



## Conmen on the prowl in VN



Photo by: ADRIJA SAHA

Pratikshya Mishra

A gang of three men roam the streets of Viman Nagar in an autorickshaw and a motorbike. They are confidence tricksters. One of the men approaches the victim, generally soft targets like unescorted girls. He tries to gain sympathy by telling her a sob story and asking for monetary help. His accomplices wait in the vicinity, in case the victim raises an alarm.

While no case has been reported to the Viman Nagar police so far, police told The SCMC Chronicle that victims must try to get the registration numbers of the vehicles used by the conmen. They said that such cases would be booked under

Section 420 of the IPC, for cheating and breach of trust, if the culprit tricks the victim to part with cash.

Meanwhile, a Symbiosis student (identity withheld), who had a brush with this gang of tricksters recently, revealed, "We were in a group when a man approached us and said he was in some trouble. He asked us for a pen. Since we didn't have one, he went to an auto-rickshawalla standing close by. The autorickshaw drove off. The man returned to us and claimed that the autorickshawalla had gone off with his belongings."

"Since the man looked distraught, we offered to help. But better sense prevailed on us and we moved off. Later, from

the balcony of our building, we were surprised to see the same autorickshaw return and the man sit in it and go away. He had not seen us."

The Symbiosis student who related this incidence, added that the same conman again approached her three weeks later at a unused bus-stop (see story The stop where no bus stops, on P4) and tried to use the same modus operandi. The man had obviously not recognised her.

Other witnesses The SCMC Chronicle spoke to, said the conman tries to instigate his victim and provoke a reaction.

Police said, such acts can be booked under the IPC 504 for "intentional insult with attempt to provoke breach of peace".

## Gunjan selected for TEDSummit at Scotland

Rupal Jhahria

Gunjan Hariramani, a third year student specialising in Journalism has been selected to attend the TEDSummit 2019 as an Indian Translator delegate. Amidst hundreds of submissions, her application and ideas to support her language community helped her win a complimentary conference pass, which includes a round-trip flight and accommodation in Scotland from July 19-25, 2019.

TED organises multiple global conferences every year. Anyone who wishes to attend these conferences has to pay to do the same. But for those who volunteer to translate for the platform, it opened a platform this year for them to receive a TED Translator pass. Out of the hundreds of applications from across the world, Gunjan earned a position in the top 50 translators.

Gunjan has been translating audio-visual content from English to Hindi and vice



## SCMC welcomes club heads for Yr 2019-20

Audita Bhattacharya

The club heads of the batch of 2020 have been elected. After a gruelling election process, these selected individuals promise a refreshing as well as a wholesome environment for the students of SCMC to thrive in. Spearheading the Journo club are Pratikshya Mishra and Rashi Bhattacharyya, AV is in the able hands of Sahej Nandrajog and Saloni Hindocha. The Ad club is being run by Prachi Rawal and Sukanya Nayak and the PR club is the territory of Swati Trivedi and Shalini Kanade.

The co-curriculars are under the jurisdiction of Parth Rahatekar and Krysanne Martis for poetry, Ishaan Bhattacharya and Aditi Parida for literary and debate, Ajay Babu and Somakshi Joshi for dance, Madhavi Jain and Khushi Narula for theatre, Bhavika Dayal and Aahan Mahurkar for music and finally, Miyanka Sekhri and Dharshanya V. Ramanan for art and design.

Each academic year, the Symbiosis Center for Media and Communication sees a batch of energetic, focused and talented young individuals step foot into the college for kick starting their careers in the media industry. Simultaneously, a batch of polished, creative and individualistic men and women bid goodbye to us in order to

step out into their industries of choice. Throughout this process, what changes these students, makes them grow, are the ideals that our college stands for.

The seniors mentor the juniors through this experience, molding them into adults with character, unquestionable morals and a sense of curiosity that takes them a very long way in their lives. This academic year, this responsibility falls upon the

batch of 2020, who are known for their kind and compassionate hearts.

The clubs provide an opportunity for all, those looking to sustain the talent within themselves and also for those looking to dive into a world of poetry, literature, dance, drama, music or art! The students are also exposed to the practical applications of their specializations of choice through the Journo, AV, Ad and PR clubs.



Photo by: BAIDURYA CHAKRABARTI

L to R (Standing): Prachi, Pratikshya, Sukanya, Ishaan, Rashi, Parth, Saloni, Krysanne, Dharshanya, Aahan, Madhavi, Sahej, Miyanka, Swati, Aditi, Shalini, (kneeling) Somakshi, Khushi, Bhavika

versa for almost a year now. The appreciation for her work encouraged her to enroll for the volunteer program for translation at TED. "I got into translation when I was looking for a content writing internship in Hindi. Hindi is my forte and I really like the language. I stumbled upon a translating internship and I started working with an agency and they really liked my work. They encouraged me to do this at a professional level. That is when I started to look for more work in this field and TED happened. They have this program for translators where they can volunteer to translate videos. I filled an application for this summit afterwards and got selected," said Hariramani, who is a linguaphile and enjoys writing Urdu.

The summit this year will bring together translators, organizers, fellows, over 150 previous speakers, and other TEDsters as "a community beyond borders." The conference will feature a fusion of workshops, community brainstorming sessions, discussions, performances, outdoor activities and an eclectic program of mainstage talks-all in beautiful Edinburgh, Scotland.

TOP PICKS



Factfulness

Ashish Prakash

Don't assume. Be factful: Review of Factfulness, by Hans Rosling, Anna Rosling Rönnlund, and Ola Rosling. Factfulness reflects many of Rosling's personal stories. It shares his frustration with a world filled with bias and fake news. Explains how our worldview has been distorted with the rise of new media. He writes about ten human instincts which cause erroneous thinking, and how we can learn to separate fact from fiction when forming our beliefs. It also reminds us about the improvements of human conditions that have taken place in the last century. This book is extremely relevant given the current state of global politics to form our opinions based on facts, not feelings.



John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum

Arjun Dhar

John Wick: Chapter 3 redefined the action genre by establishing shaky camera movements and introducing some realistic action. The movie stands out for its stunning and visually breathtaking choreography. Action in John Wick 3 surpasses its prequels. You can feel Wick's emotions, his desire to live and his will to go to any lengths for it. The actors have done a wonderful job – and where Keanu Reeves is concerned, less is more. With carnage of epic actions, this is obviously the best action movie of this year.



Makaza

Rohaan Dev

'Makaza' is an all-day rooftop bar, lounge, and kitchen – an addition to the glowing nightlife of Pune. A perfect place to spend an interesting evening with your loved ones, this hip Mediterranean restaurant opened its doors in East Court of Phoenix Market City. Thin crust pizzas are the highlight at Makaza, and the Future Classic Greek Chicken Pizza (Rs 419) is a true testimony of the same. Along with feta, roasted bell pepper, olive and basil, fresh parsley as well as mozzarella, cheddar, parmesan and monte jack, it is absolutely delicious.

How to prevent assault on doctors ?

Aditi Parida

A recent incident in NRS Hospital, Kolkata took the country by storm when relatives of a patient attacked two resident doctors. As a fallout of this attack, hundreds of doctors went on strike in different parts of India demanding better protection against such mobs.

Unfortunately, these incidents are not that uncommon. In this case, the doctors suffered grievous injuries and are lucky to be alive.

However, this incident does raise a vital issue - how can such attacks be prevented? Surely, there are multiple parties involved - patients, relatives, doctors and the government. Each of these parties will have a role to play if such mob mentality is going to be curbed in the future.

Retired Col (Dr) Ravinder Kak, who practiced and taught at the Armed Forces Medical College Pune said, "We can understand the emotions that people go through but, abusing doctors is unacceptable. These incidents are perpetrated by people who have political connections. The solution for this is to draft a law which considers any form of violence against



any medical practitioner as unacceptable." He added, "The punishment should be stringent. The doctors also should be educated. The government should try to eliminate political interference."

Similar sentiments resonate within the fraternity. Talking about key issues that need to be addressed in a constructive manner, Dr Samir Joshi, Vice Dean (PG), BJMC said, "It is important that there is a system to segregate patients and their relatives on reaching the hospital. More Intensive Care Units in government hospitals could prove helpful. This could also help in reducing errors." Moreover, he believes that doctors should undergo training to understand how to handle, avoid and anticipate incidents, the likes of which oc-

curred in West Bengal.

Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) is an association that specifically looks into problems that resident doctors face. Talking to SCMC Chronicle, Dr Shishir Kose, President Pune MARD and Vice-President Maharashtra MARD focused on the imbalance in the ratio of doctors to patients. He said, "Security in government hospitals needs to be improved. In addition to that, there needs to be a pan Indian law that deters such incidents." He also believes that the public should be aware of the amount of physical and mental stress that doctors go through.

It is a time of great turmoil for Indian doctors. These attacks should not become a day-to-day affair, as those who save us should also be saved. It is time that the government takes measures to curb these incidents.

"There needs to be more communication between patients and doctors. The former needs to understand the limitations of the medical profession. Additionally, the government should be strict about discrepancies in treatment and also curb these attacks on doctors."

'I die, you die': Kalyani trees cry out

Roop Sawhney

Madhavi Jain

With 900 million trees being cut down each year globally, no one really seems to bat an eye. All, except a few. Recycled banners with eye catching slogans scream at onlookers as one drives through the Kalyani Nagar road. But what do these banners say? They advocate saving of trees and shun deforestation in the name of development by authorities.

With industrialization taking the city by storm, much of the city has transformed into a concrete jungle. More often than not, grave concerns regarding the environment take a backseat and infrastructural development is given priority. In this sce-

nario, it is refreshing to see that some citizens have taken time out to raise the issue and invoke the conscience of Pune-kars. But who are these citizens? Reporters from SCMC Chronicle investigate.

According to sources like the security guards, hawkers and waiters working in nearby restaurants, about a month ago, a van full of 10-12 children accompanied with 2-3 adults came here to put up these banners. In their opinion, it was done to raise awareness about the issue of felling of trees due to the Pune Metro project. Being language inclusive, these posters and banners were effective in conveying their message in languages such as Hindi, English and Marathi alike.

Some of the most profounds slogans hung on trees that used personification

were "Adopt me, my parents were killed by development", "I die, you die", "Mala Vachwa" and "My days are numbered." Words that forced onlookers to spare a thought about the environment from the everyday hustle of life. In fact, Kunaal, (an employee at one of the bakeries on the Main Road) goes on a plantation drive every Monday in the Wadgaon Sheri area due to his concerns for the environment. With over 40 lakh trees in Pune, as counted by the PMC Census in 2019, the need of the hour is for citizens like Kunaal to come together and join hands in the conservation of environment and prevent the ruthless slaughtering of trees in the name of "urbanization." Otherwise, we shall bear the distasteful cost of this development, sooner than later.



These boards can be seen as one drives through Kalyani Nagar

ALL PHOTOS BY MADHAVI JAIN



## THE LITTLE LHASA

Khushi Khurrana

Rhema Hans

**“Tibetans, despite being deprived of freedom and living in fear and insecurity, have been able to maintain their unique Tibetan identity and cultural values.”**

**Dalai Lama**

After China annexed Tibet, their spiritual and political leader Dalai Lama was granted refuge by India, where the Tibetan people formed a government in exile in the green hills of McLeod Ganj

in Himachal Pradesh. The Nation in Exile has managed to preserve its culture which reflects in each street and every corner of this picturesque small town.

Our reporters who were interning in McLeod Ganj, captured the spirit of the place

Clockwise from top left

1. McLeod Ganj is also known as Little Lhasa.

2. Nightlife in McLeod Ganj is lively and colorful.

3. A typical street in McLeod Ganj.

4. Wall art by Waste Warriors NGO.

5. Tibetans still learn Chinese language at the Tibet World NGO.



## Manual scavengers still face exploitation

Adrija Saha

Samidha Raut

On 16th June 2012 the International Labour Organisation asked its member nations to pass a legislation that will recognise the rights of domestic workers and regulate their wages and working conditions.

It has been seven years since then and India is yet to ratify the same. Hence, in the absence of proper law and administration, the workers have faced various abuses, violation of rights, poor working conditions and low wages.

Various ill thought out policies and social neglect in India have resulted in the deaths of various workers who clean sewage, septic tanks and human waste manually in order to earn a livelihood. Manual scavenging was banned back in 1993, yet today more than seven hundred thousand households across 12 states in India practice manual scavenging to earn a living.



**THE EXPLOITED LOT : Women manual scavengers gather near a water tank at Wadgaon Sheri to be picked on daily wages by middle men.**

In an interaction with the local manual scavengers of the Wadgaon Sheri area of Pune, we spoke about the various problems they face on a daily basis while doing their jobs. They said that despite being promised higher wages by the Pune

Municipal Corporation a year ago, nothing has been done to that effect. Infact, they have not received any money for three months at a stretch. They also said that while they are supposed to be getting Rs 16,000 a month, they only receive Rs

12,000, as the rest gets siphoned off by the middle man. Most workers in the area have been scavengers for almost ten years, despite which they haven't been absorbed as permanent employees.

This in turn prevents them from availing access to various facilities, the most crucial being the medical. They work long hours in environments that are danger-

**“ In spite of repeated promises for a hike, the manual scavengers have not received their salary since last three months ”**

ously hazardous, and yet, are paid much less than those who are permanent. This exploitative system is a cry for reform in the policies that are made, while also ensuring that they're implemented without bias. A system that operates with transparency, while taking care of the individuals that help run it in the first place is the only way to ensure that the lives of manual scavengers all over the country can be improved.

# The Gaikwad siblings - Rising stars of Indian Classical music

Rashi Bhattacharyya

Right from Ramakant's first 'sa', Pandit Suryakant Gaikwad knew that his son will one day make the family proud. But Ramakant Gaikwad was not the only musical prodigy in the family, his sister Gayatri completed the magical duo and made Suryakant Gaikwad and his wife Sangeeta Gaikwad extremely proud parents.

Born in a musical family with two classical singers as parents, Ramakant and Gayatri started their musical journey at the tender age of 4. Their father was their first teacher and has been mentoring them ever since. "We started with Raag Yaman and practised it for 4-5 years. Our riyaz in the starting years revolved entirely around Omkar sadhna, alankar and understanding the intricacies of music. It helped us to get a grip on our notes which is very important in Indian classical music." says 29-year-old Gayatri. Their daily riyaz begins in the morning for 1-2 hours followed by afternoon and evening sessions.

Every disciple follows a Guru mantra. The key lesson Ramakant and Gayatri learnt from their father was 'listening is half learning'. Ramakant says, "This is something which has stuck to us since a long time. Right from the childhood we grew up listening to legendary artists like Bade Ghulam Ali, Bhimsen Joshi, Mehdi Hassan and many more. Our father always impressed upon listening to their compositions. We listened to the barikis, the alaps and later included them in our practice"

The duo started performing at a very young age and Ramakant found his mo-



Performing together since childhood

ment of glory in 2003 when he performed with Pt. Jasraj in New York. "I won an all India competition that allowed me to perform in New York. I was honoured to do the one month long tour with Pt. Jasraj which helped me grow as an artist."

The gharana system in Indian classical music started in 1860s – families bonded over music and follow a different style of music. Suryakant was trained in the Patiala gharana by Pt. Marutirao Dondekar and has taught the same to both his children. Inspired by Ustad Amir Khan, Ramakant has even learnt the nuances of the Kirana gharana. "There was one particular composition by Ustad Amir Khan sahab that my father made me listen to. That made me curious about this particular style, so I decided to formally train under Pt Satish Kaushik" says Ramakant.

Gayatri is also fond of semi-classical

music and prefers singing ghazals and thumris. "My father once told me that Shobha Gurtuji and I have a similar voice and her compositions will suit my voice. Every disciple listens to their guru, so I started singing her gazals. Though she had equal command over pure classical style, it was light classical music that got her recognition. She is my inspiration." says Gayatri. One of her most memorable performances is "Khazana" organised by Pankaj Udhas in Pune last year. She performed alongside artistes Anup Jalota, Kaushiki Chakraborty, Richa Sharma and Udhas. She has also performed with Shubha Mudgal at Goa. "Performing with such legends is always overwhelming but satisfying. Events like these open up a lot of opportunities for artistes like me."

Training artistes in classical music, in 2006 the family also launched a YouTube

channel patiyala.kirana.music, which has over 2000 subscribers and lakhs of views. "I started this channel when it was all very new. Artists were starting to use media as a tool to spread their art," says Ramakant.

What is it like to have a music oriented family? "It is amazing. Not only my parents are my gurus, my brother, who is two years older than me, has also been one. We often perform together," says Gayatri. Ramakant adds, "My wife Bageshree is also an artist. It is a complete musical household."

## Rotaract Club of Viman Nagar gets citation from Rotary International

Aditi Parida

The Rotaract Club of Viman Nagar has secured the Rotary International citation with a platinum distinction. RCVN was chartered on 18 July, 2018 with (Rtr) Rotaractor Kavisha Manwani as its President.

It is a community based club which sees participation from localites, students of Symbiosis Centre for Media & Communication and Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies.

RCVN works under its parent rotary, Rotary Club of Koregaon Park. Thus, the club's work has been recognised and has been rated with distinction because of the kind of work and projects that it has undertaken.

## The stop where no bus stops

Govind Choudhary



Vacant bus stop near Symbiosis Viman Nagar campus to relocate soon

A vacant bus stop without bus services near Symbiosis Viman Nagar campus has always been a hangout spot for students. Sadly, soon it will exist no more.

According to the Mukta Jagtap (Corporator of Viman Nagar), "Vacant bus stop near Symbiosis Viman Nagar campus will be relocated to some other required spot. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) decided to construct a footpath in place of the vacant bus stop due to traffic jams near the campus. Public bus services near Symbiosis Viman Nagar campus were stopped two years back. It is a VIP area and requires no public bus services".

"Survey in form of a questionnaire regarding the relocation of the bus stop and requirement of public bus services in Viman Nagar will be conducted soon. Currently, the vacant bus stop is used as an auto-rickshaw stand." added Jagtap.

## JOY street comes to Symbiosis

Raghvendra Chouhan

The bustling campus of Symbiosis Viman Nagar witnessed another side of life when Joy Street, an event organized by Sakal Times in association with Viman Nagar Women's Association (VNWA), was held in the Symbiosis sports ground and the road outside. The campus grounds, known for student fests held across the

This was also a recreational evening for mothers and their children, allowin them to enjoy together," said Rekha Yadav, a member of the organizing team.

The event brought families together on Saturday evening, which is usually spent on matches, social media surfing, and outings. in the midst of shouldering household responsibilities.



The residents of Viman Nagar enjoying various activities in Joy Street

year, witnessed mothers with their children enjoying the small joys in life. VNWA team members also expressed their happiness over various stalls and performances put up by working mothers in the event. "We have tried to encourage women who have talent but couldn't make time for it

The street had something for every age group. With kids being fascinated by men walking on stilts and different costumes and their grandparents finding the photo booth as the place to hang out. The all time favorites were the food and game stalls which saw queues in front of them.



L-R : Rtn.Pramod Sharma, Rtr.Dharshanya Ramanan, Rtr. Anjanjyot, Rtr. Saloni Hindocha, Rtr. Kavisha Manwani, Mrs. Gunjan Sharma

As every other Rotaract Club, RCVN focuses on four crucial avenues- professional development, community service, international service and club service.

The most recent project they worked on was 'Beat the Heat' where the club members went around and circulated butter milk to guards, maushis, etc who work under the scorching sun. This was an initiative of the Rotaract club of Pune Royal. Their biggest project till date has been the adoption of the Mahatma Gandhi school, Sanjay Park. This school supports free education for nearly 280 students who are children of alcoholics and Yerwada prisoners.

The club conducts regular workshops there and has also opened a computer lab and a library.