THE TIMES OF INDIA, NAGPUR \* **TIMES CITY** 

# 'VC & team should apologize to students'

Vaibhav Ganjapure TNN

Nagpur: A day after Nagpur University administration formally admitted the BCCA paper leak, strong reactions are coming asking vice chancellor Vilas Sapkal and team to own up moral responsibility and put in their papers for their failure to curb such incidents.

Ironically, many such leaks and goof-ups, including accidental leaks, have taken place in the university in the past too, but the officials have managed to keep

everything under wraps.
Academicians and members on NU's various statutory bodies have severely criticized Sapkal and his team members, including Controller of Examinations (CoE) Siddharth Kane, registrar Mahesh Yenkie and Board of College and Uni-Development

allegedly They were pressured by a political tional College (DNC) principal Baban Taywade and that included commerce dean Bharat Meghe, science dean KC Deshmukh, and senior academician Eknath Kath-

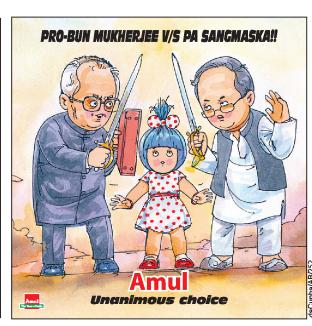
**PLUGGING THE LEAK** others. At the Board of Examination (BoE) meeting itself these members allegedly forced VC to withdraw FIR stating that paper was never leaked and media were merely "guessing". These members are refusing to

and technical education. "We will raise this issue in the assembly," he said.

Pointing out the money Bajpayee

Demanding stringent punishment to guilty officials, Senate member Samir Kene said VC should urgent-

grace to the university. "Why innocent students should pay from money from their pockets for re-exam of BCCA paper when the fault lies with NU administration? Some heads must roll for this shame else NII will



### Traffic park eateries turning area into dumpyard

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nagpur: The sides of the VIP road from Bole Petrol Pump square to Alankar Talkies square have turned into garbage dumps. Waste from eateries is being dumped at various places along the stretch for quite sometime.

 $In fact, the problem \, started$ with the opening of Children's traffic park at Khare Town in Dharampeth. Wth many eateries and vendors operating there, there is no arrangement to properly dispose of huge amount of garbage generated. The eateries surreptitiously dump it along the roadside. This has made the road an eyesore, according to pedestrians. Garbage has  $been \ lying \ there for \ months.$ 

"Eateries are dumping garbage on the main road. One reason is the lack of adequate garbage bins in commercial areas and on the main road," said Mandar Gharde, a resident of the locality.



The worst affected is the K-Point that connects the VIP road with a number of residential areas like Dharampeth, Khare Town, Ravi Nagar and Jhenda Chowk. The narrow strip of road between traffic park compound wall and VIP road footpath is particularly bad. It has a huge pile of garbage not cleared for a long time.

The problems aggravated due to unchecked growth of roadside unauthorized food even eateries inside the park dump garbage on land.

TOI team too found waste including plastics have piled up at many patches. The garbage has attracted large number of stray dogs.

"Often, they run across the road resulting in minor accidents. Garbage has aggravated the stray dog menace. The authorities concerned are unable to stop garbage dumping on the main road. They also do not clear the waste," a shopkeeper rued.

Officials of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation assured they would clear the garbage from both sides of the road.

### **NMC** takes action on Telangkhedi eateries

Proshun Chakraborty | TNN



yard, NMC's health de partment has served notices to all 14 eat

eries on the road.

Senior health inspector from Dharampeth zone D P Tembekar told TOI the sanitary department too caught restaurant waiters dumping waste behind their respective eating joints. He said that notices were served on them and

a fine between Rs 3,000 and Rs

5,000 would be slapped.



(BCUD) director Arvind Choudhary for messing up the entire issue and trying to protect the guilty.

group led by Dhanwate Na-

among

comment on the issue.

"NU has badly lost credi-

Such cases and poor decision making had led to numerous sufferings to students," said MLA Devendra Fadnavis who is also a Senate member.

Another

Senate member, MLC SQ Zama, said, "Sapkal and his team should either fix the accountability or owe moral responsibility for this blunder that brought shame to the university."

He added that he will raise the issue with UGC and state ministry for higher

and time wasted by the NU administration in suppressing the leak, Senate member said though NU exam section should be held responsible, VC can't shirk his responsibility. "He should accept that he and his team had tried to hush up the issue and committed blunders in the process. Now they should say sorry to the students and take care that such incidents shouldn't recur," he said ly convene an emergent meeting of Senate to discuss the issue that brought dis-

not learn from its mistakes,

**HOW THE SCAM WORKED** 

► Financial irregularities pertain to tending & natural regener-

Under natural regeneration, all seed origin seedlings and sa-

plings of valuable species, more than 60 centimetres in height,

are supposed to be nursed as future crop. Such areas were not

▶ RFOs withdrew huge amount by making false documents to

and cut back operations in measurement books (MBs)

show natural regeneration (NR), cleaning and tending activities

At one site in Sadak Arjuni, Rs 6 lakh was embezzled for artifi-

cial regeneration by digging undersized pits for bamboo planta-

tions. The number of plantations was much less than the number shown in records. Site is also not suitable for bamboo plantation

ation, cleaning of coupes & cut back operations (CBO) carried out in 2011-12 in Gondia, Nagpur, Bhandara under Nagpur Circle

### Major natural & artificial regeneration scam that may run into several crores rocks forest department

# THE GREAT TREE ROBBERY

Vijay Pinjarkar | TNN

Nagpur: Natural and artificial regeneration of forests is forest department's biggest priority but for officials it has become a money generation activity!

A major scam involving regeneration funds that may well run into crores if probe is conducted in all forest circles in the state has surfaced. For now, the scam runs into lakhs of rupees

The irregularities pertain to tending and regeneration, cleaning of coupes and cut back operations (CBO) carried out in 2011-12 in Nagpur Circle comprising Gondia, Nagpur, Bhandara and Wardha.

The government allocates huge funds for these activities under the 'Exploitation by Government Agency (EGA) head.' These activities in Nagpur Circle were in violation of working plan prescriptions resulting in fake expenditure. The range officers (RFOs) forest. showed works that were not carried out and misappropriated huge sums.

Principal secretary (forests) Praveen Pardeshi said an immediate probe by APCCF level officers has been ordered. "As soon as responsibility is fixed, the guilty will be punished. It is a serious issue," he told TOI.

The three-member committee headed by additional principal chief conservator of forests (APCCF) for work-

digital photography [ of all works. The guilty will be punished. It is a very serious issue

The committee

will visit all the

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PRINCIPAL SECRETARY (FORESTS)

ing plan ASK Sinha, APCCF (budget & development) Shree Bhagwan, and divisional forest officer (DFO) for vigilance PD Masram visited Gondia on Tuesday to probe the issue.

The committee will be assisted by chief conservator of forests (CCF) for working plan TK Choube and CCF for Nagpur Circle S H Patil. Interestingly, the officer who exposed the scam has been kept out of the panel. On this, Pardeshi says as

enquiry was conducted by CCF level officer earlier and responsibility of another CCF with Nagpur is involved, very senior officers have been asked to conduct probe. CCF C R Gajbhiye, during whose tenure the scam occurred, has already retired on May 31.

"The committee will visit all sites and do digital photography of all works, and

probe into any deviation and fix responsibility thereof, Pardeshi said.

 $The \, scam \, came \, to \, fore \, dur$ ing working plan CCF's inspection of Sadak Arjuni and Arjuni Morgaon ranges in Gondia and Kuhi range in Nagpur and Jamkandri, Paoni and Lendezari ranges in Bhandara. He had submitted a report to the principal chief conservator of forest (PCCF) for production and manage mentSKKhetarpalonMay23

Reports state that Rs 1.25 lakh was charged for tending of natural regeneration (NR) for 50 hectares in compartment number 1569 of Sadak Arjuni (Gondia) without the work being actually carried out. NR activities should be done in areas having at least 400 seed-based natural seedlings per hectare, that too iust after rains and not in the month of January as shown.

Besides, under NR, all seed

origin seedlings and saplings valuable species, more than 60 centimetres in height, are supposed to be nursed as future crop. Such areas havingpromising NR should have been identified and marked

on the treatment map before

executing actual work

However, the methodology was not followed and without making any record, amount was misappropriated by making false entries in the measurement books (MBs). Senior officers did not even inspect these works and remained silent on irregularities even after a report was sent to them.

It was found that cleaning in coupes was not done in compartment nos. 268 and 269 of Arjuni Morgaon but Rs 2.50 lakh was charged for it. The works for which money was charged was not required and also not approved by the competent authority.

In another case, in the name of cut back operations (CBO), Rs 25,000 was charged in compartment No. 253. CBO works are required to be done next year of main felling to harvest any left out or damaged trees. However, the area did not have a single left out or damaged tree. Documents have been fabricated to misappropriate funds, the report said. At one site in Sadak Arju-

ni. Rs 6 lakh was embezzled for artificial regeneration by digging undersized pits for bamboo plantation. plantation was much less than the number shown in records. The site is also not suitable for bamboo. No record such as treatment maps, grid and baselines etc was maintained before under taking the works

identified before executing actual work

Works related to demarcation of boundary and fire line cutting have been shown to be carried out even in sensitive ranges like Chichgad, Salekasa, North Deori, South Deori and Navegaonbandh, but no other works of forestry of any nature are done here due to Naxal presence

Such financial irregularities in similar works were observed in Nagpur and Bhandara divisions

In Nagpur's Kuhi range in compartment No 362, NR operation, cleaning of old stumps, cutting of climbers have been recorded but works were not executed. Over Rs 1.20 lakh was charged for these works. In compartment no. 449 the situation was same. In compartment no. 444, Rs 84,000 was charged for cleaning teak plantation again without doing any work.

Acting on the report, PCCF (production & management) S K Khetarpal wrote to the government and PCCF A K Joshi on May 25 but no action was taken.He again wrote on June 8 demanding a probe after which Pardeshi swung into action. It is apprehended that

such serious irregularities in implementation of working plan may be going on in other circles too and they need to be investigated by all territorial CCFs as expenditure on them runs into crores of rupees.

On Tuesday, three-member committee visited Gondia and Bhandara divisions. On Wednesday, it is slated to tour Nagpur and Wardha divisions. The committee has been asked to

# Bandh to back Congress MLA Dr Usendi

Ramu Bhagwat | TNN

Nagpur: The arrest of Congress MLA Dr Namdeo Usendi and his two party colleagues in Gadchiroli has angered party workers as well as other residents of the Naxalite-affected district. The Youth Congress and the MLA's supporters have given a call for Gadchiroli bandh and chakka jam on Wednesday.

Dr Usendi, who is the first MBBS doctor from Madia tribe of the district, is known to be a soft-spoken person. Because of his high qualification and work among tribals in one of the most backward districts of the country, he has made it to Congress

youth icon Rahul Gandhi's inner circle.

"This a sensitive district and if government officials also stop us from working. they are no different from Naxalites blocking development work," said Usendi. Having received sever

al complaints from people about irregular working of staff at the zilla parishad office, Usendi, district Congress president Hasan Gilani and tehsil unit president Shankar Salodkar had gone to check the situation. "When we reached the ZP office at 10.10am, more than half the staff was missing. They are supposed to sign musters by 10.10am. So, I went into the office to check the muster roll," Usendi said.

"While I was checking the muster roll, some party workers outside asked those coming in late to wait for some time, to avoid confusion inside. Neither I nor any of my associates ever locked the gates of the ZP office. But we were aghast when a false complaint was

**Dr Namdeo Usendi** was arrested after he locked up ZP officials for their irregular working

lodged by CEO Sumant Bhange against me, Gilani and Salodkar. We have been accused of locking up the office, disrupting work and blocking office staff from carrying out their duties," Usendi told TOI on Tuesday.

"More shocking was the haste in which the police acted and registered a non-bailable offence against me. When I called up DSP Suvez Haque, who was out of

**ARREST PROTEST** town, he refused

grant me some time to lead a morcha (protest march) into town. He insisted that Ishould report to the police station immediately. I was literally treated like a criminal and taken to court, where I had to obtain a bail. All this for trying to address people's grievanc-

es about the wrongdoings of ZP staff," said Usendi. Accusing the CEO of breaching the privilege of a legislator, Usendi has written to the Speaker of the state legislative assembly as well as the chief minister to apprise them of the incident. The Youth Congress is demanding suspension of CEO Bhange and disciplinary action against staffers who came in late on Monday.

If action is not taken within a week, the agitation will be intensified, a Congress leader said. Chimur MLA Vijay Wadettiwar is supporting the agitation against the ZP staff for breaching the MLA's privileges

### **Young** couple robbed of ₹1.52 lakh

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nagpur: Introducing themselves as foresters, two vouths thrashed and robbed a young couple at Mohgaon Zilpi on Ambazari road, around 12km from Hingna on Monday afternoon.

Police said that the couple was spending time together in the jungle area of Mohgaon Zilpi when the youths approached them, threatened and robbed them. The robbers fled with two gold chains, three gold rings and three expensive cell phones worth Rs 1.52 lakh. The robbers also filmed the couple and threatened

them with leaking the film. Police said that the girl is the daughter of deputy collector of Chandrapur, an arts graduate and is preparing for competitive exams. The youth is a third year engineering student from Umred, who currently stays in Nagpur as a paying guest. The couple had fallen in love two years ago. On Monday evening, they had decided to go for a motorcycle ride.

Police said they had chosen a jungle area where hardly any villager passes through. The couple was sitting alone when two youths on bike approached them.

"Initially, they interrogated the couple and started abusing them. When the boy tried to resist them. they thrashed him and the girl and robbed them," said G Kankade, senior police inspector of Hingna police station. Before the couple could get up, robbers fled
The frightened couple

immediately approached Hingna police. The robbers were in their 20s and from their clothing they seemed to be from a nearby village. When the cops tried to dial the couple's cell phone number, it was found to be

switched off. A search for

the robbers is on.

# Contractor makes merry as road users suffer

Proshun Chakraborty | TNN

Nagpur: The drive down the NEERI road can be pleasurable one but for the frequent debris of concrete dumped carelessly at regular intervals. This road has again has been dug up fourth time for the ongoing Pench-IV water project. This stretch lays bare the faulty planning of Nagpur Municipal Corporation and contrac-

tors working under it. Under the Pench-IV project, the NMC had dug up around 10 km of road from Seminary Hills to Omkar Nagar overhead water tank to lay 1100 mm pipeline in 2009. First, the road was dug up to lay pipe-lines and covered. Then it was dug up again to join the pipeline. This work was carried out at a snail's pace and caused severe inconvenience to road users on this 'VIP road'

Late last year, it was dug up a third time over a 600 metre stretch to check pressure. The pipeline laying work finally completed in January this year. It was believed that at least now the road would be smooth. Before the civic polls this year, the NMC even carried out as-

phaltation over it. However, this was not to be. The private agency entrusted with the pipeline work again dug up the road at 12 places every 100 metres or so. This time it is to strengthen the inner lin-

ing of the pipeline. Arun Shah of DRA Consultants, the private firm doing the job, said the process can only be done after carrying out of hydro pressure testing. It will ensure that steel pipeline lasts long.

He failed to explain why the work could not have been done at one go. He also refused to say whether the



**DEATH TRAP?** The patch on Neeri Road where five places were dug up by the NMC to carry out inner lining work

company was billing NMC again for repeated digging and repairs. Prakash Urade, executive engineer, Pench project, refused to comment.

The frequent digging up of roads has riled the road users. "Recently, NMC had asphalted the road, now it is bad again," general physician Dr Pramod Khalat kar, a resident of Ajni, said.

He also blamed various government agencies, especially the NMC, for deteriorating condition of roads. Another resident Narendra Palandurkar opined, "When roads are dug up, the strength is lost and the original quality can't be ensured. The roads ripped upfrequently do not last long.

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## Closure of rly goods shed sparks protest

Nagpur: The sudden decision to close down goods shed at Nagpur railway station vard sparked protest from registered unions in the Central Railway on Tuesday.

The goods shed, which the union claimed was running in profit, has been closed down without any notice  $from\,June\,14.$ 

The National Railway Mazdoor Union (NRMU) staged demonstrations at the divisional railway manager

 $({\rm DRM})\,office\,on\,Tuesday.$ "The closure of goods shed is an attempt to push railways towards privatiza-

tion. The shed earned Rs 13

crore last year and there is no

reason why it should be shut down,"saidHabibKhan,divisional secretary of NRMU.

would stress industrial rela-

tions across the Central Rail

Khan said the decision

way. It will not only create unemployment but would also  $affect \, railway \, revenue.$ "If the decision is not reversed, the NRMU will definitely intensify the agita-

tion," Khan warned. Sr divisional commercial manager Mukul Kumar stated the closure was part of long term plan to develop station. He said alternative arrangements were made at

Godhni before closure. Absence of goods shed will help develop more platforms at the station.



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