



Goa Reservoir Storage Improves as Monsoon Rains Continue

■ Most Dams Register Rise in Water Levels; IMD Forecasts Heavy Rain Till July 10 and Moderate Rain Thereafter

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's reservoirs have recorded a steady rise in water storage following sustained monsoon rainfall, with the latest Water Resources Department data showing improving water levels across the state as of July 7, 2026.

Among the reservoirs, Gaunem Dam has reached 68.7% of its storage capacity, the highest in the state, followed by Amthane Dam at 65.9% and Chapoli Dam at 53.8%.



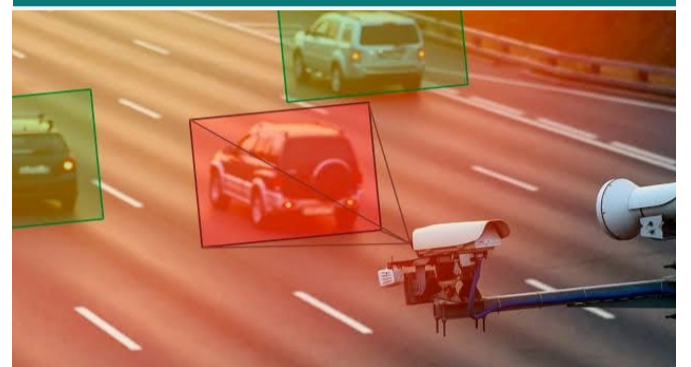
Salaulim Dam, Goa's largest reservoir, stands at 42.5% capacity with 9,960 Ha.m of stored water, while Tillari Dam is at 43.3% with 19,998.2 Ha.m in storage. Tillari

is also the only reservoir currently releasing water, with a discharge of 50.85 cumecs. Heavy rainfall was recorded across several catchment areas, with Anjunem receiving

1,159.5 mm, followed by Tillari (1,099.4 mm), Panchawadi (944.34 mm), Salaulim (911.5 mm) and Chapoli (808.2 mm). Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Goa, has forecast heavy rainfall accompanied by gusty winds across both North and South Goa. Heavy rain with winds of 50-60 kmph is very likely at a few places on July 7, while heavy rainfall with 40-50 kmph winds is expected at a few places on July 8 and at isolated places on July 9 and 10.

56,536 Violations in Trial Run; AI Traffic Fines Begin July 15, New Thar Rental Permits Stopped

Automated enforcement to start after awareness phase; camera network to expand to 92 locations by year-end as State tightens road safety measures



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: After detecting over 56,000 traffic violations in a single-day trial, the Goa government has announced that AI-powered traffic enforcement will officially begin issuing penalties from July 15, while simultaneously deciding to stop issuing fresh permits for Mahindra Thar vehicles under the rent-a-car scheme in a bid to improve road safety.

Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho on Monday said the automated enforcement system, whose launch

has been postponed several times due to technical refinements and public awareness campaigns, will now be implemented without any further delay.

Until July 15, motorists caught violating traffic rules by AI-enabled cameras will only receive warning notifications informing them that an offence has been detected. No monetary penalties will be imposed during this awareness period.

Godinho said a trial conducted on July 4 revealed the alarming extent of traffic violations across Goa, with the AI

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High Court Directs CCTV, Video Recording in All Goa Panchayats

PANAJI: In a significant step towards improving transparency and accountability in local self-governance, the High Court has directed that all Panchayats across Goa be equipped with CCTV systems and that all Panchayat meetings be video recorded.

The Court ordered that CCTV cameras be installed in Panchayat offices to facilitate public access to office footage. It also mandated that proceedings of every Panchayat meeting be recorded and filmed, with any objections raised by members being duly entered in the official minutes.

The directions were issued in two separate writ petitions filed by petitioner Sharlet Fernandes.

The High Court has posted both matters for further hearing on August 4, 2026, to review compliance and consider further proceedings.

Goa's Agricultural Exports Cross ₹5 Cr; CM Warns Non-Performing Officials

■ Pramod Sawant highlights growth in horticulture and food processing, announces Khazan land revival plan, says officials who fail to deliver will have to "sit at home"

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Tuesday said Goa's agricultural sector has witnessed significant growth over the past decade, with agricultural exports rising from ₹3.57 crore in 2014 to over ₹5 crore, while also



issuing a stern warning to government officials, saying those who fail to perform their duties "will have to sit at home." Addressing the Krushi Pe Charcha –

Agriculture Development Programme organised by the Agriculture Department at Ravindra Bhavan in Sankhali, the Chief Minister highlighted the State's progress in agriculture, horticulture and food processing while outlining the government's roadmap for reviving traditional farming. ▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

'A Golden Chapter Begins': PM Modi Says India And Indonesia Are Building A Partnership For The 21st Century

■ Both nations expand cooperation in defence, maritime security, healthcare, trade and technology during Jakarta visit

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday described the relationship between India and Indonesia as the beginning of a "golden chapter," saying the growing partnership would have a far reaching and positive impact on the 21st century. During his visit to Jakarta, the two countries agreed to strengthen cooperation across



key sectors, including defence, maritime security, healthcare, trade, technology and the blue economy.

Addressing a joint press statement alongside

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Modi said the increasing trust between the two nations had created new opportunities for strategic collaboration. He announced that both sides had agreed to expand defence exchanges, industrial cooperation and disaster management initiatives, while their coast guards would work together to enhance maritime safety and security in the Indian Ocean.

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Action After Death Is Not Governance

Goa's decision to consider stopping fresh licences for rental Thar vehicles comes after yet another series of fatal accidents involving tourists driving rented SUVs. It is a proposal that may reassure an anxious public, but it also raises an uncomfortable question. Why does meaningful action in Goa almost always come only after lives are lost?

The latest announcement by the Transport Department follows repeated accidents involving rental Thars, including incidents that claimed innocent lives. The government has now promised stricter enforcement, an audit of rent-a-car operators, checks on speed governors, vehicle tracking systems and compliance with licensing norms. These are welcome measures, but they are hardly new ideas. They are responsibilities that should have been enforced long before tragedy became routine.

It is easy to blame one vehicle.

The Mahindra Thar has become the symbol of reckless tourism because of its popularity among young visitors looking for adventure. But the problem runs much deeper than one model of vehicle. If Thars disappear from rental fleets tomorrow, the same drivers may simply switch to another powerful SUV. The issue is not the machine. It is the system that allows dangerous driving to continue with little fear of consequences.

Goa's roads were never designed for speeding, aggressive overtaking or inexperienced drivers unfamiliar with local terrain. Narrow village roads, sharp bends, crowded market streets and heavy tourist traffic demand discipline behind the wheel. Yet every holiday season brings stories of drunken driving, speeding, illegal parking and hit-and-run accidents involving rental vehicles. The victims are often local residents who are simply travelling to work, school or home.

The irony is that Goa already recognised the problem. In 2024, tourists renting vehicles were required to sign safety undertakings, while speed governors and vehicle tracking

“The rental vehicle industry is an important part of Goa's tourism economy and should not be treated as an enemy. Thousands of livelihoods depend on it. However, responsible businesses also suffer when reckless operators are allowed to flourish. A comprehensive audit of operators is therefore overdue. Authorities must verify parking facilities, vehicle fitness, insurance, GPS systems, speed limiting devices and licence conditions. Operators repeatedly violating norms should lose their permits without hesitation.”

The responsibility also lies with tourists. A holiday is not a licence to ignore traffic laws. Driving under the influence of alcohol, racing through villages or treating public roads like off road tracks reflects a dangerous sense of entitlement. Goa's hospitality cannot come at the cost of its residents' safety.”

devices were made mandatory. Police had also identified rental vehicles as being disproportionately involved in accidents. Yet enforcement remained patchy, allowing violations to continue despite clear warning signs.

This reflects a larger governance problem. Rules in Goa often exist on paper but disappear on the ground. Enforcement becomes visible only after public outrage. Whether it is illegal constructions, noise pollution, beach regulations or road safety, the administration too often reacts instead of

preventing.

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The responsibility also lies with tourists. A holiday is not a licence to ignore traffic laws. Driving under the influence of alcohol, racing through villages or treating public roads like off road tracks reflects a dangerous sense of entitlement. Goa's hospitality cannot come at the cost of its residents' safety.

Equally important is the certainty of punishment. Fatal accidents caused by drunken or reckless driving should be investigated swiftly, prosecuted effectively and concluded without unnecessary delay. Visible enforcement creates deterrence far more effectively than periodic crackdowns announced after headlines fade.

Restricting new rental Thar licences may reduce one visible aspect of the problem, but it cannot become a substitute for comprehensive road safety reform. If enforcement remains weak, another vehicle will eventually replace the Thar as tomorrow's villain.

Every road death leaves behind grieving families who did nothing wrong except being in the wrong place at the wrong time. They deserve more than condolences and promises made after the fact. They deserve a government that prevents predictable tragedies instead of merely responding to them.

Good governance is measured not by the announcements made after accidents but by the accidents that never happen because the rules were enforced in time.

OPED

Did Goa Fail Manuel Conceicao?

On July 3, Ribandar lost a dear son, Manuel Conceicao, who had not even reached the age of 50. His passing has left many in our village saddened and reflecting on a life marked by humility, hard work, faith and quiet service to others.

Manuel was the son of the late Pedro, a hardworking fisherman, and Rosa. He belonged to a family of eight siblings who lived very close to our home in Ribandar. Having known Manuel for many years, I can say that he was one of the most gentle and affectionate individuals one could meet. He was always ready to help anyone in need and never hesitated to offer his time and support whenever called upon. Deeply religious and God-fearing, Manuel faced life's challenges with courage, patience and unwavering faith.

Like many from humble backgrounds, Manuel had to struggle to make a living. He worked at various odd jobs before eventually becoming a dedicated municipal worker. Day after day, he performed the often overlooked but essential task of helping keep our streets clean and free of garbage. His work contributed to the wellbeing of the community, yet like so many workers in similar positions, he carried out his duties quietly and without seeking recognition.

Over the last five years, Manuel's health steadily deteriorated. Those who knew him could see the pain he endured as he struggled with mobility problems and increasingly found it difficult to move around. Despite his suffering, he remained positive and never complained about his circumstances. He bore his difficulties with remarkable dignity.

It therefore came as a shock and a matter of deep concern to learn that for the last two years of his life Manuel had been admitted to a home for the destitute and abandoned in Belagavi, where he eventually breathed his last on July 3. His funeral was also held there, far away from the village where he was born, raised and spent most of his life.

His death raises important questions that the authorities cannot ignore. Did Goa's health and social care systems fail Manuel? Why did a son of Goa, who had faithfully served his community, have to be sent all the way to Belagavi for care? Was there no institution, facility or support mechanism available within Goa that could have provided him with the assistance and dignity he deserved during the final years of his life?

The government and concerned authorities need to introspect and take corrective measures. Manuel's story should serve as a wake up call. No Goan should have to spend their final years away from home because adequate care is unavailable within the state. Every citizen deserves access to compassionate healthcare, social support and human dignity.

It is especially painful that Manuel's mortal remains could not be laid to rest in Ribandar, the place of his birth and the community he served with dedication and gratitude. While it is too late to change his fate, we must ensure that others do not meet a similar end.

May the departed soul of our dear friend and brother Manuel Conceicao rest in eternal peace.

- Aires Rodrigues, London, UK

GTDC Withdraws Temple Renovation Work Order After Controversy

■ Backlash Over Contractor Selection Leads To Cancellation Of Shree Mallikarjun Temple Project Order

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Goa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (GTDC) has withdrawn the work order issued for the beautification and renovation of Shree Mallikarjun Temple at Avem-Cotigao, bringing an end to the controversy over the selection of the contractor.



The work order, issued on July 3, 2026, had awarded the project to Allabaksh Mulla, with the renovation scheduled to begin in October 2026 and be completed within 240 days.

Soon after the order was issued, objections were raised by sections of the local community, who questioned the appointment of a non-

Hindu contractor and demanded that the work be re-tendered.

Responding to the growing criticism, GTDC on Monday issued an official order withdrawing the work order.

Temple Tender Row: Ex-Sarpanch Defends Contractor Selection

Says Work Will Be Executed By Brahmin Contractor Despite Tender Being In Muslim Contractor's Name

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Amid the controversy over the award of the Shree Mallikarjun Temple renovation contract to a Muslim contractor,

former Khotigao Sarpanch Anandu Desai claimed the actual work would be carried out by Jagdish Bhat, a Brahmin contractor experienced in temple construction.



32 Tourists Penalised for Trespassing on Railway Tracks to Reach Dudhsagar

■ RPF imposes Rs 16,000 in fines during special drive, reiterates ban on railway route to the waterfalls

Team Goemkarponn

DUDHSAGAR: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) penalised 32 tourists for illegally entering railway tracks to access Dudhsagar Falls during a special enforcement operation carried out on Sunday. The offenders were collectively fined Rs 16,000. The drive was conducted in the Dudhsagar section by a special RPF team from Castle Rock, which carried out surprise inspections between Dudhsagar and Sonalium railway stations. The operation targeted unauthorised movement along the railway corridor,

despite an existing prohibition on public access through the tracks. All those found trespassing were booked under Section 147 of the Railways Act, as amended by the Jan Vishwas Act, and each was fined Rs 500. Railway officials said the railway route to Dudhsagar Falls remains out of bounds for visitors due to safety concerns. However, some tourists continue to reach the tracks through nearby forest paths, particularly during the monsoon season, exposing themselves to serious danger and creating risks for train operations.



HC Continues Ban on New Casino Vessel's Entry into Mandovi Till August 18

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has extended its interim order preventing a new offshore casino vessel from entering the Mandovi River, with the restriction set to remain in force until the next hearing scheduled for August 18. The Division Bench comprising Justice Valmiki Menezes and Justice Hiten Venegavkar issued the direction on Monday after allowing the petitioner, Enough is Enough, two weeks to respond to the affidavit filed by the casino company. The court instructed the petitioner to submit its rejoinder within the stipulated period and listed the matter for further consideration on August 18 at 2.30 pm. Pending the next hearing, the Bench ordered that the interim protection granted earlier would continue, effectively preventing the proposed casino vessel from entering or operating in the Mandovi without the court's permission.

Opposition Trying to Create Election Narrative After Accepting Defeat: Damu Naik

■ BJP state president rejects allegations linking party to proposed Salcete outfit; reiterates commitment to ST political reservation

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Goa BJP President Damu Naik claimed that the Congress and other Opposition parties had already resigned themselves to defeat in the 2027 Assembly elections and were now attempting



Salcete.

Speaking to reporters, Naik dismissed allegations that the BJP was backing the new party and said

governance record.

He said the BJP's electoral prospects were rooted in its extensive grassroots network and the development initiatives undertaken by the BJP governments in Goa and at the Centre, leaving no need to depend on any new political formation.

Healthcare Expansion to Open Hundreds of Jobs in Goa: Vishwajit Rane

■ Health minister says upcoming hospitals and upgraded medical facilities will boost employment for nurses and allied health professionals

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The State government expects to generate hundreds of new jobs in the healthcare sector over the next six months as it expands medical infrastructure across Goa, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said on Monday.

Addressing reporters, Rane said the employment opportunities would arise



from the operationalisation of new healthcare facilities, expansion of existing hospitals and the

addition of fresh medical infrastructure in different parts of the State.

He said the demand for trained nurses would increase significantly as these projects become functional, creating a large number of vacancies in the public health sector.

Apart from nursing positions, the government is also planning to recruit professionals from allied healthcare disciplines, including technical and paramedical streams,

to meet the staffing requirements of the expanding healthcare network.

Rane said the initiative would provide employment opportunities for students who have completed courses in medicine, nursing and allied health sciences in Goa, enabling qualified local youth to build careers within the State.

He added that the government's continued investment in

healthcare was aimed at simultaneously improving patient care and creating sustainable employment in the medical sector.

The minister also acknowledged the support received from the Central government, saying that assistance from New Delhi had played a key role in accelerating the development of healthcare infrastructure in Goa.

Excise Department Seizes Duplicate Liquor Worth ₹3.5 Lakh In Arpora Raid

■ Surprise inspection at wine store uncovers suspected counterfeit liquor; probe launched to trace source

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Department of Excise, Government of Goa, seized duplicate liquor worth approximately ₹3.5 lakh during a surprise inspection at a wine store in Arpora as part of its ongoing crackdown on the sale of counterfeit liquor. According to the department, the raid led to the detection and seizure of liquor suspected to have been intended for illegal sale. The operation was carried



out to curb the circulation of duplicate liquor and protect public health and consumer interests. The inspection was conducted by Superintendent of Excise Shamba Naik

under the supervision of Additional Commissioner of Excise Sohan Uskaikar and the guidance of Commissioner of Excise Asvin Chandru, IAS. The Excise Department

has launched a detailed investigation to trace the source of the seized liquor and identify those involved in the alleged illegal trade. Officials said appropriate legal action will be initiated under the relevant provisions of the law. Reiterating its commitment to combating the manufacture, distribution and sale of illicit or duplicate liquor, the Department has urged the public to report any suspected illegal liquor-related activities.

Rash Scooter Rider Booked After Chimbel Flyover Crash; One Injured

■ Victim undergoing treatment at GMC Bambolim; Old Goa Police register case under BNS Sections 281 and 125(a)

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: A 28-year-old scooter rider has been booked by Old Goa Police for allegedly riding in a rash and negligent manner, resulting in an accident that left another rider injured at Chimbel Flyover on NH-748 in Tiswadi.

According to the police, the accident occurred on July 3 at around 8.30 pm. The accused, identified as Nagraj Shivappa Jamadar of Corlim, was riding an Activa scooter from Old Goa towards Panaji. On reaching Chimbel Flyover, he allegedly

swerved suddenly into the left-side two-wheeler lane and collided with another Activa 125 scooter ridden by Satish Vishant Khot, 42, a resident of Merces.

The impact caused Satish Khot to fall onto the road along with his scooter, resulting in injuries. He is currently undergoing treatment in Ward No. 120 at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim.

Based on a complaint filed by Head Constable Yogesh Palni, Old Goa Police registered Crime No. 93/2026 on July 6 under Sections 281 (rash driving) and 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).



Burglars Break Into Curchorem Catering Unit, Steal Brass Utensils

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: Two unidentified persons allegedly broke into the kitchen of a catering establishment in Curchorem in the early hours of July 3 and decamped with brass utensils worth ₹13,800.

According to Curchorem Police, the theft took place at around 3:19 am at Shree Kamaxi Caterers in Bhatniwada, owned by complainant Prajot Naik. The accused, reportedly wearing raincoats,

allegedly gained entry by breaking open the lock of the kitchen door. The intruders stole various brass utensils valued at ₹13,800 before fleeing from the spot with the stolen property.

Curchorem Police have registered a case, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Pramod Tari.

Burglars Break Into Curchorem Catering Unit, Steal Brass Utensils

■ Two raincoat-clad suspects flee with brass utensils worth ₹13,800 after breaking kitchen door lock

Team Goemkarponn

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the spot with the stolen property. Curchorem Police have registered a case, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Pramod Tari.

Speeding Car Crashes Into Coconut Tree At Velsao, Driver Seriously Injured

■ Fire personnel rescue trapped driver from mangled vehicle; cause of crash under investigation

Team Goemkarponn

VELSAO: A driver sustained serious injuries after the Maruti van he was driving crashed into a roadside coconut tree near the Velsao-Pale lake area.

The impact of the collision extensively damaged the vehicle, trapping the driver inside the mangled wreckage. The injured driver is suspected to have



suffered multiple fractures and head injuries.

Personnel from the Fire and Emergency Services, who were nearby attending another emergency call, rushed

to the accident site immediately after noticing the crash. Using specialised rescue equipment, they extricated the trapped driver

from the vehicle. The driver was given preliminary medical assistance at the scene before being shifted to a nearby hospital for further treatment. His condition is

reported to be serious.

The accident caused a brief disruption to traffic as rescue teams worked to free the driver and remove the damaged vehicle from the roadside. The exact cause of the accident is yet to be determined. Authorities are investigating whether speeding, loss of control or a mechanical failure led to the crash. Further details are awaited.

Woman Found Dead At Galgibag Beach; Police Register Unnatural Death Case

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A 56-year-old woman from Galgibag, Canacona, was found dead after her body was discovered floating in the sea at Galgibag Beach on Sunday morning. According to Canacona Police, information was received from the Police Control Room at around 10.29 am about a woman's body floating in the sea.

Police rushed to the spot, where the body was retrieved with the help of local residents and lifeguards.

Drishiti Marine Recovers Missing Boat, Reunites Child With Family

■ Lifesavers trace inflatable dinghy at Mobor and locate missing eight-year-old at Calangute amid monsoon patrols

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE/MOBOR: Drishiti Marine lifesavers recovered a missing inflatable boat at Mobor beach and reunited an eight-year-old boy with his family at Calangute beach during a rain-soaked weekend marked by rough sea conditions across Goa.

At Mobor beach, lifesavers on patrol spotted a damaged



inflatable dinghy that had reportedly gone missing two months ago after it washed ashore. The police were informed and, following an inspection,

the boat owner was called to the site to identify the vessel.

In a separate incident at Calangute beach, an eight-year-old boy from Hyderabad was traced after his family reported him missing. Lifesavers Suraj Sawant and Maphijhul Mistry launched

a search using an official patrol vehicle and located the child a short distance away. He was safely reunited with his family in the presence of Goa Police personnel and an on-duty beach warden.

Drishiti Marine reminded the public that swimming remains prohibited along Goa's coastline during the monsoon due to rough seas, high winds and dangerous currents.

Government Gears Up For Chieftains' Uprising Commemoration Day



Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Goa government has stepped up preparations for the upcoming Chieftains' Uprising Commemoration Day, with officials finalising arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the state event.

A coordination meeting chaired by Additional Collector-II, South Goa and H/C Kushavati Districts, Ramesh Gaonkar, reviewed the responsibilities of various departments involved in organising the programme.

The Department of Information and Publicity will oversee invitations, publicity and stage management, while the Police Department has been entrusted with providing the Guard of Honour and Police Band. The Directorate of Education will coordinate the participation of school students.

North Goa DLC Clears 34 Forest Rights Claims

■ District committee approves 34 claims, rejects 16; 12 cases kept pending for hearing and clarification

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The District Level Committee (DLC) for North Goa, chaired by Collector Ankit Yadav, IAS, has approved 34 claims under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, during a meeting held to review applications from Nanoda and Pansulim villages.

A total of 62 claims were taken up for consideration. Of these, 34 were approved, while 16 were rejected. Two claims have been



scheduled for personal hearings, and 10 have been referred back to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC) for clarification.

The meeting was

convened to examine and decide claims submitted under the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

Slab Collapses From Dilapidated Vasco Building; MLA Seeks Criminal Action Against Negligent Owners

■ No injuries reported; Krishna Salkar calls for stricter enforcement against unsafe structures

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: A portion of the slab of a dilapidated building in Vasco collapsed on Monday, raising fresh concerns over the safety of ageing structures in the town. No injuries were reported in the incident.

Following the collapse, Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar visited the site to assess the



situation and interacted with the building owners and local residents.

During the inspection, the owners informed him that they had already decided to demolish the unsafe

structure before the annual Saptah festivities to eliminate any risk to the public.

Expressing concern over the growing number of dangerous buildings in Vasco, Salkar called for stringent action against owners who fail to maintain or secure such structures despite being aware of the risks they pose.

He said owners of



Victims Oppose Jeweller Bhimappa Chalwadi's Bail Plea In Alleged Gold Loan Scam

■ Women move Vasco JMFC Court through intervention petition; bail order reserved till July 10

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: Women who claim to have been cheated in the alleged gold loan scam opposed the bail application of arrested jeweller Bhimappa Chalwadi before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court at Vasco on Monday.

The victims, through their advocate, filed an intervention petition seeking to oppose the grant of bail to Chalwadi, who is facing multiple criminal cases over the alleged misappropriation of gold ornaments entrusted to him under the promise of providing loans at a low interest rate.

Addressing reporters outside the Vasco JMFC Court, the advocate representing the victims

said the intervention petition was filed to place the concerns of the affected women before the court. The advocate argued that granting bail at this stage could adversely affect the ongoing investigation and the interests of the complainants.

After hearing submissions from both sides, the JMFC Court reserved its order on the bail application.

The matter has been posted for July 10, when the court is expected to pronounce its order on Chalwadi's bail plea.

Chalwadi was arrested following complaints from several women who alleged that he failed to return their pledged gold ornaments despite repayment of the loan amounts.

INS Mahendragiri Set To Join Indian Navy On July 11, Boosting Indigenous Maritime Strength

■ Sixth Project 17A stealth frigate features advanced weapons, high indigenous content and multi role combat capabilities

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Mahendragiri (F38) on July 11 at Visakhapatnam, marking another milestone in India's indigenous warship building programme. The stealth frigate is the sixth vessel of the Nilgiri class under Project 17A and has been designed to undertake a wide range of combat and maritime security missions.

Named after the Mahendragiri mountain range in the Eastern Ghats, the warship is the first naval vessel to bear the name. It was designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai, showcasing India's growing expertise in advanced naval shipbuilding.

INS Mahendragiri incorporates advanced stealth features, enhanced automation and improved survivability, reducing



its radar signature while increasing operational effectiveness. Powered by a Combined Diesel or Gas propulsion system, the frigate is capable of high speed operations and extended deployments across diverse maritime environments.

The warship is equipped with an advanced suite of weapons and sensors, including surface to surface and surface to air missile systems, anti submarine warfare capabilities, sophisticated electronic warfare systems and an integrated combat management system.

Designed as a multi role platform, it can carry out anti air, anti surface and anti submarine operations, while also supporting maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, search and rescue operations and long duration deployments in the Indian Ocean region.

With more than 75 per cent indigenous content, INS Mahendragiri reflects the country's push towards self reliance in defence manufacturing. The project also highlights the contribution of Indian industries, including

numerous micro, small and medium enterprises involved in the ship's construction.

The induction of INS Mahendragiri is expected to further strengthen the Indian Navy's operational capabilities and reinforce India's position as a leading indigenous warship building nation.

As more Project 17A frigates enter service, they are set to play an increasingly important role in safeguarding the country's maritime interests and supporting security and stability across the Indo-Pacific region.

Study Flags Wear In Rubber Fuel Components Of Some Older Vehicles Using E20 Petrol

■ Report says certain E10 compliant vehicles may require replacement of fuel system parts, while most performance tests showed acceptable results

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A study examining the impact of E20 petrol on older E10 compliant vehicles has found that prolonged use of the higher ethanol blend may cause deterioration of certain rubber components in the fuel system. The findings indicate that parts such as hoses, gaskets, seals and O rings could experience wear and may require replacement in some vehicles.

The report, which served as a technical reference during the rollout of E20 petrol, stated that the higher ethanol content had no adverse impact on metallic components across the vehicles tested. It also found that evaporative emissions and tailpipe emissions remained within prescribed limits, while overall vehicle startability and drivability continued to perform satisfactorily.

Engine durability tests, however, produced mixed results. One Bharat Stage IV engine completed testing with acceptable performance using E20 fuel. In another case, a Bharat Stage VI turbocharged engine developed an issue after 265 hours of testing. During additional durability assessments conducted by two passenger vehicle manufacturers, one completed 400 hours of testing without any problems, while another recorded a thermomechanical



failure of an exhaust valve after a cumulative 809 hours of testing. Experts involved in the evaluation noted that such failures may not necessarily be linked to the fuel itself and pointed out that engine durability tests are generally conducted over much longer durations.

The study also found that engine durability tests conducted by three two wheeler manufacturers showed no significant issues, with vehicle performance remaining acceptable while using E20 petrol.

According to the findings, vehicles running on E20 recorded fuel consumption that was between two and six per cent higher than those using E10, although the extent varied across different models.

The report comes amid continuing debate over higher ethanol blended fuels. The government has maintained that India's ethanol blending programme is based on extensive scientific evaluation and regulatory safeguards. It has also stated that E20 petrol was introduced only after detailed testing and has rejected claims that the fuel causes widespread engine damage or affects vehicle insurance coverage.

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Goa's Agricultural Exports Cross ₹5 Cr; CM Warns Non-Performing Officials

Sawant said horticulture production in Goa has increased from 2 lakh tonnes to over 3 lakh tonnes, reflecting sustained growth in the sector. He added that the food processing industry has also expanded, with its value increasing from ₹1.34 crore to ₹2.34 crore. Food processing exports have similarly registered an upward trend, rising from 13.7 per cent to 20.4 per cent, an increase of 6.7 percentage points. The Chief Minister also announced that the government is working towards restoring nearly 18,000 hectares of Khazan agricultural land, with the revival process already underway. He said a proposal seeking financial assistance has been submitted to

the World Bank and NITI Aayog, and expressed confidence that the restoration project would receive support from the Central Government. Emphasising accountability in governance, Sawant warned that government officials who do not perform their responsibilities efficiently would face consequences. "If officials do not work, they will have to sit at home," the Chief Minister said, stressing that public servants are expected to deliver results and ensure government schemes effectively reach beneficiaries.

56,536 Violations in Trial Run; AI Traffic Fines Begin July 15, New Thar Rental Permits Stopped

system recording 56,536 violations in just one day.

The majority of offences involved motorists failing to wear seat belts, while thousands of

vehicles were found operating without valid insurance. The system also detected several other traffic violations during the exercise. The minister said the findings underline the urgent need for technology-driven enforcement to improve compliance with traffic regulations and reduce road accidents. To strengthen surveillance, the government will expand the AI camera network in phases. The number of monitored locations will increase from the present 26 to 52 by September, and further expand to 92 locations before the end of the year, providing wider coverage across the State. In another significant decision aimed at enhancing road safety, the government has decided not to issue any fresh rent-a-car permits for Mahindra Thar SUVs. Godinho said the decision follows concerns over the increasing number of accidents involving Thar vehicles.

Flash Floods Leave Trail Of Destruction As Monsoon Batters Jammu And Kashmir

■ Heavy rain damages highways, homes and infrastructure while authorities issue safety advisory

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Heavy monsoon rainfall has wreaked havoc across Jammu and Kashmir, triggering flash floods and landslides that damaged roads, homes, vehicles and key infrastructure in several districts. Authorities have urged residents to remain vigilant as adverse weather conditions



continue across the region. One of the worst affected areas was Thathri sub division in Doda district, where heavy overnight rainfall triggered

a flash flood that swept through the local market and nearby residential areas. Floodwaters carrying mud, large boulders and debris inundated roads and homes, causing extensive damage to property and several vehicles. Residents were

caught off guard as water levels in local streams rose suddenly, leaving many struggling to protect their belongings. Officials have launched damage assessment, restoration and relief operations in the affected areas. Local residents claimed that debris from ongoing link road construction is regularly dumped into the Thathri stream, obstructing its natural



High Court Confirms Death Penalty For 38 Convicts In Ahmedabad Serial Blasts Case

■ Nearly 18 years after the deadly attacks, Gujarat High Court upholds special court verdict against Indian Mujahideen operatives

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday upheld the death sentences awarded to 38 convicts and confirmed life imprisonment for 11 others in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts case. The ruling affirms the judgment delivered by a special court in 2022, which found members of the terror outfit Indian Mujahideen guilty for carrying out one of India's deadliest coordinated terror attacks. A division bench dismissed all appeals filed by the convicts, concluding that the special court's findings

and the sentences imposed were justified. The decision brings a major legal milestone in the case, nearly 18 years after the serial bombings that claimed dozens of lives and left hundreds injured. The coordinated attacks took place on July 26, 2008, when 21 bombs exploded across 14 locations in Ahmedabad within about 70 minutes. The blasts killed 56 people and injured more than 200. Crowded public areas were targeted, including markets, residential neighbourhoods and hospitals, with two medical facilities treating the injured also hit during the attack.

Two Assam Rifles Personnel Killed In Suspected Militant Ambush In Manipur

■ Attack on security convoy in Ukhrul triggers massive search operation amid continuing unrest

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Two personnel of the Assam Rifles were killed and several others injured in a suspected militant ambush in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Tuesday, highlighting the fragile security situation in the violence affected state.

The attack took place around 1.30 pm in the Nungshang Khong area when suspected militants allegedly opened fire on a convoy of the 40 Assam



Rifles as it was moving through the hilly district. The sudden assault prompted security forces to launch an extensive search operation, with additional reinforcements rushed to the area to track down those responsible. The ambush targeted

the convoy while it was travelling through one of Manipur's most sensitive regions, where difficult terrain and proximity to the Myanmar border have long posed security challenges. Authorities are investigating the incident, while security has been tightened across the district.

Manipur Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam condemned the attack, stating that such acts of violence undermine ongoing efforts to restore

peace and normalcy in the state. The Governor also expressed condolences to the families of the personnel who lost their lives and strongly denounced the assault, reaffirming the administration's commitment to maintaining peace and security.

Manipur has remained tense since ethnic violence erupted between the Meitei and Kuki Zo communities on May 3, 2023.

'No Decision On E25 Yet': Centre Dismisses Reports Of Higher Ethanol Petrol Rollout

■ Government says E25 remains under testing and any future decision will depend on scientific validation and vehicle compatibility

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Centre has dismissed reports claiming that India is preparing to introduce E25 petrol, clarifying that no decision has been taken and that testing of the higher ethanol blend is still underway across different vehicle models.

Officials said reports suggesting an imminent rollout of E25



are incorrect, explaining that the fuel has not yet completed the scientific and technical evaluations required before any policy decision can be considered. They stressed

that no proposal to implement E25 is currently under way and urged people not to rely on speculative claims.

The clarification comes amid growing discussions over the country's ethanol blending programme, with some vehicle owners expressing concerns about engine compatibility and the

impact of higher ethanol content on older vehicles. The government said India's ethanol blending initiative has always been implemented in phases after extensive testing and consultation with automobile manufacturers, oil marketing companies and technical experts. According to officials, ethanol blending has progressed gradually over the past few years, culminating in

the nationwide rollout of E20 petrol after comprehensive validation. More than 20 crore two wheelers and around 20 lakh four wheelers are currently operating on ethanol blended fuel across the country. Authorities confirmed that compatibility testing for E25 is continuing across multiple automobile brands and vehicle categories. They said any future increase in ethanol

blending will depend on scientific evidence covering vehicle safety, engine performance, fuel efficiency, long term durability and approval from manufacturers before a final decision is made. The Centre said the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme is aimed at reducing India's dependence on imported crude oil, lowering fuel import costs and cutting carbon emissions.

Belgium Cruise Into World Cup Quarterfinals With 4-1 Victory As Spain End Ronaldo's Final Campaign

■ Belgium set up last eight clash with Spain, while Portugal bow out after late defeat

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Belgium stormed into the FIFA World Cup quarterfinals with a commanding 4-1 victory over tournament co hosts the United States, ending the hosts' impressive campaign and booking a last eight meeting with Spain.

Charles De Ketelaere starred with two goals as Belgium produced a clinical display in the Round of 16 clash. He opened the scoring in the ninth minute before the United States briefly



restored parity through Malik Tillman's deflected free kick in the 31st minute. Belgium regained the lead just two minutes later when De Ketelaere headed home, shifting the momentum firmly in his

side's favour.

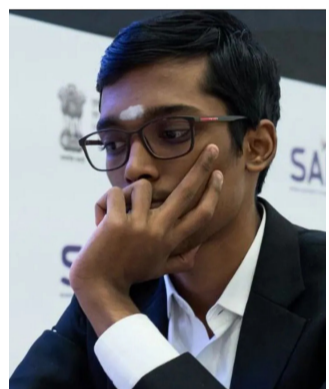
Hans Vanaken extended Belgium's advantage in the 57th minute after capitalising on a costly mistake by goalkeeper Matt Freese, who lost possession

while attempting to clear the ball outside his penalty area. Substitute Romelu Lukaku sealed the emphatic victory with a stoppage time goal, ending any hopes of a late American comeback.

The match had attracted significant attention before kickoff after FIFA suspended a one match ban on United States forward Folarin Balogun, allowing him to feature in the knockout fixture. However, Balogun made little impact as Belgium comfortably advanced to

the quarterfinals. Belgium will now face Spain, who secured their place in the last eight with a hard fought 1-0 victory over Portugal. The decisive moment came in first half stoppage time when substitute Mikel Merino finished calmly after latching onto a quick free kick, breaking the deadlock in a closely contested encounter. The defeat marked the end of Cristiano Ronaldo's World Cup career, with the Portugal captain appearing in the tournament for the sixth and final time.

After the match, the 41 year old confirmed it was his last World Cup but said he would take time before deciding on his international future. Ronaldo reflected on his career with satisfaction, saying he leaves the global stage with a clear conscience after a journey that included leading Portugal to the 2016 European Championship. Spain will now take on Belgium in a highly anticipated quarterfinal clash as both European sides continue their pursuit of World Cup glory.



Praggnanandhaa Finishes Joint Third As Firouzja Wins Croatia Grand Chess Tour Title

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa produced a spirited comeback on the final day to secure a joint third place finish at the Croatia leg of the Grand Chess Tour, while France's Alireza Firouzja emerged champion after a dramatic tie break victory.

Praggnanandhaa ended the tournament with 21.5 points, sharing third place with French Grandmaster Maxime Vachier Lagrave. Despite beginning the final day with a defeat against Germany's Vincent Keymer, the Indian recovered impressively by collecting six points from his remaining eight blitz games. He also suffered a loss to fellow Indian D Gukesh but registered a notable victory over eventual champion Firouzja.

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.

Kaushik Nair

outclassed Kangee Mengu with another 3-0 result, and Ruhaan Shaikh completed the semifinal lineup after overcoming Aarish Shaikh by the same margin.

The Boys Under 17 quarterfinals witnessed another dominant showing from the leading contenders. Chandan Caro defeated Neel Sanke 3-0, Vedant Wagle overcame Kangee Mengu 3-0, and Ruhaan Shaikh beat Yuvaan Sanke 3-1 to book their semifinal berths. Rishan Shaikh

rounded off the last four with a convincing 3-0 victory over Mission Lalpekhlua.

In the Girls Under 17 competition, Ishita Colaso, Sanisha Sinha, Gianna George and Neeza Kamat also advanced to the semifinals after producing strong performances. They defeated Tisha Shaikh, Alyka Fernandes, Aarna Lotlikar and Sachi Dessai respectively to keep their title hopes alive in the prestigious state ranking tournament.

Sanju Samson Faces Uncertain Asian Games Future As India Consider Squad Changes

■ Inconsistent form and strong competition could lead to changes in India's cricket squad ahead of the continental event

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India wicketkeeper batter Sanju Samson could miss out on the country's Asian Games squad as the team management reportedly considers making changes ahead of the continental tournament.

Samson's place has come under scrutiny following a disappointing run of form with the bat. After struggling in



recent T20 internationals, he was left out of India's playing eleven for the second T20I against England and did not

feature in the subsequent series against Zimbabwe. During the ongoing tour of Ireland and England, Samson managed just six runs in three matches before being replaced in the playing eleven by young batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. While there has been no official clarification on whether Samson has been dropped or rested, his position in the national setup appears uncertain. Reports

suggest the Board of Control for Cricket in India is considering revisions to the squad that was announced for the Asian Games in June. Tournament regulations allow participating teams to make changes to their squads before the competition, including the addition of players who were not part of the original list.

Samson's inconsistent performances, which began during the Indian

Premier League season and continued in international cricket, have reportedly complicated his selection prospects. At the same time, the impressive form of Sooryavanshi has strengthened competition for places in the batting lineup. Adding further intrigue, head coach Gautam Gambhir was seen in discussion with Samson before the second T20I.