beach

■ Three Accused Booked For Murder Under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

Team Goemkarponn

MOBOR: A 27-year-old man from Chhattisgarh was allegedly murdered following a violent assault with a sharp weapon at Mobor beach in South Goa.

The incident reportedly occurred between 11 pm on May 23 and 4.30 pm on May 24 near The Byke Heritage and Old Anchor area at Mobor.

Police identified the deceased as Shshi Lakra, son of Dhaneshwar Lakra, a resident of Panchayal Para, Village



Harramar, Surguja, Jamkani, Chhattisgarh.

According to the complaint lodged by Roshan Ram Lakra,

the accused persons allegedly acted with common intention and attacked the victim with a sharp object on the left

side of his neck, resulting in a fatal cut injury that led to his instantaneous death. The accused have been identified as Sanjay Manjhi (30) of Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, Asish Kumar (18) of Jashpur, Chhattisgarh, and Jagnandan Sidar (22), presently residing at Costawaddo, Betul.

Police have registered an offence under Section 103 read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and further investigation into the case is in progress.

Porvorim Police Crack Rs 28.5 Lakh Cyber Fraud Case

■ Bihar Accused Arrested For Allegedly Duping HDFC Bank Customer Through Fake RTGS Requests

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: 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.

Porvorim Police have solved a major cyber fraud case involving cheating of Rs 28.5 lakh after arresting a 25-year-old accused from Patna, Bihar, following a detailed technical investigation.

According to police, the complaint was lodged on May 4 by Swati Naik, 45, a resident of Alto-Porvorim, Bardez. The complainant reported that between April 29 and April 30, she received phone calls from an unknown person who falsely impersonated himself as an authorised representative of Emporium Automobile Private Limited.

Police said the



accused claimed that the complainant was linked to an HDFC Bank account and repeatedly contacted her, pressuring her to urgently process RTGS transactions. The accused allegedly sent forged cheques and fake company letterheads through WhatsApp to make the documents appear genuine. Believing the requests to be authentic, the complainant processed RTGS transfers into three different bank accounts, resulting in a wrongful loss of Rs 28.5 lakh to the account holder.

Following the complaint, Porvorim Police registered Crime No. 35/2026 under Sections 318(4), 319(2), 336(3), 338 and 340(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The investigation was initially taken up by PSI Mandar Parab.



Businessman Assaulted With Beer Bottle And Knife At Baga Club

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have registered a criminal case after a 32-year-old businessman was allegedly assaulted with a beer bottle and a small knife at a club in Baga during the early hours of Saturday.

The incident reportedly took place at around 5 am on May 24 at Haveli Club, Tito's Lane, Baga, Bardez. According to police, the complaint was lodged by Milton Dsouza, son of Jocky Dsouza, a resident of Sai Nagar, Aldona, Bardez-Goa, originally from Kudal, Maharashtra.

In his complaint, Dsouza alleged that the accused persons — identified as Shailesh Sataliya, Anup Sataliya, Shrikant, and Kamlesh Sataliya — allegedly assaulted him with a beer bottle and a small knife, causing simple bleeding injuries.

Police said the accused allegedly acted with common intention during the assault.

Man Booked For Assault And Pepper Spray Attack In Dharbandora

■ Minor Girl Suffers Injuries During Scuffle At Family Residence

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM : Curchorem Police have registered a case following an alleged assault incident reported from Kirlapal, Dabal in Dharbandora on the night of May 23.

The complaint was lodged by Pratap Sawant Dessai, who alleged that the accused, identified as Anil Sawant Dessai, attacked him and his family members inside their residence at around 10 pm.

According to the



complaint, the accused allegedly sprayed pepper spray into the eyes of the complainant and his wife, Pratibha Sawant Dessai, causing them distress during the altercation.

The complainant further alleged that the

accused also tightly grabbed his private parts during the scuffle.

Police said that during the course of the confrontation, the

complainant's minor daughter sustained minor injuries.

A case has been registered at Curchorem Police Station, and further investigation is being conducted by PSI Mayur Panshikar.

Extortion And Criminal Conspiracy Case Registered In Morjim

■ Complainant Alleges Rs 5.5 Crore Demand, Threats And Illegal Drone Surveillance

Team Goemkarponn

MORJIM: Police have registered a serious criminal case in Morjim after a 62-year-old service professional alleged that multiple accused persons conspired to extort crores of rupees in connection with a construction-related dispute involving a hospitality property in



North Goa. According to the complaint lodged by Paul Dhanraj, son of Thomas Rao and resident of May Fair On Sea, Morjim, the incidents allegedly took place between October 27, 2025

and May 7, 2026 at Morjim, Pernem.

The complainant alleged that accused persons Rajesh V. Dabholkar of Reis Magos, Advino

Fernandes of Verem-Reis Magos, and Praveen D'Lima associated with Green Space NGO at Neurekar Chambers, MG Road, Panaji, along with other unidentified persons, acted with

common intention and entered into a criminal conspiracy to extort money from him.

As per the complaint, the accused allegedly approached the complainant demanding Rs 1.5 crore for allegedly "settling" issues linked to construction carried out by the complainant's company, "MayFair On The Sea."

iPhone Stolen From Villa In Varca

Team Goemkarponn

VARCA: Colva Police have registered a theft case after



an iPhone mobile phone was allegedly stolen from a villa in Varca. The complaint was lodged by Harish Kumar Choudhary, a resident of Jharkhand.

According to police, the incident occurred on May 17 at around 6.35 am at The Green Door Villa in Varca, where an unknown accused person allegedly committed theft of the complainant's iPhone mobile phone.

Goa Dairy Hikes Milk Prices By Rs 2 Per Litre

■ Revised Rates Effective From May 25 Across Most Variants

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa State Co-operative Milk Producers Union Ltd., popularly known as Goa Dairy, has announced an increase in milk prices across most of its variants with effect from Monday, May 25, 2026.

According to the dairy union, the price revision has been necessitated due to the escalation in input costs arising from the ongoing



economic and operational challenges.

As per the revised rates, milk prices have

been increased by Re 1 per half litre and Rs 2 per litre across all variants, except High Fat Milk (Gold), which will continue at the existing rate. Goa Dairy stated that despite the increase in retail prices, its milk products continue to remain competitively priced compared to several other dairy brands available in the market, while maintaining quality standards for consumers across the state.



Health Camp Inaugurated In Cuncolim; Yuri Alemao Flags Healthcare Crisis

■ LoP Says Government Hospitals Turning Into Referral Centres Due To Lack Of Facilities

Team Goemkarponn

CUNCOLIM: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao on Sunday said that Goa is facing a growing healthcare crisis, alleging that government hospitals are increasingly functioning only as referral centres instead of providing comprehensive treatment to patients. He was speaking while inaugurating a free medical health camp at Veroda-Cuncolim.

The health camp was organised at St. Anthony School, Veroda-Cuncolim, in association with KLES Dr. Prabhakar Kore Hospital, Belagavi. Present on the occasion were Altone D'Costa, Dr. Allamprabhu Kudachi, Director of Administration at KLES Dr. Prabhakar Kore Hospital, along with Melisa Alemao, Raisa Alemao and others.

The camp offered free consultations and diagnostic tests across

several departments including Cardiology, Neurology, General Medicine, Oncology, Urology, Orthopedics, Chest and Respiratory Care, ENT, Dental, Gastroenterology and other specialities.

Addressing the gathering, Yuri Alemao said he has consistently raised concerns over the poor state of healthcare infrastructure in government hospitals. He alleged that patients are being forced to suffer due to lack of facilities, while accident victims are losing their lives because of negligence and delays in treatment. "Government hospitals have increasingly become mere referral centres rather than institutions providing comprehensive care. Thousands of patients are sent to GMC because sub-district hospitals lack facilities. The government is not bothered to resolve this issue," Alemao said.



Welfare Initiatives And Development Helped BJP Gain Public Confidence: CM Sawant

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party has been able to build strong public confidence through welfare-oriented policies, development initiatives and continuous engagement with people at the grassroots level.

Speaking at a BJP workers' gathering in Sanquelim organised for the announcement of the BJP Yuva Morcha and Mahila Morcha committees, the Chief Minister said governments led by the BJP at both the Centre and the State have focused on ensuring that welfare schemes benefit citizens from every section of society. He noted that effective implementation of these initiatives in Goa has contributed to increasing public support for the party.

Sawant said the State government has prioritised growth and improvements in sectors including healthcare, education, tourism, agriculture, infrastructure, women's welfare, youth empowerment and social security.

Goa Government Assures Full Support For Fr. Bolmax's Treatment

■ Health Minister Vishwajit Rane Reviews Medical Care At GMC, Prays For Speedy Recovery

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said that Fr. Bolmax is currently undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College and assured that the state government is extending every possible support to ensure the best medical care for him.

In a statement, the Health Minister said that the government is closely monitoring Fr. Bolmax's condition and remains in constant touch with the medical team overseeing



his treatment. Rane said he interacted with Dr. Guruprasad Naik, Dr. Rajesh Patil, Dr. Yuri Dias Ambarcar, Dr. Tiwari and the Dean of GMC regarding the ongoing treatment protocol and overall medical

management. "We are closely monitoring his health and are in constant touch with the medical team to ensure he receives the best possible care and treatment. The Government of Goa will extend every support required," Vishwajit Rane stated. The minister further informed that Dr. Guruprasad Naik is in continuous contact with the family members of Fr. Bolmax to ensure proper coordination and support during the treatment process.

Delta Group Bags Five Prestigious Awards From Mormugao Port Authority

■ Company Honoured For Excellence In Cargo Handling And Port Operations During FY 2025-26

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: Delta Group has secured five major awards from Mormugao Port Authority in recognition of its operational performance and cargo handling efficiency during the financial year 2025-26. The awards were presented at a function attended by senior port officials and industry representatives. The



company received the award for highest cargo handling as stevedores at port-operated locations, which was accepted by Sarvesh Morajkar. Delta Group also won the

award for highest loading of bulk cargo in the semi-mechanized category within 24 hours, received by Chairman Mohiuddin Ahmed and Sami Ahmed. The award for

maximum rakes handled by stevedores was received by Delta Vice President and General Manager Goa Operations Raghoba A. Kotkar along with Benedicto Andrade. Mohiuddin Ahmed was also honoured with the award for fastest rake unloading, while the award for fastest rake loading was presented to Raghoba Kotkar and Sachin Kambli by the Customs Commissioner. Delta Group

management congratulated its Goa operations team for their consistent performance, teamwork and commitment towards maintaining high standards of productivity and safety at the port. The company stated that the awards reaffirm Delta Group's strong presence in port logistics and cargo handling operations in the region.



FM Nirmala Sitharaman Says India's Economic Challenges Are Mostly External

■ Sitharaman Says India's Challenges Are Largely External

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that India's economic challenges are largely external in nature, pointing to rising foreign exchange requirements for imports such as fuel, gold and fertilisers amid global uncertainty.

Speaking in Mumbai, Sitharaman said India continues to remain one of the fastest-growing major economies despite geopolitical tensions and global disruptions. She also criticised attempts to create what she described as a "pessimistic narrative" around the Indian economy.

"Challenges are more external — foreign exchange is needed for gold, fuel and fertiliser imports," Sitharaman said.

She added that several high-frequency economic indicators continue to reflect strong domestic demand and sustained industrial momentum.

Highlighting the economy's performance, Sitharaman said gross GST collections crossed ₹22 lakh crore in the financial year 2025-26, marking an 8.3 per cent year-on-year increase.

"That's not a small number in these times of uncertainty," she said.

The Finance Minister also noted that private

sector capital investment grew by 67 per cent in September 2025 compared to the previous year, indicating growing business confidence.

According to Sitharaman, the government's economic response has been carefully calibrated to absorb global shocks while supporting businesses and maintaining growth momentum. The Finance Minister warned that the ongoing West Asia crisis could impact fuel prices, shipping costs, cargo movement, supply chains and export orders.

She said the government's priority is to protect citizens, support MSMEs,

safeguard exporters and ensure supply chains continue functioning smoothly despite external disruptions.

"The approach has been to protect citizens, support MSMEs, safeguard exporters, keep supply chains moving, and maintain economic stability," she said. Sitharaman also revealed that the government has created an economic stabilisation fund of over ₹1 lakh crore to deal with unforeseen global shocks and sectoral stress. According to her, the emergency cushion was planned in advance to help India respond quickly to disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions and supply chain challenges.

RBI Governor Says Rupee May Be Undervalued After Recent Decline

■ Middle East Crisis Adds Pressure On Indian Currency

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra has said the Indian rupee may now be undervalued following its sharp depreciation in recent months, while assuring that the central bank is prepared to act against excessive volatility in the foreign exchange market.

In an interview with Mint, Malhotra clarified that the RBI does not target any fixed exchange rate for the rupee but would step in whenever speculative pressures threaten orderly market movement.

"The RBI will do whatever is required to ensure orderly price discovery in the forex market," he said.

The rupee has fallen nearly 6 per cent since the outbreak of the Middle East conflict on February 28, largely due to rising crude oil prices and heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

India imports more than 85 per cent of its crude oil needs, making the economy particularly sensitive to sustained increases in global oil prices. Higher crude prices can widen the current account deficit, fuel inflation and put pressure on the domestic currency.

According to Malhotra, the recent depreciation has pushed the rupee into undervalued territory

both in nominal terms and in REER (Real Effective Exchange Rate) terms — a key measure of currency competitiveness adjusted for inflation.

"With recent depreciation, one could argue that the rupee has become undervalued, both in nominal as well as in REER terms," he said.

The RBI governor also suggested that the rupee could recover once geopolitical tensions in West Asia ease.

"Once the situation in West Asia normalises, the rupee could appreciate," he added.

Malhotra emphasised that the RBI has sufficient resources to deal with excessive market volatility, including foreign exchange reserves of nearly \$700 billion.

"The RBI has enough tools in its kit, including nearly \$700 billion in reserves, to quell any undue speculative movement," he said.

On the broader economy, Malhotra stressed the importance of reducing India's current account deficit and strengthening the capital account position.

He also reiterated that controlling inflation remains the RBI's primary responsibility, while adding that the central bank would continue supporting economic growth whenever inflation conditions allow policy flexibility.

Congress Intensifies Attack On Smart Meter Project, Demands Probe

ensured. Party leaders, including Girish Chodankar Patkar, also met Chief Electrical Engineer Stephan Fernandes seeking clarification on the cost escalation. The opposition alleged discrepancies between projected and awarded costs, calling for accountability in the procurement process. The Chief Electrical Engineer, however, rejected the allegations, stating that the final project cost includes GST and central government support and that the tender process was conducted

in accordance with established procedures without any irregularities.

Meanwhile, AAP Goa President Amit Palekar also criticised the government, demanding rollback of the recent tariff hike and immediate suspension of smart meter installations. He alleged that the middle class is bearing the brunt of rising electricity charges while public funds are being diverted towards non-essential expenditure. Opposition leaders further accused the government of using technical explanations and billing terminology to justify increased electricity costs, insisting that the issue requires greater transparency rather than procedural clarification.

Saligao POC SO Case: Accused Arrested In Alleged Sexual Assault Of Minor Girl

occasions. Further investigation is underway to establish the complete sequence of events and circumstances leading to the alleged offence. The accused was arrested on 16 May 2026 following due legal procedures and is currently in judicial custody. Statements are being recorded and evidence is being collected as part of the ongoing investigation. The case is being probed under senior supervision.



“So Sad They Have Not Learnt Lessons Yet”: Supreme Court On NEET Paper Leak Case

■ Top court questions repeated lapses in medical entrance examination system, seeks response from Centre and NTA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday expressed concern over recurring allegations of paper leaks in the NEET examination, remarking that it was “sad” that lessons had not been learned from previous incidents.

The court issued notices to the Centre, the Education Ministry, and the National Testing



Agency (NTA) while hearing petitions related to the alleged paper leak

in the NEET-UG 2026 examination. A bench of the apex court also sought

clarification from the NTA regarding the status of the monitoring committee that was supposed to be constituted following earlier court directions.

The matter came up during the hearing of a plea seeking the replacement or restructuring of the NTA and a fresh NEET-UG examination under judicial supervision.



Rubio Says India Did Not Raise Pakistan's Iran Mediation Role During Talks

■ Rubio clarifies Pakistan's reported Iran mediation role was not discussed during meetings with Indian leaders

New Delhi: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on

Monday said India's concerns regarding Pakistan continue to revolve around cross-border terrorism, while clarifying that Islamabad's reported role in mediating the US-Iran situation was not discussed during his meetings in Delhi.

Addressing the media during his India visit, Rubio noted that Indian officials consistently raise concerns about militant groups operating from Pakistani territory. “India is always pointing to the fact that there are armed terrorist groups operating from Pakistani territory that target India,” Rubio said, stressing that the issue remains a major concern for New Delhi.

However, he stated that Pakistan's alleged

involvement as a facilitator in matters related to Iran did not come up during discussions with Indian leaders. “As far as the role they played as a mediator and a facilitator in the Iran situation, it never came up,” Rubio remarked, adding that India's issues with Pakistan stem from different concerns. The US Secretary of State also addressed recent controversy surrounding racist remarks targeting Indian Americans online. Rubio said social media platforms often amplify irresponsible and extreme opinions from anonymous users.

“In the modern era, you go online, and there are people saying all kinds of crazy stuff online,” he said, adding that such comments should not be viewed as representative of official US positions.



“Don't Take It So Emotionally”: CJI Kant As Cockroach Janata Party Row Reaches Supreme Court

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday advised a petitioner not to take the ongoing “Cockroach Janata Party” controversy “so emotionally” after a lawyer sought urgent listing of a related plea before the Supreme Court.

Advocate N.K. Goswami mentioned the matter orally and argued that despite clarification issued by the Chief Justice earlier, a “distorted and malicious narrative” continued to circulate online.

Responding to the request, the Chief Justice remarked, “Don't take it so sentimentally,” and did not agree to urgent listing of the matter.

The controversy had erupted after remarks attributed to the Chief Justice allegedly referring to some critics or Gen Z social media users as “cockroaches” and “parasites,” triggering widespread online criticism. The Chief Justice later clarified that the comments were directed at individuals with fake degrees.

No Animal Sacrifice At Public Places On Bakrid: Yogi Adityanath

■ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister orders strict security measures, designated sacrifice zones, and enhanced vigilance ahead of Bakrid celebrations

New Delhi: Ahead of Bakrid, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday directed officials to ensure that animal sacrifice is not carried out at public places and instructed authorities to maintain heightened vigilance across the state during the festival.

Reviewing law and order preparations, the chief minister said ritual sacrifices should take place only at designated sites and reiterated that the sacrifice of prohibited



animals remains banned. He also directed that no new traditions or practices be introduced during the celebrations.

Adityanath instructed officials to ensure that namaz is offered only at traditional venues and made it clear that roads should not be blocked for prayers under any

circumstances.

The chief minister further ordered strict monitoring of illegal slaughterhouses and prohibited the open sale of meat. Licensed slaughterhouses, he said, must operate strictly within approved capacity limits.

To maintain peace and communal harmony, officials have been directed to conduct flag marches in sensitive areas and intensify police patrolling around religious places.

Supreme Court Transfers Twisha Sharma Death Case to CBI, Flags Concerns Over Bias Narrative

■ Court expresses concern over allegations of judicial bias and urges restraint from public statements

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday heard the case related to the death of former model-actor Twisha Sharma and observed that it was “deeply pained” by the growing narrative suggesting delay or bias in the investigation process.

The court directed that the investigation in



the case be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), stating that the matter involved an “unfortunate unnatural

death” and required a fair and impartial probe. During the hearing, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant referred to a media

report that had raised questions about possible institutional bias, noting that it prompted the court to take suo motu cognisance of the matter. The bench observed that concerns had been raised regarding the impartiality of the investigation, particularly since the deceased's husband is a practising lawyer and his mother is a former district judge.

Uniform Civil Code Will Not Impact Tribal Communities, Assures Amit Shah

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday assured tribal communities that the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would not affect their customs, traditions, or cultural practices in any way.

Addressing a tribal conclave organised to mark the 150th birth anniversary year of Birsu Munda at Delhi's Red Fort grounds, Shah said misinformation was being spread to create fear among tribal communities regarding the UCC.

Kieron Pollard Admits Hardik Pandya's Captaincy 'Has Not Gone Well' After Mumbai Indians' Poor IPL Season

■ Pollard Admits Hardik's Captaincy Did Not Go To Plan

New Delhi: Mumbai Indians batting coach Kieron Pollard delivered a blunt assessment of Hardik Pandya's leadership after the franchise endured a disappointing IPL 2026 campaign, finishing ninth in the standings.

Speaking after Mumbai Indians' final league match defeat against Rajasthan Royals, Pollard admitted that Hardik's stint as captain had failed to meet expectations, both for the player and the management.

"From a leadership



perspective on Hardik, yes, it has not gone as well as he would have wanted as an individual," Pollard said.

"It might not have gone how we would have wanted as a management staff."

Despite the poor results, Pollard stressed that the franchise fully backed Hardik throughout the season and tried everything possible to help him succeed as captain.

Mumbai Indians Backed Hardik Throughout The Season

Pollard defended the team environment and rejected suggestions of blaming one individual for the campaign's failure.

"No one is going to sit here and point fingers," he said.

"He was trying; we all

were trying, and it just didn't work out for us."

The former all-rounder added that Mumbai Indians would now take time to review the season carefully before making any major decisions regarding the squad or leadership structure.

While acknowledging that changes may happen ahead of next season, Pollard ruled out emotional or rushed calls.

"You sit, you talk, see what is best. Never know what is going to happen," he added.



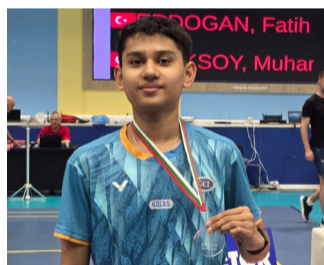
Porvorim Aamdar Chashak Tournament Concludes With Penha De Franca Warriors and Ravalnath United as Champions

■ First-ever women's and men's MLA Cup cricket league in Porvorim draws strong response and praise across Goa.

Panaji: The first edition of the Aamdar Chashak Women's and Men's Cricket League in Porvorim concluded on May 24, 2026, with Penha De Franca Warriors winning the women's title and Ravalnath United Team securing the men's championship.

Organised in the Porvorim constituency, the tournament began on May 21 and saw an enthusiastic response from players and cricket fans. The final matches were held at Salvador do Mundo Panchayat Ground. In the women's

final, Penha De Franca Warriors delivered a dominant performance, scoring 105/0 and defeating Salvador de Mundo Team by 51 runs. The runners-up failed to chase the target within the allotted four-over format. In the men's category, Ravalnath United Team emerged victorious against ATB Boys Altorda Team in a closely contested match played in a five-over format. Ravalnath United posted a total of 107/5 and restricted their opponents from completing the chase, winning by 10 runs.



"A Matter of Immense Pride for Goa": Aarush Pawaskar Wins Bronze in Bulgaria

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Goa's rising badminton talent, Aarush Pawaskar, delivered an outstanding performance at the Victor Bulgarian Junior Open International Badminton Tournament 2026, clinching a bronze medal in the Boys Under 19 Singles category in Pazardzhik, Bulgaria. Making his debut in the Junior Under 19 international circuit, Aarush showcased remarkable confidence and maturity against a strong field of global competitors. The young shuttler won four out of five matches during the tournament and advanced to the semi finals with a series of impressive performances. His campaign concluded in the last four after a spirited contest against Chinese Taipei's Ming Chuan Li. Aarush fought hard before going down 11-21, 19-21, earning a podium finish in his very first tournament in the age category.

"Goa's Young Star Tops National Stage": Sayee Gawas Wins Monoact Gold

■ 13-Year-Old Actor Selected for International Cultural Olympiad 2026 After National Triumph in Pune

Goemkarponn desk

Panaji: Goa's rising theatre talent, Sayee Manesh Gawas, has brought pride to the state by securing first rank in the Hindi Monoact category at the National Art Talent Search (NATS) 2026 held in Pune. The 13 year old performer impressed judges with a powerful stage presentation and emerged victorious in the highly competitive national event.

The all India cultural



competition was organised by the Akhil Bharatiya Sanskritik Sangh and featured participants from several states across the country. Representing Goa, Sayee stood out for her confident performance,

emotional expression, and impactful dialogue delivery.

Sayee participated under the banner of Abhivyakti Panaji, one of Goa's noted theatre groups. She received training and mentorship from renowned theatre director Dr. Saish Deshpande, whose guidance played a key role in shaping her performance for the national stage.

Her monoact performance received widespread appreciation from both the audience and the judging panel.

10.09 Seconds To History: Gurindervir Singh Becomes India's Fastest Man

■ Complainant Alleges Rs 5.5 Crore Demand, Threats And Illegal Drone Surveillance

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Indian sprinting witnessed a historic moment in Ranchi as Gurindervir Singh clocked 10.09 seconds in the men's 100m final at the Federation Cup 2026, becoming the first Indian athlete to run below the 10.10-second barrier.

The 24-year-old Punjab sprinter not only broke the national record but also secured



qualification for the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. With the performance, Gurindervir officially earned the title of India's fastest man.

The record-breaking sprint capped a dramatic

day on the track. Earlier in the semifinals, Gurindervir had clocked 10.17 seconds to briefly set a new national record.

However, fellow sprinter Animesh Kujur soon bettered it with 10.15 seconds. In the final, Gurindervir responded in emphatic fashion, producing a sensational 10.09-second run to reclaim the record.

Gurindervir's journey began after being inspired by sprint legend Usain Bolt during the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Growing up in Punjab's Patial village near Jalandhar, he initially competed in local races before moving to the Punjab Institute of Sports, where he trained under coach Sarabjit Singh.

His breakthrough came in 2018 when he set a national

D Gukesh Says Critics 'Have The Right' To Question His Recent Form

Team Goemkarponn



New Delhi: World chess

champion D Gukesh has admitted that criticism surrounding his recent performances is fair, acknowledging that he has struggled to produce his best chess over the last 18 months. Speaking ahead of the Norway Chess Tournament in Oslo, the 19-year-old Indian grandmaster said he understands why fans and experts have questioned his form.