

TREMORS OF TRAGEDY FELT AT STAMPEDE SPOT LAST YEAR TOO

Senior govt official says fact-finding committee will investigate as to why precautions were not taken this year; rituals held at the Shree Lairai Devi temple as hundreds of devotees arrive on foot

Team Herald

PANJIM: Indicating that the sloping ground near the Shirgao temple, the site of the tragic stampede that claimed six lives and left several others injured, had been identified as accident-prone, a senior government official on Sunday informed that a similar, but minor incident, was reported at the same location during last year's festival.

SHIRGAO STAMPEDE

Meanwhile, rituals were held at the Shree Lairai Devi temple as hundreds of devotees arrived on foot despite the temple committee appealing to them to stay away. The official said, "The stampede broke out on a sloping ground which is prone to such accidents. We have learnt that a similar incident, on a minor scale, had happened at the same spot during last year's festival."



Devotees seen taking ash as sacred offering or 'prasad' after the Homekhand (fire ritual) during Shree Devi Lairai Zatra in Shirgao

The official added that the fact-finding committee constituted by the Goa government will investigate as to why precautions were not taken this year. The panel is headed by Sandip Jacques, commissioner and secretary (revenue), with deputy inspector general Varsha Sharma, Director of Trans-

port Pravimal Abhishek and Superintendent of Police Tikam Singh Verma as its members.

The panel is recording the statements of senior officials in charge of crowd management at the event.

"The committee has recorded the statements of North Goa Collector Sneha Gitte, Superintendent of Po-

lice Akshat Kaushal, Deputy Superintendent of Police Jivba Dalvi, Deputy Collector Bhimnath Khorjuvekar, members of the temple committee and others," he said. The panel will need at least a couple of more days to gather inputs and file a report, the official said.

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'CODE RED' SYSTEM IN HOSPITALS SOON: MINISTER

Team Herald

PANJIM: Health Minister Vishwajit Rane on Sunday said that the Health Department will implement a "code red" system in hospitals to ensure swift response to emergencies. Speaking to reporters after visiting stampede victims at Goa Medical College and Hospital, Rane said the code red protocol will be implemented in the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC) and later in district hospitals and the Super Speciality Hospital.

He stated that "code red" is an internationally-established emergency response protocol. He said, "Code Red protocol activates automatically during medical emergencies in hospitals."

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CONCLAVE PREPARATIONS



Catholic Templari Oggi or "Templars Today" association members parade along the city centre to arrive to St Mary and the Martyrs Basilica, or Agrippa Pantheon, in Rome, Sunday. On May 7, 135 cardinals will enter the Sistine Chapel to begin the papal conclave, the secretive voting process that requires two-thirds majority to elect the new leader of the Catholic Church

Six-year-old girl drowns while playing at Baga

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a heart-wrenching incident, a six-year-old girl Zoya Hussain drowned while playing at Baga Beach on Sunday evening. Zoya was the daughter of a local tea stall owner who operates his business in Calangute.

Originally from Uttar Pradesh, the father, being occupied with work, entrusted the care of Zoya and her eight-year-old brother to a caretaker for a visit to the beach, the Tourist Police said.

Tragically, Zoya and her brother ventured into the water. At approximately 8 pm, Zoya slipped out of her brother's hand and disappeared into the waters as they were playing around. Her brother promptly sought assistance from a nearby waiter, informing him that his sister could not be found.

Upon receiving the news, the Tourist Police constables stationed at the beach immediately alerted the lifeguards, the fire brigade, and the entire tourism police staff, including Police Inspector Jatun Potdar, who launched a search for the missing child.

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If under stress, now students can take exam later: BITS Goa Institute revamps curriculum following death of students

Team Herald

PANJIM: Following the death of three students, BITS Pilani Goa campus on Sunday announced to revamp its curriculum stating that students can answer the exam later if they are under stress.

In a statement, the institute said, "We are revamping the existing curriculum and a separate committee has been constituted to streamline the academic content. Students in distress under the current circumstances have been given flexibility to take examinations at a later time. New courses on mental and physical wellness and stress management will be included in the revised curriculum. A Student Wellbeing Dashboard is being developed to provide personalised support and timely interventions

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communication with family and loved ones. No matter how robust our support systems are, they can only help when students choose to engage with them," the statement said.

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Devotees struggled to maintain footing, began to fall, recall Podocem residents

Team Herald

PANJIM: A day after the tragic stampede at the Shree Lairai Devi temple in Shirgao, which claimed six lives and left several others injured, the residents of Podocem recounted the horrific experiences of the incident.

Pravin Naik said, "The initial two lines of devotees expanded to six, causing the crowd to swell. Due to the slope of the terrain, devotees struggled to maintain their footing and began to fall."

He described a sudden surge from behind, which led to people collapsing on the ground, with those at the front of the lines suffering the most.

Naik said, "Surya Nayekar and his son Pandurang Nayekar were caught in the rush and, despite trying to escape, were unable to until someone pulled Pandurang to safety."

Sandip Gaonkar, another resident, who was near the site of the stampede, said, "I was unable to join the lines, I sat down."

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Injured persons responding to treatment, says GMC

Team Herald

PANJIM: Providing an update on the aftermath of the tragic Lairai Zatra stampede in Shirgao, Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim on Sunday, informed that the injured persons are showing signs of recovery.

Medical Superintendent Dr Rajesh Patil informed that 14 individuals injured in the incident are undergoing treatment at the hospital. Among the five patients who were initially admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), three have shown significant improvement, which is encouraging news, Dr Patil told reporters. With regards the two



One of the stampede victims undergoing treatment in GMC

patients, who remain in critical condition, Dr Patil informed that their condition is currently stable

and has not deteriorated since Saturday.

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SpaceX launch site approved as new city of Starbase

AP, MCALLEN (US): The South Texas home of Elon Musk's SpaceX rocket company is now an official city with a galactic name: Starbase.

A vote Saturday to formally organise Starbase as a city was approved by a lopsided margin among the small group of voters

who live there and are mostly Musk's employees at SpaceX. With all the votes in, the tally was 212 in favour to 6 against, according to results published online by the Cameron County Elections Department.

Musk celebrated in a post on his social platform, X,



saying it is "now a real city!" Starbase is the facility and launch site for the SpaceX rocket programme that is under contract with the Department of Defence and NASA that hopes to send astronauts back to the moon and someday to Mars. Musk first floated the

idea of Starbase in 2021 and approval of the new city was all but certain. Of the 283 eligible voters in the area, most are believed to be Starbase workers.

The election victory was personal for Musk.

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MAX. TEMP 36.1 °C
MIN. TEMP 27.4 °C

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The best and must-see tourist attraction in Goa!

It glitters, but majority of influencers not striking gold in India

AGENCIES, MUMBAI: Despite the explosive growth of India's digital creator ecosystem, a new report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) reveals that the promised riches remain out of reach for the vast majority. Behind the viral reels, polished thumbnails, and massive follower counts, only 8-10% of the country's 2-2.5 million active creators are actually able to monetise their content meaningfully.

While the creator economy may appear to be thriving, most influencers - especially those in the nano and micro segments - are earning far too little to sustain themselves. Nearly half of all creators fall into this category, with monthly earnings often below Rs 18,000. The average income for smaller creators is estimated at Rs 3.8 lakh annually, underscoring the gap between visibility and viability.

FAR TOO LITTLE EARNINGS

■ Only 8-10% of creators in India (of ~2-2.5 million) effectively monetise their content

■ Majority earn less than Rs 18,000/month, with smaller creators averaging Rs 3.8 lakh/year

■ Ad revenue per 1,000 views in India is low - around Rs 50 - Rs 200 depending on niche and demographics

■ Top-tier creators with 1 million+ followers and brand deals can earn

Rs 50,000/month or more

■ Despite low earnings, creators influence \$350-400 billion in annual consumer spending.

■ By 2030, creator-led spend is expected to cross \$1 trillion, generating over \$100 billion in revenue

■ Brand spending on influencers is currently 10 - 20% of marketing budgets; 70% of brands plan to increase this by 1.5 - 3x in 2 - 3 years

The core challenge lies in oversaturation. With millions vying for attention, only a few manage to build the loyal, en-

gaged communities required for consistent income.

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