

MONEY FOR NEW ROADS DIVERTED TO REPAIRS

MUMBAI'S POTHOLEs show no signs of disappearing despite the BMC's decision to increase the budget for road repairs.

The standing committee approved the variation proposal to increase the cost of road repairs last year, and the money squeezed in was siphoned from the budget set aside for building new roads. But this decision was made with the promise that the city would have the best quality roads even during the monsoon. Though the repairs would cost the BMC Rs 850 crore more in addition to Rs 2,500 crore for new roads, the contractors are still struggling to fix up the potholes. "Estimated budget for new roads for last financial year was Rs 1500 crore, but since most of the amount was already used for repairs last year, no new road work was taken up," said a senior civic official. Almost Rs 35 crore from the budget of Rs 40 crore has already been spent on road repairs this year.

PG COURSES UNDER UNIVERSITY TO FOLLOW CREDIT SYSTEM

After making all UG courses follow a credit based marking system, Mumbai University has now accepted the same system for post graduation courses as

well. This change has left professors and students unhappy. Under the system, each assignment will have marks which will be converted to credits, or grades, that will carry students to the next semester. The year will be divided into a 60-40 ratio of written examinations to practical work. The year the student will need a minimum score of 40 to pass. Attendance will also carry marks.

According to sources from the University, not only is there a lack of well qualified professors, but also insufficient manpower to keep a check on the system. Unlike graduation courses, they feel, the PG courses are too vast to have assignments and credits.

CENTRE TO DESIGN SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE NETWORK FOR CITY

THE CENTRAL government is planning to form a special intelligence network in Mumbai to curb terror attacks. Details will be discussed when Union Home Minister P Chidambaram visits Mumbai next week. Meanwhile, the terror issue will also be raised in the monsoon session of the Assembly, slated to begin on Monday. The Opposition will talk about the purchase of CCTVs and bullet proof jackets, and the lack of work done by the state security commission will also come under the scanner, said leader of opposition in the state assembly, Eknath Khadse.

— MUMBAI MIRROR BUREAU