



Goa Metro Water Transport DPR To Be Ready In Three Months

■ Kochi Metro Rail Ltd Assigned To Prepare Detailed Project Report; Cabinet Also Approves Legal Amendment And ST Loan Relief

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has taken a major step towards developing a Metro Water Transportation network, with the State Cabinet assigning Kochi Metro Rail Ltd. to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the ambitious project.

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said the DPR is expected to



be completed within the next three months, after which the government will move forward with the implementation of the proposed water-based public transport system.

The Metro Water Transportation project aims to strengthen Goa's transport infrastructure by leveraging the State's rivers and waterways, offering an alternative mode of travel while easing pressure on road traffic.

Apart from the transport initiative, the Cabinet also approved a minor amendment to the Goa Children (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

CM Defends Sawaikar Amid 'Cockroach' And 'Termite' Row

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Wednesday defended NRI Commissioner and BJP leader Narendra Sawaikar amid the controversy

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Goa Cabinet Approves Assembly Session From August 31

Detailed Schedule And Duration Of Monsoon Session To Be Finalised Later

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, on Wednesday approved the summoning of

the Goa Legislative Assembly from August 31, 2026.

The decision was taken during the Cabinet meeting held on July 22 and was announced by

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06



Congress Submits Memorandum to Governor Over Rahul Gandhi's Detention

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A delegation of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC), led by its President Girish Chodankar, submitted a memorandum to Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai at Raj Bhavan, condemning the detention of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and seeking action over the alleged use of force against students during recent protests. The five-member delegation included GPCC Working Presidents M.K. Shaikh, Adv. Carlos Alvares Ferreira and Sunil Kawthankar, along with Youth Congress President Adv. Archit Naik. The memorandum urged the Governor to forward their demands to the President of India and the Union Government. According to the GPCC, Rahul Gandhi was detained while attempting to express solidarity with students protesting against alleged failures in the country's education and examination system.

"We Owe Students Answers, Reforms and Accountability": Dharmendra Pradhan Hits Back at Rahul Gandhi

■ Education Minister accuses Congress of politicising the NEET issue during Parliament session

Team Goemkarponn

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him and the Congress of exploiting students for political purposes during protests over the NEET controversy and



examination paper leaks. The remarks came after Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and several Congress leaders staged a protest outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence, ▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

"Don't Waste Our Time": Supreme Court Declines Urgent Plea on CJP Protest Police Action

■ Top court refuses immediate intervention as petitions over alleged police excesses move through the judiciary

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to entertain an urgent plea seeking intervention over the alleged police action against students during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest in the national capital, telling the petitioner not to waste the



court's time. The matter was mentioned before a bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant, with the petitioner alleging police brutality

against students who had gathered at Jantar Mantar to protest irregularities in major examinations. The court made it clear that it was not inclined to examine video footage related to the incident.

"We don't want to watch any videos," the Chief Justice remarked while refusing to grant immediate relief.

Viresh Borkar Demands Relief Over Rising Electricity Bills

■ RGP MLA seeks inquiry into inflated bills, tariff reduction and public hearing on recent power hike

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: St. André MLA and Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) leader Viresh Borkar led a delegation of residents to the Electricity Department at Vidyut Bhavan, Panaji, demanding immediate relief for consumers affected by rising electricity bills.

The delegation submitted a representation highlighting the financial



burden caused by what it described as inflated electricity bills, particularly on households, senior citizens, farmers, fishermen, small businesses and middle-class families.

Borkar called for

an immediate inquiry into abnormal billing, verification of meter readings, correction of erroneous bills and the establishment of a transparent, time-bound grievance redressal mechanism for consumers.

The MLA also urged the government to reduce the per-unit electricity tariff, stating that the increasing cost of electricity has become unaffordable for many families.



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When Protest Loses Purpose and Politics Takes Over

The recent student protests in Delhi have once again exposed the deep political divisions that increasingly dominate public discourse in India. What began as a movement demanding accountability over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination has quickly turned into a political battleground, with competing narratives drowning out the concerns of students themselves.

Whenever protests turn violent, there is legitimate concern. Damage to public property, attacks on police personnel, arson, and disruption of normal life cannot be justified in a democratic society. Peaceful protest is a constitutional right, but violence is not. If any individuals engaged in unlawful acts, they must be identified and dealt with according to the law, irrespective of their political affiliations.

However, there is an equally dangerous tendency to paint entire protest movements as anti-national conspiracies without evidence. Such sweeping allegations risk delegitimising genuine grievances and undermining democratic freedoms. Democracies thrive when citizens can question authorities, demand accountability, and seek redressal for their concerns. Branding every dissenting voice as part of a larger conspiracy may serve political narratives, but it does little to strengthen democratic institutions.

The NEET controversy touched millions of students and parents across the country. For many families, entrance examinations determine educational opportunities and future careers. Any allegation of paper leaks, malpractice, or irregularities naturally generates anxiety and anger. It is therefore unsurprising that students sought answers from the government and examination authorities.

At the same time, political parties have often been accused of using public movements as platforms for political gain. This is not unique to one party or one ideology. Across decades, governments and oppositions alike have attempted to associate themselves with popular causes.

“However, there is an equally dangerous tendency to paint entire protest movements as anti-national conspiracies without evidence. Such sweeping allegations risk delegitimising genuine grievances and undermining democratic freedoms. Democracies thrive when citizens can question authorities, demand accountability, and seek redressal for their concerns. Branding every dissenting voice as part of a larger conspiracy may serve political narratives, but it does little to strengthen democratic institutions.”

The NEET controversy touched millions of students and parents across the country. For many families, entrance examinations determine educational opportunities and future careers.

The challenge lies in ensuring that political involvement does not overshadow the original issue.

India has a rich history of student movements that brought about positive change. Many social and educational reforms emerged from organised, disciplined and peaceful agitations.

Such movements succeeded because they focused on issues, built public support, and engaged authorities through dialogue. They demonstrated that democratic pressure can be effective without descending into confrontation and violence.

What is worrying today is the growing culture of extreme polarisation. Every protest is immediately viewed through a political lens. Supporters of the government often see hidden conspiracies behind

demonstrations, while critics of the government frequently portray every administrative lapse as evidence of systemic failure. The truth is often more nuanced.

The responsibility for lowering temperatures lies with all stakeholders. Protest organisers must ensure that demonstrations remain peaceful and that genuine participants are not overshadowed by disruptive elements. Political parties should resist the temptation to exploit public anger for short term electoral advantage. Law enforcement agencies must act firmly against violence while respecting the rights of peaceful protesters.

The government, too, must recognise that public trust is strengthened not by dismissing criticism but by addressing it transparently. When concerns arise regarding examinations, recruitment processes, or public policies, timely communication and credible investigations help prevent rumours and reduce tensions.

Parliament remains the most appropriate forum for resolving national disputes. Constructive debate, scrutiny, and accountability are the foundations of a functioning democracy. Endless disruption inside legislatures and endless confrontation on the streets benefit nobody. Citizens expect solutions, not slogans.

India's democratic strength lies in its ability to accommodate disagreement without descending into chaos. Students have every right to raise concerns. Governments have every right to defend their policies. Opposition parties have every right to question those in power. But all these rights come with responsibilities.

The real challenge is not choosing between protest and governance. It is ensuring that both coexist within the framework of democratic values. When dialogue gives way to division and facts are replaced by accusations, the nation as a whole loses. The need of the hour is not more confrontation, but more accountability, restraint and meaningful engagement from all sides.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Charge Existing EV Stations Before Building New Ones

The Goa government's decision to establish 70 new electric vehicle charging stations under the PM E-Drive Scheme reflects its commitment to promoting clean and sustainable transport. However, before celebrating another announcement, the government must answer a basic question. What is the condition of the charging stations that already exist?

Many EV users complain that several public charging points are either non-functional or remain out of service for long periods. Even where chargers are operational, they are often located in congested areas with inadequate parking space, making them difficult to access. A charging station is useful only if an EV owner can conveniently reach it, park the vehicle, and charge without unnecessary delays. Merely increasing the number of installations does not guarantee better service.

The government should first conduct an independent audit of all existing charging stations and make the findings public. Every charging point should display its real-time operational status through a mobile application. Faulty chargers must be repaired within a fixed timeframe, and dedicated parking spaces should be strictly enforced to prevent conventional vehicles from occupying charging bays.

Goa has the opportunity to become a leader in electric mobility, but that will happen only if the infrastructure is reliable and user-friendly. Creating new assets while neglecting existing ones is a waste of public money. Good governance is not measured by the number of projects announced but by how efficiently they function.

- Sanjay Naik, Porvorim Goa

Students demands Must Be Heard

The recent protest by members of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) in Delhi demanding the resignation of the Union Education Minister over the NEET examination leak has once again brought attention to a serious issue affecting lakhs of students across the country. The subsequent police action and reports of lathi-charge on protesters are unfortunate and raise concerns about how democratic dissent is being handled.

The NEET examination is one of the most important competitive exams in India. Students spend years preparing for it, often sacrificing time, money, and personal comfort in pursuit of their dreams. Any allegation of a question paper leak strikes at the very foundation of merit and fairness. When students lose confidence in the examination system, the damage goes far beyond a single test.

Whether one agrees with the demand for the Education Minister's resignation or not, citizens and political activists have the right to peacefully protest and seek accountability from those in positions of authority. Responding to demonstrations with force instead of dialogue only fuels anger and creates the perception that legitimate concerns are being ignored.

The government must recognise that the frustration surrounding the NEET controversy stems from the aspirations of millions of young Indians. Restoring confidence in the examination system requires transparency, accountability, and visible corrective measures. India's youth deserve assurance that success will be determined by hard work and ability, not by irregularities or leaks. Their voices should be heard, their concerns addressed, and their faith in public institutions protected. words carefully and remember that democracy flourishes through dialogue, not derogatory labels.

- Savio Fernandes, Chandor, Goa

HC Rejects Goa Govt's Plea To Excuse 714-Day Delay In Land Compensation

■ Court says administrative procedures cannot be used as a reason to withhold enhanced compensation from landowners

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa has dismissed the Goa government's request to condone a 714-day delay in filing an appeal against an order enhancing compensation for acquired land, ruling that routine administrative processes cannot justify such prolonged inaction.

A Division Bench of Justice Neela Gokhale and Justice Amit Jamsandekar observed



the State had failed to provide any convincing explanation for the delay and could not expect special consideration merely because the matter involved govt departments.

The dispute relates to

land acquired for the construction of the Mestabhat-Talpone road in Shiroda. HC records show that the Land Acquisition Officer had fixed compensation at

₹25 and ₹80 per square metre in 2012. However, the District Judge at Ponda, in an order passed on October 16, 2023, revised the compensation to ₹675 per sq mt. Instead of filing an appeal within

the prescribed period, the State approached the Court only on January 7, 2026, leading to a delay of 714 days. While examining the State's explanation, the Bench found that file remained pending at multiple levels of the government. It stayed in office of the EE for 99 days, remained in the Chief Minister's Office for 239 days, and later spent 71 days with the PWD Minister before eventually reaching the AGs office for legal action.



Goa Secures Over ₹258 Crore Under Central Tourism Schemes

■ Centre backs 6 major projects to strengthen tourism infra, heritage conservation and visitor facilities

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has been allocated more than ₹258 crore under various Union tourism schemes over the past two years, with the funding earmarked for projects ranging from beach and ecotourism development to heritage conservation and public infrastructure. The allocations form part of a nationwide programme under which the Union Ministry of Tourism has approved 117 projects worth ₹5,756.62 cr to improve tourism infrastructure, create better visitor amenities and promote destinations across India. Among the projects approved for Goa are two initiatives under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0

programme. The Centre has sanctioned ₹24.07 crore for developing the Porvorim Creek Experience and ₹19.88 crore for the Colva Beach Experience, with both proposals receiving approval in August 2024. Goa has also received support under the Challenge-Based Destination Development Scheme, with ₹9.81 crore sanctioned in March 2025 for transforming Mayem Village into an ecotourism destination and undertaking beautification at Harvaalem Waterfall. To strengthen religious and heritage tourism, the Ministry approved ₹16.46 crore under the PRASHAD programme for infrastructure development at Basilica of Bom Jesus.



Revamped Mhaji Bus Scheme to Begin on August 1; Bus Operators Asked to Register

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Transport has announced that the upgraded Mhaji Bus Scheme will be launched from August 1, and has urged private stage carriage bus operators interested in joining the initiative to complete their registration before the rollout.

According to a public notice issued by Director of Transport Arvind Khutkar, operators must submit the prescribed application form along with the necessary supporting documents to the office of the respective Assistant Director of Transport prior to the scheme's implementation.

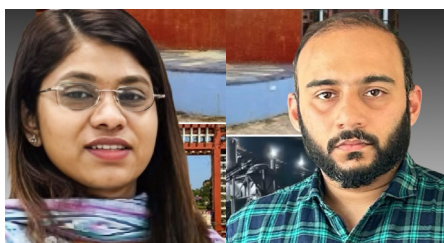
The department stated that information regarding the application process, eligibility requirements and document checklist can be obtained from the offices of the Assistant Directors during working hours. The forms and related details are also available on the Transport Department's official website.

Madganycho Awaaz Seeks FIR Against Margao Chief Officer

■ Memorandum to South Goa Collector Alleges Administrative Lapses and Risk to Public Property

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Social organisation Madganycho Awaaz has submitted a memorandum to the South Goa District Collector seeking the registration of an FIR against the Chief Officer of the Margao Municipal Council (MMC), alleging serious administrative irregularities and dereliction of duty. The representation was signed by the organisation's president,



Prasad Naik. According to the memorandum, the organisation has highlighted a series of incidents which it claims reveal a pattern of negligence, administrative inaction and misuse of public resources by the

MMC. It alleged that the Chief Officer failed to implement resolutions of the council, resulting in financial losses and prolonged encroachment issues. The representation further claimed that unauthorised constructions and encroachments on municipal property were allowed to continue despite repeated directions from the council.

CPCB Updates Pollution Rating System for Hotels and Resorts

■ New Norms Reward Cleaner Fuel Use; Smaller Eco-Friendly Hotels Shifted to Green Category

Team Goemkarponn

PIRNA: The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has introduced a revised framework for classifying hotels and resorts based on their pollution potential, with the latest norms taking into account both the size of the establishment and the use of environmentally friendly technologies.

Under the updated



classification, hotels and resorts with more than 300 rooms will continue to be placed in the Red category, reflecting the highest pollution potential with a Pollution Index (PI) of

81.25. However, large hotels that operate their kitchens using cleaner or gaseous fuels will now be eligible for classification under the Orange category, reducing their Pollution Index to 79.4, provided they meet the environmental conditions laid down by the Board. Hotels with 101 to 300 rooms will remain in the

Orange category with a PI of 71.5, while those having 21 to 100 rooms will also continue in the same category with a PI of 73.8. The revised norms offer a major incentive to medium-sized hotels adopting cleaner technologies. Hotels with 21 to 100 rooms that use cleaner or gas-based fuel systems will now be placed in the Green category, with their Pollution Index reduced to 50.5. To qualify

for the lower pollution category, establishments must comply with several environmental measures. These include operating CPCB-approved or fully gas-based generator sets, using electricity- or gas-powered boilers, installing oil and grease separation systems for kitchen wastewater, and ensuring sewage is treated through dedicated sewage treatment plants (STPs)..

Goa Police Assist Maharashtra Team in NDPS Accused's Arrest

■ Accused Traced to Nuvem, Handed Over to Kalyan Railway Police for Further Investigation

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A joint operation by the Maina Curtorim Police and the Kalyan Railway Police, Maharashtra, led to the detention of a 27-year-old man wanted in a narcotics case registered under the NDPS Act.

Officers from the Kalyan Railway Police Station, Taluka Kalyan, District Thane, Maharashtra, including Assistant Police Inspector Vithal Vane,



Head Constables 3273 and 2206, and Police Constables 633 and 1737, arrived at Maina Curtorim Police Station on Tuesday seeking assistance in

connection with Crime No. 682/2026 registered under Sections 8(c), 20(b) (ii) and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The Maharashtra police informed their Goa counterparts that the location of the accused had been traced to Nuvem in South Goa.

Acting on the information, personnel from Maina Curtorim Police Station joined the visiting team in conducting a search operation. The joint team successfully detained the accused, identified as Ashrof Salim Sunar Khan (27), a resident of New Wada, near Tank, Vasco.



Anjuna Police Register Rs 1.95 Crore Cheating Case Over Land Deal

■ Delhi-Based Complainant Alleges Fraud, Misrepresentation and Criminal Intimidation in Proposed Property Transaction

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Anjuna Police have registered a case of cheating involving ₹1.95 crore against a Goa-based man in connection with an alleged fraudulent land transaction at Anjuna. According to complaint filed by Himanshu Subhash Gaba, a resident of Faridabad, Haryana, the accused, Gopaljee Anand, a resident of Casa Bonito, Assagao, Goa, and also having an address in Janakpuri, New Delhi, allegedly induced him to invest ₹1.95 crore in a proposed purchase of a 50 per cent share in a plot of land at Anjuna. Complainant alleged that since September 2022, the accused falsely represented that he had ownership and transferable rights over the property measuring

1,028 square metres, comprising plots A, B and D of the property known as 'Bandir Vadda' or 'Bandirwada', surveyed under Survey No. 392/22 (Part) at Anjuna. Police said the complainant alleged that despite receiving money, the accused failed to execute the agreed transfer, concealed material facts relating to ownership and title disputes, and continued to retain the amount.

The complaint further states that the accused allegedly threatened the complainant when he approached original property owners, causing him a wrongful loss of ₹1.95 crore. Based on the complaint, Anjuna Police registered Crime No. 69/2026 under Sections 318(4), 316(2), and 351(2) of the BNS 2023.



Restaurant Employee Booked for Alleged Rs 60,000 Theft in Benaulim

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Colva Police have registered a theft case against a restaurant employee for allegedly stealing ₹60,000 that had been kept aside for payment of staff salaries at a restaurant in Benaulim.

According to the complaint filed by Orville Francis Andrade (42), a resident of Fatorda, the accused, Ankit Gupta (39), a native of Jammu and Kashmir, was employed as a utility staff member at the restaurant.

Police said that the alleged theft took place on August 6, 2026, at around 12.07 pm, when the accused reportedly removed ₹60,000 from the cash box at Kodi Restaurant in Benaulim. The money had allegedly been kept aside for disbursing employees' salaries.

Based on the complaint, Colva Police registered Crime No. 61/2026 under Section 306 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deals with theft by an

Nine Named, 30 Others Booked for Alleged Temple Theft at Borim

■ Trust Alleges Accused Broke Locks, Stole CCTV and Computer Hard Disks During Bid to Take Over Temple

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Ponda Police have registered a case against nine persons and around 30 unidentified individuals for allegedly trespassing into the Shree Saibaba Temple premises at Borim, breaking open locks, stealing CCTV and computer hard disks, and threatening temple employees.

Complaint was filed by Dinesh Raikar, President and Trustee of the Shree Saibaba Seva Mandal



Trust, Borim. According to the complaint, the incident occurred on July 11, 2026, at around 10.45 am, when the accused allegedly formed an unlawful assembly and entered the temple

premises despite a temporary injunction issued by a competent civil court in a regular civil suit restraining them from interfering in the management and affairs of the trust.

One Held for allegedly Accepting Matka Bets

Old Goa Police Seize Cash, Book Accused Under Public Gambling Act

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Old Goa Police have arrested a 37-year-old man for allegedly accepting matka bets from the public at Chimbél in Tiswadi.

According to police, Mehaboob Amin Patel Biradar, a businessman and resident of Indira Nagar, Chimbél, was caught red-handed near the Chimbél bus stand on July 20, 2026, at around 8.10 pm while allegedly accepting bets, collecting

money, and issuing paper slips containing numerical figures.

During the operation, police seized ₹2,050 from the accused, comprising ₹500 notes (3), ₹100 note (1), ₹50 notes (8), and ₹10 notes (5), which were allegedly used in the gambling activity. Based on a complaint filed by PSI Manohar N. Dhulapkar on behalf of the State, Old Goa Police registered Crime No. 95/2026 under Section 11(2)(a) of the Goa Public Gambling Act.

Five Booked for Assault, Criminal Intimidation Over Property Dispute in Canca

■ Family Feud Over Ancestral House Turns Violent; Victim Allegedly Assaulted and Threatened With Death

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have registered a case against five members of a family for allegedly assaulting a man and threatening to kill him following a dispute over an ancestral property at Canca in Bardez. The complaint was lodged by Ayaan Ismail, a resident of Dmellowado,



Canca, Bardez, alleging that incident occurred on July 19, 2026, at around 11 am at his residence. The accused — Nafiza Ismail Shaikh, Ismail Karim Shaikh, Yasmin Faruk Kachi, Sharukh Ismail Shaikh and Faizan Faruk

Kachi, all residents of Canca, Bardez — are relatives and have been involved in a long-standing dispute with his father, Abdul Rauf Ismail, over their ancestral house. Police said that during the altercation, Nafiza Ismail Shaikh, Ismail Karim Shaikh and Yasmin Faruk Kachi allegedly abused Abdul Rauf Ismail using filthy language.

Authorities Invite Claims for Unclaimed Vehicles in Margao Traffic Cell

■ Owners Given Six Months to Submit Documents Before Vehicles Are Auctioned by the Government

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Office of the Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Magistrate-I, Margao, has invited owners to submit claims for unclaimed vehicles lying for a prolonged period within the jurisdiction of the Traffic Cell, Margao, Salcete.

According to an official press note issued on Tuesday, the abandoned vehicles have been causing obstruction, inconvenience and



potential hazards to the public.

Vehicle owners have been asked to submit their claims along with supporting documentary evidence to the Office of

the Deputy Collector and SDM-I, Margao, within six months from the date of publication of the notice.

The authorities have stated that if no claims or objections are received

within the stipulated period, the vehicles will be forfeited in favour of the State Government and disposed of through a public auction or any other mode approved under law. No further claims will be entertained thereafter, and the proceeds from the disposal will be credited to the Government.

The list of identified unclaimed vehicles is available for inspection at the Office of the Deputy Collector and SDM-I, Margao.



LoP Yuri Alemao Urges Governor for 15-Day Assembly Session

■ Says Key Issues Including TCP Act, Law and Order, Unemployment and Inflation Need Adequate Debate

Team Goemkarponn

COLVA: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao has written to Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, urging that the forthcoming Monsoon Session of the Goa Legislative Assembly be convened for at least 15 days to enable discussion on pressing issues affecting the state. In his letter, Alemao said several important matters, including the Sarvan-Karapur issue, the impact of Section 39-A of the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Act, unemployment, deteriorating law and order, rising inflation and student-related concerns, require detailed deliberation in the Assembly. Alemao expressed

concern over what he termed the government's failure to reconvene the Assembly despite the Governor's earlier direction to take necessary action on his letter dated April 9, 2026, seeking the immediate resumption of the House. He pointed out that the Thirteenth Session of the Eighth Legislative Assembly, originally scheduled from March 6 to March 27, 2026, was curtailed after only seven sittings due to the Ponda by-election and the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct. According to Alemao, the justification for cutting short the session was unacceptable, as legislative business continued in other states despite similar electoral circumstances.



MMC Files Police Complaint Against Savio Coutinho Over Alleged Unauthorized Entry at Sonsodo Plant

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Margao Municipal Council (MMC) has lodged a formal complaint with the Fatorda Police Station alleging that social activist Savio Coutinho and certain unidentified persons entered the Municipal Solid Waste Management Plant at Sonsodo without prior permission. According to the complaint, the alleged incident took place on July 14, 2026, at around 3.45 pm, when Savio Coutinho and others reportedly entered the restricted waste management facility without authorisation from the Council. The complaint states that two vehicles bearing registration numbers GA 08 M 0832 and GA 08 AA 1207 were allegedly used to access the premises. MMC stated that the Sonsodo Solid Waste Management Plant is a restricted operational area where waste processing machinery is in operation. The Council alleged that the unauthorised entry raised concerns relating to safety, security, environmental compliance and the smooth functioning of municipal operations.

Former AAP Goa Convenor Rahul Mhambre Joins Congress

■ Says Congress Is the Only Credible Alternative to Protect Goa's Interests and Democracy

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a significant political development, former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa State Convenor Rahul Mhambre on Tuesday joined the Indian National Congress at a function held at the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) headquarters in Panaji.

Rahul Mhambre was formally inducted into the party by GPCC President Girish Chodankar in the presence of senior Congress leaders, office-



bearers, Youth Congress members and party workers. GPCC Working President Adv. Carlos Alvares Ferreira welcomed him with a bouquet, while GPCC Vice President Dr. Pramod Salgaonkar presented him with the Congress flag. Welcoming Mhambre into the party,

Chodankar said the Congress continues to be preferred platform for those committed to democracy, constitutional values and the welfare of Goa. He expressed confidence that Mhambre's experience and public outreach would strengthen the party's organisation across state.

Goan Diaspora Meets Yuri Alemao and Altone D'Costa in Swindon

■ Discussions Focus on Dual Nationality, Cultural Identity and Stronger Engagement With Overseas Goans

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI/ SWINDON: Members of the Goan community in Swindon, United Kingdom, interacted with Goa Leader of Opposition and Cuncolim MLA Yuri Alemao and Quepem MLA Altone D'Costa during a community meet-and-greet held at The Wyvern Tavern in Swindon. The gathering provided members of



the Goan diaspora an opportunity to discuss issues affecting overseas Goans, with conversations focusing on strengthening community unity, preserving Goan cultural identity and improving engagement between Goa

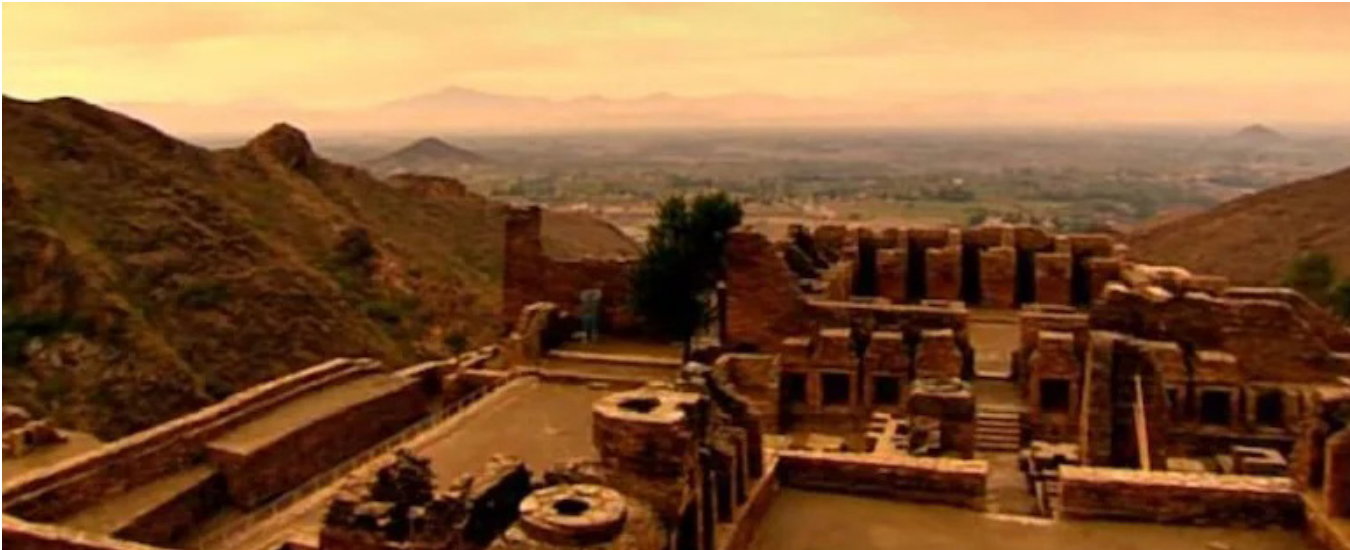
and its global diaspora. A major issue raised during the interaction was the long-pending demand for dual nationality for Goans holding Portuguese citizenship. Community members highlighted the challenges posed by

existing citizenship laws on Goan families settled in the United Kingdom and other countries. Participants discussed the need to pursue an appropriate legal and constitutional mechanism to address the issue while ensuring that the interests and rights of the Goan diaspora are adequately represented. Among those present were Councillor Princia Fernandes, Councillor Ana Fernandes,

Councillor Imtiyaz Shaikh, Councillor Jocelina D'Souza, and Union Activist Paulo Fernandes. Those attending welcomed the opportunity to interact with the visiting legislators and stressed the importance of maintaining regular dialogue between elected representatives in Goa and the overseas Goan community.

Historian Claims India, Not Mesopotamia, Was the First Great Civilisation

■ Research challenges long accepted historical narrative on the origins of civilisation



Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Maritime historian Nick Collins has challenged the long accepted view that Mesopotamia was the cradle of civilisation, arguing instead that the Indian subcontinent was the world's earliest centre of advanced urban development, trade and innovation.

Drawing on decades of research into ancient maritime trade and commercial networks, Collins contends that the Indus Sarasvati civilisation developed highly organised cities, sophisticated manufacturing and extensive trading systems long before similar achievements were recognised elsewhere. He

believes the conventional historical narrative places undue emphasis on Mesopotamia because it was excavated earlier by European archaeologists, while major discoveries in the Indus Valley came much later. According to Collins, the Indus Sarasvati civilisation featured hundreds of settlements with planned streets, standardised bricks and weights, advanced drainage systems and thriving industries. He argues that these features demonstrate a level of urban planning and organisation unmatched in much of the ancient world at the time.

A key element of his argument is the archaeological site of Lothal in Gujarat, which he

describes as an advanced dockyard capable of supporting large scale maritime trade. Collins believes its infrastructure reflects a sophisticated seafaring tradition that connected the Indian subcontinent with distant civilisations through regular commercial exchanges.

The historian also revisits the long debated Aryan migration theory, arguing that the builders of the Indus cities were indigenous and had established an advanced civilisation before later population movements into the region.

While acknowledging that modern genetic studies identify steppe ancestry entering South Asia, he maintains that these migrations did

not create the Indus civilisation. Collins further points to archaeological evidence such as Indian carnelian beads, cotton, timber, merchant seals and stone anchors found in Mesopotamia, suggesting sustained trade between the two regions. References in Mesopotamian records to Meluhha, widely believed to refer to the Indus civilisation, and the existence of interpreters for its language, are presented as evidence of regular commercial links. Although several of Collins' conclusions remain subjects of academic debate, his research has reignited discussion over the origins of civilisation and the role of ancient India in shaping early human history.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

CM Defends Sawaikar Amid 'Cockroach' And 'Termite' Row

over his social media post, asserting that it had no connection with the terms "cockroach" or "termite" allegedly used in reference to youths.

Speaking to reporters, Sawant said the post was being viewed through a political lens and was being wrongly linked to the controversy.

"The post has no connection with words like 'cockroach' or 'termite' referring to youths. Some people interpret statements according to their political views and have a habit of politicising every issue," the Chief Minister said.

He maintained that the controversy stemmed from political

interpretation rather than the actual content of Sawaikar's post, adding that attempts were being made to give the issue a political colour.

"We Owe Students Answers, Reforms and Accountability": Dharmendra Pradhan Hits Back at Rahul Gandhi

demanding action over alleged paper leaks and the police crackdown on students who participated in a protest march to Parliament earlier this week. The demonstration was later dispersed by police, and the Gandhi siblings were detained before being released later in the evening.

Responding to the protest, Pradhan alleged that the Congress had chosen political confrontation

instead of constructive dialogue, despite the Centre expressing its willingness to hold a comprehensive discussion on the NEET issue in Parliament. He claimed the protest violated security protocols and caused inconvenience to the public.

Goa Cabinet Approves Assembly Session From August 31

the Chief Minister while briefing the media. According to Dr. Sawant, the Assembly session will commence on August 31, while the detailed schedule, including the number of sitting days and the duration of the session, will be finalised at a later stage. Organisers of the protest alleged that the police used excessive force and claimed that hundreds of participants sustained injuries during the crackdown.

New Ladakh Bridges to Slash 70 km Journey to Just 500 Metres

■ ₹83.39 crore projects set to improve connectivity, tourism and livelihoods in Nubra Valley

Team Goemkarponn

LEH: Two new motorable bridges approved for Ladakh's Nubra Valley are expected to significantly improve connectivity in the border region, reducing travel distances, strengthening infrastructure and opening new opportunities for tourism and local economic growth.

The projects include the Burma Sumoor bridge and a second bridge over the Siachen River at Tongsted. Together, the two projects have been sanctioned at a cost of ₹83.39 crore under the Ladakh administration's Special Development Package and are expected to benefit more than 1,300 residents living in remote border villages.

The Burma Sumoor bridge project, costing ₹64.10 crore, will reduce a journey of nearly 70 kilometres to a crossing of about 500 metres. The project includes 470 metres of bridges at three locations, a 2.5 kilometre approach road and six reinforced cement concrete culverts. It will connect Sumoor with the villages of Burma, Charasa, Kuri and Murgi, providing easier access to hospitals, schools, markets, government services and the district headquarters at Diskit.

The improved road

link is also expected to help farmers transport agricultural produce more efficiently while ensuring quicker delivery of essential supplies. Officials believe the project will encourage tourism beyond Nubra Valley's existing travel circuit, creating new opportunities for homestays, local transport operators, handicraft businesses and adventure tourism.

The second project, valued at ₹19.29 crore, involves the construction of a 160 metre steel plate girder bridge across the Siachen River. Designed to withstand the region's harsh terrain and weather conditions, it will provide year round connectivity to the villages of Tongsted, Yarma Gonbo, Dongsas, Nungsted, Henachy, Changlung and Samosa, directly benefiting more than 500 residents.

The bridge is expected to improve access during floods and adverse weather while strengthening links to Yarma Gonbo, an important religious and cultural centre in the region.

During the foundation stone ceremony, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta said the bridges would strengthen border infrastructure, improve access to remote settlements and support agriculture, tourism and economic development across Nubra Valley.



Opposition MPs Wear Black in Parliament, Renew Demand for Ministers' Resignations

■ Protest over NEET issue and police action on students continues for a second day

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Opposition parties intensified their protest against the Centre on Wednesday, with Congress MPs arriving at Parliament dressed in black a day after staging a dharna outside the Prime Minister's residence. The demonstration was aimed at pressing demands for a discussion on the



NEET controversy and the recent police action against student protesters in the national capital.

Congress members were joined by MPs from several Opposition

parties as they gathered outside the Parliament gate, raising slogans against the government. Samajwadi Party

MPs also participated in the protest by wearing black scarves in solidarity. The Opposition reiterated its demand for the resignations of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding them responsible for the handling of the NEET issue and the police crackdown on students during Monday's protest in Delhi. Congress leaders maintained that a parliamentary discussion on the matter should take place only after the Education Minister steps down.



"India Is Now a Solar Superpower": UN Climate Chief Praises Clean Energy Growth

■ Rapid renewable expansion and skilled workforce position India as a global leader in green technology

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has emerged as a global solar superpower, powered by rapid growth in renewable energy and a highly skilled workforce, according to United Nations climate chief Simon Stiell. He said the country's transition towards clean energy is strengthening the economy while reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Speaking in Delhi, Stiell highlighted the remarkable expansion of India's solar sector, noting that the country's installed solar capacity has increased more than 50 times since 2014. He said India's technology driven workforce has become a major competitive advantage in the global race for clean energy. India

has already achieved a major milestone by ensuring that half of its total installed power generation capacity now comes from non fossil fuel sources, reaching the target five years ahead of schedule. The achievement reflects coordinated efforts by the government, industry and citizens to accelerate the country's energy transition. India's solar manufacturing capacity has also expanded dramatically, growing 75 times since 2014. This growth has helped make country one of world's most competitive solar markets, with some of the lowest solar power generation costs globally. Increased use of renewable energy also reduced fossil fuel imports, resulting in savings of around 18 billion US \$ last year.



Assam Flood Crisis Deepens as 21 More Lives Lost

Team Goemkarponn

GUWAHATI: The flood situation in Assam worsened significantly on Tuesday, with 21 more people losing their lives in the past 24 hours, taking this year's flood death toll in the state to 31. More than 5.64 lakh people across 16 districts have been affected as rising river levels and widespread inundation continue to disrupt normal life.

According to the latest official update, Sivasagar was the worst hit district, reporting 13 deaths during the day. Charaideo recorded five fatalities, while Golaghat and Jorhat reported two and one deaths respectively.

The number of flood affected people has increased sharply from over 3.63 lakh on Monday to more than 5.64 lakh. Sivasagar remains the worst affected district with 3.59 lakh people impacted, followed by Jorhat with over 87,600 and Charaideo with nearly 72,700 residents affected. In total, 872 villages across 44 revenue circles

Rahul Gandhi Lists Five Demands After Release as Row Intensifies

■ Congress and BJP trade sharp accusations over protests, Parliament debate and education reforms

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi was released on Tuesday night after being detained during the Congress protest outside the Prime Minister's residence. He had been taken to Chhatrasal Stadium, while Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was taken to Mandir Marg police station. Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi later visited Priyanka at the police station before



both leaders were released around 9 pm.

During his detention, Rahul Gandhi issued a video statement outlining five key demands. He called for the resignations of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Education

Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, action against police personnel accused of assaulting students

during Monday's protest, withdrawal of cases registered against the students, an apology from the Prime Minister over the police crackdown, a discussion on the issue in Parliament, and urgent reforms in the education

"Don't Waste Our Time": Supreme Court Declines Urgent Plea on CJP Protest Police Action

■ Top court refuses immediate intervention as petitions over alleged police excesses move through the judiciary

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to entertain an urgent plea seeking intervention over the alleged police action against students during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest in the national capital, telling the petitioner not to waste the court's time.

The matter was mentioned before a



bench led by CJI Surya Kant, with the petitioner alleging police brutality against students who had gathered at Jantar Mantar to protest irregularities

in major examinations. The court made it clear that it was not inclined to examine video footage related to the incident. "We don't want to

watch any videos," the Chief Justice remarked while refusing to grant immediate relief. Protest drew thousands of students and supporters to the streets of Delhi, demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. As demonstrators attempted to march towards Parliament, Delhi Police stopped their advance, leading to clashes between protesters and security personnel. Police

resorted to a baton charge to disperse the crowd, forcing many protesters to flee the area. Organisers of the protest alleged that the police used excessive force and claimed that hundreds of participants sustained injuries during the crackdown. They described the action as an attack on students raising legitimate concerns over examination-related issues.

Tilak Varma Backs India Amid T20I Struggles, Says Overseas Conditions Were a Major Challenge

■ Vice captain expresses confidence in Shreyas Iyer ahead of Zimbabwe series

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India vice captain Tilak Varma has defended the team's recent struggles in T20 Internationals, saying the difficult overseas conditions in Ireland and England played a significant role in the disappointing results under new captain Shreyas Iyer. Iyer's tenure as T20I captain has begun on a challenging note, with



India yet to register a win in seven matches. The team suffered a 2-0 series defeat to Ireland before enduring a 4-0 loss against England.

Backing the skipper, Tilak said Iyer is already leading a successful side and naturally carries greater responsibility and expectations. He pointed out that India had played

most of its T20 cricket in Asia over the past two years before suddenly touring Ireland and England, where the conditions were vastly different. Tilak also praised England, describing them as one of the strongest teams in world cricket and acknowledging that adapting to unfamiliar conditions against quality opposition was always going to be difficult.



Commonwealth Games 2026: India's Campaign Begins Today With Strong Medal Hopes

■ Neeraj Chopra, Mirabai Chanu and Lovlina Borgohain lead India's challenge in Glasgow

Team Goemkarponn

Glasgow: India will begin its campaign at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow on Thursday, with Lawn Bowls opening the country's medal quest. A 126 member Indian contingent will compete across multiple disciplines, aiming for a strong performance despite the absence of sports such as wrestling, badminton, hockey and table tennis from this edition.

India's biggest medal hopes rest on athletics, weightlifting and boxing. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra headlines the athletics squad and will be among the favourites in the men's javelin throw. He is

expected to face stiff competition from Pakistan's Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem. Other leading Indian athletes include long jumper Murali Sreeshankar, triple jumper Praveen Chithravel and distance runner Gulveer Singh.

In weightlifting, Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu is one of India's strongest gold medal contenders in the women's 48 kg category. She will be joined by Bindyarani Devi and Gyaneshwari Yadav, who are also expected to challenge for podium finishes. The boxing team is led by Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain.



Ravi Shastri Says Rohit Sharma's Lord's Century Was a "Tight Slap" to Critics

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has hailed Rohit Sharma's match winning century against England at Lord's, saying the veteran opener responded to his critics with a "tight slap with the bat" after intense speculation over his international future.

Rohit's superb knock of 138 in the third One Day International helped India secure victory and brought an end to growing retirement rumours that had surrounded him before the match. The innings, his maiden ODI century at Lord's, was widely seen as a timely reminder of his class and experience. Speaking during the opening match of The Hundred 2026 between MI London and Sunrisers Leeds at the Kia Oval, where Rohit was present as a spectator, Shastri praised the Indian captain for letting his bat do the talking.

He said Rohit had silenced his critics after the noise surrounding his future, describing the century as a fitting response. Shastri also highlighted Rohit's remarkable achievements.

"I Have to Follow the Process": Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Reflects on Challenging Start to India Career

■ Teenage opener remains confident ahead of T20I series against Zimbabwe

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi says the last four months have been filled with highs and lows, but he remains focused on improving and contributing to the team as India prepare to begin their T20I series against Zimbabwe on Thursday.

The 15 year old earned his maiden senior India call up after an impressive IPL campaign and made history



by becoming India's youngest ever international cricketer during the T20I series against England, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's long standing record.

After making his debut in Manchester, Sooryavanshi featured in

the next three matches but managed only modest scores before being left out of the fifth and final T20I as Sanju Samson returned to the playing eleven. India eventually lost the series 4 nil. Reflecting on the challenging start to his international career, the young opener admitted that setbacks are a natural part of the game.

He said he had experienced several ups and downs over the past

Goa Beat Himachal Again to Register Third Win in U-19 One Day Tournament

■ Kota shines with bat and ball as Kudalkar's four wicket spell sets up six wicket victory

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa continued their impressive run in the CAP U-19 Men's Inter State One Day Tournament (Siechem Trophy 2026) by defeating Himachal Pradesh by six wickets at the Siechem CAP Ground 2 in Puducherry on Tuesday. The victory marked Goa's second win over Himachal Pradesh in the competition and their third overall in the tournament.

After winning the toss and opting to bowl, Goa's bowlers delivered a



disciplined performance to restrict Himachal Pradesh to 217 all out in 41.3 overs.

Mihir Kudalkar led the attack with an outstanding spell, claiming four wickets for 35 runs from his full quota of 10 overs. Govind Sawal provided excellent support with figures of 3 for 30, while Aaditya Kota



chipped in with two important wickets.

Himachal Pradesh struggled to build momentum after losing early wickets. Aditya Kataria played a fighting knock of 52 from 53 deliveries, hitting eight boundaries, while captain Naunihaal remained unbeaten on 48. However, regular breakthroughs



from Goa's bowlers prevented the batting side from posting a bigger total.

In reply, Goa made light work of the chase, reaching 221 for 4 in just 40.2 overs. Opener Aaditya Kota produced a brilliant innings of 95 from 106 balls, striking 13 fours and two sixes, falling just five runs short of a deserved century. He was well supported by fellow



opener Vinit Kamat, who scored a fluent 66 off 80 deliveries with 11 boundaries.

The pair put together a commanding 147 run opening partnership that laid the foundation for Goa's victory. Although a few wickets fell in quick succession during the closing stages, Mohit Yadav remained unbeaten on 15 alongside Afridsab Rajakkanvar, who finished on 13 not out, as the duo guided Goa to victory with 58 balls remaining. Goa as the team strengthened its campaign.