



AI Eyes on Goa Roads: Smart Traffic Cameras to Enforce Rules from July 1

■ Phased rollout at 26 locations to begin with public awareness campaign; govt aims to curb accidents through AI-driven enforcement

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a major push to improve road safety and discipline, the Goa government will roll out AI-based traffic cameras at 26 identified locations across the state in a phased manner, with enforcement set to begin from July 1, Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho announced after chairing the State Road Safety Council meeting.



The minister said the government will first launch a public awareness campaign to educate

motorists about the AI-enabled enforcement system before penalties come into effect.

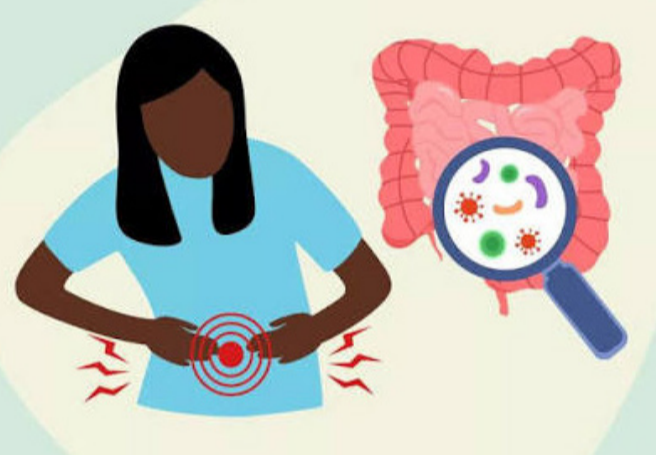
"The government will begin the implementation of AI-based traffic cameras at 26 identified locations across the state in a phased manner. We will conduct public awareness campaigns before enforcement begins on July 1," Godinho said.

Stressing the need for stricter traffic regulation, the minister pointed out that Goa welcomes

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28 Kerala Tourists Hospitalised in Suspected Food Poisoning Case

SGDH Handled Mass Casualty Incident; Sources Say Tourists Had Eaten at Old Goa Restaurant



Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A formal complaint has been submitted to the Mapusa Police Station seeking the registration of a First Information Report (FIR) against the Administrator of the Mapusa Municipal Council (MMC) in connection with the death of 22-year-old Samuel Braganza of Caraswaddo, Mapusa.

: Twenty-eight tourists from Kerala were admitted to the South Goa District Hospital (SGDH) after a suspected case of food

poisoning on June 9, prompting the hospital to activate its mass casualty response.

Speaking to the media, SGDH Superintendent Dr. Rajendra Borkar said the hospital dealt with a mass casualty incident involving 28 tourists from Kerala who suffered food poisoning while visiting Goa.

According to sources, the affected tourists had consumed food at a restaurant in Old Goa before they fell ill. However, this detail was not stated by Dr. Borkar.



Comunidade NOCs Holding Up Mhaje Ghar Yojana Applications, Says Babush

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Responding to criticism over the Mhaje Ghar Yojana, MLA Atanasio "Babush" Monserrate said the scheme has brought relief to many families who were able to receive sanads after waiting for decades.

However, he maintained that a large number of pending applications are delayed due to the non-issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) by Comunidades.

Monserrate urged the Comunidades to cooperate and issue the required NOCs so that eligible beneficiaries can complete the process. At the same time, he clarified that the government cannot interfere in the independent decisions of Comunidades, making their cooperation essential

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

All Private Forests, Wildlife Sanctuaries Will Be Protected: Vishwajit Rane

■ TCP Board to Provide Double-Layer Protection; Affidavit Already Filed in Supreme Court

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Town and Country Planning Minister Vishwajit Rane has said that the TCP Board has taken a decision to protect all private forests and wildlife sanctuaries in Goa based on letters received from the Forest Department.

Rane stated that all survey numbers of private



lands falling within private forests, including those that were earlier removed from the private forest category, will be protected. He added that an

affidavit has already been filed before the Supreme Court on the matter.

The minister further noted that there is a stay by the Supreme Court on the removal of private forests, making it the responsibility of the state government, the Forest Department, and the Town and Country Planning Department to ensure their protection.

India Deploys 12 Nuclear Warheads For First Time Amid Rising Geopolitical Tensions: Report

■ Report suggests India has increased nuclear readiness amid evolving regional security challenges and global military modernisation trends

New Delhi: India may have operationally deployed a small number of nuclear warheads for the first time, marking a potentially significant shift in its strategic deterrence posture. The development comes amid growing geopolitical tensions and increasing military modernisation across the world.

According to recent



assessments, India's nuclear arsenal is estimated to have grown to around 190 warheads in 2026, up from 180 the previous year.

US Strikes Iranian Military Sites After Apache Helicopter Downing, Tehran Vows Retaliation

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: The conflict between the United States and Iran intensified sharply after the US military launched strikes on Iranian military installations following the downing of a US Apache helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz. The latest exchange has heightened fears of a broader regional escalation at a time when diplomatic efforts to end hostilities remain fragile.

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Digital Dreams Need Reliable Wheels First

The announcement that the Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL) will launch the MajheApp in June 2026, featuring online bus booking, live tracking, digital ticketing and even a pilot bike taxi service, reflects a welcome attempt to modernise Goa's public transport system. Technology can undoubtedly improve convenience, provide better information to commuters and make public transport more accessible. However, there is a fundamental question that must be addressed before celebrating digital innovation: what use is a sophisticated app if the buses themselves are frequently breaking down on the roads?

For years, commuters across Goa have faced a recurring problem that no mobile application can solve. KTCL buses have suffered frequent mechanical failures, leaving passengers stranded, disrupting schedules and eroding public confidence in the state-run transport service. Students heading to college, office-goers trying to reach their workplaces, and ordinary citizens relying on public transport have repeatedly experienced the frustration of unexpected breakdowns.

An app may tell passengers exactly where a bus is located. It may provide real-time updates and allow seamless ticket purchases. But if that bus is sitting on the roadside with an engine failure, digital convenience becomes meaningless. Technology can enhance service delivery, but it cannot compensate for poor service quality.

The enthusiasm surrounding digital transformation often creates the impression that technology itself is the solution to every problem. In reality, technology is only as effective as the system it supports. A live-tracking feature is valuable when buses operate reliably and on schedule. Online booking is useful when passengers can trust that the vehicle they have booked will actually complete the journey. Without dependable operations, digital tools risk becoming little more than cosmetic

“An app may tell passengers exactly where a bus is located. It may provide real-time updates and allow seamless ticket purchases. But if that bus is sitting on the roadside with an engine failure, digital convenience becomes meaningless. Technology can enhance service delivery, but it cannot compensate for poor service quality.”

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upgrades.

KTCL deserves credit for recognising the need to modernise. Public transport systems around the world are increasingly using digital platforms to improve user experience. Goa should not be left behind in adopting such innovations. The challenge, however, lies in setting priorities correctly.

Before investing significant energy in promoting apps and digital services, KTCL must focus on strengthening its fleet. Preventive maintenance, timely repairs, fleet renewal and rigorous safety inspections should remain at the centre of the corporation's strategy. A commuter's first expectation is not an app. It is a

bus that arrives on time, operates safely and reaches its destination without incident.

The proposed integration of a pilot bike taxi service through the platform may also attract attention, particularly in a state where last-mile connectivity remains a challenge. Yet this initiative too will ultimately be judged not by the sophistication of the technology behind it, but by its reliability, safety and practicality. Public transport succeeds when it solves real-world commuting problems, not merely when it introduces new digital features.

There is also a broader issue of public trust. Every breakdown chips away at confidence in the transport system. Once commuters lose faith, many shift permanently to private vehicles, increasing traffic congestion and reducing the effectiveness of public transport investments. Rebuilding that trust requires consistent performance over time. No amount of branding, advertising or app development can substitute for operational reliability.

The launch of MajheApp should therefore be viewed as an opportunity rather than an achievement in itself. The true measure of success will not be the number of downloads or registrations. It will be whether commuters experience fewer breakdowns, more punctual services and greater confidence in choosing KTCL buses for their daily travel.

Digital innovation and infrastructure improvement should not be competing priorities. They must go hand in hand. But if one must come before the other, the answer is obvious. Reliable buses form the foundation of public transport. Apps are only an added layer of convenience.

Goa's commuters deserve both modern technology and dependable transport. Yet the order matters. Before asking people to embrace a new app, KTCL must ensure that the buses appearing on their screens are capable of completing the journeys they promise. The road to a smarter transport system begins not with software, but with service.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Enforce Rules Consistently, Not Occasionally

The government's decision to intensify checks on rent-a-car operators across Goa is a welcome move. However, the real challenge lies not in conducting occasional compliance drives but in ensuring consistent enforcement throughout the year.

Tourism is the backbone of Goa's economy, and transport services play a crucial role in shaping a visitor's experience. When unauthorised operators, unregistered vehicles or businesses flouting regulations are allowed to function freely, it not only undermines legitimate operators but also raises concerns about safety and accountability.

For years, there have been complaints about illegal rental operations and vehicles being used commercially without proper permissions. Such practices create an uneven playing field where law-abiding businesses are forced to compete against those cutting corners. Strict action against violators is therefore necessary and long overdue.

At the same time, enforcement should be fair, transparent and free from selective targeting. Genuine operators who comply with all requirements must be supported, while repeat offenders should face stringent penalties. Regular inspections, digital verification systems and public awareness campaigns can help improve compliance and build confidence among tourists and residents alike.

Goa's reputation as a premier tourist destination depends not only on its beaches and hospitality but also on the quality and reliability of services provided to visitors. A strong regulatory framework benefits everyone, from tourists and local communities to honest businesses that invest time and resources in following the law.

The success of this compliance drive will ultimately be measured not by the number of inspections conducted but by whether illegal operations are permanently curtailed.

- Sebastian D'Souza, Mapusa

Accountability Must Accompany Authority

The reports surrounding the alleged suicide in Mapusa and the subsequent complaints seeking action against civic body officials have once again highlighted the importance of accountability in public administration.

While the circumstances of the case are now under scrutiny and due process must be allowed to take its course, the incident has raised broader concerns about how citizens interact with government departments and local authorities. Public officials are entrusted with significant powers that directly affect the lives, livelihoods and well-being of ordinary people. With such authority comes the responsibility to act fairly, transparently and with sensitivity.

It would be inappropriate to rush to conclusions before investigations are completed. However, the allegations and public concerns emerging from this case underline the need for robust mechanisms that ensure grievances against public officials are promptly examined. Citizens must have confidence that complaints will be heard without fear, favour or delay.

Government offices are meant to serve the public, not intimidate or alienate those who approach them. Administrative decisions, enforcement actions and official communications should always be guided by professionalism and respect for human dignity. When allegations of misconduct arise, they must be investigated thoroughly and impartially to establish the facts.

This unfortunate incident should serve as a reminder that governance is not merely about rules and regulations. It is also about empathy, accountability and responsible exercise of power. If systemic shortcomings are identified, corrective measures must follow to prevent similar situations in the future. The truth must emerge through a fair investigation, and justice must be seen to be done.

- Melwyn Fernandes, Mapusa

Goa Govt Launches Crackdown on Rental Vehicles, Illegal Tinted Glass

■ State to inspect rent-a-car operators, check speed limiters and intensify enforcement to improve road safety

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a renewed push to improve road safety following a series of major accidents, the Goa government has decided to tighten enforcement against rent-a-car operators and vehicles using illegal tinted glass.

The measures were finalised at the State Road Safety Council meeting chaired by Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho at the Secretariat on



Tuesday.

The government will undertake inspections of self-drive rental vehicles to verify whether they

are fitted with mandatory speed-limiting devices and whether operators are complying with all statutory requirements.

Officials have also been directed to examine the functioning of rental vehicle businesses and ensure that licences and permits are being used in accordance with prescribed norms.

The move comes amid concerns over the increasing involvement of rental vehicles in road accidents across the state. Authorities have warned that operators found violating regulations could face legal action.



Possible Goa Connection Probed in Belagavi Drug Seizure Case

■ Three arrested with heroin; investigators tracing suspected network spanning Mumbai, Karnataka

Team Goemkarponn

BELGAUM/PANAJI:

An incident involving the alleged theft and sale of a pet German Shepherd from Borda has prompted animal welfare authorities to call for greater vigilance among pet owners.

Investigators are exploring a possible Goa angle after the arrest of three individuals in Belagavi in connection with a heroin seizure that has raised suspicions of an interstate drug distribution network. The operation was carried out by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of Belagavi Police following information about suspected narcotics activity in the city. Acting on the lead, a police team conducted a raid and detained three local residents alleged to be involved in the sale of heroin. During the operation, officers recovered over 47 grams of heroin along with a two-

wheeler, mobile phones and cash. The seized items are collectively valued at more than ₹10 lakh. A criminal case has been registered at Khade Bazar Police Station.

Investigators said the focus has now shifted to identifying the origin of the narcotics and uncovering the larger network behind the supply. Preliminary findings reportedly suggest that the contraband may have been sourced from Mumbai, prompting police to examine routes and contacts extending beyond Karnataka. As part of the probe, officials are analysing whether the supply chain had any operational links with Goa. Given the frequent movement of people and goods between Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka, law enforcement agencies are assessing whether the state was used as a transit corridor or distribution point.



Leopard Death Probe Tops Forest Department Review Meeting

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The inquiry into the recent leopard death emerged as a key focus during a comprehensive review meeting of the Goa Forest Department chaired by Forest Minister Vishwajit Rane, who also reviewed monsoon preparedness and the state's broader wildlife conservation strategy.

The meeting, attended by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and the RAF, included detailed discussions on the ongoing inquiry into the leopard's death and measures to strengthen protection and monitoring of wildlife across Goa's protected areas.

Officials reviewed plans to augment road networks within protected forests to improve patrolling and surveillance, while also discussing scientific studies on wildlife movement patterns to better manage human-wildlife conflict.

MLA Vijai Dismisses BJP-GFP Tie-Up Speculation, Calls It 'Manufactured Narrative'

■ Fatorda MLA says GFP cannot ally with a party it has opposed on issues such as 39A, the coal corridor, environmental concerns and alleged job scams

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA : Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai has dismissed speculation over a possible alliance between the Goa Forward Party (GFP) and the BJP, alleging that "sponsored stories and planted questions" are being circulated to create confusion among the people of Goa.



Referring to the onset of the monsoon, Sardesai remarked, "The monsoon has arrived, and so have the frogs croaking in chorus," while questioning whether narratives about a BJP-GFP tie-up were being deliberately spread

to mislead Goans.

He asserted that "real Goemkars are not fools" and argued that a party which has consistently opposed issues such as 39A, the coal corridor, environmental destruction, alleged job scams and what he described as "the most corrupt government in the history of Goa" could not suddenly join hands with the BJP.

Panaji Steps Up Rehabilitation Drive for Vulnerable Individuals

■ CCP leads multi-agency meeting to strengthen welfare support, improve coordination and develop long-term rehabilitation measures

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) has stepped up efforts to strengthen rehabilitation and welfare support for individuals in vulnerable circumstances by bringing together government departments, law enforcement agencies and social organisations for a coordinated review meeting.



The meeting was chaired by CCP Mayor Rohit Monserrate along with CCP Commissioner Clen Madeira and attended by representatives of Goa

Police, Pink Force, the North Goa Collectorate, the Department of Social Welfare, the District Child Protection Unit, Child Helpline, Traffic Cell Panaji, El Shaddai, CCP

and other stakeholders.

The discussions focused on assessing existing challenges, improving coordination among departments and identifying long-term solutions aimed at enhancing rehabilitation and support systems for those in need.

Speaking on the occasion, Rohit Monserrate said, "At the centre of this discussion were people and their wellbeing.

34 Food Establishments in Salcete Found Without FSSAI Licence During Inspection Drive

Team Goemkarponn

SALCETE: As part of a pre-monsoon food safety inspection drive, authorities inspected 43 food establishments in the Ramdamol area of Salcete, including hawkers, restaurants, fast-food outlets and roadside eateries, to ensure safe and hygienic food for the public.



Fake Naga Sadhu Allegedly Dupes Pernem Resident of Gold and Cash

■ Man gains complainant's trust by claiming to bless jewellery before fleeing; Mopa Airport Police register case

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: A Pernem resident was allegedly cheated by a man posing as a Naga Sadhu, who is accused of making away with gold jewellery and cash after convincing the victim that he would bless the valuables.

According to police, the offence was registered on June 8, 2026, at 9:34 p.m. based on a complaint filed by Suryakant Mukund Vir (59), a resident of Panchasheel Nagar, Torxem, Pernem.



The complainant stated that between 9:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. on the same day, the accused, who

was allegedly driving a car bearing registration number GJ-01-RB-0006, approached him while

posing as a Naga Sadhu. By winning his confidence, the suspect allegedly persuaded him to hand over his gold chain, gold ring, and ₹2,600 in cash, claiming that the items would be blessed. After obtaining the valuables, the accused allegedly fled from the spot without returning them. Police have registered a case of cheating against the unknown accused, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Sagar Vazarkar of Mopa Airport Police Station.



Worker Electrocuted During Event Setup at Arpora Hotel; Contractor Booked

■ Police allege victim was made to install LED lights without adequate safety equipment; case registered by Anjuna Police

Team Goemkarponn

ARPORA: A 24-year-old worker allegedly died of electrocution while installing LED lights at the banquet hall of a hotel in Arpora, following which Anjuna Police have registered a case against the contractor for alleged negligence.

According to the police, the offence was registered on June 8, 2026, based on a complaint filed by PSI Navneet Vinod Goltekar of Anjuna Police Station. The complaint states that the incident occurred on June 3, 2026, at around 4:30 a.m. at the banquet hall of Hotel Park Regis, Arpora, Bardez.

The accused has been identified as Akshay Pandurang Injal, a resident of Kadgaon, Gadhinglaj, Kolhapur,

Maharashtra, and proprietor of NK Lights. Police alleged that he had employed Aniket Maruti Patil, 24, a resident of Tavadi, Chikodi, Belagavi, Karnataka, to install LED lights on an aluminium truss positioned above the main stage. According to the complaint, the worker was allegedly not provided with the necessary safety equipment and required safety measures while carrying out the installation work. During the setup, Aniket reportedly suffered an electric shock and died due to electrocution.

Police have alleged that the death occurred due to the negligence of the accused. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Navneet Goltekar of Anjuna Police Station.

BOOKED

Relatives Booked for Trespass, Damage and Threats Over Property Dispute at Cortalim

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Verna Police have registered a case against five relatives of a complainant for allegedly criminally trespassing into his property at Kesarval, Cortalim, damaging plantation fencing, assaulting him and issuing death threats.

The case was registered following a complaint filed by Rosario Vaz of Velvaddo, Quelossim, who alleged that the incident occurred on June 8, 2026, at around 1:00 p.m.

According to the complaint, the accused—Anthony Gama, Anthonetta Gama, Esperansa Tavares, Albertina Gama and Eugenio Gama, all residents of Kesarval, Cortalim—acted with a common intention and entered his property, where they allegedly damaged the plantation Agro Net installed on the boundary fencing, causing an estimated loss of ₹40,000.

Three Booked in Alleged ₹14 Lakh Gold Jewellery Theft at Mormugao

■ Case registered after complainant alleges ornaments were stolen from a cupboard; police investigation underway

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: Mormugao Police have registered a case against three persons for allegedly stealing gold jewellery worth approximately ₹14 lakh from a residence in Mormugao.

The case was registered based on a complaint filed by Muskan Sheikh, who alleged that the theft took place between 12:30 p.m. on May 29, 2026, and 1:00 p.m. on June 2, 2026.

According to the



complaint, the accused—Sadaf Fatima Sajjad Satvilkar and Shahid alias Istiyaq Shaikh, both residents of Mormugao, and Anirban Biswas of Margao—acted with a common intention to commit the theft.

The stolen valuables

allegedly include a 38.90-gram gold necklace, a pair of 12-gram gold earrings, a 31-gram mangalsutra belonging to the complainant's sister-in-law, Simran Shaikh, and an 8-gram gold locket belonging to the complainant.

The jewellery, collectively valued at around ₹14 lakh, was reportedly kept in a cupboard at the residence.

Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Saidatta Naik of Mormugao Police Station.

Two Booked for Alleged Forgery and Illegal Transfer of Property in Salcete

■ Complainants allege signatures were forged on a Special Power of Attorney, leading to execution of a Gift Deed without their knowledge or consent

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Fatorda Police have registered a case against two persons for allegedly forging a Special Power of Attorney and using the document to illegally transfer a property in Salcete. The case was registered following a complaint filed by Anant Lotlikar and his wife



Savitri Lotlikar, residents of Aquem Alto, Margao. According to the

complaint, between September 28, 2022, and December 1, 2022,

at the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Salcete, Margao, accused Pandurang Lotlikar of Mandoppa, Navelim, acting in furtherance of a common intention with Vamanrao Verlekar of Povacao, Curtorim, allegedly forged the complainants' signatures on a Special Power of Attorney dated September 28, 2022.

Bolero Driver Booked After Fatal Collision Claims Scooter Rider's Life at Mardol

Team Goemkarponn

MARDOL: Mardol Police have registered a case against the driver of a Bolero Invader following a fatal road accident at Simepaine, Mardol, that claimed the life of a scooter rider. According to the state complaint filed by HC 5766 Shridas Maulingkar of Mardol Police Station, the incident occurred on June 8, 2026, prior to 9:41 a.m., on the curve road at Simepaine.

Dabolim Chosen as South Goa's Model Solar Energy Village, to Get ₹1 Crore Grant

■ Village tops GEDA assessment under PM Surya Ghar Yojana; funds to support community-based solar infrastructure

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Dabolim village in Mormugao taluka has been selected as South Goa's Model Solar Power Energy Village under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana and will receive ₹1 crore in Central assistance for community-based solar energy projects. The recognition is being



hailed as a significant boost for renewable energy adoption in the constituency. The selection followed an assessment conducted by the Goa

Energy Development Agency (GEDA) between November 2025 and February 2026. Seven villages from South Goa participated in the evaluation, which considered factors such as public awareness of the scheme, beneficiary enrolment and overall implementation performance. Dabolim

emerged as the top-performing village, recording the highest performance indicators, including approx. 30 kVA of solar power capacity achieved under the scheme. It outperformed the other participating villages to earn the distinction of being named South Goa's Model Solar Power Energy Village.



Jack Sukhija Demands Opening of Campal Stadium Facilities for Public Use

■ Ward 17 councillor says over 10,000 Panaji residents have been deprived of access to the Smart City-developed complex for more than three years

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Ward 17 councillor Jack Sukhija has demanded that the Campal Parade Ground and Stadium Complex be opened to the public, stating that more than 10,000 residents of Panaji, including senior citizens and children, have been unable to use the facility despite it being completed nearly three years ago.

Addressing a press briefing outside the site at Campal, Sukhija said the 40,000-square-metre complex, developed under the Smart City initiative, includes a football stadium, walking track and children's play area

built to a high standard but remains inaccessible to the public. "From what I can see, the facilities have been developed to a top-class standard. We have seen that because of the Smart City project many issues have come up, but this is one of the better projects, and it is mind-boggling why it is not open," he said. According to media reports cited by Sukhija, the redeveloped complex, built at an estimated cost of around ₹30 crore, comprises a football pitch, 1,350-seater covered stands, a multipurpose lawn, a children's play area, an outdoor gym and smart parking facilities.



Ravindra Bhavan Margao Promoting Outsiders While Neglecting Goan Talent, Alleges Vishal Pai Cacode

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Artist and former Member of the State Cultural Development Committee, Vishal Pai Cacode, has alleged that Ravindra Bhavan Margao continues to promote artists from outside Goa while neglecting local talent and the state's cultural icons. Pai Cacode said the institution failed to organise meaningful and timely commemorative programmes during the birth centenary years of Mario Miranda, Laxman Pai and K. Vaikunth, despite their immense contributions to Goa's art, culture and cinema. He noted that he had, since 2024, consistently demanded year-long celebrations to honour the three legends but claimed Ravindra Bhavan Margao showed little urgency in recognising their legacy.

Referring to a musical programme scheduled as part of a three-day centenary event, Pai Cacode alleged that it features non-Goan singers Sandip Ubale and Sharayu Date, along with six non-Goan musicians and a non-Goan compere.

MajheApp to Launch in June 2026 with Digital KTC Bus Booking and Pilot Bike Taxi Service

■ Goa-built superapp to introduce QR ticketing, live bus tracking, smart card recharge and over 70 services in phases

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: MajheApp, a Goa-based superapp developed by GraceFulGoa and operated by KTCL, is set to launch in June 2026 with two flagship services aimed at modernising public transport and local mobility in the state. The app will introduce Goa's first fully digital KTC bus booking ecosystem



along with Pilot, a bike taxi service designed to support Goan pilots.

For the first time, KTC commuters will be able to

book bus tickets through QR codes, recharge their KTC Smart Transit Cards, check card balances in real time and track buses live.

Goa Strengthens Data Protection Practices Across Government Departments

■ State-level workshop on DPDP Act 2023 focuses on privacy, consent and responsible handling of citizen data

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: The Goa government has stepped up its efforts to strengthen data protection and privacy practices across government departments by organising a one-day State-level workshop on the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 at the Secretariat in Porvorim. The programme aimed to enhance awareness, build accountability and promote best practices among officials responsible for handling citizens' personal data. The workshop



was organised by the Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (DITE&C), Government of Goa, in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) through the National e-Governance Division (NeGD). Senior officials and representatives from

various state government departments participated in the capacity-building initiative. The inaugural session was attended by Kabir Shirgaonkar, Director, DITE&C; Poonam Bharne, Director, Directorate of Prosecution; Dr. Milind Sakhardande, Joint Director, DITE&C; Sharda Katare, Head SeMT, NeGD; along

with industry experts Mohit Kedia and Priyanka Sharma and members of the NeGD team. Addressing the gathering, Director DITE&C Kabir Shirgaonkar stressed that privacy safeguards must be integrated into digital governance initiatives from the design stage itself.



Health Minister Reviews GMC Departments, Focuses on Strengthening Healthcare Services

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Health Minister Vishwajit Rane conducted a detailed review meeting with the Heads of Departments of Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC) in the presence of Dr. J.P. Tiwari, Dean, GMC, Yatindra Maralkar, Secretary (Health), and Pranab Bhat, Joint Secretary (Health). During the meeting, the minister reviewed the progress of ongoing initiatives.

Indian Surgeon creates 'World Record' in medical history by performing World's Longest Robot-Assisted Cardiac TeleSurgery Across 20,000 km Between Guyana And India using Made in India technology

■ The tele-surgery was remotely conducted between Georgetown Public Hospital in Guyana and IRCAD India in Indore, with surgical teams collaborating seamlessly across nearly 20,000 kilometres and was completed in 4hrs 50mins

■ In a historic medical breakthrough, Dr Sudhir Srivastava - an Indian origin cardiac surgeon performed a remote cardiac procedure across continents using India-built robotic technology, marking a new chapter for global healthcare

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: In a landmark achievement that could redefine the future of surgery worldwide, a world record in medical history was established with the successful completion of a robot-assisted cardiac procedure across nearly 20,000 kilometres of fibre network distance between Guyana and India, making it the world's longest-distance robotic cardiac telesurgery ever conducted. Prior to this historic event, the longest robotic cardiac telesurgery done was from Strasbourg, France to Indore, India with a communication distance

of 10,000 kilometers utilizing the Made in India SSI Mantra Surgical Robotic System. To date, 22 cardiac telesurgeries have been successfully performed using the SSI Mantra system, the only robotic surgery system globally that has been used for cardiac telesurgery.

The historic procedure connected Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), Guyana with IRCAD India, Indore, where renowned robotic cardiac surgeon Dr. Sudhir Srivastava remotely performed a Left Internal Mammary Artery (LIMA) takedown using the India-developed SSI Mantra

Surgical Robotic System.

How The Surgery Was Carried Out?

For the historic intercontinental procedure, Dr. Sudhir Srivastava created a operated remotely from Georgetown, Guyana using the SSI MantraSana tele-surgeon console - a compact, chair-based robotic surgery command system designed to perform procedures from distant locations in real time. The patient-side robotic setup was stationed at IRCAD India in Indore, where the robotic arms and surgical instruments precisely replicated Dr. Srivastava's hand

movements from nearly 20,000 kilometers away. The system functioned with a network latency of 290-300 milli seconds, allowing communication between both locations during the surgery. Equipped with high-definition 3D visualisation and advanced robotic controls, the technology enabled the surgical teams in Guyana and India to coordinate the complex cardiac procedure with precision and stability despite the vast geographical distance. In India, the surgery was supported by Dr. Lalit Malik, Chief Cardiac Surgeon at Manipal Hospitals Jaipur, Dr. Ram Shukla,

Consultant Cardiac Surgeon at Bhandari Hospital and Research Center, and Dr. Mohit Bhandari, Bariatric Surgery and President of IRCAD India.

Dr. Mohamed Irfan Ali, President of Guyana, said, "As Guyana celebrates its 60th Independence Anniversary, we are proud to mark the beginning of a transformative new chapter in our nation's healthcare journey. Our vision has always been to position Guyana as a leader in advanced healthcare and medical innovation, and today we take a significant step forward with the adoption of robotic surgery

technology, one of the most groundbreaking advancements in modern medicine. Adding to the significance of this historic milestone, renowned Indian surgeon Dr. Sudhir Srivastava and his team successfully performed the world's longest-distance telesurgery, operating remotely from Guyana on a patient in India across a distance of nearly 20,000 kilometers.

This landmark achievement showcases the immense potential of technology to transcend geographical boundaries, while placing Guyana at the forefront of next-generation healthcare innovation.

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AI Eyes on Goa Roads: Smart Traffic Cameras to Enforce Rules from July 1

nearly one crore tourists every year, resulting in a significant increase in vehicular movement. "Goa is a major tourist destination, attracting nearly one crore tourists every year. For tourists, Goa is like heaven, and they go crazy to be in Goa; they also go crazy while driving on the roads, which leads to accidents," he said. The AI-powered system is expected to automatically detect traffic violations such as overspeeding, signal jumping and other offences, enabling faster and more effective enforcement while promoting safer driving practices. The initiative forms part of the government's broader strategy to reduce road accidents, strengthen compliance with traffic laws and leverage technology for better traffic management across the state.

Comunidade NOCs Holding Up Mhaje Ghar Yojana Applications, Says Babush

for the scheme's success. Speaking on national politics, Monserrate said prayers were offered for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's success and good health. Calling Modi the country's longest-serving Prime Minister, he expressed hope that the Prime Minister would secure another mandate in 2029, adding that "the people judge and the people will decide" based on service to the nation. On local infrastructure, Monserrate said he would take up the issue of the Campal football ground, which has been developed but is yet to become fully operational. He explained that the ground was developed by SUDA on land belonging to the Town and Country Planning Department and was later intended to be handed over to the Corporation of the City of Panaji.

"No Workaround Available": Google Cloud Outage Hits India After Data Centre

■ Emergency shutdown at third party facility disrupts network traffic across Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai, causing delays for users and

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: A fire at a third party data centre triggered a significant disruption to Google Cloud services in India, affecting customers across several major cities and causing intermittent network issues.

Google Cloud confirmed that the incident led to an emergency power shutdown at the affected facility, resulting in the isolation of a local point of presence in Delhi. The outage reduced network capacity across the National Capital Region and impacted the flow of internet traffic in surrounding areas.



The disruption affected network operations in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and nearby regions, with users experiencing periods of increased latency and slower connectivity. Such interruptions can have a widespread impact, affecting websites, mobile applications, enterprise systems and cloud based services that rely on Google Cloud infrastructure.

The company did not disclose when the fire occurred and provided no information regarding

potential property damage or injuries linked to the incident. However, it acknowledged

that the outage was directly connected to the emergency shutdown of networking equipment at the facility. Google Cloud, one of the world's leading cloud computing providers, supports a vast range of digital services, including data processing, enterprise applications and artificial intelligence platforms.

The company competes globally with major cloud providers such as Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure. As restoration efforts continued, Google

Cloud stated that there was currently no workaround available for affected customers. The company said it was exploring additional traffic management and mitigation measures to reduce the impact and improve network performance while services were being restored.

The incident highlights the growing dependence of businesses and digital platforms on cloud infrastructure, where disruptions at a single facility can quickly affect users and organisations across multiple regions. Google Cloud has not yet provided a timeline for the full restoration of services.

World Leaders Congratulate PM Modi on Becoming India's Longest-Serving Elected Prime Minister

Global leaders hail Narendra Modi's leadership as he surpasses Jawaharlal Nehru's tenure and achieves a historic milestone in Indian politics

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has entered the record books as India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister, surpassing the tenure of Jawaharlal Nehru and marking a significant moment in the nation's political history.

The achievement prompted congratulatory messages from leaders across the world, many of whom praised Modi's leadership, governance reforms and role in



enhancing India's standing on the global stage.

Since first taking office in May 2014, Modi has overseen a period of major economic, social and diplomatic transformation. Re-elected for a third consecutive term in 2024, he has led

India through a decade of rapid development, with the country emerging as one of the world's leading economies and an increasingly influential voice in international affairs.

Among the first world leaders to congratulate him was Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who described the milestone as a reflection of the trust and confidence repeatedly placed in Modi by the people of India.

The Sri Lankan President highlighted the strong bilateral relationship between the two nations, strengthened through frequent high-level engagements and India's support during Sri Lanka's economic challenges.

From the Pacific region, James Marape praised Modi as a model of leadership and pointed to India's efforts in poverty reduction and economic growth under his administration.



India's Exports Reach Record \$863 Billion in FY26, Says Commerce Ministry

Strong growth in merchandise and services shipments, coupled with new trade agreements, drives India's highest-ever export performance

New Delhi: India's total exports touched a record USD 863 billion in FY 2025-26, marking a significant milestone in the country's trade journey, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The figure represents a sharp rise from USD 468 billion in FY 2014-15, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.7 per cent over the period.

The figures were shared by Nitin Kumar Yadav, Additional Secretary in the Union Ministry of Commerce, during a convention of exporters, industry bodies and farmer producer organisations in Chandigarh.

According to Yadav, merchandise exports increased from USD 310 billion to USD 442 billion over the past decade, while services exports witnessed even faster

growth, surging from USD 158 billion to USD 421 billion at a CAGR of 9.3 per cent.

Non-petroleum exports also reached a record USD 387.9 billion, highlighting the diversification and resilience of India's export basket.

The announcement came alongside the inauguration of the regional office of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in Chandigarh, aimed at strengthening agricultural and food product exports from northern India.

Yadav highlighted a series of major trade agreements that have expanded India's access to global markets and strengthened its position in international value chains.



Yogi's 'Love Jihad' And 'Land Jihad' Remarks Spark War Of Words With Akhilesh Yadav

New Delhi: A fresh political confrontation has erupted in Uttar Pradesh after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath raised concerns over what he described as "Love Jihad" and "Land Jihad", prompting a sharp response from Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the nine-day Ramkatha Mahotsav in Lucknow, Adityanath warned citizens to remain vigilant against alleged attempts to alter the country's demographic balance. He asserted that India could not serve as a refuge for individuals who lacked faith and loyalty towards the nation.

Drawing references from Hindu mythology, the Chief Minister said that Lord Ram had acted against forces that sought to undermine centres of learning and social harmony.

Sushmita Dev Quits Trinamool, Meets Himanta Biswa Sarma Amid Political Speculation

Rajya Sabha MP resigns from party and Parliament, says she seeks a new direction in Assam politics as Trinamool faces growing internal turmoil

New Delhi: A fresh setback has hit the Trinamool Congress (TMC) with Rajya Sabha MP Sushmita Dev resigning from both the party and Parliament, becoming the second TMC Rajya Sabha member to quit within days amid an escalating internal crisis.

Dev formally submitted her resignation to Rajya



Sabha Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan, seeking immediate acceptance of her decision. Shortly afterwards, images emerged of her meeting

Himanta Biswa Sarma at his Delhi residence, fuelling speculation about her future political plans.

Addressing reporters after the meeting, Dev stressed that her decision to leave the Trinamool was entirely personal.

Air India Denies Pressuring Crash Victims' Families To Waive Future Claims

Daughter of former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani raises concerns over compensation documents, while airline says families remain free to wait for the crash investigation report

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Fresh questions have emerged over compensation procedures following the tragic Air India Flight AI171 crash, after the daughter of former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani alleged that the airline was seeking final settlement agreements from victims' families before the



official investigation into the disaster is completed. Radhika Mishra, Rupani's daughter, has reportedly

written to Tata Group and Air India Chairman N. Chandrasekaran, expressing concerns over

documents circulated by the airline. According to her, the paperwork requires families to waive present and future legal claims before all facts surrounding the crash are known. In her communication, Mishra argued that families deserve not only compensation but also clarity regarding the circumstances that led to the tragedy. She

questioned why final releases were being sought before the completion of official investigations and urged the airline to ensure that financial support is not linked to the surrender of future legal rights. The June 12, 2025 crash of Air India Flight AI171 remains one of the deadliest aviation disasters in recent Indian history.

Ruturaj Gaikwad's Century Powers India A To Winning Start In Tri-Nation Series

■ Gaikwad's brilliant hundred and a disciplined bowling effort help India A edge Sri Lanka A by eight runs in Dambulla

New Delhi: India A began their Tri-Nation A Series campaign on a winning note with an exciting eight-run victory over Sri Lanka A at the Dambulla International Stadium on Tuesday, thanks to a match-winning century from Ruturaj Gaikwad.

After being asked to bat first, India A posted a competitive 277/8 in their allotted 50 overs, with Gaikwad leading the charge with a composed 101-run knock. The visitors then produced a



collective bowling effort to bowl out Sri Lanka A for 269 in 48.5 overs. India A suffered an early setback when teenage opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi departed for 14, followed by Prabhsimran Singh,

who managed just two runs. Gaikwad and Priyansh Arya steadied the innings with a crucial partnership before Arya was run out for 32. Gaikwad then combined with captain Tilak Varma

to rebuild the innings. While Tilak contributed a patient 60, Gaikwad reached his century before being dismissed shortly after. Valuable lower-order contributions ensured India A crossed the 275-run mark. In reply, Sri Lanka A got off to a flying start through Niroshan Dickwella and Avishka Fernando, who added 93 runs for the opening wicket. However, all-rounder Ayush Badoni struck twice to bring India back into the contest.

Hardik Pandya Ruled Out Of Afghanistan ODIs With Fresh Injury: Sources

■ Star all-rounder suffers quadriceps injury just a day after being declared fit; selectors likely to name replacement before series opener

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India have suffered a major setback ahead of the upcoming ODI series against Afghanistan, with all-rounder Hardik Pandya reportedly ruled out due to a fresh injury. Sources confirmed that Pandya has sustained a quadriceps injury, forcing him to miss the three-match series scheduled to begin on June 13.

The development comes just a day after Pandya was declared fit following assessments at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. He had successfully completed fitness tests and was expected to join the Indian squad in Dharamsala on June 11.

Pandya's latest setback is particularly

disappointing as he was set to make his return to ODI cricket after more than a year. The Mumbai Indians star had recently battled injury issues during IPL 2026 and had worked hard to regain full fitness ahead of the international assignment.

The all-rounder had reportedly bowled his full quota of 10 overs during training sessions, raising hopes that he was ready for the demands of 50-over cricket.

However, the fresh injury has once again put his availability in doubt and forced the selectors to consider a late replacement.

Pandya remains one of the most crucial members of India's white-ball setup due to his ability to contribute with both bat and ball.



Ravi Bopara Defends Ben Stokes As Retirement Speculation Grows Amid Investigation

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Former England all-rounder Ravi Bopara has urged caution amid mounting speculation surrounding the future of England Test captain Ben Stokes, insisting it would be a "shame" if the star all-rounder's international career ended because of the ongoing off-field controversy. Stokes is reportedly set to hold discussions with his advisors regarding his future as an investigation continues into an alleged nightclub incident involving teammate Gus Atkinson and rugby player Totoa Auvaa.

The incident allegedly resulted in injuries to an England security officer who was accompanying the players. The matter has prompted discussions within the England and Wales Cricket Board, with officials reportedly considering disciplinary action for breaches of team protocol.

HS Prannoy, Malvika Bansod Advance To Malaysia Open Pre-Quarterfinals

■ Indian shuttlers register impressive opening-round victories as mixed doubles pairs also progress in the Super 1000 tournament

New Delhi: India's challenge at the Malaysia Open received a boost on Wednesday as HS Prannoy and Malvika Bansod advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of the prestigious Super 1000 tournament with commanding opening-round victories.

Prannoy overcame a spirited challenge from Canadian shuttler Brian Yang to secure a 21-12,



17-21, 21-15 win in a match that lasted one hour and 29 minutes. The contest had been interrupted due to water

leakage from the venue roof, causing a delay after Yang held an advantage in the second game.

Despite dropping the second game, the Indian ace regained control in the decider, displaying composure and experience to seal his place in the last 16. Prannoy will next face China's seventh-seeded Shi Feng Li, who defeated fellow Indian Priyanshu Rajawat in straight games.

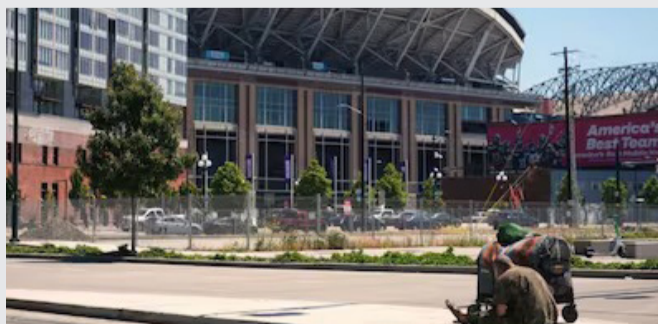
World Cup Host Cities Race To Address Homelessness Ahead Of Global Spotlight

■ As FIFA World Cup 2026 unfolds, host cities push housing initiatives while advocates warn against cosmetic fixes and displacement

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: As the FIFA World Cup 2026 gets underway across North America, several host cities are facing growing pressure to address homelessness, with local governments accelerating housing initiatives ahead of the global sporting spectacle.

Cities including Atlanta, Dallas and Seattle have launched programmes aimed



at reducing street homelessness and expanding access to housing. Officials say the tournament has provided an opportunity to focus

attention and resources on a long-standing social challenge. In Atlanta, the Downtown Rising initiative has helped move hundreds of people into permanent

housing as part of a broader effort supported by public and private funding. Similar measures in Dallas have reportedly led to a sharp decline in the number of people sleeping on downtown streets, while Seattle has expanded shelter capacity through new tiny-home communities. Housing advocates, however, caution that lasting solutions require more than short-term actions designed to improve a

city's image during a major international event. They argue that investments should prioritise stable housing, mental health support and social services rather than temporary relocations or increased enforcement. "Major events can become a turning point if cities focus on long-term housing solutions rather than simply moving people out of sight," advocates have stressed.