

MORNING BRIEFING

Duo arrested for posing as cops and robbing people

Two persons have been arrested by CBD Belapur police for posing as police officials and robbing people. The arrested have been identified as Narendra Harising Devda (20) and Vishal Vijay Vatekar (24). Santoshkumar Rameshkumar Pujari, along with his wife was on his way to CBD Belapur from Vashi on their bike (MH-43-B-5048). After crossing Palm Beach Road near the Croma showroom at Belapur, a Qualis jeep (MH-43-A-5126) came from behind. The accused who were seating in the jeep approached Pujari and his wife. They claimed to be police officials and told them that there was a murder that happened ahead and police are doing checking so not to go ahead. When Pujari raised questions about why not to go ahead, one among the duo snatched the chain of the lady and tried to flee. Pujari followed them on bike and meanwhile his wife made a call to a family friend to stayed nearby and narrated the incident. The friend also reached at the place and stopped the Qualis. Meanwhile, they called Belapur police and when the accused saw the police coming, they tried to flee. However, the cops chased the duo nabbed them under sections 341, 392 and 34 of the IPC.



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Political outfits holding educationists to ransom

If 'request' for admission doesn't work, politicians switch gears to threats, protests and demonstrations

Eknath Makne. NERUL

With the procedure of admissions to higher education institutes underway, political outfits are holding them to ransom, claim city colleges. Bahujan Vidyarthi Parishad, the students wing of Republican Party of India (RPI - Athavale Faction), on Thursday staged protests demanding cancellation of increase in medical college fees and transparent admissions procedure at Nerul-based DY Patil University. The Parishad's demonstration, however, turned out to be a flop show with only 10 to 15 of its workers participating in the same. "Representatives of the party held discussions with us some days ago. At that time, we clarified that the admissions procedure at the medical and engineering colleges at the varsity would go on as per government norms. The protests they staged on Thursday are out of frustrations after we refused to comply with their demands," an official from the D Y Patil University said, on condition of anonymity.

Demonstrations like these do more harm than any good, the official said. He added, "We had to deploy some of our men to see that nothing goes wrong at the campus, and this disturbed our daily work.



RPI protest at DY Patil varsity proved to be a damp squib —Umesh Pawar.DNA

Staging protests at the main gate of the varsity led only to inconvenience to students. We have some thousands students taking education. The futile exercise of this sort though disturbed healthy educational environment at the varsity. Not only the students and officials, but police personnel deployed at the place were also irked over the demonstration.

A police official, who did not wish to be named, said, "The party members had intimidated about the protests a day in advance. Accordingly, we deployed our men at the

campus since 8 am, when the protests were to begin. However, the demonstrators turned up only in the afternoon. More than 30 of our personnel and two vans and as many jeeps were at the place for close to five hours. This is nothing but sheer waste of time as there are several other important responsibilities we have."

When contacted, Thane district chief of the party's student wing, Yashpal Ohal, claimed the demands put forth by the outfit were just and relevant. "The medical college has increased fees by Rs 3.10 lakh, while

the total fees is Rs 7.50 lakh. The admissions are not given to candidates on the basis of merit, but to those who can offer bounty of money. In such a situation, there is no way a commoner can afford admission to the college," Ohal said. The youth leader refuted allegations that the protest was politically driven. Four demonstrators were arrested for staging protests.

Apart from the Nerul varsity, other educational institutes are also complaining that they are being troubled by some pressure groups.

IN TROUBLE

- Authorities at Vashi-based Sacred Heart School have also requested for protection from police after a group of parents declared to stage demonstration on July 30
- Administrators at some of the city engineering colleges too complained of being harassed by political parties which are blackmailing them as the admission period has commenced

Committees do little but attract attention!

Negative hype is giving a bad name to the city, say builders

Falguni Banerjee. VASHI

The various inquiry committees set up in last few years to check on land deals is creating a wrong impression about the city in the minds of people, complain leading builders.

Chief Minister Ashok Chavan on July 22 announced that the government has stayed all decisions on land allotments, change of land use and modification of tender conditions taken by CIDCO in the six months prior to its MD GS Gill's retirement in March 2010. This announcement came following the news regarding builder Avinash Bhosale's malpractices came to light. This latest inquiry has further dampened their mood.

Upset over the recent inquiry initiated by the CM, leading builder Bhupendra Shah said, "Four such committees have been initiated in the last 10 years against allotment of land or change of use. These committees, however, have failed to make any deep impact as the frozen deals are invariably restored. Many builders went to court and won the cases, if any. In the process, city

is earning a bad name. This new committee does not spell good for the city's progress at all. We are in the news for all the wrong reasons." Shah, the President of Builders Association of Navi Mumbai pointed out that builders are very wary and are a scared lot due to all these speculations.

Activist Sanjay Surve said, "The Nandali Committee was initiated in 2001 to examine allotment of plots to Prathamesh CHS following an agitation

Four committees were appointed in the last 10 years to probe CIDCO land deals

launched by social crusader Anna Hazare. Later, the SS Tinaikar Committee was appointed in 2003 to examine irregularities in allotment of plots to the press persons. In 2005, the Shankaran Committee was formed to scrutinise 83 files on plots allotted during the tenure of then CIDCO MD Vinay Mohan Lal. It had found serious irregularities in 50 allotments and termed 11 allotments as 'doubtful'. In 2006, another committee was formed to examine amendment in CIDCO's land disposal rules." All efforts to contact CIDCO officials proved futile.

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Close shave



—Nandu Kurne.DNA

A dislodged pipe along the bridge near Ghansoli Rly Station hangs precariously from a makeshift support. Trains on the Thane-Vashi line were stopped for an hour when the danger was spotted yesterday morning

Poor condition of roads make Uran phata a traffic jam point

Falguni Banerjee. VASHI

The increasing flow of traffic coupled with poor condition of the Sion-Panvel Highway is leading to regular traffic jams these days. One of the worst-affected junctions is the Uran Phata as the huge potholes here have become a bane for motorists who say that they find it hard to negotiate the road particularly during the monsoon season.

For the past two weeks, this junction has been facing endless traffic jams as the road has given way to potholes. Besides, the signal at this junction slows down the traffic flow. This signal witnesses heavy traffic as vehicles, especially heavy ones, plying to Uran, JNPT, Ulwe and nearby nodes stop here for the diversion.

An aggrieved Jyothi Nair, a Koparkhairane resident said, "Every time I travel to Belapur, I am stuck at the Uran Phata due to traffic. The potholes have made commuting very difficult.

Vehicles move at a snail's pace." Even the service road running parallel to the Dr DY Patil stadium in Nerul is in a bad shape as the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) has undertaken digging work here, leaving commuters with no choice but to opt for the Palm Beach Road.

Panvel resident Poonam Shringarpure too faces similar problems while commuting between Vashi and Panvel. She complained, "Sometimes, I travel by ST buses as these ply by the highway and I save a lot of time but these days, the highway is always choked. The potholes slow down the traffic and I reach home very late. Even the service road is in bad shape."

RK Javanjal, Executive Engineer, Multi-storied Building Construction Division of Public Works Department (PWD) said, "Uran Phata is worst affected, especially on the road from Pune to Mumbai. We have started work on repairing the road. It will be done in 2-3 days."

TRAVEL TRAVAILS

NAVI MUMBAI COMMISSIONERATE COMES AT PAR WITH THANE, PUNE AND NAGPUR

City police chief's post gets upgraded

Raina Assainar. CBD BELAPUR

With the appointment of Ahmad Javed as the new Police Commissioner of Navi Mumbai, the post has been upgraded to the rank of Additional Director General of Police. With this elevation, Navi Mumbai joins the ranks of Pune, Thane and Nagpur whose Commissioners are of the rank of Additional Director General of Police.

Earlier, the Navi Mumbai CP post was of the rank of Special Inspector General. Javed, a 1980 batch IPS officer, will take charge from Gulabrao Pol, who has been transferred as Special IG (Law and order) to the special branch in Mumbai.

JAVED, WHO HAS WORKED AS JOINT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (LAW AND ORDER) DURING THE TENURE OF AN ROY AS THE MUMBAI COMMISSIONER WAS CURRENTLY POSTED AS ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL (ESTABLISHMENT) IN THE STATE POLICE HQ



Ahmed Javed (left) is likely to take charge from Gulabrao Pol (right) as city police chief next week

police administration in the city will see a big change after the new CP takes charge. Even we will have a different experience while working under him. We hope that there is a check on the crime and the detection level goes up," a police official working in Navi Mumbai said.

Meanwhile, Gulabrao Pol has received the transfer orders on Thursday. "I have got the orders and have not yet decided on the joining date. Once the new CP is relieved from his existing posting and joins here, I'll hand over the charge to him," Pol said. Meanwhile, the police officials in Navi Mumbai Police Commissionerate are clueless on the exact joining date of the new CP.

Javed is taking charge of the city which is fast becoming a hub of criminal activities with many thefts and robberies going undetected. Residents hope that the new police chief will take some stern steps to reduce the same.

Pol's short tenure saw a few hits and a few misses

Raina Assainar. CBD BELAPUR

The normal tenure of the police commissioner is of three years but Gulabrao Pol was eased out of Navi Mumbai in just over a year. Pol, who took charge as city police chief on May 25, 2009, received his transfer orders on Thursday morning after which the officials have been waiting for the new CP to take charge.

During Pol's tenure, the city police arrested one of the major convicts in the Datta Samant murder case. Vijay Thopte (36), had jumped parole in 2005 and was absconding since. Thopte was arrested following a tip-off. A team led by PI Avinash Dharmad-

hikari and API Giridhar Gore laid a trap and arrested him along with four other henchmen of the Guru Satam gang on May 20, 2010.

The other much talked about case was arrest of three accused for possessing Uranium which was spoken about for a while, and whose investigation is still on.

However, during the last one year, there had been increase in cases of bank dacoity and robberies at jewellery shops, among which many cases are yet to be solved. The major case that would remain pending with the transfer of Pol would be Kalamoli rape case involving a seven-year-old girl.

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