

Water pipeline bursts, floods houses in Bhatlem

With no officials to handle the situation, residents suffered losses as water gushed into seven houses, destroying appliances & other items

Team Herald

PANJIM: Residents of the Smart City continue to grapple with new problems as Panjim's cup of woes keeps overflowing. On Sunday, the residents of Bhatlem and surrounding areas in the city scrambled to save their belongings after the main pipeline supplying water to Taleigao and Dona Paula burst, leaving their homes flooded and properties destroyed.

Those residing in the low-lying areas faced tremendous losses as the water gushed into their houses, kitchens destroying their home appliances and other household articles.

However, what was surprising to note was that the poor residents were battling with the rising waters as the authorities were conspicuous by their absence. They demanded compensation from the authorities for the damages.

According to the locals, the pipeline was damaged at around 10 am, which forced the water to seep into seven houses.

Farida Makandar, an affected resident, said, "I was watching TV when I saw water entering our house. We were surprised to see the water. Nobody bothered to visit us to find out what had happened. Water entered almost most of the houses in our area. We have electronic gadgets like refrigerator and television."

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Residents of Bhatlem and surrounding areas scrambled to save their belongings as water entered their houses after the main water pipeline burst



NOBODY VISITED US TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED: LOCAL
"I was watching TV when we saw water entering our house. We were surprised to see the water. Nobody bothered to visit us to find out what had happened. Water entered almost most of the houses in our area. We have electronic gadgets like refrigerator and television"
-Farida Makandar, an affected resident

SMART CITY OFFICIALS LEAST BOTHERED ABOUT PEOPLE: EX-MAYOR
"Smart City work is underway, but no officials are present. They only sit in the AC office. The work is carried out in an irresponsible manner. They are least bothered about the people"
- Uday Madkaikar, former CCP Mayor

PWD YET TO ASCERTAIN HOW THE PIPELINE CRACKED
"The pipeline supplying water to Taleigao and Dona Paula developed cracks and caused the leakage. It is not yet known whether it was due to Smart City work or something else"
- PWD sources

HAVE NOT UNDERTAKEN ANY ACTIVITY IN THE AFFECTED ZONE: IPSCDL
"The issue originated due to an internal pipeline end cap breakage inside Dhanlaxmi Colony, an entirely unrelated matter. IPSCDL has not undertaken any activity in the affected zone"
- Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd

FEEL THE BEAT



A traditional Chinese dance group performs during the Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations at the Buddhist Nan Hua Temple in Bronkhorstspuit, South Africa, on Sunday. The Chinese community in South Africa, the largest in Africa, welcomes the Year of the Wood Snake with cultural celebrations and traditional festivities

Goan killed in random shooting at California drag racing event

Ethan Pereira from Dramapur was attending a road show when the event took a deadly turn

FRANKEY FERNANDES

MELBOURNE: The Goan community in the United States is in a state of shock following the tragic death of 20-year-old Ethan Pereira, who was killed in a random shooting at a drag racing event in Oakland-California on January 27.

HERALD EXCLUSIVE

The deceased was a



spectator. Two others were also injured in the incident and are currently receiving medical treatment in a local hospital.

Ethan, who hailed from Dramapur-Salcete, had been attending a road show in Oakland's Eastlake neighbourhood, approxi-

mately 20-30 minutes from his home, when the event took a deadly turn.

Online media reports stated that a car performing "donuts" - a popular drag racing stunt - crashed into a spectator, which led to the gunfire.

Witnesses described a chaotic situation where over a 100 spectators had gathered to watch cars perform burnouts.

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Kejriwal wants independent observers for his constituency

PTI, NEW DELHI: AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal has alleged attack on his party workers ahead of the Delhi assembly polls and demanded that the Election Commission appoint independent observers in his New Delhi constituency.

In a letter to the Election Commission, Kejriwal has also demanded arrest of BJP workers allegedly involved in such incidents and suspension of police officers concerned.

No immediate reaction was available from the BJP and the Delhi Police over Kejriwal's claims.

In the letter, the former Delhi chief minister also cited some alleged incidents of attack on AAP workers in his New Delhi constituency.

AAP MLA Mohinder Goyal was allegedly assaulted during a public rally in Rohini area here on Saturday.

Mayem locals give thumbs down to international law college project

Say project will not be allowed until the land issues including evacuee property are resolved

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: Objecting to the land acquisition for the proposed international law college in Mayem when the contentious issue of evacuee property is still pending, the gram sabha on Sunday unanimously resolved to oppose the project with the villagers making their stance clear that this and other development projects will not be allowed until the land issues are settled.

The villagers pledged not to part away even an inch of land if the project does not benefit them. The villagers demanded that the government should expedite the process to settle the evacuee property issue.

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"Around 2.5 lakh square metres are to be acquired for the college. We suspect that some land dealings will happen because the decisions are being taken without taking locals into confidence. That is why we have passed a resolution that this project should not come up in the village"
- Santosh Kumar Sawant, Mayem villager

"People of Mayem are protesting because lakhs of square metres of land will be acquired for the project. The villagers will not allow any project to come up till they get their rights. We will not even give an inch of land on lease if we do not benefit from the project"
- Rajesh Kalangutkar, another local

Trump's trade war among allies triggers retaliation from Canada, Mexico

AP, TORONTO: Canada's prime minister and Mexico's president ordered retaliatory tariffs on goods from the US, following through with their threats after US President Donald Trump sparked a trade war by imposing sweeping tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico and China.

Canada had been proactively saying for months that it would respond to any tariffs on Washington's North American allies, while Mexico followed a more cautious approach. But in the end both nations did what they had anticipated: retaliate.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum spoke by phone Saturday after Trump's administration imposed sweeping tariffs - 25 per cent on goods from Canada and Mexico, and 10 per cent on imports from China - although there is still no indication the two countries are coordinating responses or will do concerted actions in coming days.

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AMERICANS COULD FEEL 'SOME PAIN', SAYS US PRESIDENT

AP, PALM BEACH: President Donald Trump said Sunday that Americans could feel "some pain" from the emerging trade war triggered by his tariffs against Canada, Mexico and China, and claimed that Canada would "cease to exist" without its trade surplus with the United States.

The trade penalties that Trump signed Saturday at his Florida resort caused a mix of panic, anger and uncertainty, and threatened to rupture a decades-old partnership on trade in North America while further straining relations with China. But by following through on a campaign pledge, Trump may have simultaneously broken his promise to voters in last year's election that his administration could quickly reduce inflation.

"WILL THERE BE SOME PAIN? YES, MAYBE (AND MAYBE NOT!)," Trump said in a social media post. "BUT WE WILL MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, AND IT WILL ALL BE WORTH THE PRICE THAT MUST BE PAID."



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