

CROWD CONTROL ALARM SOUNDED TWO DAYS BEFORE ZATRA

Temple committee says it had little time to act on police recommendations; CCTV and barricading was not feasible



File photo of huge crowd at Lairai zatra, Shirgao

BASURI DESAI

PANJIM: A crucial meeting between the Shree Lairai Temple committee, North Goa police, and district administration was held just two days before the annual festival, leaving the temple authorities with only a day to act on several crowd management recommendations, a timeframe they claim was not feasible for implementing key safety measures like CCTV installation and barricading. Six people died and several others were injured in a stampede at the Shree Lairai Temple in Shirgao village, North Goa, during the early hours of Saturday.

During the meeting held on April 30, authorities had instructed the temple committee to install CCTV cameras at the entrance and exit points, crowded areas near the temple, and the Homkhand.

APRIL 30 MEETING: WHAT WERE THE RECOMMENDATIONS?

- Authorities had instructed the temple committee to install CCTV cameras at the entrance and exit points, crowded areas near the temple, and the Homkhand
- Temple body was also asked to establish a CCTV control room with adequate police presence and arrange for proper barricading to manage the queues
- The meeting was attended by then Superintendent of Police (North) Akshat Kaushal, then Deputy Superintendent of Police (Bicholim) Jivva Dalvi, Deputy Collector (Bicholim) Bhimnath Khorjuvekar, Temple Committee President Dinanath Gaonkar, and others
- Temple Committee president Dinanath Gaonkar told O Heraldo on Monday that there was not enough time to implement the recommendations

points, crowded areas near the temple, and the Homkhand. They were also asked to establish a CCTV control room with adequate police

presence and arrange for proper barricading to manage the queues.

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19 STILL AT GMC, ONE STAYS CRITICAL

BAMBOLIM: Nineteen victims injured in the recent stampede at Shirgao are currently undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College (GMC), Medical Superintendent Dr Rajesh Patil said on Monday. Speaking to the press, Dr Patil said, "The total number of patients who reported to Goa Medical College is 21 while two have been discharged. Today we had 3 new admissions; some of them have reported one or two days after the event. The three patients who were admitted today had earlier gone to the District Hospital at Mapusa. One patient is being treated for brachial plexus injury, while two have rib fractures." Among the five patients initially reported to be in a serious condition, he said four were now stable, while was in a slightly critical state.

Field fire smokes residents out of Taleigao apartments



(Left) A firefighter carrying a child out and (top) an elderly woman waits to be rescued from a residential building engulfed by smoke. (Above) Firefighters trying to douse the fire at Taleigao, on Monday

Team Herald

PANJIM: A fire that broke out in a dry grass field at Camrabhat in Taleigao on Monday raged for over six hours before it was doused by fire tenders, causing panic in the surrounding residential areas and forcing some residents to evacuate from their apartments. The blaze began around 11:30 am and sent thick plumes of smoke into nearby homes and flats. Residents reported that the fire, initially limited to a small patch of dry grass, rapidly spread across the field, overwhelming fire services despite their swift response. Fire tenders from Panjim HQ, Pilerne and Porvorim Fire Stations were deployed to the scene. However, the lack of accessible roads to the field made it difficult for emergency personnel to fully control the flames.

"The smoke was unbearable," said Affia Fernandes, a resident of a nearby flat. "Our entire apartment was filled with smoke and we had to leave for safety. The situation was worsened by the fact that fire tenders could not easily access the field due to the lack of a proper road." Fortunately, no major injuries were reported, but the fire resulted in significant losses to local wildlife, with over 50 reptiles — including snakes, frogs and tortoises — perishing in the flames. Additionally, crops in the area were damaged. Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Director Nitin Raikar confirmed that four fire tenders were dispatched, and rescue operations were carried out for residents facing respiratory distress.

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CJI bows out of Waqf case

Skips decision on interim stay of 2025 law; bench-led by next CJI B R Gavai to hear pleas

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday said the pleas challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act's constitutional validity will now be taken up by a bench headed by Chief Justice of India-designate Justice B R Gavai on May 15 as the incumbent CJI will be demitting office on May 13.



As soon as a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan assembled for the hearing, the CJI said, "There are certain aspects which you (Centre) dealt with, but that require clarification. I do not want to reserve any judgment or order at this interim stage. This matter will have to be heard on a reasonably early date and this will not be before me."

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Viswanathan assembled for the hearing, the CJI said, "There are certain aspects which you (Centre) dealt with, but that require clarification. I do not want to reserve any judgment or order at this interim stage. This matter will have to be heard on a reasonably early date and this will not be before me."

"We have not very deeply gone into the counter affidavit (of the Centre). Yes, you have raised certain points in regards to registration (of Waqf properties) and have given some disputed figures, that will require some consideration," the CJI said.

MHA asks states to conduct mock drills

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Union Home Ministry has asked several states to conduct mock drills on May 7 amid rising tensions with Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, government sources said on Monday.

The measures to be taken during the drill include operationalisation of air raid warning sirens and training of civilians on civil defence aspects to protect themselves in the event of a "hostile attack", they said.

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Adani in talks with Trump admin to end US bribery cases

AGENCY, NEW DELHI: Representatives of businessman Gautam Adani have held meetings with officials from the Donald Trump-led US administration to discuss the possibility of dropping criminal charges filed against him in connection with an overseas bribery investigation, according to a report.

The meetings reportedly began earlier this year and have intensified in recent weeks. If the current pace continues, the matter could move towards resolution within a month.

According to the report, Adani's representatives have argued that the case does not align with President Donald Trump's current policy priorities and have requested that it be reconsidered. Adani, owner of the multinational conglomerate Adani Group, was indicted alongside his nephew, Sagar Adani.

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SC notices to Raina, four others over disability jokes

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday directed five social media influencers, including "India's Got Latent" host Samay Raina, to appear before it or face coercive action after a plea alleged that they ridiculed persons having a rare disorder Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and those suffering from disability on their show. The court termed the influencers' conduct as 'damaging' and 'demoralising' and said some serious remedial and punitive action was needed so that these things don't happen again. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh observed that the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression is not absolute.



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After a brief pause, noise demons are back in Baga

Xavier Retreat House residents in distress as decibel levels rise; in a strange coincidence, noise was muted on day of cop and PCB inspection

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

APRIL 25, 2025

Noise from Baga shacks rattles residents of retreat

BAGA, CALANGUTE/VAGATOR: The cat-and-mouse game between decibel violators and policemen — so far a regular feature in the Anjuna-Vagator belt — is now becoming common in Baga as well. A few days after O Heraldo highlighted the disturbance caused by noise from the Baga shacks for residents of Xavier Retreat House, a member of the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) and Goa police conducted a surprise inspection at the Xavier Retreat House. According to Father Shanon Pereira, the director of the retreat centre, the inspection revealed an unusual quiet. "There

DECIBEL READINGS AT VARIOUS BEACHBELT OUTLETS ON MAY 3

Outlet Name	Time	DECIBEL LEVEL		
		Min	Avg	Max
Thalassa (Vadi)	01:30	87	94	114
House of Chapora	01:00	94	99	110
Café Co2	00:20	92	98	120
Titlee	23:20	72	76	90
Noah	23:30	74	80	96
Purple Martini	22:50	80	87	99

was silence. No shack could be heard playing music," he said. Father Pereira, however, expressed his surprise at the timing of the visit. "The day the O Heraldo report appeared, no loud music could be heard. But what surprised me

was that a policeman and a GSPCB official arrived to check noise levels — and exactly on that day, no music could be heard," he shared. However, on Saturday May 3 — a weekend party day — it was back to normal. Around 9.15 pm,

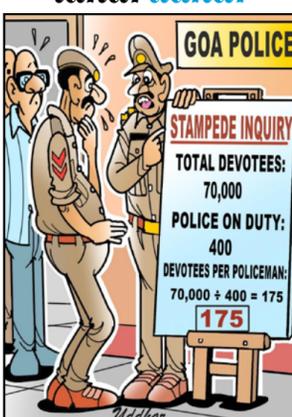
decibel readings outside the Retreat House indicated a high of 92 dB, with average readings fluctuating between 84 dB and a minimum of 76 dB. "It's ironic that when they come for an inspection, no music was played. It gives me the feeling that they are being pre-warned, or how else can you explain the noise tonight?" Father Pereira remarked.

Father Pereira further explained that after the shacks close for the night, loud music from nearby clubs continues until the early hours, disturbing the peaceful environment of the retreat.

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MAX. TEMP 35 °C
MIN. TEMP 25.8 °C

idharudhar



You failed to handle your 175 devotees!

50th Birthday Greetings

Reginald Camilo D'Costa (Cookie)
Chairman of Ronaldo's Group
Goa/Dubai

Best Wishes From
VISHANT NAIK & FLY