

Depleted from T20 world cup, team India take on Caribbean in a 4 ODI series

SPORTS P18



4th edition of South Asia Film Festival (SAFF'09) begins today

BUZZ P8



FRIDAY JUNE 26, 2009



Weather Today
Max 30.0°C | Min 24.1°C
Humidity: 95%
Forecast: Rain/thunder showers in some areas.

COVERING GOA SINCE 1963

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BYTE SIZE

EXCISE REVENUE DIPS

COLLECTION FROM PHARMA UNITS



Excise Duty
Dropped from Rs 6.25 crore to Rs 2.85 crore for just one major unit
Indications much below expectations in current financial year

COMMERCIAL TAX	2007-08	2008-09
Ponda	62.04	42.26
Margao	228.70	200.14
Mapusa	35.59	33.51
Panaji	93.98	113.00
Curchorem	0.22	0.18
Total	420.54	389.12

Figures in lakh

Production moving out of Goa

BY ABDULL RAUF BEIG | NT NETWORK

PANAJI: The decision of the major pharmaceutical companies to shift manufacturing of some of their products to their units in other parts of the country where they enjoy tax holidays and other benefits, has hit the revenue collection of the state excise badly, which has recorded sharp fall in its collection from the pharma industry, as compared to the previous year.

The revenue of the excise department alone has come down by nearly Rs 4 crore during the financial year 2008-09. The department received revenue of Rs 2.85 crore as against Rs 6.25 crore from a major pharmaceutical unit. The loss of revenue from this company alone was over Rs 3.40 crore.

The scenario appears bleak in the new financial year and the department would have to focus on collection of revenue from other sources, unless the government could convince the central government to provide sops to the industries in the state, said sources in the department.

The sources also said that indications for this year also were much below expectations as the major pharmaceutical

firm has paid just Rs 10 lakh during the first quarter of the financial year 2009-10 as against over Rs 35 lakh during the corresponding period last year. The same firm had paid Rs 55 lakh during the financial year 2007-08.

According to information provided by sources in the excise department most pharmaceutical companies import alcohol for use in manufacture of various medicinal products, including aerosol, ointments and syrup, but with concessions having been stopped many of them have shifted/transferred their production to their other facilities in the hilly states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand etc.

Besides, the revenue loss to the excise department the revenue collection of commercial tax department has also come down by over Rs 31 lakh in the last financial year, as compared to the revenue collection of the previous year.

As against total collection of Rs 4.20 crore in the financial year 2007-08, the collection of the department from pharmaceutical manufacturers has fallen to Rs 3.89 crore in 2008-09.

PRODUCTION: P14



A girl along with her goat walks on a parched field in Mathura on Thursday.

July-Aug rains will save crops: govt

The government on Thursday tied its hopes to forecasts of good rainfall in July-August for maintaining last year's farm production level, while discounting fears of a drought. "We need to watch the rainfall in July-August carefully and if it is well distributed in time and space without too many dry spells in between, we will still be able to achieve the agricultural production that we achieved last year," Agriculture Secretary, Mr T Nanda Kumar told reporters here. He met with farm secretaries of states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh to discuss strategy.

Assam Governor Mathur no more

Assam Governor Shiv Charan Mathur died on Thursday evening following heart failure at a hospital here, officials said. He was 83. An Assam government spokesperson said Mathur died at the Fortis Hospital at 8.15 p.m. following respiratory failure. Mathur fell sick earlier this month and was shifted to Escorts Hospital in New Delhi on June 18. He was discharged from there Thursday morning and was at his residence here when he felt uneasiness and was admitted to Fortis Hospital. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

Nilekani to have minister rank



The government on Thursday set in motion the process of providing a Unique Identification Number to citizens and appointed Infosys Technologies co-chairman, Mr Nandan Nilekani as head of the project. As chairman of the project, Mr Nilekani will have Cabinet minister rank and status. P13

Pak rules out handing over 26/11 suspects to India

Pakistan has ruled out the possibility of handing over to India any of its nationals linked to Mumbai terror attacks and made it clear that such persons would be brought to justice within Pakistan. Interior Minister, Mr Rehman Malik made it clear that Pakistan would not hand over "any individual to India" simply on the basis of such warrants.

Hope after OBC quota

Some Komarpants still live in mud houses

Members of this community who had been neglected for many years since Liberation finally hope for upliftment of their community. These people have been living in mud houses with thatched roofs and occupationally involve themselves in cultivating tenanted fields and fishing.

BY JOAO SOUSA M | NT NETWORK

MARGAO: After being ignored for decades in post-Liberation Goa, the Komarpant community has finally seen light with the government deciding to include the community into the OBC category.

The inclusion has given a glimmer of hope to the community as it will go a long way in upliftment of the community, which has been neglected for years after Goa's liberation.

As a member of the community, Ms Parbhawati Komarpant said, "At least we will get some benefits from the government before we get old." A visit to the areas inhabited by this community has a story to tell as the people still continue to live in mud houses with thatched roofs. While some work in fields, others cultivate tenanted fields and still others are involved in fishing and toddy tapping. Even though education has reached the Komarpants'

the youth are not highly qualified and have been finding it difficult to get jobs under the general category. However, the community has a few honours as hard work has seen the community produce a doctor a couple of advocates and a few have gone on to become engineers and agriculturists, however their number is limited.

Ms Parvathi Komarpant, who lost her husband some 7 years back, is battling hard to make both ends meet as she has seven children but no bread earner as her son is unable to gain employment. She also informed that she has not been receiving any aid from the government. She said that she has been working in fields of the landlords to earn livelihood. When informed that the community has now been added to the OBC category, she expressed hope that now at least her son, Mr

Garish Komarpant would get some government job. However, some members of the community have raised concerns that people from Karnataka whom they say are already getting benefits from the government of Karnataka and are settled in Goa, are trying to derive benefits of OBC category, which they feel is unjust to them.

KOMARPANTS: P14

Industries cut labour costs

5,000 laid off in Goa

BY SHEIKH JAMALUDDIN | NT NETWORK

PANAJI: The global meltdown which started in the Western countries slowly brought almost the entire world into its grasp and Goa has not been an exception to this.



Employees leaving industrial estate premises

The general secretary of All India Trade Union Congress, Mr Christopher Fonseca, said the wave of industrial recession, which triggered off in the US has adversely affected Goa.

Speaking to 'The Navhind Times,' the AITUC leader pointed out that as far as the state is concerned, recession has hit the hardest to industries like mining, export, fishing, cashew trade and tourism.

Mr Fonseca informed that over 5,000 workers from various industries have lost their jobs in Goa while many more lost their jobs in the non-farming and other sectors which mostly include people employed on contract basis, short term basis, temporary or seasonal employment.

According to Mr Fonseca, as the effects were felt by many Goan industrialists, expansion plans were put on hold in jewellery and mining industries. Many industries initially did not directly layoff workers, however, some did resort to terminating services of their employees. Mr Fonseca informed that despite facing several problems Zuari Industries did not go in for layoff and added that, "There are some exceptional industrialists who need to be given the credit for not buckling under pressure during such turbulent times."

Mr Fonseca was of the view that due to this recession, relations between the general management and workers in many factories is under great stress and added that a number of struggles are witnessed in many organisations.

LAY OFFS: P14

Centre for single board for class XII

FROM PTI REPORTS

NEW DELHI: In far-reaching reforms, government on Thursday proposed making 10th board examination optional and setting up of a single school board at the national level for a uniform examination for class 12.

A new scheme of interest subsidy on educational loans for professionally weaker students will be launched in the first 100 days of the UPA government, HRD Minister, Mr Kapil Sibal told reporters here.

SINGLE BOARD: P14

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