

## Bidding Goodbye to Batch 2019

SCMC Reporter

The Farewell for Batch 2019 was organized on February 9 by Batch 2020 at the SVC Auditorium.

Students of Batch 2019 started flocking in at the venue at around 3:30 pm, all decked up in crisp suits, tuxedos, elegant sarees and other forms of ethnic wear and received a warm welcome. Quirky placards and a colorful photo booth were put up at the entrance of the auditorium where everyone could pose for photographs.

The program began at 4:15 pm with the lighting of the lamp. Director Sreeram Gopalakrishnan and faculty members- Professor Amitabh Dasgupta, Professor Dr. Shirin Abbas, Professor Vidyabhushan Arya and Professor Ananya Mehta took to stage and addressed the batch. The second year students took it forward from there with a series of fun games and presentations such as the '#3YearsChallenge', where photographs of students from their first semester and their last semester were displayed on screen with the famous old track of 'Waqt Ne Kiya Kya Haseen Sitam' playing in the background. This was followed by an award function and dance, music and poetry performances by second and third year students. The event was wrapped up with the Batch of 2019 dancing on stage. There were laughs, smiles and tears- the farewell was indeed an emotional rollercoaster for the students as they shared a special moment, as a batch, for one last time. (See picture on Pg 4)

## How Symbi upholds the helmet rule



Helmets perched on bikes in the campus basement parking lot

Aayushi Bose  
Guneet K. Bedi

The 'Helmet compulsory' rule is Pune's new year's resolution for the year 2019. Viman Nagar falls under Police inspector Jitendra Koli's jurisdiction. He says that wearing a helmet has always been compulsory, but was not followed religiously until January 1 2019, when the police decided to monitor compliance towards the rule more strictly, thus implementing it in practice. Ever since the implementation of the rule has been monitored more strictly, there haven't been any fatal accidents and 1 death has been recorded, compared to January 2018, when 2 deaths were

recorded in his jurisdiction. Before the rule was enforced strictly, 30-35% riders wore helmets. The figure has now increased to 55%. Monitoring through CCTV is key to check the implementation of the rule. Koli added that they have been to half a dozen educational institutes to educate students about the importance of wearing a helmet. "Helmet must be worn-doesn't matter if the rider is traveling for a kilometer or 10." "At any given day between 11 am and 1 pm, in the Shivajinagar Police station, about 50 first and second time faulters are taught and explained the importance of wearing one." Koli says that it is a government rule to educate people about

the rule wearing helmets. A T Sutar, campus coordinator at the older campus of Symbiosis in Viman Nagar, attests the compliance rate has always been high. Col C V Mohan, head administrator of the same Viman Nagar campus, states that the security is trained to grant entry to the campus parking only to those who wear helmets. Pillion riders, however, can be granted entry nevertheless. Hence, some have to park outside the campus gate. "(Those who park outside) fill a penalty when the police come." "Many students don't wear the helmet through the journey. They just put it on before entering the parking and then remove it once they've parked" he adds. The campus has implemented the rule since 2011. "We have had a 90% compliance rate, it has increased by 3-4% since Jan 1." Shekhar Hari Uke is serving as the head of security in the Symbiosis Law School in Viman Nagar. He states that driving into the campus parking without a helmet was permitted before January 1. Although 40% riders wore helmets, the campus ensured that they too implement the government rule. The compliance rate grew from 70% on the first day to 99% today. Uke advocates for helmets to be worn. "You can ensure you drive correctly; you can't do the same for others on the road. Head injuries take time to repair."

## From Jugaad Ho Jayega... to Jugaad Ho Gaya !

SCMC's pan-Pune race returns after a hiatus of two years



The winning team of Jugaad 2019, led by tagger Aishwarya Mani (extreme right)

Sahana Iyer

While this year brought back various events long forgotten at SCMC, Jugaad was undeniably seen as one of the most successful. The Pan-Pune scavenger hunt took place on 5th February, starting at the amphitheater of the

Symbiosis Viman Nagar campus (SVC). 20 teams presented themselves to participate, making it the highest participation the event has ever seen. While teams were allowed no phones or money, certain advantages were offered as incentives. The team "Khotte Sikke" won the first advantage of a 15-minute head-start through a draw arranged for the teams that had registered online. Another team "Clutter" won two advantages. They first received a 30 rupees incentive from the organisers for solving an online riddle posted on Instagram and then received a free ride from location 3 for being the first team present at the day of the event. The event kicked off with a taggers challenge where all taggers had to move an Oreo biscuit placed on their forehead to their mouths using facial muscles. The challenge was won by tagger Ira Gopal, with the benefit of being the first team after Khotte Sikke to receive the clue. The first hint took the teams to Creativity showroom in Yerwada where the teams indulged in strenuous physical tasks. In fact, some teams decided to just skip the demanding challenge and take the 10-minute penalty instead. The challenge then got students hitch-hiking throughout the city to the new

Social restaurant on FC Road, popular family restaurant 'Tim Luck Luck' at Camp, The Good Food Café in Koregaon Park, White terrace club in Kalyani Nagar and finally bringing them back full-circle to the SVC amphitheater. Despite no initial advantages, the 2020 team "OG" (Members Khushi Narula, Anmol Das, Amar Kate, Ajinkya Bahlerao and Yukta Wane with tagger Aishwarya Mani) bagged the first prize, fighting

the odds. "This was the first Jugaad event I took part in. I decided to be a tagger when I heard the fun experience everyone had last time. It turned out to be the best decision of my life. My group had the most fun, understanding and clever members. What made my experience great was that they treated me like a part of their group and not an outsider", said Mani, extremely happy with the experience she had.



The organising committee of Jugaad - PR batch of 2019, along with the winning teams



## TOP PICKS



### Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga

Imana Bhattacharya

Sweetie (Sonam K Ahuja) is almost the typical Indian girl. Having grown-up watching Bollywood's cheesy rom-coms, she too dreamt of being similarly swept off her feet one day. However, as she grows older no man seems to be good enough. Why? Because turns out, Sweetie is in love with another girl! Though let down by its sloppy script, 'EKDTAL' renders a heart-wrenching story. However despite of all its flaws, it is mainstream Bollywood's first homosexual love-story. Throughout the movie, young Sara Arjun gives a tear-jerking performance as young sweetie, and Anil Kapoor as a concerned but conflicted father is flawless. Making the movie, worth a watch.

### Wok Express

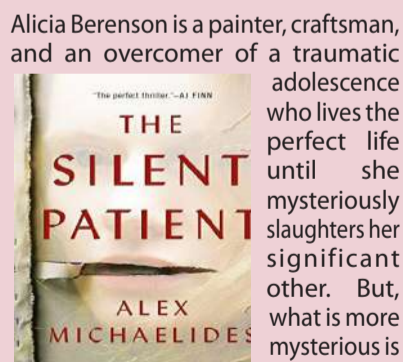
Aashna Kaul



Chinese to me is comfort food and looking for just that I decided to pay a visit to the Wok Express. A menu that spreads across Chinese and Thai recipes, yet is indianized to my liking, the place seemed a perfect fit. I kickstarted my meal with two dumplings filled with juicy chicken. Followed by a Chickien bao, green Thai curry and steamed rice. Juicy, well cooked touching the perfect balance between seet and savory, my meal here soon proved to be a good decision. Not only did the food deliver to my expectations, but even the staff was polite and well-mannered.

### The Silent Patient

Imana Bhattacharya



Alicia Berenson is a painter, craftsman, and an overcomer of a traumatic adolescence who lives the perfect life until she mysteriously slaughters her significant other. But, what is more mysterious is Alicia's lack of explanation for the murder she apparently committed. Rather than being just a psychological thriller, the book 'The Silent Patient' is an exercise in the exploration of the psyches of both a woman convicted of murdering her husband and the therapist determined to treat her. A twisted first person narration, chilling plot twists, dotted by intricate details- the book makes one sit up and take notice of this debut novel and welcome a promising player into the genre.

## SID designs installations at Vh1 Supersonic

Nayanika Mukherjee

Vh1 Supersonic is known to be one of India's largest and most-visited music festivals. Maintaining a legacy started by their seniors, students of Symbiosis Institute of Design (SID) were invited to create two major installations at the event, which was held between February 16 and 17 at Laxmi Lawns, Magarpatta. The theme for this year's edition, Space. Visitors walking into Supersonic this year noticed the bold purple 'SUPERSONIC' typeface lettering at the entrance archway — the first installation made by the team. Constructed with plywood, the installation was made to resemble an infinity mirror when viewed against the dark night sky. The skeleton of each letter was then augmented with mirror film and LED strips inside. Continuing the theme of space, the second installation portrayed a UFO hovering a few feet above the ground. With a frame made of steel rods and pipes, the spacecraft was covered with cardboard corrugated sheets and construction paper, and finally lit up with strips of LED lights. Festival-goers could even sit under the UFO for a happy abduction



A spaceship constructed by SID students

photo or two. This was not a marked project at SID, but an extracurricular activity for a 50-strong team of students from disciplines such as product design, interior design, graphic design and even fashion design.

After the initial conceptualisation and planning phase, construction activities began on February 3, with work responsibilities concluding on February 16. Due to the gigantic scale of the project, students were even welding, tightening and hoisting materials a few hours before Day 1 of Supersonic even began. "It was hard, all right", says Shankar Menon, a third-year Product Design student. "After so many hours of painstaking delicate work, trial and errors, and countless sleepless nights, we managed to pull off our most eventful — and slightly extravagant — installation yet. For that, we're thankful to the festival organisers, our faculty and most importantly, the tireless workforce of students for making this happen." As they say, all's well that ends well. The entire installations team was gifted free crew passes to enjoy and unwind after a fortnight of hard work.

## Simran has 31,000 followers on Insta!

Shubhangi Mishra

In the day and age of smart-phones and high speed internet, social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook have become our escapade from reality. Scrolling endlessly on these apps is the new recreational routine millennials resort to. But while most of us entertain ourselves on these platforms, there are people for whom Instagram is their holy grail. A lot of young boys and girls use Instagram as a platform for micro-blogging where they can not only share their style, thoughts and views with a large audience base, but can also partner with various brands and showcase its products on their feed. To get a better idea about all of this and more, The SCMC Chronicle, caught up with Simran Kulkarni, a young and exuberant food and fashion blogger on Instagram. With almost around 31,000 followers Simran has been blogging on Instagram since 4 years focussing mainly on lifestyle, fashion and food. "I started out as a photographer for other food bloggers. I used to click pictures for them and repost it on my account, which was quite well

received by everyone. Finally in 2015, I put up my first post as a blogger which was realted to fashion."



Simran Kulkarni

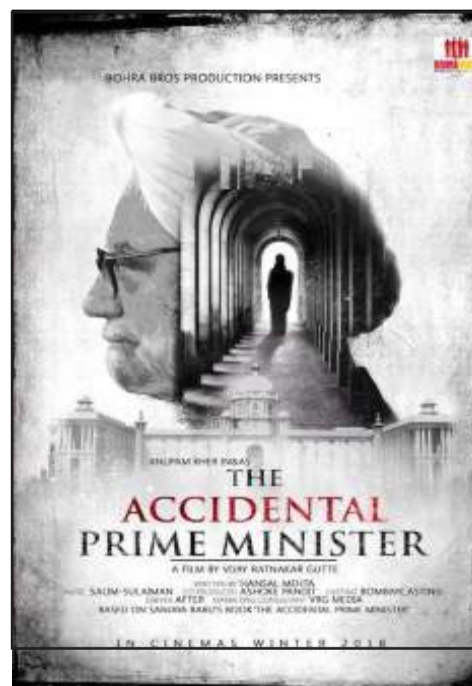
Taking us through her journey as blogger, Simran tells us the effort it took from being

@thataawkwardgirl to @simran.kulkarni. "Even while shooting for other bloggers, I didn't have a camera of my own. I used to borrow my friend's Canon 1200D to shoot. It has taken me about four years to get to where I am and it definitely didn't happen overnight. There were times when certain concept based shoots that I particularly loved, didn't do so well with my audience. So it certainly hasn't been an easy ride!" Simran describes her fashion to be extremely street and spunky that connects with her viewers. She has done umpteen collaborations with various A-lister brands like Daniel Wellington, The Pavillion Mall and Phoneix Market City, Pune. She has also starred on the cover of Brands & Bloggers Magazine. She explains how even while doing food photography for her feed, there is a certain style and nuance of doing it, to add that extra element to the photo. As happening and glamorous, as a blogger's life looks from the outside with all the free products, umpteen hours of shoots, brainstorming and immense creativity goes unnoticed.

## Bollywood biopics: political agenda alone?

Pari Tavate

Bollywood has now fallen into the routine of churning out a biopic every year amidst the pool of quasi-conventional plots. However, 2019 has kickstarted with a weekly dose of politically charged biopics, and if one looks closely, you may conjure a pattern. January 11 saw releases of two very different films - *Uri: The Surgical Strike* and *The Accidental Prime Minister*; the former being a semi-fictional account of the 2016 surgical strikes carried out by the Indian army and the latter being an adaptation of Sanjaya Baru's book by the same name. If *Uri* ignited the patriotism that also glorified Modi's governance, *The Accidental Prime Minister* just as easily depicted a very soft-spoken and incomprehensible frame of a leader who sided with the present opposition party. The next week was smothered in orange flags as Abhijit Panse's *Thakarey* hit the box office. The film very visibly propels



Balasaheb Thakarey's ideals by labelling him as an activist and a revolutionary. Though these films have a disclaimer at the beginning of every screening, it is impossible to ignore how each one ties to a political agenda. *Thakarey* was produced by Sanjay Raut who is a well-known Shivsena leader while the director was a former member. While the protagonist of *The Accidental Prime Minister*, Anupam Kher is the spouse of BJP MP, Kirron Kher. If the first few months of 2019 were laced with propagandist films being rolled in to secure vote banks, the present government may have just hit the jackpot when the official Narendra Modi biopic was announced by director Omung Kumar, known for Mary Kom in late January. What can be better direct hit at the vote bank, if not this. The move is very subtle and clever as an essential part of every Indian is films and what better way than to get your voters through films?



Some day I'm going to teach you to lie. Patrick Rothfuss





My twin, Kajal dressed in my grandmother's saree as a part of the story "Reclaiming Stretch Marks"



Karshni and Yusra : "Queer Inclusivity on Valentine's Day" series



Roshini Kumar : photographer and body positivity activist



Gonsalves, a member of a hitherto unknown East-Indian community

### Inspired by identity

Aditya Sinha

As someone who is inspired by the themes of identity, recreating family portraits and fantasy dreamscapes, working as a photographer has been one of the most exciting experiences. During my time at my internship, I got to see the multifaceted identities of Bombay - the rise of hip-hop amongst the kids of Dharavi, the East Indian Community, the hidden gems of Chor Bazaar, and body positivity in young Indians - to name a few. There are so many elements to the human experience that I've discovered through my work; from photographing my twin sister as my muse to pushing for queer inclusivity. There's a strange kind of rush in making the visuals in your head a reality, and I find myself grateful for that.



The traditional diya makers of Dharavi originally from Gujarat

## Gulaal: A stage adaptation

Aashna Kaul



A performer from the show

Adapting movies for the stage is not an easy job. Conventionally films have been inspired by theatre but it's more unusual to find a play that is found on cinema. Dramebaaz - the theatre club of Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies (SCMS) paid tribute to Gulaal, a film by Anurag Kashyap for their annual production. The event took place on 6th February in the Symbiosis, Viman Nagar. The hour-long drama was adapted for the stage by the club core members - Umang Agarwal and Abhi Ram Varma who are BBA students. Gulaal, a story about the different shades of red - love, power, and revolution, follows the story of Dilip who gets caught up.

## Maushi's fare is staple for students

Yash Agarwal

Viman Nagar might lie on the outskirts of Pune city, but it is very well ensconced in the thought and imagination of anyone who visits the city, especially the ever increasing number of students who make Pune their home for a few years of their lives.

Of the countless elements which go into making memories around a place, popular food joints are easily the most important. One such joint in Viman Nagar is Maushi's Vada Pav stall right opposite the Symbiosis International School campus. Shabby and inexpensive, accessible and known to all, Maushi and her Vada Pav stall has served students and countless others over the years, on a daily basis.

It's a food stall which Maushi, an ever smiling lady in her fifties, has been running jointly with her husband and her son for the past six years. The menu is fairly brief and to the point - Vada Pav, Onion and Green Chilly fritters and piping hot tea to go alongside them, not to forget Poha, a staple for many students and locals, which she runs out of latest by 10 am

every morning- such is the demand. The food fare is extremely affordable, with Vada Pav priced at Rs.12 and much of it is freshly made in front of the consumers.

Maushi lives in the slums nearby with her family of four.

Although she doesn't disclose

exact sales figures or something closer to it with her family members giving conflicting figures to The Chronicle, one fact they all agreed upon is that life is good and that they are content with what they have and what they do- satiating the hunger of many, day in and day out.

"Feeding so many school and college going students their breakfast, every morning, day in and day out, even at times when some of them don't pay or are short on change, I feel like a mother, in pursuit of ensuring that none of them start the day on an empty stomach.", said Maushi.



PHOTO/APRAJITA CHANDELKAR

Maushi (Shashikala Pawar)





PHOTO / SCMC Photography Team

FOR ONE LAST TIME: SCMC's Batch of 2019 comes together for a group photo at the farewell.

## SCMC students raise funds for degree films

Mignon Mascarenhas

It's the degree film season here at SCMC, where students are all set to bring their stories to the small screen, as part of the completion of their three-year course. To produce a quality film, one needs to put their heart, soul and money into it, but the latter is not always possible when you're still a student. This is why some students have turned to the option of crowd funding which will help them with better equipment and a higher production value for their films. The average budget of most of the films come up to around 85,000 - 1,00,000 – out of which 5,000 is provided by the college. The students have come up with innovative social media techniques, promo films and teasers in an effort to persuade viewers to financially support their films.

Nairika Lodhi, director of the upcoming film Solace, has taken efforts to set up an account on Ketto, a crowd funding platform. In a conversation with *The SCMC Chronicle*, she revealed that most funds collected were from her friends and family who became aware after following the social media efforts.

But when crowd funding doesn't work, the crew has to resort to sponsorships, production houses, independent producers and even their own savings. This is why there is so much pressure on an innovative marketing campaign.

Armaan Dua, a third-year student of the audio-visual batch and the director of Patta, said, "We know that a majority of our funds will be from friends and family. Unlike other promo videos we aren't asking people for money, ours is going to be a general website with a little paragraph about the story. From our estimates, if we manage to collect money from people we don't know, it'll hardly be 10%. Our back up plan would be the savings we have as crew members, but we know it won't come to that."

## Experiencing Bharat lost within India

Yash Agarwal

The third-year journalism students of SCMC were taken to Shindewadi, a 'model' village just 30 Kms to the east of Pune. The exact location - Sae Farmstay and Agrotourism hub. The date was 31st of January and we left for the trip at around 10 in the morning right after breakfast.

Our faculty in charge, Prof. Vidyabhushan Arya is friends with a gentleman there, Mr Langde. He's the one who runs this entire agrotourism and farmstay property and more importantly, he's a social activist, a politician and a prominent personality in the village and nearby areas having been the sarpanch twice as well.

As soon as we reached, we were given a tour of the gram panchayat office and it's workings. We were informed of how the three tier structure of governance works and what all does it lack in terms of effective functioning. Soon, we were in a freewheeling discussion with Mr. Langde on how the one-size-fits-all approach of the government is ineffective. It was thoroughly enriching

and it opened our minds to ideas which we hadn't been exposed to till then.

Following this, we went ahead to the animal farms, learnt a bit about the farming process for a few crops, went around to try our hands at fishing and so on. This was soon followed by a sumptuous, traditional lunch.

We rested for an hour after lunch, trying out hand at indoor games like carrom and UNO, after which we left for college at around 4.

This visit to Shindewadi was really timely, enriching and a great break from the rote as well for us journalism students. The trip also proved to be a great learning experience



PHOTO / SCMC Photo

Students of the 2019 Journalism batch learning about the workings of Gram Panchayats.

## Zee5 Loft: Viman's brand new Adda

Niharika Mohan

Zee recently opened a branch of its trademark cafes, Zee5 Loft in Viman Nagar. Zee5 Loft being an interactive café is aptly fitted with Playstations, VR sets, board games and even has a small library of its own.



Viman Nagar's new favourite, Zee5 Loft

One stand out feature of the cafe is a bicycle that makes milkshakes.

In just two months the café has gained a sizable amount of customer. They have recently started delivering their food through Zomato and Mr. Rupesh Nepali, the restaurant manager, believes that these kind of food delivery apps are always helpful in expanding business and creating a positive market. After successful beginnings in Bangalore and Hyderabad, the franchise has shifted its focus to Pune.

"Our idea is to provide a space where the customers play more, eat more and have lots of fun.", Mr. Rupesh continues "For a person to grow you need to be there from the core and I was onboard when Zee5 Loft, Pune was conceptualized."

Zee5 Loft has started to become a new favorite for all the foodies and bloggers in town and the popularity of the place only seems to be rising.

## Gulaal . . .

contd. from pg 2

in the Rajputana race for power and respect. The two directors transcribed the entire film to write a brand new script for the play. Natak Society from Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts too presented a short story along with performances by the music club and the dance crew.

"The whole procedure of putting up 'Gulaal' was magical. It was beautiful seeing the actors evolve, the backstage team coming on their own. There is only one moment which describes what 'Gulaal' meant for our team and that was the moment when we saw 500 odd people on their feet clapping for those precious two minutes." said Aadithya, head of the club.

Drammebaaz has been producing a lot of plays concerning social media awareness and inform the youth of the city.