

PUNE GEARS UP FOR ITS OWN ORCHARD ROAD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

'BROADER ROADS ISN'T THE SOLUTION; PLANNED ONES ARE'

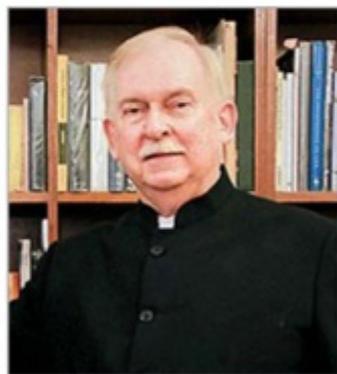
One of Pune's few streets to house a variety of spaces (an archeological site, printing press, park, and bridge running along the river), JM Road played venue to Pune Biennale 2017's flagship event, *Habit-co-Habit*. Kiran Shinde, founder-director, Pune Biennale Foundation, says, "Streets are first about people. They should be at the center of any design dealing with public spaces. JM Road is a good start from the list of city streets that have the potential to be converted to also focus on pedestrians." The foundation's joint director, art consultant Indranil Garai adds, "Designing a street requires sensitivity; one needs to take into consideration all levels of the social system, including pedestrians and hawkers. They all need their space. Such a plan will allocate designated areas to all kinds of people."



Kiran Shinde and Indranil Garai

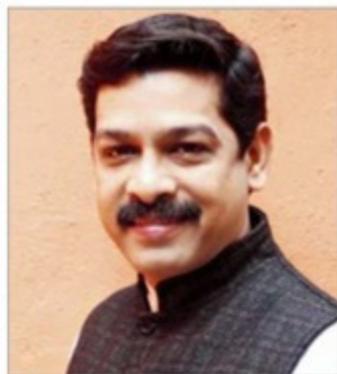
'THERE'S TOO MUCH FOCUS ON THE TRAFFIC, BUT LITTLE ON PEDESTRIANS'

Christopher Benninger, principal architect and planner, is of the opinion that the civic administration and the state government have focused too much on ensuring smooth movement of passengers and parking of vehicles, but hardly on the safety of pedestrians. "Pune's population has doubled, and to address this, the city must create more safe passages for those who walk, cycle and also drive, which stresses on the need for projects of this kind. Good streets also naturally become public open spaces for people to sit, chat and do activities that relieve them from everyday stress," says Christopher.



'MANY ARTISTS, FEW SPACES'

Art curator Ramprasad Akkiseti, founder of India House Art Gallery, believes that talent needs spaces to flourish. He says, "When we held what was the first on-the-spot children's competition in Sambhaji Park two years ago, people said there wouldn't be enough young artists. But this year, more than 1,200 school children entered the competition. There are thousands of talented, artistic people in the city who need public domains to express and share their talents. Creative display areas can be created in such places, and even rented out to artists for a week at a time to display their works."



Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC)



An impression of what JM Road could soon look like