

# 'Pained to see son unable to bury dad in village move SC'

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday said it was pained to see a man move the top court to bury his father as per Christian rites in a Chhattisgarh village after the authorities failed to resolve the issue.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma was hearing a plea filed by one Ramesh Baghel, challenging an order of the Chhattisgarh High Court which disposed of his plea seeking burial of his father, a pastor, in the area specified for the burial of Christians in the village graveyard.

"Why should a person who has lived in a particular village be not buried in that village? The body is lying in the morgue since January 7. Sorry to say that a man has to come to the Supreme Court for burial of his father. We are surprised by the high court's remark that there will be law and order problem. We are pained to see that a person is unable to bury his father and has to come to the Supreme Court for burial of his

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— Supreme Court



father. We are sorry to say that neither the Panchayat, nor the state government or the high court was able to resolve this problem. We are surprised by the high court's remark that there will be law and order prob-

lem. We are pained to see that a person is unable to bury his father and has to come to the Supreme Court," said the bench.

Baghel said while villagers had "aggressively objected" to the burial,

police threatened him with legal action.

At the outset, solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state government, informed the court that there was no burial ground for Christians and the man could be buried in a place 20 kilometer away from the village.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for Baghel, said the affidavit submitted by the state showed his family members were also buried in the village.

Referring to the affidavit, Gonsalves said the deceased was not being allowed the burial as he was Christian.

Mehta said the son was adamant to bury his father in the burial ground of his family's native village to create unrest between tribal Hindus and tribal Christians.

Opposing the submission,

Gonsalves said this was the "beginning of movement to kick Christians out".

Mehta said the issue should not be decided on emotions and was ready to argue the matter in detail.

The top court posted the hearing on January 22 after the Mehta sought time.

Relying on a certificate issued by the gram panchayat's sarpanch that there were no separate burial grounds for Christians, the high court denied the permission for burial to the son underlining it could cause unrest and disharmony in the public at large.

The pastor died due to old age.

According to Baghel, Chhindawada village had a graveyard which was verbally allotted by the gram panchayat for burial and cremation of bodies.

## 6.0-magnitude earthquake shakes Taiwan: USGS

**AFP, TAIPEI:** A 6.0-magnitude earthquake hit Taiwan on Tuesday, the US Geological Survey said, with local authorities reporting three people briefly trapped in a collapsed house and two stuck in elevators.

The shallow quake caused buildings in the capital Taipei to shake as it struck at 12:17 am (1617 GMT) 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) north of Yujing, a mango-growing district in southern Taiwan.

No major damage was reported.

Local fire authorities rescued three people, including a child, who were trapped in a house that collapsed in another district near the epicentre.

Elsewhere, a person was injured by falling debris while two people were reported trapped in elevators, authorities said.

In Chiayi City, about 40 kilometres north of Yujing, CCTV footage inside a nut shop that was shared on

Threads and verified by AFP showed shelves swaying and goods falling to the floor.

An AFP journalist in Taipei felt their residential tower shake for nearly a minute.

Taiwan is frequently hit by earthquakes due to its location on the edges of two tectonic plates near the Pacific Ring of Fire, which USGS says is the most seismically active zone in the world.

## FROM PAGE 1 & 2

### VILLA RENTAL SCAM BUSTED IN GOA

Two under training IPS officers attached to Goa Police were entrusted with the job of investigating the scam.

The Goa Police had recently received several complaints regarding online fraud targeting tourists. Superintendent of Police (SP) North Goa Akshat Kaushal said there could be more victims.

He said, "Initial investigations revealed that over 500 individuals have fallen prey to this scam. Efforts are on to contact the victims and formally record their complaints." Though the scam has been executed through stay hosting web platforms, the SP informed that the transactions did not happen through the websites of these hosting platforms.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to orchestrating the scam and revealed their modus operandi. Operating from a rented room in Hyderabad, they would field calls from potential victims and use female telephone operators to build trust.

The perpetrators exploited vulnerabilities in booking platforms to create fraudulent listings for non-existent properties. They then collected advance payments through digital payment systems linked to multiple bank accounts.

### 'BETRAYED, INSULTED': PARSEKAR LASHES OUT AT BJP

Although Parsekar expressed confidence in Naik's leadership and extensive experience, particularly as a former Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and active party member, he also took the opportunity to reflect on his own political journey and the disappointment he felt after the BJP denied him a ticket to contest the 2022 elections.

"I started with just 365 votes when I first contested elections, and from that modest vote base, I eventually secured victory on my third attempt," he recalled. However, Parsekar claimed that the BJP rejected him for the 2022 elections, citing concerns over his 'winnability'.

Reflecting on his decision not to remain silent after the party's decision, Parsekar added, "Initially, I doubted my calculations, but later realised that staying silent would mean the end of my political career." With only 10 days left to campaign, Parsekar, now an independent candidate, faced the immense challenge of contesting against a party-backed opponent.

"Despite my efforts, my opponent, who contested on a party ticket, won by just 2,000 votes," he said, highlighting the difficulties he faced as an independent candidate without party support.

In a move that further underscores his disillusionment with the BJP, Parsekar also revealed that he had been approached by other political parties with offers to join their ranks. However, he declined these offers, citing moral principles. "I couldn't do so due to my moral principles. That is why I chose to contest as an independent candidate from my constituency, and to this day, I have not joined any political party," he said.

### PARAGLIDING SAFETY IS IN FREE FALL, SHOWS PERNEM TRAGEDY

Pinto, who is licensed to fly commercially, said, "You cannot take risks in paragliding. Much depends on the wind conditions, which must be favorable. If conditions are not right, I cancel bookings. I hold permission from Air Traffic Control (ATC) to fly at Colva Beach, where helicopters sometimes hover."

Samson D'Silva, a founder member of the Paragliding Association of India (PAI), explained that while the government does not have a specific policy for paragliding, the association follows internationally recognized standards for training and certification. He said, "We have a system in place for skill-level certification. At my training school, we train one person at a time, assess their skill, and certify them once they are proficient."

He added that PAI only operates during optimal weather conditions. "For motor paragliding, we operate only during the first two hours in the morning, as that is the best time. For regular gliding, weather, equipment, and the pilot's skill level must be carefully checked," D'Silva said.

Badari Duddupudi, Vice-President of PAI, highlighted the association's efforts to ensure the safety of both pilots and passengers. PAI has published a 113-page Tandem Pilot Handbook, a resource aimed at guiding pilots and ensuring consistent safety practices.

According to Duddupudi, for tandem paragliding, pilots must first complete 50 solo flights and then perform 200 flights with a co-pilot before they are certified to fly with passengers. However, he pointed out that there is currently no government system in place to recognize training schools or standardize certification processes.

"We have 800 pilots who have come together to form the association. A pilot must be physically fit and must be able to read, write, and speak English. The most important factor is the pilot's air time. If anything goes wrong, it's because the pilot was not well trained," Duddupudi stated.

He concluded, "If all pilots are trained properly, there will be no issues with safety."

### PERNEM PARAGLIDING CO OWNER ARRESTED

The autopsy of the deceased pilot will be conducted once his parents arrive in Goa, according to police.

Shivani, who was on holiday with a friend, had decided to try paragliding on Saturday. She went first, but tragically died when her paraglider crashed.

### IMMIGRANTS TREMBLE AS TRUMP CHECKS IN

He vowed to deport "millions and millions" of illegal immigrants.

Trump took the oath with one hand raised in the air, using a Bible given to him by his mother, and became the 47th president.

He had traveled to the Capitol with outgoing Democratic president Joe Biden, who followed tradition by offering his successor tea at the White House.

"Welcome home," Biden had said to Trump as he and First Lady Jill Biden greeted the incoming president and his wife Melania at the White House.

Trump was a political outsider in 2017 as the 45th president. But this time around he is surrounded by America's wealthy and powerful.

The world's richest man, Elon Musk, Meta boss Mark Zuckerberg, Amazon chief Jeff Bezos and Google CEO Sundar Pichai all had prime seats in the Capitol alongside Trump's family and cabinet members.

Musk, who bankrolled Trump's election campaign to the tune of a quarter of a billion dollars and promotes far-right policies on the X social network, will lead a cost-cutting drive in the new administration.

While Trump refused to attend Biden's 2021 inauguration after falsely claiming electoral fraud, this time Biden has been keen to restore the sense of tradition.

Biden joined former presidents Barack Obama, George W Bush and Bill Clinton at the Capitol. Former first ladies Hillary Clinton and Laura Bush were there but ex-first lady Michelle Obama pointedly stayed away.

Executive orders Unusually for an inauguration where foreign leaders are normally not invited, Argentina's hard-right president Javier Milei was attending, along with Italy's far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

The bitter cold weather has forced Trump's inauguration indoors for the first time since Ronald Reagan's in 1985, missing out on the customary massive crowds along the National Mall.

Behind the pomp and ceremony, the billionaire is kick-starting his nationalist, right-wing agenda with a barrage of around 100 executive orders undoing Biden's legacy.

Trump will give the US military a key role on the frontier, and end birthright citizenship, as he seeks clamp down on undocumented migrants, an official from his incoming administration said.

He will also sign an order for the US government to recognize only two biological sexes and seek to eliminate federal government diversity programs as he takes office.

### BIDEN PARDONS FAMILY MEMBERS, TRUMP FOES

Biden also commuted to home confinement the life sentence of Native American activist Leonard Peltier, 80, who has been imprisoned for nearly 50 years for the 1975 murders of two FBI agents.

"I believe in the rule of law, and I am optimistic that the strength of our legal institutions will ultimately prevail over politics," Biden said in a statement announcing the pardons of Fauci, Milley and the members of the January 6 committee.

"But these are exceptional circumstances, and I cannot in good conscience do nothing," he said.

"These public servants have served our nation with honor and distinction and do not deserve to be the targets of unjustified and politically motivated prosecutions."

Trump has repeatedly promised "retribution" against his political opponents and threatened some with criminal prosecution.

Fauci, who led the country's fight against the Covid pandemic during Trump's first term, has become a hated figure for many on the right, including Trump ally Elon Musk, who has called for the scientist to be prosecuted.

Trump was enraged after Milley, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told journalist Bob Woodward that the Republican was "fascist to the core" and a "dangerous person."

## NIA to probe twin blasts outside Gurugram restobars

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Anti-terror agency NIA has registered a case to probe two crude bomb explosions outside two nightclubs in Gurugram, official sources said on Monday.

They said the case was registered based on the directive of the Union Home Ministry.

The NIA has taken over the case registered by Haryana Police and an FIR has been filed to investigate explosions that took place near the nightclubs on December 10, 2024, the sources said.

Two crude bombs were thrown outside the clubs located in Sector 29, Gurugram and a person, identified as Sachin, a resident of Meerut, was arrested from the spot. Later, a few other accused were arrested in

the case. Gangster Rohit Godara had claimed responsibility for the blasts, they said.

Godara is said to be an aide of Canada-based designated terrorist Satinder Singh alias Satinderjit Singh alias Goldy Brar.

Brar has been involved in the smuggling of high-grade arms, ammunition and explosive materials through drones from across the border, supplying them for carrying out killings and also providing sharpshooters, the sources said.

Brar, Godara and 11 others have also been chargesheeted by the federal probe agency for their involvement in the killing of Karni Sena chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi at his house in Jaipur in December 2023.

## 5 held in separate encounters in Noida

**PTI, NOIDA (UP):** Noida Police arrested five criminals in two separate encounters on Monday, officials said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Zone II, Shakti Mohan Awasthi, said that on the morning of January 20, a police team from Phase-II police station were conducting checks near the red light of Sector 92 when they saw a suspect coming on a motorcycle. When the police signalled him to stop, he tried to flee.

Awasthi said that after being surrounded by the police, the accused opened fire on the policemen who also fired back.

The accused was injured in the retaliatory action by the police, Awasthi said.

The accused has been identified as Lalit (30), a resident of Anupshahr in Bulandshahr district and he has been admitted to the hospital for treatment, the DCP added.

A country-made pistol, cartridges and a stolen motorcycle were recovered from him, Awasthi said, adding that Lalit has 17 cases registered against him in the past.

According to the DCP, the accused later told the police during interrogation that he used to commit theft and robberies.

## MORE OBITS ON PG 12

### DEATH



**MANUEL DEYOG DIAS**  
 Husband of Margaret Dias.  
 Father/ Father in law of Francis / Tina, Oswald (Ozy) / Cassiana (Cassy), Marcelino, Bruno/ Nikita, Jude Dias.  
 Grandfather of Diego, Schylar, Felicio, Simeon and Vennoshka.  
**FUNERAL DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER**  
 Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

## FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**REV. FR. MANOEL CRISOLOGO JESUINO AGNELO ALMEIDA, SFX**



Born: 04-12-1937  
 Ordained: 02-12-1964  
 Died: 23-01-2024

The Superior General and confreres of the Society of Pilar will celebrate the Eucharist for the soul of our beloved confrere **REV. FR. JESUINO ALMEIDA, SFX** (From Cansaulim, Goa) on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025, Wednesday at 04:00 p.m., at the Pilar Monastery Church, followed by prayers at the grave.

## REMEMBRANCE MASS

In Loving Memory of



**MARIA JESSIE RUSTICA GOES CARDOSO**  
 (PASSAGEM, ASSOLNA)

A remembrance mass will be held to honor the cherished memory of our mother JESSIE and her journey of life on 22.01.2025 (tomorrow) at 08:15 am at Regina Martyrum Church, Assolna followed by prayers and blessings of the grave, offered by her sorrowful children & family.

RELATIVES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS KINDLY ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY INTIMATION

## THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Everloving Memory of



Born: 19.12.1946  
 Died: 22.1.2022

**EMIDIO DA SILVA**  
 (Sao Jose de Areal)  
 (Husband of Late Josefina Fernandes)

Father we hold you close within our hearts,  
 And there you shall remain,  
 To walk with us throughout our lives,  
 Until we meet again.  
 So rest in peace dear Daddy.  
 And thanks for all you've done.  
 We pray that God has given you,  
 The crown you've truly won.

There will be a Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our most beloved Dad **EMIDIO DA SILVA** at 8.30 am on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 (Tomorrow) at St. Joseph Church, Sao Jose de Areal, followed by blessings and prayers at the grave offered by his sorrowful children **Alvito / Adv. Nelly, Dr. Jasmine / Earl Braganza, Dr. Connie / Dr. Moumita, Dr. Roanna / Dr. Agnelo Reveredo,** grandchildren Dr. Tamika, Vanshika, Advika, Aaron, Alannah Emilia, sister Lucy Gomes and family.

Relatives, Neighbours & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Aquila Advt. 9421377771 / 9421577777

**THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
 In ever loving memory of  
**CASSIANA EDNA FERNANDES**  
 (Baga - Vellim)



There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved mother **CASSIANA** on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 2025 at 7:30 a.m. at St Xavier's Church, Vellim, offered by her sorrowful children, grandchildren & great grandchildren followed by prayers at the grave.

RELATIVES, FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS KINDLY ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY INTIMATION