

## STUDENT SUICIDE: GRIEVING KIN SAY BITS WOKE UP LATE

Cops were informed of tragedy on Thursday morning, but family members claim they got to know of it only in the evening

Team Herald

**MARGAO/ VASCO:** A day after a second-year student's suicide at the BITS Pilani Goa campus – the third such incident in five months – sent shockwaves all around, his aggrieved and enraged family members on Friday pointed at several missing communication links that they claim have raised the suspicion of foul play.

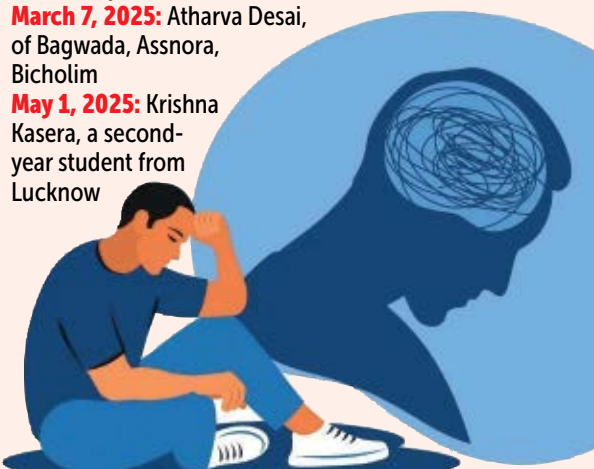
**MENTAL STRESS AND STUDENT SUICIDES PG 6**  
**SUICIDE SWINGS FOCUS ON ALL-ROUND PRESSURE, CLASSROOM TO HOME PG 3**

Standing outside the campus walls, the kin of deceased student Krishna Kasera told the media that they were informed about the death on Thursday evening, while it is clear from police records that the suicide was reported to the cops around 10.30 am. Around 12 family members including Krishna's mother, father, sister, uncle and aunt have flown down to Goa.

According to Verna police sources, Krishna, a student of instrumentation, had locked his hostel room from inside. He was due to take his exams, but did not answer them. At 10.24 am on Thursday, the cops received a call from the BITS authorities about

### THREE STUDENT SUICIDES IN 5 MONTHS AT BITS, GOA

**Dec 10, 2024:** Om Priyansh Singh, a second year student of MSc Physics and a native of Delhi  
**March 7, 2025:** Atharva Desai, of Bagwada, Assnora, Bicholim  
**May 1, 2025:** Krishna Kasera, a second-year student from Lucknow



### EXCERPTS FROM BITS GOA STATEMENT ON FRIDAY

BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus is deeply shaken at the tragic loss of Krishna Kasera... This heartbreaking loss has left all of us shattered and in deep sorrow... The campus authorities are in close coordination with the police, who have taken charge of the situation. We are fully cooperating with them to ensure all necessary steps are being taken appropriately. BITS Pilani is conducting an internal inquiry in this matter." (see page 3 for full statement)

the suicide after a master key was used to open Krishna's room and he was found hanging.

Mormugao DySP Gurdas Kadam said that PI Anand Shirodkar from Verna Police Station has taken up the investigation and recorded the statements of six students and others. While no suicide note was found,

they have ruled out foul play, he added. A case of unnatural death under Section 194 BNSS has been registered.

The family of Krishna, however, pointed to the three suicides over the past five months as a sign of a deeper problem on the campus.

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### 'I LOST MY CHILD BECAUSE OF THE INSTITUTION'

I was trying to call my son Krishna after receiving a message from him that he wasn't feeling well. I replied, asking if he had taken any medicine. I never imagined that would be our last exchange. I lost my child because of the institution. I am shattered and completely devastated. When my brother arrived at my home, I told him I hadn't heard back. I assumed Krishna might be busy in the library, preparing for his exams. But the next morning, my brother called again, concerned. My daughter, who lives in Noida, suggested I check with the hostel warden. My brother managed to find the contact number and spoke to the warden

— Manisha Poddar, mother



### 'I DON'T AGREE THAT HE DIED BY SUICIDE'

We had received a message that he is not feeling well. I wanted to contact him but he was not reachable. Had I known that this could happen, I would have arrived in Goa much before that. We are going to sue the college, as there was no proper communication. I don't agree that he died by suicide – it could be cold-blooded murder. We will not accept his body unless we get the replies we seek. When a series of suicides have taken place at the college, has the management taken any pains to find out the cause?

— Aman Poddar, uncle

### 'THEY HAVEN'T SHOWN US CCTV FOOTAGE'

Three incidents of suicide in the last few months – all of them following the same pattern. We asked the institution to show us CCTV footages, but it was not shown to us. Krishna did not come out of his room for around 8-12 hours or more. If we had not called, his body may have remained in the room for more time. We have come to know that Krishna had approached a counsellor at college on April 26, but the institution did not inform his parents

— Manish Poddar, uncle



## Goa's free water scheme evaporates

First state to offer free water, now first to revoke it

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** In a significant policy reversal, the Goa government has officially scrapped its much-publicised free water supply scheme, effective May 1, 2025. The announcement was made through a notification issued by U P Parsekar, Principal Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department and Ex Officio Additional Secretary to the Government of Goa.

The scheme, launched in September 2021, was a flagship initiative of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who had declared that Goa would become the first State in India to provide water free of cost to its citizens. Under the initiative, households consuming less than 16 cubic meters of water per month were exempted from paying water bills.



### FREE WATER MIRAGE

- Every household in Goa will now be billed for water usage regardless of consumption levels
- The move is expected to impact nearly half of the State's population

At the time, the Chief Minister had claimed that the move would benefit around 60% of households, especially those in flats and complexes, significantly easing their monthly financial burden.

However, the State has now rolled back this bene-

fit, citing no official reason in the notification. With the termination of the zero-bill provision, every household in Goa will now be billed for water usage regardless of consumption levels. The move is expected to impact nearly half of the State's population who had availed the subsidy.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemão condemned the roll-back, calling it a blow to citizens already grappling with inflation. "I strongly condemn this decision, which will only add to the financial burden on citizens during a time of high inflation. What's next? Will they hike power tariffs as well? It's shameful that this government seems so insensitive towards the common man," Alemão stated in a post on X.

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## RETURNED TO THE LORD

"If we Live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God."  
-ROMANS 14:8

**LEOPOLDINA SILVEIRA**

Born on: 20-03-1940 Died on: 02-05-2025

**DANDI - AGASSAIM**

WIFE OF LATE **MANUEL SILVEIRA**.  
MOTHER / MOTHER IN LAW OF **ANTONIO / LIBERTY** (EX ZP OF ST. LAWRENCE),

**ROSARIO / FILOMENA, FRANCISCO / ANTONETA** (FORMER MINISTER OF GOVT. OF GOA / EX. M.L.A. OF ST. ANDRE CONSTITUENCY, CHAIRMAN OF G.S.M.F.C.),

**MENINO / LUZINHA** (EX PANCH OF V.P. AGASSAIM), **SOCORINA / MENINO** (PANCH V.P. COLVA),

**BENNY / RUVEYNA** (PANCH OF V.P. AGASSAIM),

GRANDMOTHER OF **ALISTAN / FLOSSI, REYZEL, MELISSA, ALLAN** (DY. SARPANCH V.P. AGASSAIM), **MASHWIN, ABIGAIL, MELANIE, LEYNA, REZEYA, MISHONA, BRYSON, FRANCO, BLISSEE & BRISSE.**

Funeral cortege will leave her residence **TODAY 3rd May, 2025 at 3:45 pm** to St Lawrence Church, Agassaim for Eucharistic Celebration at 4:00 pm followed by burial

https://www.youtube.com/live/LAYQn3dlwNU?si=KJLAYGNM5GB\_xnly

Family & friends kindly accept this as the only Intimation

CREATIVE MASS - 9764592979

## CAPITAL PUNISHMENT?



Vehicles move on a waterlogged road after heavy rainfall, at ITO, in New Delhi, on Friday

More on Pg 7 >>

## Karacus Marakus isn't refunding ticket costs for cancelled festival

Ticket holders say they don't want entry to future events, demand their money back

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Trance fest nightmare at Dream Beach turtle site

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Eco-sensitive zone spared as trance festival 'turns turtle' at Dream Beach  
Stage set up for the six-day 'Karacus Marakus' music festival at Vagator dismantled after O Heraldo report

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

**VAGATOR:** Nearly three months since the 2025 Karacus Marakus Festival was cancelled after O Heraldo reported multiple violations of environmental norms, it now appears that ticket holders are still waiting for a refund. According to many of the aggrieved, festival organisers Pralayah Records are promising entry to future editions of the event – but are keeping mum on returning the ticket costs to the holders.

The trance music festival landed itself in hot water after it came to light that they were eyeing Dream Beach in Ozrant – a known Olive Ridley turtle nesting site – as the open-air venue in February, which is bang

“They're offering us access to a future event, but not answering us on refunds, which should be a basic right in such cases

— A foreign ticket holder, on condition of anonymity

in the middle of nesting season. If held, the festival also would have violated Supreme Court's orders on noise pollution.

After authorities stepped in, the organisers attempted to shift the venue twice – first to a nightclub already under scrutiny by the Goa Bench of the Bombay HC for noise violations, and later to an open-air restaurant in Akaswada, Mandrem.

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## SC protects family facing deportation to Pakistan

Asks authorities to verify documents

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Friday directed authorities not to deport to Pakistan six members of a family, who allegedly overstayed their visa, till their citizenship claim is verified.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh without fixing any specific timeline asked the authorities to verify the identity documents such as passports, Aadhaar card, pan card, etc, of the family and other relevant facts, which are brought to their notice.



"In the peculiar facts and circumstances of this case, authorities may not take coercive action till an appropriate decision is taken. If petitioners are dissatisfied by the final decision, they can approach J&K&L HC. Order not to be treated as precedent," the bench said.

The family, which lives in Kashmir and whose sons work in Bengaluru, faced deportation to Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people lost their lives.

Observing that the issue involves a human angle, the bench gave the family the liberty to approach the Jammu and Kashmir high court in case they are aggrieved by the document verification order.

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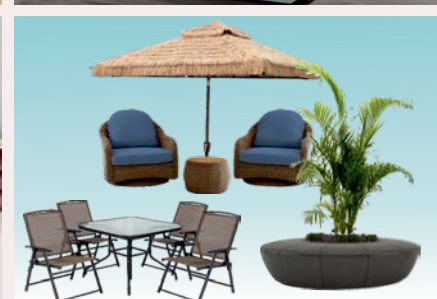
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1<sup>ST</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

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