

Lairai Devi Temple

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Lairai Devi Temple Latest News

In a tragic turn of events, at least six people died, and over 70 others were injured after a stampede at wee hours of Saturday in Shirgaon village in North Goa's Bicholim, during the annual Lairai Jatra procession at Shree Lairai Devi temple.

About Lairai Devi Temple

- The Lairai Devi Temple is a revered spiritual site located in Shirgao village, Bicholim taluka, North Goa.
- Dedicated to Goddess Lairai, who is believed to be an incarnation of Goddess Parvati, the temple holds immense cultural and religious significance for the local community.
- The temple's architecture reflects traditional Goan design, with intricate carvings and vibrant interiors that add to its sacred charm.
- The temple is a symbol of religious harmony, with local Hindus and Catholics regarding Lairai Devi and the Virgin Mary of Mapusa as sisters.

- It is best known for hosting the annual Lairai Devi Jatra (Shirgao Jatra), where the dramatic fire-walking ritual (Agnidivya) is performed by devotees called “dhonds.”
- The festival begins with processions, devotional dances, and drumming. At midnight, a massive bonfire is lit, and in the early hours, the fire-walking ritual commences. Devotees chant the goddess’s name as they cross the embers, believing the righteous will remain unharmed.
- The event draws tens of thousands of devotees from Goa, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, fostering strong community bonds and reinforcing local traditions.

Source: MINT

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