

# Oh fish!: Minister Halarnkar stayed in hotels costing Rs 60K a night, Director Monteiro in 25k per-night rooms during Norway junket

Airfares cost upward of Rs 4 lakh for minister and almost Rs 3 lakh for Director, a clear indication that Business class or higher was availed of

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

PANJIM: Seven-star hotel stays in Norway and in Paris, with room nights costing about Rs 50,000 a night, airfares billed at above Rs 4 lakh for the minister and close to three lakh for the direc-

## FISHY TRIP TO NORWAY-PART 2

tor, but shown as "economy travel" age revealed some things clearly.

That poor traditional fishermen of Goa may not get diesel subsidies or money to repair their boats and nets, but there is lakhs and lakhs of money to fund top class luxury air travel and five star stays in the high-end rooms and suites for Ministers and Director's to attend seminars and conferences, of which the State has got no tangible benefit or even information.

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Lakhs & lakhs were spent on a Norway junket of Goa Fisheries Minister, Director at the behest of Goa fishing baron

The government was invited because of the... (text continues)



Lakhs and lakhs were spent on a Norway junket of Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar, Director Shamila Monteiro & OSD to Minister at the behest of fishing baron Miguel Rodrigues, who got the Indian Embassy to invite his son & other businessmen officially

## FISHERIES MINISTER NILKANTH HALARNKAR'S EXPENSES PAID BY GOVT FOR HIS TRIP TO NORWAY -FEB 27 TO MARCH 5, 2024

Airfare (round trip Ex Mumbai via Amsterdam and return via Oslo and Paris with two other connecting sectors) plus Goa Mumbai return - Rs 4.04 lakh

Other expenses including Accommodation, Insurance, etc - Rs 3.41 lakh

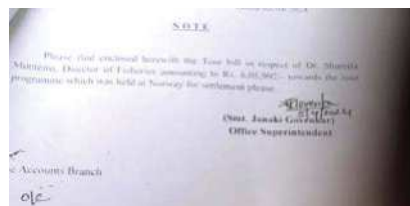
Total Rs 7.45 lakh

+This includes Minister's per diem (allowance) of Rs 49,722

\*(Accommodation details in another box)



Summary of claims of the Minister showing costs incurred on airfare and accommodation under two separate heads totalling to Rs 7,45,761 (O Herald has supporting documents for each expense head including hotel stays, etc)



Note sent by the Office Superintendent to Accounts Dept for settlement of Fisheries Director Shamila Monteiro's bills amounting to Rs 6,05,992 (O Herald has all supporting documents of her airfare, hotels, etc)

## FISHERIES DIRECTOR SHAMILA MONTEIRO'S EXPENSES PAID BY GOVT FOR HER TRIP TO NORWAY-FEB 25 TO MARCH 5, 2024

Airfare (round trip Ex Mumbai via Paris and return via Paris with two other connecting sectors) Rs 2,90,000

Accommodation- Rs 1,90,000

Other expenses (not all detailed) adding up total trip cost of Rs 6.05 lakh

## FISHERIES MINISTER'S HOTEL STAY DETAILS IN NORWAY

Radisson Blu, Kristiansand: Rs 61,300 (for one night)

Clarion Hotel Arendal: Rs 61,100 (for one night)

Grand Hotel Oslo by Scandic: Rs 88,500 (for 2 nights)

Hilton Paris: Rs 59,700 (for one night)

Total: Rs 2.70 lakh for 5 nights

## FISHERIES DIRECTOR'S HOTEL STAY DETAILS IN NORWAY

(Hotel wise expenses for all five star hotel stays not provided)

Radisson Blu Royal Hotel Bergen: 2 nights

Hotel Brosundet: 1 night

Radisson Blu, Kristiansand: 1 night

Clarion Hotel Arendal: 1 night

Grand Hotel Oslo by Scandic: 2 nights

Hilton Paris: 1 night

Total cost: Rs 1.90 lakh

## RE-CAP OF PART 1

The Indian Embassy in Oslo Norway wrote to the Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar on Feb 9, 2024, inviting him to the 'India Norway Business Seminar' in the city of Kristiansand in Southern Norway on Feb 29

The note stated, "It would be a good opportunity if you (Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar) could lead a delegation of officials/ entrepreneurs who can benefit from this interaction". The letter from the Indian Ambassador, sitting in Oslo, actually named who the members of the Goa delegation would be.

Stakeholders slam Fisheries Minister, director for prioritising Norway junket over fishermen's needs

Demand Fisheries director's resignation for not acting against illegal fishing activities; question whether the trip was connected to Cortalim Jetty's privatisation plans

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Norway trip by Goa's Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar, Director Shamila Monteiro, the OSD to the Minister Prathamesh Tulaskar and a team of private fisheries has raised eyebrows over the government's priorities and lack of support for local fishing community in the State.

The National Fishworkers Forum has criticised the government for spending money on the trip by ignoring the need for subsidies and infrastructure improvements for traditional fishermen, while Goenchea Ramponkarancha Ekvott has demanded the resignation of the Fisheries Director for inaction against illegal fishing practices and allowing LED fishing despite a case in High Court and a ban by the state government.

The Cutbona Boat Owners' Union has sought clarification on whether the government paid for the trip, including families of boat owners.

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“The government does not have money for subsidies for both the boat owners and traditional fishermen. We have been asking for an increase in subsidy for years now and these appeals are with the government. So how can they have the money for this trip? What about improving the overall infrastructure for the fishing sector? The government has money for Norway but not for this? Or is all this only for private benefit?”

-Olencio Simoes, General Secretary of National Fishworkers Forum

“The department wants to allow these trawler owners to use generators, which are in the end used for LED fishing. There is no fear of the law and we can see why. Even while the matter is in the High Court, LED fishing is underway. The Fisheries Director must resign”

-Agnelo Rodrigues, President of Goenchea Ramponkarancha Ekvott

# Goan fishermen facing crisis due to 'fish famine' in Arabian Sea

National Council member of National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers says LED fishing and bull trawling depleting fish stocks at an alarming rate

Team Herald

MARGAO: Goan fishermen are facing a crisis that threatens their livelihood and the future of traditional fishing in the State, according to recent observations shared by Sebastian Rodrigues, a National Council Member of the National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSF) and affiliated with the All Goa Small Scale Responsible Fisheries Union (AGSSRF).

Following a visit to neighbouring Karnataka's coastal districts of Mangaluru and Udupi, Rodrigues has raised alarm bells about issues that he believes are equally pressing for Goa's fishing community. Chief among these concerns is what Rodrigues describes as a 'fish famine' in the Arabian Sea, which has left fishermen with empty nets since April 2024.

He attributes this crisis to large-scale fishing operations, including il-

## A CALL TO PROTECT TRADITIONAL FISHING COMMUNITIES

“Fish famine' in Arabian Sea has left fishermen with empty nets since April 2024

Reduction in fuel supply coupled with a significant increase in kerosene prices, from Rs 35 to Rs 57 per litre, has dealt a 'dual blow'

Need for urgent action to protect traditional fishing communities as future of small-scale fishing in Goa hangs in the balance

legal practices like LED fishing, trawling, and bull trawling, which are depleting fish stocks at an alarming rate. “The situation in Karnataka is a mirror to what we're experiencing in Goa,” Rodrigues stated, adding, “This is not just a Karnataka problem; it's a crisis for all of us along the Arabian Sea coast.”

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YouTube  
Watch Ground Zero - Caught in the net, the survival battle of Goa's Fishermen' on Herald TV's YouTube channel. Scan QR code

## BENEVOLENCE & GRATITUDE



A devotee performs aarti of Lord Ganesh at his residence in Pernem, on Saturday. Devotees welcomed Lord Ganesh into their homes, marking the beginning of Chaturthi

## Goa gets nod to use 27.092 ha in Mollem Sanctuary for Tamnar, but with conditions

National Board of Wildlife recommends the diversion of forest land; however, the project cannot commence until the proposal on the Karnataka side is recommended by the board's Standing Committee

Team Herald

MARGAO: The National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) has approved the Goa government's proposal to use 27.092 hectares of forest land from Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary, Mollem, for the Tamnar Power Transmission project. The NBWL Standing

Committee, chaired by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhopender Yadav, recommended the diversion of forest land subject to certain conditions. The proposal received clearance from the State Wildlife Board in November last year.

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## NBWL MANDATES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY

The NBWL mandates that the project proponent study the impact of the transmission lines on biodiversity & wildlife, and implement precautionary measures for environmental protection

The proposal involves LIO of one circuit of Narendra (existing) - Narendra (New) 400 kv D/C quad transmission line

According to govt, the project aims to lay a 400 kv

line from Sangod to Karnataka border to help meet Goa's 1,192 mw demand

There could be further developments, after PM wrote to K'taka CM, emphasising the importance of the project being part of the national grid development

According to media reports, this intervention appears to have influenced K'taka's stance on the project

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