



Karapur Mega Project Protest Completes 100 Days, Demonstration Held At Jantar Mantar

Villagers Take Agitation To New Delhi, Demand Complete Withdrawal Of Proposed Housing Project

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Marking 100 days of continuous opposition to the proposed mega housing project at Karapur, villagers and environmental activists staged a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, seeking the Centre's intervention and demanding that the project be scrapped.

The demonstration was organised to draw national attention to concerns over the



project's potential impact on the environment, local livelihoods and the future of Karapur and nearby villages. Protesters said the movement

has remained peaceful but steadfast since it began. Environmental activist Dr. Swapnesh Sherlekar, advocate Ajay Prabhugaonkar

and several residents from Karapur and the neighbouring Sarvan area participated in the protest, expressing solidarity with the movement and reiterating their opposition to the proposed development.

Legal adviser to the Karapur villagers, advocate Ajay Prabhugaonkar, said the community's only demand is the complete withdrawal of the proposed mega housing project, which,

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

AAP Goa Chief Valmiki Naik Joins Karapur Protesters At Jantar Mantar

Extends Support To 100-Day Agitation, Says Party Will Scrap Mega Project Permissions If Voted To Power



Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa President Valmiki Naik joined the Karapur villagers and activists at Jantar Mantar, extending

his support to the ongoing protest against the proposed mega project, which completed 100 days.

Naik stood in solidarity with the

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Goa Avoided Open Market Borrowings In First Quarter, Says CM Sawant

Team Goemkarponn



PORVORIM: Chief Minister Dr Pramod

Sawant on Monday said Goa has not resorted to Open Market Borrowings in the first quarter of the current financial year, describing it as a reflection of the State's robust fiscal consolidation and prudent financial management.

Sawant made the remarks while chairing a Finance Review Meeting at Mantralaya in the presence of the Chief Secretary, Secretaries, Collectors and Heads of various departments.

The meeting reviewed the State's fiscal performance for FY 2025-26 and the first quarter of the current financial year. Officials also assessed borrowings through the Open Market and NABARD, implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and new Central schemes, the functioning of the Goa State CSR Authority, projects under Climate Resilient Funding and the progress of major infrastructure projects across the State.

Two Colvale Students Hospitalised After Allegedly Consuming Multiple Iron Tablets

Girls Mistakenly Took Five Tablets Each Instead Of Weekly Dose, Both Reported Stable

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Two girl students from a higher secondary school in Colvale were admitted to the Mapusa District Hospital after they allegedly consumed five iron tablets each instead of taking the prescribed one tablet per week



under a school health programme.

According to sources, the iron tablets had been distributed to students as part of a government health initiative. The two students reportedly consumed five tablets each, believing they had to be taken at once.

Soon after, both

girls began vomiting and complained of uneasiness, prompting school authorities to rush them to the Mapusa District Hospital for medical treatment.

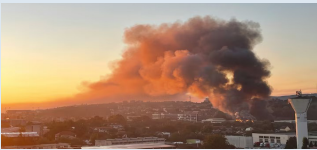
Hospital sources said the students are in stable condition and have been kept under observation as a precaution.

US-Iran Tensions Escalate As Tehran Claims Strike On American Drone Fleet In Bahrain

Fresh exchanges of fire across the Gulf deepen regional instability and raise concerns over the security of the Strait of Hormuz

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The conflict between the United States and Iran intensified sharply on Sunday after both sides launched fresh military strikes across the Gulf region, escalating tensions over the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz. Iran claimed it had destroyed part of the US military's drone fleet stationed in Bahrain, while Washington announced



a new wave of precision strikes targeting Iranian military infrastructure. The US Central Command said its forces struck dozens of targets across multiple locations in Iran to weaken Tehran's ability to threaten international shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The operation reportedly targeted air defence systems, coastal

radar installations, missile and drone capabilities, as well as small naval vessels. American forces also deployed one way attack aerial and sea drones during the operation, marking their first use in the ongoing conflict. US President Donald Trump said the strikes inflicted significant damage, adding that Iran's military infrastructure had been hit hard during the latest operation.

WE ARE HIRING!

Join our team!

NEWSPAPER DESIGNER

What You'll Do:

- Experience in InDesign software
- Experience in Newspaper designing
- Knowledge of Canva
- Work on shift

SALE EXECUTIVE

What You'll Do:

- Freshers and experienced candidates can apply.
- Excellent communication skill
- Prepare advertising proposals, quotations, and follow up with clients.

How to Apply:

Send your portfolio + resume to [our email/DM] Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for a quick test edit.

Why Join Us?

- Work with a dynamic and creative team
- Opportunities to grow
- Be part of impactful journalism & media

APPLY NOW

SEND YOUR CV TO: > goemkarponnnews@gmail.com

CALL US: > +91 89568 93882

Unity Is Welcome, But Results Must Follow

The resolution of the internal dispute within the United Tribals Associations

Alliance (UTAA) comes as a welcome development for Goa's Scheduled Tribe community. For months, disagreements within the organisation had threatened to weaken a movement that is both historic and politically significant. The decision by rival groups to set aside differences and work together under a common platform is not merely an organisational adjustment. It is a crucial step towards ensuring that the long-pending demand for political representation remains strong and focused.

The significance of the UTAA extends beyond the organisation itself. It has emerged as the principal voice advocating political reservation for Scheduled Tribes in the Goa Legislative Assembly. At a time when tribal communities are seeking a greater role in the state's political decision-making process, internal divisions could have seriously undermined the credibility and effectiveness of the movement.

The decision to carry forward the struggle jointly under the UTAA banner sends a positive message. It demonstrates an understanding that personal differences and organisational rivalries cannot be allowed to overshadow a larger cause affecting thousands of tribal citizens across Goa.

Political reservation has been one of the most debated issues concerning Goa's Scheduled Tribe population. While the community secured Scheduled Tribe status decades ago, representation in the Assembly has remained a contentious matter. Many tribal leaders have consistently argued that without reserved seats, the community's concerns often fail to receive adequate attention in legislative discussions and policy decisions.

The passage of the Goa Political Reservation Act, 2025, was seen as a major milestone. However, legislation alone does not guarantee implementation. The real challenge lies in ensuring that the provisions of the law translate into actual political representation. This requires continuous engagement with the government, legal

"The decision to carry forward the struggle jointly under the UTAA banner sends a positive message. It demonstrates an understanding that personal differences and organisational rivalries cannot be allowed to overshadow a larger cause affecting thousands of tribal citizens across Goa."

Political reservation has been one of the most debated issues concerning Goa's Scheduled Tribe population. While the community secured Scheduled Tribe status decades ago, representation in the Assembly has remained a contentious matter. Many tribal leaders have consistently argued that without reserved seats, the community's concerns often fail to receive adequate attention in legislative discussions and policy decisions."

preparedness, public mobilisation and strategic advocacy.

It is here that a united UTAA can make a difference.

The formation of an interim Working Committee headed by Prakash Shankar Velip is a practical measure to ensure continuity until formal elections are held. However, the committee's success will depend not on titles or positions but on its ability to maintain transparency, inclusiveness and accountability.

The alliance must avoid repeating the mistakes that led to internal conflict in the first place. Leadership struggles and organisational disputes often consume valuable energy that should instead be directed towards

community welfare and policy advocacy. Tribal organisations across India have often suffered setbacks because internal disagreements overshadowed larger objectives. Goa's tribal movement cannot afford a similar fate.

The newly reunited leadership must also recognise that the demand for political reservation is only one aspect of the community's aspirations. Issues such as education, employment, land rights, healthcare, infrastructure and economic opportunities continue to affect tribal populations in various parts of the state. A strong and united UTAA has the opportunity to become a broader platform addressing these concerns alongside the reservation issue.

Another challenge will be maintaining unity when political pressures inevitably emerge. As elections approach, various political parties will seek support from tribal communities and leaders. The UTAA's credibility will depend on its ability to remain focused on community interests rather than becoming a battleground for partisan politics.

The alliance must also engage younger tribal voices. Many young members of the community are educated, politically aware and eager to participate in public affairs. Their involvement can bring fresh ideas, energy and long-term sustainability to the movement.

For the government, the message from the UTAA's reconciliation should be clear. A united tribal leadership is likely to pursue implementation of the Goa Political Reservation Act with greater determination. Authorities must engage constructively and transparently with the organisation rather than allowing the issue to linger in uncertainty.

The reunion of the UTAA is undoubtedly a positive development. But unity, by itself, is not an achievement. It is an opportunity. The true measure of success will be whether this renewed solidarity leads to tangible progress for Goa's Scheduled Tribe community.

The divisions may have ended. Now begins the harder task of delivering results.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Students Deserve Better Than Worms on Their Plates

Suraj Nandrekar

The discovery of worms in food served at Goa University's hostel mess is more than a hygiene lapse. It is a betrayal of the trust that students place in an institution responsible for their welfare. For hundreds of young men and women living away from home, the university is not just a place of learning. It is their home, and the food served there is often their only source of daily nutrition. When that food becomes a health hazard, students are the ones who pay the price.

Every parent who sends a child to a university hostel expects the institution to provide a safe environment. That expectation includes clean drinking water, secure accommodation and hygienic food. These are not privileges. They are basic responsibilities. Students should never have to inspect every meal for fear of contamination.

The incident raises serious questions about the systems in place to monitor food quality. Worms do not appear on a plate by accident. Such contamination indicates failures in procurement, storage, preparation and supervision. Somewhere along the chain, multiple checks failed, allowing food unfit for consumption to be served to students.

While the contractor has been suspended, the issue cannot be viewed solely as the contractor's failure. Educational institutions that outsource food services cannot outsource accountability. The responsibility ultimately rests with the authorities entrusted with student welfare. If students are eating unsafe food, then the monitoring mechanism is clearly inadequate.

Hostel students are among the most vulnerable members of any campus community. Unlike day scholars, they cannot simply return home for a meal. They depend entirely on the hostel mess. For many students, especially those from distant parts of Goa and other states, the mess is their only practical dining option. This dependence makes it even more important for institutions to maintain the highest standards of food safety.

The incident should also remind administrators that student complaints are often early warning signals. Across campuses, food quality concerns are sometimes dismissed as routine dissatisfaction. Yet students are the first to notice declining standards. Their observations should be treated as valuable feedback rather than inconvenience. Institutions that listen to students are often able to prevent crises before they occur.

What students need now is reassurance that this will not happen again. That reassurance cannot come from statements alone. It must be backed by visible reforms. Regular inspections, independent audits, stricter hygiene checks and transparent grievance mechanisms are essential. Students should also have a formal role in monitoring mess operations so that concerns can be addressed immediately.

Beyond the immediate issue of food safety lies a larger question about the quality of student life. Universities often focus on academic rankings, infrastructure projects and institutional achievements. While these are important, they cannot come at the expense of basic student welfare. A world-class institution is not defined only by classrooms and laboratories. It is also defined by how well it cares for the people who live and study within its campus.

The worms found in a meal may have triggered outrage, but the real concern is what they reveal about oversight and accountability. Students deserve better than apologies after a crisis. They deserve systems that prevent such crises from happening in the first place.

Goa University has taken immediate action, which is necessary. But the real test lies ahead. The institution must use this incident as an opportunity to strengthen safeguards and rebuild confidence among students and parents alike.

Students come to university to pursue education, develop skills and build their future. They should not have to worry whether the next meal they are served is safe to eat. At the very least, every student deserves food that is clean, hygienic and fit for human consumption. Anything less is a failure of duty.

Goa Monsoon Loses Momentum As Rainfall Deficit Nears 30%

■ Reservoir Levels Improve After Early July Showers, But Fresh Dry Spell Raises Water Security Concerns

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The southwest monsoon has weakened once again over Goa, with rainfall activity remaining below normal and weather conditions expected to stay largely subdued over the next week. While recent showers have helped replenish several reservoirs, officials say the State cannot afford to become complacent as rainfall continues to lag behind seasonal averages.



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast only light to moderate rain across Goa over the next seven days and has not issued any

weather alerts. Rainfall has declined steadily over the past few days, indicating a pause in monsoon

activity after a brief revival earlier this month.

Data released by the IMD shows Goa has received 906.3 mm of rainfall since the onset of the monsoon against the

normal seasonal average of 1,288.3 mm, leaving the State with a deficit of nearly 30 per cent.

Sanguem recorded the highest rainfall during the past 24 hours, followed by Quepem and Valpoi, while most other parts of the State experienced only scattered light showers.

Although rainfall has weakened again, reservoir storage has improved significantly compared to the worrying situation witnessed at the end of June.



NITI Aayog Suggests Sweeping Reforms To Boost Goa's Tourism Industry

■ Think Tank Recommends Longer Bar Licence Validity, Single Hotel Liquor Permit And Simpler Homestay Registration

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: NITI Aayog has proposed a series of regulatory reforms aimed at making Goa's tourism and hospitality sector more business-friendly by reducing paperwork, lowering compliance costs and simplifying approval procedures for hotels, restaurants and homestay operators. In its report, Unlocking Growth in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector, the national policy think tank has recommended that the Goa government extend the validity of bar licences from one year to five years. It has also urged the State Excise Department

to revise the existing excise laws to create a more efficient licensing system. The report points out that annual licence renewals place a recurring administrative and financial burden on businesses without necessarily improving compliance. It argues that regular inspections and strict enforcement are more effective tools for ensuring adherence to regulations than yearly renewals. Goa is currently among a handful of states where bar licences are renewed every year, with licence fees varying according to the category of establishment.



Goa Halfway To Renewable Goal, But Far From Energy Independence

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has made steady progress towards its renewable energy ambitions, achieving nearly half of its 2030 clean energy target. However, despite the gains, the State remains a long way from generating enough electricity to meet its own needs, with the bulk of its power still being sourced from outside Goa.

Official figures show Goa has installed 73.43 MW of renewable energy capacity against its target of 150 MW by 2030. While this marks significant progress in expanding clean energy infrastructure, the capacity remains small when compared to the State's peak electricity demand of around 750 MW.

The growth has been driven primarily by rooftop solar systems, which account for nearly 64 MW of the installed renewable capacity. Increased participation by households, commercial establishments and institutions has helped Goa make rapid gains over the past few years.

Major Fire Destroys Four Commercial Establishments In Rivona

■ Two restaurants among the affected businesses; no casualties reported, cause under investigation

Team Goemkarponn

RIVONA: A major fire broke out in Rivona, Sanguem, gutting four commercial establishments, including two restaurants, and causing extensive property damage.

According to officials, the blaze spread rapidly through the commercial area, prompting an immediate response from the Fire and Emergency Services. Firefighters rushed to the spot and



launched an intensive operation to contain the flames.

After battling the fire

for several hours, the fire personnel successfully brought the blaze under control, preventing it from spreading to nearby buildings and averting further damage.

No casualties or injuries have been reported in the incident. However, the fire caused significant damage to the affected establishments.

The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, and an investigation has been initiated.

Margao Fire Exposes Failure To Deliver On Fire Safety Promises: Prabhav Naik

■ Madganvcho Awaaz Blames PWD Minister Digambar Kamat For Non-Functional Fire Hydrants, Seeks Accountability

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Madganvcho Awaaz youth leader Prabhav Naik on Monday alleged that the fire incident in Margao exposed the failure of Margao MLA and PWD Minister Digambar Kamat to fulfil repeated promises of improving fire safety infrastructure in the town. Naik said the organisation had consistently highlighted concerns over the lack



of functional fire hydrants and delays in completing the promised fire safety measures. He claimed that the latest incident vindicated issues raised by Madganvcho Awaaz on April 20, 2025, and again on April 4, 2026.

Referring to a fire at Prime New Market on

December 26, 2023, Naik said Kamat had then announced the construction of a dedicated water tank and installation of fire hydrants to improve emergency preparedness.

He added that similar assurances were made after the Gandhi Market fire on April 19, 2025. According to Naik, more than two years have passed since the initial announcement, but the promised water tank and fully functional fire hydrant

network have not been completed. He alleged that the absence of these facilities affected the response during the latest fire.

Naik further said Madganvcho Awaaz had, after another fire at the New Market on April 4, 2026, questioned the manner in which fire hydrant pipelines were being laid and warned that delays in completing the project could have serious consequences

during emergencies. Demanding accountability, Naik called on the authorities to explain why the fire hydrants were non-functional during the incident and identify those responsible for the delay in commissioning the fire hydrant network.

He also urged the government to complete the dedicated water tank and fire safety infrastructure without any further delay.

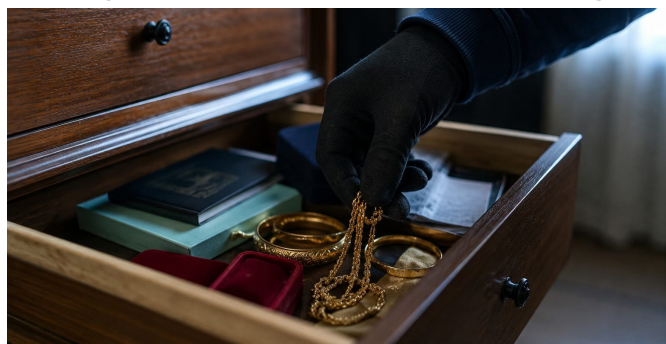
Daughter-in-Law Booked for ₹17.56 Lakh Theft in Canacona

■ Woman accused of stealing gold ornaments, valuables and documents from family home in Mashem village

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A woman has been booked by Canacona Police for allegedly stealing gold ornaments, valuables and important documents collectively worth ₹17.56 lakh from her in-laws' residence at Dapot in Mashem, Canacona.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by Julie Carneiro, a resident of Chicalim, Vasco,



originally from Dapot, Mashem. She alleged that prior to October 27, 2024, her daughter-in-law, Tamsin Sabina Tellis, a

resident of Malad West, Mumbai, committed the theft from the family house. The complainant stated that the accused

allegedly removed gold ornaments, valuables and documents belonging to her, her daughter and her son without their knowledge or consent. The total value of the stolen property has been estimated at ₹17,56,440.

Canacona Police have registered a case in connection with the alleged theft. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Ajit Velip.



Facebook Investment Scam: Marcel Man Loses ₹3.52 Lakh to Fraudsters

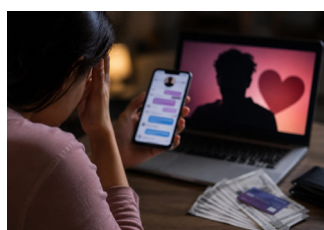
■ Victim allegedly duped after responding to investment advertisement promising high returns on Facebook

Team Goemkarponn

MARCEL: A resident of Marcel in Ponda was allegedly cheated of ₹3.52 lakh in an online investment scam after responding to a Facebook advertisement that promised high returns.

According to Mardol Police, complainant Shameer Devagiri, a resident near Holy Family Church, Marcel, originally from Haveri, Karnataka, stated that between January 1, 2025 and July 6, 2026, he came across an investment advertisement on

Facebook and contacted the mobile number mentioned in it. The accused allegedly assured the complainant that his money would be invested and would generate substantial profits. Trusting the promise, Devagiri transferred a total of ₹3,52,000 through multiple online transactions from his bank account. After a few months, the accused allegedly became unreachable and the promised returns were never received, prompting the complainant to approach the police.



Instagram Friendship Scam: Woman Duped of ₹3.38 Lakh in Online Fraud

Team Goemkarponn

SALCETE: A woman from Salcete was allegedly cheated of ₹3.38 lakh after an unknown person befriended her on Instagram, developed an online relationship and fraudulently obtained money on the pretext of financial hardship.

According to Margao Town Police, the complainant, whose identity has been withheld, stated that between March 18 and May 31, 2026, she received an Instagram friend request from the accused, which she accepted. Police said the accused gradually developed an online relationship with the complainant through Instagram chats before exchanging mobile numbers. He allegedly claimed to be facing various personal financial difficulties and repeatedly sought monetary assistance. Believing the representations to be genuine, the complainant transferred a total of ₹3,38,000 through multiple UPI transactions to different bank accounts and UPI IDs as instructed by the accused.

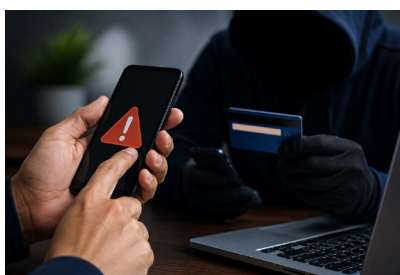
Malicious APK Download Costs Navelim Man ₹1.96 Lakh

■ Cyber fraudster allegedly gains access to victim's mobile phone and bank account through fake app

Team Goemkarponn

NAVELIM: A Navelim resident has allegedly lost ₹1.96 lakh in a cyber fraud after downloading a malicious APK file disguised as a KUKU TV application on his mobile phone.

According to Margao Town Police, complainant Harculano Rebelo, a resident of Navelim, Salcete, stated that between 11:21 a.m. on May 20, 2026, and 11:55 a.m. on May 21, 2026, he was scrolling on his



mobile phone when he came across a KUKU TV application in APK format and clicked on it. Police said the APK file began downloading, prompting the complainant to suspect it was malicious. Although he immediately backed out, his mobile phone

reportedly became unresponsive. Investigators said an unknown person allegedly gained unauthorised access to the complainant's mobile device

and online banking application through the malicious APK file. The accused then carried out an unauthorised online transfer of ₹1,96,000 from the complainant's bank account without his consent, causing wrongful financial loss.

Pedestrian Seriously Injured After Ola Electric Scooter Hits Her in Bicholim

■ Police book 29-year-old rider for rash and negligent driving after woman suffers grievous leg injuries

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A 40-year-old woman sustained grievous injuries after she was allegedly knocked down by an Ola Electric scooter near Tople Restaurant at Valshi, Mulgao, in Bicholim on Friday evening.

According to Bicholim Police, the accident occurred at around 7.30 p.m. on July 10, when Prathamesh Naik (29), a



resident of Shivolkarwada, Mulgao, was riding an Ola Electric scooter (GA-04-Z-3375) from Bicholim towards Mulgao.

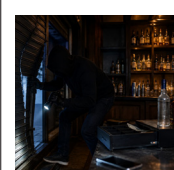
Patil (40), a resident of Shirodwadi, Mulgao, who was crossing the road from the right to the left side.

Police said the rider allegedly drove the scooter in a rash and negligent manner and hit pedestrian Anita

The impact left the victim with grievous injuries to her left leg along with other bodily injuries. She was initially shifted to CHC Bicholim in a 108 ambulance and was later referred to GMC Bambolim, where she is undergoing treatment. During the investigation, police recorded the statement of the injured woman. A notice under Section 35(3) has been issued to the accused rider.

Panaji Bar Burglary Accused Arrested in Mapusa

Team Goemkarponn



MAPUSA: A man accused of burgling a bar in

Panaji and stealing cash, liquor bottles and a mobile phone worth ₹35,300 has been arrested by Mapusa Police and will be brought to Panaji on a transfer warrant. According to Panaji Police, the complaint was lodged by Uday Bhandari (25), a resident of Oitem, Taleigao.

UTAA Ends Internal Rift, Unites for ST Political Reservation

■ Prakash Velip named interim President as tribal organisations resolve to jointly pursue implementation of Goa Political Reservation Act

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The United Tribals Associations Alliance (UTAA) has resolved its internal dispute, with the former Executive Committee and the complainant associations reaching a consensus to work together for the welfare of Goa's Scheduled Tribe community. The breakthrough was achieved through mutual understanding, with all tribal leaders agreeing to



strengthen the Alliance and jointly safeguard the collective interests of the Scheduled Tribe community. In a significant decision, the Alliance unanimously resolved that the movement for political reservation for Scheduled Tribes in the Goa Legislative Assembly would henceforth be

carried out jointly under the banner of the UTAA. The organisation also reaffirmed its commitment to continue pursuing the implementation of the Goa Political Reservation Act, 2025, through coordinated follow-up with the government. To ensure the smooth functioning of the Alliance

until elections are held in accordance with its bye-laws, an interim Working Committee has been constituted. Prakash Shankar Velip has been appointed as the interim President. The other office-bearers include Govind Shirodkar and Adv. Joao (John) Fernandes as Vice-Presidents, Vishwas Gaude as Secretary, Shrikant Gaonkar as Joint Secretary, Ravindra Velip as Convenor and Namdev Fatarpekar as Co-Convenor.

New Team Elected to Lead 127th Damodar Bhajani Saptah in Vasco

■ Bharat Kolgaonkar unanimously chosen as President as first-time office-bearers take charge of century-old religious festival

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: A new team will lead the 127th Damodar Bhajani Saptah, with Bharat Kolgaonkar unanimously elected as President of the Damodar Bhajani Saptah Utsav Committee during the annual general body meeting held at the Shri Damodar Temple in Vasco on Sunday.

Prashant Lotlikar was unanimously elected as Vice-President, Prakash Gawas as Secretary and Suresh Naik as Treasurer. Notably, all the newly elected office-bearers are first-time members of the Saptah Utsav Committee, signalling a new generation of leadership

for one of Vasco's oldest and most revered religious festivals. More than 200 members attended the meeting and unanimously approved the new committee, formally initiating preparations for this year's Damodar Bhajani Saptah.

Addressing the gathering, Central Committee President Prashant Joshi said the committee would coordinate closely with the district administration, Goa Police, Fire and Emergency Services, the Health Department and other government agencies to ensure the festival is conducted smoothly, safely and peacefully.



Youth Congress Slams State Of Sports Infrastructure In Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Youth Congress leader Vaishnav Pednekar has criticised the condition of sports infrastructure in Canacona and across Goa, accusing Canacona MLA and Sports Minister Ramesh Tawadkar of failing to improve basic facilities despite heading the Sports Department.

Speaking to the media at the Karvem-Gaondongrim ground, Pednekar highlighted the poor condition of several playgrounds, including the Karvem ground in Gaondongrim, Dapot-Maxem ground in Loliem-Polem, SAG Ground in Agonda, Potkem ground in Pinguinim and Devabhaga ground in Canacona.

Pednekar said the neglected playgrounds and inadequate infrastructure were adversely affecting young athletes and sports enthusiasts. He questioned how sports facilities had remained in poor condition despite the minister holding the sports portfolio.

Congress Demands Supreme Court-Monitored Probe into Alleged Ram Mandir Donation Scam

■ Rajani Patil accuses BJP, RSS and VHP of silence, seeks arrest of Ram Mandir Trust chief over alleged financial irregularities

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Congress on demanded a Supreme Court-monitored judicial inquiry into the alleged financial irregularities involving donations made to the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, alleging that the matter amounted to an organised loot of public contributions. Addressing a press conference at Congress House in Panaji,



former MP and AICC In-charge for Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh Rajani Patil alleged that people had donated their hard-earned money for the construction of the

Ram Mandir, but those contributions had been misused. She held the BJP, RSS and VHP accountable and sought their response over the allegations.

Queleossim Panchayat to Challenge Floating Resort Project

■ MLA Anton Vas says proposed recreational platform will not be allowed; Gram Sabha resolves to pursue legal action

Team Goemkarponn

QUELEOSSIM: The Queleossim Village Panchayat has decided to challenge the proposed floating recreational platform and resort project, with Cortalim MLA Anton Vas declaring that the development "will not be allowed under any circumstances."

The decision was taken during an Extraordinary Gram



Sabha convened on Sunday to discuss the provisional No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued for M/s Movaj Enterprises' proposal to establish a floating recreational platform, park and resort on Survey No. 170/0 in

Queleossim village.

The meeting, attended by MLA Anton Vas, Panchayat members, local residents and the parish priest of Queleossim Church, witnessed strong opposition to the project. Villagers raised

concerns over its potential environmental and ecological impact and urged the Panchayat to take all legal steps to prevent its implementation.

After detailed deliberations, the Gram Sabha resolved to challenge the provisional NOC by filing an appeal before the appropriate authority.

NSUI Flags Safety Hazards On Canacona Bypass Road

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA:

NSUI Canacona President Harsh Dessai has urged the government to take immediate action to address safety concerns along the Manohar Parrikar Canacona Bypass Road (MPCBR), citing damaged roadside infrastructure and poor lighting. Dessai alleged that several roadside railings along the four-lane bypass have become dangerously rusted, with some sections.



India's Theatre Command Reform Nears Final Approval After Two Decades

■ Integrated military command proposal expected to reach Defence Minister Rajnath Singh later this month, marking a major step towards joint warfare

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's long awaited plan to reorganise its armed forces into integrated theatre commands is nearing a crucial milestone, with the proposal expected to be presented to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh later this month. If approved, the reform would represent the most significant restructuring of India's military since Independence.

The proposal, which has been under discussion for nearly two decades, has gained momentum following the appointment of General N.S. Raja Subramani as the Chief of Defence Staff. Officials indicate that the blueprint is now in its final stages, with only a few operational and administrative issues remaining before it is forwarded for government approval. Under the proposed structure, the Army, Navy and Air Force would operate through unified theatre commands instead of functioning independently. The plan envisions three major commands, one focused on the northern border with China, another on the western front with Pakistan and a maritime command responsible



for safeguarding India's coastline and surrounding waters. Each command would be headed by a four star officer responsible for coordinating operations across all three services.

The reform aims to improve operational efficiency by enabling faster and more integrated responses during modern conflicts, where land, sea, air, cyber and space operations increasingly overlap. Defence planners believe the existing service specific

command structure limits the armed forces' ability to respond swiftly during joint military operations.

One of the key issues still being finalised is the division of responsibilities between service chiefs and theatre commanders. While the Army, Navy and Air Force chiefs would continue to oversee force generation, including recruitment, training and equipment, theatre commanders would assume operational control during missions and conflicts.

Once cleared by the

Defence Minister, the proposal will require approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security before implementation begins. If the plan receives final approval, India will join countries such as the United States and China in adopting integrated theatre commands. Defence officials expect the transition to take several years as new command structures are established, personnel are reassigned and military doctrine evolves to support the new system.

India's First Bullet Train Could Begin Running By Independence Day 2027, Says Vaishnaw

■ Surat to Bilimora section set to become the country's first operational high speed rail corridor

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's first bullet train could begin carrying passengers by Independence Day 2027, with the Surat to Bilimora section of the Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Rail corridor expected to become the country's first operational high speed rail route. Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that the landmark project will be commissioned in phases as construction progresses.

The 508 kilometre Mumbai Ahmedabad bullet train corridor, India's first high speed rail project, is now around 80 percent complete. According to the Railway Minister, the Surat to Bilimora stretch will be the first section to open, followed by the Vapi to Surat, Vapi to Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad to Thane and Ahmedabad to Mumbai sections in a phased rollout.

The ambitious project is expected to dramatically reduce travel time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad while enhancing connectivity with Surat, one of the country's key commercial centres. It will also introduce advanced high speed rail technology and strengthen regional

transportation infrastructure.

Looking beyond the Mumbai Ahmedabad corridor, Vaishnaw outlined the Centre's plans to expand India's bullet train network across the country. Three proposed high speed rail corridors with Hyderabad as a major hub are being planned, including Pune to Hyderabad, Hyderabad to Chennai and Hyderabad to Bengaluru. A Hyderabad to Mumbai bullet train corridor is also on the drawing board and is expected to significantly cut travel time between the two cities.

The minister said these projects would transform connectivity across Telangana and improve links between several districts in the state.

Vaishnaw also highlighted the government's broader railway modernisation programme, stating that 261 railway stations are being upgraded under the Nav Nirmaan initiative with improved passenger amenities and modern infrastructure. In Telangana, major stations such as Secunderabad, Begumpet and HITEC City are among those undergoing redevelopment as part of the nationwide transformation of the rail network.



Karapur Mega Project Protest Completes 100 Days, Demonstration Held At Jantar Mantar

he said, is being strongly opposed by local residents.

Dr. Swapnesh Sherlekar announced that the 'Enough is Enough' movement will hold a parallel solidarity protest at Azad Maidan in Panaji on July 13 at 5 pm in support of the demonstrators at Jantar Mantar. He appealed to Goans to participate peacefully, stating that the movement aims to prevent environmental degradation and oppose policies which, according to the protesters, prioritise the interests of outsiders over those of local communities.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

The protesters said they want to draw attention to what they described as the Goa government's failure to address the villagers' demand to scrap the project. They also alleged that both the state authorities and the project proponent have failed to respond positively despite the prolonged agitation.

President of the Karapur Biodiversity Management Committee, Gauresh Ghadi, said the villagers were compelled to take their protest to the national capital after receiving no favourable response from the Goa Government during the 100-day-long movement.

The protesters warned that if their demands continue to be ignored, the agitation will be intensified in the coming days, while reaffirming their commitment to a peaceful and

democratic movement.

AAP Goa Chief Valmiki Naik Joins Karapur Protesters At Jantar Mantar

protesters, who have taken their agitation to the national capital to press for the complete withdrawal of the proposed project. During the protest, AAP reiterated its stand that if the party comes to power in Goa, it will cancel permissions granted to mega projects that face strong opposition from local communities. Party sources also said that senior AAP national leaders are expected to join the Karapur protesters in New Delhi in the coming days to express their support for the movement.

'No Deal Better Than A Bad Deal': India Holds Firm In Trade Talks With US

■ New Delhi refuses to compromise on key sectors as stronger economy and expanding global partnerships boost its negotiating position

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has decided against rushing into an interim trade agreement with the United States, signalling that it is prepared to wait rather than accept a deal that does not adequately safeguard its national interests. Despite months of negotiations and expectations of a breakthrough during the recent visit of US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer to New Delhi, both countries remained divided



on several key issues, preventing an agreement from being finalised. India has maintained a firm stance on its core demands, including preferential tariff treatment over competing exporters, protection against future tariff hikes and

safeguarding politically sensitive sectors such as agriculture. The government has

made it clear that it will not compromise on these priorities simply to conclude a quick agreement. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has also indicated that any trade pact with the United States will move forward only if it

delivers clear advantages for India. Although the US is expected to introduce higher tariffs on several imports later this month, Indian officials believe the country's improving economic position provides greater flexibility during negotiations. India's exports recorded strong growth during the April to June quarter, supported by rising petroleum shipments and recovering trade with Gulf nations, while exports to the United States also increased.



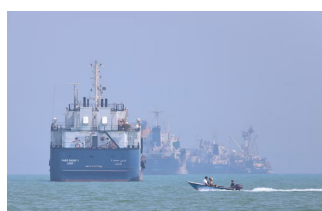
'If Not Delhi, Should We Go To The White House?': Omar Abdullah Renews Statehood Demand

■ J&K Chief Minister questions BJP's criticism of National Conference's Delhi protest, vows to continue campaign for restoration of statehood

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday renewed his party's demand for the restoration of statehood, questioning the Bharatiya Janata Party's objection to the National Conference's proposed protest in New Delhi. Addressing the party's 'Chalo Delhi' rally in Jammu, Abdullah asked where his party should raise the issue if it was being criticised for planning a demonstration at Jantar Mantar. He remarked that if seeking justice in the country's capital was not acceptable, the BJP should clarify where the

demand for statehood should be made. The National Conference has intensified its campaign for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, asserting that the issue remains a key commitment that the Centre must fulfil. Abdullah also responded to criticism over reports that Mirwaiz Umar Farooq had been invited to participate in the proposed protest. He questioned what he described as contradictory claims by the BJP, pointing out that the party had repeatedly stated that separatism had ended in J&K while simultaneously referring to Mirwaiz as a separatist.



One Indian Missing, 10 Rescued After Ship Attacked In Strait Of Hormuz

NEW DELHI: One Indian national remains missing after a Cyprus flagged commercial vessel came under attack in the Strait of Hormuz off the coast of Oman, prompting a major search and rescue operation amid escalating tensions in the Middle East.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, 10 of the 11 Indian crew members aboard the vessel, GFS Galaxy, have been rescued, while efforts are continuing to locate the missing Indian national. The Indian Embassy in Oman is closely coordinating with Omani authorities and monitoring the rescue operation.

The vessel reportedly caught fire after sustaining heavy damage during the attack, forcing crew members to abandon ship. Iran defended the strike by claiming the vessel had taken an unauthorised route before announcing the closure of the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes.

Supreme Court Stays Madras High Court Order On Cow Slaughter Ban In Tamil Nadu

■ Vijay government argues High Court directive contradicted existing law, apex court grants interim relief

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed a Madras High Court order directing the Tamil Nadu government to prohibit the slaughter of cows and calves across the state, observing that the directive required correction.

The interim relief came after the Tamil Nadu government, led by Chief



Minister Vijay, challenged the High Court's May 27 order through a Special Leave Petition. The government had argued that the directive conflicted with the provisions of the existing law governing cattle slaughter in the

state.

According to the state government, the relevant legislation permits the slaughter of certain categories of cattle at authorised locations under specified conditions. It contended that a judicial direction imposing a blanket ban could not override the statutory framework established by the legislature.

NIA Moves To Pursue In Absentia Trial Against Hafiz Saeed In Pahalgam Terror Case

■ Agency plans to seek proclaimed offender status under new criminal law, aiming to strengthen India's case against Lashkar e Taiba chief internationally

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is preparing to initiate legal proceedings to try Lashkar e Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed in absentia in connection with the Pahalgam terror attack, marking the first major use of provisions introduced under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. According to



sources, the agency will first approach the Special Court seeking non bailable warrants against Saeed before requesting that he be declared a proclaimed offender. The move is expected to pave

the way for an in absentia trial if he fails to appear before the court.

Officials believe the proceedings will establish a comprehensive judicial record by documenting every legal step, including the issuance of warrants, summons and formal notices. The objective is to ensure that any eventual conviction is legally

robust and capable of withstanding international scrutiny.

As part of the process, the court's proclamation is expected to be routed through the Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs before being formally conveyed to Pakistan via the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. The NIA also plans to issue court summons and Letters Rogatory seeking Pakistan's cooperation.

Any failure to respond or comply will become part of the official judicial record.

The agency intends to record evidence electronically during the proceedings, allowing the trial to continue despite Saeed's absence. Investigators believe a conviction by an Indian court would carry greater legal weight internationally than diplomatic dossiers alone.

Minerva Academy Ends Helsinki Heartbreak, Lifts Historic Title In Finland

■ Indian youth side defeats defending champions HJK to complete redemption story and add another European trophy to its growing collection

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Minerva Academy FC scripted another historic chapter in Indian youth football by defeating defending champions HJK 1-0 in the final to win the 2026 Helsinki Cup in Finland. The Chandigarh based academy claimed the prestigious title a year after finishing runners up in the same tournament,



completing a remarkable redemption story. The victory marked another milestone in Minerva's growing dominance on the European youth football circuit. After narrowly

missing out on the Helsinki Cup title last year despite an unbeaten run to the final, the academy returned determined to finish the job and secured the one major European

youth trophy that had previously eluded them.

Minerva dominated the competition from start to finish, scoring more than 50 goals during an extraordinary campaign. The team opened with a 6-1 win over FC Valtti before recording emphatic victories over Helsingin Palloseura and EBK, including an 11-0 triumph in which T. Kipgen scored six goals.



'Every Nation Should Be Allowed To Dream': FIFA Considers Expanding World Cup To 64 Teams

■ Gianni Infantino says governing body will examine proposal for a larger tournament ahead of the historic 2030 edition

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: FIFA President Gianni Infantino has confirmed that world football's governing body will examine a proposal to expand the FIFA World Cup from 48 to 64 teams for the 2030 tournament, saying the move would give more nations the opportunity to compete on football's biggest stage. The proposal will be discussed by FIFA's relevant committees after the conclusion of the 2026 World Cup, which will already feature an expanded 48 team format for the first time. The tournament, to be hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, marks the first increase in participating

teams since the competition expanded from 24 to 32 nations in 1998. Speaking about the possibility of another expansion, Infantino said every country should have the chance to dream of qualifying for the World Cup. He noted that the overall standard of football continues to improve across the globe and believes offering more nations an opportunity to participate would encourage further development of the sport. The FIFA chief also described the decision to increase the tournament to 48 teams as a complete success, expressing confidence that the expanded format would strengthen the competition.



Gautam Gambhir's Support Staff Faces Uncertainty After England Debacle. BCCI Unhappy With This Coach: Report

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India head coach Gautam Gambhir and his support staff have come under fire following back-to-back T20I series defeats to Ireland and England, respectively. The T20 world champions were humbled by Ireland in a two-match series last month, before suffering a heavy 4-0 loss to hosts England in a five-match series on Saturday. The defeats have put Gambhir and the team management under immense pressure heading into the three-match ODI series against England, starting Tuesday. According to a report, Gambhir's assistant Ryan ten Doeschate and bowling coach Morne Morkel are contemplating moving on from their roles once their contracts end after the upcoming three-match ODI series.

As per The Times of India, the BCCI is in discussion with the duo to sort out their futures.

GFDC Poira Centre Distributes Jerseys To Young Footballers, Boosts Grassroots Development

■ Speakers encourage budding players to stay disciplined, train consistently and aim for state and national success

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Sinquerim Sports Club GFDC Poira Centre organised a football jersey distribution programme at the Chowgule Company Ground on Wednesday, reinforcing its commitment to

nurturing young football talent through grassroots development.

The event was attended by Premendra Shet, Chairman of the Goa State Horticultural Corporation, as the chief guest. Also present were GFDC Assistant Technical Director Lawjyo Gomes,

Sinquerim Sports Club President Sunil Govekar, former Mayem Vaiguenim Sarpanch Vishwas Chodankar, Poira High School physical education teacher Alok Kouthambikar, Sesa Academy coach Anand Adpaikar and Centre Head Laxman Hadfadkar.



Aditya Kota's Century Not Enough As Goa Finishes Runner Up In U-19 Siechem Trophy

■ Kerala claims title with an 83 run victory despite a fighting hundred from Goa opener Aditya Kota in the final

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa finished as runners up in the Under 19 Multi Day Siechem Trophy after suffering an 83 run defeat against Kerala in the tournament final at the Siechem CAP Ground 2 in Puducherry.

Kerala, after electing to bat, posted a competitive total of 302 in 83.4 overs. Arjun S. Hari anchored the innings with a superb



130 off 192 deliveries, while Jaydev J. Nair chipped in with 36 runs to strengthen the total.

Goa's bowlers produced a disciplined effort despite the challenging conditions.

Afrid was the standout performer with impressive figures of 4 for 31 in 15.4 overs. Om Khandolkar picked up three wickets, while Mihir Kudalkar claimed two to prevent Kerala from posting an



even bigger score.

In reply, Goa's chase of 303 got off to a disappointing start as early wickets put the team under pressure. Opener Aditya Kota stood firm and produced a determined



century, scoring 107 from 163 balls with the help of 10 boundaries and a six. His innings kept Goa's hopes alive, but he received little support from the rest of the batting line up.