

## APP-WARY CABBIES PROTEST, BUT GROUND SUPPORT LIMITED

Taxi operators raise their objections to aggregator guidelines, say smaller operators would be affected



Taxi operators across Goa submitted letters to the Directorate of Transport on Monday, objecting to the Goa Transport Aggregator Guidelines 2025

Team Herald

PANJIM: Hundreds of taxi operators and drivers on Monday thronged to the office of the Department of Transport, Panjim and submitted their objections to the draft Goa Transport Aggregator Guidelines, 2025, which has the potential change the State's tourism transport landscape if implemented systematically.

For the last two days, the taxi operators have also been meeting MLAs across the state to drum up support but crucially, no MLA has so far lent explicit support to the cabbies, who have raised concerns over a lack of clarity in the taxi fare structure, alleging arbitrary pricing. They demanded a detailed framework that takes into

“Drivers would continue to engage with their elected representatives. We are voters and we work 24x7

— Mohan Nair, Association of Tourist Taxi Owners Goa

“Try aggregator as an experiment before drawing conclusions. The guidelines will help the sector. Stopping rent-a-bike and rent-a-car services in Goa would benefit local taxi operators

— Babush Monserrate, Revenue Minister

account demand, distance and operational costs. They also claimed the guidelines would disproportionately affect smaller operators, creating an uneven playing field.

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Mohan Nair, executive committee member of the Association of Tourist Taxi Owners Goa, said they met three MLAs from Tiswadi.

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## Gaude meets Damu, but ball in high command court

Team Herald

PANJIM: All eyes were on Monday's closed-door meeting between Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude and BJP State President Damodar 'Damu' Naik but both were tight-lipped about the outcome, with Naik only confirming that he had heard Gaude out and had sent a report to the party high command in Delhi.

"We met today. He (Gaude) presented his side, and I conveyed the party's expectations regarding discipline. A detailed report has been forwarded to Delhi, and the central leadership will take an appropriate decision," Naik said.

His comment about discipline assumes significance as Gaude outburst on May 25 about corruption in the Tribal Welfare department, which is under Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, had sparked the rumble within the BJP ranks, with some suggesting that Gaude would be asked to step down.

The meeting between Naik and Gaude took place at the BJP's South Goa district office in Margao. Gaude, when approached by journalists, confirmed the interaction but declined to share specific details. "I met the party president and told him everything. I also responded to all his queries," he said. Naik clarified that the Gaude matter was not discussed during his recent visit to New Delhi.

The controversy erupted on May 25, when Gaude, speaking at a public function in Ponda marking 'Purna Din', alleged systemic

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— Damu Naik, BJP State President

“I met the party president and told him everything. I also responded to all his queries

— Govind Gaude, Art and Culture Minister

corruption within the Department of Tribal Welfare, which he previously headed. He also criticised delays in fulfilling key promises made to the tribal community, including the construction of a Tribal Bhavan in Porvorim.

"In my view, the administration has weakened. We take files from contractors to below the Shram Shakti Bhavan. Something is taken from them and then they are asked to resubmit their documents," Gaude had alleged. The Department of Tribal Welfare operates out of the Shram Shakti Bhavan.

Gaude's remarks triggered a strong response from Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who said the government had taken note of the minister's comments. "Ministers should avoid making irresponsible statements. A responsible minister must speak responsibly," Sawant said, indicating that action could follow.

## Cases rising as India Covid tally touches 4k, 4 deaths in a day

Team Herald

NEW DELHI: India's active Covid-19 cases closed in on the 4,000 mark on Monday, with 203 new cases added to the active count across the country.

Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Kerala each reported one Covid-19 death since Sunday. Goa has reported 10 cases, according to data on the Union Health Ministry's State-wise status dashboard, but not casualties.

In Kerala, active cases rose to 1,435, with 35 new cases reported since Sunday. In Maharashtra, 21 new cases were reported, taking the active case count to 506. In West Bengal, 44 new ones were reported, increasing the state's active cases to 331.

On Friday, Union Minister of State for Health and AYUSH (Independent Charge), Prataprao Jadhav, assured

that the Centre is fully prepared to handle any situation that may arise.

"Both our Central Health Department and the AYUSH Ministry are fully alert and closely monitoring the situation across all states. We have spoken with the respective Health and AYUSH Secretaries, as well as other concerned ministers," Jadhav had told ANI.

He added that the infrastructure developed during the earlier Covid-19 waves has been reviewed and that preparations are underway to deal with any eventuality.

"We've reviewed the infrastructure built during the earlier Covid waves, such as oxygen plants and ICU beds, and have already begun preparations. Our health systems are well-equipped and ready to handle any situation that may arise in response to Covid," he had said.

## 'YOU COME AT THE KING, YOU BEST NOT MISS'

Carlsen made to eat his words as Gukesh wins



### GUKESH SILENCES THE KING

- “You come at the king, you best not miss” Carlsen posted on X after defeating Gukesh in the tournament opener last Monday
- This Sunday, Gukesh did not miss
- Carlsen, under severe time pressure, blunders instantly turning a winnable game into a lost one
- Gukesh capitalises, Carlsen resigns — a moment that seals Gukesh's first classical win over the five-time World Champion
- Carlsen screams "Oh my God!" Slams a balled fist onto the board with such force that multiple pieces topple over, some falling on the ground

- Carlsen apologises to Gukesh for the outburst
- Ironically among the chaos of scattered chessmen, Gukesh's white king remains upright
- The black king (Carlsen's) is knocked over — a poetic visual that reflects the match outcome:
  - The young challenger stands tall
  - The 'king' of chess lies toppled
- Carlsen partially composes himself. Signs his score sheet and bangs the black king erect in the middle of the board
- Still upset, Carlsen pats Gukesh as he storms out of the playing hall
- Gukesh in trademark style rearranges the pieces including Carlsen's

“I don't know, I'm still kind of shaken from that game. I don't know what happened, basically. There wasn't much I could do, it was clearly lost. I was just trying to make moves which kind of was tricky for him and luckily he got into time scramble. One thing I learned from this tournament was time scrambles can go out of control. 99 out of 100 times I would lose... just a lucky day. First Classical win over Magnus, not the way I expected (or) wanted it to be but I will take it

— D Gukesh

“Carlsen's visible frustration at the end wasn't just a tantrum — it was the greatest compliment the World Champion could receive from the GOAT. No fist pump. No smirk. Gukesh didn't need one. His silence roared louder than Carlsen's exit

— Anand Mahindra

“Carlsen outplayed Gukesh, but made massive blunder to lose a winning game! This is the biggest shock of the year! Carlsen rarely loses in classical chess, and he rarely commits big blunders. But Gukesh did not give up. This has to be one of the most painful losses in his spectacular career. I am sure he is very angry with himself

— Susan Polgar, chess player

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