

## CONGRESS, AIMIM LEADERS MOVE SC AGAINST WAQF BILL

The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it, early Friday

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Congress MP Mohammad Jawed and AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday challenged the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Supreme Court, saying it violated constitutional provisions.

Parliament early Friday approved the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, after the Rajya Sabha gave its nod to the contentious legislation following an over 13-hour debate. The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it. It was passed in the Lok Sabha early Thursday, with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.

Jawed's plea alleged the bill imposed 'arbitrary restrictions' on Waqf properties and their management, undermining the religious autonomy of the Muslim community.



Police personnel detain people protesting the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Parliament in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on Friday

The petition, filed

through advocate Anas-Tanwir, said the proposed law discriminated against the Muslim community by "imposing restrictions that

are not present in the governance of other religious endowments".

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### LEGAL CHALLENGES

- The petitioners argue the bill violates Articles 14 (equality), 15 (non-discrimination), 25 (religious freedom), 26 (management of religious affairs) and 300A (property rights) of the Indian Constitution
- The bill allegedly imposes restrictions on Waqf properties (eg, based on duration of religious practice) not applied to Hindu, Jain or Sikh endowments, undermining Muslim religious autonomy
- Appointing non-Muslims to the Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards is seen as interference in Muslim religious governance, unlike other religious institutions managed exclusively by their communities

## Goan diaspora will have its moment in the House of Commons

Many Goans will converge at the Westminster Palace in London to celebrate 'Recognition of the UK Goan Diaspora' on April 8

**DOLCY D'CRUZ**  
dolcy@herald-goa.com

**PANJIM:** Come April 8, the Goan Diaspora in the UK will be officially recognised at the House of Commons in the UK, an occasion that will shine a light on the contributions of the community in the country over the past decades.

Will Stone MP and Heidi Alexander MP will host the 'Recognition of the UK Goan Diaspora' co-hosted by Councillors Imtiaz and Adorable Shaikh. The exclusive event will be attended by 60 members of the Goan Diaspora at the Westminster Hall, London.

The event marks a significant milestone for the Goan-Indian community in the UK. Imtiaz Shaikh, originally from Vasco, made history by becoming the first Goan of Indian origin to be appointed as Deputy Mayor of Swindon for 2023-24 and will later serve as Mayor in 2024. His wife, Adorable Amaral Shaikh, also made history as the first Goan-Indian origin Borough Councillor and Cabinet Member for Education in Swindon.

In an exclusive chat with O Herald, Adorable Shaikh explained the long journey behind the event. "The aspiration to host an event like this didn't come overnight. It has been a journey that started in 2018. The primary goal has been to work alongside our Swindon Labour



Co-hosts and Councillors Imtiaz and Adorable Shaikh

It is a matter of great pride for us, as a community, to make our presence felt in the House of Commons within the UK Parliament. As a community, we have grown exponentially across various sectors of the UK economy. We continue to make meaningful contributions to society and enhance the cultural fabric of the UK, particularly by celebrating our cherished Goan feasts and festivals

— Pamila Rodrigues, Senior Systems and Training Support Officer at London Borough of Hounslow

This is a recognition for Goans who have joined public services, both in government and non-governmental organisations, and those who are building and bringing communities together, solving problems of public interest

— Fr Feroz Fernandes, Pilar priest of the Goan Chaplaincy in the UK

MPs, who won last year, to highlight the contributions of the Goan community over the past 30 to 35 years. This is a monumental occasion as

it has never been done before by councillors or MPs," she said.

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## Stop 'dukaandari', start innovating: Goyal to start-ups

**AGENCY, NEW DELHI:** Indian start-ups came under sharp scrutiny as Union Minister Piyush Goyal questioned whether the country was settling for low-paying gig jobs while China raced ahead in deep-tech innovation.

"Should we aspire to be, or are we going to be happy being delivery boys and girls?" Goyal asked at Start-up Mahakumbh 2025 in New Delhi, comparing India's start-up ecosystem with China's.

Goyal highlighted the stark contrast between the two countries, arguing that India's start-up space was too focused on food delivery and gig work.

"What are India start-ups of today — we are focused on food delivery apps, turning unemployed youth into cheap labour so the rich can get their meals without moving out of their house," he said.

Against that, what do Chinese start-ups do — work on developing electric mobility, battery technology, and with that they are today dominating the electric mobility ecosystem."

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### INDIA INC HITS BACK

We have a hostile @FinMinIndia @nsitharaman who harassed start-ups on Angel tax for many years, do not allow endowments to invest, insurance Cos still do not invest whereas they do globally. @RBI regularly harasses overseas investors on remittances and AIFs, treat them badly. China invested \$845 b from 2014/24 India only \$160 b! Why is Minister @PiyushGoyal @AshwiniVaishnav not helping solve these issues — Mohandas Pai, former Infosys CFO

The only people in India who need a 'reality check' are its politicians. It's great to aspire for what (China) they've done — maybe time for politicians to aspire for 10%+ economic growth rate for 20 years flat before chiding today's job creators. Maybe time to change 'public discourse' from history to science! — Ashneer Grover, former co-founder and MD of BhartPe



Locals check out the first Mancurad mangoes of the season at the Panjim market, on Friday

## Mancurad madness: ₹5,000 for a dozen mangoes!

ELSA ANGEL ROSE

**PANJIM:** The only thing hotter than the April sun in Goa this year is the price of the prized Mancurad mango, the best of which is selling at an eye-watering Rs 4,000-5,000 for a dozen at Panjim market, far outstripping the Rs 1,000-1,500 price tag of the Hapus, or Alphonso, which carries the tag of 'King of Mangoes'.

However, the smaller specimens of the Mancurad are priced at around Rs 2,000 for a dozen. A customer at the Mapusa market shared, "Last year, I bought good-quality Mancurads at Rs 1,500 at the start of the season, and

At the start of the season, the rates are high, but by mid-May, they should drop. As supply increases, the starting price for a dozen will drop to Rs 1,800 or even less

— Ahmed Raza, fruit vendor at Panjim market

I mostly buy Hapus now. It's tasty and more affordable. I'll probably buy Mancurad in May or June when there will be more available at lower prices

— Amitha Helekar, mango lover and home-maker

now I'm paying Rs 2,000", reflecting an increase of 30-35% compared to last year.

However, mango vendors are confident that prices will drop in May and June. Ahmed Raza, a vendor in Panjim, explained, "At the start of the season, the rates are high, but by mid-May, they should drop."

Nonetheless, Mancurad prices have reached record highs, with the cheapest variety priced at Rs 2,000 per dozen.

One factor driving the steep prices is the mango shortage. Vendors anticipate that the supply will increase in May, June and July.

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## Four space tourists return to Earth after private flight over poles

**AP, CAPE CANAVERAL:** Four space tourists who orbited the north and south poles returned to Earth on Friday, splashing down in the Pacific to end their privately funded polar tour.

Bitcoin investor Chun Wang chartered a SpaceX flight for himself and three others in a Dragon capsule that was outfitted with a domed window that provided 360-degree views of the polar caps and everything in between. Wang declined to say how much he paid for the 3 1/2-day trip.

The quartet, who rocketed from NASA's Kennedy Space Center on Monday night, returned off



the Southern California coast. It was the first human spaceflight to circle the globe above the poles and the first Pacific splashdown for a space crew in 50 years.

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## Govt bodies under HC scrutiny over pollution in Salpem lake

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The worsening state of the Salpem lake in Navelim has become symbolic of deep-rooted governance failures, as multiple government bodies face mounting pressure to explain their inaction.

The High Court's scrutiny of the ongoing Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by environmentalist Prof Antonio Alvarves has exposed lapses across agencies tasked with managing Margao's infrastructure.

During the last hearing on March 24, the HC expressed dismay at the widespread non-compliance with previous directives, calling out the systematic discharge of waste into the lake as a collective failure of Margao's regulatory system and had called for accountability from all stakeholders.

Caught in the spotlight are the Sewerage Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCGL), the South Goa Planning and Development Authority (SGPDA) and the Margao Municipal Council (MMC) — each now promising corrective measures under judicial pressure.

The SGPDA had promised temporary soak pits within ten days, while the SIDCGL committed to installing a complete sewerage network for the SGPDA market area within four months.

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MAX. TEMP 34.6 °C  
MIN. TEMP 26.1 °C

idharudhar



My car is brand new, with smart city dust on it!

## On eve of I-League decider in Kashmir, Churchill Alemao has eyes set on ISL

Déjà vu moment for Churchill Brothers patron, as club preps to win I-League

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** When the Red Machines take on the Snow Leopards at the TRC Turf Ground in Srinagar on Sunday — and as all of Goa holds its collective breath, praying for a win that will bring home the coveted I-League title — the one man whom everyone will be watching is football lover and veteran politician Churchill Alemao.

For the patron of Churchill Brothers, the match will present a few notes of déjà vu, since his club has won the I-League on two occasions, in 2008-09 and

2012-13. "I am not a corporate person, but football is in my blood and I have put my life into football and my club," Churchill told us in an exclusive chat.

His passion for the sport has been carried on in the

My father Braz was a referee. He quit a police officer's job and took to refereeing when we were young. People who knew him will tell you that he was unbiased and even gave marching orders to his brother-in-law for a foul

Among players I imported, Odafa Okolie was the best. He was a prolific goal-scorer. He helped the club win two titles

I am not a corporate person, but football is in my blood and I have put my life into football and my club



family, with his daughter Valanka being the club's chief executive officer (CEO) and son Savio is the Vice President.

Reminiscing about the family's long connection with the sport, Churchill said, "My father Braz was a referee. He quit a police officer's job and took to refereeing when we were young. People who knew him

will tell you that he was unbiased and even gave marching orders to his brother-in-law for a foul," Churchill said.

In his younger days, Churchill and his brothers played football and volleyball and he established Churchill Brothers Club in 1988. He has not looked back since, as the club roped in good players and went from strength to strength. "Among players I imported, Odafa Okolie was the best. He was a prolific goal-scorer. He helped the club win two titles and the press gave him the title 'goal machine'."

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