

THE SCMC CHRONICLE

A publication of Symbiosis Centre for Media & Communication (for internal use and publication)

Batch of 2020 | Vol. 10

Lawmakers oppose helmet law

Rupal Jhajhria

rearing a helmet while riding two-wheelers was made mandatory in Pune from New Year's Day this year. However, in an unexpected turn of events, all the eight MLAs from Pune along with the district guardian minister Chandrakant Patil met the chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on June 18 and urged him to dilute the helmet rule. Soon thereafter, speaking to the media in Mumbai, the Chief Minister said, "Some MLAs from Pune met me today and told me how Pune police, in the name of ensuring that riders wear helmets, was harassing commuters. They (MLAs) have said such compulsion is causing inconvenience to the riders."

"It is very unfortunate on the part of the chief send challans to the owner's address. This minister to accede to the demands of the MLAs. First of all, there is no firm proof of helmet-less persons being harassed by traffic police on roads."

SANDEEP GAIKWAD, ROAD SAFETY ADVOCACY **COORDINATOR, NGO PARISAR**



police not to cameras

riders, record their vehicle numbers and

"In fact, people have responded well to the helmet compulsion rule in the past six months. I am not sure if it is completely justified to stop the on-ground enforcement of a rule only on the basis of what has been put forth by the MLAs. then This might have a negative impact on the asked the Pune mindset of the citizens," Sandeep feared.

move instantly drew further criticism.

Gaikwad has filed an RTI stop helmet-less seeking the number of e-challans issued riders and fine using CCTV footage and their payment, them on the spot, claiming that the government has no data but instead use pertaining to the fines.

Vivek Velankar, an anti-helmet to spot helmets compulsion activist had a different perspective on this. He believes that

the MLAs deliberate to benefit from this dismissal in the coming assembly elections, "The CM handled this objection smartly by proposing the idea of sending e-challans and tickets to the homes of the violators. So ultimately the MLAs could

not get what they intended to receive."



helmetless riders generated considerable heat in Pune against the backdrop of a stringent traffic police drive underway in the Maharashtra city

to arrest such offenders.

A unique school for the deprived

- Samidha Raut

inayak Deokar, founder-president of the Mahatma Gandhi School (MGS) located at Sanjay Park, Yerwada, asks, "If Gandhiji could open a school for peasants in South Africa, why can't we do the same in our own land?'

As the name suggests, this school is built on the foundation of Gandhian philosophy and aims to spread awareness about public service. Managed by the Jeevan Mitra Educational Society, MGS works for the children of needy widows, divorced women and prisoners.

With a strength of 290 students, studying from nursery till the 4th grade, the school provides free education, uniforms, books and other necessary requirements to the students.

Laxmi (name changed), a mother of one of the students studying in the 2nd grade also found a job in the school. After losing her husband to diabetes, MGS came as a blessing to her family. She had to work as a housemaid after her husband's death, until the school appointed her as a caretaker for the children.

"MGS also helps with the education of my daughter who is studying in the 10th grade. Now I can manage to meet other household expenses", adds Laxmi. She lives with her son and daughter in the nearby slum.

Contd'on P-4

Solution to VN water crisis in sight

Govind Choudhary

iman Nagar suffers from chronic and acute water shortage. The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has not been able to supply water to meet the ever-growing demand due to the non-stop development of housing societies in this area. As a result, residents in most of the housing societies across Viman Nagar are wholly or partially dependent on water tankers for their daily water consumption.

"I live in a rented flat in Peshwa Garden complex and it is difficult to do regular chores with barely one hour of water supply in the morning. Water tankers are not dependable, which has led to more problems. The real estate broker did not disclose this situation to me, "says Rohan Chakraborty, a student residing in Viman Nagar.

told the The SCMC Chronicle, "Societies is no water to fill them up the demand for private water tankers stopped every Thursday and Friday for 2041." few hours for pipeline maintenance work.

some unresolved issues between the PMC time and the water supply situation would and villagers near the Bhama- Askhed improve.



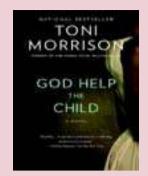
Photo by: Kavisha Manwani Addressing the issue, Mukta Although three large storage tanks have Jagtap, the Corporator for Viman Nagar been constructed in Viman Nagar, there

in Viman Nagar are well aware of the water dam, only one of the three water storage shortage. New societies are still being tanks in Viman Nagar receives water. constructed despite the clear disclaimer When the PMC Bhama Askhed water provided by the PMC – that they will not supply scheme is completed, it will supply be able to provide adequate water. Hence, of 200 million litres of water every day and cover a 58 sq.km area of the eastern has risen in Viman Nagar." She further part of Pune city along the Nagar road for informed that the PMC water supply is a projected population of 14.50 lac up to

> Jagtap was optimistic that the According to Jagtap, "Due to new pipelines would be laid in six months



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 immemorable 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!

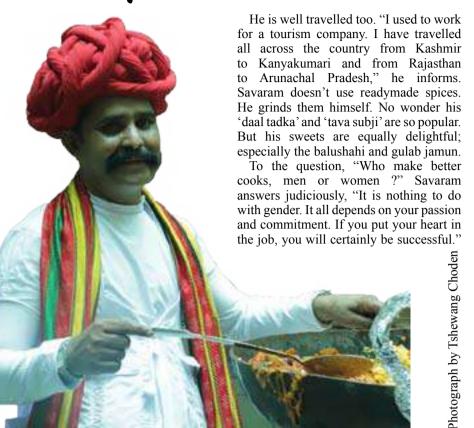
The flamboyant chef!

Mitali Dhar

avaram 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 scrumptous Tawa Veg

Now restaurants are a haven for eve-teasers

— Audita Bhattacharya —

Tarassing women in public places has Lassumed 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 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 the four inebriated customers. 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 liwal, 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 (retd) Anup Banerjee, one of the than 50 years now and get together events like this one almost every week.



Wing Commander (retd) Anup Banerjee playing classic melodies on his harmonica at Nukkad Cafe

love for music. He played the harmonica.

performers for the evening, spoke about his with friends and family often to jam. His wife organises a green impact He said, "Music has been a eco mela in Nukkad Cafe once a month, passion right from my childhood. after which there are performances." I was the lead singer for Pune's first boy He quipped that he also plays the band when I was studying in Bishop's keyboard and was a "one man band". School. I have been playing for more Nukkad Cafe hosts a multitude of

Wari – the great pilgrimage





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.

- enters Pune at the head of thou- haraj joins the procession. sands of warkaris.
- Vitthal and holy basil plants on their heads.
- 3. A warkari dressed as Narad 8. Gigantic rangolis welcome the 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.

- 1. The Dnyaneshwar palkhi 6. A child dressed as Shivaji Ma-
- 7. Thousands of people, like this 2. Warkaris carry idols of Lord family of five on one motorbike, come to witness the mammoth procession.
 - 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.

















Jadhav's coach spotted his talent early

Mitali Dhar

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 dar's time here, did you focus and learnt the ropes of the game. on any particular strengths and

The Chronicle: When 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 Keput 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 eve- the city of Pune. Rahul Tripathi ryone has the same basics. Once has been representing Maharashtra we get to know the players and in the Ranji Trophy and was their their potential, we set them aside highest run getter in the 2018-19 and work on their skills. Ke- season. Ruturaj Gaikwad, another

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 dar came here when he was still local is currently playing for India.

Budget raises concerns

sector distress and the rising con-The SCMC Chronicle spoke to sev- is a share market enthusiast. eral people to elicit responses to this Budget. Increase in fuel prices, fied with lack of new projects and water shortages, and Zero Budget farming were the issues that people were most concerned with.

as fuel prices rise," says Jayesh, towards the rich and poor and who runs the Symbi Juice center. ignoring the middle class." says His business is not directly re- Swati Kale, a homemaker in lated to transport but like others, it will also suffer from the trickle about the effect of rise in oil prices. effect. The rise in fuel prices will increase his acquisition cost for various fruits that come from different parts of the country.

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

Raghvendra Chouhan — cause was the minimum pub-'irmala Sitharaman pre- lic shareholding being raised to sented her first budget on 35% in listed companies."The the backdrop of a slow- share markets nose-dived bedown in consumption this month. cause the government has lev-She also had to look into the farm ied buyback tax of 20% on listed companies." says Ashish, a cerns regarding water shortage. third-year SCMC student who

People also seemed dissatisschemes for the middle class. "The government should pay attention to middle class also. Gov-"Our margins will shrink now ernment is paying attention more Pune. She also seemed worried

Rajkumar Omkar, who works as a security guard said that they could already feel the heat of the price rise. Speaking on govern-With the oil price on boil, the ment'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 fering from cardiac disease himdren, who get quality education at Mitra Pratishthan to support carno cost. Deokar says, "Some peo- diac and cancer patients finanple enter the education sector only to earn money, which should not Hazare, Dr. Prakash Amte and be the case. It is a sector to serve Medha Patkar were present at the 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 re-

Adopted at the age of 3 and sufmany such mothers and their chil- self, Deokar also runs the Jeevan cially. Social activists such as Anna inauguration of the organization. Mahatma Gandhi now looking forward to start a free residential school

for needy students, and also free-of-cost old age home.

Printer Publisher: Dr Sreeram Gopalkrishnan

Editor: Amitabh Dasgupta

Editorial Team: Batch of 2020 (Journalism)



A publication of Symbiosis Centre for Media and Communication (for internal circulation only) Write in to thescmcchronicle@scmc.edu.in