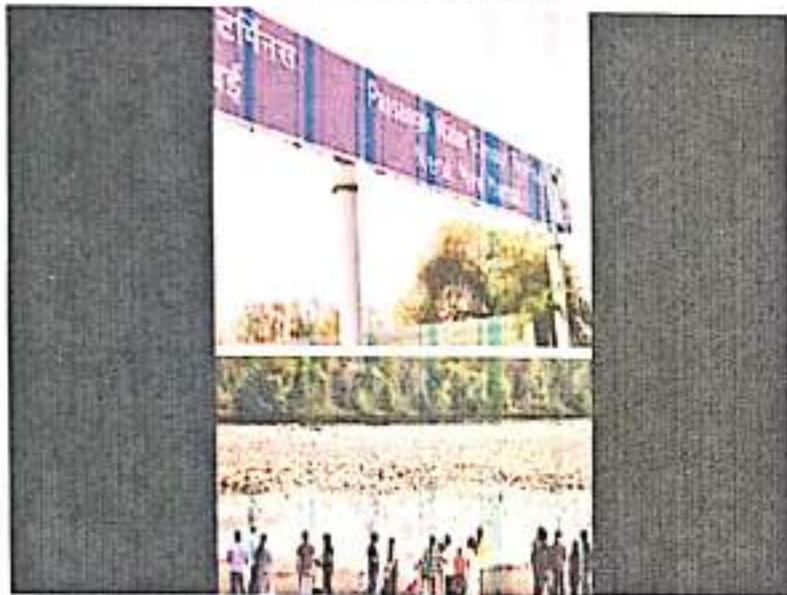


Towering signboard at defunct Nerul jetty a hazard for flamingos

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MUMBAI: A 20-ft tall signboard at the defunct Nerul jetty is proving to be hazardous for flamingos that take off and land at the nearby Talawe wetland in Seawoods. Of late, there have been a few incidents of the pink-feathered birds suffering serious injuries, and even succumbing to them, after accidentally ramming into the 'Passenger Water Transport Terminus' signboard at the jetty.

Advocate Siddh Vidya, who lives at NRI Complex in Seawoods, said on Wednesday morning, a flamingo flying with a flock over the wetland hit the signboard at the jetty and was grievously injured. It died after writhing in pain for more than two hours. "A few locals

found the badly injured flamingo near the signboard. They informed the forest authorities and a wildlife activists' group, but as help did not arrive for over two hours, the bird died," Vidya said. "A few weeks ago, I found another injured flamingo near the same signboard. That bird died too. The residents have decided to dash off a letter to the state authorities, including the chief minister's office to remove this signboard as it is in the flight-path of the flamingos."

Wildlife official from the state mangrove cell, Deepak Chavan, said: "Our team had visited the site at Nerul jetty