



Goa-Bound Tourist Bus Involved In Highway Crash; Six Killed In Separate Accident On Goa Route

Two passengers injured after buses collide on Belagavi-Goa highway; Arabail Ghat crash in Karnataka claims six lives, four critically hurt

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Two separate road accidents on routes connecting Goa and Karnataka were reported on Thursday, including a collision involving a Goa-bound tourist bus and a fatal crash in the Arabail Ghat section that left six people dead.

In the first incident, two buses collided at Harli Cross on the Belagavi-Goa National Highway along the Ramnagar-Anmod stretch. The accident involved a private mini bus carrying around 20 tourists from



Bengaluru to Goa and a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KRTC) bus travelling from Vasco, Goa, to Talikoti, Karnataka.

Police said two passengers in the private mini bus—a man and

a woman—sustained injuries. They were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment, while the remaining passengers escaped unhurt.

Officials from the Ramnagar Police Station reached the spot, conducted a spot inspection (mahazar), and began investigating the cause of the accident.

In a separate incident, at least six people were killed and four others were critically injured after a Cruiser vehicle collided head-on with a truck near Balagar in the Arabail Ghat section of Yellapura

taluk in Karnataka's Karwar district.

According to police, the victims were residents of Dharwad and were travelling to Dharmasthala and Chikkamagaluru on a leisure trip. The group, including the driver, reportedly worked as part-time delivery executives for Swiggy and had left Dharwad on Wednesday night.

The truck, travelling from Yellapura towards Ankola, rammed into the Cruiser, leaving the passenger vehicle completely mangled. Six

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Kala Academy Auditorium Renovation To Begin From August 1

Expert panel report to guide ₹10 crore repair works; Golden Jubilee of Konkani Drama Competition to honour Pundalik Naik



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Renovation of the main auditorium at Kala Academy Goa will commence from August 1 after an expert committee submits its final report, Chairman Chandrakant Kavlekar announced on Wednesday.

Kavlekar said around ₹10 crore has been kept on hold until the expert panel submits its findings, while the remaining funds required for the project have already been released. The report will determine the scope of repair and restoration work to be undertaken at the auditorium. He clarified that only the main auditorium will

remain closed during the renovation period. Regular activities, including classes, administrative offices, the Black Box theatre and parking facilities, will continue to function without disruption. Meanwhile, Kala Academy will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of its 50th Konkani Drama Competition on July 10 at Dinanath Mangeshkar Kala Mandir. On the occasion, renowned playwright Pundalik Narayan Naik will be conferred the Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar for his exceptional contribution to Konkani theatre and literature. The award carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, along with a shawl, citation and memento.



Goa To Issue Mandatory Fishermen Cards For Traditional Fish Sellers

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Fisheries celebrated National Fish Farmers Day 2026 with the launch of two new financial assistance schemes and a series of announcements aimed at strengthening Goa's traditional fishing sector.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Fisheries Minister Nilkant Halarnkar launched the Financial Assistance Scheme for the Setting Up of Crab Culture in Goa and the Financial Assistance Scheme for Fish Vendors, aimed at promoting fisheries and improving the livelihoods of those engaged in the sector.

Addressing the gathering, Sawant announced that the State Government will introduce mandatory Fishermen Cards for traditional Goa

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Sanjay Goyal, Four IPS Officers Transferred Out Of Goa; Two IPS Officers Posted To State

Centre issues transfer orders; Gaurav Sikarwar and Shweta Singh Chauhan appointed to Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The government has issued transfer orders for several IAS and IPS officers, resulting in key changes to Goa's administrative and police

leadership.

IAS officer Sanjay Goyal has been transferred out of Goa. The transfer orders also include IPS officers Ajay Sharma, Varsha Sharma, Tikam Singh Verma, and

Arshi Adil, all of whom have been moved out of the state. Meanwhile, IPS officers Gaurav Sikarwar and Shweta Singh Chauhan have been appointed to Goa as part of the latest reshuffle.

"Australia To Supply Uranium To India": PM Modi Hails Major Boost For Clean Energy Goals

India and Australia expand strategic partnership with landmark agreements on nuclear energy, defence, technology and critical minerals

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India and Australia have taken a significant step towards strengthening their strategic partnership, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing that Australia will supply uranium to India under a new agreement aimed at supporting the country's clean energy ambitions.

Speaking alongside Australian Prime Minister Anthony



Albanese in Melbourne, PM Modi said the nuclear energy pact would provide fresh momentum to India's transition towards cleaner sources of energy. He described India and Australia as vibrant democracies, multicultural societies and key maritime nations that

share a common vision for regional stability and prosperity.

The uranium supply arrangement has been signed under the framework of the 2015 Australia India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, allowing Australia to export uranium to India exclusively for peaceful civilian purposes. Albanese said the agreement reflects the growing trust and strategic cooperation between the two nations.

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AI Cameras Can't Fix Broken Roads

The Goa government is preparing to roll out an artificial intelligence-based traffic management and enforcement system across North Goa. The initiative promises smarter surveillance, automatic detection of traffic violations and stricter enforcement of road safety rules. Authorities believe the technology will help reduce accidents and improve discipline on the roads.

There is no doubt that technology can play an important role in improving traffic management. Cameras that identify helmetless riders, detect seat belt violations and monitor dangerous driving can certainly encourage better compliance with the law. In a state where traffic violations are commonplace, stricter enforcement is welcome.

However, amidst the excitement over artificial intelligence, one fundamental question remains unanswered: What about Goa's pothole-ridden roads?

Every monsoon, roads across Goa become a nightmare for motorists. Newly resurfaced stretches develop potholes within weeks. Roads dug up for infrastructure projects remain uneven for months. Waterlogged craters appear overnight, turning daily commutes into a dangerous exercise in survival. Two-wheeler riders, who form a significant portion of road users, are particularly vulnerable.

Road safety cannot be viewed only through the lens of enforcement. It begins with the quality of the roads themselves.

A motorist may wear a helmet, fasten a seat belt and obey every traffic rule, yet still meet with an accident because of a poorly maintained road. Potholes force drivers to brake suddenly, swerve into adjoining lanes and make split-second decisions that can result in collisions. During the monsoon, many potholes remain hidden beneath rainwater, making them even more hazardous.

It is therefore difficult to understand why authorities appear more focused on issuing challans than on ensuring roads are safe in the first place.

The irony is striking. The government is investing heavily in sophisticated technology

"A motorist may wear a helmet, fasten a seat belt and obey every traffic rule, yet still meet with an accident because of a poorly maintained road. Potholes force drivers to brake suddenly, swerve into adjoining lanes and make split-second decisions that can result in collisions. During the monsoon, many potholes remain hidden beneath rainwater, making them even more hazardous.

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capable of identifying a violation within seconds. Yet the same administration struggles year after year to provide roads that can withstand a single monsoon season. Citizens are entitled to ask whether priorities are misplaced.

Technology should supplement governance, not replace it.

The success of any road safety programme depends on a combination of factors. Enforcement is only one component. Good engineering, quality construction, regular maintenance, proper signage, street lighting and effective drainage are equally important. If any one of these elements is missing, the entire system becomes weaker.

Goa has witnessed numerous road accidents where poor road conditions have played a significant role. While official

statistics often focus on driver error, inadequate infrastructure frequently contributes to these incidents. A pothole may not be recorded as the direct cause of an accident, but it often triggers the chain of events that leads to one.

The government deserves credit for embracing modern solutions. Artificial intelligence has the potential to transform traffic management and reduce violations. But citizens will judge the initiative not by the number of cameras installed or challans issued. They will judge it by whether roads become safer.

A driver travelling on a damaged road does not care whether a camera can recognise a registration number from hundreds of metres away. He wants a smooth road free from dangerous craters. A parent taking children to school wants assurance that a hidden pothole will not cause a fall. Tourists visiting Goa expect roads that reflect the state's reputation rather than roads that damage vehicles and test patience.

The Road Safety Committee has reportedly decided to review pothole repairs on a monthly basis. That is a positive step. However, reviews and meetings alone are not enough. What is needed is accountability. Contractors responsible for poor quality work must be penalised. Departments must coordinate better. Repairs should be durable rather than temporary patches that disappear with the next spell of rain.

Perhaps the government should consider using technology for road maintenance as well. AI systems can identify damaged road surfaces, monitor deterioration and help authorities respond more quickly. Such innovation would directly address one of the biggest complaints of motorists.

The message is simple. Goa needs both smart enforcement and safe infrastructure. One cannot succeed without the other.

Artificial intelligence may catch traffic offenders. It may improve compliance and reduce reckless driving. But no camera, however advanced, can fill a pothole. Until Goa fixes its roads, claims of a comprehensive road safety strategy will remain incomplete.

OPED

Why Only Salman Khan? The Law Must Be Equal for All

Sandesh Naik

The Bombay High Court's decision to issue notice to actor Salman Khan in connection with alleged Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) violations at a villa project in Candolim is a welcome step. It sends out the message that environmental laws cannot be ignored merely because a project is associated with a celebrity. The petition alleges that villas and swimming pools were constructed within the regulated coastal zone, and the Court has sought responses from all concerned authorities before proceeding further.

But this case also raises a larger and far more important question.

Why only Salman Khan?

Goa's coastline is dotted with luxury villas, holiday homes and resorts owned by some of the biggest names in Bollywood, cricket and business. Over the years, reports have repeatedly surfaced about constructions in ecologically sensitive coastal areas, hill slopes and no development zones. Yet very few of these projects have come under the scanner with the same intensity.

The issue is not whether Salman Khan is guilty or innocent. That is for the Court to decide after hearing all parties. The real issue is consistency in enforcement.

If there are illegal constructions, they cannot become legal simply because they belong to influential personalities. Likewise, authorities cannot selectively target one project while ignoring dozens of others that may have committed similar violations.

Unfortunately, this has often been Goa's problem. Environmental laws are enforced unevenly. Small homeowners receive demolition notices for minor deviations, while large projects backed by influential individuals continue for years before attracting official attention. Such selective enforcement weakens public confidence in the system.

The responsibility does not lie with the judiciary alone. It rests equally with the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority, local panchayats, planning authorities and the State government. These agencies are expected to scrutinise proposals before granting approvals, inspect construction during execution and act promptly when violations are detected. If questionable structures reach completion and even receive occupancy certificates, it naturally raises questions about regulatory oversight.

Goa's fragile coastline cannot become a playground for the rich and famous. Coastal Regulation Zone norms exist to protect beaches, estuaries, rivers and fragile ecosystems from unchecked development. These laws are not obstacles to development but safeguards for future generations.

If authorities genuinely want to demonstrate zero tolerance towards illegal construction, they should undertake a comprehensive audit of all high-profile properties located within CRZ areas, irrespective of ownership. Whether the owner is a film star, a cricketer, a politician, a hotel chain or an ordinary citizen should make absolutely no difference.

Equal enforcement is the foundation of the rule of law.

The Salman Khan case offers the government an opportunity to prove that environmental protection is not about headlines or celebrity names. If similar violations exist elsewhere, those cases too must be investigated with equal seriousness.

The law should neither be dazzled by fame nor influenced by power. Goa deserves a regulatory system where the identity of the owner is irrelevant, and the legality of the construction is the only issue that matters.

North Goa Kicks Off 2027 Assembly Election Preparations

■ EVM First-Level Checks Scheduled From August 3; Collector Calls For Timely Completion Of Poll Arrangements

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: North Goa has formally initiated preparations for the 2027 Goa Legislative Assembly elections, with the first-level inspection of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) scheduled to be carried out from August 3 to August 14.

The election preparedness was reviewed at a meeting chaired by North Goa Collector and District



Election Officer Ankit Yadav, who directed officials to ensure that every aspect of the poll process is planned and executed within the timelines prescribed by the Election Commission of India. Reviewing the district's readiness, Yadav instructed nodal

officers to complete logistical, administrative and security-related arrangements well before the commencement of election activities. He also assessed the progress of the District Election Management Plan (DEMP) and asked officials to

finalise it without delay. The meeting focused on several key areas, including the training of polling personnel, handling and distribution of election materials, observer coordination, transport arrangements, communication systems, postal ballot management, monitoring of election expenditure, security of EVM strong rooms, counting centre preparedness, medical support and voter awareness initiatives.

High Court Broadens PIL To Push Disability-Friendly Public Infrastructure In Goa

■ Bench Says Accessibility Drive Should Cover All Recognised Disabilities; Centre Added As Party To Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has expanded the ambit of a public interest litigation (PIL) on accessibility, indicating that the proceedings should not remain confined to making public buses disability-friendly but should instead promote inclusive infrastructure across the State.

The observations came during the hearing of a petition that had initially sought accessible Kadamba Transport Corporation (KTC) buses for commuters with visual and physical disabilities.

The Division Bench observed that the reliefs sought in the petition were too limited and

said the case should take into account the needs of all 18 categories of disabilities recognised under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. The Court indicated that the proceedings could serve as an opportunity to strengthen accessibility standards in public services and infrastructure more broadly. The Bench also noted that Goa's existing transport regulations do not comprehensively address accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities. In response, the State government informed the Court that it would examine the suggestions placed before it and consider the necessary changes.



GHRC Presses Goa To Accelerate Mental Health Rehabilitation Infrastructure

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) has called on the State government to take urgent steps to strengthen rehabilitation services for persons with mental illness and homeless individuals, observing that progress on key facilities has remained slow despite directions issued by the Supreme Court.

As part of its preliminary recommendations, the Commission has proposed the constitution of a committee headed by a nodal officer to evaluate the present situation, identify immediate measures and prepare a comprehensive rehabilitation and empowerment framework.

The suggested committee will comprise representatives from various government departments, the Goa State Mental Health Authority, voluntary organisations, the complainant and the Disability Rights Association of Goa, with the aim of developing a coordinated response to the issue.

HC Extends Deadline For Drafting Goa's Open Prison Rules

■ Panel Gets One More Week To Frame Amendments As State Moves Towards Establishing Its First Open Correctional Institution

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has given the committee responsible for revising the Goa Prison Rules, 2021, an additional week to complete its recommendations for introducing a legal framework for Open Correctional Institutions (OCIs) in the State.

The order was passed by a Division Bench comprising Justices



Valmiki Menezes and Hiten Venegavkar while hearing a suo motu matter concerning the implementation of the Supreme Court's directions on setting up open prisons. The Bench directed the committee, constituted through its earlier order dated June

18, to finalise its proposed amendments to the prison rules and place the report before the Court within a week. It also instructed that the recommendations be submitted to the Monitoring Committee during the same period. The case will next be taken up on July 15.

The extension forms part of the High Court's continuing effort to lay the legal foundation for Goa's first open correctional institution.

Chodankar Gets Positive Assurance for Goa Niwas at Velankanni

■ Tamil Nadu Government agrees in principle to allot land; interim accommodation for Goan pilgrims also under consideration

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Girish Chodankar has received a positive assurance from the Tamil Nadu Government for the establishment of a Goa Niwas at Velankanni, a long-pending demand aimed at benefiting thousands of Goan pilgrims visiting the famous Shrine of Our



Lady of Good Health.

According to a press note issued on Thursday, Chodankar raised the issue during a meeting with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay Joseph in

the presence of Congress MLA and Tamil Nadu Tourism Minister Rajesh Kumar (Killiyoor). Besides discussing

cooperation between alliance partners and issues of mutual interest, Chodankar urged the Tamil Nadu Government to allot suitable land for constructing a dedicated

Goa Niwas at Velankanni.

He pointed out that lakhs of Goan devotees visit the pilgrimage centre every year and often face difficulties in finding affordable and convenient accommodation. A Goa Niwas, he said, would address this long-standing need by providing safe and economical lodging for pilgrims.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister reportedly agreed in principle to the proposal

and directed Tourism Minister Rajesh Kumar to initiate the process of identifying suitable land for the project.

As an interim measure, the Chief Minister also assured that the Tamil Nadu Government would explore providing accommodation for Goan pilgrims through Tamil Nadu Tourism until the Goa Niwas is constructed.

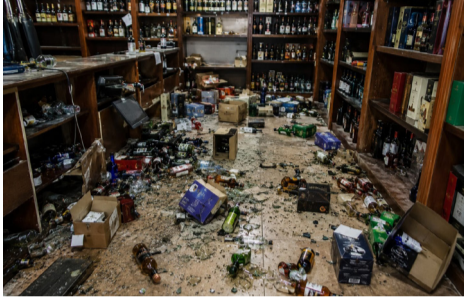
Wine Shop Vandalised in Calangute; ₹8.65 Lakh Theft Alleged

Police book main accused and associates for assault, theft and criminal intimidation; liquor worth ₹1.5 lakh recovered

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have registered a case against a man and his associates for allegedly trespassing into a wine shop, assaulting two persons, vandalising property and stealing cash and liquor worth several lakhs.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by Vishav Nath, 36, a resident of Gurdaspur, Punjab. The incident allegedly took place at



around 5.20 pm on July 7 at Guddu Wine Store in Gaurawado, Calangute.

Police said the main accused, identified as Aditya Hadagalli, along with his workers, allegedly entered the wine shop

with a common intention, assaulted the complainant and his cousin Sikander Malpotra, who was at the cash counter, and damaged

liquor bottles kept on the shelves causing an estimated loss of around ₹2.5 lakh. The complaint further states that the accused allegedly stole approximately ₹15,000 from the cash counter,

abused the victims using filthy language and threatened them with dire consequences.

Police also alleged that the accused and his associates loaded liquor bottles of various brands into a tempo and fled with stock valued at around ₹7 lakh. Calangute Police have registered Crime No. 98/2026 under Sections 329, 352, 305, 324(4), 115(2), 351(2) read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.



Ahmedabad Driver Booked After Co-Passenger Dies in Dabolim Flyover Crash

Vasco Police register case for rash and negligent driving after Rajasthan resident succumbs to injuries sustained in the accident

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: A man from Ahmedabad has been booked by Vasco Police after his co-passenger died following a car crash on the Dabolim Airport flyover earlier this week.

The accused, identified as Rajveer Singh, a resident of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, was allegedly driving a Maruti Fronx in a rash and negligent manner when the accident occurred at around 12.50 am on July 7 near

the exit side of Dabolim Airport, at the curve of the grade separator flyover bridge.

According to police, Singh lost control of the vehicle while negotiating the curve, causing the car to crash into the parapet wall and safety barrier of the flyover. The impact was severe, deploying the vehicle's airbags.

The co-passenger, Ramesh Chaudhary, a resident of Mundara in Rajasthan's Pali district, suffered grievous injuries in the crash.



Man Held With Suspected Ganja Worth ₹19,000 Near Porvorim Park

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: A man was arrested by Porvorim Police after he was allegedly found in possession of suspected ganja during a narcotics raid conducted near Nana Nani Park in Porvorim. According to police, the raid was carried out on July 8 between 5.20 pm and 8.00 pm by a team from Porvorim Police Station led by PSI Sachin Shirodkar. During the operation, the accused, identified as Mithlesh Bhagat, was allegedly caught with 159 grams of dried greenish leafy substance with flowering and fruiting tops suspected to be ganja. Police said the contraband, along with a polythene bag, was seized under a panchanama. The seized narcotic substance is estimated to be worth approximately ₹19,000 in the illegal market. Based on the complaint lodged by PSI Sachin Shirodkar, Porvorim Police registered Crime No. 53/2026 under Section 20(b)(ii)(A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

Five Held Red-Handed With Suspected Ganja Worth ₹33,000 in Vasco

Vasco Police seize 339 grams of suspected ganja during New Vaddem raid; case registered under NDPS Act

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Five persons were arrested by Vasco Police after they were allegedly caught red-handed with suspected ganja during a raid conducted at New Vaddem in Vasco.

The accused have been identified as Sonu Kumar Mahale, Gaus Sayed and Akansh Vovoikar, all residents of New Vaddem, Hussain Shaikh of Jairam Nagar, Vasco, and Sachin Jaiswal



of Fakir Galli, Vasco.

According to police, the action was initiated following a complaint lodged by PSI Nikhil Dessai of Vasco Police Station. During the raid, the accused were allegedly found in possession of 339 grams

of dry greenish leaves, stems, flowering and fruiting parts of a plant emitting an intoxicating odour, suspected to be ganja. The seized contraband is estimated to be worth approximately ₹33,000.

The raid was carried out between 6.49 pm and 8.48 pm at New Vaddem, where the five accused were allegedly apprehended while in possession of the suspected narcotic substance.

Karnataka Man Booked for Theft of Scooter From Verna IDC

Verna Police register case after ₹50,000 Suzuki Access allegedly stolen from warehouse parking area

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Verna Police have registered a theft case against a Karnataka native for allegedly stealing a scooter parked outside a warehouse in the Verna Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

According to police, the complaint was lodged by Akhtar Hussain Khan, a resident of Chandrawada, Fatorda,



who reported that his Suzuki Access scooter, valued at approximately

₹50,000, was stolen on September 15, 2025, at around 8.20 pm. Police said the scooter had been parked in the open parking area outside Saaj Traders

Warehouse in the Verna IDC when the accused, identified as Mahmad

Akyif Makanadar, allegedly stole the vehicle. Based on the complaint, Verna Police have registered an offence under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Further investigation is being carried out by Head Constable Sandeep Naik of Verna Police Station under the supervision of PI Anand Shirodkar and the guidance of Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.

Marcel Man Loses Over ₹2 Lakh in Fake E-Challan Scam

Team Goemkarponn

MARCEL: A resident of Marcel has allegedly lost more than ₹2 lakh after falling victim to a fake e-challan cyber fraud.

According to a complaint lodged by Vaibhav Bhagat, a resident of Ganpatiwada, Candola, Marcel, the incident occurred between 8.16 pm and 9.38 pm on July 2.

The complainant then entered his credit card details to pay the purported e-challan amount.

Drishti Marine Rescues Three Fishermen After Canoe Capsizes Near Morjim

■ Lifesavers deploy jet ski for swift rescue as canoe overturns in river adjoining Morjim Beach

Team Goemkarponn

MORJIM: Three fishermen were rescued by Drishti Marine lifesavers after their canoe capsized in a river adjoining Morjim Beach on Wednesday afternoon.

The rescue operation was launched at around 12 noon after a local resident alerted the lifesavers about the



incident. A jet ski was immediately deployed to the location.

Drishti Marine lifesaver captain Sakaram, along with another lifesaver,

rescued two fishermen from the water, while the third fisherman

was safely assisted onto an accompanying canoe.

All three fishermen were brought safely to shore and were reported to be in good condition.

The incident comes as Goa experiences the peak of the southwest monsoon, with strong winds, rough seas and turbulent waters making the coastline unsafe for swimming.

Swimming remains prohibited along Goa's beaches during the monsoon season, while the annual fishing ban is also currently in force.



Prabhav Naik Questions Status of Margao Master Plan 2041

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Madganvcho Awaaz youth leader Prabhav Naik has questioned the status of the proposed Margao Master Plan 2041, alleging that the city is witnessing unplanned development through isolated projects instead of a comprehensive urban vision.

Reacting to Margao MLA and PWD Minister Digambar Kamat's recent announcement on appointing a consultant to prepare a drainage plan around the Margao Market, Naik claimed the move highlighted poor planning and unnecessary expenditure of public funds. He said he had raised concerns in April 2026 when tin sheets were erected around the market without a proper drainage and electrification plan.

Naik alleged that appointing consultants for individual works instead of implementing an integrated development strategy reflected haphazard decision-making.

₹140-Crore Historic Core Development Project to Transform Vasco: Krishna Salkar

■ MLA inspects key locations with GSUDA officials as ambitious redevelopment plan aims to modernise infrastructure while preserving the town's heritage

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco is set for a major urban transformation with the proposed ₹140-crore Historic Core Development Project, which seeks to modernise the town's infrastructure while preserving its historic character and identity. As part of the planning process, Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar on



Wednesday inspected key locations across the town along with officials of the Goa State Urban Development Agency (GSUDA) and project consultants. The team reviewed

several sites identified for redevelopment and assessed the proposed works under the ambitious project. Speaking during the inspection, Salkar said the project would significantly improve Vasco's civic infrastructure, public spaces and overall urban landscape, creating a cleaner, better-planned and more people-friendly environment.

Vasco Block Congress Organises Organ Donation Awareness Drive

■ Residents encouraged to pledge organs as awareness and registration campaign highlights life-saving impact of donation

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: The Vasco Block Congress Committee organised an Organ Donation Awareness and Registration Drive in Vasco on Wednesday to promote awareness and encourage citizens to voluntarily pledge their organs.

The initiative was held under the leadership of Vasco Block Congress leader Nandadeep Raut and witnessed the participation of local residents, who attended the programme to understand the importance of organ donation and the registration process.

Addressing the gathering, Raut described organ donation as one of the noblest humanitarian acts, saying that a single donor has the potential to save multiple lives. He noted that thousands of patients across the country are awaiting life-saving organ transplants and stressed the need for greater public participation to bridge the gap between demand and availability. He also appealed to the youth to come forward and register as organ donors, adding that awareness and informed decision-making are key to dispelling myths and misconceptions surrounding organ donation.



Mariano Rodrigues Rejoins Congress at Massive Sancoale Gathering

■ Former TMC Goa convenor returns to Congress in presence of senior leaders as nearly 1,500 supporters attend induction programme

Team Goemkarponn

SANCOALE: Former Cortalim Zilla Panchayat member and former Trinamool Congress (TMC) Goa State convenor Mariano Rodrigues formally rejoined the Congress party on Tuesday evening at a well-attended induction programme in Sancoale.

The event, held at Tome Carvalho Hall, witnessed the



participation of nearly 1,500 supporters, including youth, women and local residents from Sancoale and neighbouring areas. The gathering was marked by

loud cheers and slogans as Rodrigues returned to the party.

Rodrigues was inducted into the Congress in the presence of AICC Goa in-charge

Manikrao Thakre, AICC Secretary Dr. Anjali Nimbalkar, Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao, GPCC President Girish Chodankar and other senior Congress leaders. Speaking at the programme, Congress leaders welcomed Rodrigues back into the party and expressed confidence that his return would strengthen the organisation in South Goa ahead of future elections.

Goa Extends 2% Job Reservation for Children of Freedom Fighters

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Government has extended its scheme providing a 2% reservation in government jobs for the children of registered freedom fighters, ensuring the benefits continue for another year.

According to a notification issued by the Department of Home (General), the reservation under Clause 3(c) will remain applicable for Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts filled through the GPS C from March 1, 2026, to Feb 28, 2027.

DeVANS Modern Breweries Forays into the Premium Gin Category with the Launch of 'Gingalalahu'

Team Goemkarponn

GOA: DeVANS Modern Breweries, one of India's leading alcohol companies and the makers of the award-winning GianChand Single Malt Whisky, has announced its entry into the premium gin segment with the launch of Gingalalahu, an internationally acclaimed Indian Craft Dry Gin that combines nine exotic botanicals and artisanal craftsmanship to produce a gin with a vibrant and balanced flavor.

Commenting on the launch, Prem Dewan, Chairman & Managing Director, DeVANS Modern Breweries Ltd., said: "The launch of Gingalalahu marks an exciting milestone for DeVANS as we enter the premium craft gin category. The modern consumer is increasingly seeking authentic spirits rooted in craftsmanship and quality. With Gingalalahu, we have created a gin that celebrates the qualities of the finest natural botanicals complemented by small-batch distillation techniques.

We are delighted that the craftsmanship behind Gingalalahu has been recognized in respected international spirits competitions and by industry experts even before its commercial debut. This recognition is a testament to our commitment to quality as we introduce Gingalalahu to consumers. Our



vision to create premium Indian spirits through craftsmanship and authenticity has been set in motion.

"Gingalalahu has garnered recognition at reputed international spirits competitions, reinforcing its exceptional craftsmanship and quality even before its commercial launch.

Bottled at 42.8% ABV, Gingalalahu has been handcrafted in small batches of only 200 liters, a process that imparts greater freshness, depth, and complexity to every batch. Staying true to the principles of a classic dry

gin, the spirit contains no artificial flavorings or added sweeteners, with its character derived entirely from carefully selected botanicals and spices.

Inspired by the philosophy of "Nature's Symphony in a Bottle," Gingalalahu has been crafted to offer a distinctive drinking experience that is balanced, refreshing, and unmistakably premium.

International Recognition
Gingalalahu has made its mark on the global stage, earning accolades at reputed international

spirits competitions even before its commercial launch. The gin has received: Gold Medal – Global Gin Masters 2025 (Super Premium Category), Silver Medal – San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2026, Silver Medal – International Wine & Spirit Competition (IWSC), UK 2026, Silver Medal – World Gin Awards, UK 2026.

These early accolades reinforce DeVANS' commitment to crafting Indian spirits that meet the highest global standards of quality and craftsmanship.

The gin has also received appreciation from internationally acclaimed gin expert and author of Gin: A Toast to the Most Aromatic of Spirits, Geraldine Coates, who described Gingalalahu as: "An excellent classic style gin with a good balance of juniper, citrus and spice, with a full-flavored and smooth mouthfeel and a long, clean finish.

"She further highlighted its bright juniper character, subtle spice, and refreshing citrus profile that evolves beautifully on the palate.

With international recognition preceding its commercial launch, Gingalalahu enters the market with strong industry validation, further strengthening DeVANS' premium portfolio and reinforcing its commitment to innovation and craftsmanship.

Goa Students To Represent India At FIRST Global Challenge 2026 In South Korea

■ Five-member Team Tech Infinity earns national honour after winning the Vikram Sarabhai Award for National Excellence

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has earned a place on the global robotics stage, with five school students selected to represent India at the FIRST Global Challenge 2026, an international robotics competition scheduled to be held in Incheon, South Korea, from October 7 to 10. The annual event brings together teams from nearly 195 countries to design, build and program robots based on a common global challenge. The five-member Team Tech Infinity secured the honour after winning the Vikram Sarabhai Award for National Excellence at the Bharatiya Yantra Khel Mahotsav (BYKM) 2026, the national selection competition organised by the STEM Education Trust. The Indian contingent comprises Sparsh Swapnesh Verlekar, Dhruv Samir Salgaonkar and Soham Mahesh Redkar from Saraswat Vidyalaya, Mapusa, Avaneesh Devendra Phadte from Mushtifund High School, Cujira, and Anam Raza from Poddar International School, Old Goa. The students come from

diverse educational backgrounds, including government aided schools, reflecting the growing reach of STEM education in Goa.

The team's success is the result of years of dedication, with students developing expertise in robotics, computer aided design, Java programming, engineering strategy and teamwork. Their journey included competing at national level events, overcoming setbacks and continuously refining their technical skills before earning the opportunity to represent the country. The 2026 competition theme, "Igniting Innovation," focuses on developing technological solutions that help reduce the impact of fires while promoting environmental resilience. Over the coming months, Team Tech Infinity will design, build and test its competition robot while also preparing to represent India as cultural ambassadors during the event. The team is mentored by Anay Kamat and Saieesh Gandhi, with support from their schools, parents and Goa's growing STEM community.



* **nay Kamat, Mentor of Team India**
* **Soham Mahesh Redkar, Saraswat Vidyalaya, Mapusa**
* **Dhruv Sameer Salgaonkar, Saraswat Vidyalaya, Mapusa**

* **Anam Raza, Poddar School, Old Goa**
* **Avneesh Devendra Phadte, Mushtifund School, Panaji**
* **Sparsh Swapnesh Verlekar, Saraswat Vidyalaya, Mapusa**

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Goa-Bound Tourist Bus Involved In Highway Crash; Six Killed In Separate Accident On Goa Route

occupants died on the spot. The four injured were rescued by local residents and shifted to a nearby hospital, where they are undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The Yellapura Police have registered a case and launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the fatal accident. The twin accidents on roads

frequently used by commuters and tourists travelling to and from Goa have once again raised concerns over highway safety, particularly during the monsoon season.

Goa To Issue Mandatory Fishermen Cards For Traditional Fish Sellers

fishermen. He said only those holding the cards will be permitted to sell fish in Goa's markets, adding that the cards will be issued exclusively to traditional Goan fishermen and not to outsiders. The Chief Minister

said the initiative is intended to safeguard the livelihood of local fishermen and preserve one of the few traditional occupations that continues to remain largely in the hands of Goans. He urged the fishing community to ensure that the sector does not pass into the hands of outsiders. Sawant also announced a crackdown on illegal roadside fish sales across the state. Alleging that outsiders are selling fish along roadsides, he said the police have been instructed to take strict action and reiterated that fish should be sold only in designated markets.

"Major Milestone" As DRDO Successfully Tests Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket

■ Successful Chandipur trial strengthens India's precision strike capability with an effective range of up to 120 km

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has achieved another significant milestone in strengthening its indigenous defence capabilities after the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR) at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha. The trial validated



the rocket's minimum operational range of 60 kilometres while successfully completing all planned flight manoeuvres before striking its designated target with

precision.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hailed the successful test as a "major milestone" for India's homegrown defence technology, highlighting the country's growing expertise in designing and developing advanced weapon systems.

The latest test follows the rocket's maiden flight in December 2025, when it successfully demonstrated its

maximum range of 120 kilometres. With both trials completed successfully, the Pinaka LRGR now has a proven operational range between 60 and 120 kilometres, offering greater flexibility for battlefield deployment. During the maiden test, the Defence Minister had noted that the new system would significantly enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces.



"190 Indian Seafarers Stranded As Hormuz Shipping Slows To Near Standstill"

■ India explores diplomatic efforts to ensure safe passage for nine Indian linked tankers amid escalating US Iran tensions

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Nine Indian linked tankers carrying crude oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) remain stranded near the Strait of Hormuz as maritime traffic through one of the world's busiest energy corridors has slowed dramatically following renewed tensions between the United States and Iran. According to reports, the vessels have 198 Indian seafarers on board, prompting New Delhi to explore diplomatic options, including possible engagement with Iran, to secure their safe passage. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is closely monitoring the situation and is expected to raise concerns regarding the safety of the Indian crew with Iranian authorities.

India has expressed

deep concern over the fresh attacks on commercial shipping in the region, warning that the escalation threatens regional peace, security and global trade. The MEA urged all parties to exercise restraint, de-escalate hostilities and ensure the uninterrupted flow of energy supplies and commercial shipping through international waterways. It also called for a return to dialogue and diplomacy to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The latest crisis follows intensified military exchanges between Washington and Tehran. Iran has indicated that access through the Strait of Hormuz would operate only under what it described as "Iranian arrangements," signalling tighter control over the strategic waterway.



"Exercise Restraint, Return To Diplomacy": India Urges Calm Amid Escalating West Asia Conflict

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has expressed deep concern over the latest escalation of tensions in West Asia, urging all parties involved to exercise restraint and return to dialogue as military actions intensify across the region. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued a statement after fresh attacks on commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz triggered a new wave of hostilities. The situation escalated further following reported Iranian strikes, subsequent US attacks on multiple Iranian military installations, and missile launches by Iran targeting Kuwait and Bahrain. The MEA warned that the recent developments pose a serious threat to regional peace, security and stability, particularly as they involve attacks on commercial vessels navigating vital international waterways. India called on all sides to de-escalate the conflict, emphasising the need to protect civilian lives and ensure the uninterrupted movement of energy supplies and global trade.

Myanmar Will Not Allow Its Territory To Be Used Against India

■ Both nations strengthen security cooperation and reaffirm commitment to peace along the shared border

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India and Myanmar have agreed to deepen cooperation on security and border management, with Myanmar assuring New Delhi that its territory will not be used for activities that threaten India's interests. The assurance came during the 23rd National Level Meeting between the two countries, held in New Delhi on July 7 and 8. The high level talks



focused on strengthening collaboration against terrorism, insurgency, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking and other forms of cross border crime. Both sides also reaffirmed their shared commitment to maintaining peace and stability along the India Myanmar border, a region that remains strategically

sensitive. The Indian delegation was led by Home Secretary Govind Mohan, while Myanmar's delegation was headed by Min Thu. During the discussions, officials reviewed progress under existing bilateral security mechanisms and explored ways to further improve coordination between the two countries.

"Delhi Terror Plot Foiled As Police Arrest Six Men Linked To Pakistan Based Handler"

■ Investigators say key public locations were under surveillance as security agencies uncover an alleged cross border terror network

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A major terror plot targeting key locations across Delhi has been foiled after the Special Cell of the Delhi Police arrested six men allegedly linked to a Pakistan based handler. Investigators said the suspects were planning attacks on crowded public places, including the New Police Lines in Civil Lines, Anand Vihar



Bus Terminal, the railway station and several busy markets in the national capital. According to the investigation, videos of the targeted locations

were recovered from the accused's mobile phones, indicating that detailed reconnaissance had already been carried out. Police believe

the sites were being surveyed ahead of planned attacks, with petrol bombs suspected to have been among the intended weapons. Security personnel also recovered petrol bombs and illegal firearms from Vijay Ghat near Rajghat during the operation. The accused, arrested from Delhi and Punjab, were allegedly operating under the instructions of Shahzad Bhatti, who

investigators identified as a Pakistan based ISI handler. Officials said reconnaissance videos were allegedly transmitted to Bhatti through a banned messaging application. Investigators have also recovered social media conversations that reportedly detail instructions related to preparing materials and coordinating the planned attacks.

"Has Anyone Ever Stopped Erling Haaland? We're Going To Try": Morgan Rogers Ahead Of World Cup Quarter Final

■ England midfielder says limiting Haaland's service will be crucial as Three Lions prepare for Norway showdown

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: England midfielder Morgan Rogers has admitted there may be no foolproof way to stop Norway's prolific striker Erling Haaland but believes cutting off his supply of chances will be the key when the two teams meet in the FIFA World Cup 2026 quarter finals.

England will face



Norway in Miami with a place in the semi finals at stake, taking on a Norwegian side led by Haaland, who has been one of the tournament's standout performers. The

Manchester City striker has already scored seven goals in the competition, making him one of the leading scorers at the World Cup. Speaking ahead of the match,

Rogers acknowledged the challenge posed by Haaland, saying, "Has anyone ever stopped Erling Haaland? Not sure they have, but we're going to try." He added that rather than focusing solely on the striker, England must prevent quality deliveries into the penalty area, describing Haaland as "deadly" whenever he gets opportunities in front of goal.



"FIFA Chief Gianni Infantino Faces Fresh Scrutiny Over Alleged Political Neutrality Breach"

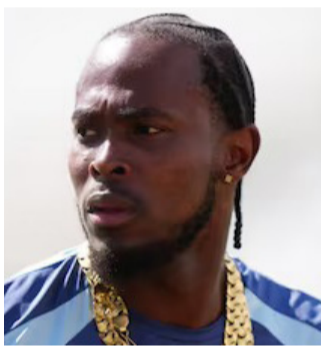
■ Human rights group seeks IOC probe after complaint alleges support for Donald Trump violated FIFA ethics rules

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: FIFA President Gianni Infantino is facing renewed scrutiny after human rights organisation FairSquare announced that it will file a complaint with the International Olympic Committee, alleging that he breached political neutrality rules through his public support for US President Donald Trump.

The development follows controversy surrounding FIFA's decision to overturn a one match suspension imposed on United States striker Folarin Balogun. Balogun had been sent off during

the United States' victory over Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Round of 32 and was initially handed a one match ban. However, following interventions by Trump and legal representatives of US Soccer, FIFA rescinded the red card under Article 27 of its disciplinary code, allowing the forward to feature in the Round of 16 clash against Belgium. FairSquare argues that Infantino's repeated public support for Trump amounts to a violation of Article 15 of FIFA's Code of Ethics, which requires football officials to maintain political neutrality in their official roles.



"IPL Wickets Are Easy, Boundaries Small": Jofra Archer Explains Difference Between India And England Conditions

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: England fast bowler Jofra Archer has highlighted the contrasting conditions between the Indian Premier League and international cricket in England, saying flatter pitches and smaller boundaries in the IPL leave bowlers with very little room for error.

Archer, who enjoyed an impressive IPL 2026 season with the Rajasthan Royals by claiming 25 wickets in 16 matches, said he has found it easier to bowl in familiar English conditions after starring in England's emphatic victory over India in the third T20I at Trent Bridge.

Speaking after the match, Archer explained that bowlers in England can rely on bowling a good length and attacking the stumps, whereas IPL conditions demand much greater precision because of batter friendly surfaces and shorter boundaries.

"Telangana To Host Khelo India Youth Games 2026": Mansukh Mandaviya Announces

■ Eighth edition of the national event is expected to bring together over 8,000 athletes, officials and support staff in November

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has announced that Telangana will host the eighth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games 2026, with the competition expected to take place in November.

Telangana will become the second southern state to host the prestigious event in the last three years, following Tamil Nadu, which staged the



2024 edition. The previous edition was held in Bihar in May 2025. Announcing the decision, Mandaviya said the move aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of taking major national sporting events to different parts of the country. He said Telangana possesses both

the sporting infrastructure and the enthusiasm required to successfully host the Games, which are expected to attract at least 8,000 athletes, officials and support staff. The minister also expressed confidence that the 2026 edition would witness high quality performances, noting that the Games will be held after the Asian Games in Japan, when many athletes are expected to be in peak competitive form.

"It Was An Abject Surrender": Anil Kumble Blasts India's Batting And Team Selection After England Defeat

■ Former India captain questions batting approach and frequent team changes following crushing loss in third T20I

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Anil Kumble has strongly criticised India's performance after their crushing 125 run defeat to England national cricket team in the third T20I, describing the display as an "abject surrender" and questioning both the batting strategy and team management's decisions.



Led by Shreyas Iyer, India were bowled out for just 76 while chasing a challenging target, leaving them without a win in the five match series at that stage and needing

victories in the remaining two matches to draw the contest.

Reacting to the defeat, Kumble said a world champion side should not collapse in such a manner.

He felt the Indian batters lacked patience against England's pace attack, led by Jofra Archer and Josh Tongue. According to Kumble, India's batters adopted an overly aggressive approach despite the demanding required run rate. He argued that one batter needed to absorb the pressure, build an innings and take responsibility instead of everyone attempting attacking strokes from the outset,

which ultimately resulted in a dramatic collapse. The former head coach also questioned the team's batting order, particularly the decision to promote Harshit Rana ahead of Shivam Dube. Kumble said T20 cricket demands that the strongest batters are sent in earlier and felt it was unrealistic to expect a lower order player to rescue the innings ahead of an established batter.