

Panaji, 27th February, 2026 (Phalguna 8, 1947)

SERIES III No. 48

# OFFICIAL GAZETTE



# GOVERNMENT OF GOA

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

## EXTRAORDINARY

### GOVERNMENT OF GOA

#### Department of Revenue

Office of the Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bicholim, Sub-Division, Bicholim

#### Order

No. DCB/BICH/Devi/Lairai-Sirgao/Jatra/2026/771

Date : 27-Feb-2026

(Under Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023)

Whereas the Annual Jatra of Shree Devi Lairai at Shirgao, Bicholim is scheduled to commence on 21st April, 2026 and a very large congregation of devotees is expected in and around the temple premises, approach roads and adjoining public areas;

And whereas the roads, pathways, open spaces, congregation points and access routes used during the Jatra constitute public places whose unregulated use may result in obstruction, congestion, safety hazards and danger to human life;

And whereas the Minutes of the Meeting dated 31-01-2026 issued by the Collector & District Magistrate, North Goa prescribe coordinated enforcement for crowd safety, removal of unauthorized structures and strict adherence to safety norms;

And whereas the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa in Writ Petition No. 129 of 2026 has underscored the necessity of effective crowd management and preventive measures in view of past incidents;

And whereas I am satisfied that immediate preventive regulation of public places is necessary to ensure safe movement of devotees, maintain unobstructed emergency access and prevent risk to public safety during the said Jatra;

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, I, Shubham Naik, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bicholim Sub-Division, hereby issue the following directions:

1. A Joint Task Force is hereby constituted to regulate public places, enforce safety norms and remove unauthorized structures in connection with the Jatra commencing on 21-04-2026.
2. The Joint Task Force shall comprise:

- Mamlatdar of Bicholim Taluka
- Police Inspector, Bicholim Police Station
- Station Fire Officer, Fire & Emergency Services, Bicholim
- Executive Engineer, Electricity Department, Bicholim
- Executive Engineer, PWD (Roads), Bicholim
- Executive Engineer, PWD (Buildings), Bicholim
- Secretary, Village Panchayat Shirgao

3. In regulation of public places during the Jatra, it is hereby directed that:

(a) No person shall erect any stall, shed, temporary structure, installation or obstruction on any road, pathway, access route or other public place without prior written permission of the competent authority;

(b) No material, vehicle, equipment or installation shall be placed so as to obstruct or reduce the width of any road, pedestrian passage or emergency route;

(c) All unauthorized structures, stalls or encroachments located on roads or other public places shall be removed forthwith by the persons concerned, failing which the Joint Task Force shall remove the same in the interest of public safety;

(d) Parking of vehicles shall be strictly regulated as per directions of the Police and Traffic Authorities and no parking shall be permitted on emergency access routes;

(e) Electrical, fire-related and structural installations in public places shall comply with safety norms and may be dismantled by the Task Force if found unsafe.

4. The Mamlatdar, Bicholim Taluka shall function as the In-Charge Officer of the Joint Task Force and shall coordinate inspections, enforcement action and reporting.

5. The Public Works Department shall provide necessary logistical support to the Joint Task Force including deployment of trucks, earth-moving machinery, labour and such other equipment or manpower as may be required for removal of encroachments, clearing of access routes and execution of safety measures.

6. All Departments and Authorities shall extend full cooperation to the Task Force and shall act upon its directions issued in furtherance of this order.

7. Any violation of this order shall invite action in accordance with law.

8. This order shall come into force with immediate effect and remain operative till completion of the Jatra or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

*Shubham Naik*, Deputy Collector & SDM, Bicholim Sub-Division.

Bicholim.