

Driving by minors

Parents to face strict penalties

NASHIK: In an alarming trend, a growing number of minor children are being allowed by their parents to drive vehicles, leading to an increase in accidents on public roads. According to the law, a person can obtain a driving licence only after reaching the age of 18. However, many minors are still driving vehicles, and this is raising concerns about safety. The law stipulates severe penalties for parents who permit their children to drive—up to three years in prison and a fine of Rs 25,000.



Minors driving without licences has become a frequent problem in the region. This practice is resulting in a rise in accidents, some of which have caused serious injuries and even fatalities. The Regional Transport Office (RTO) has taken a proactive role in educating parents and drivers about the legal and safety consequences of allowing children under the age of 18 to drive. The RTO is focusing on raising awareness, particularly about the dangers and legal viola-

tions involved in this behaviour. Under the Motor Vehicles Act, minors driv-

ing a vehicle is considered a criminal offence. Parents who allow their minor children to drive face legal consequences. Specifically, Section 199(A) of the Motor Vehicles Act outlines fines and penalties for driving without a valid licence. The law mandates a fine of Rs 5,000 for the driver and an additional Rs 5,000 for the vehicle owner, bringing the total fine to Rs 10,000. In more serious cases, parents could face imprisonment.

In 2023, action was taken a total of 35 vehicles during a special inspection drive and cases were registered in the court. In one of these cases, a parent was fined Rs 6,000 and sentenced to imprisonment until the court hearing. Additionally, the court imposed a Rs 25,000 fine under Section 199(A)(2) for allowing their minor child to drive.

To address this issue, the RTO has been conducting awareness programmes across various schools, colleges, and private coaching classes. These sessions aim to educate both parents and minors about the risks of illegal driving and the legal penalties associated with it.

Officers from the Regional Transport Office regularly conduct awareness sessions in schools, private classes, and colleges about the dangers of allowing children under 18 to drive. Parents must not permit their minor children to drive, as it can lead to serious legal actions and penalties. It is crucial to follow traffic rules strictly.

- Pradeep Shinde, RTO Officer In-charge, Nashik

MVP Marathon

Preparations begin



NASHIK: Preparations for the 9th National and 14th State-level Marathon, organized by Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samstha (MVP), are underway. The Marathon, scheduled for January 12, 2025, began with route measurement and a ceremonial worship on Friday morning, inaugurated by MVP general secretary Adv. Nitin Thakare.

District Athletics Association president Hemant Pandey, MVP vice president Vishwas More, and directors Adv. Laxman Landge, Ramesh Pingale, Dr. Sayajirao Gaik-

wad, Adv. Sandeep Gulve and others were present as chief guest. Earlier, the dignitaries paid floral tributes to the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and they were felicitated by principal Purushottam Thorat.

MVP general secretary Adv. Nitin Thakare performed a puja of the bicycle wheel and inaugurated route measurement process. The route measurement process will now be carried out by Ashok Kale, Suhas Kharde, Rajaram Pote, Jagdish Dinge, Keshav Khatale and a committee. Dr. Minakshi Gavali and Anil Ugale com-

pered the programme and Mangala Shinde proposed the vote of thanks.

Committees established

Various coordination committees have been formed for the marathon, chaired by Adv. Nitin Thakare. These committees include MVP office bearers, education officers, principals, professors, teachers, employees, doctors, medical officers, NCC cadets, and NSS students.

Except for the Corona period, we have successfully organized this competition for the last 30 years. From now on, the MVP Marathon will be held annually on the second Sunday of January. The route measurement, an important step, is now completed. We encourage all citizens and students to prepare and participate in large numbers. Athletes from across India and abroad will join us. The Sanstha's office bearers, professors, employees, and students are working hard for the success of this Marathon.

- Adv. Nitin Thakare, gen secy, MVP, Nashik

Residents demand drainage repairs



NASHIK: Residents of Ganesh Chowk, Samata Chowk, and Tanaji Chowk in New Nashik area are facing persistent drainage issues due to poor-quality work done two years ago. Local residents have stated that they have to complain to the Municipal Corporation repeatedly as temporary fixes by the contractor fail to resolve the underlying problems.

The issues stem from the laying of new pipelines without removing old ones, reducing the drainage depth. Additionally, smaller-sized pipes were installed despite the growing demand on the system, causing frequent blockages and sewage leaks. In some areas, chambers are leaking, leading to sewage ac-

cumulation in front of homes and posing health risks to residents.

Local activists and residents, including social activist Yogesh Katkade and Uttam (Pintu) Kale, president, Nomadic Vimukt Front, BJP, New Nashik have submitted a memorandum to New Nashik divisional officer Jayashree Bairagi, demanding immediate action. She has assured residents that steps will be taken to address the issue.

"We have raised this issue multiple times, but the problems remain unresolved. If the drainage issue is not fixed soon, we will organize a public protest and demand answers directly from the Municipal Commissioner," warned Yogesh Katkade.

NMC acts against illegal hoardings

NASHIK: The Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) has intensified its crackdown on illegal hoardings across the city. The anti-encroachment department is now registering cases against those responsible for erecting unauthorized hoardings. On Thursday, a case was filed at the Mumbai Naka police station concerning small hoardings erected on poles in middle of road divider in the Mumbai Naka area.

There has been a surge in the number of illegal hoardings in areas such as Dwarka, Mumbai Naka, Nashik Road, Jail Road, Panchavati, and CIDCO. Many of these hoardings were put up by supporters of the recently elected MLAs in the state assembly elections, contributing to the city's deteriorating aesthetic. In response, the anti-encroachment department has decided to remove all unauthorized hoardings, including those of a commercial nature, and take legal action against those responsible.

AIMA organises seminar for entrepreneurs

NASHIK: Vivek Kumar, general manager of Central Bank of India, Mumbai, appealed to entrepreneurs to take advantage of the bank's schemes tailored for their growth and development. He was speaking at a seminar jointly organized by the Ambad Industries and Manufacturers Association (AIMA) and the Central Bank of India at the AIMA recreation hall.

Sumita Shankar, Nashik regional head of the bank, along with AIMA BOPP chairman Dnyaneshwar Gopale, vice president Umesh Ko-

thavade, treasurer Govind Jha, and joint secretary Yogita Aher were present on the dais.

In his introductory remarks, Gopale highlighted AIMA's efforts to support entrepreneurs through activities like industrial exhibitions, B2B meetings, export promotion, and health camps. He explained that the seminar aimed to raise awareness about the bank's schemes for entrepreneurs.

Shankar assured entrepreneurs that all types of loans are available at competitive rates through the bank's Nashik regional office, with swift

approvals to facilitate business needs. Bank officer Sambhaji Ghotekar presented details of the schemes via an audio-visual medium.

AIMA vice president Umesh Kothavade praised the bank's efforts and suggested expanding similar initiatives to areas like Dindori, Shinde-Palse, and Sinnar. Participants, including Ajay Yadav, emphasized the need for faster loan approvals and affordable mortgage loans.

The seminar concluded with Vivek Kumar addressing various queries from entrepreneurs.



Mock polls in Malegaon Outer & Yeola

NASHIK: In the wake of concerns raised over the integrity of the recent State Assembly election results, candidates Bandukaka Bachhav (Malegaon Outer) and Manikrao Shinde (Yeola) have formally requested a recount of votes, citing suspicions of tampering with the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

In response to these demands, the district election department has decided to conduct mock polls at one polling station each in Malegaon Outer and Yeola constituencies to ensure transparency and clarify the doubts raised by the candidates. Bachhav and Shinde, seeking reassurance about the accuracy of the vote counting, have paid a fee of Rs 47,200, which covers Rs 40,000 for each voting machine and VVPAT, along with 18% GST. Once the payment is processed, an engineer from BEL Company will conduct the inspection of the machines in front of the candidates, following Election Commission guidelines.

CPR & defibrillator training to MUHS employees



NASHIK: Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) organized free training sessions for its officials and employees on administering Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and using Automated External Defibrillators (AED) during emergencies.

Participants were taught proper CPR techniques, including the frequency, speed, and ratio required to restore breathing or circulation in patients who experience

cardiac arrest.

The training also covered the use of AED machines to reestablish heartbeat during critical situations, focusing on technical aspects and scientifically appropriate methods.

Additionally, trainees were guided on how to provide accurate information when contacting emergency helplines for medical assistance.

More than 125 employees benefited from the training, which high-

lighted the importance of these life-saving techniques in scenarios like road accidents or workplace emergencies.

Dr. Sachin Gaikwad, medical health officer at the university's health centre, coordinated the programme, which was conducted in three phases. The sessions were led by Dr. Sneha Nanaware, Dr. Shrenik Gugle, and Dr. Mahesh Thakare from the Maharashtra Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research.

Student induction programme at KTHM College

NASHIK: The Computer Science Department of KTHM College, Nashik, organized an induction programme for FYBSc students, marking the start of their academic journey with enthusiasm.

Principal Dr. S S Kale addressed the students of the Computer Application course, offering guidance and insights into the college's resources and activities, including NCC, NSS, BSD, the examination

department, library, and gymkhana.

Dr. R A Patil, head of the department, along with programme coordinator Dr. Tushar Patil and faculty members were present. Dr. Rahul Patil discussed the impact of the new education policy, explaining its implications and how it will shape the revised curriculum. S P Borse compered the programme and S S Patil proposed a vote of thanks.



Workshop on reels & video creation held



NASHIK: A workshop on reels and video creation was conducted at IMRT College, Gangapur Road, on Tuesday (Nov 26). It was organized by Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, District Centre Nashik, and MVP Samaj Sanstha to guide youth in creating impactful digital content.

Adv. Nitin Thakare, general secretary of MVP, inaugurated the workshop. He explained the aim of the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre to develop

leadership and innovation among youth.

In the first session, advertising expert Sunil Dhopavkar shared tips for successful content creation, emphasizing consistent posting, imaginative writing, and attention to detail. Cyber expert Omkar Gandhi discussed content safety, covering topics like cyber laws, trolling, and secure digital practices.

Content creator Adil Sheikh guided participants on writing,

scripting, editing, and voiceovers for content creation. Mangesh Kakad spoke about incorporating language, culture, and dialects into meaningful and economically beneficial content.

The workshop concluded with a Q&A session and interactions with content creators Riya Raj and Kunal Rupvate. Coordinator of the centre Bhushan Kale compered the workshop, which saw enthusiastic participation from youth.