

PRIVATE JETTY PLAN IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

Penha de Franca Village Panchayat firm on not granting permission for the project; threatens to launch an agitation

Team Herald

PANJIM: Opposition to the Rs 8-crore private jetty proposed at Malim gathered steam on Sunday with the members of the Penha de Franca Village Panchayat declaring that they would not grant permission for the project as the villagers do not need it.

Speaking to the media-persons, Sarpanch Saptanil Chodankar and panchayat members made it clear that they would not hesitate to take to the streets if required. Chodankar said, "I have read in a newspaper about the Central government granting permission to a Mumbai-based company to construct a jetty, the panchayat had not been informed or consulted about the project's location."

Chodankar said, "I would like to know the specific location of the jetty. The panchayat will not grant permission for the jetty, as the villagers do not need it. Even the local MLA, who is the Tourism Minister, is unaware of the jetty's location. I will inform the MLA that the jetty's construction would negatively impact the local



Malim Jetty

LEARNED ABOUT THE PROJECT THROUGH MEDIA: KHAUNTE

PANJIM: Tourism Minister and Porvorim MLA Rohan Khaunte stated that he was unaware of the Rs 8 crore private jetty project at Malim on River Mandovi, till it was reported in the media. Speaking to mediapersons, he said, "I have read this news in the newspaper. I am not aware of it. I have already checked with the panchayat (officials), who confirmed that they have not granted any permission for the project. How could permission be

granted by the Central government without conducting a proper study?" Emphasising the importance of considering local sentiments, the interests of traditional fishermen, and the overall impact of the project, he said, "As the local MLA, I should have been informed and involved in discussions, and that the community should have been consulted before any decisions were made."

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fishermen's businesses."

Chodankar said, "The panchayat will write to the Captain of Ports to request information about the jetty and whether the company has been granted any permission."

He said, "We will inquire why the panchayat was not informed and whether any NOC has been issued for the

project, as the panchayat has not received a copy. As the local elected body, we have been questioned whether we have granted any permission."

Panch member Narayan Naik said, "I have learned about the (proposed) jetty through the media, which is surprising since we have no

knowledge of it. I received numerous calls inquiring about the jetty, but the truth is that we are unaware of it. In a democratic country, neither the Central nor the State government can proceed without consulting the local elected body."

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"I have read in a newspaper about the Central government granting permission to a Mumbai-based company to construct a jetty, the panchayat had not been informed or consulted about the project's location. The panchayat will not grant permission for the jetty, as the villagers do not need it. I will inform the MLA that the jetty's construction would negatively impact the local fishermen's businesses

– Saptanil Chodankar, Penha de Franca Sarpanch

"I received numerous calls inquiring about the jetty, but the truth is that we are unaware of it. In a democratic country, neither the Central nor the State government can proceed without consulting the local elected body. If we have to launch an agitation, then we will go ahead

– Narayan Naik, Penha de Franca panch member

Will not allow highway expansion: Bhoma residents

Say it is a political conspiracy to destroy their village and culture; Corlim locals extend support

Team Herald

PONDA: Accusing politicians of plotting to divide locals and push the national highway (NH) expansion for vested interests, Bhoma villagers sent out a clear message on Sunday: they are prepared to die to protect their village and its culture from destruction.

Residents of Corlim, who had earlier filed a joint petition in the High Court of Bombay at Goa against the NH expansion, came forward to extend their support to Bhoma locals.

Speaking at a meeting, Sanjay Naik said, "Fearing politicians, some people have not stepped out of their houses to attend. But we are ready to die and will shed our blood to save Bhoma."

He called the NH expansion and the Sagarmala project a conspiracy imposed on Bhoma and urged villagers to demand an alternative alignment plan to save the 36 hillside plots. "We will not allow expansion," he said firmly.

Social activist Rama Kankonkar encouraged villagers not to lose hope. "The people of Bhoma should not be disheartened. Ram Manohar Lohia inspired Goans to fight the Portuguese and liberate Goa. We will never allow



SANTOSH NAIK

"Fearing politicians, some people have not stepped out of their houses to attend. But we are ready to die and will shed our blood to save Bhoma. The NH expansion and the Sagarmala project is a conspiracy imposed on Bhoma and villagers should demand an alternative alignment plan to save the 36 hillside plots. We will not allow expansion

– Sanjay Naik, a local

"The people of Bhoma should not be disheartened. Ram Manohar Lohia inspired Goans to fight the Portuguese and liberate Goa. We will never allow Bhoma to become another Khapreshwar temple. Women must lead a Melauli-like agitation – there is no other option

– Rama Kankonkar, social activist

Bhoma to become another Khapreshwar temple. Women must lead a Melauli-like agitation – there is no other option."

Gauresh Gaude said, "For centuries, villagers lived peacefully, but now we are forced to live in fear. If there is no deity, how will our culture survive?"

Advocate Rubin D'Souza stated that residents of both Bhoma and Corlim have opposed the project.

"In court, we have demanded an alignment plan. But the government has still not shown it to us," he said.

Vaman Shirodkar, a septuagenarian, voiced disappointment in elected leaders. "We elected a Bahujan leader who betrayed us. What's the use of development if it destroys Bahujans and Bahujan culture?"

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Govt not to allow construction around Old Goa churches

Extends buffer zone surrounding them to 200 metres; activists say site should be included in regional plan if the government is sincere

Team Herald

PANJIM: Declaring that no construction will be permitted around the historic churches of Old Goa, the State government on Sunday extended the buffer zone surrounding these UNESCO World Heritage sites from 100 metres to 200 metres.

Speaking to mediapersons after attending an event at Corlim, Town and Country Planning (TCP) Minister Vishwajit Rane said, "I am very firm that a heritage site needs to be protected and we have to have a buffer zone. However, if procedure has been followed to do something within the buffer zone then it is a different matter altogether and it has nothing to do with any permission."

"We have to see that there is a buffer zone. Be-

"I am very firm that a heritage site needs to be protected and we have to have a buffer zone. However, if procedure has been followed to do something within the buffer zone then it is a different matter altogether and it has nothing to do with any permission

– Vishwajit Rane, TCP Minister

"The minister should clarify whether the State is for State monuments or national monuments. Heritage site at Old Goa is a world heritage site and comes under ASI. If the government is so firm then it should be incorporated in the Regional Plan 2021. This has not been done purposely to allow different types of schemes

– Peter Viegas, Save Old Goa Action Committee coordinator

fore I became TCP minister the area was not notified and now it is notified. We are here to protect and we are also going to protect mangroves. MLA Rajesh Faldessai brought it to our knowledge that there should be no con-

struction and on his initiative we took the matter to the board and took the decision very firmly," he said.

Save Old Goa Action Committee (SOGAC) reacted sharply to the statement.

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SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

ANTHONY FERNANDES



A statue of Jesus Christ carrying a Cross being taken out in a procession outside the Immaculate Conception Church, Panjim, on the occasion of Palm Sunday. The feast commemorating Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem was celebrated across Goa

Palm Sunday procession disallowed in Delhi, Catholic body slams move

PTI, NEW DELHI: A prominent Catholic organisation has condemned the Delhi Police's decision to deny permission for the annual Way of the Cross procession, a key religious event observed every Palm Sunday by the Christian community. The Catholic Asso-

ciation of the Archdiocese of Delhi (CAAD) described the move as "shocking and unfair."

There was no immediate comment from the Delhi Police regarding the matter. "This is deeply shocking and unfair. The procession has always been peaceful

and well-coordinated with authorities. The reason cited — law and order and traffic — doesn't hold when others get approvals for similar events," said AC Michael, President of CAAD, in a statement.

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'Protected witness' likely to confront Rana during grilling

AGENCIES, MUMBAI: Tahawwur Rana, the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused, is likely to be confronted with a "protected witness" who arranged logistics for David Headley in Mumbai, by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) during the interrogation.

NIA began questioning Rana after he was sent to 18-day custody following his extradition from the US on a special flight on April 10.

Rana had asked one of his staff members — called 'employee B' (NIA's witness) — to help David Coleman Headley, the main planner of the attacks, with planning and other support, NIA sources said on Sunday, a news channel reported.

As per the sources, 'employee B' did not have information about the terror plans and was only told handle things like picking up Headley, arranging travel, stay, and providing a place to work and live — following Rana's instructions.



This person, now NIA's "protected witness", allegedly received Headley in Mumbai and arranged logistics for his reconnaissance mission in 2006.

This witness is expected to help establish Rana's role in facilitating Lashkar-e-Taiba's (LeT) planning for the deadly attacks that left 166 people dead and over 230 injured.

Rana used his immigration business to help Headley with visas, hide his Pakistani-Muslim identity, and blend into Indian business and military circles, NIA sources said. He also booked Headley's flight from Karachi and helped create documents for his Moroccan wife.

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MAX. TEMP 34.2 °C
MIN. TEMP 24.8 °C

idharudhar



Do you remember which one is yours?

FinMin: 18% GST on flat upkeep over Rs 7,500

BENGALURU: The Ministry of Finance & Corporate Affairs has issued a clarification to dispel confusion among apartment owners and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) regarding the applicability of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on monthly maintenance charges.

The Ministry clarified that RWAs are not required to register for GST or pay the tax if their aggregate annual turnover does not exceed Rs 20 lakh, even if the monthly maintenance charges per member are higher than Rs 7,500. However, GST at the rate of 18% becomes applicable if both conditions are met: the monthly maintenance charges exceed Rs 7,500 per member, and the RWA's annual turnover crosses Rs 20 lakh.

It was further explained that the Rs 7,500 threshold applies separately to each residential apartment. For instance, if a person owns more than one flat in a residential complex, the Rs 7,500 limit is calculated individually for each unit.

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Churchill Brothers withdraw from Super Cup tourney, slam AIFF over seeding and title dispute

Veteran club accuses federation of flouting rules and ignoring league standings

Team Herald

MARGAO: Churchill Brothers FC Goa has withdrawn from the Super Cup tournament, starting April 20 in Bhubaneswar, accusing the All India Football Federation (AIFF) of an "irregular and unconventional" seeding process and refusing to recognise them as I-League 2024-25 champions, despite finishing top of the table.

In a letter addressed to AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey on April 12, the club expressed deep frustration over what it described

"In the face of the AIFF's blatant disregard for rules, precedent, and fair play, we have no choice but to withdraw from the Super Cup 2025 in protest. We had raised objections in a previous letter on April 9 regarding the conduct of the Super Cup draw, but the federation failed to respond or address our concerns. We have received no explanation for the highly irregular process used in conducting the draw

– Churchill Brothers FC Goa



as a blatant violation of regulations and sporting integrity. "In the face of the AIFF's blatant disregard for rules, precedent, and fair play, we have no choice but to withdraw from

the Super Cup 2025 in protest," the veteran club wrote.

Churchill Brothers said they had raised objections in a previous letter on April 9 regarding the conduct of the

Super Cup draw, but the federation failed to respond or address their concerns. "We have received no explanation for the highly irregular process used in conducting the draw," the club said, alleging that different standards were applied to Indian Super League (ISL) and I-League teams.

According to Churchill, while Super Cup seeding reflected the final ISL standings, the same logic was not extended to I-League teams. Despite topping the table, Churchill Brothers were denied the 14th seed, which instead

went to Inter Kashi through what the club called "an opaque draw of lots."

"This has allowed Inter Kashi to falsely project themselves as I-League 2024-25 champions, using the AIFF's decision to legitimise a claim that is entirely baseless," the club said. "The AIFF's continued inaction not only harms Churchill Brothers but undermines the integrity of Indian football. It raises serious doubts about the AIFF's ability to function as a fair and impartial governing body."

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