



Four Youths, Including Three Brothers, Drown in Dudhsagar River During Outing

■ Fifth friend rushes to police for help after tragedy near Kullem bridge; victims were residents of Mormugao

Team Goemkarponn

KULLEM: A day trip to the scenic Dudhsagar area ended in tragedy on Saturday when four young men, including three brothers from Mormugao, drowned in the Dudhsagar river near a bridge at Kullem while swimming.

The deceased have been identified as Hiranna Mader, Ram Mader, Laxman Mader and Vijai Sajili. The three



brothers were residents of Chicalim, while Vijai lived in Vasco. All were between 19 and 25 years of age.

According to

preliminary information, the group of five friends travelled from Vasco to Kullem by an early morning train and reached their destination

around 9 a.m. They later entered the river for a swim. However, four of them reportedly got into difficulty after underestimating the depth of the water and the strength of the current.

The fifth member of the group, who was swimming near the edge of the river, realised that his friends were in distress and immediately rushed to the police station to seek

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Police Halt AAP March to Power Minister's Residence Over Power Bill Protest

Party accuses government of burdening consumers with smart meters and penalties linked to sanctioned electricity load



Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Police stopped Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders, volunteers and supporters from marching to the residence of Power Minister Sudin Dhavalikar at Bandora-Nageshi, where they intended to protest against rising electricity bills and the implementation of smart meters.

A large police presence was deployed at Nageshi junction, preventing the demonstrators from entering Bandora and proceeding with their planned morcha. The protest was organised to demand the withdrawal

of smart meters and relief for consumers facing what the party termed inflated power bills.

Speaking to reporters, AAP Goa president Valmiki Naik alleged that electricity bills across the state had reached unprecedented levels, with many households receiving bills amounting to several thousand rupees. He said protests in places such as Anjuna and Mapusa, along with widespread grievances on social media, reflected growing public dissatisfaction.

Naik contended that one of the major reasons for the higher

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Iran Slams US Over Attacks On Indian-Linked Ships, Rejects Trump's Hormuz Allegations

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Iran on Saturday sharply criticised the United States over attacks on Indian-linked commercial vessels in the Gulf region, accusing Washington of endangering maritime security and causing the

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Drunk Driver Nearly Hits CM's Convoy at Amona; Four Arrested

■ Vehicle allegedly came close to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's convoy before police intervened

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A major mishap was averted after an allegedly drunk driver nearly rammed into the convoy of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant at Amona on Friday.

According to preliminary information, the vehicle came dangerously close to the Chief Minister's convoy, but the escort and convoy personnel managed to evade it, preventing any untoward incident.



Following the incident, Bicholim Police detained and arrested four persons in connection with the

case. The driver is alleged to have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

Goa Police Order Inquiry Into Alleged Illegal Cash Collection at Mollem Check Post

■ SDPO Ponda asked to submit report within two days; departmental action promised against erring personnel

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Police have ordered a preliminary inquiry into allegations that police personnel attached to Collem Police Station were illegally collecting money from motorists near the Mollem check post after videos of an alleged sting operation surfaced on social media.



According to a press release issued by the South Goa Police, the department has taken serious note of the incident. The

Superintendent of Police, South Goa, has directed the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Ponda, to conduct a preliminary inquiry and submit a report within two days. The police stated that necessary departmental action will be initiated against any erring personnel of Collem Police Station based on the findings of the inquiry.

IAF AN-32 Aircraft Crashes At Assam's Jorhat Air Base, Pilot Feared Dead

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: An Indian Air Force (IAF) AN-32 transport aircraft crashed at the Roureah Air Force Station in Assam's Jorhat district on Saturday, with fears that the pilot may have lost his life in the accident.



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Smart Meters and the Cost of Ignoring Public Concerns

The Goa government's decision to put the smart meter project on hold is a significant political retreat, but it is also something far more important: an acknowledgment that public concerns were neither imagined nor insignificant. After months of protests, complaints and growing distrust among consumers, the administration has finally stepped back from a project that was being pushed ahead despite widespread opposition.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has announced a review of the initiative and assured relief for consumers who received unusually high electricity bills. While the decision deserves appreciation, it also raises a difficult question: why did it take so long for the government to listen?

The controversy surrounding smart meters was never merely about technology. Across India, smart meters have been promoted as a tool for improving efficiency, reducing losses and modernising power distribution. In principle, these are legitimate goals. Technology can help utilities monitor consumption better, improve billing accuracy and provide consumers with real time information about electricity usage.

However, in Goa, the debate quickly moved beyond technical promises. Consumers repeatedly complained about unexplained spikes in electricity bills, inadequate communication from authorities and fears about prepaid billing systems. Instead of addressing these concerns with transparency and evidence, officials often appeared more focused on defending the project than engaging with critics.

That approach proved counterproductive.

Public trust is not built through presentations, advertisements or official assurances. It is built when citizens feel they are being heard. When thousands of consumers begin questioning a policy that directly affects their monthly household expenses, the government's first response should be consultation, not persuasion.

The smart meter episode exposes a broader governance problem. Too often, projects are designed in administrative offices and implemented on the ground with the assumption that people will eventually accept them. When resistance emerges, authorities tend to treat it as misinformation or political opposition

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rather than a legitimate expression of public concern.

Such thinking is dangerous.

Electricity is not a luxury service. It is an essential utility that affects every household, business and institution. Any reform involving billing mechanisms must be subjected to rigorous public scrutiny. Consumers have a right to know how the technology works, how data is collected, how billing calculations are made and what safeguards exist if errors occur.

The government's decision to review the project should therefore not become a temporary pause

before returning to business as usual. The review must be independent, transparent and comprehensive. It should include technical experts, consumer representatives, civil society groups and opposition voices. Most importantly, its findings should be made public.

Equally important is the promise to waive penalties imposed on consumers who received unusually high bills. This is a welcome step, but it cannot be the final solution. If billing irregularities occurred, consumers deserve clear explanations. Accountability must extend beyond waiving penalties. Authorities must identify whether the problems arose from technical faults, implementation errors or administrative lapses.

The episode also carries a political lesson. Governments often underestimate the power of public opinion when an issue affects daily life. Roads, bridges and infrastructure projects may generate debate, but electricity bills arrive at every doorstep. Any policy perceived as increasing financial burdens will inevitably face intense scrutiny.

By pausing the project, the government has prevented a growing trust deficit from becoming a full blown crisis. Yet the pause should not be mistaken for a resolution. The underlying concerns remain unresolved. Citizens still want answers. Consumers still want assurances. And taxpayers still want to know whether the project was properly evaluated before implementation began.

Ultimately, the smart meter controversy is not about whether Goa should embrace modern technology. It is about how technological change should be introduced in a democracy. Progress cannot be measured solely by the speed of implementation. It must also be measured by public confidence, transparency and accountability. The government's decision to halt the rollout provides an opportunity to reset the conversation. Whether that opportunity is used wisely will determine if this becomes a lesson in responsive governance or merely another example of policy making followed by damage control.

For now, the pause is welcome. But the real test lies ahead. A review that genuinely addresses public concerns will strengthen trust. A review conducted merely to buy time will deepen suspicion. Goa's consumers deserve the former, not the latter.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A 30-Year Road and the End of the Digging Economy?

Suraj Nandrekar

The promise sounds almost too good to be true. A road that will not need digging for the next 30 years. For residents of Goa, who have grown accustomed to seeing newly laid roads repeatedly cut open for water pipelines, electricity cables, internet lines and other utility works, such a claim naturally attracts attention and skepticism in equal measure.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has announced that the road being developed between Supachipud-Harvalem and Sankhali Hospital Junction will feature an integrated utility duct system, allowing essential services to be installed, maintained and upgraded without repeatedly excavating the road surface. If implemented as described, the project could become a model for infrastructure planning in Goa.

The idea itself deserves support. For decades, infrastructure development in India has suffered from poor coordination among government departments. Roads are built at considerable expense, only to be dug up months later by another agency laying cables or pipelines. The result is wasted public money, traffic congestion, damaged roads and growing frustration among citizens.

An integrated utility corridor addresses exactly this problem. By creating dedicated ducts for electricity, water supply, sewerage, internet and future utilities, governments can reduce repeated excavation and extend the lifespan of roads. Several cities across the world have adopted similar systems with considerable success. There is no reason Goa should not aspire to the same standards.

Yet the public reaction reveals a deeper issue. Many citizens are not questioning the engineering concept. They are questioning whether the promise will survive contact with reality.

That skepticism did not emerge overnight. It is the product of years of witnessing roads being inaugurated with great fanfare, only to be dug up shortly afterward. It stems from repeated assurances that projects would solve long standing problems, followed by outcomes that often fell short of expectations. When governments repeatedly ask for trust, they must also understand why that trust may be in short supply.

This is why the administration should treat the public's skepticism not as negativity but as accountability. The best way to silence doubts is not through speeches or social media posts. It is through transparency.

The government should publish detailed project plans, explain how the utility duct system will function, identify which departments will have access to it and specify safeguards against future road cutting. There should also be clear rules preventing agencies from bypassing the duct network and excavating the road without compelling reasons.

Most importantly, accountability must be built into the project from the beginning. If a road promised to remain undisturbed for decades is dug up within a few years, the public deserves to know why. Citizens should not be left guessing whether the failure resulted from poor planning, inadequate capacity or administrative negligence.

The larger lesson extends beyond a single road in Sankhali. Infrastructure should not be judged solely by how quickly it is built, but by how intelligently it is planned and maintained. A road that remains functional for decades is ultimately a better investment than one that requires constant repairs and reconstruction.

For now, the government's vision deserves cautious optimism. The concept is sound, and if executed properly, it could save public money and improve the quality of life for thousands of residents.

But Goa's citizens have heard promises before. This time, they will be watching not the announcement, but the outcome. A road that survives 30 years without digging would be an engineering achievement. A government that earns lasting public trust would be an even greater one.

Goa Faces NCZMA Criticism Over Meeting Absence and Coastal Violation Monitoring

■ National Authority Expresses Concern Over Reporting Lapses as State Continues to Record Highest Number of CRZ Cases

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has come under scrutiny from the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) after State representatives failed to attend a key meeting focused on Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) compliance, enforcement measures and coastal planning issues. The



Authority expressed concern over the absence of Goa officials from the review meeting, which examined pending Coastal Zone Management

Plans (CZMPs), monitoring mechanisms and the status of action taken against coastal violations across the country. It cautioned that such non-participation by State Coastal Zone Management Authorities would not be viewed lightly in future. The NCZMA also flagged

Goa's failure to regularly submit monthly reports on CRZ violations and enforcement action, despite earlier directions requiring coastal States and Union Territories to provide periodic updates. The Authority stressed that timely reporting is essential for effective monitoring and assessment at the national level.



Anjunem Reservoir Storage Drops to 11%, Water Supply Concerns Emerge

■ Weak Monsoon Conditions Raise Questions Over Drinking Water Availability and Quality in North

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNEM: The water level in the Anjunem reservoir has declined to just 11 per cent of its total storage capacity, triggering concerns over the sustainability of drinking water supplies in parts of North Goa as monsoon rainfall continues to remain below normal. Anjunem reservoir serves as a key source of potable water for residents of Sattari and Bicholim talukas. The sharp fall in storage has prompted authorities to closely monitor the situation, particularly as the State experiences an extended period of weak monsoon activity.

The decline comes at a time when weather conditions across Goa have remained unusually warm, with bright sunshine

and only scattered rainfall reported in recent days. Meteorological observations indicate that monsoon activity over the State has weakened, resulting in rainfall levels falling short of seasonal expectations. Water resource specialists caution that reservoir levels nearing the minimum operational range can place additional strain on supply systems. Lower water volumes often lead to higher concentrations of sediments and organic matter, increasing the complexity of water treatment and quality management. Public concern over water quality has also grown following a recent report from Zarme village in Sattari, where a resident allegedly found a worm-like organism in tap water.



Two PSIs Suspended as Custodial Abuse Row Deepens

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Goa Police have suspended two Police Sub-Inspectors in connection with the alleged custodial assault incident linked to Maina-Curtorim, increasing the number of suspended personnel in the case to five.

The latest disciplinary action follows the earlier suspension of three other police personnel. While the suspensions mark a significant administrative step, demands are growing for the registration of a criminal case against those allegedly involved.

The controversy stems from allegations that individuals taken into police custody were subjected to physical abuse and humiliation. The matter has attracted widespread attention, with concerns also being raised over the treatment of a minor allegedly connected to the incident.

Police authorities have initiated a departmental inquiry to ascertain the facts and identify responsibility. Officials have indicated that the outcome of the inquiry will determine the course of any further legal action.

Court Extends SIT Probe into Mapusa Land Case by Two Months

■ Investigators to continue inquiry as forensic examination and financial analysis remain pending

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Merces Additional Sessions Court has allowed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Land Grabbing of the Goa Crime Branch an additional two months to carry forward its investigation into the alleged Mapusa land fraud case involving prime accused Siddique alias Suleman Khan.

The extension was granted after the investigating agency informed the court that several important aspects of the probe



are yet to be completed, including the examination of key documents by forensic experts and the verification of financial transactions connected to the case.

According to the investigation, the case revolves around the alleged creation and use of forged property documents to facilitate the transfer of ownership of

land in Mapusa through impersonation. The SIT is examining the authenticity of these records and the circumstances under which they were allegedly used.

Officials have stated that original records sent for scientific examination are still under analysis, and the findings are expected to play a significant role in the investigation. The agency is also tracing the flow of funds to determine whether additional individuals or beneficiaries were involved in the alleged conspiracy.

Govt Pauses Power Load Penalties, Smart Meter Installation Put on Hold

■ CM Announces Review After Consumer Complaints Trigger Statewide Concern Over Electricity Bills

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a major relief for electricity consumers, the Goa government has temporarily suspended the collection of penalties for exceeding sanctioned power load and halted the ongoing installation of smart meters until a detailed assessment of the system is completed.

Chief Minister



Pramod Sawant made the announcement late Friday night following widespread complaints from residents

over unusually high electricity bills and growing apprehension about the introduction of smart metering technology.

The Chief Minister clarified that consumers who believe they have been wrongly charged need not immediately settle the disputed amounts. Instead, they have been advised to approach the concerned

Assistant Engineer or Executive Engineer offices for verification and correction of their bills where necessary.

According to Sawant, both the penalty structure and the smart meter programme will undergo a thorough review before the government decides on the next course of action. The decision came amid increasing public pressure and political intervention.

Earlier in the day, Public Works Department Minister Digambar Kamat visited the Electricity Department office in Margao along with a group of concerned citizens. He expressed reservations about the penalties being imposed on consumers and assured residents that their concerns would be taken up with the Chief Minister.

Woman Duped of ₹1.51 Lakh Through Fake Loan Apps

■ Raia resident alleges fraud after using 'Cash Bus' and 'Rupeeli'; police launch investigation

Team Goemkarponn

RAIA: A woman from Raia in Salcete has allegedly been cheated of ₹1,51,820 in an online loan application fraud, following which a case has been registered at Maina-Curtorim Police Station.

According to the complaint filed by Maleeha



Shaikh, on March 22, 2026, at around 9:30 pm, she was searching online for loan applications when she came across

two platforms, "Cash Bus" and "Rupeeli", which she believed to be legitimate financial service providers. She applied for a loan through these platforms.

Police said that a total amount of ₹1,14,840 was subsequently credited to her bank account

through two separate transactions that she had not specifically requested. After the repayment process, the same amount was debited from her account. Immediately thereafter, several unauthorised debit transactions allegedly took place without her knowledge, consent, or authorisation.



Pernem Man Caught Red-Handed Conducting Gambling Activities

■ Mopa Airport Police seize cash and gambling materials during raid near Sateri Hotel

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: A 59-year-old man was allegedly caught red-handed while conducting gambling activities in a public place at Chawatha, Ibrampur, Pernem, on June 11, 2026. The operation was carried out by Mopa Airport Police Station following a State complaint lodged by Bhagwant Shetkar, Head Constable 4772.

According to police, at around 3:45 pm near Sateri Hotel, Chawatha, the accused, Shyamsundar Dattaram

Gawas, 59, a resident of Bhatlemwada, Ibrampur, Pernem, was allegedly accepting money from members of the public and issuing paper slips as part of a game of chance in an open public place. During the raid, police seized ₹985 in cash in different denominations along with other gambling-related articles from the accused's possession. A case has been registered, and further investigation is being carried out by Investigating Officer Bhagwant Shetkar of Mopa Airport Police Station.



Cash Worth ₹80,000 Stolen From Wine Store in Sankhalim

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: A theft of ₹80,000 in cash was reported from a wine store at Jogadyachi Halli, Sankhalim, Bicholim, after two unidentified persons allegedly broke into the premises during the early hours of June 11, 2026. According to a complaint lodged at Bicholim Police Station by Mahadev Prakash Naik, 29, a businessman the incident occurred between 2:20 am and 2:50 am at S. M. Naik Wine Store.

Man Held With 426 Grams of Suspected Ganja in Old Goa

■ Police seize narcotic substance worth around ₹40,000 during raid at Corlim

Team Goemkarponn

CORLIM: A 37-year-old man was arrested after 426 grams of suspected ganja, valued at approximately ₹40,000, was seized during a narcotics raid conducted at Calvaddo, Corlim, Tiswadi, on the evening of June 11, 2026.

According to a complaint filed on behalf of the State by Diptaraj T. Gaude, a Police Sub-Inspector, the raid was carried out at around 7:20 pm on an internal road at Calvaddo following reliable and specific information.



During the operation, the accused, Deshpal Gangadhar Morje, 37, a resident of Dhauji Road near Shantadurga Sawmill, Old Goa, was allegedly found in illegal possession of 426 grams of a greenish leafy substance with flowering and fruiting tops, suspected to be ganja.

The seized contraband is estimated to be worth ₹40,000. A case has been registered under the relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Sanket S. Pokhare of Old Goa Police Station.

Elderly Scooter Rider Dies After Car Hits Him from Behind at St. Cruz

■ 79-year-old succumbed to injuries at GMC Bambolim; driver booked for rash and negligent driving

Team Goemkarponn

BAMBOLIM: A 79-year-old scooter rider lost his life after his scooter was allegedly hit from behind by a car near Matruchhaya Rughnashraya, St. Cruz, on June 11, 2026.

According to a State complaint lodged by Dinesh Krishna Mulgaonkar, Head Constable 4826 attached to Old Goa Police Station, the accident



occurred at around 8:30 am when a Ford Figo bearing registration GA-06-D-9389, allegedly driven by Shivanando Digu Kavlekar, 46, a resident of Band, St. Cruz, was proceeding from St. Cruz towards Bambolim.

Attempted Theft at Porvorim Primary School

■ Unknown accused breaks open school's main door near Nana Nani Park; FIR registered

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: An attempted theft was reported at Prabhodan Education Society's Prabhodan Prathamik Vidyalaya near Nana Nani Park, Porvorim, after an unidentified person allegedly broke open the school's main door in the early hours of June 12, 2026.

According to a written complaint filed by Shrihari Athalye, School Executive Member of the institution, the incident occurred prior to



8:00 am at the school premises in Porvorim, Bardez.

Police stated that the unknown accused allegedly forced open the main entrance of the

school and attempted to commit theft. However, the attempt was unsuccessful. Based on the complaint, Porvorim Police Station registered Crime No. 45/2026 under

Sections 331(4) and 62 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Further investigation is being carried out by ASI Sandeep Ghodge of Porvorim Police Station.

Centre Reviews Goa's TB Elimination Drive, Focus on Faster Detection and Patient Support

■ Poshan Kits distributed at Tuem hospital as State intensifies efforts under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Union Health Ministry has reviewed Goa's progress under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, with a renewed focus on accelerating tuberculosis elimination through early detection, timely treatment and enhanced nutritional support for patients.

During the review, Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government



of India, assessed the implementation of key interventions in the state along with Shri Yetindra M. Maralkar, Secretary (Health), Government of Goa, and Dr. Manish Gaunekar, State TB Officer.

As part of the visit, Poshan Kits and food

baskets were distributed to TB patients at the Government Hospital and Research Centre, Tuem, Pernem, reinforcing the nutritional support component of the national campaign. The initiative aims to improve treatment outcomes by providing patients with assistance

beyond medical care.

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said the fight against tuberculosis requires a whole-of-society approach, combining early diagnosis, uninterrupted treatment, nutritional support and community participation.

GPCC Chief Girish Chodankar Announces Public Interaction Schedule

■ Weekly meetings, field visits and organisational review sessions planned to strengthen party network

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Girish Chodankar will be available on designated days each week to meet party functionaries and members of the public at the Congress offices in North and South Goa as part of an initiative to strengthen the party organisation and maintain direct interaction with people.

According to a statement issued by GPCC Chairman of the Media & Communication Department, Amarnath Panjikar, Chodankar will be present at the GPCC Headquarters in Panaji every Monday and Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm to meet party workers, office-bearers and the general public.

He will also be available at the South Goa District Congress Committee (DCC) Office in Margao every Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for interactions with party

DAY	TIME	VENUE	PROGRAMME
MONDAY	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Congress Headquarters, Panaji	Meeting with party office bearers, workers and members of the public
FRIDAY	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Congress Headquarters, Panaji	Meeting with party office bearers, workers and members of the public
FRIDAY	4:00 PM	Congress Headquarters, Panaji	Weekly coordination meeting with Working Presidents and Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leaders
SATURDAY	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	South Goa District Congress Committee (DCC) Office, Margao	Interaction with party workers and members of the public from South Goa
TUESDAY to THURSDAY	Throughout the day	Various Assembly Constituencies across Goa	Constituency visits, public outreach, review of local issues and organisational strengthening
1 st & 15 th OF EVERY MONTH	Time to be notified separately	Congress Headquarters, Panaji	Meeting of GPCC office bearers, DCC Presidents and heads of frontal organisations

workers and citizens from South Goa.

On the remaining days of the week, the GPCC President will undertake field visits across various constituencies in Goa to engage with people, review local issues and strengthen the party's grassroots organisation.

The statement further said that Chodankar will chair a weekly coordination meeting every Friday at 4:00 pm at the Congress headquarters with the Working Presidents and the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Leader to review organisational matters and political developments.



Adv. Vedaksh Raikar Demands Swift Probe Into Death of GMC Intern

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Advocate Vedaksh Raikar has strongly condemned crimes against women and demanded a swift, thorough and impartial investigation into the recent death of a GMC intern in Goa, stating that those responsible must be brought to justice without delay. In a statement, Raikar said that a girl child is regarded in Indian culture as an embodiment of the divine, symbolising prosperity, wisdom and justice, but noted that this reverence stands in sharp contrast to the growing number of horrific crimes against women and girls across the country.

Expressing anguish over the tragedy, he said the death of the young medical intern is heartbreaking and highlighted the sacrifices made by parents who dedicate years of hard work and resources to help their children pursue professional education. He said one can only imagine the grief of the family in such circumstances.

Dabolim Airport to celebrate Yatri Suvidha Diwas on June 15

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) will celebrate Yatri Suvidha Diwas 2026 at Dabolim Airport on June 15 with a series of passenger-focused activities aimed at enhancing the travel experience and strengthening engagement with flyers.

As part of the programme, airport officials will interact directly with passengers to gather



feedback and suggestions on various services and facilities available at the airport. The feedback received will help the authorities identify areas for improvement and further enhance passenger convenience. The celebrations will include

a traditional welcome for travellers, cultural performances, health check-up camps, a blood donation drive, children's activities, selfie points and special food and beverage offers for passengers.

Airport Director Akash Deep said the initiative is designed to promote closer interaction between airport authorities and passengers while creating a more engaging and comfortable travel environment.

Prabhav Naik Seeks Accountability Over ₹890 Crore Smart Meter Project

■ Madganvcho Awaaz welcomes halt to implementation but demands transparency on expenditure and decision-making

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: While welcoming the State government's decision to halt the implementation of smart meters in Goa, Madganvcho Awaaz and youth leader Prabhav Naik has questioned who will be held accountable for the nearly ₹890 crore reportedly committed to the project.

Naik said that stopping the rollout



addresses public concerns only partially and does not answer questions surrounding the

financial commitments already made. Referring to information placed before the Goa Legislative

Assembly, he claimed that approximately ₹890 crore had been committed for the procurement and implementation of smart meters. "The people of Goa deserve to know how such a significant financial decision was taken, who approved it and who will be held responsible. Public funds must be spent with complete transparency and accountability," he said.

ESMA ACT

Goa Government Prohibits Strikes in Pharmaceutical Sector for Six Months

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Department of Home (General), Government of Goa, has prohibited strikes in any form in all establishments engaged in the manufacturing, packaging, distribution and transportation of pharmaceutical products and their components across the state.

New Airbnb report, Never the Same, reveals how India's Gen Z is rewriting the rules of travel

Team Goemkarponn

Goa: A new Airbnb report finds that India's Gen Z has quietly retired the annual holiday - and replaced it with a more frequent, more personal, and more spontaneous approach to travel. Never the Same: The New Rules of Gen Z Travel in India reveals a generation for whom travel is no longer about seeing the most, but about feeling the most like themselves.

"Travel for Gen Z is as much an act of self-expression as it is exploration and that makes them the most intentional, most engaged travellers we've seen. The defining thing about this generation isn't how often they travel. It's why - to feel most like themselves. What we're seeing at Airbnb is a generation for whom travel has become the most personal decision they make - where they go, who they bring, and crucially, where they choose to stay. Every choice is a statement about who they are. At Airbnb, that's exactly the shift we're built for, and it opens up a new chapter for how India



gets to be discovered." said Amanpreet Bajaj, Airbnb's Country Head, India and Southeast Asia.

The End of Just an Annual Escape For decades, the Indian holiday meant one big trip: planned months ahead, tightly scheduled, and saved for. Gen Z has broken that rhythm entirely. 7 in 10 Gen Z travellers would rather take three short trips than one long annual holiday. 87% prefer trips that last under a week. Airbnb data reflects this growing

shift in travel behaviour among young Indians. Searches by Indian Gen Z for the summer period were up over 30% year-on-year, with shorter getaways of 2-6 nights emerging as the fastest-growing trip format - rising nearly 80% for domestic travel.

The Stay is the Destination: The most significant shift the report identifies is in the role of accommodation itself. 63% of Gen Z travellers have chosen a destination specifically

because of a stay they discovered - not because of the destination itself. 82% say accommodation is very or extremely important when planning a trip, and 78% spend at least half their total trip time at their stay. More than half say where they stay either shapes the whole experience or is often the highlight of the trip entirely.

95% say it's important their trips feel personal, and 64% deliberately leave parts of their itinerary unplanned to explore. 2 in 3 Gen Z also travel just to do nothing - to rest, slow down or stay in.

When it comes to what they actually want to do, the preference is clear - nature and slow travel tops the list, followed by food and culinary exploration, then adventure. 90% actively seek out places that haven't gone viral or been widely recommended online. The algorithm is not their travel guide. When asked what a good trip actually gives them, the answers are simple: memories they'll carry for a long time, and a feeling of complete freedom.

India, Nepal Review Progress Of Cross-Border Railway Projects

■ Jaynagar-Bardibas, Jogbani-Biratnagar links and Janakpur-Ayodhya passenger service among key issues discussed in Kathmandu

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India and Nepal have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening railway connectivity, holding high-level talks in Kathmandu to review the progress of ongoing cross-border rail projects and explore new areas of cooperation. The two countries convened the 10th Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the 8th Joint Working Group (JWG) meetings from June 11 to 12 in Kathmandu. The discussions focused on the implementation of key railway links and enhancing bilateral cooperation in the sector. According to a statement issued by the Indian Embassy in Nepal, both sides reviewed the progress of the Jaynagar-Bardibas and Jogbani-Biratnagar broad-gauge railway lines, which are being developed with grant assistance from the Government of India. Officials also discussed the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for launching passenger train services on the Janakpur-Ayodhya route, a project aimed at improving religious and cultural connectivity between the two countries. Another major agenda item was the Final Location Survey (FLS) report for the proposed Raxaul-Kathmandu broad-gauge railway line, a

strategically important project expected to significantly improve connectivity between Nepal's capital and India.

The meetings also covered India's technical support for Nepal's East-West Railway project and the possibility of developing additional cross-border railway links in the future.

Both countries agreed to maintain close coordination and continue working together to accelerate railway infrastructure development.

The discussions followed earlier meetings held in New Delhi in February 2025, where officials from both sides reviewed the status of the same projects.

The Indian delegation was led by Rohit Rathish, Joint Secretary (DPA-III) in the Ministry of External Affairs, while the Joint Working Group was headed by Pradeep Ojha, Executive Director (Traffic Transportation-Freight) in the Ministry of Railways. The Nepali delegation was led by Sushil Babu Dhakal, Joint Secretary at Nepal's Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport. During the latest talks, the two sides also reviewed preparations for work on the remaining stretches of the Jaynagar-Bardibas line, particularly the Bijalpura-Bardibas section, and the Nepal Customs Yard-Biratnagar section of the Jogbani-Biratnagar railway.

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Iran Slams US Over Attacks On Indian-Linked Ships, Rejects Trump's Hormuz Allegations

deaths of Indian sailors. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described the alleged attacks as evidence of America's policy of "armed robbery and State piracy" and urged the international community to hold Washington accountable.

"The brutal U.S. attacks on Indian commercial vessels which have killed at least three Indian nationals stand as clear evidence of America's ongoing policy of armed robbery and State piracy," Araghchi said, expressing condolences to the families of the victims and to the people and government of India.

The remarks came after US President Donald Trump accused Iran of attempting a drone strike on Indian vessels departing the Strait of Hormuz. In a post on Truth

Social, Trump claimed Iran had launched a "totally rebuffed" drone attack against Indian ships and termed the alleged action "totally unacceptable".

Police Halt AAP March to Power Minister's Residence Over Power Bill Protest

bills was the levy of penalties on consumers whose electricity usage exceeded their sanctioned load. He argued that many connections were sanctioned decades ago and consumers are often unaware of the load limit assigned to them, while household electricity consumption has naturally increased due to the use of modern appliances.

He maintained that consumers are being penalised despite paying for the electricity they actually use and described the practice as unjust. Naik also alleged that the process of increasing sanctioned load involves additional security deposits and processing fees,

placing an unnecessary financial burden on the public.

The AAP leader further criticised the rollout of smart meters and additional charges such as Public Lighting Duty and FPPCA, claiming they have added to consumers' financial woes.

Four Youths, Including Three Brothers, Drown in Dudhsagar River During Outing

assistance. Despite rescue efforts, the four youths could not be saved. A search operation was launched, and the bodies of the victims were later recovered from the river.

The incident has cast a pall of gloom over Mormugao, with the loss of four young lives—including three siblings—sending shockwaves through the community and once again highlighting the dangers of venturing into fast-flowing rivers during the monsoon season.



Amit Shah Reviews Amarnath Yatra Security, Calls For Tech-Driven Multi-Layer Protection

■ Home Minister directs agencies to create 'impregnable' security grid ahead of July 3 pilgrimage

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review security arrangements for the annual Amarnath Yatra and directed agencies to establish an "impregnable" multi-layered security grid along the pilgrimage routes.

The 57-day pilgrimage to the holy Amarnath Cave Shrine is scheduled to begin on July 3 and



conclude on August 28.

The review meeting in New Delhi was attended by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, senior officials

from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Indian Army, intelligence agencies, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and the Union Territory administration. Emphasising the Centre's

commitment to ensuring a safe and smooth pilgrimage, Shah said the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi was focused on providing robust security while facilitating seamless services for devotees.

According to officials, the Home Minister instructed security agencies to work in close coordination and strengthen traditional security measures with modern technology.



EVMs From 15 Bengal Constituencies Destroyed In Kolkata Fire, Probe Underway

■ Authorities examine whether blaze at Alipore collectorate was accidental or the result of sabotage

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A major fire at the Alipore collectorate in Kolkata has destroyed around 4,000 Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) linked to 15 Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies, prompting an investigation into the cause of the incident.

The blaze, which broke out on June 10 at the New Administrative Building in Alipore, has triggered a political row, with both the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) demanding a thorough probe.

While the TMC questioned how the incident could occur despite existing safeguards, BJP leaders called for an impartial investigation, saying the possibility of sabotage

cannot be ruled out.

Investigators, however, have urged caution, stating that forensic evidence and scientific analysis will determine whether the fire was caused by an electrical fault, accidental circumstances or any deliberate act.

According to officials from the Election Commission of India, the EVM strong room was located on the ninth floor of the building. The facility housed machines used in 10 Assembly constituencies during this year's elections and five constituencies from the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The affected Assembly segments include Satgachia, Bishnupur (SC), Kasba, Jadavpur, Tollyganj, Behala Purba, Behala Paschim, Maheshtala, Budge Budge and Metiaburuz.



'No Indus Water For Terror Patrons': Rajnath Singh Warns Pakistan

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday delivered a strong message to Pakistan, asserting that India would not allow the waters of the Sindhu river system to reach countries that sponsor terrorism.

Addressing an 'Intellectuals Meet' organised by the BJP in Hyderabad, Singh said the Centre's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty after the Pahalgam terror attack reflected India's resolve to take firm action against cross-border terrorism.

"After the Pahalgam terror attack, by suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, we said that those whose tears have dried up should not expect water from us. We will not let the waters of the Sindhu reach the patrons of terrorists and enemies of humanity," Singh said.

Finland Backs India's Russian Oil Purchases, Says Imports Fall Within Price Cap Framework

■ Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen says Western sanctions never aimed to halt Russian oil sales entirely

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India received unexpected backing from Finland over its continued imports of Russian crude oil, with Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen defending New Delhi's energy purchases and saying they were made within the framework of the Western-imposed price cap on Russian oil.



Speaking at the Kultaranta Talks in Finland, alongside External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and UAE Assistant Foreign Minister Lana Nusseibeh,

Valtonen said the objective of the oil price cap introduced after Russia's invasion of Ukraine was never to stop countries from

buying Russian crude altogether.

"In India's defence, it has bought oil under the price cap. That was the intention," Valtonen said.

"Such Actions Not Justified": Jaishankar Lodges Strong Protest With Rubio Over Death Of 3 Indian Sailors

■ India summons top US diplomat after American naval strike on tanker in Gulf of Oman kills three Indian mariners

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday spoke to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and lodged a strong diplomatic protest over recent US naval actions in the Gulf that resulted in the deaths



of three Indian sailors. (The Times of India) In a post on X, Jaishankar said he had conveyed India's displeasure directly to

Rubio.

"Spoke to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio this evening. I reiterated India's strong protest at the attacks by the US Navy in the Gulf that killed three Indian mariners. Such lethal actions against commercial shipping are not justified," he wrote.

(Anadolu Ajansı)

The diplomatic intervention came a day after India summoned US Charge d'Affaires Jason Meeks and lodged a formal protest over attacks on commercial vessels carrying Indian crew members in the Gulf of Oman.

MEA Dismisses Reports Of Fresh Attack On Indian-Crewed Vessel Near Oman

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Saturday dismissed reports claiming that an Indian-crewed commercial vessel had come under attack near the coast of Oman, stating that all crew members aboard the ship are safe.



Kane Williamson Announces Shock Retirement From International Cricket

■ New Zealand legend says he is stepping away "on his own terms" after a glittering 16-year career

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Former New Zealand captain Kane Williamson on Friday announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a remarkable career that spanned more than 16 years and established him as one of the greatest batters of his generation.

The 35-year-old, who had already retired from T20Is in November last year, said he had been contemplating the



decision for some time and felt now was the right moment to step away from the international stage.

"I've thought about it for a while, but over the last few days it's become clear now is the right time," Williamson said in a

statement released by New Zealand Cricket. "I've always felt a strong drive and hunger for international cricket, and I take pride in knowing I've given

it my all in every match I've played for New Zealand." "Continuing with anything less wouldn't be right, and I feel fortunate to step away on my own terms," he added. Williamson retires as New Zealand's highest run-scorer across formats,

amassing 19,346 runs in 378 international matches. His tally includes 48 centuries and six double hundreds, achievements that place him among the modern greats of the game.

Widely regarded as one of cricket's celebrated "Fab Four" batters alongside Virat Kohli, Joe Root and Steve Smith, Williamson was admired not only for his elegant strokeplay but also for his calm leadership and sportsmanship.



USA Register Biggest World Cup Win, Canada End Goal Drought On Matchday 2

■ Folarin Balogun scores twice in emphatic US victory, while Cyle Larin earns Canada a historic point on home soil

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The second matchday of the FIFA World Cup 2026 witnessed two host nations make a strong start to their campaigns, with the United States producing a record-breaking win and Canada ending a decades-long goal drought.

The USA thrilled a packed crowd in Los Angeles with a dominant 4-1 victory over Paraguay in their Group D opener. Forward Folarin Balogun starred two as the

a 3-0 lead by halftime, recording their biggest-ever win at a World Cup. The Americans struck first through an own goal forced by Christian Pulisic, who was influential throughout the opening half. Balogun then found the net twice before Gio Reyna added a fourth goal deep into stoppage time.

The victory also marked the first time the USA scored four goals in a World Cup match.



with goals raced to

Under new coach Mauricio Pochettino, the team displayed an attacking style that delighted the 70,000-plus fans in attendance.



Women's T20 World Cup Reflects ICC's Vision For A More Inclusive Global Game: Jay Shah

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Jay Shah on Sunday described the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup as a significant milestone for the sport, saying the tournament reflects the ICC's commitment to building a more inclusive and globally accessible game.

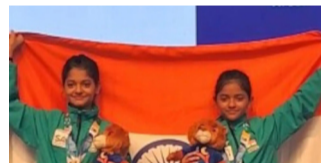
The latest edition of the Women's T20 World Cup will be held across the United Kingdom from June 12 to July 5, featuring 12 teams competing for the coveted title. Speaking at the official launch event held at Waterloo Bridge in London, Shah said the tournament is expected to be the most ambitious edition of the competition to date. "This is a landmark moment for women's cricket and a fitting way to launch what we believe will be the most exciting and ambitious ICC Women's T20 World Cup ever staged," Shah said.

India's Young Stars Shine As Grassroots Programme Powers Yogasana World Championship Dominance

■ Junior and sub-junior athletes win 46 of India's 102 gold medals, signalling a bright future for the sport

Team Goemkarponn

AHMEDABAD: India's commanding performance at the inaugural World Yogasana Championships was reflected in a staggering haul of 102 gold medals, but the tournament's most significant takeaway may have been the emergence



of a new generation of champions poised to keep the country at the forefront of the sport.

Nearly half of India's gold medals came from junior and sub-junior

categories, with young athletes contributing 46 golds and showcasing the strength of the country's grassroots yogasana development programme.

Among the brightest stars were 14-year-old Ishika Guchhait from Delhi and 12-year-old Sanwita Banerjee from West Bengal's Durgapur.

Harmanpreet Kaur Sent Clear Message On India's XI For Women's T20 World Cup: 'Both Should Start'

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Anjum Chopra believes pacers Kranti Gaud and Renuka Singh Thakur should both feature in India's playing XI alongside Arundhati Reddy at the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup, insisting the trio forms the backbone of India's pace attack despite recent experimentation.

India head into their tournament opener against Pakistan women's national cricket team at Edgbaston with



lingering concerns over their bowling combination. Questions remain over the form of senior spinner Deepti Sharma, the absence of all-rounder Amanjot Kaur, and India's struggles at the death, which were exposed

during the recent T20I series against England.

Young pacer Nandini Sharma impressed on debut by claiming three wickets in Chelmsford but saw limited opportunities thereafter. Meanwhile, Renuka showcased her

trademark swing against England, including a stunning dismissal of Danni Wyatt-Hodge, though she was expensive at the death.

India's warm-up campaign — featuring a 26-run win over the West Indies women's national cricket team and a six-run defeat to the England women's national cricket team — offered little certainty regarding the ideal bowling attack.

"We don't know why Renuka didn't get a game in the first three T20s against England. Maybe they wanted to give others

an opportunity," Anjum told IANS.

"In my view, Kranti Gaud and Renuka Singh Thakur both start in the playing eleven for India with Arundhati Reddy. If you go by that fact, then you can only play two spinners. You can't play Charani, Radha, Deepti and Shreyanka together."

The spin department presents another selection dilemma, with India needing to choose among Deepti, Shreyanka Patil, N Sree Charani and Radha Yadav.