

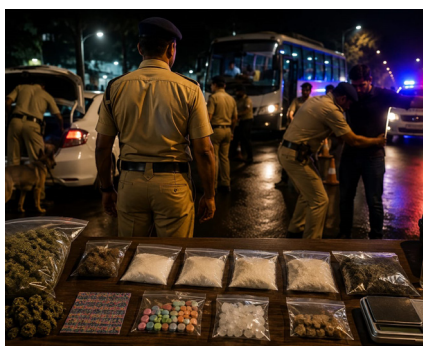


Operation Prahar: Goa Police Registers 10 NDPS Cases, Arrests 12 In Statewide Crackdown

■ Drugs Including Ganja, LSD, Cocaine And Ecstasy Seized; Over 1,000 Vehicles, 120 Interstate Buses And 11 Trains Checked

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Police carried out a statewide enforcement drive, "Operation Prahar," on Friday night targeting narcotics, crime and other illegal activities across the State. The coordinated operation led to the registration of 10 cases under the NDPS Act and the arrest of 12 persons for possession of narcotic



substances.

The crackdown involved District Police, the Anti-Terrorism Squad

(ATS), Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC), Coastal Police, Traffic Police, Crime Branch and other specialised units, which conducted simultaneous operations at multiple locations across Goa.

Police seized various narcotic and psychotropic substances, including

ganja, LSD, cocaine, ecstasy and other prohibited drugs during the operation.

As part of the drive, Railway Police carried out surprise checks at Thivim and Margao railway stations. Eleven trains operating on the Konkan Railway and South Western Railway routes were searched, with suspicious passengers

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Family Protests Outside Deep Vihar School Over Student's Drowning Death

Kin Demand Justice And Accountability; Police Assure FIR Registered Over Alleged Negligence During Sattari Excursion



Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Family members of the student who drowned during a school-organised excursion to Sattari staged a protest outside Deep Vihar Higher Secondary School, demanding justice and accountability over the incident.

The family alleged that there was negligence in ensuring the student's safety during the excursion and said they were considering legal action against the school management.

Police personnel were deployed at the school premises as the protest gathered momentum, with authorities taking precautionary measures to prevent any untoward

incident. Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam assured the grieving family that an FIR had already been registered in connection with the alleged negligence. He also assured them that the matter would be investigated as per law.

The incident has raised questions over the safety arrangements and supervision provided to students during school-organised excursions. The school management expressed regret over the incident, describing it as unfortunate, and said the circumstances surrounding the student's death would be investigated. The family, meanwhile, continued to demand accountability and appropriate action against those found responsible.



Nafiyaz Shaikh Moves High Court For Premature Release In Mandar Surlakar Murder Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Nafiyaz Shaikh, one of the four persons convicted in the 2006 kidnapping and murder of 17-year-old Mandar Surlakar, has approached the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court seeking premature release from his life sentence. Shaikh's plea follows the High Court's recent decision permitting three other convicts in the case — Rohan Pai Dhungat, Ryan Pinto and Shankar Tiwari — to be released before completion of their full life sentences. His request will be examined against the remission policy and the legal framework governing premature release of prisoners. In its recent ruling, a Division Bench of Justice Neela Gokhale and Justice Amit Jamsandekar considered the prolonged incarceration of the three convicts and their eligibility for remission.

ST Political Reservation Process To Be Completed Within A Month: CM Sawant

■ CM Says Commissioner Will Consider Updated ST Population Data; Rules Out Confusion Over 2001 Census Reference

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the process to implement political reservation for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community in the Goa Legislative Assembly will be completed within a month following the Central Government's notification bringing the reservation process a step closer to implementation.



Sawant said the notification was issued after the legislation underwent proper legal examination and clarified that the reference to the 2001 Census should not lead to any confusion over

the population figures to be considered.

According to the Chief Minister, the Commissioner to be appointed by the Central Government will examine the available ST population data, including the figures recorded up to the present date, before identifying the Assembly constituencies where reservation will be applicable.

Mopa Airport Link Road Toll Revised; Cars To Pay ₹45

■ New Rates Effective From August 10; North Goa-Registered Taxis Get Reduced Toll Of ₹25 Per Trip

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Motorists using the NH-66 link road connecting to Manohar International Airport, Mopa, will have to pay revised toll charges from August 10, with the new tariff set to remain in force until March 31.

The biggest change is for cars and other light motor vehicles, for which the single-journey toll has been increased to ₹45 from the existing ₹19.70.

Under the revised



completed within 24 hours will cost ₹70. Commuters making frequent trips can opt for a 50-trip monthly pass priced at ₹1,575.

Eligible local residents will continue to have access to a separate monthly pass, which has been revised to ₹360 from ₹350.

North Goa-registered

▶ CONTD TO PAGE 06

"Protest Continues": Jharkhand Students Reject End To Agitation Despite Positive Talks

■ JPSC and JSSC aspirants seek concrete action over recruitment concerns and alleged exam irregularities

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Students protesting in Ranchi have decided to continue their agitation despite what both sides described as a positive meeting with the Jharkhand government. The students said they welcomed the government's willingness to discuss their concerns but would not call off the protest until concrete action was taken.

A delegation of student representatives



met government officials on Thursday and presented their demands. The students said the government acknowledged that their concerns were genuine and assured them that the issues would be examined. Student representatives described

the first round of discussions as encouraging and said further meetings were expected. However, they maintained that assurances alone were not enough to end the ongoing protest.

The government also described the meeting as cordial. Officials indicated that the students' concerns would be considered seriously and that discussions would continue to find a possible resolution.

Kejriwal's Goa Equation: Alliance, Ambition or Holiday Politics?

The Aam Aadmi Party has once again raised the question of Opposition unity in Goa, but in doing so it has also exposed the contradiction at the heart of its own politics. On one hand, AAP says it wants a united Opposition to defeat the BJP in the 2027 Assembly elections. On the other, its national convenor Arvind Kejriwal continues to attack the Congress and ask voters to choose AAP. If this is the language of an alliance partner, what exactly does AAP mean by alliance?

The latest remarks are revealing. Kejriwal, during his visit to Goa, said AAP has constituted a three-member committee to speak to like-minded parties. At the same time, when asked whether AAP's criticism of Congress could hurt alliance prospects, his response was essentially that Congress also attacks AAP. He then said voters should choose AAP, or whichever alliance AAP becomes part of.

This is precisely where AAP needs to clear the air.

Does it genuinely want an alliance, or does it want the political benefits of appearing to support Opposition unity while continuing to expand its own electoral footprint at the expense of Congress?

There is nothing wrong with AAP wanting to grow in Goa. Every political party has the right to contest every constituency and seek votes. But alliance politics requires political discipline. If AAP wants Congress to be its partner, it cannot simultaneously behave as though Congress is its principal electoral enemy.

The contradiction becomes even sharper when AAP talks about defeating the BJP while questioning Congress's intentions. AAP's Goa leadership had earlier said that Congress, as the senior Opposition party, should take the initiative in bringing Opposition parties together. It has also repeatedly spoken about a Common Minimum Programme and an anti-BJP front.

So what has changed?

If the objective is genuinely to defeat the BJP, then the conversation should be about where the Opposition can collectively defeat the BJP, not about how many constituencies each party can capture from the other.

This is particularly important in Goa because elections here are not simply arithmetic exercises. Constituencies have their own political histories, personalities, local equations and voter loyalties. A national party cannot simply import

AAP has been in Goa for several years and won two Assembly seats in 2022. Its MLAs have remained in the Opposition, and that is certainly a political credential. Venzy Viegas has argued that AAP has stayed in the Opposition for more than four years without crossing over to the BJP, while acknowledging that Congress has its own record of defections.

But staying in Opposition is only one measure of political credibility. The bigger question is whether AAP has developed a genuinely Goan political identity.

a Delhi or Punjab template and expect Goans to accept it.

That brings us to another uncomfortable question: does AAP really fit into Goa's political ecosystem?

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But staying in Opposition is only one measure of political credibility. The bigger question is whether AAP has developed a genuinely Goan political identity.

Goa has always resisted politics that appears excessively controlled from outside. Political parties that survive here are those that understand the local mood, local institutions, community equations, land issues, environment, tourism, jobs and the distinct aspirations of Goans. AAP cannot remain permanently dependent on the

personality and political vocabulary of Arvind Kejriwal and expect voters to see it as a truly Goan alternative.

Kejriwal's interventions also deserve scrutiny. During his latest visit, he attacked the Centre's E20 petrol policy and claimed Goa was among the worst affected states. He has also urged Goans to vote out the BJP. These are legitimate political issues, but the question is whether Goans actually endorse Kejriwal's larger political worldview or merely listen to him as another visiting politician.

There is an even more cynical question that AAP itself must answer. Is Kejriwal coming to Goa to build an alternative political movement, or is Goa becoming another convenient destination for national political campaigning? The suggestion that he is enjoying Goa at Punjab's expense is politically provocative, but it also points to a legitimate issue of accountability. Political leaders should explain the purpose, cost and political substance of repeated visits rather than treating Goa as a stage for national messaging.

For Congress, however, the answer cannot simply be to reject AAP. If defeating the BJP is the stated objective, Opposition parties must have serious conversations. Congress has itself indicated that it is open to alliances with anti-BJP parties provided there is a common programme and shared political understanding.

But an alliance cannot be built on television statements and press conferences.

If AAP really wants an alliance, it must demonstrate it through action. Stop attacking potential partners in constituencies where seat adjustments may eventually be required. Stop sending contradictory signals. Sit across the table with Congress, GFP and other Opposition parties and decide what the alliance stands for.

And Congress must do the same.

Ultimately, the decision belongs to Goans. They will decide whether AAP has become part of Goa's political ecosystem or remains an outside political experiment. They will also decide whether Kejriwal's arguments resonate with them.

The Opposition cannot manufacture unity merely by repeating the word "alliance". If AAP wants one, it must first prove that it wants a partnership more than it wants political space. Otherwise, the alliance talk will remain exactly what many voters may already suspect it is: political lip service.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RGP Crisis Could Hurt Opposition Unity

The continuing crisis within the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) is unfortunate, particularly at a time when Goa's Opposition parties should be working towards greater unity ahead of the forthcoming Assembly elections.

The latest development involving suspended RGP member Ajay Kholkar, who did not appear before the party's Disciplinary Committee despite being called for a hearing, reflects the internal challenges facing the party. While every political organisation has the right to take disciplinary action, prolonged internal disputes can weaken a party's credibility and organisational strength.

The timing is particularly significant. The Opposition in Goa is already fragmented, with Congress, RGP, AAP and other political forces pursuing their own strategies. If individual parties remain occupied with internal conflicts, building a broader Opposition understanding will become even more difficult.

The RGP has been an important voice in Goa's regional political space. Any serious weakening of the party could have consequences beyond its own organisation, especially if Opposition parties are hoping to coordinate their efforts against the ruling BJP.

The coming election will not only be about individual candidates but also about whether the Opposition can convince voters that it has the maturity and unity to provide a credible alternative. Internal fights, public allegations and disciplinary disputes can send the opposite message.

RGP leaders should therefore make every effort to resolve differences through dialogue and democratic mechanisms. The Opposition cannot afford to waste valuable time fighting among itself.

If Opposition unity is the objective, political differences must eventually give way to a larger common purpose. Otherwise, a divided Opposition could once again make the BJP the biggest beneficiary.

- Francisco D'Souza, Margao

School Excursions Must Not Compromise Children's Safety

The drowning of a school student during an excursion in Sattari is a deeply tragic incident and raises serious questions about the safety measures followed during school trips. The registration of a negligence case against four teachers and two tour operators shows that there are concerns regarding the manner in which the excursion was conducted.

If students were taken to a wildlife area without the required permission and were allowed to enter a waterfall area despite the risks, then accountability must be fixed. School excursions are meant to provide children with educational and recreational experiences, but they also place a greater responsibility on teachers and tour operators to ensure their safety.

Children cannot be expected to understand the dangers associated with waterfalls, slippery rocks, strong currents or unfamiliar terrain. Adults supervising them must assess risks in advance and take appropriate precautions.

The police investigation should establish the complete sequence of events and determine whether established safety protocols were followed. If negligence is proved, those responsible must face appropriate action.

At the same time, the incident should prompt the Education Department to introduce stricter safety guidelines for school excursions. Schools should verify tour operators, obtain necessary permissions, conduct risk assessments and ensure adequate supervision of students. Emergency response arrangements and first aid facilities should also be mandatory.

Educational trips are important for children, but no excursion is worth compromising a child's safety. One family has already suffered an irreparable loss. Goa must ensure that such a tragedy does not happen again.

- Joseph Fernandes, Valpoi

North Goa Collector Seeks Forest Report Over Class 11 Student's Drowning In Sattari

■ Collector Questions Safety Arrangements, Staff Deployment And Compliance With Monsoon Safety Directions At Tonir-Kajredhat Waterfall

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: North Goa Collector Ankit Yadav has sought a detailed factual report from the Forest Department following the drowning of a Class 11 student at the Tonir-Kajredhat River/Waterfall in Sattari, raising questions over safety arrangements and compliance with earlier monsoon safety



directions.

According to a report submitted by the Sattari Deputy Collector, 23 students and four teachers

from Deep Vihar Higher Secondary School, Vasco, had travelled by private bus for a trekking programme and had hired a private, non-local

lifeguard to accompany them to the Tonir-Kajredhat area.

The incident was reported at around 12

noon on Friday, following which the Valpoi Fire Station alerted the Taluka Disaster Management authorities. The Sattari Mamlatdar, along with the Talathi and Circle Inspector, reached the spot at around 1.50 p.m. Fire and Emergency Services, police, Forest Department personnel and a 108 ambulance were already present at the site.

Ajay Kholkar Fails To Appear Before RGP Disciplinary Committee

■ Suspended RGP Member Skips Scheduled Hearing; Committee To Proceed With Inquiry Based On Available Material

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Suspended Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) member Ajay Kholkar did not appear before the party's Disciplinary Committee on Friday despite being directed to attend a scheduled hearing in connection with the disciplinary proceedings against him.

The committee, headed by Pravin Halarnkar, had issued a notice directing Kholkar to appear before it on August 7 at 6.30 pm. According to the committee, Kholkar neither attended the hearing nor submitted a sufficient explanation for his absence.

The committee said Kholkar had been given an opportunity to present his version of the matter and submit documents or other material in his defence.

Following his non-appearance, the committee will proceed with the disciplinary inquiry in accordance with the applicable procedure. It will examine the material available on record before submitting its recommendations to the RGP National President.

The committee said the proceedings would be conducted independently and impartially, while following the principles of fairness and natural justice.



GAD Puts Government Vehicle Drivers On Notice Over PUC Compliance

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Drivers operating government vehicles in Goa have been directed to ensure that their vehicles carry valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates, with the General Administration Department (GAD) warning that violations could result in personal liability.

In a circular dated August 6, the GAD instructed drivers to renew PUC certificates that have already expired or are nearing expiry within seven days.

The department said it had come to its notice that a number of government vehicles were being used without valid PUC certificates, contrary to the requirements under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

As per the directions, any fine, penalty or other legal consequence arising from the use of a government vehicle without a valid PUC certificate will be the responsibility of the driver concerned if the certificate is not renewed within the prescribed period.

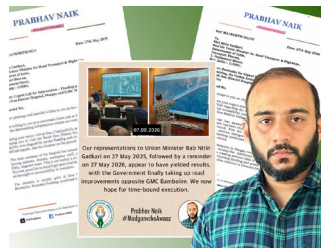
Madganvcho Awaaz Heard by MORTH & PWD

■ Representations on GMC Road Crisis Appear to Yield Results: Prabhav Naik

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Madganvcho Awaaz & Youth Leader Prabhav Naik has welcomed the Government's move to take up improvement of the road network opposite Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, stating that the development comes after repeated representations highlighting the serious accessibility and flooding concerns in the area.

Naik pointed out that Madganvcho Awaaz had first written to Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari on 27



May 2025, drawing attention to the poor road conditions, flooding and difficulties faced by patients, ambulances and emergency services accessing GMC Bambolim.

With no visible action even after nearly a year, a reminder was again submitted to Union Minister Gadkari on 27 May 2026, urging an immediate on-ground

inspection and corrective measures before the onset of the monsoon. The representation had specifically sought accountability for faulty road engineering, drainage planning and execution.

"Our representations to Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari on 27 May 2025, followed by a reminder on 27 May 2026, appear to have yielded results, with the Government finally taking up road improvements opposite GMC Bambolim. We now hope for time-bound execution," said Prabhav Naik.

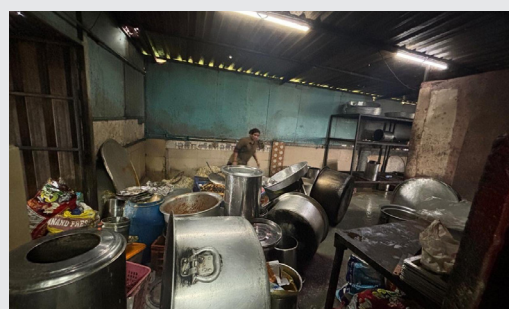
Food Safety Drive Finds Hygiene Lapses At 10 Establishments In South Goa

■ Caterer And Two Restaurants Directed To Suspend Operations; ₹19,000 In Penalties Imposed For Food Safety

Team Goemkarponn

SANCOALE: A routine food safety inspection drive across Zuarinagar, IDC Sancoale and Cortalim covered caterers, bakeries, restaurants and an e-commerce food unit, with authorities detecting several hygiene and sanitation violations.

Out of 10 establishments inspected, one caterer



and two restaurants were directed to suspend operations after serious lapses were found, including improper food storage, inadequate waste

disposal, absence of sanitary records and unsafe food handling practices.

Five bakery

units were found to have complied with earlier directions, while three restaurants were given time to rectify minor deficiencies. The

e-commerce food unit was also found violating food storage and segregation norms. Authorities imposed penalties totalling ₹19,000 for violations of food safety regulations. The food safety authorities said surveillance and enforcement drives will continue across Goa to ensure compliance with food safety standards and protect public health.

Goa DRS Moves Towards Unified QR System Ahead Of April 2027 Rollout

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS) Authority, in coordination with the State Excise Department, is working on a unified QR framework and a transition mechanism to facilitate the smooth implementation of the scheme from April 1, 2027. More than 1,600 hotels, restaurants, cafés and other HoReCa establishments have already registered under the DRS, with the authority continuing its onboarding drive ahead of the upcoming tourist season.

Sattari Drowning Case: Negligence Case Registered Against Four Teachers, Two Tour Operators

■ Valpoi Police Probe Alleged Safety Lapses During School Excursion; Two Tour Operators Arrested

Team Goemkarponn

VALPOI: Valpoi Police have registered a case against four teachers and two tour operators in connection with the drowning of a school student during an excursion in Sattari, alleging negligence and lapses in ensuring the safety of students.

According to police, the case pertains to



allegations that the students were taken to a wildlife area without obtaining the required permission and were allegedly allowed to enter

a waterfall area despite the potential danger.

Police have alleged that the circumstances exposed the students to serious risks during

the school-organised excursion.

The two tour operators named in the case have been arrested in connection

with the incident. Police are now investigating the circumstances surrounding the excursion and the sequence of events leading to the student's death.

The investigation is aimed at determining the responsibilities of the teachers and tour operators and establishing whether safety protocols were followed during the trip.



Porvorim Scooter Crash Claims 31-Year-Old Rider's Life

■ Jawa Motorcycle Rider Falls Into Creek After Collision Near Ganpati Visarjan Spot; Case Registered Against Vespa Rider

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: A 31-year-old motorcyclist died after he allegedly fell into a roadside creek and was drawn into the water following a collision with a Vespa scooter at Ambirna Waddo, Porvorim, on Thursday morning. According to Porvorim Police, the incident occurred around 10 am on August 6 when the accused, identified as Farman, son of Shamim Ahmed, a resident of Moholla Chippi Pada, Nagina, Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, was riding a Vespa scooter bearing registration number GA

08 Y 5732. Police said Farman was allegedly riding in a rash and negligent manner while proceeding from the Kadamba road direction towards Succour. When he reached near the Ganpati Visarjan spot at Ambirna Waddo, his scooter collided with an oncoming Jawa motorcycle bearing registration number GA 04 P 3104. The motorcycle rider, identified as Akash, son of Bimal Bishwakarma, aged 31, a resident of 20 Point, Succour, Porvorim, and originally from West Bengal, fell into the roadside creek following the impact.

Unidentified Man Found Dead Near Vasco Municipality



Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: An unidentified man, aged around 45-50 years, was found dead near the Vasco Municipality area in the early hours of Friday.

According to Vasco Police, a phone call was received from SDH, Chicalim, at around 12.18 am on August 7, informing that a person had been brought to the hospital by a 108 ambulance and was declared dead.

Police visited SDH, Chicalim, and conducted an enquiry into the circumstances. During the enquiry, it was revealed that the unidentified man had been found lying near the Vasco Municipality area.

An inquest panchanama was subsequently conducted over the deceased's body. The body has been preserved at SGDH, Margao, for further medico-legal formalities.

The identity of the deceased and the circumstances leading to his death are yet to be ascertained.

Scooter Rider Dies After Crashing Into Parked Truck At Arlem-Nuvm

■ Nuvm Resident Succumbs To Injuries After Honda Aviator Hits Rear Of Goods Carrier; Truck Driver Booked

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A scooter rider died after his Honda Aviator collided with the rear of a Tata goods carrier truck allegedly parked negligently along the Arlem-Nuvm bypass road. According to Maina Curtorim Police, the incident occurred on August 6, prior to 11.09 pm, on the road leading towards Nuvm Junction.

Police said the accused, identified as Gavaliram Paval, a native



of Pune, Maharashtra, was driving the Tata goods carrier and had allegedly parked the truck on the left side of the road without taking proper care and precaution, thereby creating a danger to

human life.

The rider of the Honda Aviator, identified as Deepak Langote, a resident of Nuvm, Salcete, subsequently crashed into the rear of the parked truck. The impact left Langote seriously injured. He later succumbed to his injuries. The case was registered based on a complaint filed by ASI Hemant Gaude of Maina Curtorim Police Station.

Two Foreign Nationals Arrested In Siolim For Alleged Immigration Violations

■ Iranian And Ugandan Nationals Booked Under Immigration And Foreigners Act; Police Say Both Were Staying In Goa Without Valid Documents

Team Goemkarponn

SIOLIM: Anjuna Police have registered separate cases against two foreign nationals for allegedly staying in Goa without valid immigration documents, leading to their arrest on Thursday.

In the first case, Anjuna Police Station Crime No. 75/2026 was registered under Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act,



2025, based on a complaint filed by Police Inspector Devendra V. Pingle of the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Panaji.

According to the complaint, Hamed Zarsav, 38, an Iranian national, was found at a residence in Portawada, near Pirna Bank, Siolim, at around 3.45 pm on August 6. Police alleged that he was staying in Goa/India without possessing a valid visa, thereby contravening provisions

of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

Zarsav was placed under arrest at around 9 pm on August 6. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Navneet Goltekar of Anjuna Police Station.

In a separate case, Anjuna Police Station Crime No. 76/2026 was registered under Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, on the complaint of

FRRO Police Inspector Devendra Pingle.

Police said Natasha Edwig, 36, a Ugandan national, was found at Sonarbhata, Siolim, at around 3.40 pm on August 6. She was allegedly staying in Goa/India without a valid passport or other valid travel documents, including a visa.

Edwig was placed under arrest at around 10.54 pm on August 6.

Forest Panel Seeks Removal Of Dharbandora Encroachment Before Tamnar Project

■ REC Flags Survey No. 98 As Allegedly Encroached; Goa Forest Department Asked To Take Legal Action

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The proposed Tamnar Inter-State Power Transmission Project has run into a forest-land issue in Dharbandora, with the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) asking Goa authorities to address an alleged encroachment before



the project progresses. The matter surfaced during scrutiny of the proposal to divert forest land for the transmission project. Officials from

the Goa Forest Department informed the REC that part of the land identified for diversion is not in the department's possession and is allegedly

occupied by a private individual. The land in question is Survey No. 98 of the Unclassed Forest at Dharbandora village.

Records show the 9.30-hectare parcel in the name of the Government of Goa, Daman & Diu, although the Forest Department does not have physical possession of it. During the proceedings, the Deputy Conservator of Forests and the Range Forest Officer stated that the property has been shown as being under encroachment by Shankar Shivram Naik.



Vasco-Velankanni Special Trains To Run For Annual Feast

■ Railway Board Clears Multiple Services From August 27 To Help Pilgrims Travel To Velankanni

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Pilgrims travelling from Goa to Velankanni for the annual feast of "Our Lady of Good Health" will have additional rail connectivity, with the Railway Board approving special train services from Vasco during the festival period.

The first service, Train No. 07361 Vasco-Velankanni Express Special, will start from Vasco at 9.55 pm on August 27 and again on September 1. The train is scheduled to reach Velankanni at 3.45 am on the third day of the journey.

The corresponding return service, Train No. 07362 Velankanni-Vasco Express Special, will operate from

Velankanni at 11.55 pm on August 29 and September 3, reaching Vasco at around 3 am on the third day.

A further pair of services has also been scheduled. Train No. 07365 Vasco-Velankanni Express Special will depart Vasco at 9.55 pm on September 6 and arrive at Velankanni at 3.45 am on September 8.

On the return journey, Train No. 07366 Velankanni-Vasco Express Special will leave Velankanni at 1 am on September 9 and is scheduled to reach Vasco at 3 am on September 10.

The services will provide connectivity through a number of stations across Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.



PI Sunil Gudlar Returns To Service, Gets GRP Posting

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Police Inspector Sunil Gudlar has returned to active duty and has been assigned to the Government Railway Police (GRP), around 16 months after he was suspended and arrested in an alleged bribery case.

Gudlar was taken into custody by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on April 21, 2025, in connection with an alleged ₹2 lakh bribery case. He was later released on bail.

His return to service follows a transfer and posting order issued by the Goa Police Headquarters on August 6, based on recommendations of the Police Establishment Board.

The order cites "public interest" as the basis for the latest round of postings and transfers involving 21 personnel across different ranks, including head constables, police constables and two police inspectors.

Goa Govt Reinforces Support for Handloom Weavers on National Handloom Day

■ CM Pramod Sawant Assures Market Access for Quality Kunbi Products; Government Focuses on Modernisation, Skill

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Government of Goa has reaffirmed its commitment to preserving the state's traditional handloom heritage and supporting weavers and artisans, with Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant assuring that the government will facilitate market access for quality handloom products.

The assurance came during the state-level



celebration of the 12th National Handloom Day, organised by the Department of Handicrafts, Textile & Coir at the Multipurpose Hall, Sanskruti Bhavan, Patto, Panaji, on August 7.

Speaking on the

occasion, Sawant said the government was working to give a distinct identity to Goa's handloom products, particularly the iconic Kunbi Saree. He said the introduction of weaving machinery in villages has increased women's participation in the sector, while demand for Kunbi Sarees is growing across the country.

Former Sancoale Dy Sarpanch Builds Culvert At Own Cost, Dedicates It To Locals

■ Darrick Vales Completes Long-Pending Passage And Inaugurates It On His Birthday As A 'Return Gift' To Society

Team Goemkarponn

SANCOALE: Former Sancoale Deputy Sarpanch Darrick Vales inaugurated a newly constructed culvert in Sancoale on Thursday, completing the project at his own expense and dedicating the facility to local residents on the occasion of his birthday.

The culvert was constructed to address a long-standing demand



of residents who had been facing difficulties while commuting through the area, particularly during the monsoon. In the absence of a

proper crossing, people were earlier required to negotiate a deep stream of flowing water, creating both inconvenience and safety concerns.

Vales said the issue had remained unresolved despite repeated requests from residents. He said he had earlier assured the locals that if the authorities and elected representatives failed to address the problem, he would personally take up the work and bear the cost of constructing the culvert.

He said he decided to honour that commitment and ensure that residents

were provided with a safer and more convenient passage.

Speaking at the inauguration, Vales said completing the project on his birthday made the occasion particularly significant for him.

He described the culvert as his "return gift" to society, adding that he was satisfied that a long-pending need of the local community had finally been addressed.

“India Must Not Lag”: Centre Moves To Join Sixth Generation Fighter Jet Programme

■ India explores global collaboration to strengthen future air combat capabilities



Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has initiated efforts to join a sixth generation fighter aircraft development programme as it looks to strengthen its future air power. The Defence Ministry has told a parliamentary panel that efforts are underway to participate in the Future Combat

Air System (FCAS), led by France. The initiative comes as major military powers accelerate the development of next generation combat aircraft. A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence has urged the government to prepare a clear roadmap for the development and acquisition of sixth generation fighters to ensure India does not

fall behind in advanced air warfare capabilities. Two major international programmes are currently under development. One involves the UK, Italy and Japan, while the other is being pursued by France and Germany.

India is considering joining one of these programmes to gain access to advanced technologies and

contribute to future fighter development. At the same time, work on India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme is progressing, with its design already developed. The government has been asked to provide a detailed status report and tentative timeline for both the sixth generation fighter initiative and the AMCA programme.

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Operation Prahar: Goa Police Registers 10 NDPS Cases, Arrests 12 In Statewide Crackdown

and baggage checked and sniffer dogs deployed for detection. Police also checked more than 120 interstate buses, particularly those operating on the Maharashtra-Goa and Karnataka-Goa routes. More than 500 passengers were subjected to verification and checking as part of the preventive exercise.

The Coastal Police conducted surprise checks at vulnerable locations over suspected illegal sand-mining activities. Meanwhile, extensive nakabandi and vehicle checks were carried out across the State, with more than 1,000 vehicles checked.

During the vehicle checks, 50 persons were rounded up for drunken driving, while necessary legal action was

initiated against them. Police also intensified verification of foreign nationals and rounded up two foreign nationals allegedly found overstaying in Goa without valid visas for action under the applicable law.

Goa Police said Operation Prahar is part of its broader three-year roadmap aimed at achieving a “Drug-Free Goa”, with a focus on stronger enforcement, preventive measures, disruption of drug trafficking networks and sustained community participation.

The police said the operation sends a message of zero tolerance towards drug trafficking and criminal activities, adding that similar coordinated enforcement drives will continue across the State. The operation was conducted under the supervision of DIGP Range & Crime Ved Prakash Surya, IPS, and under the leadership of IGP Goa K. R. Chaurasia, IPS, and DGP Goa Alok Kumar, IPS, with

respective Superintendents of Police overseeing operations in their jurisdictions.

Mopa Airport Link Road Toll Revised: Cars To Pay ₹45

taxis, meanwhile, will benefit from a lower toll. Their charge has been reduced to ₹25 per trip from the earlier ₹32.50.

The revised schedule also specifies charges for larger vehicles. LCVs and mini-buses will attract a toll of ₹75, while buses and two-axle trucks will be charged ₹160.

Vehicles with three axles will have to pay ₹175, while the charge for heavy vehicles with four to six axles has been fixed at ₹250. Vehicles with seven or more axles will attract the highest rate of ₹305 per trip.

The revised tariff will apply to vehicles using the NH-66 link road leading towards Manohar International Airport, Mopa, from August 10.

“No Threats, No Late Night Calls”: RBI Tightens Loan Recovery Rules From 2027

■ New framework limits recovery calls, protects borrower privacy and sets strict rules for field visits and remote device locking

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India has introduced stricter rules governing loan recovery practices, with a focus on protecting borrowers from harassment, intimidation and misuse of personal information. The new framework will come into effect from January 1, 2027 and will apply to banks and other regulated lenders. Under the revised norms, recovery agents will generally be allowed to contact borrowers only between 8 am and 7 pm. Calls outside these hours will require specific consent from the borrower. Agents have also been instructed to avoid contacting borrowers during sensitive situations such as medical emergencies, bereavement or marriage functions. The RBI has prohibited threatening, abusive or intimidating behaviour during recovery. Agents cannot repeatedly call borrowers, publicly shame them, threaten their families or reputation, or misuse social media to expose personal details, photographs, videos or recordings. Before making a first physical recovery visit, agents must provide borrowers with at least one day's notice and disclose the identity of the recovery agency.

Agents must carry proper identification, an authorisation letter and the relevant notice.

Banks will also be required to maintain records of recovery communications, including call timings and phone numbers. Recovery conversations must be recorded and preserved for at least six months. Lenders will remain responsible for the conduct of outsourced recovery agencies. The framework also introduces safeguards for borrower data, limiting recovery agents to information necessary for loan recovery. The new rules also cover remote restrictions on financed smartphones, tablets and laptops. Such action will be permitted only when the device was purchased through the relevant loan and cannot be applied to an existing device under a regular personal loan.

A device cannot be restricted immediately after an EMI default. Restrictions may begin after 30 days of overdue status, while complete restriction can be imposed only after 60 days. Essential services such as incoming calls, SMS and emergency communication must remain accessible. Lenders are also barred from accessing unrelated contacts, photographs, videos, call records or location data.



“Change Of Heart?” Kiren Rijiju Takes Dig At Rahul Gandhi Over Women Empowerment Remarks

■ Congress Leader Hits Back, Questions Delay In Implementing Women’s Reservation Law

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has taken a political swipe at Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi over his recent remarks on women’s empowerment, questioning whether the Congress leader’s message signals a change in his approach. Rahul Gandhi, in a social media



video, stressed the need to bring women back into public conversations and give them greater freedom to pursue their ambitions. He argued that India cannot achieve its full potential unless women

are able to express themselves freely and participate equally in society. Responding to the remarks, Rijiju described the message as positive

but questioned whether it represented a change of heart within the Congress. He also urged the party to support the Women’s Reservation Bill without attaching conditions to its

implementation. Gandhi quickly responded, pointing out that the Women’s Reservation Act, passed by Parliament in 2023 with support from the Congress, has already received unanimous approval.

He questioned why the legislation has not yet been implemented and objected to linking its rollout with the delimitation exercise.



“Sensitive Defence Data Leaked”: IAF Wing Commander Arrested Under Official Secrets Act

■ Officer Allegedly Shared Military Information After Being Trapped Through Social Media

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A serving Wing Commander of the Indian Air Force has been arrested in connection with allegations of leaking sensitive defence information through digital channels. The officer, who was posted with a field unit, has been booked under the Official Secrets Act and is currently in judicial custody.

The arrest took place on the night of May 31 after intelligence inputs from the Indian Air Force led Delhi Police to investigate the officer’s alleged activities. The case is being examined as part of a suspected espionage network involving the collection and transmission

of strategic military information.

Investigators allege that the officer was approached by a woman through social media during a difficult period in his personal life. Their communication reportedly developed through chats and video calls, after which the woman allegedly began asking him for information concerning military movements and troop deployments.

The officer is accused of sharing photographs, videos, documents and other sensitive material through digital platforms. Investigators are also examining whether additional defence information was passed during their communication.



“We Have Faith in You, Country Needs You”: PM Modi Urges Gen Z to Lead India’s Journey to Viksit Bharat

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called on India’s young generation to take greater responsibility for the country’s development, saying their decisions and achievements will play a crucial role in shaping India’s journey towards a ‘Viksit Bharat’. Addressing the 57th convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Modi expressed confidence in the abilities of the country’s youth and stressed that India needs their energy, ideas and skills. “We have faith in you. The country needs you,” the Prime Minister said, urging graduates to consider the national impact of their choices and careers. He said every generation faces its own challenges and carries a distinct responsibility towards the nation. With today’s graduates likely to remain professionally active for the next three to four decades, Modi said their work could significantly influence India’s development trajectory.

“India Draws The Line”: 27 Arunachal Pradesh Locations Added To Official National Maps

■ Strategic passes, lakes, settlements and military landmarks receive standardised recognition

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has officially standardised the names of 27 prominent geographical and strategic locations in Arunachal Pradesh on Survey of India maps, marking a significant step toward strengthening geographical and administrative clarity along the country’s northeastern frontier. The exercise was carried out in consultation with the Arunachal Pradesh government and covers a wide range



of locations, including mountain passes, lakes, settlements, historic areas and sites associated with India’s military heritage.

Arunachal Pradesh shares international borders with China, Bhutan and Myanmar, making accurate mapping and official recognition

of locations particularly important for administration, infrastructure planning and border management.

The newly standardised names include several high altitude mountain passes such as Dzo La, Riza La, Pukur La and Thag La. Sambho Sarovar, an important high altitude lake, has also been incorporated into the official mapping framework.

“100% Tariff Threat Looms”: US Senate Passes Russia Sanctions Bill Targeting India, China

■ Bipartisan legislation could allow Washington to impose steep tariffs on major buyers of Russian energy

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The US Senate has passed a sweeping Russia sanctions bill that could pave the way for tariffs of up to 100 percent on countries that remain among the largest purchasers of Russian oil and natural gas, including India and China.

The legislation was approved by an overwhelming 86



to 11 vote, reflecting broad bipartisan support for tougher measures against Moscow over the continuing Ukraine conflict. The bill will now move to the House of Representatives for

consideration when it reconvenes on August 31.

The proposed legislation would give US President Donald Trump authority to impose tariffs on the top five buyers of Russian oil or natural gas. India and China are currently among the countries that could face such measures.

Other countries identified among the

leading importers include Azerbaijan, Hungary and Slovakia. The bill also contains exemptions for countries that source less than 15 percent of their natural gas from Russia and are taking steps to reduce their dependence on Russian energy.

If enacted, the legislation would significantly expand the economic pressure on Russia and countries continuing to purchase its energy exports.

Beyond potential tariffs, the bill proposes additional sanctions targeting senior Russian political and military figures, financial institutions and energy projects.

It also seeks to strengthen restrictions against older and reflagged oil tankers allegedly used by Moscow to bypass existing sanctions and maintain energy revenues.

India's Injury Crisis Deepens: Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya Face Fitness Setbacks

■ 13 players are currently undergoing rehabilitation as concerns grow over India's squad ahead of upcoming assignments

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's injury concerns have intensified, with as many as 13 players from the current national setup or the wider selection pool reportedly undergoing rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

The growing list of fitness issues has already affected India's



preparations, with Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana and Nitish Kumar Reddy unavailable for the ongoing tour. Questions also remain over the fitness of Washington Sundar and Sai Sudharsan.

Bumrah's recovery is being closely monitored after he arrived at the Centre of Excellence with inflammation in his left

knee. During rehabilitation, the fast bowler reportedly experienced discomfort while jogging and performing single leg exercises. As a result, there is currently no definite timeline for his return to competitive cricket.

Hardik Pandya has also faced a setback while recovering from a left quadriceps injury.

"India's Next Javelin Star": Ashish Yadav Wins Silver at World U20 Championships

■ The 19 year old becomes only the second Indian after Neeraj Chopra to win a javelin medal at the global junior event

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Ashish Yadav delivered a landmark performance for India at the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships in Eugene, USA, winning the silver medal in the men's javelin throw.

The 19 year old produced his best effort of 74.09 metres in his third attempt to secure second place. His medal winning throw was just 40 centimetres short of his



personal best of 74.49 metres, recorded at the Indian Open Throws Competition in Patiala earlier this year.

Yadav's achievement places him in elite company. He is now only the second Indian

athlete after Neeraj Chopra to win a medal in javelin at the World Athletics U20 Championships. Chopra won gold at the 2016 edition in Poland and established the world

junior record of 86.48 metres, which remains unbeaten.

South Africa's Jan Hendrik Heymans claimed the gold medal with an 80.50 metre throw on his final attempt, which also became the leading

U20 mark in the world this season. Dominica's Addison James completed the podium with a best effort of 73.89 metres.

India's T Dharanidharan also produced a strong performance, finishing sixth with a throw of 72.35 metres.

India also made progress in several other events. National senior record holder Pooja Singh qualified for the women's high jump final after clearing 1.79 metres.



"I Am Ready, But Only If I Am In Charge": Ranjit Bajaj Sets Condition for India U-15 Role

■ Minerva Academy owner changes stance after Bibiano Fernandes reportedly turns down the coaching position

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Ranjit Bajaj has made a dramatic change in his position regarding the Indian U-15 football team, saying he is willing to take up a role with the squad if he is given complete control of the team.

Bajaj had earlier rejected the position of team manager after the All India Football Federation appointed him alongside head coach Bibiano Fernandes. The Minerva Academy owner had objected to the arrangement, arguing that two individuals with different football philosophies could create problems for the team ahead of the inaugural FIFA U-15 World Cup and Festival in Azerbaijan in

October.

Bajaj has now said his position could change if Fernandes is no longer part of the setup. He claimed that the former India youth coach has also declined the assignment, reportedly for reasons similar to those he had previously highlighted.

According to Bajaj, a team cannot function effectively when two senior figures have contrasting ideas about how the game should be played. He maintained that such differences could ultimately affect the team's performance and development. Bajaj said he remains ready to contribute if the opportunity is available and stressed that his decisions are driven by a long term vision for Indian football.

"India Assured of a Finalist": Ashmita Chaliha, Rakshitha Ramraj Reach Korea Masters Semifinals

■ Chaliha stuns top seed Hina Akechi while Rakshitha defeats compatriot Tanvi Sharma in thrilling quarterfinals

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's Ashmita Chaliha and Rakshitha Ramraj have advanced to the women's singles semifinals of the USD 250,000 Korea Masters Super 300 after producing impressive comeback victories in their quarterfinal matches.

Chaliha delivered the biggest upset of the tournament by defeating top seed and world No.



22 Hina Akechi of Japan 20 22, 21 15, 21 19 in a tense contest at the Asan Yi Sun sin Gymnasium.

The victory also

allowed Chaliha to settle the score against Akechi after losing their only previous meeting at the Malaysia Super 100 last year.

Chaliha had

opportunities to take the opening game after recovering from an early deficit, but Akechi held her nerve in the

closing exchanges to move ahead. The Indian responded strongly in the second game, building a commanding 13 7 lead before forcing a decider.

The final game remained closely contested. Chaliha established an 11 9 lead at the interval and later moved 18 11 ahead. Akechi mounted a remarkable fightback by winning six points in succession, but Chaliha remained composed and secured the match in the

final stages.

Rakshitha Ramraj also produced a determined performance to defeat third seed and compatriot Tanvi Sharma 18 21, 21 19, 21 18 in a match lasting more than an hour.

Rakshitha started strongly and led 13 8 in the opening game, but Tanvi responded with eight of the next nine points before taking control. Rakshitha then fought back in the second game, maintaining a narrow advantage and

forcing a decider.

The final game was again tightly contested, with both players level at 14 14. Rakshitha took advantage of a series of errors from Tanvi to move ahead and eventually secured the victory after earning multiple match points.

The result marked Rakshitha's fourth career win over Tanvi, who had recently claimed her maiden BWF title at the Taipei Open.