



Research Flags Mounting Environmental Risks to Chorao

■ Pollution, Shrinking Mangroves and Poorly Managed Tourism Threaten Ecological Balance, Study Finds

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chorao Island's delicate ecosystem is facing increasing pressure from pollution, habitat degradation and uncontrolled human activity, with a new study warning that stronger conservation measures are essential to safeguard the island's future.

The research, published in the Seagull Journal (Vol. 3, Issue 4, April 2026), examines the environmental and



economic impact of ecotourism in Chorao's marine protected area. The paper, authored by Ananya Agarwal and Bhoomik Munjal from the Amity School of Economics, Amity

University Uttar Pradesh, argues that although ecotourism has enhanced Chorao's reputation as a nature destination, its benefits have not been evenly shared because of fragmented governance and limited participation of local communities.

To assess Chorao's conservation efforts, the researchers compared the

island with internationally recognised marine protected areas such as Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the Galápagos Marine Reserve and Apo Island in the Philippines.

The study identifies industrial pollution as one of the major concerns, stating that toxic metals, including mercury and lead, are entering the Mandovi River from upstream industrial activity. These contaminants accumulate

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Goa To Become First State To Launch Doorstep Healthcare Under State Care Programme

Home-Based Medical Services, 19 New Healthcare Vehicles To Strengthen Emergency Response Across Goa



Team Goemkarponn

BAMBOLIM: Goa is set to become the first state in the country to roll out the State Care Programme, a landmark doorstep healthcare initiative that will deliver essential medical services directly to patients' homes, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane announced on Monday.

The programme will provide home-based physiotherapy, palliative care, geriatric care, stroke rehabilitation support, and transport facilities for patients undergoing dialysis and chemotherapy. The initiative aims to make quality healthcare more accessible, particularly for senior citizens, bedridden patients, and those requiring long-

Rane Says Karapur-Sarvan Issue Will Be Handled As Per Law

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Town and Country Planning (TCP) Minister Vishwajit Rane said he was unaware of the Karapur-Sarvan protest that reached New Delhi, remarking that he does not watch television, but assured that all decisions on the matter would be taken strictly in accordance with the law.

term medical care.

The announcement was made during the flagging-off ceremony of 19 new healthcare vehicles at Goa Medical College and Hospital

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06



"You And I Can't Check A Car's Mileage": Nitin Gadkari Defends E20 Fuel Amid Efficiency Debate

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has defended the Centre's E20 ethanol blended petrol programme, stating that vehicle owners cannot accurately determine their car's fuel efficiency on their own and should rely on tests conducted by authorised dealers. Speaking during a television interview, Gadkari responded to concerns raised by a journalist who claimed her car's mileage had dropped significantly after switching to E20 petrol. She said her 2023 model vehicle, which is designed to support E20 fuel, had seen its fuel efficiency decline from around 11 kilometres per litre to 7 kilometres per litre. When asked how she measured the mileage, she explained that she had relied on the vehicle's dashboard display. In response, Gadkari said that such readings should not be treated as conclusive.

HC Quashes Atala's Bail In NDPS Case, Orders Fresh Hearing

■ High Court sets aside North Goa NDPS Court's bail order, directs fresh consideration; interim protection from arrest to continue

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has quashed and set aside the bail granted to Yaniv Benahin Benaim, alias Atala, by the North Goa NDPS Court in a narcotics case registered by the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC).

Atala was arrested in April 2025 in connection



with the alleged possession of cocaine and charas. The North Goa NDPS Court had earlier granted him bail.

Allowing the challenge to the bail order, the High

Court directed the lower court to reconsider Atala's bail application afresh in accordance with law.

The High Court, however, clarified that Atala will not be taken into custody until the lower court decides the bail plea again, thereby granting him interim protection while the matter is reconsidered.

India Summons Iranian Envoy After Indian Seafarer Killed in Hormuz Tanker Strike

■ Government summons Iranian envoy as deadly tanker strike raises regional tensions

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has formally protested to Iran after an Indian crew member was killed and several others were injured in missile strikes targeting two United Arab Emirates linked oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. The Ministry of External Affairs summoned Iran's deputy chief of mission in New Delhi following the attack, marking a



sharp diplomatic response as tensions continue to escalate across West Asia. The two tankers, Mombasa and Al Bahiyah, were sailing through the southern passage of the Strait of Hormuz when they came under attack. The strategic waterway handles nearly one fifth of the world's

oil shipments during normal conditions, making any disruption a major concern for global energy markets.

The strike claimed the life of an Indian seafarer aboard the Mombasa. Eight other crew members were injured, including six Indian nationals and two Ukrainian nationals. Four of the injured suffered serious wounds and are receiving medical treatment.



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](tel:+918956893882)

100 Days of Protest. Now the Government Must Answer

For 100 days, the people of Karapur and neighbouring Sarvan have sat in protest against a proposed mega housing project. They have marched, petitioned, held public meetings and appealed to every level of the Goa government. Having failed to get the assurances they sought, they have now taken their fight to Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

The question is no longer whether one supports or opposes the project. The real question is whether the government will finally engage with its own people.

A hundred days is not a symbolic number. It reflects determination, patience and the belief that democratic protest can still influence public policy. Villagers have endured the scorching summer, the onset of the monsoon and repeated uncertainty, all because they fear that their village, environment and way of life are under threat. Whether every concern they raise is eventually found to be valid is for the courts and experts to determine. But dismissing their movement after such persistence would be a serious mistake.

The government's silence has become as significant as the protest itself.

If the authorities are convinced that every approval granted to the project is legally sound, they should have no hesitation in placing every document, every clearance and every study before the public. Transparency is the best answer to suspicion. Instead, the absence of meaningful dialogue has only strengthened the villagers' belief that they are being ignored.

The decision to protest in Delhi is therefore more than a political gesture. It is an admission that the protesters believe they have exhausted every avenue available in Goa. When citizens travel to the national capital seeking attention, it raises uncomfortable questions about the effectiveness of local governance.

Development is essential. Goa needs investment, employment opportunities and better infrastructure. No one can expect the state to reject every large project. But development cannot be measured only by the number

"The government's silence has become as significant as the protest itself. If the authorities are convinced that every approval granted to the project is legally sound, they should have no hesitation in placing every document, every clearance and every study before the public. Transparency is the best answer to suspicion. Instead, the absence of meaningful dialogue has only strengthened the villagers' belief that they are being ignored. The decision to protest in Delhi is therefore more than a political gesture. It is an admission that the protesters believe they have exhausted every avenue available in Goa. When citizens travel to the national capital seeking attention, it raises uncomfortable questions about the effectiveness of local governance. Development is essential."

of villas constructed or investments attracted. It must also be measured by the confidence people have in the process.

A project that leaves an entire village feeling unheard cannot be called successful, irrespective of its economic value.

Across Goa, similar concerns are emerging over large real estate developments. Villagers increasingly worry about water security, shrinking agricultural land, environmental degradation and pressure on local infrastructure. These fears may not always stop development, but they deserve honest answers instead of political

rhetoric.

The Karapur protest has become larger than one project. It has evolved into a debate about how Goa wants to develop. Is the state's future to be shaped primarily by luxury townships and high end real estate, or should development be balanced with environmental protection and the wishes of local communities?

These are legitimate questions that require public discussion rather than confrontation.

The government still has an opportunity to restore trust. It can initiate direct talks with the villagers, appoint an independent panel to examine every approval granted to the project and publicly address the concerns being raised. Such a move would not amount to surrendering before protesters. It would demonstrate confidence in due process and respect for democratic participation.

The developers, too, have a responsibility beyond legal compliance. Winning approvals may satisfy the law, but earning the confidence of local communities is equally important. Large projects that begin amidst widespread public opposition often remain controversial long after construction starts.

If the protest continues without any constructive engagement, it risks deepening the divide between citizens and the government. Every additional day without dialogue sends the message that peaceful democratic protest carries little value. That would be an unfortunate precedent in a state where public participation has historically shaped major policy decisions.

The villagers have done what democracy expects them to do. They have protested peacefully, organised themselves and sought dialogue through constitutional means. They have now carried their voice from a village in Goa to the streets of the national capital.

Whether they ultimately succeed or not, they deserve one thing above all else.

An answer.

After 100 days, silence is no longer a response. It is a choice. And it is a choice that the government can no longer afford to make.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Cyber Criminals Are Winning Because the System Is Failing

Suraj Nandrekar

As India embraces digital payments, online banking, e-governance services and social media at an unprecedented pace, cybercrime has emerged as one of the biggest threats to ordinary citizens. Every day brings reports of people losing life savings through fraudulent calls, fake investment schemes, phishing links, identity theft and online blackmail. Yet, despite the alarming rise in cyber offences, the rate of detection and conviction remains worryingly low.

This widening gap between crime and punishment is creating a dangerous environment where cyber criminals operate with growing confidence while victims are left helpless.

The scale of the problem is staggering. Fraudsters no longer target only wealthy individuals or large corporations. Students, senior citizens, homemakers, professionals and small business owners are all vulnerable. A simple click on a malicious link, an innocent response to a fake customer care number or a fraudulent investment advertisement can wipe out years of savings within minutes.

What makes cybercrime particularly dangerous is that criminals can operate from anywhere. A scammer sitting in one state can target victims across the country. Money can be routed through multiple bank accounts and digital wallets before investigators even begin tracing the transaction. By the time law enforcement agencies act, crucial evidence has often vanished.

The greatest concern is not merely the rise in cybercrime but the inability of the system to effectively investigate and solve these cases. Thousands of complaints are registered every month, yet only a fraction result in successful detection. Even fewer lead to convictions.

There are several reasons for this poor performance. Cybercrime investigations require specialised skills, advanced technology and trained personnel. Unfortunately, many police stations still lack adequate cyber forensic infrastructure. Officers are often burdened with traditional law and order responsibilities, leaving limited resources for complex digital investigations.

Cyber criminals, meanwhile, continuously adapt their methods. They exploit emerging technologies, use encrypted communication channels and frequently change identities. Many operate through organised networks that span multiple states and sometimes even international borders. Law enforcement agencies often struggle to keep pace with these rapidly evolving tactics.

Another challenge is public awareness. Many victims fail to report incidents immediately. Some are embarrassed, while others do not know where to file complaints. In cybercrime, time is critical. Delayed reporting significantly reduces the chances of recovering stolen funds or tracing offenders.

The low detection rate sends a troubling message. Criminals see little risk in committing cyber fraud because the probability of getting caught remains low. This perception encourages more offenders to enter the field. As a result, cybercrime becomes a low-risk, high-reward enterprise. Governments have launched cybercrime portals, helplines and awareness campaigns, which are important steps. However, these measures alone are insufficient. What is needed is a major investment in cyber policing. Every district should have well-equipped cybercrime units staffed with trained experts. Regular training must be provided to investigators so they can keep pace with changing technologies and criminal techniques.

Banks, telecom companies and digital platforms also have a crucial role. Stronger verification systems, quicker response mechanisms and better coordination with law enforcement can prevent many frauds before significant losses occur. Most importantly, there must be accountability. Detection rates, investigation timelines and conviction statistics should be monitored and publicly reviewed. Citizens deserve to know whether the system is effectively protecting them in the digital age.

India's digital revolution has transformed lives and created immense opportunities. But the success of this transformation depends on trust. If people begin to fear online transactions more than they trust them, the country's digital ambitions will suffer.

Cybercrime is no longer a niche issue. It is a national security, economic and social challenge. Unless detection rates improve and criminals face swift consequences, cyber fraudsters will continue to stay several steps ahead of the law, and ordinary citizens will continue paying the price.

Government Confident on Mhaje Ghar Scheme, Legal Challenges Will Be Defended: CM

■ Sawant says housing initiative was framed after legal scrutiny; slum rehabilitation policy also on the anvil

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant said the state government is fully confident about the legality of the Mhaje Ghar housing scheme, stating that it was formulated only after a detailed legal review.

Reacting to questions on a recent Supreme Court ruling relating to tenancy and land



ownership, Sawant said he had not yet gone through the judgment in detail and would study its legal implications before offering a detailed

comment.

He clarified that the government had carried out the necessary legal examination before

introducing the Mhaje Ghar scheme and remains confident about its validity. Referring to petitions pending before the High Court, the Chief Minister

said the state is contesting the cases and believes there is no legal obstacle to the implementation of the scheme.

Sawant was speaking after conducting a public grievance meeting at the BJP South Goa district office, where residents and party workers from South Goa and Kushavati districts raised a range of civic and administrative issues.



Mhadei Bachao Abhiyan Alleges Bias in PRAWAH Panel, Criticises Goa Govt

■ Activists claim Centre-appointed body has failed to address Goa's concerns in the Mhadei river dispute

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Mhadei Bachao Abhiyan (MBA) criticised the functioning of the Centre-appointed PRAWAH committee, alleging that it has not acted impartially in the long-running Mhadei river dispute and accusing the Goa government of not taking an assertive approach to protect the state's interests.

Addressing a press conference, MBA convenor Nirmala Sawant said the state government has failed to pursue the issue with the urgency it deserves and questioned whether the PRAWAH mechanism has delivered any

meaningful progress since its formation.

She alleged that the committee's actions have favoured Karnataka while Goa's objections have received inadequate attention. According to Sawant, several years after PRAWAH was constituted, the dispute remains unresolved despite repeated discussions. The Abhiyan also expressed dissatisfaction over the committee's field visit in 2024, alleging that the Kankumbi area was left out of the inspection despite requests from Goa to examine alleged violations connected with Karnataka's diversion-related activities.



High Court Reserves Judgment in Mandar Surlakar Murder Remission Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has reserved its judgment on a series of petitions concerning the proposed premature release of convicts in the 2006 abduction and murder of Mandar Surlakar, following the completion of arguments by all parties.

The Bench concluded the hearing on Monday after taking on record written submissions, supporting notes and a timeline of events filed by the petitioners and the respondents, in accordance with directions issued during the previous hearing.

One of the petitions has been filed by Deepak Surlakar, father of the deceased, who has challenged the recommendation made by the Goa State Sentence Review (SSR) Board in favour of considering the convicts for early release. He has opposed any remission, arguing that the sentence awarded by the court should be fully served.

NMC Approves 50 Additional MBBS Seats for Goa Medical College

■ Student intake to increase to 250 from 2026-27, expanding opportunities for medical aspirants

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has granted approval for 50 additional MBBS seats at Goa Medical College (GMC), increasing the institution's annual intake from 200 to 250 students beginning with the 2026-27 academic session. The approval is the latest step in GMC's phased expansion. The college's intake was previously raised from 180 to 200



government submitted a proposal seeking a further increase. The Commission has now cleared that proposal. Welcoming the development, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant said the additional seats would benefit aspiring medical students, particularly those from

seats for the 2024-25 academic year, following which the Goa

Goa, by creating more opportunities to pursue medical education within the state. He added that the move would also help strengthen Goa's healthcare system by producing a larger pool of trained doctors in the coming years. Health Minister Vishwajit Rane termed the approval a significant achievement for the state, stating that the enhanced intake reflects continued efforts to expand medical education infrastructure.

Drug Case Accused Released on Bail with Strict Conditions

■ Court says investigation can continue without prolonged custody after accused was sent to judicial remand

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A local court has granted bail to a man arrested in a drug-related case, ruling that his continued detention was not necessary after he had been placed in judicial custody and that the interests of the investigation could be protected through stringent conditions.

Judicial Magistrate First Class Puja U.S.



Sardessai passed the order on Monday, allowing the bail plea of Mithlesh Bhagat, who was arrested by Porvorim Police on July 8. In his application, Bhagat claimed he had been falsely implicated in the case and assured the court

that he would cooperate with the investigation and comply with any conditions imposed. The prosecution opposed the bail request, with Assistant Public Prosecutor T. Pawar submitting that the accused had not fully cooperated during the investigation. The investigating officer argued that further custodial interrogation was required to trace the origin of the seized

narcotics and identify other persons allegedly linked to the offence. The prosecution also expressed apprehension that the accused, being from outside Goa, might abscond if released. After examining the submissions, the court observed that Bhagat had already been remanded to judicial custody, indicating that police custody was no longer required for the investigation. The

magistrate held that the prosecution's concerns could be addressed by imposing appropriate restrictions instead of continuing his detention. The court ordered Bhagat's release on a personal bond of ₹20,000 with one surety of an equal amount. Among the conditions imposed, the accused has been directed to report before the investigating officer for five consecutive days.

Two Arrested In Electrocution Death Of ITI Student In Bicholim

■ Police Allege Negligence During Electrical Installation Work Led To 20-Year-Old's Death

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: Bicholim Police have arrested two persons in connection with the electrocution death of a 20-year-old ITI student during electrical installation work at a house under construction in Maulinguem.

The case was registered following a complaint lodged by Rajesh Prabhakar Naik, father of the deceased



Akshat Rajesh Naik, a resident of Deulwada, Langao, Bicholim.

According to police, the incident occurred on June 26, 2026, between 3:00 pm and 9:35

pm, at the newly constructed first-floor residence of Sameer Ramnath Maulingkar at Harijanwada, Maulinguem.

Investigations revealed that Kedar Krishna Mandrekar, who was carrying out electrical installation work at the premises, had engaged Akshat, an ITI Electrical student seeking practical experience, to assist in the work.

During testing of the newly installed electrical wiring using a temporary electricity supply extended from the ground floor, despite the first floor not having an authorised electricity connection, Akshat allegedly suffered a severe electric shock and collapsed.

He was rushed to the Community Health Centre (CHC), Bicholim, where doctors declared him dead.



Quepem Man Duped Of ₹2.26 Lakh In Fake Credit Card Scam

■ Fraudsters Used APK File And Screen Sharing To Gain Access To Victim's Bank And Credit Card Account

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A Quepem resident lost ₹2,26,123.04 after allegedly falling victim to a sophisticated online fraud in which scammers posed as representatives offering a free credit card.

According to Margao Town Police, complainant Clim Fernandes, a resident of Avedem, Padribhat, Quepem, reported that on March 28, 2026, at around 12:28 pm, he received a phone call from an unknown person offering him a free credit card.

The caller allegedly sent a WhatsApp link and persuaded Fernandes to download and install an APK file.

He was then instructed to share his mobile screen and upload copies of his personal documents. Believing the offer to be genuine, the complainant followed the instructions. Police said that after the APK file was opened, One-Time Passwords (OTPs) were generated without the complainant's knowledge. The accused allegedly gained unauthorized access to his bank and credit card accounts and carried out multiple fraudulent transactions. The complainant suffered a total financial loss of ₹2,26,123.04. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Shubham Gaunkar of Margao Town Police Station.



Woman Dies After Minor Riding Scooter Hits Pedestrian In Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A woman lost her life after she was allegedly knocked down by a scooter being ridden by an underage child at Ordhofond, Bhatpal, Canacona, on Sunday night.

According to Canacona Police, the case was registered on a state complaint filed by HC Ganu Pagi. Police said that at around 8:28 pm on July 12, 2026, the owner of a TVS Jupiter scooter, identified as Kanta Naik, a resident of Ghodkamolem, Pinguinim, allegedly permitted an underage child to ride the two-wheeler.

The underage rider, accompanied by another underage pillion rider, was proceeding from Bhatpal towards Sadolxem when the scooter was allegedly ridden in a rash and negligent manner, endangering human life.

After crossing the Ordhofond Bridge at Bhatpal, the scooter allegedly struck pedestrian Chandrakala Naik, a resident of Ordhofond, Bhatpal. The impact left the rider, pillion rider, and the pedestrian injured.

Margao Police Crack Jewellery Shop Theft Case, Accused Arrested

■ Stolen 22K Gold Chain Recovered; Hunt On For Remaining Jewellery

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police have solved a jewellery shop theft case with the arrest of a 35-year-old man from Maharashtra and the recovery of a stolen 22K gold chain.

The case was registered at Margao Town Police Station under Crime No. 66/2026 under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, following a complaint lodged on July 4, 2026, by Sapna Gaonkar of JGP Jewellers



Ltd., Margao.

According to the complaint, an unknown person stole a 22K gold chain weighing 10.010 grams and a 22K gold pendant weighing 1.450 grams from the jewellery shop on June 15, 2026, at around 11:40 am, causing a loss of approximately

₹1.55 lakh.

During the investigation, police identified the accused as Moreshawar Suresh Tate (35), a resident of Baramati, Pune, Maharashtra. Acting on technical surveillance and sustained investigative efforts, the investigating team traced and apprehended him.

Police said the stolen 22K gold chain was recovered at the instance of the accused during the investigation.

Pedestrian Injured After Car Hits Him Near Chandor Railway Gate

■ Pune Resident Booked For Allegedly Rash And Negligent Driving In Curtorim

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A pedestrian was injured after being hit by a car near the railway gate at Chandor.

The case was registered at Maina Curtorim Police Station based on a state complaint filed by Assistant Sub-Inspector Jitendra Gaonkar.

According to police, the incident occurred on July 11, 2026, at around 8:17 pm, when



Shubhashish Thripathy, a resident of Hinjewadi, Pune, Maharashtra, was allegedly driving a Hyundai Verna car in

a rash and negligent manner while proceeding from Davorlim towards Chandor Market.

On reaching near the

railway gate at Chandor, the car allegedly struck Jose Sabestiao Rodrigues, a resident of Eklati, Curtorim, who was walking along the side of the road.

The pedestrian sustained bodily injuries in the accident. A case has been registered against the driver, and further investigation is being carried out by ASI Jitendra Gaonkar of Maina Curtorim Police Station.

Man Arrested For Alleged Job Lure Rape In Goa

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have arrested a man for allegedly luring a 23-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh to Goa on the false promise of providing her with a job before allegedly raping, confining and threatening her.

According to police, the woman alleged that after arriving in Goa, the accused took her to a room where he raped her against her will, wrongfully confined her, and threatened to kill her if she attempted to leave.

South Goa ZP Seeks More Powers, Funds; Kushavati Members Push for Separate Status

■ District panchayat members urge government to strengthen local bodies and enhance development funding

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The demand for greater powers and increased financial support for Zilla Panchayats dominated the South Goa Zilla Panchayat meeting, with members urging the Goa government to strengthen district-level local bodies to improve development across their constituencies.



At the meeting chaired by South Goa Zilla Panchayat Chairperson Sidharth Gauns Desai, members expressed concern that the current

annual allocation of ₹40 lakh per member is inadequate to carry out meaningful development works.

BJP member Mohan Gaonkar said the sanctioned amount is exhausted after executing only a few projects, leaving Zilla Panchayat members with little

scope to address public demands. He pointed out that while village panchayats actively undertake development works, district panchayats have limited authority and depend almost entirely on the annual grants provided by the government.

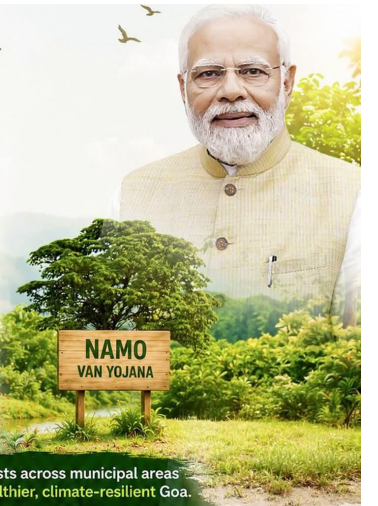
Gaonkar appealed to the state government to devolve more powers and allocate higher funds to the Zilla Panchayats.

BUILDING GREEN LUNGS FOR A BETTER GOA



Centre approves up to ₹6 CRORE per project under NAMO Van Yojana

To create urban forests across municipal areas and build a greener, healthier, climate-resilient Goa.



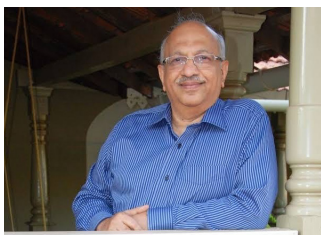
Centre Approves ₹6 Crore Aid Under NAMO Van Yojana For Urban Green Spaces

■ Goa To Develop More 'Green Lungs' Across Municipalities; Rane Says Initiative Will Boost Climate Resilience And Public Health

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Forest Minister Vishwajit Rane on Monday welcomed the Centre's approval of financial assistance of up to ₹6 crore per project under the NAMO Van Yojana, calling it a major step towards transforming Goa's urban spaces into thriving green ecosystems. Rane said the initiative will help improve air quality, reduce the urban heat island effect, strengthen biodiversity, and create healthier public spaces, describing every green space developed as

"an investment in a healthier, cleaner and more climate-resilient Goa." The Minister said the State is already working to convert the legacy garbage dump at Sonsodo into a vibrant green space and has identified several more sites across municipalities to replicate the model by creating additional "Green Lungs" in urban centres. According to Rane, the NAMO Van Yojana will significantly strengthen Goa's vision of developing greener and healthier cities while promoting sustainable urban development.



Datta Damodar Naik Revokes Resignation from Konkani Bhasha Mandal

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Entrepreneur and writer Datta Damodar Naik has decided to continue as a primary member of the Konkani Bhasha Mandal (KBM), withdrawing the resignation he had submitted earlier after talks with the organisation's leadership.

The breakthrough came during a meeting led by KBM President Serafino Cota, where both sides held discussions and agreed to put their differences behind them. Naik was received by Cota and other office-bearers at the Mandal before the meeting.

The reconciliation was marked by a cake-cutting ceremony attended by members, reflecting the renewed understanding between the two sides. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Naik said a decision on the remaining portion of his proposed ₹1 crore contribution to the Mandal has not yet been taken. He said the matter will be decided by his son, Chirag Naik, and an announcement is likely by the weekend.

Agriculture Dept Inspects Sea Water-Damaged Paddy Fields At Pale

■ Affected Farmers Asked To Apply For Compensation; Long-Term Solutions Discussed

Team Goemkarponn

PALE: The Agriculture Department on Monday carried out a joint inspection of sea water-affected paddy fields at Bondpem, Pale, following a representation submitted by the Pale Tolem Xetkar Tenant Association (PTXA) seeking immediate assessment of crop damage and assistance for affected farmers. The inspection was conducted by officials from the Zonal Agriculture Office, Cortalim, in the



presence of Cortalim MLA Anton Vas, Assistant Agriculture Officer Mahesh Kankonkar, Velsao Panch members Jim D'Souza and Remedios Noronha, along with local farmers and PTXA representatives. The inspection followed a representation by PTXA Chairman Roquezinho

D'Souza, who stated that recent sea water ingress had inundated vast stretches of fertile paddy fields, making them unsuitable for cultivation and severely affecting the livelihood of tenant farmers. The association urged the department to assess the damage, initiate remedial measures, recommend long-term solutions to prevent future sea water intrusion, and provide eligible government compensation to affected farmers.

Mormugao To Get First Government Hospital, Foundation Stone Likely On July 26

■ 20-Bedded Facility To Reduce Dependence On GMC And Chicalim Sub-District Hospital

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: Mormugao is set to get its first government hospital, with the foundation stone for the long-awaited 20-bedded facility likely to be laid on July 26, marking a significant milestone in strengthening public healthcare in the constituency.

Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar on Monday inspected the proposed hospital site



along with officials of the Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation (GSIDC). The hospital will be constructed on a 4,000-square-metre plot. Speaking to reporters

after the inspection, Amonkar said the foundation stone is tentatively scheduled to be laid by Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant in the presence of Health

Minister Vishwajit Rane and GSIDC Chairman Michael Lobo. The MLA said the project would fulfil a long-pending demand of Mormugao residents, who currently depend on Goa Medical College and Hospital, the Chicalim Sub-District Hospital and private healthcare institutions for treatment. The new hospital, he said, would bring government healthcare services closer to the people. Amonkar also highlighted the employment opportunities

the project is expected to generate for local youth in medical, nursing, technical, administrative and support services. Expressing confidence that the project would be completed within the stipulated timeframe, he assured that every effort would be made to provide the constituency with a modern healthcare facility capable of meeting its growing healthcare needs.

IAF Launches High Altitude Airship Project for Round the Clock Border Surveillance

■ New stratospheric platforms aim to provide continuous intelligence over hostile territory for months at a time

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force has launched an ambitious programme to develop high altitude surveillance airships that can remain stationed in the stratosphere for months, significantly strengthening the country's long range intelligence and reconnaissance capabilities.

The Ministry of Defence has invited domestic aerospace companies to design and develop Airship based High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (AS HAPS), a next generation surveillance platform capable of operating at altitudes above 20 kilometres. Flying at the edge of space, these airships are intended to provide continuous monitoring of hostile borders without the need to land for extended periods.

The project is being led by the Indian Air Force's Directorate of Operations (Remote) and is designed to bridge an important capability gap between conventional drones and satellites. While military drones typically operate at



around 12 kilometres and require regular refuelling, satellites orbit hundreds of kilometres above the Earth and can observe a location only briefly during each pass.

AS HAPS platforms are expected to combine the advantages of both systems by remaining fixed over a region for prolonged periods. This would enable the armed forces to maintain uninterrupted surveillance of troop movements, monitor strategic installations, and gather intelligence on communications deep inside adversary territory without entering foreign airspace.

The Defence Acquisition Council approved the project earlier this year under the Make I procurement category, which encourages indigenous defence development. Under this framework, the government will fund up to 70 percent of the cost of developing prototypes, reducing the financial burden on domestic manufacturers.

The Department of Defence Production has invited interested companies to submit proposals by August 5, 2026. India has already demonstrated progress in this field through the Defence Research and

Development Organisation (DRDO), which successfully tested an experimental stratospheric airship carrying an instrument payload to an altitude of 17 kilometres over Madhya Pradesh. The new initiative seeks to build on that achievement by partnering with private industry to transform the technology into a fully operational military surveillance system.

Several countries, including the United States, are also actively developing similar high altitude pseudo satellite platforms as demand grows for persistent, long duration aerial surveillance.

Oil Prices Climb Above \$80 as US Iran Conflict Rekindles Fears Over Global Energy Supplies

■ Brent crude hits four week high after renewed military strikes and tensions in the Strait of Hormuz

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Global oil prices surged to their highest levels in four weeks after renewed military escalation between the United States and Iran heightened concerns over energy supplies moving through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil shipping routes.

Brent crude rose above the USD 80 mark, trading at around USD 83.85 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained more than two percent to reach USD 79.79 per barrel. The rally followed a sharp jump in the previous trading session, when Brent crude settled at USD 83.30 per barrel after recording its biggest single day gain since May 2020. The latest spike comes as hostilities between Washington and Tehran resumed after a temporary ceasefire, raising fresh concerns about disruptions to global crude supplies. Markets reacted strongly to the growing uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway through which nearly one fifth of the world's oil and natural gas shipments pass during normal conditions. US President Donald Trump announced that Washington had

reinstated a naval blockade on Iranian shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and said military operations against Iran would continue. He also indicated that the United States would begin charging other vessels for security and safe passage through the waterway, signalling a significant departure from its long standing policy of supporting unrestricted navigation.

The conflict intensified further after the US Central Command carried out strikes on multiple locations across Iran, including Bushehr, Chah Bahar, Jask, Konarak, Abu Musa, and Bandar Abbas. In response, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed responsibility for attacks on two United Arab Emirates linked tankers transiting the Strait of Hormuz, alleging they were operating under US military guidance. The renewed confrontation has rattled global energy markets, with investors closely monitoring developments in West Asia. Analysts warn that any prolonged disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz could tighten global oil supplies, drive prices even higher, and add further pressure to economies already grappling with elevated energy costs and geopolitical uncertainty.



Research Flags Mounting Environmental Risks to Chorao

in aquatic organisms, affecting biodiversity as well as the livelihoods of fishing communities.

Agricultural runoff carrying fertilisers and pesticides has also been identified as a growing problem, contributing to algal blooms that reduce oxygen levels in the water and negatively impact fish populations.

Plastic waste lodged within mangrove forests is further degrading important breeding habitats for marine species.

Researchers estimate that Chorao lost around 12 per

cent of its mangrove cover between 1990 and 2005, largely because of illegal encroachments and shrimp farming.

They also point to practices such as cutting mangroves for firewood, destructive mud crab harvesting and the use of fine-mesh fishing nets as factors weakening the island's ecological resilience.

Goa To Become First State To Launch Doorstep Healthcare Under State Care Programme

(GMC), Bambolim. The vehicles were donated by NTPC Limited under

its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services, Government of Goa, and the Goa CSR Authority.

The event was attended by Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy Shripad Naik, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane, senior government officials, and other dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, Rane said the addition of the new healthcare vehicles would significantly enhance Goa's emergency medical response system while improving access to healthcare services across the State.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

"His Son Is 90 Per Cent Gone": Trump Makes Fresh Claim About Mojtaba Khamenei Amid Escalating Iran Conflict

■ US President says Iran's military leadership has been devastated as fighting resumes after ceasefire

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump has claimed that Iran's military capabilities have been severely weakened and alleged that Mojtaba Khamenei, son of the late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is "90 per cent gone" following recent US and Israeli military strikes.

Speaking in an interview with Fox News,



Trump said Iran had lost much of its military strength, asserting that the country's navy, air force, and air defence systems had been destroyed. He also claimed that several of Iran's senior

military leaders had been killed during the conflict. While discussing the strikes, Trump referred to Iran's late revolutionary leader by name before

appearing to shift his remarks to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed on the opening day of the conflict on February 28. He then alleged that Mojtaba Khamenei had also suffered severe

injuries, saying he was "90 per cent gone." Mojtaba Khamenei has not appeared in public since February 28, when he was reportedly injured in the same wave of strikes that killed his father. His prolonged absence from public view, including during Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's funeral last week, has fuelled widespread speculation over his health and whereabouts.



'India Will Be the Voice of the Global South': Jaishankar Launches UNSC Campaign in New York

■ India unveils SHANTI vision while discussing major global conflicts with the UN chief

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New York and held wide ranging discussions on key international developments, including the ongoing conflicts in West Asia, Ukraine and Sudan. The meeting took place as India officially launched its campaign for a non permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2028 to 2029 term. The discussions were held on the sidelines of the campaign launch at the UN Headquarters, marking the start of India's diplomatic

outreach to seek the support of member nations ahead of the Security Council elections next year. The meeting also highlighted the strong partnership between India and the United Nations on a range of global issues. As part of the campaign, Jaishankar introduced India's six point vision titled SHANTI, which stands for Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity. The framework outlines India's priorities if elected to the Security Council and reflects its commitment to strengthening global peace, security and international cooperation.



15 Victims of Vietnam Boat Tragedy Brought Back to India

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The bodies of 15 Indian tourists who lost their lives in the Vietnam boat tragedy have been repatriated to India, arriving in Mumbai on Tuesday aboard Vietnam Airlines flight VN979. The victims will now be transported to their respective hometowns, with state governments coordinating arrangements for their final rites. After landing at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, the bodies were prepared for onward transportation to destinations including Chennai, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, and Coimbatore, where grieving families are waiting to receive their loved ones. The tragic accident occurred on July 11 near Hon May Rut Ngoai Island off Vietnam's Phu Quoc Island. A tourist speedboat carrying 36 people, including 32 Indian tourists and four Vietnamese crew members, capsized after encountering rough weather while travelling from Hon May Rut Islet to An Thoi Port, about 25 kilometres from Phu Quoc Airport.

Fake Accounts, Forged KYC, Stolen Scholarships: CBI Uncovers ₹1 Crore Scam in Bhopal

■ Probe alleges bank officials and college staff conspired to divert government scholarship funds using fraudulent student accounts

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has uncovered an alleged ₹1 crore scholarship scam in Bhopal, revealing how fake bank accounts, forged documents, and manipulated verification processes were used to siphon off government funds meant for



management students.

According to the investigation, 118 bank accounts were opened in the names of MBA students between January 2020 and October 2021 without their knowledge. Nearly ₹99.49 lakh in

scholarship funds was credited to these accounts, but none of the students received the money or were even aware that such accounts existed. The CBI has registered a case against six individuals, including a former senior manager of UCO Bank's Habibganj branch, and is examining whether similar frauds may have occurred at educational institutions.

US National Held Near India Nepal Border Without Passport, Claims Former Navy Service

■ Authorities verify identity after man allegedly spent months in India without valid travel documents

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A man claiming to be a former US Navy officer and a resident of California has been arrested near the India Nepal border after allegedly attempting to enter Nepal without carrying a passport, visa, or any other valid travel documents.

The 36 year old, identified as Jordan Brown, was detained by personnel of the



Sashastra Seema Bal during a routine patrol near border pillar number 516 in the Mainihwa area of Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj district. Officials said he allegedly

tried to flee after being signalled to stop but was quickly apprehended.

During initial questioning, Brown identified himself as a US citizen from California

and claimed to have previously served in the US Navy. However, Indian authorities said they are still verifying both his identity and his claims. According to investigators, Brown told officials that he had lost his passport while travelling in Thailand on a tourist visa. He allegedly travelled onward to Sri Lanka by sea before entering India on November 2, 2025, also through a sea route.

"All Legal Avenues Exhausted": Hafiz Saeed to Face Trial in Absentia Over Pahalgam Terror Attack

Team Goemkarponn



NEW DELHI: In a significant

step in the investigation into the Pahalgam terror attack, a Jammu court has issued a non bailable warrant against Lashkar e Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed after the National Investigation Agency named him as the alleged mastermind in a supplementary chargesheet.

"We're Not Falling Into That Trap": Spain and France Trade Mind Games Before World Cup Semifinal

European heavyweights exchange confident remarks ahead of blockbuster clash for a place in the FIFA World Cup final

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The psychological battle has already begun ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 semifinal between Spain and France, with players from both sides exchanging confident remarks before their high stakes showdown.

The two European powerhouses will meet in a World Cup semifinal for



only the second time in history, with a place in the final at stake. France head coach Didier Deschamps has described reigning



European champions Spain as the favourites, while several Spanish players have expressed confidence based on their

recent record against Les Bleus.

Spain have won their last two competitive meetings against France, including a 2-1 victory in the UEFA Euro 2024 semifinal and a thrilling 5-4 win in the UEFA Nations League semifinal last year. Their only previous World Cup meeting came in 2006, when France secured a 3-1 victory.



"It's Special": Lionel Messi Eager for First Ever World Cup Clash Against England

Argentina captain set to face the Three Lions for the first time as both sides battle for a place in the FIFA World Cup final

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Argentina captain Lionel Messi is preparing for a unique milestone in his remarkable international career as he gets ready to face England for the first time in a FIFA World Cup semifinal.

Despite representing Argentina for more than two decades and playing against every other World Cup winning nation, Messi has never faced England in an international match. That will change when Argentina take on the Three Lions in the FIFA World Cup 2026 semifinal, with a place in the final on the line.

Speaking ahead of the highly anticipated

encounter, Messi described the occasion as special, saying England were one of the few major football nations he had never played against. He added that facing a traditional football powerhouse in a World Cup semifinal makes the experience even more memorable.

The 39 year old has previously taken on teams including Brazil, Uruguay, Germany, Italy, Spain, and France during his distinguished international career. His closest opportunity to play England came in a friendly in 2005, but he missed that match after being suspended following a red card on his senior Argentina debut against Hungary.

"Hopefully, We Will Get 10 More Test Matches": Harmanpreet Kaur After Historic Lord's Triumph

India captain calls for more opportunities in women's Test cricket after emphatic 270 run victory over England

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India captain Harmanpreet Kaur expressed hope that the women's team will get more opportunities to play Test cricket after leading the side to a historic 270 run victory over England in the first ever women's Test at Lord's.

Reflecting on the landmark win, Harmanpreet described playing at the iconic venue as a special experience and said she hoped the team would return



for many more Tests in the future. She credited the occasion and the team's performance as a memorable chapter in Indian women's cricket.

The skipper praised wicketkeeper batter Yastika Bhatia for her

match defining century, saying her inclusion in the playing eleven had been fully justified. Harmanpreet also highlighted the contributions of the opening batters, whose strong start laid the foundation for India's

commanding position in the match. She said the victory was the result of a complete team effort, applauding the players for their outstanding fielding and their collective commitment throughout the contest. Harmanpreet also acknowledged the role of head coach Amol Muzumdar and the support staff, noting that their experience in red ball cricket helped the team adapt to the conditions and remain confident despite recent setbacks in white ball competitions.

"Virat And Rohit Remain Integral": Shubman Gill Hints at Kohli's 2027 World Cup Role

India captain says experienced duo remain central to ODI plans as team begins preparations for next World Cup

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India captain Shubman Gill has strongly indicated that Virat Kohli will continue to play a key role in the team's preparations for the 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup, while reaffirming that both Kohli and Rohit Sharma remain vital members of the ODI setup.

Ahead of the opening ODI against England at Edgbaston, Gill revealed



that he had held an extensive discussion with Kohli about India's long term plans, including the

could strengthen the team in the future, and assessing options across the bowling, all rounder,

and spin departments. His remarks suggested that Kohli remains closely involved in shaping India's strategy for the 2027 tournament.

Gill described Kohli and Rohit as the backbone of India's batting line up over the past decade, highlighting the experience and quality they continue to bring to the side. He said both senior batters remain an integral part of the team as India begins building towards the next World

Cup.

The Indian captain also explained that the ongoing ODI series against England is an important step in the team's preparations, as conditions are expected to be similar to those likely to be encountered during the 2027 World Cup in South Africa.

While expressing confidence in the current squad, Gill stressed the importance of expanding India's player pool before the global tournament.

He said the team management intends to provide opportunities to emerging players so they can gain experience in high pressure situations, ultimately giving India greater depth and flexibility ahead of the World Cup.

India enter the three match ODI series after disappointing performances in successive T20I series against Ireland and England.