

Agriculture policy proposes ban on field conversions

Vision document encourages cultivation of mango, cashew with subsidies to support farmers

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa government on Tuesday unveiled the 'Goa State Amritkal Agriculture Policy 2025' with a proposal of a ban on the conversion of all fields designated as 'rice', 'morad', 'kher' and 'khazan' and focus on revolutionising agriculture through organic farming, hydroponics, aeroponics, aquaponics, urban agriculture, and vertical farming.

Speaking to media persons after launching the policy at Mantralaya at Porvorim, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the policy has laid focus on promoting organic farming, hydroponics, aeroponics, vertical farming, and urban agriculture and encouraged the cultivation of cash crops such as mango, cashew, and exotic fruits like avocado, rambutan, pomelo, and grapefruit, with subsidies to support farmers in adopting these

FOCUS ON QUALITY & QUANTITY

- The Chief Minister said policy proposes a ban on the conversion of all fields designated as 'rice', 'morad', 'kher' and 'khazan'
- Govt to buy sugarcane produced by farmers at Sanjivani factory premises at notified rates
- Policy includes the establish-

ment of a Farmer Welfare Fund Board and distressed farmers welfare fund

- Proposes to enact New Goa Farmers Welfare Act to provide guaranteed livelihood security & sustainable farming practices
- Seeks to increase number of Kisan Credit Card limit for 52,000 farmers

high-value crops. He said the policy has also focused on improving the quality and quantity of agricultural products in the State. Sawant also said all the sugarcane produced by farmers will be purchased by the government at the premises of Sanjivani Sugar Factory at notified rates.

The Chief Minister said policy has important measures for farmer welfare which includes

- Focuses on improving the quality & quantity of agri products
- Focuses on renewable energy in agriculture, agricultural startups and innovations
- Aims to protect Goa's valuable agricultural heritage, combining it with modern farming tech to boost productivity & sustainability

the establishment of a Farmer Welfare Fund Board and a distressed farmers' welfare fund.

The policy also seeks to increase number of the Kisan Credit Card limit for Goa's 52,000 farmers. It has also proposed enacting the New Goa Farmers Welfare Act to provide guaranteed livelihood security and sustainable farming practices. The policy has focused on key areas like renewable energy in agriculture, agricultural

startups, and innovations. The focus is on protecting Goa's valuable agricultural heritage while combining it with modern farming techniques to boost productivity and sustainability.

The cultivation of khazan lands will be planned by building bunds and creating soil patterns that are better suited for farming. The policy also talks of a commitment to climate-resilient farming practices to protect agriculture in Goa from

the effects of climate change, ensuring its long-term sustainability.

The policy has outlined restoration of degraded agricultural landscapes to healthy ecosystems and focus on managing water resources carefully by using water efficiently and conserving it through methods like rainwater harvesting and restoring traditional water systems.

The policy promoting agro-tourism will allow farmers with at least 4,000 square metres of land to participate and strict zoning rules will be put in place to designate specific areas for agro-tourism.

As per the policy, farmer field schools will be given priority, and demonstration farms will be established throughout Goa and in addition to cashew, mango, areca nut, support the cultivation of new cash crops like avocado, rambutan, grapefruit and pomelo.

Drag race shooting: Goa's Ethan laid to rest in California

Team Herald

PANJIM: The funeral service of a young Goan, Ethan Chancel Pereira, the unfortunate victim of a drive-by shooting in California, USA, last month, was held at St Cyprian Church, California, on Monday, followed by burial at Santa Clara Mission Cemetery, California.

Ethan's parents Anunsya and Celio, sister Ember, grandparents, relatives, local parishioners and Goans living in California attended the funeral.

Twenty-year-old Ethan, hailing from Dramapur, Salcete, was killed in a random shooting at a drag racing event in Oakland-California on January 26. He was a spectator when the tragedy struck him.

In his homily, the priest said, "Ethan was a gift to us in many ways. He was a student and a faithful parishioner and was actively

involved in parish altar service. He had the ability to touch lives with his simple art of kindness and gentle smile. To his family he was a source of joy and a pillar of strength. He represented his school in wrestling and had many achievements."

Ethan's mother Anunsya said, "He was only my son but my joy, my inspiration and my pride. Life without him will never be the same. He has left a hole that will never be filled. Ethan is certainly my angel in heaven

— Anunsya, Ethan Chancel Pereira's mother

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TOXIC DUMP

UPENDRA NAIK



Sewage sludge from STP Tonca dumped near the Royal Enfield service centre creates an unbearable stench for St Inez residents

Vasco MLA urges MPA to hand over Baina ground to cricket association

Team Herald

VASCO: Vasco MLA Krishna 'Daji' Salkar has urged the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) to hand over its ground at Baina to the Goa Cricket Association (GCA) for development.

Salkar stated that the ground was currently in a dilapidated condition and could be redeveloped through the GCA or any other agency for the benefit of budding sports persons in Mormugao taluka.

Salkar said, "This (MPA) ground may be in poor condition today, but this is the very place where cricket

started in Goa. Many top national-level players, including legends like Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri, have played here in the past."

Additionally, around 300 parents had approached him with a request to develop the ground.

Appealing to the public to set aside political differences and support the cause, Salkar stated, "If the MPA does not respond, we will take this matter to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, the GCA, and even the Union government. This ground must not remain in ruins when it can be put to good use."

Mormugao council bldg restored to past glory

Team Herald

VASCO: The renovated Mormugao Municipal Council building was inaugurated on Tuesday evening by Panchayats Minister Mauvin Godinho in the presence of Vasco MLA Krishna 'Daji' Salkar, Mormugao Chairperson Girish Borke, councillors, and other dignitaries.

The nearly century-old building has been restored under a major renovation project executed by the Goa State Urban Development Agency (GSUDA) through a contractor. The work, costing an estimated Rs 15.41 crore, was funded by the Mormugao Municipal Council using grants received under the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

Godinho highlighted Vasco's transformation, stating that while it was once the best-planned town, it lost its charm over time. "In the last five years, things started changing, and the government invested significantly in renovating this historic municipal building, bringing it back to its old glory," he said. He also assured that the Vasco bus stand project would be taken up soon.

Salkar emphasised the need for renovation, given the building's age. "The initial cost was Rs 10 crore, but it later escalated to Rs 15 crore due to additional works. However, the government continued to support the project," he noted.

He said that soon the Deputy Collector's office, Mamlatdar's office, other government offices and the Comunidade office will shift back in the renovated building offering convenience to citizens.

Mystery shrouds human skeleton found in Gaunem

Team Herald

PONDA: Mystery prevails over the discovery of human skeletal remains in the Gaunem hills, with locals suspecting they may belong to a missing youth from the area. However, Ponda Police have yet to determine whether the death was due to foul play, suicide, or natural causes.

On Sunday morning, Ponda Police discovered the skeletal remains of an unidentified male in a hilly forest area of

Gaunem-Bandora. According to police officials, the body may have been there for two to three months.

The remains, consisting of three long bones and several smaller bones, were found approximately two kilometres from the main road in a dense, bushy area. A blue T-shirt was also recovered from the scene.

The remains are currently being preserved at the Sub-District Hospital in Ponda for further identification, medico-legal formalities,

and a DNA test.

Police officials stated that while the remains appear to belong to a male, the identity has not yet been confirmed.

"The identity can only be established after a post-mortem, DNA test, and other forensic examinations," a police official said.

However, locals suspect that the remains may belong to Tushant Narayan Parwar, a 40-year-old resident of Gaunem, who has been missing since October 30, 2024.

Happy 60th Birthday

TO OUR DYNAMIC YOUNG BROTHER

Mr. TOLENTINHO DE SOUZA

Your genuine nature, love, and compassion are a joy to be around. We are honoured to celebrate the 60th birthday of such a wonderful friend

With Best Wishes from

Fr. Victor (Bangalore)
Stanley C. Fernandes
Albert Esteves, Nilesh Naik
Dany Fernandes, Jitesh Naik

Support for Domestic Manufacturing and Value Addition, Fostering Economic Growth, and the Vision of Viksit Bharat

Critical Minerals:

Exemption from Basic Customs Duty on Cobalt Powder and waste and scrap of lead, zinc, lithium-ion battery and 12 critical minerals.

This move aims to boost the availability of raw materials vital for key industries, thereby supporting the growth of sustainable manufacturing processes.

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Electronics:

In line with our 'Make in India' policy, and to rectify the inverted duty structure, the Basic Customs Duty on Interactive Flat Panel Display (IFPD) is increased from 10% to 20%. Also duty on open cells and other components used in the manufacture of interactive flat panel display module is reduced to 5%. Further, for the manufacture of open cells of LED/LCD TVs, Basic Customs Duty on parts of open cells has been reduced to zero.

Telecommunication:

Basic Customs Duty reduced from 20% to 10% on carrier grade Ethernet switches to make it at par with non carrier grade Ethernet switches in order to prevent classification disputes.

Lithium-Ion Batteries:

35 additional capital goods for manufacture of lithium ion battery of electrically operated vehicles and 28 additional capital goods for manufacture of lithium ion battery of mobile phones exempted from Basic Customs Duty. This exemption will aid in enhancing domestic manufacturing capacity and support the green energy transition.

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