

## Students Face Water Crisis At The University

International students are facing a hard time at their hostels in Savitribai Phule Pune University due to the water shortage for 2 weeks for boys and 2 days for girls. Meka Khirahathi, a second-year postgraduate Thai student who has just shifted into the international boys' hostel for 3 months told VruttaVidya that, "It's been almost 2 weeks that we can't get water properly.

The hostel staff denied any clear explanation, and told us that it's normal and the water will work soon.

## Mobile Snatcher Snubbed by Police at Bund Garden

A mobile snatcher, Shamim Jordar Khan (21) was arrested and is in police custody at the Bund Garden police station. On 15th October, a complaint was registered for the theft of the mobile and a SIM by Abdul Majid Momin. However, the accused is denying the charges.

During police inquiry, the accused Shamim Khan said that the mobile was sold to him by an unknown person. He claimed that he was in urgent need of money and sold his mobile in exchange of cash. Shamim Khan bought the phone worth Rs 10,000 in Rs 3500/- from that person.

## Water Supply To Be Hindered In Peth Areas

Water supply will be unavailable in the Peth areas on 17th Oct as PMC will be carrying out repairs at its Parvati water workstations. The water supply will resume at low-pressure late night on the same day. Earlier this year, multiple residents from Peth areas faced the problem of water shortage where they had to go without water supply at a stretch of 3 consecutive days. The repairs at water workstations will hopefully resolve these glitches.

## Central Railway along with state govt launches 'Library on wheels' in two trains

Jayali Wavhal  
VruttaVidya Media

Pune, Oct 16: To mark the birth anniversary of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on 15th October, the central railways along with Maharashtra state government launched a first 'Library on Wheels' in two significant trains - Deccan Queen Express and Panchavati Express. The libraries will be accessible to monthly season pass holders at free of cost. The books will be provided by Rajya

Marathi Bhasha Sanstha's Marathi department. Moreover, a reading emissary will be appointed to help the passengers with books.

The library was inaugurated by State Education Minister Vinod Tawade at Chattrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) on Monday, as this day was also observed as Vaachak Prerna Diwas. The Deccan Queen leaves from Pune station at 7:15 AM towards CST while Panchavati Express departs from CST at

6:15 PM to Manmad. Volunteers from the Sanstha will distribute the books to passengers before the train departs and will collect it before the journey ends.

Sudha Pujari, a regular passenger on Deccan Queen said, "It's a good initiative by the government; at least we will be utilizing our time by reading books rather than sleeping through the entire journey. I am hoping for books to be added of different languages as the ones they have now

are mostly in Marathi." A central official stated that a similar attempt was made in Geetanjali Express in the 1980s but it failed terribly. Hence, the government is taking minor steps to ensure this initiative becomes a success. A careful consideration of passengers' feedback will also be carried out to explore opportunities for improvement which can further be used to start the project on other trains.



Google remembers  
Pandit Lachhu  
Maharaj on his  
74th B'day

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## VC to address students at the Initiative conference

Ankita Apte/Sunder Gariya  
VruttaVidya Media

Pune, 16 Oct: 6th edition of 'प्रश्न तुमचे, उत्तर कुलगुरुंचे', an initiative of Savitribai Phule Pune University is in full swing in the university. "This was the idea of Vice Chancellor Dr. Nitin Karmalkar. "In the first edition, we started with recording questions on phone, then SMS, Whatsapp, and recording questions at 'Vidyavani' - University radio station", said Mahesh Jagtap, the coordinator of this year. This year they also introduced the idea of drop boxes. 4 boxes are installed in boys and girls hostel, Jaykar library reading room and refractory mess. The boxes will be opened tomorrow, questions will be sent to the concerned departments if needed and V.C. will be answering them by the end of the month, said Mahesh Jagtap, who works in Vidyavani and is the coordinator of 'प्रश्न तुमचे, उत्तर कुलगुरुंचे' initiative. When asked whether the questions are censored, he said that so far, there were no questions which needed censorship.

"This time, the response we are getting is huge, compared to the last edition", he added.

"V.C. wanted to connect with his students. So he came up with this idea. Many a time, students hesitate to ask the questions when they are face to face with the authorities. So we thought of using our 'Vidyavani' platform to build that connection", told Abhijit Ghorpade, who is the media cell in charge of SPPU. "Students come up with questions from various fields like curriculum, exam patterns, administrative problems, hostel problems etc. It creates a feeling among all the departments of being responsible and speed up the process of problem-solving. This initiative helps to bridge the gap between the students and the authorities. 'प्रश्न तुमचे, उत्तर कुलगुरुंचे' will keep going and we will try our level best to make students speak up more and more and solve their problems." He assured. It is an activity conducted and coordinated between 'Vidyavani', Media cell department and V.C. office of SPPU.

## Gas subsidy in India is a great hoax: Ajit Abhyankar

Aishwarya Dakhore  
VruttaVidya Media

Pune, Oct 14: In a lecture organized by the Academy of Political and Social Studies (APSS) and Janvitta Abhiyan at the SM Joshi memorial hall on Sunday, Social activist and Economic researcher Prof. Ajit Abhyankar unveiled the irrational and corrupt practices that are leading to an ever-increasing hike in Petrol, Diesel and LPG prices in India. With the help of official statistical data and an expert analysis, he tried to explain the current pricing methods in India.

Starting with an elaboration on how crude oil costs are not directly proportional to the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG in India, he went on to describe how the present Central Government goes on with the pricing procedure of these resources. He clarified

that after the scraping out of Administered Price Mechanism in 1996, the present system of pricing depends solely on the 'Trade Parity Price' i.e. the notional price created on the basis of comparison of prices of these resources in other countries. This, according to him, increases the prices unnecessarily and benefits the private sector at the expense of common man's taxes.

He also compared the price hike from 2014 to 2018, in which the statistics clearly suggested that even though the cost of imported crude oil has vitally reduced after 2014, the excise duty levied on petrol and diesel in India grows exponentially thus leading to an increase in their prices. Talking especially about the gas subsidies, he said: "Gas subsidy in India is a great hoax!" Elaborating on this, he clarified that even though 50% of the Crude

oil and Natural gas used for the production of LPG is domestically available, the government applies 100% import taxes on the LPG. Furthermore, by giving a small discount in the Trade Parity Price of the LPG, the government claims to have given subsidy on it; which in fact, is still more than its actual production price. "If the farmers in India demand to price their products according to the Trade Parity Price, will the government allow it?" he asked rhetorically while raising his concern over this unfair pricing system.

As a solution to this problem, he said that awareness about these corrupt practices among the common man and development of a competent transport policy in India is needed. The lecture concluded with a few questions from the audience, which were satisfactorily answered by him.

## Construction of Nanded - Sinhagad Brigde Picks Up The Pace

Vishakha Jagtap  
VruttaVidya Media

Pune, 16 Oct: The ongoing construction of the Nanded Phata - Sinhagadh road bridge has finally picked up speed. "With the construction of one side of bridge completed, the other side is to be completed by the end of December," informed the site engineer, Sadanand Shinde.

The construction that has started several months ago has become a problem for the local residents in the area.

The people there can now finally expect less traffic since the construction will soon be wrapped up. One of the

disturbances. Some residents are also hoping that after the construction is completed, there would be a reduction in garbage disposal near the bridge, unlike before its construction when it was disposed off by the side of the bridge and the canal.

The construction is under contract with Nikhil Construction Pune, which has taken up many Government contracts for construction before from PWD, BMC, PMC & PCMC.



The work was causing problems to the commuters. Vishakha Jagtap

## Clean up drive at Bhide Bridge

Jayali Wavhal  
VruttaVidya Media

Pune, 14 Oct: On Sunday, a group of 8 volunteers carried out a clean-up drive at Bhide bridge and the surrounding areas. The cleanup drive was organized by Kanya Buch through her organization - Healing Planet Earth, which also carries out similar drives in different cities all over the country. The volunteers began the clean-up at 9 AM and collected almost 10 bags of waste.

Gaurav Mehendale, coordinator of the clean-

up drive for Pune said, "We started these drives in Pune around 3 months ago. There used to be 20-25 volunteers initially and we would collect 40 bags of waste. Gradually the number decreased, but the few sincere ones amongst us still gather every Sunday at various locations like Denge Bridge, Parvati, Taljai or Bhide bridge to carry out this clean-up drive."

Azad, who recently shifted to Pune from Bangalore said, "We carried out these drives in Bangalore too where the turn out of volunteers is in huge number.

Comparatively in Pune, even though the number of volunteers is less, the city is cleaner than Bangalore."

The volunteers contact Pune Municipal Corporation every Friday to notify them about the Sunday's clean up. Once the clean-up drive is completed around 11 AM on every Sunday, the PMC truck will come to collect the waste. Bio-degradable bags and gloves to collect waste are provided to the volunteers by Manas Karnik, co-founder of Healing Planet Earth.



**Vrutta Vidya**  
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## Believing The Survivors

The recent times have seen every one of us fighting for one thing or the other and the lucky ones have got someone believing in them or fighting for them. This, I think, was in the mind of Priyanka Chopra when she tweeted in favor of Tanushree Dutta that people need to start believing in the survivors. Tanushree has accused Nana Patekar, Ganesh Acharya and a couple of other people from the industry. The events, happened almost 10 years ago, if seen under present light of the MeToo campaign, would be very misleading to some. People will obviously question the credibility of the actress who has again brought out the matter to light after 10 years. But the kind of support Tanushree has gained shows that either people are genuinely trying to support her or they are just caught in the riff of it. I have never really come to understand the nature of Bollywood business, if it's already not enough that Salman Khan is earning crores with the movies that are plagued and Pankaj Tripathi is still struggling to find the audience for his some of the best films. Bollywood is taking a big leap of faith in the current time period by giving a lot of bandwidth to the new actors and regional cinema to come up and spread word about their work. I hope that it still remains a little sensitive towards these couch casting and harassment complaints with more than just twitter supporter taking a stand for things.

## Polls That Shook No-one

After 13 years, Jammu and Kashmir conducted its first phase of local body polls on Monday, where it saw two contrasting pictures in Jammu region and Kashmir valley respectively. Jammu recorded a turnout of nearly 70% whereas the valley recorded only 8.2% turnout. Out of total 1,100 municipal wards, first phase Polls were held for 422 wards. Amongst these, 149 seats were allotted in Kashmir valley; 92 of these seats observed no voting while there were no candidates for 23 other seats. The current milieu in valley shows that the matter is getting worse than before. The situation is so rhetoric that most of the seats are fought by a single candidate whilst in many wards there is no candidate to contest elections. Separatists and militants, who pose a threat to those contesting elections, have left valley in shock and is triggering fear among locals. One of the voters, while interacting with media, said that he didn't want to get identified because of fear of abduction and getting killed. Many contestant didn't want to reveal their names and recently 30 BJP, Congress candidates names were leaked online and they were given police protection. Earlier National Conference and People's Democratic Party have already withdrawn their participation from the elections in support of Article 35A. Local body polls will be followed by Panchayati elections on November 17. So with the boycott of two major parties in valley, this is going to be the direct fight between BJP and Congress and with such a low turnout, the polls will hardly make any difference as there will be no voices to hear or any mouths to shout against the suppressors.



Ankita Apte

## Sabrimala: The way to equality

On 28th September, the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court of India, with a majority of 4-1, gave a landmark judgment on Sabarimala issue and opened the gates of the temple for women of all ages. But there was a 'dissenting voice'.

"Issues of deep religious sentiments should not be ordinarily be interfered by the court. The Sabarimala shrine and the deity is protected by Article 25 of the Constitution of India and the religious practices cannot be solely tested on the basis of Article 14. Present judgment won't be limited to Sabarimala, it will have wide ramifications," said Indu Malhotra, the only female judge and the only dissenting voice on the bench.

As usual, there were reactions from both the sides. Some expressed concern regarding the effects of this judgment on the social fiber of India, whereas some

celebrated the verdict as a victory of all women. But the judgment by Justice Malhotra seems to have given a different angle to the issue; a tussle between two fundamental rights - Right to Equality and Right to Freedom of Religion.

The most common argument given in this regard was that the deity in Sabarimala temple, Ayyappa was celibate and thus, women in menstruating age were barred from the temple by an ancient tradition. Besides, there are several temples across the country where women are not allowed due to various reasons. There are a few like Kamakhya Devi temple where men are prohibited. Many Gurudwaras and Masjids do not allow women to enter. This judgment, according to some will lead to demands to enter all these places of worship all over the country which can hurt various religious sentiments and lead

to chaos. And why do women want to take the risk and enter religious places where they are barred from according to the prevalent traditions and beliefs, despite all these societal complications?

**And why do women want to take the risk and enter religious places where they are barred from according to the prevalent traditions and beliefs, despite all these societal complications?**

The counter-argument raised a question of 'Why not?' On the background of this historic and important verdict by the Supreme Court, can we stop women, under the banner of religious freedom from entering a temple irrespective

of their fundamental right to equality?

Each and every person has the right to worship and pray wherever they want to regardless of their religion, caste and gender. As a country, we have a vast diversity of beliefs, religions, and faiths; we need to look for a way out from this tussle of rights, as well as of identities, which shall take us to an inclusive society. We need to prepare ourselves to go beyond outdated traditions and look at such issues in a rational and logical way.

The judgment needs to be seen not as a reason for future upheavals, but as the starting point towards opening the gates of each and every temple in India to all, despite their religions, castes and genders. Not by destroying beliefs, but by modifying them to be more inclusive; this is the way to equality and we should start looking at it like one.



Sunder Gariya

## Knocking on Parties' Door

First Bahujan Samaj Party and then, Samajwadi Party both parted their ways with the Congress. Mayawati accused Congress' intention of ruling out with the grand old party while SP thinks that Congress is taking too much time to collaborate with them. Recently, polls date in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram were announced and political uproar in these states is at its peak, but INC's mindset is still not clear with whom they would want to merge to contest the upcoming elections. Congress in their past 3 years have fought assembly elections in coalition with other parties. Their Coalition Movement started with Bihar elections, where they formed Mahagathbandhan with RJD and JDU. Later on, the Mahagathbandhan was kicked away by one of the coalition parties.

It is a different story altogether but Congress continued their Gathbandhan in UP Assembly polls and they merged with SP where

Rahul and Akhilesh were like Karan Arjun of UP. In Karnataka, Congress tied up with Janata Dal (Secular) to contest assembly polls and eventually won the battle, too dramatically. In upcoming assembly elections in 5 states where Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are the key states for Congress, the question still hangs; Will the party go alone in the battlefield? Such a decision can hamper their votes.

Mayawati has already made it clear that it is Digvijay Singh who is responsible for this tussle and accused Congress of going in line with former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister. She also accused them of being casteist and decided not to ally in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. While rival BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi took a jibe at Mahagathbandhan saying, "During 2017 Assembly Polls, Akhilesh formed an alliance with Rahul Gandhi and both were projecting themselves as 'UP ke ladke', there is no Mahagathbandhan going

to happen, these parties are visionless and hungry for power."

**It is a different story altogether but Congress continued their Gathbandhan in UP Assembly polls and they merged with SP where Rahul and Akhilesh were like Karan Arjun of UP.**

Congress is in doubtable position to give a tough fight to its national rival BJP, if they don't merge with other parties because BJP is in full swing to woo voters and form their government again. It is evident that Congress is slightly more defensive this time to ally with SP and BSP because of its previous failures in UP. Arvind Kejriwal, in his recent speech at a public rally in New Delhi where he projected his party to be the only alternative in the Capital said, "BJP and

RSS are tactfully supporting the Congress to cut into AAP votes in order to win the Lok Sabha polls. Don't fall for RSS murmur campaign in support of Congress." So, all these statements by other regional parties are making it clear that Congress is slightly losing its charm over other parties, that was at times seen as an alternative to Mahagathbandhan. But in case of Mayawati, it might be that BSP Chief wants to project herself as a PM contender for 2019 Lok Sabha elections, so she will be on the lookout to weaken Congress.

Rahul Gandhi, recently in an event, has again said that Mahagathbandhan is open for all regional parties and BSP will also join it in 2019 but the recent happenings shows that it may be another way around. Who's where and who's with who? The answer to this question will be known sooner or later but for now, Congress can't win the election single-handedly and Rahul Gandhi and Co. need to sort these disputes as soon as possible.

### The Team



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## Man Mugged In Fear Of Rape Charges; Police Intervenes

Pune, 15 Oct: Dipak Deshmukh, a resident of Pune on Wednesday had offered an unknown woman a lift at around midnight on Sadhu Vasvani road. The girl accepted the offer and hopped on his bike. After sometime, she allegedly asked Deshmukh for money. When he denied, she threatened to press charges of sexual assault and attempt to rape on him. Dipak, who was carrying Rs 14,000 cash to pay home loan EMI, got scared by her threats and handed over the money to the woman. After getting the money she fled from the spot.

A complaint regarding the same has been registered at Bund Garden police station by Dipak and his family. The police have started the investigation with the help of CCTV cameras in the roadside hotels, shops, and other buildings. Sub-inspector Machale, who is handling this case, assured that the suspect would soon be arrested and the money would be returned to Deshmukh as soon as possible.

## Queer Film Festival Concludes at NFAI

Sunder Gariya  
VruttaVidya Media

Pune, 06 Oct 2018: Advait International Queer Film Festival 2018 was held on Saturday by Sampathik Trust in collaboration with the Consulate General of Canada at National Film Archive of India (NFAI). The festival comprised of the screening of three movies: Heartbeats, Closet Monster and Call Me By Your Name; which revolves around the theme of same-sex relations. During the felicitation, host Niki Rey introduced Bindumadhav Khire, the president of Sampathik Trust and gay activist who has been fighting for the rights of sexual minorities since last 18 years.

The screenings were followed by a film appreciation session conducted by Indranil Bhattacharya, professor of film studies and research at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). Bhattacharya discussed the technicalities of the films and their impact in today's time. Members of the LGBTQ community were also present to show their support and continue the celebration of creating an inclusive environment for the community after the historic verdict on Section 377 last month.

# Mohan Agashe is equal to Devotion: Jabbar Patel

Ankita Apte  
VruttaVidya Media

Pune, 15 Oct: Renowned Marathi actor Dr. Mohan Agashe was felicitated by writer and director Jabbar Patel on Monday after the prestigious Vishnudas Bhawe Puraskar was awarded to Dr. Agashe. The program was organized by Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad, Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Natya Parishad, Pune branch, and Akhil Bharatiya Chitrapat Mahamandal at Madhavrao Patvardhan hall.

Dr. Agashe, in his speech, expressed his deep gratitude towards his friend and guide, Dr. Jabbar Patel for the kind of discipline he developed in him at an early stage as a theatre actor. He recalled many memories from his career and described them in a humorous way, which was well received by the audience.



He said, "In the field of theatre and cinema, whatever good or bad a person does, does not belong to him, but to the whole team. So the credit of whatever good I have done so far goes to all my team members, in which a big share belongs to Jabbar." Expressing his feelings about the award he stated that he won't accept any other award hereafter as that will lessen the importance of this award.

Jabbar Patel, while

praising Mohan Agashe said that he gets involved in the roles he likes and performs them with deep study and conviction. Regarding the character of 'Nana' played by Dr. Agashe in Ghashiram Kotwal, a very famous and equally controversial play by Vijay Tendulkar, Dr. Patel said that Dr. Agashe nurtured the controversy raised by the play through his excellent acting.

## Government doesn't want to be questioned, says Tushar Gandhi

Sunder Gariya  
VruttaVidya Media

Pune, Oct 15: "The British divided our nation, but it is our own people who kept breaking it into fragments even after independence," said Tushar Gandhi, the Managing Trustee of Mahatma Gandhi Foundation. He was speaking about the 'Relevance of Gandhian thoughts in today's socio-political scenario' on the occasion of 32nd anniversary of Sakal weekly on Monday at Tilak Smarak Mandir.

While addressing the audience, he said that as responsible citizens of our country, we should work for it with morality. "Dissent is ruthlessly labeled as sedition today and the government doesn't want to face questions,"



he complained while talking about the current situation in India. Remembering his great-grandfather, Mahatma Gandhi, he said that Babu wanted to see rural India developed and that his dreams are not even remotely coming true.

President of the Sakal group, Prataprao Pawar, Editor-Director, Shriram Pawar and Chief Editor Rahul Gadpale were also present for the event.

# Attire Cannot Be A Barrier To Fitness; Rally By Milind Soman

Sunder Gariya/Jayali Wavhal  
VruttaVidya Media

Pune, 15 Oct: On Sunday morning, Pinkathon organized a Nauvari Cycle rally with fitness promoter and Pinkathon founder Milind Soman, in Baner. Women had to wear nauvari (nine-yard) sarees to participate in the 5 km long cycle rally. Explaining the reason behind the unique idea of women wearing nauvari sarees while cycling, Soman stated, "The idea is to motivate and inspire women to exercise in any attire. It isn't necessary for women to carry out a fitness routine in western clothes. Through this rally, we aim at involving the maximum number of women



in our upcoming marathons and rallies."

Almost 100 women showed up at the venue to

participate in the rally where they were provided bicycles. Multiple banners spreading the message of fitness for

women were put up. The rally began at 7 AM and after completing a single lap of 5 km, the rally ended at the starting point around 8 AM. Stating the importance of such events, Pinkathon Ambassador Sonia Kulkarni said, "Women clad in nauvaris, and cycling are giving a message that attire cannot be a barrier to maintaining a fitness and

exercise routine. There have also been rallies where women in hijabs have participated, so why not a saree? A woman should embrace fitness as it strengthens them physically and emotionally."

Fitness was prioritized throughout the event especially when Milind made it mandatory for everyone to perform 10 pushups each before grabbing a photo with him. Milind's wife, Ankita Soman pointed out that women in rural areas carry out rigorous tasks wearing a saree, hence there should be no harm in adapting sarees into our daily fitness routine.

## Google Pays Tribute to Lachhu Maharaj On His 74th B'day

Today, Google paid their tribute to the dance maestro Lachhu Maharaj on his 74th birth anniversary. Born as Lakshmi Narayan Singh, (1944-2016) was an Indian classical dancer and choreographer of Kathak. He was also one of the most celebrated table players of his time. Maharaj trained under his father, Vasudev Maharaj,

and started performing at an early age.

In a statement released by Google, it says 'Lachhu Maharaj was best known for his inherent sense of rhythm which was best exemplified in his solo performances.. Girija Devi, whom he often collaborated with, claimed that "he would play for hours without

repeating himself, new gats, tukras and parans, leaving his audiences awestruck."

In 1957, he was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the highest award for performing artists, by India's National Academy for Music, Dance and Drama. The doodle is created by Sajid Shaikh, a visual artist from Mumbai.

# Overwhelming Response To Blood Donation Camp At University

Bhaskar Rathod  
VruttaVidya Media

Pune, Oct 13: A blood donation camp was organized on Saturday at SPPU by Rotary club and IBB near PUMBA, as a mark of starting of new Rotary year. In this blood donation camp, more than 107 volunteers donated blood. The Blood Donation Camp started at around 9:30 in the morning and continued till 5:30 in the evening, getting

a tremendous voluntary response.

All the preparations such as the arrangement of beds, sanitation etc. were taken care of by the organizers. A team of doctors and nurses had reached on time. The newly elected President of the Rotary club, Mr. Dharamveer Taneja, also donated his blood and gave his contribution towards the cause. During the event, he also informed that several charity projects

have been undertaken by the Rotary club at the beginning of the year.

Prof. Ameeta Ravikumar, the Director of IBB Department, said "Volunteers that donated blood would be used for saving the lives of the injured and the sick." He also talked about facts, myths and other blood group related information, thus spreading awareness about blood donation.

# Pune Roars For Avni

Ankita Apte  
VruttaVidya Media

Pune, Oct 13: Animal lovers from Pune roared for Avni on Saturday and organized a march to protest against the proposed killing of tigress Avni. The march started at Goodluck Chowk and ended opposite FC College. Protestors were clad in black clothes, holding placards saying 'Let Avni Live', 'Save Avni'. They also raised slogans criticizing the forest department and urged the public to join the protest by raising their voice on social media.

Recently, tigress Avni was alleged to be a man-eater by the forest department and on 29th January 2018, the PCCF (Principal Chief Conservator of Forests) issued shoot to kill order for Avni.

A professional hunter by the name Nawab Shafat Ali Khan, who is famous for hunting down animals was called to 'make Avni unconscious, so that she can be shifted elsewhere' according to the forest department. But, animal lovers across the country suspect it to be a conspiracy to kill Avni so that the forest in which she lives can be cut down and its minerals can be utilized. Avni lives in Pandharkawada, a forest in Yawatmal district with her two cubs.



## Paranthas @Kaku's

Ankita Apte  
VruttaVidya Media

"Kaku, this same routine of making Paranthas, isn't it boring?" I ask. "No, not at all. Rather I enjoy my work. I don't even take holidays. You people eat my paranthas, you like them, you are satisfied. Then how can I take a holiday?", replies Anita Dhawalsank aka Parantha Kaku, with a wide smile on her face. Her hands are working constantly on her paranthas whilst talking to me. Her children helps her understand my questions and even prompts her to answer.

Anita Dhawalsank is a 42 years old lady who owns a parantha stall in Sahakar Nagar. Originally from Ahmednagar, she shifted to Pune after her marriage at the age of 16. At 17, she had her first child. Years later, after the demise of her husband, her daughter suggested Anita, who was working as a cook at the time, to start their own parantha cart. Today, her stall is 5 years old and the menu includes Methi Parantha, Palak Parantha, and her most famous dish, Aloo Parantha. "We started mix paranthas just recently", adds Omkar, her youngest son who is in 12th standard. He has four elder sisters, two of them are engineers, one has a parlor and one is studying architecture. "We come here in turns to help Aai. We enjoy her work too," says her daughter.

"Who taught you the recipe for your famous aloo parantha?" I ask. "I tasted it on another stall, then experimented it myself at home. I need 2 kilos of spinach, 2 kilos of fenugreek (Methi) and 5 kilos of potatoes every day. The preparation starts at around 4 pm. I buy all the raw material, clean it and prepare the dough myself. I don't allow anyone else to do it. The taste must be the same."

Kaku has a proud smile. "We come here around 8 and leave around 10:30. The police doesn't allow our stalls here. Sometimes they take them away, even the gas cylinders. Our stall was taken twice before. They fined us for Rs.5000."

"On the very first day, I could earn only Rs.150. But now, I have Rs.2,000 to 2,500 rupees in my hands at the end of almost every day. Every month, about 10,000 rs. go into my savings." Anita explains.

When asked about her future plans, she says, "My paranthas are very famous. So I am going to continue with the parantha business." "Aai wants to open 10-12 branches!" exclaims Omkar. Suddenly, in a tender voice, she says, "I couldn't attend school, I couldn't learn. But my only dream was to educate my daughters, and with my efforts, I have done it."

After three delicious aloo paranthas and a spontaneous talk, I bid her goodbye and promise that I will be back with all my team members; her answer is the sweetest, "Call me in advance. I will bring more alooos!"

### Cartoon Shack



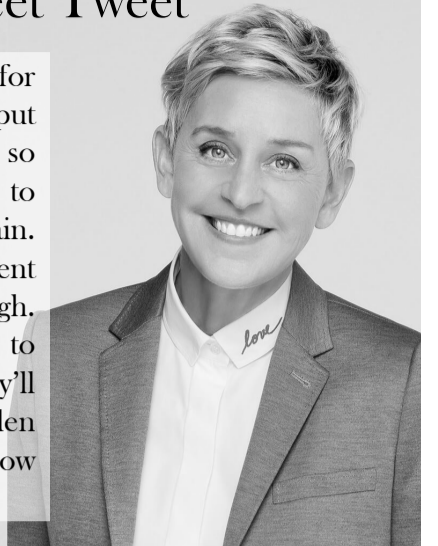
### FORD @ TIME

The TIME magazine cover for the coming edition of October 15 is inspired by Christine Blasey Ford's testimony and the significance of her voice. John Mavroudis, a San Francisco based artist, used words and phrases from Ford's testimony to design the cover.



### "Tweet Tweet"

"This tweet is for Dr. Ford. You put yourself through so much and I want you to know it wasn't in vain. You started a movement and we'll see it through. If they won't listen to our voices, then they'll listen to our vote." - Ellen DeGeneres, Talk Show host.



## Booked and Served

Jayali Wavhal  
VruttaVidya Media

A rising number of book cafes in Pune were inspired by this modest idea. A quiet, quirky space and several shelves filled with favorite books is attracting readers from every corner of the city. When Waari café was set up in 2016, the owners were uncertain about the response they'll receive. But, people loved the idea of a bookstore and cafe being merged. It was a unique idea; relatable to many. Waari got the ball rolling in Pune and a number of cafes followed.

As if the concept of a 'book cafe' wasn't appealing enough, owners have decided to spice things up. The cafes offer free WiFi to customers as most

of them come here to do their assignments in peace. Poetry events and book club readings on a regular basis are an integral part of these cafes which try to keep the crowd engaged. Games like Scrabble, Jenga, Chess or Football are also available for the leisure. Additionally, some cafes allow you to take the books home while others accept book donations.

Pradeep Tambke, owner of Words N Sips café says, "So, my friends and I decided to bring these books together where we can read them in solace, or chat while having food. That's how we decided to open this small café." The book cafes are low-priced, eccentric and make you feel at home. Next time you want to grab a coffee and your favorite read, you should visit these cafes in Pune.



## Life In Pune

### Panita Tantisunthorn Bangkok, Thailand



#### Language

It was quite hard for me at first because not everybody here can speak English. And a majority of local people here speak in Marathi, not Hindi. Initially, I wished to learn Hindi, but now I am considering learning Marathi also. Because, why not!

#### Transportation

You can sure use an Uber or Ola for the transportation here, but I'd recommend you to have a scooter. I know it's scary to ride on India's roads. But don't be scared! Try to ride carefully and you will love riding scooter here. Once you learn to ride here, you can ride on any roads in this world.

#### Food

My very first Indian dish was Veg Thali, all nutrition you can get! It consisted of rice, dal, curry, and chapati. Surprisingly, I loved it. The Indian curry is very different from the curry in my country. It's not spicy when eating, but you will feel the taste in your stomach later on. Be careful!

Namaste! My name is Panita and I'm from Bangkok, Thailand. I'm studying Master of Journalism and Mass Communication at Ranade Institute, Savitribhai Phule Pune University (SPPU). As of now, I have been living here for 2 months and would like to share some of my experiences here.

#### Place

The University is amazing. Despite the hard-to-remember names, the environment here is really nice. It is like you are living in the forest. Big trees surround my hostel and peacocks are a usual sight. What a wonderful place! Not far from the university, Gokhale Nagar is the place where I really like to go now and then. I would like to say that it's Pune's Grand Canyon. Please visit there whenever you have time.

## Dissent And Rebellion: Silenced.

Aishwarya Dakhore  
VruttaVidya Media

One of the most controversial rebels that the world has seen, Ulrike Meinhof, would've turned 82 on 7 Oct, had she been alive. A staunch leftist journalist of her times, Meinhof was also the co-founder of the German militant organization Red Army Faction (RAF). Accused of 47 murders and robberies through RAF in Germany, she breathed her last in prison. But how she died was what came to the rescue to justify her actions - murdered by the officials, but claimed to have attempted suicide. The reason stood tall and erect - an attempt on the part of the government to



Ulrike Meinhof: The German Rebel

suppress a strong and dissenting voice.

While working as a journalist, she had quoted a few lines that describe her root beliefs - 'Protest is when I say this

does not please me. Resistance is when I ensure what does not please me occurs no more.' This woman, who began her journey to almost terrorism from dissent, left a concrete question before the world- Do dissent and violence go hand in hand?

Considering India, the question seems quite relevant today with emerging tags like Urban Naxalites, Undeclared Emergency and Anti-nationalists. The tagging business could be ignored at once, considering it to be a political maneuver. But what is alarming is the conspicuous suppression exhibited by the actions of police officials and other authorities. The freedom of speech is so openly and intensely denounced that dissent is seen

as a crime today; just like it was seen back in 1969 in Germany. It's the same thought process that produced a militant out of a brave journalist like Ulrike and eventually killed her, and many other voices that backed hers.

Where is this leading the nation? To fascism, to anarchy? It's time that people need to realize that dissent doesn't go hand in hand with violence, but suppression does. And the only weapon that can fight suppression is dissent.

It could only be hoped that India doesn't lose its own Meinhofs to the prevailing hideousness. It could only be hoped that Meinhof inspires the world to be a rebel and yet not a terrorist.