Move comes after AC to DC conversion on Harbour line

RPF takes several measures to curb rooftop travelling

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Vashi: Post-April 10, upon conversion from Direct Current (DC) to Alternate Current (AC) for local trains on Harbour line, it became all the more important to highlight the ills of travelling rooftop. So, the Railway Police Force (RPF) has taken this as serious concern and approached mosques to generate awareness through announcements. Officials will opt for posters and reach out to families of those who take to stunts.

"While local trains is termed as Mumbai lifeline, it is also one of the biggest killer in the city which claims near about nine lives everyday. However, this figure too does not works as deterrence for many and youngsters perform stunts at cost of their lives. Around 150 cases of rooftop travelling were recorded and more than six have lost their lives post AC conversion of local trains on the Harbour line," said an activist.

"Along with pictorial warning and posters we have even tried to reach the youngsters parents to stop this menace which claims young lives from the city," added an official.

"The voltage of trains have increased form 10,000V to 25,000V from April 10 after the conversion which calls for increased chances of threat to lives even if they try to come near the attached wire," said a senior RPF official.

"Youngsters performing stunts and travelling on rooftop is more common on harbour and central lines and stations like Mankhurd, Govandi on harbour line and Kalyan and beyond on Central line is infamous for this and despite many measures and warning the youngsters don't stop," said railway activist Rejil Menon.

"Those performing stunts don't value their life and those who are caught into performing stunts they shared that they perform the same just for sheer thrill and nothing else. The RPF officials hence, plan to reach out to their parents and school so, that they can counsel them," said Sandeep Bangare, another activist.

While keeping an eye over such incidents, the officials have tried to reach to schools in concerned areas and requested the school authorities to share safety lessons and make the kids realise the importance of life.

"Youth can overlook the posters but we feel that if announcements are done at mosques regarding this then they might listen to them and avoid performing stunts.

"A rooftop traveller if caught is fined Rs300, whereas parents of minors are called to the station to be counselled, but all these efforts go in vain as youngsters keep trying the stunts and in turn loose their lives," said the official.

Take precaution

Around 150 cases of rooftop travelling were recorded and more than six have lost their lives, post AC conversion of local trains on the Harbour line

Along with pictorial warning and posters we have even tried to reach the youngsters parents to stop this menace which claims young lives from the city

Voltage of trains have increased form 10,000V to 25,000V from April 10 after the conversion, which calls for increased chances of threat to lives even if they try to come near the attached wire. The officials are also reaching out to schools asking teachers to throw light on importance of life

Around 150 cases of rooftop travelling were recorded and six have lost their lives post conversion—File photo

CLEANING IT UP

The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation has taken up the cleaning of the lakes and ponds in the city before the onset of monsoon. NMMC has taken efforts to beautify the lakes and ponds. However, these ponds and lakes had become dumping grounds of waste as residents used it to dump floral waste along with plastic and other materials —Pics: Nandkishore T Kame

City boy wins Landmark scrabble championship

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Vashi: Thirteen-year-old Agrim Monga, a DY Patil student, recently won the scrabble championship held at Landmark store, Vashi. It was his love for words and pure imagination which won him the championship. In an outstanding display of vocabulary, the child prodigy competed against 400 children and emerged victorious, making his parents proud.

Today, when children are busy with gadgets and games, playing scrabble comes as a surprise for many.

"I started playing three years ago and participated in scrabble championship last year too, but lost. So, I decided to participate again and win the game. I practiced twice a week with my friends, which worked in my favour and regular practice and perseverance gave me edge over others," said Monga.

The championship entailed two to four participants competing in the game. Children shortlisted from various cities, in the age group of six and 14, played semi-final on May 13 and 14 among which Monga emerged as the winner.

Monga was in love with the boardgame since a long time and being an avid reader helped him a lot in winning the game. While kids plan strategy to win Agrim plays his regular game and surprised everybody.

"Agrim is a lot into technology, science and research. He is in love with books and best part of him is that he looks after making innovations and does not take pressure for anything. He is a jovial child who does what he loves doing and we too have given him all creative freedom," said Monga's mother Neera.

"Strong vocabulary won him this title and I will confess that although he is busy with his innovations and research, he is exceptional at academics as well. An evolved mind and a mature child, he has a clear goal. When he was only six, he made an audio-video about human digestive system, which was something incredible for kids his age to understand and not only this, he has also assembled a PC at home," added the mother Neera.

"Agrim is in love with Physics and he religiously follows theoretical Physicist, cosmologist, and author Stephen William Hawking. He has read his books and also watched most of the videos," she said.

While Monga loves to munch on Italian food and playing table tennis and football, he also enjoys playing Rubik cubes whenever he gets free time.

Thirteen-year-old Agrim Monga, a DY Patil student, being awarded after he won the scrabble championship held at Landmark in Vashi

An achievement

The championship entailed two to four participants competing in the game. Children shortlisted from various cities, in the age group of six and 14, played semi-final on May 13 and 14 among which Monga emerged as the winner. City's Agrim Monga competed against 400 children

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>
> —Agrim Monga, scrabble winner

Grand Utsav: An event where kids bond with their grandparents

Event will focus on bridging the gap between grandparents and children

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Nerul: With a rise in double income families and single parenting set-ups trending in this generation, the pivotal role of secondary attachment figures such as grandparents or close relatives have come to light.

While establishing a bond with grandparents can benefit kids in many ways, grandparents can also be great role model and influence as they nurture a sense of cultural heritage and family history.

Working on these terms, an event titled 'Grand Utsav' will be held on May 21 to bring in a change in the society and make the seniors feel they are not alone. The event through its seminars and practical demonstrations will suggest measures to bridge the gap between grandparents and grandchildren.

The event, to be held at Wonders Park, Nerul from 6pm to 8pm will be inaugurated by Mayor Sudhakar Sonawane. It will host engagements thoughtfully executed, keeping in mind the two generations involved in it. While the activities planned for the evening are being created keeping in mind the preferences and physical abilities of young children and elderly citizens.

Roma Sanadhya, lead member, of Grooming Babies Global Pvt Ltd, said, "To make the experience meaningful, the team has come up with a host of activities, which will be conducted by professionals in the industry. Children along with their grandparents can enjoy playing games, listen to puppet stories, explore grandma's kitchen, engage with colours and art, learn to weave, dance on current generation peppy songs, strum a guitar, plant saplings, make clay toys, build lego blocks."

Sharing excerpts of the event, she added, "One of the exciting zones is the picture corner, where the grandparent and grandchild need to exchange roles and dress like each other. The idea behind all the actives is to have both the generations witness and learn something from the other's world."

The real gap in technology skill is not due to age, but rather habit. Those who have been doing the same thing for many years tend to follow the thoughts and patterns that have continually led them to succeed. When a new piece of technology is presented, older employees think, "How can I integrate this with what I already know?" This is a problem to be solved.

On the other hand, younger generation has grown up with and are familiar with social media, digital content, online communication, and mobile devices. They see technology as not a problem to be solved, but as a solution to a problem.

Sharing knowledge from his years of experience Director of Rotary club of Navi Mumbai, Pratap AM, said "While the generation today is exclusively into technology be it any kind, it is the need of the hour to be techno-savvy for grandparents. My session would cover all such variables that can enhance their relationship through technology. For senior citizens who miss their grandkids, e-mediums are the best way to get connected and stay in touch."

Adding to it he says that technology is something that cannot be neglected for long, as everything is available at the click of a button.

He explains, "While merely talking on phone can be altered with talking on skype which can make the call more realistic, e-story-telling or e-learning is something that grandparents can switch to kill their time and be at par with their grandkids"

The event will be held at Wonders Park in Nerul from 6pm to 8pm on May 21 and will be inaugurated by mayor Sudhakar Sonawane—File photos

Our priority is to pre-empt crime, says new top cop

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Vashi: The newly-appointed Navi Mumbai police commissioner Hemant Nagrale, (IPS, 1987) discussed his strategies to handle the crimes in the city, in a press conference yesterday. Nagrale praised the city saying that it is a disciplined city.

"We will be introducing a department of undetected offences squad (UOS). Rape, kidnapping, assaulting women, their safety and senior citizen issues will be the primary task handled by the squad," Nagrale said.

Nagrale earlier was a mechanical engineer before he passed his civil service exam in 1987. Its been 28 years since he has been serving in various departments like in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), where he served for a short period; Ratnagiri superintendent of police (SP), including CID Pune, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for four-and-a-half months in bank/security and fraud.

"I have worked in many well-known cases as in MPSC paper leak case and was State Intelligence Department (SID) and Additional Director General of Police (ADG) and Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) in Mumbai," said the top cop, revealing that he also likes sports and badminton is his favourite. He is a blackbelt in Judo and loves travelling.

"In the last five years, the police has performed well and over 60 per cent of crimes have been detected. Vehicle theft and snatching have increased. Our priority is to curb future crime. Also, we will conduct a training for cops on behaviour with and write to NMMC and Cidco demanding basic facilities of toilets at police station," said the new officer.

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