

Car plunges into river at St Estevam after 'terrifying chase', Gujarat youth feared drowned

Twenty-two-year-old Bashudev Bhandari still missing; his female companion, a native of Unjha and student of GIM, Sankhali, swims to safety; cops probing whether the car was genuinely being chased or if the GPS 'error' led to the incident

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a shocking incident, a youth from Bharruch, Gujarat, was feared drowned in a river at St Estevam, in the early hours of Saturday, after a 'high-speed chase', which resulted in the rent-a-car plunging into the water.

Twenty-two-year-old Bashudev Bhandari has been reported missing since then, while his female companion, a native of Unjha, Gujarat, studying in the Goa Institute of Management (GIM), Sankhali, managed to swim to safety. According to the Old Goa Police, the incident occurred at around 12.45 am, when the duo, who had hired a rent-a-car for a weekend outing, was involved in a minor accident with another vehicle at Marcela.

In a desperate attempt to flee the scene, the pair sped away, only to be chased by an unidentified vehicle. As the chase continued,



Fire personnel retrieve the vehicle from the river at St Estevam



Officials involved in the rescue operation, which continued till 8 pm, on Sunday.

Bashudev panicked, and drove the car onto a ferry ramp and later landed into the river at St Estevam.

Cont on Pg 7 >>

WHAT LED TO THE INCIDENT

» According to Old Goa Police, the incident occurred at around 12.45 am, when Bashudev and his female companion, who had hired a rent-a-car for an outing, were involved in a minor accident with another vehicle at Marcela

» In a desperate bid to flee, the duo sped away, only to be chased by an unidentified vehicle

» As the chase continued, Bashudev panicked, and drove the car onto a ferry ramp and later landed into the river at St Estevam

» On receiving information, the fire personnel, who arrived, managed to retrieve the vehicle with the help of a crane on Sunday afternoon. Despite a search operation involving trained divers, Bashudev was yet to be traced

» Several personal belongings, including Bashudev's pants, a laptop and two to three bags were recovered from the car

MISSION EXTINGUISH



Firefighters extinguish the fire adjacent to the primary structure after a twin-engine Cessna 421C crashed into a row of townhouses in Fairview, Oregon, killing three people, setting the homes ablaze and causing widespread power outages

Preethi Pal creates history, wins second bronze in T35 200m



PTI, PARIS: India's Preethi Pal created history as she became the first-ever Indian woman track and field athlete to win two medals at the Paralympics while clinching the bronze in the 200m T35 category with a personal best time of 30.01 seconds here on Sunday.

PARALYMPICS

The bronze won by the 23-year-old Preethi was also India's second para-athletics medal in the Paris Games.

T35 classification is meant for athletes who have coordination impairments such as hypertonina, ataxia and athetosis. On Friday, she had clinched India's first athletics medal in a Paralympics track event, winning a bronze in the women's T35 100m competition with a personal best time of 14.21 seconds.

All the athletics medals India had won since the 1984 edition of the Paralympics have come from the field events.

More on Pg 10 >>

In violation of SC prescribed 55 dB levels, Anjuna, Vagator units switch to high-low mode

Evidence available with O Herald indicates that one call was made to 112 at 11.14 pm and the ID assigned to it was: 249548; the volume was initially lowered, but crossed the SC-prescribed 55dB levels soon afterwards

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

VAGATOR: Loud music could be heard from most units till 10 pm during the weekend in Anjuna and Vagator, and from then on, it could be heard from a few party spots, leaving the villagers concerned about their right to sleep.

"The High Court has not adequately addressed noise pollution during the day. There is a false notion that one can blast music and disturb others till 10 pm. Not true at all. The prescribed sound level limits are a bit higher from 6 am to 10 pm than the levels for the night time, but daytime rules need to be complied by all," observed petitioner Darshan Bhatia.

"The Supreme Court has made it clear that timings are based on the legal principle that freedom from noise pollution is part of the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution. Noise is

"I am sick and was approached by the DJ of House of Chapora to use my place. I didn't know that he would end up misusing my place. I have demolished 80 per cent of my place and will finish the rest soon

-Edwin Nunes, owner of Curlies, where a party was held from early morning

a form of pollution. The same as someone, blowing diesel fumes into your home. It is simply not acceptable," added Bhatia.

With the Bombay High Court at Goa monitoring the levels of noise pollution within the jurisdiction of Anjuna Panchayat, most units playing EDM music switched to the high - low volume mode as the night wore on, with the elderly and children being made to beg for their right to sleep.

Evidence available with O Herald indicates that one call was made to 112

at 11.14 pm and the ID assigned to it was: 249548. The volume was initially lowered, but had crossed the 55dB levels prescribed by the Supreme Court soon afterwards.

"The way these clubs have been playing music this weekend gives me an idea that they are trying to test the seriousness of the government by teasing them by increasing and decreasing the volume after 10 pm. Before that, they seem to believe that they are within the law to blast music," observed an amused Janie Crasto.

"The funny thing is that there are places playing loud music with no consent to operate from Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB). First, isn't it the duty of GSPCB to see that such illegal units do not operate? On top, they are allowed to blast music?" questions Desmond D'Souza.

Cont on Pg 7 >>

Fisheries Union objects to CM's push for marina at Nauxim

Describes Sawant's claims that marina will create jobs for Goans as misleading; wants the lease deed cancelled

Team Herald

MARGAO: The All Goa Small Scale Responsible Fisheries Union (AGSSRFU) has strongly objected to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's latest statement advocating the cause of the marina at Nauxim that is detrimental to the fishing communities of Zuari river. "His repeated advocacy

for Nauxim Marina projects him as an unofficial PRO of (project proponent) Kargwal Constructions Private Limited even though he is official CM of Goa. The Chief Minister's latest claim that marina will create jobs for Goans is another misleading information."

Cont on Pg 7 >>

"Sawant's latest claims that marina will create jobs for Goans is another such misleading information that hides the fact that hundreds of people and families engaged in fishing at Zuari river will be expelled from the waters - Shaila D'Mello, AGSSRFU president

"Chief Minister must study the Environment Impact Assistant (EIA) report of Nauxim Marina that has noted that marina will have long-term irreversible negative impact on Fisheries

-Laximan Mangueshkar, AGSSRFU Secretary

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Calm down! It's just burglars, not the police.

New Borim bridge: Loutolim farmers plead with Union Agriculture Minister to protect khazan lands

Insist that any development should not come at the cost of destroying their unique heritage; submit a memorandum, expressing their concerns about the impact of the bridge on their agricultural lands and livelihood

Team Herald

MARGAO: Insisting that any development should not come at the cost of destroying their unique heritage, a group of farmers from Loutolim, led by the Carbot, Mascasana & Bebo Tenants Association, has appealed to the Union Agriculture Minister, Shivraj Singh Chauhan, to protect the khazan lands of their village from the proposed construction of a new high-level Borim bridge across the Zuari River.

At a recent meeting held at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, the farmers submitted a memorandum to the minister, expressing their concerns about the impact of the bridge on their agricultural lands and their livelihood.

The farmers, represented by association chairman Albert Pinheiro, emphasised that the khazan lands are a unique agricultural heritage, essential for the preservation of their traditional

THE MEMORANDUM STATES

» The Zuari River and its surrounding khazan lands have sustained local agricultural and fishing practices for over 4,000 years

» These lands comprise saline wetlands, fertile paddy fields, and intricate water management systems

» The proposed construction of the Borim bridge would significantly disrupt this delicate ecosystem

» The construction of the bridge

farming practices and the environment. These lands, which are located along the Zuari River, are not only crucial for agriculture, but also for maintaining the ecological balance in the region. Pinheiro stated that while the schemes outlined by the Union Minister and the government are welcome as they could boost agriculture, the government must protect the khazan lands

on stilts would require the building of approach roads through the khazan fields to cart materials, causing irreversible damage to the soil and water systems

» Once the mud is put in the fields, it cannot be removed or desilted, and in due course, it spreads to other fields as the khazan paddy fields are made of alluvial soil (chikol)

» The bridge would impact the khazan lands' delicate structure

by finding an alternative plan for the new Borim Bridge that would not destroy the fertile khazan paddy fields.

Their memorandum highlighted the importance of the Zuari River and its surrounding khazan lands, which have sustained local agricultural and fishing practices for over 4,000 years.

Cont on Pg 7 >>

Grandmasters South Goa player suffers heart attack, dies at football match in Puducherry

Team captain Derrick Pereira said 63-year-old Jose Antao, who played for 10 mins, came off due to rolling substitutions and after experiencing some pain, was rushed to the hospital, but the docs failed to revive him

Team Herald

PANJIM: Tragedy struck the Grandmasters South Goa team when one of its players Jose Antao suffered a heart attack and passed away at the quadrangular series of veterans football match against Pondicherry Veterans in Puducherry on Saturday. He was 63.

Derrick Pereira, the former international, who led the team, said, "Jose played for 10 minutes and came off due to rolling substitutions. He was resting and seemed ok. At half time, he was all right. After the match, however, Jose said he was experiencing some pain. He was not looking comfortable and he was rushed to the hospital."



"Jose played for 10 minutes and came off due to rolling substitutions. He was resting and seemed ok. At half time, he was all right. After the match, however, Jose said he was experiencing some pain. He was not looking comfortable and he was rushed to the hospital. The doctors tried to revive him at the hospital, but they could not. I do not know if he passed away en-route. I have not received the report. We are on our way back. The body will be in Goa by September 2

-Derrick Pereira, former international & captain of Grandmasters South Goa

"Jose was a social worker and very helpful to the people. He was involved in the Fabrica activities and did a lot of work for the villagers in his ward. He will certainly be missed by everyone

-Agostinho Antao, former Guirdolim sarpanch

Cont on Pg 7 >>