

First time voters: the game changers

Aroshi Handu

The election season, much like the sweltering summer, is suddenly upon us. In less than a month, 84.3 million new voters will have to make important decisions in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Parties on either side of the political spectrum are vying for the attention of young, first time voters by announcing extensive campaigns. But is that all it takes to woo young voters? The SCMC Chronicle, in conversation with more than a dozen college students, dug deeper to find out what influences their decision making when it comes to voting.

For some, ideology, transparency and progressiveness really matter. Anushka Mukherjee, a second year student of SCMC says, "My decision is a mix of ideologies I've been brought up around, and how these ideologies play out in the political history of the country." Others like Rohan Sen (22) another student from Pune feel that ideology is not a major factor. "It would mainly depend upon what the party or candidate has said and done in the last few years", he says.

Dissatisfied with the policies by either government while in power, Urvashi Razdan (22), an alum of SCMC and



First time voters will call the shots in the 2019 elections

Priyamvad Rai (20), a student of SCAC, feel it leaves them no choice but to vote NOTA — knowing that it won't make a discernible difference to the results. "I believe that if enough people vote for NOTA, it will send out a strong message that none of the candidates are suitable for the parliament", says Rai.

The media calls new voters 'the game changers' of this year's elections. This is because first-time voters tend to behave differently as they are often better informed, tech-savvy and can impact elections by influencing their family and friend circles. To do this,

they need to differentiate between propaganda and facts to make informed decisions.

Malvika Sharma (22), from SCMC believes the youth are crucial not only in the elections, but in the future of the country. "I believe if we all gather and unanimously vote for a better leader, it can really help shape Indian politics".

Overall the young, first-time voters of Pune more or less seem to operate on the 'lesser of two evils' logic which seems to shape their opinion on politics and exercising their right to vote in the upcoming elections.

EDITORIAL

Batch 2019 signs off

Amitabh DasGupta

The newspaper you are reading right now belongs to the Symbiosis Centre for Media and Communication. But the real owners of this product are the Journalism specialization students of the Batch of 2019.

The Batch has tread on territory that no Batch has ever reached before. This is the first time in the 10-year history of SCMC that we have produced what can be called a newspaper in real time, in the true sense of the term. What has been produced before were mere newsletters.

The credit for this achievement, first and foremost, must go to our Director Dr Sreeram Gopalkrishnan, who is also the de facto Printer and Publisher of this newspaper. It was his initiative that resulted in the setting up of a 'journo lab' in the college, which the journalism students ipso facto have converted into the news room. This newspaper would not have seen the light of the day without his unstinted support; and the freedom accorded to the Editorial department.

In the highest traditions of ethical journalism, Dr Gopalkrishnan also stoically recused himself from being interviewed on the pages of his own newspaper. More importantly, the Journalism Batch of 2019 has pioneered in creating a product which is iconic of the hallmark of excellence in this college.

What has gone into the conception and production of this newspaper is endless hours of brainstorming about the reports, articles, features, photographs, design and pagination. There were those in the team who earned respect because of the ownership of certain tasks they undertook and performed well.

Someone became the last word in subbing. Someone delivered pages working from home. Some others filled in for those who could not be relied upon. Someone produced spectacular design, even though it has wasn't his job.

The Batch of 2019 has left big boots for the Batch of 2020 to step into when they revive the The SCMC Chronicle in July this year. Till then, au revoir.

Govt bans online mobile game PUBG in Gujarat; six arrested

Jivraj Karande

PlayerUnknown's Battleground, which is famously known as PUBG, has been in news for all the wrong reasons. And one of those reasons is that Gujarat government has banned playing PUBG.

Initially the ban was implemented in the cities of Surat, Rajkot, and Vadodara, but soon Bhavnagar and Gir Somnath, Aravalli district followed the pact. Adding to this Gujarat government has now issued a new circular which directs district authorities to prohibit students who are found playing PUBG Mobile in schools.

According to a notification issued by Rajkot Police Commissioner Manoj Agrawal, anyone could report an instance of someone playing PUBG and the latter may face prosecution under the Central Government Act under Section 188. The notification said that the rule would be in force from March 9 till April 30.

As for the reasons, PUBG has been

accused of spreading violence among children and has led them to divert attention from academics, affecting their overall development.

Just a few days ago, six college students were arrested in Gujarat's Rajkot city for allegedly playing the PUBG game on their mobile phones despite the police banning it. All the 10 were booked under Indian Penal

Code Section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) and later granted bail at the police stations concerned. The students were released on bail later the same day.

What's confusing about this is that Gujarat Govt has not banned PUBG but has made the act of playing PUBG a "bailable offence".



Youth distraught over PUBG ban in Gujarat

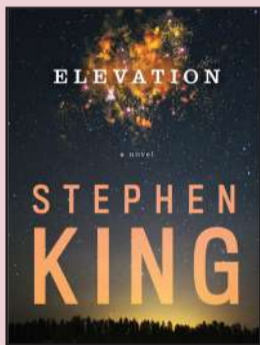
TOP PICKS



Koshish

Amitabh Dasgupta

Koshish is a 35-minute short film made by Final Year students of SCMC. It is a poignant love story of a couple in an unsteady marriage. It takes a calamitous situation for realization to dawn on the two that they can yet make their marriage work. Deft direction by Pari Tavate and Kritika Siroliya; thoughtful cinematography and proficient editing keep the pace alive. The lead pair Prakriti Arya and Gautan Chawla are perfectly convincing in their roles. The audiography is not upto the mark.



Elevation

Aprajita Chandelkar

Elevation is not like any Stephen King book you would've read. At first glance, a book about a man who is worried about his steady weight loss might seem to go in King's safe spot, it isn't the case as you continue reading it. The plot takes a very un-King twist and takes the book to a completely different tangent. Even in a 160-page book, King manages to fit in so much without it seeming that way. It captivates and makes you think and wonder about your own biases. It is the kind of book that will make you sit up and take notice of the people and communities around you.



La Kheer Deli (LKD)

Aprajita Chandelkar

How many times can a rice kheer recipe be improvised, without making it too sugary or too sweet? La Kheer Deli adds just the right amounts of innovation and sweetness to make it perfect. And in the end, you can't stop at just a spoonful. Located at JM road, KP and Aundh, La Kheer Deli serve Nutelloreo kheer, Brownie kheer, Gulkand Kheer, Mocha Kheer, and good old dry fruits kheer and they keep on adding new flavors as the seasons come and go. The place was nice and quaint but would be better if they had a sitting arrangement. Try it if you are craving something different from your usual desserts, it's a delight!

A rendezvous with Pune's Parsi eateries

Prakriti Arya

Pune is home to a range of communities from across the world. Each of these communities have brought along their own history, culture, customs, and food, lending the city a distinct character and flavour. One such community is the Parsis. In Pune, they are primarily constituted in and around the Camp area, and one of the most iconic eateries there is Rustom's Restaurant. "It's been around 23 years since me and my dad have been looking after the place. My mom's a good cook, so I thought why not start serving Parsi food?", says Mr. Fareed, owner of Rustom's Restaurant. "However, there are only a few dishes that people want, as they don't want to go out of their comfort zone. Most people associate Parsi food only with Dhansak". Fareed speaks quickly, busy serving the rush of customers lined up for Rustom's famous mutton cutlet and chai. However, dhansak is not something to be had every day. According to Mr. Fareed, it is made to end the four-day mourning period after someone's death. People's knowledge of the cuisine is limited to what the popular media tells them. Established in 1878, Dorabjee & Sons in Camp is the oldest Parsi restaurant in Pune, and one of the



Clockwise from top: Dorabjee & Sons Restaurant and Rustom Restaurant & Marz-o-rin. Photos by Pari Tavate

oldest in India. Sitting inside the little hutlike structured restaurant, Mr. Darius Dorabjee, owner of the place, welcomes every customer with a smile. On offer is delicious food and great conversations. "The place was started by my great grandfather, Dorab Dorabjee. He came to Pune from Navsari when he was around 18, and started a tea stall here. During that time, there was only one restaurant for the British, and none for the locals. So, he started this restaurant for the goras

and the Indians, and there has been no looking back since". Darius believes that his restaurant has been a success for 140 years because one of the family members is always present, no matter what time of the day, to look after the quantity and quality of the food served. A commonality among these eateries is that they reinforce the belief that food isn't just cuisine, but a way of life; a means to preserve a history that can be passed on to future generations.

Selling memories, saving space

Imana Bhattacharya

"We entered college as very different people, and now when we are leaving we are someone else.", says Rishika Tiwari, a third year Advertising student at SCMC, who is packing to move to Mumbai next month. Her batchmates share her sentiment. If one logs on to the second-hand goods online marketplace Olx today, Viman Nagar would look like a bustling market for sellers of 'barely' used mattresses, cupboards, beds, tables and what-have-you. "There are little-little things which I needed so I bought over time but now I reflect and see there's so many items that have collected which I now need to give away!", says Ankita Chawla, an advertising student. To deal with this pile of now futile things, students have devised multiple innovative solutions. Manasvi Singh Chauhan, a film student

who is moving to Mumbai, has already begun giving away her old books at cheap rates to people. She is also mulling on having a garage sale with her to sell the rest of the things she doesn't require anymore. "When you're leaving the hostel, or generally you're leaving college you'd like to start afresh so I'd like to sell a lot of my stuff away", she says. Similarly, Rishika has circulated a list of books she owns for people to pick up from her, for free. For students who have moved out into apartments, house appliances, beds, tables and chairs make a big list of items to give away. Sahana Iyer, a journalism student has built up her profile on Olx, and is now selling her furniture along with shoes and clothes. "Despite the benefits, you need to be careful on such platforms. One man tried to buy my shoes for the

smell because he had a foot fetish.", she warns. Donations, shipping services, additional baggage allowances, student discounts, household helps and juniors in college form the second line of defence for many. Noreen Shah, who would be carrying her luggage internationally to her parents' in Abu Dhabi has instructed them to purchase additional luggage allowance for a comfortable travel. "I will be donating and giving away a lot of my things to charitable organizations or my juniors themselves. Even then if my things cross the limit, I would have them shipped to my grandparents' place in New Delhi", she says. It's an emotional time for these students. Rummaging through their luggage, stumbling upon things from different times in their college life brings up fresh memories.

Great Indian Hunger Fest features food and music

Vishab Thappa

A two-day food fest celebrating food and music was held at Royal Palms, Koregaon Park on 16th and 17 March. Named The Great Indian Hunger fest, the event had more surprises than just mouth-watering food. The festival had a variety of elements ranging from food and beverages to music, games and stand up comedy, entire day food sampling from the various stalls and even a play zone for kids. In addition to this, beer pong, giant Jenga and an open-air movie to catch once the sun sets were the highlights of the event. The event started at around 5 pm on 16th with high-powered musical performances by various bands throughout the day. Pune based bands Nyasa, Sabai, WFM



performed early in the evening. Later in the day Underground Authority and JD (Gully Gang) took over the stage with their electric performances. JD is a multi-genre DJ hailing from the streets of Bombay, and is also the key hype man for DIVINE(GULLY GANG) and a video music director. On the second day, DJs like BOHB, Shindo, Mojo Jojo (the alias under which Award-Winning Producer/ DJ, Akshay Johar produces Bass music). Arjun Kanungo an Indian singer, composer, actor, and entrepreneur closed the musical sets with his performance.

“ You can quote me, but I'll tell everyone that you're lying. Jael Turner

Cool ideas to beat the heat on Pune's streets



These portable, wooden old-world hand-winch sugarcane crushing mills are still to be found on Pune's streets churning out fresh sugarcane juice.



PHOTO FEATURE BY AAYUSHI BOSE

Nira, which is the juice extracted from the flowers of the palm tree, is a popular thirst-quencher. It's cultivation is supported by the government.



Hygienic, mineral-infused water from raw coconuts is better than sodas in plastic bottles.



Salt and chilli powder sprinkled on succulent slices of cucumber are a respite from thirst.

Offbeat weekend getaways

Mignon Mascarenhas



Pawana Lake: Perfect for water sports and camping under the stars

For those who are young at heart, here are some offbeat destinations near Pune; Perfect for those adventurers who just need a weekend getaway. Just 78kms north of Pune is Khandi, is surrounded by Thokarwadi dam, which is known for its backwaters and waterfalls. The area is covered by clouds and fog during Monsoon, making it the ideal place to visit. Visitors often come here to enjoy the scenery, swim in the dam and for long drives by the dotted waterfalls. Lenyadri is the perfect place for those who love trekking and scenic views. A popular Ashtavinayaka Temple is also a site worth exploring. The area offers outdoor camping and photography. Lenyadri is located just 95kms away from Pune. The Panshet dam, just 50 kms away from Pune, is a visual delight surrounded by

hills and a number of thundering waterfalls. This place is known for its kayaking and other watersports in the lake, picnics and outdoor camping. Located 80kms from Pune, Raj Manchi is covered with rugged mountains which is best for casual bag packers. The destination also has two forts, a famous Kal Bhirav temple, wildlife safaris and some of the best trekking experiences in South India. Man-made Pawna Lake has a gorgeous lakeside with breathtaking backwaters, perfect in the monsoon season. The destination provides fun activities like paragliding, kiting, camping and ridge dancing. Tikona, Tungi and Lohgad Fort are located quite close to the lake, and are a must see in the area. it is located near Lonavala, just 61 kms from Pune City.

Holi turns eco-friendly

Shubhangi Mishra



Photograph by: Aayushi Bose

People in Pune are saving precious water by playing Holi with dry colours, like these members of a housing society.

Holi, the most vibrant of all Hindu festivals, was celebrated on March 20. The festival marks the end of winter in India to welcome the spring. On this day, the streets appear multi-hued in a patchwork of colors. Even bikes and cars are not spared. Every form of colour: powder, paste, or colour-confetti, rules the streets as the city comes together to celebrate Holi. But in the background of the water crisis in Maharashtra, the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has appealed to citizens to not waste water while celebrating the festival. Keeping this in mind, Col. C.V Mohan, Senior Campus Administrator of the Symbiosis Girls Hostel in Viman Nagar, made arrangements for everyone in the hostel to enjoy a fun but eco-friendly Holi. "The PMC has not passed any strict rul-

ing against rain-dance, but still we have made sure that minimum water is wasted. A sprinkler system was installed for the rain-dance, which would pour water at certain intervals of time. This inadvertently reduces the quantity of water being used." Many other societies in Viman also adopted the concept of Dry Holi, where there was no water usage at all. Prior to the celebration of Holi, a unique awareness program called 'Jal Hosh' was conducted in the city on March 16 and 17. Students of Anita Neve's Dance Academy held street dance performances to spread the message of saving water. The students also used the medium of Bharatnatyam for storytelling, and narrated the idea that 'one should not waste water' during Holi.

India's first Gary Kirsten academy starts in Pune

Shivansh Gupta

South African legend and India's 2011 World Cup winning team coach, Gary Kirsten is all set to launch the first Gary Kirsten Cricket Academy in India. Kirsten bid goodbye to international duties a few years back and has since been involved in various coaching stints at the domestic level. He was the head coach of the Indian Premier League team, Delhi Daredevils (now called Delhi Capitals) for two years and is currently the head coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore. During the same time, he shifted his focus to the coaching business and opened up academies back home in Cape Town and Johannesburg. And now, he has chosen Pune as the location for his first academy in India. The SCMC Chronicle caught up with the CEO of the academy and the owner of Grassroots Sports Academy, Mr. Anand Mittal, who shed some light on how the idea came to being. "Gary Kirsten is a very reputed name in the cricketing world. He was a very successful cricketer and has always wanted to start an academy in



India. His vision is to develop players from the grassroots level. He wants to start an academy for those kids who either cannot afford high-quality, international standard coaching or for those who do not have access to such training facilities. He chose Pune because it has a good cricket history and kids here are full of talent, even in the suburbs." The academy promises to provide the best coaching facility in

India. The 4-acre infrastructure that has been set-up in the Divisional sports complex in Yerwada, will constitute 30 nets, including five indoor nets. "These indoor nets will play an important role during the monsoon season, during which cricket coaching comes to a standstill in India," Mr. Mittal explained the significance of such a facility. Apart from cricket coaching, the academy will

provide additional services like gym facilities, sports rehabilitation, dieticians, a nutritionist and a special curriculum-based program for players who want to make a career out of the sport. In addition to this, different programmes like summer camps, yearly coaching programs, one-on-one coaching, weekend programs, and international high-performance coaching will be put into place throughout the year. Both national and international coaches will be hired to train the members of the academy. However, they will have to undergo a training program designed by Kirsten, especially for the coaches before they start working on the players. The academy has tied up with various hostels and mid-size hotels around the area for the accommodation of the players and plan on building their own stay facility, in the near future. After successful operations in South Africa, Netherlands, Abu Dhabi and Kenya, Gary Kirsten Cricket is now set to make its mark in India. Not only will this venture contribute to the coaching facilities in India, but will also allow international players to train and coaches to improve their skills drastically.

Punekars find a new way to de-stress, through dance

Imana Bhattacharya

At a time when ever-burgeoning stress and anxiety has become a part of every one's daily lives, therapy comes highly recommended. While many have heard of therapy, most only think of it as sitting in an office with a doctor-like figure and talking about their problems. In reality, however, a lot of unique therapy procedures exist, and one is gaining immense popularity here in Pune—Dance Therapy Movement. Dance Therapy Movement started in India with the Creative Movement Association of India (CMTAI) setting up courses for Dance Movement Therapy facilitators in cities like Pune and Bangalore. DMT, as a form of psychotherapy, is now on the rise in Pune. Artsphere, a multi utility arts venue in Kalyaninagar is one of the leading spaces known for hosting Dance



People participating in DMT session | Photograph by Artsphere, Pune

Therapy Movement workshops. This type of therapy allows one to address issues—many from their subconscious—through the use of a physical activity like dance. Although they sound similar, dance therapy movement is very different from usual dance classes. "While a dance class usually is instructor led where people learn movements and perform, DMT is client-led where the facilitator holds

space for the people to find their own body movement and tune into their inner-selves", explains creative movement dance therapy facilitator Tilottama Dutta. This practice of connecting with one's innerself is actively trending amongst Pune-kars of all age, from various walks of life. Jenika Shah, a travel blogger, who attends dance therapy movement workshops recounts, "Getting to meet

"Dance Movement Therapy is client-led where the facilitator holds space for the people to find their own body movement and tune into their inner-selves"

so many new people and rediscovering myself along with them is a very cathartic process in itself." From one-on-one sessions to cleanse the mind to group sessions aimed at self-expression, the workshops include a plethora of therapeutic activities. Sancheti Hospital, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, CMTAI are few of the places which provide certificate courses for these workshops.

SID FY students showcase art exhibition Riyaz

Srishti Patnaik

Symbiosis Institute of Design (SID) conducted an art and craft exhibition called 'Riyaz' on March 18 and 19, where first-year Graphic Design students showcased their academic works at the ground floor of the SID Building, on the Symbiosis Viman Nagar campus. Their understanding of visual intelligence and spatial perception was portrayed via works such as cut mount framing crafting and jute crafting, as well as pine wood crafted mini easels that were displayed at the exhibition. A wide array of sketches and drawings were also on show. While some sketches were colorful with vibrant poster colours splashed on cartridge



paper, many others stood out with their classic combinations of white ink on black paper, or black ink against a white background. Colour pencils against ivory paper, and black and white pen against tinted paper manifested as elaborate 3-D sketches of everyday objects such as fruits and flower vases, alongside intricately-



Artist- Abhishek Soni



Artist- Tanvi Lakdawala

detailed portraits. Certain personalities were clear favourites for portraiture—there were two paintings of Marilyn Monroe, sketched by Aishwarya Gahlot and Shalmali Kulkarni, and two portraits of Nelson Mandela by Kenrick Silveira and Kamy Kotak. Portraits of famous actors such as Rami Malek (by Indrani Thool)

and Jennifer Aniston (by Deepika Naidu) also adorned the display walls. The students had worked on and completed their art works and projects under the mentorship of Professors Vishal Wadaye, Keyur Sahasrabudhe, Manohar Desai and Ranjit Jagtap.

Photographs by Burhanuddin Tashrifwala