



Perverts harass girls in Viman after dark

Anushka Jain

Symbiosis Road, a busy thoroughfare near Pune Airport, has steadily gained notoriety as a hotspot for sexual harassers following several unfortunate experiences. Students of the two Symbiosis campuses which flank the road, have come to the fore with frequent cases of molestation, flashing and catcalling. Shubhangi Mishra, 21, a student at Symbiosis Centre for Media and Communication (SCMC) recalls, "I was walking back to my hostel from Town Square Mall when a man slowed his car near me and rolled down the passenger window. I thought he wanted directions, but upon going closer, I witnessed him masturbating."

Most complaints originate from the stretch between the Town Square Mall and the Symbiosis Law School in the area. Apoorva Khosla, a 2018 alumna of Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies (SCMS), recalls how she encountered a similar instance of harassment on the side of the road last October. The warden of the nearby Symbiosis Girls Hostel, police, and Damini marshalls say that they were not aware that the situation is so severe. "We had received one complaint some



Girl students are harassed on this stretch between the two Symbiosis campuses.

More than 200 Symbiosis students signed a petition that was sent to various commissioners of Pune police and the PMC this year. It called for swift installation of CCTVs, emergency response units, and frequent patrols on problematic stretches of the road.

time back about such an issue, but heard nothing else. I didn't know that this was

such a dominant issue", says Dilip Shinde, Senior Police Inspector, Viman Nagar. Victims cite multiple reasons have stopped them from approaching the police, or other authorities with their issues. Khosla reveals, "After the incident I didn't want to get entangled in a legal mess, nor did I want my parents to get worried. So, I didn't file a complaint." Besides the young students, female employees of the hostels, who wish to remain anonymous, also allege harassment on the road.

Intra-Sympulse completes 10 years

Anushka Jain

'Intra-Sympulse' the Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies' (SCMS) three-day intra-college festival, concluded on December 6, 2018. Celebrating its 10th year running, the festival saw the introduction of two new events. As a festival which sees wide participation from SCMS students, it had events spanning various categories like sports, performing arts, quizzes, and so on. Beginning the fest on an entertaining note, the popular Bollywood movie *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* was screened in the campus amphitheatre for students. On day two, the mascot—a 'Pandicorn' named 'Zora' was unveiled by the organizers. Executive committee member Divyaprakash Shah added context to the choice saying, "Unicorns symbolise the spirit of purity, innocence, and childhood. Moreover, a panda symbolises peace, harmony and friendship. Zora is an Arabic name, that means 'dawn'. This name is set to represent and signify the 'Dawn of a New Era'".

Over the three days, competitions such as Hogathon, PUBG, Corporate Zeus, table tennis, among others were held for the students. The last day of the fest concluded on a high note, with popular comedian Anirban Dasgupta performing for an enthralled audience at the Symbiosis Viman Nagar campus. The event is a precursor to Sympulse, an inter-college festival that will be held from January 16 to 20, 2019.

Open Mic '18 held at SID

Shivani Danave



Just a few days shy of Symbiosis Institute of Design's annual festival, Fundamental, the Open Mic Night is the warmest and most energetic time the college experiences in unity. This year, the Open Mic showcased a myriad of talents from free-style rapping to kathak performances. The cheers were deafening, and the occasional stutter or missed note stood no chance against the spirit of the students. "One of the best feelings is going up on the stage to hear the deafening screams of your friends," beamed Tamanna Israni, a Security Head. The Open Mic offers a sneak peek into the vigour and wonder that Fundamental is sure to inspire in its third edition, which will follow the theme of 'The Streets'. Student Council President Saranic Bannerjee promises that the event will be an explosion of talent and goodwill, amplified by a spark of madness.

Oldest staffer recounts 28 years at Symbiosis

Sham Thopate shares nostalgic memories with Aparajita Chandelkar

If there is one person who has seen SCMC right from its inception, it is Mr Sham Naval Thopate, the library assistant who is also the college's oldest working employee. He has been an essential part of the Symbiosis family for nearly three decades. Recalling how he came to become a part of this institution, Mr Thopate says "My brother also works in Symbiosis, so he told me about the vacancy and I applied. I joined Law campus, then I was transferred to the Senapati Bapat road Campus, and now I'm here". Mr Thopate leaves his home in Dhayari every morning at 8 am. He reaches the campus on time and ensures that the news stand on the fifth floor has the day's edition of *The Indian Express*. Then, he heads to the library to set up shop for the smattering of students, who slowly start to filter in. "The trend is that first-year students come to the library the most for the first few months, then nobody comes, unless they have a scheduled class." He wishes that more students came to read the variety of books that the library offers. Mr Sham is also a trekking enthusiast, and often ventures into the hills around Pune on his days off with his



friends. He remembers Ujjwal Chaudhary, who was the director of the college from 2006–2011, very fondly. "He was very approachable, and would stop his work to listen to students. I really enjoyed working with him."

He often recounts amusing anecdotes of how the former director dealt with certain humorous situations with his students.

Mr Thopate believes that a lot has changed since he joined this institution, but the only thing that remains constant is that every batch has more female than male students.

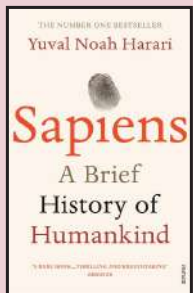
He says that the college has been on the right path since its inception, and will continue its ascent as one of the best institutions in its field.



TOP PICKS

**Fahrenheit 11/9** Prakriti Arya

Michael Moore speaks for all of us when he asks, "How did Trump become President?" The answer lies in this two-hour long documentary. We all knew who Trump was, we just didn't seem to care until November 9, 2016. Moore points out the instability plaguing the American democratic system, and its several inherent flaws. When he addresses the Flint Water Crisis, it does seem like a digression, but slowly points to how a culture was built that ultimately enabled Trump and his policies.

**Sapiens**

A Brief History of Humankind

Amitabh Dasgupta

Oxford historian Dr Harari's book is a revelation: that we, *Homo sapiens*, are the only human species to have survived. 70,000 years back, the Neanderthals became extinct, and Sapiens emerged to dominate the Earth. The book traces how we learned to use fire, developed speech, gossiped to exchange information, created religion, gods and mythology, learned agriculture, and cooperated to create social groups, cities and civilizations. Harari's account is grippingly brilliant, his ideas provocative yet compelling. The book challenges what we think we know about ourselves and our future.

**The Poona Project by Pizza Express**

Nayanika Mukherjee

With warm wooden interiors and an affable staff, the restaurant showcases subtle Italian fare. Start your meal with the Bosco (Rs. 345), where garlic mushrooms, baby mozzarella, avocado, cherry tomatoes, and rocket come encased in a crisp cheese tuile. Pair it with the Santara (Rs. 375; orange+elderflower+ginger ale), or a glass of wine. The pizzas, naturally, don't disappoint—the Cajun-spiced Pollo Ad Astra was delightful, and pineapple lovers could try the Hawaiian (both Rs. 495) that uses a bechamel sauce. For dessert, there's always good 'ol Banoffee Pie (Rs. 375).

Punekars protest outside bird sanctuary

Aroshi Handu

Over 740 residents of Pune banded together to form a human chain in Yerwada, as an act of silent protest against the rampant felling of trees in and around the Dr Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary and Biodiversity Park, which is in a state of neglect. People from all walks of life, including students from neighbouring schools, were seen holding banners and taking part in the human chain. Experts and bird watchers said that various infrastructural projects, including the construction of the Shivre-Kharadi road and the metro rail project, will destroy the sanctuary and the habitat for birds' nests to a large extent. The protesters appealed to the PMC to give urgent attention to the protection of the entire area and chalk out a plan to develop it in a way which is safe for the birds and does not cause any more damage to the environment.

The organizers of the human chain insist that the stretch from Aga Khan Bridge to the Yerwada Bridge is the only green patch left in the area, thus needing protection. However, they also say that they are not opposed to such projects as long as the authorities find creative solutions which don't involve destroying



Dharmaraj Patil (wearing cap) addresses protesters inside the Dr Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary.

crucial green patches in the city.

Dharmaraj Patil, an ornithologist and a coordinator of the event, further revealed that there have been instances of illegal cutting of trees that have been reported in the area, which are later being dumped into the sanctuary. He wants the PMC to

be proactive to save the area from further damage. Residents and bird watchers have formed a forum to take various steps to protect the area's biodiversity. It will hold talks with the PMC about the protection of the sanctuary and avoiding disruptions by implementing infrastructure projects.

PHOTO / NAYANIKA MUKHERJEE

SCMC student ranks 7th in global contest

Disha Hans

Creative Shock is a social business case-solving competition organized by ISM University of Economics and Management situated in Vilnius, Lithuania. The 2018 edition saw students from 101 countries taking part in the event.

I participated in this competition with two engineering students from IIT Guwahati and NIT Bangalore. For the preliminary round of Creative Shock, we brainstormed to come up with innovative ideas for the case studies given to us, and then created presentations and a video featuring our solutions. These included financial sustainability, communication and advertising strategies aimed at increasing social impact and profits for the business.

On clearing the Preliminary round, we were informed that our team had ranked 7th out of the 571 teams from across the globe, and were invited to



Lithuania to compete with the top ten teams at the ISM University.

There, we solved two real-time case studies surrounding a company, and were judged by its owner himself, Mr. Tim Van. These four days in Europe were beyond anything I had ever imagined.

We interacted with famous social entrepreneurs who gave us amazing insights about the social business paradigm and shared their stories. It was an experience that filled my team and I with unabashed confidence, one that illustrated that whatever little initiatives we take in life ultimately aid us in unlocking our future potential.

(L-R) Yash Harlalka (NIT Bangalore), Disha Hans (SCMC Pune) and Rishabh Agarwal (IIT Guwahati) at the event.

Viman cafe a stage for budding comics

Snigdha Jain

Indian stand up culture is expanding rapidly, especially in Tier-I cities. In Pune this culture is mushrooming steadier than in other towns, and Nukkad Cafe in Viman Nagar is one such example of this. This sunshine-hued room hosts a lineup of about twelve comic artists every Wednesday, late in the evening. The artists perform a variety of sketches to put together a show which lasts for over an hour. One can enjoy live entertainment featuring local artists for a ticket of 100 rupees. Tarang Hardikar, who is a regular performer there, says, "If you're doing a spot in an older room, you feel safer. Familiarity helps when you don't know if the audience will laugh at your political

PHOTO / MANISH PAWAR



joke or throw a chair at your face". The owner of the Cafe, Mr. Paliwal says that he lent out the space simply because it didn't hamper his own work. "It may not increase direct sales, but it does help

"Nukkad initially resembled a self-help group for comedians. We'd listen to each others' jokes, give feedback and hope our dreams don't die. Fortunately, we now have a real audience."

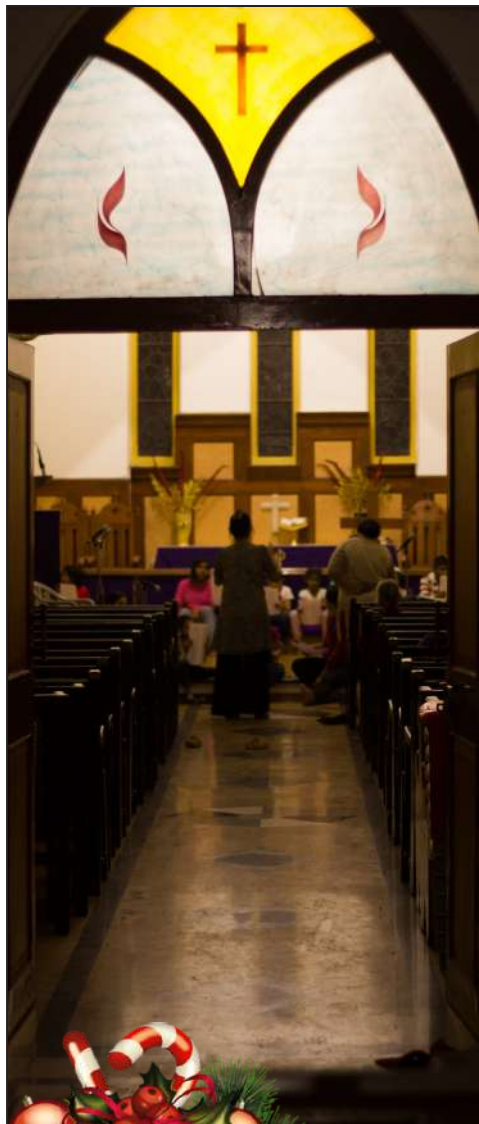
AAYUSHI JAGAD, COMEDIAN

in receiving referral business."

Most performers agree that there is still a long way to go, especially when it comes to getting a consistent audience at venues across the city.



In this world, shipmates, sin that pays its way can travel freely and without a passport; whereas virtue, if a pauper, is stopped at all frontiers. HERMAN MELVILLE, MOBY DICK



Pune decks up in the colours of Christmas

Clockwise from left: Christmas choir practice underway at Methodist Church, Khadki; Advent candles are lit in churches on all the four Sundays of the Advent period; A girl dressed up as an angel before Sunday morning mass; An advent wreath at Don Bosco Church, Shashtrinagar, symbolising God's unending love and the hope of eternal life.

Photographs by Aayushi Bose

Book exhibition concludes at SID

Srishti Patnaik



The Book Exhibition organized by the Symbiosis Institute of Design (SID) library was an open event for all Symbiosis students and faculty members.

The ground floor of the SID building was bustling with activity on December 4 and 5, 2018 with five bookstores showcasing their collection of books on design.

The exhibition was aimed at exposing students to a variety of study materials and helping them recommend books for the SID library.

Ms Preeti Jain, representing The Word Bookshop, said that 'animation' and 'product design' were the most popular categories among students. A for Apple books had displayed an abundant collection on Architecture while Bombay Books showcased books that came along with instructional DVDs. Mr. Samit Jain from Mumbai's Design Book Studio said that the books didn't sell well since they were very expensive. Some books on fashion forecasting by Peclers Paris contain samples of various fabrics and fashion accessories and are priced at a whopping Rs. 2 lakh. "The collection was vast, with good variety," said Tulika Singh, a third-year student of Fashion Design.

Decoding economics with Ashish Kulkarni

Mignon Mascarenhas

At The Fat Labrador Café, on December 9, 2018, Dr Ashish Kulkarni held a talk on economics and what economists do. Dr Kulkarni, who often conducts lectures at SCMC, is known among students for his no-frills method of explaining economics and relatable examples, making his classes the most memorable.

The talk explored various principles

and everyday life which helped paint a clearer picture of these principles. He made what would otherwise be complex topics, easier to understand. He also cleared audiences' doubts to help them understand these concepts better. Later Dr Kulkarni stressed on what today's world looks like, why it is the way it is and how it can be made better, from an economist's perspective.



PHOTO / MIGNON MASCARENHAS

An enthusiastic audience member interacts with Dr Kulkarni (L)

of economics, how they play a role in people's lives and how one contributes to the economy. The principles discussed were incentives, how nothing is really free, discussions on trade and cost, the importance of information and how externalities matter. He touched upon examples in history, social media, politics

To explain further, he opened a learning tool Gapminder, which never fails to astound an audience, and proceeded to compare the different countries on the chart.

He also focused on India's economy since the early 1800s and how various events in history affected it over time.

Student develops pollution tracker

Prachi Shevgaonkar

"If someone were to draw up a problem that people would not care about, it would look exactly like climate change," read a *Washington Post* article by journalist David Fahrenthold. A global problem with far-reaching, complicated effects and no one-step solutions, climate change mitigation requires determined, calculated efforts from all of us. As a media student, I found the lack of call to action approach in the climate change narrative bothersome. In my first year at SCMC, I started a non-profit venture in partnership with my father Prashant Shevgaonkar to address this issue.

From this was born our first project: 'Cool the Globe'. This android application serves as a dedicated platform for individuals to set monthly targets for themselves and conserve energy at a pace that suits them. The app displays greenhouse gas emissions reduced as a result of each saving action of users which is recorded in their monthly savings. Savings of all app users are uploaded on a remote database and displayed as a global meter to show the impact of an accumulated effort.

By default, the app sets each user's monthly savings target to 10% of their current GHG emissions.

A small but consistent effort like this by each individual in society goes a long way. It is time that we become a community of energy-conscious individuals who take responsibility to cool the globe and save the planet. The app is slated for a January 2019 release.

ISL: Marcelinho guides Pune City to their second consecutive win

Marathi movies gain traction on the silver screen

PHOTO / AYUSHI BOSE



Winning team FC Pune city acknowledges crowd support after match at Balewadi stadium, Pune



Ajinkya Bhalerao

Marathi movies have always been underrated in the mainstream film industry, but the past decade has seen these films get substantial recognition. Platforms like television and film festivals have given this industry much-needed exposure and bandwidth.

The Marathi film industry suffered in the past because of proximity to Bollywood, which diluted the distinct cultural identity of Marathi cinema. Other reasons why these productions wilted include the shortage of cinema halls, poor marketing, lack of finances and competition from television. The government, too, was not very encouraging of Marathi cinema.

2009 witnessed the release of Marathi film *Harishchandradi Factory* (director: Paresh Mokashi) get selected as India's official entry to the Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Language Film category. The year also saw the blockbuster musical *Natarang* receive both commercial and critical acclaim to emerge as a path-breaking movie for Marathi cinema. Today, Marathi movies are making a comeback as commercial success stories, and acclaimed director Dr. Jabbar Patel attributes this change to globalisation. "The kind of Marathi cinema that is being made today is very fresh and different, thanks to directors and writers getting exposed to world cinema via television, film festivals, etc. They are coming up with new story lines and innovative concepts." Marathi films like *Duniyadari* (2013) and *Sairat* (2016) have made it big at the box office. But fortunately, the Marathi film industry has not abandoned its traditional appeal despite the success.

Shivansh Gupta

FC Pune City continued their late surge in the Indian Super League, displaying a spirited performance to bag a 2-0 victory over FC Goa at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi, Pune. Late second half goals by Marcelinho and Marko Stankovic secured three points for Pune City and registered their second victory on the trot.

FC Goa pushed the home team to the back foot early in the first half with continuous attack from the flanks. They dominated possession and came very close to breaking the deadlock on a

few occasions. Goa got their first scoring opportunity after Brandon Fernandez linked up with Eduardo Bedia, but this attempt was foiled by the home team's goalkeeper, Kamaljit Singh.

Bedia came very close to scoring in the 41st minute when his sure-footed shot hit the crossbar, minutes after Kamaljit Singh managed to block a looping header from a Goa corner. Pune's tactic of playing long balls from the back proved futile and some poor defending only added to the home side's woes in the first half.

Pune turned the tables around in the second half.

Kamaljit Singh pulled off a spectacular

save when he flew to his left to deny Goa the opening goal, 70 minutes into the game. The 2016 Golden Boot winner, Marcelinho, after squandering two easy chances in the first half, finally put his team into the lead in the 73rd minute. He found space outside the box and rifled the shot into the top left corner of the goal, past a diving Mohammad Nawaz. Chasing the equalizer in the final moments of the match, Mohamed Ali of Goa fouled Marko Stankovic in the penalty area. Stankovic obliged and coolly converted from the spot to double the advantage, clinching a comprehensive win for FC Pune City.

Pune all set for Sawai Mahotsav

Vishab Thappa



The annual Sawai Gandharva Bhimsen Mahotsav, which used to take place at Ramanbaug school at Narayan peth for the last 65 years, unexpectedly shifted venues this year.

For the festival's 66th edition this year, the event took place at Maharashtra Mandal's grounds in Mukundnagar.

The prestigious classical music festival featured performances of 31 renowned performers that included veterans as well as promising young artists. The festival was inaugurated on Wednesday, December 12 and concluded on Sunday, December 16, 2018.

The Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd (PMPML) offered specialised bus services from four areas in the city for those who wished to attend the event. All of the buses plied till Maharashtra Mandal Krida Sankul, Mukundnagar. On demand cab services such as Ola and Uber also provided the option of choosing 'Sawai 2018' as a destination, to make it easy for people to get to the new venue.

Madia Gonds: a tribe fighting for survival

Samidha Raut

The residents of Laheri village gathered under a huge *mahua* tree, to learn to make handicrafts out of bamboo. They had come voluntarily, which is quite unusual for this remote village in the predominantly underdeveloped tribal district of Gadchiroli in Maharashtra. These people are the Madia Gonds—a primitive tribe that inhabits this region, with bamboo handicrafts acting as an important source of livelihood for them.

Even after 70 years of Independence, the Madia Gonds continue to be a neglected and backward community. They inhabit the eastern part of Maharashtra known as Vidarbha, bordering that State of Chhattisgarh. The language they speak has a limited vocabulary with no script, and hardly resembles Marathi or Hindi. Most of them still live in the jungles under extreme conditions, unwilling to forsake their ancestral roots. They are poor, but do not consider themselves



Madia Gond tribals in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra

underprivileged, and take pride in their culture and the forest. Life for the Madia Gonds is a struggle. They find themselves at the mercy of unscrupulous traders who do not give them the minimum fixed price for the *tendu* (tobacco) leaves which they grow and sell. Their villages lack even basic health and education facilities. It is only of lately that the Madia Gonds are beginning to protest. People's organizations like the Lok Biradari

Prakalp in Hemalkasa, have been working towards the integrated development of this tribe.

Tribal leaders like Lalsu Nogoti, a lawyer and councillor in Bhamragarh Zilla Parishad, have represented the Madia Gond at a UN conference in 2017, raising the issue of violation of the Forest Rights Act. Members of the tribe can now be heard saying, "*mava maate, mava sarkar*", meaning "my village, my government".

PHOTO / INDIANS FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION