

Dabolim standoff: NHAI blinks, flyover plan to be modified

Navy issues NOC after highway authority agrees to reduce the height of flyover pillars that would pose a danger to flights

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

DABOLIM, VASCO: In a huge relief for those fighting to keep Dabolim airport relevant and operational for civilian flights, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has agreed to reduce the height of the pillars of the upcoming flyover that had encroached into the airport's critical funnel zone. The decision follows a high-level meeting between senior naval officers and an NHAI official who flew in from Mumbai to address the matter.

According to a senior Navy official who spoke on condition of anonymity, the NHAI presented three revised proposals in response to objections raised by the Indian Navy regarding violations of international aviation safety norms. "The NHAI came forward with three proposals based on the objections raised by us, and since they addressed

NOW, A CLEAR PATH TO DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ The root of the standoff between Indian Navy and NHAI stemmed from the pillars of the under-construction flyover that were higher than what was permitted within the airport's critical funnel zone
- ◆ NHAI presented three revised proposals in response to objections raised by the Navy regarding violations of international aviation safety norms
- ◆ NHAI admitted that the pillars in question breached the height restrictions and agreed to reduce the height of the structures
- ◆ NHAI had earlier sought land from the Navy for the revised construction,



but informed the Navy that the Goa government would now be approached for this

our apprehensions, we issued the necessary No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the work," the official confirmed.

The controversy began when it was discovered that flyover pillars had been

constructed within the Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS), exceeding the height limits prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), raising safety concerns and putting the airport's opera-

tions at risk.

Following consultations, the NHAI admitted that the pillars in question breached the height restrictions and agreed to modify the structures. "The design of the highway is going to

be amended, and the pillar heights will be reduced to within permissible limits in the funnel zone," a senior naval officer stated.

Additionally, the NHAI, which had earlier sought land from the Navy for the revised construction, informed the Navy that they have now approached the Goa government instead. "They assured us that land will be provided by the state, and Navy land will no longer be required," the officer added.

NHAI sources confirmed the highway will be realigned based on the revised plan. "The Navy has issued the NOC based on the assurances provided," a senior NHAI representative stated.

Retired Naval Commandant Atul Pant, who initially raised the matter in the Goa Bench of the Mumbai High Court, called it a "win-win situation" for all stakeholders.

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LAIRAI TRAGEDY

Oppn slams CM for dragging feet on fact-finding report

Team Herald

PANJIM: The tragic stampede at the Shree Lairai Devi Zatra in Shirgao, which claimed six lives and injured dozens, made national headlines and drew condolences from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi. However, Chief Minister, Pramod Sawant, has been dragging his feet in making the fact-finding committee's report public, drawing criticism from the opposition and activists.

It has been four days since the four-member fact-finding committee, headed by Secretary (Revenue) Sandip Jacques, submitted its report to the Chief Minister.

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It is clearly a cover up on the failure of the government to provide safety to the devotees. The government is answerable to the people of Goa especially to families who suffered human loss, which is deplorable and condemnable by any right thinking person. The government must be transparent and make public the report whatever may be its outcome and initiate action against those responsible and take steps to avoid recurrence of such incidents

– Avertino Miranda, activist

Goans are supposed to be a civilised society of well-educated people. But we made the news for all the wrong reasons. Six lives have been lost. There must be accountability, and it has to be fixed. The Chief Minister hails from a region where the temple of Devi Lairai is situated. So, he should consciously act and ensure that those people who lost their lives get justice

– Vijai Sardesai, Goa Forward Party president and MLA

Any talks with Pakistan can happen only on terrorism, PoK: PM

Says Operation Sindoor new normal against terror

PTI, NEW DELHI: In his first address to the nation after Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday sternly warned Pakistan that India will not succumb to nuclear blackmail and sent a clear message to the world: terror and trade, terror and talks cannot go together. "Operation Sindoor is India's new policy against terrorism and our unwavering pledge for justice. It is the new normal. We have only kept in abeyance our operations against Pakistan and the future will depend on their behaviour," Modi said in a 22-minute address.

He also had an advice to Pakistan's rulers: "The terrorists they have been feeding and nurturing all these years will swallow Pakistan itself. If Pakistan wants to survive, it will have to root out terrorism."

India will not differentiate between the government sponsoring terrorism and terrorists, Modi said, warning of decisive action in case of any misadventure. "This is not an era of war,

MESSAGE IS CLEAR

- ◆ Operation Sindoor is now India's established policy in the fight against terrorism
- ◆ India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail
- ◆ Operation Sindoor has proved our superiority in New Age Warfare
- ◆ This is not an era of war, but this is also not an era of terrorism
- ◆ The way the Pakistani

army, Pakistan government are feeding and nurturing terrorism, it will destroy Pakistan itself one day

I would also like to tell the global community that our stated policy has been: if there are talks with Pakistan, it will be only on terrorism; and if there are talks with Pakistan, it will be only on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)

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Pakistan that his administration will do trade with them only if they end the conflict.

Trump also suggested that the conflict between the two countries could have spiralled into a nuclear war, killing millions of people.

Modi said that while Pakistan pleaded with India to stop the military offensive, New Delhi considered it only after they promised to stop their misadventure.

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KING KOHLI CALLS IT A DAY IN TESTS



The most influential Indian cricketer since Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli leaves behind a legacy of unmatched passion, game-changing influence, and a fiercely competitive spirit that redefined Indian cricket



virat.kohli It's been 14 years since I first wore the baggy blue in Test cricket. Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me on. It's tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life.

There's something deeply personal about playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no one sees but that stay with you forever.

As I step away from this format, it's not easy — but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for.

I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude — for the game, for the people I shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way.

I'll always look back at my Test career with a smile. #269, signing off. less

AS BATSMAN

Runs: 9,230
Matches: 123
Average: 46.85
Hundreds: 30
Fifties: 31
Best: 254*

AS CAPTAIN

Matches: 68
Won: 40
Lost: 17
Draw: 11
Away wins: 16
Home wins: 24

Virat was a fierce competitor and a true ambassador for Test cricket. His passion and commitment were second to none

– Kevin Pietersen

A man with lion's passion! Will miss u cheeks...

– Gautam Gambhir

Your true legacy, Virat, lies in inspiring countless young cricketers to pick up the sport. What an incredible Test career you have had!

– Sachin Tendulkar

Congrats to my biscotti @imVkohli on an epic Test career! Your determination & skill have always inspired me. True legend!

– AB de Villiers

Can't believe you are done..

– Ravi Shastri

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US-China agree to 90-day pause to trade war

A step back from sky-high tariffs

AP, GENEVA: US and Chinese officials said Monday they had reached a deal to roll back most of their recent tariffs and call a 90-day truce in their trade war for more talks on resolving their trade disputes.

Stock markets rose sharply as the globe's two major economic powers took a step back from a clash that has unsettled the global economy.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the US agreed to drop its 145 per cent tariff rate on Chinese goods by 115 percentage points to 30 per cent, while China agreed

The consensus from both delegations this weekend is neither side wants a decoupling. And what had occurred with these very high tariff ... was an embargo, the equivalent of an embargo. And neither side wants that

– Scott Bessent, US Treasury Secretary



to lower its rate on US goods by the same amount to 10 per cent.

Greer and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced the tariff reductions at a news conference in Geneva.

The two officials struck a positive tone as they said the two sides had set up consultations to

continue discussing their trade issues.

Bessent said at the news briefing after two days of talks that the high tariff levels would have amounted to a complete blockade of each side's goods, an outcome neither side wants.

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MAX. TEMP 35.2 °C
MIN. TEMP 27.6 °C

idharudhar



Sir, as usual, there's hardly anyone inside to evacuate!

Hidden Arambol commune raises security alarm

BASURI DESAI

PANJIM: A group of foreign nationals has set up a semi-permanent jungle commune in the forested hills of Arambol, sparking questions over regulatory oversight and security implications in light of heightened national tensions.

The off-grid community, situated above the Sweet Water Lake, comprises tent accommodations, makeshift bathing areas, and communal spaces for meditation, exercise, and various creative activities. Residents follow a nature-centric routine involving daily hikes, communal cooking without refrigeration, and hosting open evening gatherings.

While such alternative living set-ups have long been part of Goa's counter-cultural tourism



Foreign nationals going about their daily activities in an off-grid jungle commune at Arambol

scene, their renewed presence has once again highlighted concerns over legal compliance and government supervision. Similar gatherings, such

as the revival of the so-called "Russian Market" on Arambol beach, where foreign nationals have been reported selling tea and offering healing services,

have drawn media and official scrutiny in the past.

Swapnesh Naik, an Arambol resident, claimed the area above the Sweet Water Lake

hill has long been known for unregulated and potentially illegal activities. "The foreigners' activities and residing on the hill there making a shelter during winters and summers is nothing new for villagers. Police are not initiating any action as it is far and could not be accessed by vehicle," Naik said.

Responding to the concerns, Inspector of Mandrem Police Station, Girendra Naik, assured that appropriate steps will be taken against anyone found residing illegally within his jurisdiction. "I am assuring you that action will be taken from our end if such activity is found on the hill or anywhere else in our jurisdiction," Inspector Naik said.

The issue gains further prominence in the wake of the

military standoff between India and Pakistan following the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives. Several foreign embassies, including China's, have advised their citizens to remain cautious while traveling in the region after the flare-up.

Authorities in Goa have taken action previously to address regulatory violations in the tourism sector. In March this year, Goa Police recommended the cancellation of licences for two resorts in North Goa after incidents involving assaults on foreign tourists.

The development underscores the need for more vigilant enforcement to ensure such settlements comply with legal and environmental regulations, especially in areas considered sensitive or remote.