



## Goa Brings 'Pilot' Bike Taxis Online with Launch of Mhaje Driver App

Digital platform enables commuters to book motorcycle pilots, while government announces plans for e-bike subsidy and pension support

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's traditional motorcycle taxi service has entered the digital era with the launch of the Mhaje Driver App, a new platform designed to help commuters quickly find and book licensed motorcycle pilots across the State.

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant unveiled the application on Monday, describing it as a major step towards modernising one of Goa's most distinctive public transport services while



preserving its long-standing role in everyday travel.

The app allows users to locate the nearest available motorcycle pilot, book a ride in advance and connect directly with the rider

before reaching the designated pickup point. The initiative is expected to make commuting more convenient while helping pilots reach a wider customer base and improve their income. Speaking at the

launch, Sawant said motorcycle pilots have earned the trust of Goans over several decades by providing dependable and safe transport services. He noted that families continue to rely on pilots to transport schoolchildren, highlighting the profession's reputation for reliability and responsible service.

The Chief Minister clarified that joining the digital platform is entirely voluntary. Pilots who prefer to continue

## CM Rules Out Mandatory Enrolment on Majhe App for Goa's Motorcycle Pilots

Sawant says digital platform is an optional service, urges pilots to ignore rumours and assures no change to the existing system



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has sought to allay concerns over the rollout of the Majhe App, stating that Goa's motorcycle pilots will not be compelled to register on the newly introduced digital platform.

Speaking after the app's launch, Sawant said the initiative has been introduced as an additional facility for both commuters and pilots, and participation will remain entirely at the discretion of individual operators.

He emphasised that pilots who prefer to continue functioning through the existing system are free to do so, adding that the government has no

plans to make app registration compulsory.

The Chief Minister appealed to the motorcycle pilot community not to be swayed by rumours or misinformation regarding the initiative. He said the app should not become a reason for confrontation or protests, as it is intended to provide an extra avenue for business rather than replace the traditional mode of operation.

Reiterating the government's position, Sawant said the objective is to modernise public transport by offering digital booking facilities while preserving the identity and functioning of Goa's long-standing motorcycle pilot service.



## 'He Abandoned Ram's Path': BJP Hits Back at Uddhav Thackeray Over Ram Temple Theft Remarks

Team Goemkarponn

MUMBAI: A fresh political confrontation erupted in Maharashtra after Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the Ram Temple donation theft controversy, prompting a sharp response from the ruling party.

Launching his "Ram Raksha" campaign at a gathering outside the Hanuman Temple in Dadar, Thackeray accused those in power of misusing Hindutva and alleged that those responsible for looting a temple would not be forgiven by Hindus. During the event, he recited the Hanuman Stotra, Hanuman Chalisa and Ram Raksha Stotra, while urging supporters to stand against what he described as the misuse of faith for political purposes.

## Goa Expands Support for Warkaris, Plans Pilgrim Facilities in Pandharpur and Ayodhya

CM Pramod Sawant announces enhanced financial aid, eco-friendly initiatives and dedicated accommodation projects for Goan devotees

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Monday reaffirmed the Goa government's commitment to supporting the State's Warkari community by announcing enhanced financial



assistance, improved pilgrim facilities and new

infrastructure projects for devotees travelling to holy destinations. Addressing Warkaris ahead of the annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur, Sawant described the Wari as a symbol of faith, unity and Goa's enduring cultural traditions.

## India Withdraws Emergency Gas Curbs as LNG Shipments Through Strait of Hormuz Return to Normal

Improved energy flows after West Asia ceasefire prompt Centre to lift temporary supply restrictions

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has withdrawn the emergency restrictions imposed on natural gas supplies after liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz resumed following a ceasefire in West Asia. The decision comes as energy supplies have stabilised and maritime traffic through the key shipping route has



returned to normal.

The temporary supply controls were introduced after tensions between the United States, Israel and Iran disrupted LNG movements. Several suppliers declared force majeure during the conflict, forcing authorities to prioritise natural gas

distribution to essential sectors to ensure uninterrupted supplies.

Earlier this year, the Centre introduced the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026, to regulate the production, allocation, distribution and consumption of natural gas, including LNG and regasified LNG. The measure was designed to ensure fair distribution and maintain adequate supplies during periods of uncertainty.

### WE ARE HIRING!

Join our team!

<b>NEWSPAPER DESIGNER</b> <b>What You'll Do:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Experience in InDesign software</li><li>Experience in Newspaper designing</li><li>Knowledge of Canva</li><li>Work on shift</li></ul>	<b>SALE EXECUTIVE</b> <b>What You'll Do:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Freshers and experienced candidates can apply.</li><li>Excellent communication skill</li><li>Prepare advertising proposals, quotations, and follow up with clients.</li></ul>
<b>How to Apply:</b> <p>Send your portfolio + resume to [our email/DM] Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for a quick test edit.</p>	<b>Why Join Us?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Work with a dynamic and creative team</li><li>Opportunities to grow</li><li>Be part of impactful journalism &amp; media</li></ul>

**APPLY NOW**

SEND YOUR CV TO: [goemkarponnnews@gmail.com](mailto:goemkarponnnews@gmail.com) | CALL US: +91 89568 93882

# Ethanol Needs Transparency, Not Just Promotion

The Union government's recent effort to debunk viral claims about ethanol-blended fuel is a reminder that India's ambitious energy transition cannot succeed through targets and publicity alone. As the country moves towards wider adoption of E20 fuel, which contains 20 per cent ethanol and 80 per cent petrol, public confidence will be as important as policy. That confidence can only be built through transparency, scientific communication and continuous engagement with consumers.

India's ethanol blending programme has delivered measurable gains. It has helped reduce crude oil imports, created an additional market for sugarcane and grain farmers, and contributed to the country's energy security goals. The government has repeatedly highlighted the savings in foreign exchange and the environmental benefits arising from lower dependence on fossil fuels. These are legitimate achievements.

However, public concerns about ethanol cannot simply be dismissed as misinformation. Many vehicle owners have genuine questions. They want to know whether E20 fuel will affect engine life, fuel efficiency, maintenance costs and long-term vehicle performance. These concerns deserve answers that are detailed, evidence based and easily accessible.

One of the most common apprehensions relates to mileage. Ethanol contains less energy per litre than petrol. As a result, some reduction in fuel efficiency is expected in many vehicles. While automobile manufacturers and government agencies argue that engines designed for E20 can compensate for much of this difference, consumers are entitled to know the real-world impact. Transparent testing data from different climatic conditions and driving environments should be made publicly available.

Questions have also been raised about compatibility with older vehicles. Automobile manufacturers have increasingly introduced E20-compatible models, but millions of vehicles currently on Indian roads were not originally designed for higher ethanol blends. The government maintains that approved vehicles

*“One of the most common apprehensions relates to mileage. Ethanol contains less energy per litre than petrol. As a result, some reduction in fuel efficiency is expected in many vehicles. While automobile manufacturers and government agencies argue that engines designed for E20 can compensate for much of this difference, consumers are entitled to know the real-world impact. Transparent testing data from different climatic conditions and driving environments should be made publicly available.*

*Questions have also been raised about compatibility with older vehicles. Automobile manufacturers have increasingly introduced E20-compatible models, but millions of vehicles currently on Indian roads were not originally designed for higher ethanol blends.”*

can safely use E20 fuel. Yet many owners remain uncertain about the implications for fuel lines, rubber components and engine systems over extended periods. Clear guidance tailored to different vehicle categories would help address these concerns.

Another contentious issue is water consumption. Critics argue that ethanol production, especially from sugarcane, requires significant water resources. The government has countered that ethanol is increasingly being produced from multiple feedstocks, including maize and damaged food grains, reducing pressure on any single crop. Even so, concerns about water use cannot be brushed aside in a country where several regions

regularly face water stress. Policymakers should present comprehensive and independently verified data on the water footprint of ethanol production and explain how sustainability safeguards are being enforced.

The larger challenge is one of public communication. India's ethanol programme has often been presented as a success story, but success stories also need scrutiny. Citizens are more likely to trust a policy when authorities openly acknowledge trade-offs and limitations instead of focusing only on benefits. Public trust grows when people see questions being answered rather than dismissed.

This is particularly important in the age of social media, where misinformation spreads rapidly. The most effective response is not simply issuing denials after viral claims gain traction. It is proactive engagement. Government agencies, automobile manufacturers, fuel retailers and independent researchers should work together to provide regular information through public campaigns, technical explainers and easily understandable data.

Consumers should not be expected to rely on rumours, WhatsApp forwards or conflicting online opinions when making decisions about the fuel they use every day. They need credible information from trusted sources. Vehicle owners want reassurance that policy decisions are being guided by science, not merely by production targets.

India's transition towards cleaner and more diversified energy sources is necessary. Ethanol blending can play an important role in that journey. But lasting public acceptance will depend on how honestly and transparently the policy is communicated. People are more willing to support change when they understand both its benefits and its costs.

The government's task, therefore, is not merely to promote ethanol. It is to build confidence in it. That requires continuous sensitisation, open dialogue and a willingness to address doubts with facts. In matters that affect millions of consumers and their vehicles, trust is every bit as important as technology.

## EDITOR SPEAKS

### Damage Controlled, But Not the Crisis

Suraj Nandekar

ICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal's visit to Goa appears to have achieved its immediate objective. The public display of discord within the Congress has, for now, been replaced by carefully choreographed images of unity. Meetings were held, leaders emerged smiling, and the message was unmistakable: the party is determined to put its house in order before preparations for the 2027 Assembly elections gather pace.

But whether the visit has resolved the crisis or merely postponed it is a question that only time can answer.

The Congress had reached a point where internal disputes were overshadowing its role as the principal opposition. Dissatisfaction over appointments, disciplinary action against leaders, and the suspension of the party's minority department chief had exposed deep fault lines. The unrest threatened to undo whatever momentum the party had managed to build against the BJP.

Venugopal's intervention was therefore necessary. The appointment of Sunil Kawthekar as a working president appears to be a calculated move to pacify one of the disgruntled factions. His subsequent public assertion that there was no resentment within the party was clearly intended to reinforce the message of reconciliation.

However, the solution raises fresh questions. Goa Pradesh Congress Committee now has four working presidents, an arrangement that appears more reflective of political balancing than organisational necessity. Expanding the leadership structure may temporarily satisfy competing ambitions, but it also risks creating overlapping authority and diffused accountability. More office bearers do not automatically translate into a stronger organisation.

Equally significant was the outreach to former GPCC president Amit Patkar. Bringing him into discussions and publicly acknowledging his role signals that the central leadership recognises the dangers of alienating influential leaders. The Congress cannot afford parallel power centres or silent rebellions when every constituency demands focused attention.

The challenge before the Congress is much larger than accommodating individuals. Goa's political landscape has changed considerably over the past decade. Electoral defeats, defections and organisational weaknesses have steadily eroded public confidence. Voters are unlikely to be impressed merely because rival camps have agreed to call a temporary truce.

What they will judge is whether the Congress can function as a credible alternative government. That requires sustained grassroots mobilisation, a coherent political narrative, and visible coordination between its senior leaders. Internal peace is only the first step. It cannot become the final destination. The BJP has repeatedly benefited whenever the Congress has been consumed by infighting. Every public disagreement reinforces the perception that the opposition is incapable of governing itself, let alone the state. That is precisely why Venugopal's intervention was important. It has prevented the immediate crisis from escalating into a larger organisational rupture. Yet political history offers enough examples where temporary compromises collapsed once appointments, ticket distribution and leadership questions resurfaced. The real test will come not in conference rooms but in the months ahead, when difficult decisions on alliances, candidates and campaign strategy have to be taken. For now, the Congress deserves credit for preventing an open split. Damage control appears to have worked. But damage control is not the same as organisational renewal. Unless the party converts this fragile peace into collective action and disciplined leadership, the cracks that have been papered over today may widen once again. Unity cannot remain an event. It has to become the Congress's working culture if it hopes to convince Goans that it is ready to govern again.

# Goa Sees Sharp Rise in Dementia Cases as Experts Call for Early Detection

Ageing population, lifestyle-related health risks and greater awareness are driving an increase in diagnoses across the State

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's neurologists are raising concerns over a growing number of dementia and Alzheimer's disease cases, describing the trend as an emerging healthcare challenge as the State's elderly population continues to expand.

Medical experts say hospitals and clinics are seeing more senior citizens reporting persistent memory



problems, confusion and difficulties with thinking and reasoning, underscoring the need for timely diagnosis and long-term care planning.

Dr Parul Dubey, Lead Neurologist at Manipal Hospital, Dona Paula, said dementia cases have become noticeably

more common in recent years. She explained that Alzheimer's disease is the leading cause of dementia and differs from the occasional forgetfulness associated with normal ageing.

Goa has one of the country's oldest populations, with senior citizens making up 11.2 per cent of its residents, compared to the national average of 8.6 per cent. Specialists believe this demographic shift will inevitably lead to a higher

number of people living with age-related cognitive disorders.

Worldwide, dementia affects more than 55 million people, while India is estimated to have around 8.8 million elderly individuals living with the condition. Health experts note that improved awareness campaigns, including those held during Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month in June, are encouraging more people to seek medical evaluation.



## Annual PM10 Pollution Exceeds National Limit at Several Goa Monitoring Stations

State records mostly good air quality, but dust pollution remains a concern in urban, industrial and mining regions

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa continued to enjoy largely "Good" and "Satisfactory" air quality during the 2025-26 monitoring year, but elevated levels of PM10 particles at several locations have highlighted persistent concerns over dust pollution, according to the latest findings of the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB).

The Board's Ambient Air Quality Report for 2025-26, covering the period from April 2025 to March 2026, indicates that although day-to-day air quality generally remained within acceptable limits, the annual average concentration of PM10 crossed the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of

60 micrograms per cubic metre at a number of monitoring sites.

The locations where annual PM10 levels exceeded the prescribed limit include Panaji, Mapusa, Vasco, Baina, Ponda, Bicholim, Curchorem, Tilamol, Kundaim Industrial Estate and Cuncolim Industrial Estate. Among these, Bicholim registered the highest annual average PM10 concentration at 75  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , making it the most affected monitoring station during the year. According to the report, the increase in airborne particulate matter is largely linked to heavy vehicular traffic, construction activities, excavation work and dust generated from roads and other development projects.



## Goa Records 27.4% Monsoon Rainfall Deficit as IMD Predicts More Showers

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa continues to experience a sizeable monsoon rainfall deficit even as several parts of the State received moderate to heavy showers over the past 24 hours. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the State has received 771.8 mm of rainfall since the onset of the southwest monsoon on June 1, compared to the normal seasonal accumulation of 1,063.4 mm. This leaves Goa with an overall rainfall deficit of 27.4 per cent.

The weather office said monsoon conditions remained favourable, with most parts of the State witnessing light to moderate rainfall, while isolated areas experienced heavier spells. Among the highest rainfall totals recorded during the last 24 hours was Valpoi, which received 66.4 mm of rain. Other locations reporting notable rainfall included Sankhali (44.6 mm), Dharbandora (38.3 mm), Sanguem (33.3 mm), Ponda (30.8 mm), Quepem (28 mm), Mapusa (22.2 mm) and Margao (16.8 mm).

## Goa Scientists Turn Jellyfish Into High-Value Collagen in Major Marine Research Breakthrough

CSIR-NIO's patented technology aims to reduce imports, create new revenue for fisherfolk and expand India's marine biotechnology sector

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Scientists at the CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO) in Goa have developed a patented technology that converts jellyfish into high-grade Type-II collagen, a development that could significantly reduce India's dependence on imported marine collagen while creating fresh economic opportunities from an



underutilised marine resource. The institute said the newly developed process produces water-soluble Type-II collagen enriched with cysteine and other beneficial amino acids. Designed

for use in sectors such as healthcare, cosmetics, nutraceuticals and biomedical research, the collagen is also free from the strong odour commonly associated with marine-derived products. Researchers believe the innovation could transform jellyfish—often viewed as a low-value or nuisance marine species—into a commercially valuable raw material.

## Karnataka Closes Waterfalls and Forest Trails Near Goa Amid Heavy Rainfall

Temporary restriction follows drowning incident as authorities warn of dangerous conditions in the Western Ghats

Team Goemkarponn

KARNATAKA: The Karnataka Forest Department has temporarily barred visitors from entering several waterfalls and forest areas along the Goa-Karnataka border after a drowning incident near Surla and continuing heavy rainfall across the Western Ghats heightened safety concerns.

The decision



comes after a youth from Belagavi lost his life while visiting the Surla area. Officials said the combination of swollen

rivers, overflowing streams and slippery terrain has made popular monsoon destinations unsafe for tourists.

Belagavi Deputy Conservator of Forests N.E. Kranthi said the precautionary measure was taken to prevent further accidents as persistent rainfall has significantly increased the risk in forested areas and around waterfalls.

Authorities noted that water levels in rivers and

streams are rising rapidly, while muddy trails and powerful currents pose a serious threat to visitors. The restrictions will remain in force until conditions improve.

Tourists from both Karnataka and Goa have been urged to stay away from the affected locations and cooperate with officials enforcing the safety measures. The department has warned that anyone entering restricted zones despite

the ban could face legal action under the provisions of the Forest Act.

The order covers several well-known monsoon destinations in Khanapur taluka, including Surla Waterfall, Vajrapoha Waterfall near Jamboti, waterfalls in the Kankumbi region and natural attractions inside the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary, which attract large numbers of visitors each rainy season.

# Online Job Scam: Pernem Woman Loses ₹3.69 Lakh

■ Fraudsters lured 25-year-old with work-from-home offer on WhatsApp before duping her through fake withdrawal and account verification claims

**Team Goemkarponn**

**KORGAO:** A 25-year-old woman from Korgao in Pernem was allegedly cheated of ₹3.69 lakh in an online part-time job scam after fraudsters lured her with a work-from-home opportunity through WhatsApp.

According to Mandrem Police, the offence was registered at 11.51 pm on July 4, 2026, based on a complaint filed by Divyani Korgaonkar (25), a resident of Duelwada,



Korgao, Pernem.

As per the complaint, on April 20, 2026, the victim was added to a WhatsApp group by unknown persons offering a part-time work-from-home job. After completing initial tasks, she received

a small payment, which convinced her that the job was genuine.

When she later attempted to withdraw her earnings, the accused allegedly claimed that she had selected the wrong withdrawal option and asked her to deposit additional money to process the transaction. They subsequently told her that she had entered an incorrect bank account number, causing her account to be frozen, and induced her to transfer ₹2

lakh to unfreeze it.

The fraudsters then demanded another ₹2.40 lakh, claiming her credit score was too low to release the funds. Believing their claims, the victim continued transferring money. After depositing a total of ₹3,69,400, she realised she had been duped and approached the police.

Mandrem Police have registered a case against unknown accused persons for the alleged online fraud.

# Australian National Arrested for Allegedly Staying in Goa on Invalid Visa

■ Calangute Police book foreign national under Immigration and Foreigners Act after finding him residing in Candolim without valid travel documents

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANDOLIM:** An Australian national was arrested by Calangute Police on Friday night for allegedly staying illegally in Goa with an invalid visa.

According to police, the offence was registered at 10.01 pm on July 4, 2026, based on a complaint filed by Police Sub-Inspector Vishwajit Dhavlikar of Calangute Police Station.

The accused has been identified as David John Jeffree, an Australian citizen who was residing at a flat in Devashri Sun & Sand

apartment at Bamon Waddo, Candolim.

Police said that during a verification conducted at around 9.05 pm on July 4, the foreign national was found staying in India without valid travel documents, as his visa was allegedly invalid.

Based on the findings, Calangute Police registered a case against the accused under Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 for allegedly violating immigration regulations.

Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Yogesh L. Mandrekar.



# Man Arrested With Over 1 Kg of Suspected Ganja Near Aguada Helipad

**Team Goemkarponn**

**SINQUEURIM:** A 25-year-old man was arrested by Calangute Police after he was allegedly found in possession of over one kilogram of suspected ganja during a narcotics raid near the Aguada Helipad in Sinquerim on Friday night.

According to police, the offence was registered at 11.20 pm on July 4, 2026, based on a state complaint filed by PSI Vighnesh V. Naik of Calangute Police Station.

Police said that between 8.30 pm and 9.00 pm, a search was conducted on the shoulder bag carried by the accused, identified as Rahul Khan (25), currently residing at Mendes Vaddo, Nagao, Bardez, and originally from Auraiya district in Uttar Pradesh.

During the search, officers allegedly recovered 1,060 grams of a green leafy substance with flowering and fruiting tops suspected to be ganja.

# Couple Injured in Knife Attack at Cansaulim; Accused Flees

■ Man allegedly attacks husband on the neck after argument in rented room; wife injured while trying to intervene

**Team Goemkarponn**

**CANSAULIM:** A family dispute turned violent in Cansaulim after a man allegedly attacked a couple with a knife inside their rented room, leaving both injured before fleeing the scene.

According to Verna Police, the incident occurred at around 11 am on July 4, 2026, at Madalem, Cansaulim. The FIR was registered based on a complaint filed by Priyanka Jayswal, a native



of Gopinathpur, Bihar, who is currently residing in Cansaulim. Police said the accused, identified as Akash Kumar, also a native of Gopinathpur, Bihar, allegedly arrived at the couple's rented room carrying a knife and threatened to end his life by cutting his wrist.

When Priyanka's husband, Jitendra Kumar Jayswal, tried to calm him down and asked him to leave the room, the accused allegedly became enraged and attacked Jitendra with the knife, inflicting a bleeding injury on the left side of his neck.

Priyanka rushed to save her husband but also sustained bleeding injuries during the attack. The couple attempted to overpower the accused, who managed to escape from the spot.

# Jeweller Booked for Allegedly Melting Pledged Gold Worth Lakhs

■ Cortalim woman accuses Mormugao jeweller of refusing to return ornaments after loan repayment offer

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MORMUGAO:** A jeweller has been booked by Mormugao Police for allegedly refusing to return gold ornaments pledged for loans and informing the customer that the jewellery had been melted, resulting in a substantial financial loss.

According to police, the case was registered based on a complaint



filed by Mohini Palyekar, a resident of Welvaddo, Kesarval, Cortalim.

The complainant alleged that on November 4, 2025, and December 10, 2025, she pledged

her gold ornaments at a jewellery shop near Siddharuth Math, Headland Sada, Mormugao, and obtained gold loans of ₹40,000 and ₹14.20 lakh, respectively.

Police said the complainant subsequently repaid ₹5.50 lakh through cheque towards the loan amount. However, when she later approached the jeweller to clear the

remaining dues along with the applicable interest and redeem her pledged ornaments, the accused allegedly refused to return them. The accused, identified as Bhimappa Chalwadi, allegedly informed the complainant that the pledged gold ornaments had already been melted, thereby causing wrongful loss and allegedly breaching her trust.

# Missing Labourer Found Dead in Chapora River at Pirna

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PIRNA:** A 47-year-old labourer

who had been reported missing was found dead in the Chapora River at Thorli Chanai, Pirna, on Saturday night.

According to Colvale Police, the unidentified death case was registered at 9.26 pm on July 4, 2026, after police received information that a man's body was floating in the Chapora River at Thorli Chanai, Pirna.

# Ramesh Tawadkar Confident of ST Political Reservation Before 2027 Goa Polls

■ Tribal Welfare Minister says Centre and state are pursuing implementation, seat allocation to be decided by Election Commission

Team Goemkarponn

**MARGAO:** Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar has expressed optimism that members of Goa's Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities will receive political reservation in time for the 2027 Goa Assembly elections. Responding to questions on the status of the long-pending demand, Tawadkar said



his department has been consistently following up with both the state and central governments to ensure the implementation of the law providing political reservation for STs. He said the state government has submitted

the required proposals to the concerned ministries and departments, including the Union Law Ministry. Tawadkar added that a delegation had also met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, urging the Centre to issue the necessary notification to operationalise the legislation. The minister maintained that he has continued to actively pursue the matter in his

capacity as Tribal Welfare Minister and has not relaxed efforts to secure political representation for the ST community.

Expressing confidence over the outcome, Tawadkar said he believes the reservation will be in place before the 2027 Assembly elections, adding that all stakeholders are making every possible effort to ensure its implementation.



## Ramesh Tawadkar Lays Foundation for New Home Under Shramdham Initiative in Poinguinim

■ Shramdham Warriors Join Hands to Build House for Widow Undergoing Chemotherapy and Her Two Daughters in Remote Marle Village

Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA:** Minister and Canacona MLA Ramesh Tawadkar on Sunday laid the foundation stone for a new house for a widow and her two daughters at Marle in Poinguinim village under his Shramdham initiative.

The beneficiary, Chandrika Gaonkar, has been living in extremely difficult conditions after nearly 90 per cent of her mud-walled house collapsed. Undergoing chemotherapy and with no regular source of income, Chandrika was unable to rebuild a safe home for herself and her two teenage daughters. Acting on recommendations from local residents, Tawadkar assured the family that

a new house would be constructed. He personally laid the foundation before Shramdham warriors immediately commenced construction work with the aim of completing the house at the earliest.

The new house will consist of a verandah, hall, bedroom and kitchen and is being constructed on the site of the family's previous home, located on a hilltop with no motorable access. As vehicles cannot reach the site, volunteers are manually carrying stones, bricks, sand and other construction materials from the nearest road to the construction site.

Tawadkar joined the volunteers during the construction drive and encouraged their efforts.

## Equipment Owners' Association Seeks Police Action Over Fresh Threats



Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** The Earth Moving and Construction Equipment Owners Association, Porvorim, has submitted a fresh representation to the Porvorim Police, seeking immediate and stringent action against two persons, Gopal Lamani and Girish Lamani, alleging that they are planning to target members of the association. According to the complaint, the association had earlier lodged a police complaint on June 3, 2026, accusing the two individuals of assault, abuse and other alleged illegal activities. The association now claims that after being released, the accused have continued to issue fresh threats against its members. The complainant has also submitted a video recording to the police, alleging that one of the accused can be heard saying, "This time, plan silently and teach you a lesson," which the association claims indicates a conspiracy to attack its members.

## Torrential Rain Topples Eucalyptus Tree on NH-66 Near Partagal Math, Traffic Disrupted

■ Fallen tree brings down power lines, leaving buses, pilgrims and motorists stranded for over 30 minutes; no injuries reported

Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA:** Torrential rain accompanied by strong winds brought down a large eucalyptus tree on NH-66 (Old Highway) near Partagal Math on Sunday, disrupting traffic for over half an hour after the tree crashed onto the roadway and pulled down electricity lines.

The incident occurred a few metres from the entrance to the famous



Partagal Math, temporarily blocking both lanes of the highway. Buses, private vehicles and pilgrims travelling to the Math, where a towering statue of Lord Ram was recently inaugurated by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, were left stranded as traffic came to a complete halt. The fallen tree also brought down roadside electrical cables, creating a potentially dangerous situation for commuters.

## Sunil Kawthankar Appointed Working President of GPCC

■ Congress says appointment will strengthen organisation and boost grassroots outreach across Goa

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has appointed senior Congress leader Sunil Kawthankar as the Working President of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) with immediate effect.

The appointment was announced through an official order issued by AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K. C.



Venugopal.

According to the Congress, Kawthankar has been a dedicated party leader who has consistently worked to

strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level. The party expressed confidence that his appointment would further energise the

organisation, improve coordination within the party, and expand its outreach across Goa.

The GPCC welcomed the decision

of the Congress high command, stating that Kawthankar would play a key role in strengthening the party and leading its efforts to safeguard the interests of Goa and its people.

The appointment comes as the Congress continues its efforts to strengthen its organisational structure in the state ahead of future political challenges.

## AICC Suspends Wasim Khan, Dissolves Goa Congress Minority Department Committee

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has suspended Wasim Khan from the post of Chairman of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) Minority Department with immediate effect, citing acts of indiscipline and anti-party activities. The decision was announced through an official order issued by Imran Pratapgarhi, who also ordered the dissolution of the entire Goa PCC Minority Department Committee with immediate effect until further orders.

# Ladakh Deploys 100 Ex Servicemen to Crack Down on Illegal Off Roothing and Environmental Violations

■ New Environment Protection Force empowered to patrol fragile ecosystems and issue spot fines



## Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** In a first for the Union Territory, the Ladakh administration has deployed 100 retired personnel from the Army, paramilitary forces and the Ladakh Scouts to form a dedicated Environment Protection Force (EPF) aimed at safeguarding the region's fragile ecosystem.

The newly created force has been tasked with patrolling ecologically sensitive areas, preventing environmental violations and taking action against illegal off roading, littering, pollution and other activities that threaten Ladakh's unique

high altitude landscape. Members of the force have also been authorised to issue spot challans against violators.

The initiative comes shortly after authorities imposed fines totalling Rs 2 lakh on four tourists accused of driving through environmentally sensitive areas near Pangong Lake and allegedly chasing a Tibetan gazelle in a protected wildlife habitat.

The Environment Protection Force will be stationed across vulnerable ecosystems, wildlife habitats and other protected regions where unchecked tourism and off road driving

have raised serious environmental concerns. Conservationists have long warned that illegal off roading damages fragile alpine vegetation, disturbs wildlife and leaves lasting scars on Ladakh's cold desert terrain.

Announcing the initiative, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said the force would act as a strong deterrent against activities that endanger the region's biodiversity. He said the personnel have been empowered to detect environmental violations, prevent illegal activities and issue penalties on the spot to

strengthen enforcement across the Union Territory.

The retired servicemen will receive a monthly remuneration as part of the programme, which also aims to provide meaningful post retirement employment opportunities while making use of their experience and discipline.

The administration believes the initiative will play a key role in promoting responsible tourism, preserving Ladakh's fragile environment and ensuring that increasing visitor numbers do not come at the cost of the region's rich natural heritage.

# 'No Offer Made': India Rejects Claims of Bhutan Refusing E20 Fuel Imports

■ Centre says no proposal to export ethanol blended petrol to Bhutan exists and urges reliance on official information

## Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has dismissed reports claiming that Bhutan rejected an Indian offer to import E20 petrol, clarifying that no such proposal was ever made and that there are no plans to export the ethanol blended fuel to the neighbouring country.

In a statement issued through its official fact check platform, the ministry said reports suggesting Bhutan had declined an offer to import E20 petrol were incorrect. It clarified that no Indian Oil Marketing Company had offered to supply the fuel to Bhutan and that there is no proposal under consideration for such exports. The ministry also urged the public to rely only on official sources for accurate information.

The clarification came after a report in a Bhutanese newspaper claimed that Bhutan had requested continued supplies of regular petrol instead of E20 fuel due to concerns over fuel quality, storage and vehicle performance. The report was later defended by the newspaper's editor, who shared what he described as an official response from Bhutan's Department of Trade stating that the country

was not importing E20 fuel.

According to the shared document, Bhutan expressed concerns that water contamination in ethanol blended petrol could affect fuel quality and vehicle performance. It also stated that the country's existing underground fuel storage infrastructure could face challenges in maintaining fuel quality if E20 were introduced. The document further indicated that Indian oil suppliers had been requested to continue supplying regular petrol for as long as it remains available.

The Indian government, however, reiterated its support for the ethanol blending programme, stating that there have been no widespread reports of engine failures or vehicle breakdowns linked to E20 fuel since its rollout in 2023. It also dismissed recent viral claims alleging fuel contamination and the mixing of sugarcane juice with petrol, describing them as misleading and baseless. The ministry maintained that the ethanol blending programme is backed by scientific evaluation and has been implemented following extensive consultations with vehicle manufacturers, oil companies and technical experts.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

## Goa Brings 'Pilot' Bike Taxis Online with Launch of Mhaje Driver App

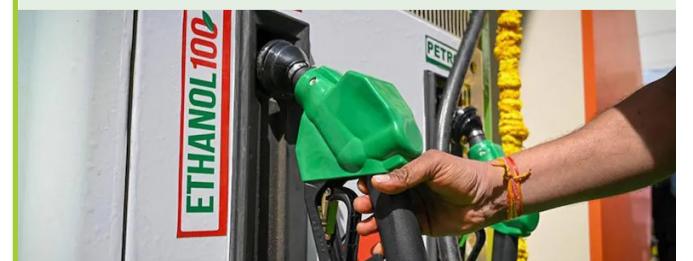
operating through traditional methods can do so, while those opting to use the app will not be charged any commission or registration fee. He added that riders without smartphones will be provided devices to enable them to use the platform. Sawant also assured that commuters will continue to pay the government-approved fare directly to the motorcycle pilot, with no additional charges being collected by the app operator. Looking ahead, the Chief Minister said the government

is examining a proposal to promote cleaner transportation by offering a 50 per cent subsidy on electric motorcycles for licensed pilots. The remaining cost could be repaid through instalments, making the transition to electric mobility more affordable. In another welfare measure, Sawant announced that the government intends to revive a pension scheme for motorcycle pilots who have completed 50 years of service, recognising their contribution to Goa's transport sector. The launch of the app marks the first major digital transformation of Goa's iconic "pilot" service, combining modern technology with a transport

tradition that has been part of the State's identity for generations.

## CM Rules Out Mandatory Enrolment on Majhe App for Goa's Motorcycle Pilots

He also praised the contribution of motorcycle pilots to the State's transport network, noting that they have built a reputation for dependable service and continue to enjoy the confidence of commuters across Goa. The Majhe App enables passengers to locate and book nearby licensed motorcycle pilots through their mobile phones, while allowing operators to choose freely whether they wish to participate in the platform.



# 'These Individuals Have No Connection': MEA Issues Public Warning Over Fake Policy Advisers

■ Ministry urges citizens to avoid paid consultations falsely claiming links to official government channels

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has cautioned the public against individuals on social media who are falsely presenting themselves as policy advisers to the ministry and offering paid guidance on government related matters.

In an advisory issued through its official fact



checking platform, the ministry said it had identified several social media accounts claiming to advise the MEA on

areas such as trade, migration and other policy issues. It clarified that these individuals have no official association with the

ministry despite portraying themselves as experts or insiders.

The ministry also highlighted that some of these accounts are promoting paid consultations, webinars and mentoring sessions, claiming they can help people understand the functioning of the MEA or provide access to opportunities linked to the ministry.



## Two Lashkar-e-Taiba Terrorists Trapped as Massive Counter-Terror Operation Continues in Shopian

■ Security forces tighten cordon after gunfight erupts in dense orchard during joint operation

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Security forces are continuing a major counter-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district after two local terrorists linked to the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were surrounded in a dense orchard in the Meemandar area.

The operation was launched on Friday after Army surveillance systems detected suspicious movement in the area, which includes seven villages. Acting on the intelligence, the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) carried out a coordinated operation, establishing a tight security cordon

to prevent the suspects from escaping.

By Friday evening, security personnel had cleared four villages and further strengthened the cordon around the orchard. As troops moved closer to the suspected hideout, the trapped terrorists allegedly opened fire, leading to an exchange of gunfire. Security forces responded swiftly, and the operation remained in progress. To reinforce the mission, additional personnel from the Army's specialised Victor Force were deployed around the area. The security forces also illuminated the orchard and sealed all possible escape routes through the thick vegetation.



## 'We Need India's Help': PoK Protest Leader Appeals for Humanitarian Aid Amid Escalating Unrest

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Amid continuing unrest in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) leader Sardar Aman Khan has appealed to India for humanitarian assistance, claiming that an economic blockade and an intensified security crackdown have created severe hardships for people in the region. In a video that has circulated widely on social media, Khan alleged that residents are facing shortages of essential food supplies and medicines. He urged India to provide humanitarian support and called for the opening of crossing points along the Line of Control (LoC), arguing that civilians should have the option to move if the situation worsens. Addressing a large gathering at Rawalakot's Eidgah Ground, Khan asked protesters whether they should march towards the Line of Control, drawing an affirmative response from the crowd.

## 'Powerful Expression of Mutual Respect': Iran Thanks India for Joining Khamenei's Funeral

■ Tehran says India's participation reflects deep historical ties and solidarity during national mourning

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in India has expressed gratitude to the Government of India, its official delegation, political leaders and citizens for participating in the funeral ceremonies of Iran's late Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. The embassy described India's presence as a powerful



expression of mutual respect and a reflection of the longstanding relationship between the two nations.

In a statement, the Iranian mission thanked the official Indian delegation for

representing the country at the funeral ceremonies in Tehran and paying tribute to Khamenei. It also acknowledged the participation of political leaders, Members of Parliament, scholars, intellectuals and representatives from different faiths, saying their presence highlighted the deep historical, cultural and people to people ties shared by India and Iran.

## Government Sources Dismiss Khawaja Asif's Remarks on PM Modi's Seychelles Honour

■ Seychelles reiterates award was officially established before the Prime Minister's visit

Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Government sources have strongly rejected comments made by Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif regarding the "Guardian of the Blue Horizon" honour conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Seychelles, describing his remarks as baseless and motivated by misinformation.

According to the sources, Asif's criticism



of the award lacked factual basis and reflected a misunderstanding of the circumstances surrounding the honour. They also criticised his public comments, saying they were made without adequate knowledge of the matter.

The response came after Asif alleged that the award had been hastily created ahead of Prime Minister Modi's visit and described it as an "engineered recognition." He also referred to reports of typographical errors in an early version of the award citation, calling the episode embarrassing.

The Government of Seychelles, however, has categorically denied claims that the honour

was fabricated or introduced specifically for the Indian Prime Minister's visit.

In an official clarification, the Office of the President of Seychelles stated that the Order of the Guardian of the Blue Horizon was established under the country's National Honours Act and had received formal approval before the visit took place.

The Seychelles government further explained that the version of the citation circulating

online was an internal working draft that had been inadvertently shared before the proofreading process was completed. It said the final citation presented during the official investiture ceremony contained no typographical errors.

The honour recognises exceptional contributions towards the sustainable use, conservation and protection of the oceans and the promotion of the blue economy.

# World Cup Drama: Norway Stun Brazil, England Edge Mexico as Quarterfinal Lineup Takes Shape

■ Haaland's brace sends five time champions home while England survive a thrilling battle against hosts Mexico

## Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** The FIFA World Cup 2026 Round of 16 produced two dramatic contests as Norway pulled off one of the biggest upsets in tournament history by eliminating Brazil, while England overcame hosts Mexico in a thrilling five goal encounter to secure a place in the quarterfinals.

Norway defeated Brazil 2-1 at the New York New Jersey Stadium, ending the South American giants' World Cup campaign before the quarterfinals

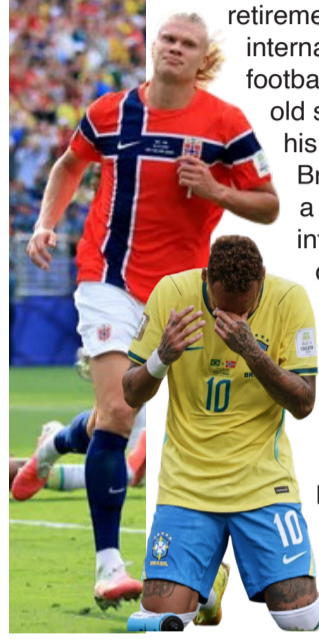


for the first time since 1990. After a goalless first half, Norway goalkeeper Orjan Nyland emerged as a key figure by saving a Bruno Guimaraes penalty and making several crucial stops to keep

Brazil at bay. Erling Haaland then took centre stage, heading Norway into the lead in the 79th minute before adding a stunning long range strike in the 90th minute to seal a historic victory. Neymar scored from the penalty spot deep into stoppage time, but Brazil ran out of time to complete a

comeback. The result also marked Norway's first ever qualification for the World Cup quarterfinals, with Haaland moving level among the tournament's leading scorers.

Following the defeat, Neymar announced his



retirement from international football. The 34 year old signed off with his 80th goal for Brazil, ending a distinguished international career as the nation's all time leading men's scorer after 130 appearances.

In another Round of 16 clash, England defeated Mexico 3-2

at the Estadio Azteca to progress to the last eight. Jude Bellingham starred with two quick first half goals before Julian Quinones reduced the deficit before halftime.

England were reduced to ten men after Jarell Quansah was sent off, but Harry Kane converted a penalty to restore a two goal cushion.

Raul Jimenez also scored from the spot for Mexico, setting up a tense finish as the hosts pressed for an equaliser during 11 minutes of stoppage time.



## 'If Selectors Have Decided, You Don't Need Anyone Else': Kapil Dev on Rohit, Kohli's 2027 World Cup Future

### Team Goemkarponn

**NEW DELHI:** Former India captain Kapil Dev has made it clear that the decision on whether Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma feature in India's squad for the 2027 ODI World Cup should rest primarily with the national selectors, not the team management or head coach Gautam Gambhir. With uncertainty surrounding the future of the two senior batters ahead of the next World Cup, Kapil said the selection committee must take the lead in evaluating their place in the squad. He stressed that if the selectors are convinced a player deserves a spot, there is little need to seek additional approval from the captain or the coach. According to Kapil, the selection process should begin with the five member selection panel, followed by discussions with the captain if required, and only then the coach. He said a well functioning selection committee should be capable of making the right decisions independently.

## Chandan, Vedant, Ruhaan Shine with Double Semifinal Berths at Saxtti Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament

■ Top paddlers dominate Under 15 and Under 17 categories in the All Goa State Ranking event

### Team Goemkarponn

**MARGAO:** Chandan Caro, Vedant Wagle and Ruhaan Shaikh delivered impressive performances to secure semifinal spots in both the Boys Under 15 and Under 17 categories at the 1st All Goa State Ranking Table Tennis Tournament.

The competition is being organised by Saxtti Sports & Cultural Club in association with UV Academy at the UV



Academy in Margao.

The trio maintained their winning momentum with commanding displays across both age groups.

Joining them in the Boys Under 15 semifinals was Kaushik Nair, while

Rishan Shaikh earned his place in the Boys Under 17 last four after a convincing

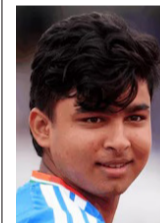
victory.

In the Boys Under 15 quarterfinals, Chandan Caro defeated Mission Lalpekhlua in straight games, while Vedant Wagle also registered a comfortable 3-0 win over Ishaan Colaso.

## 'Those Who Deserve It Get Their Chance': BCCI Backs Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's Selection

■ Vice-president Rajiv Shukla says youngster's debut proves India's selection process is based on merit, not public pressure

### Team Goemkarponn



**NEW DELHI:** Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) vice-president Rajiv Shukla has defended the Indian team's selection process following Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's international debut,

saying the teenager's inclusion reflects a merit based system rather than decisions influenced by public opinion or social media criticism.

Sooryavanshi made his India debut in the second T20I against England, becoming the youngest player to represent the country in international cricket at the age of 15 years and 99 days.

## GCA Strengthens Commitment to Clean Cricket with Anti-Doping Awareness Drive

■ Around 250 players and support staff participate in NADA seminar on ethical sport and anti-doping compliance

### Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa Cricket Association (GCA) organised an Anti-Doping Awareness Seminar in collaboration with the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), bringing together around 250 cricketers and support staff from across the state. The initiative was aimed at educating participants on the importance of clean sport and ensuring strict



adherence to anti-doping regulations.

The seminar was attended by GCA Secretary Tulshidas Shetye, while the technical session was conducted virtually by anti-doping expert

Dr. Rajesh Mailagire. Participants received detailed guidance on India's anti-doping framework, including prohibited substances and methods, athletes' rights and responsibilities, therapeutic use

exemptions, doping control procedures, and the penalties associated with Anti-Doping Rule Violations.

A key focus of the session was creating awareness about the risks linked to medications and

nutritional supplements. Athletes were encouraged to carefully verify everything they consume to avoid unintentional violations that could have serious consequences for their sporting careers.

