



Talent galore at Vaividhya 2019 Batch of 2020 wins the event for the first time !

— Madhavi Jain —

The much awaited annual cultural event of SCMC, Vaividhya 2019 was an absolute feast for the eyes and ears as music, dance and theatre clubs of SCMC set the stage ablaze with their talent. After month-long practice sessions which resulted in sore feet and aching shoulders, to rigorous auditions and countless rehearsals, the day finally dawned when all the three performing clubs of SCMC came together to put up a show that was unlike any other.

Mono-acting, which was the first competition of the day set the bar high with stellar performances from the winners Swati Trivedi (2020) and Shirin Pajnoo (2022).

This was followed by dance categories - Indian (solo), Western (solo) and the impromptu dance round. Aditi Parida and Ajay Babu, both of Batch 2020, enthralled the audience and won the solo rounds, while Suprasanna Dindigal and Dhvani Bhargava, both of Batch 2021, were runners up.

Newbies from 2022 won the first prize in competitive group category which was judged by theatre artists from Swatantra Theatre Group, Pune. This was followed by the soulful music categories: Indian (solo) which was won by Simran



Group dance category winners Batch of 2020 present a striking ensemble.

Juwarker (2020), Western (solo) which was won by Rohit Nair (2021), non-vocal group category which was won by Ronit Soin and Anmol Das (both 2020), while the vocal group category was won by students from Batch 2021. The first segment of Vaividhya ended with the mesmerising

Group Dance category, which was won by Batch 2020 who enthralled the audience.

Even after lunch, the spirit of the audience did not dampen as they entered the second segment of Vaividhya 2019 which was also possibly the most fun one. The non-competitive category of Vaividhya

ensured that everybody went home a winner. Individual performances from the Music Club put the audience swinging with singers like Antara Nandy (2020), Arnav Pingale and Bhavika Dayal (both 2020) and electronic music set by DJ Percy (Prasenjit Sripesh of Batch 2021).

This was followed by one of the most awaited events of the afternoon - non-competitive theatre. Raahi, the Theatre Club of SCMC, left the audience in splits with their rib-tickling comedy play 'Mario Zinda Hai', directed by Theatre Club heads Madhavi Jain and Khushi Narula (2020). The segment ended with an energetic performance by the Dance Club of SCMC, which ensured that the audience got up from their seats and danced to the beats of various like Bollywood, hip hop and even Indian classical dance.

The evening closed on a nostalgic note with the screening of a movie, made by the AV team, which showed the rehearsals by various contestants and teams. This was followed by the club heads and events teams taking their last bow as the organising committee of the successful Vaividhya 2019.

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Visually handicapped students make world class chocolates



Various types of chocolates produced by Niwant's students, in elegant packaging.

— Govind Chowdhary —

Niwant Andh Mukta Vikasalaya is a non-profit school, near Vishrantwadi, for visually challenged

students. The school encourages its students to pursue higher education in various fields of arts and commerce. Apart from academics, Niwant's stu-

dents translate novels and academic books into braille books. But the unique and extraordinary feature of Niwant's activities is their chocolate factory. The students manufacture handmade chocolates of international quality.

According to the founder Mrs. Meera Badve, "The students are in the process of earning and learning. They have been producing international quality chocolates which is a hot favourite in Pune. The chocolate sales take off during the festive seasons like Ganpati and Diwali."

The students of Niwant have sold chocolates of worth Rs one lakh during this Ganpati season. Companies such as HSBC, Business Bay, SAS, Neilsoft Limited and Pandora are a regular clients of Niwant's chocolate, Badve informed.

But the big season for selling chocolates is Diwali, Badve revealed. The turnover during Diwali could easily be in the range of Rs five lakhs, she said. Their chocolate packagings are priced between

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Ankita speaks at TEDx, Mumbai

— Roop Sawhney —

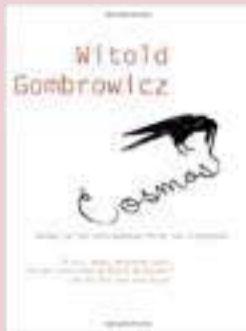
SCMC 2018 alumni Ankita Chawla was among the speakers at the second edition of TEDx held at the Thakur College of Engineering and Technology, Mumbai, on the September 14 this year.



The theme of this year's event was the Butterfly Effect, emphasizing on how insignificant events can lead to significant results, thereby encouraging people to change the world in whatever small way they can.

Ankita Chawla, who is now a senior analyst at Deloitte India, spoke about her journey as an artist, the importance of artistic expression and what led to the creation of her extraordinary profile hire-ankitachawla on Instagram. "Inspiration has beautiful ways of making its way back into your life," she said Ankita talking about how she dealt with mental health issues and her aim to bring stories to life.

TOP PICKS



Cosmos

Kavisha Manwani

Revolving around two young men who intend to spend their vacation relaxing, this book explores their journey when they get involved in a macabre event with some peculiar activities. Author Witold Gombrowicz explores the notions of order in a seemingly random, chaotic world in his 1967 novel. This psychological novel bombards, and occasionally exhausts the reader with author's characteristic mastery of his paranoid over-analysis.



Bring the Soul: The Movie

Tshewang Choden

Bring the Soul is a documentary following the worldwide famous music group BTS, as they tour the world and share their experience along with their beloved band friends and fans. A glimpse into BTS' world away from the stage, featuring intimate group discussions alongside a spectacular concert performance from the tour, the group invites the views behind the spotlight.



Crazy Noodles

Passang Lhamo

Craving for some Chinese food? A neat and clean dining located in the hustle-bustle of the Phoenix Market City, Crazy Noodles is your answer. First intriguing elements—their glasses with a rounded surface, ones that wobble on the table. Their Lemon Coriander Veg Soup, with Spring Rolls and Chicken Thukpa are most recommended. The portion size is generous.

4 slums free of avoidable blindness

Rupal Jhajria

Four colonies of 10,000 dwellers in Yerawada have become the first urban slum in pocket in the state to be declared free of 'avoidable blindness', following the combined efforts of community workers and doctors for five years. Operation Eyesight Universal, an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) working in the field of eye care, awarded the tag after extensive surveys in the slum colonies.

Avoidable blindness is defined as vision loss that can either be treated or prevented by known and cost-effective means. Once the tag is awarded to a pocket, it means that its residents will not suffer blindness in the immediate future from avoidable reasons.



Dr. Parikshit Gogate, eye surgeon

"We roped in community workers and trained them in measuring visual acuity and identifying eye conditions. The work in Yerawada slum pocket was in progress from 2014," said the eye surgeon Parikshit Gogate, who spearheaded the mammoth work. He is also one of the trustees of Gogate Eye Care Foundation. During the last five years, a group of medical pro-

fessionals and community workers sensitized, counselled, screened, treated and followed up with every individual living in the slum to achieve the goal. "The community workers were assigned areas to go door-to-door to check every household in the slum pocket with a population of 41,562 people," Gogate said.

Those with eye problems or less than normal vision were re-examined by optometrists and ophthalmologists. "We found and treated about 2,000 slum dwellers for various eye problems in the past five years," he said. Individuals with blindness and low vision were visited every six months for three years and their causes of visual impairment were treated. Many were provided with spectacles, and free surgeries carried on for some people, he added.

Onam festival sparks joy at SVC campus



Like every year, SVC campus celebrated the Onam festival with great enthusiasm this year too on September 11. While students wore traditional clothes, many participated in the pookalam competition held in the campus. SID won the contest, with SCMS getting second place and SCMC was third. All the material, like flowers, lamps and coloured powder was provided by the campus administrator's office. (Photo-story by Mitali Dhar)

'Don't go where other journalists go'

The SCMC Chronicle staffer GUNJAN HARIRAMANI who worked at the TED Summit in Scotland, spoke to **George Monbiot**, a British journalist who writes for The Guardian.

He has been an investigative journalist who has seen some perilous situations. He is also known for his environmental and political activism and was presented the United Nations Global 500 Award for outstanding environmental achievement by Nelson Mandela in 1995. **What advice would you give to an aspiring journalist, especially since you have lived and survived some of the toughest conditions?**

I am lucky to be alive. There were so many times I could easily have been killed, or died because of my own foolishness. My advice: Don't go to places where other journalists go. If all journalists are looking one way, look the other way. If they are walking one way, walk the other way.

Because there's a tiny handful of issues that journalists consider important, and most of them really aren't important. I had seen the darkness, where no media light is being shown but where all the important

things were happening. There are only a small proportion of journalists who really want to know the truth.

What kept you going through the tough situations? Did you feel like giving up?

The stress was overwhelming; it was hard to cope with the level of anxiety and fear. But, it was the hunger for the story, wanting to get to the heart of the matter that has always driven me. Whether it is an investigation in a difficult place or whether it's trying to grasp and intellectually understand an issue. There are not many things I can do, but one thing I can do is read massively and process a lot of information.

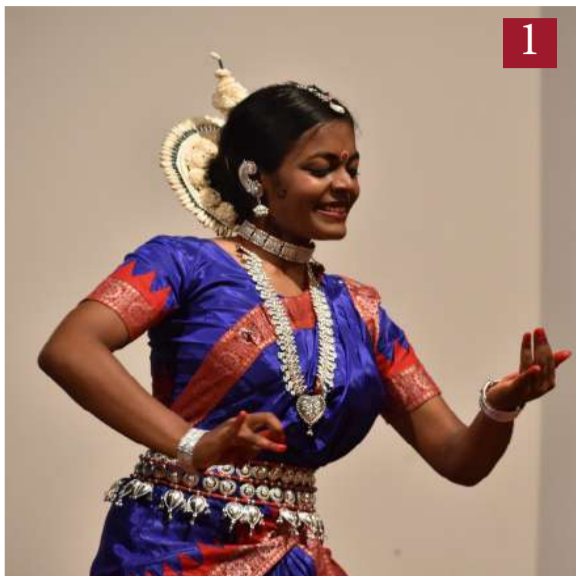
What do you think about the Indian Journalism scene?

I occasionally meet Indian journalists and follow Indian journalism and I realize that it is very difficult. There are some brave people out there trying to speak out.



Monbiot(L) with Hariramani

Glimpses from Vaividhya . . .



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1. Aditi Parida (2020) won the 1st prize with her Odissi performance in the Indian dance (solo) category.
2. 'Raahi', the Theatre Club of SCMC, staged a rib-tickling comedy play Mario Zinda Hai.
3. Pooja Bhattad, an alumni of SCMC, was the judge for the dance category.
4. Ajay Babu (2020) jumped and leaped his way to the 1st prize in Western dance (solo) category.
5. Swati Trivedi (2020) was applauded for her mono-acting performance.
6. Rohit Nair (2021) charmed the audience with his voice during a group performance. He also bagged the 1st position in Western music (solo) category.
7. Students from Batch 2021 presented a hilarious group theatre performance.
8. Anmol Das (2020) captivated everyone on the keyboard.
9. Simran Juwarkar (2020) enthralled with her energetic rendition of th 'Lavani' Vajle ki Bara.
10. Batch 2021 charmed the audience with a medley of songs and won the 1st prize for group musical performance.



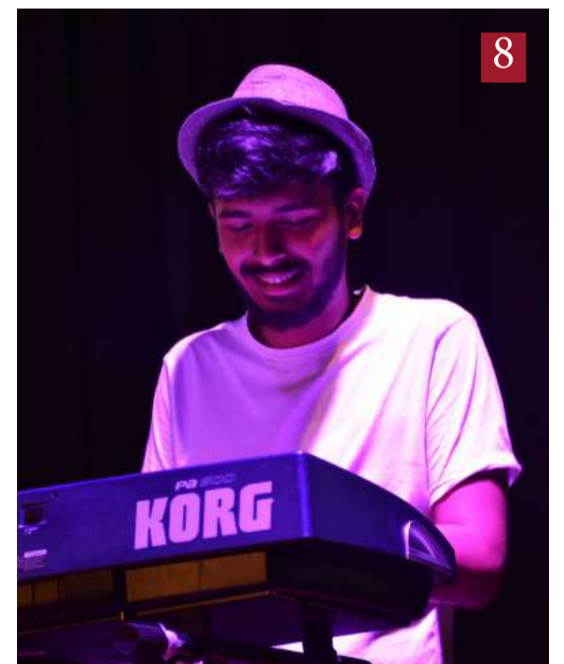
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Journo students visit Sakal printing press

Kavisha Manwani

The Journalism students of SCMC Batch of 2020 visited the printing press of the Sakal Media Group to study how newspapers are printed in huge quantities.

The press is located at Phursungi on Saswad Road and prints nearly seven lakh copies of the newspaper every day. Press supervisor Mr Vikas Bhagat, conducted the students across various critical departments of the press. They were shown the CTP (computer to plate) department where the pdfs, which are electronically received from the Editorial Departments in Pune city, are photo-copied onto specially coated aluminium plates. These plates are then mounted onto the rollers of

the press for printing.

The students were shown the consoles which automatically control speed, colour, registration and moisture in the 'towers' of the press. Mr Bhagat informed that printing is done at optimum speeds of 60-70,000 copies per hour.

Students also visited the massive warehouses that store in excess of six months stocks of news-print rolls. Sakal uses only imported newsprint for printing. The students were also shown the mail room where printed copies are automatically stacked in bundles for various destinations.

The students were conducted by Professor Amitabh Dasgupta, HOD for Journalism, and Professor Vidyabhushan Arya.



Journalism batch which visited the Sakal printing press at Phursungi

Swatantra Theatre stages unique play



A still from the play 'Jaag Utha Hai Raigadh' by Swatantra Theatre

Audita Bhattacharya

On 7th September, 2019, the SVC auditorium witnessed Swatantra Theatre (Qualitative Exploration of the Creative Process of Actors), one of the leading theatre groups in Pune, present their play 'Jaag Utha hai Raigadh' for the students of SCMC as part of a lecture demonstration.

Founded in year 2006, by Abhijeet Choudhary, Yuwaraj Shah and Dhanaashree Heblikar, Swatantra has been committed to serve audiences with productions of value and aesthetics.

Their productions have been invited at the Film and Television Institute of India, Armed Forces Medical College, National Defence Academy, Lavasa, BMCC, Symbiosis and other esteemed institutes.

Swatantra Theatre is known for presenting with different kinds of Theatre right from Proscenium Theatre to Street Theatre, Playback Theatre to Community Theatre, Improvisational Theatre to Literary Theatre and so on.

The play that they presented explored the rarely talked about relationship between Shivaji Maharaj and his son Sambhaji.

The play beautifully portrays a father's attempts to woo his son back while also depicting the travails of a son burdened with a huge legacy to uphold.

The second lecture-cum-demonstration of this semester helped students get involved in the magical world of theatre.

Stories of mental health resilience amongst migrants brought to life

Rashi Bhattacharyya

An international research project which focuses on the mental health resilience of migrant slum dwellers has changed the lives of the migrant community in Suraksha Nagar, Hadapsar. The project led by Professor Raghu Raghavan and De Montfort University (DMU), Leicester, United Kingdom was started about two years ago. Solidarity and compassion keeps a community healthy and prosperous, and the story of one such community was told through a short street

play at the end of the research.

Professor Raghavan reflected on these two years and said, "Mental health awareness has certainly grown in the mainstream but resilience in migrants slum dwellers was an area barely explored. They have never gone to a psychologist or even heard about them. So we had to start slowly. During our time here, we made sure that we are not intervening in their lives but are here to listen to them and help them."

During the interactions, this team real-

ised that a theatrical twist always helps bring stories to more people and in expressing more. The university took the help of Swatantra, a theatre group based in the city. The group heard the stories, combined them and made a play.

They also decided to bring in the children of the community to act and design the play. The play recently took place at the open ground outside the slum.

"Even though the people were a little paranoid about us at first, the children helped us sell our cause. Not only could we talk to their families but through the play, they became part of the storytelling," said Raghavan. Some of the songs and props were made by the children with help from the team and some adults from the area. Every child danced, sang and acted in the skit.

The play had an underlying theme. In the three stories from the community, the protagonists go through stressful situations and feel alone, members of the community enter and help them overcome the situation.

The skit hinted towards one of the ways to tackle mental health issues - seek help from the people you trust because compassion and teamwork will help you out.

The research is funded by the UK's Medical Research Council, Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Global Challenges Research Fund.



Children from Suraksha Nagar slum performing a play with Swatantra Theatre

Visually handicapped students make...

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Rs 50 to Rs 1500. They also sell loose dark chocolate for Rs 700 to Rs 1000 per kg, depending on the dry fruits in the chocolate, like cashew or almonds.

The raw material for these handmade chocolates is imported from Singapore. The entire business of making and selling the chocolates is managed by the students themselves.



Apart from making chocolates, the students have even managed to develop a special software for accounting with the help of Niwant's software branch called Tech Vision, without any external help.

CLARIFICATION

With reference to the report on I-Day flag hoisting which appeared in Volume 13, page 2, of The SCMC Chronicle, we clarify that the flag was hoisted by Prof. Sanjeevani Ayachit, Acting Director, SID, and not by Col Mohan, as reported. The error is regretted.

- Editor