

## Pvt jetty at Malim is bid to push marina plan: Activists

Claim yachts will further affect marine life in congested Mandovi river

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Reviving concerns from 2009, when a similar marina project at Nauxi, Bambolim, was scrapped due to vehement opposition, activists and environmentalists have voiced strong opposition to the central government's No Objection Certificate (NOC) for a private jetty at Malim, alleging it's a veiled attempt to push forward a marina project.

Penha De Franca Village Panchayat biodiversity management committee (BMC) chairman Ganpat Sidhaye said, "I read it in newspapers and there are no details. The government is pushing through projects without consulting locals. This issue has to be discussed in the gram sabha as biodiversity issues are involved. The proposed



Jetty at Malim

### FLASHBACK: NAUXI MARINA FACED OPPOSITION

■ In 2009, the first marina project proposed by the Mumbai-based Kargwal Constructions Limited at Nauxi faced rough waters after locals and environmentalists opposed it

■ In Oct 2010, the lease agreement was signed

■ In July 2022, the Mormugao Port Authority stated that it had terminated the lease agreement with the project proponent

### MARINE LIFE UNDER THREAT

■ Environmentalists accuse govt of pushing through projects without consulting locals

■ Claim the proposed project will affect livelihood of fishermen and further affect the depleting shellfish like clams

■ Allege govt is trying to hand over the jetty to casino operators

■ Claim EIA is not yet conducted

■ Accuse Tourism Dept of stepping in to dole out State infra & resources to private players

project will cause problems for fishermen and locals and put pressure on infrastructure mainly on roads. Already the Mandovi

river is occupied by casino boats and is congested. I don't know what would be the condition of the river when yachts will join the

fray. It will also directly affect the marine life."

Penha De Franca Village Panchayat BMC member and environmentalist

Pravinsingh Shedgaonkar said, "Malim jetty is built as fishing jetty and Britona village houses a traditional fishing community. In the name of marina project the government is trying to hand it over to casino operators. If the private player finds that operating jetty uneconomical then the BJP government will allow him to use it for casinos. Marina projects should be allowed along the beach side and not near the rivers. Besides environmental impact assessment (EIA) is yet to be conducted. I had suspected the government's intentions when it nationalised six Goan rivers."

Former Zilla Panchayat (ZP) Member Adv Suresh Palkar spearheaded the agitation against the marina project at Nauxi.

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## BLOCKED!

## Panjim arteries feel Patto bridge pain despite bypass

PICS: UPENDRA NAIK



Panjim experienced traffic congestion following the closure of the New Patto bridge on Friday, on account of the repair work on the damaged expansion joints

Team Herald,

**PANJIM:** Chaos reigned supreme in the Capital due to the closure of the new Patto Bridge, a key route into the city, leading to significant traffic congestion in the Pato area on Friday.

The bridge closure, due to repair work on damaged expansion joints, is scheduled to go on till April 14.

Congestion persisted throughout the day, especially during peak hours between 10 am and 12 pm and again from 5 pm to 7 pm. Serpentine queue of vehicles could be seen on all access roads, whether proceeding towards Panjim from Mercedes and Bhatlem or leaving the city.

Motorists, particularly office goers, expressed frus-

tration with the road closure timings.

Madhu Naik, an executive in a private firm in the city, said, "I fail to understand as to why the road closure has been announced this month. It is so hot and we were forced to travel in the scorching heat for around half-an-hour to cover a short distance."

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## Sattari hunting trip goes awry, Advoi man dies in accidental firing

Team Herald

**PORIE:** A hunting trip in the Sattari forest turned tragic when 34-year-old Hemant Desai from Advoi, Sattari, died in an alleged shooting incident. Sadly, this marks the second such fatality in the area in recent months.

According to DySP Jivba Dalvi, the incident took place when Hemant along with 34-year-old Abhijit Desai from Dodamarg, had gone on a hunting trip on Thursday evening. Abhijit accidentally fired the gun, hitting Hemant. Following the incident, the accused contacted a relative and shifted Hemant to the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Valpoi on a motorcycle. Hemant was pronounced dead at the CHC.

"We have received a complaint from the deceased's uncle and have registered a First Information Report (FIR) for culpable homicide not amounting to murder," Dalvi added, noting that the firearm used was illegal as no licence had been obtained for it.

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## Parking lot threatens turtle nests in Morjim

Despite gram sabha resolution, tourism body pushes ahead with construction work

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

**TEMBWADA, MORJIM:** A wave of anger has swept across Morjim after local residents accused the Goa Tourism Department of going ahead with construction work on a parking lot and garden near an Olive Ridley turtle nesting site, despite strong opposition from the community and the panchayat.

The controversy centres around a parking project underway at Tembavado, Morjim, under the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC). Residents were shocked when labourers reportedly arrived on site on February 9, 2025, with heavy machinery and began excavation work.

At a gram sabha meeting held on February 23, 2025, the Morjim Village Panchayat unanimously passed Resolution 3/1,

### MORJIM VILLAGE PANCHAYAT RESOLUTION ON FEB 23

"The upcoming parking project at Tembwada-Morjim under the Goa Tourism Development Corporation was discussed in today's gram sabha and the same was

opposed in totality with fear and anxiety in minds of the people w.r.t environmental damage. Upon deliberation it is unanimously resolved to inform Goa Tourism Development Corporation to take in confidence the local stakeholders and to review the same before executing the

said project. It is also resolved to inform GTDC to obtain necessary permission from GCZMA, Forest and other concerned authorities for executing such project in NDZ. Resolved unanimously."



explicitly opposing the project. The resolution cited concerns over environmental damage and the failure of GTDC to consult local stakeholders or secure requisite clearances.

"The upcoming parking project at Tembwada-Morjim... was opposed in totality with fear and anxiety in minds of the people with respect to environmental

damage," the resolution stated. It further called up on GTDC to obtain approvals from the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA), Forest Department, and other regulatory bodies before proceeding, as the site falls within a designated No Development Zone (NDZ).

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## Siemens CEO, family die in NYC chopper crash

**AP, NEW YORK:** A New York City sight-seeing helicopter broke apart in midair Thursday and crashed upside-down into the Hudson River, killing the pilot and a family of five Spanish tourists in the latest US aviation disaster, officials said.

The victims included Siemens CEO **Agustin Escobar**, his wife, Merce Camprubi Montal, a global manager at an energy technology company, and three children, in addition to the pilot, a person briefed on the investigation told The Associated Press. The person could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Photos posted on the helicopter company's website showed the couple and their children smiling as they boarded just before the flight took off.

The flight departed a downtown heliport around 3 pm and lasted less than 18 minutes.

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## NIA grills Rana after court grants 18-day custody

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday began an extensive interrogation of Mumbai terror attack mastermind Tahawwur Husain Rana to uncover the "deeper layers of the conspiracy" as the probe agency told a Delhi court it suspects he had plans to target other Indian cities as well with similar large-scale strikes.

Rana, the 64-year-old Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman, was brought to the National Investiga-

tion Agency (NIA) headquarters here early this morning shortly after a Delhi court granted the agency his 18-day custody.

Escorted by NIA officials, Rana reached Delhi on Thursday evening on a chartered aircraft after his extradition from the US ending a 16-year-long wait to prosecute one of the key accused in the deadly Mumbai attack in November 2008 in which 166 persons were killed and over 238 injured.

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## Call to revoke housie ban

**PANJIM:** Goa Football Association (GFA) President Caetano Fernandes submitted a representation to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday, urging reconsideration of the recent ban on housie imposed by the South Goa Collector under the Public Gambling Act 1976.

In the letter, the GFA highlighted the impact the ban will have on village football clubs, which rely heavily on housie games for revenue. Held during feasts, zattras, and festivals, housie has long been a traditional fundraising tool for clubs, helping sustain grassroots football programmes and community initiatives, the letter said.

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## UIDAI refuses to part with Atala's details

Anti-Narcotics Cell prepares to knock on High Court door to procure documents

Team Herald,

**PANJIM:** The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has rejected a written request from the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) for documents related to the Aadhaar card issued to alleged drug lord **Yaniv Benaim alias Atala**, who was arrested in a narcotics case on April 6.

The UIDAI cited Section 33 of the Aadhaar Act 2016, which restricts the provision of such documents, in its written response to the police. According to Section 33, any required documents must be obtained through the High Court.

Undeterred, the ANC is preparing to petition the High Court of Bombay at Goa for



directives to compel UIDAI to release the necessary documents.

On the condition of anonymity, ANC official stated, "We are determined to bring this case to a logical conclusion and prevent foreign nationals from disregarding the law by staying illegally."

In a related development, Anjuna Police have taken custody of Atala from the ANC to investigate his illegal stay in India without valid documents.

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