

Zagade warns corporators against pressurising him

Municipal commissioner says any attempts to involve him in illegal activities will not be tolerated

DNA Correspondent

Municipal commissioner Mahesh Zagade on Wednesday warned the corporators not to apply pressure tactics and force him to indulge in illegal activities.

During the general body meeting on Wednesday, senior BJP corporator Vikas Mathkari was demanding action against Zagade for the errors in the Environment Status Report (ESR) for 2008-09.

Jammu & Kashmir was missing from the map of India printed on the cover of the booklet on the status report.

As soon as Mathkari made the demand, a visibly annoyed municipal commissioner reacted on the issue and said that he is not going to work under any pressure.

He was apparently upset with BJP corporator Vikas Mathkari, who was demanding action against Zagade for the errors in the ESR 2008-09

He said although he is under pressure from different quarters, he is neither going to cancel the recent transfers of officers in the civic body nor alter the records of documents.

Zagade dropped hints that some elected members were pressurising him transfers of officials.

Barring Mathkari, most corporators welcomed the municipal commissioner's decision to transfer the officers, who were working on the same post for many years.

Shiv Sena corporator Shyam Deshpande and independent corporator Ujjwal Keskar supported Zagade's decision to transfer the officers.



FILE PHOTO

High court confirms ruling on corporator's illegal booth

Society members and civic activists had moved the PMC court over the illegal construction

Abhay Khairnar

The Bombay high court has dismissed the writ petition filed by Vishram Kulkarni, the husband of BJP corporator Medha Kulkarni.

Justice AP Deshpande in his four-page judgement on November 9 said that he did not find any merit in the petition. "The petition deserves to be dismissed," he said.

However, the court has permitted the petitioner to make a representation to the municipal commissioner with a view to save the structure. The latter would take a decision in accordance with the law.



A file photo of the illegal construction.

Kulkarni moved the high court after the PMC and sessions courts passed similar orders in the matter. Kulkarni had undertaken a temporary construction on the

land owned by Sarvadarshan Co-operative Housing Society at Erandwane near Nal Stop. He had set up an STD booth on the society premises.

The residents of the housing society and civic activists were demanding action against the illegal construction.

The civic authorities on June 22 had issued a demolition notice to Kulkarni following the order of the PMC court describing the construction as illegal.

Kulkarni then moved the sessions court. The sessions court also criticised the civic administration as it did not act against the illegal construction.

Expressing its shock, the sessions court noted that the civic officers in collusion with the petitioner had arbitrarily granted the permission to set up an STD booth without taking the consent of the society.

We placed the order, but made no formal purchase: PMPML

The transport utility was flayed for not taking possession of 40 AC buses

DNA Correspondent

Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd (PMPML) said it is not bound to purchase the air-conditioned (AC) buses as it has not paid the 50% advance at the time of placing the order.

The public transport body said it is the fault of the manufacturing company and authorised dealers for delivering the buses without taking any payment.

BJP corporator Vikas Mathkari on Tuesday had alleged that although the utility had placed the order, it was not taking possession of the 40 AC buses.

PMPML CMD Shirish Karle and its director Ajit Apte said it is mandatory to pay 50% cost of buses while placing the order as per



A file photo of the buses gathering dust at a garage.

the rules of the contract between the company and the transport body. They admitted that the PMPML had placed the order for 200 AC buses in April 2009.

"But as it was opposed by some non-governmental organisations and political parties, the board of directors decided not to purchase the AC buses," they said.

Even Pandit Automobile, the authorised dealer of Tata Motors, which has written the letter to the PMPML, mentioned to make full payment to take possession of the 40 buses which are ready.

Karle said the public transport company is still thinking whether to purchase the AC buses or not.

NCP leaders pitch for mayors' posts

Open category post lures many hopefuls

DNA Correspondent

As the mayor's post for the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation was declared for the open category on Tuesday, several candidates from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) have begun lobbying. The party rules in both the corporations.

The state had organised the draw for the reservation of mayors' post on Tuesday at Mantralaya in Mumbai. Mayor Rajlaxmi Bhosale who was present at the draw told DNA that the post is open for all. Willing candidates for the mayor's post in Pune include Rajlaxmi Bhosale, Anil Bhosale, Subhash Jagtap, Mohan Singh Rajpal and Shrikant Patil.

Senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar will take the final decision. Although Rajlaxmi Bhosale has completed her tenure, she wants to continue ever since it was declared as an open category. NCP leader of the house Anil Bhosale is also lobbying for the post.

"Some NCP leaders who tried for party tickets during the assembly elections too are keen on the post and have started lobbying," party sources said.

IMA, NIV to test levels of antibodies in docs

A serological survey will be conducted at five different places in city on Nov 27, 28

Nozia Sayyed

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), Pune and the National Institute of Virology (NIV) will carry out a serological survey to test the level of antibodies in doctors. It will be done in five different places in the city on November 27 and 28.

"The survey will help us in testing the levels of antibodies in doctors as they are the first ones to get exposed to any kind of infection or disease, especially the Influenza A H1N1," said Dr Dilip Sardar, president of IMA, Pune. He said blood samples of doctors would be collected during the survey.

"If the findings reveal that more than 50% of them test positive for the antibodies, it



FILE PHOTO

Dr Dilip Sardar

president, IMA, Pune

Those doctors who have tested positive for the H1N1 infection will not be allowed to undergo the serological test

will be declared that the doctors' community is developing herd immunity and will be safe from any infection in the

future," he said.

Sardar also said that those doctors who have tested positive for the H1N1 infection in the past will not be allowed to undergo the serological test. He said those who are not members of the IMA and want to participate in the survey can do so by registering themselves with the association.

The survey will be conducted in Dhankavdi, IMA Hall, Karve Road, Shivajinagar and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Now, CSWs will laugh their stress away

A laughter club set up by an NGO in the red-light area

DNA Correspondent

Saheli HIV/Aids Karyakarta Sangh, an NGO, will start a laughter club involving the commercial sex workers (CSWs) of Budhwar Peth area.

The club, which is expected to start functioning from this week, will be known as Budhwar Peth Laughter Club.

This was decided on Wednesday by Saheli after a laughter competition was held by them where as many as 200 CSWs participated and three even won.

Director of Saheli Tejaswi Sevekari said about 250 CSW of the area have already registered with the club. She claimed that this club is the first of its kind in the city.

The NGO's decision to start such a club was taken on Wednesday after it organised a laughing competition for the CSWs to relieve their stress levels and share some lighter moments among themselves.

Apparently, the high response that the NGO received during the competition, spurred the NGO to start the laughter club.

The CSW who won the competition, said, "I don't even remember the last time when I have laughed so much. It seems as if many of us have actually forgotten how to laugh. The competition really helped us relieve our tension and acted as a stress buster." She even expressed her interest in joining the club.

The NGO will start the club under the guidance of Kishore Kuvavala who is the chairman



The move follows a laughing competition held for the commercial sex workers to relieve their stress levels

of Priyadarshani Laughter Club International of Mumbai and Dr IS Gilada of People's Health Organisation, who is a consultant in HIV medicine.

Kuvavala who was present during the competition, said these women are constantly under pressure and lead a depressing life.

"We decided to teach them laughter therapy so that they can even form a group and practice it on their own," he added.

After the competition was over, the women were taught to laugh and were also taught different types of laughter.

All of them attempted at least 25 types of laughter, said Kuvavala. Laughter provokes positive energy and acts as a remedy to ward of tensions. Hence,

these women who need some optimism in their lives, were taught different forms of laughter, he added.

Rs40,000 worth car tapes stolen in Chinchwadgaon

A few days ago, over a dozen shops were burgled in the area

Naresh Natu

Incidents of thefts and burglaries in the Pimpri-Chinchwad area have gone up in the past few days. Unidentified miscreants stole tape recorders worth around Rs40,000 from four cars in Chinchwadgaon on Tuesday night.

The thefts came to light on Wednesday when one of the car owners Sadanand Yerule found the windowpane of the front door of his vehicle broken and the tape was missing. He lodged a complaint with the local police.

Later, the other three car owners Vidyadhar Nivrutti Sutar of Maya Residency, Sunil Govind Kulkarni (33) of Chinchwadgaon and Surendra Deo (60), the chief trustee of a temple at Chinchwad, also reported the thefts to the police.

Uniform national toll policy sought

DNA Correspondent

Pune-based Kum. Rajshree Parmar Memorial Foundation, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), has petitioned prime minister Manmohan Singh and Union minister of road transport and highways Kamal Nath for a



The broken panel indicates the tape theft in a car (inset) at Chinchwadgaon on Wednesday - NARESH NATU, DNA

According to the police, in all the four cases the thieves broke the windowpanes of the front doors of the vehicles and took away the tapes.

"We suspect it to be the handiwork of a gang hailing from outside the city. We are probing the matter," said a po-

lice official. A few days ago, more than a dozen shops were burgled in the PCMC area.

The thieves decamped with cash and other valuables from the shops. The police are yet to make any breakthrough in these cases.

"All toll policies prepared by the states and the UTs tend to favour the contractors and the interest of the vehicle users are ignored," Parmar said. The foundation has been working for road safety.

Parmar said there is no provisions for weekly, fortnightly and monthly passes.

Youngsters get to know world of science

NCL Outreach programme goes down well with the city students

Rahul Chandawarkar

Did you know why the colour red is used in traffic signals? Why is colour seen in soap bubbles? How do you levitate a Rs500 note and many such interesting questions were

science&magic

posed to school students and explained in detail at the 'Science and Magic' talk organised as a part of the NCL Academy, the National Chemical Laboratory's (NCL) outreach programme, on Sunday.

IIT Mumbai's professor Anil Kumar, who conducted the talk, was in his element as he acquainted nearly 60 school students at the NCL Innovation Park with several interesting magical experiments, which helped demystify science.



Anil Kumar from the IIT Mumbai talking to schoolchildren during his 'Science and Magic' talk on Sunday - RAHUL CHANDAWARKAR, DNA

eye, picked up the colour green with the greatest ease and hence was also used in traffic signals. He elaborated the theory of interference and why it was responsible for colours being visible in soap bubbles.

By pouring water into two glasses and a little polymer gel in only one of them, he exhibited the special features of

super-absorbing polymers. While the water from one of the glasses drenched a schoolboy volunteer, Kumar remained dry because of the instant drying quality of the gel that was in the glass that he poured over himself.

The students were in awe when Kumar levitated a pair of spectacles and a Rs500 note until they felt the polymeric

string used to levitate the items with their hands.

Kumar also fitted a piece of magnet to his ring and created an illusion by moving the teeth of a key with the help of the magnet. Finally, lots of interesting math puzzles from Raymond Blum's popular book 'Mathemagic' were decoded by Kumar.

Kumar said, "Never stop

FUTURE TALKS

Dr Chitra Manikandan of Dow Chemicals to speak on 'How Cancer begins' at 10 am, Sun, November 29

Dr BLV Prasad to speak on 'Ligands: Tools for a Nanogoldsmith', at 10am, Sun, December 13

asking questions. If nobody has the answers, it could be just the opportunity for you to learn and go forward in life."

The students attending the session were thrilled with the experience. Madhyamik Vidyalaya Kasarwadi's standard X student Altaf Shaikh said, "Our school curriculum is centred around books only. Workshops like these give us more knowledge and fun."

Pimpri-based SS Ajmera School's standard X student Pratik Satpute said, "I have been attending all the NCL outreach talks and am now determined to become a chemical engineer."

Students interested in attending the NCL outreach talks should write to outreach@ncl.res.in and visit the official website, www.nclacademy.org