



Monsoon Tragedies Raise Alarm as Goa's Drowning Toll Reaches 71

■ Karnataka Teen Feared Drowned at Delta Waterfall; Six Sanquelim Youths Rescued in Overnight Operation at Virdi

Team Goemkarponn

VALPOI: Goa's rising drowning toll has once again highlighted the dangers of the monsoon season, with a 15-year-old boy from Karnataka feared drowned at Delta Waterfall in Sattari, while six youths from Sanquelim were rescued after being stranded near a waterfall at Virdi on the Goa-Maharashtra border.

The latest incidents come as 71 drowning



deaths have been recorded in Goa between January and June this year, with fatalities reported across beaches, rivers and waterfalls.

The increase has been attributed to heavy tourist movement during the summer and hazardous conditions following the onset of the monsoon.

The missing boy has been identified as Aditya Dilip Kumar Satpati (15), a resident of Government Quarters, Belagavi, Karnataka. According to police, he had visited Delta Waterfall on Sunday along with five friends after accessing the site from the Karnataka side.

Aditya reportedly entered the water but failed to resurface. On receiving information, personnel from Valpoi Police

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Katamgal Dada shrine will not be touched: CM

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has appealed to people not to oppose the proposed project near the Katamgal Dada shrine, assuring that the government will not disturb even a small portion of the sacred site or its surrounding area.

Addressing concerns over the project, Sawant said there was no reason for opposition as the government was committed to protecting



the shrine. "Even I believe in Katamgal Dada, and we will not disturb even a small part of the nearby Katamgal Dada area," he said.



9 Missing as Floods Ravage Arunachal Pradesh, Rescue Boat Swept Away Mid-Operation

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: At least nine people are missing after flash floods triggered by the Sisiri river in Arunachal Pradesh's Lower Dibang Valley district, officials said, as torrential monsoon rains continue to wreak havoc across multiple regions of the state.

Rescue operations faced a major setback when an inflated rubber boat carrying seven members of a search team along with three rescued civilians was swept away by strong currents during the evacuation effort. Search teams have since intensified operations to trace those missing.

District authorities have deployed boats and even elephants in an attempt to reach cut-off and flood-affected areas. The Indian Air Force is expected to join the operation with helicopters early Tuesday to strengthen search-and-rescue efforts.

Chodankar Alleges BJP Plotting New Salcete-Based Secular Party Ahead of Polls

■ GPCC Chief Invites Opposition for Alliance Talks, Says Congress Open to All Seeking BJP's Defeat

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Girish Chodankar on Monday alleged that the Chief Minister and the BJP are working on forming a new Salcete-based secular party ahead of the Assembly elections to divide anti-BJP votes.



Addressing the media, Chodankar claimed that a budget of ₹100 crore has allegedly been earmarked for the exercise, with the objective of splitting the secular vote bank of the

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Palekar Alleges Life-Threatening Road Rage Attack, Questions Inaction Against Chitti Babu

■ Congress Leader Claims Drunk Youths Tried to Assault Him, Alleges Habitual Offender Being Shielded

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Congress leader and advocate Amit Palekar on Monday alleged that he survived a life-threatening road rage attack in Taleigao on Sunday night and also accused the authorities of failing to act against Chitti Babu Ghanta despite multiple complaints.



Addressing a press conference, Palekar claimed that a group of allegedly intoxicated youths abused him and attempted to assault him following a road rage

incident in Taleigao. "I had a life-threatening incident last night. Some drunk youths tried to attack me in a road rage incident. They attempted

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Secret Call and Deleted Chats Point to Pre-Planned Murder: New Twist in Ketan Agarwal Case

■ Forensic probe uncovers key digital evidence in Pune fort killing

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: A fresh breakthrough in the investigation into the alleged murder of 25-year-old Ketan Agarwal has revealed a "secret call" and deleted digital communications between the accused woman and her co-accused shortly before the crime, police sources said. According to officials, 20-year-old Siya Goyal reportedly contacted her partner-in-



crime, Chetan Chaudhary, around 34 minutes before Agarwal was allegedly pushed off a cliff at Lohagad fort in Pune on June 18. Investigators believe the call may have served as the final coordination link in what is being treated as a pre-planned conspiracy. The revelation emerged

after forensic experts examined the mobile phones of both accused. Call detail records (CDR) and recovered digital traces are now being treated as key evidence in the case, sources said. Police also suspect that the duo deleted WhatsApp chats and voice notes spanning several months to erase traces of their alleged planning. A cyber unit is currently attempting to recover the erased data using forensic tools.

Goemkarponn
True Goemkars at heart

WE ARE HIRING!

JOIN OUR DYNAMIC TEAM

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:</p> <p>goemkarponnnews@gmail.com</p>	<p>CALL US:</p> <p>+91 89568 93882</p>	

The Problem Is Not IIT. It Is Our Mindset

Goa has once again found itself protesting the establishment of a permanent campus for IIT Goa. This is not the first site to face opposition, and if the current pattern continues, it may not be the last. The bigger question is no longer about the location of the campus. It is about whether Goa has developed a culture of saying "no" to every major development project.

Every citizen has the democratic right to question the government. If there are environmental concerns, issues of transparency or fears about displacement, they deserve to be heard. No project should be beyond public scrutiny. But there comes a point when scrutiny turns into obstruction, and opposition becomes an end in itself.

An IIT is not just another government building. It is one of the country's premier educational institutions. Across India, IITs have transformed regions by creating opportunities in research, innovation, entrepreneurship and employment. They attract brilliant students, distinguished faculty and industries looking for talent. Their presence creates an ecosystem that benefits local businesses, improves infrastructure and inspires future generations.

Yet in Goa, instead of celebrating such an opportunity, sections of society have chosen to resist it. The arguments change with every proposed site, but the outcome remains the same. Every location becomes unacceptable. Every proposal faces protests. Every decision is viewed through suspicion.

This raises an uncomfortable possibility. Is the resistance really about the land, or is it about a mindset that fears change more than it values progress?

Goa cannot afford to think only in terms of immediate inconvenience. Development requires long term vision. Educational institutions are investments whose benefits may not be visible overnight but continue for decades. A permanent IIT campus would not only strengthen higher education but also encourage startups,

"This raises an uncomfortable possibility. Is the resistance really about the land, or is it about a mindset that fears change more than it values progress?"

Goa cannot afford to think only in terms of immediate inconvenience. Development requires long-term vision. Educational institutions are investments whose benefits may not be visible overnight but continue for decades. A permanent IIT campus would not only strengthen higher education but also encourage startups, research collaborations and knowledge-based industries.

At a time when young Goans are seeking better opportunities, rejecting institutions that can create those opportunities appears self-defeating."

research collaborations and knowledge based industries. At a time when young Goans are seeking better opportunities, rejecting institutions that can create those opportunities appears self defeating.

Politicians have also played a disappointing role in this debate. Instead of helping people understand the larger significance of the project, many have chosen to exploit public emotions for political mileage. Supporting every protest may earn temporary applause, but it does not build schools, create jobs or prepare the state for the future. Leadership demands the courage to explain difficult decisions, not merely echo popular sentiments.

The government, too, is not without blame. It has often failed to communicate effectively

with local communities before announcing decisions. Lack of transparency creates distrust and allows misinformation to spread. Public consultation should be meaningful, not symbolic. When people feel ignored, protests become inevitable.

However, there is a difference between demanding accountability and rejecting development altogether. If every proposed site is opposed, what is the alternative? Should IIT Goa continue operating from temporary facilities indefinitely? Those leading the protests rarely provide practical answers. It is easier to oppose than to propose.

Goa frequently speaks about diversifying its economy beyond tourism. It wants better jobs for its youth, more investment and a stronger knowledge economy. None of these ambitions can become reality if institutions capable of driving that transformation are repeatedly pushed away.

There is also a worrying tendency to romanticise stagnation in the name of preserving Goa.

Protecting the state's environment and cultural identity is essential, but preservation should not become an excuse for paralysis. Progress and conservation are not enemies. A well planned educational institution can coexist with environmental responsibility and community interests.

The debate over IIT Goa should therefore move beyond emotional slogans and political theatre. It should focus on facts, long term benefits and practical solutions. Goa deserves informed discussions, not reflexive opposition.

The issue is no longer whether IIT Goa should have a permanent campus. It certainly should. The real issue is whether Goa is willing to embrace institutions that can shape its future.

The greatest obstacle today is not the IIT project itself. It is a mindset that resists change before understanding its value. If that mindset does not change, Goa risks losing far more than an educational institution. It risks losing the opportunities that define the future.

EDITOR SPEAKS

The Real Road Hazard Is Our Collective Failure

Suraj Nandrekar

The latest road accident statistics for May 2026 should alarm every citizen and policymaker in Goa. In a single month, 242 accidents were reported across the state. Twenty two people lost their lives. Forty five suffered grievous injuries and another 87 sustained minor injuries. Behind every number is a shattered family, a life altered forever, or a future abruptly cut short.

Yet, despite these grim statistics becoming a recurring feature of official reports, road safety continues to be treated as a routine administrative issue rather than a public emergency.

The most disturbing aspect of the figures is the profile of the victims. Half of those who died were riders of two wheelers. Seven were pedestrians. These are not merely statistics. They reveal the vulnerability of those who use Goa's roads every day and expose systemic failures in enforcement, infrastructure and public behaviour.

For years, the discussion surrounding road accidents has followed a predictable pattern. A fatal crash occurs. There is public outrage. Authorities announce stricter enforcement drives. A few checkpoints appear. A few fines are issued. Then normalcy returns until the next tragedy dominates the headlines.

This cycle has achieved very little. The reality is that Goa's roads have become increasingly dangerous because multiple failures are converging at the same time. Reckless speeding remains common. Drunk driving continues despite repeated awareness campaigns. Helmet and seat belt compliance is often treated as optional rather than mandatory. Mobile phone use while driving has become a growing menace. Traffic rules are ignored with a confidence that reflects the belief that enforcement is sporadic and consequences are unlikely.

The problem, however, extends beyond motorists. Many roads lack adequate lighting, pedestrian crossings, warning signs and safety barriers. Footpaths are either missing or unusable in several areas, forcing pedestrians to share road space with speeding vehicles. Junctions known for accidents continue to remain hazardous despite repeated complaints. Every fatal accident should trigger a detailed review of road conditions, yet such exercises rarely translate into visible improvements.

Equally concerning is the apparent normalisation of road deaths. Twenty two fatalities in one month should provoke urgent debate at the highest levels of government. Instead, such numbers are increasingly accepted as an unfortunate but inevitable part of modern life. They are not inevitable. They are preventable.

The fact that seven pedestrians lost their lives should particularly concern policymakers. Pedestrians are often the most vulnerable road users. When a person walking on the road dies in a collision, it raises serious questions about urban planning, road design and traffic management. A society that cannot protect its pedestrians cannot claim to have safe roads.

The dominance of two wheeler fatalities also points to the need for a targeted strategy. Enforcement of helmet regulations must be uncompromising. Awareness campaigns should focus less on symbolism and more on behavioural change. Schools, colleges and workplaces must become active partners in promoting responsible road use.

At the same time, accident prevention cannot be reduced to policing alone. Goa requires a comprehensive road safety policy that integrates enforcement, engineering, education and emergency response. Black spots must be identified and corrected quickly. Data driven interventions should replace reactive measures. Road safety audits should become mandatory for major roads and junctions.

Most importantly, citizens must recognise their own responsibility. Governments can build safer roads and police can enforce regulations, but no system can compensate for reckless behaviour behind the wheel. Every instance of speeding, dangerous overtaking, drunk driving or distracted driving places lives at risk.

The May accident statistics are not just a record of what happened. They are a warning about what continues to happen every month. Unless road safety becomes a sustained priority rather than an occasional concern, Goa will continue to count accidents, injuries and deaths while failing to address the deeper causes behind them.

The tragedy is not that these accidents occur. The tragedy is that society has become accustomed to them.

Goa Records 242 Road Accidents in May, 22 Fatalities Reported

Directorate of Transport says 45 people suffered grievous injuries, while 87 sustained minor injuries across the state

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa recorded 242 road accidents during May 2026, including 22 fatal accidents, according to the monthly report released by the Directorate of Transport.

The report states that of the 242 accidents, 22 were fatal (15 in North Goa and 7 in South Goa), 35 were grievous accidents (20 in North Goa and 15 in South Goa), 37 were minor



accidents (15 in North Goa and 22 in South Goa), while 148 were non-injury accidents (71 in North Goa and 77 in South Goa).

A total of 22 people lost their lives in road accidents during the month. Additionally, 45 people sustained grievous injuries (22 in North

Goa and 23 in South Goa), while 87 persons suffered minor injuries (42 in North Goa and 45 in South Goa). Among the deceased were 11 riders, one pillion rider, seven pedestrians, and one passenger, highlighting the vulnerability of two-wheeler users and pedestrians on Goa's roads.

The statistics were released as part of the Directorate of Transport's monthly road accident report for May 2026.



Goa Govt Plans to Suspend Monsoon Water Sports on Safety Grounds

Captain of Ports May Revoke 2021 Relaxation as State Prioritises Tourist Safety

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government is planning to prohibit water sports activities during the monsoon season, citing increasing safety concerns, unpredictable sea conditions and the need to preserve the State's reputation as a safe tourist destination.

The Captain of Ports (CoP) Department is in the process of reviewing a 2021 notification that allowed licensed operators to conduct water sports during the rainy season whenever weather and sea conditions were considered suitable. Officials said the government is now inclined to either revoke the notification or amend it by introducing far stricter regulations. According to sources, the review follows reports that some operators allegedly continued offering rides even during periods of heavy rainfall and rough

seas. Authorities believe such practices place tourists at unnecessary risk, as sea conditions during the monsoon can deteriorate rapidly due to strong currents, high waves and sudden squalls. Officials said the government is examining the option of enforcing a complete suspension of water sports operations until the monsoon subsides. They maintain that a temporary ban would be the most effective measure to minimise accidents and ensure public safety. The move comes after a series of incidents along Goa's beaches, including the recent drowning of a tourist at Baga beach after he was swept away by powerful waves. The tragedy has renewed concerns over the safety of adventure activities during adverse weather conditions and the need for stricter enforcement of regulations.



TCMC Orders Immediate Evacuation, Demolition of Dilapidated Prabhu Building at Chaudi

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Canacona Municipal Council (CMC) has ordered the immediate evacuation and demolition of the dilapidated Prabhu Building at Chaudi, citing an engineering report that declared the structure critically unsafe and at risk of sudden collapse.

In a notice issued under Section 190 of the Goa Municipalities Act, 1968, CMC Chief Officer Laxmikant R. Dessai directed the owner, Damodar Narayan Prabhu, to immediately stop all commercial activities, vacate the premises and demolish the structure within 15 days. The notice, dated June 25, 2026, warns that failure to comply will result in the premises being sealed and the building demolished by the authorities without further notice.

Mystery Deepens in Mapusa Family Deaths as Forensic Report Awaited

Autopsy Completed; Investigators Probe Possible Poisoning After Death Toll Reaches Three

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: The investigation into the deaths of a family in Mapusa has entered a crucial stage, with authorities awaiting forensic and chemical examination reports to ascertain the exact cause of the incident.

The post-mortem examination of the father and his seven-year-old son has been completed. However, doctors have withheld their final opinion



until laboratory tests on the collected viscera and other samples are completed. Sources familiar with the medical examination said preliminary observations point towards the possibility of poisoning.

While no definitive conclusion has been

reached, the findings are believed to be more suggestive of insecticide exposure than poisoning caused

by conventional rat poison. Medical sources explained that fatalities resulting from commonly used rodenticides generally occur after several days, whereas the circumstances surrounding these deaths appear to indicate a different toxic substance.

Youth Congress Holds Torchlight Protest Seeking Dharmendra Pradhan's Resignation

Protesters allege NEET paper leak has jeopardised students' future; warn of intensified agitation if action is not taken

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Youth Congress Committee on Saturday organised a torchlight protest from Congress House to Azad Maidan, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged NEET paper leak.

The protest saw the participation of Youth



Congress leaders and workers, who condemned repeated examination paper leaks, claiming they have jeopardised the future of lakhs of students across the

country. The protesters demanded accountability, a fair investigation, and strict action against those responsible.

Addressing the gathering, Goa Pradesh

Youth Congress Committee President Adv. Archit Naik said that if Dharmendra Pradhan is not removed from office immediately, the organisation would intensify its agitation.

He stated that the Youth Congress would return to the streets with greater strength until justice is delivered to students and those responsible for the alleged irregularities are held accountable.

GSPCB Revamps Consent Process, Introduces Faster Approval Mechanism

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a significant policy shift aimed at making regulatory procedures more business-friendly, the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) has approved a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) introducing several relaxations in the process of granting environmental consents to industries and commercial establishments.



Crime Branch Seizes ₹1.5 Crore Worth of Illegal Petroleum Products in Dabolim Raid

■ Six Fuel Tankers, Tipper Truck Seized; Black Market Fuel Diversion Suspected, Case Registered Under Multiple Laws

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: In a major crackdown on the illegal storage and handling of petroleum products, the Goa Crime Branch seized six fuel tankers, a tipper truck and suspected petroleum products worth approximately ₹1.5 crore during a six-hour raid at an open plot opposite Hotel Navil Exotica in Dabolim.



The operation was launched after the Crime Branch received specific intelligence on June 27 regarding the illegal storage and supply of petroleum products, which

fall under the Essential Commodities Act. Acting on the input, a team led by SP (Crime Branch) Jivba Dalvi raided the site.

During the raid, officers inspected six fuel tankers and one tipper truck. Suspected combustible petroleum liquid was

found stored in the tankers. Representative samples were collected, sealed and preserved for forensic examination. All vehicles and sample exhibits were seized under a detailed panchanama.

The raid, which lasted nearly six hours, was conducted in the presence of panch witnesses, forensic experts and officials from Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL).

Calangute Police Crack Jewellery Shop Theft, Arrest Five-Member Interstate Gang

■ 15 of 16 Stolen Gold Rings Recovered After Swift Investigation and Maharashtra Operation

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have solved a jewellery shop theft case within days of the offence by arresting a five-member interstate gang from Raigad district in Maharashtra and recovering 15 of the 16 stolen gold finger rings. The theft was reported on June 26 by Uday Shirodkar, owner of Uday Goldsmith Jewellery Shop at Candolim. According to the complaint, a group of unknown persons allegedly stole 16 gold finger rings from the shop at around 12.30 pm before fleeing the scene. Following the registration of the case, Calangute Police formed a dedicated investigation team. Through technical surveillance, detailed investigation and coordinated field operations, police established the identities of the accused and tracked their movements. A police team led by PSI Paresh Sinari, under the supervision



of PI Laxi Amonkar and SDPO Porvorim Vishwesh Karpe, who is also holding charge as Superintendent of Police, North Goa, proceeded to Raigad district in Maharashtra. With assistance from the local police, the accused were traced and apprehended at a hotel in Lorne, Raigad. The arrested accused have been identified as Pandurang Ganpat Pawar (76), Mangesh Bhau Surve (35), Satish Namdev Shinde (41), Joshna Anand Pawar (65), all residents of Kharnale, Mahad, Maharashtra, and Vimal Rajendra Jadhav (61), a resident of Satara, Maharashtra. During the investigation, police recovered 15 stolen gold finger rings from the possession of the accused.



Motorcyclist Injured After Truck Collides with Bike in Sanvordem

Team Goemkarponn

SANVORDEM: Curcholem Police have registered a case against the driver of an Ashok Leyland truck for allegedly driving in a rash and negligent manner, resulting in a road accident that left a motorcyclist injured.

According to police, the case was registered based on a complaint filed by Head Constable Shrikant Velip of Curcholem Police Station. The incident occurred on June 26 at around 12.40 pm while the truck was travelling from Ambeaudak towards Guddemol in Sanvordem.

Police said the accused, identified as Basappa Hirehal, a resident of Gadag, Karnataka, allegedly drove the truck recklessly and collided with an oncoming Royal Enfield motorcycle.

As a result of the impact, the motorcycle rider, Delroy Fernandes, a resident of Ambeaudak, Sanvordem, fell onto the road along with his motorcycle and sustained injuries.

Decomposed Body Found in Abandoned House at Varca

■ Police Suspect Deceased Was a Migrant Labourer; Identity Yet to Be Established

Team Goemkarponn

VARCA: A decomposed body of an unidentified man was found inside an abandoned house at Chadwadi, Varca, prompting Colva Police to initiate an investigation.

According to police, information was received on June 27 at around 3.48 pm from Wendell Furtado, a resident of Varca, reporting that the body of an unknown man, estimated to be between 45 and 50 years



of age, was lying inside the abandoned house and that a foul smell was emanating from the premises.

Police visited the spot and conducted a preliminary inquiry. The deceased is suspected to be a migrant labourer who was known to frequent the

abandoned house.

An unnatural death (UD) case has been registered. Police conducted the scene-of-occurrence panchanama and inquest panchanama before shifting the body to the South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, where it has been preserved for post-mortem and other medico-legal formalities.

Further inquiry is being carried out by LPSI Varshada Naik Dessai of Colva Police Station.

Scooter Rider Killed in Borim Hit-and-Run; Truck Driver Arrested

■ Victim Crushed Under Container Truck Near Parpatiwada; Accused Allegedly Fled Without Offering Help

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: A scooter rider was killed in a fatal road accident at Borim after a container truck allegedly hit his two-wheeler and the driver fled the scene without assisting the victim or informing the police.

According to Ponda Police, the case was registered on the complaint of PSI Krishna Gawas. The accident occurred on June 27



before 3.15 pm near Parpatiwada, Borim, while the Tata container truck was travelling from Margao towards Ponda.

Police said the accused, identified as Rajesh Kumar Ray, a resident of Rajapur, Motihari, Bihar, allegedly drove the truck in a rash and negligent manner.

Two Minor Boys Allegedly Kidnapped from Ponda

■ Police Register Case After Children Reportedly Taken from Upper Bazar; Investigation Underway

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Ponda Police have registered a case of alleged kidnapping after two minor boys were reportedly taken away by unknown persons from Upper Bazar, Ponda.

According to the police, the complaint was lodged by the father of one of the minors, stating that on June 27 at around 9.30 am, unknown



accused persons allegedly kidnapped his minor son and the child's friend from the lawful guardianship of their families. A case has been registered at

Ponda Police Station, and an investigation has been taken up to trace the missing children and identify those responsible.

Goa Police Targets Drug-Free Goa by 2029, Says DGP Alok Kumar

■ DGP Says Enforcement Alone Is Not Enough, Calls for Community Participation to Eliminate Drug Menace

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Director General of Police (DGP) Alok Kumar, IPS, on Sunday said the Goa Police has prepared a three-year roadmap to achieve a drug-free Goa in line with the Government of India's vision of a drug-free nation by 2029.

Addressing participants at a 10-km anti-drug run organised by the Goa Police, the DGP stressed that the fight against narcotics cannot be



won by law enforcement agencies alone and called for active participation from families and communities.

"The Government of India has prepared a roadmap for a drug-

free India over the next three years, and Goa Police is also preparing a roadmap for a drug-free Goa. However, this fight cannot be won through enforcement alone. Community outreach

and public participation are equally important to realise the dream of a drug-free India by 2029," Alok Kumar said.

Highlighting the police's enforcement efforts, the DGP said Goa Police has registered over 900 drug-related cases during the last five years, arrested more than 1,000 accused and seized over 1,000 kilograms of narcotic substances. He added that a significant quantity of seized drugs has also been destroyed.



Rash Driving Triggers Three-Vehicle Crash Near Verna, Scooter Rider Injured

■ Mahindra Thar Crosses Divider After Hitting SUV, Crashes into Scooter; Police Probe Underway

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: A rashly driven Mahindra Thar allegedly triggered a serious three-vehicle accident near Blueberry, Verna, on Sunday afternoon, leaving a 25-year-old scooter rider injured and causing extensive damage to all three vehicles.

According to Verna Police, the Mahindra Thar, driven by Shikar Shetty, a resident of Colvale, was travelling towards Verna when the driver allegedly lost control of the vehicle near Blueberry.

The Thar first collided with a Hyundai Creta carrying around three occupants. The impact caused the SUV to cross the road divider and enter the opposite carriageway, where it crashed head-

on into a Jupiter scooter ridden by Sintoo Mitthu Lal, 25, a resident of Upasnagar and a native of Uttar Pradesh.

The force of the collision trapped the scooter beneath the Thar, while all three vehicles were thrown off the road. The Jupiter scooter was completely damaged in the accident.

Sintoo Mitthu Lal sustained critical injuries and was immediately shifted to a hospital for treatment. Police said he was later discharged after receiving medical care and is now out of danger.

Verna Police visited the accident site, conducted a spot inspection and initiated an investigation to determine the exact cause of the crash. Further inquiry is in progress.

BOOKED

Jeweller Booked for Allegedly Withholding Pledged Gold Worth ₹30 Lakh

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: A jeweller from Headland Sada has been booked by Mormugao Police for allegedly failing to return pledged gold ornaments worth around ₹30 lakh despite the complainant repaying a substantial portion of a gold loan.

The complaint was lodged by Bhagyashree Mesta, a resident of Headland Sada, who alleged that on June 5, 2025, she and her relative pledged approximately 224 grams of gold ornaments with PBC Jewellers, owned by Bhimappa Chalwadi, and obtained a gold loan.

According to the complaint, between January and April 2026, she repaid ₹16.90 lakh through UPI transactions and by mortgaging old gold ornaments. However, despite the repayments, the accused allegedly failed to return the pledged ornaments belonging to her and her relative.

The complainant alleged that the jeweller's actions caused her wrongful loss and amounted to criminal breach of trust.

Social Worker Urges Government to Permanently Drop Ward Urbanisation Proposal

■ Roquezinho D'Souza Says Notification Should Never Be Revived, Calls for Greater Transparency by Panchayats

Team Goemkarponn

VELSAO: Social worker and former Velsao Panch member Roquezinho D'Souza has urged the Goa Government to permanently shelve the Ward Urbanisation proposal, saying the issue should be closed once and for all to prevent uncertainty among villagers. Speaking to reporters after a tree plantation drive in Velsao



on Sunday, D'Souza, who was the first to file an objection against the Ward Urbanisation Notification, said the proposal should not be reintroduced in the future. He said the memorandum-cum-notification was issued

on June 4 and reached the Velsao Panchayat on June 5. According to D'Souza, similar circulars were also sent to other village panchayats in Mormugao taluka, but most panchayats failed to inform residents.

MSAA Executive Committee Meets MPA Chairperson, Seeks Stronger Coordination

■ Shipping Agents Discuss Operational Issues, MPA Assures Full Support for Efficient Port Functioning

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: The newly elected Executive Committee of the Mormugao Shipping Agents Association (MSAA) paid a courtesy visit to Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) Chairperson Dr N. Vinod Kumar and discussed key issues concerning the shipping sector and port operations.

During the meeting, the Executive



Committee introduced its newly elected members and exchanged views with the Chairperson on matters affecting shipping agents operating at Mormugao Port. The discussions focused on strengthening coordination between the Association

and the Mormugao Port Authority to ensure smoother and more efficient port operations.

Dr N. Vinod Kumar assured the Association of the MPA's full support and cooperation in addressing the concerns of shipping agents. He reiterated

the Port Authority's commitment to working closely with stakeholders and resolving issues that contribute to the overall growth and efficiency of port activities.

The MSAA Executive Committee welcomed the assurance extended by the Chairperson and expressed confidence that continued dialogue and cooperation would help resolve operational challenges faced by the shipping fraternity.

The Association also said it looks forward to maintaining a strong and constructive relationship with the Mormugao Port Authority in the coming years. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to promoting efficient port operations and supporting the growth of maritime trade through close coordination and mutual cooperation.

India's Big Leap in Clean Energy: Nuclear Reactor to Produce Green Hydrogen

■ Kalpakkam breakthrough opens new pathway for carbon-free fuel generation

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu): In a significant step towards clean energy innovation, India has demonstrated a new method of producing green hydrogen using heat from a nuclear reactor, marking a major advancement in the country's fast breeder reactor programme.

Scientists at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) in Kalpakkam have successfully shown that advanced nuclear reactors can generate not only electricity but also hydrogen, offering a dual-output clean energy system. The development is being viewed as a breakthrough in sustainable fuel technology.

At the centre of this achievement is the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), operational since 1985, which has long supported India's second-stage nuclear programme. The reactor is now being used to supply process heat for hydrogen production through a thermochemical



method known as the Copper Chlorine process, developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

Unlike conventional hydrogen production methods that rely on fossil fuels, this system uses nuclear heat directly, making the output completely carbon-free. Officials say this marks a shift in how nuclear energy can be utilised beyond electricity generation.

According to the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), the integration of nuclear power with hydrogen

production could play a key role in building a sustainable energy ecosystem. Hydrogen is considered a critical fuel for industries that are difficult to decarbonise and for future fuel-cell technologies.

Experts at IGCAR highlighted that the FBTR's ability to operate at high temperatures makes it suitable for such advanced applications. The reactor also serves as a testbed for India's long-term fast breeder programme, which aims to improve fuel efficiency and energy security.

The Prototype

Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR), currently under development at Kalpakkam, has recently achieved criticality, further strengthening India's nuclear roadmap.

Officials said the hydrogen facility is currently at the demonstration stage but could pave the way for large-scale commercial plants in the future.

The development aligns with India's broader goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, positioning nuclear energy as a key pillar of the clean energy transition.

7 India-Bound Cargo Ships Cross Strait of Hormuz in 3 Days Amid Rising West Asia Tensions

■ Over 10 more vessels in queue as shipping activity picks up in key maritime route

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Seven India-bound cargo ships have passed through the Strait of Hormuz in the past 72 hours, even as tensions in West Asia continue to rise, according to official shipping data.

Out of nine India- and foreign-flagged vessels that transited the strategic waterway during the period, seven were carrying cargo destined for India. Four of these ships were India-flagged, while the remaining five sailed under foreign flags.

Officials said a total of 44 India-bound cargo vessels have crossed the Strait of Hormuz since late February, when regional tensions escalated following conflict involving the US, Israel and Iran.

At present, around 15 more ships linked to India are waiting in the Persian Gulf for safe passage through the strait. This includes 10 India-flagged vessels, along with cargo carrying fertilisers and energy products.

Among the recent movements, the India-flagged bulk carrier APJ Priti 2 successfully crossed the strait carrying 65,000 tonnes of fertiliser. A

day earlier, crude oil tanker Desh Suraksha transported over one lakh tonnes of crude oil, while another vessel, Prabhu Parvati, carried 18,732 tonnes of cargo through the route.

The latest shipping activity comes amid renewed instability in the region after reported US strikes on Iran and subsequent retaliatory actions. These developments have raised concerns over maritime security in one of the world's most critical energy corridors.

Data shows that only 19 India-bound transits were recorded between March 1 and mid-June. However, movement increased in the following days after a temporary diplomatic understanding between Iran and the United States. Maritime monitoring reports indicate that vessels crossing the strait since March include bulk carriers, LPG and crude oil tankers, as well as LNG carriers, reflecting the wide range of energy and commodity shipments dependent on the route.

Despite geopolitical risks, shipping traffic continues to move, though authorities remain alert as more vessels await clearance in the region.



Monsoon Tragedies Raise Alarm as Goa's Drowning Toll Reaches 71

Station and Fire & Emergency Services rushed to the spot and launched a search and rescue operation. Although the group entered from Karnataka, the waterfall falls within Goa's territorial jurisdiction.

The body had not been recovered till the time of going to press. Search operations were continuing with the assistance of Goa Police, Fire & Emergency Services, local volunteers and other agencies.

In another incident underscoring the dangers posed by overflowing rivers and waterfalls, six youths from Sanquelim were rescued after they became stranded near a waterfall at Virdi when heavy rainfall caused the river level to rise suddenly, cutting off their return route.

A joint overnight rescue operation involving the Forest Department, Goa Police, Fire & Emergency Services and local residents was launched. After several hours of efforts, all six youths were brought to safety by

dawn without any injuries.

The two incidents have renewed concerns over safety at waterfalls and other natural water bodies during the monsoon. Authorities have repeatedly appealed to tourists and local residents to avoid venturing into rivers, waterfalls and flooded areas, warning that sudden surges in water levels, strong currents and slippery terrain can turn fatal within minutes.

With 71 drowning deaths already reported in the first half of 2026, officials have urged the public to exercise extreme caution and strictly follow safety advisories during the ongoing monsoon season.

Palekar Alleges Life-Threatening Road Rage Attack, Questions Inaction Against Chitti Babu

to flee after spotting a police vehicle, but I chased them, noted down their car registration number and alerted the police," Palekar alleged.

Palekar also alleged that Chitti Babu Ghanta has been harassing and cheating several people of money

and claimed that no police case has been registered against him despite repeated complaints. Calling Ghanta a "habitual offender," Palekar questioned the alleged inaction by law enforcement.

He further alleged that Ghanta has links with politicians and government officials and accused him of forging documents. Holding the BJP government responsible for the alleged delay in action, Palekar said the Congress would pursue the matter legally to ensure justice for those allegedly duped.

Chodankar Alleges BJP Plotting New Salcete-Based Secular Party Ahead of Polls

Congress. He further alleged that the process of forming the new political outfit has already begun with the involvement of certain leaders.

Speaking on the opposition's strategy for the upcoming elections, Chodankar said the Congress has initiated communication with opposition parties and alliance partners to begin discussions on a pre-poll alliance.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Supreme Court Refuses Urgent Hearing in Ram Temple Donation Case, Says 'Heavens Won't Fall'

■ Bench declines immediate SIT probe plea; financial investigation into accused continues

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to urgently hear a petition seeking a court-monitored Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged Ram Temple donation scam, observing that there was no immediate urgency in the matter.

During the mentioning



of the case, the bench questioned the need for urgent listing and remarked, "What's the urgency?" The court further observed that "heavens are not going to fall" if the matter is heard

after the court reopens following the vacation period.

The petition had sought directions for a time-bound, court-supervised investigation into alleged irregularities in the handling of temple donations. However, the apex court declined to grant immediate relief and directed that the matter be listed after the court resumes functioning.

Meanwhile, the parallel criminal investigation into the alleged embezzlement of Ram Temple donations continues to intensify, with police focusing on tracing the money trail linked to one of the main accused, Anukalp Mishra.

Investigators are examining whether assets allegedly acquired by Mishra in recent years were funded through diverted donation money.



Police Trace Luxury Assets in Ram Temple Donation Theft Probe in Ayodhya

■ Farmhouse, SUV and high-value property purchases under scanner as financial investigation deepens

Team Goemkarponn

AYODHYA: The investigation into the alleged embezzlement of Ram Temple donations has widened, with police now examining the assets, property purchases and financial transactions of key accused Anukalp Mishra, officials said.

Investigators suspect that Anukalp, who was part of the outsourced team responsible for counting cash donations at the temple, may have played a central role in diverting funds meant for temple offerings.

Authorities are now trying to trace whether his reported rise in wealth is linked to the alleged

misappropriation. Police sources said multiple high-value assets, including a farmhouse on the outskirts of the village, a recently purchased house in Ayodhya worth around ₹65 lakh, and a Mahindra Scorpio SUV under consideration, are being verified as part of the probe.

Officials also visited his native Basawa village, where residents reportedly told investigators that his family's financial status had improved significantly in recent years. The probe is also examining a seven-day religious programme allegedly organised by him, including its funding and expenditure.

PM Modi Calls for Climate Justice in Seychelles Address

■ Says nations least responsible for emissions should not face the harshest climate impact

Team Goemkarponn

SEYCHELLES: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted the need for global climate justice, stating that countries which have contributed the least to global warming should not be forced to bear its most severe consequences.

Addressing the National Assembly of Seychelles during his three-day state visit, the Prime Minister stressed that climate



action must be guided by fairness, equity and shared responsibility. He specifically pointed to the challenges faced by vulnerable island nations that are increasingly exposed to rising sea levels, extreme weather events and environmental

degradation.

"Those who have contributed the least to climate change should not bear the greatest burden of its consequences," Modi said, underlining the imbalance in global climate responsibility.

He added that countries in the Global South, particularly Small Island Developing States, continue to face disproportionate risks despite having minimal contribution to global emissions.



India Rejects Pakistan's Allegations Over Karachi Attack

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has strongly dismissed Pakistan's allegation linking an "Indian proxy" to a recent terrorist attack in Karachi, calling the claims baseless and urging Islamabad to take action against terrorism within its own territory.

The response came after Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi alleged Indian involvement in the attack on the provincial headquarters of the Pakistan Rangers in Karachi last week. However, no evidence was provided to support the claim.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal rejected the accusations, stating that Pakistan's remarks were unfounded and misleading. He said Islamabad should instead focus on dismantling terror networks operating from its soil. "We categorically reject them. Instead of pointing fingers at others, Pakistan would do better to look inwards and take credible action against terror infrastructure on its territory," Jaiswal said.

No Track II Diplomacy or Indus Waters Treaty Concessions With Pakistan: Govt Sources

■ India denies reports of backchannel talks, reaffirms firm stance on water treaty suspension

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Government of India has rejected reports suggesting any ongoing Track II diplomacy with Pakistan or concessions under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), stating that such claims are misleading and factually incorrect, according to top government sources.

Officials clarified that no official Track II engagement has been authorised or supported by the government.



They also categorically ruled out any relaxation of India's position on the Indus Waters Treaty, despite ongoing bilateral tensions and regional developments.

Sources said India's policy toward Pakistan remains unchanged, with no shift in its diplomatic or strategic approach. Clarification on Track II engagements

Government sources explained that genuine Track II diplomacy refers to structured dialogue conducted through officially nominated or recognised representatives. They said independent seminars, conferences or think-tank discussions involving participants from both countries do not constitute official diplomatic channels. According to officials, individuals including serving or former representatives may attend such events

in a personal capacity, but these interactions have no government mandate, endorsement or diplomatic authority.

Sources further emphasised that informal interactions between citizens, academics or experts from India and Pakistan should not be misinterpreted as backchannel negotiations. They also clarified that neither country's embassies are involved in facilitating such engagements.

India Clinches Historic Bronze at AVC Men's Volleyball Cup 2026

■ Hosts defeat defending champions Bahrain 3-1 in Ahmedabad to secure first-ever medal

Team Goemkarponn

AHMEDABAD: The Indian men's volleyball team scripted history on Sunday by winning their first-ever bronze medal at the AVC Men's Cup 2026, defeating defending champions Bahrain in the third-place playoff.

India produced a strong all-round performance to beat Bahrain 3-1 (25-23, 23-25, 25-21, 25-17), sealing a memorable finish to their campaign on home soil.



The hosts showed composure in key moments, recovering quickly after dropping the second set to take control of the match and close out the contest with

confidence in the fourth set.

India had earlier suffered a heartbreaking semi-final loss against Indonesia on Saturday in a five-set thriller (25-

15, 24-26, 20-25, 25-19, 13-15), but bounced back strongly within 24 hours to secure the bronze medal.

Indonesia went on to claim their maiden AVC Men's Cup title, defeating two-time bronze medallists South Korea in straight sets (34-32, 25-16, 25-23). South Korea, meanwhile, settled for silver after a competitive campaign.

India's overall performance in the tournament was impressive, as the team topped Pool A unbeaten.



India Edge England in Penalty Shoot-Out After Goalless Hockey Pro League Thriller

■ Abhishek, Lakra and Hardik shine as India seal 3-2 win to claim bonus point

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India secured a hard-fought victory over England, winning 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out after a tense goalless draw in their Hockey Pro League clash on Sunday. In a tightly contested match, both sides failed to break the deadlock in regulation time, despite creating multiple chances. India held their nerve in the shoot-out, with Abhishek, Shilanand Lakra and Hardik Singh converting their attempts to secure the bonus point. England started strongly, dominating possession and testing the Indian defence early. Goalkeeper Mohith Shashikumar stood firm, producing a series of sharp saves, including a crucial double stop to deny England in the

opening quarter. India gradually grew into the game, with Abhishek coming close late in the first quarter. However, England continued to apply pressure through sustained attacks and penalty corners, though India's defensive unit remained disciplined. After halftime, India showed greater intent in attack. Hardik Singh created a key opportunity for Mandeep Singh, but England's goalkeeper made another vital save to keep the score level. A major turning point came late in the third quarter when England were awarded a penalty stroke, but India successfully reviewed the decision through video referral, which overturned the call after replays showed a clean tackle.



Ben Stokes Announces Shock International Retirement During Final Test Appearance

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: England Test captain Ben Stokes left the cricketing world stunned on Sunday after announcing his retirement from international cricket during the ongoing third Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge.

The 35-year-old informed teammates before the start of Day 4 that the match would mark his final appearance in international cricket. As news of his decision spread across the stadium, fans rose to give him a standing ovation in an emotional tribute to one of England's modern greats.

In a dramatic twist, Stokes then delivered a moment fitting for his legacy. While bowling the 81st over, he struck with his very first delivery after the announcement, dismissing Zakary Foulkes for 6. The batter edged the ball to second slip, where Harry Brook completed a sharp catch.

India Coach Breaks Silence on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's T20I Snub

■ Ryan Ten Doeschate says teenage star is "ready" but must follow team process

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India assistant coach Ryan Ten Doeschate has addressed growing questions over Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's absence from the T20I squad, stating that while the teenage batting prodigy is ready for international cricket, he must still go through the established team process before earning a debut.

Sooryavanshi's non-selection during the recent T20 series against Ireland has drawn significant



attention, especially after India suffered a surprising 0-2 series defeat, including a one-run loss in the second match on Sunday.

Speaking after the match, Ten Doeschate acknowledged the

youngster's talent but stressed the importance of balance within the squad. He pointed out that senior players such as Sanju Samson have contributed significantly in recent successes, including India's World Cup triumph just months ago.

"He is absolutely ready to play international cricket, there is no doubt about that," Ten Doeschate said. "But Sanju Samson is a guy who went a long way to win us the World Cup three months ago.

"We Didn't Play to Our Standards": Harmanpreet Kaur Reflects After India's T20 World Cup Exit

■ India skipper calls for "rethink" after Australia knock out team in six-wicket win

Team Goemkarponn

LONDON: India captain Harmanpreet Kaur admitted that her side failed to meet expectations after Australia eliminated them from the ICC Women's T20 World Cup with a six-wicket victory at Lord's on Sunday.

The defeat ended



India's campaign in the tournament, denying them a place in the semifinals despite a competitive effort with the

bat. Speaking after the match, Harmanpreet said the team needed to reassess its overall performance against top opposition. "Today we were in the game for quite some time but still I think we didn't play to our standards and as a group

we need to rethink about a lot of things," she said.

Harmanpreet, who played a fluent half-century, acknowledged that India struggled throughout the tournament against stronger teams. She pointed out that while the team managed a competitive total, they fell short in key moments.

"They Outplayed Us": Shreyas Iyer Accepts Defeat as Ireland Seal Historic T20I Series Win

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India captain Shreyas Iyer admitted that Ireland fully outplayed the T20 world champions, following a stunning 2-0 series defeat in the T20I series on Sunday.

Ireland first secured a 34-run victory in the opening match before edging India by just one run in the second game, completing a memorable series win against a top-ranked side.