GOA

- **A new species of wasp from the genus Kudakrumia was found in Goa**

⇨ Scientists have recently identified a **new species of wasp** from the genus**Kudakrumia in Goa**. The wasp, Kudakrumia rangnekari, has been named after Goa-based researcher **Parag Rangnekar.** It belongs to genus **Kudakrumia.** The Kudakrumia is a **genus of primitive wasps** that is described and previously known **only from Sri Lanka.**

⇨ The new species was collected **Cotigao Wildlife sanctuary.** The Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **South Goa district, of Goa**. The sanctuary was established in **1968.**

⇨ A wasp is any insect of the order **Hymenoptera and suborder Apocrita** that is neither a bee nor an ant. Wasps are adept at controlling pest populations and are regularly deployed to protect crops. For example, in Brazil, farmers control sugarcane borers with a kind of parasitic wasp.

- **Yoga Instructor, Namrata Menon appointed as brand ambassador to promote yoga in Goa**

⇨ State Health Department of Goa announced the appointment of Panaji-based, Namrata Menon, Yoga Instructor, and fitness expert, as brand ambassador to promote yoga in Goa.

⇨ She is appointed to promote the ancient system of physical and mental practices to raise awareness about the benefits of yoga so that people follow it on a daily basis.She is practicing yoga for 17 years.

⇨ The main objective of this initiative is to increase awareness about the benefits of yoga and encourage people to inculcate a healthy lifestyle.

⇨ The Panaji-based expert has been practicing yoga since the last 17 years and has been instrumental in inspiring many people to take up the ancient practice that involves a range of postures (asanas).

- **Goa to set-up plants to treat all kinds of waste: Goa CM**

⇨ Chief minister Pramod Sawant said that two years from now Goa will be the only state in the country to treat all types of waste.

⇨ The proposed plants are expected to be commissioned within two years.

⇨ The Saligao plant is insufficient to cater to total waste generated in the State. A proposal to expand its existing capacity has been approved.

⇨ A similar plant has been planned in Cacora-Curchorem that will take care of waste generated in South Goa.

- **Goa CM Sawant praises Environment Day with 'Corals and Crabs'**

⇨ **Goa** harbors its coral reefs into the lesser known reefs around Grande Island. Goa Goa CM Pramod Sawant explained the occasion of World Environment Day.

⇨ Corals and Crabs is a first step towards bridging this existing knowledge gap and bringing amazing marine species found in the reefs of Goa such as Stingrays, Lionfish, Ghost Pipefish, Decorator Crabs and a whole array of Sea Slugs.The book features over 30 stunning photographs of marine habitats and biodiversity taken during WWF-India's underwater surveys at dive sites around Grand Island in 2018 to assess the impact of

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diving on the reefs around the island.Increasing marine based tourism made protection and monitoring of these habitats critical.

- **Two Goan firms among five to supply 16,000 bio-toilets**

⇨ The move to install bio-toilets for citizens who don't have household latrines has taken a significant step forward with Goa Waste Management Corporation (GWMC) issuing work orders to four of the five selected firms to supply bio-digestor toilets, which included two local firms, among five companies who bid for the contract.

⇨ To ensure Goa achieves an open defecation free (ODF) status, the then chief minister, Manohar Parrikar, had said that Goa government would install 60,000 bio-toilets costing Rs 280 crore. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi had launched the ODF programme on October 2, 2014 under the Swachh Bharat Mission–Gramin. A deadline of October 2, 2019 was fixed for all states to eradicate open defecation.

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- **Soon, milk to be fortified with Vitamin A, D**

⇨ A survey conducted by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has found that Indians suffer from vitamin A and D deficiency and that milk is a good medium to infuse with the vitamins

⇨ Under a NDDB project, the milk will be fortified with the vitamins soon.

⇨ Vitamin A and D deficiency leads to eye and bone-related ailments.

- **Sawant seeks Rs 2,000cr for mining, hinterland tourism**

⇨ Chief minister Pramod Sawant demanded a one-time special package of Rs 1,000 crore for mining and annual special package of Rs 200 crore for five years to provide infrastructural boost to hinterland tourism.

⇨ State government is focused on developing hinterland tourism and for that he has asked for a special package.

⇨ Regarding mining, Sawant said the state government had implemented various schemes for dependants after the activity came to a halt in 2012.

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- ⇨ Till date, the state government has incurred an expenditure of nearly Rs 300 crore on various scheme implemented to support mining dependants. As per the Goa Mining People's Front (GMPF) there are approximately three lakh people, directly and indirectly, dependent on mining activity. The halt in mining has caused a loss of Rs 2,000 crore to the state annually.
- ⇨ The government had sought over Rs 1,000 crore as a special grant for the maintenance and development of roads. However, the Centre had provided only Rs 100 crore.

- **Retain 28% GST on tobacco items: Experts**

- ⇨ Public health groups along with doctors and economists have urged the Goods and Services Tax (GST) council to retain tobacco products under the demerit list with a tax rate of 28% besides cess and bring beedis under its ambit.
- ⇨ The government had brought cigarettes and smokeless tobacco in the highest tax slab owing to health hazards.
- ⇨ It is imperative that such products are retained in the higher tax slab with a cess to discourage consumption.

State government urged to ban e-cigarettes

- ⇨ Based on the recommendations of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to ban e-cigarettes, National Organisation for Tobacco Eradication (NOTE) has urged chief minister Pramod Sawant and health minister Vishwajit Rane to ban e-cigarettes in the state.
- ⇨ In August 2018, ministry of health and family welfare had issued an advisory to all states and union territories to ensure that ENDS, e-nicotine flavoured hookah, or any such devices that enable nicotine delivery are not manufactured, distributed, traded, imported and advertised withing their jurisdiction.
- ⇨ These devices contain other ingredients as flavouring agents and vapourisers which are also found to be harmful for health. The most common type of such devices is e-cigarettes that produce an aerosolised mixture of flavoured liquids and nicotine, which is inhaled.

- **Government likely to allow new app-based taxi services**

- ⇨ The government is looking at allowing new app-based taxi services in the state even as its GoaMiles aggregator service is witnessing increasing opposition.
- ⇨ The government should fully support app-based service in the interest of the public.
- ⇨ The government wants to bring all tourists taxi operators onboard and will allow any group of taxi operators to start their aggregator.
- ⇨ Tourist taxi operators association from South and North Goa have been opposing the GoaMiles app, one of their reasons being that it is operated by a private party.

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- ⇨ The government is also looking at other options to make sure that tourist taxi operators become part of the app-based taxi service.

- **Goa Government approves amendment to Factories Act to allow women to work in night shifts**

- ⇨ An amendment proposed in the Factories Act, 1948 will facilitate women to work in night shifts from 7 pm and 6 am. Cabinet approved the amendment Bill and introduction of the same in Goa legislative assembly.
- ⇨ Amendment to the Act was necessary to make factories "competitive" and allow them to be part of Make in India programme of the Central government. "The Bill will be tabled in the assembly session.

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- ⇨ The NOTE, in its submission to the state government, has quoted recently released white paper on ENDS advocating complete prohibition of e-cigarettes across the country to protect public health.
- ⇨ Several research studies have time and again proven that e-cigarettes are as dangerous as tobacco cigarettes. E-cigarettes are being marketed as a harm reduction and 'safe' product.

- **Monsoon session of Assembly from July 15**

- ⇨ The monsoon session of the Goa legislative assembly will be held from July 15.
- ⇨ The government has decided to hold the monsoon session from July 15 to August 9. However, the Chief Minister said that duration of the session will be finalised by the Business Advisory Committee headed by Speaker Rajesh Patnekar.
- ⇨ It may be recalled that Congress was the single largest party after March 2017 assembly elections with 17 legislators. However, after the results of the four assembly bypolls held recently, the BJP has now become the single largest party in the assembly with 17 MLAs.

- **NIO to study sand mining impact on rivers**

- ⇨ The state government on Thursday decided to conduct a study to assess the environmental damage due to sand mining in Goa's rivers before allowing further sand extraction. The National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) has been selected for carrying out the impact assessment.
- ⇨ NIO, which will conducted the study phase-wise, will first assess the Mandovi, Zuari, Chapora and Tiracol. Based on the study, the state government will decide in which rivers to allow sand mining.
- ⇨ As per environmental clearance (EC) norms, the state has to conduct a study of rivers to assess the impact of sand mining activities.
- ⇨ For sand extraction, the state government had created five clusters comprising the Chapora, Mandovi and Tiracol in North Goa and the Xelvona and Macazana in South Goa.

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- **Govt declares land acquisition for Hybrid IT Park**

⇨ The government on Thursday declared 12,455 square metres of land in Penha-de-Franca village in Porvorim for the proposed Hybrid IT Park project.

⇨ The project that was announced a year ago in June 2018 is slated to come up on two plots of land measuring 8,382 sq mt and 4,073 sq mt bearing survey numbers 172/0 and 128/1 in the village.

⇨ The Infotech Coporation of Goa (ITG), which is the implementing agency for the project, has been given the responsibility of dealing with occupants of the proposed notified area by way of collection of fees, levy, taxes, etc.

⇨ Around ten acres of land in the park is for a start-up village for which the government has already appointed design consultants.

⇨ According to government sources, many outside IT companies are interested in setting up office in the proposed IT Park.

- **Goa to generate 1,108 tonnes of waste per day by 2035**

⇨ Goa currently generates 766 tonnes of waste per day and as per the projection, the state will generate 888 tonnes of waste per day by 2025, 992 tonnes per day by 2030 and 1,108 tonnes per day by 2035.

⇨ As per a survey report available with the Goa Waste Management Corporation (GWMC), which has been prepared for formulating Solid Waste Management Policy for the state, currently North Goa generates 467 tonnes of waste per day while South Goa generates 299 tonnes of waste per day.

⇨ Furthermore, Goa generates 400 tonnes of organic waste per day besides 277 tonnes of recyclable waste, 60 tonnes of non-recyclable waste, 56 tonnes of inert waste and 23 tonnes of hazardous and sanitary waste.

- **DDSSY renewal drive to begin on July 1**

⇨ The state government will begin the drive for renewal of the Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana (DDSSY), a cashless health insurance scheme, from July 1. The dive will continue up to August 31, 2019.

⇨ Those currently holding DDSSY cards have to undergo the renewal process for the next policy period which begins from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020.

⇨ The people who have not enrolled themselves previously for the scheme, and if they are having five years' residence in Goa can visit the nearest DDSSY kendra and get themselves enrolled as the new beneficiaries.

- **Bulk employment can come from new units, feels industry**

⇨ Even as the government is trying to formulate an employment policy that will give preference to Goans, the industry on Tuesday expressed skepticism on the proposed policy's ability to solve the problem of rising unemployment in the state.

⇨ Existing industries can only provide incremental jobs during expansion etc. The state needs jobs in large numbers which can only come from new units. The government needs to be proactive and invite outside industry to create new opportunities.

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