Victoria carriage horse killed in accident at CST

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A victoria carriage horse was killed in an accident outside the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation headquarters near Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus on Sunday afternoon.

According to an eyewitness, Sahil Sayed (26), the carriage rider was speeding down JJ flyover, jumped the junction signal and rammed into a Santro taxi.

"The horse died on the spot and the rider suffered head injuries. When the owner came to the scene, he tried to shift the blame onto the taxi driver, but we all saw that the carriage was moving at breakneck speed," said Sayed, who also filed an FIR at MRA Marg police station.

Padmakar Juikar, senior inspector of MRA Marg police station, said: "We are on the lookout for the taxi driver, who has been booked for death due to negligence and rash driving. The horse carriage rider, Naresh Narsoo Shetty, has been admitted to the hospital." He said a case has been filed against the driver under Sections 337 and 279 of the Indian Penal Code.

At present, Victoria horse carriage rides are under dispute in the High Court with a PIL filed by NGO Animals and Birds Charitable Trust demanding they be banned.

"Tarmac roads are not good for horses to run on, especially in the monsoons when the roads are wet. The animals can slip, causing danger to both the public and animal. The police need to be more stringent about this issue. For now, owners are chargesheeted and fined merely Rs 100-150," said Colonel J C Khanna, secretary of the Bombay Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.