



Join the club in Bandra

The suburb has a new nightlife venue in a lane already choc-a-bloc with pubs and eateries

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THE lane adjacent to KFC on Linking Road in Bandra is one of the busiest in the city when it comes to nightlife. You enter and there's Bar Stock Exchange immediately to your right, Bonobo is located next to it. Tap Bar is diagonally opposite that. Turn into a bylane and you'll find The Den. But if you choose to walk further down the main street, you'll hit Monkey Bar first and then Edgier's. It's in fact one of the few places in Mumbai where a night crawler can go pub hopping on foot. And if you choose to end your drinking spree with a bout of dancing at a grungy club, you can now do that too, since that's what a new venue there called The Council offers to patrons.

We head there on a night when a live gig meant for easy listening is taking place. Enter the building that houses Starbucks and take a lift up to the third floor. It opens to a small corridor with a large door at one end. Push it after displaying your entry stamp to a bouncer, and you walk into a large empty room with a distinctly industrial vibe and a long bar at the back. Two acts play over after the other on a long stage to the left when we visit. But this isn't the usual structure. Nor is the programming normally along easy-listening lines. The place is meant to be a straight-out nightclub in the nature of the warehouses that have been turned into electronic music venues in New York and Berlin. So what you'll usually find are a few tables and sofas in place of the stage that's been set up, and a left field DJ spinning underground tracks from a console opposite that. Even the minimalist décor is meant to give patrons the feel of a

washed-down rave. There is hardly any furniture around and the ceilings sport long, naked beams. Naveed Khan, who helped set up the club after a hospitality firm called Classic Rock Coffee Company decided to fund it, tells us that the spot earlier housed a bar which, in his own words, was quite "shabby". "There was no thought put into it and we decided not to add anything. We had to just remove the mess," he says.

The venue thus has a cavernous vibe that's suited to bass-heavy music. But Khan reveals that since the building

is surrounded by residential properties, he had to ensure that he got the sound-proofing spot on. "All the walls and flooring have acoustic treatment, and my biggest headache was getting that completed. I basically turned the place into a large studio. That's the idea had in mind," he explains.

So what does this mean for a city that hardly has any standalone nightclubs outside of swanky five-star hotels? There's Antidocial that recently opened in Lower Parel. And now there's The Council. That's pretty much it, Khan says. "Ideally, every suburb should have its own club. Santacruz should have one, Parel should have one, and you should basically have them like you have McDonalds outlets outside every railway station." That sounds like a distant dream, honestly. But at least this venture is a step in the right direction. The plan is to keep it open every Friday and Saturday only with two days in the month reserved for live gigs like the one we attended. Otherwise, you'll find a deep-house DJ like Berlin-based Acid Pauli, who's scheduled to play a gig at the venue this weekend. Attend it to get a taste of grungy electronic music in a location that's otherwise dotted with pubs and bars that, by and large, have PA systems fishing out popular mainstream tracks.

On December 6, 8 pm at The Council, off Linking Road, Bandra West. LOG ON TO ticketary.com USD 1,200

"The plan is to keep it open every Friday and Saturday only"
Naveed Khan



(Top and above) Electronic gigs at the venue

The art of documenting

Two unique exhibitions to check out: Photographer Rohit Jain documents survivors of the Bhopal gas tragedy 35 years on and artist Nibha Sikander uses layered paper cuts to recreate life-like insects.



AFTERMATH: Omur has muscular dystrophy, a disease characterised by loss of muscle control and short life spans. His brother died of the same disease and his parents know that he will go soon too. His story, is one of many in Bhopal.

It has been 35 years since the devastating gas tragedy and its effects and those of subsequent episodes of ground water contamination stay on. It is what photo-journalist Rohit Jain wants to tell the world through his exhibition **AFTERMATH**. "It was the first time that I saw such a large number of children with severe disabilities in one place," he says, talking about his visit to The Chingari Trust (a rehabilitation NGO in Bhopal). A **Shilpa**



week-long project lasted a month and Jain received a grant from Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting in December last year.

The series of affecting images captures children in their homes and their surroundings. The frames have one more element in common — the subjects are never alone. "I wanted to show how they are always dependent on someone and every picture thus, has an adult accompanying them," explains Jain.

FREE Till December 22, 12 am to 8 pm
at GSA Foundation for Contemporary Culture, Laxmi Mills Estate, Maharashtra West. **CALL** 887008475
Prachi Sibhal

WANDERING VIOLIN MANTIS: During a visit with family to the Kaziranga National Park in 2012, Nibha Sikander was blown away at the sight of the Great Indian Hornbill. Birds, have always been fodder for conversation with the artist's family, and their home in Murad-Jangra has only added this. But, seven year ago, Sikander began translating it into art with intricate

paper cut-outs and layering that takes the shape of insects, moths and birds. Having built a collection of over 400 such three-dimensional figures, she presents them at her first solo, **Wandering Violin Mantis**.

"Eight months ago, I found one on the bench. It was so beautifully camouflaged as a twig that I ended up observing it for three hours," she says. With tools comprising an x-acto knife and coloured card paper, Sikander's technique has evolved over time. She says, "When I started cutting, my works were flatter. Then, I began layering them to look like sculptural relief. The time taken to complete each piece varies: from two days to 14 for birds."



House Sparrow, one work with five individual paper cut parts of the House Sparrow bird



Moth Series 3, one work with 30 individual paper cut moths

FREE Till January 4, 12 am to 6:30 pm
at TAG F25/36 Shree Mahal, Mang. Apple Bunder, Colaba. **CALL** 66200424
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