



Short stories



■ Maharashtra Navnirman Sena's environment cell stopped illegal tree cutting by a private contractor on Kahun Road recently. City chief of the cell Sanjay Bhosale and member Shahabaji Punjabi filed a police complaint.

Kamble reviews welfare measures

Vice chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Caste NM Kamble visited Pune division of Central Railways on Wednesday to review the reservation policy and welfare measures undertaken by the division. Divisional railway manager DK Jain briefed Kamble regarding the work and appraised about the action taken by Pune division. He also met the president and office bearers of All India SC/ST Association of Pune division.

Railway gate to remain closed

The railway crossing gate no 586 at Ghorpadi-Mundhwa Road will remain closed for vehicular traffic for ten hours from 10 pm on December 27 to 8 am on December 28. The gate will be closed in view of the works undertaken by the railways of over hauling and examination of the level crossing gate.

Man held for theft

Judicial magistrate (first class) GG Itakalkar on Wednesday remanded Suraj Sharma (32) of Indore in police custody till December 31. Police had arrested Sharma in connection with the theft of engineering spare parts worth Rs7.5 lakh. A case in this regard was earlier filed by Sanjay Mehtre (38) of Paud Road, who is the manager of Pirangut Real Tech Auto Engineering located at Lavale Phata. Police sub-inspector Narayan Nanaware said that the suspect, a tempo driver had transported the spare parts of the company from its facility here to Indore. Police said that instead of delivering the consignment at the designated address, Sharma allegedly sold it somewhere else.

Youth electrocuted

Govind Raosaheb Sarode (20), a resident of Dalvinagar in Chinchwad was electrocuted after working on a construction site located in Bijlimgar in Chinchwad December 10. Following the incident, Chinchwad police booked the house owner Dhanraj Chaudhari (65) for neglecting the safety measures at the construction site. According to Chinchwad police, Sarode was working on the roof from where high-voltage overhead wire was passing. Sarode got electrocuted and was rushed to the Sassoon general hospital, where he breathed his last.

Cry for quality footpaths grows louder in city

NGO forms human chain to draw attention of the civic body towards the plight of pedestrians

DNA Correspondent

Members of the social organisation Lokayat on Wednesday formed a human chain at Mahatma Phule Mandai demanding construction of quality footpaths for pedestrians on all the city roads.

The human chain wanted to draw the attention of the civic authorities towards the lack of footpaths in Pune.

Over 60 volunteers from Lokayat and other organisations in the city formed the human chain alongside a footpath on a traffic-congested road close to the market. The volunteers also prevented private vehicles from occupying footpaths, which are a hurdle to pedestrians.

Lokayat founder Neeraj Jain said that there were no footpaths alongside the roads in the city. "The municipal corporation every year spends around Rs800 crore on various road-related works, but only spends around Rs50 crore on footpaths," he said.

A few roads in the city where footpaths have been built are not in a good shape and



■ Over 60 volunteers from Lokayat and other organisations formed the human chain.

most occupied by vendors and others. At other places, vehicles are parked on the footpaths, he said, stressing that an efficient public transport is the only solution to solve the growing traffic problem in the city.

"This will help reduce the number of private vehicles on the city roads and thus prevent blocking of the footpaths," Jain said.

Members of Lokayat also demanded that the civic body make available footpaths alongside all roads for pedestrians.

Jain said that as part of the initiative to

Often, existing footpaths are blocked by pipes, holes, hoardings, and other construction material. Cars are parked on footpaths, and two-wheelers are found driving on them.

—Neeraj Jain, Lokayat founder

create awareness among pedestrians about using footpaths, Lokayat will organise another human chain on the University Road on January 6.

Currently, the entire emphasis of the Pune Municipal Corporation is on building new roads, widening roads and building flyovers to accommodate the increasing number of cars and other private vehicles on Pune's roads.

"It has been said that the number of private vehicles are increasing at the rate of 600 a day that is more than 2 lakh a year.

The growing traffic congestion, accompanied by a near-complete absence of footpaths, has made walking on Pune's roads a most hazardous task for people. People simply have to manoeuvre their way through the traffic, often causing accidents," Jain and other members said.

Nari develops unique ethanol stove-cum-lamp

The stove can also produce power equivalent to a 100 watt bulb

Nilanjana Ghosh Choudhury & Varsha Welankar, Phaltan (Satara)

With an aim to solve two grave problems facing rural India - power and cooking fuel crisis - researchers at the Phaltan-based Nimbar Agricultural Research Institute (Nari) have developed a unique low-concentration ethanol stove that can also produce power equivalent to a 100 watt bulb.

"It all started with a desire to stop the alcohol menace in ru-

ral areas and provide adequate means of cooking fuel when we chanced upon this idea of using alcohol both as a means of lighting lamps and cooking fuel," said Anil K Rajvanshi, director and honorary secretary of Nari.

It took Rajvanshi and his team of researchers and technicians several years before they could develop this single product which could solve both the problems simultaneously.

"First we developed an ethanol lamp and later the cooking stove. But it was only last month that we could accomplish the task of making a lamp-cum-stove which can cook food for at least four persons at one time," Rajvanshi explained.

State-of-the-art centre

Nari is building a state-of-the-art Centre for Sustainable Development at Phaltan.

The estimated cost of the centre will be Rs70 lakh.

The centre would work on a corporate-NGO partnership.

It would promote and work on various researches and studies in agriculture.

Running on 50% ethanol-water mixture, the output of the stove is quite similar to that of kerosene and LPG stoves and has an easy flame control.

"The 50% ethanol-water mixture is less flammable than pure ethanol, making it safe to handle and hence ideal for household cooking purpose. Moreover, it is easy to distil and can be produced in a one-step distillation process (even using solar energy as the driving force)," Rajvanshi said.

The institute has been flooded with offers for commercial production.

"So far, we have been approached by the World Bank and various government and non-government organisations in Africa to use this technology for mass production of the equipment," Rajvanshi said, adding that Nari is almost in the final stages of talks with the



Pradeep Sutar/DNA

Nagarjuna group which has shown a keen interest in producing the lanterns and stoves on a mass scale.

Earlier, the ethanol lamps de-

veloped at Nari have been exported to the US and Europe. The same lanterns are multi-fuel and can even run on diesel and kerosene.

No entry



■ The city police have banned the entry of citizens to the Shivajinagar police headquarters grounds for security reasons. The ground was used by locals for their evening walk and exercise.

Peace march in city today

Tribute will be paid to the martyrs

DNA Correspondent

City-based social organisation Lahuji Shakti Sena will organise a peace march on Friday in order to pay tribute to the martyrs and the citizens who lost their lives in Mumbai terror attack.

Divisional commissioner Nitin Kareer, district collector Chandrakant Dalvi, mayor Rajlaxmi Bhosale and police commissioner Satyapal Singh will participate in the rally. Vice-chancellor of the University of Pune Narendra Jadhav will also be present on the occasion.

A 300 square foot canvas with signatures of the citizens paying tribute to the martyrs will be handed over to the police commissioner.

The members of the organisation also announced that they will tansure heads to offer tribute.

The peace march will start from General Arun Kumar Vaidya Smarak and will conclude at the Hutatma Chowk near the Zilla Parishad.

post terror

Facelift for Shahu's palace

Conservation of Laxmi Vilas palace begins

Mohsin Mulla, Kolhapur

The long-pending renovation and conservation of the Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj's birthplace - Laxmi Vilas Palace - has finally begun.

The works are being carried out by the department of archaeology and museums after the central government sanctioned a sum of Rs1.20 crore. "The works which have been started are related to the conservation and strengthening of the palace," an officer from the department told DNA.

The district administration had sanctioned another Rs8.5-crore plan for conservation of the palace on June 26 this year. Officials, however, said that they have been waiting for the disbursement of funds, which will be used to renovate, strengthen and beautify the palace. A museum depicting Shahu Maharaj's life will also be established in the palace.

Officials said that the district administration placed its demand of funds in the ongoing assembly session in Nagpur. Congress MLA from Karveer constituency Satej Patil, under whose constituency the palace falls, said that the funds from the state are likely to be disbursed in two phases. "The entire works will be completed in two years," he said.

"The department of archaeology and museums has given a no-objection certificate to the plan and works will be carried out without disturbing the original look of the palace"

certificate to the plan and works will be carried out without disturbing the original look of the palace," Patil said.

There was a large scale public uproar in the city last year over the deplorable condition of the palace in Kasba Bawda area in the city where the legendary king and the great social reformer Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj was born on June 26, 1874. He passed away on May 6, 1922.

The palace, which dates back to early 1850s, consists of three interlinked buildings spread over 6 acres of land. Although the palace was initially in the possession of Shahu Maharaj's father, Jaysinghraj Ghatge, Shahu Maharaj later converted it into a rest house for his personal use.

The department of archaeology and museums has given a no-objection certificate to the plan and works will be carried out without disturbing the original look of the palace"

—Satej Patil, Congress MLA, Karveer

After independence of the country, the palace was converted into a government rest house.

In 1974, the birth centenary year of Shahu Maharaj, the state government declared the palace as a protected monument. The palace was handed over to the department of archaeology and museums in 1977.



■ The birthplace of Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj in Kasba Bawda area — Mohsin Mulla, DNA

Music is heavenly, says Kamat

Laments declining popularity of music dramas

Varsha Welankar

"Music is heavenly and there should not be any argument over it. But while deliberating on the diminishing popularity of Marathi sangeet natak (music dramas), I blame the imbalance of music and prose," opined legendary actor-singer Ramdas Kamat recently. Melodious classical touch to the prose could have kept the music dramas alive, he said.

Kamat, the president-elect of the 89th all India drama meet, was speaking at a live interview, conducted by Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Natya Parishad's Pune chapter and Maharashtra Sahitya

Parishad (MSP) Pune, at Madhavrao Patvardhan Hall of MSP on Sunday evening. Kamat was felicitated by veteran actor-director Chit-taranjan Kolhatkar.

Replying to a question asked by Madhavi Vaidya and Ravindra Khare, Kamat, who has witnessed the rise and fall of Marathi music dramas, lamented that when music dramas were popular, majority of new generation singer-actors preferred to copy the legends instead of developing their own style. "They copy Bal Gandharva and are happy with their success," Kamat said adding, the success is unfortunately short-lived.

Sharing his memoirs with audience, Kamat narrated an incident when he first came in contact with Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi. "Pan-

Skipping dinner, I would take lessons from Panditji till midnight and then to rush to the railway station to take the last train for Mumbai.

—Ramdas Kamat, actor-singer



Panditji to travel to Mumbai and Kamat, who was working with Air India, found it difficult to come to Pune every time.

But a true dedicated vocalist, Kamat used to take an evening train from Mumbai to reach Pune by 8 pm. "Skipping dinner, I would take lessons from Panditji till midnight and then to rush to the railway station to take the last train for Mumbai," the singer said. He said this attitude is missing in young singers and performers.

Saluting Pandit Abhisheki for his unforgettable compositions for many music dramas, Kamat said that it was Abhisheki who freed the music dominated dramas and gave it a chance to breathe fresh air. "It was because of him that we witnessed the new era of music dramas," Kamat said.

Officials take stock of damaged lab

DNA Correspondent

The Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) on Wednesday started reviewing the damage to the samples and laboratory after the massive fire on Tuesday.

The review of the damages was started after a meeting between RFSL, Pune officials and state forensic science laboratory, Mumbai on Tuesday night. The laboratory officials did not report any development to the Chaturshringi police station officials while no Panchanama reports were prepared on Wednesday.

A massive fire broke out in the two rooms of 5-A and 5-B located on the ground floor of the laboratory on Aundh Road on Tuesday morning. The two

rooms, general analysis and instrumentation, were housing fuel samples of Nafta and other fuel adulteration cases. The fuel samples were kept as exhibits in the cupboards and other parts of the room.

The laboratory officials and city fire brigade officials, primarily suspect that the fire was caused due to short circuit. In the incident, the three other rooms of the laboratory also sustained damages.

Laboratory officials told DNA that they were tallying the exhibit samples with their available official copies (documents) with the laboratories of inward and outward records. In this situation, the laboratory officials were helpless to find out how many samples were damaged in the incident.