

Minister pinches police car for PA

Siddharam Mhetre demands a brand new car, approved for a police station, to ferry his personal assistant

Samod Sarngan. Vashi

Even as Navi Mumbai police continues to battle the step-motherly attitude towards it by government authorities, a brand new vehicle earmarked for a police station has been poached by the Maharashtra Minister of State for Home, Horticulture and Jails, Siddharam Mhetre, to facilitate the movement of his personal assistant.

The brand new car, police officials claimed, was requisitioned by the Minister in violation of rules and regulations. "Only ministers are entitled to government vehicles and if they feel transport is required for their personal assistants, they should make arrangements for it", a senior police official told DNA. However, it is usual practise for highly placed IAS officials to use the vehicles of local self-

government bodies and municipal corporation for their personal use.

What has left the local police peeved is the fact that the vehicle was demanded from Navi Mumbai police which is facing severe shortage of vehicles. "He could have demanded a vehicle from the Mumbai police which has enough vehicles and wouldn't have felt the loss if one of them was allotted to the minister", the source said.

Gravity of the situation can be well understood from a recent incident when the Nhava Sheva police station was gifted a jeep by Bombay Customs House Agents Association (BCHAA) president. With just one jeep allotted to the police station, enforcing the rule of law across the 375.41 sq mt area of the police station was a herculean task.

Others fare no better. The

Car war

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non-availability of vehicles for transporting personnel was badly felt during the recent violent incidents following the Ghansoli riots. "With severe shortage of vehicles, our reaction time was delayed and personnel couldn't be rushed to the af-



■ The police Sumo has been driven away by Mhetre's PA

fects areas immediately", the source said.

Mhetre was recently in a spotlight after his name figured in a conversation between criminal D K Rao with underworld don Chhota Rajan along with Forest Minister Baban Pachpute.

Mhetre was later given a clean chit by Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh.

Repeated attempts to contact Mhetre proved futile as the Minister was away at Solapur and unavailable for comment.

Women lawyers take the law in their own hands

Anuradha Shinde was assaulted by a fellow lawyer on Wednesday

DNA correspondent. Vashi

Police has registered a complaint into the assault of an advocate by a fellow lawyer at the busy sector 9 in Vashi. Though the complainant Anuradha Shinde claimed Wednesday's incident was a sequel to last month's incident, when she and her husband were insulted by Madhubala Shetty. Police said no arrests have been made so far, as police claimed investigations were continuing.

Shinde claims Shetty along with three unidentified persons assaulted her and tore her clothes in front of the public. The advocate, presently admitted to NMMC hospital, claims that she has suffered internal injury and had been advised an MRI scan.



■ Anuradha Shinde

"On April 26, she insulted me and my husband inside the Belapur court. Shetty abused me and my husband on the basis of our caste", she said. A complaint under Prevention of Atrocities against SC/ST Act was lodged with the CBD Belapur police.

The advocate claimed no action has been initiated on the complaint by police, as

the case has to be investigated by the local ACP. "The trigger for Wednesday's incident was a news report about police failing to take action on the complaint", Shinde said.

On Wednesday when the advocate stopped at the sector 9 market, Shetty and her accomplices allegedly attacked Shinde. "She punched me, and I was saved by the intervention of my driver and friend Reena Sakat", Shinde said. "Shinde has changed her statements twice", ACP P V Ugale said. Vashi police were also sceptical of the complaint about Wednesday's incident. "When she was rushed here, Shinde claimed it was Shetty but later said four persons had assaulted her", senior PI Dileep Jagtap said.

Short stories

Nerul gets taxi stand

Nerul: A new Navi Mumbai taxi stand in sector 25 of Nerul (Darave ward no 80) was inaugurated at the hands of corporator Saluja Sandip Sutar here recently. Navi Mumbai Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) general secretary Sandip Balkrishna Sutar and Dinesh Sahib, President of Mumbai Taximen's Union, were present on the occasion. Sutar in her inaugural address appealed to the taxi men to offer best services and cooperation to the citizens her area. Mr Mishra, prominent citizens of the ward and taxi men attended the inaugural function. The nearby residents can call up on phone number 27704210 if needed a cab in emergency situations.

Art of Living in Kharghar

Kharghar: The 'Art of Living' course by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar will be organised from May 30 to June 4 at Kharghar. The schedule of the course will be in the evening from 7 pm and 10 pm. 'Art of Living' Part I course will be conducted at Kendriya Vihar, Sector 11. The course aims at teaching a meditation technique, Kriya yoga that stresses on improving self-confidence, creativity. The participants will be trained so that they can lead a peaceful and serene life, free from stress and worries. The meditation technique has been taken up by many celebrities and has become a rage world over. For registration details, call 93231 91001 / 98338 49219.

Ethiopian team comes visiting APMC market

The delegation is mootng a commodity exchange programme

DNA Correspondent. Vashi

A high powered Ethiopian delegation-led by the African country's Deputy Prime Minister Addissu Legasse visited the Agriculture Produces Market Complex (APMC) to study the functioning of the largest market in Maharashtra.

Besides the dignitary, Agriculture Minister Yakoub Yala and Ethiopian Ambassador to India Jennet Zewde were part of the delegation that visited the market on Wednesday. APMC officials led by deputy secretary Avinash Deshpande and joint secretary Dileep Gosavi enlightened the visiting dignitaries about different aspects of the market complex. The delegation was in Navi Mumbai to have a first hand experience of the market so that it could be emulated in

African country, APMC officials said, adding that the delegation visited the different markets to learn lessons for setting up a similar market in their country.

The delegation was interested in having a first hand experience of the Onion Potato market and how the auctions were held to help farmers earn the maximum benefits, Gosavi told DNA, adding that the dignitaries also visited the fruit market to study the packaging and treatment of the fruit through vapour method to remove insects.

According to Gosavi, the high point of the delegation was a trip to the commodities exchange where they interacted with officials to gather information about forward trading of grains. The delegation expressed their desire to start a commodity exchange with their country.



■ The visit was part of a study that involved analysing various agricultural markets

Small scale entrepreneurs start the party even before HC ruling

Armed with a favourable SC order, the unit holders are all set to storm HC

DNA Correspondent. Vashi

Small scale entrepreneurs in Navi Mumbai are jubilant these days. On Wednesday, the industrialists in Trans-Thane Creek (TTC) corridor celebrated the Supreme Court verdict that set aside the Bombay High Court order asking industrialists to approach lower court over their contention regarding payment of property tax to Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) and remanded the case back to HC for further trials.

"In turn, our contention that we assumed separate identity and were never a part of NMMC jurisdiction has been indirectly upheld by the SC and has asked the HC to hear the case on merits," said Small Scale Entrepreneurs' Association (SSEA) office bearers K R Gopi, R Seshan, Sanjay Mehta and others.

Now entrepreneurs are half-relieved, as High Court will freshly take up their case challenging authority of NMMC in collecting taxes from the business set ups within the belt.

The Supreme Court bench, headed by Justice Ruma Pal on May 8, had directed the High Court to reconsider the petition filed by the industrialists. It may be recalled that the High Court had quashed the petition of SSEA,

Taxing times

On Wednesday, the industrialists in TTC celebrated the SC verdict regarding payment of property tax to NMMC and remanded the case back to HC

The Supreme Court bench, headed by Justice Ruma Pal on May 8, had directed the HC to reconsider the petition filed by the industrialists

Though over Rs 8 crore dues have been collected, there is still a tax of over Rs 30 crore to be recovered from the industrial installations

Over 60 per cent of NMMC's cess revenue comes from Thane-Belapur belt, and still nearly 20 do not pay the tax

TTC asking them to pay up the tax to the civic body as it was the local governing body within Corporation limits.

The High Court bench headed by Justice P G Palshikar had clearly stated that the business houses falling within the Thane-Belapur belt though were a part of an independent endeavour with special authorisation and were liable to pay the cess and taxes to the civic body.

The Association had argued

that since NMMC was not spending due share from over Rs 50 crore tax revenue collected from industrialists in TTC over infrastructural development of the belt, there was no point in depositing tax with the NMMC.

They had challenged the authority of the NMMC in collecting tax and cess stating that the state cabinet had already given nod to a proposal granting autonomy to industrial belts across the state by converting them into separate and sovereign townships.

The SSEA has contended that it was mandatory for NMMC to spend major share of tax revenue on infrastructure development of the area from where it had collected the taxes. There are total 3,427 industrialists in the TTC area out of which 1,100 have the tax pending against them.

Though over Rs 8 crore dues have been collected, there is still a tax of over Rs 30 crore to be recovered from the industrial installations.

Over 60 per cent of NMMC's cess revenue comes from Thane-Belapur belt and still nearly 20 per cent manufacturers do not pay the tax, according to NMMC statistics which further reveals that over Rs 50 crore cess is pending against the industrialists within the belt.

Childhood injuries and their prevention

Dr Arbinder Singhal throws light on common injuries among children, that can be potentially dangerous

reader writes

Injuries are the leading health problem among children and may lead to serious consequences. Inherent curiosity of the children and their failure to understand a potentially harmful situation makes them prone for all sorts of injuries. Injuries are not entirely random events as thought earlier; rather they occur in a predictable fashion determined by identifiable risk factors. Understanding of these risk factors is the key to injury prevention strategy. Common modes of injury in children are falls from height, vehicle

related injuries, burns, sports-related injuries, chemical injuries, drowning and child abuse.

Falls from height are especially common and may result in serious head injury, fractures, chest or abdominal injuries. These are related to kite flying and construction of non-parapet roofs especially in villages and small towns. Such incidence has decreased in big cities as the flats don't have roofs to play and kite flying is not very common in this part of India.

Vehicle related trauma is a major cause of mortality in cities near highways especially in cities like Navi Mumbai which are planned along major highways. Most

Injuries to kids

Follow all traffic regulations and use helmets while driving two wheelers

Use of proper protective gear while playing

Small kids should not be left unattended near roads, swimming pools

Avoid giving nuts or toys with small pieces to young kids

All precautions and supervision when children are playing with crackers

Safekeeping of chemicals and medicines in overhead cabinets and use of childproof capped bottles

Preventive measures

Three factors interact to produce an injury. These are the vulnerable host, agent causing injury and a suitable environment for the injury to occur. Efforts should be made primarily to modify the environment in which injuries occur as changing the behaviour and curbing the natural curiosity of the child is neither practical nor desirable. Multi-pronged efforts are must to achieve this goal like educating the parents, legislation and enforcement. With the holiday season, these are vitally important

of these injuries involve multiple body parts and organ systems, hence are serious in nature. The importance of all traffic precautions, seat-belts and car-seats for infants cannot be overstressed. In western countries, it is illegal to drive a car without a car-seat for the small kids.

Children crossing roads without supervision are prone to vehicle related injuries, as the children fail to understand the inherent danger in moving traffic. It is utmost important to supervise the children while crossing the roads. Another cause of concern is carrying of the child by the moth-



er while she pillow rides a scooter or a two-wheeler. The child is in a very unstable position is vulnerable to fall off at slightest imbalance. Ideally, the children should be made to sit astride the vehicle between the parents or a four-wheeler should be used whenever it is necessary to travel with an infant.

Burn injuries become rampant in the festival season of Diwali. Most serious are the injuries to the eye, which may even result in blindness. Superficial burns on limbs secondary to firecrackers are very painful and take time to heal.



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