VOL - 19, ISSUE - 17

YOUR FRIENDLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

23 July - 29 July 2023



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Be it the Indo-Pak war of 1965, 1971 or the Kargil war, Indian soldiers have always fought with exemplary courage, risking their lives time and again to defend their nation. We all have celebrated their victory and successes but how many of us have actually thought about the soldiers who were severely wounded or declared disabled for the rest of their lives? Now is the time to contribute for their welfare.

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YOUR FRIENDLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

23 July - 29 July 2023

LANCE NAIK VIJAY KOKARE

Army NCO from Powai Dies on Duty in Srinagar, Cremated with Military Honours

Gaurav Sharma



27-yr-old LANCE NAIK VIJAY KOKARE hailing from Chaitanya Nagar Old Powai died on duty of heart attack on 20 July, he was posted in Srinagar J&K in an Army Air Defence unit. Hundreds thronged to have a last darshan of the fallen Fauji on Saturday morning at Old Powai

Finally, with military honors, L/Nk Vijay Kokare was cremated at Tagore

Below is the transcription of the phone call that was received from his unit by the father of Lance Naik (L/Nk) VIJAY KOKARE (27-yr-old) non-commissioned officer (NCO) who hailed from Powai and was posted in Srinagar. The phone call announced the sudden death of this youth leaving his unit and family in shock. We pay our solemn tributes to this Fauji!

"L/Nk* Vijay Ramchandra Kokare, age 27, posted in an Army AD unit at Srinagar, fell unconscious while performing his duties today morning, 20 Jul 23. He was immediately evacuated to a nearby MI Room and thereafter to base hospital upon no improvement in his condition. A team of doctors tried to resuscitate the jawan at the hospital but could not retrieve him and the individual was declared dead at approx 1300hrs. The exact cause of the death is being ascertained by medical authority. L/Nk Vijay Kokare hailed from Satara, Maharashtra and his parents are residing in Powai, Mumbai. - XXAD Regiment!" [* Lance Naik is a non-commissioned officer in Indian Army]

He had a humble upbringing in the bustling city. He received his early education at Gyanmandir High School and later attended Vikas College for his junior college studies. His father is a taxi driver and inspired by him his sister is also preparing for civil services examination.

In April 2016, at a young age of 21, Vijay's dreams of serving the country took him to the Indian Army. He was recruited in the Army Air Defence and he was posted in the rank of Lance Naik (L/Nk). The

news of his selection had filled the hearts of his family and friends with immense

His mortal remains were brought back to Powai with utmost respect, and hundredsof people, including friends, family, and citizens from across Mumbai, gathered to pay their last respects to the fallen Fauji. The last darshan of the proud Fauji was held at Chaitanya Nagar Bhaji Mandai area of Powai, where emotions overflowed, and tears were shed for the loss the nation had endured.

Nagar Crematorium in Vikhroli on 22 July 2023. The

Tricolor draped over his coffin symbolized the service he rendered for the motherland. His memory will forever inspire countless others to serve the nation with the same dedication and

While speaking to 'Planet Powai' his father, Ramchandra Kokare stated that, 'My son, Vijay, was not only a brave soldier but also a truly good and kind soul. He touched the lives of many through his acts of social work and selfless service to the community. His compassion knew no bounds, and he always took the initiative to guide and motivate the children in our area. His legacy will forever inspire others to follow the path of kindness and service to humanity.'



The fallen Fauji from Powai gets military honours for his last journey

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NGO 'MUMBAI SMILES'

'Education on Wheels' Project Transforming Lives of Underprivileged Children in Powai

Gaurav Sharma



e recently had the opportunity to meet Suchita Tulaskar & Vipul Khankal, Field Coordinator of Mumbai Smiles' innovative 'Education on Wheels' activity under the Smiling Bus Project. This unique initiative aims to improve the lifestyle of underprivileged children residing in Powai's Jai Bhim Nagar

By providing educational resources and support, Mumbai Smiles is making a significant impact on the lives of the community's most vulnerable members. With a total of 110 beneficiaries in Powai alone, the program focuses on enhancing the learning capabilities of these children, while also conducting monthly meetings for parents to track progress and gather feedback.

The Education on Wheels bus visits Powai every Monday, and in addition to Powai, it covers four other areas throughout the week, including Chheda Nagar, Wadala Road, Bhandup, and Vikhroli. Moreover, a pilot project is currently underway in select schools, mirroring the success of the existing

program. With a total of 500 beneficiaries in the Library on Wheels initiative, Mumbai Smiles is dedicated to creating a positive change in the lives of these deserving children.

Mumbai Smiles is an NGO founded in 2005 by renowned journalist and writer, Jaume Sanllorente. The organization's primary focus lies in combating poverty and advocating for human rights in some of Asia's most underprivileged areas, including India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Their projects are driven by the objective of eradicating human trafficking while facilitating transformative actions through improved access to education, healthcare, and socioeconomic development.

By empowering communities, Mumbai Smiles aims to foster sustainable changes. To date, over 10,000 individuals have benefited from their initiatives, with an additional 22,000 receiving assistance during emergency

One of Mumbai Smiles'

noteworthy endeavors is the Smiling Bus project, which was inaugurated in October 2019. This project aims to reach out to children from homeless families who face extreme vulnerability in their daily lives. While some of these children do not attend school, others experience high absenteeism rates.

Many are engaged in menial activities such as begging or collecting scrap metal to support their families. These children often spend extended periods alone, exposed to dangers and exploitation. The Smiling Bus was designed to provide them with a safer and ĥealthier life, along with opportunities for the future.

In the bustling city of Mumbai, where over 40,000 children are living on the streets, the Smiling Bus project has made a tremendous impact. By offering educational support and access to healthcare, this initiative strives to improve the lives of these vulnerable children.

Since its inception in 2019, the Smiling Bus has facilitated life skills empowerment activities to improve children's knowledge and develop values and views, by taking care of their health through organizing regular multi- purpose medical check-up camps and providing mental health support as well as legal assistance in legal cases of domestic violence and family counseling. While the project faced temporary interruptions due to the pandemic, it also adapted to spread awareness about COVID-19 prevention and safety.

Excitingly, the Smiling Bus has now added a new activity to its route the "Library on Wheels." This mobile library initiative seeks to enhance the reading and writing skills of approximately 500 boys and girls residing in five underprivileged areas of Mumbai.

39-year-old Auto-Rickshaw Driver Kills Self by Jumping into Powai Lake



body of a male was found near Powai Lake around 8 am on Monday. The deceased has been identified as Chandrashekhar Haldankar, 39, an autorickshaw driver of Asalfa, Ghatkopar. The body has been sent to Rajawadi Hospital in Ghatkopar for medical

The deceased's identity was established on the basis of a driving licence, mobile phone and other items found on him," said the police official.

"The reason for the suicide was not yet known," added the police official.

We did not find any suicide note, but no foul play is suspected. On the basis of primary information, an Accidental Death Report (ADR) was registered and further investigation was underway," he added.

According to his relatives, he had been missing for three days. However, his relatives did not file a complaint at any police station. No marks were found on his body and other details will be revealed after autopsy is conducted. As per sources, the deceased was an alcoholic and suffering from depression.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVTS

email - planetpowai@gmail.com

5. Small bush, right of hut missing 4. Colour of the sunflower's centre changed

> 3. Colour of cloud changed 2. Image in cat's paw changed

1. Centre cloud is missing

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S-O-S CALL TO BMC 'S' WARD

About-to-fall Coconut Tree at Galleria LAKERS Take Steps Towards Rural Healthcare Hiranandani, an Accident Hazard



The about-to-fall coconut tree at Galleria Hiranandani resting precariouly on bricks. Need to be cut immediately to prevent any

 $oxed{H}$ iranandani Gardens is indeed green and full of trees planted by the builder in housing societies, commercial buildings and streets.

But, in Galleria Shopping Mall below the parking lot is an about-to-fall coconut tree. It has been precariously resting on bricks supporting it from falling down. It is lying in this position for many months Staff Reporter

now, waiting to fall on its own and maybe cause an

We spoke to Capt Randhawa, secretary of Galleria Shopping Mall and he told PP, "Have written many emails and letters to BMC but no action. Even told Hiranandani Builders for help to relocate the tree."

Cutting trees is a punishable offence under the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Prevention of Trees Act,

Any person who without permission being granted or deemed to have been granted to fell any tree, fells any such tree or causes it to be felled, shall be liable to such penalty not exceeding one thousand rupees as the [Tree Officer] empowered under section 3 of the Tree Act may, after holding an inquiry.

In case one wants to cut a tree in any housing or commercial society, one has to lodge a formal complaint through the BMC mobile app, website, in writing or by calling 1916.

It is time that BMC takes express action by removing or relocating this about-tofall coconut tree at Galleria Powai.

Illegal Bark Harvesting from Avenue Trees in Hiranandani

nknown scrupulous people have been harvesting tree bark in Hiranandani Gardens. These two men (in photo) were seen scraping the bark of a tree on an avenue tree between Hakone and Powai Plaza at Central Avenue. An alert citizen informed the police as it amounts to damaging trees under

A resident Anurag Srivastava informs, "Lack of bark will allow bacteria to infect the tree and make it weak and collapse. It's an old technique used by the

hoarding mafia. Hiranandani gardening department needs to be informed they know-how to put some medicines etc that prevent the above.

From a medicinal perspective, tree barks contain many useful constituents, including tannins, alkaloids and aromatic

Bark has a number of important



functions, it is protective, as the outer parts of bark provide a physical barrier for a tree against damage (from insects, rodents, herbivores, birds, humans

Under the provisions of Maharashtra Trees rotection and Conservation Act, it is an offence to cut down or damage any tree without the permission of local forest and tree authorities. If anybody is caught, that person can be imprisoned for seven days or one year and may also have to pay a penalty between ₹1,000 and ₹5,000, depending on the

nature of the violation.

TRIVIA - The humble ASPIRIN is a modern miracle medicine and one of the most widely used drugs in the world. It's extracted from the bark of the Willow Tree, which was recommended for the treatment of aches and pains by the ancient Egyptians in the Ebers Papyrus.

ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI LAKERS

with The Bike Ambulance Project Aafreen lyer



n a groundbreaking initiative aimed at saving lives in remote regions of India, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Lakers (RCML) has taken upon the initiative to support the remote rural healthcare via bike ambulances.

Spearheaded by the visionary medical director, Eakta Menon, this project holds tremendous importance in providing timely medical assistance where it is needed the most. Each Bike Ambulance comes at a cost of ₹1,50,000, and the club welcomes individuals to step forward and contribute to this life-saving cause.

The RCML

encourages

individuals to donate

any amount they

desire, the project

aims to expand its

reach throughout

India, facilitated by

collaboration with

Districts Governors,

encompassing over

the 38 Rotary

3000 clubs.

The initial plan is to launch 1000 numbers of 150cc bikes that would be utilized as bike ambulances in rural areas, the bikes shall be handed over to the hospitals and the local Rotary Clubs in rural areas will help us drive the initiative.

The core focus of this initiative is to bridge the gap in medical services in remote villages and tribal areas, where access to prompt transportation can make all the difference between life and death. Eakta Menon passionately believes that every life saved through this endeavour is

a resounding success, reinforcing the importance of collective efforts in bringing about positive change.

The RCML extends heartfelt appreciation to Laker Neeraj Gupta for generously sponsoring one of the Bike Ambulances. Such contributions play a significant role in bringing this life-saving mission to fruition.

The Club distributed 4 Bike Ambulances

1. Alonde Vikramghad Dist, Palghar: This Motor Bike Ambulance will be dedicated to serving 4143 tribals and will be under the direct management of Rotary

Club of Mumbai Lakers.

- 2. Salumber Cluster Area in 9 Panchayats: In association with Rotary Club of Udaipur Meera, this Motor Bike Ambulance will cater to the healthcare needs of approximately 45,000 individuals, providing essential healthcare services.
- 3. Kumbhalgarh Block, Rajsamand District: Supported by both Rotary Club of Mumbai Lakers and Rotary Club of Udaipur Meera, this Motor Bike Ambulance will offer critical emergency support to patients in the region, which

houses a population of a round 125,000. Additionally, it aligns with ARTH's maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH) services, delivering essential outpatient and delivery services.

4. Village Bajhera, District Bharatpur, Rajasthan: In association with Apna Ghar and Rotary Club of Jaipur Gurukul, this Bike Ambulance will extend much-needed healthcare support to the community in this region.

The R C M L encourages individuals to donate any amount they desire, the project aims to expand its reach

throughout India, facilitated by collaboration with the 38 Rotary Districts Governors, encompassing over 3000

This unique and ambitious project, led by the RCML, showcases their unwavering dedication to making a profound impact on communities across India. Together, let us unite in this noble pursuit of saving lives and fostering a healthier, stronger

To support and donate contact Eakta Menon -9892730671 or log on to www.rotary-lakers.org

Mumbai Bazaar Planet Powai™ Your Friendly Community Newspaper

23 July - 29 July 2023

Rotary Powai Installs New President and Board for DIVINE INTERVENTION the Incredible Year 23-24 Staff Correspondent



otary Club of Bombay Powai kicked off the Kotary Incredible year with a wellattended installation ceremony at the Meluha Hotel as incoming President- Dr Kamalini Pathak took over from outgoing President-Kalpana Jaishankar. District Governor RID 3141- Arun Bhargava, Lt Governor Rajan Dua, Assistant Governor Dhananjay Patwardhan, District Secretary Sneh Malhotra and other dignitaries graced the

In his address, DG Arun Bhargava commended Rotary Powai for its flagship event- the Powai Fest and said that the Rotary District was looking forward to replicating similar community events in other suburbs. In 2023, Rotary Powai has

successfully introduced three new events - the Rota-science science exhibition to encourage innovationwhich had participation from over 60 schools, the Powai Comedy Fundraiser and the Rotary Global Leadership Summit – a seminar with top-of-the-line industry leaders, distinguished academic leaders, renowned economists as panellists that attracted nearly 150 delegates.

The theme for the 2023-2024 Rotary Year is 'Create Hope in the World'. The theme calls on Rotarians to inspire and to restore hope through the projects they champion. President Kamalini, who has earned the epithet of 'Aarey Queen' for her hands-on service during the pandemic, has worked extensively on projects for maternal and new-

born health, vocational skills for transgenders and community health camps. In her Presidential year, she plans to focus on the critical needs of the community with emphasis on education and health care.

Rotary Powai has already held ten health camps this month for the underprivileged and unorganized sector workers in the Powai area. Overall, seventy-five such camps will be held over the year. Also on the anvil, is a plan to provide digital infrastructure to rural schools and to provide sustainable income opportunities to fifty farmers in Wada district. Rotary Powai will also be sponsoring two Rotary Community Corp at Aarey Colony and Gautam Nagar to look into the needs of the community.

As part of new generation service, Rotary Powai sponsors five Interact Clubs in schools in Powai area and President Kamalini plans to add two more this year. There are two Rotaract Clubs for youth under the aegis of the Club. The Club will soon be conducting the Knowledge Quest Quiz competition with participation from over 40 schools. . President Kamalini is personally hosting an exchange student from Poland this year. President Kamalini is confident that the Club will be a harbinger of change in the community - inspiring the youth and uplifting the underprivileged.

Abandoned Newborn Baby Found in Garbage Bin Near Powai, Rescued and Hospitalised

newborn baby A newborn Saz weighing around 1.4 kg was found abandoned in a garbage bin near Powai on Monday, June 12.

An alert citizen, who noticed the baby, informed the Powai police. The baby was rushed to the civic-run Rajawadi Hospital in Ghatkopar for medical treatment and was admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit as per an official.

It is such a divine intervention that - on one hand an unknown couple abandons a creation of life and on the other hand - a Samaritan noticed this creation, alerted the police and, then humanity saved a human life and is nurturing it!

"When the police brought the infant to the hospital, he was shivering with cold. His body temperature had also dropped due to the cold. However, the infant was given timely and appropriate treatment under the guidance of the hospital's Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) experts. Also, adequate care was taken to ensure that the infant does not get any infection," said a BMC official.

Recovering in the hospital, the baby presently weighing 2.2 kg, is being fed milk through Simyl MCT and Human Milk Bank. The Human Milk Bank at Rajawadi Hospital is the first ever human milk bank in a municipal suburban hospital.

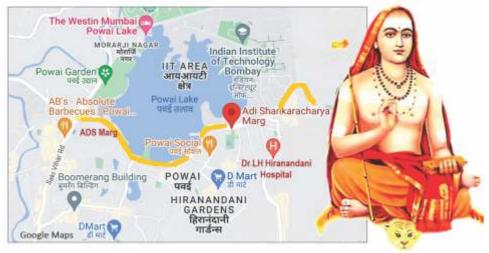
According to the officials, Archana Pawar, a female police constable of the Powai Police Nirbhaya Squad, is continuously stationed at the hospital and is taking care of the babv.

Rajawadi hospital authority has provided information on the incident of finding the baby to the concerned police station and based on that the police administration is conducting further investigation.

KNOW YOUR POWAI

A Road Named - ADI SHANKARACHARYA MARG - in Powai; Who is this Person?

Special Correspondent



iving in Powai, one would have heard of ADI SHANKARACHARYA MARG (ADS Marg). It is the road running along the Powai Lake from L&T to IIT and upto LBS Marg which is part of Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Road (JVLR).

This road has been named after India's most prominent 'Sanatana' spiritual leader – Adi Shankaracharya - who walked Bharat Varsh 2500 years ago. He was a shining spiritual light who illuminated the land of Bharat with teachings that are still as impactful as ever.

Who is this person? Adi Shankaracharya was a Vedic scholar and teacher (acharya), known for expounding the philosophy of Advaita Vedanta. His works present a harmonizing reading of

the sastras, with liberating knowledge of the self at its core, synthesizing the Advaita Vedanta teachings of his time.

He is known for his systematic reviews and commentaries (Bhasyas) on ancient Indian texts. Shankara's masterpiece of commentary is the Brahmasutrabhasya (literally, commentary on Brahma Sutra), a fundamental text of the Vedanta school of Hinduism.

He was a prodigal child and an extraordinary scholar with almost superhuman capabilities. At the age of two, he could fluently speak and write Sanskrit. At the age of four, he could recite all the Vedas, and at the age of twelve, he took 'sanyas' and left his home. Even at such a young age, he gathered disciples and started walking throughout the country to re-establish the spiritual sciences.

In his short span of 32 years, he established four 'Mathas' (A Hindu monastic religious establishment) -- Sri Sringeri Sharada Peetam in Chikmaglur in Karnataka; *Jyotir Matha* in the Garhwal region in Uttarakhand; Kalika Matha in Dwarka in Gujarat; Govardhana Matha in Puri in Odisha.

By the age of thirty-two, he left his body, but in those twenty years from the age of twelve to thirty-two, he crisscrossed India a few times, north to south, east to west, from Kerala right up to Badrinath and back, travelling everywhere in all directions. The man must have been a really brisk walker to do so much walking in a short span of life, and in between he produced thousands of pages of literature.

His death was a mysterious one, according to the hagiographies related to the monastery of Kanchi, Adi Sankara died at Kanchi. But according to other hagiographies, supported by Sringeri math, Adi Shankara died at Kedarnath in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, a Hindu pilgrimage site in the Himalayas. Texts say that he was last seen by his disciples behind the Kedarnath Temple, walking in the Himalayas until he was not traced. Some texts locate his death in alternate locations such as Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu) and somewhere in the state of Kerala too.

Transporter Arrested with Contraband Tobacco Products Worth Eight

Lakhs in Powai

In a significant operation against the transportation of illegal tobacco products, the Powai police successfully apprehended a 27-year-old individual named Sameer Khan. The suspect was caught red-handed while transporting prohibited goods in a tempo with number MH04LE6075 with an estimated worth eight lakhs rupees.

The action took place during a routine patrolling operation when the Powai police received a tip-off about the illegal Tobacco transportation from Powai to Sakinaka. Acting swiftly upon the information, the police promptly intercepted the tempo within the Powai limits, during the late hours of the night.

Upon inspection of the vehicle, authorities discovered a significant quantity of tobacco products stashed inside. The cumulative value of the seized goods was estimated to be around Eight Lakhs. It was evident that these products were being transported



means of poison, Section 269 for negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life, Section 272 for adulteration of food or drink intended for sale, Section

for the purpose of illegal sale and distribution.

The Powai police have charged Sameer Khan under various sections of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, along with additional sections of the Indian Penal Code. The charges include Section 328 for causing hurt by

manufacturing, sale and distribution of gutka and pan masala, by getting both these items classified as food to come under the purview of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 (FSSA). The ban came into force in July 2012 and was successfully upheld by the Bombay High Court.

273 for sale of noxious food or drink, and Section 188 for

disobedience to an order duly promulgated by a public

The Government of Maharashtra banned

The successful operation was led by PSI Pandurang Gaikwad, under the supervision of Senior PI Budhhant Swant, and received support from Police Inspector Supriya Patil. The tempo was intercepted and the arrest was made at 7:30 PM, booking this illegal transportation of Tobacco from Powai to Sakinaka.

The swift and decisive action by the Powai police in apprehending the illegal Tobacco transporter has sent a strong message against such unlawful activities. It serves as a reminder of the authorities' commitment to uphold the law and ensure the safety and well-being of the public.

MUSINGS

An Accidental Engineer

Late SK Saksena



can safely be branded as an accidental

engineer. There were teachers,

lawyers, doctors in our family, without

a single engineer in sight. I loved

Physics, Maths and reading. These are my

abiding passions even today. While studying Physics at Allahabad University, I

took English Literature as an optional

subject. Fresh from Cambridge, Amitabh

Bachchan's father, Dr Harivansh Rai Bachchan taught us English. Shakespeare

in the classroom, and evenings reciting his Hindi Magnum Opus, 'Madhushala' to us

students in the hostel, was a pretty

the road. When in town, he just used to

stroll into our hostel. He loved mingling

with youngsters and wanting to know

their aspirations. Allahabad of yore was a

wonderful place to grow up - a centre of

learning, home to famous poets, artists,

classical singers, and a spawning ground

for future ICS officers. It was home to the

famous Nehrus, Katjus, Wanchoos and

other nationalist leaders. Allahabad High

Court's judgments set precedents for

others. Sooner or later, they ended up

Nehruji's Anand Bhawan was across

common routine.

Eventually, with a scholarship in hand I was heading for MIT to further pursue Physics. Booking on a P&O liner was made from Bombay to Southampton and then by another liner to New York. But fate had willed it otherwise. Just before sailing, my right leg froze and would ease up only during warmer part of day. My desperate parents tried allopathy, homeopathy, naturopathy and every other pathy, including palmistry and treatment by a tantric. Through the winding narrows lanes of Chandni Chowk, my parents took me to an ancient Hakim Saheb, in Dariba Kalan, onetime home to Mirza Ghalib, also.

Holland Hall, run by the American Presbyterian Mission. Engineering

was on no one's mind!

Puffing his hookah, half reclining on the charpoy, he felt my pulse - while I was scrutinising this long bearded half-dead man. No wonder, his Unani medicine did

Thirteen academic months later my affliction almost disappeared, as mysteriously as it had come. But a remnant of that knot still pains and a slight limp is its permanent signature. Already, by then admissions were over and my parents had no clue about what to do with me. One evening when some friends were at home, one of them said, 'Arey Bhai, apna Lakhsminarayan is in Pilani. Ask him for advice!' Hours later when the trunk call came through, Principal, Lakshminarayan said, that I must be bundled off that very night on a slow train to Loharu. Wait all night at a Sardarji's Dhaba and wait for a trundling State Transport bus to Pilani. Some students would reach the college on camel back. My mother started wailing at the overnight change of scenario, and my philosopher father had no clue, what engineering was?

Next morning, I presented myself to Principal, as how all campus fondly called

this wonderful man. He admitted me for mechanical engineering. After three months I realized that this was not my cup of tea. I talked to a kindly professor. In high school, I had tinkered with electronic components, bought from the 'Kabari Bazaar' behind Jama Masjid. It started with a small crystal set, fitted in a soap box, to all sorts of amplifiers and radios.

The professor pulled some strings and I switched to electrical engineering, with hardly any electronics or semiconductor theory in the curriculum. That is where I met my senior Mr SGV Ramani. By then, Mr AC Talwani had graduated. It was in Mr Ramani's company that I tasted my first masala dosa. He was frequently, and I think rightly offended, whenever we north Indians ordered 'upma' by calling it 'namkeen halwa'. Tomato Ketchup was ordered by us as 'Lal Tamatar Ki Chatni'! Sheer blasphemy, wasn't it?

Degree in hand, life was pretty smooth sailing onwards. When the World War II started, operations of German, Austrian and Italian, and later Japanese companies were seized as enemy properties. The then directors, like Messrs Kloss, Wilhelm, Swatek and others were interned in camps near Dehra Dun. They passed their time brewing beer and selling it across the barbed wire! One, Heinrich Harrer escaped all the way to Tibet and became the confidant and adviser to the Dalai Lama. His book, 'Seven Years in Tibet' was a best seller for years.

After cease of hostilities, India was the first country to release the enemy properties. So, we had Protos Engineering Co. representing many of these German companies, including Siemens. An uncle in the government informed me that these companies were now recruiting and I should apply. I applied to a few. One letter came very promptly, from Protos (Siemens Division). I was to meet one George Wilhem at the stately Maiden Hotel, which was just five minutes' walk from our Sri Ram Road home in Delhi. With a lot of trepidation, I braced myself and rang the bell. His old-world charm made me feel immensely at ease. He flipped through my papers. I was waiting to be asked some tough technical

But he asked about my hobbies. He was very impressed with my awards for photography, writings and winning the 303-Rifle shooting contest in NCC. Within ten days I got my appointment letter to join at Stadium House, Veer Nariman Road, Bombay. The salary was Rs 350 pm My Mama was so excited. He pulled out his cycle and went to buy sweets from Kashmiri Gate. He went from house to house, delivering the sweets, not failing to announce, that his nephew was going to earn more than an IAS officer. Mr Wilhelm called Mr AD Shah to his room and handed me to him, my first boss! I cannot forget my lunch on my first day in Siemens, when Mr Nilkant who had returned recently from Germany, took me out for a silver vegetarian thali at Purohit's across road. The taste of the thali still lingers on!

On 1st April 1957, Siemens came into its own, by switching from being Siemens Division of Protos - to be formally registered as Siemens Engineering and Manufacturing Co of India. All of us working in Stadium House were present for the ceremony. Dr Siemens, nephew of the founder and the then Chairman of the parent company, came down to Bombay for the ceremony.

I was sent on a reconnaissance trip to Aurangabad, Ajanta and Ellora to work out a detailed time schedule for his trip there, including a VIP reception by the Tourism Dept. As an amateur botanist, formalities apart, his key interest was in the flowering trees of India. I bought a few books to familiarise myself with the flowering trees. Just as well, as he asked me a lot about trees of India.



The author was a 90-yrold engineer, who retired as Director and Member of the Board, of German MNC - Siemens. Reading, writing, music and photography were his hobbies. He was the founder trustee of a NGO for promoting performing arts, and another one for

the compensatory education, nutrition and vocational guidance of slum children. He left for his heavenly abode on 8th July 2023 at his home in Powai during sleep.

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23 July - 29 July 2023

Mumbai-Pune Expressway's Lonavla Bypass Bridge to Bring Two **Cities Closer**



nce the 'missing link' comprising a cable-stayed bridge, a viaduct and two tunnels, which will cut distance and travel time is ready by December 2023 or early 2024, motorists will be able to bypass the ghats, not worry about falling boulders during the monsoon while driving past steep slopes and go at up to 120 kmph on the Mumbai-Pune expressway.

Even as the monsoon is playing hindrance, engineers at Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) are hopeful of completing the challenging 'missing link' project on the Mumbai-Pune expressway by December 2023 or early 2024.

Having completed 34 per cent work on the 640-metre-long cable-stayed bridge — the most challenging part of the project — the engineers, working at a height of 100 metres above the Tiger Valley in Lonavala-Khandala region, say the 13-km-long project is set to achieve a major milestone this month when another key part — the viaduct — will undergo its first load testing on the Punebound corridor.

The monsoon has posed the biggest challenge to engineers working on the cable-stayed bridge with heavy rain, which occurs almost daily, hampering work. This portion falls in the ghat section, which sees 50- to 65-mm rain daily, even more, during the monsoon.

The Project

On Mumbai side, the ₹6,600-crore 'missing link' starts at Khopoli, bypasses the expressway through an 840-metreslong viaduct (60 metres height), enters a 1.75-km-long tunnel, then goes over the 640-metres-long cable-stayed bridge (100 ft height) and thereafter enters another 8.9-km-long tunnel. A part of the tunnel lies 170 feet below the ground with the Lonavala lake above it, emerging near the Sinhgad Institute.

While the distance between these two end points — Khopoli and Sinhgad Institute — along the existing Mumbai-Pune expressway is 19 km, comprising steep slopes and the ghat section putting restriction on speed limit of vehicles, the 'missing link' will cut the distance by 5.7 km, saving 20-30 minutes of commute time. More importantly, motorists won't have to drive through the ghats and would be able to drive faster at up to 120

Engineering Feat

The cable-stayed bridge is designed to withstand windspeeds up to 70 metres per second or 252 kmph. Usually carried out for aircraft and large bridge designs, before the design of the cable-stayed bridge was finalised, a prototype was subjected to wind tunnel testing at Force Institute in

According to engineers, it is important that the bridge is able to sustain extreme windspeeds with several low pressures, often developing into full-blown cyclones — Cyclone Nisarga, Cyclone Tauktae and Cyclone Biparjoy to name a few — forming in the Arabian Sea in recent

Cable-stayed Bridge

The bridge's maximum span length is 305 metres (mid-span), while the length of the end-spans on either side is 165 metres. The maximum height of the pylons — tower-type structures that support the cables — is 170 metres.

After work started, this is the second monsoon. In the previous monsoon, foundation work was taken up.

Currently, pylon construction is under way and have reached an average height of 65 metres. There are four pylons. Once the pylons reach a height of 100 metres then construction of the deck slab will begin. For laymen, deck slab is the surface that supports moving traffic.

Patil explained that once a 9-metre length of the deck slab is ready, it will be tied with cables to the pylon. As the midspan length is 305 metres, cables will be tied to the deck slab at 152 metres from

either side.

The MSRDC is targeting to begin work on deck slabs and complete at least one pylon out of four by August this year. While viaduct work is 70 per cent complete, span load test will be done in July on the Pune-bound corridor.

There are two viaducts, one for the Pune-bound corridor and other for the Mumbai-bound corridor. The Pune corridor is nearly complete. Work on the Mumbai-bound corridor is also on track.

Officials said the MSRDC also gathered information on the bridge collapse over River Ganga in Bhagalpur in Bihar and measures have been adopted to not repeat the mistakes at the construction stage on the cable-stayed bridge.

Deadline

MILESTONES

By September this year, the MSRDC plans to finish substantial work and only work on the cable-stayed bridge will remain, to be finished as early as possible.

It's All About Giving

Dr Rajeev Dhir

Life is all about giving and taking But this adage has now taken a beating This change is not a new awakening But has been in the making

> Selfishness galore Is now to the fore Relationships bent Beyond a mend Mates gone astray Due to betray

Family as a unit broken Now reduced to a mere token Is it then surprising

That marriages are in a gridlock And children are born out of wedlock Still worse Elderly parents are cast aside Packed off to old age homes or by the wayside

And when it comes to giving

Should it be only to places of worship To make peace with our lordship While the poor and the downtrodden Continue to be forgotten

2,500 ₹6,600 cr Deadline 120 kmph project cost workers 2023/early 2024 speed limit Valvan lake Khopoli 19 KM Tunnel 2 Current distance 1.75 km Lonavala -0 Lonavala lake 650m cable-stayed bridge 13 km (34% complete) Sinhgad Institute Tunnel 1 -(partly passes at 170 ft 'MISSING LINK' below Lonavaia lake) BENEFITS 840 m 25 minutes less travel time viaduct (70% complete) 10.65 KM total length of 6 km by which it will tunnels (90% ready) cut travel distance 5.7LAKHtrucktrips made Motorists can bypass to remove tunnel debris ghat section & steep slopes

Although the entire project deadline is December 2023, in case of delay, officials say they would be able to complete it in early 2024.

Excavation work for the two tunnels covering a length of over 10.5 km has been completed and finishing work including surfacing and plumbing is in progress. The underground tunnel of the missing link' is Asia's widest road tunnel with a width of 23.75 metres and will have eight lanes (4+4 lanes) along with 2.5-metre-wide emergency lanes on either side.



Rapper Badshah Connects with Young Is Antarctica a Desert? YES. Find Out Why **Dharavi Artists**



he kids of Dharavi are a lucky lot, Badshah, a renowned rapper, is involved in the 'Dharavi Dream Project', which develops emerging talent. The

rapper's relationship came about as a result of an NGO that was established to find and support Dharavi talent by composer AR Rahman, director Shekhar Kapur, and late co-founder of a multi-platform media firm, Samir

According to Badshah, when he jammed with aspiring musicians who were just looking to learn, it gave him the impression that he was in a studio. The level of talent they have will astound you. Some of them are undiscovered Original Generation

Artists. I'm looking forward to educating kids in as many areas as I can, even those that go outside the craft of music production, since in this day and age, you have to hustle in a variety of ways.



Then most people imagine Antarctica, they think of a cold continent covered in ice. And they're right. In fact, 90% of the world's freshwater is locked up in Antarctica's permanent ice sheet. By contrast, the idea of the desert usually conjures images of rippled sand dunes and the shimmering heat of the Sahara. So how is it possible that a cold, ice-covered continent like Antarctica is a desert?

While most deserts only cover part of a continent, the Antarctic Polar Desert spans the whole of Antarctica. It snows

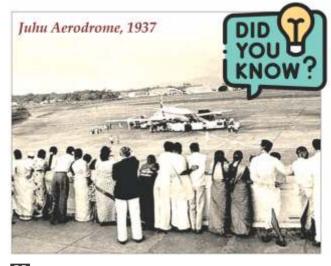
Antarctic Peninsula, but in the McMurdo Dry Valleys in East Antarctica, it never rains. In fact, scientists believe that in some parts of the Dry Valleys it hasn't snowed or rained for 14 million years. So, although the coast sees some precipitation, the average across the continent is low enough to classify all of Antarctica as a polar desert.

Approximately 98% of the Antarctic continent is covered by a permanent ice

sheet. This beautiful and wild expanse of ice covers an incredible 14 million km² (5.4 million square miles). That's about the same area as the United States and Mexico combined.

At its deepest, Antarctica's ice is 4.5km (2.7 miles) thick. If it melted, global sea levels would rise about 60 m (200 ft). That's a lot of ice. And due to Antarctica's desert conditions, it has taken an impressive 45 million years for it to grow to its current thickness.

Mumbai's Juhu Aerodrome was the **First Airport in India**

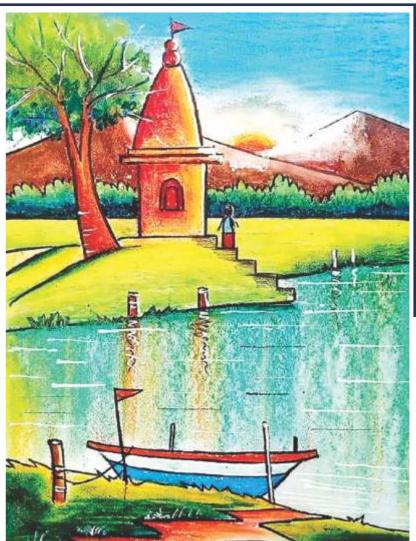


he JUHU Aerodrome opened in 1928 as the then Vile Parle Flying Club. JRD Tata, the father of civil aviation in India made India's maiden voyage from Juhu airport to Drigh Road airstrip, Karachi, via Ahmedabad, on 15 October 1932.

Juhu served as the city's primary airport during and up to World War II. Commercial operations were moved to the Santacruz airport in 1948, now Chatrapati Shivaji International Airport.

Today, the aerodrome handles all helicopter operations out of Mumbai. It also hosts the Bombay Flying Club and

several executive and light aircraft and



Aditya Kasba





answer on pg 2.

26th JULY 1999

Kargil Vijay Diwas: A Day to Remember and Pay Homage to our Soldiers

Satabdi Mazumdar



• The agenda behind this intrusion was to cut off Ladakh from Kashmir and starve Siachen Valley residents to compel India to accept Pakistan's terms.

• Nearly 30,000 troops were moved into the Kargil area along with the special forces to secure Kargil under Operation Vijay against Pakistan.

• The Indian Air Force successfully d e s t r o y e d Pakistan's illegal posts and on July . 26, India evićted

the Pakistani troops from its

territory.

This year marks the 24th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. On the occasion of this day, the Indian Army flags off the motorbike expedition. Various events & programs are organized where the families of martyrs are invited & welcomed to the memorial service. **Cultural performances** take place on patriotic

Rargil Vijay Diwas or Kargil Victory Day is celebrated every year on July 26 to commemorate the historic victory of India over Pakistan in the Kargil War in 1999. Also, to pay homage to the soldiers who lost their lives serving the country during the war.

During this war, the Indian Army successfully evicted Pakistani intruders who illegally captured Tiger Hill and other posts on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC) as a part of "Operation Vijay".

This armed conflict lasted for more than 60 days at Kargil in Ladakh and the country lost more than 500 soldiers. Every year, this historic day is observed to pay a tribute to those Indian soldiers who were martyred in the war initiated by Pakistan.

Kargil War Date

In 2023, India is celebrating its 24th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas. The day is also known as Kargil War or Kargil conflict. On this day in 1999, Indian soldiers fought against the Pakistani intruders who had crossed the Line of Control (LOC) into Indian territory. The war went on from May 8 to July 26 in 1999 when India successfully completed Operation Vijay.

Here are some important facts about 26 July Kargil Vijay Diwas thatyou should know:

- Initially, Pakistan denied its involvement in the war and blamed Kashmiri militants. But later, the statement by Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif and then Pakistan Army Chief of Army Staff Pervez Musharraf indicated their involvement.
- Pakistan secretly sent its forces into the Indian territories under "Operation Badr" and captured an area in Kargil.

Kargil War History

Let's take you back to the story behind Kargil Vijay Diwas. Since the Indo-Pak war in 1971, there have been several armed engagements. In the 1990s, there was rising tension between India & Pakistan about the militant activities in Kashmir. Also, nuclear tests were carried out by both nations in 1998. To address the issue, both India & Pakistan signed the Lahore Declaration in February 1999 to defuse the situation.

In the meanwhile, Pakistani armed forces were covertly sent to India's side of LOC under Operation Badr. Indian troops weren't aware of the scale of the Pakistani intrusion. As a response, the Indian Army sent 30,000 troops for the nearly twomonth-long battle under Operation

Result of the Kargil War

Initially, Pakistan captured several strategic points. But in the second phase of the war, India successfully occupied strategic transportation routes and identified the points of invasion with the help of local shepherds.

In the final phase, the Indian army concluded the war in the last week of July with the help of the Indian Air Force. On 26 July 1999, the Indian Army declared its victory over Pakistani intruders. But the cost of the victory was high.

How Many Died In Kargil War?

The official death count on the Indian side was 527, whereas, on the Pakistani side, the death count was nearly between 357 and 453. India lost one of the brave soldiers, Captain Vikram Batra, during the Kargil war. Kargil Vijay Diwas honors Kargil's superheroes. He was awarded the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest gallantry honor after his death. Recently, a movie named Shershaah was also released based on the life of Vikram Batra.

Kargil Vijay Diwas 2023: Celebrations

This year marks the 24th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. On the occasion of this day, the Indian Army flags off the motorbike expedition. Various events & programs are organized where the families of martyrs are invited & welcomed to the memorial service. Cultural performances take place on patriotic songs.

To celebrate the 26 July Special Day in India, the Prime Minister pays tribute to all the brave sons of India who fought bravely during the Kargil war at Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate every year. The Mirage 2000 aircraft played an important role in the battles against Pakistani forces on the icy heights of Kargil.

There is also a Kargil War Memorial in Dras on the foothills of Tololing Hill. It was built by the Indian Army to honor the martyred soldiers. As a fact, the gateway of the memorial has a poem named 'Pushp Kii Abhilasha' carved on it along with the names of the martyrs on the Memorial Wall.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is a symbol of pride, bravery and glory of the Indian Army. Let's pay our tributes to the Indian Armed Forces who defend our $so vereign \, republic \, and \, the \, Tricolor.$

नीरज नहीं मरा करता है

गोपालदास नीरज

छुप छुप अश्रु बहाने वालों मोती व्यर्थ लुटाने वालों कुछ सपनों के मर जाने से जीवन नहीं मरा करता है

सपना क्या है नयन सेज पर सोया हुआ आंख का पानी, गीली उमर बनाने वालों डूबे बिना नहाने वालों कुछ पानी के बह जाने से सावन नहीं मरा करता है

कुछ भी मिटता नहीं यहां पर केवल जिल्द बदलती पोथी चाल बदलकर जाने वालों वस्त्र बदलकर आने वालों

चांद खिलौने के खोने से बचपन नहीं मरा करता है माला बिखर गई तो क्या है

खुद ही हल हो गई समस्या आंसू अगर नीलाम हुए तो क्या समझो पूरी हुई तपस्या फटी कमीज खिलाने वालों रुठे दिवस बुलाने वालों पतझड़ लाख करें कोशिश पर उपवन नहीं मरा करता है

लाखों बार गगरिया फूटी शिकन न आई पर पनघट पर लाखों बार कश्तियां डूबी चहल पहल वही है तट पर तम की उम्र बढ़ाने वालों सब पर धूल उड़ाने वालों कुछ मुखड़ों नाराजगी से, दर्पण नहीं मरा करता है

गीतकार के मर जाने से गीत नहीं मरा करता है सिर्फ शरीर के जल जाने से "नीरज" नहीं मरा करता है

Gopaldas Saxena (pen name "Neeraj") was an Indian poet and author of Hindi literature. He gave lyrics to many famous Bollywood songs like: Subah Na Aai Sham Na Aai; Sapne Jhare Phool Se: Ae Bhai Zara Dekh Ke Chalo

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