

## Govind Gaude finally shown the door

CM ends weeks of speculation by dropping the controversial minister on Goa Revolution Day

Team Herald

PANJIM: Ending weeks of speculation, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Goa Revolution Day dropped Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude from the Cabinet. The move follows Gaude's recent controversial remarks alleging rampant corruption in the Department of Tribal Welfare — a portfolio held by the Chief Minister himself.



In a post on his X handle shortly after the announcement, Gaude remarked with injured pride: "I have been rewarded this fate on the Goa Revolution Day for standing up for the downtrodden communities. Gratitude to my Government and Party for liberating me to continue the struggle that I voiced for." He added that he would always

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— Govind Gaude, Art and Culture Minister, in a post on X

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choose truth over power.

The General Administration Department (GAD) issued an official notification confirming his dismissal: "The Governor of Goa is pleased to accept the recommendation of the Chief Minister of Goa that Shri Govind Gaude shall cease to be the Member of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister, with immediate effect."

While CM Sawant, attending a programme in Sankhali, confirmed Gaude's removal, he declined to elaborate on the decision. However, BJP State President Damodar 'Damu' Naik stated it was a "unanimous decision of

the Chief Minister and the party" and described the move as "long overdue".

Gaude had already been under fire over the handling of renovation works at the Kala Academy — Goa's premier cultural institution. Several artists had called for his removal, alleging substandard restoration work despite crores of rupees being spent over the past two years.

This marks the second time during Sawant's current tenure that a minister has been dropped. The earlier instance was in November 2023, when Nilesh Cabral resigned to make way for Nuven

MLA Aleixo Sequeira. That transition was framed as a consensual party-driven move. In contrast, Gaude's exit appears more unceremonious.

It is also not the first time the Chief Minister has reshuffled his Cabinet. In 2019, he dropped four ministers — Deputy Chief Minister Vijai Sardesai, Vinod Palyekar, Jayesh Salgaonkar (all from the Goa Forward Party), and independent MLA Rohan Khaunte.

With Gaude's portfolios currently held by the Chief Minister, speculation is rife about his replacement. Likely contenders include Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar and Sanvordem MLA Ganesh Gaonkar — both Scheduled Tribe legislators — in what could be a move to restore political 'balance'.

Political observers suggest more heads may roll soon, with a broader Cabinet reshuffle on the cards. There is also mounting pressure to honour promises made to former Congress MLAs who joined the BJP in September 2022. CM Sawant has previously indicated that "good days" lie ahead for some of them.

## Interpol issues Red Corner Notice against fugitive in Rs 100 cr scam

Goa Police seeks action against Myron Rodrigues, prime accused in a multi-crore investment fraud case

Team Herald

PANJIM: Interpol has issued a Red Corner Notice (RCN) against Myron Rodrigues, the prime accused in a multi-crore investment fraud case, following a formal request by the Goa Police. The notice was published on May 19, 2025.

Rodrigues, along with his wife Deepali Parab and former wife Sunita Rodrigues, is accused of defrauding over 50 investors of more than Rs 100 crore by falsely promising high returns through share market investments. The Economic Offences Cell (EOC) of the Goa Police had initiated proceedings after Rodrigues repeatedly failed to appear in response to official summons.

The initial complaint was filed by Ivon Suresh Joaquim Almeida of Navelim, who alleged that he was cheated of Rs 36.54 lakh. Subsequent complaints brought the estimated amount defrauded to over Rs 100 crore, with most victims hailing from Salcete taluka. Several investors had reportedly been involved since as early as 2011.

Police investigations revealed that Rodrigues presented himself as a stockbroker and Parab as

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a financial advisor, despite neither being registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) or the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

A chargesheet naming

Rodrigues and Parab as the prime accused was filed before the Principal District and Sessions Court in Margao on February 25, 2025. Initially, a Blue Corner Notice was issued through

Interpol to trace Rodrigues' whereabouts. With confirmation that he had fled to London via Dubai, a Look-Out Circular (LOC) was also issued by the Bureau of Immigration before escalating to a Red Corner Notice.

The accused were proprietors of DMA Designing New Worlds LLP, a real estate firm also linked to Idyllic Goan Gateways and Developments Private Limited, and Prospect Realty.

## Now, EC to deliver voter identity card within 15 days

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday said voter identity cards will now be delivered to electors within 15 days, virtually halving the time taken.

Till now, it took a little over a month for the Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) to be delivered to the voters, officials pointed out.

The EC said a new standard operating procedure (SOP) has been introduced to ensure that voter cards are delivered within 15 days of new enrolment of an elector or change in particulars of an existing voter.

The new system will ensure real-time tracking of each stage right from the EPIC generation by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) till the delivery of the card to the elector through the Department of Posts (DoP), the poll authority said.

The electors will also receive notifications via SMS at each stage, keeping them informed about the status of their EPIC, it noted.

For this purpose, the EC has introduced a dedicated IT module on its recently launched ECINet platform.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

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## Khamenei rejects call to surrender

Warns military involvement by US will cause 'irreparable damage'; Trump says his patience 'had already run out'

AP, DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader on Wednesday rejected US calls for surrender in the face of blistering Israeli strikes and warned that any military involvement by the Americans would cause "irreparable damage" to them.

The second public appearance by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei since the Israeli strikes began six days ago came as Israel lifted some restrictions on daily life, suggesting that the missile threat from Iran was easing.

Khamenei's speech came a day after US President Donald Trump demanded "UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER" in a social media post and warned Khamenei that

Wise individuals who know Iran, its people, and its history never speak to this nation with the language of threats, because the Iranian nation is not one to surrender

— Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader

the US knows where he is but has no plans to kill him, "at least not for now".

Meanwhile, Trump said he was considering whether the United States will join Israeli strikes on Iran and said that Tehran had reached out to seek negotiations on ending the conflict.

I may do it, I may not do it. I mean, nobody knows what I'm going to do

— Donald Trump, US President, when asked if he had decided whether to launch US air strikes

Speaking as he watched installation of a new flagpole at the White House, Trump added that his patience "had already run out" with Iran and repeated his call for the Islamic republic's "unconditional surrender".

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## AI plane crash survivor attends brother's cremation in Diu

In a video, Vishwas is seen carrying brother Ajay's mortal remains on his shoulders to the cremation ground

PTI AHMEDABAD: Vishwas Kumar Ramesh, the sole survivor of the Air India plane crash, has been discharged from the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital following his recovery, and he later attended the cremation of his deceased brother who was flying with him on the same aircraft, officials said on Wednesday.

Vishwas, a 40-year-old British businessman from Leicester, was discharged on Tuesday evening, they said.

The mortal remains of his brother Ajay were handed over to the family in the early hours of Wednesday after a DNA test confirmed his identity, Ahmedabad Civil Hospital's medical superintendent Dr Rakesh Joshi told reporters.

"Vishwas' family has already arrived here from the United Kingdom. Following his recovery, we gave discharge to Vishwas at 7.30 pm on Tuesday and his brother's mortal remains were also handed over to the family after a DNA match," he said.



Vishwas and Ajay, who were natives of Diu, were heading back to London after spending some time with their family members in the union territory.

In a video that surfaced on social media, Vishwas can be seen carrying his brother's mortal remains on his shoulders to the cremation ground in Diu, a district of the union territory of Dadra and

### TEARFUL FAREWELL

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Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Local officials confirmed that Ajay was cremated at Diu by his family on Wednesday morning and Vishwas was also present there.

A day after the crash, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Vishwas at the civil hospital and enquired about his health.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

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