



Goa Can Be Model for Inclusive Coastal Growth, Says Vice President

■ Radhakrishnan highlights state's cultural legacy, blue economy potential and pluralistic ethos



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan today said Goa has the potential to emerge as a national benchmark for sustainable coastal development, while emphasising that economic progress must reach every section of society.

Addressing a gathering in Goa, the Vice President underscored the growing importance of the blue economy and noted that increasing fish consumption is contributing to the sector's steady expansion. He said the coastal state's unique geographical advantages, coupled with its maritime heritage, place it in a strong position to lead the country in sustainable development initiatives linked to the ocean economy.

"Development should not be confined to a few.

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Goa's Transformation Powered by Modi's Vision, Says CM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for accelerating Goa's infrastructure development and enabling the implementation of several major projects



across the state.

Speaking at a public function, Sawant said Goa has witnessed significant progress in

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Goa Can Become Model State for Sustainable, Inclusive Growth: Governor

■ Youth will be key drivers of progress as India advances towards Vision 2047, says Puspapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Governor Puspapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju has said that Goa is well positioned to emerge as a model state for sustainable and inclusive development as India



progresses towards its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

GOA STATEHOOD DAY

40TH STATEHOOD DAY

COMMEMORATION

in the presence of

Shri. C. P. Radhakrishnan
Hon'ble Vice President of India

Shri Puspapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju
Hon'ble Governor of Goa

Dr. Pramod Sawant
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Goa proudly celebrates the 40th year of the historic occasion of attaining Statehood and becoming the 25th State of the Indian Union.

📍 Kala Academy, Campal, Panaji **📅 Saturday, 30th May 2026 | 10.00 a.m.**

Highlights of the Programme

- Inauguration of Mario Miranda's Exhibition along with the release of a Commemorative Stamp & Special Cover
- Presentation of Awards to distinguished dignitaries for their contribution to society
- Distribution of Appointment Letters to Police Sub-Inspectors from the Goa Police Department
- Launch of Enhanced Assistance under DDSSY strengthening healthcare support for the people of Goa
- Felicitation under the Gopal Ratna Award Scheme honouring eminent personalities in the field of Dairy Farming
- Felicitation of Swayampurna Mitra and Swayampurna Village for their exemplary performance

Let us come together to celebrate
Goa's development, achievements and progressive spirit.

Statehood and the Goa Story: Progress Achieved, Promise Ahead

Goa's journey since attaining statehood on May 30, 1987, has been one of remarkable transformation. Over the past 38 years, the state has evolved from a small coastal territory into one of India's most prosperous and admired regions. Its success story is reflected not only in economic growth but also in the quality of life enjoyed by its people.

Statehood gave Goa the opportunity to shape its own destiny. Decisions on development, education, healthcare and infrastructure could be made with greater sensitivity to local needs and aspirations. The result has been steady progress across multiple sectors.

Education remains one of Goa's greatest achievements. The state consistently ranks among the top performers in literacy and educational attainment. Schools, colleges and professional institutions have produced generations of skilled professionals who have excelled across the country and abroad. A well educated population has been one of the strongest foundations of Goa's development.

Healthcare has witnessed similar progress. Public health facilities have expanded, and access to medical services has improved significantly. Goa's health indicators compare favourably with many other states. The state's healthcare system, while not without challenges, has largely succeeded in ensuring quality medical care reaches both urban and rural communities.

Infrastructure development has transformed daily life. Modern roads, bridges, airports, ports, electricity networks and digital connectivity have connected communities and facilitated economic activity. The construction of major bridges across rivers and improved transportation networks has reduced travel times and enhanced mobility. Today's Goa is far more connected than it was at the time of statehood.

Tourism has emerged as the backbone of the economy. What began as a modest industry has grown into a globally recognised brand. Goa attracts millions of visitors annually, generating employment and supporting thousands of families. Tourism has created opportunities in hospitality, transport, retail, entertainment and

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Infrastructure development has transformed daily life. Modern roads, bridges, airports, ports, electricity networks and digital connectivity have connected communities and facilitated economic activity. “

numerous allied sectors.

The state's economy has also diversified. Goa has established itself as a hub for pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, shipbuilding, information technology and services. Industrial estates and business parks have created jobs while contributing significantly to state revenues. The rise of knowledge based industries demonstrates Goa's ability to adapt to changing economic realities.

Equally important has been the preservation of Goa's unique cultural identity. Despite rapid modernisation, the state continues to celebrate its rich traditions, festivals, music, cuisine and heritage. The coexistence of development and cultural preservation remains one of Goa's most distinctive strengths.

Yet statehood is not only an occasion to celebrate achievements. It is also an opportunity to reflect on what lies ahead.

The next phase of Goa's development must focus on sustainability. Economic growth cannot come at the cost of environmental degradation. The protection of rivers, forests, wetlands and coastal ecosystems must remain a priority. Goa's natural beauty is one of its greatest assets and preserving it is essential for future generations.

Infrastructure expansion must continue, but with better planning. Traffic congestion in urban centres, parking shortages and pressure on public transport require long term solutions. Investments in modern public transportation and smart urban planning will improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Goa must also create greater employment opportunities for its youth. While many young Goans excel professionally, a significant number still migrate in search of better career prospects. Encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship, technology driven industries and skill development programmes can help retain talent within the state. Affordable housing deserves greater attention. Rising property prices have made home ownership increasingly difficult for many local families. Policies that balance development with the needs of residents will be critical in the years ahead.

The state must also continue investing in education and healthcare to meet future demands. The digital economy, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are reshaping the global workplace. Goa's educational institutions must prepare students for these new realities.

As Goa celebrates another Statehood Day, there is much to be proud of. The state has achieved significant progress in education, healthcare, infrastructure, tourism and economic development. At the same time, the future calls for thoughtful planning, environmental stewardship and inclusive growth.

The story of Goa since statehood is a success story. The challenge now is to ensure that the next chapter is even more prosperous, sustainable and equitable than the

LETTER TO THE EDITOR A Wake-Up Call for Goa

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw the attention of the government and the public towards the growing problems affecting Goa's image and the safety of its residents and visitors.

Goa's roads, especially in village areas, were never designed to handle the increasing number of rental cars and tourist vehicles. Many roads are narrow, congested and lack proper traffic management. A serious concern is the rise in incidents involving tourists who indulge in drinking and driving. Such irresponsible behaviour endangers not only tourists but also local residents. Strict enforcement of traffic laws is essential, and the message must be clear that drinking and driving is unacceptable for everyone, including locals. The taxi sector also requires urgent reforms. Tourists often complain about transport difficulties, while motorcycle taxi services need modernization and better regulation. Road safety measures, proper signage and stronger law enforcement are necessary to prevent accidents and ensure a safe travel experience.

Another issue is the declining cleanliness of many public places. Littering has become common, damaging Goa's natural beauty. Maintaining cleanliness is not solely the government's responsibility. Every citizen must contribute towards keeping Goa clean and attractive. It is disappointing that infrastructure work often becomes visible only during election periods. Goa deserves year-round planning and governance, not temporary solutions. The government, elected representatives and citizens must work together to restore safety, cleanliness and confidence in Goa's tourism sector.

- Sebastian D'Souza, Mapusa, Goa

Why is the Goa Electricity Department forcing Smart Meters on us?

Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar recently clarified in Parliament (Lok Sabha) that installing pre-paid smart meters is optional and strictly based on consumer choice—it is not mandatory under the Electricity Act.

So, why is Goa's Chief Electrical Engineer, Stephen Fernandes, pushing so aggressively to convince Goans to install them? This desperate campaign is highly questionable. Instead of forcing new meters on citizens, the department's absolute priority should be fixing the widespread, faulty, and inflated bills that consumers are currently suffering from.

Exposing the Flawed Logic:

In the attached video, Chief Engineer Stephen Fernandes claims they need smart meters to conduct studies. He argues they need slot-wise data (across 96 time blocks a day) to see exactly which areas are consuming more power, why they are consuming it, and whether the spike is momentary, temporary, or permanent. He claims they need this data just to arrange power supply.

However, he seems to have forgotten a major fact: Former Power Minister Aleixo Sequeira had installed massive meters along the roads specifically to track these exact details!

- What happened to all that data?
- What happened to those expensive roadside meters?
- Why is the Chief Engineer completely silent on them?
- Why waste public money on a new smart meter rollout when the infrastructure to capture this data already exists?

My Personal Experience: I have already taken up my own inflated billing issues with the department, and they have requested 10 to 15 days to respond. Fortunately, the Assistant Engineers have agreed to arrange a joint meeting for me with the Executive Engineer (EE) and Superintending Engineer (SE) to resolve the matter.

Let's see what actually comes out of the electricity department!

- Uday Barad

Two Held For Alleged Illegal Bull Slaughter In Seraulim

■ Police register case under BNS and Goa Animal Preservation Act; investigation underway

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Colva police have arrested two men for allegedly slaughtering a bull unlawfully at Per-Seraulim in Salcete.

According to police sources, the action followed specific information received by a patrol team regarding suspected illegal animal slaughter activity near a cowshed in the area. Acting swiftly on the tip-off, police personnel visited the location and



reportedly found two individuals engaged in the act.

The accused have been identified as 35-year-old Dadapeer K. Kalaigar, currently residing at Succorbhat in Salcete and originally

from Karnataka, and 20-year-old Mahmad Ummer Tarin, a resident of Ponda

who also hails from Karnataka.

Both suspects were taken into custody at the site. Police subsequently carried out a spot inspection and attachment panchanama in the presence of

independent witnesses. Veterinary officials were also called to examine the animal carcass and assist in the investigation.

Following the incident, Colva police registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, along with Section 8 of the Goa Animal Preservation Act, 1995.

Police said further inquiries are underway to ascertain all aspects of the case.



Ayurveda, Homeopathy Colleges To Get Enhanced Financial Support

■ New state scheme offers maintenance aid, service reimbursements and equipment grants from 2025-26

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has rolled out a fresh financial assistance framework for aided institutions offering Ayurveda and Homeopathy courses, enabling them to access substantial grants for operational expenses, outsourced services and academic infrastructure beginning in the 2025-26 financial year.

According to a notification issued by the state government, colleges with student strength of up to 500 will be entitled to annual maintenance assistance of up to ₹34.50 lakh. Institutions enrolling between 501 and 1,000 students can avail themselves of maintenance grants reaching ₹46 lakh per year.

Apart from maintenance support, the scheme provides reimbursement for expenses incurred on outsourced and other support services. Colleges in the lower student category can claim up to ₹15 lakh under this component, while those with 501 to 1,000 students will be eligible for reimbursement of up to ₹17.50 lakh.

The assistance package also covers expenditure on curriculum-related equipment required for academic departments. Eligible colleges can seek reimbursement of up to ₹20 lakh towards procurement, maintenance and repair of such equipment. Expenditure on repairs will be admissible up to 10 per cent of the sanctioned limit.



Court Acquits Vasco Man In 2014 Police Custody Escape Case

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA : The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Mapusa, has acquitted a Vasco resident accused of attempting to escape from police custody more than a decade ago, holding that the prosecution failed to establish any deliberate intention on the part of the accused to evade lawful detention. The case stemmed from an incident at Anjuna Police Station on the night of November 6, 2014.

The accused, Mazar Shaikh, also known by other names including Manzur and Mansor Shaikh, was in police custody and was being taken for a medical examination when an altercation allegedly took place. According to the prosecution, Shaikh pushed a police constable, broke away from the escorting officers and struck his head against a glass door frame, allegedly as part of an effort to escape.

High Court Grants Bail To Murder Accused Over Trial Delay

■ Four years in custody and slow progress in case prompt relief under right to speedy trial

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court has granted bail to a Bardez resident facing murder charges, holding that his continued incarceration for nearly four years without significant progress in the trial amounted to a violation of his constitutional right to a speedy trial.

Nitin Dina Gadekar, a resident of Baga, was arrested by Calangute police in November 2021 in connection with



the alleged murder of 57-year-old Joseph Fernandes. Besides the murder charge, he is also facing allegations related to causing hurt, criminal intimidation and intentional insult.

Seeking his release, defence counsels Adv. Rohan Desai and Adv.

Arya Parrikar contended that the trial had moved at an unreasonably slow pace. They informed the court that only nine of the 29 prosecution witnesses listed in the chargesheet had been examined so far, despite the passage of several years.

The defence further highlighted that two key prosecution witnesses, considered crucial to the case, had remained unavailable despite repeated attempts by the court to secure their presence.

President, PM, Rahul Extend Goa Statehood Day Greetings

■ Leaders hail Goa's cultural heritage, development journey and contribution to Viksit Bharat

Team Goemkarponn

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

Panaji, May 30: President of India Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi



and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi extended warm greetings to the people of Goa on the occasion of the state's 39th Statehood Day, praising its rich cultural

legacy, natural beauty and developmental achievements. In her message, President Droupadi Murmu said Goa is renowned not only for its vibrant cultural heritage and warm hospitality but also for its significant progress in education, technology, startups and sustainable development. She expressed confidence that the state's commitment to

innovation, environmental conservation and inclusive growth would enable it to play a vital role in the vision of a "Viksit Bharat".

The President wished the people of Goa continued prosperity and happiness. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his greetings, described Goa as a state known for its vibrant culture, rich heritage, scenic beauty and warm-hearted people.

He said Goa Statehood Day is an occasion to remember with gratitude all those who worked tirelessly for the state's progress and identity. The Prime Minister expressed hope that Goa would continue to prosper and contribute meaningfully towards building a developed India, while wishing good health and prosperity to every Goan.

Retired PSI Duped of ₹10 Lakh in 'Cash-for-Jobs' Scam

Two More Booked by Ponda Police for Allegedly Promising PSI Post to Victim's Son

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Ponda Police have registered a fresh case in the alleged 'Cash-for-Jobs' scam, booking two more individuals for allegedly cheating a retired Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) of ₹10 lakh on the promise of securing a PSI job for his son.

The accused have been identified as Rupesh Sakhalkar, a resident of Khandepar in Ponda,



and Tommy Miranda, a resident of Aldona in Bardez.

According to police

sources, the complainant, a retired PSI, alleged that the duo had assured him that they could arrange a PSI post for his son and, based on this assurance, accepted ₹10 lakh in cash. However, the promised job never materialised, prompting the victim to approach the police.

Following a preliminary inquiry, Ponda Police registered a case against the two accused on charges of cheating. No

arrests have been made in the case so far.

The investigation is underway, and police are examining whether the accused may have targeted other job seekers using a similar modus operandi.

The latest case adds to the growing list of complaints linked to the alleged 'Cash-for-Jobs' racket, which has come under increased scrutiny in recent months.



Fifth Accused Arrested in Fatorda Gang Assault Case

Police Move Court to Cancel Bail of Three Accused Linked to Earlier Attempt-to-Murder Case

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Fatorda Police have arrested the fifth accused in the recent gang assault case registered at Fatorda Police Station. The accused, identified as Akshay Talwar (22), a resident of Talsanzor, Borda, Salcete, was apprehended on charges registered under Sections 191(2), 115(2), 118(1) read with Section 190 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act.

According to police, Akshay Talwar had been absconding since the registration of the case and was arrested at Fatorda Police Station during the course of the investigation.

Investigators revealed

that Akshay Talwar, along with co-accused Prakash Velma and Sunil Bilwar, had previously been arrested in the high-profile Mungul attempt-to-murder case. The trio is currently out on bail in that matter.

In view of their alleged involvement in the latest assault case, Fatorda Police have initiated legal proceedings seeking cancellation of their bail in the Mungul attempt-to-murder case. An application has been moved before the District and Sessions Court, Margao, requesting the court to revoke the bail granted to the three accused. Police said further investigation into the assault case is in progress and efforts are underway to complete all legal formalities related to the matter.

Divya Kumar

I hereby tender my resignation from the post of SM Chairman with immediate effect due to personal reasons.

I am grateful for the opportunity given to me to serve in this role and work alongside the team. I sincerely thank everyone for their support and cooperation during my tenure.

Shamila Siddiqui

Goa Congress has already witnessed two major defections, yet the leadership seems least concerned about the sentiments of grassroots workers and supporters.

Congress Faces Fresh Turmoil as Social Media Team Members Quit After Leadership Change

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Internal unrest appears to be brewing within the Goa Congress following the appointment of former GPCC president Girish Chodankar as the new Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) chief, with members of the party's social media team announcing their resignations and publicly expressing dissatisfaction over the leadership change.

Social Media Chairman Divyakumar tendered his resignation with immediate effect, citing personal reasons. In a public statement, he thanked the party leadership and colleagues for the opportunity to serve and for their support during his tenure.

Meanwhile, State Social Media Coordinator Shamila Siddiqui announced her resignation while sharply criticising the party's decision-making process.

Gold Jewellery Worth ₹13 Lakh Stolen from Tourist at Cavelossim Resort

Three Booked After Woman Allegedly Forgets Ornaments in Hotel Room During Checkout

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO : Colva Police have registered a theft case involving gold jewellery worth approximately ₹13 lakh that allegedly went missing from a hotel room at a luxury resort in Cavelossim.

According to the complaint lodged by Rajyesh Kumar Patni, a resident of New Delhi, the incident occurred on May



11, 2026, at around 11.30 am at the Radisson Blu Resort, Cavelossim.

Police said the complainant's wife had inadvertently left behind gold ornaments weighing around 80 to 90 grams in the hotel room while checking out of the

resort. The jewellery, valued at approximately ₹13 lakh, was later found missing.

Based on the complaint and subsequent inquiry, police have booked three accused persons identified as Sankar Bordoloi of Nagaon, Assam; Viresh Basarkod of Cansaulim, Mormugao, originally from Karnataka; and Parveen Ghadi of Khanapur, Belagavi.

Casino Chip Theft of ₹2 Lakh Reported at Porvorim Casino

Two Karnataka Men Booked for Allegedly Stealing Gaming Chips and Fleeing Premises

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Porvorim Police have registered a theft case against two men from Karnataka for allegedly stealing casino chips worth ₹2 lakh from a gaming table at a casino operating in Porvorim.

According to police, the case was registered on Thursday following a complaint lodged by Rigved Amonkar,



Manager of Golden Peace Hotels and Resort Pvt. Ltd., Porvorim.

The complaint states that on May 24, 2026, at around 9 pm, the accused

— Hussen Jamakhandi (27), a resident of Yaragatti in Belagavi district, Karnataka, and Ashoka K. (26), a

resident of Davanagere, Karnataka — allegedly stole casino chips valued at ₹2 lakh from a gaming table at Majestic Paradise Casino, located

at Hotel Neo Majestic in Porvorim. Police said the duo allegedly acted with a common intention, took possession of the chips and fled the casino premises, causing a loss of ₹2 lakh to the establishment.

A case has been registered at Porvorim Police Station under Section 305 read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Minor Employee Reported Kidnapped Near Verna Industrial Area

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Verna Police have registered a kidnapping case following a complaint by a resident of Belagavi, Karnataka, alleging that his minor daughter was abducted by unknown persons near Birla Cross in Verna. According to the complaint, the incident occurred on May 18, 2026, before 11 am. The minor girl had reportedly come to Goa for work at Molbio Diagnostics Limited, located in Verna Industrial Estate.

Animal Husbandry Department Warns Against Illegal Transport and Slaughter of Animals

Public Urged to Report Animal Cruelty; Violators Face Legal Action

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services has reiterated strict enforcement of animal welfare laws and warned that illegal transportation and slaughter of animals are punishable offences under existing legislation.

In a public advisory issued in compliance with



directions from the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), the department stressed adherence to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the

Transport of Animals Rules, 1978, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001.

The department clarified that transportation of animals by road or rail must strictly comply with Rule 96 of the Transport

of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001, along with other applicable provisions of the Transport of Animals Rules, 1978, as amended from time to time. Officials stated that certificates required for transportation of animals are issued only by authorised officers of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.



Goa Makes Registration Mandatory for Drinking Water Tankers

Government Frames New Guidelines to Ensure Safe Supply of Potable Water

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Department of Drinking Water has announced that all water tankers supplying potable water for drinking purposes in Goa will now be required to register mandatorily with the department.

The decision has been taken by the Government to regulate the supply of drinking water and ensure that water transported through tankers meets prescribed safety and hygiene standards.

As part of the newly framed guidelines, every water tanker operator seeking registration must obtain a certificate from the Directorate of Transport certifying that the tanker body used for transporting potable water is fitted with internal stainless-steel linings and complies with all other mandatory technical

requirements.

The notification further specifies that the body of the tanker must be painted blue and prominently display the required details and QR Code as prescribed by the department in the annexure accompanying the guidelines.

Officials said the move aims to improve monitoring of potable water transportation, enhance transparency and enable consumers and authorities to verify the authenticity and compliance status of water tankers through the QR code system.

The Department of Drinking Water is expected to issue additional operational and compliance requirements as part of the registration process to ensure the safe and hygienic delivery of drinking water across the state.

Goa Celebrates 39th Statehood Day; Governor and CM Call for Visionary Growth

Leaders Urge Youth Empowerment, Sustainable Development and Preservation of Goa's Identity

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: On the occasion of Goa Statehood Day, Governor P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant extended greetings to Goans across the state and around the world, calling for collective efforts to build a progressive, sustainable and future-ready Goa. In his Statehood Day message, Governor P.



Ashok Gajapathi Raju described the occasion as a celebration of Goa's spirit, identity and democratic journey. He

said Goa's attainment of statehood on May 30, 1987, marked a historic milestone that reflected the vision and determination of generations who safeguarded the state's unique cultural heritage while embracing progress. The Governor highlighted Goa's achievements in literacy, social development, communal harmony and peaceful coexistence.

Konkan Railway Nets ₹2.9 Crore in April Ticket Checking Drive

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Konkan Railway has intensified its ticket-checking operations, detecting more than 37,000 cases of unauthorized and irregular travel during April 2026 and recovering nearly ₹2.9 crore in fares and penalties. According to a press release issued by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, a total of 934 ticket-checking drives were conducted during April alongside routine inspections.

Civic Body Accused of Singling Out Cuncolim Trader

Local Group Alleges Selective Enforcement, Seeks Equal Treatment for Businesses

Team Goemkarponn

CUNCOLIM: A local citizens' group has accused the Cuncolim Municipal Council of unfairly targeting a local trader, alleging that civic authorities have adopted a selective approach in enforcing regulations.

Addressing the media, members of the group claimed that action initiated against the businessman appeared disproportionate and raised concerns over what they described as



unequal treatment of commercial establishments in the town. They questioned why similar action had not been taken against other entities facing comparable issues.

The group maintained that municipal authorities must act impartially and ensure that all businesses are subjected to the same standards and procedures.

Team Goemkarponn

HOLLANT: Employees and staff of Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) joined hands for a major cleanliness drive at Hollant Beach on Saturday, cleaning the popular tourist destination and surrounding areas.

The drive was led by PPL Chief Manufacturing Officer Suresh Pramanik along with company staff, who collected litter and cleaned the entire beach stretch as well as nearby public spaces.



Hollant Beach, regarded as one of South Goa's most scenic coastal spots and a favourite picnic destination, witnesses a large influx of visitors throughout the year.

Speaking on the occasion, company

representatives appealed to visitors to help maintain the beach's cleanliness by avoiding littering and carrying back their garbage after picnics and outings. They stressed that public participation is essential to preserve the

natural beauty of the area. PPL also assured that it would take further measures to improve cleanliness at the beach, including the installation of dustbins and other facilities aimed at preventing littering and ensuring proper waste disposal. Velsao Deputy Sarpanch Kishan Sankolkar was present during the cleanliness drive and appreciated the initiative undertaken by the company and its employees towards protecting the coastal environment.

US Clarifies Green Card Policy After Confusion Over 'Return Home' Requirement

■ Department of Homeland Security says most applicants can remain in the United States while permanent residency cases are processed

Team Goemkarponn

Washington: The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has clarified that immigrants applying for permanent residency will generally not be required to leave the country while their green card applications are under review, easing concerns sparked by a recent policy memorandum.

The clarification follows widespread uncertainty after a guidance document issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services on May 21 appeared to suggest that applicants might need to return to their home countries and complete the process from abroad unless they qualified for exceptional circumstances.

The memorandum emphasised that permanent residency is a discretionary immigration benefit rather than an automatic right, prompting concern among foreign workers, students, visitors and immigrant



communities across the United States.

In response, the Department of Homeland Security stated that there has been no broad change in policy. Officials explained that immigration officers have always possessed the authority to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether an individual should complete the green card process outside the country.

According to the department, the recent guidance was intended only as a reminder of existing discretionary powers available to immigration officers and was not designed to impose a blanket requirement on applicants.

DHS further stressed that the overwhelming majority of people seeking permanent residency through the adjustment of status process will continue to be permitted to remain in the United States while their applications are being considered.

Officials noted that certain factors, including immigration violations such as visa overstays or other compliance concerns, may influence individual decisions. However, the government has not released detailed criteria outlining how such determinations will be made. The clarification has helped ease concerns among immigration advocates and foreign

professionals who feared that the earlier memo signalled a significant tightening of residency rules. Authorities have also pointed to exceptions involving economic benefits and national interest considerations, providing additional flexibility in specific cases.

The United States issued approximately 1.4 million green cards in 2024, including around 820,000 through the adjustment of status pathway, which allows eligible individuals already residing in the country to apply for permanent residency without leaving. Many of these applicants qualify through employment sponsorship or family-based immigration categories.

While the administration maintains that existing immigration laws remain unchanged, observers believe the updated guidance indicates closer scrutiny of some applications, particularly those involving temporary visa holders seeking permanent resident status.

Prabhav Naik Honours Opinion Poll Heroes on Goa Statehood Day

■ Families of Janmat Kaul stalwarts and cultural icons felicitated during Statehood Day celebrations

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Marking Goa Statehood Day and the 60th anniversary of the historic Opinion Poll (Janmat Kaul), youth leader Prabhav Naik paid tribute to several personalities whose contributions helped preserve Goa's unique identity, culture and heritage. During a felicitation programme organised as part of the celebrations, Naik honoured the legacy of Dr. Jack de Sequeira, regarded as the architect of the Opinion Poll movement. A memento was presented to his daughter, Bai Manuela Maria de Sequeira, in recognition of his leadership in safeguarding Goa's distinct identity during a crucial chapter in the State's history.

The contribution of Bab Shabudad Dessai was also remembered. His son, Vishal Dessai, received a memento acknowledging the impact of the iconic Jyot Yatra, which became a symbol of public mobilisation and awareness during the

Opinion Poll campaign.

Naik also paid homage to Bab Ulhas Buyao, popularly known as Goem Shaahir. A memento was presented to his wife, Bai Neela Buyao, recognising his role in inspiring the Janmat Kaul movement through music and cultural expression.

The programme further commemorated the birth centenary year of internationally renowned cartoonist Mario Miranda. His sister, Bai Fatima Miranda Figueiredo, was honoured on behalf of the family for his lasting contribution to art, culture and the global promotion of Goa through his celebrated illustrations.

Speaking on the occasion, Naik said Madganvcho Awaaz is observing "Asmitai Vars" to mark six decades of the historic Opinion Poll and celebrate the spirit of Goa's identity. He said the felicitation of these distinguished personalities and their families was a gesture of gratitude towards those who helped shape Goa's destiny and preserve its unique heritage for future generations.



Goa Can Be Model for Inclusive Coastal Growth, Says Vice President

True progress is achieved only when its benefits are shared by all sections of society," he said, stressing the need for inclusive growth alongside economic advancement.

Radhakrishnan also paid tribute to Goa's rich cultural and historical legacy, describing the state as much more than a tourist destination known for its scenic beaches and natural beauty.

He remarked that while Goa is often referred to as a small state, its significance lies in its cultural richness and civilisational depth. According to him, Goa represents a vibrant blend of traditions shaped by centuries of cultural interaction, intellectual openness, maritime trade and social harmony.

The Vice President said the state's ancient temples, iconic churches, music, literature and festivals reflect India's diverse and inclusive character. He further referred to Goa as the land of Parshuram, noting that the title is deeply embedded in the state's cultural and civilisational heritage.

Highlighting Goa's unique identity, Radhakrishnan said the state stands as a shining example of coexistence and pluralism, embodying values that have defined India for centuries.

Goa's Transformation Powered by Modi's Vision, Says CM

recent years due to the Centre's support and the Prime Minister's focus on long-term development. He noted that key infrastructure initiatives undertaken in the state are not merely aimed at addressing present needs

but are designed to benefit future generations.

"The development projects being executed today have been planned with a long-term vision and are expected to serve the people of Goa for the next 50 years," the Chief Minister said. Sawant highlighted the government's emphasis on creating modern infrastructure that strengthens connectivity, boosts economic growth and improves the quality of life for citizens. He said investments in roads, transportation, public facilities and other sectors are laying the foundation for sustained development. According to the Chief Minister, the state's progress is closely linked to the national development agenda being pursued under Modi's leadership. He added that Goa has benefited from several flagship initiatives and policy support from the Centre, enabling the state to undertake projects of strategic importance.

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“India Is Powerful And Modernising Its Military”: US Defence Chief Highlights Growing Strategic Role

■ Pete Hegseth praises India’s expanding military capabilities, industrial strength and defence cooperation with Washington at Shangri-La Dialogue

New Delhi: India is emerging as a major military power with rapidly advancing defence capabilities and a growing ability to sustain complex military operations, US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth said during the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Saturday.

Addressing delegates at the annual security forum, Hegseth described India as a powerful nation that is actively modernising its armed forces while strengthening



the industrial and logistical foundations needed to support advanced military operations. He noted that New Delhi is playing an

increasingly important role in maintaining regional stability, particularly across the Indian Ocean. The US defence

chief also highlighted expanding defence cooperation between the two countries, saying Washington remains committed to pursuing co-production initiatives with India to enhance military capabilities and deepen strategic collaboration. He noted that the United States is simultaneously working to strengthen its own defence manufacturing base as part of a broader effort to reinforce military preparedness.



“Zero Tolerance” Near Borders: Amit Shah’s Crackdown On Illegal Constructions Wins Support In Jammu Villages

■ Border residents say the move will help curb drug smuggling, infiltration networks and activities linked to anti-national elements

Jammu: Residents of villages located along the International Border in Jammu have welcomed Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s directive for strict action against illegal constructions near the country’s borders, describing it as a major step towards strengthening security and tackling cross-border crime.

The Home Minister has instructed authorities to adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards unauthorised structures within 15 kilometres of India’s international borders. Under the directive, all illegal constructions that have emerged over the years are to be identified and demolished.

People living in

border areas, who often work closely with security agencies by reporting suspicious activities, believe the crackdown will help dismantle networks involved in drug smuggling and infiltration. Many residents argue that illegal structures have frequently been misused by criminal groups and individuals linked to anti-national activities.

As part of the initiative, district administrations have been directed to closely monitor financial transactions, investigate the use of fake identity documents and examine funding sources behind large business establishments operating in border regions.

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar Takes Charge As Navy’s Second Highest Officer

New Delhi: Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar has assumed charge as the 48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, marking a new chapter in a distinguished naval career spanning more than three decades.

After taking over the appointment, the senior naval officer paid tribute to the nation’s fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial, honouring those who made the supreme sacrifice in service of the country.

“Iran Can Never Have A Nuclear Weapon”: Trump Leaves High Stakes Meeting Without Final Deal

■ US and Iran Remain Divided Over Nuclear Program, Frozen Assets and Strait of Hormuz as Ceasefire Tensions Persist

New Delhi: US President Donald Trump ended a two hour meeting in the White House Situation Room on Saturday without reaching a final decision on a potential agreement aimed at ending the conflict with Iran. While negotiations appear to be progressing, significant disagreements remain over Tehran’s nuclear activities, the release of frozen Iranian assets and the future of the Strait of



Hormuz. Following the meeting, the White House stated that any agreement must meet Washington’s core conditions, stressing that Iran would never be allowed to possess a nuclear weapon. Discussions reportedly

continue on several unresolved issues, including the possible unfreezing of Iranian funds.

Before the meeting, Trump had indicated he would make a final decision on the next phase of negotiations. He also claimed that Iran would remove mines allegedly placed in the Strait of Hormuz.

“Operation Sindoor Is Still On”: Army Chief Says Forces Ready For Any Future Escalation

■ General Upendra Dwivedi highlights tri service preparedness, battlefield transparency and the growing role of information warfare in modern conflicts.

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday said that Operation Sindoor remains active, with only a temporary cessation of hostilities currently in place. He stressed that the Indian armed forces continue to maintain a high level of operational



readiness and are fully prepared to respond to any future developments.

Addressing the passing out parade of the 150th

course at the National Defence Academy in Khadakwasla, the Army Chief said the military is already planning and preparing for future challenges. He noted that the Army, Navy and Air Force are working closely together to enhance joint operational capabilities and strengthen preparedness for evolving security threats.

General Dwivedi indicated that the armed forces are developing strategies and capabilities for potential future scenarios, referring to preparations that could support a possible “Operation Sindoor 2.0” if circumstances require such action. He said the focus remains on building stronger tri service coordination, improving

combat effectiveness and adapting to the changing nature of warfare.

The Army Chief also spoke about the transformation of modern battlefields, describing them as increasingly transparent due to advances in surveillance, intelligence gathering and monitoring technologies.



Karnataka Leadership Change Set In Motion As DK Shivakumar Poised To Take Charge

Bengaluru: The Congress is finalising a significant leadership transition in Karnataka, with Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar expected to be sworn in as the state’s next chief minister on June 3. The move comes as part of a broader organisational and governance overhaul being planned by the party leadership.

“Hopefully He Represents India Soon”: Riyan Parag Backs Vaibhav Sooryavanshi For National Call-Up

■ Rajasthan Royals captain says his young teammate has shown maturity beyond his years after a stunning 96 in IPL 2026 Qualifier 2

New Delhi: Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag has thrown his weight behind teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for a senior India debut, praising the youngster's remarkable batting intelligence following another standout performance in IPL 2026.

Although Rajasthan Royals' campaign ended with a defeat to the Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2, Sooryavanshi's explosive



96 off 47 balls once again grabbed the spotlight and strengthened calls for his inclusion in the national team setup. Parag said the 15-year-old's success

cannot be attributed merely to aggressive stroke play, highlighting his ability to read conditions, assess situations and construct an innings with maturity rarely

seen at such a young age. He expressed hope that the talented batter would soon represent India and continue bringing success both for the country and the Royals franchise.

The young opener has emerged as one of the biggest stories of the season, with several former cricketers already urging the selection committee led by Ajit Agarkar to consider him for a T20 International debut.



“Take The Occasion Out”: Shubman Gill Reveals Gujarat Titans' Winning Formula After Final Berth

■ Captain's brilliant century powers Gujarat Titans past Rajasthan Royals as defending champions RCB await in the IPL 2026 final

New Delhi: “Don't play the occasion, play good cricket” was the mantra that guided the Gujarat Titans into the IPL 2026 final, according to captain Shubman Gill after his match-winning century sealed a dominant seven-wicket victory over the Rajasthan Royals in Qualifier 2. Gill produced a captain's knock of 104 off just 53 deliveries, striking 15 boundaries and three sixes, as Gujarat comfortably chased down Rajasthan's challenging total of 214. His innings overshadowed another exceptional performance from teenage sensation

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who had earlier crafted a superb 96 to propel Rajasthan to a competitive score.

Reflecting on the victory, Gill said Gujarat's success stemmed from treating the match like any other game rather than becoming overwhelmed by the occasion. He explained that the team's focus remained on executing its skills and playing positive cricket regardless of the stakes involved. The Gujarat skipper also credited his highly successful opening partnership with Sai Sudharsan, who contributed 58 runs.



FIFA World Cup 2026 India Rights Near Finalisation As Zee Set For Major Sports Broadcast Coup

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Indian football fans are set to receive a major boost, with a deal for the broadcast rights of the 2026 FIFA World Cup reportedly nearing completion. Sources indicate that negotiations between FIFA and Zee Entertainment Enterprises are in the final stages, with an official announcement expected within the next couple of days. The agreement is understood to be valued between USD 30 million and USD 35 million and would grant Zee exclusive rights to televise and stream the tournament in India. The broadcaster is expected to air matches across its newly launched sports network while also making them available on its digital platform, ZEE5. The development follows unsuccessful negotiations between FIFA and Reliance Disney for the India rights package. Meanwhile, Sony Pictures Networks India reportedly explored the opportunity but did not submit a formal bid.

Satwik-Chirag, Dhruv-Tanisha March Into Singapore Open Semi-Finals; Sindhu And Lakshya Exit

■ India's doubles pairs keep the country's medal hopes alive after impressive quarterfinal victories, while PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen bow out of the Super 750 tournament

Goemkarponn desk

New Delhi: India's challenge at the Singapore Open Super 750 received a major boost as the men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, along with the mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, secured places in the semifinals on Friday. The fourth-seeded



Indian men's doubles pair fought back brilliantly after losing the opening game to defeat Malaysia's Khai Xing Kang and Aaron Tai 19-21, 21-17, 21-13 in a

hard-fought contest lasting over an hour. The victory keeps alive their hopes of adding another major title to their growing list of achievements.

Satwik and Chirag now face a stern challenge against top-seeded Korean world champions Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae, who advanced after defeating a Japanese pair in the quarterfinals.

WFI Relents After Standoff, Vinesh Phogat Cleared To Compete In 53kg Asian Games Trials

■ Federation reverses its earlier decision following protests, setting up a high-profile battle for an Asian Games berth

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Former world championship medallist Vinesh Phogat has been cleared to compete in the women's 53kg category at the Asian Games selection trials after the Wrestling Federation of India revised its initial decision restricting her to the 50kg division. The controversy unfolded during the official weigh-in on Saturday when Vinesh was informed

that she would only be allowed to participate in the 50kg category. Federation officials cited her recent appearances in that weight class, including at the Paris Olympics and other international competitions, as the basis for their decision. Vinesh strongly objected to the restriction, arguing

that she should be permitted to compete in the category of her choice. The disagreement escalated before intervention from Sanjay Singh, who ultimately approved her participation in the 53kg trials. Following the decision, Vinesh completed her weigh-in at 53.9

kilograms and was officially included in the 53kg draw, ending hours of uncertainty surrounding her participation. Her inclusion has set the stage for a highly competitive contest featuring established international wrestler Antim Panghal and rising talent Meenakshi Goyat. The winner of the trials will earn the opportunity to represent India at the upcoming Asian Games.

The federation had earlier maintained that

Vinesh would only be eligible for the 50kg division because she had consistently competed in that category in recent international events and had not formally communicated any intention to switch weight classes. The issue gained additional attention after the Delhi High Court directed the federation to treat Vinesh as an iconic athlete and allow her to participate in the selection process.