



All Mundkarial, FRA and Mhaje Ghar Cases to Be Cleared by December 31: CM

■ Sawant Assures 100% Disposal of Pending Applications, Highlights Benefits for Farmers Through Welfare Schemes

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday announced that all pending Mundkarial cases, claims under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), and applications under the Mhaje Ghar Scheme will



be cleared by December 31 this year. Speaking at the

inauguration of a Jan Kalyan Shibir, the Chief Minister said the government is committed to ensuring that every eligible beneficiary receives the benefits they are entitled to. He stated that the administration has set a target of achieving

100 per cent disposal of all pending applications under these schemes by the end of the year. Sawant said the government has been actively working to improve the delivery of welfare benefits

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"High Casualties And Extensive Damage Expected": Powerful Earthquakes Devastate Venezuela

Twin tremors trigger widespread destruction in Caracas and surrounding regions as rescue teams race to find survivors beneath collapsed buildings



Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: At least 32 people have lost their lives and more than 700 others have been injured after two powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela on Thursday, causing widespread destruction across the capital Caracas and several neighbouring regions.

Authorities fear the death toll could rise significantly as rescue

teams continue to reach heavily affected areas and search operations intensify in collapsed buildings and damaged residential neighbourhoods.

The first earthquake, measuring 7.2 in magnitude, struck west of Caracas before a second and stronger 7.5 magnitude tremor hit less than a minute later, sending residents rushing into streets

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Emergency a Dark Chapter in India's Democratic History: CM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Marking the anniversary of the Emergency imposed on June 25, 1975, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant described the period as one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history, emphasizing the need to safeguard constitutional values and democratic institutions.

"If A Passport Isn't Proof, Then What Is?": Opposition Questions Centre After MEA Clarification

■ Political parties raise concerns over citizenship documentation after the government says passports are primarily travel documents and not conclusive proof of citizenship

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Opposition parties on Wednesday strongly criticised the Centre after the Ministry of External Affairs clarified that an Indian passport should be viewed primarily as a travel document and not as definitive proof of



citizenship. The clarification triggered a political storm, with several opposition leaders questioning what documents citizens should rely upon to establish their nationality if government issued identity papers are

considered insufficient for that purpose. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha argued that citizens have repeatedly been encouraged over the years to obtain official documents such as Aadhaar cards, voter identity cards, passports and ration cards.

Man Dies After Alleged Assault Over Objection to Drunken Biking

■ Krishna Naik Succumbs to Injuries; Two Detained, Two Others Reportedly Absconding

Team Goemkarponn

COLVALE: A 60-year-old man, Krishna Naik, died after he was allegedly assaulted by a group of youths for questioning them over drinking and riding motorcycles at high speed near his residence at Chicalim-Colvale.

According to available information, Naik had reportedly confronted the youths and asked them why they were consuming alcohol and speeding on bikes in front of his house. The objection allegedly angered the



group, leading to a violent altercation. The youths are alleged to have attacked Naik with a wooden danda, besides kicking and punching him. He sustained serious injuries in the assault and was rushed to hospital for treatment. However, he later succumbed to his injuries. Police have detained two persons in connection with the case, while two others are reportedly absconding.



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27 June 2026	Quepem	Cada Hall, Cacora
28 June 2026	Canacona	Municipal Council, Canacona
29 June 2026	Salcete	Office of the Dy. Collector, Margao
30 June 2026	Sanguem	Sarvajanic Ganesh Utsav Mandal, Waddem Curdi
01 July 2026	Tiswadi	Village Panchayat, Taleigao
02 July 2026	Sattari	Village Panchayat, Mauxi
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06 July 2026	Dharbandora	Village Panchayat, Mollem

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Disaster Management Missing in Action as Goa Faces a Predictable Chaos

Every year, the arrival of the monsoon in Goa is treated as if it were an unforeseen calamity. Every year, citizens are assured that lessons have been learned, preparations have been completed, and agencies are fully equipped to deal with the challenges of the rainy season. Yet, with the first spell of heavy rains, the familiar scenes return: uprooted trees, snapped power lines, flooded roads, overflowing drains, stranded commuters, and disrupted daily life.

This year is no different.

What makes the present situation even more troubling is that the State had ample warning and sufficient time to prepare. The delayed onset of the monsoon provided government departments, district administrations, municipal bodies, and the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) with an extended window to complete pre-monsoon works, clear drains, identify vulnerable locations, trim dangerous trees, strengthen emergency response systems, and coordinate rescue mechanisms.

Instead, Goa appears to have been caught unprepared once again.

Across the State, reports of waterlogged roads, flooded neighbourhoods, fallen trees, and damaged infrastructure have emerged within days of sustained rainfall. Traffic movement has been affected, power supply disrupted, and citizens left struggling with conditions that should have been anticipated and addressed well before the arrival of the monsoon.

The most glaring question is: where is the State Disaster Management Authority?

The very purpose of disaster management is not merely to react after a crisis unfolds but to anticipate risks, minimise damage, and ensure rapid response. Disaster management is about preparedness, coordination, and visible action. Yet, in the midst of widespread disruption, the SDMA appears absent from public view and public action.

For months, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant, district collectors, and senior officials have been holding review meetings, conducting inspections, and issuing assurances about monsoon preparedness. Press releases highlighted plans, strategies, and coordination efforts. Citizens were repeatedly told that all necessary precautions were being taken.

However, the situation on the

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ground paints a very different picture.

Meetings do not clear drains. Presentations do not prevent flooding. Reviews do not stop trees from collapsing onto roads and power lines. What matters is execution, and execution appears to have failed.

The recurrence of the same problems year after year suggests that the issue is not a

lack of knowledge but a lack of accountability. Authorities know which areas flood regularly. They know which roads become dangerous during heavy rainfall. They know which drains remain clogged and which trees pose risks. None of these are surprises. They are recurring challenges that demand sustained attention and preventive action.

The public has every right to ask why, despite months of preparation, basic infrastructure continues to collapse under predictable weather conditions.

Equally concerning is the apparent disconnect between government claims and ground realities. If preparedness measures were genuinely completed, why are so many areas experiencing the same difficulties that have plagued Goa for years? If disaster response teams were on alert, why do citizens feel abandoned when roads are submerged and essential services disrupted?

The credibility of institutions is measured not by the number of meetings held but by their effectiveness when tested. The current situation raises uncomfortable questions about the functioning of the disaster management apparatus and the seriousness with which preparedness exercises are undertaken.

The monsoon is not an unexpected disaster. It is an annual event that arrives with remarkable predictability. A State that depends heavily on tourism, commerce, and public mobility cannot afford to stumble into crisis every rainy season.

The government must move beyond ceremonial reviews and post-event assessments. There must be a transparent audit of pre-monsoon preparations, clear accountability for lapses, and a comprehensive evaluation of the State's disaster management systems.

Goans deserve more than assurances. They deserve functioning infrastructure, responsive agencies, and a disaster management authority that is visible, effective, and prepared when it matters most.

Until that happens, every flooded road, every uprooted tree, and every disrupted household will stand as evidence of a system that continues to fail despite having every opportunity to succeed.

OPED

ST Reservation: Correcting a Historical Omission, Not Creating a Political Favour

Suraj Nandrekar

The move to reserve Assembly seats for Scheduled Tribes in Goa marks a significant moment in the State's democratic journey. For decades, Goa remained an anomaly. Despite having a sizeable tribal population and constitutionally recognised Scheduled Tribe communities, the 40-member Legislative Assembly had no seat reserved for ST representation. That omission is now being addressed through legislative and constitutional processes. (PRS Legislative Research)

The debate, however, should not be reduced to a simple political contest over who gains and who loses from the proposed reservation. The larger question is whether democratic institutions adequately reflect the diversity of the people they govern.

Goa's tribal communities, including the Velip, Kunbi and Gawda groups, have long argued that while they contribute significantly to the State's social and cultural fabric, their political voice remains limited. Their demand for political reservation was not born overnight. It emerged from years of mobilisation, protests, representations to the State and Centre, and a sustained argument that constitutional recognition without meaningful political participation remains incomplete. (The Times of India)

The Union government's decision to introduce legislation enabling reservation of Assembly seats for Scheduled Tribes acknowledges this reality. The proposed framework empowers authorities to determine the ST population and subsequently identify constituencies for reservation through a readjustment process. (PRS Legislative Research)

Yet the issue extends beyond legal procedures.

Political reservation is not merely about creating protected constituencies. It is about ensuring that communities historically excluded from decision making have a direct presence in legislative forums. In a democracy, representation matters. Policies affecting land rights, forests, livelihoods, education and social welfare are often shaped by those who may have little understanding of the lived realities of tribal communities. Greater representation can help bridge that gap.

At the same time, Goa must guard against reducing tribal empowerment to an electoral exercise. Reservation of seats is only one aspect of social justice. Genuine empowerment requires better educational opportunities, economic advancement, protection of traditional rights and stronger participation in governance at every level. Political reservation should be seen as a beginning, not the final destination.

There is also an important political dimension. The reservation of Assembly constituencies is likely to alter Goa's electoral landscape ahead of future elections. Constituency boundaries and political calculations may change. Established political parties are already assessing the implications. While some view this through the lens of electoral advantage, such considerations should not overshadow the fundamental constitutional principle involved.

The danger lies in treating reservation as a political concession granted by governments rather than a democratic right flowing from constitutional obligations. When communities have to agitate for decades to secure representation guaranteed in spirit by the Constitution, it raises questions about the responsiveness of institutions. Equally important is transparency in the implementation process. The identification of constituencies, population estimates and delimitation exercises must be carried out fairly and objectively. Any perception of political manipulation could undermine the credibility of an otherwise historic reform. Goa today stands at an important crossroads. The introduction of Scheduled Tribe reservation in the Assembly offers an opportunity to strengthen democratic inclusion and correct a long-standing imbalance. It should not become another battleground for partisan claims and counterclaims.

A mature democracy is judged not by how loudly it celebrates representation, but by how sincerely it ensures it. For Goa, the challenge now is to transform a legislative reform into meaningful political participation for communities that have waited far too long for their rightful place in the Assembly.

HC Orders Goa to Draft Tree Relocation Policy, Allows Limited Felling for NH-66 Expansion

■ Court Pushes for Scientific Relocation of 193 Trees Along Cortalim–Margao Highway Stretch

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a significant order balancing infrastructure development with environmental protection, the Bombay High Court at Goa has directed the State government to prepare a comprehensive policy on tree relocation and conservation. The policy will be based



on recommendations submitted by an expert panel appointed by the

court. The order was passed in connection

with the widening of the Cortalim–Margao section of National Highway 66. While permitting the removal of 60 trees required for the project, the court ruled that 193 others should be relocated rather than cut down.

According to the court, the trees identified for relocation include both younger and mature specimens.



Tribal Leaders Press for ST Reservation Notification Before 2027 Goa Elections

■ Delegation meets CM Sawant, seeks Centre's intervention; warns of next course of action if delay continues

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Tribal leaders renewed their demand for the implementation of Scheduled Tribe (ST) reservation in the Goa Legislative Assembly, urging Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to take up the matter with the Centre and expedite the issuance of the final notification required for its rollout ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

A delegation comprising Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar, MLAs and community representatives met the Chief Minister and stressed the need for immediate follow-up with Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the notification that would bring into effect the law providing Assembly seat reservation for Scheduled Tribes in Goa.

The leaders said the issue remains pending

despite the legislation already being in place. They pointed out that during a meeting in New Delhi earlier this month, Shah had assured the Goa delegation that the matter would be examined after consultations with the Solicitor General.

Speaking to reporters, Tawadkar said all necessary demographic and population-related details have already been submitted to the authorities and there is no reason for further delay. He expressed hope that the reservation process would be completed in time for the next Assembly elections. At the same time, he indicated that the community may be compelled to consider other democratic means to secure its rights if the demand is not addressed. However, he maintained that the response from both the State and Central governments has so far been encouraging.



NGT Asks Vedanta to Obtain Fresh Environmental Approval for Ore Transport Route

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has instructed Vedanta Limited to seek approval from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for changes made to the transportation route used for moving iron ore from its Bicholim Mineral Block-I in North Goa.

The directive came from the NGT's Western Zone Bench, comprising Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh and Expert Member Dr Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, while hearing a petition filed by environmental activist Sandeep Salekar.

At the centre of the dispute was the route used by the mining company to transport ore from its lease area to the Sarmanas jetty. While most of the route passes through a dedicated mining corridor, a section of the journey involves travel on a public road along MDR-20, crossing several villages in the Bicholim region.

HC Orders Authorities to Fix Timeline for Removal of Sada Shivaji Statue

■ Meeting Between District Administration, Police and MPA Scheduled on July 6; Status Report Expected Before Court on July 14

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has instructed the South Goa Collector and Superintendent of Police to meet with officials of the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) on July 6 to work out a clear plan for the removal of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue erected on port land at Sada. The directive follows submissions by the MPA that previous efforts to remove the structure



could not be implemented due to insufficient police support at the site. The court has sought an update on the outcome of the meeting and the action taken thereafter when the matter comes up for hearing on July 14. The dispute relates to a statue

installed on land owned by the MPA. Earlier this year, the High Court ruled that the structure had been put up without the necessary approvals and directed that it be removed. While passing that order, the Division Bench of Justice Valmiki Menezes and Justice Amit Jamsandekar had expressed dissatisfaction with the response of government authorities, noting that timely intervention could have prevented the issue from escalating.

Goa Set to Feature in First Phase of Western Ghats ESA Notification

■ Final decision on ecologically sensitive zones expected soon as Centre and State move closer to consensus

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: After years of deliberations and multiple revisions, the Centre is expected to take a significant step towards finalising Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) in the Western Ghats, with Goa likely to be among the first states covered under the notification.

According to sources, discussions between



the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

(MoEF&CC) and the Goa government have progressed substantially,

paving the way for the State's inclusion alongside Maharashtra and Gujarat in the initial phase of implementation.

The ESA proposal has remained under consideration for more than a decade due to differing views between the Centre and the six Western Ghats states over the extent of land that should come under environmental protection and the implications of

such classification.

In Goa, the debate has largely centred on the number of villages to be included within the notified zone. While the Centre's latest draft proposal identified 108 villages for ESA coverage, the State government sought a reduction in that number, maintaining that several villages do not meet the required ecological criteria.

Youth Killed After Scooter Crashes Into Parked Tempo At Colvale IDC

■ Tempo Driver Booked For Negligent Parking; Pillion Rider Injured In Late-Night Accident

Team Goemkarponn

COLVALE: Colvale Police have registered a case against a tempo driver for allegedly parking his vehicle in a dangerous manner, leading to a fatal road accident that claimed the life of a 20-year-old scooter rider at Colvale Industrial Estate.

According to a complaint lodged by ASI Anil Shrikant Pilgaonkar of Colvale Police Station, the accident occurred at around 11.40 pm on June 22 near Vijay Enterprises, Plot No. N-8, Colvale Industrial Estate.

Police said the



accused, Shivaji Khemana Tejam, 37, a driver residing at Colvale and originally from Chandgad in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra, had allegedly parked an Eicher tempo (GA-01-Z-0884)

on the roadside in a prohibited area during rainy conditions without displaying adequate warning signals for approaching motorists.

As a result, a Fascino scooter (GA-03-BD-6953)

ridden by Ravish Yadunand Tari, 20, of St Estevam, Tiswadi, collided with the rear right side of the parked vehicle while travelling towards Colvale IDC from Chicalim.

The impact left Ravish critically injured, and he later succumbed to his injuries. The pillion rider, Laxman Sriram Bhonsale of Nachinola, Aldona, sustained bodily injuries in the crash. Colvale Police have booked the tempo driver for negligent parking causing death and injuries. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Dattaraj Rane.

Speeding SUV Hits Scooter At Taleigao Circle, Two Injured

■ Gujarat Driver Booked For Rash And Negligent Driving After Crash Near Goa University

Team Goemkarponn

TALEIGAO: Agacaim Police have registered a case against a 21-year-old driver from Gujarat for allegedly driving a Hyundai Creta in a rash and negligent manner, resulting in an accident that left two scooter riders injured at Taleigao Plateau. The case was registered following a complaint filed by Advocate Sudin M. S. Usagaonkar of Caranzalem.

According to police, the accident occurred on June 17 at around 10.30 am at the roundabout opposite the Goa University Library. The accused, identified as Macwan Reeyan Amit Kumar of Vadodara, Gujarat, was driving a Creta car

(GJ-06-PS-0084) from Bambolim towards Dona Paula when he allegedly lost control while speeding and rammed into a Jupiter scooter (GA-07-AD-5263) waiting at the circle.

The impact threw the scooter riders off balance before the car crashed into the roundabout wall.

The scooter rider, Naresh Madkaikar, and pillion rider, Sadiq Ahmed Mulla, sustained injuries and were rushed to Goa Medical College, Bambolim, for treatment. Both were later discharged after receiving medical care.

Police have booked the Creta driver for rash and negligent driving, and further investigation is being conducted by Agacaim Police.



BOOKED

Saligao Police Nab Man Accepting Gambling Bets In Nerul

Team Goemkarponn

SALIGAO: Saligao Police arrested a 33-year-old man after allegedly catching him red-handed accepting gambling bets from members of the public at Nerul on Tuesday evening.

According to police, the accused, identified as Mohamed Rafiq Gulzar of Chimbél, Tiswadi, was found operating an illegal gambling activity near Fattawada, Nerul, at around 8.35 pm on June 23.

Acting on information, a police team led by PSI Jugal Divkar conducted a raid and allegedly found the accused accepting bets and issuing slips containing numerical figures for a game of chance in an open public place.

During the operation, police seized cash amounting to Rs 1,550 in different denominations along with other articles allegedly used for gambling activities.

Beggar Found Dead Near Margao Railway Station

■ Police Launch Inquiry After Unidentified Man Brought Dead To District Hospital

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police have initiated an inquiry following the death of an unidentified man who was found lying on a footpath near Margao Railway Station in the early hours of Tuesday.

According to police, information was received from the South Goa District Hospital at around



3 am that an unknown male, aged approximately 40 years, had been brought dead to the casualty ward after being found unconscious near the railway station.

During the inquiry, police visited the hospital

and gathered information indicating that the deceased was a beggar who had been staying in the Station Road area of Margao for the past few months. The identity of the deceased has not yet been established. The body has been preserved at the South Goa District Hospital, Margao, pending medico-legal formalities and identification.

Vasco Man Found Dead At Home, Police Initiate Inquiry

■ 38-Year-Old Declared Dead On Arrival At Hospital; Cause Of Death Yet To Be Ascertained

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco Police have initiated an inquiry into the death of a 38-year-old man who was found unconscious at his residence in Kharewado and was later declared dead at a local hospital.

According to police, information was received from Daffodils Hospital, Vasco, that a



man had been brought

dead to the casualty

ward after being found unresponsive at his home.

During inquiries, family members identified the deceased as Santosh Pujari, 38, a resident of Kharewado, Vasco.

They informed police that he was found unconscious at his residence and was not responding, following which he was rushed to Daffodils Hospital. However, the attending

doctor declared him dead on arrival. Police conducted an inquest panchanama over the body, which has since been preserved at the South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for medico-legal formalities and further examination.

Further inquiry into the case is being carried out by PSI Plato Carvalho of Vasco Police Station.

Eight Drowning Incidents In Eight Months Trigger Safety Review In Dharbandora

■ Authorities Identify 17 Vulnerable Spots; Collector Orders Awareness Drive And Enhanced Patrolling

Team Goemkarponn

DHARBANDORA:

Alarmed by eight drowning incidents reported in Dharbandora Taluka over the last eight months, district authorities have stepped up efforts to prevent further tragedies, particularly among students and visitors.

The issue came under review during a meeting convened by



Kushavati District Collector Ms. Eгна Cleetus, IAS, in the presence of Superintendent of Police Shri Tikam Singh Verma, Additional Collector-II Shri Ramesh Gaonkar, and other government

and Panchayat officials. Officials informed the meeting that eight drowning incidents have been recorded across the taluka during the past eight months, resulting in several fatalities. A detailed

assessment has identified 17 vulnerable drowning locations requiring urgent attention. The analysis pointed to factors such as lack of awareness about river conditions, alcohol consumption near water bodies, picnicking in isolated areas, multiple access points to riverbanks, and unsafe swimming practices as major causes behind the incidents.



Strong winds uproot trees near St. Andrew's Church, traffic disrupted in Vasco

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Heavy monsoon winds uprooted trees near St. Andrew's Church in Vasco on Tuesday, disrupting traffic and causing inconvenience to commuters. No casualties or injuries were reported in the incident.

The large trees fell across the road following strong gusts, temporarily blocking vehicular movement in the area. Vasco MLA Krishna "Daji" Salkar, along with staff from his office, Mormugao Municipal Council workers and personnel from the Fire and Emergency Services, rushed to the site and coordinated efforts to clear the obstruction. The fallen trees were removed using machinery and manpower, allowing traffic to resume after the road was cleared.

Speaking to reporters at the site, Salkar said several trees in the city had already been trimmed and those identified as hazardous had been

removed. He noted that some old trees appear healthy externally and cannot be cut without the required permission from the Forest Department. According to him, the trees uprooted near the church were old and were dislodged from the soil due to the force of the strong winds. Salkar also pointed to the importance of the recently completed railway underbridge project in Vasco. He said the underbridge enabled fire brigade personnel to reach the spot within a short time, helping authorities respond quickly to the emergency.

He stated that before the underbridge was constructed, emergency vehicles often faced delays in reaching several parts of the city.

The prompt response by civic workers and emergency services ensured the road was cleared quickly and normal traffic movement was restored without any major disruption.

GPSC Clarifies JSO Exam Entry Issue, Urges Media To Verify Facts

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The Goa Public Service Commission (GPSC)

has urged media organisations to verify facts before publishing reports concerning the Commission, examination centres, colleges or institutions associated with its activities. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Commission expressed concern over reports published in certain local newspapers regarding the recent Computer-Based Recruitment Test (CBRT) for the post of Junior Statistical Officer (JSO). GPSC clarified that some candidates arrived at the examination centre after the stipulated reporting time and were therefore not permitted to enter the examination campus, strictly in accordance with examination guidelines issued by the Commission. The Commission stated that reports claiming that the management of Agnel Institute of Engineering and Management, Assagao, prevented candidates from appearing for the examination were factually incorrect and created a misleading impression about the institution.

74th Shram-Dham House Handed Over to Widow-Son Duo at Amone

■ Tawadkar Announces Plan to Lay Foundation Stones for 100 Shram-Dham Houses in a Single Day After Monsoon

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Balram Charitable Trust on Wednesday handed over the keys of its 74th Shram-Dham house to widow Kesar Gaonkar and her son Kishen Gaonkar at Amone in Poinguinim village, providing the family with a permanent home after years of living in a one-room thatched hut.

The house was constructed under the Shram-Dham initiative



spearheaded by Tribal Welfare Minister and Canacona MLA Ramesh Tawadkar. The mother-son duo had been residing in a small hut in difficult conditions when the Trust took up the project four months ago.

Addressing the gathering during the housewarming and key handover ceremony, Tawadkar said Shram-Dham volunteers, local residents of Amone and members of the Gaonkar family joined hands to complete the house in a record two months.

Designed by Shram-Dham engineer Vinay Tubki, the house has been built on a 70-square-metre plot and comprises a verandah, hall, bedroom and kitchen.

St Andrews HSS celebrates Sao Joao with traditional fervour at Vaddem

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: In a heartwarming display of unity and tradition, the principal, teachers, and students of St Andrews Higher Secondary School in Vasco took part in the vibrant Sao Joao celebrations at Vaddem on Wednesday morning.

The festive spirit took over the area as locals were pleasantly surprised to witness the strong bond shared between students and staff, who danced and



celebrated together with joy and enthusiasm. The celebration, held near the Vaddem lake adjacent to the school, was marked by colourful traditions, with participants donning floral and fruit-laden koppels (headgear) and singing

traditional Sao Joao songs while chanting "Viva Re Sao Joao."

In a lively procession, the school group circled the lake, dancing in lines to festive music. Many also gathered to take group photographs

with the school in the backdrop, capturing the essence of a celebration rooted in Goan heritage. Traditional Goan delicacies were also part of the celebration, adding to the festive flavour. Speaking to media, Principal of St Andrews HSS, emphasized the school's commitment to promoting inclusivity and communal harmony. "We believe in celebrating all festivals, whether it is Eid, Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali, Christmas, or Sao Joao.

FDA Alerts Healthcare Sector On Ban Of 16 Fixed-Dose Combination Drugs

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: The Directorate of Food

and Drugs Administration (FDA), Goa, has issued an advisory informing healthcare institutions and medical practitioners about the Central Government's decision to prohibit the manufacture, sale and distribution of 16 Fixed-Dose Combination (FDC) drugs for human use.

"Scan And Verify Instantly": QR Code IDs And New App Form Core Of Amarnath Yatra Security Plan

■ Authorities deploy digital verification systems, surveillance technology and thousands of security personnel to safeguard pilgrims during the annual pilgrimage

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Authorities have rolled out an extensive security framework for this year's Amarnath Yatra, introducing technology driven measures aimed at preventing impersonation and strengthening safety along the pilgrimage route.

One of the key initiatives is the introduction of tamper proof identity cards embedded with QR codes for all authorised service providers associated with the yatra, including pony operators, palanquin bearers, porters, guides and vendors. Security personnel and pilgrims will be able to scan the cards and instantly access verified details of the individual, helping authorities prevent terrorists or anti social elements from posing as local workers.

To further strengthen verification mechanisms, Jammu and Kashmir Police has launched the Pehchaan mobile application. The app creates a digital database of registered service



providers and allows their credentials to be checked in real time. Officials believe the system will help identify unauthorised individuals operating along the pilgrimage route while reducing the risk of impersonation and fraud.

The annual pilgrimage, scheduled to begin on July 3, will be protected by a multi layered security grid involving electronic surveillance, watch towers, vehicle tracking systems and extensive monitoring operations.

Security agencies have also conducted mock drills to test

preparedness for possible emergencies, including simulated terror attacks and hostage situations at key locations. The exercises were designed to assess response times and improve coordination between various agencies involved in protecting the yatra.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has deployed 670 companies of Central Armed Police Forces across Jammu and Kashmir for the pilgrimage, working alongside the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Additional measures include CCTV surveillance, RFID tagging of vehicles and pilgrims, drone monitoring and the declaration of the entire yatra corridor as a no fly zone.

Helicopter services for pilgrims will remain suspended for the second consecutive year as authorities prioritise security across the route.

Traffic restrictions and regulated movement schedules have also been introduced to ensure the smooth conduct of one of the country's largest annual pilgrimages.

"Shipping Through Hormuz Is Picking Up": 30 India Bound Vessels Safely Cross Strategic Waterway

■ Improving maritime traffic after the US-Iran understanding brings relief for India's energy imports as more ships await passage through the Gulf

Team Goemkarponn

New Delhi: Maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz is showing signs of recovery, with 30 vessels carrying cargo of interest to India successfully crossing the crucial waterway in recent days. Another 26 ships linked to Indian trade continue to remain in the Persian Gulf awaiting transit as authorities closely monitor developments in the region.

Among the vessels that have already crossed or are heading towards Indian ports, a significant number are carrying energy supplies vital to the country's needs. Nearly half of these ships are transporting liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas, while others are carrying crude oil and bulk commodities. Shipping activity through the Strait of Hormuz has improved following the recent understanding reached between the United States and Iran, easing concerns over disruptions in one of the world's most important maritime corridors.

Data monitored by authorities indicates that vessel movement accelerated after the agreement, with 11 additional India-bound ships crossing the strait

after the understanding was announced. Prior to that, only 19 such crossings had been recorded over a much longer period.

Of the 30 ships that have safely navigated the route, several operate under foreign flags, with vessels registered in the Marshall Islands accounting for the largest share among them.

Meanwhile, the 26 ships still waiting west of the Strait of Hormuz include tankers carrying energy cargo, fertiliser shipments and a range of other commodities destined for Indian ports.

The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the most strategically important waterways in the world, handling nearly one fifth of global energy supplies. For India, which relies heavily on Gulf nations for imports of LPG, LNG and crude oil, uninterrupted access through the route is essential for maintaining energy security and supply stability.

International shipping data also points to a gradual return to normalcy, with commodity traffic and movements of large crude carriers increasing in recent days as confidence among shipping operators improves.

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All Mundkarial, FRA and Mhaje Ghar Cases to Be Cleared by December 31: CM

and resolve long-pending issues faced by citizens. He assured that applications related to Mundkarial rights, FRA claims and housing assistance under the Mhaje Ghar Scheme would be processed and decided within the stipulated timeframe. Highlighting initiatives for the farming community, the Chief Minister said the government has facilitated the distribution of Kisan Credit Cards, Soil Health Cards, and several other welfare benefits to farmers across Goa.

He noted that farmers owning four to five acres of land can avail themselves of low-interest loans from nationalised banks through the Kisan Credit Card scheme, helping them meet agricultural expenses and improve productivity.

According to Sawant, a large number of farmers in the state are

already benefiting from these initiatives, which are aimed at strengthening the agricultural sector and improving rural livelihoods.

The Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring that welfare schemes reach every deserving beneficiary and that pending applications are resolved in a time-bound manner.

"High Casualties And Extensive Damage Expected": Powerful Earthquakes Devastate Venezuela

and open spaces as buildings shook violently. Emergency officials have warned that the scale of devastation could result in a major humanitarian crisis, with extensive damage reported to homes, apartment complexes and public infrastructure. The government has declared a state of emergency and appealed for international financial assistance to support rescue opera-

tions and long term reconstruction efforts. Throughout the day, rescue workers continued combing through rubble in several parts of Caracas as anxious families gathered near damaged buildings awaiting news of missing relatives believed to be trapped inside. Obliterated security personnel, civil defence teams and emergency services across affected regions to assist with rescue efforts and provide aid to survivors.

Several buildings collapsed in the Chacao municipality, where rescue teams managed to pull survivors from the debris. Residents have been advised to remain in public squares and open areas because of the possibility of strong aftershocks. Hospitals in Caracas activated emergency protocols and expanded staffing to cope with the growing number of injured patients arriving for treatment. The country's largest airport was temporarily closed after sustaining damage, while schools and colleges were shut for the remainder of the week as officials assessed the full extent of the destruction.



"India's Explanation Was Unsatisfactory": Bangladesh Seeks More Clarity Over Airport Incident

■ Dhaka says the detention of a senior adviser to the Prime Minister at Delhi airport has raised concerns amid a sensitive phase in bilateral relations

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh has expressed dissatisfaction with India's explanation regarding the brief detention of a senior adviser to Prime Minister Muhammad Yunus at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport earlier this month, stating that the response failed to adequately address the circumstances



surrounding the episode. The incident involved Zahed Ur Rahman, Adviser for Information and Strategy to the Prime Minister, who travelled to

India to lead Bangladesh's delegation at the 28th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Indian Ocean Rim Association held in New Delhi on June 15 and 16.

According to Bangladesh, Indian authorities had been informed in advance through diplomatic channels about Rahman's visit and his role in the multilateral meeting.

Dhaka maintains that all required procedures and formalities had been completed before his arrival.

However, upon landing in Delhi on June 14, Rahman was reportedly stopped by immigration officials after his name appeared on a security related watchlist, leading to additional checks and questioning regarding the purpose of his visit.



"Conspiracy Was Active Days Earlier": Digital Trail Reveals Pahalgam Attack Was Planned A Week In Advance

■ Investigators say terrorists used navigation tools, local support and remote guidance to execute one of Kashmir's deadliest attacks on tourists in recent years

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The conspiracy behind the deadly attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Baisaran Valley was underway at least a week before the assault took place, with digital evidence revealing that preparations had begun by mid April.

Investigators examining the mobile phone of a terrorist killed during Operation Mahadev recovered map screenshots dated April 15 and 16 that highlighted locations near Baisaran in Pahalgam. The

findings suggest that the attackers had already identified and marked potential target areas well before the attack was carried out on April 22.

The digital records indicate that the terrorists were using a trekking and navigation application to access coordinates and movement instructions allegedly shared by a Pakistan based handler identified as Sajid Jatt. Authorities believe the information helped the group navigate through the difficult terrain and plan their movements with precision.



"Trust Itself May Seek Accountability": Ram Temple Donation Case Nears Key Legal Turning Point

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The controversy surrounding alleged irregularities in donations linked to the Ram Temple project in Ayodhya is moving towards a significant phase, with legal proceedings now appearing increasingly likely.

As the Special Investigation Team prepares to submit its final report in early July, discussions within sections of the Sangh ecosystem have reportedly gathered momentum around the need for formal legal action rather than limiting the matter to internal reviews or administrative scrutiny.

The SIT recently submitted its preliminary findings to the state's Home Department and is understood to have recommended the registration of a First Information Report as part of the investigation process.

"Don't Create Fear Among Youth": Dharmendra Pradhan Accuses Rahul Gandhi Of Misleading NEET Aspirants

■ Education Minister defends government's handling of NEET re-exam and urges students to retain faith in the examination system

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday sharply criticised the opposition over the handling of the NEET UG 2026 controversy, accusing Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi of creating anxiety among students and using the issue for political gains.

Speaking on the ongoing debate surrounding the medical



entrance examination, Pradhan alleged that statements made by opposition leaders had unnecessarily increased stress among lakhs of aspirants and their families. He urged political parties to avoid turning

issues related to students and examinations into political battlegrounds.

The minister also questioned the timing of political events organised by opposition parties in major coaching hubs ahead of the examination, arguing that such activities could negatively impact students preparing for one of the country's most competitive tests.

"No Compromise On Student Safety": Yogi Adityanath Orders Statewide Crackdown On Coaching Centres

■ More than 100 institutes sealed across Uttar Pradesh as authorities uncover widespread fire safety and structural violations

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A massive statewide inspection drive targeting coaching institutes has been launched across Uttar Pradesh following a recent tragic incident in the state capital, with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directing authorities to take strict action against establishments



operating in violation of safety regulations.

The coordinated operation involved teams drawn from the police, district administration, development authorities, fire services and

electrical safety departments, who carried out simultaneous inspections in major education hubs including

Lucknow, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Meerut and Agra.

The large scale enforcement campaign has already led to the sealing of more than 100 coaching institutes after

officials discovered serious irregularities and safety shortcomings that could endanger students and staff.

Inspectors examined approved building plans, emergency exits, fire fighting arrangements, electrical systems and overall structural compliance during raids that continued across several districts late into the night.

"We Would Have Called Off The Wedding": Pune Fort Murder Victim's Father Seeks Answers

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The father of Ketan Agarwal, the 26 year old businessman who died after falling into a gorge at Lohagad Fort near Pune, has said the family would have cancelled the wedding if his fiancée had expressed reluctance to marry or informed them about her alleged relationship with another man.



"Neymar Returns As Vinicius Jr Fires Brazil To The Top": World Cup Day 13 Delivers Goals, Drama And Knockout Places

■ Brazil celebrate Neymar's long awaited comeback as Vinicius shines, while Morocco, Switzerland, Mexico and South Africa secure last 16 spots

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Brazil produced one of the standout performances of the tournament so far as Vinicius Jr scored twice in a commanding 3-0 victory over Scotland to seal top spot in Group C and book a place in the knockout stage. The Real Madrid



forward struck in the opening minutes before adding a second goal just before the interval to put Brazil firmly in control.

Matheus Cunha added another after the break to complete a convincing win. The match also marked Neymar's long awaited return to



international football, with the veteran forward making an appearance from the bench late in the contest. Morocco also secured qualification from Group C after overcoming Haiti 4-2 in an entertaining



encounter in Atlanta. The Atlas Lions twice fought back after falling behind before late goals ensured their second consecutive victory of the tournament and confirmed their place in the next round.



"Selection Should Be About Indian Cricket, Not Individuals": Manjrekar Questions ODI Choices

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The selection of India's squad for the upcoming ODI series against England has reignited debate over the balance between experience and long term planning, with former cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar questioning whether younger players are receiving adequate opportunities.

The discussion comes after the selectors once again retained veteran opener Rohit Sharma for the series, extending their faith in the experienced batter despite growing calls for a transition towards the next generation of players ahead of the 2027 World Cup.

Manjrekar expressed sympathy for young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who has delivered impressive performances in the limited opportunities he has received in the 50 over format.

"Host Of 2036 Olympics To Be Decided By Mid 2029": IOC Sets Timeline For India's Bid

■ New bidding process promises greater transparency as Ahmedabad remains at the centre of India's Olympic ambitions

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's hopes of hosting the 2036 Olympic Games received a clearer roadmap after the International Olympic Committee announced that the host city for the event will be chosen by the middle of 2029 under a newly restructured selection process.

The timeline was confirmed during the IOC Session in Lausanne, where officials unveiled a revised three stage framework aimed at



making the bidding process more transparent, predictable and financially sustainable for prospective hosts.

With Los Angeles set to host the 2028 Olympics and Brisbane already confirmed as the venue for

the 2032 edition, the 2036 Games represent the next available opportunity for countries seeking to stage the Summer Olympics.

Under the revamped system, a new Strategic Dialogue phase will be introduced in March



"A Year After Injury, I Came Back And Showed Up": Dev Meena Breaks National Pole Vault Record

■ The 21 year old clears 5.46m at the Inter State Athletics Championship to book his place at the 2026 Asian Games

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Indian pole vaulter Dev Meena produced a historic performance at the Inter State Athletics Championship on Wednesday, setting a new men's national record and securing qualification for the 2026 Asian Games.

The 21 year old cleared 5.46 metres to surpass the previous national mark of 5.45m, which he had jointly held with fellow athlete Kuldeep Kumar. The achievement marked another milestone in the rapidly progressing career of one of India's brightest field event prospects. The new record comes just weeks after Meena and Kuldeep had traded the national best multiple times during the Federation Cup

Athletics Championships in Ranchi. Meena had first improved the mark with a 5.42m effort before Kuldeep responded with a 5.45m clearance. Meena later matched that height to share the record. For the young athlete, the latest achievement carried emotional significance as it came exactly a year after an injury had temporarily halted his progress. Reflecting on the moment, Meena said his recovery journey had strengthened him mentally and helped him return with greater confidence and determination. He admitted there were questions about his physical condition after spending a long period away from competition but believed his mental strength had improved considerably during rehabilitation.

"We Need To Work On Scoring Field Goals": Sjoerd Marijne Eyes Further Growth After Nations Cup Triumph

■ Indian women's hockey coach praises team's defensive discipline and unity while shifting focus towards the World Cup and Asian Games

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's women's hockey team may have secured a return to the elite FIH Pro League with their Nations Cup title victory, but head coach Sjoerd Marijne believes the squad still has significant room for improvement ahead of a demanding international calendar later this year.

India defeated hosts New Zealand 2-0 in



the final in Auckland to lift the FIH Nations Cup trophy and earn promotion back to the Pro League.

While pleased with the achievement, Marijne stressed that converting chances into field goals remains one of the team's biggest priorities as preparations intensify for the World Cup and Asian Games.

The Dutch coach was particularly impressed

with India's performances in the semifinal and final, highlighting the side's defensive organisation and discipline as the foundation of the success. He noted that limiting opponents to very few opportunities had been one of the team's strongest attributes throughout the tournament.

According to Marijne, creating scoring opportunities has not been a problem for the team.

The challenge now lies in improving finishing, sharpening technical skills and maintaining composure in crucial moments inside the attacking circle.

He also pointed to consistency as a major positive, noting that the team has begun producing high quality performances across consecutive matches rather than fluctuating between strong and average displays.