

Bhoma's msg to Gaude: Show us highway plan

Villagers vow to save their homes from demolition even as minister claims a handful are 'misguiding' people

Team Herald

PONDA: Local residents of Bhoma have strongly opposed Sports Minister and Priol MLA Govind Gaude's assertion on Tuesday that a handful of individuals were 'misguiding' the public regarding the controversial National Highway (NH) expansion project in the area.

Gaude, speaking to media, sought to reassure the public that the expansion would not affect any homes in Nagzar village. "I will be at the forefront of the protest if any JCB machine touches a single house in Nagzar," he stated. He also dismissed criticism against him, noting that the highway alignment was finalised before he took office as MLA from Priol, and accused opponents of misleading locals with misinformation.

However, Bhoma residents were quick to counter the Minister's assertions. "We are not fools to be misled without concrete evidence," said one local leader, demanding documentary proof and a clear alignment plan. "Gaude claims he will protest in the future, but why didn't any MLA stand up when the Khapreshwar



Villagers protest against the controversial National Highway expansion project in Bhoma

temple in Porvorim was affected?" they questioned.

Sanjay Naik, a key figure in the movement opposing the highway expansion, refuted Gaude's remarks. "Not all villagers attend every protest, but that doesn't mean only a few oppose this project. Just as not every voter supported Gaude in the elections, not every villager supports the highway expansion," he said. Naik criticised the lack of transparency, stating that despite filing RTIs, villagers have not been provided with the official alignment plan. "As per the gazette notification, much of Bhoma, including residential areas, is already marked for acquisition. The minister

should come with the alignment plan and show it to us to assure us that our houses will not be touched."

Naik added that the community previously succeeded in halting a similar expansion plan in 2010 when the Congress was in power, and at that time they were supported by the BJP, which is now advancing the same project. "We stopped this project before, and we will do it again. This isn't politics – it's about protecting our heritage and our homes," he emphasised, challenging the government to produce all three planning proposals required for such a project.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

"We stopped this project before, and we will do it again. This isn't politics – it's about protecting our heritage and our homes. As per the gazette notification, much of Bhoma, including residential areas, is already marked for acquisition. The minister should come with the alignment plan and assure us that our houses will not be touched"

– Sanjay Naik, villager leading the protests

"Land belonging to the Sateri Temple has been marked. If the government is serious, let them come to the village, show us the plan on the ground, and clarify whether this is a flyover or a widening project. We want a bypass to protect our village. Losing our homes is not development – we gain nothing"

– Putu Gaude, villager

DUST SETTLES ON ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION

JOSEPH FERNANDES



Illegal structures collectively called 'Lala ki Basti' on land belonging to the Comunidade of Thivim being demolished, on Tuesday

More on Pg 3 >>

Cocaine worth ₹43 cr seized in Goa's biggest drug bust ever

Team Herald

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

■ **4.235 kg** of cocaine worth **Rs 43.20 cr** recovered

■ **3 arrested:**

– Nibu Vincent (45), Kolkata native living in Vasco
– Reshma Wadekar and

husband Mangesh Wadekar, residents of Sada, Mormugao
■ Intercepted near Chicolna Bus Stand, Mormugao, based on a tip-off

■ Drugs concealed in coffee and chocolate packets

■ International link suspected

Superintendent of Police (Crime Branch), Rahul Gupta, said at a press conference that the arrests were made following a raid near the Chicolna Bus Stand in

Mormugao, based on a tip-off about an impending drug delivery.

"The cocaine was found concealed in packets of coffee and chocolates. An

on-site test confirmed the substance to be cocaine," Gupta stated. Police are investigating the origin of the consignment and its intended destination.

Initial findings suggest that Reshma Wadekar received the consignment from an unknown individual and was attempting to sell it in Goa. The drugs were hidden in wafer and coffee packets, and are suspected to have been smuggled in from outside the country.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

Konkani stage bids farewell to tiatr veteran Ligorio Fernandes

Team Herald



MARGAO: One of the pillars of Goa's tiatr scene, Ligorio Fernandes—

known for his deeply spiritual and socially relevant productions—has passed away at 86, leaving behind a body of work that shaped generations of tiatr lovers and practitioners.

Born Eupisquio Eusebio Antonio Ligorio Fernandes in 1939 in Benaulum, his journey on the Konkani stage began early. Even while holding down a regular job after completing his SSC, his heart remained firmly tied to the tiatr world.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

National Herald case: ED chargesheets Sonia, Rahul

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate has filed a chargesheet against Congress leaders **Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi** and others accusing them of allegedly laundering Rs 988 crore in the National Herald case.

Special judge Vishal Gagne examined the chargesheet, which was filed on April 9, on the point of cognisance and posted the matter for further proceedings on April 25.

The chargesheet also names Congress leader Sam Pitroda and Suman Dubey as accused.

Sources said the other accused include Young Indian, Dotex Merchandise Pvt Ltd and Sunil Bhandari.

"The present prosecution complaint shall next be taken up for consideration on the aspect of cognisance before this court on April 25, 2025 when



the special counsel for the ED and IO shall also ensure the production of the case diaries for perusal by the court," the judge said.

The chargesheet was filed under Sections 3 (money laundering) and 4 (punishment for money laundering) of Prevention of Money Laundering Act by ED's special public prosecutor N K Matta.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

POLITICS OF VENDETTA, SAYS CONG

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday described the ED's chargesheet against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case as vendetta politics and claimed seizing of assets in the case was a "state-sponsored crime masquerading as the rule of law".

"Filing chargesheets against Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and some others is nothing but politics of vendetta and intimidation by the prime minister and the home minister gone completely berserk," Congress general secretary Jai Ram Ramesh said in a post on X.

"Seizing the assets of the National Herald is a state-sponsored crime masquer-

ading as the rule of law," the Congress leader said.

He asserted the Congress and its leadership would not be silenced and the truth shall prevail.

Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi called the case "fake" and said the government was exposing itself and its vendetta politics by indulging in such action.

"As stated years ago when this was initiated, the National Herald case is a one-trick wonder where this government has started a money-laundering investigation without there being any movement of money, any movement of property, any activity which caused a transfer," he said in a video statement.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

Pipeline burst causes water wastage in Sanguem, Panjim

Team Herald

PANJIM: While several parts of the State continue to reel under a severe water shortage, thousands of litres of drinking water were wasted after a pipeline burst near the Sanguem Court. Water gushed out with full force for a considerable period, compounding concerns during the peak summer season when drinking water is especially scarce.

A police officer at the site remarked, "The pipeline burst has disrupted water supply in the Curchorem area. It's unfortunate that water is being wasted like



The damaged water pipeline at Sanguem

this, while residents in many areas are struggling to get drinking water. Some mechanism should be put in place to ensure an uninterrupted supply."

In a separate incident, another pipeline was damaged near the petrol pump at Mala after a poorly con-

structed safety wall of a culvert collapsed onto it. The damage affected water supply to two houses.

Public Works Department (PWD) workers acted quickly, temporarily shutting off valves to stop the water flow and prevent further damage.

SC criticises Allahabad HC for blaming victim in rape case

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday took exception to the Allahabad High Court's recent remarks in a rape case as reportedly saying the complainant 'herself invited trouble', and said judges should be 'very careful'.

"If one wants to grant bail that is okay but why make such observations that she invited trouble and all that... One has to be very careful on this side (bench) also," Justice B R Gavai said, wondering why such remarks were made while deciding a bail plea.

The high court recently granted bail in the rape case, observing the com-



"If one wants to grant bail that is okay but why make such observations that she invited trouble and all that... One has to be very careful on this side (bench) also," Justice B R Gavai said, wondering why such remarks were made while deciding a bail plea

plainant "herself invited trouble" by agreeing to go to the applicant's house after getting drunk.

The apex court's observations came when it was hearing a suo motu case over the Allahabad High Court's

separate order of March 17 in which the high court said grabbing breasts and pulling the drawstring of a woman's 'pyjama' or lowers did not amount to the offence of attempt to rape.

"There is another order

passed by another judge of the same high court," a bench of Justices Gavai and Augustine George Masih observed. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta said how a common man perceived such observations was required to be kept in mind.

The bench adjourned the hearing in the suo motu case for four weeks.

On March 26, the apex court stayed the HC's March 17 order in the attempt to rape matter which meant the same couldn't be used in any judicial proceeding for seeking reliefs by the present set of accused or others.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

Trump threatens to strip Harvard of tax-exempt status

AFP, WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Tuesday threatened to strip Harvard of its tax-exempt status after the elite US university refused to accept far-reaching policy changes ordered by the White House.

Trump said Harvard "should lose its Tax Exempt Status and be Taxed as a Political Entity" if it does not submit to his demands for the college to change the way it runs itself, including selection of students and authority for professors. Trump had already moved to freeze \$2.2 billion of federal funds on Monday.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

Birthday greetings

To Our Dearest Dad

Mr Antonio Jesus Nazareno Da Costa

Amblai Panchwaddi Shiroda

On ur b'day we pray for ur life to be filled with God's endless blessings.

May each day bring smiles to ur face & May All Ur Heart's Desires B Fulfilled By God's Grace..

Best wishes from your wife

Esmeralda Rodrigues

YOUR PROUD CHILDREN

Henry Da Costa/Liby Silveira, Tina Da Costa/ Bruno D'Souza, Jashwiny Da Costa/Aaron Almeida

GRANDSONS

Asher D'Souza & Aquino Da Costa.

"For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life" [Proverbs9:11]