

## Housing societies in Viman Nagar shut their doors on student tenants

Shubhangi Mishra

Guneet K. Bedi

With several educational institutions, IT and corporate offices, and multiplexes, there is a huge demand for rented accommodation in Viman Nagar. But accommodation seekers in this upscale locality face a problem—several cooperative housing societies (CHS) have shut their doors on students and unmarried individuals.

The practice of banning students and single persons by these CHS is no longer covert. Large notices are now visible on the gates of several CHS, openly declaring that students and bachelors are banned. The Rohan Mithila CHS is among the larger ones to follow this practice. Chairman Sudhakar Auti told *The SCMC Chronicle* that the notice board was put up a year ago after members complained against student tenants.

“Students indulge in very noisy late night parties. They drink and misbehave with residents. They do not follow society rules. I had to rush a girl to hospital after she jumped from her balcony. The doctors found she was drunk. Police have come to our premises and seized drugs from students’ apartments,” Auti stated.



One of the notices at the entrance of the Rohan Mithila housing society in Viman Nagar

Another CHS, Ganga Hamlet, too has banned single persons. Manager Parvesh Singh said, “Families prefer having families as neighbors rather than bachelors.” “However, whenever there is any complaint against a student, we give them

a chance to explain their point of view. But after two or three warnings, we are forced to evict them,” Singh said. Both Auti and Singh informed they have dealt with various problems created by students. “I will not name the society, but

yes, commercial sex workers were found in apartments rented out to students,” one disclosed.

Real estate brokers, however, had a different viewpoint. “All students are not like this. It is only because of 5 or 10 percent of them that an adverse image has been created. Most students have lived with their own families and realize the problems that families can face. They cooperate when given a warning or two,” said a prominent broker who did not want to be named.

Students who are on the receiving end of this ban, have their own tale to tell. “We are often made to shell out money to avail facilities that are otherwise free. We have to live in constant fear of being evicted,” said one student who wanted to remain anonymous.

Aditya Sinha, 22, a student of media and communication, residing in Rohan Mithila CHS said, “I understand the stand of the societies. But they also need to understand the importance of providing a safe space for students. Moreover, if we are given a chance to live in such societies, we will learn to bear the consequences of our actions and become more responsible as adults.”

Photograph by Shubhangi Mishra

### SID students brand Bhimthadi Jatra



Nayanika Mukherjee

The thirteenth edition of Pune’s Bhimthadi Jatra ended on December 25. A team of students from Symbiosis Institute of Design produced the event’s visual branding.

Communication design students Aditi Bhatnagar, Ankur Agarwal, Bhavya Nawani, Jayant Chavan, T. Arun Sai and Gautam Vasa had been scouting for a live brand that would boost their portfolio, before zeroing in on Bhimthadi, where Marathi food, fashion, and folk art is known to converge every year.

“Changing the logo would mean an entirely new face,” explains Vasa, recalling initial worries about confusing patrons. Bhimthadi has also championed rural women’s self-help groups, and this needed a clear depiction. Thus, the team chose to only modify the original logo, which showed a veiled woman with a bindi. Vasa and his teammates then successfully pitched their proposal to Sunanda Pawar, who has headed the Jatra for the last twelve years. With a sleek yet nostalgic look to creatives and on-site installations, Bhimthadi is expected to continue with the students’ branding going ahead.

### SCMC students shine at Mood Indigo ‘18

The students of media and communication showcased their talents at IIT Bombay’s flagship festival

Nayanika Mukherjee

Regarded as Asia’s largest college festival, IIT Bombay’s 47th edition of Mood Indigo was held between December 27 and 30, 2018. Symbiosis Centre for Media and Communication (SCMC) participated with a seasoned literary and performing arts contingent this year, and returned with a commendable performance.

SCMC’s first gold was clinched by Michelle Patrick (TY) in Speak Up—a turncoat-style debate where individual participants had to argue for and against the same topic. Ishaan Bhattacharya (SY) grabbed the second position in this event. Amusingly, though, Patrick and Bhattacharya were pitted against each other in the finale, debating on topics like creating safe spaces for the LGBT community, or the cult status of strong female icons in feminism. Imagine having to argue against these ideas.

The second gold at Mood Indigo was secured by Nayanika Mukherjee (TY) and Jaskirat Dhillon (FY) in Spell Bound—a multifaceted spelling bee that tested a team’s vocabulary and knowledge of etymology. Comprising four written rounds over three hours, the SCMC team took calculated risks to beat stiff competition by a mere 5 points.

The first-year team of Filza Iqbal and Shashwat Chaturvedi were the final winners, securing the third position in



The SCMC contingent which went to IIT Bombay to participate in Mood Indigo 2018

Bollywood Quiz. Many others played to their strengths and reached the final stages of several events. In the journalism-oriented events, Anushka Jain and Srishti Patnaik (both TY) were selected for the finals of Reportage, while Disha Hans (TY), Krishangi Ghai (FY), Filza Iqbal (FY) and Gunjan Hariramani (SY) reached the finals of an RJ event titled Radio-Active. In performing arts, Prasenjit Sripesh (FY) competed in the DJ Hunt finals, while Ridhi Gopalani hit the

right notes to enter the semi-finals of solo Western singing.

This was SCMC’s second year of participation at the prestigious festival. “SCMC has always been amongst the number one outstation colleges at Mood Indigo,” said Dr. Sreeram Gopalkrishnan, the institute’s Officiating Director. “It is a matter of great pride that this position continues to be maintained by the present students, whose stellar performance was widely recognised and appreciated.”

## TOP PICKS



### Into the Spider-Verse

Imana Bhattacharya

Bob Persichetti's latest *Into the Spider-Verse* stands out as bearing good news for its fans as well as its reluctant followers. Outstanding visuals, story-telling, and a condensed storyline make the film a joyride. Centred around Brooklyn teen Miles Morales, who's bitten by a radioactive spider, it explores the 'Spider-Verse'—where he meets others like him, from different universes. The film matches a tender script with animation that brings the comic-book experience to life. The soundtrack featuring artists like Post Malone & Nicki Minaj avoids super-hero movie clichés, staying in touch with the humour of today's generation.



### Becoming

Pari Tavate

Michelle Obama, one of the world's most influential women, takes her readers through the length of her extraordinary life in her latest book, *Becoming*. With candour and humour, the former U.S First Lady spells out details from her life; from her days at Princeton university, up until the White House. Not only this, Obama also doesn't hold back while dropping a few entertaining stink bombs on her husband's successor. With her celebrated law degree from Princeton, illustrious career, grace and etiquette, Obama remains an example for all womankind. Her newest book makes for an excellent read.



### The Sky Beam

Sean Antony

'The Sky Beam' is a restaurant in Creativity, Yerwada which first bowls you over with its interiors and then its food. White washed walls with hints of blue here and there, the restaurant reminds one of the Greek town of Santorini. While the interiors mimic Europe, the menu spans north Indian and continental dishes. Speedy service and delicious starters were impressive, but with some failings. The patty of the 'Rogan Josh' burger felt chewy and begged for a few more minutes on the flame. However, the well-plated Lebanese Mezze tasted as good as it looked. Among pizzas the 'Indiana Jones' pizza proved noteworthy and the caramel-chocolate fondue felt like the perfect end to a meal.

## Season's greetings with local delicacies

Pari Tavate

Many passers-by in Aundh were in for a pleasant surprise when they encountered the board for 'Tondala Pani', a Maharashtrian Food festival, held on the police grounds. The three-day festival was an arena for several entrepreneurs and local restaurants to showcase their offerings of Maharashtrian delicacies. Shikha Agarwal, owner and organizer of Dream Events said, "As the name suggests, 'Tondala Pani', literally means 'mouth-watering cuisine' is a fest organised from December 21st to 23rd. We have over 40 stalls featuring Konkani, Malvani and Goan cuisine." She elaborated on how the festival was meant to showcase Maharashtrian dance and folk songs, but unfortunately the organisers didn't receive any permission for the same. Dhiraj Nalavde, the owner of Jhakaas Misal Express explained how he wanted to bring the authentic taste of misal—a spicy curry of moth beans topped with farsan (salty snacks)—from Nagpur and Kolhapur to the people of Pune. Nalavde further said that showcasing his food at such festivals gave his restaurant more traction. The owner of Govekari, a Goan restaurant on the Mumbai-Goa highway said, "We are packed in Goa,



Photograph by Pari Tavate

The Maharashtrian thali was a crowd favourite at the Tondala Pani food festival

considering it's a long weekend. Yet, I have come here as Pune has a lot of foodies. Our last event in Mahalaxmi Lawns was a success." The festival served as a kick-starter for several home based entrepreneurs and Vegan restaurants. "I got myself some nice-looking prawns curry with rice, and I can say that I am not disappointed. I'm planning to bring my parents as well tomorrow, so that they can taste the food from the heart of Maharashtra," said Kaveri Kamerkar, an attendee at the food festival.

## SID conducts a day-long sketching event

Imana Bhattacharya

Sketching enthusiasts from all over the state poured in at the Symbiosis Viman Nagar campus on December 21 and 22 as Symbiosis Institute of Design (SID) held its fourth edition of Lakshya.

Lakshya is a first of its kind 24-hour sketch-a-thon organized to celebrate the art of sketching. The sketch-a-thon included 24 hour long sketching workshops and live sketching demonstrations. Various artists and SID faculty members were brought in to conduct these classes. The workshops included Light painting (Photography), Caricature, Portraiture, Digital sketching, Calligraphy and many more. This year's Lakshya was inaugurated by Maharashtra-based artist and designer Ashwin Chikerur, who also demonstrated the art of spontaneous sketching. The workshops were interspersed by various cultural showcases put up by the students and faculty members of SID. "Lakshya is a



The 24-hour session in progress at SID

unique experience where we get to learn lots about art and design by amazing in-house and external artists. The various programmes and the performances by our batch-mates and faculties make for sweet memories", said Mansi Bakle, a third-year student. Even though a lot of colleges being out for vacations meant a slightly less turnout this year, enthusiastic participation was witnessed at the event, nevertheless.

**"Lakshya is a first of its kind 24-hour sketch-a-thon organized to celebrate the art of sketching with sketching workshops and live sketching demonstrations."**

Manga workshop, one of the lesser explored courses in India, particularly received a great response amongst the enthusiasts. Professor Tushar Amin, a faculty member commented that the institute wants to expand the event further next year and spread out to more cities, and therefore more colleges and universities, for participation.

Photograph by SID Documentation Team

## SCMC student on a solo trip across K'taka

Shouvik Bisai

Beginnings are mostly, if not always, complemented by dicey situations and a lot of anxiety. For as long as I can remember I've been dreaming of a solo road trip with my own vehicle. I'll begin right from the start. I bought a second hand motorbike which rode smooth only six months back. I had told my parents that this was going to be my getaway vehicle for when I would lose myself to the stress of the city and college. At this time my parents couldn't have known I would go on a 3000 Kms solo road trip just 4 months after getting the bike.

When I bought this ride, I had the option to upgrade my system, camera gear and sound equipment. Being a media student



Shouvik's beloved KTM motorcycle next to a field in Mulki, Karnataka

and a content creator, the latter seemed much more sensible, but for the first time, I took a decision with my heart and went for the bike.

Since that day, I knew I couldn't just limit myself to stress relieving rides and within four months, I was off to explore the coastline of India. I covered almost 3000 kms and met great people on my journey, who I can now call family. My trip was complete with my work at Surfing India, at the Mantra Surf Club in Mulki, Karnataka. When we take a decision with our heart, you're not thinking very logically. So instead of panicking with my decision, I gave it some time, went out, and experienced everything I've dreamed of.

Photo-story continued on page 3

“ The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat. LILY TOMLIN



## A trip to remember

Shouvik Bisai

**M**y tour across Karnataka was indeed a trip to remember. I had to make sure that my camera was ready at all times, so that I never missed a single moment worth capturing.

These are some of the photographs I captured during the course of my journey.

*Story continued from page 2*

**Left** - Shambhavi River, Surathkal - I would spend my evenings Kayaking around the neighbouring island, watching the sunset.

**Below** - Shambhavi River, Surathkal I used to start my day by watching the sun rise over its calm waters.

**Bottom Left** - Mulki - Local children loved surfing on their improvised surfboards.



## Waste mgmnt: a concern India needs to address

Sarthak Verma

**I**n the beginning of this century India generated 46 million tonnes (mt) of waste per year. Today, the figure has reached 62 mt per annum. By the middle of this century, the figure is estimated to reach 125 mt, making India the largest contributor of waste to the world.

Of the 62 mt of municipal solid waste per annum, only 43 mt is collected, just about 12 mt treated, and 31 mt dumped in landfill sites. While many developed countries are searching for sustainable waste management solutions, India has created research institutions to develop suitable technologies. Rapid urbanization is adding to the challenge.

Solid Waste Management (SWM) is one among the basic essential services provided by municipal bodies in the country to keep urban centers clean. However, almost all municipal bodies simply collect the solid waste and haphazardly dump it in yards within or outside the city.

Experts believe that India is following a flawed system of waste management due to improper collection and unscientific disposal. This in turn leads to hazards like environmental degradation, water pollution, soil pollution, and air pollution. Energy-from-waste must become a crucial element of SWM because it reduces the volume of waste, converts waste into a renewable source of energy for other industries, and produces organic manure.

## Antara makes top 10 on reality music show

Sahana Iyer



**R**eality music competitions have been notorious for their dramatisation and exaggerated melancholic backgrounds. Breaking the stereotype, veteran music composer A R Rahman presents his own YouTube original music show ARRived. A short 14-episode series, the show pierces through the generic format and keeps a one-track focus on the art. A Batch 2020 student at SCMC, Antara Nandy, recounts her experience as a part of the endeavour and making it to the top 10 in the competition. "ARRived was really great. I have always dreamt of making it to this place. I idolise Rahman sir and have wanted to work for him for as long as I can remember. So, when I came to know of ARRived, I just knew this is where I have to be. Post ARRived, I even got to record for Rah-

man sir", says Nandy, 19. With 15 years of training in Hindustani classical music, Nandy has also participated in SaReGaMaPa L'il Champs in 2009. With a taste of television as well as the online medium, Nandy states that the transparency on ARRived is undeniable. She says, "Other shows are like a game of chess played by the creative team. So, in the rush to earn TRP, real talent gets sabotaged. In this case, the whole decision actually was in the hands of the judges. Everything depended on how a contestant is performing on the stage, as it should be. Also, on other shows, songs are imposed on you. So, there are genres that you might not be very comfortable singing and that acts as a disadvantage for the contestant but that wasn't the scene here."

## Imperishable: exploring our plastic problem

Akansha Tiwari



Sorting the waste: A still from the film

**N**on-biodegradable waste is clogging our drains, water bodies and land areas, and is now even being dumped around to form mountains. My film, *Imperishable*, takes you through land, ocean and mangrove environments to illustrate how non-biodegradable waste—the kind that lasts for several years—can be found everywhere. All this is in addition to the dangers we pose to marine life, with excessive fishing and exploitation of natural resources.

*Imperishable* was recently honoured with screenings in Pune, at the Moving Waters Film Festival on January 4, and the Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival between January 4 to 7.

The former focuses on bringing awareness to aquatic concerns, while the latter is a decade-old event that combines film screenings and allied activities to further environmental activism.

# Premier Badminton League comes to Pune: 7 Aces win opening game



Line Kjaersfeldt and Vladimir Ivanov (right) against Kim Gi Jung and Pia Bernadeth (left) | Photograph by Shivansh Gupta

Sahana Iyer

The Pune leg of the Premier Badminton League began on December 29 with Pune 7 Aces—sporting pink jerseys to promote cancer awareness—beating Mumbai Rockets 3-2. The tie began with Pune's trump match between Line Kjaersfeldt and the visiting team's Shriyanshi Pardeshi, with Kjaersfeldt winning 15-11, 15-7 in straight games. Pune stretched their lead to two with another straight-games victory in the men's doubles match—Chirag Shetty and Vladimir Ivanov fighting their way to a 15-14, 15-7 victory against Kim Gi Jung and Lee Yong Dae. Match 3 was a highly anticipated one.

Pune's Lakshya Sen, the 17-year-old Youth Olympics silver medalist, took on Anders Antonsen in Mumbai's trump match. Although the match could have gone anyone's way, it was Antonsen's smashes that helped him bag the contest 13-15, 15-7, 6-15 in a three-game thriller. Mumbai made a spectacular comeback, tying the score with a win in the next match. Pune's Harsheel Dani was dominated by Mumbai's Sameer Verma as he lost the match 7-15, 10-15. With the scores tied at 2-2, the last game turned out to be a nail-biter. While the first game won Pune an advantage, Mumbai leveled the score after in the next. Every-

thing came down to the last game of the match. The home crowd played its part, motivating Pune with thundering drum beats and chants. Eventually, Ivanov and Kjaersfeldt beat Jung and Pia Bernadeth 15-13, 11-15, 15-12. "Of course, it's pressure when you're playing at home and you want to do well. I thought it was really nice to play with such an amazing crowd that is cheering for you and want you to win. So, I took their presence as an advantage and I tried my best to get the win for us", said Line Kjaersfeldt in the post-match press conference when asked about the expectation of the home crowd.

## Duck Duck Go: a safer search engine for you

Ronit Soin

Google owns 70% of the internet market share; which means that it virtually controls the internet and thereby can control the way you and I perceive the world. It manufactures our consent through vague and broad T&C forms and complicated privacy settings and can also track our location, read our email, browsing and search history. In 2008, another search engine—DuckDuckGo—completely rivalled Google's business model. This new search engine didn't track users by creating information profiles. It didn't feed personal data and search history to its search algorithms and gave you a truly organic result. Unlike Google, all the search results were indexed based on the keywords and the content of the website alone and ranked according to how well the parameters match.

Allegations have been made that Google over-personalizes your search results which aligns with your political beliefs and opinions. This information might be better for advertisers but not for organic search results that the average user is looking for.

During the 2016 US Presidential elections, Google tried promoting Hillary Clinton by hiding search keywords such as 'criminal', 'investigation', 'scandal' in connection with the candidate's name. Google said that it did this with every public figure especially during campaign elections. This is harmful for fair democracy because Google is using its platform to impede the free flow of information. It hampers the ability of voters to decide a capable and deserving candidate.

## SCMC student walks the ramp

SCMC Reporter



Apeksha Gurnani speaking at the pageant

Symbiosis Centre for Media and Communication (SCMC) student, Apeksha Gurnani entered the Top 5 category at the Pune leg of the teen pageant: Campus Princess 2019.

Held at the Symbiosis Infotech campus on the December 21, the pageant is a stepping stone for Miss India and Miss Diva aspirants. Winners at Campus Princess are trained for participating in the Miss Diva and Miss India pageants. This year the event was judged by Gayatri Bhardwaj, Miss India United Continents 2018, Roshni Sheron, Miss Diva 2018 Runner-up, and Bennett Nathan, project head at The Times of India winners.

21 young girls across Pune put their best foot forward through three rounds of ramp walking, questions and a talent hunt to prove their mettle.

## Nodwin Gaming enters the Indian market

Jivraj Karande

Nodwin Gaming, a pioneer in e-sports and known for organizing some of the largest game festivals in Europe, made its foray into the Asian market with DreamHack Mumbai. The festival took place at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, from December 21 to 23. The festival consisted of five events: DreamHack invitational stage, PUBG stage, Mobile cricket championship, KO fight-night stage and Performance stage. The total prize pool for the event was INR 1 crore.

Gaming fans from across the country got a chance to see international Dota2 and CS:GO teams, duke it out in the three-day long festival. Team Mineski and Bravado emerged as the victors of Dota2 and CS:GO championships. Each team took home INR 15 lakh as prize money.

The KO Fight Night Championship had Alex Jebailey, DreamHack Global Fighting Game Director, as its special guest host. It featured games such as Street fighter V, Tekken 7 and Super Smash Bros Ultimate, with a total prize pool of INR 12.35 lakhs. The winners of this event were Hugo Randez, who won Street Fighter V, Abhinav Tejan, who aced Tekken 7, and Ayaan Biswas, who emerged triumphant as the best Super Smash Bros Ultimate player.



Nodwin Gaming's Dreamhack Mumbai begins with a bang | Photograph by Jivraj Karande

Mobile Cricket Championship with a prize pool of INR 8,00,000 was also a huge success. The winners of this event were Mohd Imran Naushad for World Cricket Championship 2 and Muthukumar Boomikaalai for Sachin Saga. Famous cosplayers like Han Jones, Lily On The Moon and Cinderys were judges for the Cosplay Competition. This event fea-

tured many famous cosplayers and some very cool and quirky costumes.

"The sponsors, partners, crowds, all loved the experience and I would really like to say a heartfelt thanks to all the talent and community of gamers on this milestone of a journey", said Akshat Rathee, founder and CEO of NODWIN Gaming, on the huge success of the gaming festival.