



## Venugopal Rushes to Goa as Congress Grapples With Internal Turmoil

### ■ AICC troubleshooter meets key leaders amid growing speculation over factionalism and leadership tensions ahead of 2027 polls

#### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** In a significant show of organisational consolidation ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K. C. Venugopal chaired a crucial meeting of senior Congress leaders in Goa on Friday, with party leaders emerging from the deliberations projecting a message of unity and collective focus on challenging the BJP.

The meeting, held at Cidade de Goa, was



attended by Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Girish Chodankar, Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao, MLA Carlos Ferreira and former GPCC President Amit Patkar. Senior Congress leaders

Manikrao Thakare and Anjali Nimbalkar were also present.

The discussions centred on organisational strengthening, election preparedness and the party's strategy for the coming political

challenges in Goa. The visit assumed added significance as it came amid speculation over internal differences within the state unit following recent leadership changes.

Venugopal also held separate one-on-one meetings with Quepem MLA Altone D'Costa, Congress leaders Sunil Kawthankar, Pratima Coutinho and Savio D'Silva.

Particular attention was drawn to Venugopal's interaction with Amit

Patkar, his first major engagement with the former GPCC chief after his replacement as state party president. The meeting was closely watched amid rumours of factionalism within the Congress.

Patkar, however, firmly dismissed any suggestion of estrangement, reaffirming his commitment to the party and its political mission.

"I am in the Congress and will continue to work for the Congress. Our primary objective remains

defeating the BJP," Patkar told reporters, adding that he would continue contributing whenever required by the organisation.

Altone D'Costa described the discussions as focused on strengthening the party's organisational structure and preparing for the next Assembly elections. He said the leadership reviewed political feedback from across Goa, particularly South Goa, and discussed ways

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#### Patkar Dismisses Rift Speculation

**PANAJI, JULY 4:** Former Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Amit Patkar on Friday reaffirmed his commitment to the Indian National Congress, asserting that the party's primary objective remains defeating the BJP.

Speaking to reporters, Patkar said he continues to be an active member of the Congress and remains committed to working for the party. "I am in the Congress and will continue to work for the Congress. Our focus remains on defeating the BJP," he said.

#### Focused on Defeating BJP, Says Yuri Alemao

**PANAJI:** Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao on Friday said the Congress party's ongoing organisational review exercise in Goa is aimed at strengthening the organisation ahead of upcoming elections, with the sole focus remaining on defeating the BJP. Speaking to reporters, Alemao said the views and suggestions of Pradesh Congress Committee members, former party presidents, Members of Parliament, former MPs and other senior leaders would be taken into consideration as part of the organisational review process.

#### Cong United, Working Collectively: Chodankar

**PANAJI:** Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Girish Chodankar on Friday dismissed speculation about divisions within the Congress, asserting that the party remains united and functions as a cohesive organisation. Speaking to reporters, Chodankar said the Congress is implementing a structured programme in preparation for the upcoming elections, with regular meetings involving senior leaders, district presidents, office-bearers and representatives of various frontal organisations.

#### Will Take BJP's Failures to People: Carlos Ferreira

**PANAJI:** Congress MLA Carlos Ferreira on Friday said his meeting with AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K. C. Venugopal focused on organisational matters and the party's strategy for the upcoming Assembly elections. Speaking to reporters, Ferreira said the Congress would take to the people what he described as the BJP government's failures, including issues related to corruption, rising prices, challenges faced by Goans and the alleged destruction of Goa's identity and resources.



### Kejriwal Seeks ₹10 Lakh Health Cover for Every Goan, Criticises DDSSY

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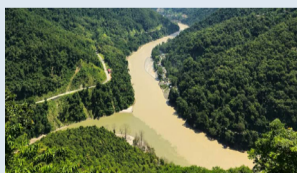
**PANAJI:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Friday criticised the BJP government's healthcare policy in Goa, alleging that the Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana (DDSSY) is inadequately designed and fails to provide comprehensive health coverage to families facing serious medical conditions.

### "India Will Factor All Developments": New Delhi Watches Teesta River Project As China's Role Raises Strategic Concerns

■ Government says assistance to Bangladesh follows agreed roadmap amid growing attention on Teesta basin and regional security dynamics  
**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India has stated that its development cooperation with Bangladesh is guided by a mutually agreed roadmap and that all related developments will be taken into account in its overall approach to the Teesta river project.

The statement comes amid reports of discussions between



Bangladesh and China on the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project during a recent high level visit to Beijing, raising strategic interest in the river basin that lies close to India's sensitive Siliguri Corridor.

### DLMC Reviews Mental Health Measures at BITS Pilani

#### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC) on Mental Health and Prevention of Suicide in Higher Education Institutions reviewed mental health initiatives at BITS Pilani and outlined a series of measures aimed at strengthening student well-being during a meeting chaired by Additional Collector-II of South Goa and Head of Kushavati District, Ramesh Gaonkar.



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## Pratima, Why Should Patkar Explain?

Pratima Coutinho's recent remarks questioning Goa Pradesh Congress Committee president Amit Patkar over the delay in facilitating her return to the Congress raise an important political question. But before demanding answers from Patkar, perhaps a more fundamental question deserves to be asked: why should the burden of explanation rest solely on the party leadership when it was she who chose to leave the Congress in the first place?

Political loyalty is not a one-way street. It comes with responsibilities, commitments and consequences. When leaders voluntarily walk away from a political party, especially during difficult times, they cannot reasonably expect an automatic welcome back whenever circumstances change.

Nobody forced Pratima Coutinho to leave the Congress. The decision to join the Aam Aadmi Party was her own. It was a calculated political move made at a time when Congress was already battling internal challenges, defections and organisational instability. Whether the decision was driven by ideology, ambition, or political opportunity is for political observers to judge. What is clear, however, is that it was a conscious choice.

Today, years later, the focus appears to be on why her return to Congress was delayed. But that discussion conveniently overlooks the fact that it was her departure that created the situation in the first place. Every political action carries consequences. Those who leave a party cannot simply erase the impact of that decision when they seek to return. There are workers who remained loyal to the Congress through some of its most difficult phases. They stood by the party despite electoral setbacks, repeated defections and organisational uncertainty. Their commitment matters too.

Any party leadership has a responsibility not only to accommodate returning leaders but also to protect the morale and confidence of those who never left. This is where criticism of Amit Patkar appears somewhat unfair.

There are many valid debates that can be had about Patkar's leadership. Congress continues to face serious political challenges in Goa, and leadership performance will always remain open to

*"Nobody forced Pratima Coutinho to leave the Congress. The decision to join the Aam Aadmi Party was her own. It was a calculated political move made at a time when Congress was already battling internal challenges, defections and organisational instability. Whether the decision was driven by ideology, ambition, or political opportunity is for political observers to judge. What is clear, however, is that it was a conscious choice.*

*Today, years later, the focus appears to be on why her return to Congress was delayed. But that discussion conveniently overlooks the fact that it was her departure that created the situation in the first place."*

scrutiny. However, exercising caution before readmitting leaders who previously abandoned the party should not automatically be viewed as a mistake.

Patkar inherited a party deeply scarred by defections. The defection of eight Congress MLAs to the BJP remains one of the most damaging political episodes in the party's recent history. It weakened the organisation, demoralised workers and created widespread distrust about political loyalty.

In such an environment, it is understandable that the party leadership would carefully evaluate the return of leaders who had previously left.

Any responsible organisation would ask legitimate questions. Will the individual remain committed during future challenges? Has their political outlook genuinely changed?

Are they returning because they believe in the party's ideology or because their previous political

choices did not work out as expected?

These are not questions of personal hostility. They are questions of organisational survival.

What also deserves attention is the narrative that surrounded Pratima Coutinho's departure from Congress. At various stages, blame was directed at several senior Congress leaders, including Luizinho Faleiro, Girish Chodankar and Digambar Kamat. Strong criticism was levelled against the party's leadership and functioning.

Yet today, many of the same structures and personalities remain associated with the Congress organisation. Girish Chodankar, for instance, continues to play an important role in the party.

This naturally raises another question. If the leaders and systems that were once criticised so strongly are now acceptable enough to warrant a return, then were the earlier accusations really about ideology and principles, or were they products of political frustration and personal disagreements?

That is a question only Pratima Coutinho can answer.

To be clear, political parties should always remain open to reconciliation. People change, political circumstances evolve and second chances are part of democratic politics. Congress has every right to accept back leaders if it believes they can contribute positively to the organisation.

But reconciliation should never be mistaken for entitlement.

Returning to a party after leaving it is not a right. It is a privilege that depends on rebuilding trust. Trust takes time. It cannot be demanded. It must be earned.

Therefore, before asking why Amit Patkar did not facilitate her return sooner, Pratima Coutinho should perhaps first explain why she felt the need to leave the Congress at all. The answer to that question may reveal far more about the situation than any explanation Patkar could ever provide.

In politics, loyalty is tested not when things are easy but when they are difficult. Those who stayed the course during Congress' toughest years deserve at least as much consideration as those who chose to leave and later decided to return.

## EDITOR SPEAKS

### Congress Needs More Than Organisational Meetings

The visit of senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal to Goa for organisational discussions comes at an important time for the party. As elections draw closer, it is understandable that the leadership wants to strengthen its structure and energise party workers. However, organisation alone cannot revive public confidence.

Over the years, the Congress in Goa has struggled with defections, internal disagreements and the inability to retain leaders. These developments have weakened the party's credibility and disappointed many voters who expected a strong opposition. Before asking people to place their faith in the party again, the Congress must first address these long standing issues within its own ranks.

Goans are looking for a political party that remains connected with ordinary people throughout the year and not only during election season. Concerns such as unemployment, rising prices, environmental protection, better infrastructure and transparent governance deserve continuous attention. Strong leadership is measured not by internal meetings but by consistent engagement with the people.

If this visit marks the beginning of sincere introspection and organisational reform, it will benefit not only the Congress but also Goa's democratic system. A healthy democracy requires a responsible and effective opposition capable of questioning the government while offering practical alternatives.

Political parties earn public trust through commitment, accountability and performance. The Congress should use this opportunity to rebuild itself from the grassroots instead of limiting its efforts to organisational exercises.

- Melroy Fernandes, Margão, Goa

### Rising Drowning Deaths Demand Accountability

The increasing number of drowning deaths in Goa's rivers, waterfalls, lakes and other waterbodies is a matter of serious concern. Every year, especially during the monsoon season, reports emerge of tourists as well as local residents losing their lives while visiting popular spots. These tragedies raise an important question: who is responsible for ensuring public safety at such locations?

While visitors must exercise caution and follow safety guidelines, the authorities cannot escape their responsibility. Many accident prone areas lack adequate warning signs, safety barriers, lifeguards and emergency rescue facilities. In several places, people enter dangerous waters without being aware of strong currents, slippery rocks or sudden changes in water levels.

The government, local bodies and concerned departments must work together to identify high risk locations and implement preventive measures. Warning boards should be clearly visible in multiple languages. Lifeguards and rescue teams should be deployed at popular tourist sites, particularly during the monsoon. Regular inspections and strict enforcement of safety regulations are equally important.

Tourism operators and local communities also have a role to play by educating visitors about potential dangers. Public awareness campaigns through social media, schools and local organisations can help reduce risky behaviour near waterbodies.

Every drowning death represents a preventable loss of life and immense grief for families. Instead of reacting after accidents occur, authorities must adopt a proactive approach to safety. Goa's natural beauty attracts thousands of visitors, but enjoyment of these attractions should never come at the cost of human lives.

- Aldrin D'Souza, Ponda, Goa

# Mangaluru Woman Arrested in Calangute Resort Death Case

## Accused traced and apprehended in Karnataka after three-day search; to be brought to Goa for questioning

Team Goemkarponn

**CALANGUTE:** Calangute Police have arrested a woman from Mangaluru in connection with the death of a Udupi-based water sports entrepreneur whose body was found in a resort room in Calangute on June 30.

Police identified the accused as Akshata alias Rupashree C. Investigators said she allegedly left Goa following the incident

### MANGALURU WOMAN HELD IN CALANGUTE RESORT DEATH CASE

Calangute Police arrest accused in connection with Udupi entrepreneur's death

#### KEY POINTS

**CASE**  
Woman from Mangaluru arrested in connection with the death of Udupi-based water sports entrepreneur at Calangute resort on June 30.

**ACCUSED IDENTIFIED**  
Accused identified as Akshata alias Rupashree C.

**FLED GOA**  
Accused allegedly fled Goa after the incident.

**SEARCH & ARREST**  
Calangute Police team travelled to Karnataka, conducted a three-day search with the help of Karnataka Police and apprehended her in Mangaluru on Friday.

**TRANSIT REMAND**  
She has been placed under transit remand and will be brought to Goa on Saturday morning.

**NEXT STEPS**  
Police will question her to establish the sequence of events leading to the victim's death.



**ABOUT THE VICTIM**  
The deceased was a former driver of a former Karnataka minister and later became a water sports entrepreneur based in Udupi.



and was traced to Mangaluru based on specific intelligence inputs.

A police team from Calangute travelled to Karnataka and, with the assistance of the Karnataka Police, conducted a three-day search operation

before apprehending the woman in Mangaluru on Friday. The deceased was a former driver of a former Karnataka minister and had later become a water sports entrepreneur based in Udupi. Police said the accused has been placed under transit remand and is expected to be brought to Goa on Saturday morning. Investigators are expected to question her to establish the sequence of events leading to the entrepreneur's death.

## GOA RAINS

Rainfall Brings Relief Across the State

- Widespread rainfall across North and South Goa
- Gusty winds at several places
- Waterlogging reported in low-lying areas
- IMD issues alert, advises caution while travelling
- Farmers and locals hope for more rains in coming days

# IMD Issues Nowcast Warning for Rain, Gusty Winds Across Goa

Light to moderate rainfall with winds of 30 to 40 kmph likely over next few hours; residents advised caution

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Goa Centre, has issued a nowcast warning forecasting light to moderate rainfall accompanied by gusty winds across parts of the state over the next few hours.

According to the weather advisory, gusty surface winds with speeds of 30 to 40 kmph are likely at isolated places across Goa during the next three to four hours.

The IMD has also

warned of short but intense spells of rain at isolated locations, which could affect visibility and lead to temporary disruptions in low-lying areas.

Residents have been advised to exercise caution while travelling and to remain alert to changing weather conditions.

Authorities are monitoring the situation, while the IMD has urged the public to follow official weather updates and take necessary precautions during periods of heavy rainfall and strong winds.

### SERIES OF OVERNIGHT ROBBERIES SPARKS FEAR IN CURCHOREM

Residents demand increased police patrolling after houses, shop and temple reportedly targeted by unidentified suspects

15:27 AM

**MAIN POINTS**

- CCTV footage captured an unidentified suspect wearing a mask and a dark jacket breaking into a house at Bhatniwada around 3:15 a.m.
- Another nearby residence and a local shop were also reportedly targeted.
- An attempted break-in was reported at the Curcholem Bazaar area, where the suspects allegedly tried to force open the door.
- Residents are worried about their safety and demand increased security.
- Police are examining CCTV footage and investigating the incidents.

A series of overnight robbery incidents in Curchorem's Ward No. 15 has left residents worried about their safety. The string of incidents has sparked fear among locals. We want better patrolling and security.

LOCALS URGE POLICE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO PREVENT FURTHER INCIDENTS

CURCHOREM

## Series of Overnight Robberies Sparks Fear in Curchorem

Team Goemkarponn

**CURCHOREM, JULY 4:** A series of alleged break-in incidents reported overnight in Ward No. 15 of Curchorem has triggered concern among residents, who are demanding enhanced security measures and increased police patrolling in the area.

According to local residents, CCTV footage from Bhatniwada captured two unidentified individuals wearing raincoats allegedly breaking into a house at around 3.15 a.m. The suspects were seen moving through the locality during the early hours of the morning.

Residents claimed that another nearby house and a local shop were also targeted during the same night. In a separate incident, an attempted break-in was reported at the Sateri Temple in the Curchorem Bazaar area. The suspects allegedly tried to force open the temple's main entrance but were unsuccessful.

# Third FIR Registered Against Jeweller in Alleged Gold Loan Fraud Case

Woman alleges ornaments worth ₹14 lakh were melted despite offer to repay loans and interest

Team Goemkarponn

**MORMUGAO:** The alleged gold loan fraud involving a jeweller from Headland Sada has taken a fresh turn, with Mormugao police registering a third First Information Report (FIR) against Bhimappa Chalwadi following a complaint by a local resident who claimed she was cheated of gold ornaments worth around ₹14 lakh.

According to police, the complaint was lodged



by Netra Honavarkar, a resident of Headland Sada, Mormugao. She alleged that Chalwadi sanctioned two gold loans against her pledged ornaments, one of ₹2.70 lakh on August 7, 2025, at PBC Jewellers in Headland Sada, and

another of ₹2.25 lakh on January 20, 2026, near Government High School, Headland Sada.

Honavarkar stated that the gold ornaments pledged as security for the loans were valued at approximately ₹14 lakh.

The complainant alleged that when she later approached the accused to repay the loan amounts along with the applicable interest and sought the return of her ornaments, Chalwadi refused to accept the payment. She further

# GFG Opposes Registration of Proposed 'Goa Congress Party'

Organisation plans to move Election Commission, alleges attempt to divide secular votes and create voter confusion

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goans for Goa (GFG) has announced its opposition to the registration of a proposed political party under the name "Goa Congress Party", alleging that the move is aimed at splitting secular votes ahead of future elections. In a statement issued on July 2, GFG said it was "deeply shocked and disturbed" by reports

**PRESS STATEMENT**  
Goans for Goa (GFG) Will Oppose Registration of Proposed "Goa Congress Party"; Calls it a Deliberate Attempt to Split Secular Votes

Date: 02 July 2026

Goans for Goa (GFG) is deeply shocked and disturbed by reports that certain individuals are attempting to launch a new political party under the name "Goa Congress Party" at a time when the people of Goa are already in a state of confusion and uncertainty. GFG has always been committed to the larger public interest and the well-being of the people of Goa.

The timing of this move raises serious questions about its real intent. Instead of strengthening the secular vote, the proposed party appears designed to divide and weaken the secular vote, particularly in South Goa, thereby enabling political forces that thrive on social divisions to gain a foothold in the region.

Goans for Goa wishes to place on record that it has had serious conversations with political parties, including the Indian National Congress, before merging with the Indian National Congress in 2018. GFG has always been committed to the larger public interest and the well-being of the people of Goa.

GFG has therefore decided to file a formal objection before the Election Commission of India against the registration of the proposed party under the name "Goa Congress Party".

The proposed name is misleading and has the potential to divide voters. It bears a striking similarity to the Indian National Congress and is likely to create confusion among the electorate, especially in rural areas and among elderly voters.

More importantly, this move also threatens the existence of a political party called the Goa Congress Party, which was formed under the leadership of Dr. Wilfred D'Souza before merging with the Indian National Congress in 2018. GFG has always been committed to the larger public interest and the well-being of the people of Goa.

There are no elections near that voters are able to clearly distinguish between political parties. The Election Commission has a responsibility to ensure that the party name does not create confusion, misrepresentation or deception. Creating a party name that closely resembles an established political party and divides the name of a former political party would be contrary to this objective.

Goans for Goa therefore strongly urges the Election Commission to reject the proposed name and direct the promoters to adopt a completely distinct name that cannot be mistaken for any existing or historical political party.

GFG also calls upon all secular-minded citizens of Goa to remain vigilant against any attempt to divide voters through deception, confusion or political engineering. Goa needs unity, not fragmentation. The people's mandate must not be manipulated through misleading party names or labels designed to benefit a particular political party.

Proposed Name: Goa Congress Party  
Former Name: Goa GFG

that individuals were attempting to launch a new political party under

the proposed name at a time when efforts were being made to unite secular and like-minded political forces against communal politics. The organisation contended that the timing of the proposal raises concerns and could weaken the secular vote, particularly in South Goa, while benefiting political forces that thrive on divisions. GFG President Kennedy Afonso said the organisation had

carefully deliberated on the issue and decided against launching any political party of its own in the larger public interest. Instead, it has resolved to file a formal objection before the Election Commission of India against the registration of the proposed party. According to GFG, the name "Goa Congress Party" closely resembles that of the Indian National Congress and has the potential to mislead voters

and create confusion, especially among rural and elderly voters. The organisation also pointed out that a political party bearing the same name had existed in Goa in the past under the leadership of Dr Wilfred D'Souza before merging with the Congress in 1989. It alleged that reviving the name could be viewed as an attempt to exploit its legacy and mislead the electorate.

# GTDC Issues Work Order for Renovation of Shree Mallikarjun Temple in Khotigao

■ ₹5.42-crore project to enhance temple infrastructure, boost pilgrimage tourism and preserve cultural heritage

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANACONA:** The Goa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd (GTDC) has issued a work order for the beautification and renovation of the historic Shree Mallikarjun Temple at Avem-Khotigao in Canacona, marking a significant step towards upgrading one of South Goa's most prominent religious sites.



According to the work

order issued on July 3, GTDC has awarded the contract to Allabaksh Mulla for a project valued at ₹5.42 crore. The contractor has been directed to complete the work within 240 days, with the project scheduled to commence in October 2026 and conclude by May 28, 2027.

The project aims to improve temple infrastructure and

enhance facilities for devotees and visitors while preserving the site's cultural and religious significance. Welcoming the development, the office of Art and Culture Minister and Canacona MLA Ramesh Tawadkar described the issuance of the work order as a major milestone for the constituency and a long-awaited fulfilment of public aspirations.

## N Goa DDMA, NDRF Conduct Joint Inspection of Flood, Landslide-Prone Areas

■ Team assesses vulnerable locations in Sattari to strengthen monsoon preparedness and emergency response mechanisms

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), North Goa, in coordination with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), conducted a joint field inspection of flood-affected and landslide-prone locations in Sattari taluka as part of monsoon preparedness efforts.

The inspection covered vulnerable sites at Ghonteli in Keri, Anjunem Dam, Chorla Ghat and Morlem, where officials assessed ground conditions and reviewed preparedness measures in place to deal with potential monsoon-related emergencies.

According to officials, the exercise

focused on identifying risks at vulnerable locations, reviewing mitigation measures, and strengthening coordination among various line departments involved in disaster management.

The team also interacted with local residents to understand ground-level concerns and enhance community preparedness for possible flooding and landslide incidents during the ongoing monsoon season.

Officials said the joint inspection was aimed at improving inter-agency coordination, enhancing operational readiness, and ensuring a timely and effective response to any emerging contingencies in the event of adverse weather conditions.



## Daylight Scooter Theft Reported from House Garage in Galgibaga

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANACONA:** A Honda Activa scooter valued at ₹58,000 was allegedly stolen in broad daylight from the garage of a residence at Kolsar, Galgibaga in Canacona, police said.

According to Canacona Police, the theft occurred on June 29 between 10.30 a.m. and 11 a.m., when an unidentified person allegedly stole the scooter parked in the garage of a house belonging to Abel Barreto.

The vehicle, a Honda Activa, was reported missing shortly after the incident, prompting the owner to approach the police.

Based on the complaint, Canacona Police have registered a case under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against an unknown accused.

Police have launched an investigation and are working to identify the person involved in the theft. Further inquiries are in progress.

## Vijai Sardesai Promises AI-Driven Farming Revival, Participates in Paddy Plantation Drive

■ Goa Forward chief says 20,000 hectares of fallow land can be brought under cultivation through technology-based agriculture

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** Goa Forward Party MLA Vijai Sardesai on Friday participated in a paddy plantation drive, planting rice saplings and reiterating his party's commitment to revitalising Goa's agricultural sector through the use of advanced technology.

Addressing farmers



and supporters during the programme, Sardesai said that if the Goa Forward Party comes to power in the 2027 Assembly elections, it would introduce artificial

intelligence (AI)-powered robotic technology to support agricultural activities across the state.

He claimed that nearly 20,000 hectares of agricultural land in Goa currently remain uncultivated and said the party would undertake a phased programme to bring the fallow land back under cultivation.

## Loliem-Polem Comunidade Plants 500 Saplings to Mark Van Mahotsav

■ Community-led drive at Madditolop focuses on biodiversity restoration and environmental conservation

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANACONA:** The Comunidade of Loliem-Polem, in collaboration with various stakeholders, planted more than 500 saplings at Madditolop in Loliem on Friday as part of Van Mahotsav 2026 celebrations.

The plantation drive was organised jointly by the Comunidade of Loliem-Polem,



the Khotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, APRUP Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Cooperative

Society Ltd, Loliem, and the students, teachers and parent community of S.S. Angle Higher Secondary

School, Maxem.

The initiative, centred on biodiversity restoration and community-led conservation, saw volunteers, students, parents and teachers plant around 500 fruit-bearing and flowering saplings at Laatbai, Madditolop, with the aim of enriching the local ecosystem and promoting environmental sustainability. Addressing participants, Comunidade of Loliem-Polem President

Vishwajit Varik said the initiative was aimed at protecting the environment and strengthening local biodiversity.

"Protecting Mother Earth is our shared civic duty. By introducing 500 fruit and flower plants into our local landscape, we are not just planting trees but creating a habitat for birds, insects and future generations," he said.

# Removing Congress Flags Won't Erase Party From People's Hearts: GPCC

■ Congress leader accuses BJP of political insecurity, questions selective action against party flags while illegal hoardings remain untouched

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa Pradesh Congress Committee Media and Communications Department Chairman Amarnath Panjikar on Thursday criticised the BJP for allegedly removing Congress flags in Panaji, describing the move as an act of political insecurity and desperation.

Panjikar said the BJP was mistaken if it believed that removing Congress



flags would diminish the party's presence among the people.

"If the BJP believes that by removing Congress flags it can erase the Congress from the hearts of the people, it is living in a fool's paradise. Every flag they

remove only strengthens our resolve to raise hundreds more across Goa," he said.

Questioning the BJP-led government and the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) over what he termed selective action, Panjikar alleged that authorities had failed to act against illegal casino hoardings and advertising boards across the city.

"Panjim is flooded with illegal casino hoardings and advertising boards, yet the BJP Government

and the CCP lack the courage to act against them. Instead of removing these illegal structures, they are busy targeting Congress flags. This exposes their double standards and misplaced priorities," he said.

The Congress leader described the alleged removal of party flags as "cheap, petty and cowardly politics" and said such actions were unbecoming of a ruling party.

"A government



## Sukhija Slams Crumbling Miramar Beachfront Works

■ The Miramar pathway worth crores of rupees is already crumbling, while the gazebos are rusted and abandoned, making the investment a virtual write-off, Jack said

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Panaji Councillor Jack Sukhija has urged the Goa government to review the deteriorating Miramar beachfront development project undertaken by Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL) and remove structures he described as environmentally damaging and a waste of public funds.

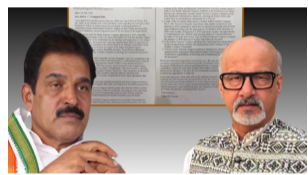
Calling for a reassessment of Smart City works along the coast, Sukhija said future interventions on Goa's beaches should prioritise environmental protection and natural restoration over extensive concretisation. He alleged that the project had strayed from its original objective of coastal protection, resulting in unnecessary expenditure and ecological damage.

Addressing the

media at Miramar beach, Sukhija, accompanied by AAP Goa president Valmiki Naik and city residents including social activist Patricia Pinto, architect Amita Kanekar and entrepreneur Aakash Madgavkar, criticised the IPSCDL project for replacing natural coastal features with concrete structures that have deteriorated within a few years of completion.

According to Sukhija, the project, estimated to have cost between ₹12.8 crore and ₹13 crore, was originally intended to strengthen the beach against erosion, shifting sand and strong coastal winds.

"The beach faced strong winds, shifting sand and erosion, and the funds were meant to address those issues. Somewhere along the way, in the back-and-forth of budgeting and execution, that original intent was lost," he said.



## Open Letter to K. C. Venugopal, Raises Seven Questions on Goa Congress

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** Political analyst and long-time Indian National Congress supporter Vishal Pai Cacode has written an open letter to AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K. C. Venugopal ahead of his visit to Goa, raising what he described as key concerns about the future of the party in the state. Stating that his questions stem from commitment rather than bitterness, Pai Cacode said the letter reflects the sentiments of thousands of dedicated Congress workers and supporters. Recalling his association with the Indian National Congress since 1979, when the party contested elections on the Cow and Calf symbol, Pai Cacode said he has remained committed to the party's ideology for more than four decades without seeking any organisational position or electoral ticket. He noted that he had served as election agent for the Congress candidate from Margao in three Assembly elections and remained loyal to the party even after the candidate later defected.

## Goa CM Congratulates Students Selected Under Goa Super 100 Scholarship

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant met and congratulated two students selected under the Goa Super 100 Scholarship initiative of the PACT Foundation.

The beneficiaries, Laxmi Nilesh Toraskar from Nerul, pursuing a BA in Economics, and Satwija Bablo Naik from Dabal, pursuing a BA LLB, have been awarded scholarships valued at ₹30 lakh each for the entire duration of their programmes. The scholarship covers

tuition fees, hostel

opportunities.



accommodation, meals and other educational expenses.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister also interacted with Dr. Ashwin Fernandes, Founder of the PACT Foundation, and appreciated the organisation's efforts to empower Goan youth through education and

Dr. Sawant said the Goa Super 100 Scholarship is a remarkable initiative aimed at supporting students from marginalised communities by providing higher education and hostel assistance at leading universities across India based on merit and need.

## CM Reviews Rapid Composting Technology at Bicholim MRF Centre

■ Initiative aims to promote decentralised waste processing and support sustainable waste management practices in Goa

**Team Goemkarponn**

**BICHOLIM:** Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Thursday visited the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Centre in Bicholim and reviewed the Nisargruna Rapid Composting Technology introduced by the state government in association with Sampurnearth and IndiGo.

During the visit,



the Chief Minister was given a demonstration

of the technology, which is designed to process

biodegradable waste in a decentralised manner within 48 hours. Sawant said the innovative system promotes scientific waste management while helping reduce transportation costs, fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. He noted that decentralised processing of organic waste can significantly improve the efficiency of waste management systems

across the state. The Chief Minister said the initiative represents an important step towards sustainable waste management and the adoption of circular economy practices in Goa. He added that the technology offers an eco-friendly and scalable solution for local bodies, institutions and communities seeking effective waste disposal mechanisms.

# "E20 Backed By Science, Not Myths": Centre Defends Ethanol Blending Programme, But Are Consumers Paying The Price For Policy Change?"

■ Government rejects allegations over engine damage and water usage while questions grow over everyday impact on vehicle owners

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre has issued a detailed clarification countering claims circulating on social media about the E20 ethanol blended petrol programme, rejecting concerns ranging from excessive water use and engine damage to doubts over insurance and environmental impact.

In a ten point explanation, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said the programme, which blends up to 20 percent ethanol in petrol, is backed by scientific studies, global adoption and regulatory safeguards. The government said misinformation around the initiative was creating unnecessary confusion among vehicle owners.

Responding to claims that ethanol production requires extremely high water consumption, the ministry said actual usage is significantly lower, typically between three and five litres of processed water per litre of ethanol. It added that modern distilleries increasingly operate Zero Liquid Discharge systems, allowing water reuse. Only surplus agricultural



stock is used for ethanol production after food security needs are met, while maize with lower irrigation demand is becoming a major source.

Officials also rejected arguments that E20 is an untested fuel, noting its long standing use in countries such as the United States, Brazil, Canada, Japan and several European nations.

On concerns about vehicle performance, the ministry cited studies and trials showing no significant impact on drivability or efficiency in compatible vehicles. It added that while some

older rubber components may need earlier replacement, no systemic engine damage has been observed.

The government also denied claims that warranties or insurance coverage would be affected and dismissed viral allegations about water contamination and insect attraction in fuel.

At the same time, a broader question continues to surface among consumers. While policy debates focus on technical standards and environmental targets, ordinary vehicle owners say their primary

expectation is simple. They want their cars and bikes to run smoothly without unexpected costs or doubts.

In that sense, a key concern being raised is whether consumers can truly be held responsible for adapting to changes they did not design, when their only requirement is reliable daily mobility.

The ministry said the programme has reduced crude oil imports, cut emissions and improved farmer incomes, while India achieved its 20 percent blending target ahead of schedule in 2025.

## Goan Startups Get Gateway to Government Buyers Through GeM Platform

■ Session opens new opportunities for local innovators to expand into public procurement markets

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** Goan startups took a significant step towards accessing government procurement opportunities by participating in a dedicated onboarding session for the Government e Marketplace, popularly known as GeM. The initiative was designed to help emerging businesses understand the platform and explore new avenues for growth through government contracts. Held on June 22, 2026, the online session introduced participants to the functioning of the GeM portal and its growing role in public procurement across India. The programme formed part of a wider national effort to increase the participation of recognised startups in supplying products and services to government organisations. The session provided a detailed overview of the registration process, eligibility requirements, product and service listings, and the procedures involved in participating in government tenders. Startups were also informed about the

various opportunities available to work with ministries, departments, public sector undertakings and other government bodies. The initiative reflects Goa's broader vision of creating stronger market access for local startups and helping them expand beyond conventional business channels. By linking entrepreneurs with national digital platforms, efforts continue to strengthen the state's innovation ecosystem and encourage the growth of technology driven enterprises. Participants viewed the session as an important step in understanding how government procurement operates and how startups can position themselves to benefit from it. The platform was recognised as a transparent and efficient system that can help businesses improve credibility, reach institutional buyers and unlock new revenue opportunities. To ensure continued support, additional sessions are planned to guide startups through catalogue creation, onboarding procedures and other requirements necessary to establish a strong presence on the GeM platform.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

## Venugopal Rushes to Goa as Congress Grapples With Internal Turmoil

to bring all sections of the party together. On possible electoral alliances, D'Costa reiterated the Congress position that it remains open to working with like-minded parties sharing a common ideological objective of defeating the ruling BJP. Congress leader Sunil Kawthankar sought to downplay reports of internal discord, describing discussions within the party as a normal feature of a democratic organisation.

"The Congress is like a

family. Differences, if any, are addressed internally," he said, emphasising that the party's focus remains on issues affecting Goa, including land conversion, corruption and unemployment. Former Chief Minister Francisco Sardinha also acknowledged the existence of differing opinions within the party but said such differences were natural in any large political organisation. "As long as everyone works towards a common objective, discussions and differences are part of democratic functioning," Sardinha said. As chairman of the Congress Coordination Committee, he stressed the importance of maintaining organisational cohesion as the

party prepares for the elections. Savio D'Silva raised concerns regarding the impact of defections on the Congress organisation over the years, stating that the issue had been discussed with the national leadership. He said repeated defections had weakened grassroots structures but maintained that the party was now focused on rebuilding and strengthening its base. Emphasising unity, D'Silva said organisational positions were temporary but the larger objective of strengthening the Congress remained paramount. While details of Venugopal's deliberations remain undisclosed, the message emerging from the high-level meeting was unmistakable.



सत्यमेव जयते



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# Gujarat ATS Busts Terror Module Using Digital Propaganda To Expand Network

Investigators uncover sleeper cell operations, online radicalisation efforts and covert recruitment plans

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The Gujarat Anti Terrorism Squad has uncovered an alleged terror module linked to the banned outfit Jaish e Mohammed that was reportedly working to spread extremist ideology and establish an active network across the state.

According to investigators, the group functioned as a sleeper



cell and was involved in efforts to radicalise individuals through various communication channels while laying the

groundwork for future terror activities. Authorities said the module was operating under a coordinated conspiracy

aimed at expanding the organisation's influence in Gujarat. The investigation began after intelligence inputs pointed to individuals allegedly working on behalf of the terror outfit. A detailed operation involving technical surveillance and human intelligence led officials to identify direct links between the suspects and the banned organisation.



## "We Knocked The Hell Out Of Iran": Trump Remarks As Khamenei Funeral

Six day state funeral unfolds across Iran amid regional tensions and heightened security concerns

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** A six day state funeral for Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei began on July 4, coinciding with the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The ceremonies come nearly four months after Khamenei was killed in airstrikes at the start of the conflict involving Iran, the United States, and Israel. Speaking during an event near Mount Rushmore, US President Donald Trump referenced the funeral while reiterating his administration's military actions against Iran. He stated that the United States had dealt a severe blow to Iran and remarked that Washington had effectively allowed a pause in tensions

to enable the funeral ceremonies to proceed. Khamenei, who led Iran for 36 years, died on February 28 as military strikes triggered a wider conflict across the Middle East. The timing of his burial had been the subject of speculation, as Islamic tradition generally calls for burial within a day of death. However, the ongoing war and security conditions delayed the final rites. The funeral programme includes religious ceremonies in the holy city of Qom on July 7 before concluding with Khamenei's burial in his hometown of Mashhad on July 9. Authorities expect millions of mourners to participate in the events, making it most closely watched global developments of the year.



## Centre Gives Telegram 15 Days To Curb Piracy, Expands Scrutiny Of Messaging Platforms

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The Central government has issued a notice to Telegram over the alleged large scale circulation of pirated films, web series and other copyrighted content on the platform, directing it to take immediate corrective measures and submit an Action Taken Report within 15 days. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said the move is intended to protect India's creator economy and safeguard the interests of filmmakers, broadcasters, OTT platforms, producers and distributors from online piracy and copyright infringement.

Following complaints from content owners and streaming platforms, authorities examined the issue and identified 3,142 Telegram channels that were allegedly distributing copyrighted movies and digital content without authorisation. The government has instructed the platform to remove infringing material and strengthen its compliance mechanisms under existing intermediary regulations.

## "Government Monitoring Potential Drought Conditions": Amit Shah Reviews Rainfall Crisis

Centre steps up preparedness as India records its fifth driest June in more than a century

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre is closely monitoring the impact of below normal monsoon rainfall and the possibility of drought conditions emerging in several parts of the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said after chairing a high level review meeting on the national rainfall situation.

The meeting examined the effects of deficient



rainfall linked to El Niño conditions and discussed measures to reduce pressure on agriculture, water resources and rural livelihoods during the ongoing kharif season. India experienced its

fifth driest June since rainfall records began in 1901, receiving only 99.5 mm of rainfall against the normal average of 165.3 mm, resulting in a deficit of nearly 40 percent.

Shah directed central ministries and agencies to remain alert and work closely with state governments to manage the evolving situation.

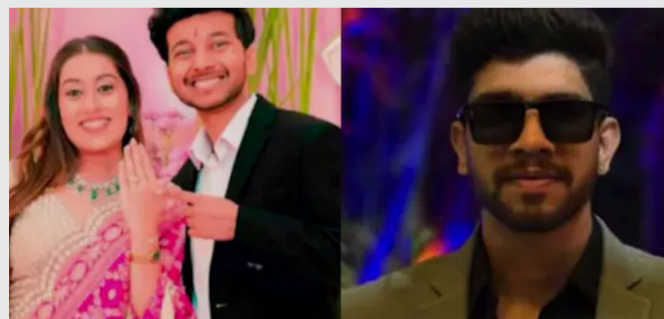
## "Send Your Aadhaar For A Wedding That Won't Happen": Snapchat Message Emerges In Pune Murder Probe

Investigators examine coded chats, deleted data and an alleged plan to disguise preparations for the wedding

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The investigation into the death of Pune businessman Ketan Agarwal has taken a new turn after police uncovered alleged Snapchat messages and coded conversations exchanged between accused Siya Goyal and Chetan Chaudhary.

According to investigators, recovered mobile data suggests the two communicated



using nicknames and coded language to avoid detection and complicate surveillance efforts. Officials told the court that a detailed examination of these conversations is

necessary to understand the motive and the extent of the alleged conspiracy. A purported Snapchat exchange has now become a key focus of the probe. In the conversation,

Siya allegedly asked a friend to share a copy of her Aadhaar card to book flight tickets for what she described as "a wedding that won't happen." Investigators are examining whether the proposed booking was intended to create the impression that wedding arrangements were continuing normally and divert suspicion from the alleged murder plot. Police had sought additional custody of the accused, arguing that further face

to face interrogation was required to decode the conversations and verify digital evidence. However, the local court declined the request and remanded both Siya and Chetan to 14 days of judicial custody. The court also rejected a request for narco analysis after both accused refused consent, while investigators stated that such a test was not essential at this stage of the inquiry.

# Argentina Survive Cape Verde Scare In 3-2 Extra-Time Thriller, Colombia Edge Ghana 1-0, Egypt Beat Australia On Penalties To Reach FIFA World Cup 2026 Last 16

■ Messi, Salah and disciplined defending headline a dramatic knockout round as Argentina, Colombia and Egypt advance

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** Argentina were stretched to the limit before edging Cape Verde 3-2 after extra time in a dramatic contest to reach the FIFA World Cup 2026 last 16, while Colombia narrowly defeated Ghana 1-0 and Egypt advanced after a penalty shootout win over Australia in a tense knockout round.

In Miami, Argentina faced one of their toughest challenges



of the tournament as Cape Verde pushed the defending champions to the edge. Lionel Messi opened the scoring with a moment of brilliance, taking his World Cup tally to 20 goals and extending his record streak in the competition. However,

Cape Verde responded strongly, equalising through Deroy Duarte to expose gaps in the Argentine defence. The match remained intense throughout,

with Lisandro Martinez restoring Argentina's lead in extra time, only for Sidney Lopes Cabral to strike a stunning equaliser that forced further drama.

With penalties looming, Argentina finally broke through when a Messi corner led to a Cristian

Romero header that deflected in off Diney Borges for an own goal. Despite sealing victory, Emiliano Martinez



was forced into a crucial late saves

as Cape Verde continued to threaten until the final whistle. In Kansas City, Colombia overcame Ghana 1-0 in a match dominated by the South Americans but marked by wasteful finishing.

Jhon Arias scored the decisive early goal, and Colombia controlled possession and chances throughout.



## “Ready And Confident”: India Pushes Strong Case Under Revamped IOC Process For 2036 Olympic Bid

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India has said it is “ready and confident” as it prepares to navigate the International Olympic Committee’s revamped host selection process for the 2036 Olympic Games, with its bid expected to move through multiple structured dialogue stages in the coming years.

India had formally expressed interest in hosting the 2036 Games in Ahmedabad in 2024 through a letter of intent.

However, the process was later paused in 2025 after the IOC leadership initiated a review of the selection framework. A revised system has now been approved, introducing a more layered and structured evaluation process for future host cities.

Under the new mechanism, India is currently in the Continuous Dialogue phase, along with other interested countries.

## “No Free-loaders In Team India”: Sports Ministry Tightens Selection Rules For Asian Games And Commonwealth Games

■ Government vets every entry as India moves to trim contingents and prioritise only medal winning athletes

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** The Sports Ministry has issued a strict directive to national sports federations ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the Asian Games in Aichi Nagoya, making it clear that only athletes with genuine medal prospects will be allowed to represent India.

As squads are finalised for the two major multi sport events, officials have warned federations



against inflating team sizes or including athletes through discretionary picks. The emphasis, according to ministry officials, is on eliminating non performing selections and ensuring that only competitive athletes make

the cut. India is expected to send around 126 athletes to the Commonwealth Games and nearly 600 to the Asian Games. Although federations and the Indian Olympic Association are responsible for preparing entries, the final approval now rests with the Sports Ministry, which is vetting every selection before it is cleared.

## “It’s A Good Sign We Back Our Players”: India Coach Defends Decision To Delay Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Debut

■ Morne Morkel backs established top order, signals 15 year old prodigy may continue to wait for international opportunity

**Team Goemkarponn**

**NEW DELHI:** India men’s bowling coach Morne Morkel has defended the team management’s decision to delay the international debut of 15 year old left hander Vaibhav Sooryavanshi during the ongoing T20 series in England, suggesting the youngster is likely to remain on the bench for the second



T20I as well. The decision has drawn attention after calls grew louder for Sooryavanshi’s inclusion, particularly following India’s recent struggles in the shortest format.

## Civil Servants Rally Around Badminton as State Tournament Brings Departments Together in Goa

■ Sporting event at Campal promotes fitness, teamwork and camaraderie among government employees

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI :** The Goa State Civil Services Badminton Tournament was successfully conducted at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium in Campal on July 3, bringing together government employees from departments across the state for a day of competitive sport and interaction. Organised by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs,



the tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from civil servants who showcased their skills and competitive spirit on the badminton court. The event served as a platform



to encourage physical fitness and healthy living while strengthening bonds among employees from different branches of the government. Addressing the



participants and attendees, officials highlighted the growing importance of sports and recreational activities in maintaining a balanced and active lifestyle.

The tournament was also seen as an opportunity to promote teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship among members of the state civil services.