

Cong, Kala Rakhonn Mannd demand Gaude's removal over 'supari' remark

Accuse Min of insulting artistic community; say he has stooped low by casting aspersions on veteran actor's character

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Opposition Congress and cultural body Kala Rakhonn Mannd have demanded the immediate dismissal of Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude, condemning his offensive remarks against veteran actor Sharad Ponshe and accusing him of insulting the artistic community.

"It is absolutely disgraceful and condemnable that Minister Gaude has stooped to such a low level by referring to renowned actor Sharad Ponshe as a 'Supari Baaz'. Such undignified language from a cabinet minister reflects not just his personal arrogance, but the

BJP government's broader contempt for the art and culture fraternity," said Pranav Parab, general secretary of the North Goa District Congress Committee and a theatre artiste himself.

Parab further criticised Gaude for failing to take responsibility for the technical failures during the performance of the acclaimed play Purush at the Kala Academy on April 13. "Instead of accepting responsibility for this technical disaster, he chose to hurl insults. He should have apologised to the entire team of the play and the people of Goa. A person who insults artistes and fails to protect cultural

institutions has no moral right to continue as Minister for Art and Culture," he stated.

The Kala Rakhonn Mannd echoed these sentiments, calling the Minister's accusation that Ponshe had taken a "supari" (contract) against him not only baseless, but reckless and shameful. "It is an insult to every artiste who speaks truth to power," said Cecile Rodrigues, secretary of the organisation.

Rodrigues pointed out that Ponshe had raised valid concerns over the technical failures that disrupted the Purush performance, yet showed grace and professionalism by apologising

to the audience despite the disruptions being beyond his control. "Rather than acknowledging these systemic issues and committing to resolve them, Gaude launched a verbal assault with accusations and personal attacks," Rodrigues said.

Calling his conduct dangerous, she added, "His behaviour seeks to silence those who dare to demand accountability. The Minister's outrageous accusations, coupled with his appalling language, cannot be brushed aside."

Both organisations have demanded that Chief Minister Pramod Sawant act in public interest and immediately remove Gaude from his Cabinet position.

IPL online betting racket busted, one held

PANJIM: The Old Goa police on Saturday arrested Shambu Paswan, a native of Bihar, and booked Shubham Dubey and Bablu, both hailing from Mumbai, for operating an online betting racket on Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket matches from a flat in Alto Santa Cruz, Tiswadi.

The raid resulted in the seizure of a laptop, routers, playing cards, documents, a MacBook, and a Maharashtra-reg-

istered Range Rover.

The accused were reportedly caught accepting bets using mobile phones and laptops.

A case has been registered against Paswan under Sections 3 and 4 of the Goa, Daman and Diu Public Gambling Act. PSI Diptraj Gaude is currently conducting the investigation.

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To come into effect from Nov 1; Degree and diploma holders in computer fields exempted

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa government has made it compulsory for candidates applying to government posts that require computer knowledge to possess a minimum six-month computer diploma, with effect from November 1, 2025.

The required diploma must be obtained from a recognised institute approved by the Info Tech Corporation of Goa Ltd, the Government of India, or through a minimum six-month Diploma Course Certificate in computers approved by the Human Resource Development Foundation, affiliated to the Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

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However, candidates holding degrees or diplomas in computer-related fields, as well as those certified as programming assistants from recognised Industrial

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