

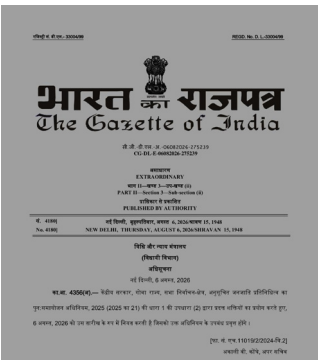


ST Reservation Process Begins In Goa; Four Key Steps Before Seats Are Reserved

■ Centre Brings ST Representation Law Into Force; Final Decision On Reserved Constituencies To Follow Statutory Exercise

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The implementation of political reservation for Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Goa Legislative Assembly has officially entered its next phase after the Central Government brought into force the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Act, 2025. The Union Ministry of Law and



Justice notified the Act with effect from August 6, 2026, activating the legal framework required to reserve four

Assembly constituencies for Scheduled Tribe candidates before the 2027 Goa Assembly elections. Although the legislation is now operational, the reservation of constituencies will not take place immediately. A statutory process involving multiple authorities must be completed before the Election Commission of India issues the final notification. Chief Minister

Dr. Pramod Sawant said the first stage will be the appointment of a Census Commissioner by the Central Government. The Commissioner will assess and verify the Scheduled Tribe population in Goa as required under the Act. Based on this exercise, the eligible Assembly constituencies will be identified according to their ST population. A draft proposal will then be

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

Political Leaders Welcome ST Reservation Notification, Call It Milestone For Goa's Tribal Community

CM, Ministers And Opposition Leaders Hail Centre's Decision; Credit Years Of Struggle Behind Political Reservation

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Political leaders across party lines welcomed the Centre's decision to bring into force the Readjustment

of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Act, 2025, describing it as a landmark moment for

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06



Don't Vote For Congress, They Will Join BJP: Arvind Kejriwal

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Friday urged Goans not to vote for either the BJP or the Congress in the upcoming Assembly elections, alleging that Congress legislators would eventually join the BJP and help it form the government.

Addressing reporters in Panaji, Kejriwal said, "Don't vote for BJP. Don't vote for Congress also because if you vote for Congress, they will join BJP and form the government."

His remarks came even as local AAP leaders recently indicated that the party was open to an alliance with the Congress.

Kejriwal also launched a sharp attack on the Centre over the implementation of E20 fuel, alleging that it had been "forcefully implemented" by the Modi government and was adversely affecting vehicle owners across the country.

Body Of Missing Student Recovered From Sanvordem Waterfall

■ 11th Standard Student Went Missing During School-Organised Trekking Programme In Sattari; Rescue Teams Recover Body After Search Operation

Team Goemkarponn

VALPOI: The body of an 11th Standard Science student from Baina, who went missing at Sanvordem Waterfall in Sattari during a school-organised trekking programme, was recovered by rescue teams on Friday.



The deceased has been identified as Rahul Bind, a Science student of Deep Vihar Higher Secondary School at Sada.

Rahul had gone missing while participating in a trekking programme organised by the school at Sanvordem Waterfall in Sattari.

Following the incident, forest officials, police, fire personnel and other rescue agencies launched an extensive search operation to trace him.

After several hours of search efforts, rescue teams recovered the student's body from the waterfall area.

"Every Government Must Listen to Students": Rahul Gandhi Backs Ranchi Protest

■ Congress extends support to job aspirants demanding action over alleged irregularities in JPSC and JSSC recruitment exams

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has voiced support for students protesting in Ranchi over alleged irregularities in government recruitment examinations, calling on governments at every level to listen to students and address problems within the education and recruitment system.

During a social media interaction, Gandhi said student protests across the country reflect wider



concerns about an education system that he described as unaffordable and oppressive. He stressed that whether a government is led by the Centre, Jharkhand or the Congress, students' concerns should be heard and meaningful reforms should follow.

"Agni 4 Successfully Test Fired": India Validates Strategic Missile's Operational Capabilities

■ Medium range ballistic missile launched from Chandipur in Odisha under Strategic Forces Command

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India successfully conducted a test launch of the Agni 4 medium range ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha on August 6, marking another validation of the country's strategic missile capabilities.

The test was carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command, which oversees India's



technical performance. According to the Defence Ministry, the test successfully validated all the required operational and technical parameters. The successful launch

strategic weapons assets. The launch was conducted as part of efforts to assess the missile's operational and

demonstrated the missile system's readiness and performance during the exercise.

The Agni 4 is part of India's Agni series of ballistic missiles, which form an important component of the country's strategic deterrence capability. The missile system has been developed with advanced technologies designed to enhance accuracy, reliability and operational effectiveness.

A Long Wait Ends, But the Real Test Begins

The Centre's decision to bring into force the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Act, 2025 marks a historic milestone in Goa's democratic journey. With the notification taking effect from August 6, the legal road has finally been cleared for political reservation for Scheduled Tribes in the 40-member Goa Legislative Assembly. For a community that has fought patiently for decades for its rightful place in the state's political structure, this is a victory that deserves recognition.

This is not merely about reserving four Assembly seats. It is about correcting a historical imbalance. Goa has had a significant Scheduled Tribe population for many years, yet its Assembly remained one of the few legislative bodies in the country without political reservation for tribal communities. While tribal leaders and organisations repeatedly raised the issue, governments came and went without translating promises into action. The notification finally acknowledges that democratic representation cannot remain incomplete when an important section of society remains underrepresented.

Credit must be shared across several stakeholders. Tribal organisations kept the issue alive through sustained campaigns and peaceful democratic pressure. Political leaders from across party lines supported the demand at different stages. The Central Government deserves appreciation for notifying the Act after Parliament had already passed the legislation. The Goa Government too played a role by consistently pursuing the matter with New Delhi. Ultimately, it is the tribal community's perseverance that ensured this day arrived. However, celebrations should not cloud the challenges that lie ahead. Political reservation should never be viewed as the final destination. It is only the beginning of a larger journey towards meaningful empowerment. Representation is valuable only when elected representatives genuinely articulate the aspirations of their communities rather than becoming mere extensions of party leadership.

The biggest danger now is tokenism. Reserved constituencies should not become seats where

"This is not merely about reserving four Assembly seats. It is about correcting a historical imbalance. Goa has had a significant Scheduled Tribe population for many years, yet its Assembly remained one of the few legislative bodies in the country without political reservation for tribal communities. While tribal leaders and organisations repeatedly raised the issue, governments came and went without translating promises into action. The notification finally acknowledges that democratic representation cannot remain incomplete when an important section of society remains underrepresented."

Credit must be shared across several stakeholders. Tribal organisations kept the issue alive through sustained campaigns and peaceful democratic pressure. Political leaders from across party lines supported the demand at different stages. "

political parties simply nominate candidates based on electoral convenience or personal loyalty. The objective of reservation is to create leadership from within the tribal communities that can effectively influence policymaking on issues affecting them. If reservation merely changes the caste certificate of candidates without changing governance priorities, the spirit of the law would remain unfulfilled.

The delimitation exercise also demands transparency and fairness. Reports indicate that around four Assembly constituencies are likely to be reserved before the 2027 Assembly elections. The selection of these

constituencies must be based strictly on demographic and constitutional principles rather than political calculations. Any perception that constituency boundaries are being adjusted to favour one political party over another could undermine public confidence in the entire process.

Political parties too must introspect. For years, many parties remembered tribal communities mainly during election campaigns. Now they must invest in developing tribal leadership, strengthening grassroots organisations, and ensuring that tribal voices influence party policies throughout the year. Reservation should not become an excuse to ignore tribal concerns in non reserved constituencies.

The issues confronting Goa's tribal population go far beyond political representation. Land rights, forest rights, education, healthcare, employment opportunities, infrastructure in remote villages, and protection of traditional livelihoods continue to demand urgent attention. Newly elected tribal legislators will be judged not by the symbolism of their presence in the Assembly but by their ability to deliver tangible improvements in the lives of their people.

The notification also sends a broader message about Indian democracy. Constitutional mechanisms may sometimes move slowly, but sustained democratic engagement can produce results. The tribal community chose dialogue, constitutional methods, and peaceful mobilisation over confrontation. That approach has now yielded success.

As Goa prepares for the 2027 Assembly elections, the implementation of ST reservation will undoubtedly reshape the state's political landscape. Every major political party will have to recalibrate its electoral strategy. Yet electoral arithmetic should remain secondary. The real success of this reform will be measured by whether it produces stronger governance, greater inclusion, and better policy outcomes for one of Goa's historically underrepresented communities. History has opened a new chapter. It is now for political parties, future legislators, and the tribal community itself to ensure that this long awaited constitutional promise becomes a vehicle for genuine empowerment rather than merely another electoral milestone.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Smart City, Same Floods: Panaji's Costliest Failure

Suraj Nandrekar

The idea behind the Smart City Mission was simple. Build cities that are cleaner, more efficient, technologically advanced and resilient to future challenges. In Panaji, however, the project has become a textbook example of how grand promises can disappear beneath poor planning and questionable execution. If a brief spell of rain can once again bring Goa's capital to a standstill, then the Smart City project has failed its most basic test.

The latest study by the Government of Goa's College of Multidisciplinary Studies and Research confirms what Panaji's residents and traders have known for years. Despite hundreds of crores being spent on redevelopment, Panaji remains Goa's most flood-prone urban centre. Areas like Patto, St Inez and 18th June Road continue to suffer repeated flooding, exposing glaring weaknesses in the city's drainage and urban planning.

This is not a one-off incident caused by unusually heavy rainfall. Flooding in Panaji has become an annual event. Shops are submerged, roads become rivers, traffic comes to a halt, businesses lose revenue and residents are left wondering what exactly the Smart City funds have achieved. When flooding becomes predictable, it ceases to be a natural disaster and becomes an administrative failure.

What makes the situation worse is that the Smart City project caused years of inconvenience. Roads were dug up repeatedly. Traffic diversions became the norm. Businesses suffered because customers stayed away from construction zones. Citizens tolerated the disruption because they were promised a better city. They accepted the inconvenience as the price of long term improvement.

Today, many are asking a simple question. Was it worth it?

The answer becomes difficult when newly paved roads sink, footpaths require repeated repairs, and floodwaters continue to enter commercial establishments. The very infrastructure that was meant to solve urban problems appears unable to withstand a normal Goan monsoon.

The Mayor's apology to affected traders is welcome as a gesture of accountability. But apologies cannot replace performance. Citizens do not expect sympathy after every flood. They expect solutions before the next rain arrives.

The problem lies in the approach adopted by many Smart City projects across the country. Too much emphasis is placed on beautification, decorative streetscapes and cosmetic upgrades, while the invisible infrastructure beneath the roads receives far less attention. Attractive pavements, designer lighting and urban aesthetics mean little if stormwater drains cannot carry rainwater away efficiently.

A truly smart city is not one with colourful walkways or modern street furniture. It is one where drainage systems are scientifically designed, utilities function seamlessly and citizens can move safely even during adverse weather. Technology and appearance should complement resilience, not replace it.

There must also be accountability for the utilisation of public money. Every major Smart City project is funded by taxpayers. Citizens have every right to know whether drainage designs were properly assessed, whether contractors met quality standards and whether project execution matched the approved plans. Independent technical audits should no longer be optional. They should be mandatory.

The recent study offers a roadmap rather than merely highlighting a problem. By identifying recurring flood hotspots through GIS based analysis, it provides planners with scientific evidence to redesign vulnerable zones instead of relying on temporary fixes after every monsoon. The government must treat these findings as an urgent policy document rather than another academic report.

Panaji deserves better. As Goa's capital, it should set the benchmark for urban planning, not become the state's most visible example of planning failure. Visitors should remember Panaji for its heritage, culture and cleanliness, not for viral videos of flooded streets after twenty minutes of rain.

The Smart City Mission promised a city prepared for the future. Instead, Panaji continues to struggle with a problem that should have been solved decades ago. Until floodwaters stop exposing poor planning, the Smart City label will remain nothing more than an expensive slogan.

12 Held In Goa As Mumbai Police Expose International Cybercrime Network

■ Candolim Villa Raid Leads To Seizure Of Laptops, ATM Cards And SIM Cards; Probe Points To Dubai-Based Operators

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A joint investigation by the Mumbai Police Crime Branch into an online fraud case has uncovered an alleged international cybercrime syndicate operating from Goa, leading to the arrest of 12 persons from a rented villa in Candolim.

The arrests were made after Crime Branch Unit 2, while probing a cyber fraud case registered at Paydhuni Police Station



in Mumbai, traced suspicious financial transactions to Goa. Investigators suspected that bank accounts fraudulently opened in Mumbai were being used to route money through an organised network based

in the coastal state. Acting on the intelligence, police conducted a raid at the Candolim premises, where the accused were allegedly coordinating the movement of funds linked to cyber fraud and online gaming activities.

During the operation, officers recovered 15 laptops, 128 ATM cards, 89 mobile phones, 76 SIM cards and 22

cheque books. Police believe these items were used to create and operate a network of bank accounts for illegal financial transactions. The investigation has revealed that the group allegedly relied on online platforms known as '900 Panel' and 'Rudra' to process transactions. Investigators suspect the accused received a commission for transferring money generated through cyber fraud and illegal online gaming operations.

Anjunem Reservoir Fills Rapidly After Heavy Rain, Authorities Rule Out Immediate Water Release

■ Dam Reaches 75% Storage; Administration Keeps Emergency Measures Ready As Water Level Continues To Rise

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Heavy rainfall across Sattari taluka and the Western Ghats over the past several days has led to a sharp increase in water storage at the Anjunem reservoir, with the dam now holding nearly three-fourths of its total capacity.

Officials from the Water Resources Department (WRD) said the reservoir level has risen to around 88 metres following continuous inflow from the catchment area. They clarified that water

will not be released at this stage, as discharge procedures will be considered only after the level reaches 92 metres and all mandatory safety protocols are completed.

To assess the situation, Sattari Mamlatdar Dharendra Banavalikar inspected the dam site and reviewed the preparedness of the WRD. He discussed the latest reservoir status, weather conditions, emergency response plans and arrangements required in the event of a controlled release.

During the visit, Banavalikar instructed officials to ensure all operational systems remain ready before the reservoir reaches its maximum level.

He stressed that public safety must remain the top priority and that any decision to release water should be preceded by adequate precautionary measures.



Goa Water Metro Project Enters DPR Stage, Technical Studies Kick Off

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The proposed Goa Water Metro has taken a significant step forward with Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) beginning work on the Detailed Project Report (DPR), while simultaneously launching a series of technical studies that will determine the project's design and feasibility.

River Navigation Minister Subhash Phal Dessai said the State government has asked KMRL to complete the DPR within four months, shortening the original six-month timeline mentioned in the work order.

KMRL Chief General Manager Shaji Janardhanam said the agency received the work order on July 24 and has already initiated field-level activities. As part of the process, KMRL has started engaging with village panchayats and local residents to understand their concerns and gather feedback.

He said one such interaction was recently held in Chorao, where residents raised several issues related to the project.

Saligao, Pilerne Get State-Funded Doorstep Waste Collection Service

■ GSWMC Takes Over Daily Household Garbage Collection; Government To Bear Entire ₹3.5-Crore Annual Cost

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has rolled out a fully funded door-to-door waste collection service in the village panchayats of Saligao and Pilerne, marking the first time rural local bodies in the State have received such a facility without having to share the operational cost.

Effective August 1, the Goa State Waste Management Corporation (GSWMC) has assumed responsibility for collecting segregated household



waste from every residence in the two villages. The Corporation will manage the service on a daily basis, with all expenses being met by the State government.

Officials said the project will require an annual expenditure of around ₹3.5 crore. The allocation covers

manpower, dedicated waste collection vehicles and operational costs associated with transporting wet and dry waste separately to ensure proper handling and disposal.

According to GSWMC Managing Director Harish Adconkar, Saligao and Pilerne were selected because of their close proximity to the Saligao Solid Waste Management Facility, making daily transportation of waste both practical and efficient.

Rebuild Margao Police Station & Residential Quarters: Prabhav Naik

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Madganvcho Awaaz & Youth Leader Prabhav Naik has urged the Government to immediately rebuild the Margao Police Station and the adjoining Police Residential Quarters. He said the recent dengue cases at the police station are a wake-up call that cannot be ignored.

Prabhav Naik pointed out that the South Goa District Police Headquarters houses the Margao Police



Station, making it one of the most important police establishments in the district. He said the ageing infrastructure no longer meets the requirements of a modern police establishment.

He said the adjoining

Police Residential Quarters are in a dilapidated condition. The premises are littered with confiscated and abandoned vehicles, piles of garbage and overgrown vegetation, while trees have taken root in the

walls of the buildings, reflecting years of neglect and creating an unhealthy environment conducive to mosquito breeding.

Prabhav Naik said police personnel and their families deserve a safe, healthy and dignified place to work and live. Those entrusted with maintaining law and order should not be compelled to function from neglected infrastructure that compromises their well-being.

Man Booked For Alleged Sexual Assault Of Minor In Quepem

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: Quepem Police have registered a case against a man for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl at a rented house in Quepem.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by a woman whose identity has been withheld. She alleged that at around 5:10 am on August 4, the accused, presently residing in Quepem and a native of Cumbarjua, Tiswadi, allegedly entered the rented house where the minor victim was asleep.

Thai Woman Booked For Illegal Stay In Goa

■ 38-year-old found staying at Ashwem resort with invalid visa; case registered under Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: A 38-year-old Thailand national has been booked by Mandrem Police for allegedly staying illegally in Goa without valid travel documents.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by Devendra Pingle (37), Police Inspector attached to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Panaji.



The complaint stated that during a verification

conducted at around 12:40 pm on August 5 at

La Cabana Beach and Spa Resort, Ashwem, the accused, identified as Itsaraporn Phannakhen, was found residing in India without a valid visa.

Police said the woman was allegedly staying in violation of the provisions of Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. Mandrem Police have registered the case, and further investigation is being carried out by PSI Laximan Dessai.



Russian National Booked For Illegal Stay In Goa

■ 41-year-old allegedly found staying in Mandrem without valid passport and visa; case registered under Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: A 41-year-old Russian national has been booked by Mandrem Police for allegedly staying illegally in Goa without valid travel documents.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by Devendra Pingle, Police Inspector attached to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Panaji. During a verification conducted at around 2:00 pm on August 5 at Gawadewada, Mandrem, the accused,

identified as Denis Fominov, son of Evgenii Fominov, was allegedly found residing in India without a valid passport and visa.

Police said the accused was staying at the residence of Nitesh Gawade at House No. 185/A, Gawadewada, Mandrem, Pernem.

A case has been registered under Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Jaydeep Palyekar of Mandrem Police Station.

Man Booked For Allegedly Molesting Minor Girl In Rivona



Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: Quepem Police have registered a case against a man for allegedly molesting a minor girl in Rivona.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by the victim's mother, whose identity has been withheld. She alleged that on July 31, at around 3:00 pm, the accused, identified as Pradeep Kakodkar, a resident of Rivona, Quepem, allegedly forcibly took the minor girl to a cowshed and inappropriately touched her against her will.

Police further stated that at around 5:00 pm the same day, when the victim's parents had gone out, the accused allegedly came to the girl's house, caught hold of her hand, again took her to the same cowshed, and allegedly touched her inappropriately. He also allegedly threatened the minor not to disclose the incidents to anyone.

A case has been registered, and further investigation is being carried out by LPSI Joyce Carvalho of Quepem Police Station.

Four Arrested In Calangute Kidnapping And Extortion Case

■ Group allegedly assaulted two men, extorted ₹27,000 and abducted one victim from rented apartment

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have arrested four persons in connection with a kidnapping, assault and extortion case reported at a rented apartment in Calangute. According to police, complainant Ravindra Yadav, a native of Rajasthan currently residing at Flat No. 407, Kamat Holiday Home, Gaurawado, Calangute, stated that at around 2:30 am on August 5, seven to eight unidentified



persons, including two women, forcibly entered his rented apartment. The accused allegedly assaulted Ravindra Yadav and his friend, Ankit Kumar, with sticks and pipes, threatened to kill

them, and extorted ₹27,000 by putting them in fear of death or grievous injury. Police said the accused also allegedly abducted Ankit Kumar and kept him at a secret location.

During the investigation, Calangute Police arrested four accused identified as Sai Jadhav (23), Sushil Sadafule (23), Gurvinder Singh Barar (43), and Saraswati Kishor Sitapure (32).

Man Arrested With 3.5 Kg Ganja At Cavelossim

■ 29-year-old held during police operation in Salcete; probe underway to trace source of contraband

Team Goemkarponn

SALCETE: A 29-year-old man was arrested by police for allegedly possessing 3.5 kilograms of ganja during an operation at Bhattiwaddo, Cavelossim, Salcete.

The accused has been identified as Issac Regan Pereira (29), a resident of Lakaki, Davorlim, Dicarpali, Navelim, Salcete.



Police said they seized 3.5 kg of suspected ganja from the accused during the

operation. A case has been registered under the relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs

and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Further investigation is underway to ascertain the source of the contraband and its intended distribution. The operation was conducted under the overall supervision of South Goa Superintendent of Police Tikam Singh Verma, DySP Siddhant Shirodkar, and PI Videsh Shirodkar.

Additional Sessions Court Grants Conditional Bail In Kidnapping Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Additional Sessions Court has granted conditional bail to the wife of Sanjeel Kudchadkar in connection with a kidnapping case that is currently under investigation. The court directed the accused to execute a personal bond of ₹25,000 and furnish one surety of the same amount, besides complying with other conditions laid down in the bail order. The court clarified that the grant of bail does not amount to a finding on the merits of the case.

Dengue Alert At South Goa Police Headquarters

■ Three suspected infections among police personnel prompt intensified mosquito-control measures in Margao

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Three suspected dengue cases have been reported among police personnel attached to the South Goa District Police Headquarters in Margao, prompting the Health Department to step up preventive measures at the premises.

Officials from the Margao Urban Health Centre said two of the suspected cases were



reported in July, while the latest case surfaced earlier this month. In response, health teams carried out fogging operations, anti-larval treatment and inspections

to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding sites within the police headquarters and nearby areas.

Margao Police Station In-charge PI Arun Desai confirmed that a Police Sub-Inspector and a police constable are among those affected. The three personnel are from different parts of

South Goa—Sanguem, Canacona and Morpilla—and only one was residing in the police barracks, making it difficult to determine whether the infections were linked to the police headquarters.

Health officials clarified that only three suspected dengue cases have been officially reported to the Margao Urban Health Centre, even though higher numbers have been circulating in some reports.



South Goa Collector Chairs Meeting On Trishul Enclave Defence Land Transfer

■ Officials to verify land records and prepare survey plan to facilitate transfer to Goa Government

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: South Goa Collector Eгна Cleetus, IAS, chaired a special meeting in the presence of Vasco MLA Daji Salkar to review the proposed transfer of defence land at Trishul Enclave to the Government of Goa.

The meeting was attended by officers of the Indian Navy, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) and Mamlatdar of Mormugao Taluka, the Inspector of Survey and Land Records (ISLR), and

officials of the Public Works Department (PWD).

During the meeting, it was decided that the mutation records and title documents relating to the land would be scrutinised. Officials also resolved to prepare a survey plan of the land as part of the transfer process.

The Collector directed that the work be undertaken and coordinated by the designated Nodal Officer to facilitate the transfer of the defence land to the Government of Goa.



CM Calls On Panchayats To Finalise Vikasit Gram Panchayat Plans By March 2027

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has called upon Gram Panchayats across Goa to prepare detailed Vikasit Gram Panchayat Plans by March 2027, stating that the Rural Development Agency (RDA) will recognise and reward the best-performing village development initiatives.

Speaking at a District-Level Panch Sammelan attended by Sarpanches, Panch members and Gramin Rozgar Sahayaks (GRS), Sawant urged local bodies to make better use of Central Government schemes, particularly the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), to improve rural infrastructure while generating employment. The Chief Minister said Goa has not been submitting enough project proposals under MGNREGA despite the availability of Central assistance.

AICC Appoints New GPCC Social Media Team

■ *Himanshu Tivrekhar named Chairperson; new office-bearers to strengthen Congress' digital outreach in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has announced the appointment of a new team for the Social Media Department of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) with immediate effect. According to a notification issued by AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, the appointments have been approved by the Congress President on the recommendation



of the party leadership. Himanshu Tivrekhar has been appointed as Chairperson of the GPCC Social Media Department. Linclon Gomes and Ajmal Sayyed have been named Vice-Chairpersons. The newly appointed Coordinators

are Sohan Shenai, Macline Fernandes, Prathibha Borkar, Glen Larceda, and Armando Ferreira Alvares. The GPCC congratulated the new office-bearers and expressed confidence that the team will strengthen the party's digital communication, enhance its outreach among citizens, particularly the youth, and effectively communicate the Congress Party's ideology, policies, programmes, and public issues across social media platforms.

North Goa DRSC Reviews Road Safety Measures

■ District Magistrate chairs meeting; road safety reel winners felicitated, focus on enforcement and infrastructure improvements

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The North Goa District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) meeting was chaired by North Goa District Magistrate Ankit Yadav, IAS, to review key road safety initiatives and strengthen coordination among stakeholder departments. During the meeting, Jeremias B. C. Fernandes and his



team were felicitated for securing first place in the "Reels 2 Road – Road Safety Reels Competition" organised by the Centre of Excellence for Road Safety, IIT Madras. The team was presented with a demand draft of ₹10,000. The committee discussed the District Road Safety Action Plan, enforcement against modified silencers, removal of stray cattle

from National Highways, installation of road safety signages along beach roads, deployment of patrolling vehicles, improvement of KTC bus stands, and timely construction of speed breakers and repair of potholes. All stakeholder departments reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing road safety and ensuring safer roads across North Goa.

Building Trust in Tech: Ai+ Smartphone Commits ₹100 Crore to Enhance Security Through Community Participation

Team Goemkarponn

GOA: In a groundbreaking move for the Indian smartphone landscape, Ai+ Smartphone has launched Project Trust+, a bold initiative dedicated to creating the country's safest smartphone ecosystem through long-term community engagement. The company is pledging ₹20 crore annually for the next five years, totaling ₹100 crore, to invite the tech and developer community to enhance security and foster trust within its devices.

Through the initiative, the company is inviting independent researchers to actively test its systems, challenge its security architecture and highlight vulnerabilities that can be addressed before they impact consumers.

Project Trust+ is driven by the belief that security is an ongoing journey rather than a final destination. As digital landscapes become more interconnected, Ai+ emphasizes that building secure smartphones



requires collaboration, transparency, and active participation from the community.

This initiative aims to go beyond traditional bug bounty programs, fostering an open environment where developers, security researchers, and ethical hackers can collectively contribute to the safety and resilience of Ai+ products.

Commenting on the announcement, Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies, said "Most companies

tell users their devices are secure. We want to prove it. The reality is that no smartphone, no platform, and no technology ecosystem can claim security as a finished destination. It evolves every day. Project Trust+ reflects our belief that trust should be built transparently and collaboratively. We are opening our doors to India's technology community because we believe the safest products are built not in isolation, but together."

The initiative further strengthens Ai+'s broader philosophy around

transparency, privacy, and user ownership, values that also sit at the centre of NxtQuantum OS, the company's sovereign mobile operating system initiative. With Project Trust+, Ai+ Smartphone aims to shift the conversation around smartphone security from claims and promises to continuous improvement and public accountability. Because when it comes to trust, the work is never complete. To apply for the programme, visit the link in bio on Madhav's IG handle Project Trust+ Because Trust Is Built Together.

Bandhan Contra Fund Aims to Tap Opportunities Beyond Market Sentiment

Team Goemkarponn

GOA: Bandhan Mutual Fund today announced the launch of the Bandhan Contra Fund, an open-ended equity scheme following a contrarian investment strategy. The fund seeks to identify fundamentally strong businesses that may be temporarily out of favour due to sector-wide concerns, cyclical challenges, macroeconomic uncertainties or prevailing market sentiment, with the potential for re-rating as perceptions and fundamentals improve over time.

The New Fund Offer (NFO) opens on Monday, August 10 and closes on Monday, August 24. Investments in Bandhan Contra Fund can be made through licensed mutual fund distributors, online platforms and directly at <https://bandhanmutual.com/nfo/bandhan-contra-fund>.

Commenting on the launch, Vishal Kapoor, CEO, Bandhan AMC said, "The launch of Bandhan Contra Fund comes at a time when valuation spread across sectors has widened considerably,

creating opportunities for selective contrarian investing. Several sectors and companies continue to trade below their long-term potential despite possessing sound business models, improving earnings visibility and strengthening balance sheets. Such sectoral divergence can provide fertile ground for investors seeking opportunities beyond the prevailing market consensus. Bandhan Contra Fund is designed to follow a disciplined contrarian framework with a growth bias, seeking to benefit from improving fundamentals, earnings recovery and eventual market re-rating."

Bandhan Contra Fund is designed for investors seeking a differentiated equity strategy that can complement traditional growth and value allocations.

The fund may be suitable for investors with a long-term investment horizon and the ability to remain invested through market cycles, participating in opportunities arising from changing fundamentals and market inefficiencies.

ST Reservation Process Begins In Goa; Four Key Steps Before Seats Are Reserved

published, allowing members of the public to submit objections and suggestions before the plan is finalised. After considering the feedback, the proposal will be forwarded to the Election Commission of India, which will formally notify the constituencies to be reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates. Welcoming the notification, Sawant said it fulfils a long-pending commitment to Goa's tribal communities and marks the beginning of the implementation process. He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for facilitating the legislation.

The notification comes at a politically significant time, with Scheduled Tribe organisations having announced an agitation over the delay in implementing Assembly reservation.

The Act was enacted to provide political reservation for Scheduled Tribes in Goa without waiting for the next nationwide delimitation exercise. Instead, it creates a separate mechanism for identifying constituencies eligible for reservation based on the Scheduled Tribe population.

Political Leaders Welcome ST Reservation Notification, Call It Milestone For Goa's Tribal Community

the State's Scheduled Tribe community. Chief Minister Dr.

Pramod Sawant termed the notification a "promise kept" and said it marks the beginning of the process to ensure political representation for Scheduled Tribes in the Goa Legislative Assembly.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for facilitating the legislation. Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar described the notification as a historic achievement secured after years of efforts and sacrifices.

"We wholeheartedly welcome the ST Political Reservation Act. We are grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant and the Bharatiya Janata Party," he said.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01



“Talks Must Be Held On Camera”: Jharkhand Students Form 11 Member Panel for Government Dialogue

■ Protesters demand exam cancellation, CBI probe and sweeping recruitment reforms as government prepares for talks

Team Goemkarponn

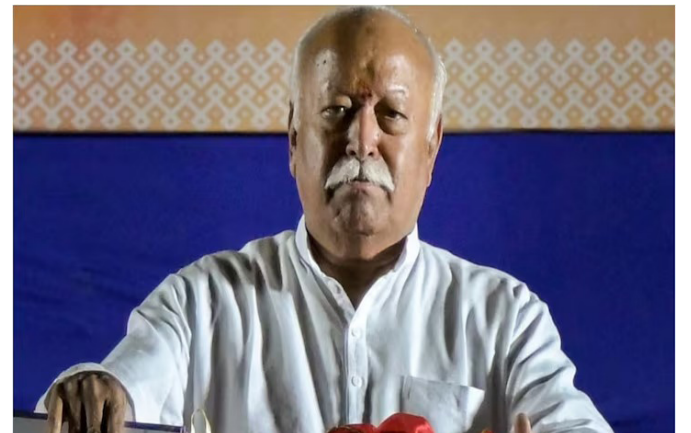
NEW DELHI: Protesting students in Ranchi have formed an 11 member delegation to negotiate with the Jharkhand government over alleged irregularities in the 14th Jharkhand Public Service Commission preliminary examination. The delegation was formed a day after the state government invited the



protesters for discussions. It includes eight students, a lawyer and two technical experts. The names have been submitted to

the Ranchi Sub Divisional Officer, while the government is expected to decide the date and venue for the meeting. The students have been protesting at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium for 13 days under the banner of the JPSC JSSC Reforms Manch. Their agitation intensified

following the declaration of the preliminary examination results last month. They have alleged serious irregularities in the examination, which was conducted by a private agency. The protesters are demanding cancellation of the examination, a Central Bureau of Investigation probe and a complete overhaul of the state's recruitment examination system.



“Gen Z Is Our Own People, Not Anti National”: Mohan Bhagwat Backs Right to Protest

■ RSS chief says young protesters must be heard, while stressing that democratic protests should be pursued through dialogue

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has defended the right of Gen Z to raise concerns through protests, saying young people who take to the streets over their grievances should not automatically be labelled anti national.

Speaking at a youth conference in Mumbai focused on the role of young people in promoting global unity, Bhagwat described Gen Z as the country's next generation and emphasised the need for dialogue and a stronger sense of mutual trust.

Bhagwat said he would not argue that young people should refrain from protesting.

However, he stressed that protests in a democracy should follow established methods and remain part of a broader process of dialogue. He also praised younger generations for being more willing to question authority and seek logical explanations. Comparing them with his own generation, Bhagwat said young people today are less inclined to simply accept what they are told and are more prepared to ask questions. His remarks come amid student protests in Delhi over alleged irregularities and paper leaks linked to a major undergraduate medical entrance examination.

“Peace Along Border Is Essential”: India, China Agree to Resolve Pending Issues Through Existing Channels

■ New Delhi and Beijing review LAC situation, boundary management and cross border cooperation during key diplomatic talks

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India and China have agreed to continue addressing outstanding border issues through established diplomatic and military mechanisms, while stressing the importance of maintaining peace and stability along the Line of Actual Control.

The understanding came during discussions held in New Delhi under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India



China Border Affairs. Both sides reviewed the situation along the LAC and held detailed discussions on boundary delimitation, border management and mechanisms for cooperation across the

frontier. The two countries agreed to make continued use of existing channels, including the WMCC and meetings between local military commanders, to address pending matters and reduce the possibility of misunderstandings along the border. The latest discussions also followed earlier engagement between the Special Representatives of the two countries.

India raised the need for an early meeting of the expert level mechanism dealing with trans border rivers and emphasised the importance of exchanging technical information concerning upstream water projects.

The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary for East Asia Sujit Ghosh, while the Chinese delegation was headed by Hou Yanqi, Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department in China's foreign ministry.

“Concerns Have Been Addressed”: Centre Eyes Passage of Foreign Funding Bill Next Week

■ Amit Shah holds talks with political parties and Christian organisations as government seeks to clear objections over proposed FCRA changes

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Centre has moved to resolve concerns surrounding the Foreign Contribution Regulation Amendment Bill and is preparing to seek its passage in Parliament next week. Home Minister Amit Shah has taken charge of efforts to address objections raised by political parties and



Christian organisations over provisions aimed at tightening the regulation of foreign funding received by NGOs.

Shah held discussions with several stakeholders, including Christian organisations that had expressed concerns about

the proposed changes. He also met Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma at Parliament House, following which the Chief Minister described the discussion as positive. He said assurances had been given that the proposed law would not operate retrospectively.

Government sources maintained that the bill contains no provision for retrospective implementation and

largely follows the framework of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act introduced in 2010. They also rejected concerns that the legislation was specifically aimed at Christian organisations. The main areas of concern involve Sections 14B, 16A and 16B. Section 14B deals with the lapse of an FCRA registration when an organisation fails to seek renewal, has its renewal

application rejected or allows its registration to expire. Sections 16A and 16B deal with assets created using foreign contributions. Under the proposed provisions, assets such as schools, hospitals and community centres could come under the control of a designated authority following cancellation or expiry of an organisation's FCRA registration.

“BCCI Medical Team Monitoring”: Shubman Gill Misses Practice Match After Finger Injury

■ KL Rahul takes charge as India avoid risking Test captain ahead of Sri Lanka series

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India Test captain Shubman Gill has been ruled out of the opening day of the team's three day warm up match against Sri Lanka XI in Colombo after suffering an injury to his right ring finger during practice.

Gill sustained the blow during Thursday's training session, with the injury occurring twice during



the nets. The Indian team management has decided to keep him out of Friday's game as a precaution, with vice captain KL Rahul taking charge of the side

for the opening day.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India medical team is monitoring Gill's condition. With the first Test against Sri Lanka scheduled to begin in Galle in just over a week, the team management is expected to take a cautious approach and avoid exposing the captain

to unnecessary risk.

Gill's injury adds to a growing list of fitness concerns within the Indian squad. Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah was initially included in the Test squad but was subsequently withdrawn after sustaining an injury during the recent ODI series in England. Jammu and Kashmir pacer Aqib Nabi has been brought in as his replacement.



“Praggnanandhaa Is the Champion”: Indian Grandmaster Seals St. Louis Rapid and Blitz Title

■ 20 year old Indian star wins Grand Chess Tour event with a round to spare after drawing against Javokhir Sindarov

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has added another major achievement to his growing list of international successes by winning the Grand Chess Tour St. Louis Rapid and Blitz title. The 20 year old secured the championship with a round still remaining after drawing against Javokhir Sindarov in the penultimate round. Praggnanandhaa finished on 23 points out of a possible 35, ending the competition 1.5 points clear of the rest of the field. The victory marks a significant milestone in his career as it is his first title in a Rapid and Blitz event. His

consistent performances across the tournament allowed him to build a commanding lead before the final round. Praggnanandhaa's latest triumph comes only weeks after another landmark victory. In June, he won Norway Chess 2026 in Oslo after defeating Germany's Vincent Keymer in the final round. The Indian Grandmaster produced a remarkable finish in that tournament, winning four consecutive classical games to complete a dramatic comeback and claim one of the biggest titles of his career. His recent run of form has further established Praggnanandhaa as one of the leading young players on the international chess circuit.



“I Broke My Own Record”: Mohammed Ashfaq Sets New U20 400m National Mark at World Championships

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Indian sprinter Mohammed Ashfaq produced a standout performance at the World Athletics U20 Championships by breaking the national under 20 record in the men's 400 metres and qualifying for the semifinals.

The 19 year old clocked 45.81 seconds in his first round heat, finishing second behind American Jayden DeLeon, who recorded 45.63 seconds. Ashfaq's time placed him fourth overall among the qualifiers. The performance improved his own previous national U20 record of 46.05 seconds, which he had set earlier this season in April. His latest run underlined his rapid progress and put him among the leading young 400m runners at the championships. India's Piyush Raj, however, could not advance to the semifinals. He finished fifth in his heat and 35th overall after clocking 47.78 seconds.

“Our Position Holds”: UEFA Keeps FIFA Boycott Threat Alive, Says Trust in Infantino Is Lost

■ European football body rejects FIFA's apology and insists conditions for ending potential boycott remain unmet

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: UEFA has maintained its threat to boycott FIFA competitions, saying its concerns over the leadership of FIFA president Gianni Infantino remain unresolved despite an apology from the global football governing body.

In a strongly worded statement, UEFA said its member associations had clearly outlined the conditions required to withdraw the threat of non participation in FIFA competitions. The



European body said FIFA must permanently abandon proposals to sell stakes in major competitions, including the World Cup, and provide guarantees that similar plans would not be pursued again.

According to UEFA, neither condition has been

satisfactorily addressed. The organisation also reiterated that it has lost confidence in Infantino's leadership and said that position remains unchanged.

The dispute follows controversy over a proposal involving the sale of stakes in major FIFA competitions. FIFA later apologised to its council and member associations over what it described as errors surrounding the process and pledged to prevent similar situations in the future.

Rahul Lotlikar Wins Men's Title as 6th Daivadnya Carrom Tournament Concludes in Ponda

■ Over 85 players compete across four categories at the 6th edition of the community carrom tournament

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: The 6th edition of the Daivadnya Carrom Tournament 2026 was successfully held on July 26 at Daivadnya Hall, Ponda, with more than 85 players participating across different age categories.

The tournament was organised by the Akhil Gomantakiya Daivadnya Brahmin Youth Association and Ponda



Daivadnya Brahmin Samaj, with support from the Goa Carrom Association. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation, highlighting the growing popularity of

carrom among players of different age groups.

Smt. Sampada Amey Nagekar, Secretary of AGDBYA, and Mr. Deepak Lotlikar, President of Ponda Daivadnya Samaj,

welcomed the guests and participants.

The tournament was attended by Mr. Sunil Pandurang Karekar, retired Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department, as the chief guest.

During the event, young cricketer Mast. Shaurya Prajyot Chodankar was also felicitated for his achievements in cricket.

In the Kids category, Aarush Lotlikar emerged

as the winner, while Shriyan Vernekar finished runner up. Alka Chodankar claimed the Women's title, with Shruti Vernekar taking second place.

The Veterans category was won by Shyamrao Raikar, while Guresh Bandodkar finished runner up. In the Men's category, Rahul Lotlikar secured the championship, with Rutvik Nagzarkar finishing as runner up.