

Cyclists demand dedicated tracks

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MULUND: Young cyclists, the Mulund Parent's Teacher Association (PTA) and students from various schools in Mulund put an appeal for dedicated cycle tracks and cycle parking areas in the Suburb. They want to encourage people to opt for cycle.

The group involving Yagnesh Katira, who started the group cycle-e-thon, to fight global warming, Yogesh (his father), the president of the Mulund PTA and four students of three Mulund Schools, Laxmibai English Medium School and Junior College Navghar Road, Mulund (East), Vidyaben Gardi School, Mulund (West) and J. J. Academy, Mulund (West).

The appeal came in after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) decided (on September 8) to come up with dedicated cycle tracks all over the city.

"We made an appeal to the BMC to construct dedicated lanes for cycles and also allot us separate parking spaces in the suburb. Many parents do not want their children to ride a cycle, courtesy the traffic, but if we get such dedicated lanes



Yagnesh (right) and other school students have made an appeal for separate parking areas.

it will be much safer," said Yagnesh.

Meena Kumar Chedda, a resident of 90 Feet Road Mulund (E) said, "As a parent I would feel much at ease if my daughter has to ride on a dedicated cycle track rather than weeding her way through the traffic. Using a cycle will also help curb pollution."

Chedda's daughter rides her

cycle to the Sau Laxmibai School every day.

Yagnesh added that if this were implemented, the vehicular traffic on the roads would decrease, simultaneously decreasing the risk of global warming.

Yagnesh through his NGO cycle-e-thon started a signature campaign in August last year and submitted it to the

corporation.

"Parking lots for cycles is another appeal that we made. I used to ride a cycle to work but it was stolen a few days ago. So if we have parking lots only for cycles such incidents won't take place," he added.

The group presented newspaper cuttings and articles from various magazines showing what other countries have done

to fight global warming in a meeting with the Additional Municipal Commissioner, R. A. Rajeev on September 16.

Yogesh said, "We congratulated Rajeev for taking such a decision. Survey of the feasibility of localised cycle lanes in Mumbai is a very good thought."

He added, "We have put forth various such suggestions before the additional municipal commissioner and he has promised to do something constructive about it."

The group has suggested that the lanes be constructed on all the roads inside the suburbs however highways like Eastern Express Highway or the LBS Marg could be spared.

"They can construct the tracks parallel to the footpaths on J. N. Road, P. K. Road, M. G. Road, N. S. Road, S. L. Road, Gaushtala Road and other such city roads," said Yagnesh.

Speaking about his decision, Rajeev said, "We have hired a consulting firm to survey Mumbai and design neighbourhood cycling tracks."

He added, "Based on the reports and suggestions of the firm we will decide about the lanes. The Mulund group has also extended their support to the decision."



Thane District Level School Games Swimming Competition saw 40 schools battling it out for the top spots.

Swimming gala

Saraswati Vidyamandir, Naupada won the water-polo team championship; will now participate in the Mumbai Division meet for state qualifier

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THANE: Saraswati Vidyamandir, Naupada won the water-polo team championship at Thane District Level School Games Swimming Competition. The competition was held at Raheja Complex, Teen-Haat Naka on September 15.

Saraswati Vidyamandir beat St John School, Thane (West) to win the water-polo championship. Saraswati Vidyamandir will represent Thane at the Mumbai Division meet for state qualifier later this month.

On the other hand, Hirandani School, Thane (West) claimed double crown in 4x100m team relay events. The girl's teams from the school won relay

events in both under-14 and under-19 segments.

Vasant Vihar School, Thane (West) won the 4x100m relay in the under-14 boys' group as St John School dominated under-19 boys' relay to qualify for the zonal fixture.

The district meet was conducted in 120 categories and 40 schools from Thane district participated in it. International swimmer Saurabh Sangvekar created hat-trick in his quest to consolidate his place in the district team for Mumbai Zonal meet.

Saurabh topped in all the three events he participated. He won gold in 200m, 400m and 800m freestyle events. "It was good to win all three titles. I have to push hard to live upto the expectations in zonal show,"

said Saurabh, a student of Saraswati Secondary School, Naupada.

Ashwathy Nair from Smt. Sulochanadevi Singhania School, Thane (West), exhibited her swimming prowess to win a few medals. Her best came in from 50m backstroke in under-14 girls' group.

"The real test is waiting ahead at the zonal meet for which I have to give my best," said Ashwathy.

Jaya Naik made a clean sweep in the under-17 boys' group. He claimed gold in 50m freestyle, 50m breaststroke and 50m backstroke. Abraham George clinched double gold in 50m butterfly and 400m freestyle.

In the girls' group Nandini Naik won the 50m freestyle and 50m breaststroke events.

Silver-haired but with hearts of gold



The pre-schoolers at Eurokids had a good time with their grandparents on September 11.

A special day for grandparents

MULUND: On September 11, pre-schoolers from Eurokids in Mulund (West) celebrated a day thanking their grandparents.

The school also invited senior citizens from the Justice H K Chainani Elder's Home, Mulund (East) to be a part of the event.

The event was organised with the intention to help children learn and express their feelings towards others.

The school was given a rustic look with 3D cut-outs of green pastures, bullock carts and stalls.

College warms up to solar energy

VPM Polytechnic College in collaboration with MEDA inaugurated a Renewable Energy Park on September 12.

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THANE: Vidya Prasarak Mandal Polytechnic College (VPM), Thane inaugurated a Renewable Energy Park in the college campus on September 12.

The energy park is built in collaboration with the Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA).

"The sole objective of having the energy park is to make students and people aware of the renewable sources of energy and its benefits," said D.K. Nayak, principal of VPM's Polytechnic College.

He added, "It is the need of the hour. Solar energy can be a good alternative during crisis."

Solar equipments like lantern, street light system, water pump, water heater, colour TV, hybrid system, box type solar cooker are on display at the park.

Amrita Nayak, a second year science student of Bhandolkar College, Thane said, "I had heard about solar equipments but did not know how they work. I always thought we can use only inverters or generators during power cuts, but now I know that



the solar equipments can be of great use at such times."

The solar items in the park are working models and will help students understand the technical concept easily.

Nisha Vader, in-charge of Energy Park and head of electrical power system department said, "The energy park will help every one understand that it's high time we make use of the solar energy which is easily available."

Project officer MEDA, Shivajirao Bhonsale said, "It is an effort to promote the renewable source of energy."



(Above) Students take a look at the solar lantern. The equipments in the park are working models for proper understanding.

RENEWABLE SOURCE OF ENERGY

The energy generated from sunlight, wind, rain, tides and geothermal heat are renewable. They are inexhaustible (naturally replenished).

USES OF SOLAR LANTERN AND STREET LIGHTS

- In remote areas.
- Lighting tents.
- At night schools.
- As table lamps.
- As street lights.
- Lighting yards and compounds.

WHAT IS MEDA?

Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA) is registered under Society Act - 1860. The organisation actually started functioning from July 1986. MEDA works towards the development of renewable energy and facilitate energy conservation in the state.

Tables turn in favour of Thane

Table tennis players from Thane district won the maximum number of titles at the 3rd Maharashtra State Ranking Table Tennis Championship in Nagpur

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THANE: Thane district dominated the 3rd Maharashtra State Ranking Table Tennis Championship. Thane paddlers bagged most of the crowns and continue to rule the state circuit.

The state tournament was held on September 13 in Nagpur.

International paddler and railway employee Prajakta Tipale got the better of another Thane player and second seed Priti Mokashi to win the women's singles title.

Despite trailing in the first three sets, Prajakta bounced back in the remainders to post a convincing victory over Priti. She won the match 4-3.

"Initial three sets were tough. But I did not give up and returned on track with renewed spirit to lead the remaining four sets," said Prajakta. She is a trainee of Boosters Club, Thane and is trained by renowned coach Shailaja Gohad.

Zubin Taraporewala of Boosters Club was also in fantastic form to win the men's singles title. Zubin defeated top seed and match favourite Eric Fernandes of Mumbai 4-3. But later in the tournament Zubin lost to Dheraj Rai of Mumbai in the youth boys' singles. Dheraj won the match 4-3.



International player Prajakta Tipale won the women's singles title by defeating Priti Mokashi 4-3.

seed Akash Dangle brought home junior boys' singles title in a one sided game against 5th seed Shubhankar Ramvikar of Pune. He won the title clash 4-2.

"It was smooth sailing. I practiced relentlessly for the match and hope to continue the winning spirit in the coming state ranking events," said Akash (16) of Officers' Club Thane.

Top seed Vedika Garg beat sixth seed Vrushali Prasad 5-2 to win junior girls' singles crown.

Teenaged Urvi Walve made a hat-trick in the state this year by claiming the cadet girls' title for the third consecutive time. She opened her state account from first state meet at Mumbai,

which was followed by second state at Dombivli. This time she outplayed Thane girl Shruti Amrute to win the cadet girls' singles crown.

On the other hand Sidhesh Pande was unlucky and had to be content with the runners-up title in cadet boys' single group.

In the cadet boys' doubles section, Akshay Ghais and Tejas Kamble beat their Thane counterparts Sidhesh Pande and Omkar Ghag to pocket the title.

Thane got another title when fifth seed Sanika Divekar defeated second seed Rutuja Khopkar in the sub-junior girls' singles segment.

Local aquatic stars make it to the senior nationals

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THANE: A bunch of aquatic champs from Thane have attracted attention from state selectors for the upcoming senior nationals.

They were selected when they outnumbered their counterparts at the Senior State Open Aquatic Championship at Wardha on September 4 and 5.

The swimmers who have made it to state team include Pronoy Adhikari, Saurabh Sangvekar, Jyotsna Pansare, Lekha Kamath, Surabhi Tipre and Poorva Shetye.

The forthcoming nationals are scheduled to be held at Trivandrum from October 5 to 10. Leading Thane district, Pronoy stunned the swimming fraternity by bagging the maximum number of medals in the entire tournament. He won two gold, two bronze and a silver.

His gold exploits came from 200m freestyle and 200m butterfly events. He went on to win bronze in 400m and 800m freestyle. The silver medal came from the 100m-butterfly event.

Jyotsna stepped into the medal bracket to qualify for the nationals when she claimed three silver and a bronze medal. She won silver in 50m and 100m backstrokes and 50m butterfly to book national berth. She won bronze in the 200m backstroke event.

Another swimmer Poorva was also fortunate enough to carve out a place in the state team. She won gold in 200m-breast stroke and silver in 50m backstroke. According to the selection criterion, only gold and silver medallists are eligible to compete at the national level. International swimmer Lekha went through tough time but came out trumps. Lekha set two new meet records in 100m butterfly and 100m freestyle by clocking 1:09.53 seconds and 1:03.28 seconds respectively. She won her third gold in 50m butterfly and silver in 50m freestyle.

The youngest among the local swimmers Saurabh, won gold in the 1500m freestyle and silver in the 800m freestyle events. "I am busy preparing for the class 10 exams. However, I am trying to follow a proper timetable to participate in my debut senior nationals," said Saurabh.

International swimmer Surabhi won silver in 100m and 1500m freestyle.

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The karate kids



The students of the Arya Cambridge International School won six gold, five silver and two bronze medals.

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THANE: The students of the Arya Cambridge International School, Thane (West) ruled at the 20th National World Funakoshi Shotokan Karate Championship. The schools won six gold, five silver and two bronze medals at the event held on September 13.

The tournament was organised by World Funakoshi Shotokan Karate organisation and held at Priyadarshini Sports Complex, Mulund (West).

"The competition had two types of Karate moves, Kumite (fighting) and Kata (defence). This was the first time our students participated in Kumite,"

said Salim Khan, coach.

The achievement though came after a few broken bones and bruises. Nandini Roy (9), who bagged a gold for her excellent kicks hurt an eye and sprained her left hand.

"I was in Kumite bout and got a tough competition. However I remembered what my mother says, according to her my kick can hurt any target. Thus without losing hope I bounced back and kicked my opponent for 11 times in a row thus winning the game," she said.

Khan was happy that his students performed well among 700 participants from all over the country. He said, "Fourteen students

THE WINNERS

- Gold- Isha Dohiphode, Suraj Pillai, Gauri Pillai, Nandini Roy, Rohit P and Atharva Vibhute.
- Silver- Dev Pahuja, Prathamesh Iyer, Nikita Sharma, Swachandrika Rudra, Dhruven Shettigar.
- Bronze- Aryan Vyas, Pratik Patil.

participated from our school, out of which 13 won prizes." The students who won gold will now take part in the 3rd Western India National Karate Championship to be held in Jaipur on October 21.