HERALD

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Panjim | WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025 | PRICE ₹10.00 | AIR SURCHARGE ₹10 | REG. NO. G2/RNP/GOA/101/2021-23 | PAGES 14 | GOA'S LARGEST CIRCULATED NEWSPAPER

Will Gaude's googly speed up cabinet reshuffle?

Minister's corruption charge seen as a desperate bid to avoid political exit

Team Herald

PANJIM: Just as Goa was cooling off under surprise pre-monsoon showers, Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude brought the political heat right back with an unexpected googly aimed at the Department of Tribal Welfare - currently under none other than Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. The charge? Corruption. The reaction? Predictably electric.

Even as the Chief Minister's team scrambled into damage control mode, the opposition parties smelt blood and went straight for the jugular. It wasn't the first time Gaude had tossed a grenade into the government's garden par-

NATURE'S FURY

This government thrives on corruption. Accidents are up, tourism is down, and law and order is in a nosedive. Ministers are more focused on personal fortunes than public welfare

- Manikrao Thakare, AICC Goa in-charge

reshuffle.

ty, but this time, political poker face to match. The reshuffle, he says, will happen observers believe it's not just about righteous rage 'at the right time'. - it may be the prelude to Ironically, Gaude him-

a much-anticipated cabinet self has weathered a few storms in recent memory. For over two years now, Last year, he faced the heat the buzz of a reshuffle has when Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar accused the Direclingered, and Gaude's name has been a constant in the torate of Art and Culture of pocketing Rs 26 lakh for list of likely casualties. But the CM has played his cards cultural events that allegedclose to the chest and with a ly never saw the light of day.

This is his (Gaude's) desperate attempt to leave the Cabinet as a hero, playing the anti-corruption crusader card. But really, it gives the CM the perfect excuse to show him the door. Whether it's Gaude, or others like Madkaikar and Michael Lobo, the underlying theme is the same – corruption is not the exception, it's the rule

- Prof Prabhakar Timble, political analyst

Gaude, for his part, passed the buck — insisting the funds went to NGOs and Self-Help Groups.

Fast forward to March this year, and Gaude was again in the spotlight, ruffling feathers when he casually dismissed the role of the BJP's alliance partner. His off-script remark came right after the CM confidently declared that the

BJP would contest from Priol in 2027. The party brass — especially BJP State President Damodar Naik — wasn't amused and promptly reminded Gaude about discipline.

Now, Gaude's latest allegation has opened a new can of worms. AICC Goa in-charge Manikrao Thakare called it a 'clear sign' of BJP's internal power struggle and said the root of it all is money. "This government thrives on corruption. Accidents are up, tourism is down, and law and order is in a nosedive. Ministers are more focused on personal fortunes than public welfare," Thakare fired.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

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Among Indian Universities

Covid in India: 750 new cases in a week

STATE	NEW INFECTIONS	ACTIVE CASELOAD
Kerala	335	430
Maharashtra	154	210
Delhi	99	104
Gujarat	76	83
Tamil Nadu	3	69
Karnataka	34	47

NEW DELHI: India has recorded a notable increase in Covid infections, with 753 new cases reported in the past week. The total number of active cases has now reached 1010, as per data released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on May 27. Among the affected states, Kerala, Maharashtra and Delhi lead with the highest number of active cases.

Kerala continues to re-

past week.

port the highest number of

active cases, with 335 new

infections recorded over the

Cont on Pg 11 >>

Manipur protests force Guv to fly 7 km from airport to Raj Bhavan

PTI, IMPHAL: Two central offices were locked in Imphal as the students' wing of the COCOMI, an umbrella body of Meitei groups, protested the concealing of the State's name from a government bus in Gwal-

tabi last week. Protestors seeking an apology from Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla made him travel about 7 km in a chopper to reach the Rai Bhavan from Imphal's Tulihal Airport on Monday.

Hundreds of protestors had formed a human chain from the airport's departure gate to the Keishampat Junction near the Raj Bhavan.

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Cont on Pg 11 >>

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Sea water enters a slum area during high tide, at Bandra in Mumbai, on Tuesday

Above-normal rainfall likely in June: IMD

PTI, NEW DELHI: India is likely to receive above-normal rainfall in June, which is expected to keep maximum temperatures in check in most parts of the country, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

M Ravichandran, Secretary in the Ministry of Earth Sciences, said rainfall across the country during June is likely to be more than 108 per cent of the long-period average of 166.9 mm.

"During June, most of the country is expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall. However, some southern parts of peninsular India and parts of northwest and northeast India may receive below-normal rain," he said.

IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that due to this expected good rainfall, most parts of the country may experience normal to below-normal maximum temperatures, except for many areas in Northwest and Northeast India.

Above-normal minimum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country, he said.

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Treacherous Pilgao roads swing focus back on mining operations

Villagers halt ore trucks after road turns into muddy carriageway, spelling danger for motorists

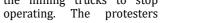
Team Herald

PILGAO: The contentious route used by mining trucks in Pilgao was in the news for weeks as villagers stood firm in opposition before a compromise could be thrashed out.

Now, a few months since the last agitation, the same route is in the news again in the monsoon, as the mining trucks working for Sesa Vedanta have turned the road into a treacherous carriageway of mud and slush where two-wheelers are in real danger of accidents be-

cause of skidding. This threat to local riders led to chaos at the main junction in Pilgao on Monday, as a tense standoff between the Pilgao village panchayat and the mining giant resulted in a temporary halt to transport operations.

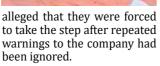
Around 2 pm, the five-member Pilgao Panchayat led by Swapnil Phadte raised an alarm over deteriorating road conditions and forced the mining trucks to stop





A mining truck driving through the slush and (below) locals clearing the slippery road





- Swapnil Phadte, Pilgao panch member Cont on Pg 11 >>

main road

For several days, on the demand of

the people, we have

been informing the

the main road is

getting muddy and

are ignoring this. A

have happened on

Monday when a car

skidded, after which

we decided to stop

ore transport on the

major accident could

mining company that

slippery and there may

be accidents, but they

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Bachelor of Film & Television • B.Design (Automobile/ BA English B.Sc Computer Science B.Sc Nursing Graphic/Product) BA Psychology B.Design (Fashion / Textile) Production
 B.Tech & M.Tech Biotechnology
 Bachelor of Communication BA French B.Pharma BA Spanish D.Pharma • BA LLB/BBA LLB/B.Sc LLB (5yrs) & Journalism BA Japanese B.Tech (Lateral Entry) Bachelor of Physical BA German (Hons) 5vrs Education & Sports B.Arch B.Com B.Sc (Economics & Data) BCA BA Economics • BBA BA Sociology Analytics) PG (1 year/2 years)/Integrated (5 years) Programmes MBA-IEV (Innovation, • M.Tech MA in Fashion Management M.Sc Chemistry • LLM (1yr) Entrepreneurship and Venture M.Sc Mathematics & Data M. Design (Interior) Development) MCA M.Sc Computer Science Science Master of Communication & Master in Library & M.Sc Biotechnology MA Economics M.Sc Applied Microbiology Journalism MA Sociology Information Sciences Master in Urban & Regional MA English • Master in Physical Education & M.Arch Planning MA Psychology
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