

# Trench death raises slip-up queries

## Civic Chief Turns Heat On Road Contractor

By Prasad Kulkarni, Gitesh Shelke & Asseem Shaikh | TNN

**Pune:** The worst fears that people across the city have had, ever since digging started for concreting roads and laying pipelines, have come true — a labourer fell to his death in a 15-foot trench dug for laying a sewage conduit along Parnakuti-Laxminagar Road in Yerawada on Monday night.

Accountability questions are being raised in the aftermath of the mishap. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) will file a criminal case against the contractor laying the drainage line if he is found guilty in an inquiry.

“We will check the ground reality. The details of who was responsible for the mishap will be sought and if the contractor is found to have made any mistake, a criminal case will be filed against him. All those responsible will be punished,” municipal commissioner Kunal Kumar told TOI.

Zonal commissioner Dnyaneshwar Molak said civic officials have started investigating the mishap. “We have spoken with the local people to find out how the mishap happened. All details will be checked and a report will be filed,” he added.

Molak said barricades were placed around the work site and the death seems like an accident. But a detailed inquiry will be conducted against the guilty, he added.

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months.

“It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping

## PMC DIGS, CITIZENS PAY

### PLAYING IT SAFE

► Roads are dug for laying water supply pipelines, drainage lines, electricity supply cables, telecommunications cables, internet cables, piped gas lines, and CCTV cables

► Any road digging work has to have barricades, lights, reflectors, radium tape, signs directing men at work, optional roads to divert traffic

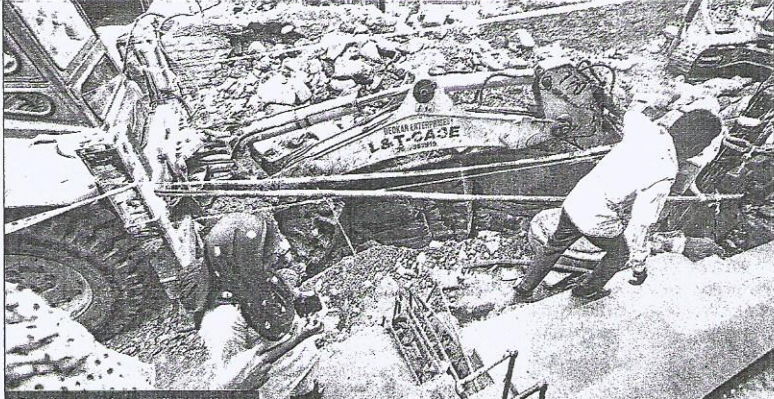
### CARELESS & CALLOUS

#### ► JANUARY 7, 2016

► Prakash Shankur (19) died after crashing his motorcycle into cement pipes dumped on a road in Mukundnagar near Swargate. He bled profusely for 20 minutes after lying on the road unattended and died at a nearby hospital where he worked

► The pipes that Shankur crashed into were for an underground drainage pipeline project undertaken by Pune Municipal Corporation. The civic body had appointed a contractor to lay the pipes

► Sub-inspector Pradeep Palande of the Swargate police station had said the contractor had been booked for causing the youth's death due to negligence



People struggle to walk past the trench to gain access to their homes on the Parnakuti-Laxminagar Road in Yerawada on Tuesday

#### ► JANUARY 24, 2015

Vinod Madale (42) died in an accident when his two-wheeler fell into an open, non-barricaded trench dug for the construction of the flyover near KSB Chowk in Chinchwad

► NOVEMBER 19, 2014  
Ganesh Taware, who was travelling with his 10-year-old son on a two-wheeler in

## Man on a bike falls into drain chamber

Pimple Saudagar Resident Suffers Head Injuries, Son Safe; Grille Cover Stolen

By Ashish Shankar

Prakash Shankur (19) died after crashing his motorcycle into cement pipes dumped on a road in Mukundnagar near Swargate. He bled profusely for 20 minutes after lying on the road unattended and died at a nearby hospital where he worked

The pipes that Shankur crashed into were for an underground drainage pipeline project undertaken by Pune Municipal Corporation. The civic body had appointed a contractor to lay the pipes

Sub-inspector Pradeep Palande of the Swargate police station had said the contractor had been booked for causing the youth's death due to negligence

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months

It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping

Accountability questions are being raised in the aftermath of the mishap. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) will file a criminal case against the contractor laying the drainage line if he is found guilty in an inquiry

We will check the ground reality. The details of who was responsible for the mishap will be sought and if the contractor is found to have made any mistake, a criminal case will be filed against him. All those responsible will be punished

Zonal commissioner Dnyaneshwar Molak said civic officials have started investigating the mishap. We have spoken with the local people to find out how the mishap happened. All details will be checked and a report will be filed

Molak said barricades were placed around the work site and the death seems like an accident. But a detailed inquiry will be conducted against the guilty, he added

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months

It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping



Pimple Saudagar Resident Suffers Head Injuries, Son Safe; Grille Cover Stolen

Prakash Shankur (19) died after crashing his motorcycle into cement pipes dumped on a road in Mukundnagar near Swargate. He bled profusely for 20 minutes after lying on the road unattended and died at a nearby hospital where he worked

The pipes that Shankur crashed into were for an underground drainage pipeline project undertaken by Pune Municipal Corporation. The civic body had appointed a contractor to lay the pipes

Sub-inspector Pradeep Palande of the Swargate police station had said the contractor had been booked for causing the youth's death due to negligence

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months

It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping

Accountability questions are being raised in the aftermath of the mishap. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) will file a criminal case against the contractor laying the drainage line if he is found guilty in an inquiry

We will check the ground reality. The details of who was responsible for the mishap will be sought and if the contractor is found to have made any mistake, a criminal case will be filed against him. All those responsible will be punished

Zonal commissioner Dnyaneshwar Molak said civic officials have started investigating the mishap. We have spoken with the local people to find out how the mishap happened. All details will be checked and a report will be filed

Molak said barricades were placed around the work site and the death seems like an accident. But a detailed inquiry will be conducted against the guilty, he added

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months

It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping

Accountability questions are being raised in the aftermath of the mishap. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) will file a criminal case against the contractor laying the drainage line if he is found guilty in an inquiry

We will check the ground reality. The details of who was responsible for the mishap will be sought and if the contractor is found to have made any mistake, a criminal case will be filed against him. All those responsible will be punished

Zonal commissioner Dnyaneshwar Molak said civic officials have started investigating the mishap. We have spoken with the local people to find out how the mishap happened. All details will be checked and a report will be filed

Molak said barricades were placed around the work site and the death seems like an accident. But a detailed inquiry will be conducted against the guilty, he added

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months

It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping

Accountability questions are being raised in the aftermath of the mishap. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) will file a criminal case against the contractor laying the drainage line if he is found guilty in an inquiry

We will check the ground reality. The details of who was responsible for the mishap will be sought and if the contractor is found to have made any mistake, a criminal case will be filed against him. All those responsible will be punished

Zonal commissioner Dnyaneshwar Molak said civic officials have started investigating the mishap. We have spoken with the local people to find out how the mishap happened. All details will be checked and a report will be filed

Molak said barricades were placed around the work site and the death seems like an accident. But a detailed inquiry will be conducted against the guilty, he added

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months

It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping

Accountability questions are being raised in the aftermath of the mishap. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) will file a criminal case against the contractor laying the drainage line if he is found guilty in an inquiry

We will check the ground reality. The details of who was responsible for the mishap will be sought and if the contractor is found to have made any mistake, a criminal case will be filed against him. All those responsible will be punished

Zonal commissioner Dnyaneshwar Molak said civic officials have started investigating the mishap. We have spoken with the local people to find out how the mishap happened. All details will be checked and a report will be filed

Molak said barricades were placed around the work site and the death seems like an accident. But a detailed inquiry will be conducted against the guilty, he added

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months

It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping

Accountability questions are being raised in the aftermath of the mishap. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) will file a criminal case against the contractor laying the drainage line if he is found guilty in an inquiry

We will check the ground reality. The details of who was responsible for the mishap will be sought and if the contractor is found to have made any mistake, a criminal case will be filed against him. All those responsible will be punished

Zonal commissioner Dnyaneshwar Molak said civic officials have started investigating the mishap. We have spoken with the local people to find out how the mishap happened. All details will be checked and a report will be filed

Molak said barricades were placed around the work site and the death seems like an accident. But a detailed inquiry will be conducted against the guilty, he added

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months

It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping

Accountability questions are being raised in the aftermath of the mishap. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) will file a criminal case against the contractor laying the drainage line if he is found guilty in an inquiry

We will check the ground reality. The details of who was responsible for the mishap will be sought and if the contractor is found to have made any mistake, a criminal case will be filed against him. All those responsible will be punished

Zonal commissioner Dnyaneshwar Molak said civic officials have started investigating the mishap. We have spoken with the local people to find out how the mishap happened. All details will be checked and a report will be filed

Molak said barricades were placed around the work site and the death seems like an accident. But a detailed inquiry will be conducted against the guilty, he added

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months

It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping

Accountability questions are being raised in the aftermath of the mishap. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) will file a criminal case against the contractor laying the drainage line if he is found guilty in an inquiry

We will check the ground reality. The details of who was responsible for the mishap will be sought and if the contractor is found to have made any mistake, a criminal case will be filed against him. All those responsible will be punished

Zonal commissioner Dnyaneshwar Molak said civic officials have started investigating the mishap. We have spoken with the local people to find out how the mishap happened. All details will be checked and a report will be filed

Molak said barricades were placed around the work site and the death seems like an accident. But a detailed inquiry will be conducted against the guilty, he added

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months

It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping

Accountability questions are being raised in the aftermath of the mishap. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) will file a criminal case against the contractor laying the drainage line if he is found guilty in an inquiry

We will check the ground reality. The details of who was responsible for the mishap will be sought and if the contractor is found to have made any mistake, a criminal case will be filed against him. All those responsible will be punished

Zonal commissioner Dnyaneshwar Molak said civic officials have started investigating the mishap. We have spoken with the local people to find out how the mishap happened. All details will be checked and a report will be filed

Molak said barricades were placed around the work site and the death seems like an accident. But a detailed inquiry will be conducted against the guilty, he added

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months

It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping

Accountability questions are being raised in the aftermath of the mishap. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) will file a criminal case against the contractor laying the drainage line if he is found guilty in an inquiry

We will check the ground reality. The details of who was responsible for the mishap will be sought and if the contractor is found to have made any mistake, a criminal case will be filed against him. All those responsible will be punished

Zonal commissioner Dnyaneshwar Molak said civic officials have started investigating the mishap. We have spoken with the local people to find out how the mishap happened. All details will be checked and a report will be filed

Molak said barricades were placed around the work site and the death seems like an accident. But a detailed inquiry will be conducted against the guilty, he added

Local residents were angry about the road work carrying on for months. Tabasum Shaikh told TOI that the road had been dug up for laying a pipeline to carry the sewage and the civic authorities have been at work for the last four months

It is for the second time that heavy machinery was brought into the area and the same section of the road was dug up to 15 feet. It is a gaping

Accountability questions are being raised in the aftermath of the mishap. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) will file a criminal case against the contractor laying the drainage line if he is found guilty in an inquiry

We will check the ground reality. The details of who was responsible for the mishap will be sought and if the contractor is found to have made any mistake, a criminal case will be filed against him. All those responsible will be punished

## TIMES VIEW

It has become an uphill task for many citizens to access their homes because of the haphazard digging and concreting of roads. A pedestrian died after he fell into a ditch dug up for laying sewage lines in Yerawada.

Although the police have registered a case of 'accidental death' and the municipal commissioner has ordered a probe to fix the responsibility, the incident warrants more stringent action. For the past two weeks, TOI has been highlighting how perfectly functional roads are being torn up overnight without any warning to local residents. In most cases, the contractors have failed to install warning signs, barricades, reflectors; supervision by the civic staff is missing. After elected members complained on April 4, the administration decided to appoint 'flying squads' to survey the roads.

The step should have been taken much earlier. However, it is better late than never. The squad should remember that it is not about installing sign boards along dug up sections, but about providing a safe passage to pedestrians.

Police should take a proper complaint from the family members of the victim for registering a criminal complaint of rash and negligent act against the contractor and the PMC engineers and his superiors who are responsible for monitoring the work awarded to the contractor. Police should arrest the contractor and others and file a chargesheet against them in a magisterial court. Even though PMC has awarded a contract, it cannot wash its hands off the responsibility if any person dies due to the negligence of its contractor. The family members of the victim can also file a suit in the civil court to claim compensation from PMC and its contractor

Police should take a proper complaint from the family members of the victim for registering a criminal complaint of rash and negligent act against the contractor and the PMC engineers and his superiors who are responsible for monitoring the work awarded to the contractor. Police should arrest the contractor and others and file a chargesheet against them in a magisterial court. Even though PMC has awarded a contract, it cannot wash its hands off the responsibility if any person dies due to the negligence of its contractor. The family members of the victim can also file a suit in the civil court to claim compensation from PMC and its contractor

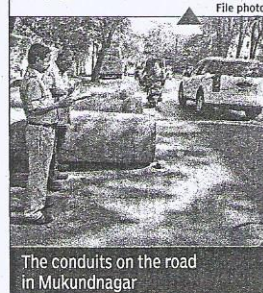
Police should take a proper complaint from the family members of the victim for registering a criminal complaint of rash and negligent act against the contractor and the PMC engineers and his superiors who are responsible for monitoring the work awarded to the contractor. Police should arrest the contractor and others and file a chargesheet against them in a magisterial court. Even though PMC has awarded a contract, it cannot wash its hands off the responsibility if any person dies due to the negligence of its contractor. The family members of the victim can also file a suit in the civil court to claim compensation from PMC and its contractor

Police should take a proper complaint from the family members of the victim for registering a criminal complaint of rash and negligent act against the contractor and the PMC engineers and his superiors who are responsible for monitoring the work awarded to the contractor. Police should arrest the contractor and others and file a chargesheet against them in a magisterial court. Even though PMC has awarded a contract, it cannot wash its hands off the responsibility if any person dies due to the negligence of its contractor. The family members of the victim can also file a suit in the civil court to claim compensation from PMC and its contractor

Police should take a proper complaint from the family members of the victim for registering a criminal complaint of rash and negligent act against the contractor and the PMC engineers and his superiors who are responsible for monitoring the work awarded to the contractor. Police should arrest the contractor and others and file a chargesheet against them in a magisterial court. Even though PMC has awarded a contract, it cannot wash its hands off the responsibility if any person dies due to the negligence of its contractor. The family members of the victim can also file a suit in the civil court to claim compensation from PMC and its contractor

Police should take a proper complaint from the family members of the victim for registering a criminal complaint of rash and negligent act against the contractor and the PMC engineers and his superiors who are responsible for monitoring the work awarded to the contractor. Police should arrest the contractor and others and file a chargesheet against them in a magisterial court. Even though PMC has awarded a contract, it cannot wash its hands off the responsibility if any person dies due to the negligence of its contractor. The family members of the victim can also file a suit in the civil court to claim compensation from PMC and its contractor

Police should take a proper complaint from the family members of the victim for registering a criminal complaint of rash and negligent act against the contractor and the PMC engineers and his superiors who are responsible for monitoring the work awarded to the contractor. Police should arrest the contractor and others and file a chargesheet against them in a magisterial court. Even though PMC has awarded a contract, it cannot wash its hands off the responsibility if any person dies due to the negligence of its contractor. The family members of the victim can also file a suit in the civil court to claim compensation from PMC and its contractor



The conduits on the road in Mukundnagar

five-foot wide trench. Now, the civic authorities want to dig two feet deeper. It is scary to cross this portion of the road. School children and the elderly are using the road, but no safety measures except for a bamboo pole stretched across such a wide gap has been placed as a barricade," she added.

Rupesh Gaikwad, another resident, said contractors are digging the road without taking care to safeguard people. "They are creating a nuisance. More mishaps will

## TAKING CORPORATION TO TASK

“If a person dies accidentally because of PMC's negligence, the legal heirs of the victim can sue the civic body and its officials for civil and criminal liability. The civil liability is for seeking compensation while the criminal liability is for initiating penal action under section 304 (a) of the Indian Penal Code because it is the primary responsibility of the engineer concerned and his superiors to supervise the work done by the contractor to see if there is any negligence on his part

— Vinayak Abhyankar | ADVOCATE

## TOI report on Nov 20, 2014

Police should take a proper complaint from the family members of the victim for registering a criminal complaint of rash and negligent act against the contractor and the PMC engineers and his superiors who are responsible for monitoring the work awarded to the contractor. Police should arrest the contractor and others and file a chargesheet against them in a magisterial court. Even though PMC has awarded a contract, it cannot wash its hands off the responsibility if any person dies due to the negligence of its contractor. The family members of the victim can also file a suit in the civil court to claim compensation from PMC and its contractor

— Sureshchandra Biosale | ADVOCATE

take place if no care is taken. Contractors must be set deadlines," he added.

Social worker Daniel Landge said PMC does not have any control over the contractors executing different projects: "Safety and quality are issues. Cases must be filed against the civic authorities responsible for the man's death," he said.

Non-governmental organizations and activists backed them. "Filing a criminal offence against the contractor is a must, but a case should

be filed against the civic officials too. The administration is equally responsible for such accidents," Prashant Inamdar, of Pedestrians First, said.

Qaneez Sukhrani, founder of Association of Nagar Road Citizen Forum, said the administration should blacklist such irresponsible contractors. "A life has been lost due to mistakes of the contractors and civic officials," she said.

She suggested that police officials also be involved in

the monitoring machinery for such civic works since the involvement of several agencies can reduce risks and anybody who fails to keep a watch be taken to task.

Civic officials said the road department had given permission to dig the roads after proper instructions. They have been incorporated in the contracts as well. The provisions about action in case of violations of the guidelines have also been mentioned in the contract.

"In this case, responsibility must be fixed on a senior official and he must be punished," said Major Gen S C J Jatar (ret), founder of Nagar Chetna Manch.

Police inspector Vila Sonde of Yerawada police station told TOI that after Shankar Mhatre fell into the trench around 10pm, local residents rushed to help him.

"He suffered head injuries but was alive when he was pulled out. He died on the way to Sassoon Hospital," he added. He was a labourer and doubled up as a painter.

"He suffered head injuries but was alive when he was pulled out. He died on the way to Sassoon Hospital," he added. He was a labourer and doubled up as a painter.

"He suffered head injuries but was alive when he was pulled out. He died on the way to Sassoon Hospital," he added. He was a labourer and doubled up as a painter.

"He suffered head injuries but was alive when he was pulled out. He died on the way to Sassoon Hospital," he added. He was a labourer and doubled up as a painter.

"He suffered head injuries but was alive when he was pulled out. He died on the way to Sassoon Hospital," he added. He was a labourer and doubled up as a painter.

"He suffered head injuries but was alive when he was pulled out. He died on the way to Sassoon Hospital," he added. He was a labourer and doubled up as a painter.