

BAJRANG DAL MENACE AT UDAY BHEMBRE'S DOOR

Shocking incident of late-night intimidation as gang of 20-25 threatens ex-MLA over his video reacting to CM's comments on Chhatrapati Shivaji

Team Herald

MARGAO: A menacing scene unfolded in Margao late on Friday, when a gang of 20-25 Bajrang Dal members led by State Convenor Viraj Dessai knocked on the door of **Uday Bhemre** – former MLA and writer – demanding an explanation for his take on Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's comments about Chhatrapati Shivaji.

The octogenarian, however, refused to be cowed and stood his ground even as his family and friends gathered within minutes to confront the men, who dis-

persed after uttering a litany of threats.

Before that, the group forced the senior citizen and his wife to come out of the house, threatened, mocked and questioned them, in an attempt to intimidate one of Goa's most respected leaders, who played a pivotal role in Goa's historic Opinion Poll.

Bhemre, also a former journalist, recently made a video reacting to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's remarks praising and



detailing Chhatrapati Shivaji's contributions to Goa's history. The group claimed that the sentiments of the Hindu community and followers of Chhatrapati Shivaji were hurt by Bhemre's remarks.

Led by Dessai, the group demanded to know why he was making such videos and asserted that he was not an authority figure to speak on Chhatrapati Shivaji or Maratha history.

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“More than a two-way discussion, it was a 'bhaashan' (lecture). Two of them were lecturing me over my comments on Shivaji. They did not give me space or time to respond, and in such discussions, one should be allowed to respond

“They said I have no right to even mention Shivaji's name. I am a citizen of India, and under the Constitution, I know my rights. I also consider Shivaji a hero. They, or no one else, can tell me whether I have the right to speak on Shivaji or not

Verdict in K'taka illegal mining 'scam' linked to Goa minister on March 4

Team Herald

BENGALURU: The Additional City Civil and Sessions Court in Bengaluru postponed its judgment on

Friday in the Karnataka illegal mining 'scam' that has a Goa minister's name. All the accused, including the Minister, were present when the Judge called the case. He

stated that he was unable to complete his dictation due to fresh submissions made by some of the accused.

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PUNE BUS RAPE

Accused sent to 12-day police custody

PTI, PUNE: A court on Friday sent a 37-year-old man accused of raping a woman inside an empty parked state transport bus at Swargate depot in Pune city to police custody till March 12. The accused, **Dattatray Ramdas Gade**, was nabbed from a paddy field following an extensive search operation.

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MLA confronts electricity dept over closing pathways

Kashinath Shetye, Sankalp Amonkar in war of words over road access issue in Mormugao

Team Herald

VASCO: A few days after cable-cutting in Panjim on his watch led to an internet blackout, Electricity Department Executive Engineer **Kashinath Shetye** was embroiled in a fresh controversy on Friday, as he got embroiled in a war of words with Mormugao MLA **Sankalp Amonkar** over closing two traditional pathways in Bogda, which have been in use for over 50 years.

The heated altercation between the two, which unfolded in front of locals, saw Amonkar demand the reopening of the two closed pathways, while Shetye insisted on their closure. As the nodal officer for land acquisition and property management, Shetye had gone to Bogda to inspect the quarters belonging to the Electricity Department.

Amonkar accused Shetye

“No officer has the right to call the houses illegal or behave rudely with the public. Officers who do not understand local issues and work against the government should be terminated

– **Sankalp Amonkar**, Mormugao MLA

of harassing local residents and acting more like an activist than a government official, and asked him to "act as an officer".

According to Amonkar, the question of the traditional pathway at Bogda has been pending resolution for a long time and he had raised the matter in the Assembly last year. Claiming that most of the 300 houses there date back to the Portuguese era, he said, "No officer has the right to call them ille-

“This is government property and I have been told to close the two pathways. Why are you creating a problem and not letting me remove the cables? Who will pay the Rs 10,000 for the bulldozer hired to carry out the work?

– **Kashinath Shetye**, Electricity Department Executive Engineer

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22 still trapped in Uttarakhand avalanche

PTI, DEHRADUN: Thirty-three of a total of 55 BRO workers trapped under an avalanche in the high-altitude village of Mana in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district have been rescued, with concerns over the safety of the remaining 22 mounting as night fell on the snowbound slopes and the rescue efforts came to a temporary halt.

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Times have changed and so has Goa's Carnival

A 1960s Carnival in Goa may not have been exactly what you imagine it to be for that's when traditions made way for transformation

ALEXANDRE MONIZ BARBOSA

Think Carnival and the first image that comes to mind is that of King Momo. He is, today, on every poster or post or reel, advertising the Goa Carnival. But it was not always so. There was a time when Carnival in Goa was not synonymous with King Momo. Take a glance at the 1964 Goa Carnival postcard of Mario de Miranda pictured alongside, there is, as one can see, no King Momo in it, just people in masks having fun on the streets and a lady on the balcony above drenching the revellers with water or perhaps she is just watering her plants. That is because the first King

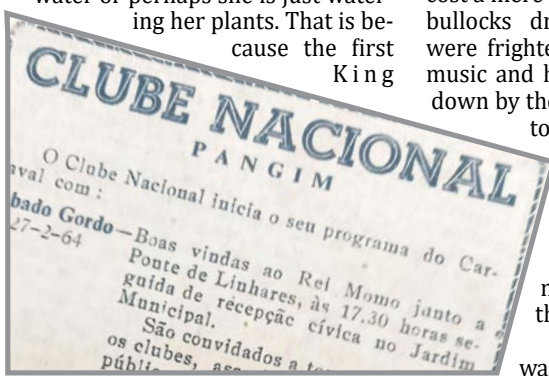
Momo trundled through the streets of Panjim precisely 60 years ago in 1965.

That story of Timoteo Fernandes, then a young 29 as the first King Momo riding on a bullock cart, to the sounds of music and, from the sidelines, looks of surprise is part of Carnival folklore, repeated often. The stories, as Timoteo recounts even today, his eyes lighting up at the memories, especially of how the entire float cost a mere Rs 5 and that the bullocks drawing the cart were frightened by the loud music and had to be calmed down by the cart owner, bring smiles to the faces of the listeners as they do to Timoteo's countenance. It was that impromptu Carnival King Momo of 1965 that gave Goa a new manner of celebrating the festival.

But, when one looks back, was it all that spontaneous,

even for that time? King Momo could not have taken Goa by storm if not for the two clubs of Panjim – Clube Nacional and Clube Vasco da Gama – supporting the idea. Though there is no report of the first King Momo parade of 1965 in the pages of *O Herald*, there is an advertisement, reproduced here, of Clube Nacional inviting people to gather on Fat Saturday of 1965 to welcome King Momo.

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Happy Birthday

To our dearest

REV. FR. DIOGO M. FERNANDES

(Chairman of Aninha Educational Institute for Higher Secondary in Arts & Science)

SÃO JOSE DE AREAL

Thank you for your unwavering faith, compassionate heart, and tireless service. Your life's work for education continues to inspire and uplift us all. Your dedication to our youth and community has touched countless lives, and your wisdom and kindness are a guiding light for many.

On this special day, we celebrate not just your birthday, but the profound difference you've made in our lives. May your day be filled with blessings, joy and the love of all those whose lives you've enriched.

Best wishes from :

ANINHA EDUCATIONAL TRUST

MR. TONY DA COSTA & FAMILY

(Ex-Sarpanch of V.P. Verna and Prop. Anoshka Bar & Restaurant, Loutolim.)

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