



Student Dies by Suicide After Viral Garbage-Dumping Video

23-year-old was booked after footage circulated on social media; incident sparks debate on online shaming and mental health

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant ordered a detailed inquiry into the death of an undergraduate student from Mapusa who allegedly died by suicide after a police case was registered against him over the alleged dumping of garbage along a roadside at Gaunswaddo.

The Chief Minister said the government would conduct a comprehensive investigation to ascertain the circumstances that led to the student's death and



determine the sequence of events preceding the incident.

The student had come under the spotlight after a video purportedly showing him dumping waste in a public place circulated widely on social media. Based on the footage,

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CM Orders Inquiry Into Death of Mapusa Student

Team Goemkarponn

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Goa Plans Revival of 18,000 Hectares of Khazan Land in Major Conservation Push

Government signs pact with experts as CM Sawant outlines long-term strategy to restore traditional ecosystems and strengthen climate resilience



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a significant environmental initiative, the Goa government has announced plans to restore approximately 18,000 hectares of khazan land, marking one of the largest ecosystem revival projects undertaken in the state in recent years.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the government has already entered into an agreement with experts to facilitate the restoration of the centuries-old khazan system, which has historically served as an integrated network for agriculture, water management, fisheries and flood control in Goa's

coastal belt.

The announcement comes amid growing concerns over the degradation of khazan lands due to changing land-use patterns, neglect, salinity ingress and increasing environmental pressures.

The restoration effort is expected to focus on reviving the ecological and economic functions of these landscapes while preserving a vital part of Goa's environmental heritage.

Addressing the launch of the Clean Goa, Green Goa campaign, Sawant said the initiative forms part of the state's broader commitment to environmental sustainability and natural resource conservation.



"Pressure on PM Modi Is Detrimental": Putin Backs India's Independent Foreign Policy

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Russian President Vladimir Putin has reaffirmed the strength of Russia's partnership with India, stating that efforts by Western nations to push New Delhi into reducing cooperation with Moscow are ineffective and harmful to international relations.

Speaking in St. Petersburg during an interaction with leaders of major global news organisations, Putin praised India's economic progress and highlighted the growing importance of bilateral ties between the two countries. He expressed confidence that trade between Russia and India would continue to expand and could reach the USD 100 billion mark in the coming years. The Russian leader credited India's strong economic performance to sustained policy efforts under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

TCP Board Approves Steep Penalties for Hill Cutting in Goa

Repeat offenders may face fines up to ₹1 crore as government strengthens action against environmental violations

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Town and Country Planning (TCP) Board has approved a stricter enforcement framework to curb illegal hill cutting across the state, introducing substantial monetary penalties for violators. Speaking after a TCP Board meeting held on Thursday, TCP Minister



Vishwajit Rane said the board has resolved to impose escalating fines on those found damaging hills and ecologically sensitive

areas. Under the new measures, a first violation will attract a penalty of ₹50 lakh, while a second offence will invite a fine of ₹75 lakh. Repeat offenders could face penalties of up to ₹1 crore. The minister stated that, apart from financial penalties, legal proceedings under the TCP Act will be initiated from the very first offence.

"A New Political Movement Is About To Begin": Annamalai Announces Next Chapter After BJP Exit

Former Tamil Nadu BJP chief says he will launch an independent political platform and contest the 2031 elections

New Delhi: Hours after the BJP formally accepted his resignation from the party's primary membership, former Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai announced plans to launch a new political movement, describing it as a significant step in his evolving political journey.

Addressing the media on Friday, Annamalai reflected on his years in public life and said



that entering politics as an ordinary citizen had been a major achievement in itself. He described his six year association with the BJP as a valuable period of learning and experience but indicated that his political

ambitions had now expanded beyond the framework of the party. According to Annamalai, there is a growing need for a political model capable of delivering meaningful and lasting change. He argued that politics should move away from being centred around individual personalities and instead focus on addressing the concerns and aspirations of ordinary people.

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A Death, A Viral Video, And The Failure Of Institutions

The tragic death of a young undergraduate student in Goa, reportedly following a viral garbage dumping video and the registration of an FIR, should force society to ask difficult questions about accountability, governance and the growing culture of public shaming.

At the heart of this tragedy lies an uncomfortable reality. While much attention has focused on the alleged act of dumping waste, far less attention has been paid to the systemic failures that create such situations in the first place.

Where exactly are citizens expected to dispose of their waste when collection systems fail?

This is the question that deserves as much scrutiny as the actions of any individual.

Across Goa, complaints about irregular garbage collection, inadequate waste management infrastructure and the absence of convenient disposal mechanisms are commonplace. Citizens are repeatedly told not to dump waste in open spaces, a message that is entirely justified. Yet local authorities must also answer whether they have provided reliable and accessible alternatives.

When garbage remains uncollected for days, when collection points are inadequate, and when civic systems fail to keep pace with growing populations, responsibility cannot rest solely on individual citizens. Governance failures cannot be ignored while enforcement is selectively applied at the last stage of the problem. This is where the role of the authorities deserves serious examination.

The apparent haste with which an FIR was reportedly filed raises legitimate questions about priorities. Law enforcement has a duty to uphold environmental regulations, but policing should also be guided by proportionality and common sense. When an issue stems from a larger civic failure, the response cannot be limited to identifying a convenient individual culprit.

The larger accountability should extend to panchayats, municipalities and civic bodies entrusted with waste management. If garbage collection systems are failing, if citizens lack proper disposal options, and if waste continues to accumulate despite taxes and public expenditure, then institutional

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responsibility must also be part of the conversation.

Unfortunately, modern activism often stops short of asking these questions.

The rise of hyper activism has transformed many civic disputes into public spectacles. A smartphone video is uploaded. A confrontation is recorded. Social media outrage follows. Within hours, an individual can become the focus of public anger, while the deeper structural failures that created the problem

remain untouched.

This is activism at its most superficial. It targets symptoms while ignoring causes.

The purpose of civic engagement should be to solve problems, not merely identify villains. If waste management is broken, exposing one individual may generate online applause, but it does little to fix the underlying system. In fact, it often diverts attention from those who possess the authority and resources to implement lasting solutions.

Equally troubling is the growing normalisation of public humiliation as a tool of accountability. Viral videos create instant judgments. Context disappears. Due process becomes secondary to public outrage. The accused is condemned before facts are established and before institutions complete their work.

Whether or not there is any direct connection between the events leading up to this young man's death remains a matter for investigators. But no civilised society should be comfortable with a culture where social media exposure, public confrontation and legal action combine to create overwhelming pressure on individuals.

Justice should correct behaviour, not destroy lives.

Environmental protection is essential. Civic responsibility is non negotiable. Citizens who violate regulations must face appropriate consequences. But accountability cannot be one sided. The same standards applied to individuals must also apply to governments, municipalities and local bodies.

If garbage dumping is a problem, then authorities must answer a simple question: Have they provided an effective, reliable and accessible system for waste disposal?

The death of a young student is a tragedy. It should not become another fleeting social media controversy. Instead, it should serve as a moment of reflection on how quickly society rushes to punish individuals while overlooking institutional failures.

The real test of justice is not how swiftly a citizen is blamed. It is whether those responsible for creating the conditions that led to the problem are also held accountable.

That is the conversation Goa must now have.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Smart Meter Rollout Must Be Halted Until Public Concerns Are Addressed

The growing public awareness about the electricity smart meter issue in Goa is a welcome development. For months, many consumers have been expressing concerns about these meters, questioning their accuracy, billing patterns, installation procedures, and the lack of proper consultation before their introduction. Unfortunately, these concerns were often brushed aside rather than addressed through transparent dialogue.

The increasing number of citizens speaking out shows that people are becoming more informed about an issue that directly affects every household. Electricity is an essential service, and any major change in the way consumption is measured and billed must be carried out with complete transparency and public confidence. Consumers have every right to seek answers before accepting a new system that could have a significant impact on their monthly expenses.

What is particularly worrying is the apparent eagerness of authorities to continue the installation drive despite widespread objections from residents across several parts of the state. Public opposition should not be interpreted as resistance to technology. Rather, it reflects a demand for accountability, clarity, and assurance that consumers will not be unfairly burdened.

The government and electricity department must take note of the growing dissatisfaction and immediately pause further installations until all doubts are satisfactorily resolved. Independent verification, public demonstrations, and open discussions are necessary to rebuild trust.

It is time to bring this issue to a close before those pushing the project assume that silence or limited resistance amounts to public approval. The voices of consumers deserve to be heard and respected.

- Louise Fernandes

Tree Plantation Must Not Become A Cover For Tree Destruction

The announcement of the 90-day "Green Goa, Clean Goa" campaign and the ambitious target of planting 10 lakh trees across the state is undoubtedly a positive initiative. Every effort to increase green cover and promote environmental awareness deserves appreciation. However, many Goans are asking a simple question: what is the use of planting lakhs of saplings when hundreds of mature trees continue to be felled for development projects?

A sapling takes years, often decades, to provide the ecological benefits of a fully grown tree. Large trees absorb more carbon dioxide, provide shade, prevent soil erosion, support biodiversity, and help regulate local temperatures. Replacing them with young saplings cannot immediately compensate for the environmental loss caused by indiscriminate tree cutting.

Over the years, Goa has witnessed the removal of numerous trees for highways, road widening, construction projects, and other infrastructure works. While development is necessary, environmental protection must be treated with equal importance. Citizens cannot be expected to celebrate plantation drives while watching healthy trees disappear from different parts of the state.

If the government is truly committed to a greener Goa, it must focus not only on planting new trees but also on protecting existing ones. Conservation and plantation should go hand in hand. Otherwise, such campaigns risk becoming symbolic exercises rather than meaningful environmental action.

A truly green Goa will be achieved when every tree planted is matched by a sincere commitment to save the trees that already stand tall across our state.

- Savio Fernandes, Porvorim, Goa

Naqueri Propellant Facility Proposal Faces Scrutiny Over Land Classification

Residents question whether site qualifies for Investment Promotion Area status; objections likely to be filed with government

Team Goemkarponn

NAQUERI: A proposal to set up a propellant storage facility for Hughes Precision Manufacturing Pvt Ltd at Naqueri has triggered a fresh debate over land-use regulations, with local residents questioning whether the site identified for the project meets the criteria required for notification as an Investment Promotion Area (IPA).



The controversy revolves around the planning classification of the land proposed for the facility. Residents examining available records claim the property may fall within an environmentally sensitive

category rather than a recognised development zone, raising concerns over the legal basis of the government's move.

According to local stakeholders, the classification of the land will be crucial in determining whether the project can proceed through the IPA framework. They argue that if the site is categorised as natural cover, the scope for development could

be limited under existing planning regulations.

The issue has prompted calls for greater clarity from the authorities, particularly regarding the zoning status of the land and the process through which the proposal was advanced. Residents have sought official confirmation on whether the site falls within a category where industrial-related infrastructure can be permitted.



Goa Makes Computer Literacy Mandatory for Group 'C' Recruitment From 2027

New Rules Require Basic Diploma in Computer Skills; Proficiency Test Also to Be Conducted Across 115 Job Categories

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has issued new recruitment rules making computer literacy compulsory for appointment to Group 'C' posts across various departments from January 1, 2027.

As per the notification, candidates applying for Group 'C' positions will be required to possess a minimum six-month diploma or certificate course in computers from a recognised institution. However, candidates holding degrees or diplomas in computer science or allied fields, along with ITI qualifications such as Computer Operator and Programming Assistant (COPA), will be exempted from this requirement.

In addition to the qualification criteria, the government has also made it mandatory

for all applicants to clear a Computer Proficiency Test, which will be conducted as per prescribed norms. Officials stated that the decision is aimed at strengthening digital competence within the State administration and ensuring that the workforce is equipped to handle technology-driven governance and service delivery systems. The new norms will be applicable to around 115 categories of Group 'C' posts, including Upper Division Clerks (UDCs), Lower Division Clerks (LDCs), stenographers, panchayat secretaries, gram sevaks, talathis, junior engineers, data entry operators, sub-inspectors, auditors, pharmacists, and State tax inspectors, among others. The move is expected to streamline administrative processes, reduce manual workload, and enhance efficiency in public services.



GBSHSE Allows 'Needs Improvement' Class IX And XI Students To Appear As Private Candidates For SSC And HSSC Exams

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (GBSHSE) has decided to continue its existing scheme permitting students of Class IX and Class XI who are declared 'Needs Improvement' in the academic year 2025-26 to appear as private candidates for the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) public examinations.

According to a circular issued by the Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, students who appeared for Class IX and Class XI examinations during 2025-26 and received the 'Needs Improvement' remark will be eligible to register as private candidates for the SSC and HSSC examinations scheduled in the academic year 2026-27.

Tourist Arrested for Filming Women Without Consent in Calangute

TPU Personnel Nab Uttar Pradesh Tourist; Mobile Phone Seized by Police

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE : A 32-year-old tourist from Uttar Pradesh was arrested by Calangute Police after he was allegedly found recording videos and taking photographs of female tourists without their consent near Bandodkar Statue in Calangute.

According to police, on June 4, 2026, at around 12:05 pm, HC-6029 Arun Sawant of the Tourist Police Unit (TPU) was patrolling the area when he noticed a man



allegedly filming and photographing female tourists.

When questioned, the tourist reportedly failed to provide satisfactory answers. A check of his mobile phone allegedly revealed multiple videos and photographs of

women. Police said the accused admitted that the videos and photographs had been taken without the consent of the women concerned.

The accused was identified as Akash Saroj, 32, a resident of Rai Bareli, Uttar Pradesh. He was subsequently handed over to Calangute Police Station along with his mobile phone.

Calangute Police arrested the accused under preventive provisions and seized the mobile phone for further investigation.

DMG Forms District-Level Committees For Monsoon Safety Inspections In Goa Mining Areas

Panels for North and South Goa to monitor mining sites, ensure preparedness and safety during 2026-27 monsoon season

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Mines and Geology (DMG) has set up separate district-level committees for North Goa and South Goa to carry out inspections and monitor mining areas during the upcoming monsoon season, with a focus on safety and preparedness for 2026-27. As per an order issued by Director of Mines and Geology Narayan Gad on May



22, the committees have been constituted following government approval for enhanced monitoring of mining regions during heavy rainfall periods.

The North Goa committee includes officials such as the Director of Mines Safety, Superintendent of Police (North Goa), Deputy Director of

Mines, Assistant Mining Engineer, Mamlatdars of Bicholim, Sattari and Bardez, representatives from the Water Resources Department, Range Forest Officers, a nominee from the Goa State Pollution Control Board, and a Geologist from the DMG. Similarly, the South Goa committee comprises the Director of Mines Safety, Superintendent of Police (South Goa), Deputy Director, Senior Mining Engineer, Mamlatdars of Dharbandora, Sanguem

and Quepem, officials from the Water Resources Department, Forest Department personnel, an Assistant Environment Engineer, and a Geologist. These committees will conduct regular inspections of mining sites to ensure necessary preventive measures are in place during the monsoon.

The Director of Mines and Geology will oversee the overall coordination of the exercise.

Man Duped Of ₹1.85 Lakh In Fake SBI Customer Care Scam

■ Fraudster Posing As Bank Staff Allegedly Tricked Nuvem Resident Into Downloading APK File

Team Goemkarponn

MAINA: Maina Curtorim Police have registered a cyber fraud case after a Nuvem resident was allegedly cheated of ₹1.85 lakh by a fraudster posing as a State Bank of India (SBI) customer care executive.

According to police, the complaint was filed by Sunil Kumar Bind (39),



a resident of Nuvem, Salcete. The complainant stated that on April 20, 2026, at around 1.48 am, he searched Google for an SBI customer care number to verify

details of a previous bank transaction.

Soon after, an unknown person contacted him from a suspected mobile number and introduced himself as an SBI staff member. The caller allegedly convinced the complainant to download an APK file on the pretext of checking transaction details.

After downloading

the file, the complainant was allegedly defrauded of ₹1,85,000, which was transferred from his account without his knowledge or consent.

Police have registered an offence against the unknown accused for cheating and cyber fraud. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Ashutosh Naik of Maina Curtorim Police Station.



Crime Branch Conducts State-Wide Verification Drive At Scrap Yards

■ 172 Workers Verified Across 48 Scrap Yards; Drive To Continue Today

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Crime Branch of Goa Police on Thursday carried out a state-wide verification drive at scrap yards across Goa as part of preventive policing and internal security measures aimed at identifying illegal immigrants and persons working without valid documents.

A total of nine Crime Branch teams were deployed simultaneously across the state and inspected 48 scrap yards located in areas including Mapusa, Colvale, Porvorim, Betim, Margao, Davorlim, Dicarpale, Zuarinagar, Cortalim and other locations.

The operation commenced at around 11 am and continued

across multiple locations. During the drive, police teams verified identity documents and personal details of workers and labourers employed at the establishments. According to the Crime Branch, 172 persons, including women workers, were verified during the exercise. Scrap yard owners and managers were directed to maintain proper records of their workers, verify identity documents before employment, and promptly report any suspicious individuals or activities to the police.

The Crime Branch said the verification drive will continue on Friday as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen security and ensure compliance with legal documentation requirements.

Madhya Pradesh Duo Arrested For Mangalsutra Snatching, Linked To Panaji Attempt

■ Old Goa Police Crack ₹2.2 Lakh Chain-Snatching Case; Accused Suspected In St. Inez Incident

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: Old Goa Police have arrested two youths from Madhya Pradesh for allegedly snatching a gold mangalsutra worth ₹2.20 lakh at Corlim and are investigating their suspected involvement in an attempted chain-snatching case reported in Panaji.

The case was registered on the complaint of Vinanti Gaude (58), a businesswoman from Carambolim, who stated that on June 3, 2026,



at around 2.50 pm, two unidentified persons snatched her 22-gram gold mangalsutra near Vinit Residency, Corlim, Tiswadi, and fled on a Vespa scooter.

Acting swiftly, police identified and arrested the accused as Shreyansh Vijay Udashi (20) of Azad Nagar, Ujjain, and Ritik Rajendra Maheshwari (23) of Indira Nagar, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. The duo

was arrested at 11.22 pm after following all Supreme Court guidelines.

During the course of the investigation, police found similarities with another case registered at Panaji Police Station. In that incident, Usha Panjikar (59) of Khorjuem, Bardez, complained that on June 3, 2026, at around 1.30 pm near a Patanjali store opposite SBI Bank at St. Inez, Panaji, two men riding a red Vespa scooter with a black-and-yellow number plate attempted to snatch her gold mangalsutra valued at ₹4 lakh.



Sanguem Resident Cheated Of ₹1.51 Lakh In Fake Andaman Tour Booking Scam

Team Goemkarponn

SANGUEM: Sanguem Police have registered a cheating case after a resident of Tarimol was allegedly duped of ₹1.51 lakh in a fake travel package scam promising an Andaman tour.

According to police, the complaint was filed by Felix Furtado of Tarimol, Sanguem.

Fisherman Found Dead In River Near Madkai Ferry Point

■ 73-Year-Old Ponda Resident Drowned While Collecting Clams, Police Say

Team Goemkarponn

MARDOL: Mardol Police have registered an unnatural death case after the body of a 73-year-old fisherman was found floating in the river near the Madkai ferry point on Thursday morning.

According to police, information was received at around 10.15 am on



June 4 that a body was seen floating near the ferry point at Madkai. A police team rushed to the spot and, with the assistance of local residents, retrieved the body from the water. The deceased was identified as Diwakar Tari (73), a resident of Adanwada, Madkai, Ponda.

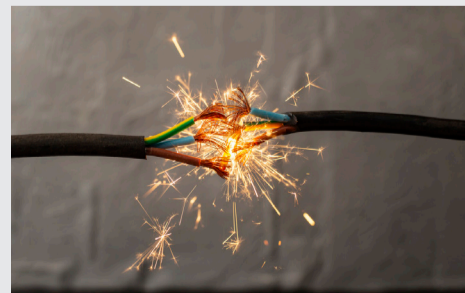
Man Dies Of Electrocution While Repairing Ceiling Fan In Margao

■ 53-Year-Old Khareband Resident Found Dead; Police Register Unnatural Death Case

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police have registered an unnatural death case after a 53-year-old man died of electrocution while allegedly repairing a ceiling fan at his rented accommodation in Khareband, Margao.

According to police, information was received



from District Hospital, Margao, at around 10.32 pm on June 3, 2026, that Sanjay Dongare (53), a

resident of Shirvodem, Khareband, originally from Maharashtra, had been brought dead to the casualty ward by a 108 ambulance.

During enquiries, the deceased's brother, Balaji Dongare, informed police that Sanjay was

living alone in a rented room and reportedly suffered an electric shock while repairing a ceiling fan. Police subsequently conducted a scene-of-occurrence panchanama and inquest proceedings. The body was sent for post-mortem examination, and the police surgeon certified the cause of death as electrocution.

Chodankar Demands Transparency In Jobs-For-Cash Scam Probe

■ Congress Chief Urges DGP To Reveal Investigation Status, Warns Against Political Interference

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee President Girish Chodankar has demanded that the Director General of Police publicly disclose the progress of the investigation into the alleged Jobs-for-Cash scam, saying the people of Goa deserve answers on a matter that has deeply affected unemployed youth and their families. Addressing



a press conference on Thursday, Chodankar questioned the status of the probe and sought details on the number of people questioned, the main accused identified, evidence collected, and whether any influential individuals were being shielded from investigation.

He described the alleged scam as a direct attack on the aspirations of Goa's youth, stating that many families may have parted with their savings in the hope of securing government jobs for their children. "The people of Goa have a right to know the truth. If money was collected in exchange for government jobs, it would amount to a serious betrayal of public trust," Chodankar said. The Congress leader asserted

that the credibility of the Goa Police was at stake and urged the DGP to ensure a fair, transparent and impartial investigation free from political influence. Expressing concern over possible interference, Chodankar said the Congress Party hoped no pressure was being exerted on investigating agencies to slow down the probe, dilute evidence or protect politically connected individuals.



Legal Services Authority Marks World Environment Day With Awareness Workshop

■ Judges, Scientists And Pollution Control Experts Highlight Environmental Protection

Team Goemkarponn

MERCES: The Goa State Legal Services Authority (GSLSA), under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority, in association with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), North Goa, organised an awareness workshop on the occasion of World Environment Day at the Multi-Purpose Hall of the District and Sessions Court Building in Mercers.

The programme was attended by Justice Suman Shyam, Judge of the Bombay High Court and Chairperson of the Goa State Legal Services Authority; Justice Valmiki Menezes, Senior Judge of the High Court of Bombay at Goa and Chairperson of the High Court Legal Services Committee; and Vijaya Ambre, Principal District and Sessions Judge, North Goa, and Chairperson of the District

Legal Services Authority, North Goa.

The workshop focused on environmental awareness and the importance of sustainable practices and legal safeguards for environmental protection.

Expert sessions were conducted by Dr. Ray Durbar, Scientist-F at the National Institute of Oceanography, and Costancio Fernandes, Senior Legal Officer of the Goa State Pollution Control Board. The speakers highlighted key environmental challenges, conservation measures and the legal framework governing environmental protection.

The event formed part of World Environment Day observances aimed at promoting awareness and encouraging collective responsibility towards preserving the environment.



Three Women Felicitated For Social Service And Leadership

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Naari Shakti Samman 2026 was held at Rajiv Kala Mandir, Ponda, celebrating women's leadership, community service and contributions to social development.

Organised by the Rural Development Authority, Government of Goa, in collaboration with Samruddhi Foundation Goa, the event brought together women leaders, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), entrepreneurs and stakeholders associated with rural development and livelihood promotion.

The Naari Shakti Samman 2026 was conferred on Asha Sawardekar, Pallavi Salgaonkar and Deepali Naik in recognition of their outstanding work in social welfare, community service, leadership and women's empowerment.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant highlighted the importance of women-led development and urged women to take on larger leadership roles in economic and social sectors.

FDA Destroys 100 Kg Chicken In Margao Food Safety Drive

■ Unlabelled Chicken Seized; Navelim Food Unit Penalised For Operating Without Licence

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) carried out an early morning inspection drive at the SGPDA Market in Margao, taking action against the sale of food products found to be in violation of safety and hygiene norms. During the inspection, FDA officials seized and destroyed around 100 kg of chicken that was allegedly being transported and stored under unsafe conditions.



Authorities said the chicken was being sold without proper labelling and was not maintained under temperature-controlled storage, posing a potential risk to public health. As part of the drive, interstate buses arriving in Margao

were also inspected for food products entering Goa, including paneer and chapattis, to ensure compliance with food safety regulations. The FDA team further inspected food establishments in South Goa. While a restaurant in Cuncolim was found adhering to satisfactory hygiene standards, a samosa manufacturing unit in Navelim was found operating without a valid FSSAI licence and under unhygienic conditions.

Law Students Meet CM Over Academic Progression Concerns

■ V.M. Salgaocar College Delegation Seeks Review of Goa University Promotion Regulations

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: A delegation of students from V.M. Salgaocar College of Law met Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and BJP leader Damu Naik to raise concerns regarding promotion regulations and academic progression under Goa University.

During the meeting, the students submitted a formal representation highlighting issues they



claim are affecting their academic progression. The delegation urged the authorities to review the

existing academic policies and regulations governing student promotions.

The students explained

their concerns and sought intervention to ensure that their academic interests are safeguarded. They requested that the relevant regulations be re-examined to address the challenges faced by students. The interaction was facilitated by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), which coordinated the meeting between the student representatives and the state leadership.



North Goa District Magistrate Bans Road Digging During Monsoon

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The District Magistrate of North Goa has issued an order prohibiting any person, agency or organisation from carrying out digging or excavation of roads, road shoulders, lanes, thoroughfares or any part thereof without obtaining prior written permission from the District Magistrate.

106 Reservoirs Below 40% Capacity As Weak Monsoon Forecast Raises Water Security Concerns

■ IMD's prediction of below normal rainfall and El Niño risks put focus on low reservoir levels across several states

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: With the southwest monsoon expected to be weaker than usual this year, concerns are mounting over water availability across large parts of the country. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast monsoon rainfall to be around 10 per cent below normal, increasing the importance of reservoir storage levels ahead of the rainy season.

Recent data shows that out of 166 major reservoirs monitored nationwide, 106 are currently filled to 40 per cent of their capacity or less. Only two reservoirs have storage levels between 81 and 90 per cent of capacity, while another 22 reservoirs are operating in the 41 to 50 per cent range. The figures highlight the dependence on a strong monsoon to replenish water resources in the coming months.

At the national level, total reservoir storage stood at 56.3 billion cubic metres (BCM), slightly higher than the level recorded during the same period last year and above the ten year average. However,



regional disparities remain significant.

Northern India reported the strongest storage position, with reservoirs holding 38.79 per cent of their total capacity. The Western region followed with 35.77 per cent, while the Central region stood at 35.40 per cent. Conditions were less favourable in Eastern India, where storage was 24.46 per cent of capacity, and in Southern India, where reservoirs were at just 22.53 per cent. When compared with long term averages, the Western region

recorded the highest surplus, followed by Northern and Central India. However, the Eastern region remained below its historical average, indicating greater vulnerability if rainfall falls short of expectations. Among states, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh reported reservoir levels well above their ten year norms. In contrast, West Bengal registered the sharpest deficit, followed by Mizoram, Kerala, Assam and Tamil Nadu.

Several reservoirs remain under

considerable stress despite the overall national picture appearing relatively stable.

Notable water bodies with storage below half of their normal levels include Kabini Dam, Krishnaraja Sagara Dam, Periyar Dam, Tehri Dam and Vaigai Dam.

With forecasts pointing to below normal rainfall and the possibility of El Niño related disruptions, reservoir replenishment during the monsoon season will be crucial for agriculture, drinking water supply and power generation across the country.

Flight Fares May Not Fall, But Sudden Price Surges Could Ease Under New ATF Stabilisation Plan

■ Government introduces ₹10,000 crore mechanism to shield airlines from fuel price shocks amid West Asia tensions

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Union Government has unveiled a ₹10,000 crore Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) stabilisation mechanism aimed at protecting Indian airlines from sharp fluctuations in jet fuel prices caused by ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia. While the move is expected to provide greater cost certainty for airlines, passengers should not expect an immediate reduction in airfares.

Under the scheme, participating Indian carriers will be allowed to purchase jet fuel at fixed benchmark rates for both domestic and international operations. The benchmark price has been set at ₹86.32 per litre for domestic flights and ₹104.49 per litre for international operations.

After adding airport charges, taxes, oil company margins and other levies, the effective ATF price will vary across cities. Current estimates place the selling price at approximately ₹115 per litre in Delhi, ₹114.50 per litre in Mumbai and ₹139 per litre in Chennai. Airlines that choose not to participate in the scheme will continue to pay market linked rates, which are currently around ₹142 per litre.

The initiative comes in response to dramatic increases in global jet fuel prices. Officials noted that international ATF prices climbed from around ₹60.50 per litre

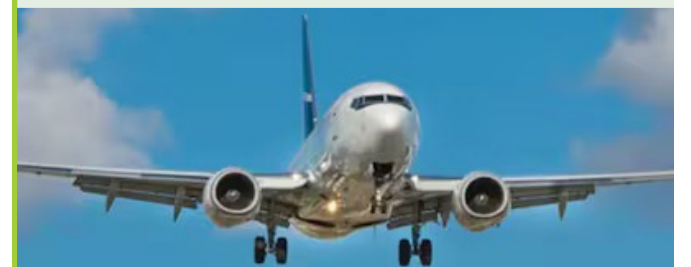
in March to nearly ₹142 per litre in recent weeks. Since fuel typically accounts for about 40 per cent of an airline's operating expenses, such volatility has significantly increased financial pressure on carriers.

Indian airlines have also faced rising costs due to longer international flight routes following restrictions linked to Pakistan's airspace, while instability in West Asia has further complicated operations and fuel planning.

Despite the scheme, authorities clarified that travellers should view the measure primarily as a fare stabilisation mechanism rather than a fare reduction programme. The objective is to prevent airlines from passing sudden fuel cost spikes directly on to passengers through steep fare hikes or fuel surcharges.

To support the mechanism, the government will provide a one time interest free advance of up to ₹10,000 crore to public sector oil marketing companies. The arrangement is designed to be self correcting, with funds recovered once fuel prices moderate.

The scheme will remain operational for up to 36 months or until the full amount advanced by the government has been recovered, whichever occurs earlier. For passengers, the biggest benefit is likely to be more predictable airfare pricing during periods of global energy market volatility.



Student Dies by Suicide After Viral Garbage-Dumping Video

police registered an FIR against him under relevant provisions of law related to public health and garbage disposal.

Following the registration of the case, the student was reportedly summoned by police and served a legal notice. He was later found dead in what police are investigating as an alleged case of suicide.

Sawant said the inquiry would examine all aspects connected to

the case and assured that the facts surrounding the incident would be thoroughly investigated.

CM Orders Inquiry Into Death of Mapusa Student

investigation to ascertain the circumstances that led to the student's death and determine the sequence of events preceding the incident.

The student had come under the spotlight after a video purportedly showing him dumping waste in a

public place circulated widely on social media. Based on the footage, police registered an FIR against him under relevant provisions of law related to public health and garbage disposal.

Following the registration of the case, the student was reportedly summoned by police and served a legal notice. He was later found dead in what police are investigating as an alleged case of suicide.

Sawant said the inquiry would examine all aspects connected to the case and assured that the facts surrounding the incident would be thoroughly investigated.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

“Insurgency Is No Longer an Issue”: Amit Shah Calls for Citizen Centric Development in Northeast

■ Home Minister urges states to prioritise rights, technology, and economic opportunities as the region enters a new phase of growth

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has called on the eight northeastern states to redefine their development priorities, stating that insurgency is no longer the region’s primary concern. Addressing the 73rd plenary session of the North Eastern Council, he urged state governments to focus on protecting citizens’ rights and improving welfare rather than concentrating predominantly on law and



order issues.

Highlighting the transformation witnessed across the Northeast in recent years, Shah said the region has moved from decades of unrest to a period marked by peace, development, and expanding

economic opportunities. He noted that the changing environment presents an opportunity for governments to concentrate on long term growth and institution building.

According to Shah, state administrations should adapt to the region’s evolving realities by investing in infrastructure and governance systems that will benefit future generations. He stressed

that development efforts must now be directed towards strengthening public services, enhancing citizen welfare, and creating opportunities for sustainable progress.

During the meeting, the Home Minister said he had advised chief ministers to shift their focus from security related concerns to safeguarding the rights and interests of citizens, reflecting the improved security situation across the Northeast.



“Fix Fire Safety Within 30 Days Or Lose Utilities”: Mumbai Cracks Down After Deadly Delhi Hotel Blaze

■ BMC shortens compliance deadlines for hotels and restaurants, warning of power and water disconnections for violations

New Delhi: In the aftermath of the tragic hotel fire in Delhi’s Malviya Nagar that claimed 21 lives, Mumbai’s civic authorities have significantly tightened fire safety enforcement for commercial establishments. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has withdrawn the previously available 120 day grace period for compliance and introduced far stricter deadlines for hotels, restaurants, bars and party halls. Under the revised approach, establishments found violating fire safety norms will now be given between two weeks and one month to rectify deficiencies. Failure to comply within the stipulated period could result in

the disconnection of electricity and water supply, effectively forcing businesses to cease operations until safety standards are met.

The move follows heightened concerns over fire preparedness after the devastating blaze at the Flourish Stay hotel in Delhi. Authorities believe the tragedy exposed serious lapses in safety compliance and emergency evacuation planning, prompting Mumbai officials to adopt a more stringent enforcement strategy.

As part of an intensified inspection campaign, Mumbai’s fire department has examined 428 hotels, restaurants, bars and party venues since January 2026.



“India’s Time Has Come, But We Are Not Yet Prepared”: Mohan Bhagwat on the Path to Vishwaguru

New Delhi: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said that India possesses the values and vision needed to offer solutions to a world struggling with conflicts, social divisions and environmental challenges. However, he cautioned that the country’s lack of preparedness is preventing it from fully realising its aspiration of becoming a “Vishwaguru”.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of an RSS volunteer training camp in Nagpur, attended by industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla, Bhagwat stressed that while India’s global moment has arrived, success will depend on how effectively the nation prepares itself for the responsibility.

He noted that discussions about India becoming a Vishwaguru have continued for years, but emphasised that the goal cannot be achieved through aspiration

“Supply Chain Disruptions Remain A Key Concern”: RBI Governor Warns Of Global Uncertainty Amid West Asia Crisis

■ Sanjay Malhotra says India is better positioned to absorb external shocks, but inflation and energy risks require close monitoring

New Delhi: Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Friday cautioned that the global economic outlook remains uncertain as escalating tensions in West Asia continue to disrupt supply chains, increase energy prices and create volatility across financial markets.

Announcing the latest decision of the Monetary Policy Committee,



Malhotra said the ongoing geopolitical impasse in the region is exerting pressure on economic activity

worldwide. According to him, rising energy costs and interruptions in global supply networks are emerging as significant concerns for policymakers and businesses alike.

He noted that several major central banks in advanced economies may be forced to adopt tighter monetary policies in response to renewed inflationary pressures.

Student Concerns Over National Exams Intensify Amid Calls for Accountability

Activist Highlights Large-Scale Impact and Demands Responsibility From Authorities

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Concerns over alleged irregularities in major national examinations have once again come into focus, with activist Abhijeet Dipke raising strong objections and calling for accountability from the authorities responsible for conducting these tests. Earlier this week, Dipke pointed to widespread anxiety



among students appearing for key competitive and board examinations, including NEET, CBSE, CUET, and SSC GD recruitment tests. He

claimed that repeated controversies linked to these examinations have created uncertainty for a large number of candidates across the country. Referring to the scale of participation, he stated that NEET alone involves around 22 lakh students, while CBSE examinations cover

approximately 17 lakh students. CUET reportedly has 16 lakh candidates, and SSC GD recruitment tests include about 40 lakh applicants. According to him, collectively, these examinations impact more than one crore students annually. Dipke argued that the combined effect of these examinations and their alleged issues has left students under significant stress, with many feeling uncertain

about their academic and professional futures. He stated that such a situation cannot be ignored and that responsibility must be fixed for any lapses in the system.

He further emphasized that the emotional and psychological pressure faced by students is increasing due to repeated controversies and procedural concerns.

Shreyas Iyer Set To Lead India's T20I Transition As BCCI Eyes New Generation

■ Report suggests Suryakumar Yadav could lose captaincy and squad spot, while Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is in line for a maiden senior call-up

New Delhi: India's T20 setup could be headed for a major overhaul, with reports indicating that Shreyas Iyer is set to become the new captain of the national side ahead of upcoming white-ball assignments, marking the beginning of a fresh leadership era.

The national selection committee, headed by Ajit Agarkar, is expected to finalise separate squads for India's white-ball tour



of the United Kingdom and the upcoming Asian Games 2026. The UK tour will include T20 Internationals against Ireland cricket team in Belfast, followed by a white-ball series against

England cricket team.

According to reports, current T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav could not only be removed from the leadership role but may also miss out on selection altogether due to an extended lean patch in form. Concerns over a lingering wrist injury are also believed to have influenced the selectors'

thinking.

Iyer, 31, is reportedly the frontrunner for the captaincy after building a strong reputation as a leader in the IPL. He has guided three different franchises to IPL finals and remains the only captain to achieve that feat. His consistent batting performances alongside his leadership credentials have strengthened his case for a larger role in India's T20 plans.



"Yogasana Will Find A Place In The Olympics": PM Modi Launches First World Yogasana Championship

■ Prime Minister says competitive Yogasana marks a new chapter for Yoga and could create global sporting and career opportunities

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday virtually inaugurated the first-ever World Yogasana Championship in Ahmedabad, describing the event as the beginning of a new era for Yoga and expressing confidence that Yogasana could eventually become part of major international sporting competitions, including the Olympics.

Addressing athletes, officials and delegates from several countries through video conferencing, Modi said that every enduring tradition evolves with time, and the launch of a global Yogasana championship represents an important milestone in the journey of Yoga. He noted that the event would help establish Yogasana as a

recognised competitive sport on the world stage.

The Prime Minister said he was optimistic that Yogasana would gradually earn a place in prestigious international multi-sport events. According to him, the championship marks a significant step towards expanding the global reach and recognition of Yoga beyond its traditional wellness and spiritual dimensions.

Modi also highlighted the significance of hosting the event in Ahmedabad, a UNESCO World Heritage City, calling it a matter of pride for the country. He pointed out that the championship comes just ahead of International Day of Yoga, with this year's main celebrations scheduled to be held in Kolkata.



"Sai Sudharsan Has Not Got A Fair Chance": Gambhir Backs Young Batter For Crucial No. 3 Role 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.

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has thrown his weight behind young batter B Sai Sudharsan, confirming that he will continue to occupy the crucial No. 3 position in the upcoming Test against Afghanistan national cricket team despite a modest start to his Test career.

India will face Afghanistan in a one off Test at Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium from Saturday, marking only the second red ball meeting between the two nations after their first encounter in 2018.

"I Gave Everything For This": Praggnanandhaa Opens Up On Candidates Heartbreak And Burnout

■ Indian chess star says missing out on the World Championship cycle was painful but is now focused on enjoying the game again

Goemkarponn desk

New Delhi: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has spoken candidly about the disappointment of his unsuccessful campaign at the Candidates Tournament, admitting that the setback was difficult to accept after dedicating years of effort towards



earning a shot at the World Chess Championship. The 20-year-old chess

prodigy entered the Candidates Tournament in Cyprus with hopes of securing the right to challenge reigning world champion D Gukesh. However, the event ended in frustration as Praggnanandhaa finished seventh, while Javokhir Sindarov emerged victorious and secured the championship match berth.

Sachin Yadav Finishes Eighth On Diamond League Debut As Pathirage Creates Asian History

■ Indian javelin thrower struggles to find top form in Rome while Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage breaches the 90-metre mark for the first time

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Indian javelin thrower Sachin Yadav endured a difficult start to his Diamond League career, finishing eighth in a high-quality field at the Rome leg of the prestigious athletics series on Thursday.

The 26-year-old managed a best throw of 79.18 metres, well below his personal best of 86.27 metres that helped him secure a fourth-place



finish at the 2025 World Championships in Tokyo. His season-best effort before arriving in Rome stood at 81.95 metres, recorded during the Indian Athletics Series in New

Delhi earlier this year.

Yadav opened his competition with a foul throw and struggled to build momentum thereafter. His subsequent attempts measured 79.18m, 77.02m, 76.62m and 75.54m, leaving him in eighth position after five rounds. Since only the top three competitors after the fifth round qualify for a

sixth and final attempt, his campaign ended there.

The competition was dominated by Sri Lankan star Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage, who produced a sensational performance to claim his first Diamond League title. Pathirage launched the javelin to 92.62 metres with his second attempt, registering the first 90 metre throw of his career and the second-longest throw ever recorded by an Asian athlete.

His remarkable effort fell just short of Arshad Nadeem's Olympic gold medal-winning mark of 92.97 metres but surpassed the previous Asian achievements of Chao-Tsun Cheng and India's Neeraj Chopra, whose personal best stands at 90.23 metres.

Pathirage became only the fourth Asian athlete and the 28th javelin thrower globally to cross the coveted 90 metre barrier.