



Sanguem BJP Dispute Resolved After High-Level Meeting

■ *Reservation concerns addressed; Phal Dessai says workers will back the BJP's decision, including an ST candidate, as leadership moves to contain differences

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The BJP leadership has moved to settle growing differences in Sanguem, with Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant and State BJP president Damu Naik meeting Minister Subhash Phal Dessai following concerns raised by party workers over ST reservation and related



no opposition to ST reservation, but said workers had wanted certain objections and other issues to be considered. Phal Dessai said the matter had now been resolved and that BJP workers would support whoever the party decides

to field in Sanguem, including an ST candidate. The development assumes significance as the BJP seeks to maintain unity in Sanguem amid discussions over the political implications of ST reservation in the constituency. Sawant described the dispute as an internal "family matter"

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Sanguem Workers, Citizens Raise Political Concerns Over Representation And Reservation

Team Goemkarponn

SANGUEM: Political concerns in Sanguem came to the fore after a group of local residents and political workers raised questions over representation, reservation and recent

decisions concerning the constituency. The gathering reportedly turned tense as participants questioned the manner in which certain political decisions were being taken, with some

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71 Dengue Cases Reported In August At South Goa District Hospital

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The South Goa District Hospital has reported a notable rise in dengue infections, with the number of positive cases increasing considerably over the last few months. Hospital figures show that July witnessed the highest numbers during the period, with 79 patients admitted for dengue-related treatment and 91 testing positive. The hospital had recorded 29 admissions and 38 positive cases in June, while May saw eight admissions and nine positive cases. So far in August, 27 patients have been admitted with suspected or confirmed dengue, while 71 have tested positive. The figures for August are only up to August 10 and are therefore not indicative of the final monthly count. Dr Rajendra Borkar said the increase in cases should not be taken lightly and urged residents to remain cautious.

"We Could Walk Away": Trump May Trade Iran

■ Washington appears increasingly focused on restoring shipping through the strategic waterway as pressure mounts for an end to the conflict

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump may be willing to abandon the pursuit of a formal nuclear agreement with Iran if Tehran agrees to fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz, according to a report citing US officials. The reported shift would mark a significant change in Washington's

approach to the conflict. Instead of securing a comprehensive nuclear agreement before ending military operations, the Trump administration could consider restoring commercial shipping through the strategic waterway sufficient grounds for extending the ceasefire and bringing the campaign to an end.

Goa Congress Questions Government Over Road Safety, 1,520 Deaths Since 2021

■ GPCC cites over 14,500 accidents, rising 2026 fatalities and ₹355 crore in traffic fines

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has questioned the state government over the continuing number of road accidents and fatalities in Goa, citing data showing more than 14,500 accidents and around 1,520 deaths between 2021 and mid-2026. Addressing a press



conference, the Congress said the figures raised serious questions about the effectiveness of the government's road safety measures and the condition of accident-

prone stretches across the state. According to the figures presented by the party, Goa recorded 2,840 road accidents in 2021, 3,011 in 2022, 2,976 in 2023, 2,829 in 2024 and 2,510 in 2025. During the first six months of 2026, 1,324 accidents were reported, marking a 10% increase over the corresponding period of the previous year.

Jharkhand Students Break Barricades, Clash With Police During Assembly March

■ Protesters Demand CBI Probe Into Recruitment Exam Irregularities As Ranchi Sees Heavy Security

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Thousands of students protesting alleged irregularities in Jharkhand's recruitment examinations marched towards the state Assembly in Ranchi on Sunday, breaking through police barricades and prompting authorities to use water cannons and lathi charges to disperse the crowd. The demonstration came after multiple rounds of talks between



student groups and a government appointed panel failed to resolve the protesters' main demand for a CBI investigation into alleged paper leaks and examination irregularities. The agitation has continued for 16 days. Students from several districts travelled to

Ranchi by trains, buses and private vehicles to join the protest. As they advanced towards the Assembly, police deployed water cannons after some protesters breached the barricades. Several students were seen standing and dancing in front of the water jets. The administration had placed barricades at major intersections and sensitive locations across Ranchi and deployed large numbers of security personnel.

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A School Trip Must Never End in a Child's Death

The confrontation at Baina following the visit of the Principal and a teacher of Deep Vihar School to the home of the deceased Class XI student is a painful reflection of the anger and anguish surrounding the tragedy. When grieving parents refuse condolences and instead demand answers, the message is clear: they are not looking for sympathy alone. They want accountability.

The 16-year-old student allegedly died during a school trekking activity at a waterfall in Sattari. Nearly two days later, the school representatives visited the family, accompanied by police personnel. The timing and circumstances of the visit have understandably raised questions among the grieving family and local residents.

For parents who were desperately trying to find out what had happened to their child, the most painful part may not only be the loss itself but also the uncertainty surrounding the events leading to the death. When a child leaves home for a school activity, parents naturally assume that the school has taken every possible precaution for their child's safety. That trust is fundamental.

When that trust is broken, condolences alone cannot repair it.

The allegations made by the family regarding difficulties in obtaining information must be investigated seriously. There must be a clear account of what happened from the moment the students left the school until the tragedy occurred. Who planned the trek? Who selected the location? Was the site assessed beforehand? Were the necessary permissions obtained? How many teachers accompanied the students? Was there adequate supervision? Were teachers trained to handle emergencies? Was a qualified guide present? How quickly was the emergency response initiated?

These are not unreasonable questions. They are basic questions that any parent would ask.

The government must therefore ensure that the proposed inquiry is comprehensive and independent. If the family seeks a committee headed by an appropriate authority to examine the roles of teachers, the headmistress, school

“The allegations made by the family regarding difficulties in obtaining information must be investigated seriously. There must be a clear account of what happened from the moment the students left the school until the tragedy occurred. Who planned the trek? Who selected the location? Was the site assessed beforehand? Were the necessary permissions obtained? How many teachers accompanied the students? Was there adequate supervision? Were teachers trained to handle emergencies? Was a qualified guide present? How quickly was the emergency response initiated?”

These are not unreasonable questions. They are basic questions that any parent would ask.”

management, tour operators and others involved, the government should consider the demand seriously.

At the same time, the investigation must remain fact-based. Nobody should be declared guilty before the inquiry establishes responsibility. But neither should institutional positions or reputations become a reason to dilute scrutiny.

The larger issue goes beyond one school.

School excursions, trekking programmes and educational tours have become an important part of modern education. Children need exposure beyond classrooms. They should be

able to explore Goa's forests, waterfalls, heritage sites and other natural attractions. But adventure cannot come at the cost of basic safety.

Goa has numerous waterfalls, trekking routes and natural areas that can become dangerous, particularly during the monsoon. A location that appears safe on one day can become hazardous within hours because of heavy rainfall, slippery rocks, rising water levels and strong currents.

Schools must therefore be required to conduct proper risk assessments before taking students to such locations. Permissions should be mandatory wherever applicable. Tour operators should be verified. Teacher-to-student ratios should be clearly prescribed. First aid, emergency transport and communication arrangements should be compulsory. Schools should also maintain a proper record of students participating in every activity. Most importantly, there must be clear rules on who is responsible for children at every stage of an excursion.

The Education Department should not wait for another tragedy before reviewing existing safety guidelines. A statewide protocol for school excursions, trekking and adventure activities is urgently required. Private schools, government schools and tour operators should all come under the same basic safety framework. There is also a need for transparency when an accident occurs. Parents should be informed immediately and accurately. In a crisis involving a child, every minute matters. Communication cannot be delayed or left to confusion.

The Baina incident should not become another controversy that fades from public memory after a few weeks. A young life has been lost. No inquiry can bring the child back to his parents, but a serious investigation can determine what went wrong and prevent another family from experiencing the same pain.

A school trip is supposed to create memories of learning, friendship and discovery. For one family, it has instead become an unbearable loss.

The government must ensure that the question of responsibility is answered and that Goa's children are never again placed in danger because basic safety precautions were overlooked.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Government Must Publish White Paper on Ethanol Blending

The growing debate over ethanol blending in petrol calls for greater transparency from the government. While the Centre promotes ethanol blending as a way to reduce crude oil imports, save foreign exchange and lower emissions, motorists deserve clear information about its impact on vehicles, fuel efficiency and the environment.

The government should therefore come out with a comprehensive white paper explaining the policy, its objectives and its long term implications for consumers. The document should clearly state the current level of ethanol blending, the proposed targets and the timeline for achieving them.

More importantly, the white paper should provide independent data on whether higher ethanol blends affect fuel efficiency, engine components, mileage and maintenance costs, particularly for older vehicles. There are also concerns regarding compatibility of different vehicles with higher ethanol blends, which need to be addressed transparently.

Consumers should not be expected to bear additional costs or face technical problems without adequate information and safeguards.

The government should also explain the environmental benefits claimed from ethanol blending and provide data comparing emissions, water consumption and the overall environmental impact of ethanol production with conventional petrol. A white paper would help separate facts from speculation and political arguments. It would also reassure motorists that the policy is being implemented after considering consumer interests, vehicle technology and environmental concerns.

Ethanol blending may have economic and strategic benefits, but public confidence is equally important. Transparency is the best way to address doubts.

- Anthony Fernandes, Mapusa

Sanguem's Political Future Becomes a BJP Internal Battle

The protest by BJP workers and local representatives at the residence of Minister Subhash Phal Dessai raises an interesting political question ahead of the Goa Assembly elections. The protest was reportedly triggered by concerns over the possibility of Phal Dessai shifting from Sanguem to Curchorem if Sanguem becomes an ST reserved constituency.

This is not merely an individual leader's electoral decision. Sanguem is a constituency where Phal Dessai has built his political base over the years. Naturally, local BJP workers and supporters would be concerned about what happens to the constituency if its sitting MLA decides to look for another seat.

The ST reservation issue is a constitutional and social justice matter and should not be reduced to the electoral prospects of individual politicians. The government must ensure that the process is transparent and that all communities are given clarity about the future political map of Goa.

At the same time, BJP workers protesting against their own leader expose the political uncertainty created by the reservation exercise. If leaders begin searching for alternative constituencies before the final picture is clear, it could create unnecessary tension within the party and among local voters.

The government should therefore provide clarity on the implementation and delimitation process at the earliest. Political parties too must handle the issue sensitively. The people of Sanguem deserve to know whether their present political representation will continue or whether electoral changes are on the horizon.

- Sanket Naik, Sanguem

Goa Sees Sharp Rise In Road Crashes, 157 Killed In Seven Months

■ 1,523 Accidents Recorded Till July; Rash And Negligent Driving Accounts For Nearly 97 Per Cent Of Cases

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Road safety remains a major concern in Goa, with the state recording 1,523 road accidents between January and July 2026, 160 more than the 1,363 crashes reported during the same period last year.

The increase translates into an 11.74 per cent rise in accidents. However, the number of deaths witnessed a marginal decline, with 157 people losing their lives



in road crashes till July, compared to 161 fatalities during the corresponding period in 2025. July alone accounted for 199 accidents and 15 deaths.

Traffic Police data indicates that reckless and negligent driving remains the dominant factor

behind the crashes. Nearly 97 per cent, or 96.98 per cent, of the accidents during the period were attributed to such driving behaviour. Old Goa emerged as the jurisdiction

with the highest number of crashes, recording 130 cases.

It was followed closely by Ponda with 129, Verna with 119, Panaji with 105 and Anjuna with 85 accidents. In terms of fatalities, Ponda topped

the list with 13 deaths. Agassaim recorded 12, while Verna and Old Goa reported 11 and 10 deaths respectively. Anjuna, Cuncolim and Canacona recorded nine fatalities each. Some areas saw a steep year-on-year increase in accidents. Saligao registered the highest jump at 300 per cent, followed by Canacona at 266.67 per cent, Colvale at 200 per cent, Mardol at 133.33 per cent and Cuncolim at 120 per cent.

Goa Among Top Five States With Highest MGNREGA Wage Delays

■ One In Four Wage Payments Exceeded 15-Day Deadline During 2025-26

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has recorded one of the highest rates of delayed wage payments under the rural employment guarantee programme, with 25 per cent of payments to workers taking more than 15 days during 2025-26.

Data presented by the Ministry of Rural Development in the Rajya Sabha shows that Goa ranked fifth among states and Union Territories for delayed wage disbursements.

The national average was significantly lower, with only 3.75 per cent of payments taking longer than 15 days.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands recorded the

highest proportion of delayed payments at 64.7 per cent, followed by Manipur at 48 per cent, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu at 34 per cent, and Nagaland at 30 per cent.

Under the provisions governing the scheme, workers are eligible for compensation when wages are not paid within the prescribed timeframe. Compensation is calculated at 0.05 per cent of the unpaid amount for every day of delay beyond the 16th day after closure of the muster roll. The Ministry said wages are transferred directly into workers' bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer system.



Sattari Drowning Case: All Four Teachers, Two Tour Operators Granted Bail

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In the latest development in the Sattari drowning case, all four teachers and two tour operators have been granted bail, as the offences registered against them are bailable in nature.

The accused have been booked for allegedly trespassing illegally into a wildlife area, putting the lives and safety of students at risk, and causing death due to negligence.

Further investigation into the circumstances leading to the tragic incident is underway. PI Vidyesh Pilgaonkar is examining all aspects of the case, including the role and responsibility of those entrusted with the safety of the students.

The investigation will look into the circumstances surrounding the trekking activity and the events that ultimately led to the drowning incident.

HC Gives Dr Medha Salkar, Goa Govt Two Weeks To Reply On DHS Appointment

■ Court Seeks Replies On Petition Challenging Salkar's Additional Charge As Director Of Health Services

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has granted two weeks to Dr Medha Salkar and the Goa government to file their replies to a petition challenging the State's decision to give Dr Salkar additional charge as Director of Health Services.

The petition has been filed by Dr Saleena Naik, who has challenged the government's July 31 order concerning Dr Salkar's appointment. Dr



applicable recruitment rules and that the claims of senior eligible officers were overlooked.

Dr Naik has contended that she is the senior-most eligible officer for promotion to the post and that the government bypassed the established promotional process while

31 order and a direction to the State government to appoint her as Director of Health Services. The petition also seeks interim

relief against Dr Salkar continuing in the additional charge until the case is decided. Dr Salkar, who currently serves as Chief Medical Officer, will continue to hold the additional charge as the court awaits replies from her and the State government.

Illegal Bullfight Reported in Benaulim; Two Booked Under Animal Cruelty Act

■ Colva Police Register Crime Against Two Persons Over Alleged 'Dhireo' at Grande Pulvaddo

Team Goemkarponn

COLVA: Colva Police have registered a case against two persons for allegedly organising and/or facilitating an illegal bullfight, locally known as "Dhireo," at Grande Pulvaddo, Benaulim, on August 9.

The incident was reported at around 3 p.m., with police alleging that bulls



were made to fight each other for public entertainment, resulting in cruelty and suffering to the animals.

The accused have been identified as Manuel Jesus Vaz alias Manu, a resident of Sinqetim,

Navelim, and Minguel, a resident of Acona, Benaulim.

Colva Police have registered Crime No. 67/2026 under Sections 11(1)(m) and 11(1)(n) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. The case relates to allegations of causing unnecessary pain and suffering to animals by engaging them in a fight for entertainment.

ANC PS Seizes Drugs Worth ₹7.77 Lakh; One Arrested

■ 31-Year-Old Held With Ecstasy Powder, LSD Blot Papers, Hydroponic Ganja And Ganja At Oxel, Siolim

Team Goemkarponn

SIOLIM: The Anti-Narcotic Police Station (ANC PS), St. Cruz, arrested a 31-year-old man and seized narcotic substances worth approximately ₹7.77 lakh during a raid at a rented premises in Oxel, Siolim, Bardez, in the early hours of August 9.

Acting on prior information as part of the ongoing Drug-Free Goa Campaign, a team led by PSI Vikesh Hadfadkar

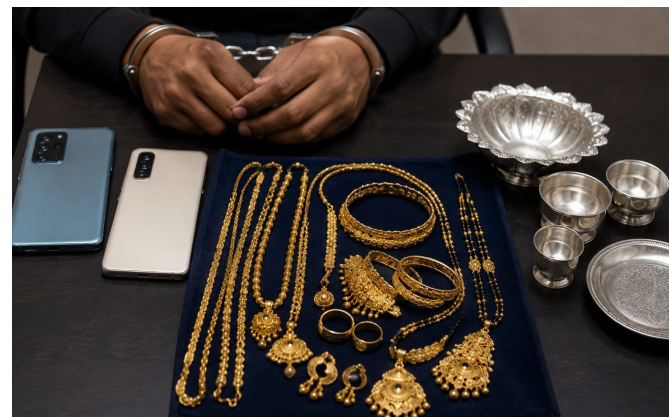


conducted the raid in the presence of two panch witnesses. The accused was identified as Shivam Binjola, originally from Khatima, Uttarakhand.

Police said the search

resulted in the seizure of different narcotic substances, including ecstasy powder, LSD blot papers, hydroponic ganja and ganja. The total value of the seized drugs has been estimated at around ₹7.77 lakh. ANC Police Station has registered Crime No. 17/2026 under Sections 22(c) and 20(b)(ii)(A) of

the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The accused was produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Mapusa, and was remanded to five days of police custody. The operation was conducted under the coordination and guidance of PI Sagun Sawant, PI, ANC PS, and SP Nerlon Albuquerque, holding additional charge of DySP, ANC, under the overall supervision of SP Sunita Sawant, SP, ANC.



Vasco Police Crack House-Break-In Case; 19-Year-Old Arrested

■ Stolen Gold, Silver And Mobile Phones Worth ₹10.14 Lakh Recovered From Accused

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco Police have arrested a 19-year-old youth in connection with a house-breaking and theft case at Mangor Hill, Vasco, and recovered stolen gold, silver articles and mobile phones collectively valued at around ₹10.14 lakh.

The burglary was reported at the residence of businessman Devanna Melakar, 38, located behind Varuna Bar at Varunaouri, Mangor Hill. The incident occurred on July 31 between 8 am and 10 am, when the complainant was away from the house.

According to police, the accused allegedly entered the residence

using keys that had been kept near a front window and stole gold and silver ornaments along with two mobile phones.

Following the complaint, Vasco Police registered a case under Sections 331(3) and 305 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and initiated an investigation.

During the investigation, police arrested Laxman Jaiswal, 19, in connection with the offence. Police subsequently recovered the stolen gold items and other articles linked to the case.

The accused was produced before the court and remanded to three days of police custody.

Thivim Road Accident Leaves Two Injured; Rider Booked For Rash Driving



Team Goemkarponn

MADEL: Colvale Police have registered a case against a 24-year-old motorcycle rider following a road accident at Madel, Thivim, in which two persons sustained injuries.

The case, Crime No. 64/2026, was registered on August 8 at 9.11 pm under Sections 281, 125(a) and 125(b) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, based on a complaint filed by HC Mahadev Parab of Colvale Police Station.

According to police, the accident occurred on August 5 at around 8.45 am near Roy Farm, Madel, Thivim. The accused, Abhishek Mangaonkar, 24, a resident of Ambeli, Dodamarg, Maharashtra, was allegedly riding a Pulsar motorcycle bearing registration number MH-07-AR-6405 from Mapusa towards Assonora.

Police said that while attempting to overtake a four-wheeler travelling in the same direction, the rider allegedly moved onto the right side of the road and entered the wrong lane.

Colvale Police Arrest 21-Year-Old In Thivim House-Breaking Theft

■ Electrical Wires Worth ₹83,437 Stolen From Under-Construction House; Accused Arrested Within Hours

Team Goemkarponn

COLVALE: Colvale Police have arrested a 21-year-old man in connection with the theft of concealed electrical wires worth ₹83,437 from an under-construction house at Madel, Thivim, Bardez.

The case was registered as Crime No. 63/2026 under Sections 331(2) and 305(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at 5.59 pm on August 8, 2026, following a complaint lodged by



Vishnu Mahadeshwar, a resident of Angad Wado, Mapusa. According to the complaint, the theft occurred during the intervening night of August 4 and 5 at Plot No. 462/3-A-1, Madel, Thivim. An

unidentified person allegedly gained entry into the under-construction house after breaking open the lock fitted to the main door. The accused allegedly stole several types of concealed electrical wires and electrical components. The stolen material included 1 mm, 1.5 mm, 2.5 mm and 4 mm wires, along with a 6-way TPN unit and other electrical wiring, with the total loss estimated at ₹83,437.

3-Year-Old Boy Dies After Wall Falls At Valpoi Residence

■ Child Succumbs To Head Injuries; Police Probe Underway Into Fatal Incident

Team Goemkarponn

VALPOI: A three-year-old boy died after sustaining serious injuries in an incident involving the collapse of a wall at his residence in Nanus, Valpoi, Sattari, police said.

According to police, a wireless message was received on August 8, 2026, at around 9.39 pm from the casualty department of GMC



Bambolim informing them that Zovalz Mosim Aga, 3, a resident of Behind Jama Masjid, Nanus, Valpoi, had

been declared dead.

The child was brought to the hospital under MLC No. 26/6411

and was declared dead in the casualty department. The body was subsequently referred for post-mortem examination.

Following the post-mortem, the cause of death was certified as "head injury consequent to blow force impact by surface and/or object."

Police have initiated further enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Candolim Police Book Driver For Alleged Criminal Breach Of Trust

Team Goemkarponn

CANDOLIM: Candolim Police have registered a case against a 30-year-old driver for allegedly failing to return a Hyundai Creta entrusted to him by his employer. The offence was registered at around 12.15 am on August 9, 2026, following a complaint by Rahul Rathod, a resident of Orda, Candolim, North Goa. According to the complaint, the accused, Linshan Latheef, 30, a resident of Purayil, Kocherimukku, Kozhikode, Kerala, was employed by the complainant as a driver.

Dhangar ST Campaign Gains Momentum, 52 Village Meetings Held Across Goa

■ Taluka-Level Melava In Mollem Signals Wider Community Mobilisation As Dhangars Prepare To Take Movement Across Goa

Team Goemkarponn

MOLLEM: The Dhangar community's campaign for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status is gaining momentum, with the community stepping up its statewide mobilisation through village-level meetings and Taluka-level Melavas.

A large gathering was held at Mollem as part of the Taluka-Level Dhangar



Melava, bringing members of the community together to discuss and strengthen the ongoing movement for ST status.

According to organisers, the campaign

has so far reached 52 villages through corner meetings, besides three Taluka-level Melavas. The meetings are being used to build awareness, mobilise families and

create a common platform for the community across Goa.

The movement is now set to enter a wider phase, with Taluka-level Melavas planned across all talukas of the state. Organisers said the objective is to consolidate the community's strength and ensure that the demand for ST status remains firmly on the public agenda.



Deep Vihar Principal, Teacher Face Anger At Home Of Deceased Student

■ Family Rejects Condolences, Demands Accountability And High-Level Probe Into School Trekking Tragedy

Team Goemkarponn

BAINA: Tension prevailed at Baina on Sunday when the Principal and a teacher of Deep Vihar School visited the residence of the deceased Class XI student to offer condolences to the grieving family, nearly two days after the 16-year-old allegedly died during a school trekking activity at a waterfall in Sattari taluka.

The school representatives arrived at the residence accompanied by police personnel, reportedly anticipating that the situation could turn tense.

Their visit soon led to an emotional confrontation as several residents gathered outside the house and questioned the school representatives about

their presence.

The grieving parents refused to accept the condolences and questioned why the school representatives had visited only at this stage. The family alleged that they had struggled to get information from the school when they first learnt that something had gone wrong during the trekking activity.

According to the family, they were desperately trying to ascertain their child's whereabouts and condition before subsequently learning that he had died during the trek. They questioned the school representatives over the circumstances surrounding the incident and demanded accountability from everyone responsible for organising and conducting the activity.



AGKMS Questions ST Reservation Move, Demands Fresh Census

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Akhil Gomantak Kshatriya Maratha Samaj (AGKMS) has opposed the implementation of Scheduled Tribe (ST) political reservation in the Goa Legislative Assembly without a fresh Census, questioning the basis for relying on population figures recorded decades ago. Reacting to the Central government's notification on ST political reservation in Goa, AGKMS president Suhas Fal Dessai said the decision had caused resentment within the Maratha community. The organisation maintained that a fresh demographic assessment should precede any decision on reservation. The Samaj particularly questioned the use of the 2001 Census, pointing out that the community was officially accorded ST status only in 2003. It argued that the population classification recorded during the 2001 Census could not accurately reflect the present ST population.

Goa CEO Holds National Workshop On Empowering Marginalised Voters

■ Experts Focus On Accessible Elections, Tribal Inclusion And Participation Of Vulnerable Groups

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Goa, brought together election officials, academics and social-sector experts for a workshop aimed at examining barriers faced by marginalised communities in participating in the democratic process.

The programme,



titled "Democracy for the Empowerment of Marginalised Sections of the Society," focused on strengthening electoral inclusion and ensuring that vulnerable sections of society have equal

opportunities to exercise their franchise.

CEO Sanjay Goel said the

electoral system must reach every eligible citizen and that greater attention was required to communities that face social, physical or geographical barriers to participation.

Tourist Police Trace Murder Case Accused At Baga Beach

■ Rajasthan Police Team Takes Custody Of Suspect Wanted In Udaipur Murder Case

Team Goemkarponn

BAGA: Tourist Police personnel deployed at Baga Beach, in coordination with a team from Udaipur Police in Rajasthan, traced an accused wanted in connection with a murder case on Sunday evening.

The accused was located at Baga Beach on August 9, 2026, at around 7 pm following sustained efforts by



Tourist Police personnel Ashok Thanekar, Hemant Kotkar, Nagesh Parsekar

and Chadru Nilgur.

The suspect is allegedly wanted in

connection with the murder of a woman in a case registered as Crime

No. 442/2026 at a police station in Udaipur, Rajasthan. After tracing the accused, the Tourist Police secured him and handed him over to the Udaipur Police team for further legal proceedings. The successful operation highlights the role of Goa's Tourist Police in assisting law enforcement agencies from other states in tracing persons wanted in criminal cases.

India Revives 45 Year Old Tradition, Gifts Five Peacocks To UN Geneva

■ Rare White Peacock Among Birds Donated As India Reconnects With A Unique UN Tradition

Team Goemkarponn

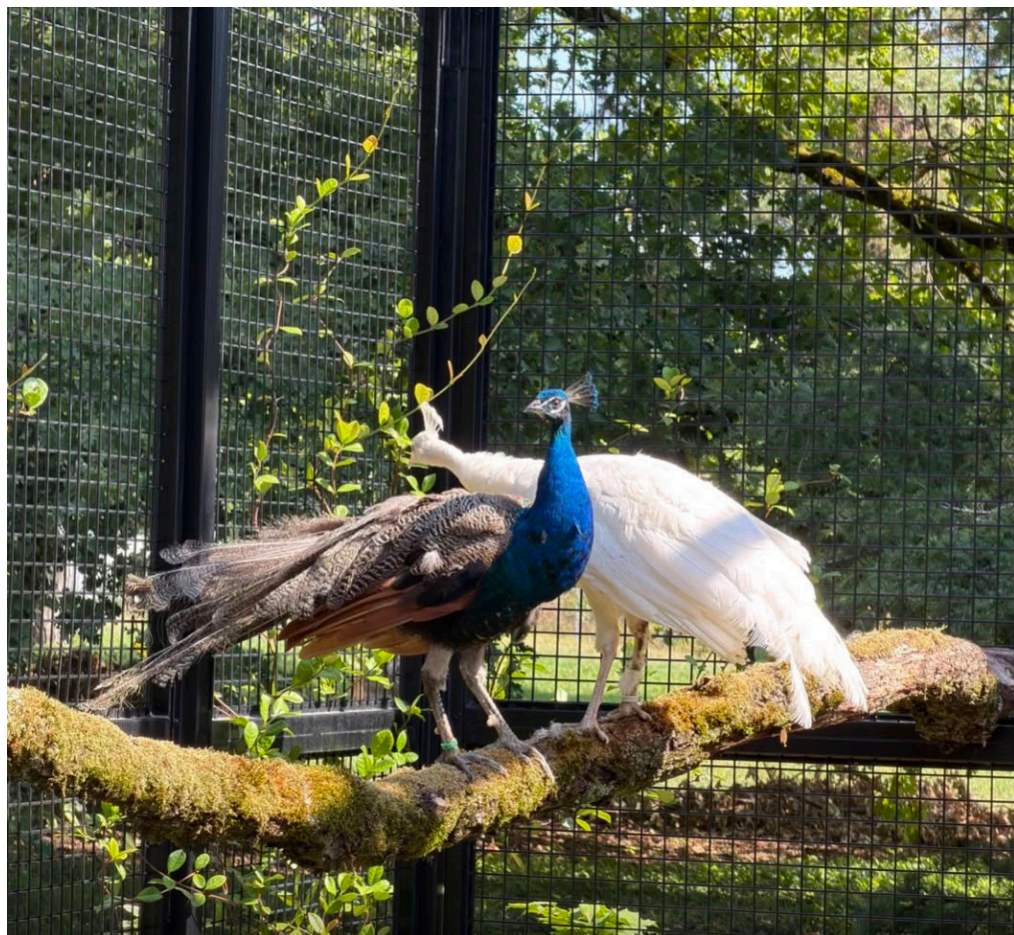
NEW DELHI: India has revived a decades old tradition at the United Nations Office in Geneva by donating five Indian peacocks, including a rare white feathered male, to the UN premises.

The birds were formally handed over at a special ceremony by India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, Arindam Bagchi, to UN Geneva Director General Tatiana Valovaya. The gesture highlights India's rich biodiversity while strengthening its long standing association with the United Nations.

The donation includes four blue peafowl and one white feathered peacock. Their colours also complement the blue and white associated with the United Nations.

India has previously presented peacocks to the UN office in Geneva. In 1981, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi gifted a breeding pair from the Delhi Zoo, marking the beginning of the country's association with the peacock tradition at the UN premises.

The latest donation



will see the birds cared for by Geneva Bioparc in coordination with UN staff. They will initially remain in a secure enclosed habitat for about three months before being allowed to move freely around Ariana Park.

Spread across 46 hectares, Ariana Park is among Geneva's most prominent green

spaces and surrounds the UN's European headquarters. Peacocks have been present in the park for more than a century, with the tradition predating both the League of Nations and the United Nations. The park's connection with peacocks dates back to Swiss archaeologist and art collector Gustave

Revilliod, who left the estate to the City of Geneva in 1890. India's latest contribution adds to the biodiversity of the UN complex while showcasing the country's cultural heritage and commitment to environmental conservation, multilateralism and international cooperation.

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Sanguem Workers, Citizens Raise Political Concerns Over Representation And Reservation

seeking greater consultation with grassroots workers and local stakeholders.

Candidate selection also emerged as a key issue, with participants discussing the possible political impact of decisions taken by the BJP leadership. References to statements attributed to senior party leaders, including State BJP president Damu Naik, also featured in the discussions.

The developments come amid increased political activity in Sanguem, with local workers and citizens expressing concerns over community representation, development priorities and the constituency's political direction ahead of the forthcoming elections.

Minister and Sanguem MLA Subhash Phal Dessai met the citizens and workers and heard their concerns.

He said the issues raised would have to be placed before the party leadership for consideration.

Phal Dessai also clarified that he had no role in the selection of candidates, stating that the decision on the party's

candidate rests with the BJP leadership.

Sanguem BJP Dispute Resolved After High-Level Meeting

that had been resolved. He said the interaction with Sanguem workers was fruitful and that the party would move ahead together. On Phal Dessai's political position, Sawant said the party would take a decision at the appropriate time, while stressing that development in Sanguem would continue. Differences relating to the Curchorem constituency were also discussed and, according to Sawant, resolved

"You Have Inspired A Generation": PM Modi Hails India's CWG 2026 Champions

■ Prime Minister praises medal winners at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg as India finishes fourth in Glasgow with 39 medals

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted India's Commonwealth Games 2026 medal winners at his residence and praised their performances, saying their achievements had gone beyond winning medals and would motivate a new generation to embrace sport.

During his interaction with the athletes, Modi recalled that sportspersons have been among the groups he has regularly welcomed at his residence over the past 12 to 13 years. He credited the dedication and hard work of Indian athletes for the country's consistent performances at major international competitions. The Prime Minister said the impact of sporting success could be more powerful than conventional campaigns promoting fitness and participation in sports.

"You have not just won medals, you have inspired a generation," Modi told the athletes, highlighting the wider significance of their performances. He specifically praised boxer Lovlina Borgohain for objecting to a distorted representation of India on a map displayed at a restaurant in Glasgow during the Games. Modi described her action as

significant and said it would be remembered for a long time.

The Prime Minister also recalled weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu's emotional reaction after winning her medal. Chanu said her tears reflected years of challenges, including injuries, family difficulties and the disappointment of missing out on a medal at the Paris Olympics. She said seeing the Indian flag rise and hearing the national anthem made the moment particularly emotional. Modi said the athletes' victories should be viewed as more than personal accomplishments because they could inspire future generations to pursue sporting dreams. India finished fourth in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games with 39 medals, comprising 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze. The country achieved the result with a smaller contingent than in Birmingham, sending 122 athletes compared with 210 in 2022.

India will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, Indian Olympic Association president PT Usha and Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi received the Commonwealth Games flag and ceremonial baton during the closing ceremony.



Assam Flood Death Toll Hits 100 as Nearly 1.4 Lakh People Remain Affected

■ Floodwaters continue to inundate hundreds of villages, damage farmland and disrupt infrastructure across seven districts

Team Goemkarponn

GUWAHATI: Assam's flood crisis remained severe on Sunday as two more people drowned in floodwaters, taking the death toll from this year's floods to 100.

The latest fatalities were reported from Golaghat and Karbi Anglong districts, where one person died in each area during the past 24 hours. Despite a slight improvement in the overall situation, large parts of the

state continue to remain underwater. More than 1.37 lakh



people are currently affected across Charaideo, Darrang, Golaghat, Jorhat, Karbi Anglong, Nagaon and Sivasagar districts. Golaghat remains the

worst affected, with nearly 70,000 people impacted. Sivasagar has around

40,000 affected residents, while more than 16,000 people have been affected in Jorhat.

The number of people impacted has declined

marginally from nearly 1.5 lakh across eight districts reported a day earlier. However, the humanitarian challenge remains significant, with authorities operating

125 relief camps and distribution centres across six districts. Around 49,000 flood affected people are currently staying in these facilities.

Relief operations have continued across the affected areas. During the past 24 hours, authorities distributed more than 710 quintals of rice, nearly 128 quintals of dal, over 38 quintals of salt and around 3,774 litres of mustard oil.

Floodwaters have inundated 456 villages and damaged more



“Clarity, Not Control”: India Rejects Claims FCRA Bill Targets Churches

■ Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra says proposed foreign funding rules focus on transparency, accountability and uniform regulation

Team Goemkarponn

WASHINGTON: India has rejected allegations that the proposed Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, could allow the government to take control of churches, religious charities or civil society organisations, arguing that the legislation is intended to improve transparency and strengthen oversight of foreign funds. In a detailed “Myth vs Reality” explanation, Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra said the proposed changes are part of the country's continuing effort to regulate foreign financial flows while ensuring clearer rules and better governance. Kwatra said the Foreign Contribution

(Regulation) Act does not prohibit lawful organisations from receiving overseas donations. Thousands of registered associations continue to receive foreign contributions for activities including healthcare, education, research, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance. According to him, foreign contributions received by registered organisations increased from around \$1.2 billion in 2010-11 to \$2.67 billion in 2024-25. Of the more than three million NGOs operating in India, about 14,450 have FCRA registration. Addressing concerns over the proposed handling of assets, Kwatra said the government is not introducing an entirely new mechanism.



“Kerala Will Become Keralam”: Amit Shah To Introduce Name Change Bill In Lok Sabha

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to introduce two important bills in the Lok Sabha on Monday, including legislation proposing to change the official name of Kerala to Keralam and another aimed at expanding the financial powers of the National Co-operative Development Corporation. The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 seeks to amend the First Schedule of the Constitution, which lists the names of states and Union Territories. The proposed change follows a resolution passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly and has already received approval from the Union Cabinet. If Parliament approves the legislation, the state currently known officially as Kerala will be referred to as Keralam in the Constitution. The second legislation, the National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, proposes a major expansion of the NCDC's ability to provide financial assistance for cooperative development.

Air India Pilot Faces Confirmatory Dope Test After Turbulence Hit Flight

■ Initial screening reportedly flagged psychoactive substances, with final laboratory results still awaited

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The pilot in command of an Air India flight that encountered severe turbulence while travelling from Phuket to Delhi has reportedly returned a result requiring further testing during a post flight drug screening. The initial finding has not yet been confirmed, as a mandatory confirmatory test is still pending.

The screening was conducted after the aircraft landed in Delhi following the August



4 incident. The Civil Aviation Ministry said the initial result requires confirmation through laboratory analysis, and the final report will determine whether any regulatory action is necessary. Air India said it had been informed that post flight screening of the

pilots was conducted under established procedures. However, the airline has not received the test results and therefore cannot comment on the findings. Both pilots have been removed from the flight roster while the investigation continues. A positive result in a first time drug test can lead to referral to a rehabilitation facility, with the crew member required to produce a negative test before returning to flying duties.

India-Bangladesh Ties Face Fresh Strain As Envoy Meets PM Tarique Rahman Amid Hasina Row

■ Dinesh Trivedi's Dhaka Meeting Comes After Bangladesh Objects To Sheikh Hasina's Delhi Media Event

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi met Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in Dhaka amid renewed tensions between the two neighbouring countries over a recent media interaction by former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in New Delhi.

The meeting came



shortly after Trivedi held discussions with Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman and Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun

Kabir. The diplomatic engagements are being closely watched as New Delhi and Dhaka attempt to rebuild relations following months of

political uncertainty.

India has also invited Tarique Rahman to attend the upcoming BRICS summit in his capacity as the current chair of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, or BIMSTEC.

The latest diplomatic friction stems from Hasina's press interaction at an event organised by the Foreign Correspondents Club

of South Asia in New Delhi. Bangladesh strongly objected to the programme, describing it as an affront to its sovereignty.

India, however, clarified that the event was organised by a private organisation and that the government had no involvement in it. New Delhi also maintained that it did not endorse the views expressed during the interaction.

“We’ll Decide In Galle”: India Faces Spin Selection Headache Ahead Of Sri Lanka Test

■ Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and two emerging spinners impress in warm-up as India weighs four options

Team Goemkarponn

GALLE: India’s spin bowling unit has given the team management plenty to consider ahead of the opening Test against Sri Lanka, with spin coach Sairaj Bahutule indicating that the final combination will be decided only after the team reaches Galle.

The first Test of the two match series begins



on August 15, with India coming off a six wicket victory over Sri Lanka Cricket XI in a three day warm-up match. The

fixture provided valuable match practice for the visiting spinners and helped them understand how local conditions are likely to develop.

Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar and Saransh Jain shared the workload during the warm-up. Jadeja claimed two wickets in each innings, while Kuldeep bowled 18

overs in the match after also delivering a few overs before the game. The spinners found increasing assistance from the surface as the match progressed.

Bahutule said Kuldeep, who recently played five one day matches for Yorkshire in England, had a productive outing while also managing his workload.



UK Ultra, Vicky 10, Tuff Security, Noble Car Dealers Reach MTTCL 6.0 Semifinals

■ Four teams seal knockout victories as Goa’s veteran table tennis league enters its decisive stage

Team Goemkarponn

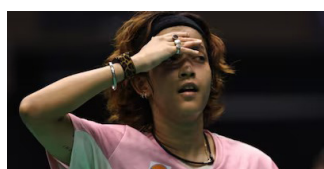
PEDDEM: UK Ultra, Vicky 10, Tuff Security and Noble Car Dealers advanced to the semifinals of the Masters Table Tennis Champions League (MTTCL) 6.0 after producing impressive performances in the knockout stage at Peddem. UK Ultra delivered a commanding 2 0 victory over Diya Enterprises to secure the first semifinal spot. Vicky 10 also produced a straight victory, defeating B N Thakur 2 0 to continue its strong campaign.

Tuff Security faced a tougher challenge before overcoming Kabir Knights 2 1, while Noble Car Dealers edged past M & S Titans by the same 2

1 margin in a closely fought knockout tie.

The competition had earlier seen Diya Enterprises finish at the top of Group A, with Vicky 10 securing second place. In Group B, M & S Titans emerged as leaders, followed by Kabir Knights. The tournament format features three doubles matches in every team tie, adding to the intensity of the franchise based competition.

MTTCL 6.0 was inaugurated by former Aldona MLA Glen Ticlo in the presence of Goa Table Tennis Association president Sudin Verenkar, CCP councillor Kabir Pinto Makhija and organising president Mayur Sawkar, among other guests.



“I Never Stopped Believing”: Ashmita Chaliha Claims Maiden BWF World Tour Title At Korea Masters

Team Goemkarponn

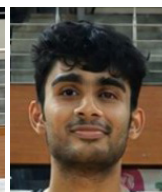
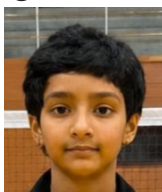
ASAN: India’s Ashmita Chaliha produced a determined comeback to win her maiden BWF World Tour title, defeating fourth seed Han Qian Xi of China in the women’s singles final of the Korea Masters Super 300 on Sunday. The 26 year old from Assam overcame a difficult opening game and a tense decider to beat world number 35 Han 14 21, 21 14, 21 14 in a 53 minute contest. Ashmita started confidently and quickly moved into a 3 0 lead before extending her advantage to 9 5. Han responded strongly, drawing level at 11 11 before taking control with a decisive run of points. The Chinese shuttler maintained her momentum to close out the opening game. The Indian responded emphatically in the second game. She increased the pressure with aggressive smashes and combined her attacking play with sharp defensive returns. After the score was level at 6 6, Ashmita began to pull away and led 11 8 at the interval.

Amaira, Shaheen, Anjana and Sufiya Eye Double Crowns at BPS State Badminton Ranking Tournament

■ Several top shuttlers secure places in multiple finals as the Goa state ranking event reaches its decisive stage

Team Goemkarponn

NAVELIM: Amaira Dhumatker, Shaheen C K, Anjana Kumari and Sufiya Shaikh are in contention for double titles at the BPS State Badminton Ranking Tournament, being held at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium in Navelim. The tournament is organised by BPS Sports Club in association with the Goa Badminton Association and has produced several closely



contested matches across singles and doubles categories. In the men’s singles competition, top seed Nishant Shenai advanced after defeating Soham Naik 15 6, 15 13. Arjun Bhagat also secured his place in the next stage with a 15 7, 11 15, 15 7 victory over fourth seed

Devansh Sakpal. Sufiya Shaikh produced a strong performance in women’s singles, defeating Dimple Revankar 15 8, 15 8. Anjana Kumari also progressed after overcoming Shreya Mehta 18 16, 15 6. The doubles events have further strengthened the prospects of several players chasing multiple titles.

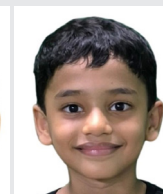
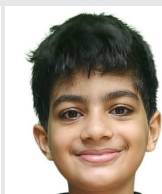
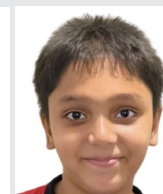
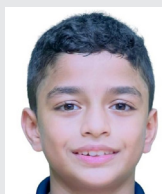
Chandan Caro, Vedant Wagle Set For U15 Final At 38th Salgaocar Major Ranking TT Tournament

■ Ashank Dalvi and Aarish Shaikh will battle for the Boys U11 title, while Sachi Dessai and Tisha Shaikh reach the Girls U13 final

Team Goemkarponn

CORTALIM: Chandan Caro and Vedant Wagle secured their places in the Boys Under 15 final at the 38th Salgaocar All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament 2026, setting up an exciting title clash at Mangesh Maharudra Hall in Thana, Cortalim.

Organised by Cortalim Gymkhana, the tournament has brought together several



of Goa’s promising young table tennis players, with the knockout stages producing a series of convincing performances.

Chandan Caro delivered a dominant display in his semifinal, defeating Ishaan Colaso 3 0 to book his place in

the championship match. Vedant Wagle also impressed, overcoming Ruhaan Shaikh 3 1 in a competitive semifinal to earn his spot in the final.

The Boys Under 11 category also produced two decisive semifinal results. Ashank Dalvi

continued his strong campaign with a straight games victory over Kedar Nair, winning 3 0. Aarish Shaikh matched that performance, defeating Vardhan Verlekar by the same scoreline to complete the final lineup.

The two young players will now meet in the Boys Under 11 final, with both entering the title clash after impressive straight games victories in the semifinals.

The Girls Under

13 competition also witnessed strong performances in the semifinals. Sachi Dessai advanced after beating Inara D’Souza 3 0, while Tisha Shaikh secured her place in the final with a 3 1 victory over Vanlalrinzuali.

The results have set up another exciting title battle in the junior section as the tournament moves towards its concluding stages.