

Tension in Porvorim, sacred banyan tree cut 'mercilessly'

Residents force authorities to stall the removal & relocation of Lord Khapreshwar's idol; fear translocation exercise could damage the temple adjacent to the tree; commotion leads to traffic congestion

Team Herald

PANJIM: Tension rent the air at Vodakade, Porvorim, as the authorities "mercilessly" chopped the 200-year-old sacred banyan tree on Sunday to go ahead with six lane elevated corridor work, with the residents forcing the government to take a back seat and stall the removal and relocation of the Lord Khapreshwar's idol.

As per the court order when the officials of Public Works Department (PWD) officials and police arrived to commence the translocation of the tree, activists and local residents gathered at the site, as they feared the exercise could damage the Khapreshwar Temple adjacent to the tree. Social activist Swapnesh Sherlekar confronted the PWD officials and police, warning them of grave consequences if the temple's dome was harmed.

He asked: "How can workers remove the idol in the absence of mamlatdar when the order for razing



A cop stands guard near the Lord Khapreshwar temple



Activists and local residents confront policemen during the exercise to chop the 200-year-old banyan tree at Porvorim

down the temple was not given by any authority."

"Which religion are we talking about? If the location of Ram Temple in Ayodhya was important

then, the location of our Khapreshwar temple is also important. The government should not play with the sentiments of the people and the religious

POOJA BEFORE RELOCATION

Emotions ran high among Porvorim residents as later in the evening, the 'pooja' of Lord Khapreshwar also known as the Rakhanda (protector) was performed before relocating the idol to another location. According to the temple priest, the idol will be relocated near a four-wheeler showroom.



“How can workers remove the idol in the absence of mamlatdar when the order for razing down the temple was not given by any authority? There is no mention of a temple in the order. We felt agitated as workers were trying to remove the idol with the mamlatdar not present at the site

– Swapnesh Sherlekar, social activist

“It is surprising that the temple and the tree are not being saved, while so many houses and housing complexes have been spared earlier

– Dhananjay Borkar, Porvorim resident

places. If this idol is to be removed then the Chief Minister along with his family members should

come here and remove the idol," he said.

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FLORAL FRAGRANCE

INACIO NORONHA



A float depicting locally-grown flowers passes opposite the Margao Municipal Council building during the carnival celebrations in State's commercial capital

Goans vow to protect unity, freedom of speech

Want Bajrang Dal members arrested for threatening Adv Bhembre; warn of massive agitation at Lohia Maidan

Team Herald

MARGAO: People from various walks of life on Sunday vowed to go to any extent to protect the unity and freedom of speech in the State and warned of a massive agitation at Lohia Maidan if the Bajrang Dal members who threatened former

MLA and historian Adv Uday Bhembre are not arrested immediately. Condemning the Bajrang Dal for ridiculing and threatening Adv Bhembre, the citizens, who assembled at short



People from various walks of life assembled at public meeting in Margao

notice at a public meeting held at the open floor of St Sebastian Chapel, Margao, demanded immediate police action, asserting that the group is trying to terrorise those with opposing secular

viewpoints. The gathering warned that if unchecked, this group could destroy Goa's tolerant and secular culture.

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Four more bodies recovered from U'khand avalanche site

PTI, DEHRADUN: The bodies of the last four of the trapped labourers were pulled out from the site of the avalanche-hit Border Roads Organisation (BRO) camp in Chamoli on Sunday, taking the death toll to eight as authorities ended the nearly 60-hour rescue operation.

Army doctors said 46 workers who were rescued on Saturday have been brought to the military hospital in Jyotirmath. Two of them have been referred to AIIMS, Rishikesh. Three of the workers are in critical condition, Lt Col DS Malhiya said.

The body of the last missing worker has also been retrieved. The recovery marks the culmination of the Mana Village Rescue operation, Defence Public Relations Officer (PRO) Lt Col Manish Shrivastava said.

Court orders FIR against ex-SEBI chief Madhabi Buch, 5 others

Judge says there is prima facie evidence of regulatory lapses & collusion, requiring a fair probe

PTI, MUMBAI: A special court here has directed the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to register an FIR against former Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairperson **Madhabi Puri Buch** and five other officials in connection with alleged stock market fraud and regulatory violations.

There is prima facie evidence of regulatory lapses and collusion, requiring a fair and impartial probe, the special ACB court judge, Shashikant Eknathrao Bangar, said in the order passed on Saturday. The court said it will monitor the probe and sought a status report within 30 days.



STOCK MARKET 'FRAUD'

Apart from Buch, the other officials against whom the court has ordered registration of the FIR are BSE's MD & CEO Sundararaman Ramamurthy, its former chairman and public interest director Pramod Agarwal and SEBI's three whole time members Ashwani Bhatia, Ananth Narayan G and Kamlesh Chandra Varshney

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chairman and public interest director Pramod Agarwal and SEBI's three whole time members Ashwani Bhatia, Ananth Narayan G and Kamlesh Chandra Varshney.

The SEBI in a statement said it "would be initiating appropriate legal steps to challenge this order and remains committed to ensuring due regulatory compliance in all matters".

The SEBI said the application, which sought directions to the police to register an FIR and investigate alleged irregularities in granting listing permission to a company on the Bombay Stock Exchange in 1994, was allowed by the court "even though these officials were not holding their respective positions at the relevant point of time".

Smart City works blow up dust, leave Sao Tome houses red

Residents allege that workers are using blowers instead of washing roads to clear dust; charge that the ramp created to give them access to the road is a bigger nuisance

Team Herald

PANJIM: It's been five months since the residents of Sao Tome areas are forced to live in dusty conditions on account of the ongoing 'unplanned' Smart City works which have left the walls of their heritage houses red.

Dr Luis Dias and his wife Chryselle D'Silva Dias, residing in Casa Da Moea (Mint House) on Saturday narrated their ordeal which they have been undergoing since October last year.

Chryselle said, "The walls of our house are full of dust. The contractor raised the height of the floor so much that everybody who is standing is looking inside the bathroom. I had to change the design of the window because of



Chryselle D'Silva Dias shows how she was forced to change the design of the window because of Smart City works

Smart City works. Who is going to pay for it? Dust is flying inside our house."

Expressing their disgust over the "ill-thought" Smart City works in the

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–Chryselle D'Silva Dias, Sao Tome resident

area, they said, "Earlier there was a gutter. But the contractor closed it and realised his folly when we brought it to their notice."

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AT SGPD MAIN PARKING FATORDA