

## SCMS Sympulse completes 10 years



— Aprajita Chandelkar —

The five-day festival, Sympulse, organised by Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies (SCMS) kicked off its tenth edition on January 15. Held at the Viman Nagar Campus, Sympulse is a yearly convergence of marketing, fashion and the performing arts that sees contestants pour in from all across the country.

Students of SCMC were active participants in the sports and performing arts events this year. Ace dancers Somakshi Joshi (SY) and Sayali Gatne (TY) secured second position in the Talent hunt organized as a part of the fest.

SCMC's group dance team stunned viewers with an energetic performance which led to their qualification into the final round of the competition. In the sports leg, Shivansh Gupta (TY) made it to the semi finals of TT. The girls futsal team secured 3rd place and the boys volleyball team made it to second position.

The fest has not ended yet, Sympulse's final event, Sundowner, has been shifted from January 19 to 27, due to a planned visit by Czech PM Andrej Babiš to the Symbiosis Viman Nagar campus.

## Food trucks, Viman's new phenomenon

— Guneet K. Bedi —

Food trucks are no recent addition to Pune, but a group of them coming together to form an outdoor food court was unheard of until the idea made its debut in Viman Nagar a year or two ago. An array of tables, a resolute line of trucks, and the twinkle of fairy lights at dusk, form Pune's Food Truck Zone near Town Square.

The zone is currently a collective of six trucks—Rasoi Katta, The Eggs Factor, Pimp My Wok, Recess Time, TWB (The Wheel Barrow) and The Truck With No Name. Business for this group begins in the afternoon, but the highest footfall, not surprisingly, is on the weekends, between Friday and Sunday evening.

Although the opening time of these trucks is not uniform, food gets sold out and shutters are pulled down an hour before midnight everyday. The average price of a combo meal—consisting of a beverage, starter and main—ranges between Rs. 210 to Rs. 500 across these trucks. While these prices have been kept synonymous to student budgets, the trucks also attract their fare share of families and bachelors—Viman Nagar houses a significant young working population, and it's a demographic that does not shy away from trying new foods. Although regulars are rare, the trucks attest that it is these groups who give them the most business. Raju has been cooking and serving food for The Eggs Factor since March 2018. He has seen the truck move to different spots in Viman



PHOTO / SEAN ANTONY

Despite being budget-friendly, this zone doesn't seem to attract many Symbiosis students

Nagar, and says that trucks stay or leave (in the Zone) according to the profit they mint. The Wheel Barrow has been in Viman Nagar for a year, having moved from their original location in Koregaon Park. "We had regulars there, but only passers-by visit us casually in Viman Nagar", says Faisal Khan, from The Wheel Barrow (TWB).

Sunil Bhati, a young professional, is a regular customer at The Eggs Factor. He says that he dines at the truck at least once a week on an average. And after trying out every truck's offering, he has zeroed in on Anda Pav Bhaji as his favourite dish. "At this truck, you'll get an entirely different taste compared to the others," he said, polishing off the last

morsel. "I never thought about hygiene, only taste. If I care about hygiene, I'll go to a fine dining restaurant," explains Bhati. However, he was quick to add that the trucks do maintain good hygiene.

Despite a variety of foods being available in one location, the Food Truck Zone remains relatively unexplored by Symbiosis students. Instead, The Cheese Truck, a food truck parked near Symbiosis' Viman Nagar campus every evening, remains the top pick for most customers in the area. While families and techies may frequent the former, most students are yet to shift their allegiance from The Cheese Truck's cult favourite—deliciously indulgent—toasted, cheesy 'Stoner' sandwiches.

## Pune's gig culture: Bottlenecks and evolution

The amateur music scene in the state's cultural capital is evolving, but it faces unique challenges

— Viraj Gaur —

Ever so often, university students in Pune pick up their guitars and flock to the nearest pub or café to participate in open mics or paid gigs. This subculture has been part of Pune for several years now, and emerged naturally since Pune has a comfortable mix of two factors—confident students willing to display their talents, and a surplus of new eateries in constant need of higher footfall.

Amol Jacob, a student of mass communication and an experienced performer, says that students do these gigs for one of three reasons—payment, audience and self-satisfaction. "Personally, I do it for self-satisfaction. Doing it for the audience limits your choices. But if you're doing it for the latter, despite the variety, you need to be really good at your craft; you have to make them sing along with you."

Kadambari Zokarkar, another student who is active in the local circuit, says that she started performing after promoters from a few pubs contacted her. She usually gets INR 2000 for a half hour performance, and is part of a network with many such promoters. Several of these individuals are college students themselves.

Organisations like Speak Pune or the Airplane Poetry Movement have also gained a foothold in performing arts, and work to provide a platform for young,



College students at an open mic event at The Bawa cafe

PHOTO / RUSHALI RASTOGI

budding performers. They even conduct various workshops on music and slam poetry in these spaces.

While cities like Bengaluru and Mumbai have evolved a prolific band culture, Pune is stuck at casual gigs in local cafes. Aspiring musicians lack supportive platforms that could take their acts further. To complicate matters, these smaller venues aren't willing to pay higher prices, or buy the more expensive equipment that accompany full-fledged bands. They opt for softer ambient music, for which amateur musicians with acoustic guitars generally suffice. For DJs and electronic dance music producers,

though, Pune is a promising arena. Since the number of dance clubs have ballooned, the genre is a higher paying product with brighter prospects. Pune is a fast-growing city with a faster-growing young population, hence, it's no surprise that it hosts some of the largest music festivals in the subcontinent. Several big acts like the popularband Indian Ocean have started performing here regularly, while amateur bands are being recruited by high-end restaurants or at events like the annual Wassup Flea market.

So, despite a shaky trajectory, it's safe to assume that gig culture in Pune is here to stay—and evolve.

## SID holds its annual festival 'Fundamentals'

— Aayushi Bose —



PHOTO / MANAS MANOHAR

Fundamentals, a three-day design festival organised by Symbiosis Institute of Design (SID), culminated on January 12 this year. Held at the Symbiosis Viman Nagar Campus, it was a collection of the best student talent in the fields of dance, music, art and design. With a wide range of exciting events like Hogathon, Fashion Show, Battle of the Bands, Treasure Hunt and Futsal, the festival saw colleges from far and wide send across their student contingents. This was also the first time ever that Fundamentals had a headliner concert in its lineup—featuring the Progressive Brothers. SCMC participated in several events, one of which was the Fashion Show. Though the contingent did not win a prize, their creative performance—which included dance, acrobatics, and a medley of Indian street style—wowed audiences. Ira Gopal, one of the models, recounts it as a nervous but fun experience. "Our favourite part was the theme of 'Streets', and the chance to embody different personalities."

## TOP PICKS



### Uri: The Surgical Strike

Prakriti Arya

This power-packed war film based on the Indian Army surgical strike on Pakistan soil in 2016 leaves the audience's *josh* on a high note.

Mindfully depicting the event in light, the film holds audience's attention right from the start and ends with a patriotic aftertaste. Stellar performances by Vicky Kaushal, Yami Gautam, Paresh Rawal, bring a real touch to the story as one's heart goes out to the families of army men. Giving a whole lot of *Zero Dark Thirty* feels, *Uri* is one great Bollywood war film in recent times.

### Strawberry Fantasy

Pari Tavate

This year saw the re-emergence of 'Strawberry Fantasy' at SID's Fundamentals and SCMS' Sympulse—a food stall that serves a solitary (but stellar) dessert that leaves customers craving for more. The stall, run by a local family, serves the perfect combination of fresh cream, ice cream, macerated and freshly-cut strawberries laced with syrup. The dish is prepared by plonking a handful of sliced strawberries at the bottom of a glass, which is then layered with sweet cream. Portable and affordable (at Rs. 90), it serves as the perfect respite from the Pune's afternoon heat in Pune.



### Our Moon Has Blood Clots

Prakriti Arya

Journalist Rahul Pandita's memoir of fleeing Kashmir during insurgency recounts the brutalities inflicted on all those who suffered. He recounts tales of horror where "women were herded like cattle in trucks" and "local boys distributed the neighborhood houses among them". However, amidst evoking tears and shock, Pandita fails to answer pivotal questions that readers might have expected. He merely scratches the surface explaining the reason for the exodus and the political response to it. An extremely moving read, this book is a must to know about the harsh realities of Kashmir.

## Student co-creates an 'Enterprise' program

Srishti Patnaik

Panchsheel Gaikwad, a third-year student specialising in audio-visual production, is a part of the ambitious team that has set up the Enterprise fellowship in Pune. Part of a handpicked team of co-creators, he has been a part of the program for several months now.

"Enterprise is a fellowship programme that invests in undergraduate students who want to learn, not by confining themselves in classrooms but by working out on the field. It strives to build a culture of learning by doing and provides a real life start-up experience. Their vision matches a lot with my personal views and opinions about learning," said Gaikwad, who produces video content.

He met Aditya Jhunjhunwala (a co-founder of Enterprise) after he completed school, and have been a co-creator since the inception of Enterprise last year. His work includes shooting and editing videos along with overall assistance in marketing department.



Panchsheel Gaikwad, Student SCMC

The first video that Gaikwad shot was in July 2018 of Jhunjhunwala, who is also an IIM Ahmedabad graduate. In this video, Aditya explains the core concept behind the structure of the programme.

Another video was a compilation of every student's experience at the fellowship where students talked about their

**"Enterprise is a fellowship program that invests in undergraduate students who want to learn, not by confining themselves in classrooms but by working out on the field. It strives to build a culture of 'learning by doing' and provides a real life start-up experience."**

learnings in the course of the program. Enterprise later conducted the 'Catapult Festival' at the Symbiosis Ground—an event executed by a team of 19 students with just a week of planning.

Gaikwad juggles his work at the fellowship alongside college lectures, assignments and personal shooting projects.

## Discarded buses converted to public toilets

Aashna Kaul

The mere thought of a public toilet may make you hold your nose. While some are in usable condition, most go uncleaned for days. With ever-increasing population density, and the high plausibility of them being unhygienic to use, many people refrain from visiting them.

Two budding entrepreneurs, however, have attempted to change the negativity surrounding these spots, by converting old buses into mobile public toilets for women. Ulka Sadalkar and Rajeev Kher, Pune residents with an interest in public sanitation, started this initiative some 13 years ago. Explaining how the duo chanced upon the idea, Kher said, "We read about how old buses were being used as shelter homes for people, and got inspired to use them in further projects. After some brainstorming, we came up with the idea of converting these buses into toilets." The project, called 'Ti for Toilet' (*Ti* meaning 'her' in Marathi), is in collaboration with the PMC.

Painted in a cheerful shade of pink, the



Ulka Sadalkar and Rajeev Kher outside a Ti Toilet, Pune

toilets are powered by solar energy. "These buses have Western toilets, Indian toilets, washbasins, diaper dispensers, and humidity labs", explains Kher. They have also sanitary napkins for sale, assistant staff and a screen detailing cleanliness of the toilet. The 'Ti' toilets

currently see a daily average of 150 users. Since they are yet to be self-sustainable, a charge of Rs. 5 per person is maintained for the services. The buses are currently parked at 11 locations across the city, spanning parks, tourist spots, busy crossroads and slum communities.

## Explained: Anti-Defection Law in India

Yash Agarwal

Last year on October 25, the Madras High Court disqualified 18 AIADMK MLAs whose membership had been cancelled by the Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker in September 2017. This was done under the Anti-Defection Law, after the MLAs had expressed their lack of confidence in CM Palaniswami's government. A blow to the ruling party, it had brought the state assembly's strength down from 234 to 214. However, the party is still safe as it maintains the halfway mark with the support of 116 MLAs.

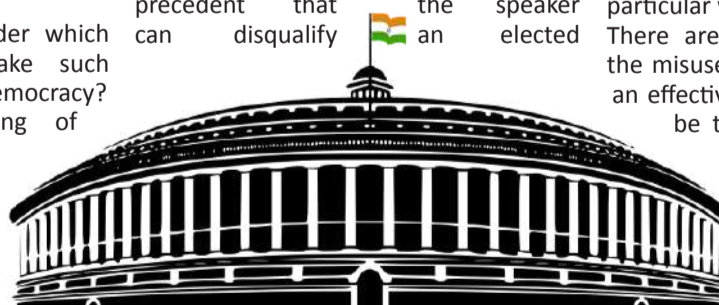
What exactly is this law under which assembly speakers can make such concerning decisions for our democracy? 1967 marked the beginning of coalition era of politics in India. Till 1971, approximately 142 MPs and over 1900 MLAs migrated their political parties and governments in many states, with 1 legislator "Gaya

Lal" switching party thrice within days. The 52nd amendment of the Constitution laid down rules for the disqualification of MLAs on grounds of defection. The term 'defection' here implied either of these two actions—a member voluntarily giving up their membership, or voting against the directive (or abstaining to vote). One must note that voluntarily giving up party membership isn't the same as signing a resignation letter. An MLA's actions and conduct plays a huge role. The *Ravi S. Vs Union of India* case gives legal precedent that the speaker can disqualify an elected

representative if any of their actions or words are interpreted as "anti-party". It does make you think about whom our representatives are really answerable to – the party whips, or the constituents that elected them? In the present scenario, the anti-defection law has made MLAs accountable solely to party leaders. It has imposed an unreasonable restriction on the freedom to vote for our lawmakers. The same can't be said for legislators in the US, who are not influenced by party leaders to vote in a particular way.

There are several suggestions to curb the misuse of the law and facilitate it in an effective manner. One of them could

be to review the decision-making power of the Speaker and hand it over to the governor. Another is to limit the influence of party whips on matters affecting the government's stability.



**“ Weather forecast for tonight: Dark.**

GEORGE CARLIN

PHOTO / TI FOR TOILET



Ningoor Masjid in the Drass Valley amidst snow-peaked caps



An old bridge connecting the two sides of Drass Valley. Lying in the shadow of Tiger Hill, it survived the Kargil War



A drassi (local) of the 'Shina' tribe geared up for some traditional horse polo

## A Summer in Drass

— Tejas Manjunath —

In the summer of 2018, I worked for the Himalayan Sports and Cultural Development Organisation. Based out of Drass in Kargil, they focus on conservation and promotion of local sports such as traditional horse polo, archery, ice hockey and skiing. I was supposed to be in college for remedial classes at the time, but the opportunity seemed too good to pass up.

Other than polishing shooting skills, I learned horse riding from Drass' polo players—they are none other than the town's farmers and shopkeepers!

Martyrs of the Kargil conflict laid to rest under the Tololing Hills at the Kargil War Memorial



# Pune International Film Festival celebrates 17th year

Mignonne Mascarenhas

Screening films in theatres all across the city, the 17th Pune International Film Festival (PIFF) was held from January 10 to 17. The festival celebrated Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary this year by theming itself around it, and screening some films on his life. PIFF is organised by the Film Foundation of Pune in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra every year. A unique initiative called 'PIFF forum' has also been started recently, where a variety of discussions, lectures and master classes would be conducted concurrently with the festival. PIFF opened this year with *Damn Kids*, directed by award-winning Chilean filmmaker Gonzalo Justiniano. Competitions of 'World' and 'Marathi'



PIFF 2019 saw 150 foreign and Indian films being screened through the three days

films were a highlight, and these events were judged by a panel of esteemed jury members such as the Indian filmmaker Mr B. Lenin (a National Award winner) as well as Swedish actor and director Christer Holmgren.

Along with these a number of films were screened to pay homage to members of the film fraternity who had recently passed away. A number of film screenings were also held in the following categories: Global,

Asian, Indian, Documentary, Tribute, Truth Prevails, Retrospective, Kaleidoscope, Country Focus and Student Films. Across Pune, there were five venues that helped stage the event. These were City Pride in Kothrud and Satara Road, the National Film Archive of India on Law College Road, Mangala Multiplex in Shivajinagar, and Inox Cinemas on Bund Garden Road.

Akhil Reddy, a third-year student of audio-visual production at SCMC who attended the event, commented on the growth of PIFF over the years. "The film festival has been consistently evolving and improving to bring the best of world cinema to Pune. It's 17 years old already, and is on the road to become one of the beacons of India's film festival circuit," said Reddy.

# Khelo India 2019: TN weightlifter clinches gold and sets a new record



Rudramayan S raising the bar at the Khelo India Youth Games 2019 in Pune

— Shivansh Gupta —

Rudramayan S of Tamil Nadu set a new Snatch record in the +102kg men's Under-17 category at the Khelo India Youth Games 2019 in Pune. He bagged the gold medal. He lifted 118kg in Snatch—breaking the previous record of 115kg—and 151kg in Clean and Jerk to finish first with a total of 269kg.

"I am very happy. It is a proud moment for the whole family, especially my father," said an emotional Rudramayan, while chatting with SCMC after his winning lift. Incidentally, his father and coach, K Swarnamuthu Pandian, was also a weightlifter. He had represented India in the 1990 Commonwealth Games in New Zealand

and won the silver medal in the men's 82kg category.

"I grew fond of the sport because of my father, and his performance in 1990 proved to be a huge motivating factor for me," explained Rudramayan. The 16-year-old hails from the Thoothukudi District of Coimbatore and this is his first major medal. "I started off with the Districts in the 40kg category. I couldn't win a medal there. I won my first medal in the youth junior states meet where I bagged gold in the +102kg category. But winning a Gold at Khelo India is at the very top for me." Rudramayan started training in 2012 at the age of nine. He was sure of following his father's footsteps and his track record

is a testament to the fact that he is living up to the daunting task. "I practice for two hours every day. On weekends and holidays, father trains me twice a day, two hours in the morning and two in the evening," he said.

Apaprt from sports, Rudramayan is also focussed on his studies and has secured around 60 per cent marks in all his exams. Currently studying in the 11th grade, he has opted for the agriculture stream, and aims to go for further studies. He considers platforms such as Khelo India to be a great opportunity for youngsters to showcase their talent, and he dreams of representing India at the global level, just like his idol, his father.

## For the love of art

— Parth Rahatekar —



Kommune's Spoken Fest was a lot of things, but—more than anything—a healing experience. The atmosphere was heavy with words as verse flowed freely with poets and performance artists from across the world and nation offering their craft to an eager audience.

The panel discussion with filmmaker Imtiaz Ali left the audience in a reflective state of mind, and actor-artiste Jim Sarbh's performance was a welcome departure from his usually quirky on screen portrayals. Workshops with legends like Alok Vaid-Menon, Olivia Gatwood and Blythe Baird gave a fresh and profound perspective on creativity.

The two-day event left everyone overwhelmed with the positive energy and warmth as they saw their favourite artists perform.

## Music artists create magic at Sanskritam

— SCMC Reporter —

After a long day of attending class, there's nothing quite as rejuvenating as the performing arts—especially when you witness a show for free. As the sun begins to set on a tiring day, students of SCMC can often be seen trickling into the auditorium to attend Sanskritam—an ever-continuing series of lecture demonstrations. These 'lec-dems' are unique to SCMC, and are an opportunity for students to watch masters at their craft, followed by Q&A sessions to probe deeper into a discipline.

On January 5, Symbiosis enjoyed an evening of jazz with Mr. Gerry Rebello.

A performer from the fusion band Mukti, Rebello is an accomplished vocalist, guitarist and bassist. His interactive audience session began with creating an auditory illusion. It was that of a storm inside the auditorium, where students tapped their palms and thighs to mimic intense rain and thunder.

Rebello then took the audience through the history of jazz, supplementing it with audio tracks from jazz legends.

He gave the hall his renditions of Michael Bublé classics like 'Sway', 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight' and latin jazz numbers including 'Besame Muchos'. Scatting, a brief



Rajesh Datar's team performing folk music

quiz, and a karaoke of 'Paheli Zindagani' wrapped up the mesmerising evening.

A week later, SCMC looked closer to home by welcoming Maharashtrian folk singer Rajesh Datar and his team. The opening was powerful with a rendition of 'Maharashtra Maza', a song that literally translates to 'My Maharashtra'. This was followed by a set of warm Marathi folk songs, setting a delightful tone for the evening to follow. After this interlude we were treated to Thakar music, probably the most uplifting piece of the evening. However, the highlight of the night was a performance in the Lavani style. A wonderful combination of traditional



A soulful jazz performance by Gerry Rebello

song and dance performed to the beats of a dholki (percussion), Lavani music is noted for its powerful rhythm.

In the past, SCMC has hosted a multitude of talented performers—from Korean opera singers, to Hindustani Classical vocalists, to a talented troupe from Swatantra theatre, to Kuchipudi dancer Shailaja Desai. These events are held so as to develop an awareness among students about the vast repertoire of art that our country has to offer. Often, students get to pose questions to the artist(s) themselves. **Photograph (left) by Maitreyi Devi; Photograph (right) by SCMC Photography team**

— Michelle Patrick —



After a lull of sorts, SCMC has been picking up on its forgotten fests this year. With TESS hosted and concluded, the third year PR Batch has also taken up the task to host Jugaad 2019.

The event was last hosted in 2017. The event didn't come to fruition last year and so this will be the first impression for the junior batches. Jugaad is a scavenger-hunt where participants have to solve riddles and perform tasks to receive clues to their next location which could be anywhere in Pune. The goal is to reach the end location. However, the catch is that the students/participants will not be allowed to carry any cash.

The original rules of the event have been maintained. A tagger from 2019 batch will be assigned to each team to ensure no rules are violated.

With sponsors such as Dino and Duggy's as well as Creativity, the event has been well under preparation and planning. Jugaad has been very important to the 2019 PR batch, along with their predecessors. The batch states that they have grown closer through the planning processes of the event and they look forward to pass on a little parting gift to their junior batches. The event will be hosted on February 5, 2019 with its beginning location at the Symbiosis Viman Nagar Campus.