

Bhavik Gandhi braving the mighty Atlantic rowing solo

Bhavik Gandhi began his attempt at becoming the first Indian and first Asian to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean on 28th February, 2007 at 1155 hrs GMT. Bhavik set off from La Restinga on the island of El Hierro off the coast of Spain and is expected to reach his destination Antigua, 3000 nautical miles away, in about 90 days.

Bhavik has been at sea for about 35 days now and has already rowed for over 900 nautical miles pushing the boundaries of equipment, body and mind beyond limits unfathomable to most human beings. He hopes that this attempt to row across the Atlantic solo will inspire others to take on challenges and obstacles in their life that were thought impossible and help realise situations are not always as bad as they may seem to be.

Bhavik in his attempt to row across the Atlantic unaided is at the mercy of the weather and has to endure extreme conditions such as gale force winds, storms and regular 4-storey high waves in the open ocean, not to mention the constant fear of sharks and whales. Days merge into a big blue background and darkness interspersed with brilliant stars on clear nights are his only friends. However, he is kept amused by the constant shoal of pilot fish and sometimes even dolphins that follow his boat as it continues its journey to Antigua. For more updates on Bhavik's remarkable journey log on to <http://www.humanedgetech.com/expedition/bhavik/>

Bhavik is rowing for about 10-12 hours a day in 4 hour shifts. The rest of the time will be divided between eating, cleaning and maintaining the boat, and trying to catch up on some much needed sleep. To keep his sanity intact he will be carrying a laptop, a PDA, an iPod and a satellite phone which will be his only contact with the outside world. He will also be carrying a GPS system, an Argos tracking system and a SeeMe device that will enable his boat to be picked up by the radars of large ships.

Upon completion of this journey he will be the 23rd person to row solo across the Atlantic and only the 33rd person to ever row solo across any ocean. The Ocean Rowing Society would certify the World Records. Following the route Christopher Columbus took, Bhavik will spend an estimated 90 days at sea in a 23 - ft boat, rowing solo and unassisted. Bhavik on route to his world record will be crossing the infamous Bermuda Triangle.

Overcoming challenges and obstacles at sea are of a different kind and a lot more difficult. Bhavik commented, 'Rowing solo across miles and miles of ocean pits man against nature and all that she has to offer. Somedays she just beautiful and calm while other days she comes with problems such as rough weather, strong currents which push a person to and beyond boundaries they never knew existed. That is the biggest battle of them all. I have to get miles out of nature by pushing the boundaries of the equipment, body and mind. I have been preparing my self for this my whole life with the intense physical and mental and emotional training I have put myself through.'

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