

No Traffic Violation Zone implemented

Pune, 22 Oct: Pune traffic police has recently launched the 'No Traffic Violation Zone' across Pune city. The initiative was to create awareness about traffic rules and safety in an attempt to bring down the traffic violation cases. 5 personnel from traffic division with 5-10 personnel from local police stations will be deployed at each junction. More than 5000 challans were issued for rash driving on the day of the launch. According to officials, the initiative will become more stringent in coming days as certain areas will be jam-packed owing to Diwali preparations.

#MeToo is strong, can compel to resign

Pune, 21 Oct: In the Sanvidhan Samman Sabha organized at Rashtra Seva Dal, social activist Medha Patkar referred to MJ Akbar's resignation and stated that #MeToo is a significant movement which "holds the power to compel a minister to resign from his office." She also expressed that accusing women of speaking lies will lead us nowhere. "If you think that women are lying, you should prove it, rather than blindly making such statements without thinking of consequences."

Rohit and Kohli's ton smithereens Indies

Guwahati: India beats West Indies in Guwahati's Barsapara Cricket Stadium by eight wicket. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma made a mockery of the 323-run chase against the caribbeans. Earlier batting first West Indies gave goosebumps to Indian bowlers and hetmyer scored stunning century to take score to 300+.while chasing Indian captain as usual seems unstoppable and got past the milestone of 2000 International runs in Calender year as he also scored his 36th century. Meanwhile Rohit also scored a convincing century and lead India to victory.

Pune should have Tararani's statue, says Sambhajiraje

"Tararani has sacrificed a lot for the protection of our Hindavi Swaraj," said Sambhajiraje, MP while talking at a book launch on Saturday.

Written by Dr. Suvarna Naik Nimbalkar, the Marathi novels 'Bhadrakali Tararani' and 'Maharani Yesubai' were launched on the hands of Sambhajiraje at this book launch. He said that such books that bring to limelight the raw and real stories of our warriors are rare.

FROM PETROL PRICES TO FARMER'S LOAN WAIVER; NCP HIGHLIGHTS BJP'S FAILURES

Sunder Gariya/VVM

Pune, 22 Oct: On Monday, around mid-day NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY (NCP) organized a protest March against BJP government over latter's failure in recent times. NCP protested against the current government for various issues like drought, farmer issues, petrol and LPG prices. The movement started from Pune Zilla Parishad where all the activists gathered and marched towards Council Office. At a conference in Zilla Parishad at 12 A.M., the



Ajit Pawar with protestors at the Council Office. Sunder Gariya

party members and activists gathered and decided to

march towards Divisional Commissioner Office to discuss the issue. Around 1 PM, the march started and around 500 activists and general public started marching with Ajit Pawar, the leader of the NCP. The march was carried out with Ajit Pawar while shouting slogans against BJP government and cursing Modi and Fadnavis. The march moved from Bund Garden Road to Wellesley road and reached Council office around 1:20 PM. After reaching there, everyone sat outside the gate of the office and Ajit Pawar addressed

the crowd. He said, "The BJP government has done nothing for the youth of the nation to employ them, prices are rising everyday and inflation is at highest peak, petrol prices are touching sky and government is not concern about it. The Modi - Fadnavis government has not yet waived loan for farmers and they just continue to make fake promises." He also thanked all the activists and people to participate in this protest after which gate opened and few members were allowed to visit and meet Divisional officer.

People react to P. Chidambaram's statement on RaGa 'Gandhi' equivalent to 'Non-functional nepotism'

Jayali Wavhal/VVM
Aishwarya Dakhore/VVM

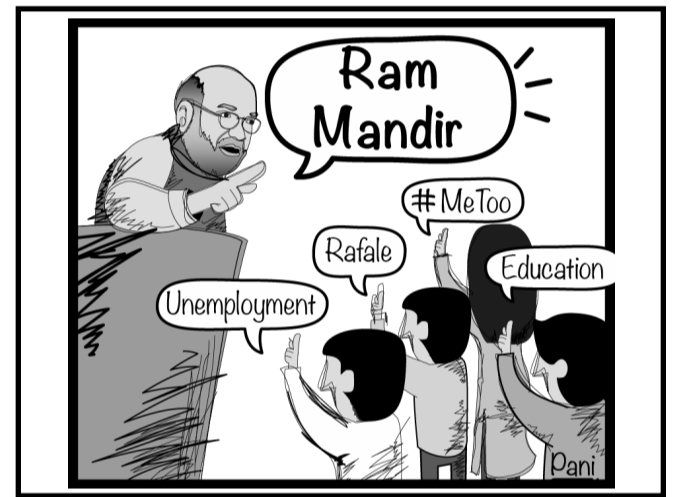
Pune, 22 Oct: Former Finance Minister and the senior party leader of Congress, P. Chidambaram, said that the Congress is not going to project anyone as its Prime minister's face for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. He was speaking in an interview with News18 Tamil on Monday. "We never said that we want Rahul Gandhi to be the Prime Minister," he clarified. While this statement by Chidambaram has received mix responses from the masses, the idea of the grand

alliance of the regional parties put forth by Congress still remains blurry.

"If Rahul Gandhi is not the face of Congress, the hopes for Congress to get in power would raise up a little. If you ask me, neither of these parties (BJP and INC) is capable of ruling the nation. Even if Priyanka Gandhi gets on the throne, she'd be a puppet. Although she's a dynamic lady, she has little experience in politics," said Mrs. Thavre, a local teacher from Pune. While some were with the staunch opinion that Narendra Modi remains the best choice for the Prime Minister irrespective of

who the face of Congress is, others let out a sigh of relief on the statement given by Chidambaram.

"I have been a supporter of BJP since always. All the good Prime Ministers like Lal Bahadur Shastri and Atal Bihari Vajpayee were from the BJP. Even Indira Gandhi was a good PM, but now the name 'Gandhi' in politics has remained an equivalent of 'non functional nepotism' in India," said Krishnakant Nayak, a local auto-driver in Pune. Taking a neutral stand, Shirish Gujarati - another local, said that it doesn't matter which the party is, the leader should be a wise man.



'Samvidhan' is my favorite book: Medha Patkar

Ankita Apte/VVM

Pune, 21 Oct: Social activist Medha Patkar on Sunday, was speaking as the Chairperson of Samvidhan Samman Sabha which was organized by National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) under the banner of 'Samvidhan Samman Yatra' in Pune at Rashtra Seva Dal. The Yatra started on 2nd October from Dandi, Gujarat and it will conclude on 10th December at Delhi after a nationwide program. The objectives of the Yatra are to inculcate the values given by our constitution amongst masses in this era of alleged fascism, where the constitution is being violated by the rulers.

The program started with a small rally from Senapati Bapat chowk to Rashtra Seva Dal, where the participants paid their homage to Senapati Bapat, who started the first anti-dams movement in India more than 100 years ago against Mulshi Dam constructed by Tata company.

Suniti S. R. of NAPM made an introductory speech stating the objectives

of this Yatra. All of the speakers reiterated the grave need to follow and believe our constitution to fight against the current communal, capitalist and oppressive government. They attacked organizations like RSS, Sanatan Sanstha and stated that it was the need of time to get united against such forces, at ground-level as well as active politics.

Medha Patkar, in her concluding speech, talked about various struggles going on all over the country against the false idea of development which suppresses people, takes away their lands, livelihoods for the 'good' of MNCs and crony-capitalists. She stated that it is the call of the time to move towards a casteless society and the election needs to be fought not on the basis of caste and religion, but on constitutional values a party follows.



NGO aims to achieve garbage free Mula-Mutha by 2020

Jayali Wavhal/VVM

Jeevitnadi, a city based NGO in Pune has recently set a goal to make Mula-Mutha river garbage-free by 2020. The NGO works to clean and protect the rivers through programs like Muthai River festival, Muthai River Walk, Toxin-free Lifestyle workshops, Adopt a River Stretch program, etc. They have been successful in converting common people into 'River Warriors' over the past few months.

Through its Adopt a River Stretch program, common people have been allotted a river stretch which they look after - thus maintaining cleanliness and sustainability by sharing the responsibility amongst

themselves. Vaishnavi Pathre, who has adopted a river stretch states, "We take so much from the nature, it's high time we give something back. The river stretch I adopted near Vitthalwadi is looked after by me and my friends. We ensure it stays clean, on occasions we plant saplings here and also conduct awareness drive for the same."

Jeevitnadi also conducts Muthai river walks every weekend with the aim of educating people about the deteriorating conditions of our rivers and what we can do to save them. The NGO currently works with multiple other NGO's like Ecological Society, Sagarmitra, Janwani, Jalbiradari, Jaldindi, Vasundhara Swachhata Abhiyaan, Nisargsevak etc.

When we asked Kirti Wani, correspondent for Jeevitnadi, about GD Agarwal's contribution for Ganga, she said, "Prof G D Agrawal's fight & contribution to save the Ganga river is unparalleled. The cause is applicable to all rivers in country as problems faced by the rivers are similar all over. The emotion which we have for Ganga river at country level, is same which we have for Mula-Mutha rivers in Pune. The rivers are in such a state of neglect that we need to act urgently. We all should work together to give a clean, safe and flowing river to our future generation. Garbage free-Mula-Mutha by 2020 is one step towards this."

As told by Kirti Wani



Vrutta Vidya
Media
DOCJ, SPPU

The Devil of No Importance

He was one of the greatest rulers alive with excellent statesmanship and diplomacy skills. He respected art and was an acclaimed veena player. Having inordinate knowledge about the shastras and all four vedas, he was also a great scholar. He was an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva, he loved his family unconditionally and moreover, he respected women regardless of their position or power. His name was Ravana – the ‘devil’ as mentioned in Ramayana.

Year after year, we Indians have celebrated Dussehra by burning Ravana’s effigy – naming it the victory over evil. But in reality, Ravana was more human than evil. His only flaws were his greed for power and his massive ego; but both of these were largely overshadowed by his virtues. Though Ravana abducted Sita to seek revenge from Rama, he never misbehaved with Sita; instead let her live freely in the beautiful botanical garden. Such was his rule, that citizens of Lanka led a happy life throughout his tenure. When Ravana was dying, not only did he teach Lakshmana on how to lead a successful life, he also taught him about statesmanship and politics.

Our flaws are similar to that of Ravana’s; our virtues, not so much. There needs to be a change where we stop glorifying Ravana’s ordinary flaws of greed and ego, and instead exalt his virtues of knowledge, devotion and respect for women. We are less human than Ravana and we burn his effigy because it is the freedom that religion has bestowed upon us and no one can object to it.

‘What’s In A Name?’

The last week was flooded with memes about Yogi Adityanath calling various celebrities and renaming them with ‘Hindu’ names. Several celebrities like Chris Gayle, Amir Khan, Emma Watson, Vladimir Putin, Barack Obama were meme-renamed by Yogi, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh who seems to be on a renaming drive. In August 2018, the Mughal Sarai junction was renamed as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya junction by his government and last week, it has reportedly approved the name ‘Prayagraj’ for the historic city of Allahabad. This mission has again raised a very important question which was asked by Shakespeare, “What’s in a name?”

Historically, many cities in India were renamed after independence citing various reasons. Some of them (Bombay-Mumbai) had anglicized names, some were renamed for linguistic identities (Mysore-Mysuru), some just underwent single-lettered changes. But what Yogi Government is trying to do does not fit under any of these categories. It seems to be an attempt to erase traces of Mughal rule and contribution, including names of railway stations and cities and replace them with sugar-coated Saffronised names. It can also be seen as an attempt to divert attention from other major issues.

In Yogi’s UP, the Gorakhpur hospital controversy is still haunting people across the country. Since March 2017, 49 persons have been killed in over 1,110 encounters, more than 370 have been injured and over 3,300 arrested across the state. The CM himself faces constant criticism for his communal remarks and statements. The safety of common people is now under threat in the state after an Apple executive was murdered by the UP police. Amidst all these controversies, the government seems to be more interested in renaming stations and cities instead of working towards developing them!

It is high time for the Yogi government to rise above all such tactics under the disguise of communal hatred and take a more mature stand regarding the situation in Uttar Pradesh. Enforcement of law and order, improvement in health facilities and keeping crime rates to the minimal needs to be on the agenda rather than pondering whether a station is Mughalsarai station or Deen Dayal Upadhyaya junction or whether a city is called Allahabad or Prayagraj. After all, what’s in a name, when the person is himself on a ventilator?



Vishakha Jagtap

His Last Words...

So many promises are made but none are fulfilled. The government has changed yet no serious action seems to be taken to save the environment. It seems like promises made by any government are all hollow when it comes to the environment.

The real son of Ganga, ‘Prof. G D Agarwal’, in his third and final letter to PM Modi, said “It was my expectation that you would go two steps forward and make special efforts for the sake of Gangaji because you went ahead and created a separate ministry for all works relating to Gangaji. But in the past four years, all actions undertaken by your government have not at all been gainful to Gangaji and in her place, gains are to be seen only for the corporate sector and several business houses. Till now you have only thought on the point of earning profits from Gangaji. You do not seem to be giving anything to Gangaji, such is the impression created by all of your projects in relation to Gangaji. Even if for the sake of making a statement, you may say that there is nothing to take from Gangaji but only give her from our side.”

He said so because Ganga was declared a priority under Modi’s leadership. A separate ministry was formed under Uma Bharti and Rs 20,000 crore were allocated in the budget of 2015 on cleaning Ganga by 2020. An umbrella programme called ‘Namami Gange’ was declared along with the huge allocation and government officially started cleaning Ganga and its tributaries. In October last year, Nitin Gadkari was entrusted with the new ministry replacing Uma Bharti by Prime Minister Modi.

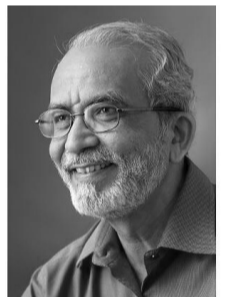
A day before G D Agarwal’s death, as if the government’s eyes opened miraculously and Nitin Gadkari went on to have a Press conference to say that he has released a notice to maintain a minimum flow of Ganga. GD Agrawal was not the only one though; his friend swami Nigamanand

had also died after the hunger strike of 115 days on June 13, 2011. It seems like the Ganga clean project is extending from year to year and there’s an increase in its budget with no result. How many more like Prof. Agarwal and Swami Nigamanand need to die for the government to make sincere efforts in addressing environmental issues?

So many promises are made but none are fulfilled. The government has changed yet no serious action seems to be taken to save the environment. It seems like promises made by any government are all hollow when it comes to the environment. No efforts are made to even preserve what we have now; neither by the government nor by people as social moral responsibility. If it continues to be like this, the future will either be clean and green or there will have no future at all.

2019: The Open-ended Contest.

We interviewed Dr. Palshikar in the light of recent happenings around the country and how he looks at things. A senior political analyst and former HOD of Department of Political Science at SPPU, he is an acclaimed Political Scientist. He currently works as the Chief Editor of Studies in Indian Politics. *Interviewed by Ankita Apte and Prakhar Garg*



What are your predictions about the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections and what will be the post election scenario of India?

2019 is an open-ended contest as of now, with BJP finding it difficult to win a clear majority. This would necessitate more hard-bargained coalition politics.

“Undeclared emergency is a frequently used word these days. Some are of the opinion that we (India) are currently in an undeclared emergency. What is your take on this? How do you suggest, we can find a feasible solution to this?”

Undeclared emergency refers to using legal measures to silence the opposition and that is what the present government is doing, for instance by using IT and ED against opponents selectively. The feasible response is two-fold. Punish the political dispensation that resort to such measures as Indian voters did in 1977 but two, bureaucracy has to be professional rather than being a tool in the hands of or being tool of the political strategy of the ruling party.

SC, being an unelected body, is overpowering the

role of an elected legislative body. How plausible is this? Do you think the recent and remarkable verdicts are politically driven in the purview of the upcoming elections?

SC is given a certain role by the Constitution -that includes both interpretation and protection of Constitution. Recent rulings, while important, are hardly connected to party competition or having a political bearing.

In light of your recent retweeted comment on Nikhil Wagle’s tweet, would you say that Hindutva ideology is a threat to Hinduism or Hindustan?

I have written extensively on India’s democracy and on Hindutva. I hold that Hindutva is deeply problematic from the viewpoint of democracy and that Hindutva is a distorted picture of Hindu religious practices of ordinary Hindu believers.

How do you think the recent Sabarimala Verdict is going to affect the political scenario in Kerala?

Tough to say. The RSS is unabashedly using it for Hindutva mobilization, but

the Narayan Dharma and the Izhavas generally have supported the ruling.

How would you say the Congress is doing on the front, comparing it to earlier days and present day? And how do you see the nation if Congress comes back to power?

Congress is struggling hard to emerge as the main rival to BJP. If it comes to power, it would have the burden of ensuring better governance and also being a democratic government.

4 months ago, in an interview in The Quint you said that Modi govt has lost its goodwill power and it will negatively impact them in the 2019 elections. And also, Congress doesn’t have a strong candidate in RaGa. Is it a worrisome situation? Also, ‘if not Modi, then who?’ is also a question I would like to ask.

In party competition, it often happens that there is no ‘ideal’ alternative. This is a failure of democratic politics. If Congress does not learn from its past mistakes and also does not keep its promises that it is making while in opposition, then people would lose trust in not just congress but in

party politics.

What is your take on One Nation, One Poll?

I have written on this in IE, EPW and BBC Marathi- so no need to respond to that here again. I stand by what I have already said on one nation one poll.

Your opinion – Naxals should be dealt with peacefully. Do you believe the same for the militants of J&K?

I said three things in nutshell. One: There is difference in being a Maoist and being a practitioner of Maoist violence. Two: Anti-terror laws have been very usually misused by the police in a widespread manner. Three: POLITICAL violence needs to be addressed politically as also by police methods. Maoism or Kashmir militancy are political problems and unless this is understood no strategy to handle these can be devised. I have in my earlier writings, criticizing Naxal or Maoist violence also said that such violence justifies state brutality and makes the state not just violent but also repressive.

As told to Prakhar Garg on email.

Pistol Confiscated from Local in Bhosari

Pune, 22 Oct: MIDC Bhosari Police, on Saturday, has confiscated a country made pistol with two working bullets from a local resident at Landewadi chowk. An FIR has been lodged against the accused, Kuldip Laldev Chavhan, who was arrested immediately after the pistol was seized. Reportedly, the police got the information about 22-year-old Chavhan carrying a pistol illegally, while on patrolling duty near Landewadi Chowk on Saturday. The investigation team then followed the leads, made a plan and were successful in confiscating the gun from Kuldip. The accused is currently under arrest and is being investigated by the Bhosari Police. The reasons and motif of the possession of pistol are still unclear.

No Way To Walk: Shops on FC Road face critical business shortage

Bhaskar Rathod/VVM

Pune, 22 Oct: Local people who reside and have business on the FC road, near the main gate of Fergusson College complained that they are facing sufferings from disordered footpath construction. Pedestrians have to walk on the road and take the risk to be crashed. Local shops and restaurants seem to face the problem mostly because their clients have too many obstacles to reach the place.

The construction is of Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC). It has started for 'a while' and no one knows when the path will be finished. However, PMC has not provided any temporary



walking path but let the people walk on the main road without protection.

"Metro officials should provide some staffs to manage, arrange or help us to ensure pedestrians' safety while the work is in progress", one pedestrian told Vrrutvidya. While the shopkeeper said hopelessly, "we have no other option but to call our customers to jump

across the dug-up footpath to reach our store."

The footpath has been dug up and the working area expanded to a doorstep of several shops, causing inconvenience to the owners and customers as well as people who are using the road. Many pipelines are laid obstructed and the construction continues slowly.

'World Restart A Heart' day celebrated

Bhaskar Rathod/VVM

Pune, 20 Oct: "To save a patient's life from a heart attack is a big act of humanity," said Dr. Bageshwary Madalkar, during the 'World restart a heart' (WRAH) day event which was held in Department of Environment and Science of Savitribai Phule Pune University on Friday.

The program was held to give information on how to save lives of patients who are prone to heart attacks.

The session was conducted by a specialist doctor from Sassoon General Hospital along with medical students of B J Medical College.

Every year, World restart a heart (WRAH) day is celebrated on 16th October across the world. The motive is to create awareness about

heart diseases in schools, colleges and amongst the general public and to educate everyone about CPR techniques to save the life of a patient in an emergency. The training was given by using a CPR dummy, and participants were shown a demonstration of what to do in case of an emergency. The doctors showed how to perform the resuscitation process and later asked the participants to attempt the resuscitation process themselves on the dummy.

Dr. Sunita said, "We can save life anytime at any place by giving CPR with the help of primary knowledge. Many people have lost their lives because there was no one around to perform CPR in that moment of urgency. We need to know how to act during such moments".

Protest is the only solution to water shortage

Panita Tanti/VVM

Pune, 19 Oct: Male foreign students living in the international hostel of the Savitribai Phule Pune University, on Friday, visited Prof. (Dr.) Vijay Khare, the director of International Centre, SPPU to protest against the lack of water supply at the two buildings.

From October 17th, the water supply at both the foreign hostels was cut out and there were no sources of water at all for 2 days. The male students went on to the International Centre to report the problem and protest against it. After that, they were provided with extra water from other buildings. However, it was still not enough for everybody.



A second-year student from Educational studies department told VruttaVidya that, "Last time the water supply was cut off was just a few days ago and the water supply was fine for few days only.

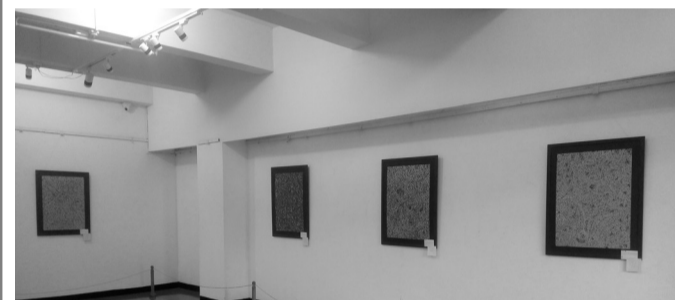
Yesterday we went to protest at International Centre then they brought some extra water tanks from somewhere in this university but it's not enough and they did not explain clearly. Moreover, he heavily expressed that, "It's

too much because we pay Rs 1,500 a month and now we need to pay more to stay outside when it happens. I'm considering to disturb my friend who lives in other places again because I haven't taken a shower for 3 days."

The girls' hostel also faces this problem but they did not join the protest. After male students went to claim their rights at the International Centre from 11 am., both hostels were provided with extra water tanks as a temporary solution.

"In the evening, I saw the hydraulic excavator working beside our hostel. They are going to install a new pipe system but it takes at least a few months. How can we live here?" one Bangladeshi student told us sadly.

Abstract' Emotions



Ankita Apte/VVM

Pune, 22 Oct: An exhibition of paintings by Bhavya Ramakshishnan was organized at Darpan Art gallery, Gokhale Nagar. The exhibition cum sale was inaugurated on 17th October. It showcases over 15 abstract paintings by young artist. They all are painted on handmade paper with watercolours and

oil pastels. Each painting has a title and is explained on a placard below. The exhibition also has a children's section where stickers of cartoons, dinosaurs etc. are put in the paintings. The visitors liked the exhibition as a whole, especially the children's section. 'It took me back to my childhood', one of them writes. The exhibition is open till 7 pm today.

Pinkathon Day Celebrated in University Campus

Sunder Gariya/VVM

Pune, 21 Oct: To mark its 6th anniversary, Pinkathon organized a marathon in the Savitribai Phule Pune University campus to promote fitness and health amongst women. The 'Pinkathon Day' marathon was organized in 7 countries and 63 cities, where more than 11,000 women participated in a 3 km or a 5 km run to showcase solidarity to the cause. Pinkathon was launched on this day in 2012 and it is for the first time that they have celebrated Pinkathon Day.

Sunday's marathon at University started with a warm-up Zumba session after which the marathon began at 6:15 AM. For the participants' convenience, the marathon was split into 3 km and 5 km and they had to run in lapses according to their respective categories. Volunteers were present at various spots in the campus to help participants and guide them.



Approximately 200 people participated in the marathon. One of the participants, Vaishali Prabhune said, "Today's rally was about women empowerment and I have come here with 4 of my female friends. We are excited and still feel enthusiastic even after running the marathon." She also added that the marathon was well organized and volunteers were present to guide them at every corner and they were guided in advance.

Another participant, Sonia Kulkarni, shared her views and told us that this a special day for women who have come here to participate in this marathon.

The event also hosted a dance performance by 12 women who will be running the 160 km marathon from Pune to Mumbai from 25 to 27 Oct. To conclude the event, a medal was awarded to all participants for their support towards women empowerment.

Human Chain Against Ignorance

Aishwarya Dakhore/VVM

Pune, 21 Oct: Youngsters in Pune, on Sunday, exhibited a unique protest by forming a 'human chain' at the Goodluck chowk to demonstrate the demands of the youth against some government policies. The protest lasted for about an hour and was organized by a collaboration of several active organizations like Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), Student Federation of India (SFI) and Yuvak Kranti Dal.

The protest chiefly highlighted certain demands such as to eradicate unemployment by filling up the 3 lakh government seats that are empty, to pay serious attention to the RTE act, to give authority of the MNREGA scheme to the local self governing bodies and make changes in it, and to provide financial support to the EBC students for their education in private institutes. Youngsters participating in the protest were shouting slogans like



Ajit Abhyankar, the social activist, at the rally. Image: File

'Ab ki baar, sabko rojgar' and 'Sarkar, sarkar, hosh me aao', carrying banners with their demands written on them.

"With elections approaching, the government is trying to bring in communal and controversial issues into the limelight as a political agenda. But the real problems like unemployment, lack of education and hygiene in rural areas, corruption in the government job placements, etc. are majorly ignored. We, through this event, have tried to highlight these problems, without the support or involvement of any political

organization," said Somnath Nirmal, Vice Chairperson, SFI.

"As the youth of a nation, we need to pay heed to the prevailing ignorance of the government towards such sensitive issues and show the authorities that we aren't blind. The government might be ignorant, but we aren't," said Akshay Gade, a local student participating in the protest.

Apart from Pune, the event got a positive response at other places in Maharashtra like Palghar, Thane, Nashik and Amravati.

10 years ago Today

Chandrayaan - 1, India's first unmanned launched

India's first lunar probe - Chandrayaan-1 - was launched exactly 10 years ago from today. It was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre near Chennai, by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had announced the project on Independence in 2003. The mission had several objectives which were to be fulfilled by launching and orbiting a spacecraft around the moon using an Indian-made launch vehicle.



Vajpayee had Chandrayaan course in his day speech mission objectives

Although the mission was expected to operate for two years, the communication with the spacecraft was lost on 28 August 2009. It operated for 312 days and has proved to be an informative and successful mission.

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH KRANTI KANADE



Define yourself

I call myself a river - flows to several things; flows with other things but doesn't take those things; walking the path.

What motivates you to be a filmmaker?

I'm an artist! Not a filmmaker! My parents raised me with a saying 'Don't waste your life'. That's the way, I was groomed. When I was a child, I was more attracted to acting. When I was 12, I found that film directing was more interesting, complex and challenging. It's more appealing in the new world.

What films inspire you?

I would like to mention a great British film director, Ken Loach. I like the socialism in his films (such as 'I, Daniel Blake') where it implies that if we continue to destroy each other, we will be left with

nobody; we must take care of each other on the grounds of humanity.

Do you have any idols?

It is very dangerous to have idols. Idols can fail because they are only human. Instead of idols, it is beneficial to have humanistic and socialistic principles. The principles are so important; all of us need to take care of each other; not for the few but many. Like Buddha said - "Believe in my teachings, not me."

Say something about the present day Indian films.

The films today are pretty average!

What is the most difficult part of making a film?

The hardest part is raising money. But the second and the real hard thing is how to maintain 'the truth' while you are making the film. You can

give birth to a child, but you have no value to give to that child. How would that child grow up? This happens with many films.

How can you discover your team that believes in you?

That's a beautiful question! Your cameraman or editor, they are almost like your family. You need to have an equal partnership, equal respect for each other; their perspectives and how they see this film is important. Making a film is like building a sculpture by several hands, so.

What do you think about the filmmaker's responsibility to find and develop your audience?

I don't think so. You were told great fantasy stories when you were a child, you did not demand them. The audience comes to see anything

beautiful that you have to offer.

Any advice for film students or someone who wants to have a life creating films?

Believe in yourself. Most of the time people will tell you, 'NO' but don't be afraid of the consequences. If you want to be a filmmaker, watch lots of good movies. And most importantly, 'go ahead and make the film' because it's the only way to learn how to make a film. It's like carpentry. You have to cut the wood and figure out how to join the pieces.

Kranti Kanade is an Indian filmmaker from Pune. His filmography includes CRD, Gandhi of the Month, Mahek and Chaitra. He studied at UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) and FTII.

ONCE UPON A MOUNTAIN TIME

By Panita Tantisunthorn

Julley - The journey began from here. Our Thai group of 12 people arrived at the Leh airport at around 7 am. We had landed there after spending the previous night at the Delhi Airport. Before being greeted by the tour company owner, the cold weather had already welcomed us - by shaking our bodies instead of our hands.

Leh stretches out from North of the river Indus at an altitude of 3,250 m. It's a small town of flat-roofed houses. People here always say JULLEY which means 'hello'. Actually, JULLEY (always accompanied by a smile) can be used to express many things like 'hi', 'thank you' or 'bye'. The word implies that the speaker is expressing respect towards the person.

After reaching there, we needed to stay there and have some rest to get ready for the new altitude for 2 days. Our boredom was taken care of by many living heritages of Buddhism such as Sanker Monastery and Shanti Stupa. Our guide named Pasang or Mr. Friday fluently explained us about the history of all places.

Lamayuru - one of the largest and oldest monastery in Ladakh

Next, we visited Lamayuru Gompaat, which is at an altitude of 3510 m. GOMPA means monastery in the local dialect and its architect is unique; built with the simplest material available and has been surviving for centuries. The bricks used were hand-made and sun-dried, plastered with limestone; the roofs and beam are made of willow and poplar planks; a number of small wooden windows let in natural light. It's a place of activity, celebrations and education; apart from being a place of worship. Lamayuru basically hosts 2 annual masked dance festivals in the second and fifth months of the Tibetan lunar calendar. To reach here, we used Leh-Kargil National highway. The rounded travel consumed approximately 6 hours, but on-the-way scene was worth our time.

Nubra Valley

On the third day, we left Leh earlier than usual; some even skipped their breakfast and drank only masala tea. The spot to be visited was NUBRA - it means an orchard or a garden. It is a green valley with milder climate compared to the rest of Ladakh; apple and apricot are pliantly growing here. The same day, we also passed the highest point, Khardung La (5,602 m) through the highest motorable pass in the world. Our guide told that it's the legendary Great Silk Route and is permanently covered by fog and snow. In the evening, we enjoyed riding a camel, they were so cute and soft! But not sure, if they think the same about us!

Turtuk

Next spot was a village - Turtuk - divided by a border. It was claimed to be a part of Pakistan in the past and most of its locals have become Islam. However, it has been a part of India since 1971. From the village, we could see the top of Karakorum. The place had no wifi, few businesses and limited electricity. The largely self-sufficient border village retains the feel of another age. The kids there helped us navigate and showed us their natural fridge made of rocks; installed below the ground level. They did not seem afraid of foreigners and fluently explained to us how the fridge works. In the winter they keep all vegetables here. P.S. The route is quite rocky. I suggest taking motion sickness relief medicines, in case you are sort of carsick.

Pangong Lake

The closed lake - not a part of any river and no outflow - in the Himalayas at an altitude of 4,350 m. It is 134 km long and extends from India to China (approximately 60% of the lake is in China). A small part of water was frozen when we arrived. Our tour guide, Mr. Friday, explained that the lake will be entirely frozen in the winter due its salinity. He also told us that the color of the lake changes relying on



weather; reflecting the sky. We might be the last group of clients as many hotels and camps had already closed. In winter, locals there usually shift to Leh or somewhere else to escape the extreme coldness. Nobody is here through the winter period.

The Tips before the Trip

- Physical training: Do exercise! Although the body strength cannot guarantee that you won't get altitude sickness, you still need to be strong in the condition of cold weather and low oxygen.
- Bring basic and personal medicines: You may take Diamox if you are afraid of having altitude sickness. But from my experience, drinking water and rest is the best medicine.
- Bring enough clothes: I don't mean you need to bring 10 T-shirts, 5 pants and etc. Just dress as layers starting from base layer, mid layer such as fleece and down jacket and shell layer which is wind and waterproof. Keep in mind that your core body and feet must be warm.

- Be an observer: For yourself and friends. Inform your local guide or driver if someone shows any symptoms of altitude sickness such as dizziness, vomiting, loss of energy, problems with sleep, shortness of breath even at rest, less appetite or something that is unusual.
- Raise money: It's a must! You cannot travel without money!

1. Women in Turtuk, the last village on the border.
2. Camel safari in Nubra Valley
3. On the way to Lamayuru
4. Shanti Stupa - Leh
5. Pangong, the highest grassland lake.



A senior economist by profession, Panita is an avid traveller and she has been around the world to many countries and on many treks.