

Illegal stone mining in Tillari may cause water crisis in Goa

Hunger strike in Maharashtra border village against quarrying and blasting operations; agitators seek Goa govt's intervention to shut the mines

Team Herald

DODAMARG: Locals villagers are on a hunger strike against illegal stone quarrying in the Tillari Dam area even as environmentalists cautioned the State government that North district could face an acute water crisis if the stone mining and blasting operations near the banks of the dam are not stopped immediately.

Senior environmentalist Rajendra Kerkar said, "If illegal stone quarries in the Tillari Dam region are not shut down immediately, North Goa could face an acute water crisis in the near future."

The dam, in which the Goa government holds an 80% stake, is reportedly at risk due to these operations.

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Gravel being loaded into a truck by an earthmover near the Tillari Dam site

“Villagers in Khanyale are on a hunger strike to protect local water sources. Large-scale illegal stone quarries in Shirange threaten Tillari Dam's supply, risking future water shortages in Assonora, Amthane, Bardez, Tiswadi, and Pernem. Yet, Maharashtra continues to allow these operations, endangering the dam

– Rajendra Kerkar, senior environmentalist

PROLIFERATED ILLEGAL MINING

■ Dr Madhav Gadgil Committee had previously classified Dodamarg taluka as an ESA in its Western Ghats Environmental Study Report.

■ The subsequent Kasturirangan panel removed Dodamarg from the ESA list, opening the doors for large-scale mining operations

■ This proliferated illegal mining in Shirange & Khanyale

■ Numerous stone crushers are allegedly operating without

permits, with significant financial backing from Goan investors

■ A major portion of the extracted gravel is reportedly supplied to hot mix plants in Goa

■ The villagers allege that local revenue officials in Dodamarg taluka are concealing crucial information from senior authorities

■ They fear that if mining continues, the dam water could flood Khanyale, leading to a catastrophic disaster akin to the Malin landslide tragedy

O Herald awarded at House of Commons for excellence in journalism

Team Herald

PANJIM: Recognising O Herald's tradition of journalistic excellence and credibility built up over the years, Raul Fernandes, the Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper, was conferred with The Lifetime Journalism Award (a Special Award in the Media category) at the prestigious Peoples' Awards 2025 held at the House of Commons in London on March 6.

The award recognises Fernandes' contributions to journalism and his leadership in steering O Herald, Goa's oldest newspaper, as it celebrates 125 years of publication.

The award ceremony brought together distinguished members of the diaspora, parliamentarians, and key public figures. The citation praised O Herald for its in-depth coverage, credibility, and journalistic excellence, highlighting its role in providing insightful analysis on business, culture, politics, and social issues.

The newspaper's commitment to independent journalism and its deep-rooted



Raul Fernandes, Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief of O Herald; (above) on his behalf, Valankie Fernandes receives The Lifetime Journalism Award at the Peoples' Awards 2025 held at the House of Commons in London on March 6

passion for reporting on people's concerns were also commended. At the ceremony, Fernandes was applauded for upholding O Herald's mission to remain Goa's trusted source of news, reflecting the voice of the people and upholding the values of responsible journalism.

Since its inception, the Peoples' Awards have honoured global leaders across

various fields. Previous awardees include former UK Prime Ministers David Cameron and Theresa May, London Mayor Sadiq Khan, civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson, and Asian Voice publisher CB Patel.

As Fernandes was unable to attend the event in person, a family friend in the UK accepted the award on his behalf, expressing gratitude for the recognition.

Man killed, Israeli tourist among two gang-raped near Hampi

PTI, KOPPAL: Two women, including a 27-year-old Israeli tourist, were allegedly gang-raped and assaulted while stargazing near Hampi, police said on Saturday. Three male tourists who were with the women were also assaulted and pushed into a canal and one of them was found dead, they added.

"Of the three accused, we have arrested two and a search is on to nab the third suspect in the case," Ram L Arasiddi, SP of Koppal, told PTI.

According to him, the arrested accused have been identified as Mallesh and Chetan Sai. Both aged 21 years hail from Sai Nagara in Gangavathi town and work as masons.

The incident occurred around



police said. In her police complaint, the homestay operator alleged that three men on a motorcycle approached them, asking where they could get petrol. When she informed them that there were no petrol pumps nearby and suggested they get it from Sanapur, the accused demanded Rs 100.

"Since the homestay operator did not know them, she told them they had no money. When the men repeatedly insisted, one of the male tourists from Odisha gave them Rs 20. After that, the three men allegedly started arguing and threatened to bash their heads with stones," the complainant stated in the FIR.

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1 killed in Manipur violence

PTI, IMPHAL: A protester was killed and over 40 others were injured in clashes between Kuki demonstrators and security forces in Kangpokpi, officials said.

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Deserted by family, 75-yr-old from Sanguem seeks refuge at bus stop

O Herald comes to the senior citizen's rescue by helping her shift to Sanguem PHC

GAURESH SATTARKAR

SANGUEM: Alone in a world that seemingly turned its back on her, a septuagenarian from Sanguem, who was rejected by her own family, was forced to wander the streets for days, possibly even months, searching for relief, compassion and hope.



Milu takes shelter in a bus stop at Sanguem



The septuagenarian being taken in an ambulance

“Part of Milu's foot has already been amputated, but she now has wounds that require daily dressing. Additionally, she needs to be monitored for diabetes. Her mental condition appears unstable and requires constant care in this situation

– Dr Trupti Saglani from Sanguem PHC

YouTube



Watch this report on Herald Media on YouTube by scanning the QR code

excruciating pain due to severe leg wounds. However, a "Good Samaritan" - Gauresh Sattarkar from O Herald - noticed her plight. Moved by her suffering, he secured help by contacting the Sanguem Primary Health Centre (PHC), but no ambulance services were available at the facility.

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Rs 12 crore drug haul in Guirim

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Police Crime Branch on Saturday blew the lid off a major drug trafficking operation, netting a massive haul of nearly 12 kg hydroponic marijuana valued at Rs 11.67 crore in the international market. A 32-year-old from Bangalore has been arrested in the case.

Hydroponic ganja, known for its purity, is priced at Rs 50 lakh per kg or Rs 5,000 per ounce, and is popular for its chemical-free properties at high end party venues in Goa. Gautam, the accused, who was nabbed from an apartment in Guirim, is said to have been introduced to hydroponic weed during his time working as a bartender in various Goa restaurants, where he witnessed the growing demand for the narcotic.

According to police reports, the investigation began when Gautam successfully smuggled the contraband from Thailand to Bengaluru via Nepal. He then travelled by bus from Bengaluru to Goa around two weeks ago and rented two apartments, one in Guirim and another in Pernem.

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