

BHOMA ON THE BOIL

Villagers threaten massive stir against highway expansion

Demand that the panchayat cease all correspondence with the government and boycott its programmes if bypass demand is not met

Team Herald

PONDA: Intensifying their opposition to the forceful highway expansion, residents of Bhoma on Sunday threatened to launch a large-scale agitation. They resolved that until the government addresses their concerns regarding the proposed bypass, the panchayat will suspend all communication with the government and boycott all panchayat-level programmes.

The villagers further warned that if the government and highway authorities continue to ignore the panchayat's letters and resolutions concerning the bypass, the panchayat should consider closing its office as a form of protest.

Residents rejected the recent land acquisition survey conducted under the Chief Minister's directives, stating it was unacceptable. They also demanded that the panchayat im-

GRAM SABHA HIGHLIGHTS

- Bhoma locals make it clear that the land acquisition survey conducted last month is not acceptable to them
- Demand the panchayat immediately halt the piling work at Muslimwada
- Want govt to present alignment plan before any construction commences
- Fear widening of the existing road from Bhoma to Old Goa would lead to the destruction of temples, cultural heritage and homes



Gram Sabha in session

- Want bypass constructed through the fallow agricultural land in the village
- Request the panchayat to forward the resolution to the NH authorities
- Seek to know the cost

implications before finalising the plan

- Allege that development works, including critical pre-monsoon preparations, have been halted due to the ongoing highway expansion
- Highlight issues such as choked gutters and roads dug up for development, pose threat to the safety of commuters

mediately halt the piling work that has begun in Muslimwada, Bhoma, for the flyover pillars.

Claiming they were never shown the alignment plan, the villagers pointed out that over 10 resolutions demanding a bypass have already been passed in previous gram sabhas. They fear the current project would destroy temples, homes, and the vil-

lage's cultural heritage.

During a gram sabha held at the Banastarim Market Complex Hall, attendees unanimously passed a resolution opposing the widening of the existing Bhoma-Old Goa road. Instead, they called for a bypass to be constructed through the fallow agricultural land in Bhoma and urged that the resolution be promptly submitted to the National

Highway Authority.

Bhoma leader Sanjay Naik demanded to see the alignment plan for the National Highway expansion. He questioned the legality of routing the road through the middle of the village and called for clarity on cost implications before finalising the plan.

Naik insisted that the government must present the alignment plan to

the public prior to starting construction. He also requested detailed estimates for constructing a four-lane road through agricultural fields, hilly terrain, and the existing road corridor.

He challenged the rationale behind limiting expansion to the current road, especially since a similar proposal was scrapped earlier due to local resistance when Manohar Parrikar was the Opposition Leader. Naik sought clarification on how that scrapped project had been revived and approved.

Local resident Anantdas Naik recalled that Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had instructed PWD officials to show villagers the land demarcation in Bhoma during a meeting, which took place on April 22. Disagreeing with the demarcation, villagers submitted a letter on May 13 requesting a meeting with the Chief Minister to discuss the matter and seek a resolution.

Shirgao stampede: Lairai temple committee washes its hands, blames administration

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Mahajans of Shree Lairai Temple in Shirgao, in a special meeting held on Sunday, denied any responsibility for the recent stampede that claimed six lives and left many injured. Instead, they shifted the blame to the administration, rejecting the findings of the government-appointed fact-finding committee.

The meeting was convened specifically to discuss the committee's report, which had held the temple committee accountable for serious lapses in planning and crowd control. However, the temple representatives expressed dissatisfaction with the conclusions drawn, asserting that they were being unfairly targeted.

Speaking to reporters, Devidas Gaonkar, President of the Shree Lairai Temple Committee, said, "We have not received the official report of the fact-finding committee. We have only come to know of its findings through media reports, which we believe are baseless. As for the comments made by previous committee members—what authority do they have to speak on this matter?"

Gaonkar insisted that the committee had made every effort to ensure the zatra was conducted peacefully



File photo of the crowd at the Lairai zatra on the fateful day

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— Devidas Gaonkar,

President of the Shree Lairai Temple Committee

and without incident.

He also dismissed the administration's claim that 250 police personnel were present at the time of the incident. "According to locals, there were barely five police officers on the ground when the stampede occurred. Additional police arrived only after the incident had already taken place," he said.

Gaonkar added that senior police and district administration officials, including the Deputy Collector, Superintendent of Police (SP), and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP), held a meeting

with the temple committee on April 30, 2025, to issue instructions for the event. "However, it must be noted that implementing all instructions in just one day is not a realistic expectation," he said.

Despite distancing itself from responsibility, the committee announced financial assistance for the victims: ₹1 lakh to the families of the deceased, ₹25,000 to those grievously injured, and ₹10,000 to those with minor injuries. Committee members also plan to personally visit the families of the deceased and injured.

Met dept declares onset of southwest monsoon in Goa

Forecasts heavy rainfall from May 26 to 29

Team Herald

PANJIM: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has officially declared the onset of the southwest monsoon in the State on Sunday, May 25, notably earlier than the usual date of June 5.

In its update, the IMD confirmed that the southwest monsoon has now covered entire Goa and has further advanced into some more parts of west central & east central Arabian Sea.

In view of the development, the IMD issued orange alert till May 29, predicting heavy to very heavy rainfall at many places from May 26 to 29.

"Heavy to very heavy rainfall very is likely at isolated places over North and

South Goa districts with winds with speed 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph," the IMD said.

For May 30 and 31, the IMD issued yellow alert forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over both the districts.

Meanwhile, the heavy downpour continued to lash various parts of the State on Sunday, the sixth consecutive day, throwing normal life out of gear.

In Pernem taluka a tree fell on Shanu Teli's house in Tambose, Pernem. Fire and Emergency Services (FES) officials rushed to the spot, where fire-fighters successfully cut and cleared the tree, preventing further damage.

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LEADING EARLY: INDIA'S YOUNGEST TEST CAPTAINS

At just 25 years, Shubman Gill has joined an elite club as India's fifth-youngest Test captain. As he steps into this prestigious role, here's a look at the youngest men who've led India in Test cricket — and how they performed at the helm

Player	Captaincy Debut Age	Opponent	Tests as Captain	Wins	Losses	Draws
KAPIL DEV	24 years, 48 days	West Indies	34	4	7	22
RAVI SHASTRI	25 years, 229 days	West Indies	1	0	0	1
MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI	21 years, 77 days	West Indies	40	9	19	12
VIRAT KOHLI	26 years, 34 days	Australia	68	40	17	11
SACHIN TENDULKAR	23 years, 169 days	Australia	25	4	9	12
SHUBMAN GILL	25 years and 285 days	England	-	-	-	-

Minister Gaude admits corruption in own govt

Alleges Tribal Dept officials accept bribes to clear contractors' files; Oppn seeks clarification from CM

Team Herald

PANJIM: Minister for Art and Culture Govind Gaude is once again in the spotlight for criticising his own government — this time alleging corruption within the Tribal Welfare Department.

Gaude on Sunday claimed that the administration has weakened, alleging that some officials at Shram Shakti Bhavan, Panto-Panjim, demand bribes from contractors to process their files.

Speaking at the Prerna Din function in Ponda, held to commemorate martyrs Late Mangesh Gaonkar and Late Deelip Velip of the UTAA agitation, Gaude stated, "In my opinion, administration has weakened. 'Something' is taken from contractors, and then they are asked to submit their files."

The minister further suggested that state-level Prerna Din celebrations should be postponed until long-pending issues con-

Criticising the government's failure to complete the construction of the Tribal Bhavan, Gaude insisted that if the project cannot be completed, the Tribal Welfare Department should be shut down altogether and demanded that the Tribal Bhavan be completed before 2026

cerning the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community are addressed.

He also criticised the government's failure to complete the construction of the Tribal Bhavan. Gaude insisted that if the project cannot be completed, the Tribal Welfare Department should be shut down altogether.

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MAX. TEMP 28.0 °C
MIN. TEMP 25.0 °C

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Playing cards for recreation without gambling is not moral turpitude, Supreme Court

PTI, NEW DELHI: Playing cards for entertainment and recreation without an element of betting and gambling does not involve moral turpitude, the Supreme Court has said as it restored the election of a man in a cooperative society in Karnataka. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh noted that one Hanumantharayappa YC, who was elected to the board of directors of Government Porcelain Factory Employees Housing Co-operative Society Ltd, was allegedly fined Rs 200 without any trial when some persons, including him were caught playing cards sitting on a roadside.

"In the very nature of things, we find it difficult that the

misconduct attributed to the appellant involves moral turpitude. It is well known that the expression moral turpitude is used in legal as well as societal parlance to describe a conduct, which is inherently base, vile, deprave or having some connection showing depravity. Every action against which one can raise an eyebrow may not necessarily involve moral turpitude," the bench said.

Noting that Hanumantharayappa was not a habitual gambler, the bench said, "There are so many forms of playing cards. It is difficult to accept that every form of such playing would involve moral turpitude, especially when it is played as a mode of entertainment and recre-

"There are so many forms of playing cards. It is difficult to accept that every form of such playing would involve moral turpitude, especially when it is played as a mode of entertainment and recreation. In fact, in most parts of our country, playing simpliciter cards, without an element of gambling or betting is accepted as a poor man's source of entertainment — Supreme Court

ation. In fact, in most parts of our country, playing simpliciter cards, without an element of gambling or betting is accepted as a poor man's

source of entertainment." The top court said that Hanumantharayappa was elected to the Board of Directors of the

cooperative society with the highest votes and the consequential punishment of setting aside his election is highly disproportionate to the nature of misconduct said to have been committed by him.

"For the reasons aforesaid, we are satisfied that the impugned action taken against the appellant cannot be sustained. The appeal is consequently allowed," the bench said in its May 14 order.

It set aside the Karnataka High Court's judgement upholding the decision to remove Hanumantharayappa from the post of the directors in the cooperative society.

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Lalu expels son Tej Pratap from RJD, family

PTI, PATNA: RJD president Lalu Prasad on Sunday expelled his elder son Tej Pratap Yadav from the party, besides declaring "he shall have nothing to do with the family".

Yadav had on Saturday evening announced on social media that he was "in a relationship for 12 years" with a woman, despite being married and his divorce petition still pending before a family court here. He, however, deleted the post a few hours later, claiming on X that his Facebook page was "hacked".

The RJD president announced his drastic move on social media.

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