



## Bullet Fired During Family Dispute Triggers Tension in Shirgao

■ Projectile Pierces House Door and Gets Embedded in Sofa; Two Family Members Detained as Forensic Team Begins Probe

Team Goemkarponn

**SHIRGAO:** Tension gripped Shirgao after an alleged firing incident during a family dispute, prompting a swift police response and a forensic investigation. Fortunately, no injuries were reported in the incident. According to preliminary information, a bullet was allegedly discharged during an altercation among members of a family. The projectile pierced the main entrance door of the house before striking and



becoming lodged in a sofa inside the living room, highlighting the potential seriousness of the incident.

Police personnel rushed to the scene soon after receiving information and secured the area. Two members of the

family were taken into custody for questioning as investigators began piecing together the sequence of events. A forensic team later visited the residence to examine the scene, collect physical evidence and assist in determining

the circumstances under which the firearm was allegedly used. Sources indicated that the dispute occurred within the family of a political figure, although officials have not released further details regarding those involved.

Police are continuing their investigation to establish the exact sequence of events, the weapon used and the circumstances that led to the alleged firing. Further action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation.

## Churchill Alemao Signals Willingness to Return to Congress

Says 'In My Heart, I Never Left the Party'; Praises Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, Calls Congress an 'Ocean'

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Senior Goa leader Churchill Alemao has indicated that he is open to rejoining the Congress, stating that he has always remained emotionally connected to the party and would return if invited by its leadership.

Speaking to reporters, Alemao described the Congress as "an ocean" that stands by its dedicated workers. "Congress is like an ocean, and those who protect it do not leave it easily, unlike some other parties," he said.

Alemao revealed that he recently met senior Congress leader Girish Chodankar to congratulate him and spent nearly an hour discussing various issues. He said the interaction was cordial and that Chodankar and others were happy to meet him.

Hinting at a possible political comeback to the party, Alemao remarked, "I am interested in joining



Congress. In my heart, I never left the party. If Congress calls me, I can return." He also expressed confidence that Valanka Alemao would contest from the Navelim constituency.

The veteran politician praised former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, saying she had protected the party and continued to provide strong leadership. He added that he had always respected her and had never spoken against her.

Alemao also paid tribute to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, calling him an effective leader, and said Rahul Gandhi has the potential to become the country's Prime Minister.

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## Around One Lakh People to Benefit Under 'Mhaje Ghar' Scheme: CM

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has said that the government's "Mhaje Ghar" scheme is expected to benefit around one lakh people, making it one of the state's key housing initiatives.

He appealed to eligible citizens to come forward and avail themselves of the scheme, which aims to provide housing support and improve the quality of life for beneficiaries.

Highlighting the government's focus on public health, the Chief Minister said that more than 25,000 people have already benefited from the "Health with Ayurveda" initiative.

He encouraged the public to participate in health camps and undergo regular health screenings, emphasizing that preventive healthcare and early detection play a vital role in reducing disease burden.



Highest secondary students leave the school on their first day of the academic year 2026 -27. Photo Rozario Estibeiro

## 2-Year Jail, Property Sealing: Delhi Launches Major Action Against Building Violations

■ Government Invokes Disaster Management Law After Deadly Fire Tragedy, Announces Strict Action Against Violators and Negligent Officials

**New Delhi:** In a major move to curb illegal construction and strengthen safety enforcement, the Delhi government has decided to invoke provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, enabling authorities to take stringent action against property owners, commercial operators and government officials responsible for violations.

The decision comes in the wake of a series



of incidents linked to unauthorised structures and safety lapses, including a devastating hotel fire in Malviya Nagar that claimed 21 lives, among them 12 foreign nationals. The tragedy has intensified concerns over compliance

with building regulations and public safety standards across the capital.

Delhi minister Ashish Sood announced that the government will use the Disaster Management Act to impose tougher penalties on violators. Under the provisions, landlords and owners of commercial establishments found flouting official orders could face imprisonment

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

**Goemkarponn**

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# Goa's Roads Continue to Kill, Yet Urgency Remains Missing

The latest road accident figures for April 2026 should alarm every citizen and policymaker in Goa. In a single month, 217 road accidents were reported across the state. Twenty-four people lost their lives, 22 suffered grievous injuries and 89 sustained minor injuries. Behind every number lies a family devastated, a future cut short, and a community forced to bear the consequences of preventable tragedy.

What makes these statistics particularly disturbing is that they are no longer shocking. Road fatalities have become a recurring feature of monthly reports, routinely acknowledged and quickly forgotten. The normalisation of death on Goa's roads is perhaps the greatest failure of all.

The April data reveal a grim pattern. Of the 24 people who died, 18 were riders of two-wheelers. Another three were pillion riders. Together, they account for nearly nine out of every ten fatalities. This should immediately focus attention on the vulnerability of motorcyclists, who remain the largest group of road users in Goa.

The dominance of two-wheeler deaths points to several concerns. Helmet compliance continues to be inconsistent despite years of enforcement drives. Overspeeding remains common, particularly on highways and major arterial roads. Reckless overtaking, distracted driving and driving under the influence continue to plague the state's roads. The tourism season, increasing vehicle density and a growing number of inexperienced riders only add to the risks.

South Goa recorded a higher number of fatalities than North Goa, with 14 deaths compared to 10. While both districts face challenges, the figures suggest that certain stretches of road in South Goa may require immediate safety audits. Accident black spots are often identified after every major tragedy, yet meaningful corrective action tends to be slow and fragmented. The same dangerous junctions, poorly designed curves and inadequate pedestrian facilities continue to claim lives year after year.

The government frequently highlights awareness campaigns and enforcement initiatives. While

*"South Goa recorded a higher number of fatalities than North Goa, with 14 deaths compared to 10. While both districts face challenges, the figures suggest that certain stretches of road in South Goa may require immediate safety audits. Accident black spots are often identified after every major tragedy, yet meaningful corrective action tends to be slow and fragmented. The same dangerous junctions, poorly designed curves and inadequate pedestrian facilities continue to claim lives year after year.*

*The government frequently highlights awareness campaigns and enforcement initiatives. While these measures are important, the statistics suggest they are not enough. Road safety cannot be reduced to occasional drives or symbolic observances."*

these measures are important, the statistics suggest they are not enough. Road safety cannot be reduced to occasional drives or symbolic observances. It requires a sustained and coordinated strategy involving transport authorities, police, public works departments, local bodies and citizens.

Infrastructure remains a major concern. Many roads lack proper signage, lane markings, street lighting and safe pedestrian crossings. In several areas, road widening projects have

unintentionally encouraged higher speeds without corresponding safety measures. The absence of dedicated facilities for cyclists and pedestrians further increases the danger.

Enforcement, too, needs strengthening. Traffic violations are often visible in plain sight. Riders without helmets, triple riding, mobile phone usage while driving and speeding continue despite existing laws. Technology-driven enforcement through speed cameras and automated monitoring systems must be expanded. More importantly, penalties should be certain and consistent rather than occasional and selective.

However, responsibility does not rest solely with the authorities. Road users must confront their own role in this crisis. Every fatal accident is not merely a statistic but often the result of a decision made in a split second: choosing speed over caution, convenience over safety or recklessness over responsibility. Changing this culture requires more than fear of fines. It demands a shift in attitudes.

The economic cost of road accidents is also substantial. Beyond the emotional trauma, accidents place immense pressure on healthcare systems, emergency services and families who lose breadwinners or face long-term medical expenses. Preventing accidents is not only a public safety issue but also an economic necessity.

The April report should serve as a wake-up call. Twenty-four deaths in one month translate to nearly one life lost every day. Such figures would trigger emergency responses in many sectors. Yet on the roads, there remains a tendency to treat fatalities as inevitable.

They are not.

Every death prevented is proof that better planning, stricter enforcement and responsible behaviour can save lives. Goa has the resources, expertise and institutional framework to improve road safety. What appears to be lacking is the urgency and political will to treat road fatalities as the public health crisis they truly are.

Until that changes, monthly accident reports will continue to resemble obituaries rather than progress reports.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### World Environment Day and Goa Govt's Environmental Contradictions

Every year on June 5, World Environment Day offers an opportunity to reflect on our responsibility towards nature. In Goa, the day is marked in two very different ways.

On one hand, there are genuine citizens, activists, students and community groups who voluntarily devote their time and effort to environmental awareness, conservation and protection. Their commitment deserves appreciation.

On the other hand, the Goa Government's annual Environment Day programmes increasingly appear to be exercises in symbolism and publicity rather than meaningful environmental action. Speeches are delivered on the need to protect hills, forests, fields and water bodies, while on the ground, concerns over hill cutting, tree felling, conversion of green areas through provisions such as Section 39-A, and environmental degradation linked to unchecked development continue to be raised by citizens. For every sapling that is ceremonially planted and publicised, numerous mature and even heritage trees are reportedly lost. Complaints regarding environmental violations often appear to receive little effective response. The contrast between official messaging and ground realities has become difficult to ignore.

Reports indicating substantial loss of tree cover in Goa between 2016 and 2022 raise a larger question: what has been the environmental trajectory since then? Environmental protection cannot be reduced to annual photo opportunities or box-ticking exercises designed to project a green image. Perhaps a more meaningful World Environment Day initiative would be a compulsory and comprehensive environmental governance programme for elected representatives. Such training could focus on ecological preservation, sustainable planning, enforcement of environmental laws, protection of forests and heritage trees, and stronger safeguards against destructive and irreversible development practices.

Goa's environment is its greatest natural asset. Preserving it requires informed policy decisions, political will and consistent action throughout the year, not just speeches on June 5.

- Arwin Mesquita

### Record of Rights Must Be Scrutinised to Protect Goa's Land

Goa's ongoing environmental degradation and uncontrolled development cannot be addressed effectively without first examining the legal foundation on which many land claims are based.

A critical issue that deserves public attention is the widespread reliance on the Record of Rights, popularly known as Form I and XIV, and property cards in respect of lands that were never covered by a lawful State grant under Section 21 of the Goa Land Revenue Code, 1968.

The purpose of land records is to reflect existing rights, not to create ownership where none legally exists. In the absence of a State grant and lawful conferment of occupancy rights, such records cannot substitute for valid title. If land tenure has not originated through a legally recognised grant from the State, serious questions arise regarding the authenticity and legal value of the entries relied upon for ownership claims and development permissions.

Various land use laws can be effectively enforced only where the legal status of land is clearly established. Occupancy rights under the Goa Land Revenue Code carry obligations, including payment of land revenue, and are linked to recognised tenure arrangements. Where such foundations are absent, the legitimacy of subsequent transactions and approvals deserves scrutiny.

It is important to remember that several laws governing land and property in Goa prior to December 20, 1961, continue to remain in force through the protection afforded by Section 5 of the Goa, Daman and Diu (Administration) Act, 1962. Public debate and legal examination of these issues are essential if Goa's land, environment and heritage are to be preserved for future generations.

- Orlando Mesquita

# Goa Sees Spike In Road Fatalities In April; 24 Killed In Traffic Mishaps Across State

■ Transport Data Flags Two-Wheelers As Most Vulnerable Category In Road Accidents

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Road accidents in Goa claimed 24 lives during the month of April, reflecting continued concerns over traffic safety in the State, according to data released by the Transport Department.

The statistics show that out of a total of 217 road accidents reported during the month, 23 were fatal in nature. South Goa

accounted for a slightly higher share of fatal crashes with 14 incidents, while North Goa recorded nine. Two-wheeler users emerged as the most affected group, with 18 of the 24 fatalities



involving riders. The remaining victims included three pillion riders, one pedestrian, one passenger, and one individual categorised under other road users. Officials also noted that more than half of the accidents resulted in non-injury cases,

while several others led to grievous and minor injuries, indicating the widespread nature of road safety risks across both districts. Transport authorities have pointed to the need for stronger enforcement of traffic rules, improved road discipline, and sustained awareness campaigns, especially targeting two-wheeler riders who continue to remain highly vulnerable on Goan roads.



## North Goa Administration Reviews SC-Directed Waste Management Compliance; BWG Monitoring Tightened

■ District-Level Meeting Emphasises Enforcement, Inspections And Public Participation In Solid Waste Management

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** A high-level review meeting on solid waste management was held under the chairmanship of North Goa District Magistrate Ankit Yadav, IAS, to evaluate compliance with directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 6174/2023 and to strengthen implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026.

The meeting brought together officials from panchayats, municipalities, the Goa State Pollution Control Board, deputy collectors, and other line departments to discuss coordinated enforcement mechanisms and improve ground-level execution of waste management systems. Officials placed special emphasis on Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), directing local bodies to maintain updated records of such entities and ensure strict adherence to waste

segregation norms, on-site processing requirements, and scientifically approved disposal practices.

The Pollution Control Board along with local self-government bodies has been asked to carry out regular inspections and closely track compliance levels to ensure that violations are promptly addressed. Strengthening monitoring mechanisms, taluka-level teams were instructed to conduct periodic inspections—both physical and virtual—of waste processing facilities, legacy waste sites, and dumping areas to evaluate compliance and initiate corrective action wherever necessary. The District Magistrate further directed that Deputy Collectors coordinate with field agencies to ensure smooth implementation and resolve operational issues at the local level, while the PCB will continue to provide technical guidance and environmental monitoring support.



## GPCCC Slams BJP Govt On World Environment Day, Calls It 'Environmental Deception'

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCCC) President Girish Chodankar on World Environment Day launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led government, accusing it of promoting environmental destruction while projecting a pro-green image through symbolic initiatives.

Chodankar alleged that the state government, headed by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, has overseen large-scale damage to Goa's forests, hills, water bodies and fragile ecosystems, while simultaneously participating in plantation drives and awareness programmes.

He said that no government in Goa's history has spoken more about environmental protection while allowing what he termed as systematic ecological degradation in the name of development and Section 39A.

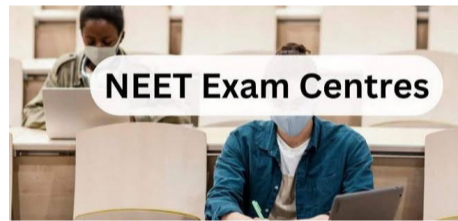
## South Goa Administration Forms Committee To Audit NEET (UG) Examination Centres

■ District-Level Team Constituted To Ensure Transparency, Security And Smooth Conduct Of NTA Exams

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO :** The Office of the Collector & District Magistrate, South Goa, has constituted a District Level Committee to carry out the physical audit of all examination centres designated for the National Testing Agency (NTA)-conducted NEET (UG) 2026 examination in the district.

As per the order issued by the Magisterial Section, the committee has been formed in line with NTA



guidelines to ensure transparent, fair, secure and smooth conduct of examinations across South Goa.

The committee will comprise Deputy Collector and District Revenue Officer Avelina Dsa E Pereira, who will represent the District

Magistrate; Deputy Superintendent of Police (South) Sidhant Shirodkar, representing

the Superintendent of Police, South Goa; Principal of KV No. 2 Vasco Narendra Singh Rathore, serving as Nodal Officer; and Prof. (Dr.) Gervasio S. F. L. Mendes, Additional Director of Higher Education and District Educational Officer.

## SGDH Set For Major Diagnostic Boost With Upcoming MRI Facility

■ Health Minister Vishwajit Rane Reviews Hospital, Stresses Early Diagnosis As MRI Unit Nears Commissioning

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** A comprehensive review of SGDH was conducted this morning with a strong focus on strengthening diagnostic infrastructure, patient care systems, and early disease detection capabilities. The Minister also interacted with OPD and IPD patients to assess service delivery and identify areas for improvement.



A key highlight of the review was the upcoming MRI facility at SGDH, which is expected to become operational by July. Once commissioned, the unit



is set to significantly upgrade the hospital's diagnostic capabilities, enabling faster, more accurate imaging services and reducing the need for patients to travel outside

for advanced scans. The ICU, which manages around 60-70 admissions every month, continues to report strong recovery trends, with nearly 80% of patients stabilising

and being shifted to wards for further care. The Dialysis Unit, with 20 beds, remains fully functional and continues to support long-term renal patients. Other departments including the SNCU, addiction treatment centre, and laboratory were also reviewed, with emphasis on strengthening early detection systems, preventive healthcare, and expanding cancer screening services.

# 5 Cows Killed After Truck Rams Cattle Herd At Verna IDC; Police Launch Hunt For Vehicle

■ Severe Incident Of Alleged Deliberate Act Sparks Outrage; One Animal Critical, Probe Underway

Team Goemkarponn

**VERNA:** In a disturbing incident at the Verna Industrial Estate (IDC), a speeding truck allegedly rammed into a herd of cattle, leaving five cows dead and one seriously injured in what is suspected to be a hit-and-run case.

According to initial



information, the incident triggered immediate response from animal welfare groups and

of Shree Parshuram GauBhoomi Saustha, Gauraksha, and the Dhyam Foundation, rushed

authorities after the collision occurred within the industrial estate area.

DSPCA-South officer Raj, along with members

to the spot and provided emergency assistance to the injured cattle while securing the area.

Following the incident, Verna Police were alerted and a team led by Police Inspector of Verna Police Station along with PSI Bhoomkar launched a search operation to trace the offending vehicle, which reportedly fled the



## Three DG Batteries Stolen From Telecom Tower In Assagao; Equipment Worth ₹30,000 Reportedly Taken

■ Unknown Accused Broke Open DG Set Cabinet On Three Occasions; Police Recover Batteries, Probe On

Team Goemkarponn

**ASSAGAO:** An incident of repeated theft at a telecom tower site has been reported from Assagao in Bardez, where unidentified persons allegedly broke open the DG set door cabinet on three separate occasions and stole batteries and electrical equipment.

According to the complaint filed by Ramesh Naik, Technician with Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, the incidents occurred on June 2 at 9:40 pm, and again on June 4 at 6:19 am and

10:40 pm at Plot No. SY No. 99/1, Bouda Waddo, Assagao.

The unknown accused allegedly broke open the lock of the DG set door cabinet of tower ID No. 1-MH-PNJI-ENB-0079 and stole three DG batteries and one MCB, collectively valued at approximately ₹30,000. During further investigation, police managed to recover the three DG batteries. PSI Sahil Warang is conducting the investigation, and further probe is in progress to identify and apprehend the accused.

## Two-Wheeler Collision At Sanguem Junction Leaves Three Injured; Police Probe Rash Driving Case

Team Goemkarponn

**SANGUEM:** A road accident at Vorcotto, Cotarli in Sanguem left three persons injured after a Royal Enfield motorcycle allegedly collided with a scooter at a three-road junction, police said.

According to ASI Ramdas Gaonkar of Sanguem Police Station, the incident occurred at around 2:40 pm when accused rider Clevan Fernandes, resident of Curchorem, was proceeding on a Royal Enfield motorcycle from Cotarlim towards Dando, Sanguem.

## Two Held In Colvale For Alleged "Number Game" Gambling; Cash And Slips Seized

■ Police Conduct Simultaneous Raids At Colvale And Thivim Junctions, Gambling Materials Recovered

Team Goemkarponn

**COLVALE:** In two separate but closely timed operations, Colvale Police detained two individuals for allegedly running and participating in illegal "number game" gambling activities in public areas of Bardez, seizing cash and gambling-related materials during the raids. According to police, the first incident took place at around 6:00 pm near the Four Road Junction, Colvale, where ASI Anil S. Pilgaonkar acted on a complaint and



caught Nitesh Chari, 50, resident of Dattawadi, Mapusa, allegedly red-handed while accepting money from members of the public and issuing paper slips in connection with the gambling activity. During the raid, police seized cash amounting to Rs 1,590 in different denominations along with other incriminating

gambling articles from the spot. The accused was taken into custody and further investigation is being carried out. In a second incident just minutes later at around 6:15 pm opposite Ashapura Tiles, Cansa Board, Thivim, ASI Ricky Fernandes led a raid following a similar complaint and apprehended Dattaram Chari, 42, resident of Cansa Thivim, while allegedly involved in the same "number game" gambling operation.

## Wanted Kidnapping Accused Nabbed In Valpoi; Victim Rescued, Handed Over To Bihar Police

■ Valpoi Police Apprehend Bihar-Origin Accused In Inter-State Operation; Case Linked To Singhaul PS FIR

Team Goemkarponn

**VALPOI:** In a swift inter-state operation, Valpoi Police apprehended a kidnapping accused wanted in Bihar and successfully rescued the victim, officials said.

The accused, identified as Mithun Kumar, a



resident of Begusarai, Bihar, was wanted in Singhaul Police Station Crime No. 124/2026 registered under Sections 96, 137(2), and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in a kidnapping case.

resident of Begusarai, Bihar, was wanted

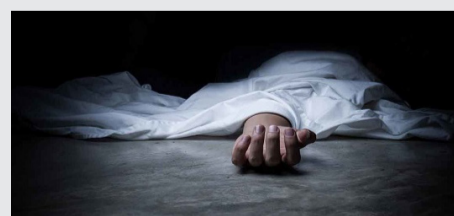
## Porvorim Flat Tragedy: 35-Year-Old Found Dead In Balcony

■ Man Staying With Wife For Six Days Found Dead In Early Morning Incident; UD Case Registered, Probe On

Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** A 35-year-old man was found hanging in the balcony of a residential flat at Green Hill, Alto Porvorim, in the early hours of Thursday, in a case being treated as unnatural death by police.

The deceased, identified as Siddhesh Pradip Shirsat, originally



from Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, was residing with his wife at flat no. CN0032 in CP Manohar Building for the past few days.

Police said the incident

came to light after the victim's wife, Poornima Shirsat, discovered him hanging from

the balcony ceiling using a nylon rope around 8:30 am. She had reportedly last seen him alive around 3:30 am after they had their meal and gone to sleep.

PSI Arun Shirodkar and Porvorim police staff reached the spot after receiving information and conducted an inquest panchanama. The body has been preserved at GMC mortuary for post-mortem examination.

Further investigation is in progress to ascertain the exact circumstances behind the death.

# Canacona Bhandari Samaj Demands Open Status For Assembly Constituency; Submits Representation To SEC

Memorandum Seeks No Permanent Reservation And Advocates Rotation-Based ST Seat Allocation In Goa

Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA:** The Kankon Bhandari Samaj has submitted a formal representation to the State Election Commission, Goa, requesting that the Kankon Assembly Constituency be kept open under the general category and not reserved for any specific community.

In a memorandum addressed to the State



Election Commissioner in Panaji, the organisation stated that the constituency should remain accessible to all eligible candidates from

the general category to ensure equal opportunity in the democratic process.

The group further stated that

if reservation for Scheduled Tribes (ST) is to be implemented in Goa as per constitutional provisions, it should be done through a rotation

system. It suggested that constituencies with higher ST population should be identified and reserved on a rotational basis, rather than imposing permanent reservation on a single constituency. The memorandum emphasized that Kankon taluka is a multi-community region where Bhandari, Maratha, Gauda, Velip, Christian and other communities live together harmoniously.



## GSPCB Annual Report 2025-26 Released; Goa Highlights Green Growth Push On World Environment Day

CM Pramod Sawant Presents Key Environment Report, Outlines State's Conservation And Sustainability Measures

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) Annual Report 2025-26 was officially released by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant during the World Environment Day 2026 programme held in Panaji.

The annual report release formed the central highlight of the event themed "Inspired by Nature for Climate & Our Future", showcasing the State's environmental performance, regulatory progress, and ongoing sustainability initiatives.

Alongside the report launch, the event also witnessed the signing of an MoU between GSPCB, Goa Waste Management Corporation (GWMC), and Cacora ITI for introducing a Waste

Management Technician course aimed at building skilled manpower in the environmental sector.

A book titled "गोव्याचे कृषिनियक" was also released on the occasion, and several farmers, environmental champions, industries, and winners of environment-related competitions were felicitated.

CM Sawant, in his address, highlighted major green initiatives under the "Green Goa, Clean Goa" mission, including the "Harit Goem, Ek Zaad Roi" programme inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign.

He announced that 10 lakh trees will be planted across the State between June 5 and September 5, creating a green corridor from Patradevi to Polem.



## World Environment Day marked by plantation drives, infrastructure works and green initiatives across Mormugao

Team Goemkarponn

**MORMUGAO:** World Environment Day was observed across the Mormugao taluka on Thursday with political leaders, panchayat bodies and social organisations undertaking plantation drives, environmental awareness campaigns and infrastructure initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability and improving local living conditions. At Bogmalo, Cabinet Minister Mauvin Godinho inaugurated a newly constructed sluice gate at Bhimut and flagged off the desilting of major nullahs in the village. The works are expected to improve drainage, prevent waterlogging during the monsoon and enhance environmental management in the coastal village. Addressing residents, Godinho said the projects formed part of the government's ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure and quality of life in Bogmalo, which he described as one of Goa's World Environment Day.

## Congress Marks World Environment Day with Sapling Distribution in Canacona

Fruit-Bearing and Medicinal Plants Distributed to Promote Environmental Conservation

Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA:** The Canacona Congress unit celebrated World Environment Day by distributing fruit-bearing saplings and medicinal plants at the Shristhal Panchayat Hall, highlighting the importance of environmental protection and sustainable living.

The programme was led by the Canacona



Congress Parivar, with the participation of the Minority Block, Canacona Congress Mahila Block, and Youth Congress leaders Vaishnav

Pednekar, State Youth Vice-President of GPCC, and Pralay Bhagat, Youth President of the South Goa District Congress Committee.

## Goa DRS Launches First Reverse Vending Machine At INS Mandovi; Push For Circular Economy Gains Momentum

World Environment Day Events Showcase Statewide Rollout Of Deposit Refund Scheme Across Defence And Public Locations

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa Deposit Refund Scheme (Goa DRS) marked a key milestone on World Environment Day 2026 with the inauguration of its first Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) at INS Mandovi, Verem, signalling the beginning of on-ground implementation of the circular economy



initiative within a defence establishment.

The installation, developed in partnership with Prakriti, the Indian Navy's environmental wing at INS Mandovi,

was formally inaugurated during a special programme attended by naval personnel and their families, who were also given a live demonstration of the system.

Speaking on the occasion, Shefali Nair, President of the Navy Welfare and Wellness Association (NWWA), said the naval community could play a strong role in promoting the initiative, highlighting that the Goa DRS is built around a "green loop" where waste is transformed into a resource rather than discarded.



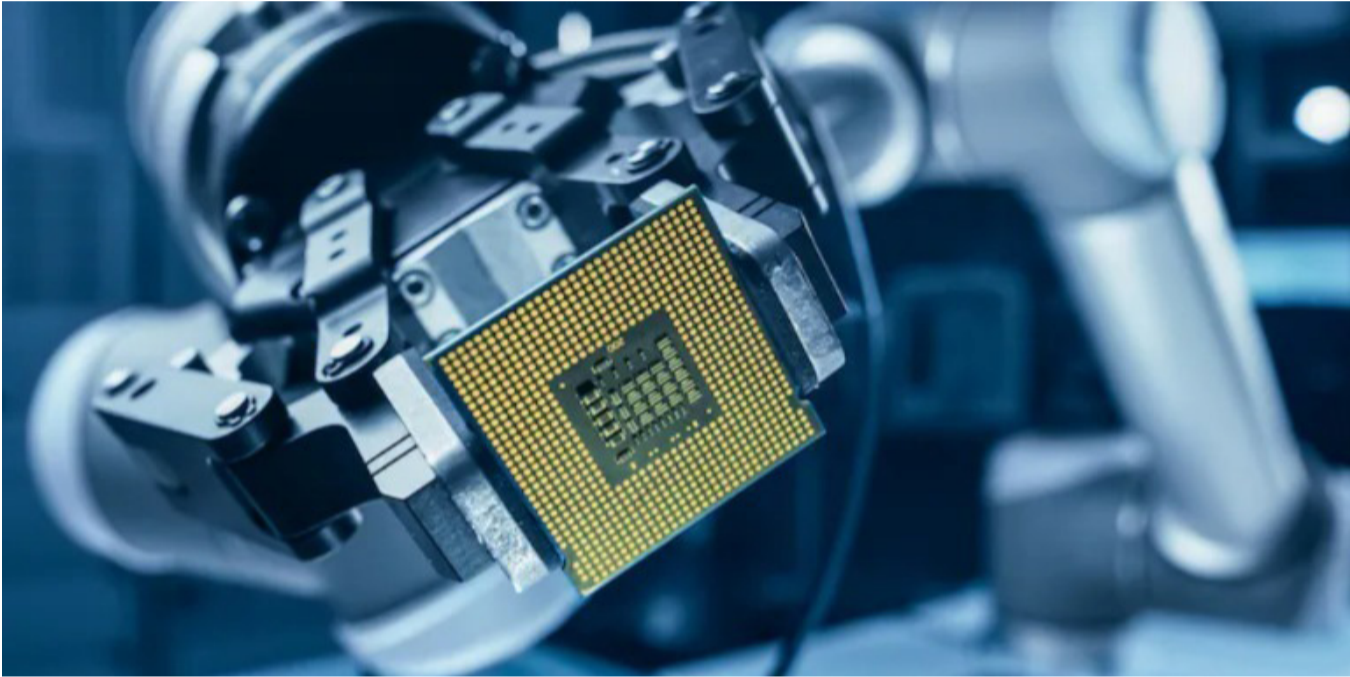
## Three Special Trains Between Vasco-Velankanni Planned From August; Rail Users Seek Capacity Boost And Cansaulim Halt

Team Goemkarponn

**VASCO:** Devotees travelling to the Velankanni shrine are set to get improved rail connectivity, with plans underway to operate three special trains between Vasco da Gama and Velankanni during the upcoming pilgrimage season starting in August.

# India's Semiconductor Market Set To Reach \$205 Billion By 2034

■ Policy Push, Regional Growth And Rising Demand Drive Rapid Expansion Of Domestic Chip Industry



## Team Goemkarponn

**New Delhi:** India's semiconductor industry is on track for significant expansion, with its market value projected to rise from around \$20 billion in 2020 to an estimated \$205 billion by 2034. The growth reflects the country's increasing focus on building a strong domestic semiconductor ecosystem and reducing dependence on imports.

While growth rates have fluctuated in recent years, the sector is expected to maintain a steady annual expansion of 15 to 19 per cent over the next decade. As semiconductors become increasingly vital across industries

ranging from electronics and automobiles to telecommunications and artificial intelligence, the industry is expected to play a larger role in the broader economy.

Regional participation in the sector remains diverse, with southern India emerging as the leading hub. As of 2025, the region accounts for 36.2 per cent of the country's semiconductor ecosystem.

Northern India follows with a 27.8 per cent share, while western and central India contribute 22.5 per cent. Eastern India represents 13.5 per cent of the overall footprint.

A major factor behind this growth has

been the government's policy support through initiatives such as the India Semiconductor Mission. Building on the groundwork laid during its initial phase, the upcoming phase aims to strengthen domestic capabilities in chip design, advanced materials and industry driven research and development.

The policy framework has also encouraged investment by offering production linked incentives and creating a more supportive regulatory environment. These measures are helping companies move beyond basic assembly operations and enter higher value

manufacturing segments.

With domestic demand expected to surge across multiple sectors, India is positioning itself as a key player in the global chip industry. The projected rise in market value over the coming decade highlights the country's ambition to develop a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem supported by manufacturing, innovation and skilled talent.

As investment continues and infrastructure expands, India's semiconductor sector is expected to become one of the fastest growing segments of the country's industrial economy.

## "20% Cheaper Than E20": India Launches E85 Fuel To Accelerate Green Mobility Push

■ New Ethanol Rich Petrol Blend Aims To Cut Emissions, Reduce Oil Imports And Support Rural Economy

### Team Goemkarponn

**New Delhi:** In a significant step towards cleaner transportation and greater energy security, India has launched E85 fuel, a petrol blend containing 85 per cent ethanol, at an Indian Oil outlet in New Delhi. The new fuel, unveiled by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, is expected to play a key role in the country's transition towards sustainable mobility.

To encourage adoption, the government has priced E85 around 20 per cent lower than E20 petrol, making it a more affordable alternative for consumers. The pricing strategy is aimed at promoting the use of cleaner fuels while helping offset any differences in fuel efficiency associated with higher ethanol blends.

The introduction of E85 is expected to deliver notable environmental benefits by reducing harmful tailpipe emissions such as carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and particulate matter. The move is seen as part of broader efforts to improve air quality and lower the carbon footprint of the transport sector.

The initiative also supports India's objective of reducing

dependence on imported crude oil. Ethanol used in the fuel is produced domestically from sugarcane, food grains and agricultural residues, helping strengthen energy security while creating additional opportunities for farmers and rural industries.

However, E85 is not compatible with conventional petrol vehicles. The fuel requires specially designed Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs), which feature modified fuel systems and engine components capable of handling high ethanol concentrations. Using E85 in vehicles not certified for flex fuel operation can damage fuel system components, affect engine performance and potentially shorten engine life.

Vehicle owners are advised to check manufacturer specifications before using E85. Several Indian automakers have already developed flex fuel vehicle prototypes, and the availability of E85 is expected to accelerate their commercial rollout.

The government plans to gradually expand E85 infrastructure through dedicated dispensing stations across major cities, paving the way for wider adoption of biofuel based transportation and a cleaner energy future.



## Churchill Alemao Signals Willingness to Return to Congress

On electoral prospects, he claimed that his support base remains intact, asserting that his "5,000 votes" are still with him and that Savio enjoys an even wider connect with the people. He added that discussions regarding Savio's candidature are currently taking place at the central level. Thanking the people of Benaulim and Navelim for their continued support, Alemao credited them for his political journey and stressed the need to preserve Goa's secular character,

saying it is one of the state's greatest strengths and should be protected.

## 2-Year Jail, Property Sealing: Delhi Launches Major Action Against Building Violations

of up to two years. The law will also cover unauthorised construction, failure to meet safety requirements and the operation of businesses without necessary approvals. A key aspect of the new policy is the accountability of government officials. District Magistrates will be empowered to identify negligence and take action

against officers who fail to enforce regulations or are found complicit in violations. Beyond suspension, officials may face recovery of losses through salary deductions, pension benefits, retirement dues and even personal assets if their actions or inaction contribute to loss of life. The government has also formed joint enforcement committees headed by District Magistrates. These teams, comprising officials from multiple agencies, will inspect hotels, guest houses, banquet halls, restaurants and other commercial establishments. Businesses operating without valid permissions or posing safety risks could face immediate sealing.

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# "Sanctions Threats Would Boomerang Under PM Modi": Putin Backs India's Strategic Autonomy

Russian President Says India Will Continue Making Independent Defence and Economic Decisions Despite External Pressure

**New Delhi:** Russian President Vladimir Putin has strongly endorsed India's independent foreign policy, asserting that any attempts to pressure New Delhi through sanctions would be ineffective under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Putin said India has consistently pursued policies based on its national interests and is



unlikely to alter its course due to external demands or geopolitical pressure.

Highlighting India's sovereign decision-making, Putin said New Delhi remains free to choose its economic

and defence partners according to its own requirements. He noted that India has long followed an independent approach in international affairs and continues to do so under Prime Minister

Modi's leadership.

Addressing questions about possible sanctions pressure related to India's acquisition of Russian military equipment, Putin stressed that operational needs and technological suitability would remain the key factors guiding India's procurement decisions. He maintained that countries should have the freedom to select defence systems that best meet their strategic requirements.



## Over 3,500 Indians Deported From US in 2025, More Than 1,000 Sent Back This Year

MEAs Says Both Countries Are Working to Curb Unauthorised Migration While Protecting Legal Mobility Channels

**New Delhi:** More than 1,000 Indian nationals have been deported from the United States to India so far this year, with New Delhi and Washington continuing discussions on migration, mobility, and measures to tackle illegal immigration.

Addressing a media briefing on Friday, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that 1,076 Indian citizens have been deported from the United States during the current year. He also revealed that a total of 3,567 Indian nationals were deported from the US during 2025. The figures come amid an intensified immigration enforcement drive by the administration of Donald Trump, which has placed a strong focus on identifying and removing

individuals residing in the country without legal authorisation. Jaiswal noted that India and the United States remain in regular contact regarding issues related to deportation, migration, and mobility. According to him, ongoing discussions between the two countries are aimed at addressing illegal migration networks while ensuring that legitimate travel, employment, education, and other lawful migration pathways are not negatively affected. The MEA spokesperson emphasized that both governments are working towards a balanced approach that targets unlawful migration practices without disrupting legal avenues available to students, professionals, and other travellers.



## "Jammu and Kashmir Will Always Remain Part of India": India Rebukes Pakistan at UN

**New Delhi:** India delivered a strong response to Pakistan at the United Nations General Assembly, firmly rejecting references made by Islamabad regarding Jammu and Kashmir and reiterating that the region remains an integral part of the country.

Speaking during a discussion on the UN Security Council's annual report, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, P Harish, criticized Pakistan for what he described as the misuse of international platforms to promote politically motivated narratives.

He emphasized that all matters related to Jammu and Kashmir are strictly internal to India and asserted that the Union Territory "is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India."

## "Differences Must Be Expressed Respectfully": India Condemns Disruption of CJI Surya Kant's London Lecture

High Commission Criticises Heckling at UK Event as Chief Justice Highlights AI's Impact on Law and Governance

**New Delhi:** The Indian High Commission in London has strongly condemned the disruption of a public lecture delivered by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant at a London academic institution, describing the conduct of some audience members as inappropriate and inconsistent with respectful public discourse.

In an official statement, the High Commission



said that while differing viewpoints are a natural part of democratic engagement, they should be expressed in a civil and courteous manner. It termed the interruption

during the event as unacceptable and lacking the decorum expected at such forums.

Justice Surya

Kant was speaking at Birkbeck, University of London on June 4, where he delivered a lecture on the theme of artificial intelligence and international law.

## CJP Launches Massive Protest Over NEET and CBSE Concerns

Thousands Gather at Jantar Mantar as Group Demands Accountability on NEET and CBSE Evaluation Issues

Team Goemkarponn

**New Delhi:** Thousands of young protesters assembled at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Saturday as the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), a rapidly growing youth-driven movement, launched a demonstration demanding action over the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak and



concerns surrounding the CBSE's on-screen marking system used in Class 12 board examination assessments. The protest, led by CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke,

drew supporters carrying placards and banners from different parts of the country. Organisers said the demonstration was conducted

after obtaining the necessary permissions from authorities. Ahead of the event, Dipke urged participants to maintain peace and discipline, while also

encouraging them to greet police personnel with flowers as a gesture of respect. With large crowds expected, security arrangements around Jantar Mantar were significantly strengthened. Several companies of paramilitary personnel were deployed in the area, while senior police officials monitored the situation on the ground.

## "Positive And Constructive": India, US Move Closer To Finalising Bilateral Trade Deal

Team Goemkarponn

**New Delhi:** India on Friday said its ongoing negotiations with the United States for a bilateral trade agreement have remained positive and constructive, reflecting steady progress towards strengthening economic ties between the two countries. The latest round of discussions took place during a visit by a delegation from the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to India from June 1 to 4.

# Shreyas Iyer Named India's New T20I Captain, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Earns Maiden Call-Up

■ Suryakumar Yadav Dropped As Selectors Hand Leadership Role To Iyer For Ireland And England Tour

**New Delhi:** India's selectors have made a major change to the T20I setup by appointing Shreyas Iyer as the new captain for the upcoming tours of Ireland and England. Iyer replaces Suryakumar Yadav, who has been left out of the squad despite leading India to a T20 World Cup triumph earlier this year.

In another notable development, teenage batting sensation Vaibhav



Sooryavanshi has received his first senior national team call-up following an impressive IPL 2026 campaign. Meanwhile, Tilak Varma has been appointed vice-captain.

Fast bowler Prince Yadav has also earned his maiden T20I selection after previously being included in India's ODI squad for the Afghanistan series. Iyer's return marks a

remarkable comeback. The top-order batter last featured in a T20I in December 2023 and spent much of this year on the sidelines despite being part of the squad for the home series against New Zealand. Strong performances in domestic cricket and the IPL, both as a batter and captain, have helped him reclaim a place in the national side and secure the leadership role.



## India Rally Past Pakistan 5-3 To Storm Into U18 Men's Asia Cup Final

■ Ashish Tani Purti Scores Four Goals As India Produce Stunning Comeback To Set Up Title Clash With Japan

**New Delhi:** India produced a sensational comeback to defeat arch-rivals Pakistan 5-3 in a thrilling semi-final of the U18 Men's Asia Cup in Kakamigahara, Japan, securing a place in the final after a dominant final-quarter display.

The match began cautiously, with both teams battling for control in midfield. India struck first in the 12th minute when a swift move forced a defensive error from Pakistan, resulting in a penalty stroke. Forward Ashish Tani Purti converted the opportunity calmly to hand India a 1-0 lead at the end of the opening quarter. Pakistan responded strongly in the second quarter and created several chances. Their persistence paid off in the 27th minute when Adeel intercepted

a pass and scored a field goal to level the contest at 1-1 before halftime.

The third quarter witnessed end-to-end action. India regained the lead through Shahrukh Ali in the 35th minute, but Pakistan responded almost immediately as Muhammad Farhan Aslam found the net two minutes later. Pakistan then moved ahead for the first time when Uzair Ahmad Qureshi converted a penalty corner in the 42nd minute, giving his side a 3-2 advantage heading into the final quarter. With a place in the final at stake, India launched an aggressive assault in the closing stages. The pressure eventually paid off when Ashish Tani Purti converted a penalty corner in the 49th minute to restore parity at 3-3.



## R Praggnanandhaa Creates History, Becomes First Indian To Win Norway Chess Title

**Team Goemkarponn**

**New Delhi:** Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa scripted a historic achievement on Friday by becoming the first Indian player to win the prestigious Norway Chess title. The 20 year old secured the landmark victory after defeating Vincent Keymer in the final round. Entering the day in third place with 15 points, Praggnanandhaa delivered when it mattered most, earning three crucial points from a classical win to finish the tournament on 18 points and claim the title. The triumph marks a significant milestone in Indian chess, as even legendary former world champion Viswanathan Anand and reigning world champion D Gukesh had never won the tournament since its inception in 2013. Playing in Norway Chess for only the second time, Praggnanandhaa overcame a slow start before producing a strong finish in the elite six player competition.

## Cycling for a Greener Future: DSYA, SAG To Organise 'Sundays on Cycle' On June 7

■ World Bicycle Day cycling event to encourage fitness, sustainability and eco friendly transportation

**New Delhi:** The Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs (DSYA) and the Sports Authority of Goa (SAG) will organise "Sundays on Cycle" on June 7, 2026, in observance of World Bicycle Day. The cycling event will begin at 7.00 am and will promote the theme "Cycling for a Greener Future." Participants will assemble at the DSYA office in Campal, from where the ride will



commence. The route will cover Campal, Miramar Circle, Dona Paula Circle and the University Ground before returning

to the starting point. The organisers will provide T shirts, certificates and refreshments to all participants.

## Gautam Gambhir Backs ICC's New Pink Ball Rule To Prevent Lost Test Match Results

■ India Coach Acknowledges Players' Concerns But Says Rule Could Be Crucial In Deciding World Test Championship Qualification

**Team Goemkarponn**

**New Delhi:** India head coach Gautam Gambhir has welcomed the International Cricket Council's decision to allow the use of pink balls in regular Test matches affected by poor light, calling it a positive step that could help ensure results in crucial games.

The ICC recently approved a trial rule that will permit teams,



by mutual agreement, to switch from a red ball to a pink ball during a day Test if bad light threatens to reduce playing time. Under the proposal, matches will begin with the traditional

red ball, but if visibility deteriorates, floodlights can be used and a pink ball introduced to allow play to continue.

Expressing strong support for the move, Gambhir said the primary objective should be to maximise opportunities for a result rather than allowing weather conditions to significantly affect the

outcome of a match. The India coach highlighted the importance of the rule in the context of the World Test Championship, where every result can influence qualification standings. He pointed out that teams work for two years to earn a place in the final and losing valuable playing time because of bad light could have major consequences.

Gambhir also acknowledged that switching from a red ball

to a pink ball during the same Test match may pose challenges for players. Differences in visibility, movement and playing conditions could require quick adjustments from both batters and bowlers.

However, he believes the benefits outweigh the difficulties, especially in high stakes matches where a result could determine progression to the World Test Championship final.