

THE GOVT DIRECTIVE TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM MAY 15

BIS standards a must for imported tyres

Archana Dahiwal

All imported tyres and tubes will now need Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) marking as well as BIS approval from May 15, 2010 in a new directive issued by the government to promote road safety.

This directive will apply to all types of imported tyres and tubes for two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger, heavy and light commercial vehicles.

Head of safety and homologation at Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT), Pune, DP Saste announced the decision at a national seminar on 'Tyres, tubes & wheel rims' held at CIRT, Pune on Friday.

The seminar was conducted by CIRT, Pune in association with BIS, New Delhi. "Under the WTO's Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT), India had resumed the standardisation. In November 2009, the BIS marking guideline was released, it will be implemented from May 15, 2010," Saste said.

He said that the BIS decision will ensure that the sale of inferior quality imported tyre and tubes is automatically checked.

India imports tyres and tubes mainly from China, Korea, Japan and Thailand among other countries. Head of transport engineer-



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A file photo of expressway

division of BIS TV Singh said that keeping in mind India's road conditions, climate and safety, the union government made efforts for standardisation of tyres and tubes. He said that India is the largest exporter of automobile vehicle, tyres and tubes. He added that standardisation of wheels is important because it provides safety to vehicles.

Director and member secretary of BIS RR Singh said that the automobile sector is the most vibrant sector in India and tyres and tubes

are an integral part of this sector. He said that BIS is also planning to organise such seminars in the future to create awareness about the standardisation drive. The seminar at CIRT was the first of its kind.

Head of tyres and fuels division of CIRT SA Selvakumar said that CIRT is the only specialised tyre testing and type approval agency in India under Central Motor Vehicle Rules.

The seminar was aimed at dis-

cussing the problems faced by the industry and users of tyres, tubes and wheel rims and to create awareness about the mandatory certification of tyres and tubes safety.

Vehicle, tyre and wheel rim manufacturers, users, state transport undertakings, other related organisations and senior officials from testing agencies, BIS, ministry of defence and Air Force were among those who attended the seminar.

Move to privatise octroi collection to improve revenue

Nikam proposes Rs10 cr allocation in budget to invest in technology

Abhay Khairnar

The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) is planning to privatise the octroi department to improve collection of revenue in the city.

Civic body's outgoing standing committee chairman Nilesh Nikam spoke about this in his budget speech published in the 2010-11 budget. Nikam said the members of the standing committee were of the view that the privatisation of octroi department was one of the options to increase revenue.

Octroi is the main source of revenue for the civic body. The standing committee has set a target of Rs912 crore for the administration as against the target of Rs850



A file photo of an octroi collection centre.

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crore for the previous budget. Till December 2009, octroi collection was barely Rs443 crore.

It is well known in the civic body circles that octroi collection is poorly managed causing enormous loss to the PMC. This issue has been discussed several times in the general body.

Nikam has proposed Rs10 crore in the 2010-11 budget to use technology to improve the collection.

He has also announced 10% incentive for citizens and the staff who alert the civic administration on deliberate evasion of octroi duty.

Educate weaker sections of society: Setalwad



(From L) Aruna Katara, Teesta Setalwad, Uma Ganesh and Vishal Bhandari.

I2IT organised a seminar on women prowess on Friday

DNA Correspondent

The International Institute of Information Technology (I2IT) organised a seminar on women prowess at the Mohini Chhabria Convention Centre of its Hinjewadi campus on Friday.

Global Talent Track chief executive officer Uma

Ganesh, social activist Teesta Setalwad, painter, writer and film director Vishal Bhandari and I2IT executive director Aruna Katara were present.

Setalwad stressed on education for the weaker sections of society. She cited examples of the Mumbai and Godhra riots to explain how peace, communal harmony, primary education and health care should be the priorities for women.

Ganesh talked about the changing trends in society

where women's status is concerned and expressed her thoughts on the institution of marriage and the woman's needs today.

Citing examples from his personal life and the films he has directed, Bhandari discussed the status of women in Afghanistan and the social problems women in India face in their daily lives. I2IT has been organising the seminar every year since 2006 and many eminent and well-known personalities have taken part in it.

Canadians to raise funds for German Bakery blast victims

Couple will conduct yoga marathon fundraiser in Canada for the cause

Neha Madaan

For Canadian couple Scott Ryan and Dalia Yanai, German Bakery was the most important part of their life during their recent stay in Pune. The couple runs an Ayurvedic Lifestyle, Diet Consultancy Center and Yoga Studio in Canada and were in Pune to get further training in yoga.

So when they heard about the German Bakery blast, they decided to do something for the victims - especially 32-year-old waiter Gokul Nepali who lost his life. Ryan had developed a close friendship with Gokul.

Now, the couple has decided to organise a yoga marathon fundraiser in Golden BC, Canada, to support the victims of the German Bakery.

Yanai said in an email in-



It is symbolically important to see the Bakery rebuilt as a statement of the indomitable spirit of India's young men and women.

— Scott Ryan, yoga teacher from Canada

terview from Canada, "My husband was studying ayurveda in the city and was staying at Koregaon Park. That's when he developed a very good friendship with Gokul as he was a waiter at German Bakery and my husband used to mostly have both meals at German Bakery as he had no kitchen facilities."

Ryan said, "The donations from our fundraiser will go to the victims of the blast in Pune, since we feel a strong connection with Pune

and would like to help in some way. This is not a huge event, but it is our small way of contributing our energy and hopefully some funds to the victims of this senseless act of violence."

The marathon will be held in Canada on March 7 from 9 am to 9 pm, with six yoga classes of 2 hours each.

"We have not been in personal contact with the German Bakery's owner, but we have been in touch with Shrinath Navaghani, who is spearheading the public re-

lations campaign and fundraising effort for the facebook group Rebuilding German Bakery. He has assured us that the money raised will go to the victims and their families first and if there is a surplus, it will go to rebuilding the Bakery," added Yanai.

Because the German Bakery is so well-known as a place of friendship, goodwill, a meeting point for Pune's youth and spiritual aspirants from the West, the duo feels that it is symbolically important to see the Bakery rebuilt. "Not just to replace the one that was destroyed or to forget the victims, but also as a statement of the indomitable spirit of India's young men and women. The parents and grandparents should be proud and honored by the kindness, the authenticity and the brilliance of India's students - we are honoured and humbled to have dined with them, laughed with them and drank chai with them," added Ryan.

Campaign to prevent suicides

Priyanka Naithani

To spread awareness about tackling pressures of student life, a group of psychology students are carrying out a suicide prevention drive in the city. The campaign 'Reach out to Life' is conducted by noted psychologist Dr Natasha D Cruz and her students.

The students organised a rally from Cantonment Garden on MG Road to an open house at Nowrosjee Wadia College on Saturday. They distributed pamphlets explaining the warning signs people need to look out for and how to get help.

"Children, who feel stressed out due to exam and parental pressure, can discuss their fears with us," Nowrosjee Wadia College's psychology student Philip Thomas said.

"We have conducted workshops for students of standard VII to college level," said psychology student Anuradha Walke.

D Cruz said they have a 24-hour helpline (952716445) for students.

No nomination forms filed yet

Three candidates have purchased forms for bypoll

Dinesh Thite

No nomination forms were filed during the first three days for the by-election to the Maharashtra Legislative Council from Pune Local Authority Constituency on March 26. But, three candidates had bought the nomination forms by Thursday.

Anil Bhosale (Shivajinagar, Pune) and Rajesh Jamdar (Walchandnagar) have bought nomination forms as candidates of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Girish Ramchandra Tamhane (Shivajinagar, Pune) has bought a form as an independent.

The by-election programme was announced by the Election Commission of India (ECI) recently. The notification was issued on March 2 and the process of

filing forms started. The last date of filing nominations is Tuesday and the scrutiny of forms will be on Wednesday. The last date of withdrawal of nominations is March 12. Voting will take place on March 26 and counting of votes will be on March 28.

Laxman Jagtap from Pimpri-Chinchwad was the member of legislative council (MLC). Last year, he got elected to the legislative assembly from Chinchwad constituency as an independent. Later, he resigned from the membership of

legislative council. Hence, the by-election is being held. The tenure of the newly elected representative will be till December 5 this year. The model code of conduct for the by-election is in force from February 24.

The Pune Local Authorities Constituency consists of local self government bodies in Pune district like municipal corporations, municipal councils and zilla parishad.

They are informers of the city crime branch officials

Gitesh Shelke

Three youths, khabris (informers) of the crime branch, have accused the Dattawadi police of allegedly harassing them for not passing on information to the local police. The trio alleged that the Dattawadi police picked them up and kept in confinement in connection with a murder case recently.

Interestingly, the trio has now become witnesses in an alleged custodial death incident that took place on the premises of the same police station where these khabris were kept in confinement.

The khabris are now official witnesses in the case filed against the police station staff. The case is being investigated by the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The police picked up Rahul Dharmadhikari (30), his brother Yogesh (29) and Sagar Hagawane (30), all residents of Dandekar bridge area, after they found the body of a 35-year-old unidentified person on February 23 with his head and face smashed with heavy stones. While Rahul has four criminal cases against him, Yogesh has one.

The youths alleged that they were



The youths alleged that they were kept in confinement by the Dattawadi police for three days without any reason

kept in confinement by the police staff for three days without any reason.

"We were picked up by the local police just because we were functioning as informers of the city crime branch officials. We were also beaten up by the police," Dharmadhikari alleged.

However, Dattawadi police station authorities and a top city police officer denied that the trio was picked up as they were not passing on informa-

tion to the local police.

They said that many suspects including the trio were picked up for questioning and released immediately after the case was solved.

"They were not kept in confinement," said deputy commissioner of police (zone II) Satish Khandare.

The youths claimed that during their detention at the police station there was a case wherein an autorickshaw driver Prakash Popat Gofane (30), who was also called for questioning, died in the police station after suffering a heart attack.

He was called to ascertain the identity of the murdered person.

The youths claimed that as they were on the police station premises, the CID team investigating the custodial death case, had called them to record their statements. "We gave our statements to them," they added.

When contacted, a CID officer probing the alleged custodial death said that the statements of Dharmadhikari and Hagawane have been recorded. "We will also record the statement of Yogesh. We are probing the incident and their statements will be taken into consideration," he said.

"The police station authorities are annoyed with us because we pass on the information to crime branch. It seems that they want to take revenge by trying to book us in the case. We are not involved in the murder case," the trio claimed.

Harshwardhan to head agro panel

Dinesh Thite

State cooperatives and marketing minister Harshwardhan Patil has been appointed as the chairman of the committee of ministers to improve agriculture marketing.

According to an official statement, the announcement was made on March 2. The committee comprises agriculture and marketing ministers of nine states.

The committee of ministers is expected to consider necessary amendments in the agriculture marketing laws and guide the implementation of amendments already made.

The changes would lead to more investment from private sector in agriculture marketing.

The Union government had sent a model act to all states in 2003 to amend the agriculture marketing legislation. The move was made considering the need to provide various options for marketing of agriculture produce and to improve marketing.

Agriculture marketing ministers of Orissa, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttarakhnad, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar and Assam have been appointed on the panel under the chairmanship of Patil.

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