

Bid to make municipal staff computer savvy

LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK
AURANGABAD, OCT 22

Municipal Commissioner Om Prakash Bakoria tested computer skills of officers under grade 1 to 3 to see whether they are able to work on latest technology system that will be installed in Aurangabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) to make the city smarter. As Aurangabad is selected for smart city, the working pattern of AMC needs reforms only after which, the e-governance could be implemented. To get the office computerized, the government



Many don't know how to open email
Many employees and workers of AMC do not know how to open the email. Only junior workers and employees do the task on computer and officers only give signatures. The administration has given high quality computers by spending lakhs of rupees. But all are gathering dust. Many clerical level employees still do not know how to use computers. Recently, commissioner had taken a test of 9 employees of grade 3 that had joined under compassionate basis. Only one had passed the test.

needs to work from now. The AMC has taken challenge to provide maximum computerized services. The companies that are appointed for this task have already arrived in Aurangabad and started working.

The AMC needs to install various softwares for employees. Now, as the AMC is planning to spend lakhs of rupees on software, the commissioner has decided to test the computer knowledge and skills.

The employees under grade 1 to 3 were said to fill a form to declare their computer proficiency in three days.

It's second 'dark' Diwali

■ 10,000 street lights are defunct in city for a year

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AURANGABAD, OCT 22

It turned out to be a second 'black' Diwali for Aurangabadians. The Aurangabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has failed to get many street lights repaired in the past one year.

Although the AMC has appointed as many as 22 contractors to look after the city's 40,000 street lights and is spending a hefty amount on their repairing, services of the contractors are not up to the mark and the situation is what it was a year ago. A

total of 10,000 street lights are defunct.

The electrical section of the AMC is said to be paying the contractors without any check. As a majority of the contractors have political backing, civic officers are signing their bills without checking their work, it is alleged.

About 10,000 street lights have been out of order for nearly a year. Citizens have been complaining, but in vain. It is also alleged that chief of the electrical department is not paying any heed to their complaints.

As the festival of lights is just round the corner, it is unlikely that the authorities will get the defunct lights repaired. Therefore, like last year, this Diwali is going to be 'dark' for some citizens.

Entries rushing in for Lokmat Marathon

LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK
AURANGABAD, OCT 22

The Aurangabad Marathon scheduled for December 11 is receiving an impressive response from individuals and groups alike.

A group of thirty employees from Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd. was the first to register in bulk at one go. Sanjay Choubey and Suman Kumar took initiatives for the booking.



Those interested to register for the marathon in mega registrations can call up 9075005235 or visit www.mycitymarathon.com



Amid inquiries about bulk bookings from various organisations and groups, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited was the first to get 30 registrations done at the same time for Lokmat Aurangabad Marathon. A picture of the group on their office premises.

Beed MC polls: Kshirsagars look a divided house now

C R PATEL
BEED, OCT 22

Six municipal councils in Beed district are going to polls on November 27. Barring the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), all other political parties face a dearth of promising candidates.

The Beed Municipal Council (BMC) has been ruling by the Kshirsagars since 1985, except a two-year stint of Shiv Sena from 1996 to 1998.

For the past 29 years, Dr Bharatbhushan Kshirsagar has been dominating and reigning the BMC. Even his rivals agree that there is no challenge to Dr Bharatbhushan Kshirsagar.

In the election of 2011, the NCP had made a history by winning 45 of the total 46 seats, with 11 of them being elected unopposed.

Uncle-nephew dispute

Dr Bharatbhushan Kshirsagar wants to bring his son Dr Yogesh Kshirsagar in politics through the BMC election this time, while Sandeep Kshirsagar, who

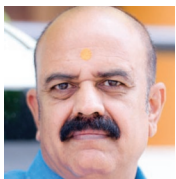
is at present chairman of the Public Works Committee in the Zilla Parishad, wants his younger brother Hemant Kshirsagar to contest the election.

There is a dispute between Dr Bharatbhushan Kshirsagar and Sandeep Kshirsagar. Ravindra Kshirsagar has challenged Dr Kshirsagar and his rebel NCP panel is contesting against Dr Kshirsagar NCP candidates.

Ravindra Kshirsagar, the father of Sandeep Kshirsagar, has issued a press statement announcing that there will be a panel of Sandeep Kshirsagar in the BMC election.

It is learnt that NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and former deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar tried to convince both — Dr Kshirsagar and Sandeep — but in vain.

Former minister and NCP



Dr Bharatbhushan, Dilip Dhoot, Sandeep

deputy leader in the Legislative Assembly Jaidatta Kshirsagar is in a dilemma as the Kshirsagars are a divided house for the first time. So, he has been trying to convince them but so far there is no positive outcome.

If the Kshirsagars remain divided, it will benefit their opponents. Jaidatta Kshirsagar is in two minds and for the past six months he is rarely visiting Beed. He is also in pressure from his house.

If party workers go to the residence of the Kshirsagars on Nagar Road to meet Dr Kshirsagar, the group of Sandeep Kshirsagar is becoming unhappy and vice versa.

No influence of Congress

Since 1995 Assembly elections, no Congress MLA has been elected.

In 1999 Assembly elections, three MLAs of the NCP and four MLAs of the BJP were elected.

In 2004 Assembly elections, one NCP and Shiv Sena and five BJP candidates were elected.

In 2009 Assembly elections, one BJP and five NCP candidates were elected.

In 2014 Assembly elections, one NCP and five BJP MLAs were elected.

Sena-BJP has no impact

Shiv Sena and BJP are strong in rural areas and have little influence in the city.

Shiv Sena, BJP, Shiv Sangram and AIMIM are still in search of candidates for the post of president. Besides, there are no rush for getting Sena, BJP, Shiv

Sangram and AIMIM tickets.

Former councillor Shaikh Nizam, who has left the NCP, is likely to be municipal president candidate from the AIMIM.

It is learnt that eminent builder Dilip Dhoot is likely to contest the municipal election as a Mahayuti candidate.

At present, Dhoot is in the Congress and is considered to be a staunch follower of former minister Suresh Navale.

He was in Shiv Sena from 1988 to 2005. He joined the Congress with Suresh Navale in 2005. His wife Smita Dhoot was civic chief from 1996 to 1997.

Caste-wise morchas

After the Kopardi gang rape and murder incident, first Maratha morchas were held in the region and then across Maharashtra. Now, morchas of Dalits, OBCs and Muslims are being organised at regular intervals in the State.

This time, it is difficult to guess the result of the municipal elections due to these caste-wise morchas.

Poor price upsets

soya bean growers

Nanded, Oct 22: The farmers, reeling under the loss of soya bean crop due to recent waterlogging after the heavy downpour, are further suffering, as the merchants are paying prices lower than the government recommendation for their produce throughout the district.

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KHUSHALCHAND PASSES AWAY

LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK
AURANGABAD, OCT 22

92-year-old Khushalchand Phulchand Ajmera (Babulgaonwale), a resident of Arihantnagar passed away due to prolonged illness on Saturday. He was a senior member of the Khandelwal Digambar Jain community. He is survived by three sons, daughter, daughters-in-law and grandchildren. His eyes were donated posthumously. Last rites were performed on him at Kailashnagar crematorium.



ZP to focus on intl quality education

LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK
AURANGABAD, OCT 22

To change the outlook of public towards Zilla Parishad (ZP) schools, the Education Department of the State has decided to implement international level quality education in 100 selected schools. Education officer R S Mogal said that two or three schools would be selected from each district for the pilot project. He said that basic eligibility is that a school should have minimum 500 students. The craze for admitting children in

English schools has increased in the recent times and this has affected the Marathi medium schools. The project aims at energizing those schools who are working to educate students of remote and hilly areas.

"The action plan will be made after studying the education models of China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong.

The test of teachers of Mathematics, Languages and Science subjects will be conducted before selecting the school," he said.

Those teachers who are tech-savvy, love teaching and ready to accept the changes will be selected after the test. Commenting on Pragat Maharashtra Upakram, R S Mogal said that the government initiated Pragat Maharashtra Upakram in June 2015 so that students should be able to read and write.

"The target under the project is to increase learning capacity of students up to 60 per cent. Our department is concentrating to have the international ranking for ZP schools," he added.

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