

## Sakore Nagar: Pedestrians' nightmare

### Bikers endanger pedestrians



A man riding his two-wheeler on a footpath on Symbiosis Road near Sakore Nagar

By PARIDHI MAHESHWARI

The footpath on Symbiosis road being used for driving is a common sight; however, the frequency with which such traffic violations are increasing is concerning. Footpaths are intended for use only by pedestrians, and riding on them can be dangerous for the rider and the person on foot.

There is almost a daily flouting of traffic rules on the road from Sakore Nagar to the Symbiosis Viman Nagar Campus. Several individuals who work in offices on the right side of the road avoid taking the long route and use the footpath as a shortcut during morning hours. On the other hand, riders of two-wheelers also use the sidewalk to bypass traffic congestion on the road conveniently.

Himanshi Marwah, a college student who

takes that road daily, has faced this issue several times, "I remember a few of them continuously honking, trying to get ahead of the people walking. It's getting more and more difficult to walk on footpaths nowadays." She adds, "It's ridiculous how the two-wheeler drivers trespass the footpath and argue back when questioned on the same."

This is a common problem in many cities in the country, particularly Pune. The Pune traffic police have implemented various measures to address the issue, which include illegal parking on footpaths, riding on the wrong side, and driving on pavements. "They are charged under section 177 MVA, and we impose a fine of Rs. 500 for a first-time offender and Rs. 1500 for every repetition," said Traffic Police Officer PN Datta Fulsundar.

### Botched-up and dangerous



A damaged and unrepaired portion of the road

By SOHAM SHAH

The horrible condition of the first lane of Sakore Nagar, which lies just before the main Sakore Nagar road when going from the Airport, has been a constant source of misery for the residents of that area.

Due to the presence of numerous hostels, paying guest rooms, and student apartments, the road sees a lot of traffic every day. The road was dug up multiple times to install optic fiber cables but not put back well. There is also a small stretch of the road where mul-

multiple patches have been made, all worse than before, leaving behind a tangled mess of hole-ridden uneven patches.

Vehicles, especially two-wheelers, have to be very careful while driving as the uneven road and presence of sand has made it a dangerous task to drive through. Even walking is not safe.

Assistant Municipal Commissioner of Nagar Road-Wadgaon Sheri ward office Somnath Bankar did not answer his phone when reached out for comments on when this road would be fixed.

## VNC celebrates R-Day



Dr Bhama, Dean of Academics and Administration, unfurls the tricolour

By UZMA AFREEN

Like any other corner of India, the morning of 26 January was greeted by the likes of Sandese Aate hain and Ae Watan at the Symbiosis Campus of Viman Nagar. A short and simple celebration was organised by Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies (SCMS) to commemorate the 74th Republic Day.

The ceremony started with Dr Bhama Ven-

kataramani, Dean of Academics and Administration at Symbiosis International University, unfurling the national flag. She was joined by the directors of the three campus institutes. Dr Adya Sharma of SCMS, Dr Sanjeevani Ayaachit of Symbiosis Institute of Design (SID) and Dr Sreeram Gopalkrishnan of Symbiosis Centre for Media and Communication (SCMC)

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## Distressed animal? How you can help



Saroj Soparkar, Founder of WAS, with a rescued animal. (Photo Courtesy: WAS)

By PRANOTI ABHYANKAR

The Viman community has observed injured stray animals along the sidewalk of New Airport Road over the last few months. However, observers tend to find themselves ridden with confusion and compassion in such situations. Here's where citizen initiative steps in and provides a potential course of action.

Pedestrians walking along the sidewalk

on the New Airport Road, specifically the stretch between Symbiosis Center for Media and Communication (SCMC) and Symbiosis Law School (SLS), have often encountered injured stray animals. These include cats and dogs wounded due to road accidents. People often feel sympathy towards an animal in pain; however, they are largely unaware of what they can do about it.

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## TOP PICKS



## PATHAAN

By ANANYANARAYAN DHANABALAN

The Baadshah of Bollywood returns to the big screen with a bang in this high-octane action thriller. SRK shines as the eponymous hero who goes up against Jim (John Abraham), a terrorist planning an attack on India. Despite its predictable and contrived plot, Pathaan is commercial cinema at its finest.



## MISSION MAJNU

By PRATISHTHA BAGAI

The historical spy thriller couldn't do justice to the storyline due to poor writing. Dedicated performance by the actors. Overall, a one time watch only.

Rating: 2.5/5

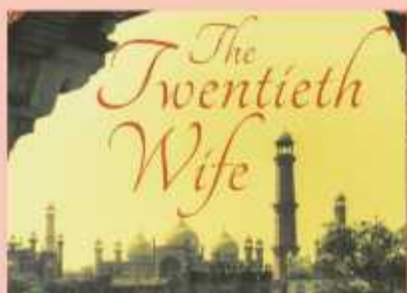


## PIAZZA PIZZA BY LITTLE ITALY

By PARIDHI MAHESHWARI

Piazza Pizza by Little Italy is famous for its healthy alternative to Pizza - the Pinsa. Looking exactly like a thick-crust pizza, just rectangular, its airy and crunchy crust surprises the diner. Ultimately, the toppings round the meal off.

Must have: Keema Pinsa  
To avoid: Garlic breadsticks



## THE TWENTIETH WIFE

By ATHARV UNHALE

Vivid, astute, enchanting. The Twentieth Wife is the story of one of Indian history's most famous women - Mehrunnisa, who later came to be known as Noor Jahan. Albeit fictionalised, the novel gives the reader beautiful insight into Mughal history. The book demands unflinching attention from the reader and makes for a satisfying read.

# After G20 facelift, it's back to grime and garbage

By ATHARV UNHALE

After the new year began for Pune with an extensive city-wide beautification drive, the city is back to normal with dug-up roads, garbage, and disappeared flower beds. The city hosted G-20's first Infrastructure Working Group Meeting on 16th-17th January, 2023. A budget of Rs. 45 crores was approved by the state government for the beautification and concretisation of the city. The route from the airport to Senapati Bapat Road, to be used by the delegates, was cleaned, repaired, painted, and over 4000 trees were planted on the route.

Punekars who were surprised at the beautification drive were quick to be disappointed as garbage returned to the streets, the roads were being dug-up again, and the plants and flowers placed to welcome the delegates were removed barely a week after the G-20 summit by the civic authorities, according to Hindustan Times.

"The flowering plants on SB Road are being pulled out; every morning, I see less of them and more of mud spilled on the road," a Senapati Bapat Road resident said. The Chief Garden Superintendent, PMC, did not respond to requests for comments.

Digging was also back on the roads. SB Road residents expressed their shock as the cycle track made before the arrival of the



Flags of G20 nations can be seen on the stretch of New Bund Garden Bridge as part of PMC's beautification drive.

delegates was dug up merely days after the summit. The cycle track near the Symbiosis Campus is also being used as a parking spot. The Head of the Road Department, PMC refused to comment.

In spite of efforts to make the G-20 route more presentable, locals in other areas of the city complained of being neglected. The beautification drive also meant that slums

were covered behind white curtains.

"Other areas of the city were overlooked during the past two months. A number of issues, including fixing potholes, shutting off the water supply every Thursday, unlawful construction, waste dumping, and walkways being overtaken by various encroachments, were willfully overlooked or reversed," a Nagar Road resident said.

## Rapido closure dismays students

By PRATISHTHA BAGAI

On January 13, the Bombay High Court directed bike-taxi aggregator Rapido to suspend all its operations in the state immediately till January 20 for operating without procuring a license from the Maharashtra government. Many regular users, including some Symbiosis students, were affected by the shutdown, while others switched to Uber and Ola for the time being.



Adya Gautam, a third year Public Relations student from SCMC, said, "Rapido was my top choice when booking a ride because of its subsidized rates and discounts. I missed those deals while booking rides on other apps when it was shut down."

Vanshika Khanna, third year Graphic De-

signing student from SID, shares why Rapido is her go to app, "I personally prefer bike rides, not just because it's cheaper, but also helps me cut through the traffic. As a girl, I find riding on Rapido bikes very safe and convenient." After highlighting the app's affordability, responsiveness and convenience, she concluded, "Since I was in the habit of using Rapido, the shutdown felt really inconvenient."

Shambhavi, a third year Fashion Designing student from SID says, "Comparatively, Rapido responds faster in peak hours than Uber and Ola, and it's slightly cheaper, so as a college student with a limited budget, I did prefer it. Even though earlier it was way more affordable, now it's more or less equally pricey, so I did not get bothered in its absence."

The HC was hearing a petition filed by Rapido challenging the refusal by the Pune RTO to grant a bike taxi aggregator license to

Rapido and other similar entities. The Maharashtra government issued a notification on January 19 prohibiting the use of non-transport vehicles by ride aggregators, effectively outlawing bike taxis.

Ananyanarayan Dhanabalan, third year Journalism Student from SCMC, comments, "Rapido shutting down isn't the worst thing to happen, but for college students who live on extremely limited budgets, the bike taxis were a very affordable option, especially for shorter distances. It's also unfortunate that Rapido and all other two wheeler taxi services have shut down, including Uber and Ola," and adds, "It's not a big blow but definitely a disappointment."



## SCMC staff shines at Sports Fest, aims to win next year!

By ALLEN DAVID JAMES

The Symbiosis Staff Sports Fest was held at the Sports Complex, SIU, Lavale Campus, returning after a three-year hiatus. With a variety of sports to compete in, SCMC's staff (Men) enrolled themselves for the cricket tournament and entered the competition with unshakable confidence and the great desire to win!

The team had been practicing at the SVC Ground diligently after college working hours, and their efforts were there to see. The team had a rollicking start to their campaign with a comfortable victory against the SIU B team, with Vijay Jadhav top scoring and helping them notch up a winning total. The team progressed into the quarter-finals after a close game against SIBM Pune, winning the match by just 10 runs. Vishal Jokare,

captain and elegant batter, led from the front with a swashbuckling knock of 25 off just 9 deliveries, which proved to be the difference between the two sides in the end.

Although the team was knocked out in the quarter-finals against DSRW in what turned out to be a high-scoring affair, the SCMC Staff left the Lavale campus brimming with joy and big smiles on their faces with aspirations to lift the trophy come next year

# Study tours are back again

By ANANYANARAYAN DHANABALAN

The students of SCMC Batch '23 went on their study tours in early January, for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic. This is a small glimpse into their travels.

## Journalism Study Tour – Delhi

The Journalism batch went to the nation's capital, where they got the opportunity to interact with senior leaders across the political spectrum. The trip also incorporated visits to important historical sites in the country. Finally, the batch visited the BBC office in the city and spoke with the journalists.

## Communication Management Study Tour – Bengaluru

The CM batch travelled to Bengaluru, where they visited the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, where they had the chance to see and interact with several technical and non-technical exhibits. The tour then went on to Bannerghatta National Park, where they spent the day as one amongst nature.

## Audio Visual Study Tour – Hyderabad

The AV batch kicked off Hyderabad by visiting Hussain Sagar lake in the city, later basking in the majesty of the Golkonda Fort and the Charminar. The students spent an entire day at Ramoji Film City, where they got to see several film sets and learn about the craft of filmmaking.

1 **SALUTE AT INDIA GATE:** Students paid their respects at the National War Memorial and visited India Gate on their last day in Delhi.

2 **POLITICS, POWER, AND PROMISES:** Journalism students had an insightful conversation with the BJP National General Secretary, Vinod Tawde at the BJP Headquarters in Delhi.

3 **TO INFINITY AND BEYOND:** Advertising and PR students have a blast at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru.

4 **TRAVELS AND TUNES:** The students in Communication Management made the best of a long and arduous train journey.

5 **ONE LOOK UP:** The AV batch explores the Old City neighbourhood in Hyderabad, home to the renowned monument Charminar.

6 **REPORTING LIVE:** The journalism batch got to tour the BBC offices in New Delhi and interact with the broadcast and digital teams.

7 **THE IMPENETRABLE WALL:** Students of the Audio Visual branch learn to appreciate the rich history of Hyderabad at the Golkonda Fort.

8 **LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION:** AV students pose with props at Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad.



## SCMC Beauty shines in Miss India Auditions



By ARYA ZADE

Femina Miss India (2023) East zone auditions took place recently in Trends Store at Shakespeare Sarani Road, Kolkata, with the esteemed panel of Jury members Kaustav Saikia (Fashion Photographer), Abhishek Dutta (Fashion Designer), Rubal Shekhawat (Femina Miss India 2022 - 1st Runner-up), Dr Blossom Kochhar (Happiness Coach), and Ushasi Ray (Actress). Among the various aspirants, one of our very own Vishakha Rai from batch 2023 has been selected in the Top 5 to represent Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

Vishakha shares her views on how beauty pageants used to be about generalised beauty standards, but as time has changed, the organisation's perspective has also changed. "It is all about strength, confidence, your personality, how you tackle situations, how good of a spokesperson you are and how you hold yourself in those 5-inch heels always on your toes and yet never fail to walk gracefully. That is what beauty pageants are about, and it is high time we change the narrative and let the world know that it is not just about the generalised aesthetic. Everybody is welcome to join beauty pageants regardless of skin colour, height or age. There is a platform for everybody where you can raise your voice. Take up space and speak for what you stand for."

Since the age of 18, Vishakha has come a long way, from participating in an online pageant with 4000 applicants to meeting many women from all walks of life with their unique stories and struggles. With the help of her mentors, Anjali Raut and Alesia Raut, Vishakha has given her all in the past 13 months of intense training, part-time modelling, and academics to reach where she is now.

# A rather noisy birthday for Yen and Euro

By ADITI KRISHNAN

The most loyal residents of the Symbiosis Girls' Hostel turned 50 this year. Well, technically - if you consider the fact that they're dogs and one dog year is considered equivalent to seven human years. So, Euro and Yen, the hostel's Labrador retrievers, who were born on January 4th, and January 22nd of 2016, respectively, celebrated their birthday on January 14.

Every year, the hostel administration organises a birthday bash for the two on the 13th (the median date of their birthdays). This year, since the festival of Lohri also fell on January 14, they decided to combine the two celebrations.

Like every year, the stage was set for the birthday party - with birthday balloons, party hats, cakes, and a snacks counter. And in addition there was the Lohri bonfire and loud music - which was in all likelihood too loud for Yen and Euro. After all, sound levels above 85 decibels are not just uncomfortable but could also be hazardous for dogs. And Yen and Euro are not getting any younger.

So, while the hostelites enjoyed themselves, Yen and Euro were a little withdrawn after a point of time. Bonfires and loud music are not a dog's idea of a birthday bash.



Yen (foreground) and Euro taking a well-needed breather from the festivities. (Photo Courtesy: Sorashi Sharma)

## VNC celebrates R-Day

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were present along with Colonel G S Radkar, the Senior Campus Administrator.

A twelve-member regiment led by Mr Shirole saluted the Tiranga as the national anthem played in the background.

"S, L, and D is the formula for success", Dr Adya stated as she shared an anecdote from her childhood. "S stands for Saraswati, that is knowledge, L stands for Lakshmi or wealth, and D stands for Durga, our inner power". "This Republic Day, I hope we all identify our inner power, which lets us enjoy



Dr Adya Sharma, SCMS Director, addressed the gathering

our happiness and also teaches us to face our sorrows."

"Happiness is not the absence of problems, it is the ability to deal with them", Dr Adya said. "And if we all have that power, we can take care of our family, Symbiosis and nation. We can use our knowledge wisely, and the country will keep moving toward development," she added.

The mesmerising speech was followed by a musical performance by the music club of SCMS, Encore. They were also joined by Dr Smriti, faculty at SCMS and Ms Sangita, the academic coordinator.



SCMS Music Club, Encore, gave a stirring performance

## What if Ghalib was Gen-Z? asks Piyush Mishra's band



By SOHAM SHAH

Famous actor-musician Piyush Mishra and his band Ballimaran held the second show of their latest tour in Phoenix Marketcity in Pune. The band is named after a street in Delhi where the legendary Urdu poet Mirza Ghalib lived; his haveli still stands there.

Famous film tracks like *Aarambh hai Prachand* from *Gulaal* and *Ek Bagal me Chand Hoga* from *Gangs of Wasseypur* were obvious audience favourites, but the band's original compositions were huge hits too. *O Hamlet*, a Hindi song on Shakespeare's idea of Denmark in *Hamlet* is a fresh and different concept. *Husna of Coke Studio* fame was requested by many in the crowd, and Mishra obliged. *Uth ja Bhau*, Mishra claimed, is a parody song written in the 90s, with references to the smoking ban in Delhi, corruption scandals, the election of Nawaz Sharif, and the fall of Imran Khan. Ballimaran's songs are a social commentary on everything under the sky, except caste (Mishra himself being a Brahmin).

Mishra's songwriting skills are one of the best out there. The incredible rusticity of his songs makes it very easy to mistake them for folk compositions. The show is a very personal affair, with Mishra preceding every song with personal stories and anecdotes. He describes his journey climbing the ladders of the Hindi film industry and his motivation behind writing every song. The cheeky humour present in all his lyrics is a striking reminder of Ghalib; when a British officer looked at his turban and asked him if he was Muslim, Ghalib replied by saying, "Only half. I drink wine but I don't eat pork."

## Distressed animal? How you can help

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People often feel sympathy towards an animal in pain; however, they are largely unaware of what they can do about it. "Dead animals are honestly almost always a horror to see. I am yet to come across injured animals, but I would want to help them get treated if I do come across one," says Adya Gautam, a resident of Symbiosis Girls Hostel.

Saroj Soparkar's organization, Wadgaon Sheri Animal Saviors (WAS), introduced an

emergency ambulance service to help these animals in distress. As per the protocol, anyone who sees an injured animal in need of medical care can contact the ambulance through the organization's website.

"There have been days when we have received more than 1,000 distress calls. But there is only one ambulance right now, and it can carry around five animals at a time," says Saroj Soparkar.

Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) also relays animal distress calls to WAS, and the

ambulance operates based on the proximity and urgency of cases.

The Chronicle reached out to PETA India to discuss what humans can do to go beyond being mere spectators when they come across wounded animals. "If a person sees an animal in distress, or if they witness any cruelty toward an animal, they should call their local animal welfare group or PETA India on our 24x7 helpline number, 9820122602. PETA India receives more than 1,500 calls a week," says Deepak Chaudhary, the Man-

ager of the Emergency Response Team at PETA India.

Additionally, activists believe that the causes of animal injuries and cruelty are deep-rooted within people's minds. Hence, organizations like PETA and WAS are conducting animal welfare awareness programs at the school level so that children do not lose sight of their compassion and better understand and appreciate animals.