



## GANG VIOLENCE ROCKS FATORDA

■ Five accused booked after alleged attack on minor near KTC Bus Stand over previous enmity; police invoke BNS and Goa Children's Act

Team Goemkarponn

**FATORDA:** Fatorda Police have registered a case following a serious incident in which a 17-year-old boy was allegedly assaulted near the KTC Bus Stand, Fatorda, during the early hours of Friday. The incident is reported to have taken place around 4:30 am on May 29, triggering police action and registration of a criminal case against five individuals.

According to the complaint lodged by Shadaf Mulla (19), a resident of Gogol Housing Board, Margao, the victim is his minor brother. The complainant stated that the accused persons allegedly intercepted and attacked



the boy in the vicinity of the busy transport hub area. The alleged assault is said to have occurred over an issue of previous enmity between the parties.

Police sources said the accused have been identified as Prakash Velma of Nessai, Shlok Shinde (22) of Navelim, Maifuz Sayyad (21) of Navelim, Sunil Bilwar (20) of Gogol Housing Board,

Fatorda, and Akshay Talwar of Borda. All five have been booked for their alleged involvement in the incident.

As per the complaint and police records, the accused allegedly formed an unlawful assembly and then assaulted the minor victim using slaps and fist blows. The attack reportedly resulted in simple injuries to the boy.

### Following the complaint,

▶ Fatorda Police registered Crime No. 30/2026.

▶ The case has been booked under Sections 191(2), 115(2), and 118(1) read with Section 190 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act, 2003, which deals with protection of children from harm and exploitation.

In addition to the physical assault, the accused are also alleged to have issued threats of dire consequences to the victim, further escalating the seriousness of the incident.

Police have confirmed that preliminary investigation is in progress and statements are being recorded. Officials are also

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## CM Sawant Unveils Triple-Action Governance Push: 10 Lakh Trees, Housing Orders, Austerity Drive

Focus on green highways, faster Mhaje Ghar implementation, and fiscal discipline amid global uncertainty



Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday outlined a three-pronged governance initiative combining environmental action, housing regularisation, and fiscal tightening measures.

The Chief Minister announced that under the Green Corridor initiative, the state will undertake plantation of 10 lakh saplings along national and state highways between June 5 and September 5. The large-scale drive is aimed at strengthening green cover along major transport corridors across Goa. In a parallel administrative push, CM Sawant said that orders under the "Mhaje

Ghar" scheme will be distributed by June 10 across North and South Goa. He stated that nearly 3,000 clear orders are ready for issuance and that the scheme will be implemented through panchayats to ensure quicker, decentralised delivery and improved accessibility for citizens seeking land regularisation certificates.

Addressing financial prudence, the Chief Minister also confirmed that austerity measures have been enforced in view of the ongoing West Asia conflict. He said the government has issued circulars from time to time and has already suspended official foreign tours as part of cost-control and expenditure rationalisation steps.

## Tourist-Driven Thar Crashes Into Scooter In Siolim; One Killed, Child Critically Injured

■ Police Detain Tourist Driver After Fatal Collision; Drunk Driving Angle Under Investigation

Team Goemkarponn

**SIOLIM:** A 35-year-old man died and a 10-year-old child sustained serious injuries after a Mahindra Thar allegedly driven by a tourist crashed into a scooter in Siolim during the early hours of Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Sanket Dabolkar, who was riding the scooter at the time of



the accident. The child travelling as a pillion rider suffered severe injuries and is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital.

According to police sources, the Thar allegedly rammed head-on into the scooter with considerable force, leaving both victims critically injured. Locals and emergency personnel rushed to the scene and

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## TTAG Urges Goa Govt To Avoid December 2026 Polls, Cites Tourism Impact

■ Travel And Tourism Association Of Goa Seeks Rescheduling Of Assembly Elections To Protect Peak Tourist Season Revenue

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Travel & Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) has urged the Goa government to reconsider the proposed scheduling of the 2026 Goa Assembly elections during the peak December tourist season, warning

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06



## Six Dead After Under Construction Bridge Collapses During Storm In Uttar Pradesh

■ Rescue Teams Continue Search Operation In Hamirpur As Workers Remain Trapped Under Debris

**New Delhi:** At least six workers lost their lives after an under construction bridge collapsed during a severe storm in Uttar Pradesh late Thursday night, with rescue teams continuing operations amid fears that the death toll could rise further.

The accident occurred in Hamirpur at a bridge construction site over the



Betwa River connecting Morakandar and Kandaur villages. According to officials, the collapse took place around 2 am while labourers were working at the site despite heavy rain and strong winds sweeping through the region.

Authorities said several workers had gathered near construction machinery when sections of the bridge suddenly gave way. Local residents reported that intense winds first caused parts of the structure to crack before supporting pillars collapsed, bringing down multiple bridge segments in quick succession.

## IMD Forecasts Below Normal Monsoon For South Peninsula, Goa Likely To See Uneven Rainfall

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a below normal southwest monsoon for large parts of the country during the June to September 2026 season, with South Peninsular India — including Goa — likely to receive below normal rainfall.

# Mopa's Mounting Losses Raise Questions Goa Can't Ignore

Goa was promised a gateway to the future. What it may have received instead is a financial black hole.

The latest financial disclosures from GMR Goa International Airport Limited (GGIAL) reveal that the Manohar International Airport at Mopa has accumulated losses nearing ₹777 crore since operations began. The numbers are staggering, but perhaps not surprising.

For years, critics warned that Goa, a small state with a limited population and seasonal tourism economy, may not be able to sustain two full scale airports. Those warnings were dismissed in the name of "development", "growth", and "future capacity". Today, the balance sheets are beginning to tell a different story.

The airport recorded a loss of ₹148.3 crore in FY2022-23. In FY2023-24, losses ballooned to ₹363.3 crore. FY2024-25 added another ₹266 crore to the bleeding. Even more worrying is the continued deterioration in FY2025-26, where losses have reportedly already crossed ₹331 crore, including ₹63.3 crore in the last quarter alone.

These are not temporary fluctuations. They reflect a deeper structural problem.

Airports are expensive ventures, and every aviation expert knows that greenfield projects take years to break even. But Mopa was never sold to the people of Goa as a long term gamble. It was projected as an economic revolution that would transform North Goa, create jobs, boost tourism, attract global investment, and place Goa on the international aviation map.

Instead, what Goa is witnessing is an airport struggling to justify its own economics.

Passenger numbers may

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be rising. Flights may be increasing. International connectivity may be improving. But the central question remains unanswered: can the airport sustain itself financially without becoming dependent on endless concessions, subsidies, and policy support?

That question becomes even more uncomfortable because Dabolim airport continues to operate. Goa now has two airports competing for the same passenger base in a state whose tourism sector itself faces saturation, environmental stress, and infrastructure fatigue.

The issue is no longer merely aviation. It is public accountability.

How much public support has gone into enabling this project? What revenue projections were originally presented? Were those projections realistic or politically convenient? How long before taxpayers indirectly shoulder the burden of sustaining a private infrastructure project that continues to report mounting losses?

There is also the larger concern of Goa's development model. Mega projects are repeatedly marketed as symbols of progress, while the long term economic risks are rarely discussed openly. Once the ribbon cutting ceremonies end and the headlines fade, the financial consequences remain.

Supporters of Mopa argue that patience is needed. They point out that airport ecosystems generate revenue over time through hotels, cargo, retail, logistics, real estate, and commercial activity. That may well happen. Aviation infrastructure is indeed a long game.

But Goa cannot afford blind optimism.

The state deserves transparency, honest projections, and periodic public scrutiny of projects executed in the name of development. Growth cannot simply be measured by concrete poured, terminals inaugurated, or flights announced. It must also be measured by financial sustainability and public benefit.

Mopa may yet succeed in the future. But the current numbers are a warning sign that Goa cannot ignore.

The nightmare is not merely the losses themselves. The real nightmare is the possibility that the warnings were right all along.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR Shrinking Claims Reflect Growing Anxiety

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's recent statement after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the BJP is hopeful of winning 20 seats on its own in the next Goa Assembly election has raised more questions than confidence among the people.

Only a few days ago, BJP leaders were confidently speaking of crossing 30 seats. Now the target has quietly come down to 20. If this downward trend continues at the same pace, one wonders whether the number may shrink to single digits in the coming months. Political optimism is understandable, but shifting claims reveal the growing nervousness within the ruling party.

The people of Goa are not blind to the realities around them. Rising unemployment, unchecked corruption allegations, controversial land conversions, infrastructure concerns and increasing public dissatisfaction are becoming difficult to ignore. Many citizens feel that governance today is more focused on publicity than addressing everyday issues affecting ordinary Goans.

Instead of repeatedly projecting victory figures, political leaders should spend more time listening to the frustrations of the people. Elections are not won through changing numerical predictions or public relations exercises, but through credibility, accountability and performance on the ground.

Democracy gives citizens the power to separate political slogans from reality. The BJP may still remain hopeful, but the final verdict will rest with the people of Goa, who are carefully watching both the promises and the performance of those in power.

- Edwin DeSouza

## From Courtroom Remark to Public Protest

What began as a controversial courtroom remark by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant earlier this month has now evolved into one of the most unusual political satire movements seen in recent years. The viral "Cockroach Janta Party" trend did not emerge in isolation. It reflected the growing anger, frustration and alienation felt by many unemployed and disillusioned young Indians.

During a Supreme Court hearing, remarks comparing certain unemployed youth and activists to "cockroaches" and "parasites" triggered widespread outrage across social media. Although the Chief Justice later clarified that his comments were aimed at people using fake degrees and not unemployed youth in general, the damage had already been done.

Instead of reacting with silence, many young citizens converted the insult into satire and resistance. The so called Cockroach Janta Party quickly became a digital symbol of protest against unemployment, inflation, political arrogance and the disconnect between institutions and ordinary people.

The ruling establishment may dismiss the trend as a meme or social media joke, but it carries a deeper message. When educated youth feel ignored, mocked or unheard, frustration eventually finds expression in unconventional forms. Satire often succeeds where speeches fail.

The sudden silence after gaining 22 million followers on Instagram within days raises an important question — why has the movement suddenly gone quiet? Has pressure been applied, or has the message already reached those in power? Democracy survives not by insulting citizens, but by listening to them.

- Adrian Fernandes

# Centre Likely To Consider Relaxation In Goa's Post-10 PM Music Restrictions: CM Sawant

■ Chief Minister Says Goa's Tourism Economy Needs Special Policy Consideration

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has indicated that the Central government may consider providing relaxation in post-10 pm music restrictions for Goa, citing the state's tourism-dependent economy and vibrant nightlife sector. Speaking on the



issue, Sawant said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured that Goa's concerns regarding sound regulations

to review existing noise pollution rules to accommodate tourism and entertainment activities in designated

would be examined. The state government has been consistently requesting the Centre

areas.

The Goa government has maintained that strict enforcement of the current sound regulations has affected nightlife businesses, beach tourism, destination weddings and the hospitality sector, all of which contribute significantly to the state's economy.



## Goa Air Passenger Traffic Drops 27% Between January And April 2026

■ Dabolim Airport Slips Out Of India's Top 10 Busiest Airports List Amid Sharp Fall In Passenger Numbers

Team Goemkarponn

**DABOLIM:** Goa's air passenger traffic recorded a sharp decline of nearly 27 per cent between January and April 2026, according to data released by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The data shows that total passenger traffic in Goa dropped from 11.82 lakh passengers in January 2026 to 8.61 lakh passengers in April 2026, marking a decline of over 3.21 lakh travellers within three months. The fall has been attributed largely to the end of the peak winter tourism and international charter season, along with reduced domestic travel demand and the impact of ongoing geopolitical

tensions on international travel sentiment. In January 2026, Goa recorded a total of 11,82,316 air passengers, including 86,491 international travellers and approximately 10.95 lakh domestic passengers. By April, total passenger traffic declined to 8,61,254, comprising 16,216 international passengers and around 8.45 lakh domestic travellers. International passenger traffic witnessed the steepest fall during the period. The number of international travellers reduced from 86,491 in January to just 16,216 in April, reflecting a decline of over 81 per cent following the conclusion of the charter tourism season.



## RGP Core Executive Committee To Meet MLA Viresh Borkar On May 30

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) has convened a meeting of its Core Executive Committee (CEC) on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 6:30 pm at the party head office in Panaji.

According to a press release issued by RGP General Secretary Vishvesh Naik, the meeting has been called to discuss various party affairs with St Andre MLA Viresh Borkar.

The agenda of the meeting includes discussions on alleged anti-party activities, possible disciplinary action, the resignation of the party president and other general matters concerning the party.

The party stated that the meeting has been convened as per the availability expressed by MLA Viresh Borkar and that an official notice regarding the same has already been sent to him.

## Mopa Airport Losses Near ₹777 Crore Since Operations Began

■ GGIAL Reports Continued Financial Losses At Goa's Greenfield Airport

Team Goemkarponn

**MOPA:** Goa's Manohar International Airport at Mopa has accumulated losses of nearly ₹777 crore since the commencement of operations, according to financial figures reported by operator GMR Goa International Airport Limited (GGIAL).

The airport recorded a loss of ₹148.3 crore during the financial year 2022-23, which increased sharply to ₹363.3 crore in 2023-24. In FY2024-25, the airport



incurred an additional loss of ₹266 crore, taking the cumulative losses to around ₹777 crore since its inauguration.

Financial data further revealed that the airport reported a loss of ₹63.3 crore during the fourth quarter of FY2025-26.

The total loss for FY2025-26 has reportedly reached ₹331.2 crore, indicating continued financial pressure despite rising passenger traffic and expanding flight operations at the greenfield airport.

## DLC Reviews 61 Forest Rights Claims From Barcem Village

■ Kushavati Collector Chairs Key Meeting Under Forest Rights Act

Team Goemkarponn

**BARCEM:** Kushavati District Collector Ms Egna Cleetus, IAS, chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) to review claims submitted under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 from Quepem taluka.

During the meeting, the committee examined a total of 61 forest rights claims received from Barcem village in Quepem taluka for consideration and



decision.

The claims were discussed in detail and the committee issued necessary directions for further action in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Rights Act.

The meeting was held as part of the ongoing process of scrutiny and disposal of claims submitted through the Sub-Divisional Level Committee of Quepem taluka.

## Court Criticises Mandrem Police While Granting Bail To Accused

Team Goemkarponn

**MANDREM:** A Goa court has reportedly raised

serious concerns over the handling of an investigation by Mandrem Police while granting bail to an accused in a criminal case. During the hearing, the judge is learnt to have questioned the manner in which the investigation was carried out and expressed dissatisfaction over certain procedural aspects presented before the court.

# Illegal Call Centre Busted In Verna; 26 Arrested For Cheating US Citizens

Goa Police Seize 145 Laptops, 45 Mobile Phones Worth ₹55 Lakh In Major Cyber Fraud Crackdown

Team Goemkarponn

**VERNA:** A major illegal call centre involved in cheating United States citizens was busted by the Verna Police during an early morning raid at Verna Industrial Estate, leading to the arrest of 26 persons from various states across India.

According to police, the raid was conducted on May 28 between 3 am and 6:15 am at Plot



No. 98, Milagros Aqua Pvt. Ltd., Verna Industrial Estate. The operation was led by Police Inspector Anand L. Shirodkar along with a team of officers from Verna Police Station

acting on credible information.

During the raid, police discovered that the accused

were allegedly operating an illegal call centre from the rented industrial premises and impersonating officials of US banks to target American citizens

through internet-based communication systems.

Investigators said the accused used VPN calling and spoofing technology to disguise their identities and convince victims to transfer money through gift cards under false pretences. The raid operation was monitored by SDPO Vasco Shri Gurudas Kadam under the supervision of South Goa Superintendent of Police Shri Santosh Dessai.



## Cuncolim Man Assaulted, Robbed Of ₹34,000 Outside Battery Shop

Four Accused Booked After Violent Attack At Demani; Victim Undergoing Treatment At South Goa District Hospital

Team Goemkarponn

**CUNCOLIM:** Cuncolim Police have registered a case against four persons for allegedly assaulting and robbing a man outside a battery shop at Demani, Cuncolim. According to the complaint filed by Lalsab alias Altaf, a resident of Demani, the incident occurred on May 25, 2024, at around 4:40 pm at an Amaron Battery Shop located opposite the Masjid at Demani.

Police said the accused, identified as Hanif Shaikh and Parvin Anwarsab Kalenavar, both residents of Rumdamol Housing Board, Navelim, along with Aktar of Margao and another unidentified person, allegedly arrived at the complainant's

shop and assaulted him in furtherance of their common intention. As per the complaint, accused Hanif Shaikh allegedly snatched the complainant's mobile phone, while Parvin Kalenavar assaulted him with fist blows. The other accused also allegedly joined in the assault, pushed the complainant, tore his shirt and forcibly removed cash amounting to ₹34,000 from the front pocket of his shirt. The complainant further alleged that Hanif Shaikh assaulted him with an iron rod on his back and shoulder, while accused Aktar struck him on the left temple region with a glass bottle. The fourth accused allegedly attempted to attack him with a stone.



## Pedestrian Injured After Alto Car Hits Woman Near Kakoda

Team Goemkarponn

**CURCHOREM:** Curchorem Police have registered a case against a Sanguem resident for allegedly driving in a rash and negligent manner and injuring a pedestrian woman near Govinda Posro, Kakoda.

According to police, the case was registered based on a complaint filed by HC 5441 Vinod Naik of Curchorem Police Station. The incident reportedly occurred on May 24, 2026, at around 7:25 pm.

Police said the accused, identified as Umesh Naik, a resident of Damal, Sanguem, was driving a Maruti Suzuki Alto car from Curchorem towards Sanguem when he allegedly lost control near Govinda Posro, Kakoda, and dashed against a pedestrian woman identified as Angelina Fernandes, a resident of Vodlemol, Cacora, Curchorem.

As a result of the impact, the woman fell onto the road and sustained injuries to her body.

Further investigation in the case is being carried out by HC Vinod Naik of Curchorem Police Station.

## Vasco Resident Booked For Theft Of Air Quality Monitoring Instruments

Equipment Worth ₹1.29 Lakh Stolen From Terrace Of MPA Quarters Near Ravindra Bhavan, Baina

Team Goemkarponn

**MORMUGAO:** Mormugao Police have registered a case against a Vasco resident in connection with the alleged theft of air quality monitoring instruments worth ₹1.29 lakh from the terrace of MPA quarters near Ravindra Bhavan at Baina. According to police, the complaint was filed by Shirishkumar Rane, Senior Chemist at Gadark Lab Pvt. Ltd and

a resident of Sindhudurg, Maharashtra. In his complaint, Rane stated that prior to May 15, 2026, the accused, identified as Pranesh Madar, a resident of Mangoor Hill, Vasco, allegedly stole two air quality monitoring instruments belonging to the company. The stolen equipment included a Respirable

Dust Sampler (PM10) and a Fine Particulate Sampler (PM2.5), with the total value estimated at ₹1,29,800. Based on the complaint, Mormugao Police registered an offence under Sections 303(2) and 331(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Suraj Naik of Mormugao Police Station under the supervision of PI Sheriff Jacques and the guidance of DySP Gurudas Kadam.

**BOOKED**

## Two Seriously Injured In Head-On Collision Near Cansaulim Junction

Verna Police Book Scooter Rider For Rash And Negligent Driving After Overtaking Attempt Goes Wrong

Team Goemkarponn

**VERNA:** Verna Police have registered a case against a scooter rider for allegedly driving in a rash and negligent manner, resulting in a serious road accident near Cansaulim Junction in Mormugao.

According to the state complaint filed by HC 5763 Sandeep Naik of Verna Police Station, the accident occurred on May 22, 2026, at around 9:10 pm opposite Kaiyas



Pet World near Cansaulim Junction. Police said the accused rider, identified as Saifuddin Shabal, a resident of Zuarinagar, Sancoale, was riding a Suzuki Access scooter

and allegedly attempted to overtake a truck. During the manoeuvre, he reportedly moved onto the opposite lane and collided with an oncoming Yamaha motorcycle.

As a result of the collision, the Yamaha motorcycle rider, identified as Lohit Deka of Pirni, Verna, and the accused scooter rider sustained grievous injuries. The pillion rider on the Yamaha motorcycle, Pounima Basumatadi, also a resident of Pirni, Verna, sustained minor injuries.

Further investigation in the case is being carried out by HC Sandeep Naik of Verna Police Station.



## Dharbandora Man Found Dead In Dudhsagar River

Team Goemkarponn

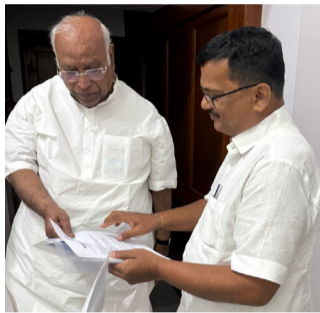
**DHARBANDORA:** A 55-year-old man from Dharbandora was found dead after his body was seen floating in the Dudhsagar River at Kormonem, Kirlapal, Dabal. According to police, the incident came to light on May 27, 2026, at around 2:40 pm after Seby Fernandes, a resident of Dabal, Kirlapal, informed authorities that a male body was floating in the river at Kormonem.

# Congress Leader Savio Coutinho Raises Goa Voter Deletion Issue With Mallikarjun Kharge

Representation Submitted To AICC Alleges Large-Scale Removal Of Voters During SIR 2025-26, Seeks Urgent Intervention

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Congress leader and Margao Block Congress Committee Convener J. P. Savio Coutinho on Friday met Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi and submitted a detailed representation alleging large-scale deletion of voters from electoral rolls



in Goa during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2025-26 process.

According to Coutinho,

a total of 1,39,634 voter names were deleted during the revision exercise. He submitted 16 spiral-bound annexures containing documents and evidence related to the issue. A similar representation was also submitted to the office of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. During the meeting, Coutinho alleged that the voter revision

process was misused to target traditional Congress supporters and non-BJP voters in the state. Among the concerns highlighted before the Congress leadership was the deletion of what Coutinho claimed were genuine voters, which he said could significantly influence electoral outcomes in Goa's small constituencies.



## Cortalim MLA Urges Landowners To Give NOCs For Village Roads

Antonio Vas Says Several Internal Road Projects Remain Delayed Due To Lack Of Permissions From Private Landowners

Team Goemkarponn

**CORTALIM:** Governor P. Ashok Gajapa Cortalim MLA Antonio Vas on Friday appealed to landowners to cooperate with development works by providing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for internal village roads, stating that several important connectivity projects continue to remain stalled due to the absence of permissions from private property owners. Vas was speaking after inaugurating road improvement works worth around ₹47 lakh at Sai Vihar in Velsao. He said the road project had remained pending for nearly five years despite repeated requests from local residents.

"The demand for this road was raised before me several years ago, but the work could not commence

because the required NOCs were not available. Only after the permissions were secured recently could the work finally begin on a war footing for the benefit of villagers," Vas said.

He noted that similar problems are affecting several interior roads across villages and urged landowners to support projects that serve the larger public interest. According to the MLA, proper road connectivity is crucial for residents, especially during emergencies and the monsoon season.

Social worker Roquezinho D'Souza, who was present at the function, said several government housing schemes lose their effectiveness if beneficiaries do not have proper road access to their homes.

## Aamka Naka Rent-A-Car Campaign Launched In Margao

Prabhav Naik Calls For Public Unity Against Reckless Driving And Rising Rent-A-Car Related Accidents In Goa

Team Goemkarponn

**MARGAO:** Madganvcho Awaaz & Youth Leader has launched a public campaign titled "Aamka Naka Rent-A-Car", raising serious concerns over increasing road accidents involving rent-a-car vehicles in Goa and urging citizens to unite for stronger enforcement and accountability. Naik said that reckless speeding, dangerous overtaking and irresponsible driving by rent-a-car operators have turned Goa's roads



into "death traps", leading to repeated fatalities and injuries across the state.

Referring to recent incidents, he stated that on May 26 a rent-a-car vehicle allegedly hit a woman rider in South Goa, while another

accident reported in North Goa claimed the life of a youth and left a minor injured. "These are not isolated cases anymore.

There is a growing pattern of negligence and fear among citizens due to rent-a-car related accidents," Naik said, adding that he has already urged the government to take strict corrective measures.

## Over 65% Goa Panchayats Back DRS Rollout As Reverse Vending Machines Arrive In State

Team Goemkarponn



**PANAJI:** Goa's proposed Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS) received a major boost after more than 65 per cent of the state's village panchayats and four Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) issued No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for the installation of Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) ahead of the scheme's rollout.

## Bandra-Margao Bi-Weekly Express Flagged Off, Direct Link To Mumbai Suburbs From Goa

New Train Service To Begin Regular Operations From June 3; Key Stops Include Borivali, Panvel, Ratnagiri And Thivim

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** A new bi-weekly express train connecting Goa with Mumbai's western suburbs was inaugurated on Wednesday in the presence of Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The service is expected to improve direct rail connectivity between the Konkan belt and Mumbai's suburban region.



The inaugural Margao-Bandra Terminus journey is scheduled for June 3, with the train departing Margao Railway Station at 7.40 am and arriving at Bandra Terminus at 11.40 pm on the same day.

## CCP Discusses Traffic Management Measures To Ease Congestion In Panaji

Meeting With North Goa Collector And Traffic Police Focuses On Improving Urban Mobility, Daily Commutes And Tourist Convenience

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) held a detailed meeting with North Goa Collector Ankit Yadav, IAS, and Traffic Police Inspector Mahesh Kerkar to discuss measures aimed at improving traffic management and reducing congestion across the capital city. The discussions focused on creating a more



organised, accessible and stress-free urban environment through better coordination, strategic planning and improved road usage. During the meeting, officials reviewed several

traffic-related concerns affecting different parts of Panaji and explored both immediate logistical measures and long-term solutions to address major traffic bottlenecks.

CCP Mayor Rohit

Monserate said the civic body remains committed to improving the daily commuting experience for residents while ensuring smooth movement for tourists visiting the city. "Our continuous efforts are focused on improving the daily convenience of our citizens while also ensuring that tourists visiting Panaji experience a welcoming, well-regulated and orderly city.

# India Commits Funds For 14 New Schools In Nepal's Earthquake Hit Districts

■ Reconstruction Project Aims To Strengthen Education Infrastructure With Earthquake Resistant Buildings

Team Goemkarponn

**New Delhi:** India has announced financial assistance of Nepali Rupees 560.2 million for the construction of 14 schools in earthquake affected regions of Nepal, reinforcing its continued support for the neighbouring country's reconstruction and development efforts.

The agreements for the new school projects were signed between Nepal's Central Level Project Implementation Unit Education under the Ministry of Education and Sports and Indian authorities. The initiative will cover eight districts that were among the worst affected during major earthquakes in recent years.

The schools are planned for Gorkha, Nuwakot, Dhading, Dolakha, Kathmandu, Kavrepalanchowk, Ramechhap and Sindhupalchok districts, all of which suffered extensive destruction during Nepal's devastating 2015 earthquake that claimed nearly 9,000 lives and damaged large parts of the



country's infrastructure.

According to the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, the schools will be built using earthquake resilient standards approved by the Government of Nepal. The projects will include modern academic blocks, furnished classrooms and separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls to improve educational infrastructure and student safety.

The initiative forms part of India's broader commitment to Nepal's post earthquake recovery programme. India has previously supported

several reconstruction projects across the Himalayan nation, including the rebuilding of schools, health facilities and cultural heritage sites damaged during the disaster.

In January 2024, India completed and handed over 70 schools and the Tribhuvan University Central Library in Kathmandu under its post earthquake reconstruction assistance programme.

Indian authorities said the latest initiative reflects the close partnership between the two countries and their ongoing

cooperation in areas of education, infrastructure and socio economic development. Officials also reiterated India's commitment to continue supporting Nepal's rebuilding process through long term development and reconstruction projects.

The new schools are expected to strengthen access to education in remote and disaster affected regions while also improving resilience against future natural calamities in one of the world's most earthquake prone regions.

## Air India, IndiGo To Scale Back Flights As West Asia Crisis Drives Fuel Prices Higher

■ Rising Aviation Fuel Costs Force Major Indian Carriers To Reduce Domestic Operations From June

**New Delhi:** India's leading airlines, Air India and IndiGo, are set to reduce domestic flight operations beginning June 1 as soaring aviation fuel prices triggered by the escalating crisis in West Asia sharply increase operational costs across the aviation sector.

The two airlines together account for nearly 90 percent of India's domestic aviation market, making the planned reduction in services significant for passengers and the broader travel industry. Reports indicate that Air India may cut up to 22 percent of its domestic operations, while IndiGo is expected to scale down between 5 and 7 percent of its services on selected routes.

The decision comes amid a steep rise in Aviation Turbine Fuel prices, which airlines say has made several routes financially unsustainable. Industry officials believe carriers have limited room to increase ticket prices further, as higher fares could impact passenger demand in an already competitive market.

The sharp increase in fuel prices has been linked to the ongoing tensions involving Iran and the United States,

which disrupted crude oil movement through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. The waterway is one of the world's most critical shipping routes for crude oil and natural gas supplies, and concerns over supply disruptions have pushed global oil prices upward.

As crude prices surged, Indian oil marketing companies reportedly increased ATF prices to offset mounting losses. Aviation fuel now reportedly costs over Rs 1 lakh per kilolitre, compared to around Rs 80,000 earlier, sharply increasing the burden on airlines.

Industry estimates suggest fuel accounts for more than half of an airline's operational expenses.

The Federation of Indian Airlines, representing Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet, had earlier urged the Civil Aviation Ministry to provide urgent support to manage ATF pricing volatility.

Airlines have warned that continued unpredictability in fuel costs could impact both domestic and international operations, with carriers increasingly forced to reassess flight schedules and route profitability in the face of mounting financial pressure.



## GANG VIOLENCE ROCKS FATORDA

examining the sequence of events leading up to the alleged assault, including the background of previous enmity cited in the complaint. Further procedural steps, including possible questioning of the accused and verification of eyewitness accounts, are expected as part of the ongoing probe. The incident has once again brought attention to concerns regarding late-night and early-morning altercations in public spaces around Fatorda and Margao, particularly in areas near transport hubs where movement of youths is often reported during odd hours.

Authorities have assured that the matter is being investigated with due seriousness given that a minor has been involved. Further action will depend on the findings of the investigation.

## Tourist-Driven Thar Crashes Into Scooter In Siolim; One Killed, Child Critically Injured

shifted the injured to a nearby medical facility. However, Dabolkar later succumbed to his injuries.

Police have detained the tourist who was allegedly driving the vehicle. Sources said a breathalyser test conducted after the accident reportedly indicated alcohol levels above the permissible legal limit, though official confirmation from authorities is still awaited.

The incident has once again sparked concerns among residents over reckless driving by tourists and the alleged illegal operation of private vehicles as rent-a-cars in Goa.

Locals and road safety activists have repeatedly highlighted the rise in accidents linked to rash driving, drunk

driving and unauthorised vehicle rental activities across the state.

Police have launched a further investigation into the case.

## TTAG Urges Goa Govt To Avoid December 2026 Polls, Cites Tourism Impact

that it could severely impact the state's tourism-driven economy.

In a representation addressed to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, TTAG President Jack Sukhija stated that December is the most crucial period for Goa's tourism sector, with Christmas and New Year festivities attracting thousands of domestic and international visitors.

According to the association, revenues generated during this period account for nearly 12 to 20 per cent of the tourism sector's annual earnings.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

# “No Interest In National Politics”: Siddaramaiah Rejects Rajya Sabha Move After Resigning As Karnataka CM

■ Congress Veteran Chooses To Remain Active In State Politics As DK Shivakumar Takes Over Leadership

**New Delhi:** Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Thursday ruled out any move to national politics shortly after stepping down as Chief Minister of Karnataka, making it clear that he intends to remain active in state politics rather than shift to the Rajya Sabha. Speaking hours after handing over leadership to deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah revealed that the Congress high command had suggested



he move to the Rajya Sabha, but he declined the proposal. “The high command told me to go to Rajya Sabha, but I said no. I have no interest in national politics. I will

continue in active politics,” the veteran leader said before leaving for Delhi.

Earlier in the day, Siddaramaiah informed senior ministers and party leaders during a breakfast

meeting that the Congress leadership had decided to appoint Shivakumar as the next chief minister and that he had agreed to the transition. The leadership change comes after months of internal power struggles within the state Congress unit. Over the past year, Shivakumar’s supporters had repeatedly pushed for a change in leadership, while Siddaramaiah retained control of the government with the backing of the party’s central leadership.



## Security Forces Intensify Rajouri Operation As Terrorists Remain Trapped In Forest Hideouts

■ Troops Use RPG Fire And Drone Surveillance During Sixth Day Of Operation Sheruwali In Jammu And Kashmir

**New Delhi:** Security forces on Thursday intensified anti terrorism operations in the dense forest region of Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir as Operation Sheruwali entered its sixth day, with troops launching fresh attacks on suspected terrorist hideouts in the Dorimal Gambhir Moghla belt.

The renewed action came after drone surveillance over the past few days detected the movement of two to three Pakistani terrorists deep inside the heavily forested terrain. Officials believe one of them is a senior commander who has been evading security forces since the operation began earlier this week. Acting on the latest intelligence

inputs, troops fired multiple rocket propelled grenades toward suspected hideouts where the terrorists are believed to be sheltering.

The strikes sent thick plumes of smoke rising from the dense foliage, suggesting that the projectiles hit the intended targets inside the rugged forest zone.

Security officials said the firing was aimed at forcing the terrorists to reveal their exact positions while minimising risks to troops operating in difficult terrain. Forces have avoided direct close range engagement due to the challenging geography and thick vegetation surrounding the area.



## “Bengal Handed Over 600 Hectares In Seven Days”: Amit Shah Highlights Border Push

**New Delhi:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the newly formed BJP government in West Bengal had transferred 600 hectares of land to the Border Security Force within just seven days of assuming office, paving the way for the construction of fencing along the India Bangladesh border.

Addressing a gathering in Gandhinagar, Shah described the move as a major step toward strengthening border security and fulfilling a key promise made by the Bharatiya Janata Party during the state elections. He stated that the land would be used to accelerate fencing work aimed at curbing infiltration and improving surveillance along sensitive stretches of the border. The Home Minister also announced that the state government had handed over an additional 121 hectares of land in the strategically important Chicken’s Neck corridor to the Centre.

## “No Double Standards On Terrorism”: Ajit Doval Pushes For Unified Global Action At

■ NSA Highlights Pahalgam Attack, Strengthens India Russia Security Cooperation Amid Rising Global Tensions

**New Delhi:** India’s National Security Advisor Ajit Doval strongly raised the issue of terrorism at a major international security gathering in Moscow, using the recent Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir to underline the urgent need for a united global response against extremist violence.

Addressing the first International Security



Forum and the 14th Meeting of High Representatives for Security Matters, Doval said terrorism continues to pose one of the gravest threats to international

peace and stability. The conference, hosted by Russia’s Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu, brought together senior security officials from several nations to discuss emerging geopolitical and security challenges in a rapidly evolving multipolar world.

## “1,000 Individuals Ready”: Alleged Lawrence Bishnoi Gang Letter Raises Alarm In Canada

■ Investigators Describe Expanding Extortion Network During Deportation Hearing In British Columbia

**Team Goemkarponn**

**New Delhi:** A reported letter allegedly linked to the gang of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi has intensified concerns among Canadian authorities over organised extortion networks operating across the country, with investigators claiming the group has access to



a large network of armed operatives. According to reports emerging from a deportation hearing before Canada’s Immigration and

Refugee Board, police investigators testified about a communication received by the Abbotsford Police Department in August 2025. The alleged letter reportedly described the structure of the criminal network and claimed the organisation had more than 1,000 individuals prepared to carry out shootings connected to extortion

activities.

Investigators said the message also referred to businesses needing to pay “tax,” which authorities interpreted as coded language for extortion payments. Police officials confirmed the department had received the communication and shared its contents with agencies involved in tackling organised

extortion cases across Canada.

The testimony reportedly surfaced during proceedings involving Jashandeep Singh, who has been accused of links to an Edmonton based extortion network allegedly connected to shootings in Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario.

# Gujarat Titans, Rajasthan Royals Battle For IPL 2026 Final Spot In High Stakes Qualifier

■ Shubman Gill And Riyan Parag Lead Former Champions Into Knockout Clash At Mullanpur

**New Delhi:** Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals are set for a blockbuster showdown in Qualifier 2 of the Indian Premier League 2026 season on Friday in New Chandigarh, with a place in the final against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at stake.

The knockout clash will be played at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket



Stadium, where the winner will advance to Sunday's final at the Narendra Modi

Stadium in Ahmedabad. The losing side will see its campaign come to an end.

Gujarat Titans, led by Shubman Gill, enter the contest looking to recover from a crushing 92 run defeat against Royal Challengers

Bengaluru in Qualifier 1. Rajasthan Royals, captained by Riyan Parag, arrive with strong momentum after defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad by 47 runs in the Eliminator.

Much of the spotlight will once again be on 15 year old sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who produced a breathtaking innings of 97 runs from just 29 balls in the previous match.



## Nipam Scripts History With 100m Bronze At U20 Asian Athletics Championships

■ Young Indian Sprinter Shines On International Debut As Relay Medal Hopes Stay Alive

**New Delhi:** Indian sprinter Nipam produced a memorable performance on her international debut by winning the bronze medal in the women's 100m event on the opening day of the Asian U20 Athletics Championships on Thursday.

The 18 year old athlete from Uttar Pradesh overcame a slow start off the blocks before finishing strongly to clock 11.62 seconds and secure India's first sprint medal of the competition. Nipam already holds the national under 20 record in the women's 100m with a personal best of 11.53 seconds achieved

earlier this year at a domestic meet.

The gold medal was won by Dana Noor Salem of Qatar, who clocked 11.47 seconds, while China's Xinxuan Chen claimed silver in 11.54 seconds.

Nipam's campaign at the championship is not over yet, with the young sprinter also set to feature in India's 4x100m relay team. India will be hoping her strong form carries into the relay competition over the remaining days of the tournament. In other events, India narrowly missed another podium finish in the men's 3000m as Vikas Kumar finished fourth with a personal best timing of 8:24.88.



## Magnus Carlsen Outclasses D Gukesh As Praggnanandhaa Climbs In Norway Chess

**Team Goemkarponn**

**New Delhi:** World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen bounced back in commanding fashion at the Norway Chess tournament with a dominant victory over reigning world champion D Gukesh, pushing the young Indian to the bottom of the standings after four rounds.

Carlsen, who had struggled during the opening rounds of the tournament, secured a crucial win with the black pieces to climb to fourth place with 4.5 points. In contrast, Gukesh dropped to last position on 3.5 points, continuing a difficult campaign ahead of his world title defence later this year against challenger Javokhir Sindarov.

The Norwegian grandmaster appeared far more composed compared to last year's emotionally charged encounter against Gukesh. This time, Carlsen steadily built his advantage before clinically converting the position into victory.

## Nitin Gupta Marches To Historic Gold At U20 Asian Athletics Championships

■ India Opens Gold Medal Account As Sadhna Ravi Adds Silver In Women's Triple Jump

**Goemkarponn desk**

**New Delhi:** India celebrated a breakthrough moment at the Asian U20 Athletics Championships on Friday as Nitin Gupta clinched the country's first gold medal of the tournament by winning the men's 5000m race walk event.

The 18 year old delivered an impressive performance, finishing first with a timing of 19:47.49 to secure the top spot on



the podium. Sheng-qin Lo of Chinese Taipei claimed silver in 19:56.17, while Japan's Chihiro Obata took bronze with a timing of 20:06.73.

Nitin's victory marked a significant comeback after recent disappointment at

the National Senior Athletics Federation competition, where he had initially produced a standout performance in the men's 10km race walk by defeating double Olympian Sandeep Kumar. However, he was later disqualified following a protest over a rule violation related to receiving assistance during the race.

## Indian Surfing Eyes Asian Games Breakthrough As Mangalore Hosts National Showdown

■ Top Surfers Gather At Tannirbhavi Beach For High Stakes Indian Open Ahead Of Continental Debut

**Team Goemkarponn**

**New Delhi:** India's top surfers are set to converge at Blue Bay Tannirbhavi Eco Beach as the seventh edition of the NMPA Indian Open of Surfing 2026 begins from May 29 to 31, with the event carrying added significance ahead of surfing's debut at the upcoming Aichi Nagoya Asian Games.

The championship is expected to feature



more than 80 athletes from states including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Telangana and Andhra

Pradesh. Competitions will be held across multiple divisions, including Men's Open, Women's Open,

Under 18 and Under 14 categories for boys and girls. Organised by the Surfing Federation of India along with Mantra Surf Club and Surfing Swami Foundation, the tournament has grown into one of the country's premier surfing events. This year's competition is expected to play a major role in shaping India's squad for the Asian Games, significantly increasing the stakes for athletes aiming to secure

selection.

Much of the spotlight will fall on leading contenders such as Ramesh Budihal, who recently made history by becoming the first Indian surfer to reach the Open Men's final at the Asian Surfing Championships in Mahabalipuram before claiming a bronze medal. His recent performances have positioned him among the strongest favourites entering the event.