

Commuter loses both legs in bid to board long-distance train at Borivli

Insurance Agent From Gujarat Slips On To Tracks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A 53-year-old commuter lost both his legs while trying to board a long-distance train from Borivli station on Friday. Hitendra Joshi slipped into the gap between the train and the platform. He is recuperating at Nanavati Hospital, Vile Parle.

Joshi, an insurance agent, had come to Mumbai from Gujarat on work. Around 2.15pm, he was waiting at Borivli station to board the Bandra-Jodhpur Suryanagari Express from platform 4. "The train was crowded and people were trying to squeeze in with their baggage.



Joshi was trying to get in when he lost his grip on the rod at the entrance and fell on the tracks. By then, the train started and ran over his legs, before co-passengers could pull him out," said an officer from the Government Railway Police (GRP) at Borivli.

Joshi was rushed to the civic-run Shatabdi Hospital at Kandivli by GRP personnel, where he was stabilized with four bottles of blood. "We checked his belongings and found his family's contact numbers. His nephew is based in Mumbai and rushed on hearing the news," said senior in-

RECENT TRAIN MISHAPS

JAN 16, 2014 |

Govandi resident Tanvir Sheikh (23) lost his legs after falling into the gap between Kurla's platform 6 and the footboard of the compartment he was trying to enter. Shaikh is currently recuperating in hospital

JAN 11, 2014 |

Monika More (16), a class XI student of TD Mehta Junior College, lost both arms after falling into a pit at the end of a platform at Ghatkopar station. Railway minister Mallikarjun Kharge said her case would be treated as special and Rs 5 lakh will be given to her on compassionate grounds

JUNE 23, 2013 |

Puja Patil (20) lost both her legs while getting into a Western Railway local at Dadar station. A hotel management student, Puja battled with her injuries for 41 days in Sion Hospital before succumbing to Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome, a fatal lung condition

spector Shivaji Bagal, Borivli GRP.

Later, Joshi was moved to Nanavati Hospital where three more bottles of blood were administered to him. "Both his legs were amputated from the thigh," said Dr AR Karkhanis, orthopedic surgeon from Nanavati Hospital. Karkhanis operated on Joshi at around 5am on Saturday. "So much of his skin and muscles have been crushed that we now have a problem providing a skin cover for the injured part," Karkhanis added. "However, we first have to guard against septicemia or infection."

The Borivli GRP recorded Joshi's statement at the hospital besides that of witnesses. Recently, the Bombay high court said the railways must raise the height of platforms in Mumbai beyond 920mm to reduce their gap with footboards of trains in order to avoid accidents. The court directed an expert committee and the railways to jointly study the problem and recommend an optimum platform height.

Comfortable chairs for cops, made by convicts

S Ahmed Ali | TNM

Mumbai: Some of the best designer furniture in several police stations across the city, especially chairs, are made by convicts inside Thane prison. Besides gift items like leather goods and pens made by the convicts, there is a huge demand for teak furniture, particularly wooden revolving chairs. Ironically, demand for most of these chairs are from Mumbai and Thane cops.

Several police officers claim the chairs (in pic) are very comfortable and durable compared to the iron chairs available in the market. "I was visiting a colleague in Thane when I saw this chair in his of-

fice and learnt he had bought it from the prison showroom. I found it was very comfortable. Though it is made of wood, it comes with a revolving mechanism which can be adjusted. Moreover, the chair costs just Rs 5,000," said inspector Ashok Khot of the Anti-Robbery Squad. "It is very comfortable and has an elite look. Despite being made of wood it blends well with a modern office," said Vivek Bhosle from the city crime branch.

The overwhelming popularity of the chair has left a huge gap between demand and supply. Also in demand are tables, rifle stands and wall hangings, all made by convicts. Prisoners convicted for various



offences are allowed to work in jail and earn 10% of the product's actual cost. "For example a convict makes one chair in

two days and earns around Rs 50 to 100, depending on how quickly and cleanly he makes one," said a Thane jail official.

Jayant Prabhu, in-charge of Thane prison, said, "There are 260 convicts in Thane jail who are manufacturing goods. There is a huge demand for the chairs as they are made of solid teak wood brought by the government from Amravati forest. Many of the chairs are crafted by Nigerians convicted under the NDPS Act."

Nigerian Judo Einthem, convicted for 10 years for possession of drugs, said, "Initially I found very difficult to even cut wood but other inmates made me a perfect carpenter. I feel when I am released I will

pursue this as my profession."

The Thane jail handicraft shop, situated right outside the prison, is now closed for renovation and will soon reopen as a bigger showroom. While the Thane prison mostly makes small products, other jails in the state like Nashik, Yerawada and Kolhapur have bigger manufacturing units which make bedsheets, blankets and other linen, besides khadi material.

The state government has given in-principle approval to allow small-scale industries to outsource work to over 38 prisons in Maharashtra. The industries set up manufacturing equipment in prisons and explain their working to the prisoners.

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Media exec forgets gadget on train, steward returns it

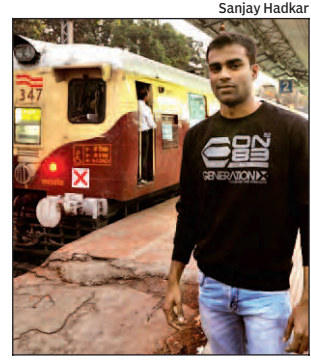
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The unfair mantra of finders keepers was rightfully rejected by a Mumbaikar's heartwarming act of honesty. Jagdeesh Jitte, a 24-year-old trainee steward at a south Mumbai hotel, went to great lengths to return an iPad worth Rs 30,000 that belonged to a young media executive who absent-mindedly left it on a local train a few days ago.

The journalist boarded a train from Nerul to CST and forgot to retrieve the gadget that he had placed on the seat. Jitte was returning home in Sion after working the morning shift and chanced upon the tablet.

He said, "I took it with the sole aim of returning it to the owner even though other passengers glanced at me in a suspicious manner. But the battery died soon after. At night I removed the SIM card and inserted it in my cell-phone hoping the user had saved some numbers on it. But there was nothing. Fortunately, he called the next day and I was only too relieved to hand it back." Jitte declined to accept any reward, even a casual drink at the bar nearby.

Jitte's father, who is head waiter at the same hotel, the Taj Mahal Palace in Colaba, as well as his friends in MHB Colony,



Jagdeesh Jitte was coming to Sion when he found the iPad on a train

Sion-Koliwada, unanimously believed that the iPad had to be returned immediately. "We are ambitious and want to lead a comfortable life but not by easy money. Each of us works hard and works honestly," Jitte said.

The hotel is proud of its young trainee. "The older generation of employees has always been known for its integrity and honesty, and it is heartening to see the same set of values in the younger generation," said general manager Gaurav Pokhariyal. The chastened owner of the gadget advises people to save a few urgent numbers on their SIM card so that they can be contacted in an emergency.



CITY OF ANGELS

Panel to formulate new norms for abuse cases

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Maharashtra health minister Suresh Shetty on Saturday said he would constitute a 10-member committee to look into the state protocols in sexual assault cases. Activists have alleged that these protocols have several anomalies that render them insensitive to survivors.

The minister said the committee could be headed by Anuja Gulati of the UNFPA. He also highlighted the decline in violation of the sex determination rules in the past three years in the state due to greater governmental scrutiny. But activists, doctors like Mandakini Megh, as well as Gulati stressed the need for safer facilities for legal abortions as a measure vital to women's health. "There is a thin line between Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act and Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act," said Gulati in her speech at a day-long conference. The event was organized to acquaint NGOs with various key issues and laws, including sexual harassment at work place, the amendments to sexual

assault provisions, the prevention of child sexual abuse, cruelty to wife and domestic violence etc. It was conducted at Sahyadri by Maharashtra State Commission for Women.

Women and child development minister Varsha Gaikwad also addressed the NGOs. Representatives from Majlis, ADIWA, CEFAR, UNFPA, Population First, Sri Mukti Sangathna, Akshara, Tata Institute of Social Science, SNT Women University, Mumbai University

'STATE PROTOCOLS HAVE ANOMALIES'

participated in the event.

Director general of police Sanjeev Dayal who said, "There needs to be a change in the societal mindset in order to address the issue of violence against women in a real sense." State women's commission chairperson Susiben Shah said, "The commission is going to set up civil benches with involvement of senior police officers and SPs, district collectors, women MPs and MLA in various areas. The first hearing is planned in April 2014."