

## GOAN VOICES RING LOUD FOR OPINION POLL HERO

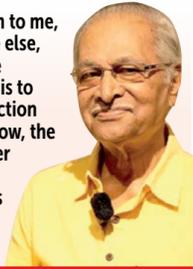
### Uday Bhemre approaches Fatorda police with details of trespass and threats, but no FIR lodged till late Saturday

Team Herald

MARGAO: A day after he was accosted, ridiculed and threatened by a gang of Bajrang Dal men outside his doorstep, former MLA and historian Uday Bhemre approached Fatorda police on Saturday to file a complaint about the incident. However, while the police confirmed that they had received the complaint, till the time of going to press, no FIR had been registered. Bhemre, an octogenarian hero of the Opinion Poll, had initially decided to not go to the police, but changed his mind in the morning.

**“Today, if this could happen to me, it could happen to anyone else, and that has to be stopped. The reason for filing this complaint is to ensure the government takes action and also it is on record. Tomorrow, the government can't look the other way, saying no one came to them with a complaint and thus they didn't act**

— Uday Bhemre



morning I saw in a video that they had burned my effigy in Cuncolim. There, they also made a lot of speeches directed against me. These warnings and statements of theirs can be considered as a threat too and this needs to come to the attention of the authorities,” Bhemre said, adding that there is an ongoing attempt to mix religion with politics to create incitement.

In his complaint, Bhemre also claims that over a year ago, Dessai had posted a video containing open threats against him, which he had ignored at the time.

Fatorda police confirmed that they had received the complaint, but no offence had been registered so far. Similarly, Cuncolim police stated that no case had been filed over the burning of Bhemre's effigy or the alleged provocative statements made against him.

Speaking to O Herald, he said, “The matter had got over after they gave me that lecture. There was the issue of trespass, but I had let it go as I thought it was a minor matter. But then, I have also realised that it's not a question of my safety alone, but also the safety of the public. Today, if this could happen to me, it could happen to anyone else, and that has to be stopped. The reason for filing this complaint is to ensure the government takes action and also it is on record. Tomorrow, the government can't look the other way, saying no one came to them with a complaint

and thus they didn't act.” Bhemre's complaint details how the group of around 25 men approached his house around 9.15 on Friday, trespassing, shouting slogans, and addressing him in violent language. He mentions that the group was led by Viraj Dessai from Cuncolim and members of the group later burned his effigy, allegedly provoking others to harm him. “Once they saw my friends and family, and later, the police arriving, they didn't go ahead with whatever else they had planned. They must have wanted to burn my effigy here, but did not. Today

**HISTORY CAN'T BE CHANGED: GOANS RALLY BEHIND BHEMRE**  
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## CRY TO SAVE MOTHER EARTH



A float depicting Mother Nature winds its way along the D B Marg opposite the Old Secretariat, Panjim, on Saturday

## 4 dead, 50 workers rescued in Uttarakhand avalanche

### Rescuers race against time to save the remaining five amid bad weather

PTI, DEHRADUN: Fifty workers have been pulled out of snow from the site of an avalanche-hit Border Roads Organisation (BRO) camp in the Mana village in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, but four of them died on Saturday as rescuers raced against time to save the remaining five.

The avalanche hit the BRO camp between Mana and Badrinath between 5.30 am

and 6 am on Friday, burying 55 workers inside eight containers and a shed, according to the Army. Thirty-three of them were rescued by Friday night and 17 on Saturday. Rain and snowfall hampered the rescue efforts on Friday, and the operation was suspended as the night fell.



Rescue operation underway after an avalanche in Mana area of Chamoli district, on Saturday

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## INTIMIDATION IS NOT PART OF GOAN CULTURE, BUT DANGEROUS ELEMENTS ARE OUT TO DESTROY THIS, SAY POLITICIANS AND ACTIVISTS

**“Bajrang Dal's abuse of Goa's intellectual giant was possible only because the government is looking the other way. Bajrang Dal and the government wish to send a signal to all liberal activists that their views against the mainstream narrative shall not be tolerated. Ours is a culture of tolerance and love, and hate has no place in it. But such dangerous elements are out to destroy this**

— Cleofato Almeida Coutinho, senior advocate



**“These are non-state actors taking forward the dark and divisive agenda of the ruling powers. They do it knowing they have the support of the present government. This is actually a collapse of law and order, which shows that any group can disturb your peaceful life at their will and pleasure. Mr CM, you are failing as Home Minister**

— Prabhakar Timble, educationist



**“It is ironical that the government is hosting the DD Kosambi Festival of Ideas in Goa, while allowing such incidents to occur. By failing to act, the government is emboldening such groups**

— Datta Naik, author



**“We will not tolerate any dadagiri. Goa should not become like other states, such as Uttar Pradesh, where individuals risk physical harm for expressing views contrary to the ruling ideology. Like-minded citizens should unite to stop Goa from losing its identity and turning the State into a “banana republic”**

— Vijai Sardesai, Fatorda MLA



**“The incident is outrageous and intimidation is not part of Goa's culture. Shivaji was a towering national leader, but if there are disagreements, constructive dialogue is the way to deal with it**

— Luizinho Faleiro, former minister



## Tourist taxis can't use general parking slots till Smart City work is over

### Notification allows cabs to halt for three minutes and park in designated areas

Team Herald

PANJIM: In view of ongoing Smart City works in the State's capital, the North Goa District Magistrate has imposed restrictions on the parking of tourist taxis in the city.

Additional District Magistrate Mahadev Araundekar via a notification has barred tourist taxis from parking in general public parking lots.

Tourist taxis are not allowed to halt for more than three minutes for collecting and dropping off tourists in Panjim. Tourist taxis are directed to park only in designated parking areas till the ongoing Smart City works are completed.

The Additional District Magistrate has also authorised installing traffic signboards to caution/regulate the vehicular traffic in the city.

## NO FRESH RENT-A-CAB PERMITS FOR NOW

■ To crack down on owners of private vehicles driven by tourists as rent-a-cars and used for commercial purposes, the Transport Dept has decided not to issue fresh Rent-a-Cab licences/permits under the rent-a-Cab Scheme, until further notice

■ The penalties to be imposed include impounding of such vehicles, slapping of a fine of Rs 10,000 and

suspension of registration or permit for first-time offenders

■ For repeat offences, the action will include impounding of the vehicle, fine of Rs 10,000 and registration or permit cancellation

■ According to Directorate, the decision is taken in public interest considering concerns related to road safety, traffic congestion and regulatory compliance

Meanwhile, taking note of number of private vehicles being driven by tourists as rent-a-cars and used for commercial purposes, the Directorate of Transport has decided to crack down on

the owners of such vehicles and not to issue fresh Rent-a-Cab licences/permits under the rent-a-Cab Scheme, until further notice.

## MLA-Electricity Department spat: Tit-for-tat police complaints filed in Panjim, Mormugao

Team Herald

VASCO/PANJIM: Following verbal clashes between the Mormugao MLA and an Electricity Department employee, both sides on Saturday filed police complaints at the Mormugao and Panjim Police Stations.

The residents of Bogda in their complaint at the Mormugao Police Station against Kashinath Shetye, Electricity Department executive engineer and nodal officer of the land acquisition and asset management, alleged misconduct, wrongful restraint and unauthorised actions at a project site. The complaint has been filed under Sections 126(2), 127, 352, 351(2) (3), 324, 79 and 74 of the BNS.

Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar, who accompanied the residents, speaking to media persons, accused Shetye of using a “rent-a-car” vehicle for official duty and commencing work at the site well before government-mandated timings.

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