

Narrow escape for rider after scooter falls into trench at Siolim

Team Herald

PANJIM: A 32-year-old man from Oxel-Siolim sustained injuries after his two-wheeler plunged into a deep trench at an ongoing roadside work site near Marna-Siolim at around 8 pm on Wednesday. The victims' ear was damaged, besides he sustained injuries to his head and hand. Onlookers rescued him and shifted him to the Health Centre at Siolim.

Residents expressed serious concerns regarding the safety measures at the site. They alleged that the area was inadequately lit and lacked proper warning signs and barricades, creating a hazardous environment for commuters. With non-functional



The bike seen in the 10-foot trench at Siolim

streetlights and poor visibility in the area, the rider failed to notice the pit and crashed, straight into it, locals said. "They have dug the

road but there were neither any safety barricades nor any reflectors. I had called him and told him of the impending danger and had even requested him to repair the pipeline and close the trench," said Marna panch William Fernandes who claimed that it amounted to criminal negligence.

When O Heraldo contacted Raghuvir Gadekar, the Water Resources Department (WRD) Junior Engineer (JE) regarding the dug road, he stated that they had placed "caution tapes" in the area to alert motorists. "The pipeline was leaking and had to be repaired and after the incident, we immediately repaired and closed the trench," the JE stated.

A social activist Sa-

bina De Souza from the area stated that "caution tapes" serve no practical purpose, the entire area plunges into darkness at nights. "The authorities should have placed reflectors at the dug site and barricaded it properly. This was not done. If this is not criminal negligence, then what is," De Souza questioned. "Whoever is responsible, should be booked by the police for criminal negligence. We pay road tax and have the right to travel safely. Rains are around the corner and every nook and corner is dug either by the PWD, WRD or GED to lay cables and left open for months together. It is ultimately the innocent public that suffers," she stated.

IMD issues weather warning till May 18

PANJIM: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Goa on Thursday extended its weather warning for the state till 18 May, predicting thunderstorms with wind gusts reaching 40-50 kmph at isolated locations in both North and South Goa. The forecast includes the possibility of light to moderate rainfall during the evening hours over the next three days, from 16 to 18 May, across the state.

"Thunderstorms accompanied with winds gusting to 40-50 kmph is likely at isolated places over North and South Goa districts. Light to moderate rainfall is likely in the evening hours over North and South Goa districts on May 16, 17 and 18," the IMD stated.

The department also reported a maximum temperature of 35.9°C in Panjim, and a minimum temperature of 25.4°C in Dabolim, during the 24-hour period ending at 6 pm on 15 May.

Shirgao stampede: Law will take its own course, says Governor

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai on Thursday stated that the law will take its own course with regards to the stampede occurred at Shirgao, which killed six persons.

After taking darshan at Shree Lairai Devi temple at Shirgao, Pillai said, "The law will take its own course. Based on true facts, I am confident the government will take further action."

He also mentioned that the fact-finding committee report has not yet been submitted to him. Expressing his condolences to the bereaved families, he said that the government in future will take all precautions and safety measures during the zatra.

Mayem MLA Premendra Shet, Shirgao panchayat members and temple managing committee members were

present.

The Governor visited three holy places in the North Goa district under the "Khushal Kalyan Yatra" programme. He first visited Shree Chamundeshwari temple, Vargao in Pilgao, Bicholim, where MLA Shet welcomed him by presenting a flower bouquet. Devasthan Committee president Tushar Tople, secretary Umesh Govekar, treasurer Manoj Govekar and attorney Narayan Govekar and others welcomed the Governor. Pilgao sarpanch Sharmila Walawalkar also welcomed the Governor.

Later, the Governor visited Shree Devi Lairai temple in Shirgao, Bicholim. Adv Dinanath Gaonkar, President of Devasthan with other committee members welcomed the Governor.

The Governor Pillai and First Lady of Goa Rita Shreedharan Pillai offered prayers at all three temples.

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HAMMER BLOWS ON ANJUNA HOMES, BUT COPS ARE SILENT

The complaint cited both a High Court ruling requiring a 15-day notice and Supreme Court guidelines issued in December 2024 regarding land acquisition protocols.

"Our objective in approaching the High Court is not merely to stop the unlawful actions of the MLA couple, but to ensure their prosecution," said Alex Noronha, a concerned Anjuna resident.

Residents from nearby Siolim, already familiar with similar incidents involving the Lobos, say the pattern of alleged encroachment is consistent. "The strategy is the same - walls are demolished, trees made vulnerable. The only difference is that trees haven't been cut yet, though excavation work around their roots makes them likely to fall," said Aaron Fernandes, who has filed a petition on behalf of affected villagers.

Meanwhile, Rosy Fernandes, a UK-based Goan whose family home in Survey No. 1341/2 was reportedly targeted, expressed shock over the demolition of their gate and compound wall. "My elderly parents are devastated. No notice was given, not even to our relatives who live nearby. This is a clear breach of Supreme Court directives. We will fight back," she said in a phone interview with O Heraldo.

Around 11 am on Thursday, tensions rose further when a local woman confronted Michael Lobo at a site where a cross was being rapidly constructed. "Why can't you stop the work and wait for the landowners? By building without permission you will only land up losing your money when it will be ordered to be demolished," she said.

Meanwhile, Edgar Afonso, an engineer from Calangute with ancestral ties to Anjuna, issued a clarification distancing himself from reports that quoted Michael Lobo saying that he would be rebuilding the balcony of local resident Janice Playvinkal. "People are mistaking someone else for me, which has led to confusion. I have no involvement in the matter," he said.

Till the time of going to press, Director General of Police Alok Kumar had yet to respond to queries sent via WhatsApp regarding the lack of a work order for the road widening in Anjuna and the police inaction despite complaints.

TIMELINE OF ASSENT TO BILLS: PREZ MURMU SEEKS SC OPINION

Article 200 deals with situations with regard to passage of bills by the State assembly and subsequent options available to the governor on grant of assent, or withholding of assent or sending the bill to President for reconsideration.

Article 201 deals with the bills reserved for the President's consideration by Governor.

The Centre has resorted to the presidential reference instead of seeking review of the verdict, which has evoked sharp reactions in the political spectrum.

The rules prescribe for the review petitions to be heard by the same set of judges in the apex court in chambers while presidential references are heard and considered by a five-judge Constitution bench.

The apex court, however, may choose to refuse to answer any or all of the questions raised in the reference.

Article 200, the reference underlined, which prescribes powers of Governor to be followed while assenting to bills, withholding assent to bills and reserving a bill for President's consideration, does not stipulate any time frame upon Governor for the exercise of constitutional options.

President said similarly Article 201 which prescribes the powers of President and the procedure to be followed while assenting to bills or withholding assent therefrom does not stipulate any time frame or procedure to be followed by President for the exercise of constitutional options under Article 201 of the Constitution.

President Murmu also questioned the exercise of plenary power under Article 142 of the Constitution by the Supreme Court to make the bill re-presented to Tamil Nadu Governor, as deemed to have been passed.

"Whereas the concept of a deemed assent of the President and the Governor is alien to the constitutional scheme and fundamentally circumscribes the power of the President and the Governor," the reference of May 13 said.

President Murmu said the contours and scope of provisions in Article 142 of the Constitution in context of issues which are occupied by either constitutional provisions or statutory provisions also require an opinion of the Supreme Court of India.

"It appears to me that the following questions of the law have arisen and are of such nature and of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court of India thereon," President Murmu said while posing 14 questions to the apex court for its opinion.

The verdict has set a timeline for all governors to act on the bills passed by the State assemblies and ruled that Governor does not possess any discretion in exercise of functions under Article 200 of the Constitution in respect to any bill presented to them and must mandatorily abide by the advice tendered by the council of ministers.

It had said that State governments can directly approach

the Supreme Court if President withholds assent on a bill sent by a governor for consideration.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan which passed the verdict said reserving a bill on grounds such as "personal dissatisfaction of Governor, political expediency or any other extraneous or irrelevant considerations" was strictly impermissible by the Constitution and would be liable to be set-aside forthwith on that ground alone.

STALIN SLAMS CENTRE FOR USING PREZ REFERENCE ROUTE

"It also directly challenges the majesty of law and the authority of the Supreme Court as the final interpreter of the Constitution."

The Tamil Nadu CM posed a slew of direct questions, which include the following. "Why should there be any objection to prescribing time limits for Governors to act? Is the BJP seeking to legitimise its Governors' obstruction by allowing indefinite delays in Bill assent?"

Further, Stalin wondered if the Central government intended to paralyse non-BJP State legislatures.

"Our nation stands at a critical juncture. The questions raised in the reference reveal the BJP-led Union Government's sinister intent to distort the Constitution's basic distribution of powers and incapacitate the State legislatures dominated by opposition parties. Thus, it poses a clear exigent threat to State autonomy."

Also, he appealed: "In these grave circumstances, I urge all non-BJP States and party leaders to join this legal struggle to defend the #Constitution. We will fight this battle with all our might. Tamil Nadu will fight — and #TamilNadu will win!"

The CPI (M) slammed the Centre's Presidential reference on the Tamil Nadu governor judgment as "yet another assault on the Constitution".

Tamil Nadu CPI state secretary R Mutharasan said the reference went against the essence of the Constitution, and also diluted it. Further, Mutharasan in a statement said that it was against federalism, which warrants democratic forces joining hands.

PAK HINDU WOMAN NAMED BALOCHISTAN'S ASST COMMISSIONER

Bugti said, "Kashish is a symbol of pride for the nation and Balochistan."

In recent years, women from the Hindu community have achieved notable success in generally male-dominated fields in Pakistan, overcoming many cultural, religious and social hurdles to get to important positions.

In July 2022, Manesh Ropeta became the first Hindu woman to be appointed as Superintendent of Police in Karachi, where she is still fulfilling her duties.

Pushpa Kumari Kohli, a 35-year-old police sub-inspector in Karachi, said Hindu women have the tenacity and intelligence to reach the top.

"I also passed the Sindh police Public Services Examination. There are many more Hindu girls out there waiting to educate themselves and become something," said Kohli, who belongs to a scheduled caste.

Suman Pawan Bodani is still serving as a civil judge in Hyderabad after first being appointed as a civil judge in her hometown of Shahdadtok in Sindh province in 2019.

Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, a politician in Sindh province, believes that young Hindu girls, who are supported by their families, have shown more inclination and initiative to gain education and pursue higher studies.

"Our young women are doing us proud. We have doctors, civil servants, police officers, etc, in Sindh," he said.

He said that despite being notorious for its problem of under-age and young Hindu girls being abducted and converted by Muslim men, Sindh required more educational facilities for the Hindu community to counter such menaces.

Hindus form the biggest minority community in Pakistan. According to official estimates, 75 lakh Hindus live in Pakistan. However, according to the community, over 90 lakh Hindus are living in the country.

The majority of Pakistan's Hindu population is settled in Sindh province.

SC PULLS UP MP MINISTER FOR COL QURESHI REMARKS

"When this country is undergoing such a situation, every sentence or word uttered by a responsible minister has to be with a sense of responsibility," the CJI told Shah's counsel.

The bench went on, "Persons holding such a constitutional office are expected to exercise a degree of restraint."

Senior advocate Vibha Datta Makhija, appearing for Shah, mentioned the matter for urgent listing and said the high court had taken suo motu cognisance and asked for registration of an FIR.

Later in the day, another lawyer mentioned before the bench a separate letter petition which sought action against

Shah for his remarks against Colonel Qureshi.

"We don't want these publicity litigations. Anybody reads the newspaper and files such petitions," the bench said.

The bench said the Madhya Pradesh High Court already took cognisance of the matter.

Earlier in the day, Makhija said the petitioner, the State's tribal affairs minister, had expressed remorse.

"It was a statement which was misunderstood as well. That I can justify to your lordships," she said.

She added, "He (Shah) never meant what is being made out by the media."

"Now the FIR is already registered," the bench said. Makhija said the petitioner was seeking a stay on the FIR as he was not heard by the high court.

"I (Shah) am just praying that till I am heard, no action be taken," she said.

The bench asked why the petitioner had not moved the high court seeking relief.

"Merely because somebody is a minister, should we entertain it," the bench asked, adding, "Go and apply before the high court."

When Makhija urged the apex court to see the high court's order, the bench said, "We will have it tomorrow."

In the meanwhile, the senior counsel said, no further action be taken against Shah. She said the matter was listed for hearing before the high court today.

"Nothing is likely to happen in 24 hours," the bench said, "and petitioner can inform the high court that the matter is listed for hearing in the apex court on Friday."

Shah came under fire after a video, which was distributed widely, showed him allegedly making objectionable remarks against Col Qureshi, who gained nationwide prominence along with another woman officer, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, during media briefings on Operation Sindoor last week.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court chided Shah for passing "scurrilous" remarks and using "language of the gutters" against Col Qureshi, and ordered the police to file an FIR against him on the charge of promoting enmity and hatred.

"On the basis of what has been observed herein above, this court directs the Director General of Police of Madhya Pradesh to register forthwith an FIR against minister Vijay Shah for offences under sections 152, 196(1)(b) and 197(1)(c) of the BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita)," the high court said.

After drawing severe condemnation, the MP minister said he is ready to apologise 10 times if anyone is hurt by his statement and that he respects Col Qureshi more than his sister. An FIR was registered against Shah in Indore district on Wednesday night following the high court's order, an official said.

The FIR was registered under sections 152 (acts endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India), 196 (1)(b) (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, language, or other similar characteristics) and 197(1)(c) (statement or action that causes or is likely to cause disharmony, enmity, or hatred between different groups) of the BNS.

INDIA OFFERED US A TRADE DEAL, 'BASICALLY ZERO TARIFFS': TRUMP

India and the US are currently in talks to negotiate a trade agreement.

At a business roundtable in Doha, Trump also said he had a "little problem" with Tim Cook, and he told the Apple CEO that he does not want him to build iPhones in India.

Trump, who is in Qatar as part of his four-day visit to the Gulf region, was talking about Apple's plans to make iPhones in India.

"I said to him (Cook), my friend, I am treating you very good. You are coming up with \$500 billion, but now I hear you are building all over India. I don't want you building in India. You can build in India, if you want to take care of India because India is one of the highest tariff nations in the world, so it is very hard to sell in India," Trump said.

"They [India] have offered us a deal where basically they have agreed to charge us literally no tariffs. I said 'Tim, we are treating you really good, we put up with all the plants you built in China for years. We are not interested in you building in India. India can take care of themselves,'" he added.

Trump's comments came nearly two weeks after Cook said his company made quarterly records in several countries, including India.

Apple will source the majority of the iPhones sold in the US from India in the June quarter, while China will produce the vast majority of the devices for other markets amid uncertainty over tax tariffs, Cook said earlier this month.

According to an analysis by S&P Global, Apple's iPhone sales in the US were 75.9 million units in 2024, with exports in March from India equivalent to 3.1 million units. Earlier this month, Trump had claimed that India "agreed" to drop its high tariffs "to nothing".

In the past, Trump has called India "tariff king" and a "big abuser".

Last month, Trump had said negotiations with India over a bilateral trade deal are "coming along great" and he

thinks "we'll have a deal with India".

Trump announced sweeping reciprocal tariffs on several countries, including India and China, on April 2. However, on April 9, he announced a 90-day suspension of these tariffs until July 9 this year, except for those on China and Hong Kong, as about 75 countries approached America for trade deals.

CONG QUESTIONS PM'S 'SILENCE'

"The Commerce Minister is in Washington DC and President Trump has made yet another grand announcement from Doha. There is total chuppi from our PM. What has he agreed to and what linkage is there between this and the stoppage of Operation Sindoor?" AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh asked in a post on X.

He also tagged a report quoting Trump that India has offered "zero tariffs" on several American goods as part of its trade deal with the United States.

AFTER RENOVATION, RECTIFICATION TO KEEP KALA ACADEMY SHUT AGAIN

The action follows the recommendations put forth by the Task Force Committee which met Chief Minister Pramod Sawant with its suggestions recently. However, to carry out the rectification work, the Kala Academy will remain closed for at least two months.

"The Kala Academy has been asked not to accept bookings tentatively for July and August because to carry out the rectification work, the institution will have to be closed," a senior PWD official said.

According to the official, the contractors previously assigned to the project will be in charge of undertaking the corrective work.

"The main work will be related to light, sound and acoustics. If it is found that substandard work has been carried out then the contractor will be asked to rectify without giving him any extra amount of money," the official said.

He said the work of the open auditorium will be taken up separately as it was not the part of scope of work carried out till now.

However, Devidas Amonkar, Kala Rakhonn Mand Convenor, told O Heraldo that the cost of renovation should not be escalated due to the fresh work.

"Whatever work will be carried out now should be covered under the estimate prepared earlier. The government should get the work done from those who have not done it properly and should not pay any extra amount for that," he said.

Amonkar said, "Our demand is that the Kala Academy should be in its original shape. We know a lot of time has been consumed and there has been a significant amount of loss to culture. There are many generations who have learnt and performed at Kala Academy. But this culture has been hit for around five or six years. This has caused a lot of damage to Kala Academy and artists."

"What is done is a matter of the past but now we want that the Kala Academy should be restored to its original shape and there should not be extra money paid for that," Amonkar said.

After being closed for close to three years, the iconic building, which was mired in controversies, was reopened in November 2023.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had said the Kala Academy auditorium would be open 365 days for all artists and would be available for bookings from December.

The Kala Academy was caught in the controversy following reports appeared that renovation works costing Rs 49.57 crore was awarded to M/s Tecthon Buildcon Pvt Ltd, through nomination process, thereby violating the guidelines set for procurement of works by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Central Vigilance Commission guidelines and the Central PWD Rules.

APPOINTMENTS

WANTED

SPECIAL EDUCATOR 01

in Academic Skill Resource Room having qualification B.Ed. in Special Education with valid RCI Registration Certificate on Contract Basis till end of academic year 2025-26.

Walk in interview has been scheduled on 27/05/2025 at 9:00am in FAIRYLAND HIGH SCHOOL, Batim Tiswadi Goa.

Interested candidates as per Government Recruitment Rules, may attend the interview along with application, testimonials and valid employment card, all in original and Xerox copies.

WANTED

TRAINED UNDERGRADUATE TEACHER 01

having qualification B.Sc B.Ed in Science and Maths to teach STD V to VIII on Contract Basis till end of academic year 2025-26.

Walk in interview has been scheduled on 27/05/2025 at 9:30am in FAIRYLAND HIGH SCHOOL, Batim Tiswadi Goa.

Interested candidates as per Government Recruitment Rules, may attend the interview along with application, testimonials and valid employment card, all in original and Xerox copies.

