



Congress Demands Written Order Scrapping Smart Meters, Stages Protest at Vidyut Bhavan

■ Amit Patkar Says Suspension Is Not Enough; Electricity Department Assures Refund of Penalties

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Congress workers led by former Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Amit Patkar staged a protest outside Vidyut Bhavan in Panaji on Wednesday, demanding that the



State government issue an official notification permanently withdrawing the Smart Meter Project.

The protest was held despite Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's announcement that the implementation of smart meters has been kept on hold pending resolution of issues related to sanctioned load and penalties imposed on consumers.

Addressing the gathering, Patkar said the government's verbal assurance was insufficient and insisted that the project be scrapped through a formal written order.

"We want a government notification

▶ **CONTD TO PAGE 06**

GHRC Puts Smart Meter Case on Hold Till July 15

Citizens Seek Retention of Existing Billing Method; Power Department Cites National Reform Programme

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Proceedings before the Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) on the issue of smart electricity meters were deferred to July 15 on Wednesday, giving stakeholders more time to examine the concerns and representations submitted by members of the public.

The adjournment came after Amicus Curiae Adv Abhijit Gosavi requested a fortnight to review documents, suggestions and queries received from citizens regarding the ongoing smart meter exercise in Goa.

At the hearing, petitioners questioned various aspects of the project and urged authorities to continue the present billing arrangement based on recorded electricity consumption. They expressed apprehensions about the transition to smart metering and sought



greater transparency on its implementation.

Representing the Electricity Department, officials told the Commission that the smart meter initiative is being undertaken as part of a nationwide power sector programme and is not an independent state-level scheme. They maintained that Goa is among several states moving towards smart metering in line with directions issued under central policies.

The Department further contended that the State Government has limited scope

▶ **CONTD TO PAGE 06**



"The Indians Won't Do That": Trump Rejected Proposal for Indian Peacekeepers in Ukraine

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A proposal to include Indian troops in a potential peacekeeping mission in Ukraine was reportedly dismissed by US President Donald Trump, according to a newly released book that sheds light on discussions inside the White House over ending the Russia Ukraine conflict.

The book, Regime Change: Inside the Imperial Presidency of Donald Trump, reveals that senior US officials met in the Oval Office on January 30 last year to discuss plans for a possible ceasefire in Ukraine. The meeting focused on finding ways to fulfil Trump's campaign promise of bringing a quick end to the war.

A peace proposal prepared by retired Lieutenant General Keith Kellogg reportedly suggested deploying British, French and Dutch troops to monitor a ceasefire. However, Vice President JD Vance objected to using NATO forces, arguing that their presence could further provoke Russia.

"Jammu And Kashmir Always Has Been And Will Remain India's": India Hits Back At Pakistan At UN

■ New Delhi calls for review of outdated Security Council mandates

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India strongly countered Pakistan's remarks during a United Nations Security Council meeting on Tuesday while pressing for a reassessment of outdated UN mandates and mediation mechanisms that it said no longer reflect present geopolitical realities.

Addressing the Arria formula meeting on the implementation of Security Council resolutions, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, highlighted the important distinction



between resolutions adopted under Chapters VI and VII of the UN Charter.

He explained that resolutions under Chapter VII deal with threats to international peace and security and often involve concrete actions aimed at restoring stability. Failure to implement such measures, he noted, can worsen conflicts and weaken the international rules based order.

In contrast, resolutions under Chapter VI are intended to support the peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue, negotiation and mediation. India argued that these frameworks are shaped by the political circumstances of their time and should not automatically be considered permanently relevant.

Referring to long standing issues before the Security Council, the Indian envoy pointed out that mediation efforts have evolved over the years to adapt to changing realities, making a strong case for periodic reviews of older mandates and frameworks.

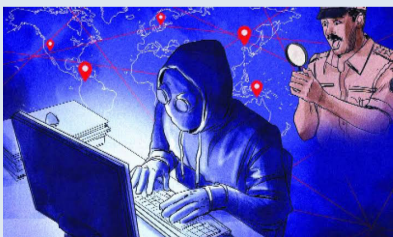
Maharashtra Police Report Major Cybercrime Crackdown in South Goa, 12 Detained

■ Investigation Points to Multi-State Network; Transactions Worth ₹6.25 Crore Under Scanner

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A team from the Amravati Rural Police in Maharashtra has reported the detection of an alleged cybercrime operation functioning from South Goa, leading to the arrest of 12 people, including one woman, during a raid carried out earlier this week.

Information released



by senior officers from the Maharashtra police suggests that the group was allegedly involved in routing funds linked to cyber fraud and online gaming activities

through bank accounts obtained from financially vulnerable individuals, including daily wage earners and labourers. During searches conducted at a residential complex, investigators reportedly recovered a substantial quantity of banking records and electronic devices.

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Rent-a-Cabs, Drunk Driving and the Cost Paid by Innocent Goans

The latest conviction of a tourist for drunk driving in Siolim, where a breathalyser test reportedly recorded alcohol levels far above the legal limit, should not be viewed as an isolated traffic offence. It is yet another reminder of a growing menace that has been silently claiming lives on Goa's roads. The issue is no longer simply about tourists drinking and driving. It is about a system that allows easy access to vehicles with inadequate safeguards, weak monitoring and insufficient accountability.

Every time a fatal accident involving a rental vehicle occurs, the public debate quickly turns towards banning rent-a-cabs and self-drive vehicles. While such reactions are understandable, they do not address the root of the problem. Rental vehicles themselves are not the enemy. Reckless drivers, poor enforcement and lax rental practices are.

Goa's tourism economy depends heavily on mobility. Thousands of visitors rely on self-drive cars and two-wheelers to travel across the state. Eliminating rental vehicles altogether would not only hurt businesses and livelihoods but would also fail to solve the larger issue of irresponsible driving. The challenge lies in ensuring that vehicles are rented only to individuals who are competent, verified and aware of the consequences of violating traffic laws.

Today, many rental operators hand over vehicles with little more than a photocopy of a driving licence. There is often no rigorous verification process, no assessment of driving competence and limited monitoring once the vehicle leaves the premises. In an era of digital technology and real-time tracking, such casual practices are unacceptable.

A tourist arriving in Goa can rent a vehicle within minutes and immediately gain access to public roads shared with local families, school children, pedestrians and commuters. When that tourist decides to drive after consuming alcohol, the consequences can be devastating. The victims are often innocent Goans who have done

“Goa's tourism economy depends heavily on mobility. Thousands of visitors rely on self-drive cars and two-wheelers to travel across the state. Eliminating rental vehicles altogether would not only hurt businesses and livelihoods but would also fail to solve the larger issue of irresponsible driving. The challenge lies in ensuring that vehicles are rented only to individuals who are competent, verified and aware of the consequences of violating traffic laws. Today, many rental operators hand over vehicles with little more than a photocopy of a driving licence.”

nothing wrong except being on the road at the wrong time.

Countries across Europe and the United Kingdom have recognised the dangers of impaired driving and have responded with strict enforcement. Heavy fines, suspension of driving privileges, criminal convictions and imprisonment are common consequences. In some jurisdictions, repeat offenders face lengthy bans and even vehicle confiscation. The message is clear: driving under the influence is not a minor mistake but a serious threat to public safety.

Goa must adopt a similarly uncompromising approach. Penalties for drunk driving should be severe enough to deter offenders rather than merely inconvenience them. Visitors must understand that a holiday destination is not a lawless playground. If tourists can respect

strict traffic regulations abroad, there is no reason they cannot do the same in Goa.

At the same time, rental operators must shoulder greater responsibility. Mandatory digital verification of licences, maintenance of customer databases, GPS monitoring of rental vehicles and compulsory awareness briefings should become standard practice. Operators who repeatedly rent vehicles to individuals later caught for serious traffic violations should face scrutiny and penalties. Responsibility cannot end once the rental agreement is signed.

Law enforcement agencies also need stronger and more visible enforcement. Random breathalyser checks, especially in nightlife hubs and tourist hotspots, should become routine. Consistent enforcement is often a greater deterrent than the severity of punishment itself. Drivers are less likely to take risks when they believe they will be caught.

Most importantly, policymakers must stop treating every fatal accident as an isolated event. The pattern is evident. Increasing tourist traffic, easy access to rental vehicles and instances of drunk driving are creating a dangerous combination on Goa's roads. The cost is being paid by local residents who lose loved ones, suffer life-changing injuries or live with the trauma of preventable tragedies.

The debate, therefore, should not be about banning rent-a-cabs. It should be about regulating them better, enforcing laws more aggressively and holding both drivers and operators accountable. Goa's roads cannot become testing grounds for reckless behaviour. Tourism is vital to the state's economy, but public safety must remain non-negotiable.

A responsible tourism model is possible. It begins with one simple principle: anyone who chooses to drink should never be allowed to endanger innocent lives behind the wheel. Until that principle is backed by strict enforcement and meaningful accountability, Goa will continue to witness tragedies that could and should have been prevented.

OPED

Transparency on Water Levels Is a Public Right

The sudden disappearance of Goa's reservoir monitoring website at a time when water levels are reportedly declining raises serious concerns about transparency and accountability in governance.

Water is not just another government statistic. It is a vital resource that affects every household, farmer, business and industry in the State. When citizens are asked to conserve water, they have a right to know the actual situation. Hiding information, whether intentionally or due to negligence, only fuels suspicion and erodes public trust.

The explanation that officials were unaware the website was inaccessible is equally worrying. If a platform carrying critical public information can remain offline for days without anyone noticing, it reflects poorly on administrative oversight. In an age when data can be updated instantly, there is little justification for an information blackout on something as important as reservoir storage. People respond responsibly when they are informed. If dam levels are falling, citizens should know. If the situation is comfortable, citizens should know that too. Transparency allows people to make informed decisions and encourages voluntary conservation measures. Secrecy achieves the opposite.

The government frequently appeals to the public to use resources wisely. That appeal carries greater credibility when authorities themselves are open about the challenges facing the State. Public access to reservoir data should not be treated as a privilege but as a right. The authorities must restore the website immediately, explain the reasons for the outage and ensure that such disruptions do not recur, especially during periods when water security is a matter of public concern.

- Prakash Dessai, Ponda

Traffic Planning Must Be Practical, Not Mechanical

The decision to install a traffic signal at the four-road junction near Maria Hall in Benaulim raises an important question: are traffic management decisions being made based on ground realities or merely on standard templates?

No one disputes the need for stricter traffic enforcement. The introduction of AI camera-based challans from July 1 is a welcome step towards improving road discipline and reducing violations. However, enforcement measures must be supported by practical traffic planning.

The concerns raised by local residents and MLA Venzy Viegas deserve serious consideration. The junction in question is located on a narrow stretch of road that already experiences congestion during peak hours. Installing a traffic signal without adequately assessing road width, traffic flow and local conditions could worsen the very problem authorities are trying to solve. Traffic signals are effective where road infrastructure can support them. On narrow roads, however, frequent stoppages can create bottlenecks, longer queues and frustration among motorists. Poorly planned signals may also increase the risk of accidents as drivers attempt to beat red lights or make hurried manoeuvres.

Authorities should remember that technology is a tool, not a solution by itself. AI cameras and signals cannot replace proper traffic studies and consultation with local communities. Before implementing permanent changes, trial runs and expert assessments should be conducted to evaluate their actual impact. Road users want safer roads, but they also expect common sense in planning. If a signal creates more congestion than convenience, authorities must be willing to review and revise their decision.

Effective traffic management requires flexibility, not stubbornness.

- Anthony Fernandes, Benaulim

Old Goa Heritage Rules Await Parliamentary Clearance, High Court Informed

■ Court told proposed bylaws for protected monument zone cannot be notified until statutory approval process is completed

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has been informed that the proposed heritage bylaws for the Old Goa monument precinct will require approval at the Parliamentary level before they can be formally implemented.

During a hearing



on matters concerning the protection and management of heritage sites in Old Goa, government authorities

explained that the draft regulations are subject to procedures laid down under central legislation governing protected monuments. As a result, the bylaws cannot be enforced immediately even after the drafting exercise is completed.

The proposed framework is intended to establish clear guidelines

for development and construction activities in areas surrounding nationally protected monuments. The regulations are expected to define permissible land use, building restrictions and conservation measures aimed at preserving the historical character of the heritage precinct.



Unfinished Section On NH-66 Flyover Triggers Safety Alarm In Pernem

■ Locals seek immediate safeguards as exposed gap on elevated roadway raises accident concerns

Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: An incomplete portion of a flyover on the NH-66 highway in Pernem has become a cause of concern for residents and regular commuters, who say the exposed section poses a serious safety risk.

Residents have pointed to a visible break in the flyover structure, warning that the area could prove dangerous for motorists, particularly during heavy rain, low visibility conditions and night-time travel. The concern is heightened by the movement of high-speed vehicles along the busy highway corridor.

Local citizens have called on the authorities and project contractors to take urgent steps to secure the site. They have urged the installation of stronger protective barriers, improved warning

signs and adequate lighting until the remaining work is completed.

Commuters travelling through the stretch say clearer traffic guidance is needed to prevent confusion and reduce the possibility of mishaps. Many have stressed that safety measures should keep pace with construction activity to ensure that road users are not exposed to avoidable risks. The issue has renewed attention on the importance of maintaining strict safety standards at ongoing infrastructure projects, especially on major highways carrying heavy traffic.

Residents now hope that the concerns raised will prompt a quick response and that the pending work on the flyover will be completed without delay, ensuring safer travel for motorists using the route.



GFP Set To Finalise 2027 Poll Blueprint After Internal Assessment

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: The Goa Forward Party (GFP) is expected to outline its long-term political strategy for the 2027 Assembly elections after completing a detailed review of its organisational performance later this month. The exercise will evaluate the party's efforts to strengthen its structure at the booth and constituency levels, assess membership growth and measure the effectiveness of recent outreach initiatives. Leaders believe the review will provide a clearer picture of the party's preparedness for the next electoral cycle.

According to party functionaries, the assessment will help identify regions where GFP can expand its influence and improve its grassroots network. The findings are also expected to shape future campaigns and organisational priorities. The regional party has been working to consolidate its support base while broadening its appeal beyond its traditional strongholds.

Goa To Use AI Camera Traps For Enhanced Tiger Monitoring

■ Technology-driven wildlife survey to strengthen tiger population assessment and conservation planning across State forests

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's forest authorities are preparing to introduce artificial intelligence-enabled camera traps in the next stage of tiger population monitoring, signalling a shift towards more technology-driven wildlife conservation practices.

The advanced cameras will be deployed in key forest areas to capture images of tigers and other wildlife. Using AI-based analysis, officials will be able to distinguish individual tigers through their unique stripe



patterns, reducing reliance on manual identification and improving the precision of population estimates.

The initiative forms part of the nationwide tiger assessment exercise and is expected to provide valuable information on tiger movement, habitat use and the overall health of forest ecosystems in Goa.

Forest officials believe the use of AI will not only speed up data processing but also enhance the quality of information collected during the survey. The technology is expected to assist researchers in tracking wildlife more efficiently and identifying areas that require greater conservation attention.

Apart from estimating tiger numbers, the exercise will also generate data on prey species, habitat conditions and potential threats within forest landscapes.

Suresh Gopi Reviews Goa Tourism Projects During Visit

■ Union Minister Tours Porvorim Town Square, Holds Discussions With Tourism Officials

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Shri Suresh Gopi, Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Tourism, arrived in Goa on Tuesday and reviewed key tourism initiatives being undertaken by the state government.

The Minister was welcomed by Shri



Sandip Jacques, IAS, Secretary Tourism, Government of Goa; Shri Kedar Naik, Director of

Tourism; Shri Kuldeep Arolkar, Managing Director of GTDC; Shri Shawn Mendes, Officer

on Special Duty (OSD) to the Tourism Minister, along with other officials and dignitaries. As

part of his visit, Gopi toured the Porvorim Town Square project, a flagship initiative aimed at creating a vibrant public space for residents and visitors. The project is designed to encourage community interaction, cultural activities and greater public participation while enhancing the urban landscape of Porvorim.

Goenkar, Shristhal BMC Welcome NH-66 Viaduct Plan at Karmalghat

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: NGO Goenkar and the Shristhal Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) have welcomed the proposed ₹952-crore four-laning of the NH-66 corridor between Bendordem and Polem, particularly the decision to adopt viaduct technology in the ecologically sensitive Karmalghat stretch.

Malicious Gas Bill App Scam Drains ₹3.25 Lakh From Fatorda Resident

■ Fraudsters Allegedly Gained Access To Victim's Mobile Phone Through Fake APK File; Fatorda Police Probe Underway

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A Fatorda resident lost ₹3.25 lakh in an alleged cyber fraud after being tricked into installing a malicious mobile application under the pretext of updating his gas bill.

According to a complaint lodged by Ashraf Kadir Naik, a resident of Chandrawado,



Fatorda, currently residing at Vikhroli West in Mumbai, an unknown person contacted him on his mobile phone between

May 29 and June 5, 2026, claiming that his gas bill needed to be updated.

The accused allegedly persuaded Naik to download and install a file named "Mahanagar Gas Bill Update APK." After the application was installed, the fraudster reportedly gained unauthorized access to the complainant's mobile phone.

Police said the accused subsequently carried out four unauthorized UPI transactions from Naik's Canara Bank account, resulting in a financial loss of ₹3,25,490.

A case has been registered at Fatorda Police Station, and further investigation is being conducted by PSI Ramrai Naik.

Man Found Unresponsive Near Birla Cross Declared Dead At Cansaulim PHC

■ Deceased Identified As 56-Year-Old Madhya Pradesh Native; Police Conducting Further Inquiry

Team Goemkarponn

CANSAULEM: A 56-year-old man who was found unresponsive near Birla Cross in Cansaulim was declared dead after being brought to the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Cansaulim, on Tuesday.

According to police, information was received from PHC Cansaulim at around 12:51 pm on June 23 that an unknown person had been brought dead by a 108 ambulance after being found lying near Birla Cross.

During the inquiry, police identified the deceased as Ulhas Katekar, a resident of Hoshangabad's Mehragaon area in Madhya Pradesh. He was reportedly unemployed and had been living around the Birla Cross area, often sleeping at different locations.

Police said that a local resident,



Pranay Kumar Nayak, informed them that at around 10:30 am he noticed Katekar lying in a roadside shelter, covered with a bedsheets and unresponsive. He was subsequently shifted to PHC Cansaulim, where the attending doctor declared him dead.

Further inquiries with the deceased's family members reportedly revealed that he was a chronic alcoholic and had been disowned by his relatives.

An inquest panchanama was conducted, and the body has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for medico-legal formalities.

Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Mahesh Bhomkar of Verna Police Station.



Goa Police Transfers 21 Personnel, Major Reshuffle Across Units

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Police Headquarters has ordered the transfer and posting of 21 police personnel, including Police Inspectors and other officers, following recommendations of the Police Establishment Board.

The transfers have been made with immediate effect in public interest.

According to the order issued by Superintendent of Police (HQ) Tushar N. Vernekar, several officers from Porvorim, Colvale, Anjuna, Calangute and Mopa Airport Police Stations have been shifted to various Traffic Cells (TC) in Panaji, while others have been posted to SPCR Panaji and PCR Margao.

Officers Terence Vaz and Sushant N. Gawas, who were awaiting posting, have been assigned to SPCR Panaji, while Pushpalata P. Borkar has been moved from the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), Margao, to PCR Margao.

Unidentified Man Found Near Margao Railway Station Dies At GMC

■ Police Suspect Deceased Was A Beggar And Chronic Alcoholic; Identity Yet To Be Established

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: An unidentified man, believed to be around 50 years old, died while undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, police said. According to information received from the Casualty Police at GMC on June 20, 2026, at around 3:31 pm,



the man was declared dead during treatment. During inquiries, police learned that the deceased had been referred to GMC from South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao. He

was reportedly found lying near the Margao Railway Station and was later shifted for medical treatment. Further investigation revealed that the man was believed to be a beggar and a chronic alcoholic who had been found sleeping within the premises of Margao Railway Station before being taken to hospital.

Odisha Labourer Dies After Fall From Under-Construction Building In Sankhalim

■ 32-Year-Old Worker Allegedly Slipped While Heading To Adjacent Room At Construction Site; No Foul Play Suspected

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A 32-year-old labourer from Odisha died after allegedly falling from the second floor of an under-construction building in Sankhalim during the early hours of June 22.

According to Bicholim Police, information was received at around 6.54 am from the Community Health Centre (CHC), Sankhalim, regarding



a patient who had been brought dead following a fall from a height.

PSI Amarnath Palni and police staff visited the hospital and identified the deceased as Ganesh Dalbehera (32), a resident of Jamadhia,

Badasindhaba, in Gajapati district of Odisha.

During the inquiry, the deceased's cousin, Bishikeshana Dalbehera, informed police that both were working as labourers at the construction site and had been sleeping on the second floor of the building. At around midnight, Ganesh reportedly woke up

to attend nature's call and walked towards an adjacent room that was still under construction.

Police said he allegedly slipped and fell from the second floor to the ground, a height of approximately 5.3 metres. Co-workers rushed to the spot after hearing the sound of the fall and found him lying on the ground.

The injured worker was immediately shifted to CHC Sankhalim by a 108 ambulance, where doctors declared him brought

dead.

The body has been preserved at the GMC morgue, and arrangements are being made to conduct a post-mortem examination to ascertain the exact cause of death.

Police have registered an Unnatural Death (UD) case and stated that no foul play is suspected at this stage. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Amarnath Palni of Bicholim Police Station.

Vas Gives Agencies 30-Day Deadline To Restore Vidyanagar Access Road

■ Cortalim MLA Warns Against Further Delays, Cites Poor Coordination Among Departments

Team Goemkarponn

SANCOALE: Cortalim MLA Anton Vas has directed the authorities involved in the National Highway expansion project to restore the long-pending access road at Vidyanagar near MES College within the next 30 days.

During a joint site inspection attended by officials from various departments and agencies, Vas expressed dissatisfaction over the slow pace of work and sought explanations for the continued



inconvenience faced by residents, students and daily commuters.

The inspection reportedly highlighted coordination issues among agencies involved in the highway expansion project, with communication gaps and execution delays emerging as major factors

behind the prolonged road connectivity problem.

Taking a firm stand, Vas instructed the National Highways

Authority of India (NHAI) and all concerned departments to complete the pending access road works within a month. He stressed that residents had already waited long enough and that no further delays would be tolerated.

"The people of Vidyanagar, especially students and families

residing in the area, cannot continue to suffer because of poor coordination between departments. The work must be completed within the stipulated period," Vas said.

The MLA noted that the access road is a crucial link for residents and students travelling to educational institutions and neighbouring localities. Its closure and incomplete connectivity have led to repeated complaints regarding safety, accessibility and daily commuting difficulties.



Trees uprooted by heavy rain plunge Vasco, Mangor into overnight darkness

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds late night uprooted several trees across Vasco and Mangor, disrupting normal life and leaving many areas without electricity throughout the night.

The intense weather caused a number of trees to collapse onto roads and electricity lines, forcing authorities to shut down transformers in affected areas as a precautionary measure. The power outage inconvenienced residents in Vasco and nearby localities, with several households remaining without electricity until restoration work began on Tuesday morning. Teams from the Electricity Department and Fire and Emergency Services were deployed early on Tuesday to clear fallen trees, remove debris and repair damaged

infrastructure. Efforts were undertaken on a war footing to restore normalcy and ensure roads remained accessible to motorists and pedestrians.

Former city councillor Shammi Salkar visited various affected locations on Tuesday morning and coordinated with officials and emergency personnel overseeing the restoration work. He reviewed the situation and urged departments to expedite the removal of fallen trees and the restoration of power supply. Speaking to reporters, Salkar said that authorities had carried out a pre-monsoon drive to identify and remove hazardous trees before the onset of the rainy season.

"We had undertaken a pre-monsoon drive and removed several dangerous trees. Although the monsoon arrived later than expected, our efforts have been continuous.



Former RGP Candidate Vipin Naik Resigns, Releases Show-Cause Notice And Reply

Team Goemkarponn

SANVORDEM: Former Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) candidate from Sanvordem, Vipin Naik, has resigned from the party and made public documents relating to a show-cause notice issued to him by the party leadership.

According to the notice, the RGP had accused Naik of independently taking up local issues, interacting with the media without prior approval from the party, and violating its social media policy. The notice sought an explanation from him and warned of possible disciplinary action.

In a detailed reply released by Naik, he denied all allegations and maintained that he had kept local party leaders informed about the issues he was pursuing. He stated that he had consistently identified himself as an RGP member while engaging with the public and media.

Congress Slams Govt Over Delay In Clearing Tree Near CM's Residence

■ Amarnath Panjikar Says Incident Exposed Failures In Disaster Management And Emergency Response

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee Media and Communication Department Chairman Amarnath Panjikar has criticised the BJP government over the delay in clearing a disruption



near the Chief Minister's official residence at Altinho, claiming the incident exposed serious

shortcomings in the state's disaster management and emergency response systems.

Panjikar said the nearly two-hour delay in restoring normalcy contradicted the government's claims of preparedness and efficient governance.

Goa Sevadal Holds Executive Meeting To Strengthen Organisation

■ Central Observers Review Membership Drive, Organisational Expansion And Future Responsibilities

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa State Sevadal held an executive meeting at Congress House in the presence of Central Observers for the Navnirman Sangathan Prakriya (Sangathan Sarjan Abhiyan), aimed at strengthening the organisation and expanding its activities across the state. The meeting was attended



by Central Observer Jyoti Khanna along with B. N. Shinde, State Observer Kalpana Joshi, State Chief Organiser Rajan Ghate, and other office-bearers including Balakrishna

Maherkar, Socorro Seby Menezes, Dada Bhai Shaikh, Francis X. Raposo and Damodar Shirodkar.

According to a statement, discussions focused on strengthening

the organisational structure of the Sevadal in Goa, encouraging greater public participation, expanding the membership drive and allocating responsibilities among committee members to ensure effective implementation of programmes. The Central Observer also met Goa Pradesh Congress Committee President Girish Chodankar to discuss the status and

future growth of the Sevadal organisation in the state. During the interaction, Chodankar reportedly assured full support from the Goa Congress to strengthen the Sevadal and its activities across Goa. The meeting concluded with a focus on organisational expansion and increased grassroots engagement in the coming months.

Not The Middle East Or Russia: Why China Could Become The World's Biggest Oil Power

■ Beijing's buying decisions are emerging as a key force in determining crude prices

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: For decades, the global oil market has been shaped by decisions made in the Middle East, geopolitical conflicts and production policies from major oil exporters. More recently, Russia emerged as a dominant influence following the reshaping of global energy flows after the Ukraine conflict.

However, the recent disruption caused by the Iran conflict highlighted the growing importance of another player that was not directly involved in negotiations or military developments: China.

Despite significant disruption around the Strait of Hormuz, which affected nearly one fifth of global crude supplies, oil prices rose far less sharply than many analysts had predicted. Historically, supply shocks of a much smaller scale have triggered dramatic surges in crude prices.

One of the key reasons behind the relatively muted reaction was China's ability to



reduce its dependence on immediate imports. Over several years, Beijing built one of the world's largest crude oil stockpiles by purchasing discounted supplies from various markets and expanding both strategic and commercial reserves. As supply tightened during the crisis, Chinese refiners relied heavily on existing inventories rather than rushing to secure additional cargoes. Estimates suggest that China reduced crude

imports by nearly three million barrels per day during the peak of the disruption. China's growing fleet of electric vehicles and slower refinery activity also contributed to lower demand for crude oil. With electric and hybrid vehicles accounting for a significant share of new vehicle sales, the country's oil consumption growth has started to moderate. Analysts believe China's future purchasing decisions could now play a decisive role in global

oil pricing. Should Beijing move aggressively to rebuild its reserves when prices soften, it could absorb excess supply and support prices. If it delays purchases, the market could face prolonged downward pressure.

For countries such as India, the episode underlines the importance of strengthening strategic reserves and improving long term energy security in an increasingly unpredictable global market.

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Congress Demands Written Order Scrapping Smart Meters, Stages Protest at Vidyut Bhavan

cancelling the project. Keeping it on hold is not the same as withdrawing it," Patkar said, while alleging that consumers across Goa had faced difficulties due to the smart meter rollout. Police personnel prevented the protesters from entering the Electricity Department premises, stopping them at the main gate of Vidyut Bhavan. Congress leaders maintained that they had the right to enter a public office and seek clarification from officials on behalf of consumers. A delegation later met Chief Electrical Engineer (CEE) Stephan Fernandes, who informed them that the smart meter installation programme has been suspended for the time being.

"The rollout has been put on hold. The department had procured one lakh smart meters and supplied them to vendors for installation. Of

these, around 43,000 meters have already been installed across the State," Fernandes said. He clarified that all installed smart meters are presently operating in post-paid mode. "All smart meters that have been installed are functioning in post-paid mode. A notification regarding the refund of penalties collected from consumers will be issued tomorrow," Fernandes stated. Providing further details, Fernandes said that nearly 80 per cent of the smart meter installations were carried out in Panaji, while the remaining meters were installed on feeders, departmental connections and new consumer connections. He also announced that approximately ₹43 crore collected as penalties would be returned to consumers. "About ₹43 crore collected as penalties will be credited back to consumers. The increase in electricity bills reported by some consumers is not linked to smart meters," Fernandes said. The CEE further explained that wherever a consumer's sanctioned load requires revision, the Electricity Department would undertake the upgrade process automatically.

Patkar, however, reiterated that Congress would continue its agita-

tion until the government formally notifies the cancellation of the Smart Meter Project, arguing that public concerns remain unresolved despite the suspension of installations.

GHRC Puts Smart Meter Case on Hold Till July 15

to discontinue the programme, as it forms part of a broader framework being promoted across the country. During the proceedings, officials also informed the Commission that a separate legal challenge concerning smart meters is currently pending before the Nagpur Bench of the High Court. To support its submissions, the Department placed before the Commission a letter from Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. The communication describes pre-paid smart metering as a major component of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), which aims to modernise electricity distribution networks, improve operational efficiency and curb financial losses faced by distribution companies.

"Infrastructure Gives A Nation Muscle, Intelligence Gives A Nation Mastery": Gautam Adani Unveils Growth Vision

■ Adani Group outlines major investments across ports, airports, energy and AI infrastructure

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani on Wednesday presented an expansive vision for India's future growth, highlighting the group's plans to invest heavily in infrastructure, logistics, energy and artificial intelligence driven projects.

Addressing the company's Annual General Meeting, Adani described infrastructure and intelligence as the two defining forces that will shape India's next phase of development. He said the combination of physical infrastructure and advanced technology would be central to building a globally competitive economy.

The Adani Group reported revenue of Rs 2.92 lakh crore for the financial year 2025-26, marking a growth of 7.4 percent over the previous year. Operating profit rose to Rs 94,834 crore, while net profit increased by 13.9 percent to Rs 46,376 crore.

During the year, the group invested more than Rs 1.5 lakh crore in infrastructure projects, accounting for over 30 percent of India's total new private sector

capital expenditure.

In the logistics sector, Adani said the group handled more than 500 million tonnes of cargo and is targeting one billion tonnes annually by 2030. The Vizhinjam International Seaport crossed one million TEUs in its first year of operations, marking a significant milestone for India's maritime sector.

The group also expanded its aviation footprint with the opening of the Navi Mumbai International Airport and a new integrated terminal at Guwahati Airport.

In the digital sector, the company plans to establish a 3 GW data centre platform by 2030 and has entered into an agreement with Google for a gigawatt scale data centre project in Visakhapatnam.

Adani also outlined ambitious plans in energy, including a target of 45 GW power generation capacity within five years and 10 GW of nuclear power by 2035. The group is also expanding into hydropower, defence manufacturing and healthcare, while continuing social initiatives in education, skill development and rural healthcare across India.



“Stable India-China Relations Will Build Deeper Trust”: Ajit Doval

India and China review progress in ties as BRICS security leaders discuss global challenges in New Delhi

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval has stressed that stable, predictable and constructive relations between India and China are essential for strengthening mutual trust and improving understanding between the two countries.

During discussions with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the BRICS National Security Advisors Meeting in New Delhi, Doval highlighted the importance of both nations



remaining sensitive to each other's core concerns. He emphasised that such an approach aligns with the principles of mutual sensitivity, mutual interests and mutual respect that guide India's engagement with its neighbours.

The meeting provided an opportunity for

both sides to assess recent developments in bilateral relations and acknowledge the progress being made towards the

gradual normalisation of ties following years of tensions.

Senior officials from both countries were present during the discussions as India hosted top security representatives from BRICS nations for a two day meeting focused on evolving global and

regional security issues.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also met the visiting national security advisors and senior officials, underlining the growing importance of BRICS in addressing emerging security concerns in an increasingly complex international environment.

The discussions covered a wide range of challenges, including terrorism, cyber security, energy security, food security, supply chain disruptions and the risks posed by emerging technologies.



“Trek Turned Trap”: Pune Businessman Allegedly Pushed To Death By Fiancee And Her Lover

Police say the fatal fall from Lohagad Fort was staged as an accident

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: What was initially believed to be a tragic trekking accident near Pune has now emerged as an alleged murder plot involving a young businessman, his fiancee and her alleged lover.

Twenty six year old Ketan Agarwal had travelled to Lohagad Fort on June 18 with his fiancee, Siya Goyal, for a trek. Investigators now claim that during the outing, he was pushed into a gorge by Siya and her alleged partner, Chetan Chaudhary, in an attempt to make the incident appear accidental.

Ketan and Siya were engaged and reportedly preparing for a lavish wedding later this year. According to reports, the families had planned an elaborate celebration

in Rajasthan, including booking an expensive venue and arranging chartered flights for guests.

Following the incident, Siya allegedly informed authorities that Ketan had slipped while posing for photographs near the edge of the fort and fallen into the gorge. However, the investigation later uncovered evidence that pointed towards foul play.

Police stated on Tuesday that the incident was part of a planned conspiracy and that the accused attempted to mislead investigators by presenting the death as a trekking mishap.

Both Siya Goyal and Chetan Chaudhary have since been arrested in connection with the case and further investigation is underway.



“Desperate Attempt To Hide Failures”: India Rejects Pakistan Minister's War Warning

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday firmly dismissed recent remarks by Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif suggesting military action over water security concerns, describing the statements as an effort to shift focus away from Pakistan's internal challenges and alleged human rights violations. New Delhi said the comments were based on fabricated allegations and were intended to distract from growing criticism of Pakistan's domestic situation. Indian officials maintained that such rhetoric would not alter India's position and rejected the accusations outright. India also raised concerns over the situation in Pakistan occupied Kashmir, claiming that the region has witnessed years of economic neglect, restrictions on civil liberties and administrative pressure on local residents.

“Construction Workers Are The Foundation Of Delhi's Development”: Government Launches Major Health Cover Scheme

New initiative aims to benefit nearly 10 lakh workers and family members

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government has announced a comprehensive health protection programme for registered building and construction workers and their families, extending coverage to an estimated 10 lakh beneficiaries across the national capital.

The newly introduced Delhi Building and Construction Workers



Health Scheme will cover around 2.7 lakh registered workers and is expected to involve an annual expenditure of nearly Rs 200 crore. Under the initiative, workers and their eligible family members, including spouses, children and parents, will receive access to a wide range of medical services

free of cost through empanelled hospitals and mobile medical units. The treatment process will be entirely cashless, ensuring that beneficiaries do not face any financial burden during medical emergencies or routine care. Each registered worker will be entitled to medical treatment worth up to Rs 2 lakh, while families will receive coverage of up to Rs 10 lakh under the scheme.

“Focus On Governance, Not Breaking Parties”: Opposition Targets Maharashtra Government Over Mumbai Floods

Leaders question civic preparedness amid heavy rain disruption

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Heavy monsoon showers battered Mumbai and its suburbs on Wednesday, once again causing waterlogging, traffic congestion and disruptions to the city's suburban railway services. Several parts of the city recorded



exceptionally high rainfall within 24 hours, with Malvani receiving around 340 mm and Parel close behind with 334 mm. The weather department

has forecast continued moderate to heavy rainfall across the city in the coming days, keeping authorities on alert. As residents struggled with flooded roads and delayed transport services, the political debate over Mumbai's infrastructure

preparedness intensified. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray accused the BJP led Mahayuti government of prioritising political manoeuvring over governance and civic development. He alleged that crucial infrastructure projects aimed at reducing flooding had been neglected despite

recommendations made by the previous administration. Thackeray argued that Mumbai, being a coastal city, requires stronger flood mitigation measures, including additional rainwater storage systems, upgraded pumping stations and wider stormwater drains.

Ronaldo Leads Portugal Rout Of Uzbekistan As England Stumble Against Ghana, Croatia And Colombia Win

Portugal move closer to the knockouts while Colombia seal Round of 32 qualification

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Cristiano Ronaldo answered questions surrounding his form and finishing ability with a commanding display as Portugal thrashed Uzbekistan 5-0 to move a step closer to securing a place in the Round of 32 at the FIFA World Cup.

The 41 year old forward scored twice and



became the first player in history to find the net in six different World Cups, bouncing back strongly after criticism following Portugal's opening 1-1 draw against the Democratic Republic of Congo. Portugal dominated

proceedings from the outset and produced one of the performances of the tournament so far, with Ronaldo leading



the charge as his side climbed to second place in Group K with one match remaining. England, meanwhile, missed the opportunity to book their place in the knockout stages after being held to a frustrating goalless draw



by a disciplined Ghana side in Group L. Having impressed in their opening victory over Croatia, England struggled to create clear scoring opportunities against Ghana's organised defence.



"India Extend Decade Long Dominance Over Pakistan With Thrilling 4-3 FIH Pro League Victory"

Harmanpreet Singh's side survives late comeback to secure crucial win

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India continued their decade long unbeaten run against Pakistan in international hockey with a thrilling 4-3 victory in the FIH Pro League on Tuesday, securing an important win in a fiercely contested encounter.

The result lifted India to seventh place in the standings and marked the first meeting between the two rivals since the 2024 Asian Champions Trophy in China, where India had also emerged victorious.

Pakistan struck first through Ahmad Nadeem, who converted a penalty corner in the eighth minute to hand his side an early advantage. India gradually settled into the contest and found the

equaliser in the 22nd minute when Abhishek finished a well worked field move.

The momentum shifted firmly in India's favour moments later as Nilakanta Sharma converted a penalty corner in the 24th minute to give his side a 2-1 lead heading into halftime.

India continued to dominate after the break and extended their advantage in the 40th minute when Abhishek set up Sukhjeet Singh inside the circle for a fine finish.

Rajinder Singh then made it 4-1 after converting a penalty corner following a cleverly executed routine.

Pakistan refused to give up and mounted a spirited comeback in the final quarter.



"Age Is Just A Number": Nine Year Old Amaira Dhumatker Clinches Double Crown In Under 13 Category

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Goa's young badminton star Amaira Dhumatker continues to rewrite the record books with yet another outstanding achievement, proving that age is no barrier to excellence on the court.

At just nine years old, Amaira captured the girls' singles and doubles titles in the Under 13 category at the All Goa Major Ranking Badminton Tournament, underlining her growing dominance against older competitors.

The tournament was held at the Peddem Indoor Stadium in Mapusa from June 19 to 21 and brought together some of the state's most promising young shuttlers. Amaira's impressive performances throughout the competition showcased her skill, determination and maturity beyond her years.

"Rohit Sharma, Vijay Amritraj And Savita Punia Honoured With Padma Awards By President Droupadi Murmu"

Former India captain honoured for his outstanding contribution to Indian cricket

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Rohit Sharma was on Tuesday conferred with the Padma Shri, one of the country's highest civilian honours, during the Padma Awards ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

President Droupadi Murmu presented the



award to the veteran cricketer in recognition of his exceptional contribution to Indian

cricket over a career spanning nearly two decades. Rohit attended the second Civil Investiture Ceremony along with his wife, Ritika Sajdeh, after missing the first ceremony held in May. The honour adds another milestone to an illustrious career that began with his international debut in 2007.

"Rishabh Pant Returns Home": Star Wicketkeeper Rejoins Delhi Capitals In Blockbuster Swap Deal

Kuldeep Yadav heads to Lucknow Super Giants as part of one of IPL's biggest trades

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: One of the biggest player moves in recent Indian Premier League history has seen Rishabh Pant return to Delhi Capitals, with spinner Kuldeep Yadav moving to Lucknow Super Giants in a high profile swap deal ahead of the next season.

Pant, who joined Lucknow Super Giants for a record Rs 27 crore ahead of the 2025 season, has accepted a substantial reduction in



salary to make his return to the franchise where his IPL journey began. Under the new agreement, the wicketkeeper batter will earn Rs 15 crore per season with Delhi Capitals, while Kuldeep



Yadav will receive Rs 13.50 crore with the Lucknow based franchise.

The move comes after a challenging two year spell for Pant at Lucknow. Appointed captain before the 2025 campaign, he

struggled to replicate the form that had made him one of the league's biggest stars. He scored 269 runs in the 2025 season and followed it with 312 runs in 2026 while batting in multiple positions across the order.

Pant first joined Delhi Capitals in 2016 and went on to become one of the most influential figures in the franchise's history. He played 111 matches for the team, more than any other player, and captained the side in 43 games between 2021 and

2024. Kuldeep Yadav, meanwhile, leaves Delhi after an impressive five season stint. Since joining the franchise in 2022, the left arm wrist spinner picked up 72 wickets in 65 matches and established himself as one of the league's most reliable wicket takers. The trade has been described as one of the most significant exchanges in IPL history and could reshape the fortunes of both franchises heading into the new season.