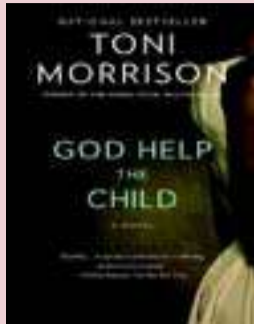




## TOP PICKS



### God Help the Child

Arpan Cheema

'God Help the Children' is beautifully woven like a brisk modern fairy tale, but it holds the undertones of a dark satire in a manner similar to the Grim Brothers. It has imaginative cruelties on children which are revealed in a way that makes one wonder, can such things happen in today's world? The beauty of the book is it feels so real, that it becomes an uncomfortable but an memorable read. The one that stays with you hauntingly, much after you put the book down.



### Spiderman: Far From Home

Ashlin Bangera

Starring Tom Holland, Jake Gyllenhaal, Zendaya and Samuel Jackson the movie Spiderman provides a change of tempo from Endgame. It takes a lot of reference from Iron Man and shows the connection between Tony and Peter. Directed by Jon Watts, the sequel to Spiderman: Homecoming focuses on the character arcs and provides a cracking storyline. It is action packed, visually appealing and humorous, which ends Phase 3 of the MCU on a high note



### Pop Tate's

Sharwari Kale

Pop Tate's located in Phoenix Market City of Pune, is a perfect place to sizzle in the Retro feel and savour your taste buds. Inspired by the famous "Archie's", their assortments specialize in continental favorite's, the menu ranging from pastas, sizzlers, pizzas, burgers to a lot more. The cocktails and happy hours lighten up the atmosphere, making it a perfect place to eat, drink and enjoy!

# The flamboyant chef!

Mitali Dhar

Savaram Dewasi is certainly the most recognized and conspicuous figure on the campus. But hardly anyone knows him by his real name. He is popular as Maharaj – the short, portly, ever-smiling Rajasthani chef in colourful traditional attire and a strikingly huge turban, with a moustache to match.

Hailing from Pali in Rajasthan, the land of legendary maharajas, Savaram came to Pune in 2006 looking for work. "I started as a helper with hardly any knowledge of cooking. It was then that I came across many spices and learned the art of chopping vegetables," he recalled.

It is the 'tadka' (spices sputtering in fuming hot oil) which adds flavor to the daal or subji that is Savaram's expertise. He has perfected it to a fine art. And he does it with great flourish, standing behind a large 'tava'. Savaram's cooking career had a humble start. "My first bulk order was for 40 or 50 people," he said. But since then there's been no looking back. Today, he cooks for hundreds of students in the Symbiosis Viman Nagar mess everyday.



Maharaj cooking the scrumptious Tawa Veg

He is well travelled too. "I used to work for a tourism company. I have travelled all across the country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Rajasthan to Arunachal Pradesh," he informs. Savaram doesn't use readymade spices. He grinds them himself. No wonder his 'daal tadka' and 'tava subji' are so popular. But his sweets are equally delightful; especially the balushahi and gulab jamun.

To the question, "Who make better cooks, men or women?" Savaram answers judiciously, "It is nothing to do with gender. It all depends on your passion and commitment. If you put your heart in the job, you will certainly be successful."

Photograph by Tshewang Choden

## Now restaurants are a haven for eve-teasers

Audita Bhattacharya

Harassing women in public places has assumed new proportions in the city. A group of Symbiosis students discovered this recently inside a crowded restaurant.

These students (identity protected) spoke to The SCMC Chronicle and related their experience. A group of four girl students who were having dinner at a lounge bar in Kalyani Nagar were subjected to intense unwarranted and offensive attention by a group of four men at an adjacent table.

"The men were visibly drunk and began by loudly asking the waiter to find out what we were eating and ordering the same. All the time they were rudely staring at us and passing unwelcome

remarks about us. When we did not pay attention to them, their comments became lewd," stated one of the girls. Feeling insecure, the girls asked the waiter to fetch the restaurant manager and complained to him about the behavior of the four men.

"To our utter dismay, the restaurant manager expressed his inability to stop the men from harassing us. Instead, he offered to change our table. When we protested, he told us that he could not ask the offenders to leave since he did not want to lose customers," another of the victims stated.

The girls told The SCMC Chronicle that throughout this entire episode, not a single person sitting at the other tables objected to the misbehavior by the four inebriated customers.

No one intervened to stop the miscreants.

"It was at this point that we decided to leave the place. It seemed to us that the management of the lounge bar was not inclined to provide security to four girls who were not escorted by males," one of the girls observed.

"To make matters worse, the restaurant manager tried to assuage us by offering complementary desserts. It was like adding insult to injury. We refused to be appeased," she informed.

There have been cases of molestation and harassment of women customers in restaurants in Pune. In July 2017, a law student was grievously injured by two men because he refused to 'introduce' them to two girls he accompanied for dinner at a hotel in Mundhwa.

## Nukkad Café rocks to the golden oldies

Aditi Parida

Nukkad Cafe in Viman Nagar witnessed a group of elderly people come together recently for an open mic. Called 'Salt & Pepper', people over 50 come together to sing songs, recite poetry, play instruments and do more.

Talking about the event, Vaibhav Paliwal, owner of Nukkad Cafe, said, "The motive is purely to create moments of harmony and not to judge. And it's assured, that if you are here, you will definitely end up making friends."

Hosted by stand up comedian Ujjwal Sonar, the evening started with a rendition of Ae Dil Hai Mushkil Jeena Yahan on the harmonica. The host also played a few songs, including an original. The event was covered online by the cafe and requests for songs like Ye Shaam Mastani poured in for the performers.

Belting out old classics like Help by the Beatles, Baar baar dekho hazaar baar dekho, O mere dil ke chain, the performers kept the audience engaged

They also performed ghazals and songs to which the audience merrily sang along. Wg Cdr (ret'd) Anup Banerjee, one of the



Wing Commander (ret'd) Anup Banerjee playing classic melodies on his harmonica at Nukkad Cafe

performers for the evening, spoke about his love for music. He played the harmonica.

He said, "Music has been a passion right from my childhood. I was the lead singer for Pune's first boy band when I was studying in Bishop's School. I have been playing for more than 50 years now and get together

with friends and family often to jam.

His wife organises a green impact eco mela in Nukkad Cafe once a month, after which there are performances." He quipped that he also plays the keyboard and was a "one man band". Nukkad Cafe hosts a multitude of events like this one almost every week.

# Wari – the great pilgrimage



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In a tradition that has lasted more than 800 years, nearly a million devotees trek 250 kilometres every year, carrying the palkhis (palanquins) of two of Maharashtra's greatest saints, Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram, respectively from Alandi and Dehu to Pandharpur, passing through Pune.

Our Reporters **Samidha Raut** and **Govind Choudhary** captured the mood of the warkaris (pilgrims) as they entered Pune from Alandi.

1. The Dnyaneshwar palkhi enters Pune at the head of thousands of warkaris.
2. Warkaris carry idols of Lord Vitthal and holy basil plants on their heads.
3. A warkari dressed as Narad Muni.
4. The entire pilgrimage is marked by singing of devotional songs and hymns to the beating of cymbals and drums.
5. Meals are frugal and eaten seated on the ground.
6. A child dressed as Shivaji Maharaj joins the procession.
7. Thousands of people, like this family of five on one motorbike, come to witness the mammoth procession.
8. Gigantic rangolis welcome the devotees.
9. Warkaris often wear headgear made of leaves to protect themselves from the sun and rain.
10. Orange-brown flags are used to mark the dindis, numbered groups in the pilgrimage.



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# Jadhav's coach spotted his talent early

Ishaan Bhattacharya  
Mitali Dhar

**K**edar Jadhav, the cricketer from Pune is one of the 15 to represent India in the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup matches in UK. Jadhav has been one of the 'Men in Blue' in 64 One-Day International appearances where he maintained a healthy batting average of 42.82 runs. Having taken 27 wickets and occasionally filling in as a wicket-keeper, Jadhav has proved his mettle on the field.

An all-rounder, Jadhav is right now on the bench for the 2019 World Cup, behind the other successful all-rounder Hardik Pandya. While Jadhav has already become known nationally, he is one of Pune's best known sporting heroes. The SCMC Chronicle spoke to **Hemant Athale**, the man who coached Jadhav during his formative years as a cricketer, at the legendary Deccan Gymkhana grounds, where Jadhav trained and learnt the ropes of the game.

**The Chronicle:** When did Kedar play here?  
**Athale :** Kedar was playing here



Coach Hemant Athale

when he was still under 14 or 15.

**The Chronicle:** When Kedar was still here, did you think he had the potential to play for India?

**Athale :** We cannot predict so early, but we definitely thought that he had the potential to play for Maharashtra. It was when he was still a player here that he got the call-up to play for Maharashtra U-19.

**The Chronicle:** During Kedar's time here, did you focus on any particular strengths and put him through specific drills to help cultivate his potential?

**Athale :** Our training drills are



Kedar was a part of the 15 man squad that represented India at the 2019 ICC Cricket World cup in England

## JADHAV'S JOURNEY

2004	Maharashtra (U-19)
2007	Maharashtra Ranji
2010	Delhi Daredevils
2014	ODI Debut
2015	T20 Debut
2019	ICC World Cup

more or less the same so that everyone has the same basics. Once we get to know the players and their potential, we set them aside and work on their skills. Kedar came here when he was still

tennis-ball cricket, but he had the natural technique to play aggressive cricket, so we focused on his aggression and continued with what he plays naturally.

**The Chronicle:** Are there more Jadhavs waiting to be discovered in Pune?

**Athale :** The fact remains, there is no paucity of talent coming from the city of Pune. Rahul Tripathi has been representing Maharashtra in the Ranji Trophy and was their highest run getter in the 2018-19 season. Ruturaj Gaikwad, another local is currently playing for India.

## Budget raises concerns

**Raghendra Chouhan**  
**N**irmala Sitharaman presented her first budget on the backdrop of a slow-down in consumption this month. She also had to look into the farm sector distress and the rising concerns regarding water shortage. The SCMC Chronicle spoke to several people to elicit responses to this Budget. Increase in fuel prices, water shortages, and Zero Budget farming were the issues that people were most concerned with.

"Our margins will shrink now as fuel prices rise," says **Jayesh**, who runs the Symbi Juice center. His business is not directly related to transport but like others, it will also suffer from the trickle effect. The rise in fuel prices will increase his acquisition cost for various fruits that come from different parts of the country.

With the oil price on boil, the stock exchange traded in the red for two post-Budget sessions as investors turning cautious over tax on share buyback. Another

cause was the minimum public shareholding being raised to 35% in listed companies. "The share markets nose-dived because the government has levied buyback tax of 20% on listed companies," says **Ashish**, a third-year SCMC student who is a share market enthusiast.

People also seemed dissatisfied with lack of new projects and schemes for the middle class. "The government should pay attention to middle class also. Government is paying attention more towards the rich and poor and ignoring the middle class," says **Swati Kale**, a homemaker in Pune. She also seemed worried about the effect of rise in oil prices.

**Rajkumar Omkar**, who works as a security guard said that they could already feel the heat of the price rise. Speaking on government's initiative to provide water to all households he said "there is a connection in some houses or they have borewells but problem on the ground is that there is no water."



One of the colourful and brightly lit classrooms in the school.

## A unique school for the deprived

Cont'd from Pg. 1

The school works as a shelter to many such mothers and their children, who get quality education at no cost. Deokar says, "Some people enter the education sector only to earn money, which should not be the case. It is a sector to serve the society." He further adds that through this school, they not only try to help the children by providing free education but also try to make people aware of their responsibilities towards society.

Adopted at the age of 3 and suffering from cardiac disease himself, Deokar also runs the Jeevan Mitra Pratishthan to support cardiac and cancer patients financially. Social activists such as Anna Hazare, Dr. Prakash Amte and Medha Patkar were present at the inauguration of the organization.

Mahatma Gandhi School is now looking forward to start a free residential school for needy students, and also a free-of-cost old age home.