

## ED PROBE EXPOSES NEW LINKS IN BIGGEST EVER LAND SCAM IN GOA

Estavan D'Souza emerges as a key figure in FIR besides Rohan Harmalkar; ED says many important people may be involved

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

PANJIM: The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Panaji Zonal Office, appears to be unearthing a massive land grabbing scam in Goa, with layers of fraud and manipulation involving property mutations, forged documents, and collusion now surfacing through its ongoing investigation.

Besides zeroing in on Rohan Harmalkar from Divar, believed to be the kingpin in the multi-crore scam, the ED has filed an FIR in the District and Sessions Court, Panaji, under Sections 44 and 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA),

### KEY ACCUSED

- **Rohan Harmalkar (Divar):** Alleged kingpin; got mutations for three Anjuna properties done in a single day
- **Estavan D'Souza:** Connected to 20 properties in Anjuna; many were mutated under suspicious circumstances



### SYSTEMIC FRAUD

- Fraudulent use of power of attorney documents, including ones issued in the name of deceased persons
- Allegations of a wider nexus involving bureaucrats, legal professionals, and political aspirants

- FIR filed under Sections 44 and 45 of the PMLA, 2002 against Estavan and 16 others
- **LEGAL ACTION** and officials, summoned to court on June 6, 2025

- All accused, including lawyers
- Mohammed Suhail, one of the accused, is currently absconding

2002, against Estavan D'Souza and 16 others. All have been summoned on June 6, 2025.

Those named in the FIR include Moses Fernandes, Mohammed Suhail, Samir Satchit Korgaonkar, Drahesh Dattaram Kubal, Mohammed Jair Khan, Kishor Mahadeshwar, Milind Tanaji Gawali, Yeshwant Sajo Pandit, Dinesh Govind Parab, Devendra Sitaram Bandal, Sunil Vithal Shirodkar, Rajesh Ram Rane, Bhikaji Govind Parab, Shrikrishna Yeshwant Gha-

di, Dilip Bablo Shetgaonkar and Raghunath Bablo Gawas. Of the seventeen, Mohammed Suhail, who had previously been arrested by the ED, is currently absconding after being granted bail.

"The net is pretty big. There are different types of players involved. It is just not ordinary citizens and government officials but members of the legal fraternity that are being scanned," stated a member of the ED on condition of anonymity. "We have been

assisted by a few whistle-blowers who shared in-depth information on certain aspects of this scam. There are still many dots to fill," the source added.

The ED's crackdown is a warning to unsuspecting land buyers in Goa to verify legal documentation before purchasing property, with evidence suggesting systemic misuse of the mutation process and forged powers of attorney.

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## COLLATERAL DAMAGE



A Pakistani citizen (c) bids goodbye to her son, an Indian citizen, as she prepares to return to her country through the India-Pakistan Wagah border post, about 35kms from Amritsar, on Tuesday

## Blue Cab taxi operations at Mopa airport to resume from April 30

Team Herald

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has assured the Blue Cab Prepaid Taxi Association (BCPTA) that the long-pending security clearance required for operations at Manohar International Airport at Mopa will be expedited, paving the way for their services to resume from April 30.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with the Chief Minister at Mantrala in Porvorim, Pernem MLA Pravin Arlekar said, "I met the Chief Minister along with the BCPTA president and two others. He assured us that the security clearance process, which has been pending for two years, will be fast-tracked within two days."

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## Bambolim resort ordered to stop illegal construction

Goa-SEIAA cites absence of mandatory environmental clearance

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (Goa-SEIAA) has ordered a complete halt to construction activities undertaken by Worldwide Resorts and Entertainment Pvt Ltd at Bambolim, citing the absence of mandatory environmental clearance under the EIA Notification, 2006.

The directive, issued on April 28 by Goa-SEIAA Member Secretary and Director (Environment) Sachin Desai, states that the company's application for environmental clearance remains pending and that ongoing civil work consti-



tutes a violation of environmental regulations. The authority has instructed the company to immediately cease all construction operations at the site.

Non-compliance with the order could lead to legal action under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which prescribes penalties including imprisonment and fines.

"You are directed to ensure that no civil work of whatsoever kind and nature is carried out at said site. Failure to comply with the directions shall attract action under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which include imprisonment or fine," the order said.

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## WAQF (AMENDMENT) ACT

### SC refuses to entertain fresh pleas challenging law

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain 13 more petitions challenging constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, saying it cannot add any more pleas as they would become difficult to "handle".

"We are not going to increase the number of petitions now...This will keep on piling and would become difficult to handle," a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjay Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar said when a battery of lawyers of several petitioners urged that they be also heard along with other petitioners.

The bench however, asked the petitioners to intervene in main pleas if they have additional grounds to challenge Waqf law.

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## Dispute over tree felling near HC intensifies with new evidence

Petitioners allege March 12 interim HC order halting tree felling disregarded

Team Herald

PANJIM: The controversy surrounding alleged illegal tree felling near the High Court of Bombay at Goa has intensified, with petitioners now submitting photographic and video evidence contradicting official claims by the Forest Department.

The material, filed in an affidavit-in-reply on Tuesday, points to widespread tree cutting on the southern and eastern cliffs surrounding the High Court complex in Porvorim.

On March 12 this year, the High Court of Bombay at Goa had issued an interim order stopping the felling of trees while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) writ petition

The petitioners stated that a cursory examination of the photographs and video footage accompanying the affidavit will establish that the affidavit in the matter was filed in a perfunctory manner with the intent to mislead the Court and had not accorded the matter the gravity it deserves

filed by Ganpat Sidhaye and Dinesh Dias.

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in the matter was filed in a perfunctory manner with the intent to mislead the Court and had not accorded the matter the gravity it deserves.

The petitioners in their affidavit have pointed out that the area is a landslide-prone and ecologically sensitive and that the respondent had not bothered to peruse the contents of the documents and the detailed statements made in the PIL writ petition.

They have reiterated that the Survey Number 76/1-C and 76/1-E of Penha-De-France Village Panchayat is designated as partly settlement, partly natural cover, and partly no-development slope.

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## Six-year-old murdered by father in Salcete

Team Herald

MARGAO: In a deeply disturbing incident that has sent shock-waves through Salcete, a 30-year-old father allegedly murdered his six-year-old daughter in a fit of rage. The tragic event occurred late last night in a roadside hut in Macasana, where the family had been residing.

The accused, Saleem Dambal, a native of Gadag, Karnataka, is currently on the run. Police reports state that Saleem, under the influence of alcohol, fatally assaulted his daughter,

Sannika Dambal, with a wooden rod following a petty dispute with the family inside their hut.

Saleem also reportedly attacked his wife, Sumayya Dambal, and their four-year-old son, Sanvit Dambal, causing them injuries. Both were treated at a local primary health centre. Despite efforts to save the child, she was declared brought dead upon arrival at the clinic. Witnesses said a local resident helped transport the injured family to the health centre.

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## Tourist's video of zipline ride in Pahalgam captures terror attack



A smiling Rishi Bhatt enjoying the zipline ride unaware of the horror unfolding below

PTI, AHMEDABAD: A tourist from Ahmedabad who was on a zipline ride at Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam inadvertently captured on video the terror attack in which 26 people lost their lives last week.

In the video, which has gone viral on social media, Rishi Bhatt is seen enjoying the ride even as the attack unfolded on the ground below at Baisaran Valley on April 22.

The 53-second video, shot using a selfie stick, showed people running for their lives, with one of them falling, apparently after being gunned down by a terrorist.

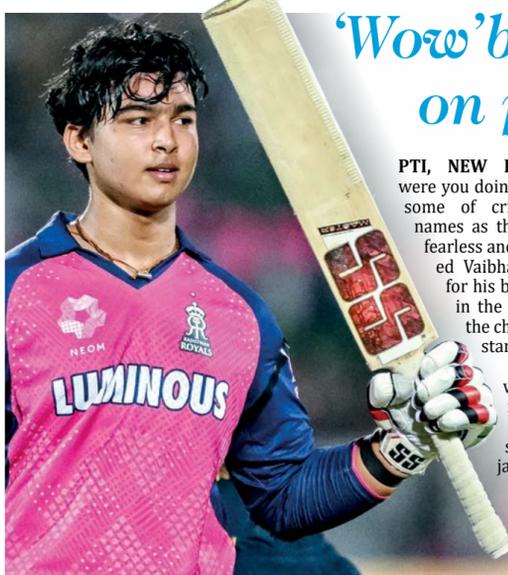
Talking to reporters,

Bhatt said he had gone to Baisaran Valley with his wife and a child, and they decided to enjoy a zipline ride.

While his wife and child took the ride safely and reached the other side, the firing started just as his ride began, said the Ahmedabad resident, who is in the event management business.

"When my son and wife reached down safely, and I started my zipline ride, the first shots were fired. As soon as I landed, I saw that someone was asked about his religion and then shot," he recalled.

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## 'Wow'bhav! Cricket world heaps praise on prodigious talent Suryavanshi

PTI, NEW DELHI: "What were you doing at 14?" asked some of cricket's biggest names as they saluted the fearless and evidently gifted Vaibhav Suryavanshi for his blazing hundred in the IPL, describing the child prodigy as a star in the making.

After Suryavanshi, playing for Rajasthan Royals, smashed Gujarat Titans' Rashid Khan for a six over mid-wicket in Jaipur to become the

Vaibhav's fearless approach, bat speed, picking the length early, and transferring the energy behind the ball was the recipe behind a fabulous innings. End result: 101 runs off 38 balls. Well played!" - Sachin Tendulkar

youngest centurion in T20s last night, the cricketing world duly applauded his special feat.

"Vaibhav's fearless approach, bat speed, picking the length early, and transferring the energy behind the ball was the recipe behind a fabulous innings. End result: 101 runs off 38 balls. Well played!" the iconic Sachin Tendulkar, himself a child prodigy who went on to become one of

the best batters in the game, wrote on 'X'.

Suryavanshi broke former Rajasthan Royals batter Yusuf Pathan's record for the fastest hundred by an Indian with his 35-ball century. Suryavanshi was not even born when Pathan smashed a 37-ball hundred 15 seasons ago.

Indian! Even more special to see it happen while playing for @rajasthanroyals, just like I did.

"There's truly something magical about this franchise for youngsters. Long way to go, champ!" wrote Pathan.

India great Yuvraj Singh too was left hugely impressed. "What were you doing at 14?! This kid is taking on the best bowlers in the world without blinking an eyelid! VaibhavSuryavanshi - remember the name! Playing with a fearless attitude. Proud to see the next generation shine!" wrote Yuvraj.

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