



Mhaje Ghar Only For Goans, Clarifies CM

■ Sawant Dispels Migrant Regularisation Misconceptions; Says Scheme Secures Ownership Rights Of Goan Families

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday categorically clarified that the State government's 'Mhaje Ghar' scheme is intended exclusively for the regularisation of houses belonging to Goan residents and not for migrants, seeking to dispel misconceptions surrounding the initiative.

Speaking while distributing house sanads, title documents



and class certificates to beneficiaries from Salcete taluka, Sawant said there has been confusion in some quarters that the scheme allows migrants to regularise their houses. He stressed that the objective of the scheme is to provide

Govt to Launch 'Mhajo Flat' Scheme After Mhaje Ghar: CM

■ Initiative Aims to Secure Ownership Rights for Flat Owners Awaiting Documents

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday announced that the State government's next housing initiative will be the 'Mhajo Flat' scheme, aimed at helping flat

owners who have completed payments but are yet to receive legal ownership documents.

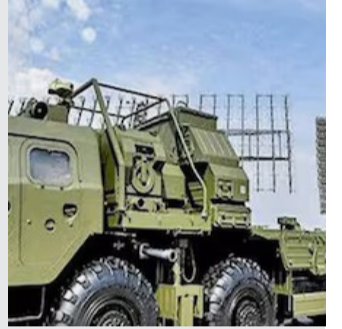
Speaking after distributing house sanads under the Mhaje Ghar scheme, Sawant said the government

India Strengthens Air Defence Shield as Fourth S-400 Squadron Arrives

Delivery of Russian Missile System Enhances Long Range Protection; One Final Squadron Yet to Be Received

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India has received the fourth squadron of the Russian-made S-400 Triumf air defence missile system, significantly enhancing the country's ability to detect and neutralise aerial threats across vast distances. The newly delivered unit is expected to be deployed in an operational sector in the coming weeks.



The arrival marks an important milestone in the 2018 agreement between India and Russia for the purchase of five S-400 squadrons.



Malviya Nagar Fire Likely Caused by Short Circuit, Not Cylinder Blast: Delhi Police

■ Probe Shifts Focus to Electrical Faults and Alleged Safety Violations as Hotel Owner Is Arrested

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: A preliminary investigation into the devastating fire at a hotel in Delhi's Malviya Nagar has identified an electrical short circuit as the likely cause of the blaze that claimed 21 lives, shifting attention away from initial concerns about a possible LPG cylinder explosion.

The fire broke out at Flourish Stay B&B on Wednesday morning, making it one of the deadliest hotel fire tragedies witnessed in the national capital in recent years. Investigators believe the speed and intensity with which the flames spread through the building are more consistent with an electrical fault within the internal wiring system than with a gas-related

explosion.

Although LPG cylinders were being used in two kitchens operating within the hotel, one located in the basement and another on the top floor, officials have found no evidence to suggest that any cylinder exploded. Forensic experts are continuing to examine the site to determine the exact point where the fire originated and how it rapidly engulfed the structure.

The investigation has also widened to examine potential violations of building and fire safety regulations. Authorities are verifying reports that the hotel was approved to operate only six rooms but was allegedly running around 25 rooms, including accommodation facilities in the basement.

Agacaim Police crack boat owner murder case; two labourers arrested from Nagpur

Team Goemkarponn



AGACAIM: The mystery surrounding the death of fishing boat owner

Manjunath Harikant, whose body was recovered from the Zuari River earlier this week, has taken a dramatic turn with Agacaim Police arresting two labourers from Nagpur for their alleged involvement in the murder.

Police sources confirmed that the two accused have been detained and are being brought to Agacaim Police Station for further investigation.

The motive behind the crime and the weapon allegedly used in the murder are yet to be officially disclosed, with investigators continuing to piece together the sequence of events that led to Harikant's death.

The case had triggered widespread concern within the fishing community after Harikant's body was found floating in the Zuari River and recovered by Agacaim Police.



GOVERNMENT OF GOA

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2026




UNEP Theme: "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For our Future"

NH66 GREEN CORRIDOR PROJECT

- Transforming NH66 into a **green corridor** for a sustainable future.
- On **World Environment Day 2026**, the Government of Goa launches the **Green NH66 Mission** to develop a green corridor along NH66, covering a 70 km stretch from Patradevi to Pollem with median and roadside plantations.

STATEWIDE PLANTATION DRIVE

- 3 Months Campaign
- 16 Lakh sapling to be planted
- Community participation

CHIEF GUEST

Dr. Pramod Sawant
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa

GUEST OF HONOUR

Shri. Shripad Naik
Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy Govt. of India

EVENT DETAILS

Date: **5th June 2026**
Time: **11:00 AM**
Main Inauguration Venue: **Opp. KTCL Bus Stand, Panaji, Goa**

Programme at 10 different location across Goa



Scan QR code
for plantation locations
across 10 sites in Goa

Free sapling Distribution



Reservation Without a Roadmap Risks Creating a Political Maze in Goa

As Goa inches closer to its next Assembly elections, the debate over political reservation has acquired fresh urgency. The renewed demand from Scheduled Tribe leaders for reserved constituencies, coupled with the impending implementation of the 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures, has exposed a fundamental problem. The state is discussing multiple layers of political reservation without first addressing the practical questions of representation, delimitation, and electoral balance.

The demand by Scheduled Tribe leaders is neither new nor unreasonable. Tribal communities have long argued that their growing population and historical marginalisation warrant stronger political representation. Their insistence that constituencies such as Priol, Sanguem, Quepem, Nuvem, and parts of Salcete be considered for reservation reflects a belief that political empowerment cannot remain confined to welfare schemes alone. Representation in elected bodies is often viewed as the most effective way to ensure that community concerns receive sustained attention.

However, the challenge lies in the timing and the process.

The Akhil Gomantak Kshatriya Maratha Samaj has simultaneously urged the government to halt the reservation exercise until the completion of the national census and delimitation process. Their argument is based on a simple principle. Any reservation framework should be grounded in updated demographic data rather than estimates or outdated population figures. This concern deserves careful consideration.

The confusion deepens when one factors in the proposed implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies. Although the constitutional framework for women's reservation has been approved nationally, its actual implementation is linked to the completion of the census and subsequent delimitation exercise. If Goa proceeds with discussions on ST political reservation before those processes are completed, questions will inevitably arise about how different reservation categories will interact.

Will constituencies earmarked for Scheduled Tribes also be subject to women's reservation? How will constituencies be selected? What happens if a

“Political reservation is most effective when it is seen as fair, transparent, and data-driven. If different reservation proposals are pursued in isolation, they risk creating resentment among communities that feel disadvantaged by the process. Goa's social fabric has traditionally been marked by coexistence and moderation. Policymakers must therefore ensure that representation debates do not evolve into contests between communities.

There is also a broader democratic concern. Frequent uncertainty about constituency status can weaken electoral planning and voter engagement. Political parties need clarity to identify and nurture future leaders. Communities need certainty about how their interests will be represented.”

constituency identified for ST reservation is simultaneously identified under a future women's reservation matrix? These are not merely technical questions. They have direct implications for electoral fairness, political strategy, and voter confidence.

The danger is that Goa could find itself trapped in a cycle of competing demands, with every community seeking clarity while the government struggles to provide definitive answers.

Political reservation is most effective when it is seen as fair, transparent, and data driven. If

different reservation proposals are pursued in isolation, they risk creating resentment among communities that feel disadvantaged by the process. Goa's social fabric has traditionally been marked by coexistence and moderation. Policymakers must therefore ensure that representation debates do not evolve into contests between communities.

There is also a broader democratic concern. Frequent uncertainty about constituency status can weaken electoral planning and voter engagement. Political parties need clarity to identify and nurture future leaders. Communities need certainty about how their interests will be represented. Prospective candidates need to know whether they will be eligible to contest from their constituencies. Without a clear roadmap, speculation begins to replace informed discussion.

The state government's assurance that it is actively pursuing the issue is welcome. Yet pursuit alone is not enough. What Goa needs is a transparent timeline outlining how the census, delimitation process, ST reservation demands, and women's reservation will fit together.

Citizens deserve to understand not only what decisions are being considered but also the sequence in which those decisions will be implemented.

The demand for greater representation among Scheduled Tribes is legitimate. The goal of increasing women's participation in politics is equally important. Neither objective should come at the expense of clarity or public confidence. Democratic reform succeeds when it is built on consensus and careful planning rather than electoral urgency.

As the election season approaches, Goa's leaders must resist the temptation to treat reservation as a political promise that can be adjusted according to immediate pressures. Instead, they must create a comprehensive framework that balances constitutional obligations, demographic realities, and social harmony.

Representation is essential. But representation without a clear roadmap risks turning an important democratic reform into a source of confusion. Goa deserves a process that is fair, transparent, and understood by everyone before voters are called to the ballot box.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Withdraw Excessive Political Security, Strengthen Policing for Citizens

The revelation that the Goa Police is functioning with nearly 1,000 vacancies should be a matter of serious concern for every citizen.

At a time when police stations and specialised units are struggling with manpower shortages, it is worth questioning whether the state can afford to deploy a large number of personnel for the security of politicians who face little or no credible threat.

Goa is not a conflict-prone state. It enjoys relative peace and social harmony compared to many other parts of the country. Yet, police personnel continue to be assigned to escort duties, personal security details, and protocol arrangements for political leaders. Every officer deployed for such duties is one less officer available for crime investigation, traffic regulation, cybercrime monitoring, anti-drug operations, and community policing. The burden on existing police personnel is already evident. Many officers are handling multiple responsibilities, resulting in increased stress and reduced efficiency. Citizens often complain about delayed investigations, traffic congestion, and inadequate police presence in residential areas. Addressing these concerns should be a higher priority than providing round-the-clock security to politicians who do not face any specific threat.

The government should undertake an immediate review of all security cover provided to political leaders and withdraw unnecessary deployments. The personnel thus freed can be redirected to police stations and specialised units where their services are genuinely required.

Public safety must come before political privilege.

-Savio Fernandes, Porvorim, Goa

Merit Must Defeat Political Patronage

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's decision to continue recruitment through the Goa Staff Selection Commission deserves support from all those who believe in fairness and equal opportunity. The demand from some MLAs to scrap the GSSC raises troubling questions about the motives behind such opposition.

For decades, government jobs have often been viewed as rewards distributed through political influence rather than merit. Every election season, promises of jobs become a tool for building vote banks, creating an unhealthy culture where political connections matter more than qualifications. It is precisely this perception that bodies like the GSSC were created to address.

A transparent recruitment process protects deserving candidates who spend years studying and preparing for competitive examinations. Young people from ordinary families cannot compete with political influence, but they can compete on merit. Any attempt to dilute a transparent system sends the wrong message to thousands of unemployed graduates who expect a level playing field.

If recruitment returns to a system dominated by recommendations and political pressure, public trust in government appointments will suffer. It would reinforce the belief that government jobs are reserved for relatives, supporters, and those with access to influential leaders. Instead of demanding the abolition of the GSSC, elected representatives should work to strengthen the commission, ensure faster recruitment, reduce delays, and improve transparency. The focus should be on creating opportunities for deserving candidates, not on reviving old practices that many citizens have long criticised. Government jobs belong to the people of Goa, not to political networks.

- Rohan D'Souza, Margao, Goa

Chemotherapy Services To Begin At Goa District Hospitals From June 11

■ New cancer treatment facility aims to reduce patient travel; CT scan unit and ambulance integration also on the cards

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: In a significant step towards strengthening healthcare services in Goa, chemotherapy treatment for cancer patients will be introduced at both the North Goa and South Goa District Hospitals from June 11, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane announced on Wednesday.

The move is expected to make cancer treatment



more accessible, especially for patients who currently depend on Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC) for chemotherapy sessions.

By bringing the service closer to patients' homes, the government aims to ease travel-related hardships and improve continuity of care.

Rane made the announcement during a visit to the North Goa District Hospital, where he reviewed hospital operations following a power outage that affected services on Tuesday evening. The minister chaired a meeting with doctors and hospital officials to assess the situation and discuss measures to improve infrastructure and patient care.



North Goa Panel Approves 26 Forest Rights Claims in Morlem

■ 11 applications returned for further verification and personal hearings before final decision

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The North Goa District Level Committee (DLC), chaired by Collector Ankit Yadav, has approved 26 claims under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, following a review of applications submitted from Morlem village in Sattari taluka.

At a recent meeting, the committee examined 37 claims seeking recognition of rights under the legislation. After scrutiny, 26 applications were cleared, while 11 were sent back to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC) for additional verification, including personal hearings and submission of supporting documents.

The Forest Rights Act was introduced to recognise the rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional

forest communities that have lived in and depended on forest areas for generations. The law aims to address historical injustices while providing livelihood and tenure security to forest-dependent families.

Officials said the approved claims will provide legal recognition to eligible beneficiaries in Morlem, strengthening their rights over forest land and helping secure their traditional means of livelihood.

The move is also expected to support sustainable management of forest resources in the region. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant welcomed the progress in the implementation of the Act and reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting the interests of forest-dwelling communities.



Porvorim Rising to Honour Academic Achievers at June 6 Felicitation

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Porvorim Rising will felicitate nearly 200 meritorious students from the Porvorim constituency during a special function scheduled at the newly constructed Porvorim Gymkhana on June 6.

Students who secured more than 75 per cent marks in the SSC and HSSC examinations this year will be honoured at the event, which is set to commence at 3.30 pm. Degree students from the constituency will also be recognised for their academic achievements.

The annual initiative, spearheaded by Goa Tourism Minister and Porvorim MLA Rohan A. Khaunte, seeks to encourage scholastic excellence and inspire students to pursue higher educational goals.

Over the years, the programme has gained popularity among students and parents alike for celebrating academic success and fostering healthy competition.

Khaunte will attend the function as the chief guest.

Court Allows Access To Frozen Bank Account In Birch Fire Case

■ Mapusa judge says prosecution failed to justify continued attachment after investigation

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA : The Additional Sessions Court in Mapusa has directed authorities to lift the freeze on a bank account belonging to Ajay Gupta, an accused in the Birch by Romeo Lane fire case, ruling that there was no sufficient reason to continue the restriction after the investigation phase.

The order came after Gupta approached the court seeking permission to operate the account, which had been frozen by Anjuna Police during the



probe into the fire incident.

In his application, Gupta argued that the account was unrelated to the allegations under investigation and that the prolonged freeze was adversely affecting him.

The prosecution opposed the plea, stating that investigators had found Gupta in

Goa when the incident occurred and alleged that he left for Delhi the next day. According to the prosecution, he was subsequently arrested in Delhi on December 10, 2025, and the bank account was frozen as part of the investigative process.

After considering the submissions, the court observed that the prosecution had not established any requirement for the account to remain frozen during the ongoing judicial proceedings.

Dr Deviya Rane Chairs GFDC Board Meeting, Reviews Key Eco-Tourism Projects

■ Board Discusses Bondla Cottage Upgrades, Waterfall Safety Measures and New Tourism Destinations

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: MLA Dr Deviya Rane chaired the 121st Board Meeting of the Goa Forest Development Corporation (GFDC), where members reviewed ongoing initiatives and deliberated on projects aimed at strengthening eco-tourism, enhancing visitor experiences and improving public amenities across Goa. The meeting was attended by Principal Chief Conservator of



Forests (PCCF) Kamal Datta, Managing Director K. Ramesh Kumar, General Manager Amar Heblekar and other members of the Board. Among the key matters discussed was the upgradation of facilities at the Sylvan Bondla Eco-Tourism Cottages.

Goa Reconsiders Longer Fishing Ban Amid Concerns Over Falling Fish Catch

■ State sends recommendations to Centre; officials say any change must be part of uniform west coast policy

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government is examining the possibility of extending the annual fishing ban period following growing demands from traditional fishermen and environmental groups who believe a longer closure is needed to support marine conservation and revive declining fish



populations.

Director of Fisheries Shamila Monteiro said the matter is under review and that the State has already communicated its recommendations to the Central Government.

Speaking on the issue,

Monteiro said the current 61-day fishing ban, which came into effect on June 1, remains applicable across the entire west coast. She added that any decision to alter the duration of the ban would have to be taken uniformly for all west coast states. The monsoon fishing ban is imposed every year to protect fish during their breeding and spawning season.

Sixth Accused in Dacoity Case Brought to Goa by Crime Branch

■ Bangladeshi national produced before Mapusa court, remanded to 14 days' judicial custody

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a significant development in the Mapusa dacoity case, the Crime Branch has brought the sixth accused, Mohammad Nazir, a Bangladeshi national, to Goa after securing a transfer warrant from the Court of the Judicial



Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Mapusa.

The accused, who is allegedly involved in Mapusa Police Station

Crime No. 133/2025, was produced before the JMFC, Mapusa, and has been remanded to 14 days' judicial custody.

Crime Branch officials said five other Bangladeshi nationals linked to the Dona Paula dacoity case had already been brought to Goa earlier. With Nazir's arrival,

all six accused in the case are now in the custody of Goa authorities.

The accused were arrested during a coordinated operation by the Delhi Police Crime Branch based on intelligence inputs shared by Goa Police.

Further investigation is in progress.



Woman Duped of Rs 1.12 Lakh in Online Loan Scam

■ Fraudster allegedly promised Rs 2 lakh loan and collected money under various charges; Quepem police probe underway

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: A woman from Xeldem, Quepem, has fallen victim to an online loan fraud and lost Rs 1.12 lakh after being allegedly cheated by a person posing as a loan provider.

According to police, complainant Neha Bandekar reported that between May 23 and May 27, 2026, she applied for an online loan and was contacted by a person identifying himself as Saurab Khan through a mobile phone.

The accused allegedly promised to sanction a loan of Rs 2 lakh and induced the complainant

to transfer money towards processing fees, insurance, GST, TDS, NOC and declaration charges. Believing the representations to be genuine, the complainant transferred a total amount of Rs 1,12,115 to bank accounts provided by the accused. However, neither the promised loan amount nor any refund was received thereafter.

Police said the accused dishonestly cheated the complainant through a cyber fraud, causing her a wrongful loss of Rs 1,12,115.

Further investigation is being carried out by LPSI Joyce Carvalho of Quepem Police Station.

BOOKED

Woman Booked for Assault and Stone Pelting in Madkaim Property Dispute

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Mardol Police have registered a case against a woman from Madkaim following a complaint alleging abuse and assault during a dispute over property matters. According to police, Durga Gaude, a resident of Madkaim in Ponda, lodged a complaint stating that on June 2, 2026, at around 5 pm, Shakuntala Gaude of Madkaim allegedly abused him in filthy language during an argument related to a property dispute.

Elderly Woman Suffers Grievous Head Injury After Being Hit by Bus in Sankhalim

■ Bicholim Police register case against bus driver for rash and negligent driving

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: Bicholim Police have registered a case against a bus driver following a road accident in Sankhalim that left a 65-year-old woman seriously injured.

According to police, the accident occurred on June 1 at around 6.15 pm near the Government Primary School at Gauthan, Sankhalim. The accused, identified as Deelip Gopal Parab, a resident of Tambulwada, Ladfe, Bicholim, was allegedly driving a Tata bus (GA-04-T-4829) from Karapur-Sankhalim towards



Kudnem-Navelim in a rash and negligent manner.

Police said that upon reaching near the school, the bus struck pedestrian Diksha Satardekar (65), a resident of Gauthan, Sankhalim, who was walking towards Sankhalim. The impact caused her to fall on the roadside, resulting in grievous head injuries.

The injured woman

was initially shifted to CHC Sankhalim by a 108 ambulance and was later

referred to Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim, where she is currently undergoing treatment in Ward No. 120.

The case was registered on June 3 following an inquiry conducted by Head Constable Babu Jangale of Bicholim Police Station, who is also investigating the matter.

Man Caught Accepting Matka Bets Near Panaji Bar, Cash Seized

■ Police arrest accused red-handed during gambling crackdown

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered a gambling case against a 37-year-old man who was allegedly caught accepting matka bets from members of the public in an open public place near Gandharv Bar and Restaurant in Panaji. According to police, the offence was registered



on June 2 at 9.08 pm based

on a complaint lodged by Head Constable Babu Madanwar of Panaji Police Station. The accused has been identified as Chandrakant Sidram Talawar (37), a resident of Bhatlem, Panaji, originally from Sindagi in Karnataka's Bijapur district.

Woman Killed in Old Goa Road Accident After Falling Under Oncoming EV Scooter

■ Rash turn by scooter rider allegedly triggers chain-reaction crash near Baiguinim

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: Old Goa Police have registered a case against a scooter rider in connection with a fatal road accident at Baiguinim that claimed the life of a 49-year-old woman and left another rider injured.

According to police, the accident occurred on June 1 at around 8 pm



near Dessai Wine Store, Baiguinim. The accused, identified as Umashankar Ramlakhan Chavan (48),

a resident of Baiguinim and originally from Jaunpur district in Uttar Pradesh, was riding an Activa scooter (GA-07-

AD-4857) from Old Goa towards Ribandar.

Police alleged that Chavan was riding in

a rash and negligent manner and suddenly took a right turn without noticing a vehicle behind him. In the process, his scooter collided with another Activa scooter (GA-05-K-2556).

The impact caused pillion rider Nilima Saste (49) to fall onto the road, where she came under an oncoming Ola electric scooter (GA-04-R-5529).

Gauri Volvoikar Seeks Probe Into Re-Enrolment of Congress Worker in Socorro Electoral Roll

■ Demands suspension of BLO, AERO over alleged irregularities in voter registration

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Socorro Panchayat member Gauri Volvoikar has demanded the immediate suspension of the concerned Booth Level Officer (BLO) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) and called for a detailed inquiry into the alleged irregular re-enrolment of Congress



worker Anil Pednekar in the electoral roll of Socorro village.

Addressing a press

conference, Volvoikar alleged that Pednekar's name had earlier been deleted from the

electoral roll during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise after authorities found that he was not residing at the address under which he was registered in Socorro.

According to Volvoikar, Pednekar was previously enrolled as a voter in Part No. 7 of Socorro village under the Porvorim Assembly constituency. During verification



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

■ Poriem MLA thanks residents for support, calls for greater job opportunities for Goan youth

Team Goemkarponn

MORLEM: A public meeting held at the Morlem Panchayat witnessed a large turnout of residents, with Poriem MLA Dr. Deviya Rane describing the response as a reflection of the people's continued support and participation in the development of Sattari and Poriem. Addressing the gathering, Dr Rane expressed gratitude to the people and offered a "Sashtang Namaskar" to the people of Sattari for attending the meeting in large numbers and supporting various development initiatives.

Speaking on Goa's future, she said meaningful progress could only be

achieved by creating employment opportunities for the state's youth. She emphasized the need to promote skill development, entrepreneurship and job creation to enable young people to contribute to Goa's growth. Reaffirming her commitment to inclusive development, Dr Rane said special attention would continue to be given to strengthening women and youth through initiatives focused on empowerment and participation in the region's development. She also raised concerns over private sector companies recruiting candidates from outside Goa while many qualified local youth continue to seek employment.



CM Calls for Healthier Lifestyle Amid Rise in Lifestyle Diseases

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has urged Goans to adopt healthier lifestyles in response to the growing incidence of lifestyle-related health issues in the state.

Stressing that small changes in daily habits can have a significant impact on overall well-being, Sawant appealed to citizens to exercise regularly, follow a balanced diet, and cut down on sugar and junk food consumption.

The Chief Minister also called upon doctors and healthcare professionals to play a proactive role in spreading awareness about preventive healthcare and healthy living among patients.

Sawant encouraged people to participate in the statewide 'Health with Ayurveda' campaign, which has been extended until July 5, and described it as an opportunity for citizens to take positive steps towards better health.

"A healthy life begins with healthy choices," the Chief Minister said while promoting the campaign aimed at fostering wellness and disease prevention across Goa.

GSCPCR Orders Strict Enforcement of Tobacco Ban Near Schools

Educational institutions, police, excise department and local bodies directed to ensure compliance

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has issued a circular directing strict enforcement of laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products near educational institutions and regulating the sale of alcohol in the interest of child safety and public health.

The commission reminded authorities



that Section 6(b) of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 prohibits the sale of tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of any educational institution. It also pointed out that Section 77 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 makes it a punishable offence to give or facilitate the supply of intoxicating substances, including tobacco and alcohol, to children.

The commission further noted that the sale and licensing of alcohol are governed by state excise laws, which impose restrictions on the location of liquor outlets, including their proximity to educational institutions.

As part of its directions, GSCPCR has instructed all educational institutions to install boards at prominent locations outside their premises stating that the sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of the institution is prohibited.

NGDH Set to Launch Oncology Day Care Centre; Fifth Operation Theatre Also in the Works

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

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: In a major boost to specialised healthcare services in North Goa, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane has announced that a dedicated Oncology Day Care Centre for selected chemotherapy procedures will soon become operational at North Goa District Hospital.

The announcement was made during



the minister's visit to the hospital, where he conducted a detailed review of ongoing

infrastructure projects and operational matters. The upcoming oncology facility is expected to improve

access to cancer treatment by allowing patients to undergo selected chemotherapy procedures closer to home, reducing the need for referrals to other centres. Rane also reviewed the progress of work to operationalise the hospital's fifth operation theatre, a development expected to increase surgical capacity and help meet growing healthcare demands in North Goa.



Aadhaar No Longer Mandatory for Issuance of Government Certificates

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has clarified that Aadhaar authentication or Aadhaar-based requirements should not be made mandatory for the issuance of government certificates solely on the basis of an earlier Office Memorandum that has now been withdrawn.

“Self-Reliant and Climate-Resilient”: India’s First Model Border Village to Rise at 16,700 Feet in Ladakh

■ Remote Chumur Near the China Border Chosen for Pilot Project Under Vibrant Village Programme

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: A tiny settlement of just 91 residents in eastern Ladakh is set to become India’s first Model Border Village, marking a significant step in the country’s efforts to strengthen habitation and economic activity in strategically important frontier regions.

On Wednesday, Vinai Kumar Saxena laid the foundation stone for the project in Chumur, located at an altitude of 16,700 feet in Ladakh’s Changthang region near the India-China border.

The initiative is being implemented under the Vibrant Village Programme, which aims to transform remote frontier settlements into self-reliant, climate-resilient and economically vibrant communities. Chumur is the first village in Ladakh to be selected under the programme.

Situated close to the Line of Actual Control, Chumur consists of only 24 households, most of which depend on Pashmina goat rearing for their livelihood. Despite its small population, the village occupies an



important position in the government’s broader strategy to strengthen border communities and discourage migration from remote high-altitude regions.

Under the project, all 24 households will receive new climate-resilient homes equipped with thermally insulated walls designed to withstand extreme weather conditions. Each house will also include an additional room that can function as a homestay, creating new income opportunities through tourism. Officials expect the housing component

of the project to be completed by September 2026, subject to weather conditions.

Beyond housing, the initiative will focus on improving infrastructure, boosting tourism, generating livelihoods and supporting local economic activities such as Pashmina production and traditional handicrafts. Launched in 2023, the Vibrant Village Programme seeks to improve living standards in villages located along India’s northern borders. The scheme was introduced to address concerns over population

decline in frontier areas, where harsh climatic conditions, limited connectivity and fewer economic opportunities have encouraged migration. As India’s first Model Border Village project gets underway, Chumur is expected to serve as a template for similar initiatives across Ladakh. The success of the programme will ultimately be measured not only by new infrastructure but also by its ability to sustain communities in some of the country’s most remote and strategically significant regions.

Centre Pushes Ahead With Fotu La Tunnel as Ladakh’s All-Weather Connectivity Plan Gains Momentum

■ After Zojila Milestone, Work Begins on Strategic NH-1 Project to Strengthen Civilian and Military Access

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Centre has taken another major step towards creating an all-weather road corridor to Ladakh, initiating the bidding process for the construction of twin tunnels beneath the strategically significant Fotu La Pass on National Highway-1.

The move comes as the long-awaited Zojila Tunnel approaches a key construction milestone, with a breakthrough ceremony scheduled next week.

Together, the two projects are expected to transform the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway into a reliable year-round transportation corridor, reducing disruptions caused by severe weather and heavy snowfall. The proposed Fotu La Tunnel project is estimated to cost Rs 824 crore and is expected to be completed within three years. It involves the construction of twin uni-directional tunnels, each nearly two kilometres long, along with approach roads, covering a total project length of approximately 2.65 kilometres.

Located at an altitude of about 4,108 metres, Fotu La is the highest point on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway and one of the most challenging stretches of NH-1. Heavy snowfall, ice formation, steep gradients and sharp mountain turns frequently disrupt traffic movement,

particularly during winter months when snow accumulation can reach several feet.

By taking traffic beneath the mountain rather than across the exposed pass, the tunnel is expected to significantly improve road reliability, shorten travel time and reduce weather-related closures. The project will also lower the burden of continuous snow-clearance operations that currently consume considerable resources during winter.

Beyond civilian convenience, the tunnel carries major strategic importance. NH-1 serves as a critical supply route for the movement of military personnel, equipment, fuel and logistics to forward areas in Ladakh. Since the 2020 military standoff along the Line of Actual Control, strengthening connectivity to the region has become a key national priority.

Meanwhile, the 13.15-km Zojila Tunnel, being built at an estimated cost of around Rs 7,000 crore, is progressing toward completion and is expected to become one of Asia’s longest road tunnels when operational. Together, the Zojila and Fotu La tunnels form part of a broader strategy to eliminate weather bottlenecks, improve economic connectivity and ensure uninterrupted access to one of India’s most strategically important frontier regions.



Mhaje Ghar Only For Goans, Clarifies CM

legal recognition and ownership security to Goan families whose homes remain unregularised.

“The ‘Mhaje Ghar’ scheme is for Goans. It has been introduced to regularise the houses of Goan residents and not migrants,” Sawant said.

The Chief Minister said the regularisation process is being carried out for a nominal fee of ₹1,000, making it accessible to eligible beneficiaries. He further announced that the distribution of house sanads in North Goa will begin within the next four days. The clarification comes amid growing public interest in the scheme, which seeks to resolve

long-pending issues related to house ownership and documentation. By granting sanads and other legal documents, the government aims to provide greater security and certainty to Goan families regarding their properties.

Nuven MLA Aleixo Sequeira welcomed the initiative and lauded the government for addressing a long-standing concern affecting many households. He urged eligible beneficiaries to avail themselves of the opportunity and complete the regularisation process under the scheme. The ‘Mhaje Ghar’ initiative is expected to benefit thousands of Goan families by providing legal ownership documents and bringing clarity to property records across the State.

Govt to Launch ‘Mhajo Flat’ Scheme After Mhaje Ghar: CM

would now focus on resolving ownership issues faced by flat owners across Goa.

“Today, we successfully handed over sanads under the Mhaje Ghar scheme.

The next initiative will be Mhajo Flat, which aims to grant rightful ownership to flat owners who have already made full payments but have not yet received legal ownership documents,” he said.

The proposed scheme is expected to benefit residents who continue to face legal and procedural hurdles despite having fully paid for their flats.

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“MEA Is Extending All Necessary Assistance”: Jaishankar on Foreign Nationals Killed in Delhi Hotel Fire

■ External Affairs Minister Says Government Is Coordinating With Embassies as Death Toll Reaches 21

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday expressed grief over the loss of lives in the devastating hotel fire in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar, including several foreign nationals, and said the Ministry of External Affairs is coordinating closely with concerned embassies to provide assistance.

In a message posted on social media, Jaishankar conveyed



his condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and wished a speedy recovery for the injured. He stated that the Ministry of External Affairs was in contact with foreign diplomatic missions and was extending

all necessary support following the tragedy.

The fire broke out at Flourish Stay B&B in the Hauz Rani area on Wednesday morning, claiming at least 21 lives. Officials said 11 foreign nationals were among those killed in the incident, making it one of the deadliest hotel fire disasters in the national capital in recent years.

Many of the foreign guests were reportedly staying at the hotel while

accompanying relatives undergoing treatment at nearby hospitals. Authorities believe a significant number of the victims were from countries in Central Asia and Africa.

The blaze spread rapidly through the five-storey building after erupting around 8.30 am. Rescue personnel, assisted by local residents, evacuated several occupants from the smoke-filled structure.



“Civilian Infrastructure Must Not Be Targeted”: India Condemns Kuwait Airport Attack

■ MEA Confirms Death of Indian National, Calls for End to Attacks on Civilian Facilities

New Delhi: India on Wednesday strongly condemned the attack on Kuwait International Airport that claimed the life of an Indian national and injured several others, reiterating its position that civilian populations and infrastructure should never be targeted during conflicts.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs expressed deep concern over the incident and renewed its appeal for restraint amid the ongoing tensions in West Asia. The ministry said attacks on civilian facilities were unacceptable and urged all parties involved in the conflict to halt such actions.

Earlier in the day, the Embassy of India in Kuwait confirmed that an Indian citizen was among those killed in the strike on the airport.

The identity of the deceased had not been disclosed at the time of the announcement. Several other Indian nationals were also reported injured in the attack.

The MEA conveyed its condolences to the bereaved family and stated that Indian officials in Kuwait were extending all possible assistance to those affected. It added that the embassy remains in close coordination with local authorities to ensure the welfare and safety of Indian citizens in the country.

The ministry further noted that Indian diplomatic missions across the region have been placed on alert and are actively monitoring developments while providing support to members of the Indian community wherever required.



“This Is the Youth Era”: DK Shivakumar Unveils Six Major Initiatives on First Day as Karnataka CM

New Delhi: Hours after taking oath as Karnataka's Chief Minister, DK Shivakumar announced a sweeping six point agenda focused on youth empowerment, employment generation, infrastructure development and property reforms, declaring the beginning of what he called a “new youth era” in the state.

Presenting the decisions taken by his first Cabinet, Shivakumar said the government would prioritise creating opportunities for young people while accelerating development initiatives across Karnataka. He emphasised that the new administration would work to translate public trust into tangible benefits for citizens.

One of the most significant announcements was the introduction of free bus passes for all school and college students.

Supreme Court Forms 5 Member Panel to Finalise Aravalli Definition by August 31

■ Five-Member Committee to Examine Ecological, Mining and Conservation Concerns Across the Aravalli Region

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has constituted a five-member high-powered committee to develop a uniform and scientifically sound definition of the ecologically significant Aravalli Range, a move expected to influence future decisions on mining, environmental conservation and land use across the region.

The committee has been directed to submit its report by August 31. The decision was taken by a



bench headed by Surya Kant, which emphasised that any future policy concerning the Aravallis must be based on scientific assessment and guided by the principles of environmental protection and sustainable development.

The panel will be chaired by Kanchan Devi, who serves as Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education. Other members include former senior officials and experts from forestry, geology, environmental governance and academia. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will appoint a Director-rank officer to serve as the committee's member secretary.

“Why Am I Attacked Every Election?": Lalit Modi Alleges Congress Targeted Him for Years

■ Former IPL Chief Claims Political Leaders Used His Name Repeatedly Despite No Court Case Being Proven Against Him

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Former Indian Premier League chairman Lalit Modi has alleged that he has faced years of political targeting by leaders of the Indian National Congress, claiming that his name is repeatedly invoked during political debates and election campaigns despite no legal case being



successfully pursued against him.

Speaking in a recent interview, Modi questioned

why he continues to feature prominently in political discourse, particularly in speeches delivered by Rahul Gandhi. He claimed

that references to him often resurface whenever elections approach or major political issues

dominate public attention.

According to Modi, the absence of any court proceedings against him over nearly two decades raises questions about the allegations made against him. He argued that if substantial evidence of wrongdoing existed, legal action would already have been taken and concluded. He maintained that no case has been proven against him during

this period.

Addressing comparisons with prominent industrialists such as Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani, Modi said his association with cricket places him in a different category. He argued that cricket's immense popularity keeps him in the public spotlight and makes him a frequent subject of media attention.

Virat Kohli Ruled Out of Afghanistan ODI Series Due to Hamstring Injury

■ Star Batter to Miss Three-Match Assignment After Leading RCB to IPL 2026 Glory

New Delhi: Indian cricket star Virat Kohli has been ruled out of the upcoming ODI series against Afghanistan after sustaining a hamstring injury, dealing a setback to India's preparations ahead of the three-match contest scheduled to begin on June 13 in Dharamsala.

The development comes just days after Kohli capped off a memorable IPL 2026 campaign, playing a crucial role in guiding Royal Challengers



Bengaluru to the title. The veteran batter sealed the victory by hitting the winning runs in the final against Gujarat Titans and finished the season

among the tournament's standout performers.

The injury has raised concerns over Kohli's immediate availability, although the

extent of the hamstring issue and the expected recovery timeline have not yet been officially disclosed.

There is also

uncertainty surrounding the participation of India captain Rohit Sharma. Reports suggest he was included in the squad subject to fitness clearance, leaving the team management with potential selection challenges ahead of the series.

Meanwhile, Kohli recently reflected on the evolution of his batting approach and the changing demands of modern T20 cricket.

PV Sindhu's Indonesia Open Campaign Ends After Straight-Games Loss to World No. 1 An Se Young

■ Indian Star Suffers 10th Consecutive Defeat Against Reigning Olympic Champion

Goemkarponn desk

New Delhi: Two-time Olympic medallist P. V. Sindhu bowed out of the Indonesia Open after suffering a straight-games defeat to world No. 1 An Se-young in the women's singles pre-quarterfinals on Thursday.

Sindhu went down 17-21, 14-21 to the reigning



Olympic champion, marking her second loss to the South Korean star in as many weeks. The Indian had also been defeated

by An in the quarterfinals of the Singapore Open last week. The result extended Sindhu's winless record against An to 10 matches, with the Indian yet to register a victory over the world No. 1. The opening game was closely contested in its early stages, with both players level at 10-10 midway through the contest.

BCCI Apex Council Meeting Today Amid Growing Speculation Over India's T20 Captaincy

■ Future of Suryakumar Yadav's Leadership Under Spotlight as Selectors Look Ahead to 2028 World Cup Cycle

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India is set to hold an online meeting of its Apex Council on Thursday, with attention focused on the future of India's men's T20I captaincy amid increasing speculation surrounding Suryakumar Yadav.

While there is no official confirmation that the captaincy issue is on the agenda, discussions around India's leadership plans have intensified as the team begins preparations for the next major T20 cycle, which includes the 2028 ICC Men's T20 World Cup and cricket's return at the Los Angeles Olympics.

Suryakumar led India to the T20 World Cup

title earlier this year, but questions have emerged over his long-term future in the role following an extended dip in form. The right-handed batter endured a disappointing IPL 2026 campaign for Mumbai Indians, scoring 270 runs in 13 innings at an average of 20.76 as the five-time champions finished near the bottom of the standings.

His struggles with the bat reportedly continued during the T20 World Cup campaign and in domestic T20 cricket, prompting discussions about whether a leadership change could be considered as India builds towards future global tournaments. Several names have emerged as potential contenders for the role.



"Dawood Took Three Hits on Me": Lalit Modi Claims Threats Forced His Exit From Cricket Administration Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Former Indian Premier League commissioner Lalit Modi has claimed that threats from fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his alleged criminal network were a key reason behind his decision to step away from cricket administration more than a decade ago.

In an interview, Modi alleged that his efforts to curb match-fixing and illegal betting during the IPL's formative years brought him into direct conflict with powerful betting syndicates. According to him, his refusal to ignore suspicious activities made him a target of organised crime groups involved in underground cricket betting. Modi claimed that illegal betting on cricket has grown into a multi-billion-dollar enterprise, with wagers placed on individual deliveries, overs and specific in-game events.

Sanfida Strikes as India Edge Bhutan to Reach SAFF Women's Championship Final

■ Five-Time Champions Set Up Title Clash Against Defending Champions Bangladesh

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Five-time champions India women's national football team booked their place in the final of the SAFF Women's Championship after a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Bhutan women's national football team in the semifinal on Wednesday.

The decisive moment came in the 60th minute when midfielder Sanfida Nongrum found the



breakthrough, ending Bhutan's determined resistance and sending the hosts into the championship match. India will now face defending champions Bangladesh women's national football team

in Sunday's final at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Having scored 14 goals in two group-stage matches, India entered the semifinal as overwhelming favourites. However, Bhutan once

again demonstrated the defensive discipline that has carried them to three consecutive semifinal appearances in the tournament.

Despite dominating possession and spending long periods in the opposition half, the Blue Tigresses struggled to break down a well-organised Bhutan defence during the first half. Chances fell to players such as Karishma Shirvoikar, Soumya Guguloth and Aveka

Singh, but a combination of missed opportunities and solid goalkeeping kept the scores level at the break.

Bhutan remained a threat on the counterattack and created a few promising opportunities of their own, testing the Indian defence whenever space opened up.

India finally capitalised on sustained pressure when Sanfida's strike put the hosts ahead. Coach Crispin