



## Goa To Face National Review On Water Management Reforms

■ Union Jal Shakti Ministry To Assess State's Performance In Governance, Conservation, Infrastructure And Sustainable Water Resource Management

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** As Goa faces growing concerns over water security amid an erratic monsoon and increasing pressure on available water resources, the State is set to undergo a comprehensive evaluation by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti under the State Water Reform Framework (SWRF).

The assessment aims to measure the progress made by States and Union



Territories in implementing reforms related to water governance, conservation, infrastructure development and sustainable resource management.

Under the framework, Goa will be evaluated across five major areas: policy and regulatory reforms, project monitoring

mechanisms, digitalisation and research initiatives, water infrastructure development, and public awareness and community participation. The review process includes 27 sub-categories and 75 performance indicators, carrying a total score of 100 points.

The evaluation will examine several critical aspects of water management, including groundwater regulation, flood mitigation measures, river management,

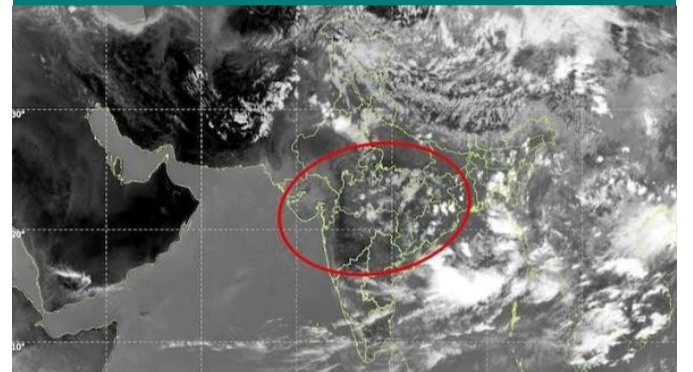
irrigation reforms, rainwater harvesting, water-use efficiency, reuse of treated wastewater, establishment of water quality testing facilities, sewage treatment infrastructure and adoption of digital technologies for water resource monitoring.

The framework also places emphasis on strengthening public engagement and awareness initiatives, encouraging community

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## Goa Records Large Rainfall Deficit In June 2026 So Far

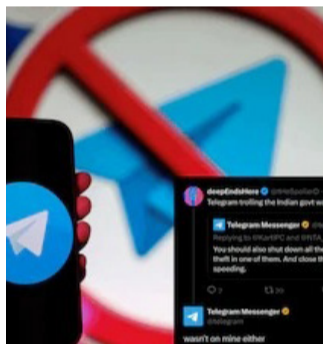
**IMD Analysis Shows June Rainfall Trends From 2010 To 2026, With 2026 Among The Driest Years Till June 20**



**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa has recorded a significant rainfall deficit during the first 20 days of June 2026, according to an analysis by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Goa, which studied the June rainfall pattern in the state from 2010 to 2026. As per the IMD report, Goa received 166 mm of rainfall from June 1 to June 20, 2026, against the normal rainfall of 573 mm during the period. This amounts to a 71 per cent rainfall deficit, placing the state under the Large Deficient (LD) rainfall category. The analysis

indicates that June 2026 has witnessed one of the highest rainfall deficits recorded in recent years. A similar large deficient rainfall situation was observed in 2023, which also recorded a 71 per cent deficit till June 20. The southwest monsoon reached Goa on June 5, 2026, while the final rainfall status for the month will depend on rainfall activity between June 21 and June 30. The IMD's review of June rainfall trends from 2010 to 2026 shows that several years experienced deficient rainfall during the first half of June, including 2010, 2014, 2019 and 2022.



## Delhi High Court Upholds Temporary Telegram Ban Ahead Of NEET UG Re-Test

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court on Friday upheld the Centre's decision to temporarily block Telegram ahead of the NEET UG 2026 re-examination, ruling that the restriction was justified to safeguard the integrity of the examination process.

The temporary suspension, which will remain in force until June 22, was imposed as part of efforts to prevent the circulation of leaked examination material and curb misuse of the platform during the re-test. Telegram had challenged the move, arguing that the restriction was excessive and unlawful, but the court found the government's action to be proportionate and legally valid under the circumstances.

## Ayurveda To Drive Goa's Wellness Vision: CM

■ Goa Ayurveda And Yoga Wellness Policy 2026 To Boost Tourism, Create Jobs And Strengthen Holistic Healthcare

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Friday said the Goa government will strengthen Ayush services and promote holistic healthcare across the state, while leveraging the Goa Ayurveda and Yoga Wellness Policy 2026 to boost wellness tourism, attract investments, and create employment opportunities.

Speaking at a programme on Ayurveda and wellness, Dr. Sawant highlighted the success of



the "Health with Ayurveda" campaign, which he said has received an encouraging response from the public. He noted that the positive outcome of the initiative has reinforced the government's commitment to expanding Ayush

services and promoting wellness-based healthcare throughout Goa. The Chief Minister emphasized that Ayurveda has an important role to play in preventive healthcare, elderly care, rehabilitation, and overall community wellness. He said greater integration of Ayurveda and holistic healthcare practices into the public health system would help improve the health and well-being of citizens while promoting a preventive approach to healthcare.

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## Around 150 JAAC Activists Placed Under Anti-Terror Watch List In POK

■ Asset freezes and surveillance measures spark fresh political tensions across the region

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Pakistan occupied Kashmir has witnessed a major security crackdown after authorities reportedly placed around 150 members of the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) under the Fourth Schedule of the region's Anti Terrorism Act.



The move marks a significant escalation in actions against the activist group, with several prominent leaders now coming under enhanced monitoring and legal

scrutiny. The Fourth Schedule is a provision used to track individuals considered a potential threat to public order and security, placing them under continuous surveillance and restricting various aspects of their activities.

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# Water Crisis: A Warning Goa Cannot Ignore

For a State that prides itself on abundant rivers, lush greenery and one of the highest rainfall averages in the country, the sight of shrinking reservoirs in June should set off alarm bells across Goa. The sharp decline in water levels at key reservoirs such as Mhaisal, Selaulim and Anjunem is not merely a consequence of a delayed monsoon. It is a warning that Goa's water security is far more fragile than many policymakers have been willing to admit.

The State government has assured citizens that there is sufficient drinking water for at least another month. While such assurances may help prevent panic, they should not distract from the larger and more troubling reality. Goa finds itself discussing water scarcity at the very onset of the monsoon season, something that would have seemed unthinkable just a few decades ago.

The current situation is being attributed to a prolonged dry spell and a delayed monsoon. Weather patterns certainly play a role, but it would be simplistic and irresponsible to place the blame entirely on nature. The real question is why a State blessed with significant annual rainfall finds itself vulnerable whenever there is even a temporary disruption in the monsoon cycle.

For years, experts have warned about the consequences of unchecked urbanisation, rampant hill cutting, destruction of natural water recharge zones and the neglect of traditional water conservation systems. Large areas that once absorbed and stored rainwater have been replaced by concrete surfaces that allow precious water to run off into rivers and eventually into the sea. The result is a growing dependence on reservoirs that are increasingly under pressure.

Climate change has further complicated the challenge. Rainfall is becoming more erratic, with longer dry periods punctuated by intense downpours. This means that even if Goa receives its normal seasonal rainfall, the distribution of that rainfall may not be sufficient to ensure sustained

*“The current situation is being attributed to a prolonged dry spell and a delayed monsoon. Weather patterns certainly play a role, but it would be simplistic and irresponsible to place the blame entirely on nature. The real question is why a State blessed with significant annual rainfall finds itself vulnerable whenever there is even a temporary disruption in the monsoon cycle.”*

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water availability. Reservoirs and water management systems designed for older weather patterns may no longer be adequate.

The present crisis also exposes the absence of a comprehensive long term water policy. Successive governments have largely focused on expanding supply rather than managing demand. Leakages

in distribution networks continue to waste significant quantities of treated water. Illegal connections remain a concern in several areas. Public awareness campaigns on conservation are often launched only when shortages become imminent.

The appeal by the Water Supply Department for responsible water use is sensible, but conservation cannot become a seasonal slogan that emerges only during emergencies. Water efficiency must become a year round objective for households, businesses, hotels and government institutions alike. Goa's tourism industry, which places considerable pressure on local resources, must also become part of the conversation about sustainable water management.

Equally important is the need for better planning and data transparency. Citizens have a right to know the status of reservoirs, projected demand and contingency measures. Regular public updates would not only build trust but also encourage greater participation in conservation efforts. Water security is too important to be treated as an issue for government departments alone.

The forecast of increased rainfall by next weekend offers hope that reservoir levels will recover. Yet relying on the monsoon to rescue the State every time a crisis emerges is not a strategy. It is a gamble. The lesson from the current situation is clear: Goa can no longer assume that nature will always compensate for poor planning.

What makes this episode particularly significant is that many residents cannot recall a similar situation arising so early in the monsoon season. That alone should compel policymakers to rethink existing approaches. The challenge is not simply to survive the next month. It is to ensure that Goa never again finds itself questioning its water security despite living in one of India's wettest regions.

The reservoirs may eventually fill, but the warning they have delivered should not be forgotten once the rains arrive. If Goa fails to act now, today's concern could become tomorrow's crisis.

## OPED

### Time to Revert to Cheque Books and Withdrawal Slips?

Suraj Nandrekar

Every day brings fresh reports of cyber frauds, phishing scams, fake investment schemes and unauthorised online transactions. From senior citizens losing their life savings to educated professionals falling victim to sophisticated scams, cybercrime has emerged as one of the fastest-growing threats in modern society. Amid this alarming trend, a question increasingly arises: were we safer in the era of cheque books, passbooks and withdrawal slips?

At first glance, the answer may appear to be yes. Traditional banking involved physical verification, face-to-face interactions and paper trails that were difficult for fraudsters to manipulate remotely. A criminal sitting thousands of kilometres away could not empty a bank account with a phone call or a deceptive link. Customers had greater control over transactions because most banking activities required their physical presence.

The digital revolution has undoubtedly transformed banking for the better. UPI, mobile banking and internet banking have made financial transactions faster, more convenient and accessible than ever before. Money can be transferred within seconds. Bills can be paid from home. Businesses can operate more efficiently. Millions of people have joined the formal banking system because of digital technology.

However, convenience has come with a cost. Cybercriminals are exploiting technology at a pace that often exceeds public awareness. Fraudsters impersonate bank officials, government agencies and customer care executives. They use fake websites, malicious applications and social engineering tactics to trick victims into revealing sensitive information. Even individuals who consider themselves cautious are sometimes deceived by increasingly sophisticated scams.

The problem is not merely technological. It is also psychological. Digital banking has created a culture of instant transactions where people act quickly without verifying details. Fraudsters exploit this urgency and trust. A single click can result in devastating financial losses.

Does this mean society should abandon digital banking and return entirely to cheque books and withdrawal slips? The answer is no.

Turning back the clock is neither practical nor desirable. The scale and speed of today's economy require efficient digital systems. Businesses, government services and consumers depend heavily on digital payments. Eliminating these tools would create inconvenience and slow economic activity.

What is needed instead is a reassessment of priorities. For years, the focus has been on promoting digital adoption. Equal emphasis must now be placed on digital safety. Banks, payment platforms and regulators must invest more aggressively in fraud prevention technologies, stronger authentication systems and rapid response mechanisms. Customers who report fraud should not be forced to navigate lengthy bureaucratic procedures while criminals disappear with their money.

Public awareness campaigns must also become more effective. Many cyber frauds succeed because people remain unaware of basic precautions. Digital literacy should be treated as an essential life skill, much like financial literacy. At the same time, traditional banking options should not disappear. Senior citizens, rural residents and those uncomfortable with digital systems should continue to have access to physical banking services. The rush toward digitisation should not leave behind those who prefer safer and more familiar methods. The rise in cybercrime is a reminder that technology is not inherently secure simply because it is modern.

Progress must be measured not only by speed and convenience but also by trust and safety. Digital banking has brought enormous benefits, but unless security keeps pace with innovation, public confidence will continue to erode.

The solution is not a return to the past. It is ensuring that the future of banking is as secure as it is convenient.

# Chapoli Dam Water Storage Falls Below Dead Storage Level, Raising Alarm Among Canacona Residents

■ Vast stretches of the dried-up water bed exposed at Chapoli Dam reservoir

Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA:** The Chapoli Dam, popularly known as the lifeline of Canconcars, is facing a serious decline in its water storage level, raising concerns over the continuity of water supply to residents of Canacona.

The water storage in the Chapoli Dam reservoir has reportedly fallen



below 0.40 MCM, which is significantly below its dead storage level of 0.49 MCM (49 Hamts). The situation has worsened as Goa

has received comparatively lower monsoon rainfall, estimated at less than 65 per cent of normal levels.

Large stretches of the Chapoli Dam reservoir have dried up and exposed the water bed. The dam normally has a

storage capacity of 1122 mm when it reaches 38.75 RL, with a gross storage capacity of 9.98 MCM (998.24 Hamts).

According to Water Resources Department (WRD) sources, the present storage of around 400 mm is sufficient to maintain regular water supply for only about 15 days.



## Mhadei PRAWAH Authority To Discuss Project Approval Framework At June 29 Meeting

■ Clearance process for new irrigation and drinking water projects, data sharing, and office infrastructure among key agenda items

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Mhadei PRAWAH Authority will hold its sixth meeting in Goa on June 29, where members are expected to discuss a structured process for granting approvals to future minor irrigation and drinking water projects within the Mhadei basin. The issue has been under consideration since the Authority's previous meeting in December 2025, when Goa sought additional time to submit its suggestions on the proposed approval procedure. Karnataka has since submitted its views, while Maharashtra is yet to respond. The Authority is expected to deliberate on the

matter and work towards finalising a mechanism for evaluating and approving new projects in the basin. The meeting will also review the status of irrigation and drinking water schemes across the basin. Information on major, medium and minor projects had been sought from the basin states following directions issued by the Authority after a familiarisation visit by its chairperson. Goa and Karnataka have furnished the required details, while Maharashtra's submission is still awaited. Another item on the agenda is the sharing of hydrometeorological and other water resources data related to projects and locations within the basin. Members are



## Court Says Arrest Without Proper Memo Is Illegal, Grants Bail In NDPS Case

Team Goemkarponn

**MARGAO:** In a significant ruling, the South Goa Sessions Court has held that an arrest made without preparing a valid arrest memo in accordance with Section 36 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, can be treated as illegal and a violation of an individual's constitutional rights.

The observation came while Sessions Judge Sharmila Patil granted bail to Ishu alias Yashwant Sharma, who had been arrested by Canacona police in connection with a case registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The court underscored that the requirement of an arrest memo is not a mere procedural formality but an important safeguard intended to protect the personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. While examining the case records, the court found that no separate arrest memo had been

## HC puts NH-66 Tree Removal On Hold, Orders Fresh Expert Assessment

■ Bench Raises Concerns Over Approval Process; Remaining 80 Trees And 55 Marked For Relocation Protected Till Next Hearing

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Bombay High Court at Goa has suspended further tree removal activities linked to the NH-66 widening project, citing apparent shortcomings in the decision-making process that authorised large-scale felling along the Cortalim-Margao corridor. Hearing a public interest petition, a Division Bench of Justices Valmiki Menezes and Hiten Venegavkar directed the Public Works Department (PWD) to maintain the existing situation on site,



effectively preventing the cutting of the remaining 80 trees and the relocation of another 55 trees until further orders. The dispute centres on an approval issued in April this year that permitted the removal of 422 trees and the transplantation of 55 others from a total of 477 trees identified as being affected by the highway expansion project. During the hearing, government representatives informed

the court that 342 trees had already been felled. However, the Bench observed that the remaining trees still require closer examination before any further action can be taken. The judges questioned whether all available options to preserve trees had been adequately explored before granting permission. Records placed before the court indicated that earlier inspections had recommended maximising tree preservation and considering transplantation wherever feasible.

## Goa's Cooperative Network Has Potential To Become Major Economic Driver: CM

■ Sawant Says Modernisation, Digital Governance And Member Participation Can Propel Sector's Growth

Team Goemkarponn

**MERCES:** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said Goa's cooperative movement can play a much larger role in the state's economy, stressing that effective implementation of the Goa State Cooperative Policy could help transform the sector into a major contributor to



growth and development. Speaking after inaugurating the new

\*\*Sahakar Seva Bhavan\*\* in Mercés, Sawant said cooperative institutions across the state possess immense untapped potential and can significantly expand their economic footprint through better coordination, technology adoption and professional management.

The Chief Minister noted that Goa has a vast cooperative ecosystem

comprising housing societies, self-help groups, agricultural credit societies, dairy units, fisheries cooperatives and consumer societies. He said strengthening these institutions would not only benefit their members but also contribute to the state's overall economic progress.

According to Sawant, the government's

cooperative policy places emphasis on digital transformation, transparent administration and skill enhancement. He said greater use of technology can improve efficiency, accountability and service delivery within cooperative bodies while encouraging wider member participation.

# Two Arrested for Supplying Firearm, Ammunition Used in Sirigao Firing Case

■ Gun, 34 Live Rounds Recovered During Police Raids in Sattari

**Team Goemkarponn**

**BICHOLIM:** North Goa Police have arrested two persons from Sattari for allegedly supplying the firearm and ammunition used in the Sirigao firing case involving Goa Shiv Sena chief Upendra Gaonkar and his wife.

According to police, accused Prajyot alias Shirish Gaonkar of Sirigao, who was earlier



arrested under the Arms Act for allegedly firing at Upendra Gaonkar and his wife, disclosed during interrogation on June 17,

2026, the source from which he had procured the firearm and live ammunition. Acting on the information, a special team was constituted under the supervision

of PI Sanjith Kandolkar. The team comprised PSI Shridhar Kamat, PSI Amarnath Palni, ASI Nilesh Fog and PC

Sandeep Pawale, under the guidance of SDPO Bicholim Mrs. Shridevi B. V., IPS, and SP North Harishchandra Madkaikar. During the investigation, police conducted a raid at the residence of Mohammad Imam Ali near the Municipality Ground in Valpoi. During the search, officers recovered one firearm, 34 live rounds of ammunition and four spent cartridges.



## Illegal Hill Cutting Cases Registered at Cortalim

■ Verna Police Book Unknown Persons for Unauthorized Excavation in Two Properties

**Team Goemkarponn**

**VERNA:** Verna Police have registered two separate cases of alleged illegal hill cutting at Cortalim village in Mormugao Taluka following complaints filed by the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department.

According to police, Krishna Naik, Draftsman Grade II attached to the Office of the Deputy Town Planner, Mormugao Town and Country Planning Department, Vasco, lodged a complaint stating that on June 12, 2026, unknown persons carried out illegal hill cutting at a property bearing Survey No. 167/2-A-14 at Cortalim without obtaining

the required approvals and permissions from the Chief Town and Country Planner.

In a second complaint, Naik alleged that unauthorized hill cutting was also undertaken on the same day at another property bearing Survey No. 166/1 at Cortalim village without the mandatory permissions from the Chief Town and Country Planner. Based on the complaints, Verna Police have registered offences against unknown accused persons and initiated an investigation into the alleged violations.

Further investigation in both cases is being conducted by PSI Carey Fernandes of Verna Police Station.



## Man Booked for Allegedly Cheating Calangute Mobile Shop of ₹21.6 Lakh

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CALANGUTE:** Calangute Police have registered a case of alleged cheating and criminal breach of trust against a man accused of taking possession of electronic devices worth ₹21.60 lakh from a mobile phone reseller and failing to make payment.

According to the complaint lodged by Shubham Ramkumar Pandey, a resident of Ambegal, Ponda, the incident occurred on January 10, 2026, at around 9 pm at Phone Reseller, Shop No. 2/123, Ida Maria Resort, near HDFC Bank, opposite Nitya Resort, Calangute.

Police said the accused, identified as Nitman Kingrani, allegedly visited the shop and selected 21 second-hand electronic devices, including multiple Apple iPhones, Samsung mobile phones and one iPad, collectively valued at ₹21.60 lakh. The accused allegedly assured the complainant's staff that payment would be made in cash within two days and handed over two cheques drawn on IDFC Bank as security.

## Property dispute leads to alleged assault in Pernem, three booked

■ Mandrem Police register case after woman alleges attack on her son and herself over family dispute

Afghan National Held at Mopa for Allegedly Obtaining Fake Indian Passport

\*Immigration Officer's Complaint Leads to Case of Illegal Stay, Forged Identity and Passport Fraud

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MOPA:** Mopa Airport Police have registered a case against an Afghan



national for allegedly staying in India without valid travel documents and fraudulently obtaining an Indian passport using a fake identity.

According to police, the

offence was registered on June 17, 2026, at 10.41 pm based on a complaint lodged by Ajaykumar Jivane, 38, Immigration Officer with the Bureau of Immigration at Manohar International Airport, Mopa.

The complaint states that at around 6.15 pm on June 17, during immigration checks at the arrivals section of

## Sattari Man Dies After Alleged Weedicide Consumption

■ GMC Preserves Viscera for Chemical Analysis to Ascertain Exact Cause of Death

**Team Goemkarponn**

**VALPOI:** Valpoi Police are investigating the death of a 49-year-old man from Sattari who allegedly consumed weedicide and later succumbed while undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim.

According to police, a wireless message was received from the Casualty Police Cell of GMC on June 18, 2026,



informing that Maruti Mayekar, 49, a resident of Gomalwada, Velguem in Sattari, had died in Ward

No. 146 of the hospital on June 17.

Following the post-mortem examination, the

attending doctor, Dr. Madhivadhana (MBBS), certified the cause of death as "cerebral and pulmonary edema consequent to alleged history of ingestion of weedicide."

However, doctors have preserved the viscera for chemical analysis to determine the presence of organophosphorus, organochlorine and paraquat poison and to ascertain the exact cause of death.

## Two Bookies Caught Accepting Matka Bets in Panaji and Bicholim

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI/BICHOLIM:** Police have registered two separate gambling cases after apprehending two persons allegedly accepting matka bets from members of the public in Panaji and Bicholim. In the first case, Panaji Police registered an offence on June 17, 2026, based on a state complaint lodged by HC Gurudas Ghadi.



# Congress Vows to Scrap Section 39-A, Launches 'Goem Rakhon Yatra' from September

■ JanKranti Rally Draws Massive Crowd in Mapusa; Leaders Promise Jobs, Health Reforms and Protection of Goa's Identity

Team Goemkarponn

**MAPUSA:** The Congress Party on Thursday announced that it would repeal Section 39-A on the very first day of forming the government in Goa and launch a statewide "Goem Rakhon Yatra" from September 22, while addressing a massive gathering at the JanKranti programme in Mapusa.

The rally was attended by AICC Goa In-Charge Manikrao Thakre, AICC Co-In-



Charge Anjali Nimbalkar, GPCCC President Girish Chodankar, Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemac, MLAs Altone D'Costa and Carlos Alvares Ferreira,

former MP Francisco Sardinha and several senior Congress leaders. Addressing the gathering, Manikrao Thakre accused the BJP of focusing on

elections rather than addressing public issues. He alleged that the party was attempting to divide people on religious lines and expressed confidence that voters would reject the BJP in future elections. GPCCC President Girish Chodankar alleged that the BJP government was eroding Goa's identity through land-related policies and claimed that widespread protests across the state reflected public dissatisfaction.



## Sancoale Residents Threaten Agitation Over Delay in MES College Road Works

■ Locals Demand Immediate Completion of Project, Cite Traffic Chaos and Safety Concerns

Team Goemkarponn

**SANCOALE:** Frustration is mounting among residents of Sancoale over delays in the ongoing road improvement works near MES College, with locals warning of a public agitation if the project is not completed at the earliest.

A large number of residents, accompanied by ward panch Santosh Dessai and Sancoale Panch Girish Pillai, gathered near the MES Junction on Thursday to protest the slow pace of work and highlight the difficulties faced by daily commuters.

Residents said the road has remained dug up for an extended period, leading to traffic congestion, dust pollution and safety hazards for

motorists, students and pedestrians. They alleged that despite repeated assurances, little visible progress has been made on the ground.

During a site inspection, representatives of MVR Infrastructure, the agency executing the project, attributed the delay to pending utility-shifting works. Company officials stated that underground infrastructure belonging to Adani Gas and the ZIOTL fuel pipeline is yet to be relocated, preventing completion of certain sections of the road.

However, residents expressed dissatisfaction with the explanation and demanded better coordination among the agencies involved.

"We have been facing inconvenience for months.



## Goa DRS Awareness Drive At Borim Receives Strong Community Response

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Deposit Refund Scheme (Goa DRS) continued its statewide awareness and community engagement programme with an awareness drive held at the Sai Baba Temple in Borim, where nearly 200 residents and visitors participated in live demonstrations and learned about responsible waste disposal practices.

As part of the ongoing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign, Goa DRS officials conducted hands-on demonstrations of the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) and handheld collection device, helping citizens understand how the upcoming scheme will enable consumers to return used non-biodegradable packaging material and receive a deposit refund.

## Goa rolls out roadmap to strengthen cyber security of government data systems

■ State-level workshop by DITE&C and NeGD focuses on cyber resilience, data protection and secure digital governance

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Government of Goa has intensified efforts to strengthen cybersecurity across its digital infrastructure with a state-level workshop on Strengthening Cyber Security Frameworks for State Data, organised by the Department



of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (DITE&C) in collaboration with the National

e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.

## Goa Labour Welfare Board Implements Welfare Schemes For Industrial Workers

■ Multiple Assistance Schemes Introduced To Support Workers And Their Families

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa Labour Welfare Board (GLWB), under the Office of the Commissioner of Labour and Employment, is implementing various welfare schemes aimed at providing financial and social support to industrial workers and their families.

The schemes include financial assistance for the purchase of textbooks and



notebooks for school-going children of industrial workers and employees, along with the provision of one set of uniforms for children studying from Class I to IV. The Board also provides scholarships to school and college-

going children of workers employed in various establishments. Under the scholarship and incentive schemes,

wards of workers are provided incentives based on the percentage of marks secured in final examinations conducted by Boards and Universities from Class X onwards. Financial assistance is

also provided to female students studying from Class V onwards in any field of education, based on school and college attendance. The last date for submission of applications under this scheme is September 30, 2026.

The Board also implements several other welfare initiatives, including financial assistance for purchase of spectacles, organising sports, social and cultural activities, excursion-cum-

study tours, crèche facilities for children, and domiciliary treatment support for employees covered under the Goa Labour Welfare Act, 1986.

Other schemes include financial assistance for laid-off workers, the Stri Sakhi Scheme for supply of sanitary napkin vending machines, and support for treatment of mentally challenged, spastic and autistic children of workers.

# India Maintains Zero Nuclear Accident Record As Ambitious Capacity Expansion Gains Momentum

■ IAEA official highlights India's strong safety framework as country targets major growth in nuclear power generation

Team Goemkarponn

**New Delhi:** As India prepares to dramatically expand its nuclear power capacity over the next two decades, the country's nuclear safety record has received a significant endorsement from the global atomic energy watchdog.

According to Amgad Shokr, Director of the Incident and Emergency Centre at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, India has not reported a single nuclear or radiation related accident to the agency since the beginning of its nuclear power programme. The confirmation comes as India aims to increase its installed nuclear power capacity from 8 gigawatts to 100 gigawatts over the next 21 years.

The IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre serves as the global hub for monitoring nuclear safety and coordinating emergency preparedness. Operating around the clock, the centre is supported by a team of specialists and an international network of experts who track radiation levels and nuclear developments worldwide.



The agency works closely with member countries to strengthen emergency preparedness, develop response capabilities and ensure the protection of people and the environment from potential radiation hazards. Through a network of designated contact points across more than 130 countries, the centre receives real time information, verifies developments and coordinates international assistance when required.

India's long standing experience in operating nuclear facilities has been recognised as one of its key strengths. The country has established regulatory frameworks, trained

operators and institutional mechanisms that align with international safety standards. Continued cooperation with the IAEA has also contributed to strengthening oversight and preparedness.

The global monitoring system has played a crucial role during major nuclear incidents in the past, including the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster and the Chernobyl disaster, helping assess risks and coordinate international responses. The agency also continues to monitor developments around nuclear facilities in regions experiencing conflict and instability.

As India accelerates

its transition towards cleaner energy sources, nuclear power is expected to play a significant role in meeting growing electricity demand while reducing carbon emissions. The country's ambitious expansion plans are accompanied by ongoing coordination with international safety mechanisms, ensuring that robust oversight remains in place.

The assessment from the IAEA reinforces confidence in India's nuclear programme and highlights the importance of maintaining strong safety standards as the nation enters a new phase of nuclear energy growth.

## Major Atmanirbhar Milestone As BrahMos Set To Receive First Indigenous Warhead

■ Nagpur-made system marks a significant step in India's defence self-reliance drive

Team Goemkarponn

**New Delhi:** India's defence indigenisation programme is set to achieve a major milestone with the delivery of the country's first indigenous warhead for the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. The warhead has been developed by Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited and will be dispatched from Nagpur, strengthening India's push towards self-reliance in critical defence technologies.

The delivery coincides with another significant achievement for the company, which is also set to hand over its 100th BrahMos missile booster. Both developments highlight the growing role of domestic industry in reducing dependence on foreign suppliers for key defence components.

Until now, while India possessed substantial missile manufacturing capabilities, warheads for the BrahMos system were sourced from external partners. The successful development of an indigenous alternative marks a crucial step in enhancing the country's strategic autonomy and defence preparedness.

The warhead was developed through a technology transfer arrangement with the Defence Research and Development Organisation. Efforts

to create a domestic warhead capability reportedly began several years ago as part of a broader initiative to localise critical defence technologies and strengthen the country's military manufacturing ecosystem.

Before being inducted into service, the indigenous warhead will be delivered to the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory for a series of tests and evaluations. These trials will assess its performance, reliability and operational readiness before it becomes part of India's military inventory.

The development comes at a time when the BrahMos missile continues to be regarded as one of India's most significant strategic assets. The supersonic cruise missile gained further prominence during Operation Sindoor in 2025, when it was reportedly used operationally for the first time during military action following the Pahalgam terror attack.

The indigenous warhead programme reflects the broader objectives of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, which seeks to expand domestic defence production, reduce import dependence and build a robust defence manufacturing sector capable of meeting India's long term security requirements.



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## Ayurveda To Drive Goa's Wellness Vision: CM

Dr. Sawant stated that the government will focus on strengthening wellness-based healthcare infrastructure, expanding Ayush facilities, and enhancing public awareness about holistic health practices. He said these efforts are aimed at building a healthier and happier Goa while improving the state's overall health indicators. Highlighting the significance of the Goa Ayurveda and Yoga Wellness Policy 2026, the Chief Minister said the policy will position Goa as a global wellness destination by attracting investments in the wellness sector, generating job opportunities, and encouraging the growth of Ayurveda and yoga-based tourism. He further said that the state's focus on wellness tourism will contribute to economic development while showcasing Goa as a preferred destination for

holistic healthcare, Ayurveda, yoga, and wellness retreats.

## Goa To Face National Review On Water Management Reforms

participation in water conservation and promoting data-driven decision-making through integrated water information systems. According to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the objective of the State Water Reform Framework is to encourage States and Union Territories to adopt key reforms by identifying shortcomings in policies, institutional arrangements, regulatory mechanisms and governance structures. The initiative also seeks to promote continuous improvement in water resource management through transparent and comparable benchmarking across the country. The review assumes added significance for Goa at

a time when concerns are being raised over declining water availability, stress on groundwater reserves and the need for stronger implementation of conservation measures, including large-scale rainwater harvesting initiatives. Goa has been grouped under the category of Non-Himalayan States and will be assessed alongside 17 other States under the national framework. The Union Ministry has specified that reforms and initiatives undertaken up to December 31, 2026, will be considered for evaluation. States and Union Territories must submit their reports by January 31, 2027, after which the Ministry will undertake a verification process before publishing the final rankings in April 2027. The outcome of the assessment is expected to provide a clearer picture of Goa's preparedness in addressing long-term water challenges and strengthening sustainable water management practices across the State.

# 'India Is Shaping The Future, Not Just Preparing For It': PM Modi Tells Diaspora In Paris

■ Prime Minister highlights trust, global partnerships and India's growing role in shaping the world economy

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India is not merely preparing for the future but is actively shaping it, highlighting the country's growing global influence and emergence as a trusted international partner.

Addressing members of the Indian community in Paris, the Prime Minister said that in today's rapidly changing world, trust has



become just as important as trade. He noted that nations are increasingly seeking dependable partners and resilient supply chains, and India is

steadily establishing itself as a reliable force in the global economy.

Speaking about the changing nature of international relations, PM Modi said countries are looking beyond traditional economic ties and placing greater value on long term stability, credibility and mutual trust. He emphasized that India's consistent growth and commitment to global cooperation have strengthened its standing

on the world stage.

The Prime Minister also underlined the importance of the relationship between India and France, describing it as a key pillar of stability during a period marked by geopolitical uncertainty and global disruptions. He noted that the partnership between the two nations has been elevated to a Special Global Strategic Partnership, reflecting the depth of cooperation across multiple sectors.



## 'Frankenstein State': India Launches Sharp Attack On Pakistan At United Nations

■ New Delhi reiterates stance on Jammu and Kashmir, terrorism and the Indus Waters Treaty during UN session

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** India delivered a strong rebuttal to Pakistan at the United Nations, accusing Islamabad of supporting terrorism and describing the country as a "Frankenstein state" that is now facing the consequences of policies it helped create.

Speaking during an interactive dialogue on the UN High Commissioner's annual report, Indian diplomat Anupama Singh responded to remarks made by Pakistan's representative on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Reaffirming India's position, she stated that Jammu and Kashmir remains an integral and inseparable

part of India and asserted that the only unresolved issue is Pakistan's continued occupation of Indian territories.

The Indian representative also criticised what she described as Pakistan's attempts to spread misinformation regarding the region. Referring to recent unrest in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir, she highlighted allegations of repression and the use of force against civilians during protests and demonstrations.

Singh argued that long standing political and administrative policies in the region had contributed to growing public dissatisfaction.



## 'No One Will Be Spared': Yogi Adityanath Orders Thorough Probe Into Ram Temple Donation Row

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has assured strict action against those found guilty in the alleged Ram Temple donation theft case, stating that no individual involved would be spared regardless of their position or influence.

Addressing a public gathering in Ayodhya, the Chief Minister said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) had been constituted following a request from the temple trust to examine the allegations in detail. He expressed confidence that the investigation would bring clarity to the matter and urged people to avoid making statements that could hurt the sentiments of devotees.

The controversy centres around allegations that gold, silver and diamond ornaments donated by devotees at the Ram Temple were replaced with fake items.

## Renewable Energy Key To Energy Security, Say India And Germany

■ Nations deepen green partnership to reduce fossil fuel dependence and accelerate clean energy transition

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** India and Germany have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in renewable energy as both countries seek to enhance energy security, reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and advance sustainable development goals. The focus on clean energy collaboration was highlighted during the tenth session of the Indo



German Partnership for Green and Sustainable Development Conversation Series, which centred on the theme of energy security through renewable energy. The event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, renewable energy experts, think tanks and private sector representatives to discuss

strategies for accelerating the clean energy transition. A key theme throughout the discussions was the growing importance of renewable energy in ensuring stable and secure energy supplies amid global geopolitical uncertainties and fluctuating fossil fuel markets.

## 16 Killed As Israeli Strikes Hit Lebanon Despite Fresh Peace Agreement

■ Renewed violence raises fears over the stability of the recently signed Israel-Iran deal

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Fresh Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon have left at least 16 people dead, raising concerns about the future of a recently signed agreement aimed at ending hostilities between Israel and Iran and halting military operations across the region.

The overnight



strikes targeted multiple locations in southern Lebanon, with the Israeli military confirming that operations were carried

out in the area. The attacks coincided with reports of intense fighting involving Hezbollah, the Iran-backed armed group

that has been engaged in a prolonged conflict with Israel along the Lebanese border. The latest escalation comes only days after a diplomatic agreement was reached to end the Israel-Iran conflict and restore stability across several regional fronts. The deal called for an immediate cessation of military activities, including operations in Lebanon, while also emphasizing respect for Lebanon's

sovereignty and territorial integrity.

However, the renewed violence has cast doubt over the effectiveness of the agreement. Analysts warn that continued military action in Lebanon could undermine efforts to secure a broader regional ceasefire and risk reigniting tensions that the deal was designed to contain.

# Mexico Become First Team To Reach Knockouts As Canada, Switzerland Shine

■ Co-hosts secure Round of 32 spot while Canada score six and Switzerland cruise to emphatic victory

## Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The second round of group stage matches at the FIFA World Cup 2026 got underway with a series of entertaining contests, highlighted by Mexico becoming the first nation to secure qualification for the knockout stage.

The day's action began with South Africa keeping their hopes alive after battling to a 1-1 draw

against Czechia. The Europeans made a



dream start when Michal Sadilek found the net in the sixth minute and looked set to claim all three points.

However, South Africa fought back late in the contest and were

rewarded when Teboho Mokoena converted a penalty seven minutes from time. The goal was South Africa's first at a FIFA World Cup in 16 years and earned them a valuable point.

Switzerland produced one of the standout performances of the day with a commanding 4-1 victory over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The star of the match was 20-year-old Johan Manzambi, who scored twice in a dominant second-half display.

## Shreyanka Patil Ruled Out Of Women's T20 World Cup After Ankle Injury

■ Uncapped leg-spinner Prema Rawat drafted into India's squad as tournament campaign suffers major setback

### Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** India's Women's T20 World Cup 2026 campaign has suffered a significant setback with off-spinner Shreyanka Patil being ruled out of the tournament due to an ankle injury.

The injury occurred during India's Group A match against the Netherlands when



Shreyanka twisted her right ankle while chasing the ball towards mid on on the first delivery of the sixth over. The 24 year old immediately fell to the ground in visible pain and required medical

assistance before being stretchered off the field.

Following medical assessment, the tournament's Event Technical Committee approved uncapped leg-spinner Prema Rawat as her replacement in the Indian squad. The change was officially cleared in accordance with tournament regulations governing player replacements.



## Harshit Rana Returns As India Add Pacer To Squad For Final ODI Against Afghanistan

**NEW DELHI:** India have strengthened their squad ahead of the third and final ODI against Afghanistan with the inclusion of fast bowler Harshit Rana, who has returned after completing his recovery from a knee injury.

The 24 year old pacer has linked up with the Indian team in Chennai after successfully finishing his rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence. His return comes as a timely boost for the national side, which has already secured the three match series with victories in the opening two encounters.

Rana had been sidelined since suffering a knee injury during a warm up match against South Africa before the T20 World Cup 2026. The setback forced him to miss the entire tournament, which India eventually won by defeating New Zealand in the final. The

## From Goa to the World Cup: Passionate Fans Carry Portugal's Colours Across Continents

■ Goan supporters cheer Portugal at football's biggest tournament in the United States

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** A group of dedicated football fans from Goa has travelled to the United States to support Portugal at the ongoing FIFA World Cup, turning their lifelong passion for the sport into an unforgettable international experience.

Among the supporters representing Goa at the tournament are Vasco businessman



Angelo Nunes, along with Warren Fernandes, Camilo Fernandes, Lionel Nunes and Vincent D'Costa. Known for their deep involvement in Goa's

football culture and their support for FC Goa, the group made the journey to witness the excitement of the World Cup firsthand while cheering for their



favourite national team.

Wearing Portugal's famous red and green colours, the fans have been visible in the stadium stands, proudly backing

the European side throughout its campaign. Their presence reflects the long standing football connection between Goa and Portugal, a bond that continues to influence generations of football lovers in the state.

The group has also attracted attention online, with photographs and videos of their World Cup experience circulating widely on social media.



## Late German Comeback Denies India Reward After Spirited Performance

■ Jugraj Singh scores on his 100th appearance, but Germany snatch victory in the final minutes

### Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian men's hockey team produced a determined display against reigning world champions Germany but suffered a heartbreaking 2-1 defeat in their third match of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2025-26 Rotterdam leg.

India began the contest confidently, enjoying the majority of possession and putting Germany under pressure from the opening stages. A disciplined defensive setup limited the world champions' attacking opportunities, while India's pressing game disrupted Germany's rhythm throughout the first half.

The intensity increased in the second quarter as India pushed higher up the field and forced several mistakes

from the opposition. Forward Abhishek came close to breaking the deadlock after a promising attacking move, but the chance went unfinished as both teams went into the break level.

India's persistence paid off in the third quarter when they earned their first penalty corner of the match. Defender Jugraj Singh, celebrating his 100th international appearance, made the milestone even more memorable with a powerful drag-flick in the 38th minute to give India a deserved lead.

Germany attempted to respond before the end of the quarter and won a couple of penalty corners, but goalkeeper Mohith HS produced a solid performance to preserve India's advantage heading into the final period.