



Centre May Decide on ST Political Reservation Within 15 Days

■ Union Home Minister Amit Shah to seek legal opinion before conveying final stand to Goa government, says Ramesh Tawadkar

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar has said that the Centre is expected to take a final view on the issue of political reservation for Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Goa within the next 15 days.

Speaking on the matter, Tawadkar said a



delegation recently met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and urged the

Centre to address the long-pending demand for political reservation for Scheduled Tribes in the state.

The delegation highlighted the need for adequate political representation for tribal communities and sought an early resolution to the issue.

According to the

minister, Shah assured the delegation that he would examine the matter in consultation with the Solicitor General before arriving at a final decision.

The Union Home Minister is expected to communicate the Centre's position to Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant after completing the legal consultation process.



India Rejects UNSC Reform Paper, Pushes For Text-Based Negotiations

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India on Monday renewed its call for comprehensive reforms of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), insisting that negotiations under the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) framework should be conducted through a formal written text rather than informal discussions.

Speaking at a meeting of the IGN process at the United Nations headquarters in New York, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Parvathaneni Harish, said the reform process should follow the same text-based approach adopted in other multilateral negotiations.

"The IGN cannot be fundamentally different from other UN processes, wherein negotiations are held based on a text," Harish said, reiterating

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India's 'Tomahawk' Takes Flight: DRDO Successfully Tests 1,000-km Long-Range Cruise Missile

■ Indigenously developed LRLACM hits target with precision, marking a major boost to India's strategic strike capabilities

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Monday successfully conducted the flight test of its indigenously developed Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM), marking a significant milestone in India's defence capabilities.

The missile was launched from the Integrated Test Range at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha. According to the Ministry of Defence, the missile



successfully struck its target at a range of 1,000 kilometres, with all mission objectives being achieved.

The ministry said the LRLACM has been developed entirely within the country, with various DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners contributing to its subsystems. The Aeronautical Development

Establishment (ADE) in Bengaluru served as the nodal laboratory for the project.

The successful test is particularly significant as the missile programme evolved from the earlier Nirbhay cruise missile project, which faced multiple setbacks during its developmental phase, including unsuccessful trials between 2013 and 2020. Officials said the LRLACM incorporates several technological improvements, offering greater range, enhanced precision and the flexibility to be launched from multiple platforms.

Liquor Worth ₹1.8 Lakh Seized Near Amthane Dam; Two Held

■ Police intercept vehicle during night patrol, recover large consignment of liquor allegedly being transported without valid permits

Team Goemkarponn

ANTHANE: In a significant late-night operation, police attached to the Goa Dodamarg Outpost seized a large consignment of liquor valued at approximately ₹1.8 lakh and arrested two persons after intercepting a vehicle near Amthane Dam on



Sunday night.

According to police, the action was taken around 11.20 pm during routine patrolling in the area.

Officers stopped a Hyundai Creta bearing Maharashtra registration number MH-12 VS 8001, which was travelling from Nanoda in Goa towards Sawantwadi via Amthane.

During inspection

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AAP Sets July 31 Deadline for Power Reforms in Goa, Warns of Agitation

Party seeks free power, waiver of arrears and uninterrupted electricity supply across the state



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has intensified its campaign against the Goa government over electricity-related issues, alleging that consumers are facing inflated power bills, mounting arrears and frequent outages despite paying for essential services.

Addressing a press conference in Panaji, AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal said public anger over electricity issues is growing across the state and placed three key demands before the government.

He called for 300 units of free electricity for every household, a complete waiver of electricity arrears up to

June 15, and measures to ensure uninterrupted 24-hour power supply.

Kejriwal alleged that several consumers have received incorrect bills and penalty charges, while many are struggling with accumulated dues.

He claimed that between January 2024 and May 2025, Goa witnessed nearly 19,000 power outages, highlighting what he described as shortcomings in the management of the power sector.

Stating that reliable electricity supply is a matter of effective administration, Kejriwal said the government must take immediate corrective measures to address the concerns of

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Beyond Government Jobs: Goa's Youth Face an Uncomfortable Reality

When Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant urged young people to upgrade their skills and adapt to emerging technologies, he was stating an undeniable truth. Artificial intelligence, automation, digital services and new-age industries are reshaping the global economy. The jobs of tomorrow will demand flexibility, continuous learning and technological competence. Yet the Chief Minister's message also exposes a deeper and more uncomfortable question: Are Goa's youth genuinely prepared to embrace the private sector and the changing nature of work?

For decades, a government job has remained the ultimate aspiration for a large section of Goan youth. The attraction is understandable. Public sector employment offers stability, predictable income, social prestige and job security that the private sector often struggles to match. Families encourage their children to pursue government recruitment examinations, while many graduates spend years waiting for vacancies rather than exploring opportunities elsewhere.

This mindset has created a serious mismatch between aspirations and economic reality.

The Government simply cannot employ everyone. Goa's population is growing, educational attainment is increasing and thousands of young people enter the job market every year. Yet the number of government positions remains limited. Even if every vacant post were filled immediately, the public sector would still be incapable of absorbing the state's expanding workforce.

As a result, many young graduates find themselves trapped in a cycle of waiting. Some remain unemployed for years while preparing for competitive examinations. Others reject private sector opportunities because they consider them inferior, temporary or lacking social status. This approach may have been sustainable in an era when government expansion generated large numbers of jobs. That era is long over.

Meanwhile, the private sector faces a paradox. Employers frequently complain about difficulties in finding skilled and motivated workers despite a significant pool

"The Government simply cannot employ everyone. Goa's population is growing, educational attainment is increasing and thousands of young people enter the job market every year. Yet the number of government positions remains limited. Even if every vacant post were filled immediately, the public sector would still be incapable of absorbing the state's expanding workforce.

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of educated youth. The problem is not merely one of qualifications. It is also about expectations. Many young job seekers prefer secure employment with fixed working hours and guaranteed benefits. Private companies, especially in technology, tourism, hospitality and services, demand adaptability, performance and continuous skill development.

Goa's economy itself has evolved beyond traditional employment patterns. Tourism,

information technology, logistics, creative industries and digital entrepreneurship offer opportunities that barely existed a generation ago. Yet these sectors require a different attitude towards careers. Success often depends on innovation, risk-taking and a willingness to change roles as industries evolve.

The challenge is not solely the responsibility of young people. Governments and businesses must also acknowledge legitimate concerns about private sector employment. Low wages, contractual work, limited career progression and inadequate worker protections discourage many from viewing private jobs as viable long-term careers. If policymakers want youth to embrace private employment, they must create an environment where such jobs offer dignity, stability and opportunities for advancement.

Educational institutions also have a role to play. Too often, colleges continue producing graduates with degrees but without industry-relevant skills. There remains a gap between classroom learning and workplace requirements. Skill development programmes cannot become mere slogans. They must be linked directly to emerging sectors, internships and practical experience.

The Chief Minister's call for adaptation is therefore necessary but incomplete. Upskilling alone will not solve the problem if social attitudes remain unchanged. Nor will technological training succeed if young people continue viewing government service as the only respectable path to success.

Goa stands at a crossroads. The future economy will be driven by innovation, entrepreneurship and private enterprise. Young people who embrace these realities will find opportunities in sectors that are expanding far more rapidly than the public sector. Those who continue waiting indefinitely for government recruitment may discover that the world has moved on without them.

The real challenge for Goa is not whether jobs exist. It is whether society is ready to redefine what constitutes a successful career. Until that mental shift occurs, calls to acquire new skills may generate applause, but they will not necessarily produce the workforce that a modern economy demands.

OPED

Save Goa Before It Is Too Late

The manner in which the Government is handling the growing concerns of Goans over large-scale development projects is deeply disappointing.

Across the State, local communities are taking to the streets, raising their voices against projects they believe threaten Goa's fragile environment, natural resources and unique identity. Yet, instead of engaging meaningfully with these concerns, the authorities appear content to remain silent.

People are not protesting without reason. They are demanding accountability, transparency and protection of the land that has sustained generations of Goans. Whether it is indiscriminate construction, destruction of green cover or projects that place commercial interests above environmental sustainability, citizens have every right to question decisions that affect their future.

What is particularly troubling is the perception that the Government's priorities have shifted. Rather than safeguarding the welfare of local communities, it appears increasingly focused on facilitating massive construction and infrastructure projects. Development is necessary, but it cannot come at the cost of Goa's ecological balance, cultural heritage and the well-being of its people.

The voices of ordinary Goans must not be ignored. Democracy is strengthened when governments listen to citizens, not when legitimate concerns are brushed aside. The present situation calls for dialogue, transparency and a genuine commitment to protecting Goa's interests.

This is a crucial moment for our State. Citizens must stand united and support efforts aimed at preserving Goa for future generations. The responsibility of protecting our land belongs to all of us.

- Adrian Pereira

How Many Repairs Are Enough for Kala Academy?

The recurring repairs and renovations of Goa's iconic Kala Academy have once again raised serious questions about the quality of public works and the accountability of those responsible for them. Citizens are justified in asking a simple question: how many times will this landmark have to be repaired before a lasting solution is found?

Over the years, substantial amounts of public money have reportedly been spent on restoration and maintenance. Yet complaints about structural issues, leakages and recurring defects continue to surface. Every new repair project is accompanied by assurances that the problems will finally be resolved, but the cycle seems endless.

What makes the situation even more frustrating is the contrast with many heritage structures built during the Portuguese era. Across Goa, numerous centuries old churches, forts and public buildings continue to stand strong despite exposure to harsh weather conditions and the passage of time. While no comparison is perfect, it is difficult for citizens to ignore the irony that older structures often appear more durable than modern projects that undergo repeated renovations.

The issue is not merely about a building. It is about public confidence. Taxpayers have a right to know whether the recurring repairs are the result of poor planning, flawed execution, inadequate supervision or a lack of accountability. Transparency regarding expenditure and technical assessments would go a long way in addressing public concerns.

Kala Academy is more than a structure of concrete and steel. It is a symbol of Goa's cultural identity. The people deserve a permanent solution rather than an endless cycle of repairs.

- Rookie CruzGoa

Anjunem Reservoir Drops to 10% Capacity; WRD Prepares Backup Water Supply Measures

■ Pissurlem Mining Pit and Tillari Canal Identified as Alternative Sources Amid Delayed Monsoon

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Facing a sharp decline in water levels at the Anjunem reservoir, the Water Resources Department (WRD) has put emergency plans in place to maintain drinking water supply, with the dam currently holding only around 10 per cent of its capacity.



Water Resources Minister Subhash Shirodkar said the government is closely monitoring the situation caused by delayed

monsoon rains and has taken precautionary steps to ensure residents do not face water shortages.

According to the minister, the remaining water in the Anjunem reservoir is expected to meet drinking water needs for the next 15 to 20 days. As a backup measure, the department is ready to begin drawing 40 to

50 million litres of water daily from the Pissurlem mining pit and channel it to the Podocem Water Treatment Plant if rainfall remains inadequate.

Shirodkar said the arrangement could be activated within the next few days if necessary, ensuring a steady supply of treated water to consumers in North Goa.



IIT Madras to Conduct Fresh Review of Kala Academy Restoration Works

■ State Approves ₹86 Lakh Consultancy to Assess Structural Durability and Suggest Long-Term Safeguards

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a move aimed at ensuring the long-term stability of Kala Academy, the Goa government has engaged IIT Madras to carry out a fresh technical assessment of the restoration works undertaken at the cultural complex.

The consultancy, approved at a cost of ₹86 lakh, will focus on evaluating the durability of the repairs and identifying measures to extend the life of the structure.

Principal Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, Sandip Chodnekar, said the institute's team is expected to begin work from August 1. The exercise will run parallel to corrective measures scheduled under the defect liability provisions of the renovation contract.

Chodnekar

explained that the new assignment differs from the institute's previous review, which primarily examined whether the renovation had been executed according to technical standards. This time, the focus will be on determining the effectiveness of the completed repairs and estimating how long they are likely to remain serviceable.

A team of specialists from IIT Madras will inspect various sections of the Kala Academy complex before preparing a detailed report outlining recommendations for strengthening and preserving the structure.

Among the solutions likely to be considered are advanced protection systems designed to reduce corrosion and improve the performance of repaired structural elements over time.



Goa To Improve Air Connectivity With New Markets To Attract International Tourists

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PANAJI: Goa is strengthening its push to emerge as a global gateway destination by expanding international air connectivity and targeting new source markets, Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte has said.

Speaking at a tourism conclave fireside chat, the Minister said the state government has initiated discussions with the Union government to enhance air connectivity through its two airports, with a focus on opening direct routes to emerging international markets such as Poland, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, alongside traditional feeder markets like the UK and Russia.

Highlighting Goa's strong global brand recall, Khaunte said the objective is to convert awareness into higher tourist arrivals, longer stays and greater economic benefits for local communities. He noted that international tourists currently stay for an average of nine nights in Goa, compared to three to four nights for domestic visitors.

Unlicensed Firearm Angle Emerges in Mapusa Youth Death Case

■ Police Launch Arms Act Investigation While Tracing Origin of Country-Made Pistol

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Police have initiated proceedings under the Arms Act in connection with the death of a 22-year-old Mapusa resident after investigations revealed that the firearm recovered from the scene was allegedly being possessed without legal authorisation.

Samuel Braganza, a resident of Gaunsavaddo, was found dead from a gunshot injury during the intervening night of June 3 and 4. During the subsequent inquiry, officers recovered



a country-made pistol and a spent cartridge from the location. Investigators later determined that the weapon was not registered under any valid licence. Based on these findings, a separate offence relating to illegal possession of a firearm has now been recorded as part of the ongoing probe.

Police are currently attempting to establish how the weapon

came into Braganza's possession and whether any individual may have facilitated its acquisition. Officials said the trail of the firearm remains unclear and inquiries are continuing. Family members questioned by investigators reportedly stated that they were unaware of the source of the pistol and had no information regarding when it was obtained.

During the course of the investigation, police also examined developments that occurred shortly before the incident.

HC Seeks Fresh Coordination Meeting Over Safety Concerns on Porvorim–Guirim Corridor

■ Advocate's Inspection Report Highlights Traffic Risks and Construction-Related Hazards Along Highway Stretch

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has called for another joint review involving highway authorities, the project contractor and petitioner Advocate Moses Pinto after fresh concerns were raised regarding commuter safety on the ongoing Porvorim–Guirim elevated corridor



project.

The court's intervention follows the submission of a site assessment report

by Pinto, who contended that several safety-related issues continue to persist along the under-construction section of the highway despite ongoing mitigation efforts.

In his plea, the petitioner sought a renewed inspection of the corridor and a detailed discussion among stakeholders to address what he described as

unresolved traffic and infrastructure safety concerns affecting daily commuters.

The report identifies a range of issues, including insufficient advance notice for traffic diversions, inadequate safeguards at lane transition points and the close proximity of moving vehicles to active construction operations.

It also points to

concerns regarding roadside stockpiling of construction materials, exposed work areas, unfinished shoulders and the absence of adequate protective barriers in certain locations. According to the report, some stretches continue to witness traffic movement near excavation zones and heavy equipment.

Three Held for Posing as Naga Sadhus, Cheating Pernem Man of Gold and Cash

■ Mopa Airport Police trace accused to Maharashtra; stolen jewellery worth ₹1.20 lakh recovered

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: In a major breakthrough, the Mopa Airport Police arrested three persons for allegedly posing as Naga Sadhus and cheating a 59-year-old man of his gold jewellery and cash worth ₹1.20 lakh. The accused were traced to Maharashtra following an interstate investigation,



and the stolen gold ornaments were recovered. According to police, Crime No. 25/2026 was registered on June 8 under Section 318(2)

read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, based on a complaint filed by Suryakant Mukund Vir, a resident of Torxem,

Pernem.

The complainant stated that between 9 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. on June 8, a man dressed as a Naga Sadhu, accompanied by two associates, gained his confidence by claiming that he would bless his jewellery. Believing the claim, the complainant handed over his gold chain, gold ring and ₹2,600 in cash.



Teen Tourist Rescued from Drowning at Calangute Beach

■ Off-duty Drishti Marine lifesavers spring into action after youth is swept into deeper waters by rip current

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: A 19-year-old youth from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, was rescued from drowning off Calangute beach after being caught in a rip current and swept into deeper waters by a large wave.

According to information, the youth was in knee-deep water when a strong wave knocked him off balance and a rip current dragged him further into the sea.

Noticing the emergency, off-duty Drishti Marine lifesavers Subham Mukhiya, Chhirap Mistry, and Soma Latye immediately rushed to his aid.

Using rescue tubes, the lifesavers reached the victim and safely brought him back to shore, preventing what could have been a tragedy.

The timely intervention of the off-duty lifesavers ensured that the tourist was rescued safely without any loss of life.



Motorcyclist Booked After Fatal Crash Near Dharbandora

Team Goemkarponn

DHARBANDORA: Ponda Police have registered a case against a motorcyclist for allegedly causing a fatal accident through rash and negligent driving near Chaitanya Petrol Pump, Dharbandora.

According to a state complaint filed by Assistant Sub-Inspector Rohidas Bhomkar of Ponda Police Station, the incident occurred on June 14, 2026, before 9:20 a.m., when Nikhil Naik, a resident of Dongrim, Tiswadi, was riding an X Pulse motorcycle from Ponda towards Mollem.

Police said that upon reaching near Chaitanya Petrol Pump at Dharbandora, the accused allegedly rode the motorcycle in a rash and negligent manner, endangering human life, and collided with an oncoming Activa scooter ridden by Vijay Chavan, a resident of Pilliem, Dharbandora.

The impact left both riders injured, and they were shifted to PHC Pilliem, Dharbandora, by a 108 ambulance for treatment. However, Vijay Chavan later succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment.

Minor Girl Reported Kidnapped From Quellossim; Verna Police Register Case

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Verna Police have registered a case of kidnapping after a mother reported that her minor daughter was taken away by an unknown person from her lawful guardianship at Quellossim.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred on June 14, 2026, at around 8 a.m. at Quellossim, Cortalim, Mormugao, when the



unknown accused allegedly kidnapped the minor girl. The mother subsequently lodged a complaint with the police.

A case has been registered, and efforts

are underway to trace the missing girl and identify the accused.

Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Prislly Carvalho of Verna Police Station.

Taxi Drivers Appear Before Pernem Court in Mopa Airport Parking Fee Protest Case

■ Protesters say they are ready to face legal action and vow to continue agitation

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: Taxi drivers, office bearers of various taxi organizations, and several political leaders who had protested against the hike in parking charges at Mopa Airport appeared before the Pernem Court on Tuesday in connection with a case registered following the agitation.

Speaking to the media outside the court, the taxi drivers expressed



dissatisfaction with the government's handling of the issue, stating that the increased parking fees have severely affected the livelihood of local taxi operators.

They maintained that their protest was aimed at safeguarding the interests of taxi drivers and the public.

"If criminal cases are filed against us for

fighting for our rights, we are prepared to face them. The government must seriously consider the genuine demands of local taxi drivers," the protesters said.

The taxi drivers also warned that the issue would be a factor in the upcoming Assembly elections and that they would take their concerns to the people if their demands remain unaddressed.

The court has posted the matter for a later date. Taxi unions reiterated their resolve to continue their agitation until a satisfactory solution is reached regarding the parking fee hike at Mopa Airport.

Centre-State-Industry Deliberate On Accelerating India's Wind Energy Push

Global Wind Day Conference in Goa Highlights Policy Reforms, Innovation And Investment Needs For Clean Energy Transition

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Global Wind Day Conference held in Goa brought together policymakers, industry leaders, developers, investors and energy experts to deliberate on strengthening India's wind energy sector and accelerating the country's clean energy transition.

Organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) on the theme "Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration,"



the conference focused on the critical role of wind power in enhancing energy security, driving economic growth and promoting environmental sustainability.

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said India's

renewable energy sector has witnessed significant growth over the past decade, with wind and solar emerging as key drivers of sustainable development.

He stressed that strong policies, quality infrastructure and

effective implementation are essential for India to emerge as a global leader in renewable energy.

Minister of State Shripad Naik highlighted the need to scale up wind energy capacity while addressing transmission and infrastructure challenges. Minister Ramakrishna (Sudin) Dhavalikar described wind energy as a clean, affordable and environmentally sustainable source essential for a greener future.



Dabolim Airport celebrates Yatri Suwidha Diwas with passenger-centric events and staff welfare initiatives

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Goa International Airport at Dabolim celebrated Yatri Suwidha Diwas on Monday with a series of passenger-focused activities, cultural programmes and staff welfare initiatives aimed at enhancing the travel experience while recognising the contribution of airport personnel. The event was organised by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) as part of a nationwide celebration marking the growth of India's aviation sector over the past 12 years. Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho attended the programme as chief guest and felicitated airport achievers, including women professionals and housekeeping staff, for their contribution to airport operations. Airport Director Flt Lt Akash Deep said the initiative was aimed at strengthening passenger engagement while promoting staff welfare and operational excellence. He said Goa International Airport remains committed

to providing safe, efficient and passenger-friendly services. The celebrations began with a blood donation camp for airport staff at the AAI Training Hall, followed by a mass singing of Vande Mataram at the departure concourse area. An official felicitation ceremony was later held at the departure lounge. Passengers travelling through the airport were welcomed with traditional Goan hospitality, including a tika welcome on arrival.

Cultural performances and live brass band music were organised at various locations within the terminal, while a CISF dog squad demonstration drew the attention of passengers in the security hold area. Several interactive activities were arranged throughout the day, including painting sessions for children, a waste-to-art exhibition showcasing products made from recycled materials, and aviation awareness programmes featuring an interactive session on air traffic control.



Canacona Social Worker Submits Memorandum to Chief Minister, Seeks Resolution of Key Issues

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Social worker and youth leader from Canacona, Shubham Komarpant, has submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, highlighting several issues affecting the people of the taluka and seeking their early resolution. In the memorandum, Komarpant urged the Chief Minister to address the long-pending issue of the Forest Rights Committee (FRC) and the concerns over the possible displacement of residents of Khotigao. He also demanded the immediate disposal of hazardous molasses stored in a vulnerable condition at the IDC Shristhal industrial estate. He further sought improved infrastructure and adequate teaching staff for government schools in Canacona, while specifically requesting the appointment of a regular Physical Education teacher at Gaondongrim Government High School.



CM Dr. Pramod Sawant visits the DIP exhibition at the KTCL Panaji Bus Stand, showcasing key achievements and developmental milestones of the Government of India over the past 12 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

GPCC to Observe Goa Revolution Day with 'Jan Kranti - Rise Up for Goa' Programme on June 18

Event in Mapusa to commemorate 18th June Revolution Day and reaffirm commitment to democratic values

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) will commemorate the historic 18th June Revolution Day by organizing a public programme titled "Jan Kranti - Rise Up for Goa" on June 18 at 3:30 p.m. at Anantya Banquet Hall, Xim, Khorlim, Mapusa.

According to the GPCC, the programme aims to pay tribute



to the sacrifices and courage of the freedom fighters who ignited Goa's liberation movement while reaffirming the collective responsibility of citizens to safeguard democracy,

constitutional values, and the rights of the people.

The event will draw inspiration from the historic uprising led by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and the countless Goans

who challenged colonial rule, making June 18 a defining milestone in Goa's freedom struggle.

Congress leaders addressing the gathering are expected to reflect on the relevance of the revolutionary spirit in present-day Goa and discuss issues relating to governance, public welfare, youth aspirations, employment, protection of natural resources, and the preservation of Goa's unique identity.



Free ambulance, hearse van and mobile morgues launched for Mormugao residents

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: In a major step towards strengthening emergency response and community welfare services, Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar on Sunday launched a free ambulance, a hearse van and two mobile morgues for the benefit of residents across the constituency.

India's Exports Rise 18% In May, Trade Deficit Narrows Despite Import Surge

■ Goods and services exports maintain strong momentum

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: India's merchandise exports registered robust growth in May, rising 18 per cent year-on-year to \$45.2 billion, while the country's trade deficit narrowed slightly despite a sharp increase in imports.

Data released by the Commerce Ministry on Monday showed imports climbed 20.62 per cent to \$73.41 billion during the month. Consequently, India's merchandise trade deficit stood at \$28.21 billion, marginally lower than the \$28.38 billion recorded in April.

During the first two months of the current financial year (April-May 2026-27), merchandise exports rose 16.09 per cent to \$88.

91 billion compared with the same period last year, reflecting sustained global demand for Indian products.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said exports to West Asia



remained resilient despite geopolitical uncertainties in the region. India's exports to the region stood at \$5.30 billion in May, compared with \$5.38 billion a year ago.

On the import side, gold purchases surged sharply, with imports of the precious metal rising nearly 60 per cent during April-May to \$9.04 billion, driven by strong domestic demand.

India's services sector continued to bolster the

country's external trade position. Services exports are estimated at \$36.76 billion in May, while imports stood at \$19.06 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of \$17.7 billion.

Taken together, India's total exports of goods and services reached \$162.69 billion during April-May, registering a growth of 14.66 per cent over the corresponding period last year.

The trade data comes amid signs of

easing tensions in West Asia, which could lower energy and logistics costs globally. Industry leaders believe improved geopolitical conditions and smoother trade routes could further boost India's export competitiveness.

The Commerce Ministry said the strong performance underscores the resilience of Indian exports and highlights the country's growing role in global trade.

E20 Fuel Won't Lead To Motor Insurance Claim Rejection, Government Clarifies

■ Centre dismisses social media claims as fake

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: The Indian government has clarified that the use of E20 fuel will not result in the rejection of motor insurance claims, dismissing viral social media posts suggesting otherwise as false.

The clarification came through the Press Information Bureau's (PIB) Fact Check unit, which urged people not to believe or share unverified claims circulating online.

"Motor insurance policies remain valid with the use of E20 fuel," PIB Fact Check said in a post on X, categorically rejecting reports that insurance companies would deny claims for vehicles running on E20 petrol.

The clarification assumes significance as India pushes ahead with its ambitious ethanol blending programme aimed at reducing dependence on imported crude oil. India currently imports nearly 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements, leaving the economy vulnerable to global price volatility and geopolitical

uncertainties.

E20 fuel refers to petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol. The country has made rapid progress in ethanol blending over the last decade. In 2014, ethanol constituted just 1.53 per cent of petrol sold in India. The government achieved 10 per cent blending in 2022, five months ahead of schedule, and successfully met the target of 20 per cent blending in 2025.

The Centre is now preparing for the next phase of the programme by promoting higher ethanol-blended petrol variants, including E22, E25, E27 and E30.

To encourage their adoption, the Finance Ministry recently exempted these higher ethanol blends from central excise duty, extending tax incentives beyond the existing ethanol-blending regime.

The government has advised citizens to verify information related to public policies and regulations through official channels before sharing or acting upon claims circulating on social media.

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India Rejects UNSC Reform Paper, Pushes For Text-Based Negotiations

India's long-standing demand for structured negotiations on one of the UN's most significant reform agendas.

India also criticised the recently circulated Elements Paper, particularly its treatment of permanent membership in the Security Council. Harish objected to the document's suggestion that the concept of permanency requires further clarification, arguing that the distinction between permanent and non-permanent members is already clearly defined in the UN Charter.

"The UN Charter is very clear on this question and there is no room for ambiguity. Article 23 clearly categorises the UNSC members into two: permanent and non-permanent," he said.

The Indian envoy noted that influential blocs such as the African Group, G4 and L69 Group already recognise permanent membership in line with the UN Charter.

Harish further argued that

the Elements Paper understates the broad support for expanding the Council's permanent membership and increasing African representation. He said a majority of UN member states have endorsed these reforms either individually or through groups such as the G4, L69 and CARICOM.

India has consistently maintained that the current composition of the Security Council reflects the geopolitical realities of 1945 rather than those of the 21st century, and that reforms are essential to make the body more representative, effective and credible.

Liquor Worth ₹1.8 Lakh Seized Near Amthane Dam; Two Held

of the vehicle, police discovered several boxes containing liquor bottles of various brands. The occupants of the vehicle allegedly failed to produce any valid documents authorising the transportation of the liquor.

The vehicle was subsequently escorted to the Goa Dodamarg

Police Outpost, where a detailed panchanama was conducted in the presence of panch witnesses. Following the verification process, the liquor stock, estimated to be worth around ₹1.8 lakh, was seized along with the vehicle for further legal proceedings.

Police identified the arrested individuals as Ganpat Mainkar, a resident of Chafeali in Sawantwadi, and Krishna Mhapsekar, a resident of Madkhol in Sawantwadi, Maharashtra. Both were taken into custody and further investigation is underway to ascertain the source and intended destination of the seized liquor.

Authorities said necessary legal action has been initiated in the matter.

AAP Sets July 31 Deadline for Power Reforms in Goa, Warns of Agitation

consumers.

He warned that if the demands are not met by July 31, AAP will launch a statewide agitation on the issue.



PM Modi Receives Slovakia's Highest National Award

■ Honoured with Order of the White Double Cross in Bratislava

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Monday conferred with Slovakia's highest national award, the Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class), during his visit to Bratislava.

The prestigious honour was presented to PM Modi by Slovak President Peter Pellegrini at a ceremonial event in the capital city. This marks the 33rd international award conferred on the Indian Prime Minister by a foreign nation.

Expressing gratitude after receiving the award,



PM Modi said it belonged to the people of India and reflected the enduring friendship between the two countries.

"Honoured to receive The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class) in Bratislava this evening. My gratitude to the people and Government of Slovakia for this honour,

which belongs to the 140 crore people of India. I dedicate this award to the enduring friendship between India and Slovakia," he posted on social media.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Prime Minister described the honour as a testament to the warmth,

trust and affection shared by the people of India and Slovakia. He expressed hope that the award would inspire future generations in both countries to further strengthen bilateral ties.

The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class) is Slovakia's highest civilian and military state decoration and is awarded exclusively to foreign citizens for exceptional contributions.

PM Modi is in Bratislava as part of his week-long visit to Europe. The trip is historic as it marks the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia.



"Will Not Bow To BJP": Abhishek Banerjee After 11-Hour ED Questioning

■ TMC leader alleges bid to crush opposition in Bengal

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Trinamool Congress (TMC) general secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee on Monday asserted that he would not "surrender" or "bow down" to the BJP after being questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for over 11 hours in connection with the alleged school recruitment scam. Speaking to reporters after emerging from the ED's Salt Lake office in Kolkata late at night, Banerjee struck a defiant tone. "I will come again if they summon me, but we will not surrender even if they slit our throats," he said. The marathon interrogation came a day after Banerjee was questioned for nearly eight-and-a-half hours by the West Bengal CID over allegations of forgery

of MLAs' signatures on documents related to the appointment of the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly. Accusing the BJP of trying to eliminate political rivals, Banerjee claimed that the ruling party at the Centre was attempting to establish an opposition-free political system in West Bengal. "For the past month, efforts have been made to suppress, intimidate and destroy opposition forces that refuse to bow their heads. This entire exercise is aimed at creating an opposition-less political system in Bengal," he alleged. Banerjee, nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, is facing multiple investigations by central and state agencies, including cases related to alleged corruption and hate speech.



"Hindu Religion Not Registered": Mohan Bhagwat Responds To Priyank Kharge's RSS Transparency Demand

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday dismissed Karnataka minister Priyank Kharge's demand that the organisation register itself and disclose its finances, saying the RSS functions openly and that registration is only required for entities seeking government funds. Responding to Kharge's open letter, Bhagwat said he did not intend to engage in the political debate. "It is just politics... all these gimmicks are being made by those who are used to it. We have faced all this before and are used to it," he said. Addressing the demand for registration, Bhagwat argued that many institutions and traditions operate without formal registration. "The Hindu religion is not registered, many things are not registered.

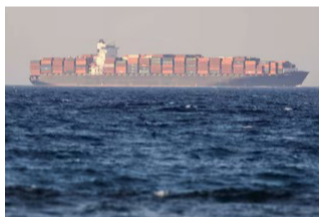
20 Indian Sailors Evacuated From Attacked MT Jalveer Return Home Safely

■ Indian Embassy in Oman confirms safe repatriation after rescue operation near Omani coast

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: All 20 Indian sailors aboard the merchant vessel MT Jalveer have safely returned to India after being evacuated following an attack near an Omani port, the Indian Embassy in Muscat confirmed on Monday.

In a post on X, the embassy said that India's Ambassador to Oman,



Prashant Pise, met the crew members in Muscat before their departure and wished them a safe journey home. The mission reiterated its commitment to providing timely assistance to

Indian nationals facing emergencies abroad.

"The Embassy remains committed to extending prompt assistance and support to Indian nationals in distress and ensuring their welfare and safe return home," it said.

The rescued sailors expressed gratitude to the Indian mission and Omani authorities for facilitating their evacuation and repatriation.

217 Demolitions, 237 Properties Sealed: Delhi's Crackdown On Illegal Buildings Intensifies

■ Action follows Malviya Nagar fire tragedy

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has intensified its crackdown on illegal constructions across the capital in the aftermath of the Malviya Nagar fire tragedy, demolishing 217 unauthorised structures and sealing 237 properties since June 4.

According to MCD's



Action Taken records, the civic body has also issued 330 show-cause notices for unauthorised construction, 151 sealing notices and passed

91 demolition orders as part of the ongoing enforcement drive.

Parallely, the Revenue Department has been carrying out district-level

inspections across Delhi. Between June 5 and June 15, officials inspected 773 properties and sites to identify violations related to unauthorised construction, fire safety norms and land use regulations. On June 15 alone, 29 locations were inspected across different districts.

West Delhi recorded the highest number of inspections during the period with 165 sites,

followed by South Delhi with 93 inspections, North Delhi with 89, South-West Delhi with 70 and North-East Delhi with 68. Central, North-West, East, New Delhi and South-East districts also witnessed extensive inspections. Inspection teams visited a range of properties, including guest houses, banquet halls, residential buildings and ongoing construction sites.

Super Over Chaos! Sri Lanka A Edge India A In Thriller Marked By Drama On And Off The Field

■ Tied match ends with arguments, controversy and heated exchanges

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Sri Lanka A pulled off a thrilling Super Over victory over India A in the tri-series on Monday in a contest that had everything a tied finish, confusion over playing conditions, heated arguments with umpires and an ugly post-match altercation.

Asked to bat first, India A recovered from a middle-order collapse to post 265, thanks largely to a superb 104-run partnership for the eighth wicket between Suryansh Shedge and Vipraj Nigam.



Teenage opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi provided an early spark with a quickfire 21 off 14 balls before Tilak Varma (23) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (32) steadied the innings. However, Sri Lanka A's spinners triggered a collapse as India A

slumped from 91 for 2 to 143 for 7.

Shedge then produced a brilliant 72 off 66 balls, while Nigam chipped in with 51 to help India A reach a competitive total. In reply, Sri Lanka A rode on Sadeera Samarawickrama's classy

91 to stay in the chase. The hosts needed five runs in the final over, but Arshad Khan bowled brilliantly to concede just four. With two needed off the last ball, Sri Lanka A managed only a single before a run-out while attempting the second run tied the scores. The drama escalated when fading light raised doubts over whether a Super Over could be held. India A captain Tilak Varma and team officials were involved in animated discussions with the umpires before play resumed.



Argentina, France Begin FIFA World Cup Campaigns Amid High Expectations

■ Messi, Mbappe set to lead title contenders

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Lionel Messi's Argentina and Kylian Mbappe's France, the finalists of the dramatic 2022 FIFA World Cup, begin their 2026 campaigns on Tuesday as two of the leading contenders for the title. Defending champions Argentina face Algeria in Kansas City, with much of the spotlight once again on Messi, who is set to feature in his sixth World Cup. The 38-year-old had raised fitness concerns after suffering a hamstring injury while playing for Inter Miami in May, but coach Lionel Scaloni said the captain is ready to go. "Everyone wants to see him out on the pitch, not just Argentinians, because of the impact he has on people," Scaloni said.

"He has always been crucial for us and now he will be even more so. He looks good."

Messi eased concerns over his fitness by scoring after coming off the bench in a warm-up match against Iceland last week. France, meanwhile, begin their campaign against Senegal in New Jersey. Led by Mbappe, Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele and winger Michael Olise, Didier Deschamps' side will be eager to avoid a repeat of their shock opening defeat to Senegal at the 2002 World Cup. "The first match is very important but it's not decisive. Starting with a win is always the objective," Deschamps said, while cautioning that the emotional pressure of a World Cup opener could affect players.



Neeraj Chopra To Return At Doha Diamond League After Injury Layoff

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Indian javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra is set to make his long-awaited return to competitive action at the Doha Diamond League on June 19 after recovering from a back injury that kept him out of action for the start of the 2026 season. The announcement was made by Chopra's management firm, Vel Sports, through a post on Instagram. "First throw of 2026 lands in Doha! Neeraj Chopra returns to competitive action on June 19," the post read. The 28-year-old Olympic champion was a late addition to the competition, with his name absent from the initial list of participants released by the organisers on June 12. Doha holds special significance for Chopra. At the same venue in May last year, the two-time Olympic medallist finally breached the coveted 90-metre mark, recording a throw of 90.23 metres.

FIFA World Cup Day 5: Spain Stunned, Iran Fight Back, Lukaku Saves Belgium

■ All three matches end in draws

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The fifth day of the FIFA World Cup 2026 produced plenty of drama as all three matches ended in draws, with Spain being held by tournament debutants Cape Verde, Belgium rescued by Romelu Lukaku and Iran fighting back twice to earn a point against New Zealand.

The biggest surprise came in Group E, where



reigning European champions Spain were frustrated in a goalless draw by Cape Verde. Despite dominating possession with 74 per cent of the ball and creating numerous chances, Spain failed to breach a resolute

Cape Verde defence led by veteran goalkeeper Vozinha.

The African nation, making its FIFA World Cup debut, celebrated the result like a victory as it secured a historic point against one of the tournament favourites. Cape Verde, with a population of around 525,000, is among the smallest nations ever to compete at the World Cup.

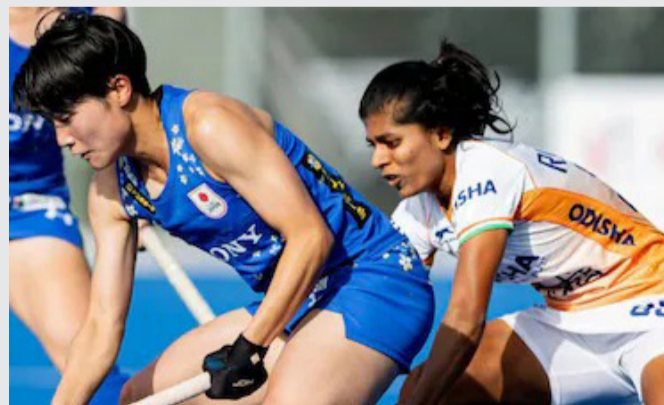
Indian Women Beat Japan 2-1, Storm Into FIH Nations Cup Semifinals

■ Salima Tete, Lalremsiami score as India stay unbeaten

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Indian women's hockey team booked its place in the semifinals of the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup New Zealand 2026 with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Japan in Pool A at the North Harbour National Hockey Centre in Auckland on Tuesday.

Captain Salima Tete and forward Lalremsiami scored in either half as India registered their second consecutive



win of the tournament to remain unbeaten and sit atop Pool A with six points.

The match was also a special occasion for

midfielder Jyoti, who made her 100th appearance for the senior national team.

Both sides enjoyed periods of dominance in a tightly contested first half

but failed to convert their chances, heading into the break locked at 0-0.

India finally broke the deadlock in the 33rd minute through a well-rehearsed penalty-corner routine. Navneet Kaur's attempt was deftly redirected by Nikki Pradhan into the path of Salima Tete, who made no mistake in finding the net.

Japan responded swiftly as Hiramitsu Ai converted a penalty corner just two minutes later to level the scores and set up an exciting

final quarter.

The decisive moment arrived in the 49th minute when Lalremsiami produced a clinical finish. Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam threaded a precise pass into the circle, and the forward timed her deflection perfectly to restore India's lead.

Japan pressed hard for an equaliser in the closing stages, but India's defence held firm to secure all three points and confirm a place in the last four.