

Road accident after night long drive claims eight lives

An all-night car drive followed by a tiff between the driver and the occupants of the vehicle apparently led to an accident that killed eight people near Murtizapur in Akola district, about 250 km from here Thursday, a survivor said.

The accident took place when two closely related families were returning to Nagpur in a hired Tata Sumo from a pilgrimage of major shrines in Maharashtra skipping Shegaon, the last one on their itinerary, a family source told IANS.

While the entire family of Hanumant Ingle, a school teacher, comprising his wife Nalini, also a teacher and three college going daughters Soni, Rohini and Ashwini was wiped off in the accident, Nalini's sister Veena Shende and her husband Govind were also killed besides the car driver Ravi Parate.

Govind and Veena Shende's 20-year old daughter Mrinal is under critical care in a private hospital in Akola while her elder brother Swapnil and the dead driver's friend Ravindra Jasoos returned to Nagpur with minor injuries, the family source added.

The twelve travellers left Kolhapur, over 1,000 km from here, Wednesday night for their return journey with a plan to stop-over at Shegaon, about 600 km from Kolhapur and over 400 km from Nagpur.

Ravi, who crossed the distance of 600 km almost non-stop, also skipped Shegaon, a fact the slumbering Ingles and Shendes realized a while later and scolded the driver. The accident took place when the driver, possibly in a foul mood, rammed a truck in an attempt to overtake it, the family source said quoting Swapnil.

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