

# Will Gaude's exit open political fault lines?

Dropping Gaude was a calculated risk — he may play martyr for downtrodden, but his influence on STs is to be seen

Team Herald

PANJIM: The removal of Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude from the Cabinet may have been framed by the BJP as a stand against indiscipline, but it has triggered unease within Goa's Scheduled Tribe (ST) community, which Gaude represents.

A day after his ouster, Gaude told **O Herald** that he was still in the dark about the reasons behind the decision. "I don't know the reasons for my removal from the Cabinet. I will study and then comment. Give me some time," he said, urging his constituents to remain calm.

He asserted that he would continue fighting for people's issues as an MLA and hinted that his dismissal might be linked to his efforts in exposing corruption that affects the marginalised, especially Scheduled Tribes.

For the BJP, the move is a calculated gamble. State party president Damodar 'Damu' Naik had previously warned that indiscipline would not be tolerated and had reportedly sought an explanation from Gaude before submitting his report

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– Govind Shirodkar, GAKUVED president

“Govind Gaude was never removed in the past when there were allegations of corruption against him. But, now when Gaude raised allegations of corruption in the tribal department, the government acted against him. The chief minister should clarify why the minister was removed

– Vijai Sardesai, Goa Forward Party president and MLA

“We are happy that Govind Gaude has been removed from the cabinet. He was not removed even after making a complete mess of Kala Academy. We are going to continue our fight. The chief minister and the entire cabinet are responsible for the Kala Academy fiasco. Our fight will continue till the Kala Academy regains its former glory

– Francis Coelho, AAP secretary and Kala Academy Task Force member

to the party's central leadership. However, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant made it clear on Thursday that the decision was his alone. "Govind Gaude's removal was decided by me," Sawant told reporters at the Mantalaya in Porvorim.

Speculation is rife that Gaude's removal is part of a broader Cabinet reshuffle aimed at accommodat-

ing former Congress MLAs. While rumours suggest that more ministers may be dropped, Sawant declined to offer details, saying only, "I will inform you at the time of the new appointment."

The spotlight now turns to Gaude's influence within the ST community. United Tribals Associations Alliance (UTAA) president

Prakash Velip avoided commenting directly on Gaude's removal but reaffirmed that their fight for political reservations and 12 long-standing demands would continue. "Our movement will go on," Velip said.

Gawda Kunbi Velip & Dhangars (GAKUVED) president Govind Shirodkar was more critical, claiming Gaude had failed to address key tribal issues during his tenure. "Only one or two demands raised since 2003 have been addressed. UTAA is now aligned with the government. Gaude should be replaced by another MLA from the tribal community," he said.

Meanwhile, opposition parties have seized on the development, interpreting Gaude's removal as punishment for speaking out. Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao said, "It is a reflection that the BJP is intolerant of those who expose corruption."

As the BJP toys with the imminent Cabinet reshuffle, the political fallout from Gaude's dismissal is far from over—especially if it is perceived as sidelining ST voices or punishing dissent within party ranks.

## PRIORITISING PATIENT NEEDS



A nurse carries medical supplies past a building with smoke billowing out at Soroka Hospital following an Iranian missile attack in Beersheba in southern Israel, on Thursday

## Israel threatens to kill Khamenei after Iran missiles damage hospital

AP, BEERSHEBA: Israel's defence minister threatened Iran's supreme leader on Thursday after the latest missile barrage from Iran damaged the main hospital in southern Israel and hit several other residential buildings near Tel Aviv.

Israel meanwhile struck a heavy water reactor that is part of Iran's nuclear programme.

At least 240 people were wounded by the Iranian missiles, four of them seriously, according to Israel's Health Ministry. The vast majority were lightly wounded, including more than 70 people from the Soroka Medical Centre in the southern city of Beersheba, where smoke rose as emergency teams evacuated patients.

In the aftermath of the strikes, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz blamed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and said the military "has been instructed and knows that in order to achieve all of its goals, this man absolutely should not continue to exist"

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Two doctors told The Associated Press that the missile struck almost immediately after air raid sirens went off, causing a loud explosion that could be heard from a safe room. They spoke on condition of anonymity because

they were not authorised to brief the media.

The hospital said the main impact was on an old surgery building that had been evacuated in recent days. After the strike, the medical facility was closed to all patients except for life-threatening cases, it said. Soroka has over 1,000 beds and provides services to around 1 million residents of Israel's south.

There were no serious injuries from the strike on the hospital.

Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the attack and vowed a response, saying: "We will exact the full price from the tyrants in Tehran."

Iran has fired hundreds of missiles and drones at Israel, though most have been shot down by Israel's multi-tiered air defences, which detect incoming fire and shoot down missiles heading toward population centres and critical infrastructure. Israeli officials acknowledge it is imperfect.

Many hospitals in Israel activated emergency plans in the past week, converting underground parking to hospital floors and moving patients underground, especially those who are on ventilators or are difficult to move quickly.

## AI temporarily suspends Mopa-Gatwick service till July 15

Team Herald

PANJIM: Air India has announced the temporary suspension of its direct service between Goa (Mopa) and London (Gatwick) until July 15, 2025, as part of a wider reduction in its international operations involving Boeing 787 and 777 aircraft.

The affected route, AI 145/146, which currently operates three times a week, has been put on hold due to what the airline describes as network-wide adjustments.

In a statement, Air India said, "The revised schedule is being progressively made available on our website, http://airindia.com, mobile app and through our contact centre."

The airline further clarified, "Further to the press statement released on June 18, 2025, which announced a temporary reduction in services operated by Boeing 787 and 777 aircraft, we wish to provide details on the flights affected. These reductions will be effective from June 21, 2025, and last until at least July 15, 2025."

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## Misconduct proved: SC probe panel proposes Justice Varma's removal

Says judge and his family had 'covert or active control' over the store room

PTI, NEW DELHI: High Court judge Yashwant Varma, and his family members had "covert or active control" over the store room where a huge cache of half-burnt cash was found, proving his misconduct which is serious enough to seek his removal, a report of the inquiry panel probing the incident said.

The three-judge panel headed by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana High Court conducted the inquiry for 10 days, examined 55 witnesses and visited the scene of the accidental fire that started at around 11.35 pm on March 14 at the official residence Justice Varma, then a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court and now in the Allahabad High Court.

Acting on the report, former Chief



CASH ROW

Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna wrote to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi recommending the judge's impeachment.

"This committee thus holds that the cash/money was found in the store room of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi officially occupied by

Justice Varma. More so, the access to the store room has been found to be within the covert or active control of Justice Varma and his family members and that by way of strong inferential evidence, it is established that the burnt cash/money was got removed from the store room during the wee hours of 15.3.2025 from 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi," the panel said in its 64-page report.

## Movie, stand-up can't be stopped due to hurt sentiments: SC

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Karnataka government to act against those obstructing the release of Kamal Haasan starrer "Thug Life" in the State and said a movie, stand-up comedy or a poem's recital can't be stopped only because someone's sentiments are hurt.

A bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manmohan said, "There is no end to hurting sentiments in India. If a stand-up comedian says something, sentiments are hurt and there is vandalism and protests. Where are we heading?

Does it mean because of protests, a movie should be stopped or stand up comedy should be stopped or reciting of poems be stopped?"

The top court then recorded Karnataka government's assurance that it would provide adequate security to cinema theatres screening the film.

"The State has filed an affidavit, paving the way for the release of the movie... we find that it would be in the interest of justice to bring closure to the matter. We don't find it appropriate to lay guidelines or impose costs," it said.

## Flight carrying 110 Indian students evacuated from Iran lands in Delhi

PTI, NEW DELHI: Students who were evacuated from war-torn Iran recalled the critical situation they were faced with in the country, and thanked the Indian government for swift action in bringing them back home.

The first flight carrying 110 Indian students, who were evacuated to Armenia from war-torn Iran, landed in Delhi in the early hours on Thursday.

Amid escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, Indian students in Tehran were moved out of the city, 110 of them crossing the border into Armenia, through arrangements made by the Indian Embassy on Tuesday under 'Operation Sindhu'.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said more people are being evacuated. "We have planes ready. We will be sending another plane today. We are evacuating some more people from Turkmenistan. Our missions have opened 24 hour lines for any request for evacuation. As the situation evolves, we will be sending more planes to evacuate Indian nationals," Singh, who is also the Min-

ister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, told reporters.

Meanwhile, India has decided to evacuate its nationals from Israel who wish to leave in view of the unfolding security situation in that country over the ongoing conflict with Iran.

New Delhi's decision to evacuate its citizens came hours after an Iranian missile struck a

hospital in the Beersheba area of Israel.

"In view of the recent developments between Israel and Iran, the government of India has decided to evacuate from Israel those Indian nationals who wish to leave," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"Their travel from Israel to India will be facilitated through the land borders and thereafter by air to India," it said.

India on Wednesday announced launching "Operation Sindhu" to evacuate its nationals from Iran after the Persian Gulf nation's conflict with Israel showed no sign of letting up.

"The government of India accords the highest priority to the safety and security of Indian nationals abroad," the MEA said.

MAX. TEMP 32 °C  
MIN. TEMP 26.5 °C

idharudhar



Head back in a cab, sir — you're no longer a minister.

## Postal Dept's mobile parcel pickup service a big hit. Next stop: South Goa

Goa Division says the doorstep service saved time, offered convenience to senders by eliminating the need to visit post offices

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Department of Posts is planning to introduce its door-to-door mobile parcel pickup service in South Goa's coastal areas, following a successful trial run in other regions.

Speaking to **O Herald**, Deepak Bhowar, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Goa Division, said, "As the response is very good, the department is planning to introduce the system in the coastal areas of South Goa as well. We are looking forward to starting the same soon."

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To capitalise on this poten-

tial, the Goa Division launched a mobile parcel pick-up service on an experimental basis from April 24, 2024, to May 27, 2024, in coastal areas. This initiative aimed to facilitate doorstep booking for both international and domestic parcels. During

this short period, 56 parcels were booked: 25 international parcels, generating a revenue of Rs 2,43,908, and 31 domestic parcels, bringing in Rs 23,969.

Due to the success of this trial, the Goa Division officially launched the mobile parcel pick-up van service to promote inter-national parcel bookings. The service proved highly effective, particularly in the coastal belt, simplifying the logistics process for both tourists and local businesses.

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