

# A month after St Estevam tragedy, intensive search operations to resume for missing Gujarati businessman

**Bashudev Bhandari feared drowned after car slipped into river, family refuses to believe he drowned; claim he was good swimmer**

Team Herald

PANJIM: After almost a month, the Old Goa police in collaboration with the Indian navy divers, Indian Coast Guard and fire personnel will resume search operations for 22-year-old Gujarati businessman Bashudev Bhandari, who 'vanished' after his car plunged into the river at St Estevam from Monday, September 30.

The search operation will include deep sea exploration and drone surveillance. Old Goa PI Satish Pad-



walkar said, "Our search operation was on and the team was at the site looking out for the missing person. Now we will conduct an extensive search with deep sea exploration and drone surveillance from Monday."

The incident had oc-

curred on the night of August 31, when the rent-a-car driven by Bhandari along with his female companion, both hailing from Gujarat fell into the river. Though the girl, a student of a management institute managed to swim ashore, Bhandari went missing.

Prior to the incident, the duo were involved in a minor accident with another vehicle at Marcela and in a desperate bid to flee, they sped away, only to be chased

by the unidentified vehicle. In the process, panicked Bhandari drove the car onto a ferry ramp and landed into the river at St Estevam.

Next day the police and the fire personnel launched search operations and removed the car with a crane but Bhandari remained untraced. The police too recovered several personal belongings including Bhandari's trousers, a laptop and two bags from the car.

A week later, the Old Goa police traced the car which was involved in a chase to

Huballi in Karnataka and the two suspects were identified and interrogated by the police.

His disappearance has left the family in turmoil with Bhandari's father claiming that his son was an excellent swimmer. "Bashudev was a good swimmer and he just cannot drown," informed his father and brother who claim that they cannot accept the theory of drowning prompting the family to challenge the police investigation and the very circumstances of the fateful day.

## HC directs Calangute Police to seal illegal road in paddy fields

**Petitioner says road constructed without obtaining NOC from the Command Board; prays to restore the low-lying paddy fields to its original condition by removing illegal structure**

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Bombay High Court at Goa has directed the Calangute police to seal within next two days the entry and exit points of a road built in the paddy fields/command area at Agarwado, Calangute.

**THAT'S AN ORDER**

The High Court had earlier stayed all further construction work being carried out in the command area at Calangute in Survey Nos 344/1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7 and Survey Nos. 343/1, 2,3 and 346/1 by filling up low-lying paddy field and to seal the entry and exit

points to the illegally built road in the paddy fields.

On Friday, the division bench comprising Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice B P Deshpande directed the Calangute police and the North Goa SP to ensure strict compliance of the interim order dated August 20, 2024 and to immediately seal the entry and exit points of the road passing through the paddy field.

Though Additional Government Advocate Pravin Faldessai told the police were ensuring the compliance of the interim order passed by the Court last month, the petitioner's counsel Adv Rohit Bras De

Sa disputed it and produced photographs depicting a vehicle parked under a shade and stated that the road was not sealed and was still in use.

The petitioner Vinal Diukar had stated that the road was built without obtaining NOC from the Command Board and had prayed to remove the illegal road built by filling up low-lying paddy fields and to restore the low-lying paddy fields to its original condition.

Calangute police stated that they have already deputed the beat police constables to maintain a watch on the place. "We have issued notices to the petitioners, respondents, panchayat and others to be present at the site on Monday," said PI Somnath Majik.

## FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS

SAGUN GAWADE



Artist Jayant Natekar from Khorlim-Mapusa, providing final touches to an idol of Goddess Durga at the Chitrashala, for the upcoming Dussehra festival, which will be celebrated on October 12

## 21-year-old Colvale youth nabbed with MDMA and Amphetamine

**Locals claim police nab small fry, main drug dealer involved in flourishing trade still has a free run**

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Crime Branch police on Saturday arrested a 21-year-old Stephen Paul from Colvale, Bardez on the charge of possessing MDMA and Amphetamine/Meth drugs and other valuables all amounting to approximately Rs 3 lakh.

The police conducted the raid below the flyover near a petrol pump at Colvale and seized MDMA, weighing 6.733 grams and Amphetamine/Meth, weighing 5.475 grams from his possession. The police also attached his two-wheeler and a mobile

phone during the raid.

The Crime Branch police team was led by PI Vikas Deykar, along with ASI Sriram Salgaonkar, head constables Ashok Gawade and Irshad Watange and constables Mahabaleshwar Sawant, Vinayak Sawant and Rupesh Gaikwad.

Meanwhile, police sources stated that the accused had allegedly been carrying on with his drug trade even when he was a minor and this time he was nabbed after cops sent a decoy customer to lure him in the trap.

In this case, the Crime Branch Police acted after

the local police failed to nab the culprits despite several parents complaining to the men in uniform that Stephen Paul was allegedly supplying narcotics to youth in the village and vicinity.

The parents are demanding that the police should go to the root of the case and arrest the main dealer, who is suspected to be a Nigerian and has been selling his contraband to many other youth, who are feared to have turned addicts. "The accused Stephen Paul is just a small fry. He doesn't manufacture drugs at home. The

cops should track down the suspected Nigerian national who has turned many youth into peddlers and for the lure of easy money young men get entangled into the nefarious trade and draw others into it too," said a parent who spoke to O Herald on condition of anonymity.

Parents complained that drugs are being sold in schools and higher secondary schools in the vicinity, and if the police fail to nip this malaise in the bud by arresting the main dealer before the tentacles of the nefarious trade traps in more innocent Goan youth.

## Student allegedly beaten up by classmate undergoes surgery at GMC

**Parents blame school; say authorities neither provided timely medical assistance to their daughter nor informed them about the incident**

Team Herald

CUNCOLIM: In a shocking incident reported at Veroda-Cuncolim, a Class III student of a private primary school was seriously injured after being allegedly beaten up by her classmate.

According to sources, the girl sustained a brain injury and underwent surgery at Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim and her condition is reported to be critical.

The sources further stated that the incident occurred when a fight broke out between children at the school.

According to the injured girl's mother, when she went to school to collect her daughter, she was shocked to see her daughter lying on the floor in an unconscious state.

The girl's parents alleged that the school did not provide timely medical assis-

According to the injured girl's mother, when she went to school to collect her daughter, she was shocked to see her daughter lying on the floor in an unconscious state

tance and failed to inform them about the incident.

The girl's mother said that her daughter was frothing and the school failed to contact an ambulance nor took her to a doctor.

The father informed that his wife took their daughter to Balli Health Centre and from there she was shifted to Goa Medical College where she underwent a surgery.

The girl's father has blamed the school teacher and head of the school for his daughter's deteriorating condition.

Father said that he has filed a police complaint against the school management for negligence.

## Temporary accommodation for 200 fish vendors near Panjim market

**CCP is yet to finalise rehabilitation of meat vendors who were evicted from the dilapidated fish market building**

Team Herald

PANJIM: Nearly 200 fish vendors, including fish cutters, will be accommodated in a temporary shed erected near the Panjim fish market starting Monday.

Bento Lorena, councilor of the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) and chairman of the market committee, informed O Herald that sufficient space will be provided for the vendors who are being relocated from the existing fish market.

"This is a temporary arrangement until the dilapidated Panjim fish market building is demolished. The building demolition contractor has assured us that the structure will be taken down within seven days. Once the demolition is complete, we will return the fish vendors to their original locations," Lorena stated.

Lorena noted that there are approximately 250 fish vendors, including fish cutters, and the CCP is committed to accommodating as many as possible. Fish vendors have already identified their desig-



PICS: SAGUN GAWADE

The temporary shed erected to accommodate the fish vendors to facilitate the demolition of the dilapidated fish market building. (INSET) The dilapidated market building which will be demolished

nated spaces in the makeshift shed located in the passage between Royal Foods and Dempo House, with the CCP having recorded their names.

In response to inquiries, Lorena mentioned that the CCP is also working to rehabilitate meat vendors who were evicted from the dilapidated fish market. They will be relocated as soon as an alternative site is identified.

Additionally, the High Court of Bombay at Goa is set to hear

two writ petitions filed by meat vendors on Monday.

Last Thursday, the Court reprimanded the CCP commissioner for violating a status quo order issued by the Principal District Court, Panjim, under Section 9 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1969. The Court has also directed the CCP to submit a relocation plan for the meat and fish vendors who were evacuated from the old Panjim Municipal fish market building.

## Alert night patrol led to resolution of gold heist at Nasnodkar Jeweller in Mapusa

Team Herald

PANJIM: The vigilant night patrolling staff of Bardez has successfully resolved a significant gold heist case involving the Nasnodkar jeweller in Mapusa. According to a senior officer from the North Goa Police, two of the arrested suspects were observed moving suspiciously in Mapusa during the night and were unable to provide satisfactory explanations for their presence at odd hours. This prompted the police on duty to gather digital evidence by taking photographs of the suspicious characters.



## 2025 DIARIES ON SALE

AT CASA JD FERNANDES  
DIOGO DE COUTO ROAD  
OPP GARCIA D'ORTA GARDEN  
PANAJI: 9011937381

## Special tenant verification drive launched in North Goa

Team Herald

PANJIM: A special tenant and house help verification drive was launched by all police stations of North Goa District on Saturday in a bid to ensure 100 per cent police verification of tenant, labourers and house help.

During these drives, special camps were erected by the North Goa District Police staff in all major 14 market areas of the district. These include Brittona, Anjuna and Siolim,

Panjim market, Valpoi market, Bodkewaddo-Calangute, Palyem and Dhargalim in Pernem, Bicholim market,



Cumbharjua, Corlim and Old Goa, VoilemBhat, near Datta-Mandir and Lourdes Convent School, Saligao; Sodiem-Siolim; Airport Labour Colony and Patradevi in Mopa Airport; IDC Tivim, Binani,

Madel-Tivim, Camurim, Pirna, Colvale and near Grand Hyatt Bambolim.

The aim of these camps was to reach out to maximum number of people, so as to ensure that there

was 100 per cent police verification of tenant, labourers and house help. A close co-ordination was also being maintained with the Market Welfare Associations to ensure that there

The aim of these camps was to reach out to maximum number of people, so as to ensure that there was 100 per cent police verification of tenant

was more active public and police co-operation in all high footfall areas of the North Goa District.

It was also planned that every week new special areas will be used for more active public and police partnership. According to the police, from January to September 28 this year, a total of 27,718 tenants were verified and 11,068 house help were already been verified.

## HEAVY RUSH "GOA SHOPPING FESTIVAL", LIFESTYLE SHOPPING EXHIBITION AT SGPDA GROUND AT MARGAO



Margao, Sept. 28: GOA SHOPPING FESTIVAL, the Life Style Shopping Exhibition at SGPDA GROUND in MARGAO is seen crowded everyday. There are lot of Furniture stalls in the exhibition where people rush to purchase as Diwali is approaching. Stalls like Pratik Motors, Prestige, Paramount Marketing, Usha International Ltd, Nuetech Solar Systems Pvt Ltd., AG Furniture Studio, RGS Kitchen Ware, Afgan Dry Fruits, Harsh Enterprises, Smith Furniture, Gujarat Namkeen, Jijee Jewellery, Sankul Food, Laxmi Enterprises, SS



Furniture, Rajasthan Papad, Samra Furniture, Kitchenware, Home Products, Sofa Sets & Home Furniture, Imported Curtains, Shower Curtains, Lazy World Bean Bags, Money Counting Machine, Ladies Fashion, Toys, Garments, Imported Watches, Magic Mop, Ladies & Gents Shoes, Children Clothes, Imported Jewellery, Bedsheets, Herbal Products, Children Furnitures, Educational Cd's, Door Mats, Bombay Halwa, Mens Wear, Health care Products & many more. The exhibition is open for the public till 06th October 2024 from 10.30 a.m. To 9.00 p.m.