



CM Sawant Unveils 'Mhajo Flat' Scheme to Secure Flat Owners' Rights

■ Chief Minister announces legal reforms, deemed conveyance and stamp duty relief to accelerate

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Tuesday announced the launch of the 'Mhajo Flat' Scheme, a comprehensive initiative aimed at safeguarding the interests of thousands of flat owners by securing ownership rights, facilitating redevelopment of ageing housing societies, and resolving long-pending issues



related to property conveyance. Addressing the media, the Chief Minister said the initiative has been introduced to tackle the persistent problems

faced by flat owners and cooperative housing societies, particularly the failure of builders and developers to execute conveyance deeds, leaving many residents without clear legal ownership of their properties.

Dr. Sawant said the government will introduce amendments to the Goa Cooperative Societies Act and the Indian Stamp Act to enable deemed

conveyance, allowing cooperative housing societies to obtain legal ownership even when developers fail to transfer the property. The reforms will also provide a statutory framework for redevelopment of old and dilapidated housing complexes.

The Chief Minister announced that, under the scheme, the government will substantially

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Goa govt Pursuing ST Reservation: CM

Pramod Sawant says state government is consistently following up on the issue

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Wednesday said the Goa government is continuously pursuing the issue of Scheduled Tribe (ST) reservation with the Central government, while making it clear that the

matter falls under the Centre's jurisdiction. Addressing reporters, Sawant said the state has been actively following up on the issue and remains committed to securing a resolution. However, when asked about the timeline for the implementation of

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Action Against Illegal Borewells From August; WRD Plans Summer Water Storage Scheme

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Water Resources Department (WRD) Minister Subhash Shirodkar has announced that the government will begin action against illegal borewells from August, reiterating his strong opposition to the unchecked drilling of borewells across the state. Speaking to reporters, Shirodkar said the department is committed to protecting groundwater resources and will take strict action against unauthorized borewells to ensure sustainable water management.

The minister also revealed that the WRD is preparing a new scheme aimed at storing adequate water in dams during the month of May. The initiative is intended to improve water conservation and maintain sufficient reserves to meet the state's needs during the peak summer months.

Goa Cabinet Clears Infrastructure, Employment and Women-Centric Welfare Initiatives

■ State signs MoU with RVNL, launches free ITI education for girls and implements rural employment mission from July 1

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Cabinet on Wednesday approved a slew of development and welfare initiatives, including a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for infrastructure projects, the launch of a new scheme offering free ITI education to girls, and the



implementation of a rural employment mission aimed at generating jobs in villages.

Addressing a press conference after the Cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said the government has approved an MoU with

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Kumbh Crowds Became Cover For Biggest Ram Mandir Donation Theft, Probe Finds

■ Brother in law duo allegedly diverted the largest share of stolen offerings and invested in properties

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A major investigation into the theft of donations from Ayodhya's Ram Mandir has revealed that the largest diversion of funds took place during the peak of the Kumbh Mela in early 2025, when offerings at the temple witnessed an unprecedented surge.

Investigators believe several of the accused had previously been



involved in smaller thefts, but the sharp rise in donations during the religious gathering created an opportunity for a much larger operation. Authorities allege that eight individuals worked together in a carefully

planned conspiracy to siphon off cash from temple offerings. Among those arrested, brothers in law Lavkush Mishra and Anukalp Mishra are accused of taking the biggest share of the stolen money. The investigation has uncovered multiple properties allegedly purchased using these funds, with more than half a dozen assets traced so far.

"If This Treaty Doesn't Hold, No World Order Will Remain Secure": Pakistan Raises Alarm Over Indus Waters Dispute

■ Islamabad warns of wider global implications as tensions over the suspended water sharing pact continue to grow

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Pakistan has intensified its diplomatic campaign over the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, warning that the future of international agreements could be undermined if the decades old water sharing arrangement fails to survive the current crisis. At an international conference held in Islamabad, senior Pakistani leaders



argued that the treaty was more than a mechanism for sharing river waters and represented an important pillar of regional peace and stability. The conference came as Pakistan faces concerns over water shortages during an intense heatwave and the possible impact of El Niño

conditions on rainfall and river flows. Several speakers criticised India's decision to place the treaty in abeyance following the April 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 26 civilians. Pakistan maintained that water resources should not be used as a political instrument and insisted that any reduction in water flows would have serious implications for regional security.

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Will Salcete Pay a Political Price for Opposing Controversial Land Policies?

The political debate in Goa is increasingly moving beyond personalities and party rivalries to questions of land, identity and development. At the centre of this discussion is Salcete, a constituency that has often emerged as a vocal opponent of controversial land conversion proposals, including Section 39A and other policies perceived by many residents as facilitating large scale changes in land use.

The question now being quietly asked in political circles is whether Salcete will pay a political price for its resistance.

Over the past few years, citizens' groups, village communities and activists in Salcete have consistently raised concerns about policies that they believe could accelerate unchecked development, alter the character of villages and place additional pressure on infrastructure and natural resources. Public meetings, protests and representations to the government have reflected a deep anxiety about preserving Goa's unique social and environmental fabric.

For many residents, opposition to land conversion measures is not merely a political issue. It is a matter of protecting agricultural land, water resources, village communities and the cultural identity that distinguishes Goa from other rapidly urbanising regions. They argue that development should be guided by long term planning rather than short term commercial interests.

However, politics rarely operates in isolation from economic interests. When a region consistently resists policies favoured by powerful political and business interests, concerns inevitably arise about whether investment priorities, infrastructure projects or political attention could shift elsewhere.

Such fears may or may not be justified, but they cannot be dismissed outright. History has shown that regions perceived as politically inconvenient sometimes find themselves sidelined when decisions

“Over the past few years, citizens' groups, village communities and activists in Salcete have consistently raised concerns about policies that they believe could accelerate unchecked development, alter the character of villages and place additional pressure on infrastructure and natural resources. Public meetings, protests and representations to the government have reflected a deep anxiety about preserving Goa's unique social and environmental fabric.”

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regarding development projects, government funding or policy priorities are made. Whether this occurs intentionally or as a consequence of political calculations is often difficult to prove.

At the same time, it would be unfair to assume that every development initiative proposed for Goa is harmful or that every opposition movement is necessarily correct. The state requires economic growth, employment opportunities and infrastructure improvements. Investors seek clarity, stability and a supportive policy environment. Governments are expected to balance competing interests while ensuring that progress does not come to a standstill.

The real challenge lies in achieving that balance.

If Salcete's concerns are ignored, public distrust is likely to deepen. Communities that feel excluded from decision making become increasingly sceptical of government intentions. This can lead to prolonged conflicts, legal disputes and social divisions that ultimately benefit nobody.

On the other hand, if legitimate concerns are acknowledged and addressed through transparent consultation, the region can become an example of how development and preservation can coexist. Public participation should not be viewed as an obstacle to progress. It should be regarded as an essential component of democratic governance.

The larger issue is whether dissent is respected in Goa's political culture. Citizens have the right to question policies that affect their land, livelihoods and future. Opposition to a government proposal should not be interpreted as opposition to development itself. Nor should communities be made to feel that raising concerns could result in political or economic consequences.

The strength of a democracy is measured not by how it treats those who agree with the government, but by how it responds to those who disagree.

Salcete has long played an important role in Goa's political and social life. Its residents have repeatedly demonstrated a willingness to engage with public issues and defend causes they consider important. Whether one agrees with their position or not, that engagement deserves respect rather than suspicion.

The future of Salcete should not depend on whether it supports or opposes a particular policy. It should depend on sound planning, transparent governance and equal treatment for all regions of Goa.

If the state genuinely believes in inclusive development, no constituency should have to fear that exercising its democratic voice will come at a cost.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Crackdown on Cyber Fraud Must Continue

The arrest of 34 persons operating two illegal international call centres from Anjuna and Calangute is a welcome development and highlights the growing threat of cyber-enabled fraud operating from Goa.

While the state is known worldwide for tourism and hospitality, incidents such as these risk damaging its reputation. The fact that organised groups were allegedly running sophisticated scams targeting foreign citizens from rented premises should be a matter of serious concern. Such operations not only tarnish Goa's image but also expose weaknesses in monitoring commercial activities conducted from hotels, resorts and other temporary establishments.

The successful raids demonstrate the effectiveness of police intelligence and coordination. However, these arrests should not be viewed as isolated incidents. Cyber fraud has become a highly profitable criminal enterprise, with fraudsters constantly changing locations, identities and methods to evade detection. Authorities must therefore remain vigilant and proactive.

There is also a need for greater scrutiny of suspicious business activities operating under the guise of customer support services, marketing agencies or consultancy firms. Property owners and hotel operators should be encouraged to verify the credentials of organisations renting their premises for commercial purposes.

Equally important is the need to strengthen cybercrime investigation capabilities and cooperation with national and international agencies. Since victims are often located abroad, such crimes have cross-border implications and require a coordinated response.

The recent crackdown sends a strong message that Goa will not become a safe haven for cyber criminals. Continued enforcement, stricter monitoring and public awareness are essential to ensure that the state remains known for its hospitality rather than fraudulent activities.

- Melwyn Fernandes, Calangute, Goa

Right Decision on Mhaje Ghar Scheme Eligibility

The Goa government's clarification that Portuguese passport holders and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders are not eligible for benefits under the Mhaje Ghar Scheme is a welcome step towards ensuring transparency and fairness in the implementation of public welfare programmes.

Government schemes are funded by public resources and are designed to benefit eligible Indian citizens who reside in the state and contribute to its social and economic fabric. Since the Mhaje Ghar Scheme involves ownership-related benefits concerning homes situated on government land, it is reasonable that such benefits should be restricted to those who meet the prescribed citizenship and residency criteria. The government's decision also addresses concerns that welfare schemes could be misused through inadequate verification processes. Goa has witnessed increasing scrutiny over issues related to citizenship, domicile status and entitlement to government benefits. In this context, strict enforcement of eligibility norms is essential to maintain public confidence.

Equally important is the directive to thoroughly verify residence certificate applications before approving benefits. A robust verification mechanism will help prevent fraudulent claims and ensure that assistance reaches genuinely deserving beneficiaries. Rules lose their value when enforcement is weak.

At the same time, authorities must ensure that verification procedures are efficient, transparent and free from unnecessary delays. Genuine applicants should not be made to suffer because of administrative bottlenecks.

The objective of any welfare scheme should be to support eligible residents while safeguarding public assets. The government's clarification helps achieve that balance and should be implemented consistently across the state.

- Anthony Rodrigues, Ponda, Goa

Goa Ends June With 41% Rainfall Shortfall Despite Improved Monsoon Activity

■ Late Spell of Heavy Showers Reduces the Gap Slightly, but Prolonged Dry Conditions Leave the State Well Below Its Normal June Rainfall

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Despite a noticeable increase in rainfall during the final week of June, Goa is likely to close the month with one of its largest rainfall deficits in recent years. Data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) shows the state remains 41% below its normal June



rainfall. From June 1 to June 29, Goa recorded 512 mm of rainfall, well short of the seasonal average of 871.8 mm. Although the southwest

monsoon reached the state on June 5, rainfall remained patchy through much of the first half of the month, with several areas receiving only scattered showers.

Weather conditions turned particularly dry between June 12 and June 22, when the state

experienced eight rain-free days. The lack of widespread rainfall led to a temporary rise in daytime temperatures, creating conditions more typical of the summer season. The situation improved after June 23, when widespread showers returned and the state recorded its highest daily rainfall of the month at 89.5 mm.



NCP Reaches Out to Congress, Explores Alliance for 2027 Goa Elections

■ Sharad Pawar-Led Party Says United Opposition Needed to Present Strong Challenge to BJP

Team Goemkarponn

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), led nationally by Sharad Pawar, has begun discussions with the Congress over the possibility of a pre-election alliance in Goa, signalling a change in its political strategy ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

A delegation of the Goa NCP, led by state president Jose Philip D'Souza, met Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) chief Girish Chodankar on Tuesday to discuss the prospects of bringing Opposition parties together before the next Assembly polls.

Addressing the media after the meeting, D'Souza said the initiative was taken following guidance from the party's national leadership, which has encouraged state units to work towards building a broader coalition of Opposition parties.

According to him,

there is growing public sentiment in favour of a united Opposition, and the NCP believes parties with similar political objectives should work together to provide voters with an alternative to the BJP.

He also indicated that the proposed alliance could follow the model of the INDIA bloc at the national level, with the Congress playing a central role because it is the largest Opposition party in Goa. The responsibility of initiating discussions with other like-minded parties, he said, should rest with the Congress.

The latest outreach marks a significant shift in the NCP's approach. Before the 2022 Goa Assembly elections, the party and the Congress were unable to finalise an alliance after talks over seat distribution failed to produce an agreement. The NCP subsequently contested the election alongside the Shiv Sena instead of joining hands with the Congress.



Minor's Consent Holds No Legal Weight, POCSCO Court Sentences Man to 10 Years

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Reiterating that a child cannot legally consent to sexual relations, the Special POCSCO Court in Panaji has sentenced Mohammed Jhunnu, a native of Bihar's Siwan district, to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a minor girl. According to the case, Jhunnu, who was employed as an electrician in the victim's Vasco locality, developed a relationship with the girl while she was still a minor. The relationship led to the birth of a child, which became a crucial element in the investigation. The prosecution relied heavily on forensic evidence, with a DNA analysis confirming that the accused was the biological father of the child born to the victim. The court treated the scientific evidence as a significant factor in proving the charges. In his defence, Jhunnu claimed the relationship was voluntary and submitted that he had been providing financial assistance for the child.

SCERT to Conduct Fresh Review of Primary School Textbooks

■ Education Council Says Books Follow NEP Framework, Expert Panel to Assess Content Across All 41 Titles

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: The Goa State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) will undertake a comprehensive review of textbooks prepared for Classes 1 to 8, while maintaining that the material currently included in the books is educationally appropriate and developed in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Speaking at a press



briefing on Tuesday, SCERT Director Meghana Shetgaonkar said the council had been entrusted with preparing the new textbooks under the NEP framework, with the objective of making learning more interactive, competency-based and suitable for each age group.

She said the exercise involved forming separate subject committees for every class, bringing together nearly 150 educationists and subject experts. Their collective work resulted in the publication of 41 textbooks, including editions in Marathi and Konkani.

Goa Notifies VB-GRAM Scheme, Guarantees 125 Days of Rural Employment

■ Scheme Comes Into Effect From July 1; Focus on Water Conservation, Rural Infrastructure and Digital Transparency

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Government has notified the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAM Goa Scheme 2026), providing eligible rural households with a guarantee of up to 125 days of wage employment in a financial year. The scheme came into effect on July 1, 2026.



The programme will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with expenditure shared between the Centre and the State in

a 60:40 ratio. It is aimed at strengthening rural livelihoods while creating durable community assets through employment-oriented

works. Under the scheme, priority will be given to projects related to water conservation and harvesting, rural infrastructure, livelihood

promotion, natural resource management, and disaster resilience, with the objective of improving both employment opportunities and long-term rural development.

To ensure greater transparency and accountability, the government has incorporated several technology-based measures, including digital planning of works, biometric attendance of

workers, geo-tagging of assets, social audits, and technology-enabled monitoring of projects.

The notification, however, states that the provisions contained in Chapters IX and X, dealing with wage payments, compensation for delayed wage payments, and unemployment allowance, will come into force at a later date through a separate notification.

Army Officer Impersonation Scam: Curca Resident Duped of ₹1.46 Lakh

■ Fraudster Posing as Prospective Tenant Tricks House Owner Through Online Rental Advertisement

Team Goemkarponn

CURCA: A 61-year-old resident of Curca, Tiswadi, has been allegedly cheated of ₹1.46 lakh by an unknown fraudster who posed as an Army officer and prospective tenant after responding to a house rental advertisement posted on 99acres.com.

According to the complaint lodged by Ganpat Rai Saxena, the accused contacted him on May 31, 2026, expressing

SCAM

interest in renting his property. Claiming to be an Army officer, the fraudster said he would pay an advance towards the rent and asked the complainant to transfer ₹5 for payment verification.

After the amount was immediately refunded, the accused gained the complainant's trust.

The fraudster subsequently convinced the complainant to transfer ₹81,000, ₹15,000 and

₹50,000 in three separate transactions, assuring him that the money would be returned.

However, after receiving the funds, the accused failed to refund the amount, resulting in a loss of ₹1,46,000.

Based on the complaint, Agacaim Police have registered a case of cheating against the unknown accused. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Zaki Hussain of Agacaim Police Station.

Woman Alleges Rape, Assault by Boyfriend; Old Goa Police Register Case

■ Accused Booked Under BNS for Alleged Sexual Assault, Assault and Criminal Intimidation

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: Old Goa Police have registered a case against a 27-year-old man from Margao following allegations that he repeatedly raped his 35-year-old girlfriend without her consent and subjected her to assault and criminal intimidation.

According to the police complaint, the accused, identified, allegedly forcibly had sexual intercourse with the complainant at a guest house in Old Goa on the night of June 28, 2026.

The complainant

further alleged that the accused had sexually assaulted her without her consent on several previous occasions at different locations across Goa.

She also accused him of physically assaulting and criminally intimidating her.

Based on the complaint, Old Goa Police registered an offence under Sections 64, 115(2), and 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Further investigation is being carried out by LPSI Jasvita Naik of Old Goa Police Station.



Cross Cases Registered After Family Dispute Turns Violent in Anjuna

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: A long-running family dispute in Anjuna has escalated into violence, with police registering cross cases against members of the same family following a late-night clash that left two persons injured.

In the first case, Anjuna Police arrested Oberoi D'Cruz for allegedly attempting to murder his brother-in-law, Olwin D'Cruz, during an altercation at their shared residence in Ingrez Waddo on the night of June 28. According to the complaint filed by Mildred D'Cruz, the accused allegedly attacked her husband with a knife with the intention of killing him, causing grievous injuries. Police said the incident was the result of previous enmity arising out of a family dispute. Oberoi D'Cruz was arrested on June 29, and further investigation is being conducted by PSI Saish Kinlekar.

In a counter-complaint, Ashoo D'Cruz (69) alleged that her son, Olwin D'Cruz, grabbed her by the neck and slapped her during the same incident.

34 Arrested in Twin Crackdown on Fake US Call Centres in North Goa

■ Police Bust Illegal Operations in Anjuna and Calangute; Electronic Equipment Worth ₹35 Lakh

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE/ANJUNA: In a major crackdown on cyber fraud, Goa Police have arrested 34 persons after busting two illegal international call centres operating from resorts in Anjuna and Calangute, allegedly targeting citizens of the United States through sophisticated online scams. In the first operation, Anjuna Police raided Maya Resort, Grand Chivar, between the night of



June 29 and the early hours of June 30. Acting on a state complaint filed by PSI Sahil V. Warang, police arrested 15 accused who were allegedly impersonating representatives of Medicare and insurance providers in the United

States. The accused allegedly obtained victims' personal and insurance details and fraudulently processed claims related to Durable Medical Equipment (DME) to unlawfully obtain insurance reimbursements. Police seized 15 laptops, 13 mobile phones, routers and other electronic gadgets collectively valued at approximately ₹25 lakh. The investigation is being led by PI Krishna P. Sinari of Anjuna Police Station.

26-Year-Old Footballer Collapses During Match in Benaullim, Dies

■ Player Suddenly Fell While Attempting to Head the Ball; Cause of Death Yet to Be Confirmed

Team Goemkarponn

BENAULLIM: A 26-year-old footballer from Ambaulim, Quepem, died after collapsing during a football match at Dando Ground in Benaullim on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Dailon Nathalino Carvalho (26). He was representing United Boys of Ambaulim in a match against Guardian Angel



Sports Club, Curchorem when the incident occurred.

According to available information, Dailon suddenly collapsed while

attempting to head the ball during the match. Players and officials immediately rushed to his aid before he was taken to the casualty department of a nearby hospital.

Doctors, however, declared him brought dead on arrival.

The exact cause of death is yet to be ascertained, and further investigation is underway.

Gold Chains Worth ₹3 Lakh Stolen From Mapusa Jewellery Shop

Team Goemkarponn



MAPUSA: Mapusa Police have

registered a theft case after gold jewellery worth ₹3 lakh was allegedly stolen from a jewellery shop in the Mapusa Municipal Market.

According to the complaint filed by Motilal Shabu Lotlikar (65), a businessman from Thivim, the incident occurred on April 23, 2026, between 4:13 pm and 5:00 pm at his jewellery shop in the Municipal Market, Mapusa.

Part of Khariwaddo Fishing Jetty Collapses, Fishermen Renew Demand for Bigger Facility

■ No Injuries Reported as Heavy Rain Damages Jetty; Boat Owners Seek Immediate Repairs and Expansion

Team Goemkarponn

KHARIWADDO: A portion of the extended Khariwaddo fishing jetty partially collapsed following heavy rainfall and a rise in the water level, renewing long-standing demands from the fishing community for a larger and safer jetty. No injuries were reported in the incident.

The collapse has



once again highlighted concerns over the ageing infrastructure, with fishermen stating that the existing jetty is too small to accommodate

the nearly 250 fishing boats operating from Khariwaddo. Due to inadequate berthing space, several boats are forced to anchor outside the jetty, exposing them to rough sea conditions and increasing the risk of damage, especially during the monsoon.

Goa Fishing Boat

Owners Association President Jose Philip D'Souza said the latest incident underlines the urgent need for government intervention.

"The Khariwaddo fishing jetty has been inadequate for many years. Around 250 fishing boats operate from this area, but the available space is far too small to accommodate them safely.



Dabolim Airport Will Continue to Operate, Congress Spreading Unnecessary Fear: Krishna Salkar

■ Vasco MLA Dismisses MP's Assurance as 'Publicity Stunt', BJP Confident of Winning Over 30 Seats

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco MLA and BJP spokesperson Krishna Salkar has asserted that Dabolim Airport will continue to remain operational, accusing the Congress of creating unnecessary fears among the public over its future.

Speaking after inaugurating road improvement works worth over ₹10 crore at Sasmolem and Baina, Salkar dismissed the recent assurance claimed by South Goa MP Capt Viriato Fernandes on Dabolim Airport as a "publicity stunt" ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

According to Salkar, the state government had already secured an assurance from Union Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh regarding the airport's future, making any fresh assurance unnecessary.

He alleged that the Congress was attempting to create confusion instead of supporting development and accused the party of misleading people and provoking protests over issues that had already been resolved.

Expressing confidence ahead of the Assembly elections, Salkar claimed the BJP would return to power with more than 30 seats, stating that voters would back the party based on its development record. He also said the BJP government would continue investing in infrastructure projects across Vasco, including the newly launched road improvement works at Sasmolem and Baina.



Bicholim Police Recover 11 High-End Mobile Phones Worth ₹2.66 Lakh

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: The Bicholim Police have successfully traced and recovered 11 high-end mobile phones reported stolen or missing between May and June 2026 through sustained technical efforts using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) Portal.

The recovered mobile phones are collectively valued at approximately ₹2.66 lakh.

Following the completion of necessary verification and legal formalities, the police handed over all the recovered devices to their respective rightful owners. The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the Bicholim Police for the swift and efficient recovery of their valuable property. The Bicholim Police have appealed to the public to immediately report any lost or stolen mobile phones.

Huge Boulder Crashes Into Vasco House, Family Escapes Unhurt

■ Residents Renew Demand for Retaining Wall After Monsoon Rockfall Damages Home

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: A huge boulder rolled down a hillside and crashed into a house at Voddant in Vasco on Tuesday morning, damaging a portion of the structure and triggering panic among residents. Fortunately, the family inside escaped unhurt.

The house, belonging to Pramodini Naik, sustained damage after the boulder struck the building. Residents rushed to the spot after hearing



a loud impact and alerted the authorities. Personnel from the Vasco Fire and Emergency Services inspected the site and assessed the area to ensure there was no immediate danger from additional falling rocks. The incident has once

again highlighted the vulnerability of houses situated at the foothills during the monsoon, when heavy rainfall increases the risk of landslides and rockfalls. Municipal Council Chairperson and Vasco Congress leader Nandadeep Raut, who visited the site, claimed he had repeatedly urged the government over the years to construct a retaining wall at the location but no action had been taken.

South Goa Reviews Water, Sanitation Projects Under DWSM

■ Focus on pending Swachh Bharat works, Village Water Committees and water quality monitoring

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The District Water & Sanitation Mission (DWSM), South Goa, held its fourth monthly meeting under the chairmanship of Additional Collector-II Shri Ramesh Gaonkar, with Member Secretary Shri Narayan S. Tirvenkar also present.

Officials from the Health Department, Forest Department,



Information & Technology Department, Directorate of Panchayats, Block Development Offices, Water Resources Department and Agriculture Department participated in the meeting.

A review of the implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) 2.0 was

undertaken, during which the Directorate of Panchayats presented the status of pending works across Village Panchayats. Officials informed that regular follow-up with Panchayats is being carried out

to ensure the timely completion of the remaining works.

The meeting also discussed the nomination of two women members for Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) under the Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

These committees will play a key role in monitoring water quality.

Anant (Babu) Narcinva Naik Centenary Panel Unveils Year-Long Programme

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Anant (Babu) Narcinva Naik Centenary Celebrations Committee on Wednesday unveiled an extensive year-long programme to commemorate the birth centenary of former MLA, former Leader of Opposition and former Industries Minister Anant (Babu) Narcinva Naik, with celebrations scheduled from August 19, 2026, to August 19, 2027.



Ai+ Smartphone announces next sale of Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro following complete sell-out during first sale

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Ai+ Smartphone has announced the next sale of its recently launched Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro after both smartphones witnessed a complete sell-out during their first sale on Flipkart on June 26. The devices were unveiled on June 22 at India's Got Nova, the brand's flagship launch event hosted by renowned Gadget Guru Rajiv Makhni featuring comedian & Youtuber Samay Raina alongside Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone. The event also brought together leading technology creators, reviewers, members of the media and consumers as part of Ai+ Smartphone's Open Review Program, reinforcing the brand's commitment to transparency and community-led product development. The strong consumer response marks another milestone for the growing Nova Series.

The next sale of the Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro will commence on June 30 at 12pm on Flipkart. The Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro have been developed to cater to a broad spectrum of



consumers from first-time 5G smartphone users to those seeking a more performance-oriented everyday smartphone. Combining dependable hardware with Android 16-based NxtQuantum OS, the devices deliver a clean software experience, reliable performance and long-lasting battery life across their respective price segments.

Commenting on the response, Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies, said:

"The response to the Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro has been extremely encouraging. Seeing both devices sell out

during their very first sale reinforces our belief that consumers are looking for smartphones that deliver dependable performance, thoughtful design and a clean software experience at accessible price points. Earlier this year, the Nova 2 and Nova 2 Ultra also received an exceptional response, and we're pleased to see the Nova Series continue building strong momentum. With the next sale beginning on June 30, we look forward to bringing the Nova experience to many more consumers across the country." The Nova 2 Neo is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 6300 5G processor and features a 120Hz HD+ display,

a 6000mAh battery and Android 16-based NxtQuantum OS. The Nova 2 Pro, powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 7100 processor, offers a 144Hz FHD+ display. Both the devices have 48MP SonyIMX582 Camera with fast charging and a premium design for users.

The successful debut of the Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro further strengthens the momentum of the Nova Series as Ai+ Smartphone continues to expand its portfolio with products focused on delivering dependable performance, thoughtful design and a clean software experience for a wider range of consumers.

Renewable Power Output Now Rivals Mumbai and Delhi Combined as Adani Green Crosses 20 GW Mark

■ Milestone places the company among the world's fastest growing clean energy developers

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Adani Green Energy Limited has become the first renewable energy company in India to cross 20 gigawatts of operational renewable energy capacity, marking a major milestone in the country's clean energy journey.

The achievement has been driven largely through greenfield projects developed across the country, highlighting the rapid pace of expansion in India's renewable sector over the past decade.

The company's renewable assets now generate more than 52 billion units of clean electricity every year, contributing close to three percent of India's total electricity consumption. The scale of generation is almost equal to the combined annual power requirement of Mumbai and New Delhi, underlining the growing role of renewable energy in strengthening India's energy security.

The milestone comes just ten years after the commissioning of the company's first renewable energy

project at Kamuthi in Tamil Nadu in 2016. Since then, it has emerged as India's largest and fastest growing greenfield renewable energy developer.

During FY26, the company added 5,051 MW of new renewable capacity, making it one of the largest annual additions by any renewable energy company outside China.

Its operational portfolio currently includes around 14.2 GW of solar power, 2.7 GW of wind energy and 3.3 GW of wind solar hybrid projects. The company has also commissioned 3.55 GWh of battery energy storage systems, representing one of the largest deployments outside China.

Looking ahead, plans are in place to add 10 GWh of battery storage in FY27 and expand this to 50 GWh within five years, supporting the goal of achieving 50 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

The next phase of growth will be centred around the Khavda project in Kutch, Gujarat, which is being developed as the world's largest renewable energy plant.

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CM Sawant Unveils 'Mhajo Flat' Scheme to Secure Flat Owners' Rights

reduce the financial burden on housing societies by capping the registration fee for deemed conveyance at ₹10,000 and providing concessional stamp duty. He added that the proposed amendments would also remove the burden of multiple stamp duty payments by charging only ₹1,000 on subsequent instruments executed as part of the same development transaction.

Dr. Sawant said the Mhajo Flat initiative is intended to benefit housing complexes constructed before the implementation of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. He stated that the scheme will ensure secure ownership rights, simplify legal procedures, facilitate redevelopment wherever required, and provide long-term housing security for thousands of flat owners across Goa.

Goa govt Pursuing ST Reservation: CM

ST reservation, he said it would

not be appropriate to specify one since the subject is handled by the Central government.

Goa Cabinet Clears Infrastructure, Employment and Women-Centric Welfare Initiatives

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to undertake key infrastructure projects across the state. He said the partnership is expected to accelerate infrastructure development and strengthen connectivity in Goa.

“My Fields Desperately Need Rain”: Weak July Monsoon Raises Alarm For India’s Farms

■ El Nino conditions and a sharp rainfall deficit threaten sowing, crop output and food prices

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India is expected to receive below normal rainfall in July, the most crucial month of the southwest monsoon season, raising concerns over delayed crop sowing and the impact on agricultural production across the country.

Weather officials have projected July rainfall at less than 94 per cent of



the long term average of around 28 centimetres. The weaker outlook follows India’s driest June in more than a decade, with rainfall nearly 40

per cent below normal levels.

The emerging El Nino weather pattern in the Pacific Ocean is seen as the main reason behind the

subdued monsoon activity. The phenomenon often weakens rainfall over the Indian subcontinent and can affect crop production and water availability.

The monsoon is vital for India’s agriculture sector as it provides most of the country’s annual rainfall, replenishes reservoirs and groundwater, and supports sowing activities for key kharif crops. July is the peak planting season for rice, soybeans, cotton, pulses and oilseeds, but inadequate rainfall has already disrupted farming operations in several regions.



A Person Can Hide Their Face, But Not Their Walk: Gait Analysis Takes Centre Stage In Ketan Agarwal Murder Probe

■ Investigators hope forensic examination of walking patterns will link the accused to the crime scene

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Forensic gait analysis has emerged as a crucial element in the investigation into the alleged murder of Pune businessman Ketan Agarwal, with investigators turning to the scientific technique to identify a suspect whose face was concealed in surveillance footage.

Ketan Agarwal, 26, is alleged to have been pushed into a gorge at Lohagad Fort near Pune on June 18 by his fiancée Siya Goyal and her alleged accomplice Chetan Chaudhary. As the investigation gathered pace, police

reviewing CCTV footage from the trekking route noticed a man dressed in shorts and a hoodie following the couple toward the fort.

Because the suspect’s face was obscured by the hood, investigators are now relying on gait analysis, a forensic method that studies an individual’s unique walking style, posture, stride length and body movement patterns to establish identity.

As part of the process, police are expected to recreate the suspect’s walk along the same route at Lohagad Fort while wearing clothing similar to that seen in the footage.



Foreign Investors Pour Record ₹418 Billion Into Indian Bonds After Tax Relief Boost

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India’s bond market witnessed a record surge in foreign investment in June after the government eased tax rules for overseas investors, making the country’s sovereign debt more attractive to global funds. Foreign investors purchased ₹418 billion worth of bonds under India’s Fully Accessible Route during the month, setting a new monthly record and comfortably surpassing the previous high of ₹239 billion recorded in August 2024.

The sharp rise in inflows followed the government’s June decision to remove taxes on capital gains and interest income earned by foreign investors on eligible bonds. The move eliminated one of the major obstacles that had limited overseas participation in India’s debt market for years. The addition of more securities under the Fully Accessible Route further improved the appeal of Indian government bonds, encouraging global investors to increase exposure to the market.

“Our Overarching Objective Will Be To Win Wars With Indigenous Solutions”: General Dhiraj Seth Unveils ‘VIJAY’ Vision

■ India’s 31st Army Chief outlines a roadmap focused on modernisation, self reliance and future warfare preparedness

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: General Dhiraj Seth on Tuesday assumed charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff and outlined an ambitious blueprint to transform the Indian Army into a technologically advanced and future ready force through his newly unveiled ‘VIJAY’ vision.

In his first address after taking over the top post,



responsibility, reaffirming his commitment to the principles of duty, honour and putting the nation first. He also paid tribute to soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of the country,

generations.

Highlighting the rapidly evolving nature of global security challenges, the Army chief stressed the need for modernisation, innovation and greater integration among India’s armed forces. While describing the Army as battle hardened and combat ready, he said emerging conflicts require a stronger focus on technology driven capabilities.

“My Fields Desperately Need Rain”: Weak July Monsoon Raises Alarm For India’s Farms

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Team Goemkarponn

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can affect crop production and water availability.

The monsoon is vital for India’s agriculture sector as it provides most of the country’s annual rainfall, replenishes reservoirs and groundwater, and supports sowing activities for key kharif crops. July is the peak planting season for rice, soybeans, cotton, pulses and oilseeds, but inadequate rainfall has already disrupted farming operations in several regions. Government data shows the area

under monsoon crops had fallen to 18.27 million hectares by June 25, nearly 23 per cent lower than the same period last year. Farmers in many parts of the country have been forced to postpone sowing while waiting for sufficient moisture in their fields. Authorities have identified 315 districts as vulnerable to below normal rainfall, including 111 high priority districts with limited irrigation facilities.

Kylian Mbappe's double powers France into history while Mexico and Norway end long knockout droughts

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: France scripted a new chapter in 2026 FIFA World Cup history after becoming the first team to score three or more goals in five consecutive matches at the tournament.

The record was achieved as France cruised to a commanding 3-0 victory over Sweden in the Round of 32 at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.



Captain Kylian Mbappe once again led from the front, scoring twice to guide Les Bleus into the Round of 16, where they will

face Paraguay on July 4. Mbappe's goals in the 45th and 74th minutes saw him break another World Cup record, taking his tally in knockout matches to 10, the highest by any player in tournament history. The French star also

moved to six goals in the current edition, drawing level with Lionel Messi in the race for the Golden Boot and reaching 18 World Cup goals in just 18 appearances.

Meanwhile, hosts Mexico ended a four decade wait for a World Cup knockout victory with an impressive 2-0 win over Ecuador at the Azteca Stadium. Goals from Julian Quinones and Raul Jimenez secured Mexico's first knockout

stage win since 1986 and extended their unbeaten World Cup run at the famous venue to ten matches.

Seventeen year old Gilberto Mora also made history by becoming the second

youngest player ever to start a World Cup knockout match, behind only Pele in 1958.

Elsewhere, Norway celebrated their first ever World Cup knockout victory after defeating Ivory Coast 2-1 in Texas.

Goals from Antonio Nusa and a late winner from Erling Haaland secured a historic triumph and set up a last 16 meeting with five time champions Brazil.



"I Don't See Any Such Thing": Shreyas Iyer Dismisses Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Hype Ahead Of England Clash

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India captain Shreyas Iyer has played down the growing clamour surrounding teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's potential international debut, insisting that team selection decisions are based on the performances and readiness of the entire squad rather than public demand. With India coming off a disappointing T20I series defeat against Ireland, calls for the inclusion of the 15 year old batter have grown louder among fans and observers. Questions about Sooryavanshi dominated the pre match press conference ahead of the opening T20 International against England in Durham on Wednesday.

India Open Gets New Slot As BWF Unveils Packed 2027-28 Global Calendar

■ India's premier badminton tournament shifts to February in 2027 as the sport adopts major changes

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Badminton World Federation has announced its World Tour calendar for 2027 and 2028, confirming a new schedule for the India Open, which will move to February next year before returning to a late January slot in 2028.

India's flagship badminton event will be held in New Delhi from



February 2 to 7 in 2027 and from January 25 to 30 in 2028. The tournament had previously been staged in mid January, with the 2026 edition

taking place from January 13 to 18 at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

The schedule adjustment comes after the 2026 tournament drew

criticism from several leading international players over poor air quality in the capital, extremely cold indoor playing conditions and hygiene concerns at the venue.

The federation also confirmed that the Syed Modi India International will continue as a Super 100 event after its downgrade and will take place in Lucknow from July 27 to August 1 in

2027 and from July 25 to 30 in 2028. Globally, the badminton circuit will feature 35 tournaments each year, ranging from Super 1000 to Super 100 competitions, culminating in the season ending World Tour Finals.

The calendar will run continuously from January through December.

At the top level, five Super 1000 tournaments across Asia and Europe will headline the circuit.

Gukesh Returns To Elite Action As Indian Duo Eye Zagreb Glory

■ World champion D Gukesh and Norway Chess winner R Praggnanandhaa headline India's campaign in Croatia

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Reigning world champion D Gukesh and fellow Indian star R Praggnanandhaa will spearhead the country's challenge at the Zagreb Rapid and Blitz Tournament, which begins in Zagreb on Wednesday.

The tournament forms part of the prestigious Grand Chess Tour and is



the third event on this year's calendar, bringing together many of the world's leading players in the rapid and blitz formats.

While Gukesh has stepped away from classical chess events

for the time being, the Indian grandmaster remains committed to major competitions and will participate in Zagreb as a wildcard entrant in the faster formats. His appearance comes ahead

of his upcoming world title defence later this year against rising Uzbek star Javokhir Sindarov.

Praggnanandhaa arrives in Croatia carrying impressive momentum after his historic triumph at the Norway Chess, where he finished ahead of world number one Magnus Carlsen to become the first Indian player to win the prestigious event.

The Zagreb tournament will feature nine rounds of rapid chess

followed by 18 rounds of blitz. Players will earn two points for a rapid victory and one point for a draw, while blitz games will award one point for a win and half a point for a draw.

The field includes several elite international players, including Vincent Keymer, Anish Giri and Alireza Firouzja, who enter the tournament among the highest rated competitors.