



Goa Water Metro Project Enters Phase One

Centre gives priority to Water Metro implementation; Mormugao tourist terminal to be ready in six months, says CM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The long-awaited Goa Water Metro project has officially entered Phase One of implementation, with the Union Government according it priority status, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal announced on Friday.

Speaking at a function in Panaji, Sonowal said the project was taken up on priority following a request from Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant and in response



to the aspirations of the people of Goa. He said the Centre is committed to taking the Water Metro project forward as part of its vision to strengthen maritime infrastructure and sustainable transport.

Calling India the world's fastest-growing economy, the Union Minister said the country's



infrastructure push continues under the Centre's policy of "Reform, Perform, Transform and Inform," with greater emphasis on modern connectivity and port-led development.

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant welcomed the announcement, describing

it as a significant step towards transforming Goa's inland water transport system. He also revealed that a dedicated tourist terminal at the Mormugao Port Authority is under construction and is expected to be completed within the next six months, boosting cruise and coastal tourism.

Sawant further said the newly inaugurated Captain of Ports administrative building is a first-of-its-kind structure in the country, distinguished by its ship-inspired architecture.

Goa Maritime Board To Be Operational Before Sept 30: Kamat

Ports Minister says new body will drive maritime development and strengthen governance of the sector

Team Goemkarponn



PANAJI: Goa is set to establish its long-awaited

Maritime Board before September 30, Ports Minister Digambar Kamat announced on Friday, describing the move as a major step towards

strengthening the state's maritime sector. Speaking at a function in Panaji, Kamat said the Goa Maritime Board would become operational before the end of September and would play a key role in shaping the future of the state's ports, waterways and maritime infrastructure.



Opposition to Urbanisation Plan Intensifies Across Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Opposition to the government's proposal to urbanise 56 villages across Goa is gaining momentum, with the Congress party, local representatives and residents from several villages raising concerns over the move and demanding that the notification be withdrawn. Congress spokesperson Amit Palekar has urged villagers across the state to submit objections through their respective panchayats. He said Congress block committees would take the issue to the grassroots level and mobilise public awareness against the proposal. Warning of further action, Palekar said the Congress would stage a protest at the Department of Panchayats if the notification is not withdrawn. The party has alleged that the proposal is aimed at bringing these villages under the jurisdiction of Planning and Development Authorities (PDAs).

From Attendant To Ex Banker: Eight Arrested As Ram Temple Donation Probe Deepens

SIT investigation gathers pace after allegations of irregularities in the counting of offerings at the Ayodhya shrine

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The investigation into the alleged misappropriation of donations received at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya has intensified, with eight individuals arrested in connection with the case following the submission of a preliminary report by a Special Investigation

Team. The controversy first surfaced earlier this month, when allegations emerged regarding irregularities in the handling of cash and valuables offered by devotees at the temple. Initial responses from authorities and temple officials rejected the claims and maintained that the donation process

was subject to regular audits and strict oversight. However, as concerns grew, the Uttar Pradesh government constituted a Special Investigation Team on June 13 following a request from the temple trust. The team submitted its preliminary findings to the state government on June 23, after which action against those named in the case moved



swiftly. The eight arrested individuals were involved in various stages of the donation counting and handling process. They include staff

associated with cash counting operations, supervisory roles and administrative responsibilities linked to the management of temple offerings.

2,000 Calls, Two Failed Attempts And A Deadly Push: Pune Murder Probe Deepens

Investigators allege a six month conspiracy, multiple failed attempts and a pre planned signal in the death of businessman Ketan Agarwal

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The investigation into the death of Pune businessman Ketan Agarwal has uncovered allegations of an elaborate and carefully planned conspiracy involving his fiancée Siya Goyal and her alleged partner Chetan Chaudhary.

According to investigators, the plot to kill Agarwal had been in the making for nearly six months before it culminated at Lohagad



Fort near Pune on June 18, 2025. Police believe the accused maintained constant communication during this period, exchanging more than 2,000 phone calls lasting a combined 238 hours.

Authorities allege that the couple had visited the fort on earlier occasions with the intention of carrying out the crime but failed to go through with

it. During questioning, both accused have reportedly offered conflicting accounts, each attempting to place responsibility on the other.

Investigators claim that after two unsuccessful attempts, Chetan Chaudhary allegedly decided to take control of the plan himself. Police sources allege that during the final visit to the fort, a pre arranged signal had been agreed upon between the two accused.

Goemkarponn
True Goemkars at Heart

WE ARE HIRING!

JOIN OUR DYNAMIC TEAM

Be the Voice. Shape the News. Impact Lives.

NEWS ANCHOR CUM SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYST	SUB EDITOR	VIDEO EDITOR
<p>What You'll Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present news stories, interviews, and special reports confidently on camera. Excellent communication and presentation skills. Strong command of English, Konkani, and Hindi (preferred). Knowledge of current affairs and digital media. Monitor and analyze social media trends and engagement. Create content and represent the organization across digital platforms. 	<p>What You'll Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit and proofread news articles, reports, and feature stories. Ensure accuracy, clarity, grammar, and style consistency. Write and optimize headlines, captions, and summaries. Coordinate with reporters and the editorial team to meet deadlines. 	<p>What You'll Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit news videos, reels, interviews, and podcasts. Add graphics, captions, effects, and music for engaging output. Work closely with our content and newsroom teams. Deliver sharp, deadline-friendly edits every day.
<p>HOW TO APPLY:</p> <p>Send your portfolio + resume to our email/DM</p> <p>Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for a quick test edit.</p>	<p>APPLY NOW!</p> <p>BE A PART OF GOEMKARPONN NEWSROOM</p>	<p>WHAT YOU'LL GET:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with a dynamic newsroom team Opportunity to grow in the media industry Creative and fast-paced work environment Make an impact through responsible journalism
<p>SEND YOUR CV TO: goemkarponnnews@gmail.com</p>	<p>CALL US: +91 89568 93882</p>	

Common Sense Cannot Be Outsourced

The disturbing video of a tourist being swept away by rough waves at Goa's Baga Beach has once again sparked a familiar debate. Every such incident triggers calls for stricter regulations, more lifeguards, bigger warning boards, harsher penalties, and greater government intervention. While authorities must certainly ensure basic safety measures, there is an uncomfortable truth that often goes unspoken: no government can fully protect people from their own recklessness.

Modern society has developed an expectation that every risk must be eliminated by the state. When accidents occur, the first instinct is to ask what officials failed to do. Yet beaches, mountains, rivers, forests, and oceans are not controlled environments. They are dynamic natural spaces where danger is an inherent reality. No number of warning signs can completely prevent tragedy if individuals choose to ignore them.

The Baga Beach incident appears to fit into a pattern that has become increasingly common across India's tourist destinations. Visitors cross safety barricades, venture into prohibited zones, attempt risky selfies near cliffs, enter rough seas despite warnings, and disregard instructions from lifeguards. Many do so in pursuit of social media content, thrill-seeking, or simply because they assume that nothing bad will happen to them.

This misplaced confidence is often the real danger.

Lifeguards stationed on beaches repeatedly report that tourists argue with them, dismiss warnings, and enter the water even when red flags are flying. Similar stories emerge from hill stations where visitors ignore barriers and from rivers where people enter swollen waters during monsoon season. In many cases, rescue personnel end up risking their own lives to save those who willingly ignored safety advice.

There is a limit to what governance can achieve in such situations. Authorities

“*The Baga Beach incident appears to fit into a pattern that has become increasingly common across India's tourist destinations. Visitors cross safety barricades, venture into prohibited zones, attempt risky selfies near cliffs, enter rough seas despite warnings, and disregard instructions from lifeguards. Many do so in pursuit of social media content, thrill-seeking, or simply because they assume that nothing bad will happen to them.*

This misplaced confidence is often the real danger.

Lifeguards stationed on beaches repeatedly report that tourists argue with them, dismiss warnings, and enter the water even when red flags are flying.”

can deploy lifeguards, install warning systems, monitor weather conditions, and conduct awareness campaigns. They can even impose fines for violating safety regulations. But they cannot accompany every tourist into the water, stand beside every cliff edge, or physically restrain every person determined to take unnecessary risks.

The belief that government alone can prevent such incidents creates a dangerous culture of dependency. It shifts responsibility away from individuals and encourages the notion that personal judgment is secondary. Safety then becomes someone else's obligation rather than a shared responsibility.

This is particularly important in a country where tourism is rapidly expanding. Millions of Indians are travelling to beaches, trekking destinations, waterfalls, and adventure sites that previous generations rarely visited. Greater accessibility is welcome, but it must be matched by a stronger culture of risk awareness. Enjoying nature requires respecting it. The sea does not care whether someone is a local resident or a first-time visitor. Waves do not pause because a person wants a photograph. Natural forces remain indifferent to human confidence.

Education and public awareness therefore matter as much as infrastructure. Safety campaigns should not merely list rules but explain the consequences of ignoring them. Schools and colleges can play a role in promoting basic risk literacy. Tourism operators should actively communicate dangers rather than treating safety instructions as a formality.

At the same time, enforcement must remain firm. If tourists repeatedly violate restricted zones despite clear warnings, penalties should follow. Accountability cannot apply only to officials; it must also apply to individuals whose actions endanger themselves and others.

The Goa incident is unfortunate, but it should not become another episode in the endless cycle of blame directed exclusively at authorities. Public safety is not a one-sided contract. Governments have responsibilities, but citizens do too. A society that expects officials to eliminate every conceivable risk is chasing an impossible goal. The more practical objective is to create an environment where information is available, safeguards are in place, and individuals exercise sound judgment. Ultimately, common sense remains the most effective safety measure ever invented. Unlike lifeguards, warning signs, or regulations, it can be present everywhere. The tragedy is that it is often the first thing people leave behind when they go on holiday.

OPED

Water Metro Must Benefit Goans First

The announcement that the Goa Water Metro project has entered Phase One is undoubtedly welcome news. Improved inland water transport can reduce road congestion, provide faster connectivity, and offer a cleaner mode of travel across Goa's river network. The Centre's decision to accord priority status to the project reflects growing recognition of Goa's maritime potential.

However, while the project promises modern infrastructure and tourism growth, policymakers must ensure that it serves the interests of ordinary Goans and not just visitors. The success of the Water Metro should be measured by its ability to provide affordable, reliable, and convenient transport for daily commuters, students, workers, and residents living along riverine routes.

Goa has often witnessed infrastructure projects being marketed as transformative, only for local communities to see limited direct benefits. The Water Metro must not become another tourism-centric initiative where public resources primarily cater to visitors while local transport needs remain secondary.

The government's assurance that the project will be environmentally friendly is encouraging. Nevertheless, strict safeguards must be maintained to protect river ecosystems, fishing livelihoods, and sensitive coastal habitats. Development and environmental protection must go hand in hand.

The proposed tourist terminal at Mormugao and the focus on maritime infrastructure can create economic opportunities, but transparency, public consultation, and proper planning are essential. Citizens should be kept informed about routes, costs, environmental impact, and long-term benefits.

If implemented thoughtfully, the Water Metro can become a model for sustainable transport. But its true success will depend on whether it improves the quality of life of Goans first.

- Sebastian D'Souza, Margao, Goa

Citizens Deserve Clarity, Not Confusion

The recent clarification that no single document, including a passport, serves as definitive proof of Indian citizenship raises important questions about the country's administrative framework. While the legal position may be well established, it remains confusing for millions of ordinary citizens who have long assumed that documents such as passports, Aadhaar cards, and voter IDs sufficiently establish their status.

The government is correct in pointing out that citizenship is determined through legal provisions and a combination of records. However, this reality exposes a larger problem. In a nation of over 1.4 billion people, citizens should not have to navigate a maze of documents to prove something as fundamental as their nationality.

The absence of a universally accepted citizenship document creates uncertainty, particularly for vulnerable sections of society. Rural residents, migrant workers, senior citizens, and those with incomplete records often face significant difficulties when required to establish their identity or citizenship before authorities. In such cases, bureaucratic complexity can become a source of anxiety and exclusion.

At a time when governance is increasingly digital and document driven, India must seriously consider whether a transparent and legally robust citizenship certification mechanism is necessary. Such a system would not only reduce confusion but also strengthen public confidence in government processes.

Citizens should not be left guessing which document carries what legal weight. The government owes people greater clarity, consistency, and simplicity in matters that directly affect their rights and legal status.

Yours faithfully,

- Francis Rodrigues, Panaji, Goa

For Faster CRZ Mapping GCZMA to Upgrade Survey Infrastructure

■ Authority sanctions ₹56.64 lakh for advanced geo-mapping equipment as backlog of coastal inspections grows

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Facing delays in mapping and inspection work across Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) areas, the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has decided to procure advanced surveying equipment to improve the accuracy and speed of its field operations.

During a recent meeting, the authority observed that the volume



of structures requiring geo-referencing and mapping within CRZ limits has risen substantially. The shortage of modern survey tools has made it difficult to keep pace with inspections, resulting in

a growing backlog of pending cases.

GCZMA officials pointed out that the authority's

existing Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) equipment has technical limitations, particularly in areas with dense vegetation and certain coastal stretches. These constraints have

affected its ability to carry out precise location mapping during field visits.

To overcome these challenges, the authority has approved an expenditure of ₹56.64 lakh for the purchase of two state-of-the-art DGPS units equipped with Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receivers and controllers. The procurement will be carried out through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).



Goa Avoids Fresh Borrowings in April-June Quarter

■ State stays away from bond market despite ₹900 crore borrowing roadmap for first three months of 2026-27

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government chose not to tap the debt market during the first quarter of the 2026-27 financial year, even though it had earmarked ₹900 crore in planned borrowings through State Development Loans (SDLs) for the April-to-June period. As per the borrowing schedule prepared for the quarter, the State had proposed raising ₹200 crore in April, followed by ₹400 crore in May and ₹300 crore in June. However, records from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) indicate that Goa did not conduct any bond issuances during these months. The move reflects a more restrained borrowing strategy compared to the same period last year, when the State secured ₹350 crore from the market despite a higher projected

borrowing target. Officials familiar with the matter said Goa has been relying on its own revenue streams and transfers from the Centre to meet expenditure requirements while simultaneously addressing debt-servicing commitments.

The State is expected to face substantial repayment obligations during the current fiscal year, including the redemption of previously issued securities and payment of interest on outstanding loans. Managing these liabilities appears to have influenced the government's decision to defer fresh borrowings in the opening quarter.

For 2026-27, the Centre has authorised Goa to borrow up to ₹4,000 crore. However, the State has consistently remained well below its borrowing ceiling in recent years.



HC Refuses Relief to Panchayat PIO in RTI Case, Backs Information Commission Order

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has declined to intervene in a case involving a village panchayat official penalised under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, holding that his conduct during the proceedings showed a lack of seriousness towards statutory duties and citizens' right to information.

The petition was filed by Yogesh Fatarpekar, Secretary and Public Information Officer (PIO) of the Majorda-Utorda-Calata Village Panchayat, challenging an order of the Goa State Information Commission that imposed a monetary penalty on him for not furnishing information sought by an RTI applicant.

While dismissing the plea, Justice Dr Neela Gokhale noted that the official had been granted multiple opportunities to respond to the complaint before the commission but failed to do so within the prescribed time.

Goa Police Seek Tougher NDPS Norms as Ganja Dominates Drug Seizures

■ With over 90% of narcotics seizures linked to cannabis, authorities push Centre to revisit quantity thresholds under anti-drug law

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Concerned over the growing prevalence of cannabis-related offences, Goa Police have urged the Centre to review the quantity limits that determine stricter punishment under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, arguing that existing provisions are being exploited by drug peddlers.

The demand comes amid a sustained anti-



drug drive that saw police arrest 116 suspected peddlers and seize more than 66 kg of narcotic substances worth nearly ₹4 crore between January and June 21 this year.

Senior police officials said ganja continues to account for the overwhelming majority of narcotics recovered in

the State, representing more than 90 per cent of total drug seizures during enforcement operations. Authorities believe traffickers are deliberately carrying quantities below the legally defined commercial limits to avoid stringent provisions and secure bail more easily.

At present, possession of 20 kg of ganja and 1 kg of charas is categorised as a commercial quantity under the NDPS Act, attracting tougher legal consequences.

Kiren Rijiju Calls for Wider Adoption of Minority Welfare Schemes in Goa

■ Union Minister reviews programme implementation, stresses outreach and economic empowerment

Team Goemkarponn

CAVELOSSIM: Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Thursday urged stakeholders in Goa to intensify efforts to spread awareness about minority welfare programmes, stating that greater participation would help more people benefit from the assistance



available through Central government initiatives.

During an interaction with beneficiaries of schemes supported by the National Minorities Development and Finance

Corporation (NMDFC), Rijiju said direct discussions with recipients offer valuable feedback on how welfare programmes are functioning and where improvements may be needed. The event, organised by the Goa State Minorities Finance and Development Corporation (GSMFDC) in collaboration with NMDFC, provided a platform to review the implementation of various

schemes and hear first-hand experiences from beneficiaries.

Rijiju noted that although Goa has a relatively small minority population compared to many other states, there remains considerable scope to increase the utilisation of available schemes. He said better dissemination of information could ensure that eligible individuals and groups are able to

access financial and developmental support.

The minister indicated that he would hold discussions with the State government on enhancing awareness of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram, a Central scheme aimed at supporting infrastructure and community development projects in areas with significant minority populations.

Old Grudge Behind Colvale Murder, Say Police

■ 60-year-old allegedly beaten to death over previous enmity; two arrested, two others absconding

Team Goemkarponn

COLVALE: A long-standing grudge allegedly culminated in the murder of a 60-year-old man at Chicalim-Colvale, with Colvale Police arresting two accused while launching a search for two others.

Krishna alias Shango Naik of Manshi Wado, Chicalim-Colvale, succumbed to injuries after he was allegedly assaulted with a wooden



stick, kicks and fist blows on Wednesday evening. Police said the attack was allegedly triggered by a previous enmity.

According to the complaint lodged by Rupesh Shankar Naik

(49), the victim's brother, the incident took place at around 5.30 pm on June 24 in front of the house of Shantaram Dhargalkar.

When Rupesh, his brother Mahesh Naik and neighbour Shantaram Dhargalkar attempted to rescue Krishna, they too were allegedly assaulted. Shantaram sustained a fracture, while Rupesh and Mahesh suffered

injuries.

The accused have been identified as Christopher Paul, Stephen Paul, Shravan of Ponda and Pratik Gawas of Nadora. Christopher Paul (27) and Pratik Gawas (22) have been arrested, while efforts are underway to apprehend the remaining two accused.

Police Inspector Sanjit Kandolkar of Colvale Police Station is conducting further investigation into the case.

Woman Suffers Fracture in Alleged Assault at Canacona

■ Accused booked for attacking complainant with wooden stick at Maxem; police probe

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A woman sustained a fracture after she was allegedly assaulted with a wooden stick at Maxem in Canacona, police said.

According to a complaint lodged by Anita Varak, a resident of Canacona, the incident occurred at around 1.30 pm on June 20 at Tanshi, Maxem.

She alleged that Narayan Gaonkar, a



resident of Maxem, assaulted her with a

wooden stick, causing a fracture to her right forearm.

Canacona Police have registered a case against the accused, and further investigation is being carried

out by PSI Ramdas Doifode.



Burglars Decamp With ₹7.45 Lakh Cash, Gold and Silver From Velsao House

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Burglars allegedly broke into a house at Velsao-Pale and decamped with cash and gold and silver ornaments collectively worth ₹7.45 lakh while the occupants were away.

According to a complaint lodged by Lalitabai Rathod, the theft occurred between 12.30 am on June 20 and 8.30 pm on June 23. Unknown accused allegedly entered the house, damaged the lock of a dressing table drawer and stole ₹5 lakh in cash along with several gold and silver ornaments.

The stolen valuables include a pair of gold earrings, a pair of gold ear chains, two gold finger rings, five small gold rings, a pair of gold-plated bangles, a pair of silver payals and a pair of silver ankle kadas.

Verna Police have registered a case against unknown persons, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Mahesh Bhomkar.

Fisherman Found Drowned in Assolna Paddy Field

■ 56-year-old, who had gone fishing, identified by son; autopsy confirms death due to drowning

Team Goemkarponn

CUNCOLIM: A 56-year-old fisherman from Assolna was found dead in a waterlogged paddy field after he failed to return home from a fishing trip, police said.

According to police, Edwin Vaz of Bainaque, Assolna had left for fishing at around 11.30 pm on June 23 but did not return home. His son, Edan Vaz,



subsequently informed the police about his father's disappearance.

During a search at Bainaque, Assolna, police found Edwin's body submerged in water in an open paddy field. The

body was recovered and identified by his son.

Police said the family informed investigators that Edwin Vaz was a chronic alcoholic and suffered from epilepsy.

Following an inquest

Illegal Laterite Mining Case Registered at Dharbandora

■ Unknown persons booked for allegedly extracting government-owned laterite stone from revenue and forest land

Team Goemkarponn

COLLEM: Collem Police have registered a case against unknown persons for allegedly carrying out illegal extraction and removal of laterite stone from government revenue and forest land at Aglote in Dharbandora.

The complaint was lodged by Shyam Sawant, Geologist with the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Panaji. According to the complaint, the illegal mining activity took place prior to August 14, 2025, when unknown accused allegedly extracted

and removed laterite stone without lawful authority, resulting in the theft of government-owned mineral and causing loss to the State Government. A case has been registered at Collem Police Station under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), relevant provisions of the Goa Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1985, and Section 4(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Rohan Naik of Collem Police Station.



Verna Police Arrest Man With 1.36 Kg Ganja Worth ₹1.36 Lakh

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: A 41-year-old man was arrested by Verna Police after allegedly being found in possession of 1.362 kg of ganja valued at approximately ₹1.36 lakh during a late-night narcotics raid at Zuarinagar in Sancoale. The accused, identified as Nandkishor Ray, a native of Jharkhand and currently residing at Zuarinagar, was apprehended during the operation conducted opposite Bay Village Resi. Complex between 10.05 to 11.40 pm on Thursday.

No Plans to Reduce Trawlers, Owners Must Follow Norms: Halarnkar

■ Fisheries Minister says government's focus is on compliance, safety and documentation; Kharewado jetty talks with MPA to continue

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar on Thursday clarified that the Goa government has no proposal to reduce the number of trawlers operating in the state, stressing that the focus is on ensuring compliance with Fisheries Department norms and improving safety at sea.



Speaking to reporters after attending a programme organised by Street Providence Goa in association with the Verna Industries Association,

Halarnkar said the government was not against trawler owners but expected them to strictly follow regulations.

"The Government has nothing against trawler owners, nor do we intend to reduce the number of boats. Our concern is that all operators comply with the prescribed norms. Tracking instruments have been provided to monitor

vessel movement, but many owners fail to carry them while fishing. In the event of an accident, the responsibility falls on the Government, making compliance essential," he said.

The minister also expressed concern over unauthorised jetties and incomplete documentation maintained by some vessel owners.



Industries Join Hands to Fight Hunger, Cut Food Waste in Goa

■ Street Providence Goa honours companies for donating surplus canteen food to the needy

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A growing initiative to tackle hunger and reduce food wastage in Goa received a major boost as Street Providence Goa, in association with Food Bank for the Poor, felicitated industries, organisations and individuals for their contribution to food recovery and distribution across the state.

At its second award function, the organisation recognised companies that regularly donate surplus, hygienic and nutritious food from their factory canteens instead of allowing it to go to waste. The recovered food is distributed to slum communities, shelter homes, orphanages and other vulnerable groups.

Addressing the gathering, Industries and Boilers Minister Nilkant

Halarnkar commended the participating industries for supporting the initiative. He said such efforts not only reduce food wastage but also ensure that nutritious meals reach underprivileged families across Goa. Among the companies honoured were Lupin, Siemens, Cipla, Colgate-Palmolive, IFB Industries, Marksans Pharma, Micro Labs and CommScope for their consistent contribution to the programme. Organisers said the initiative highlights the power of collaboration between industries, non-governmental organisations and volunteers in building an effective food recovery network. Through coordinated efforts, thousands of meals that would otherwise have been discarded are now reaching people facing food insecurity.



Former Panch Opposes Proposal to Declare Pale an Urban Area

Team Goemkarponn

VELSAO: Former Velsao Panch member and social worker Roquezinho D'Souza has objected to the proposal to declare Pale ward an urban area, alleging that the move lacks transparency and could pave the way for unplanned development while altering the village's traditional character.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday, D'Souza said he had submitted a formal objection to the Revenue Department and written to the Directorate of Panchayats, questioning why only Pale, Ward No. 4 of the seven-ward Velsao Panchayat, had been selected for urban classification.

He said the proposal follows a memorandum-notification dated May 26, 2026, and claimed that a similar attempt made in 2020 was later withdrawn. D'Souza demanded that the government explain why the proposal had resurfaced and on whose request it had been initiated.

Uprooted Tree Damages Parked Car Near MPA Gate No. 9

■ Driver escapes unhurt as firefighters clear fallen tree after monsoon mishap

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: A parked Maruti Swift was damaged after an uprooted tree crashed onto the vehicle near the Velankanni Chapel close to Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) Gate No. 9 on Thursday.

Fortunately, no injuries or casualties were reported.

The incident occurred when the tree suddenly gave way and fell on the parked car, damaging a portion of the vehicle. The impact drew the attention



of nearby residents, motorists and passersby, who rushed to the spot.

Eyewitnesses said the tree collapsed without warning, trapping the vehicle beneath its branches. However, the

driver escaped unhurt and no one else was affected.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel responded promptly and used cutting equipment to remove the fallen tree and clear the area.

Immediate Steps Needed to Prevent More Landslides on Harbour Road: Kamat

■ PWD Minister inspects slide-hit stretch, says retaining wall and temporary protection measures to be taken up urgently

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Public Works Department Minister Digambar Kamat called for immediate measures to prevent further landslides along Harbour Road after inspecting the recent landslide site that claimed the life of a worker.

Kamat visited the affected stretch along with Mormugao



MLA Sankalp Amonkar and officials from the concerned departments to assess the stability of the hillside and review safety measures.

Addressing reporters

after the inspection, Kamat said the immediate priority was to secure the site and protect commuters during the ongoing monsoon.

He noted that the road

widening project had been awarded before he assumed charge as PWD Minister and clarified that the work was being executed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). "Our focus now is to prevent any further landslides. The hill has been cut very steeply, increasing the risk, especially during heavy rains," he said.

Kamat said the contractor had already

been directed to construct a retaining wall but acknowledged that carrying out major civil works during the monsoon could be challenging. He said a meeting would be held on Monday to discuss temporary safety measures, including installing heavy-duty protective nets to stabilise the slope until permanent works could be undertaken.

LAVA International Hosts 'Insiders Meet' in Goa, Showcasing Latest Portfolio and Strengthening Community Engagement

■ Lava hosts creators and media for an interactive showcase of its latest devices and technology vision

Team Goemkarponn

Goa: Lava International Limited, India's leading mobile phone manufacturing brand, hosted the Goa edition of its community engagement program - Insiders Meet, at Grand Hyatt, on 24th June 2026.

The exclusive gathering served as a collaborative opportunity for prominent technology creators, digital influencers, and media industry leaders. Attendees engaged in comprehensive discussions with Lava's core leadership team, gaining strategic insights into the company's upcoming product pipeline,



India-centric innovations, and the pivotal integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in revolutionizing next-generation mobile user experiences. The

discussions were paired with immersive, first-hand experiential zones highlighting Lava's latest consumer hardware ecosystem.

Throughout the event, guests explored extensively with Lava's latest smartphone line-ups spanning popular consumer categories

including the Agni, Blaze, Shark, etc. spanning multiple consumer segments, alongside select audio accessories.

Reflecting a powerful upsurge in consumer trust and expanding regional market share, Lava recorded an impressive 50% year-on-year growth within its smartphone vertical over the past fiscal year.

Building on this momentum, Lava plans to further strengthen its presence by doubling its retail reach, enhancing distributor engagement across key territories, and accelerating smartphone adoption through targeted consumer-centric features and locally tailored

innovations.

Complementing its product portfolio, Lava ensures an uncompromised software experience by offering a completely bloatware-free, Android experience devoid of intrusive pre-loaded software, backed seamlessly by their industry-first Service@Home after-sales support.

With the Goa edition of Insiders Meet, Lava further strengthened its commitment to fostering meaningful engagement by creating a platform for collaboration, knowledge-sharing and direct conversations around innovation, consumer needs and the future of mobile technology.

Ai+ Smartphone begins sales of Nova 2 Pro and Nova 2 Neo starting 26th June

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: Ai+ Smartphone today announced the commencement of sales of its latest devices, Nova 2 Pro and Nova 2 Neo, as part of the newly launched Nova Series. Designed to cater to a broad spectrum of users, from first-time smartphone owners to performance-focused upgraders, the Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro will be available exclusively on Flipkart and select retail outlets starting June 26 at 12 noon.

The launch of Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro builds on the strong momentum of the Nova Series, which has witnessed exceptional consumer demand and growing affinity among Indian smartphone buyers since its inception.

The units will be available at the following pricing (Day 1 of Sales):

Nova 2 Neo 5G
4GB + 128GB | ₹12,999
6GB + 128GB | ₹13,999
Nova 2 Pro 5G
6GB + 128GB | ₹14,999*
onwards
8GB + 128GB | ₹16,999*
onwards



**Including ₹1,000 Bank Offer on all Banks (Debit/Credit)

Commenting on the commencement of sales, Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies said "The Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro reflect our effort to make capable, well-designed and dependable smartphone experiences accessible to a wider set of consumers. We have focused on the things that matter most in daily use - performance, battery life, imaging, software quality and privacy so that users do not have to compromise based on budget. With sales beginning today, we

are excited to bring the next chapter of the Nova Series to more users across India."

Nova 2 Neo: Built for Everyday Reliability: The Nova 2 Neo is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 6300 5G chipset and features a 6.745-inch HD+ display with a 120Hz refresh rate for smooth everyday use. It runs on Android 16-based NxtQuantum OS, offering a clean software experience backed by the NxtPrivacy Dashboard and AI Key support. The device houses a 48MP Sony IMX582 AI camera and an 8MP front camera for everyday photography and video calls. A 6000mAh battery with

18W charging support ensures all-day usage, while a side-mounted fingerprint scanner, IP65 dust and water resistance, dual SIM 5G, expandable storage of up to 2TB, and a slim 8.5mm profile round out a highly practical package.

Nova 2 Pro: Built for Performance and Creativity, The Nova 2 Pro is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 7100 chipset and features a 6.9-inch FHD+ punch-hole display with a 144Hz refresh rate, up to 800 nits HBM brightness, and a multi-layer cooling system for sustained performance. It runs on Android 16-based NxtQuantum OS with the

NxtPrivacy Dashboard and advanced AI Key customisation. Its camera setup includes a 48MP Sony IMX582 AI main camera, an 8MP ultra-wide camera, and a 13MP front camera built for content creation and video communication. The device features customisable lights in the back panel for calls, messages, and notifications, a premium 2.5D glass finish, dual stereo speakers, dual microphones, UFS storage with expandable memory of up to 1TB, and a 6000mAh battery with 33W fast charging.

With the Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro, Ai+ Smartphone continues to make trusted technology more accessible, combining reliable performance, user privacy, and meaningful innovation for everyday users. Ai+ Smartphone is a next-generation brand built in India, delivering reliable and high-performance mobile experiences. Powered by NxtQuantum OS, India's first sovereign mobile operating system. The brand focuses on

delivering a clean design, ensuring long battery life, and maintaining trusted software performance, all while keeping prices accessible without compromising the user experience.

From redefining smartphones to pioneering AIoT products as part of the company's Connected Ecosystem, Ai+ Smartphone is creating a new standard for trust, immersive experience, and accessibility. Rooted in a privacy-first architecture and a commitment to equitable access, Ai+ Smartphone stands for more than specs — it stands for India's next era of user-owned, future-ready technology.

NxtQuantum Shift Technologies is a deep-tech Indian company building secure, sovereign digital platforms for a digital-first world. Founded by Madhav Sheth, the company develops NxtQuantum OS, India's first sovereign operating system, and is committed to building technology that is authored in India and globally competitive.

'Operation Sindoor' Heroes To Be Honoured Forever At National War Memorial

Government reveals names of six personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice during India's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: For the first time, the Government of India has officially disclosed the names of six military personnel who lost their lives during Operation Sindoor, India's military response following the devastating terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

The April 22 attack in the Baisaran Valley



claimed the lives of 26 people, including 25 tourists and a local pony

operator, after terrorists opened fire on visitors in one of the region's popular

destinations.

The names of the fallen soldiers will now be permanently engraved on granite plaques at the National War Memorial near India Gate in New Delhi, ensuring that their sacrifice is remembered for generations to come.

The six personnel include five members of the Indian Army and one member of the Indian Air Force.



"Deadliest Attack In Canada's History": CSIS Officially Names Khalistani Extremists Behind Kanishka Bombing

Four decades after the tragedy, Canada's intelligence agency formally acknowledges responsibility for the 1985 Air India Flight 182 attack

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: More than four decades after the destruction of Air India Flight 182, Canada's intelligence agency has officially acknowledged that Canada based Khalistani extremists were responsible for carrying out the bombing that claimed the lives of all 329 people on board.

The attack, now recognised as the deadliest act of terrorism in Canadian history, took place on June 23, 1985, when an explosive device hidden inside checked baggage detonated aboard the aircraft as it flew over

the Atlantic Ocean near the coast of Ireland.

The flight, popularly known as the Kanishka, was travelling from Montreal to New Delhi with a scheduled stop in London when the explosion occurred less than an hour before its expected arrival in the British capital. There were no survivors.

Among those killed were 268 Canadian citizens, many of them of Indian origin, along with 24 Indian nationals and passengers from several other countries.

Search operations in the Atlantic recovered only a portion of the victims.



Bengal Set For Major Legal Shift As BJP Eyes Uniform Civil Code As First Bill

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: West Bengal could soon become the fourth state in India to move ahead with the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code, with the newly elected BJP government reportedly preparing to introduce the legislation as early as Monday.

The proposed law is expected to be the first major piece of legislation introduced by the new administration and has already emerged as one of the most closely watched political developments in the state. With 207 legislators in the 294 member Assembly, the ruling party holds a comfortable majority and is in a position to secure the passage of the Bill if it is tabled during the upcoming session. The proposal was reportedly discussed during a recent meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, signalling that preparations for introducing the legislation are at an advanced stage.

No Single Document Can Prove Indian Citizenship, Government Clarifies

Aadhaar, passport and voter ID serve different purposes, but none alone establishes citizenship under Indian law

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A fresh clarification regarding the status of passports has reignited discussions on how Indian citizens legally establish their nationality and whether the country needs a single document that conclusively proves citizenship.

The clarification reiterated that a passport is primarily a travel document and should not be treated as definitive proof of Indian citizenship. Officials stressed that this



position is not new and has remained unchanged under successive governments. At present, India does not issue a universal citizenship card that can independently establish a person's status as an Indian citizen. Instead, citizenship is determined through a combination of factors such as birth details,

parental status and supporting government records accumulated over time. Passports, although issued mainly to Indian citizens and subjected to extensive verification procedures, are not regarded as absolute legal proof of citizenship. Existing laws permit the government to issue passports to non citizens under exceptional circumstances, making the document strong evidence of identity but not conclusive proof of nationality.

"We Are Resuming Tourist Visas": India Signals Thaw In Ties With Bangladesh

Visa services for Bangladeshi travellers to restart from June 28 as both countries seek to strengthen people to people connections

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: In a significant step towards improving bilateral relations, India has announced the resumption of tourist visa services for Bangladeshi nationals, signalling a possible easing of tensions between the two neighbouring countries.

Applications for tourist visas will be accepted from June



28, 2026, marking the return of normal visa operations for leisure travel from Bangladesh to India. Authorities also confirmed that medical visas in urgent cases will continue to be processed on humanitarian grounds. The visa services will

initially be available through centres in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram, Sylhet and Khulna, with plans to gradually expand operations to additional cities in the coming months. The move is expected to benefit thousands of Bangladeshi citizens who travel to India for tourism, business, family visits and cultural exchanges. It is also likely to provide a boost to people to people interactions that have

traditionally formed an important pillar of India Bangladesh relations.

The announcement comes shortly after newly appointed Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi formally presented his credentials to Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin. During the meeting, both sides reiterated their commitment to strengthening cooperation and expanding

engagement across multiple sectors.

Trivedi assumed charge as India's envoy to Bangladesh earlier this month, succeeding Pranay Kumar Verma, who completed a four year tenure in Dhaka. His appointment comes at a time when New Delhi and Dhaka are working to improve ties while addressing a number of sensitive bilateral issues through dialogue and diplomatic engagement.

Anaya, Shaurya, Tvisha and Vanlalhriapuii March Into Under 11 Semi-finals in Ponda

■ Strong opening day performances set the tone at the 2nd All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The opening day of the 2nd All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament witnessed exciting contests and impressive performances as the race for titles gathered momentum at the Sports Complex, Ponda.

In the Girls Under 11 category, Anaya Shukla, Shaurya Dessai, Tvisha Kotkar and Vanlalhriapuii



secured their places in the semi-finals after producing commanding displays in the quarter-final stage. Anaya delivered a dominant performance to defeat Sanaz Shaikh

in straight games with a 3-0 victory. Shaurya was pushed to the limit by Claire George before emerging with a hard fought 3-2 win. Tvisha also survived a close



encounter, overcoming Tasha Mascarenhas by an identical 3-2 scoreline. Vanlalhriapuii completed the semi-final line-up with a convincing 3-0 triumph over Swara Gude.



"Dropping Performers Just To Create Space Would Be Unfair": India Faces Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Selection Dilemma

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The biggest talking point ahead of India's opening T20 match against Ireland is whether teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will receive his first senior international cap. While excitement around the youngster continues to grow, India's established top order presents a difficult selection puzzle. The team already has several experienced options at the top, including players who were part of India's successful T20 World Cup campaign. Accommodating the young batter would likely require leaving out a player who has consistently delivered for the national side. India's batting management has made it clear that current performers should not lose their place simply to fast track emerging talent. Competition for places is considered healthy, but opportunities must come at the right time and under the right circumstances.

"We Have Fumbled, But We'll Come Back Stronger": Harmanpreet Kaur Flags India's Fielding Concerns

■ India captain remains confident despite dropped chances as attention shifts to crucial clash against Australia

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India captain Harmanpreet Kaur admitted her team needs to improve its fielding standards after several missed opportunities in the field during their Women's T20 World Cup 2026 victory over Bangladesh.

Despite dropping four catches during the match, India comfortably chased down the target of 137 in 16.5 overs to

register another important



win in the tournament. While pleased with the overall performance,

Harmanpreet acknowledged that the fielding effort fell below the team's expectations.

The skipper noted that fielding has been a major area of focus in training and described the mistakes as unusual for a side that prides itself on its standards in the field.

She expressed confidence that the players would quickly recover and deliver a much sharper display in their next outing.



"Tactical Suicide": Germany's Shock Defeat Headlines Dramatic World Cup Day

■ Ecuador celebrate historic progress as the Netherlands remain perfect and Australia book knockout berth

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Day 14 of the FIFA World Cup 2026 delivered major surprises and decisive results as several teams secured places in the knockout rounds while others saw their campaigns come to an end.

The biggest upset of the day came in Group E, where four time champions Germany suffered a stunning 2-1 defeat to Ecuador.

Germany had taken the lead inside two minutes through Leroy Sane, but Ecuador responded strongly and levelled before the break through Nilson Angulo.

With the match heading towards a draw, Gonzalo Plata struck the winner late in the game to send Ecuador into the Round of 32 as

one of the tournament's best third placed teams.

Despite already having secured top spot in the group, Germany's defeat raised concerns over their tactical approach heading into the knockout stages.

Elsewhere in Group E, Ivory Coast secured second place with a comfortable 2-0 victory over Curacao. Nicolas Pepe scored both goals as the African side reached the World Cup knockout rounds for the first time in their history.

The Netherlands continued their impressive form in Group F with a convincing 3-1 victory over Tunisia, completing the group stage with three wins from three matches. The Dutch now head into the next round full of confidence after another dominant attacking display.

"I Am Mentally Exhausted, I Am Putting My Sword Down": Manika Batra Breaks Silence On Asian Games Snub

■ Indian table tennis star questions selection process and alleges constitutional violations by the federation

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Indian table tennis star Manika Batra has publicly questioned the selection process for the 2026 Asian Games squad, alleging that the Table Tennis Federation of India failed to follow its own constitutional guidelines while finalising the team.

The 31 year old paddler, who was named among the reserves for the upcoming Games



in Aichi and Nagoya, expressed disappointment over her omission from the main squad and raised concerns over the composition of the

selection committee responsible for the final decision. According to Batra, documents available to her indicate that a nine member

selection panel was involved in choosing the team. She argued that this was inconsistent with the federation's constitution, which limits the size of any sub committee to a maximum of seven members. The three time Olympian questioned how a decision taken by a larger committee could still be considered fully compliant with the rules and said the issue should be judged by those who have consistently advocated for

transparency and equal application of regulations in Indian sport.

Despite voicing her concerns, Batra admitted that the prolonged dispute has taken a personal toll. Describing herself as mentally exhausted, she said she was stepping away from the battle for now in order to focus on her immediate responsibility of representing India at an ongoing tournament in the United States.