



GSSC Recruitment Will Continue: CM

■ Chief Minister Reaffirms Support for Merit-Based Hiring; Cabinet Also Clears Land Transfers, Wetland Funds and Housing Measures

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Wednesday firmly stated that government recruitment through the Goa Staff Selection Commission (GSSC) will continue, despite demands from some MLAs to abolish the commission.

Addressing the media after the cabinet meeting, Sawant said the government remains committed to a transparent, fair and merit-based recruitment process. His remarks come amid



ongoing discussions over the future of the GSSC, with some legislators reportedly seeking its scrapping.

The Chief Minister maintained that the commission plays a crucial role in ensuring equal opportunities for job aspirants and transparency in **▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06**

No New Houses on Comunidade Land Will Be Allowed: CM Sawant

■ Government Has Not Granted Any Such Permissions During Its Tenure, Says Chief Minister

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has clarified that no permissions have been granted during the tenure of the present

government for the construction of houses on Comunidade land and asserted that no such permissions will be allowed in the future.

Addressing the media, **▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06**

Goa Reservoir Levels Dip Sharply Amid Monsoon Delay

*Anjunem Reaches Critical Low As Authorities Keep Close Watch On State's Water Situation



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A delayed arrival of the southwest monsoon coupled with persistent high temperatures has led to a significant reduction in water reserves across Goa's major reservoirs, raising fresh concerns about the state's drinking water availability if rainfall does not commence soon.

The most critical situation has emerged at Anjunem dam, where water storage has fallen to nearly 14 per cent of its capacity. The reservoir plays a vital role in supplying drinking water to Sattari and Bicholim, prompting authorities to closely monitor the situation.

Official data indicates that several other reservoirs have also recorded substantial declines. Selaulim, the

state's largest drinking water source serving much of South Goa, is currently operating at less than one-third of its storage capacity. Tillari, which supports water distribution in parts of North Goa, has also witnessed a notable drop. Water levels at Panchwadi have reduced considerably, while Chapoli and Gaunem reservoirs are maintaining comparatively healthier reserves. Among the major dams, Amthane remains in the strongest position, retaining more than half of its storage capacity and continuing to support water supply to Bardez, Pernem and surrounding areas. The falling reservoir levels come at a time when water consumption remains high due to prolonged summer conditions.

"If You Want To Live Here, Say Vande Mataram": Adhikari Defends Mandatory School Order

Team Goemkarponn



New Delhi: A political and social debate has erupted in

West Bengal after Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari made the singing of Vande Mataram mandatory in all schools and madrasas across the state.

Under the new government directive, students are required to sing the full national song during morning assemblies. The decision, one of the first major policy announcements of the new administration, has drawn both support and criticism.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has strongly objected to the order, calling for its immediate withdrawal. The organisation has alternatively sought an exemption for Muslim students, arguing that forcing students to recite any song or text that conflicts with their religious beliefs could violate their fundamental rights.

WRD Minister Assures Milk Rate Hike; Entry To Anjunem Dam Restricted

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Water Resources and Co-operation Minister Subhash Shirodkar on Wednesday said that Goa Dairy milk procurement rates will be increased and urged dairy farmers to remain patient while the government finalises its decision.

Speaking to reporters, Shirodkar said the government is aware of the concerns raised by milk producers over



procurement prices and is working towards addressing the issue.

He assured farmers that the government remains committed to supporting the dairy sector and improving returns for producers. On the issue of access to Anjunem Dam, the minister clarified that no entry is permitted to

the dam premises without prior permission. He said security personnel have been deployed at the site to prevent unauthorized access and ensure the safety of the infrastructure.

Shirodkar further stated that the government will examine whether any alternative routes are being used to access the dam. If such routes are identified, appropriate measures will be taken to restrict unauthorized entry through those access points as well.

Delhi Hotel Inferno Claims 21 Lives as Guests Struggle to Escape Flames

■ Rescue Teams Save 47 People After Fire Erupts in Basement Restaurant of Malviya Nagar Hotel

New Delhi: A devastating fire at a hotel in Delhi's Malviya Nagar area on Wednesday morning claimed the lives of at least 20 people and left several others injured, while rescue teams managed to evacuate dozens from the smoke-filled building.

The blaze broke out around 8:50 am in the



basement restaurant of the five storey Micasa Inn hotel, triggering a major

emergency response. Firefighters rushed to the scene with multiple

vehicles, including water engines, water bowsers, and rapid response units, as thick smoke engulfed the structure. Authorities said around 40 guests were believed to be staying at the hotel when the fire erupted. Many of them were reportedly asleep, making evacuation more difficult as the flames and smoke spread through

the building. Rescue operations led to the evacuation of 47 people, while emergency teams continued searches to ensure no one remained trapped inside. Dramatic visuals from the scene showed several guests jumping from the building in desperate attempts to escape the rapidly worsening conditions.

Numbers Tell One Story, Public Perception Another

The latest road safety figures released by Goa Police and reported in sections of the media have come as a welcome surprise. According to official data, road fatalities in Goa fell dramatically during May 2026, with deaths dropping from 19 in May last year to just three this year, an apparent reduction of more than 80 percent. The figures also indicate a sharp decline in fatal accidents despite the overall number of accidents remaining almost unchanged.

If accurate, the achievement deserves recognition. Every life saved matters. However, the statistics also raise an important question: why do many Goans feel that road accidents and fatalities remain alarmingly frequent?

The answer lies in the difference between statistics and perception. News reports of fatal accidents appear with disturbing regularity. Barely a day passes without reports of collisions involving two wheelers, pedestrians, tourists, heavy vehicles or drunk drivers. Just this week, a scooter rider succumbed to injuries sustained in an accident near Campal in Panaji, once again bringing road safety into public focus.

Public perception is also shaped by years of witnessing preventable tragedies. Earlier reports this year pointed out that road deaths continued to haunt Goa despite fluctuations in accident numbers. Official data showed fatalities continuing at a troubling pace even when some categories of accidents declined.

It is also important to

“It is also important to examine the figures carefully. While fatalities reportedly fell sharply in May, grievous injury cases increased significantly. In other words, accidents did not disappear. Many crashes that could easily have resulted in deaths may instead have caused serious injuries. That is encouraging from a medical and emergency response perspective, but it does not necessarily mean Goa’s roads have become substantially safer.”

Another concern is the broader trend. Police analysis has found that rash and negligent driving remains responsible for the overwhelming majority of road accidents in Goa. “

examine the figures carefully. While fatalities reportedly fell sharply in May, grievous injury cases increased significantly. In other words, accidents did not disappear. Many crashes that could easily have resulted in deaths may instead have caused serious injuries. That is encouraging from a medical and emergency response perspective, but it does not necessarily mean Goa’s roads have become substantially safer.

Another concern is the broader trend. Police analysis has found that

rash and negligent driving remains responsible for the overwhelming majority of road accidents in Goa. Speeding, dangerous overtaking, drunken driving, helmet violations and general disregard for traffic rules continue to be common sights across the state.

The challenge, therefore, is not merely reducing one month’s fatality count. The real challenge is creating a sustained culture of road safety. One good month cannot erase years of dangerous driving habits, inadequate enforcement and infrastructure shortcomings. Nor can it guarantee that fatalities will remain low in the months ahead.

The government and police deserve credit if enforcement measures are producing results. However, transparency is equally important. Authorities should regularly publish detailed accident data, identify black spots, explain trends and make information accessible to the public. Greater transparency would help build confidence in official statistics and allow citizens to understand what is working and what is not.

Ultimately, the goal should not be to win a statistical argument. The goal should be safer roads. If three lives were lost in May instead of nineteen, that is undoubtedly positive news. Yet for families who have lost loved ones, even one death is one too many.

The figures may show progress. Public experience suggests there is still a long road ahead. Both realities can be true at the same time.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ignoring Lifeguards Puts Lives at Risk

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw attention to the growing tendency among some tourists to ignore lifeguard warnings on Goa’s beaches.

On Tuesday evening at Morjim Beach, around 7 pm, lifeguards made repeated announcements asking everyone to leave the water as darkness approached and swimming conditions became unsafe. Most beachgoers initially complied and came ashore. However, within minutes of the announcements ending and the lifeguards moving along the beach, several tourists returned to the sea, disregarding the instructions that had just been given.

This behaviour is both irresponsible and disrespectful. Lifeguards are trained professionals whose primary duty is to protect lives. Their warnings are based on sea conditions, tides, visibility and other safety concerns that ordinary visitors may not fully understand. Ignoring these instructions not only places individuals in danger but also increases the risk of rescue operations that can endanger lifeguards themselves.

Goa’s beaches attract visitors from across the country and around the world. While tourism is vital to the state’s economy, visitors must respect local regulations and safety measures. Enjoying the sea should never come at the cost of common sense and public safety.

Authorities may consider imposing stricter penalties on those who repeatedly ignore lifeguard directions. Greater awareness campaigns could also help educate tourists about the dangers of entering the water after designated swimming hours.

A simple act of obedience can prevent accidents and save lives.

- Santan Fernandes, Porvorim, Goa

Congress Must Think Carefully Before Reopening Old Doors

Recent reports suggesting that former Chief Minister Churchill Alemao is open to rejoining the Congress party have sparked considerable debate among political observers and party workers in Goa. While every political leader has the right to choose their political affiliation, the Congress leadership must carefully consider whether such a move would genuinely benefit the party and the people of the state.

Many voters today are looking for consistency, credibility and commitment from political leaders. Frequent political shifts and changing loyalties often create confusion among the electorate and weaken public trust in the democratic process. At a time when political parties are striving to rebuild their grassroots base and present a clear vision for the future, bringing back leaders associated with past political realignments may send mixed signals to voters.

Congress, in particular, faces the challenge of rebuilding itself as a strong and credible opposition force in Goa. This requires nurturing new leadership, encouraging dedicated workers and promoting individuals who have remained loyal to the party through difficult periods. Relying on familiar faces from the past may not necessarily strengthen the organisation or inspire confidence among younger voters.

Political decisions should be guided by the long-term interests of the party and the aspirations of the people rather than short-term electoral calculations. The Congress leadership must therefore weigh the implications carefully before taking any decision on possible reinduction.

The people of Goa deserve politics based on principles, accountability and public service.

- Sebastian D’Souza, Margao, Goa

ST Leaders Demand Assembly Reservation

■ Delegation Warns Of Approaching Union Home Minister If BJP Fails To Act On Long-Pending Demand

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A delegation of Scheduled Tribe (ST) community leaders has urged BJP Goa State President Damodar (Damu) Naik to ensure implementation of ST reservation in the Goa Legislative Assembly before the upcoming elections, stating that the issue will significantly influence the community's electoral decision.

In a letter addressed to the BJP state chief,



the leaders said that despite the ST community constituting a significant section of Goa's population, it continues to be deprived of reserved representation in the State Assembly, a right guaranteed under Article 332 of the Constitution of India.

The delegation, comprising former Speaker and MLA Ramesh Tawadkar, Minister Govind Gaude, Antonio Vas, Prakash Velip and Vasu Meng Gaonkar, called for immediate intervention from the BJP leadership to secure political reservation for Scheduled Tribes ahead of the next Assembly polls.

The leaders stressed that the community is seeking concrete action rather than assurances

and demanded a clear timeline on the implementation of reservation. They stated that the issue has remained pending for too long and requires urgent attention.

Warning of further action if progress is not made, the delegation said it would approach the Union Home Minister in New Delhi to seek resolution of the matter should the party fail to take decisive steps in the near future.



High Court Sets Aside Conviction In 2019 Goa Resort Assault Case

■ Lack Of Reliable Identification Evidence Leads To Acquittal Of Mizoram Native

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has overturned the conviction of a 28-year-old man from Mizoram in a 2019 resort assault case, ruling that the prosecution failed to establish his identity beyond reasonable doubt.

Lalrinnunga Lalfakzuala, who is currently lodged at Central Jail, Colvale, had challenged a Sessions Court verdict that found him guilty of offences including wrongful confinement, criminal intimidation, rape and attempt to murder. The trial court had awarded him a sentence of up to ten years of rigorous imprisonment. The case was registered following a complaint by a 63-year-old woman who owned a resort. She alleged that an unknown person entered her room in the early hours of December 18, 2019, attacked and threatened her, sexually assaulted her

and escaped from the premises.

While hearing the appeal, the High Court found significant deficiencies in the prosecution's case, particularly regarding the identification of the accused. The Court observed that investigators had not conducted a Test Identification Parade, a key procedure often used to establish the identity of a suspect. The Bench, headed by Justice Ashish Chavan, also noted that the prosecution relied heavily on the victim's claim that she recognised the accused by his voice. However, no voice samples were collected from the accused and no forensic examination was carried out to support that claim. The Court held that voice recognition, by itself, is not strong evidence and requires independent corroboration before it can be safely relied upon in a criminal trial.



BJP Leaders Expose Government's Failure on Road Repairs: Congress

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI : The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee has launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led government over the delay in road repair and hot mixing works across the state, alleging that the ruling dispensation has been exposed by its own leaders.

Suspected Dengue Death Raises Alarm In Ponda

■ Civic Representatives Visit ID Hospital To Review Response As Dengue Cases Increase

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: A suspected dengue-related death in the Khadpaband area has heightened concerns over the rising number of dengue cases in Ponda, prompting local representatives to assess the preparedness of health authorities in dealing with the outbreak.

In view of the growing health concern, Councillor Vishwanath Dalvi, accompanied by Shaunak Borkar, Vinidhya Punalekar and Shantaram



Kolvekar, visited the Ponda Infectious Diseases (ID) Hospital to take stock of the situation and evaluate the measures being undertaken to control the spread of the disease. During the visit, the delegation held discussions with hospital officials regarding patient care, availability of medical facilities and the resources required to

manage the increasing caseload. They also reviewed the hospital's readiness to handle a further rise in dengue infections. The reported death has sparked anxiety among residents of Khadpaband and nearby areas, who have called for stronger preventive measures to contain the outbreak. Citizens have urged authorities to intensify anti-mosquito drives, eliminate breeding grounds and strengthen public awareness initiatives.

Prabhav Naik Demands Cancellation of Legislature Secretariat Recruitment

■ Seeks Referral of All Vacancies to GSSC and GPSC for Transparent and Merit-Based Selection

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Madganvcho Awaaz youth leader Prabhav Naik has demanded the immediate cancellation of the ongoing direct recruitment process initiated by the Goa Legislature Secretariat, contending that all vacancies should instead be filled through



established recruitment agencies such as the Goa Staff Selection Commission (GSSC) and the Goa Public Service Commission (GPSC).

Talsai Drinking Water Issue Being Addressed, Says Kurdi Wadem Sarpanch

■ Citizen raises security and transparency concerns as Electricity Department defends rollout; next hearing on June 26

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: Efforts are in progress to provide a long-term solution to the drinking water problems faced by residents of Talsai village, according to Kurdi Wadem Village Panchayat Sarpanch Chandan Unandkar.

Unandkar said the demand for a reliable water supply gained



momentum after villagers approached the authorities in 2023 seeking immediate intervention. In

response, Quepem MLA Subhash Phaladesai pushed for a water supply project worth Rs 2.49 crore that proposes to transport water from Colomba to Talsai through a new pipeline network.

He informed that the project has already cleared several administrative stages and

is expected to become functional next year, bringing much-needed relief to local residents.

The Sarpanch also highlighted a separate initiative aimed at restoring a village well. The project, sanctioned at a cost of Rs 5 lakh under the 15th Finance Commission, is intended to strengthen local water resources.

FIR Registered In Alleged Sexual Exploitation Case In Ponda Over Extended Period

■ Complaint Alleges Relationship On Promise Of Marriage, Later Abuse And Threats; Probe Underway

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: An FIR has been registered in a case involving allegations of sexual exploitation under the pretext of marriage, with police initiating investigation into claims spanning several years and multiple locations.



As per the complaint filed by a woman resident of Ponda (name withheld), the accused allegedly developed a relationship

with her between June 2020 and March 2026 on the promise of marriage. It is further alleged that during this period, he established physical relations with her on several occasions.

The complainant has also alleged that the accused later failed to

honour his promise of marriage and subjected her to verbal abuse and threats when confronted. Based on the complaint, Mardol Police have registered FIR Cr. No. 22/2026 under Sections 69, 351(3) and 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Road Rage



Minor Boy Assaulted After Road Rage Incident In Fatorda

■ Accused Allegedly Chase Car, Break Window And Attack Child; Police Investigation Underway

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A serious case of assault and public disturbance has been reported from the Fatorda area after a minor boy was allegedly attacked during a road rage incident late night on 02 June 2026.

According to the complaint filed by Anarkali Nadaf, resident of Fatorda, the incident occurred at around 01:50 hrs near a beauty parlour in Borda, Fatorda. It is alleged that four accused persons — Mayuraj Mhamal of Seraulim, and Joyriel Luis, Neslino Da Silva, and Malrizz Rodrigues of Curtorim — acting in furtherance of common intention, chased and forcibly stopped a

Swift car.

The complainant stated that the accused abused the occupants of the vehicle, broke the driver-side window glass, and then pulled out the minor son of the complainant from the car. The boy was allegedly assaulted with slaps and fist blows on his face and right wrist, resulting in simple injuries.

It is further alleged that the accused issued threats of dire consequences before leaving the spot.

The matter has been taken up for investigation with PSI Sail Gaonkar of Fatorda Police Station, who is currently verifying statements and examining the circumstances leading to the incident.



Scooter Theft Reported Near Canara Bank ATM Parking In Panaji

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: An incident of vehicle theft has been reported from a public parking area near the Canara Bank ATM in Panaji, where an unknown person allegedly stole a two-wheeler scooter in broad daylight. According to a complaint filed by Veena Prabhugaonkar, resident of Dona Alice, Block B, Nairlem, Morod, Caranzalem, her TVS Jupiter scooter (Galactic Copper colour), bearing registration number GA-07-AM-8158 and valued at approximately ₹1.15 lakh, was parked in an open public parking space on 30 May 2026 at around 10:30 hrs.

The complainant stated that unknown accused person(s) dishonestly took possession of the scooter without her knowledge and fled from the spot.

The complaint was formally registered on 01 June 2026 at 17:34 hrs at Panaji Police Station. Further investigation into the theft case is currently in progress under HC 5717 Babu Madanwar of Panaji Police Station. Police are examining possible leads and CCTV footage from the area to trace the accused and recover the stolen vehicle.

Man Caught Red-Handed For Alleged Gambling Activity Near Temple In Sattari

■ Police Seize Cash And Gambling Material During Raid Opposite Bhumika Temple In Paryem

Team Goemkarponn

SATTARI : A man was allegedly caught red-handed while accepting money from members of the public in an open area opposite Bhumika Temple at Paryem, Sattari, during a police action on 02 June 2026.

According to a state complaint lodged by HC Shankar Gawas (B.No. 5488), the raid was conducted at around 12:45 hrs, during which



the accused Gokuldas Rane, 45, resident of Tamdgi, Paryem, Sattari, was allegedly found accepting money from the public in connection with gambling activity.

Police said the accused was apprehended on the spot and cash amounting

to ₹2,220 in various denominations was seized along with other gambling-related articles.

The operation was carried out opposite Bhumika Temple, Paryem, following which a case has been registered.

Further investigation is being carried out by the investigating officer HC Shankar Gawas of Valpoi Police Station. Authorities said action is being taken as per law and the probe is in progress.

Theft Reported At Hostel In Old Goa; Cameras, Phone And Cash Stolen From Tourist

■ Unknown Accused Also Make ₹25,000 Credit Card Transactions; Police Probe Underway

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: An alleged theft incident has been reported from a hostel accommodation in Old Goa, where a guest claimed that valuables including camera equipment, a mobile phone, wallet and cash were stolen, along with unauthorised credit card transactions.

According to a complaint filed by Mr. Tushar Verma, 26, a



resident of Bengaluru and currently staying at The Hosteller Goa, the incident

occurred prior to 09:00 hrs on 01 June 2026.

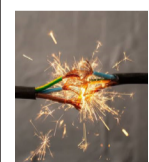
The complainant stated

that unknown accused person(s) allegedly committed theft of two Nikon camera lenses, one Samsung Galaxy A14 mobile phone, a wallet containing various identity and bank documents, and cash from a locker, with the total loss estimated at around ₹80,000.

He further reported that two unauthorised transactions amounting to ₹25,000 were carried out using his credit card.

Worker Dies After Electrocution At Navy Construction Site In Vasco

Team Goemkarponn



VASCO: A fatal workplace accident has been

reported from an under-construction Indian Navy project site located behind the Vasco Police Station, where a worker died after suffering electrocution during duty.

According to Vasco Police under Section 194 of BNSS, an offence has been registered based on a complaint filed by PSI Akanksh Fadte Dessai of Vasco Police Station.

Nine Delhi Tourists Rescued From Drowning At Morjim Beach

Strong Sea Current Triggers Mass Rescue Operation; Lifeguards Save Group Despite Repeated Warnings

Team Goemkarponn

MORJIM: Nine tourists from Delhi were rescued from drowning on Tuesday evening after being caught in a strong sea current while swimming off Morjim beach.

According to officials, the group was part of a larger gathering of around 25 visitors, of whom nearly 15 entered the water despite repeated warnings issued by on-duty lifeguards and police



personnel. As the group ventured into deeper waters, six individuals managed to swim back safely to shore, while nine others were swept into stronger currents and

required rescue. The rescue operation was carried out by lifeguards from Drishti Marine, who responded immediately to the emergency call. Four

persons were rescued using rescue boards, two were brought to safety using a jet ski, and three others were saved with rescue tubes.

The coordinated operation involved a team of five lifesavers — Vinod Salelkar, Vikram Talkar, Sant Parab, Vikas Chavan, and Mahadev Gaude — supported by an onshore team that arranged medical assistance as a precautionary measure.



Sada GRB residents to get ownership rights after decades; MLA to bear ₹1,000 fee for all beneficiaries

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: In a major relief for more than 350 families residing in Goa Rehabilitation Board (GRB) housing units at Sada, Mormugao and Goa Rehabilitation Board Chairman Rajesh Faldessai on Tuesday announced that residents will receive ownership rights to their flats within a month, bringing an end to a wait that has stretched for decades.

The announcement was made during a public interaction with residents, many of whom have spent years occupying the housing units without legal ownership despite repeatedly raising the issue before successive governments and public representatives.

Addressing residents, Rajesh Faldessai said the long-pending process of transferring ownership rights has finally reached

its concluding stage and all eligible beneficiaries will soon receive the necessary documents. He said the decision would provide much-needed security to families who have been living in the housing complex for several years.

Faldessai further stated that the beneficiaries would not only receive ownership of the housing units but would also be granted rights over the land attached to the premises. He explained that the move would significantly improve the financial and developmental prospects of the residents.

"Once the ownership and land rights are granted, residents will be able to avail loans from financial institutions by mortgaging their properties. They will also have the freedom to form cooperative societies and undertake redevelopment of the premises in the future if required," he said.



BJP's Nervousness Visible Through Coordinated Attacks, Says Girish Chodankar

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Girish Chodankar has alleged that coordinated personal and political attacks launched against him reflect the growing nervousness within the BJP government over the revival of the Congress party in the state. In a press statement issued on 02 June 2026, Chodankar said the "speed, intensity and coordination" of the alleged attacks following his assumption of charge as GPCC President indicate a politically motivated campaign aimed at weakening the opposition. He claimed that the ruling party is attempting to divert attention from key governance issues such as unemployment, infrastructure gaps, power disruptions, corruption allegations, environmental concerns, and rising public grievances. Chodankar further alleged that instead of addressing public issues, the government has been engaging in propaganda and using "proxy elements" to target political opponents.

Congress workers upset over Amit Patkar's sudden removal, says former Youth President Mahesh Nadar

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Amid growing resentment within sections of the Goa Congress following the sudden change in the leadership of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC), former Youth Congress Working President Mahesh Nadar on Tuesday expressed disappointment over the removal of Amit Patkar as GPCC president and questioned the manner in which the decision was taken.

Addressing reporters



in Vasco, Nadar said the development had come as a shock to many Congress workers, particularly those from the youth wing, who had worked closely with Patkar over the past several years.

"It is very disheartening for many members of

the Congress, especially the youth, that Amit Patkar has been replaced suddenly without any fault on his part and without any prior intimation. The decision has left many workers surprised and disappointed," Nadar said.

The statement comes in the backdrop of the Congress high command replacing Amit Patkar with Girish Chodankar as the president of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee, a move that has triggered mixed reactions within party circles.

Chief Secretary Reviews Key Governance Issues With HoDs In Porvorim

SC Order On Stray Dogs, Waste Management Rules And Yoga Day Preparations Discussed

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Chief Secretary Dr. V. Candavelou, IAS, chaired a high-level meeting with Secretaries to Government and Heads of Departments at the Secretariat to review several important administrative and policy matters. The meeting focused on the implementation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order regarding



stray dog menace, along with compliance and enforcement of Solid Waste Management Rules across the state.

Officials also discussed preparations for the upcoming visit of the Parliamentary Committee on Social Justice. In

addition, arrangements for International Yoga Day celebrations were reviewed, with departments directed to ensure coordinated execution of programmes across various locations. The meeting also covered matters related to the upcoming NITI Aayog Governing Council discussions, where key developmental and governance issues are expected to be taken up.

Konkan Railway Takes Swift Action Against Unauthorized Vendor On Train No. 12052

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Konkan Railway has taken swift and stringent action against an unauthorized vendor found selling spoiled fruits onboard Train No. 12052 Janshatabdi Express on May 31, 2026.

According to officials, During routine checks, an individual was detected engaging in unauthorized vending of spoiled fruits onboard the moving train without any valid authorization.

Foreigners Must Register Before 180-Day Stay Limit, Centre Revises Immigration Rules

■ New Regulations Tighten Registration Requirements and Update Provisions for Children of Foreign Nationals

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Centre has amended immigration regulations governing foreign nationals staying in India, introducing stricter timelines for registration and updating provisions related to citizenship and accommodation reporting.

Under the revised provisions of the Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025, foreign nationals intending to remain in India beyond 180 days must now complete their registration before the expiry of the 180-day period. The change marks a significant departure from the earlier system, which allowed registration within 14 days after crossing the 180-day threshold.

The updated rules apply to foreigners who enter India on visas valid for 180 days or less and subsequently plan to extend their stay. They also cover individuals holding visas with a validity period exceeding



180 days but containing conditions that restrict each individual stay to a maximum of 180 days.

According to the revised framework, registration after the permitted period will only be considered in exceptional or emergency situations. The move is aimed at ensuring greater compliance with immigration regulations and streamlining monitoring procedures for long-term foreign visitors.

The amendments also introduce important changes concerning children born in India to

parents where one or both are foreign nationals. Previously, parents were required to notify registration authorities electronically within 30 days of the child's birth to access visa-related services, including obtaining visas or exit permits.

Under the new provisions, this requirement will no longer apply if either parent is an Indian citizen and chooses to retain Indian citizenship for the child. However, if the child later acquires the citizenship of another country while

residing in India, either parent must inform the relevant registration officer within 30 days of the change in citizenship status.

In addition, the government has revised administrative and reporting obligations for hospitals,

nursing homes and other medical institutions that provide accommodation or lodging facilities. These changes are intended to strengthen record-keeping and improve compliance with immigration-related requirements.

The amendments form part of the government's broader efforts to modernise immigration procedures, enhance monitoring mechanisms and simplify administrative processes while ensuring better regulation of foreign nationals residing in India.

India Eyes 176 Rafale Fighters as Mega Defence Deal Gains Momentum

■ Air Force Chief's France Visit Signals Progress on Plan to Acquire 114 Additional Jets

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India is moving closer to one of the largest fighter aircraft acquisitions in its history, with plans to procure 114 additional Rafale fighter jets from France. The development comes as Indian Air Force Chief Amar Preet Singh undertakes a four day visit to France, where key discussions on defence cooperation and aircraft procurement are expected to take place. According to official sources, India has already submitted a formal proposal to the French government for the purchase of the advanced multirole fighters. France is expected to provide details regarding pricing, production schedules, and logistical support within the next few months. Formal negotiations are likely to follow, with both sides aiming to conclude the deal within the coming year.

The Air Force Chief's visit is being viewed as strategically significant. During his stay, he is expected to engage with senior officials from Dassault Aviation, the manufacturer of the Rafale, and MBDA, which produces advanced weapon systems such as the Meteor and SCALP missiles. Discussions are expected to cover not only aircraft acquisition but also technology transfer, local manufacturing, and integration of Indian systems.

The proposed purchase is driven by a pressing operational requirement. The Indian Air Force currently operates 29 fighter squadrons against a sanctioned strength of 42. The retirement of ageing aircraft, including the MiG-21 fleet, has widened this gap, prompting the search for new combat platforms capable of meeting future security challenges.

A major feature of the proposed agreement is its focus on domestic manufacturing. Defence officials are exploring a model under which 94 of the 114 aircraft would be produced in India through a partnership between Dassault Aviation and an Indian company. The project is expected to include around 50 percent localisation, allowing Indian-made systems and weapons to be incorporated into the aircraft. India already operates 36 Rafale fighters stationed at air bases in Ambala and Hasimara. With the recently concluded deal for 26 Rafale-M jets for the Navy and the proposed purchase of 114 more aircraft, India's Rafale fleet could eventually grow to 176 fighters, significantly strengthening the country's air combat capabilities across multiple fronts.



GSSC Recruitment Will Continue: CM

government appointments. He reiterated that recruitment through the GSSC will continue as part of the government's policy to streamline hiring procedures and maintain public confidence in the selection process.

Apart from the recruitment issue, the cabinet approved several key proposals. These included the transfer of 20,245 square metres of land at Amona, Quepem, from the Water Resources Department to the Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Quepem, to support expansion of educational infrastructure.

The cabinet also sanctioned ₹40 lakh to the Goa State Wetland Authority for digital validation, ground-truthing, physical delineation and installation of demarcation stones for notified wetlands in compliance with Supreme Court directions.

In another decision, 5,150 square metres of government land in Molcornem village was transferred

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to the Fire and Emergency Services Department for the construction of a new fire station.

On housing, Sawant said around 3,000 orders under the Mhaje Ghar Scheme are ready and the number is expected to cross 5,000 soon. He urged eligible beneficiaries to submit applications and complete documentation to accelerate implementation.

The Chief Minister also announced the launch of the 90-day "Green Goa, Clean Goa" campaign from June 5 to September 5, with a target of planting nearly 10 lakh trees across the state. He appealed to citizens to participate in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative by planting at least one tree.

Regarding Scheduled Tribe reservation, Sawant said a delegation of ST leaders had met him and submitted a memorandum seeking early notification of reserved constituencies. While assuring support for expediting the process, he clarified that the notification of

ST-reserved constituencies is the sole responsibility of the Election Commission of India.

The Chief Minister's strong endorsement of the GSSC, however, emerged as the key highlight of the cabinet briefing, signalling the government's intent to continue recruitment through the commission despite criticism from certain quarters.

No New Houses on Comunidade Land Will Be Allowed: CM Sawant

Sawant said that houses currently existing on Comunidade land were constructed before the present government assumed office. He emphasized that the government has maintained a firm stance against permitting new residential constructions on such land.

The Chief Minister further stated that neither the government nor the respective Comunidades had received revenue from these constructions in the past.

“Nepal Is A Priority Partner”: PM Modi Reaffirms Commitment To Stronger Ties

■ Prime Minister Meets RSP Chairman Rabi Lamichhane Amid Fresh Diplomatic Outreach to Kathmandu

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening its long-standing relationship with Nepal during a meeting with Rabi Lamichhane, chairman of Nepal's Rastriya Swatantra Party.

The meeting, attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, reflected the growing engagement



between New Delhi and Nepal's new political leadership.

Following the discussions, Modi highlighted Nepal's importance under India's

Neighbourhood First policy and reiterated that Kathmandu remains a key partner in the region. He welcomed Lamichhane's commitment to working closely with India and

expressed confidence that both countries could further deepen cooperation for a shared and prosperous future.

Lamichhane's visit to India has featured a series of high-level meetings aimed at enhancing political, economic and developmental cooperation between the two neighbours.

A day earlier, the Nepalese leader met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.



“Replacing One Bad Habit With Another”: Ladakh's New Liquor Policy Triggers Backlash

■ Administration Defends Liberalisation Move as Social Groups and MP Demand Immediate Rollback

New Delhi: A newly approved liquor policy in Ladakh has sparked widespread criticism, with political leaders and civil society organisations questioning the administration's claim that easier access to alcohol will help curb drug abuse in the Union Territory.

The policy, approved by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, significantly liberalises the region's liquor regulations. Under the new framework, the sale of hard liquor, including foreign liquor and Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), will be permitted through retail outlets. Previously, only beer, wine and ready-to-drink beverages could be sold through such stores. Officials have defended

the decision, arguing that the earlier restrictive system created an artificial shortage of alcohol, which in turn encouraged the use of smuggled liquor and narcotic substances. The administration says the policy is designed to improve regulation, support tourism, increase revenue and provide consumers with a wider range of legal options. However, the move has drawn sharp opposition from Haji Hanifa Jan, who questioned the logic behind using alcohol as a tool to combat drug addiction. He argued that introducing greater access to liquor in the name of tackling substance abuse amounted to replacing one harmful habit with another.



“It's A Do Or Die Battle”: Mamata Banerjee Warns Amid Growing Trinamool Crisis

New Delhi: Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has described the current political situation facing the All India Trinamool Congress as a “do or die” battle, amid growing concerns over internal dissent and possible defections within the party following its defeat in the state assembly elections.

Addressing supporters at a protest in Kolkata, Banerjee accused certain leaders of attempting to weaken and divide the party. She asserted that despite the challenges, she would continue to stand by party workers even if some leaders chose to leave.

Speaking before a gathering of supporters, Banerjee said there were efforts underway to break the Trinamool Congress from within. She also indicated that opposition parties opposed to the BJP would soon meet in Delhi to discuss a broader national strategy.

30 Indian Truck Drivers Face Deportation After US Immigration Crackdown

■ Federal Operation Targets Commercial Drivers Living and Working in the Country Illegally

New Delhi: Around 30 Indian nationals are set to be deported from the United States after being arrested during a federal immigration enforcement operation targeting individuals working illegally as commercial truck drivers.

The arrests were made as part of “Operation Checkmate,” a coordinated initiative conducted by the US Customs and Border Protection and the US Border Patrol to identify



and detain undocumented individuals operating commercial motor vehicles.

During the operation, carried out between May 11 and May 15 in Arizona's Yuma Sector, authorities arrested 52 people found to be

residing in the country illegally. Among them were 36 individuals working as semi-truck drivers.

Officials said that 30 of the arrested truck drivers were Indian nationals. The remaining six were from Mexico, El Salvador and Russia. Investigators found that some of the drivers held commercial driving licences issued by states including California, New York, Washington and Virginia, while others reportedly had no valid driving licence at all.

“No Role For Third Parties”: India Rejects Nepal's Proposal on Border Dispute

■ New Delhi Reaffirms Bilateral Approach as Kathmandu Suggests Involving China and the UK

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India has firmly ruled out any involvement of third parties in resolving its long-standing boundary dispute with Nepal, reiterating that the issue should be addressed exclusively through existing bilateral mechanisms. The response came after Nepal's Prime Minister



Balendra Shah suggested that both China and the United Kingdom could play a role in discussions

concerning the disputed border regions of Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani. The areas remain a point of contention between the two neighbours, with India maintaining that they form part of the state of Uttarakhand. Addressing

the matter, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India and Nepal already have established bilateral mechanisms to handle all aspects of boundary-related issues. He emphasized that there is no place for any third party in what remains a bilateral matter between the two countries. India also noted that nearly 98 percent of the India-Nepal

border has already been demarcated. According to the government, some unresolved segments remain due to changes in the course of the Gandak River, along with issues involving cross-border occupation and encroachment in certain demarcated areas. These locations are currently being jointly mapped by both sides.

“A Lot Of Positives Ahead Of The World Cup”: Harmanpreet Stays Optimistic Despite England Series Defeat

■ India Women Look To Fine-Tune Combination After 2-1 Loss Before T20 World Cup Campaign

New Delhi: India women's captain Harmanpreet Kaur remains confident about her team's prospects at the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 despite suffering a 2-1 series defeat against England.

England secured the three-match series after winning the decider by six wickets at Taunton, successfully chasing a target of 181 with nine balls to spare. The match marked India's final



competitive outing before the start of the World Cup, which begins on June 12.

Reflecting on the defeat, Harmanpreet said India had remained firmly in contention but failed to claim a crucial wicket at a decisive stage of the chase. She pointed to the partnership between Alice Capsey and Heather Knight as the turning point that shifted momentum in England's favour.

Despite the setback, the Indian skipper

emphasized that the team had gained valuable insights and confidence from the series. She said the squad had identified several positives and was largely settled on its preferred playing eleven ahead of the global tournament. However, she added that upcoming practice matches would provide opportunities to assess alternative combinations and give other squad members a chance to impress.



“Teams Were Planning For Him Before He Batted”: Sachin Explains Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's Impact

■ Teenage Star's Influence Extended Beyond Runs as Record-Breaking IPL 2026 Campaign Captured Attention

New Delhi: Fifteen-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has earned praise from cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, who believes the youngster's influence during IPL 2026 went far beyond the remarkable number of runs he scored. After announcing himself to the cricketing world with a stunning 35-ball century in IPL 2025, Sooryavanshi entered his second season facing heightened expectations and increased scrutiny from opponents.

Instead of slowing down, the Rajasthan Royals prodigy elevated his game to another level. The young batter finished the season with a staggering 776 runs in 16 matches, becoming the only player in the tournament to cross the

750-run mark despite competition from some of the world's best international batters. Reflecting on the teenager's success, Tendulkar noted that Sooryavanshi's impact was evident even before he arrived at the crease.

According to the batting icon, opposition teams were constantly preparing strategies to counter him, while fans eagerly awaited his arrival whenever Rajasthan Royals played.

Tendulkar also highlighted the youngster's fearless approach in high-pressure knockout matches, pointing out that his aggressive intent remained unchanged during crucial encounters such as the Eliminator and Qualifier.



India Set For Massive New Zealand Tour Featuring 12 Matches Across All Formats

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Indian cricket team is set for a demanding all-format tour of New Zealand later this year, with the Board of Control for Cricket in India announcing a packed schedule comprising five T20 Internationals, five One-Day Internationals and two Test matches.

The tour will run from October 22 to December 1, 2026, and will conclude with two crucial Test matches that form part of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle.

India's campaign begins with a five-match T20I series. The opening two matches will be played at Hagley Oval on October 22 and 24 before the action shifts to Henry Stadium, Eden Park and Seddon Park for the remaining fixtures. The ODI leg starts on November 4 at Eden Park in Auckland.

“It Felt Like I Was Dreaming”: Harsh Dubey Opens Up On Surprise India Call-Up

■ Vidarbha All-Rounder Focused on Living in the Present Ahead of Potential International Debut

Goemkarponn desk

New Delhi: Uncapped spin-bowling all-rounder Harsh Dubey has revealed that his selection in India's Test and ODI squads came as a complete surprise, admitting it took several minutes for him to process the news. The 22-year-old, who is in line to make his



international debut during the home series against Afghanistan, described the moment he learned about his selection as surreal and said it genuinely felt like he was dreaming.

Dubey explained that he was at the airport when he received a phone call from a cricket social media page manager asking about his inclusion in the ODI squad. Due to noise and connectivity issues, he initially believed the caller was referring to his selection for the India A for the Sri Lanka TN ODI.

Praggnanandhaa Stuns Magnus Carlsen Again, Makes Norway Chess History

■ Indian Grandmaster Becomes First Indian to Defeat World No. 1 Twice in Classical Games at the Same Tournament

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Indian chess sensation R Praggnanandhaa produced another remarkable performance at the prestigious Norway Chess 2026, defeating world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in a classical game for the second time during the tournament.

The historic victory not only strengthened Praggnanandhaa's



chances of becoming the first Indian champion of Norway Chess but also made him the first Indian player to beat Carlsen twice in classical chess



at the same edition of the event. He is also the first player this year to register two classical victories over the Norwegian superstar. The result was another

significant setback for Carlsen, who appeared visibly disappointed after the game. The seven-time Norway Chess champion acknowledged the defeat before leaving the playing arena, reflecting on a tournament that has been unusually difficult for the world's top-ranked player. With the win, the 20-year-old Indian moved to 12 points and climbed to third place in the standings. More importantly, the result

dealt a major blow to Carlsen's pursuit of an eighth Norway Chess title. With only two rounds remaining, the defending champion now faces a challenging path to retaining the crown.

Carlsen's campaign has been marked by rare inconsistency, suffering four classical defeats during the tournament, including two losses to Praggnanandhaa.