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JALODAY; BOON FOR RESIDENTS

Kumar Elixir Society in Baner has their separate water harvesting project which helps them treat and store lakhs of litres of water in bore wells.

ASHWINI JOSHI DESHPAND

Many societies in Baner and Balewadi grapple with water shortage and continue to call water tankers even after an adequate rainfall recorded. The residents of Kumar Elixir Society in Baner have learnt to face situations with appropriate solutions. This society has a water harvesting project which helps them live comfortably when others are facing the brunt of water crunch. Professor Uday Chipalkatty from the society had taken up the initiative of building the water harvesting project in the society.

How does it work?

Concrete storage has been built in the basement parking which is covered with iron grills. The rain water flows through those grills and accumulates in the concrete chamber. The water is then rooted towards the water purifier with the help of a machine and then stored in the bore well. It is 300 ft deep from the ground level.

Explaining more about the project, Uday Chipalkatty said, "Water was a grave issue in our society. Though last year our basement was flooded with water, there was no water in our houses. I have created this project named

8 lakh litres of water in the bore well. "The vertical travel of water under the soil takes months and years to reach depth of 30 meters and below. There has to be a method to send the water deeper in earth, in a short time," Chipalkatty added.

Resident M B Nambiar said, "Earlier an approximate amount of 70 to 80 thousand rupees was spent on water tankers. Since this project has started, we have not called for any water tankers. The total expenditure was Rs 2 lakhs and it depends on the size and requirement of every society."



SOLUTION: Professor Uday Chipalkatty showing the water harvesting plant

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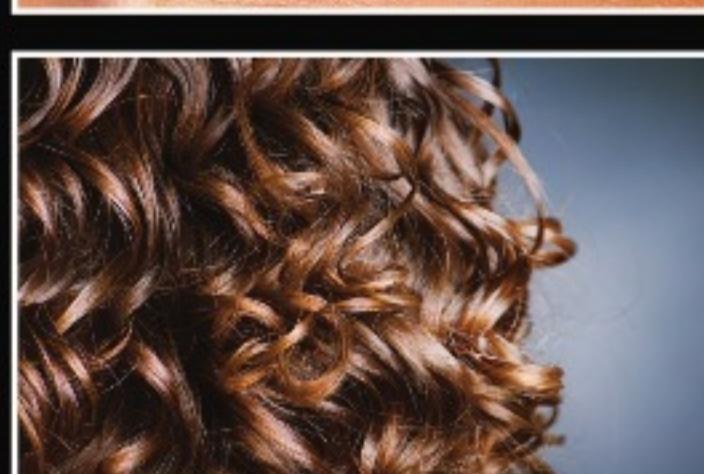
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Cityplus readers forum, a success

IN a first of its kind initiative by Jagran Cityplus to bring its readers of the 10 editions together to review, discuss and meet with the National Head Parvesh Naini and Editor-in-Chief Puja Sethi. This meeting saw readers from all walks of life bring together a forum of new ideas and criticism about the persistent civic problems in their localities. With most of the readers being representatives of the

local residents associations and mohalla committees, they found the exchange invigorating and useful.

Reader Anoop Awasthi, founder of Hadapsar Legal Rights Society and an RTI activist, stressed upon the problems in Hadapsar and keeping with the festival days in mind, he stressed about the chaos created by Ganpati mandals for the traffic on the main road. "It is wrong for the Ganpati

mandals to erect pandals by digging the roads. The PMC had already fined the mandals last year for damaging the roads," he pointed out. Awasthi pointed out that efforts by the residents have helped to reduce the number of mandals by 30 per cent.

M B Nambiar from Baner stated that many of the buildings still have mobile towers erected above the buildings which are a cause for concern. "The PMC should take strict action against such mobile companies and societies," he added.

Deodatta Patankar, resident of Kothrud Residents' Forum highlighted the persisting problem of speed breakers. He mentioned that according to the High Court ruling, no roads should have speed breakers and raised a question about it.

With Ganpati festival, reader from Pimple Saudagar, P S Pimple highlighted the fact about sound pollution and how it was difficult for senior citizens to live in this condition.

Sushil Kumar from NIBM Road also an office bearer of NSCC, pointed out that many of the areas in Pune



Readers Name

Vijay Jagtap : Koregaon Park
Jaikumar Pamnani : Wakad
PS Pimple : Pimple Saudagar
Sushil Kumar : NIBM Road
Mahua Ghosh : NIBM Road
MB Nambiar : Baner
Mahendra Pawar : Baner
Deodatta Patankar : Kothrud
Jayshree Jamdar : Kothrud
Suresh Seth : Kothrud
Anoop Awasthi : Hadapsar
Francis Santa Maria : Hadapsar



were facing a problem with rickshaw drivers. "There are many unauthorized rickshaw stands in my area and I am sure, other residents would also agree that this is a menace for everyone who is commuting by autos." He

suggested that as the media should take up the issue strongly.

All the residents agreed that encroachment was on a rise and a permanent solution was needed.

Defunct signal causes havoc

The dysfunctional traffic signal in front of Modern High School on Pashan Road continues to create enormous problems for the students, parents and the commuters of the city.

CITYPLUS NEWSDESK

THE signal installed in front of Modern High School on Pashan Road is dysfunctional from several months, causing inconvenience to the students and parents visiting the school. Jagran Cityplus had highlighted this issue, but the promises made by the civic body have not been fulfilled. With no zebra crossing at the spot, there is no way to control the speed of vehicles plying on the road. Citizens feel a dire need of a functional signal and a pedestrian crossing at the spot.

Anand Shinde, resident of Pashan said, "That road is dangerous and the students are not safe as the only signal at the spot is also dysfunctional. Who will be held responsible in case of any accident takes place."

A worried parent, Vandana Jape said, "I drop my child everyday to school and see the chaotic situation. I feel the authorities should be more careful at such sensitive locations."

U V Dubal, Traffic PI of Chattrshringi police station said, "I will deploy an officer for a survey of the

"

That road is dangerous and the students are not safe as the only signal at the spot is also dysfunctional. Who will be held responsible in case of any accident takes place.

ANAND SHINDE, RESIDENT



area and accordingly solve every issue. A suggestion of four pedestrian crossings has been sent to the ward office. We are waiting for them to

sanction this project after which we can start the construction."

crossings has been sent to the ward office. We are waiting for them to

Tax benefits demanded

From the past 2 years Rolling Hills Society on Baner Pashan Link road has been waiting to get tax benefit of 5 per cent as they have been successfully running a vermin culture pit and creating manure.



The vermin composting pit at Rolling Hills Society in Baner

ASHWINI JOSHI DESHPANDE

THE Rolling Hills Society on Baner Pashan Link Road is still waiting to get tax exemption from PMC. The vermin culture plant was installed during the construction period. It was then in 2009 that the society got recognition and was given a certificate by Punwale organisation. According to the PMC rules, it is mandatory for societies to install vermin culture plant if society has more than 150 flats. Rolling Hills has 264 flats and they have been treating garbage in their own premises.

PCM also states that if the building has installed vermin culture, rain water harvesting and solar system, the residents will get benefit of 10 per cent on their property tax. If only one of the above is installed, the residents get 5 per cent off on tax. Rolling Hills Society had submitted the paper for tax expectation in 2010 in which they stated that they have only vermin culture plant in their society.

wet garbage is treated in the society itself. We have produced plenty of manure from the waste which we have been providing to many other organizations. We have submitted the paper to get tax exemption on our property which according to the rule book is 5 per cent. But we have received no response from PMC so far."

Another resident, on terms of anonymity said, "Why are such unnecessary rules formed by PMC. We have been persuading PMC for giving us tax exemption but of no use. All this is very demoralising for us."

Official says

I S Inamdar, Deputy Sanitary Inspector of Aundh, said, "There is a provision of tax benefit to the residents running projects like water harvesting, vermin culture or solar system. In case of vermin culture plant, we have to get the confirmation that wet garbage is getting collected by the PMC ghantagadi from the society. If PMC gets confirmation, then immediately we can give them the notice of tax benefit. I will check if the project of the Rolling Hills is successfully working and which I will look into the matter immediately."

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Celebrating the Goddesses

She arrives bedecked in the finest silks and adorned with the best of the sparkling jewels, two days after the lord of knowledge has taken his place in the human world. During Ganesh festival, Gauri known as Ganesha's mother, Parvati or often quoted in mythology as Ganesha's sisters is worshipped for three days. This celebration is known to be as the Upasana of Gauri and Mahalakshmi (Goddess of power and wealth)

CITYPLUS NEWSDESK

Gauri poojan is unique and special for many women in Maharashtra. This is a festival for women to rejoice and enjoy with their friends by playing many of the traditional games like fugadi or zimma. The festival falls in Bhadrapada month of Hindu calendar, is related to the Nakshatra (celestial combination) thus not depending on Tithi (dates).

Gauri Pooja is performed differently according to the regions of Maharashtra. Three main types of performing the Gauri pooja are Mukhavathyachya Gauri (the idol having the face of metal or clay), Khadyachya Gauri (worshipping five stones as Gauri) and Terdyachya Gauri (worshipping the tree/branch of Balsam/Terda as Gauri). Some people worship pictures of Gauri.

The day of Jyeshtha Nakshatra in this month is main day of the festival of the goddess Gauri. The three-day festival has three different events like "Avahana" (welcoming of the goddesses), "Pojanam" (Pooja) and "Visarajana" (farewell) that marks the end of the festival.

In ancient time, a grand procession invariably taken from the well in every village marked the Avahana. "These days, in urban pockets, people in the societies, the procession begins from the front yard in front of the Tulsi plant or Tulsi Vrindavana. Many start the procession from common ground level water tank in place of well," explained Gauri Bidkar.

The women carry Mukhavate (masks) of the Gauri in procession at the doorstep. A welcome Aarti using milk and water is

used to wash their feet to refresh them from their travel fatigue. A person carries the masks thus 'walking' it through out the house.

"In many families, the faces are installed on Kalash (a type of utensil) or on Iron frame filled with the grains; the latter are called "Ubhya Gauri" (goddesses in standing position. In many families Gauri are brought in the

form of small stones picked up from the riverside. The faces are made of brass, copper or earthen as per the tradition that descends in the individual families," Gauri informed.

On second day, a grand treat of sweet delicacy of Puranpoli, vegetables, salads and chutney is served. "In many families there is a custom to prepare seven types of salads, vegetables and chutneys while many others cook all these delicacies as many as 16 in number. The idea is to treat the Gauri

who represent married women back home for a sojourn.

The third day is that of bidding adieu to the goddess. A naivedyam of sweet kheer and puri is made as a mark of leaving the home with sweetness. The mukhavates then are taken away after performing a pooja and aarti.

In few families homemade threads are offered to the goddesses on first day. After immersion, these threads are tied to wrists of the family members as a sign of the blessings.

"Throughout the festival, decoration plays an important role. Lot of sweet and salted dry snacks made during Diwali are made and kept around them. In addition, fruits, flowers are offered to them," Gauri said.

"Avahana is done on Auuradha, Poojan on Jyeshtha and Visarjana on Mul Nakshatra respectively. Gauri is chidhakti of God Shiva and spiritually supposed outward manifestation of his great soul," Deepak Bidkar, amedia person and researcher of Hindu festivals.



Going eco-friendly

Awareness about the harmful impacts of PoP and chemical paints on natural water bodies has increased in the last few years. Several NGOs have come forward and started supplying eco friendly idols made of natural clay and paper mache.

**RENUKA SURYAVANSHI/
SANJEEVANI DIDMISHE**

DEVOTEES are going for eco-friendly Ganesh idols this year because of the awareness created by some NGOs about the harmful impacts of chemicals on water bodies and ecosystem. These NGOs will be supplying eco-friendly idols from the idol makers who resort to the traditional methods of sculpting using eco-friendly material.

Idol makers are going back to the traditional ways of sculpting in clay using turmeric, multani mitti and geroo to paint idols. This has led to increase in demand for the idols made from these eco friendly materials while multiplying the chain of the stores making these idols available.

eCoexist, is one such organisation which has been supplying eco friendly idols from Maharashtra and Karnataka. Manisha Gutman of eCoexist says, "We have joined hands with idol makers. We are happy to include new sculptors into the network, encouraging them and helping them through the challenges of shifting to clay from Plaster of Paris. We have 20 designs this year that are coming from Maharashtra and Karnataka. Omkar Salunke, a fourteen year old boy who we have been helping since last year has produced 74 idols which eCoexist will help him sell. We have set up a scholarship for Omkar's school education and introduced him with Sukant Panigrahy an art director from Bollywood who will mentor him."

eCoexist also has taken up the cause of helping a Ved Pathshala in Satara, Ma-

harashtra by promoting Ganesh chants sung by Vallari Godbole. Sales proceeds go back to support Sri Krishna Yajur Vedashala. Each Ganesh idol that is sold from eCoexist carries a little bundle of seeds of indigenous trees as prasad.

Keeping devotees close to nature

Devotees of Aniruddha Bapu have implemented an innovative concept of transforming their notebooks on which prayers are written into papier-mâché Ganpati idols. The devotees write the prayer of Lord Ram on these notebooks. "Instead of preserving these books, they are put to good use. The idols using papier-mâché, natural gum and chalk powder are made," informed Pramod Agarkar, chief coordinator of the program.

The entire program right from processes like making papier-mâché to colouring the idols is done by the devotees only. There are over 350 people across 18 centers spread over the city that make these idols as part of their service to the God. The program is being run successfully for over a decade, with first year saw only 50 idols; this year they have made 1,400 idols. "Awareness is increasing among people with every passing year. We have made a list of people who buy the idols. We call them and book their idols. This way, we get a rough idea as to how many idols need to be prepared. After all, this is not business but service; all the funds are transferred to the main treasury through which lots of projects of social importance are carried," Agarkar said.

Of dhols, enthusiasm and women power

DHOL pathaks are predominantly ruled by men but women have also started showing interest in this traditional art. An enthusiastic group of women, Manini, have started their own dhol tasha pathak and proved their ability and spirit of endurance. This group was formed last year and has forty middle aged women mostly from Sinhagad Road and other parts of the city. Smita Indapurkar is the founder of this group and runs a day care centre at Sinhagad Road.

The motive behind forming this group was to give an opportunity to women and fulfill their wishes. Smita Indapurkar said, "I started this activity group to help these women gain self confidence. We have women ranging from the age of 18 years to 80 years and more than 250 women are a part of this group."

They performed for the first time in a society mandal named Akhil Vishwa Mitra Mandal for one hour where they all were decked up in the traditional attire. Last year they had a great time performing in various mandals on the last day of Gan-

pati festival.

Smita added, "We plan to perform this year with the same enthusiasm. We are also called by the Government of Maharashtra to perform for the Tribal women community from Thane. On the second day of Ganesh Utsav, we will be going to Thane to perform a sow that will depict the growth of women in every field."

Many difficult situations were faced by Smita while forming this group. The first and foremost was the funds so they all contributed money and bought dhol. The other difficulties faced were physical endurance and the getting support from their respective families. Smita added, "When we started practicing, everything started falling into the right place. It has improved my health as well. Earlier my hemoglobin count was 8 to 9 and now after regular practices, it has increased to 11-12. Though there were differences in our opinions, everything became alright with the passage of time."



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21 students win prizes



MASTERMIND Academy is proud of winning prizes at 8th Regional SIP Abacus and Brain Gym Competition recently held in Pune Pimpri-Chinchwad area. Over 1300 children in the age group of 5 to 14 years took part in the event from all across Pune region. 21 students from Mastermind academy have won the prizes in this regional competition where the contestants have to solve 60 to 80 sums within five minutes time.

The winners from Mastermind Academy, Aundh / Old Sangvi are Sakshi Arjun, Saksham Kamble, Sreeya Nair, Maira Saxena, Praachi Shinde, Om Katole, Shlok Chaware, Aryan Takalkar, Srusti Ingale, Shardul Patil, Dinisha Tiwari, Nishita Borse, Pulkit Kaura, Pratik Mukhargee, Atharva Nadkarni, Shashwat Deep, Mayank Soni,

Soumil Pranjay, Shraddha Deshmukh, Kalyani Pawar, and Karan Pawar. The inauguration was done by Vaishali Bankar, Some celebrities, Company Managing Director Dinesh Victor and Pune SIP Team was present.

Mastermind academy has been running SIP Abacus and Brain Gym class in Aundh / Old Sangvi from last 4 years. We are conducting 'AMAL' Programme for 5 to 7 years kids and SABG Abacus & Brain Gym for age group 7 to 14 years. In our Mastermind Academy above 300 students are taking advantage of these programmes. We have center in Parihar Chowk, Aundh and Shitole Nagar, Old Sangvi. The Franchisee of SIP programme for Aundh / Old Sangvi is Shilpa Somani (9960899444).

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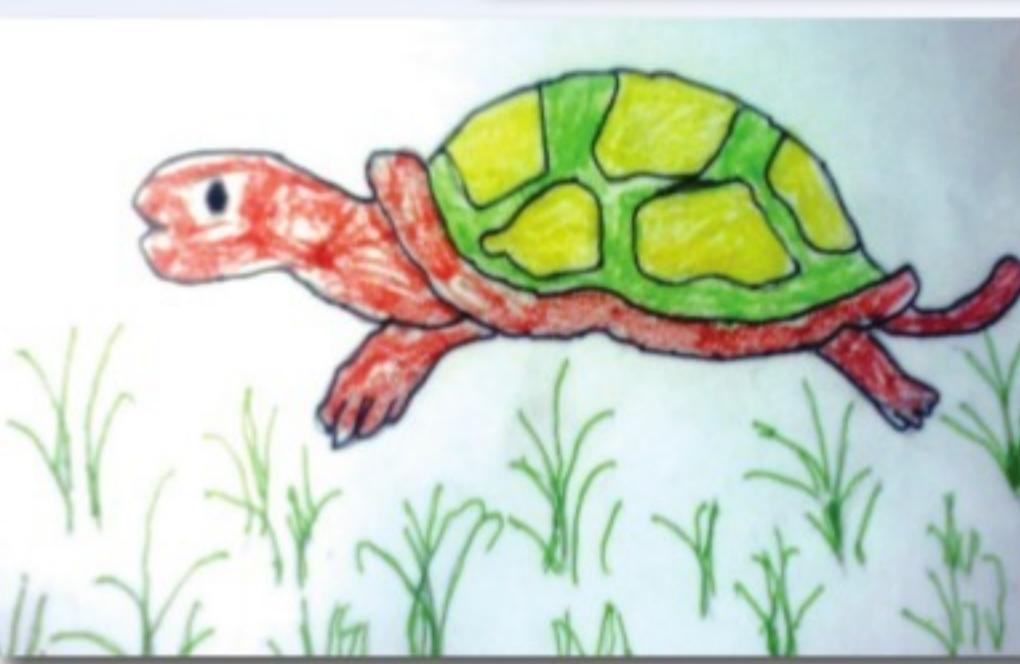
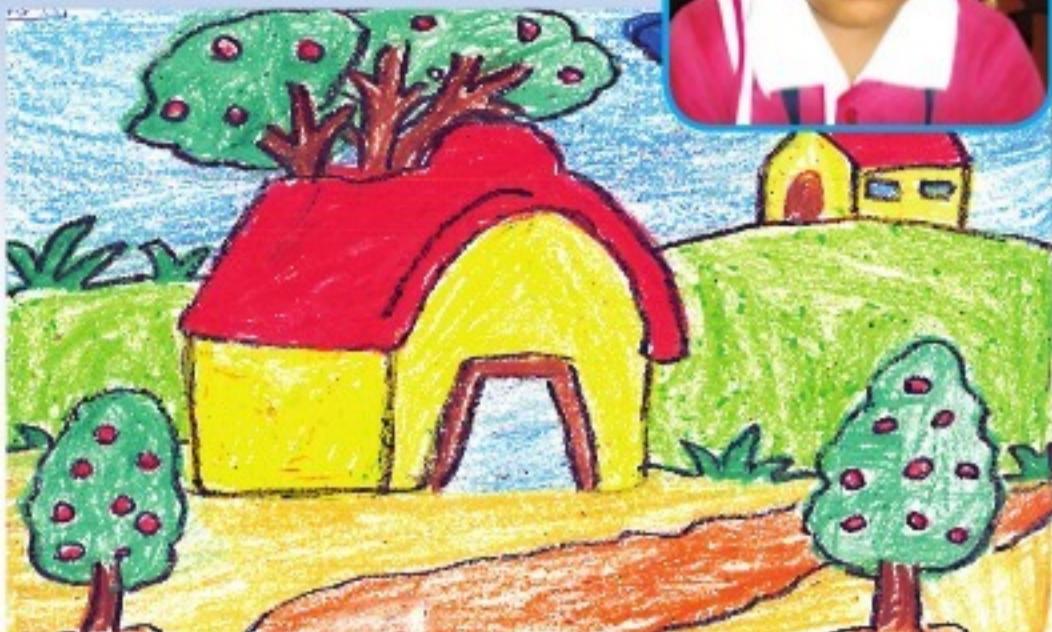
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NEHAA MARYA KATARIA

MOST of the people are aware of the fact that over cooking affects the vitamins and nutrients in the food. But only few know that cooking, boiling and baking reduces food nutrients. Therefore we need to follow right cooking methods to retain the nutritional values in food.

THE COOKING MISTAKES

Many times people do not cover the utensils while cooking food. This increases the cooking time and thus there is nutrient loss. Chief nutritionist Neelanjana Singh from Pushpawati Singhania Research Institute says, "Peeling thick skin of the vegetables leads to the loss of nutrients because most of them are under the skin. Therefore, one should be careful while peeling the skin of the vegetables."

Senior dietitian Mansi Chaudhary from Fortis Healthcare Hospital believes that most common cooking mistakes are because of impatient cooking and some are due to lack of knowledge. She says, "Germs on hands contaminate food. So wash your hands with soap before cooking every time."

MORE TIPS BY DR. CHAUDHARY:

- Adding spices or vegetables to the unheated oil is unhealthy.
- Overcooking the food results in loss of nutrients and taste.
- People generally cook the food on high flame that causes maximum loss of nutrients. Cook the food in low flame as it ensures minimum loss of nutrients.
- Never cook refrigerated items directly. Allow them to reach at a room temperature by

keeping them out before cooking.

- If you think that the food has less amount of water than always boil the water separately and add.

PRESERVING THE NUTRIENTS

With conscious cooking practices one can preserve the nutrients in food. "Do not cut the food in smaller pieces as it leads to more nutrient loss. Therefore cut the food into big pieces. Also as far as possible avoid peeling food and even if one has to peel, then cook with peel and then remove the peel in the cooking process so that the nutrients get assimilated into the dish," says Neelanjana Singh.

Most of the nutrients in vegetables are found in outer skin and leaves. Since vitamins dissolve in water so do not wash the vegetables for long or soak them in water.

Mansi Chaudhary says, "It is primarily the hot water and the heat that leaches nutrients while cooking. Therefore follow the 'lesser the better' rule while cooking. The lesser use of water and quick cooking is the best way to preserve most of the nutrients. Prefer to cook food in pressure cooker, as it cooks quickly with lesser water content."

STORING FOOD

People generally store raw vegetables, fruits and leftovers in refrigerators. There are certain things that one needs to be aware of while storing food in refrigerator.

- Temperature of the refrigerator is important. It should be below five degree celcius and the freezer temperature should be below -15 degree celcius.

► Don't store open cans in fridge. Transfer the food immediately to an air tight container and then store.

► In milk, raw and cooked meats, sea food bacteria multiply rapidly, so they should be stored for shorter period.

- Make sure not to store veggies or food for more than two to four days because after that

the risk of food poisoning increases.

- Do not taste the food to check if it is right. One can't taste, smell or see the bacteria that cause food poisoning. Tasting only a tiny amount can cause serious illness.

Dietician Priya Bharma from Rockland Hospital says, "One must cover the half cut lemon while storing in fridge as it increases in



CITY BUZZ

500 artists at Ugavate Tare



make available the platform for the child artists in the age group 7 to 14 years of age. This year, more than 500 artists have taken part in the program which was held from September 2 to 4.

More than 100 child artists wearing fancy attire staged their performance on first day of the event. The art forms included fusion, Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, and Odissi, folkdance, Western and dances based on film songs.

Many other participants presented instrumental skills on various instruments like tabla, pakhvaj and sugam sangeet to which the audience present gave tremendous response.

Swati Daithankar in her inaugural speech appreciated the efforts taken by Pune Festival to explore the hidden talent in the child artists for past 25 years.

Every year, the program is organized to

Dahi Handi Celebrated

DAHI Handi was celebrated at 'Prasanna Autism Centre'. Autistic children from Prasanna Autism Center participated in the celebration and had a nice time at the celebrations. They were dressed up in colorful dresses and were very excited to



Name	Area	Contact	Specialization
Ayurved & Homeopath			
Dr. Mansi Joshi (B.A.M.S.)	Baner Pashan Link Road	9764087222	Ayurvedic & Panchkarma Consultant
Dr. Shalini Chaudhari, M.D. (Hom.)	Baner Pashan Link Road	9226284352	Homeopathy Consultant
Dr. Pradip Chaudhari M.D. (Ayurved)	Nr. Orchid School, Baner	9975640940	Ayurvedic Consultant & Panchkarma Joint Diseases
Dr. Syam Bhargavan, B.A.M.S., MD (Ayu)	Opp. Food Bazar, Baner	9673992255	Kerala Ayurvedic Treatment & Panchkarma
Dr. Anjali Raju, B.H.M.S.	Baner Pashan Link Road	9371040208	Homeopathy Physician
Naik Homeopathy Clinic	Pan Card Rd. Baner	9552538129	Homeopathy Consultant
Dr. Shilpa Acharya - Dharwadkar	Baner Road, Nr. CCD	9881138587	Homeopathy Consultant
Dr. Jayashree Mahajan	Krishna Chamber Sus road	9423187288	Homeopathy Consultant
Child & Gynaec			
Dr. Sampada Tambolkar MBBS, M.D.(Ped)	Nr.Balaji Temple Sus Rd	9371012680	Child Specialist
Dr. Sagar Lad (DNB, DCH) Fellowship Neonatology (Australia)	Baner-Pashan Link Road	9637817144	Pediatrician & Pediatric, Neonatal Intensivists
Dr. Mangala Wani, M.D., D.G.O., D.Obs, F.R.C.O.G.	Model Colony	020 25677274	Obstetrician, Gynaecologist & Lactation Consultant
DR. MEERA SINGHAL M.B.B.S., M.D. (Pediatrics)	Baner Road	9860090250	Child & New Born Specialist
Cosmetic & Plastic Surgeon			
Dr. Parimal S. Kulkarni (M.B.B.S. M.S., M.C.H. Mum)	Aundh Clinic, Aundh	9730074881	Cosmetic, Laser & Hand Surgeon
Dentist			
Dr. Sanket S. Agarkar (B.D.S, M.D.S)	Parihar chowk, Aundh	9822774803	Orthodontist & Smile Designing
Dr. Aabha Satwik Agarkar (B.D.S, M.D.S)	Parihar chowk, Aundh	9970832326	Prosthodontist & Oral Implantologist, Aesthetic Dentist
Dr. Harish V. Sonar (B.D.S) I.D.A. Member	Baner Road, Nr. Cosmos Bank	9766921103	Dental Implant & Cosmetic Treatment
Dr. Uma Shelke B.D.S.	Nr. Orchid School, Baner	9767920666	All Dental Speciality, Treatment Available
Dr. Chauhan's Dental Care	Nr. Elite Empire, Balewadi	9405612371	Dental Specialist
Dr. Manisha Mane, B.D.S. (Mumbai)	Montvert Arcade Sus Rd	9422082530	Single Sitting Root Canal, Cosmetic Dentistry, Implant
Aesthetic Xcellence Dental Clinic & Implant Centre	Sakal Nagar Baner Road	814988367	Dental Clinic & Implant Centre
Just For Kids	Baner Opp. Big Bazar	9689930396	Exclusive Pediatric Dental & Homeopathy Clinic
Dr. Manju S Rao, B.D.S., M.D.S.	Baner Opp. Cosmos Regency	9890288211	Dental Clinic & Implant Center
Dr. Archana Kandhari (M.D.S) Smileark Dental	Off PanCard Club Rd. Baner	9823260268	Endodontist & Specialist Dentist Care
Dr. Rohan Talathi B.D.S., M.D.S.	Montvert Arcade Sus rd.	9096962680	Pediatric & Preventive Dentist
Aditya's Dental Privilege	Baner Rd, Baner	9552408289	Multispecialty Dental Health & Implant Center
Dr. Siddharth D. Hansalia B.D.S., M.D.S.	Nr. Bhairavee Hotel Baner	9850583933	Orthodontist and Smile Designing
Dr. Avanti S. Hansalia B.D.S., M.D.S.	Nr. Bhairavee Hotel Baner	9822078144	Periodontist And Oral Implantologist
Dr. Balaji Sadaphule (B.D.S.)	Signet Corner, Baner	9922370203	All Dental Speciality And Implant Center
Eye Surgeon			
Dr. Ashwini Misal M.B.B.S.,D.O.M.S.	Montvert Arcade Pashan	25871823	Eye Surgeon
Dr. Rohini Marathe M.B.B.S., D.O.M.S.	Balewadi Phata	9225805346	Eye Surgeon
Dr.Nikhil Labhsetwar M.S. (Ophthal), F.G.O., F.M.R.	Vishwa Multispeciality Baner Rd	9822251333	Eye Surgeon
Physician			
Dr. Ajit Tambolkar, M.D.,Intensive Care Medicine (Australia)	Opp.Food BazarBanerRd	9767029844	Consulting Physician & Diabetologist Cardiologist
Dr. Ojaswini Valsangkar (M.B.B.S)	Baner Pashan Link Rd	9822598869	Family Physician
VISHWA MULTISPECIALITY CLINIC & DIAGNOSTIC			
Dr. Abhay C. Khode M.D. (MED), DNB (CARD)	Baner	9371051710	Family clinic, Multispeciality Consultation & Diagnostic
Dr. Tejal Dravid MD (Medicine) FNB (Critical care)	Nr. CCT, Baner Road	9850152302	Physician and Heart specialist
Dr. N. G. Tambolkar (M.B.B.S.)	Opp. BOM Alankar Soc,SusPashanrd.	9422301781	Physician, Diabetologist& Cardiologist
Express Clinic	Opp. TVS Balewadi Phata	9823338251	Gen. Family Physician
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Skin / Urologist / Physiotherapy & Others			
Dr. Ambarish A. Akre, BPT, MPT(Ortho), MIAP	Baner Pashan Link Road	9970577204	Consultant Physiotherapist
Dr. Hetal Jobanputra M.B.B.S., F.C.P.S., D.N.B. (Skin)	Near CCD, Baner Road	9822496166	Skin Specialist & Cosmetologist
Sachdeva Orthopedic Speciality Clinic	F. C. Road	9923406258	Orthopedic & Joint Replacement Surgery
Dr. Ashwin Porwal's Healing Hands Clinic	Tilak Road, & Dhole Patil Road Camp	8888288884	Piles, Constipation, Fistula, Prolapse, Hernia
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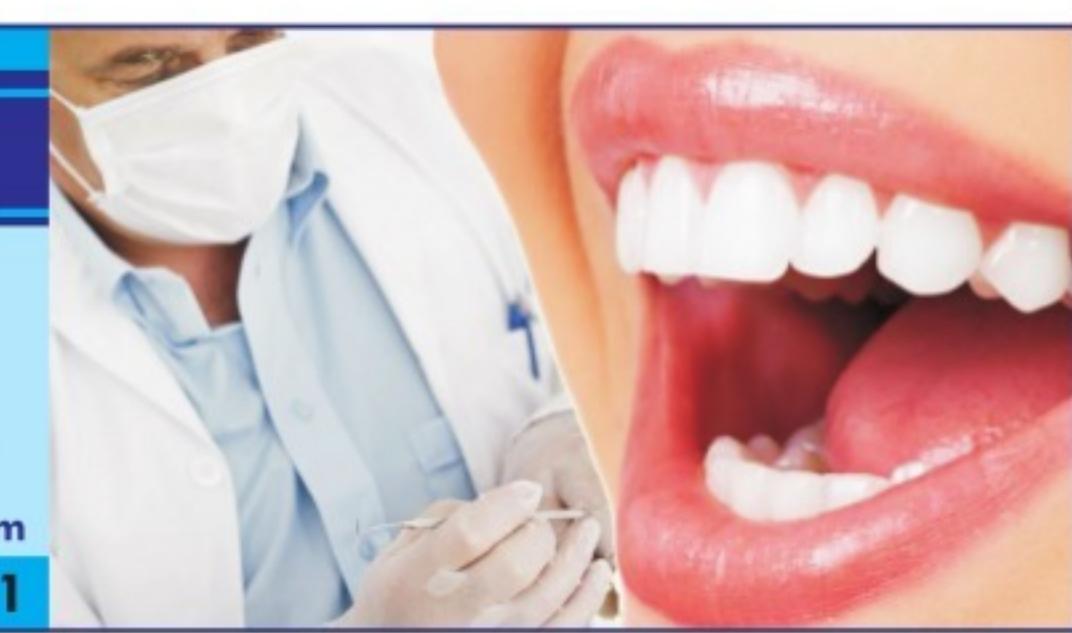
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Catalysts of change

Education is our fundamental right but there are many in our country who cannot afford to go to school due to financial constrain and at times due to our narrow belief system. However, if you think the picture is all gloomy and there is no ray of hope, then you are wrong. There are people in our society who feel for the cause and are happily doing their bit to impart education.



NEHAA MARYA KATARIA

In our country, everybody has the Right to Education but unfortunately huge economic disparity forces many kids to stay out of school and they remain illiterate. As a result, our literacy rate, which is 74.4 per cent is much below the world average literacy rate of 84 per cent. For behind though, still our literacy rate has improved remarkably in the last few years – thanks to those hundreds of individual initiatives by people who feel for the cause and made selfless contribution to impart education to the weaker section of the society in their own way. Nothing has been able to deter the spirit of these motivated individuals who challenged all the hurdles in their way to impart knowledge to the underprivileged section. On this International Literacy Day, September 8, let's know about their initiative to spread education and encourage people to study.

HS Kathpalia thought to improve the life of children living in jhuggies and for this he knew education is important. Thus he spoke to some rickshaw pullers, labourers and maids to send their kids for free education. But unluckily nobody showed interest. This did not mar his spirit and he

played a trick to lure the kids and their parents. "When nobody came to study then I gave them the lure of food and distributed langar in their jhuggies. Then again the next week I prepared langar and sent a message that it will be distributed in the sector. Around 200 people came and then after giving them food I said that from next week the food will be available only if they send their kids to study. Only five kids came to study. This was in 2008 and from that date till now we have grown and taught around 500 kids. We have small schools by the name of Jagriti in different areas," said HS Kathpalia.

Even today kids are provided snacks or biscuits when they come to study. Now many people are associated with HS Kathpalia and they help by offering food to kids.

"This work gives me immense happiness and I don't get tired even if I have to be around the kids to make them study," he says.

Like him there are many people in the society who are helping the underprivileged kids to study. Ranju Minhas is the founder of Shield Citizen Initiative and she distributes books to the needy. She

even gave her maid computer education.

She says, "Once in Shahpur Jat, I saw young kids who could not read or write. This moved me and I felt the urge to do something. It is unfair that just because certain people do not have favourable circumstances they cannot study. The saddest part is that these people are unaware of the schemes that our government have for them."

Even if every educated individual teaches or helps an underprivileged child study, our country can attain 100 per cent literacy rate. Piyush Bhatia from The Lifestyle Philanthropic Work Society says, "We are 16 ladies in this group and we all work for the educational development of children. Pooja Aggarwal initiated this whole idea of forming a group and helping kids study. Now we all have adopted some underprivileged children and we take care

of them. The children are from Class II to XII. We take care of all their needs and have pledged to continue supporting them till the time they complete their education and are established in their career. This work gives us great satisfaction and somewhere we believe that it helps us in our growth as well."

Education is crucial in the growth of our nation. Support education and make the future of this country bright.

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