

Cultural gala marks International Day Founder President and Chancellor Dr S B Mujumdar turns 84

Passang Lhamo

Tshewang Choden

Every year Symbiosis celebrates International Student's Day on July 31st, to coincide with the birthday of its president Dr. S B Mujumdar who founded Symbiosis to help foreign students.

This year, Dr Mujumdar, who is also the Chancellor of the Symbiosis International University (SIU), turned 84.

Speaking on the occasion, he reminded, "We cherish the ideal of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – the world is one family."

"We want more and more international students to come to Pune. Their presence is of immense significance," he observed. Baraka H Luvanda, high commissioner of Tanzania and Vikram Kumar, CEO of



Dr S B Mujumdar prepares to cut the cake as international students cheer and sing "Happy Birthday" in the presence of Dr Sanjeevani Mujumdar. (All photos by Passang Lhamo & Tshewang Choden)

his wife Dr Sanjeevani Mujumdar. Speaking on the occasion, SIU vice-chancellor Dr. Rajani R Gupte said, the international students were not only goodwill ambassadors for the University but of the entire country.

As a part of the celebration, the international students organized an international food festival at the Symbiosis Hill Top Campus, Lavale, in which students from 31 countries took part. The food fest is an initiative supported by Dr Mujumdar and

Faculty from the Symbiosis School of Culinary Arts judged the food festival entries on the basis of ambience of the stalls, presentation skills, taste, and nutritional value. The first prize of Rs 5000 was bagged by Uzbekistan followed by Mozambique and Sri Lanka winning Rs 3000 and Rs.2000 respectively.

Other activities during the International Student's Day included a tree plantation drive, visits to some NGOs and a blood

donation camp.

The evening saw a glittering international cultural program of dances and music.

South Korea bagged the first prize of Rs 10,000 in the Asian cultural events competition, while Bangladesh came second and got Rs 8000. From Africa, Mauritius bagged the first prize and Mozambique 2nd. The best critic prize of Rs 5000 was won by Nepal and the best costume award of Rs 5000 was won by South Korea.



Chief guest Vikram Kumar (C) tasting food made by international students the Metropolitan Region Development Authority of Pune were the chief guests for the event.

Celebrations began at the Senapati Bapat Road campus with international students from "A to Z" (Afghanistan to Zambia) from various Symbiosis campuses, unfurling their national flags and singing their national anthems.

Symbiosis has students from across 85 nations. Of the 37,000 students in Symbi-



Students presenting traditional South Korean dance.

Apps curb profits and freedom, fear auto-rickshaw drivers

Khushi Khurana

Rhema Hans



A majority of auto-rickshaw drivers are not convinced about the benefits of app-based services and operate from stands.

With cab service aggregators like Ola and Uber extending their online applications to include auto-rickshaw services, customers have benefitted by finding rides more conveniently. However, the auto-rickshaw drivers still have mixed feelings about joining the app-based service.

"The apps have made our job easier. We don't have to wait for hours at the auto-rickshaw stands to get a passenger. My target is to earn Rs 800-1000 a day, and I reach my target easily and quickly," says Vinod, an Uber auto-rickshaw driver in Viman Nagar.

But there are other auto-rickshaw drivers who are not convinced. A part of their earnings have to be shared with the company, and this eats into their gross profits, they says.

In fact, even Vinod agrees. "For short distances the company charges us Rs 12 while for longer

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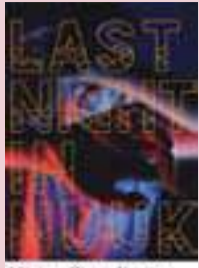
SAVE THE DATE



VAIVADHYA 2019

SCMC'S CULTURAL FESTIVAL

AT THE SVC AUDITORIUM
9:00AM
30TH AUGUST, 2019



Last Night In Nuuk

Sharwari Kale

This book follows the lives of five young Greenlanders exploring their identities on the cusp of adulthood. It covers topics like homophobia, coming out, millennial malaise, finding love, being cared about, and a lot more. Life in modern day Greenland is introduced to the world, giving a brand new experience from an unfamiliar shore. The writing is immature, but promising.



Judgemental Hai Kya

Adrija Saha

Judgemental hai kya, written by Kanika Dhillon and directed by Prakash Kovelamudi, is a story with a difference. The movie is based on the life of two individuals, Kangana Ranaut and Rajkumar Rao, who are juggling between the reality and illusions. It is a psychological thriller with twists of dark comedy, and satire. The suspense is kept alive until the end. Each frame is aesthetically appealing, with correct sound details.



Cafe Goodluck

Kavisha Manwani

Café Goodluck opens as early as 7:00am and serves hundreds of people throughout the day. Known for its Keema Pav, the cafe is also famous for Chicken Ra-ra and iconic dessert Fruit Funny. It's situated in the vicinity of Film & Television Institute of India and has been a favourite of many icons including Dev Anand. A hygienic place with affordable prices, what more can we ask for?

‘Entrepreneurship not a career, but life time choice’

SCEI conference focuses on start-ups

Mitali Dhar

The first ever conference on entrepreneurship was held at Symbiosis Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (SCEI), Lavale on July 25. Theme of the one day conference was to educate young minds on how to conceptualize novel ideas, inform them about the government-based schemes available for start-ups, and provide information on future industrial trends.

The conference consisted of talks, counseling, and advice offered by the speakers, with some panel discussion and mentoring session. The purpose was to educate and motivate young minds to explore the entrepreneurial career path over a traditional job-oriented career.

“Entrepreneurship is not a career; it’s a life time choice. We need to boost entrepreneurship with innovativeness among the youth which is necessary for attaining economic development of India but sadly not sufficient. It’s high time to promote social entrepreneurship which will not only create benefit for their venture but also have a positive impact on society by promoting innovation and sustainable development,” said Vishwas Mahajan, Social Entrepreneur while addressing the conference at SCEI.

Entrepreneurship creates a roadmap to regional development and promotes innovation in rural areas, thereby contributing towards economic development, said Dolly Dhamodrawala, CEO, Business Beacon Management Consultants.



Dolly Dhamodrawala (L) and Vishwas Mahajan

Competition for business is fierce as the last few decades have brought new challenges for manufacturing companies, believes Bharat Dhimate, Manager, d.Espart Pvt. Ltd while talking about the Design for Manufacturing & Assembly.

Industry 4.0 will make it possible to gather and analyze data across machine, enabling faster, more flexible, and more efficient processes to produce higher-quality goods at reduced costs said Dr. Abhay Kumar Kuthe, Professor, VNIT, Nagpur.

SCEI serves as an opportunity to generate discussions on innovating and promoting competitive ideas, share contemporary knowledge and to bring forward a new insight into the entrepreneurship world.

Workshop on calligraphy held

Mitali Dhar

Artists use words and fonts to create aesthetic and literary pieces. Varnita Bose conducted a “calligraphy workshop” on 27th July 2019 at Café Peter Donuts, Viman Nagar. The workshop mainly dealt with the Roman scripts and the workshop was divided into four progressive units: Understanding the Tools, Learning Letter Structure, Learning the Alphabet, and Developing a Style.

The workshop aims to introduce to the art and craft of calligraphy. Like all art forms, calligraphy or typography is a form of self expression. Creativity lies all around us, and all it needs is a keen eye to seek it out says Varnita Bose while talking to *The SCMC Chronicle*.



Some of the products on display at the calligraphy workshop

Nicola Sturgeon speaks her mind on Brexit, Boris Johnson and autonomy

The SCMC Chronicle staffer Gunjan Hariramani reports from Scotland

The First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon graced the TED stage in Edinburgh in July with an immensely powerful talk. She spoke about why governments should prioritize well-being, and aim for not just a wealthy nation, but a healthy one. Taking examples from Scotland’s own initiative along with countries such as Iceland and New Zealand, she talked about how caring about a population’s well-being helps the

country progress. While her enlightening words received the appreciation they deserved in the form of a thunderous applause, her comments on Brexit and Boris Johnson’s appointment as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom were noteworthy.

When asked what was really happening with Brexit, she, like many other citizens of the UK said that she really doesn’t know. With the utmost

candor, the First Minister initially expressed her dismay towards Boris Johnson’s appointment, and how Scotland never had a choice in this situation or Brexit.

She spoke about the possibilities of Johnson leading the UK out of the European Union with no deal, which in her words would be “catastrophic.” She speculated that a second referendum would be preferred by Johnson as opposed to the general election, because he has great chances of losing it.

Sturgeon spoke about her vision to see Scotland as a nation led by self-governance, owing to how the country has not been given a say to make decisions for themselves, let alone speak on multiple crucial occasions. On being asked if she was conflicted about Scotland’s future with regard to Brexit, she agreed that Brexit could lead the way for Scotland towards independence.

However, when she sees a larger picture she believes that it is best for Brexit to not take place as it is rather a catastrophe. At the end of the day, as the First Minister and a citizen of Scotland herself, she wants what is best for her people.



The First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon speaking at the TED Summit

PUNE'S JEWISH CONNECTION



The 156-year-old Ohel David synagogue in Pune, popularly known as Lal Deval (red temple, because of its colour), is the oldest Jewish structure in the city. It was built by a philanthropist businessman David Sasoon who also built the Sasoon Hospital. The synagogue is testimony to the presence of a once flourishing Baghdadi Jewish community in Pune. Today, however, this community has very few members left in the city, most having migrated to Israel. But the synagogue remains an iconic building. Like most Jewish buildings in India, this too is protected by the police. **MADHAVI JAIN** takes a closer look at this beautiful building.



1. The spire is an imposing sight. 2. It has beautiful stained glass windows and oak wood furniture. 3. The Jewish holy book, Tanakh, is kept on a long-backed chair. 4. The building is a red-brick Gothic style architecture. Policemen sit on the porch, guarding the building. 5. A framed picture of the 7-branched 'Menorah' – a symbol of Judaism since ancient times. 6. The caretaker who maintains the synagogue. 7. The Star of David, the symbol of Jews and Israel.



Aastha lifts badminton title

— Ishaan Bhattacharya —

The Inter-College Badminton tournament was organized by Symbiosis Institute of International Business, Pune from the 30th of July to the 2nd of August 2019 at SIIB, Lavale Campus. This was a part of the annual inter-SIU tournament which sees all partner colleges under the SIU banner send their best sports players to compete for the pride of their college.

The four days of the tournament saw multiple rounds of competition between colleges, which culminated in the finals on day 4. The tournament saw participation from 20 colleges across SIU partner institutes. These tournaments are meant to help selections for the SIU team that

will ultimately represent the university at regional and national level tournaments. This also serves the purpose of healthy competition between SIU colleges which promotes sportsmanship and a thriving competitive spirit to prove which college has the best badminton players.

WINNERS	
Rank	College (Women)
1	SID, Pune
2	SLS, Pune
Rank	College (Men)
1	SIBM, Pune
2	SSSS, Pune



Best player (girls) Aastha Chakrobarty (L) of SID seen with national badminton player and SIU alumni Mansi Gadgil, chief guest for the event

Anmol, Dishan of SCMS bag SIU chess titles



Teams from 24 colleges participated in the chess tournament

— Mitali Dhar —

The Inter-College Chess tournament was organized by Symbiosis Institute of Geoinformatics, Pune on the 1st and the 2nd of August, 2019 at SIMS, Kirkee Campus. The tournament was organized with the aim of not only selecting the best chess players who would represent Symbiosis International University at the All India Inter-University Chess Championship, but also to develop a composite chess culture in the university. The tournament saw the enthusiastic participation of a total of 24 colleges.

The first day of the tournament consisted of individual championship events

WINNERS		
Rank	College	Student
1	SCMS, Pune	Anmol Agarwal
2	SCMS, Pune	Dishan Porwal
3	SLS, Pune	Soumiljit S Gill
4	SCMS, Noida	Shirish Kumar

which were conducted in 7 rounds. Day 2, on the other hand, included the team championship events. All participants gave an extremely tough competition and proved their mettle in the game. Some events were especially nerve wracking and had the audience on the edge of their seats.

Symbi's annual blood donation day held

— Mitali Dhar —

Symbiosis International University organized blood donation camps on the 31st of July in all its campuses in association with the Symbiosis Center for Health and Care (SCHC) and the Acharya Anandrishji Pune Blood Bank.

Symbiosis organises blood donation camps in all its campuses, as an annual event every 31st of July.

The camps commenced at 9 am and saw a steady stream of donors throughout the day. Donors were provided with milk, biscuits and bananas as refreshments after they had donated blood. These are necessary for the donors.

The blood samples were carefully collected and sealed by trained personnel of the SCHC who also maintained a high degree of donor safety.

The blood donation camp was the



Blood donation drive in full swing at the Viman Nagar old campus

true embodiment of the motto of SCHC and Acharya Anandrishji Pune Blood Bank – selfless service with a smile. The camp saw enthusiastic participation by both students and faculty and proved to be a huge success.

SID students display their signage projects

— Pratikshya Mishra —

The students of Symbiosis Institute of Design (SID) put up their 'signage' projects for display at the institute's exhibition hall on July 27. The display was part of SID's design seminar DISHA. The exhibition included projects executed by the students of 4th Year Graphic Design as part of their 'Way-finding and Signage Designs for existing buildings and actual topographies.'

The project was headed by Prof. Paresh Choudhury, who said that the project was helpful to the students since it introduced them to the idea of signage systems and way-finding.



Design experts Alpesh Gajjar (C), and Sourajit Sengupta (R) giving feedback

Vishakha Ramchandani, a 4th year student, said that they learned about the use of typography, mathematics, and basic design principles.

A seminar on the subject of the exhibition, on the same day, was attended by speakers Mr. Sourajit Sengupta, the design head for Leaf Design and Mr. Alpesh Gajjar, ex-NIDan. Both expert speakers then went through the project displays and gave feedback to the students.

Apps curb profits and freedom, fear auto-rickshaw drivers

(Cont'd from page 1)

distances it could be between Rs. 17 to 18," he disclosed..

Raju, a private auto-rickshaw driver is of the opinion that there is no space for private auto rickshaws in the future. Yet, like many others from his profession, he does not wish to join Ola or Uber services as an "employee".

On the surface of the issue, the reason seems to be a lack of profit. "We have suffered 80 per cent loss after they came in the market. They charge us Rs.12 to Rs

18 on every booking and take money from passengers too. So, where is our profit in associating with them? We will get even less than what our meter would reflect," he fears.

Another private auto-rickshaw driver Zakir Sheikh also does not want to join either Ola or Uber. "The passengers who book through apps will not tolerate any delay on our part, even for genuine reasons. They want instant service. I paid Rs two lakhs from my own pocket to buy this

auto-rickshaw. Why should I be treated like a servant?" he asks.

There are times when despite waiting for hours at the auto-rickshaw stand, Zakir doesn't get a passenger. In the face of such difficulties, Zakir can't help but admit Ola and Uber are more convenient options. However, he still believes that it would be unfair if he had to sacrifice his freedom and a share of his profit after having purchased an auto-rickshaw with his own money.