



GMC Super Speciality Block To Get Direct Link With Main Campus

■ CM Pramod Sawant Announces Overbridge Or Fast-Track Link; ₹500 Crore Provision For GMC Infrastructure

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant announced that the Goa government is working on a plan to establish a direct connection between the Super Speciality Block and the main Goa Medical College (GMC) campus at Bambolim.

Sawant said the proposed connectivity could be developed through an overbridge or a fast-track link, with a consultant already appointed for the project.



The plan aims to develop the entire area as one integrated GMC campus and improve connectivity between its various facilities.

The Chief Minister made the announcement while inaugurating the new

Lecture Hall Complex at Goa Medical College and Hospital in the presence of Health Minister Vishwajit Rane, GSIDC Chairman Michael Lobo and other dignitaries.

The new Lecture Hall

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Patradevi Hutatma Smarak Inauguration Postponed To August 26

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The inauguration of the Patradevi Hutatma Smarak, scheduled to be held tomorrow, has been postponed to August 26, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant said. Sawant said the programme was deferred due to

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Farmers Affected By Elephant Omkar Await Compensation; 'VIPs Get Facilities, But What About Farmers?'

Pernem Farmers Demand Immediate Compensation And Protection After Crop Damage



Team Goemkarponn

PERNEM: Farmers in Pernem taluka whose crops have been extensively damaged due to the movement of elephant 'Omkar' are still awaiting compensation for their losses, even as the administration makes elaborate arrangements for the upcoming inauguration of the renovated Patradevi Memorial.

The contrast has drawn criticism from affected farmers, who questioned why the administration is able to make prompt arrangements for VIP security and facilities but

has not shown the same urgency in addressing their concerns.

Farmer Shashikant Mahale questioned how long farmers whose crops have been damaged by the elephant would have to wait for financial assistance and protection.

"Many facilities and security arrangements are being provided for VIPs, but what about us farmers? Who will provide protection to us?" Mahale questioned.

The movement of elephant 'Omkar' has caused damage to agricultural crops

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Chemical Analysis Needed To Confirm Drugs Seized At Colvale Jail: Michael Lobo

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: MLA Michael Lobo said no conclusion can be drawn about the substance seized at Colvale Jail until its chemical analysis confirms whether it is actually a narcotic substance.

Lobo said the seized material must undergo scientific testing before any definitive claim can be made regarding its nature.

He also ruled out any political nexus in the matter and maintained that there should be no political angle attached to the seizure.

Lobo stressed that anyone found involved in drug-related activities will face strict legal action, including arrest, prosecution and imprisonment, as per law.

Supreme Court Reserves Order On Tarun Tejpal's Plea Against Surrender

■ Former Tehelka Editor-in-Chief Challenges 10-Year Sentence; Goa Government Seeks Enhancement To Life Imprisonment

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Supreme Court on Monday reserved its order on a plea filed by former Tehelka editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal seeking exemption from surrendering as directed by the Bombay High Court. Tejpal has challenged the August 6, 2026 order of the Goa bench of the Bombay High Court,



which overturned his acquittal by the trial court and convicted him in the 2013 sexual assault case, sentencing him to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment. The High Court had directed him to surrender within four weeks. Tejpal

has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court through advocate Aditya Samaddar, seeking to set aside both his conviction and the 10-year sentence. The case relates to an alleged sexual assault of a junior colleague inside a hotel elevator in Goa in November 2013 during an event organised by Tehelka.

"Military Bases in Amritsar on Pak Gang Radar," Punjab Put on High Alert

■ Security agencies intensify surveillance after intelligence input names two Pakistan based operatives and flags possible threats to key Army establishments

Team Goemkarponn

CHANDIGARH: Punjab has been placed on high alert following an intelligence input warning of a possible attempt by the Shahzad Bhatti network to target military installations in and around Amritsar.

The alert names two alleged Pakistan based operatives, identified as Rana Bhai and Malik, and claims that



reconnaissance has been conducted at Khalsa Cantonment in Amritsar and the Budha Theh military establishment near Beas. Security agencies have been directed to take the information seriously and strengthen security around sensitive locations.

"Border Stability And De-Escalation": Ajit Doval Heads To China For High-Level Talks

■ India and China to review LAC situation, patrolling and disengagement measures ahead of Xi Jinping's expected India visit

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval has travelled to Beijing for the 25th round of India China Special Representatives' talks, with border stability, de-escalation and the long standing boundary dispute expected to dominate discussions. Doval is scheduled to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi under the



Special Representatives' mechanism, which serves as one of the key diplomatic channels for addressing the boundary issue between the two countries. The talks assume added significance ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's expected visit to India for

the BRICS Summit in September. Both sides are expected to assess the latest situation along the Line of Actual Control and discuss measures to prevent renewed tensions. The two representatives are likely to review the disengagement arrangements reached in October 2024 and examine subsequent steps aimed at reducing military confrontation along the border.

Nightlife Cannot Become A Licence for Public Disorder

The arrest of eight young men following an alleged affray near SOHO Club in Panaji in the early hours of August 23 should not be dismissed as just another late-night brawl. It raises a larger and uncomfortable question about how Goa manages its nightlife, particularly in the capital city, where entertainment, alcohol, crowds and the movement of young people often continue deep into the night.

According to the police, the incident occurred between 4 am and 4.45 am, when the accused allegedly formed a group, abused and assaulted one another with fists and kicks at a public place, disturbing peace and tranquillity. An FIR has been registered under Sections 194(2), 115(2) and 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

The police have acted by registering the case and making arrests. That is necessary. But policing cannot begin and end with arrests after an incident has already taken place. The real test is whether the administration can prevent such situations from developing in the first place.

Panaji has increasingly become a nightlife destination. Clubs, restaurants and entertainment establishments have an important role in Goa's tourism economy and in providing employment. There is nothing wrong with people enjoying themselves. But nightlife cannot come at the cost of public safety.

The timing of this incident is particularly significant. An alleged fight at around 4 am in a public area should prompt authorities to examine what happens around nightlife zones after establishments close or as crowds spill onto the streets. The responsibility for maintaining order cannot be placed entirely on the police. Club managements, security agencies, taxi operators, local authorities and the administration must all have clearly defined responsibilities.

There is also a need to distinguish between nightlife and disorder. Goa cannot afford a situation where excessive drinking, arguments, fights

“According to the police, the incident occurred between 4 am and 4.45 am, when the accused allegedly formed a group, abused and assaulted one another with fists and kicks at a public place, disturbing peace and tranquillity. An FIR has been registered under Sections 194(2), 115(2) and 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

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and public nuisance become accepted as an unavoidable part of the night economy. A tourist destination cannot claim to offer a safe and welcoming environment while allowing public spaces to become scenes of violence in the early hours.

At the same time, the arrests must not become a substitute for due process. The allegations against the eight accused will have to be established through the legal process. Being arrested does not mean being found guilty. The investigation must therefore be fair, professional and evidence

based.

But the incident should nevertheless serve as a warning.

Panaji has a dense concentration of commercial establishments and residential areas. A disturbance outside a club does not remain confined to the club. It affects residents, pedestrians, motorists, workers and other visitors. Repeated incidents can also damage the reputation of the city.

The government must therefore look beyond the traditional approach of increasing police presence only after trouble occurs. Police patrolling in identified nightlife zones, adequate lighting, functioning CCTV cameras, proper crowd management and strict compliance with licence conditions should be treated as basic requirements.

Authorities should also examine whether establishments are following the rules relating to closing times, security arrangements and the movement of patrons outside their premises. If violations are found, action must follow regardless of who owns or operates the establishment.

Goa wants tourism, but it must want responsible tourism. It wants nightlife, but it must also want safe streets. These objectives are not contradictory.

The incident near SOHO should therefore be seen not merely as a case involving eight individuals, but as an opportunity to examine the larger ecosystem surrounding Goa's late night economy. The police cannot be expected to stand at every street corner waiting for fights to begin. Prevention requires coordination, accountability and enforcement before the first punch is thrown.

Goa's nightlife must remain vibrant. But vibrancy cannot mean lawlessness. The message from Panaji should be simple: people have every right to enjoy the night, but nobody has the right to turn public spaces into arenas for violence.

Safe streets are not an optional extra for a tourism destination. They are the foundation on which its reputation is built.

EDITOR SPEAKS

Colvale Jail Allegations Need An Independent Probe

The allegations of an alleged cash economy operating inside Colvale Central Jail are too serious to be dismissed as another political controversy. Reports of inmates allegedly paying large sums for food and accessing unauthorised items raise fundamental questions about security, accountability and the functioning of the prison administration.

If the allegations are true, the issue goes far beyond the question of who sold what to whom. A prison is a highly controlled institution. How could an informal cash system allegedly operate without the knowledge of officials responsible for security and administration?

The government should therefore order an independent and time bound inquiry. CCTV footage, visitor records, prison registers, food procurement documents, ration stocks and accounts must be examined. The investigation should establish whether government supplies were diverted, whether inmates were charged unofficially for facilities and whether prohibited items entered the jail.

At the same time, allegations must not be treated as proven facts. If the claims are false or exaggerated, the government should establish that clearly and place the findings before the public. But if wrongdoing is established, those responsible must face action, irrespective of their position.

The government should not see this merely as an Opposition issue. Questions about the functioning of a jail concern every Goan because prisons operate with public money and under the authority of the state.

Colvale Jail cannot have one set of official rules and another unofficial system operating behind the walls. The truth must come out through a transparent investigation.

- Rui Fernandes, Panaji

Support Traditional Goan Carpenters, But Keep The Benefits For Goans

The demand by traditional furniture stall owners participating in the Vasco Damodar Saptah Fair for rebates and reduced stall charges deserves serious consideration by the Goa government. Traditional Goan carpentry is not merely a business. It is part of our cultural heritage and a livelihood that is slowly disappearing.

The government should certainly support genuine traditional carpenters through reduced sopo, subsidies and concessions at fairs and feasts across Goa. However, such benefits must be carefully targeted. They should be reserved for genuine Goan traditional carpenters and artisan families who have been practising the occupation and preserving the craft.

Public money and government concessions should not become a blanket benefit available to anyone who sets up a furniture stall in Goa. There must be a proper registration and verification mechanism to identify traditional Goan carpenters and distinguish handmade traditional work from commercially manufactured furniture.

The government could consider a special “Traditional Goan Artisan” category at fairs, with subsidised stall charges and other incentives. Municipalities should also follow a uniform concession policy so that artisans travelling from one fair to another are not burdened by different charges at every location.

If the government has recognised traditional occupations such as khaje makers and other local artisans, traditional carpenters deserve similar consideration.

But the objective must be preservation, not indiscriminate subsidies. Genuine Goan carpenters should be encouraged to pass their skills to the next generation before the craft disappears.

Goa must protect its traditional occupations, but it must also ensure that the benefits meant to protect Goan heritage actually reach the Goans who preserve it.

- Anthony D'Souza, Mapusa

High Court Upholds Goa's Mining Dump Policy, Rejects Goa Foundation Review Plea

■ Court Says Review Cannot Reopen Merits Of Earlier Judgment

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa High Court has dismissed a review petition filed by the Goa Foundation against its earlier decision supporting the Goa Government's Mining Dump Policy, 2023. The court ruled that a review proceeding is not meant to function as an appeal and found no apparent legal or factual error in its May 7, 2026 judgment that would



justify reconsideration. The dispute relates to Clause 2.2 of the 2023 Dump Policy, which permits former mining leaseholders to remove inventoried mineral dumps situated on private property outside their former lease areas within a five-year period. The permission

is subject to applicable land conversion charges, penalties under the Goa Land Revenue Code and royalty payments. The Goa Foundation had challenged this arrangement through a public interest litigation, arguing that the iron ore present in such dumps should instead be auctioned by the government. According to the Foundation, auctioning the material would better protect the

State's financial interests. The High Court had rejected the PIL on May 7, holding that the policy provided a reasonable and transparent mechanism for dealing with the mineral dumps. The Foundation subsequently sought a review, raising objections to an observation contained in paragraph 63 of the earlier judgment concerning payment of royalty on iron ore contained in the dumps.



CAS Takes Up Challenge To Churchill Brothers' ISL Entry

■ Derick Dias seeks interim relief against proposed Rs 100 transfer of Jamshedpur FC's ISL licence

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The proposed transfer of Jamshedpur FC's Indian Super League (ISL) licence to Churchill Brothers for a token Rs 100 has reached the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, adding a fresh legal dimension to the controversial deal. Salcete-based football fan Derick Dias has approached CAS seeking urgent interim measures to prevent the transfer from being approved by the All India Football Federation (AIFF). CAS has acknowledged the plea and is examining whether provisional relief should be granted. Dias has filed the application under

Article R37 of the CAS Code. His petition challenges the proposed transaction between Tata Steel's Jamshedpur Football & Sporting Pvt Ltd and Churchill Brothers, arguing that the arrangement could undermine sporting merit and circumvent the established promotion and relegation system. According to the plea, allowing the transfer to proceed before the start of the new ISL season could cause what Dias describes as irreversible damage to the competitive integrity of the league. Any interim order from CAS could put the AIFF's approval process on hold and create uncertainty over Churchill Brothers' participation in the upcoming ISL season.



Goa Faces CRIF Funding Warning Over Pending Road Records

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa could face a setback in securing Central funding for state road projects after the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) warned that CRIF allocations may be held back if the State fails to meet the scheme's mandatory requirements.

In a communication issued on August 19, the Ministry pointed to shortcomings in the submission of records by a number of States and Union Territories, with Goa among those flagged. The State has been asked to ensure that all conditions prescribed under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) are followed. One of the key concerns relates to documentation for completed works. MoRTH said completion reports or certificates, supported by audit verification, are required to be submitted within three months of completion. The Ministry observed that the required documents were not reaching it regularly, affecting compliance with audit-related provisions.

Hawksbill Sea Turtle Rescued, Recovered And Released Back Into The Sea

■ Forest Department, Drishti Marine Lifeguards And ReefWatch Join Hands In Successful Marine Rescue Operation At Polem Beach

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Forest Minister Vishwajit Rane has expressed appreciation to the Forest Department and partner organisations following the successful rescue, rehabilitation and release of a critically endangered Hawksbill sea turtle found injured at Polem Beach.

The turtle was rescued on August 2, 2026, after being found



injured at the beach. Following treatment and rehabilitation, it was successfully released back into the sea on August 19 after making a full recovery. The rescue

operation involved close coordination between the South Goa Marine Range staff and Drishti Marine Lifeguards, who assisted in the rescue and release of the turtle.

CM Assures Pre-Primary Teachers Of Salary Revision By October

■ Government Also Plans To Launch CM Avas Yojana To Ensure 'House For All' In Goa

Team Goemkarponn

SANKHALI: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has assured pre-primary teachers in Goa that their long-pending demand for salary revision and other service benefits will be addressed by October.

The assurance was given during a meeting with representatives of pre-primary teachers at Ravindra Bhavan, Sankhalim. Speaking



to the media after the meeting, the teachers said they have been seeking improvements in their salary and service conditions for several

years.

The teachers said around 3,000 pre-primary teachers are currently working in nearly 800 schools across Goa. Many

of them have completed close to 20 years of service but claimed that their demands have remained pending despite repeated representations to the authorities.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister said the government will shortly launch the CM Avas Yojana, aimed at ensuring that every Niz Goemkar has a house of their own.

Under the scheme, the government plans to make use of vacant flats

available under various Housing Board and Rehabilitation Board schemes. The initiative is being planned with the objective of achieving the government's vision of "House for All" in Goa.

The government is expected to work towards identifying eligible beneficiaries and utilising available housing stock to provide homes to those who do not have their own houses.

Eight Arrested In Affray Near SOHO Club In Panaji

■ Panaji Police register FIR after group allegedly assaulted each other at a public place

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered an FIR and arrested eight persons in connection with an alleged affray near SOHO Club, Panaji, in the early hours of August 23, 2026.

According to Goa Police, the complaint was lodged by PSI Manjunath Naik of Panaji Police Station. The incident reportedly took place between 4 am and 4.45 am, when the accused



allegedly formed a group and started abusing and

assaulting each other with fist blows and kicks at a public place, disturbing peace and tranquillity in the area.

The arrested persons have been identified

as Prachay Prakash Kolapte (21), Jaydon

Joe Rebello (19), Alroy Antonsh Veagas (22), Ashbel Roshmon Ferrao (22), Mukesh Ram Singh (21), Roydon Trevor Misquita (22), Joy Joao Fernandes (22) and Joseph Silvester Cardozo (21). An offence has been registered under Sections 194(2), 115(2) and 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Goa Police said it remains committed to maintaining public order and ensuring safe streets across the state.



Two Russian Nationals Arrested For Overstaying In Goa

■ Crime Branch registers case under Immigration and Foreigners Act after finding duo without valid visas

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Crime Branch has arrested two Russian nationals for allegedly staying in India without valid visas in violation of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

The accused have been identified as Boris Gudkov, 47, and Sergey Silvanskiy, 44. Both were found at a residence in Wadi Kareem, Siolim, on August 22, 2026, at around 3 pm, according to the Crime Branch.

Police said Gudkov's visa had expired on April 2, 2026, while Silvanskiy was allegedly found staying in India without a valid visa. Their passports were reportedly valid, but they did not possess valid visas permitting their stay in the country.

The case was registered at Crime Branch Police Station under Crime No. 88/2026 for an alleged offence punishable under Section 23(a) of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, for contravention of Section 3 of the Act.

The accused were informed of the grounds of their arrest and formally placed under arrest after following the Supreme Court guidelines on arrest. The Russian Consulate is being informed of their arrest through the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Panaji. Both accused are being sent for medical examination at Goa Medical College, Bambolim. Further investigation is being conducted by PI Sachin B. Lokre.



Two Senegalese Nationals Arrested With Suspected Cocaine Worth ₹22.29 Lakh

Team Goemkarponn

MORNING: Two Senegalese nationals have been arrested after police allegedly recovered 222.92 grams of suspected cocaine from their premises at Bandekarwada, Morjim.

The accused have been identified as Bouba Samba, 31, and Aliou Moustapha, 31. Both were reportedly residing at Greenview Guest House, Bandekarwada, Morjim, Pernem.

According to police, a whitish powder-like substance suspected to be cocaine was found in their possession. The seized substance weighed 222.92 grams and was valued at approximately ₹22,29,200. During the operation, police also seized ₹10,85,300 in cash and other articles. The total value of the seized items was estimated at ₹33,14,500. Both accused were placed under arrest on August 23, 2026, at around 2.50 am after following the prescribed arrest procedures.

Further investigation into the case is underway.

Man From Tripura Arrested For Entering Restricted INS Hansa Defence Area

■ Accused allegedly entered INS Hansa, Dabolim, without lawful authority or permission

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: A case has been registered against Papu Shil, a resident of Tripura, for allegedly entering the restricted defence area of INS Hansa, Dabolim, without lawful authority or permission.

According to the complaint filed by Parth, Lieutenant Commander of INS Hansa, the incident took place on August 21, 2026, at around 7.30 pm at INS Hansa, Dabolim.



Shil allegedly entered the prohibited area with the intention of committing an offence. Further

investigation into the case is being conducted by PSI Plato Carvalho of Vasco Police Station.

Woman Arrested For Allegedly Duping People Of ₹47 Lakh In Plot And Flat Scam

■ Porvorim Police register case after complainant alleges money was collected on false promise of properties in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Porvorim Police have arrested a 25-year-old woman in connection with an alleged property fraud case involving ₹47 lakh.

According to the complaint filed by Santosh Valvoikar, a resident of Kaskarwaddo, Porvorim, the accused, identified as Kajal d/o Prakash Nanoskar, allegedly induced the complainant



and other people by promising to provide plots and flats in Goa.

Police said the accused allegedly collected and siphoned off the hard-

earned money of the complainant and others, with the total amount involved reported to be ₹47,00,000. A case has been registered at Porvorim Police Station as Crime No. 65/2026 under Section 318(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The accused, a resident of Girkarwaddo, Harmal, Pernem, and presently residing at Cuchelim, Mapusa, has been arrested and lodged in police custody.

20-Year-Old Arrested In ₹42.60 Lakh Digital Arrest Scam

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Cybercrime Cell of Goa Police has arrested 20-year-old Tejas Narahare, a resident of Nanded, Maharashtra, in connection with an alleged 'digital arrest' scam in which a 62-year-old resident of Canacona was duped of ₹42.60 lakh.

According to police, the accused allegedly posed as officers from the Delhi and Mumbai Crime Branches and told the victim that he was involved in a money-laundering case.

GOACAN Seeks Inquiry Into Dabolim Hoarding Collapse

■ Organisation demands accountability and SOP to prevent similar road safety incidents

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: GOACAN has urged the South Goa Collector and District Magistrate to conduct a thorough inquiry into the collapse of a large advertising hoarding near Dabolim Airport, an incident that reportedly resulted in a narrow escape for a biker. In a letter to the Collector, GOACAN Coordinator Roland Martins said the incident could have had



serious consequences from a road safety and traffic management perspective, particularly given its location near the international airport. GOACAN has demanded

that responsibility be fixed after examining the roles of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), District Police, Traffic Police, Airports Authority of India,

Public Works Department and the concerned village panchayat. The organisation has also called for a standard operating procedure (SOP) to prevent similar incidents at Dabolim and other locations across South Goa. GOACAN said the absence of fatalities in the incident should be treated as an opportunity for the administration to take preventive measures before a major tragedy occurs.



Traditional Furniture Stall Owners Seek Sopo Rebate At Vasco Saptah

■ Carpenters urge CM Sawant and authorities to reduce stall charges and support Goa's dying traditional occupation

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Traditional Goan furniture stall owners participating in the Vasco Damodar Saptah Fair have urged Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant and the authorities to provide rebates and subsidies to traditional carpenters and reduce sopo and stall charges at fairs and feasts across Goa.

Members of the All Goa Carpenters Association said traditional carpenters continue to make handmade furniture and household articles, unlike mechanised furniture manufacturers. They said only a small number of traditional Goan carpenters are still pursuing the occupation and require government support to preserve the craft. A carpenter at the fair said members of the association travel

from one fair to another across Goa to sell handmade furniture. He said a similar demand for reduced stall charges was raised during the Margao fair, where SGPDA Chairman and Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar had agreed to provide a concession.

According to the stall owners, the charges at Margao were reduced substantially, with a discount of around 30 per cent. They said they are now seeking a similar concession at the Vasco Saptah Fair, particularly as Salkar represents Vasco. The carpenters said the Mormugao Municipal Council had charged around ₹850 per running metre during the previous Saptah Fair. However, the rates have now increased, while additional charges have also been imposed for garbage collection.



40-Year Wait Ends As Shantinagar Stretch Gets Streetlights

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: After nearly four decades of waiting, residents of Shantinagar can now look forward to a well-lit stretch at night, following the installation of streetlights facilitated by Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar.

The stretch had remained poorly lit for years, causing inconvenience to residents and commuters, particularly after dark. Locals had repeatedly raised concerns over the lack of proper lighting, saying the darkness also created safety concerns and fears of robbery and other anti-social activities.

Responding to the long-standing demand, MLA Salkar took up the issue and initiated discussions to resolve a land-related hurdle that had delayed the installation of the required infrastructure. The issue involved land needed for erecting electricity poles.

Saligao Gram Sabha Unanimously Opposes Section 39A Of Goa TCP Act

■ Pradeep Padgaonkar moves resolution seeking protection of agricultural land, paddy fields and eco-sensitive areas

Team Goemkarponn

SALIGAO: The Saligao Village Panchayat Gram Sabha unanimously passed a resolution opposing Section 39A of the Goa Town and Country Planning Act, calling for stronger protection of agricultural land, paddy fields, water bodies and eco-sensitive areas in the village. The Gram Sabha was presided over by Sarpanch Lucas Remedios. Deputy Sarpanch Utkarsha Kudnekar, Panchayat Secretary Dharmendra



Govekar and Panchayat members were also present. The resolution was moved by Pradeep Padgaonkar, who highlighted that farmers in Saligao have traditionally cultivated their lands and grown different crops across seasons. He said it was the responsibility of the village community

to protect agricultural lands, hills and other village resources. Padgaonkar said several Gram Sabhas across Goa had already passed resolutions opposing the move and remarked that Saligao was late in taking the step. The Gram Sabha resolved to reject proposals seeking conversion of agricultural land into settlement zones within the Panchayat jurisdiction and retain the existing protective zoning classification.

Archdiocese of Goa and Daman Releases Annual Directory 2026–2027

■ Directory provides comprehensive contact details of parishes, churches, Catholic institutions and various services across the Archdiocese

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The annual Directory 2026–2027 of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman was released on Sunday, August 23, by Archbishop Patriarch Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao and Auxiliary Bishop Most Rev. Simiao Fernandes at the Archbishop's House.

The release was held in the presence of Fr.



Barry Cardozo, Director of the Diocesan Centre for Social Communications Media (DCSCM), Sr. Rita Frois hc, and

Communications Centre staff members Janet Barcellos and Romualdo Fernandes. Congratulating Fr.

Barry Cardozo and the DCSCM team, the Archbishop said he hoped the Directory would reach as many faithful as possible and help them access essential contact details of churches and Catholic institutions across the Archdiocese.

Linking the publication to the Archdiocese's pastoral-year theme, "Abide in Me", Cardinal Ferrao expressed the hope that the Directory

would serve as an aid for the faithful to come closer to the Church and thereby deepen their call to abide in Christ.

Auxiliary Bishop Simiao Fernandes, in his message, said the Directory could serve as a valuable tool for people to remain connected with one another as they journey in synodality towards the fulfilment of their common mission.

“No End to Cab Crisis”: Assam Meghalaya Tensions Escalate as Vehicles Stopped Near Shillong

■ Transport associations demand action over safety concerns as vehicle movement between Assam and Meghalaya remains disrupted

Team Goemkarponn

SHILLONG: Tensions between commercial vehicle operators from Assam and Meghalaya continued to affect interstate transport, with a fresh protest near Shillong resulting in Assam registered vehicles being stopped at the border.

The situation at Jorabat on the Assam Meghalaya border showed some signs of easing after seven Assam based motor, cab and indigenous organisations agreed to withdraw their blockade for the day. The decision allowed Meghalaya registered private and commercial vehicles to enter Assam.

However, tensions remained high near Shillong, where members and leaders of the All Khasi Meghalaya Tourist Taxi Association and the All Shillong Taxi Association gathered at Umiam and stopped vehicles arriving from Assam.

The associations accused the Meghalaya government of failing to adequately address their concerns following a series of incidents



involving commercial vehicles from the two states. They also alleged that the government had treated Meghalaya operators unfairly.

Association leaders pointed to discussions between the Assam and Meghalaya governments, claiming that compensation had been discussed for Assam vehicle owners whose vehicles were damaged in Shillong, while similar assistance for Meghalaya commercial vehicles reportedly damaged in Assam had not been addressed.

Amid continuing safety concerns, Meghalaya registered tourist vehicle operators have decided to drop passengers at Jorabat before returning

to the state instead of travelling further into Assam. Operators have also opposed the entry of Assam registered vehicles into Meghalaya, citing concerns over the safety of drivers and passengers.

The Meghalaya government is now preparing a high level meeting involving the transport commissioners of both states. The meeting, expected by September 10, will address longstanding complaints from transport associations, particularly difficulties faced by Meghalaya drivers travelling to Guwahati and other parts of Assam.

Tourist taxi associations from both states are also expected to participate

in the discussions. The immediate objective is to restore safe and uninterrupted movement while preventing further confrontation between transport operators.

For now, the situation at Jorabat remains relatively calm following the temporary withdrawal of the blockade. Authorities, however, continue to monitor developments around Borapani, where Meghalaya Police remain deployed.

The ongoing dispute has highlighted growing concerns among transport operators over safety, compensation and interstate vehicle movement, with authorities under pressure to find a lasting solution.

“No Imported Parts”: India Test-Fires Fully Indigenous AK-203 ‘Sher’ Rifle

■ Amethi’s Korwa facility achieves a major defence manufacturing milestone as India moves towards replacing the INSAS rifle

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has taken a major step towards self reliance in defence manufacturing with the successful firing trials of a fully indigenous AK-203 assault rifle, developed using only Indian components and raw materials.

Named “Sher”, the rifle was manufactured at the Korwa facility in Amethi by Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited, the joint venture established to produce AK-203 rifles in India. The weapon has successfully completed firing trials, including automatic and burst firing.

The latest achievement marks a significant shift from the initial phase of the AK-203 programme, when rifles produced in India relied on imported knock down kits. Domestic content was gradually increased before reaching 100 per cent with the latest version.

India and Russia signed an agreement in 2019 to manufacture the AK-203 domestically. Production at Korwa began as part of a long term effort to replace the ageing INSAS rifle used by the Indian Army.

The localisation process involved developing Indian suppliers capable of

manufacturing dozens of major components and hundreds of smaller parts according to stringent military specifications. It also required establishing domestic testing, quality control and proofing systems.

The AK-203 is a gas operated, magazine fed assault rifle chambered for the 7.62x39 mm cartridge. It features a folding and adjustable stock, ergonomic grip and a rail system for mounting optical and other accessories.

Under the existing programme, 6,01,427 AK-203 rifles are to be manufactured under a contract worth around Rs 5,200 crore. The production deadline has been advanced to December 2030, requiring the facility to eventually manufacture about 600 rifles every day.

The next major step will be user trials by the Indian Army. Several Sher rifles are expected to be handed over for testing by September 2026, where they will be assessed under broader operational conditions.

If the trials are successful, the fully indigenous AK-203 could become an important milestone in India’s effort to build defence equipment with domestic supply chains while reducing dependence on imported components.



GMC Super Speciality Block To Get Direct Link With Main Campus

Complex has a total built-up area of 5,482 square metres and comprises three lecture halls with a combined capacity of 1,200 students. The facility is equipped with modern LED video walls, audio-visual systems, recording, streaming and webcasting facilities.

The project has been completed at a cost of ₹40 crore and is aimed at strengthening the academic and learning infrastructure for medical students. Sawant said the recent increase in MBBS seats at GMC has made strengthening medical education infrastructure essential to meet the growing needs of students and ensure quality medical education.

He said the government has made an additional provision of ₹500 crore for infrastructure development and improvement at GMC. The Chief Minister said the government’s focus remains on providing modern infrastructure, quality medical education and better healthcare facilities while preparing the next generation of doctors to serve Goa and the nation.

Patradevi Hutatma Smarak Inauguration Postponed To August 26

an emergency meeting involving Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The inauguration will now take place on August 26, with the government expected to announce further details regarding the revised programme.

Farmers Affected By Elephant Omkar Await Compensation; ‘VIPs Get Facilities, But What About Farmers?’

in parts of Pernem, leaving farmers seeking compensation and effective measures to prevent further losses.

While damage assessments and the process for providing compensation are expected to be undertaken by the authorities, affected farmers say they are still being made to wait for assistance.

Mahale alleged that the administration needs to give greater priority to the problems faced by farmers in Pernem taluka, particularly as incidents involving crop damage continue.

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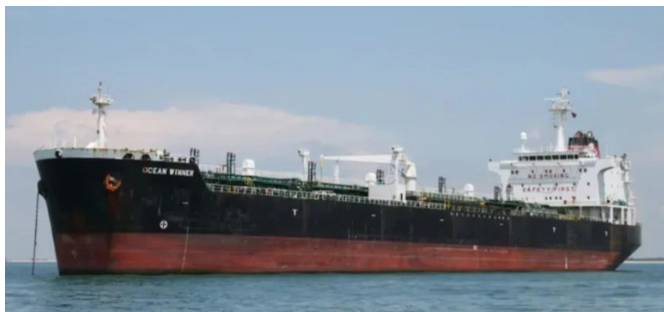
'Pakistan's Frustration': India Dismisses Protest Over US Envoy's J&K Remarks

Indian Coast Guard and Navy step up a major search operation after Panama flagged MV Ocean Winner sinks in the Bay of Bengal

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: A major search and rescue operation is underway in the Bay of Bengal after the Panama flagged cargo vessel MV Ocean Winner sank off the Odisha coast, with two crew members rescued so far and efforts continuing to locate the remaining 22 people on board.

The vessel was



carrying 24 crew members, including 20 Chinese nationals, three from Myanmar and one from Bangladesh. It had

departed from Paradip Port on August 20 carrying iron ore and was sailing towards Singapore when communication was lost.

The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Sri Vijaya Puram received an alert on August 22 after the vessel stopped responding. A request for search and rescue assistance was subsequently activated, triggering a coordinated maritime operation.

A merchant vessel, MT Aisopos, was diverted to the area and later rescued two survivors



India Pushes Back On Sergio Gor Remark: "Standard Practice" For VVIP Visits

Centre clarifies protocol after US Ambassador says India preferred no questions during a Modi Trump interaction

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: India has responded to US Ambassador Sergio Gor's account of a media interaction involving Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump, describing discussions about the format of leaders' public appearances as a normal part of preparations for VVIP visits. Government sources said arrangements for public appearances are routinely discussed between countries ahead of high level engagements. India maintained that communicating its standard practice for such occasions should not be viewed as an

attempt to dictate how another leader interacts with the media. The response followed Gor's remarks about preparations for a meeting between Modi and Trump. According to Gor, he had discussed the upcoming interaction with Trump and asked what issues India was expected to raise. He said the Indian side had expressed a preference for media access without turning the event into a full press conference. Gor recalled telling Trump that the Indian side preferred that journalists not ask questions. Trump, according to Gor's account, agreed to the arrangement. However, when the meeting began, journalists and around 50 cameras were present.



"India Rising, Pakistan Struggling": Khawaja Asif, Mohsin Naqvi Deliver Blunt Reality Check

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Pakistan's deepening political, economic and security challenges have come into sharp focus after Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi made unusually candid remarks about the country's current trajectory.

Their comments highlighted concerns over political instability, unrest in several regions, economic hardship and the relationship between Pakistan's elected government and its powerful military establishment.

Khawaja Asif drew a direct comparison with India, noting that both countries became independent at roughly the same time but have since followed very different paths. He pointed to India's advances in technology, infrastructure, economic strength and global influence while questioning why Pakistan had failed to achieve similar progress.

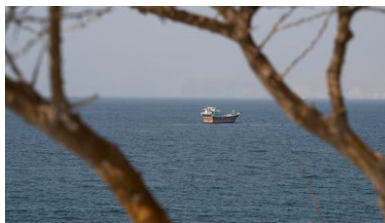
"Not A Single Drop Of Oil Will Be Exported": Iran Issues Big Warning To US Amid Hormuz Tensions

Tehran threatens to halt oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and Persian Gulf as Washington prepares fresh sanctions

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Iran has issued a stark warning to the United States, threatening to stop all oil exports through the Strait of Hormuz and other parts of the Persian Gulf if Washington continues its economic pressure campaign against Tehran.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei said the country could block oil exports entirely if what Tehran describes as an economic war



continues. He also warned that countries supporting or participating in the US pressure campaign could be considered to have committed an act of war against Iran.

The warning comes as Washington prepares a fresh round of economic measures aimed at Iran and countries maintaining

trade and financial links with Tehran. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is expected to outline the measures, which have been described as an exceptionally large financial offensive.

The proposed action is expected to increase pressure on nations continuing to conduct business with Iran. Washington has also urged China to cooperate with its efforts, highlighting Beijing's dependence on Gulf oil supplies.

"Destroyed in Operation Sindoor, Now Rebuilt": Pakistan Revives Jaish Camp in Bahawalpur

Extensive reconstruction of Markaz Subhanallah raises fresh questions over Pakistan's alleged support for Jaish-e-Mohammed

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: The Jaish-e-Mohammed headquarters at Markaz Subhanallah in Pakistan's Bahawalpur has reportedly undergone extensive reconstruction months after being heavily damaged during India's Operation Sindoor.

Visual evidence and intelligence inputs indicate that large



sections of the sprawling complex have been repaired and rebuilt. Areas that previously showed significant damage from precision strikes now



reportedly feature fresh plaster, paint and marble work, with structural portions of the facility restored.

The scale of the

reconstruction has renewed questions about the future of infrastructure associated with Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistan based terrorist organisation designated by the United Nations and the United States.

Sections of the complex, including a central hall that sustained major damage, have reportedly been restored. Structures linked to the organisation's activities,

including the Madrasa Al-Sabir and residential facilities associated with its senior leadership, have also reportedly undergone changes, with some damaged structures cleared and new construction taking place.

Intelligence inputs have further alleged that financial assistance was provided to Jaish-e-Mohammed for the rebuilding effort.

“A Historic Bronze for India”: Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand Finish World Championships Run With Medal

Indian women's doubles pair pushes world No. 1 Chinese champions in a thrilling semifinal before settling for a maiden World Championships bronze

Team Goemkarponn

NEW DELHI: Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand produced a memorable campaign at the BWF World Championships 2026, securing India's first women's doubles medal at the tournament in 15 years.

The unseeded Indian pair's impressive run came to an end in the semifinals after a



determined three game battle against China's

world No. 1 and defending champions Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning in New Delhi on Saturday.

Treesa and Gayatri made an outstanding start, taking the opening game 21-18 and putting the heavily favoured Chinese pair under early pressure. However, the defending

champions gradually regained control and responded strongly in the second game, winning it 21-13.

The Indians struggled to maintain their intensity in the decider as Liu and Tan took charge from the beginning. The Chinese duo went on to win the final game 21-8, completing a 18-21, 21-13, 21-8 victory in one hour and 11 minutes.

DBSA Fatorda, LBC and KJ's Storm Into State Sub Junior Basketball Championship Wins

Team Goemkarponn

PANJIM: The Group Priority State Sub Junior Basketball Championship 2026 witnessed a strong round of performances from Goa's young basketball talent, with DBSA Fatorda, Lourdes Basketball Club and KJ's, Miramar securing wins in the boys' Round of 16 at Don Bosco Oratory, Panjim. Lourdes Basketball Club, Calangute defeated The Kings H.S., Chandor 20-10. Leroy Pinto led the way for Lourdes with 12 points, while Melwyn Saldanha added eight. Abvik Bhatnagar finished as The Kings H.S. top scorer with six points. KJ's, Miramar produced an emphatic 23-2 victory over Loyola Ignatius, Margao. Arnav Mhapne was the standout performer, scoring 16 points to power KJ's into the next round. DBSA Fatorda also advanced after defeating St. Thomas BHS, Aldona 27-18. Aarav Dessai was the leading scorer for DBSA with 17 points, while Rafaelo Coelho contributed 14 for St. Thomas BHS. The girls' quarter-finals saw DBSA Fatorda dominate OLGHS-B, Bicholim with a commanding 38-2 win. Eva Mascarenhas led the scoring with 14 points, while Jaezel Barreto and Tanya Verma added eight each.

Don Bosco, St. Brittos and Siolim Basketeers Shine at State Sub Junior Basketball Championship

Young U-14 players deliver impressive performances in Panjim as the Group Priority State Sub Junior Basketball Championship 2026 gets underway

Team Goemkarponn

PANJIM: Don Bosco H.S., Panjim began its campaign at the Group Priority State Sub Junior Basketball Championship 2026 with a convincing 26-11 victory over Our Lady of Grace H.S., Bicholim (C) at the Don Bosco Oratory in Panjim. Don Bosco controlled the contest from the start, racing to a 10-0 lead in

the opening quarter. They continued their dominance in the second period, adding four points while restricting their opponents to two.

OLGHS responded in the third quarter with a 5-4 advantage, but Don Bosco regained control in the final period to close out the match 26-11. Arjun Barbosa led the scoring for Don Bosco with 12 points, while Joshua D

Cunha contributed six. Rasool Shaikh was the leading scorer for OLGHS (C), finishing with eight points. In another match, St. Brittos, Mapusa defeated OLGHS, Bicholim (B) 9-2. St. Brittos established control early, taking the first two quarters 2-0 each. The third quarter ended 2-2 before St. Brittos added three more points in the final period.



“Rishabh Pant Surpasses MS Dhoni”: India Star Sets New Away Test Record

Pant becomes India's leading wicketkeeper batter in away Tests and closes in on another major World Test Championship milestone

Team Goemkarponn

COLOMBO: Rishabh Pant added another major achievement to his Test career on Monday, surpassing MS Dhoni's record for the most runs by an Indian designated wicketkeeper batter in away Tests.

Pant returned to the crease during the second day of India's ongoing Test against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club after retiring hurt with three runs on the opening day. He made an immediate impact, scoring an unbeaten 63 from 88 balls during the morning session.

The half-century came off 81 deliveries and took Pant's

career tally in away Tests as a designated wicketkeeper batter beyond Dhoni's previous mark of 2,496 runs. Pant reached 2,534 not out in his 36th away Test. Dhoni had accumulated his 2,496 runs across 48 away Tests between 2006 and 2014. Pant has achieved the record in fewer matches and has also registered six centuries and 11 fifties in these games. Pant's latest milestone places him third on the overall list for runs by designated wicketkeeper batters in away Tests. Pakistan's Sarfaraz Ahmed leads the chart with 2,696 runs, followed by Australia great Adam Gilchrist with 2,634.

India's World Cup Campaign Takes a Blow: Women Knocked Out, Men Fall to Netherlands

Women's team misses semifinals after Australia draw, while Harmanpreet Singh's side pays for costly errors against the Dutch champions

Team Goemkarponn

AMSTELVEEN: India's Hockey World Cup campaign delivered contrasting results, with the women's team knocked out after a goalless draw against Australia while the men's side suffered a 1-3 defeat to reigning Olympic champions Netherlands despite putting up a strong fight. The Indian women's team needed



a victory in its final second round match to secure a semifinal place, but could manage only a 0-0 draw against Australia in Amstelveen. The result

sent Australia into the last four on the basis of having scored more goals in the competition. The qualification race had become a direct battle



between the two sides after the Netherlands defeated China 4-1 earlier in the day. While India needed all three points, Australia only needed to avoid

defeat. The men's team, meanwhile, showed considerable resilience against a formidable Netherlands side on Saturday.