



Naidu calls for mindset change

Laws alone won't ensure safety for women, he says at SIU Convocation

SCMC Correspondent

More than introduction of new laws, the pressing need of the hour was to collectively create a mindset that denounced and condemned atrocities against women, observed Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu.

He was addressing the 16th Convocation of the Symbiosis International University (SIU) as the chief guest, on December 8, at the Lavale campus of the university.

He said, a perceptible erosion of values had taken place in all walks of life, including politics, the legislature and the judiciary. Bringing in new laws was not a solution; reduction in atrocities against women was only possible with a change of mindset, he emphasised.

He lauded SIU's efforts in the field of education. "I am happy that this university has students from around 85 countries," he said. This is indicative of our



At the 16th Convocation ceremony of Symbiosis International University, seen from L to R (in robes): Vice Chancellor Dr Rajani Gupte, Chancellor Dr S B Mujumdar, poet-lyricist Javed Akhtar who was awarded honorary D.Litt alongwith missile scientist Dr Tessy Thomas (not in picture), Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Maharashtra Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, Pro Chancellor Dr Vidya Yeravdekar, Registrar Dr M S Shejul.

I am not against bringing any new law or Bill. We brought a Bill after Nirbhaya. What happened? Was the problem solved? So, I always feel that what is required is not a Bill, but a political will and administrative skill to kill the evils of the society. A change in the mindset is the need of the hour and we should go back to the roots of our culture.

Venkaiah Naidu
Vice President of India

the top 100, and then in the top 50 in the world," he said, while stating that education ought to teach a way of life and that it was an instrument for empowerment and not for mere employment.

He urged students to go back to our ancient Indian culture and heritage. "The fetters of a colonial mindset had ensured that our country's history was not properly written as we had followed the education system laid down by Lord Macaulay.

Among dignitaries who attended the convocation were Maharashtra Governor

ancient heritage and culture, when India was once known as 'Vishwaguru' with ancient universities such as Nalanda and Taxila pre-eminent in the world for education, he added.

Mr Naidu regretted that today not a single Indian university could make it to the list of top 300 universities in this year's Times Higher Education World University Ranking.

"We need to think over the factors responsible for this and need to strategise how Indian universities can rank among

Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Maharashtra minister Chhagan Bhujbal, SIU Chancellor Dr. S B Mujumdar, Pro-Chancellor and Principal Director Dr Vidya Yeravdekar, Vice-Chancellor Dr Rajani Gupte, Registrar Dr M S Shejul.

At the convocation, distinguished missile scientist Tessy Thomas and renowned poet-lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar were awarded honorary Doctorates of Literature.

A total of 6,216 students were awarded various degrees at this convocation.

Ashwin is Batch topper of the Year 2019



SCMC Director Dr. Sreeram Gopalkrishnan greets Ashwin Lavanghare (left) after awarding him the medal and certificate for Batch topper of the Year 2019.

SCMC Correspondent

A valedictory meet and dinner was hosted by SCMC for the passing out Batch of 2019 along with their parents on 07 December, on the eve of the 16th SIU Convocation.

Meritorious students were awarded medals and certificates. The Batch topper prize was won by Ashwin Lavanghare (Advertising). The other specialization toppers were Shrishti Patnaik (Journalism), Yugika Mittal (Advertising), Bhavna Kankaria (Audio-Visual production) and Yamini Kandhari (Public Relations).

The students and their parents were welcomed by Prof. Dr. Pritha Chakrabarti and also addressed by Heads of Departments Prof. Amitabh Dasgupta (Journalism) and Prof. Vidyabhushan Arya (Audio-Visual production) and Prof. Dr. Sunil Belladi.

SCMC Director Prof. Dr. Sreeram Gopalkrishnan also addressed the gathering and lauded the passing out students on

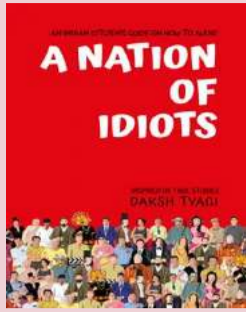
their successfully completing the course and earning their degrees. On behalf of the staff and faculty of the Centre, he conveyed good wishes to the students for their future as media professionals. He advised the students to maintain a healthy work-life balance. He also thanked the parents for their support and cooperation.

Several parents also spoke on the occasion and thanked the Centre for providing a good start to their children in shaping their careers.



One of the parents, Col. Vishal Gaur, seen speaking at the Valedictory function.

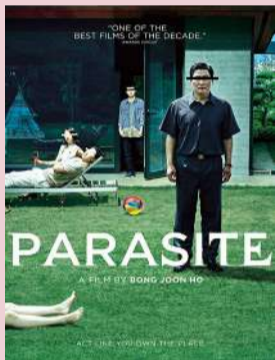
TOP PICKS



A Nation of Idiots

Arpan Cheema

The book is a satire on Indians and their obsessions about the age-old traditions which can be altered like their accent after a holiday abroad. It talks about how Indians built things to prove their worth and break things to prove a point. Speaking about how to tell the real from the farcical and the farcical from the nutty. Inspired by true stories, Daksh Tyagi gives an insightful and entertaining book that acts like a guide of surviving the modern Indian life.



Parasite

Tshewang Choden

Grappling with suspense, the film shows the Kim family struggling to make ends meet. As the Kims ingratiate themselves into the lives of the Park family- their gracious wealthy saviours, they find themselves entangled in an unexpected incident. The entirety of the film is gripped in revealing how the less fortunate struggle to establish a place for themselves in the world of capitalists.



Marz-o-rin

Kavisha Manwani

Established in 1965, Marz-o-rin stands as a timeless landmark set in a 100 years old heritage building. Adding glory to the old café culture in Pune, this restaurant is situated on the busy MG road. The menu commits to sustainable practices and focuses extensively on quality and nutrition. With no fried food items or carbonated drinks in the menu, the place is famous for its sandwiches and ice crushers.

Assam students fear becoming minority in their own State

Ishaan Bhattacharya

The recent debates over the passing of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) has enraged many. Despite the mass protests opposing the acts across India, the government seems to be firm towards the implementation of both the NRC and the CAA. SCMC Chronicle asked students from Assam, who have already experienced the NRC in 2014, about their opinions on the issue and how it affects them and the indigenous people of the region.

Shivangini Kashyap, studying in Lady Shri Ram College For Women raised points which would be echoed by others who commented on this issue for us. "I completely oppose the CAA for two reasons. The first reason is because it's against the Constitution. You cannot divide people on the basis of religion. The second reason is that it will affect my culture, my ethnicity."

Both the reasons were later echoed by other students, with **Priyanka Das** from IP College for Women, Delhi saying, "Of



Shivangini Kashyap & Gargee Deka

course, the discrimination based on religion is an issue but for the Assamese this has always been ethnicity issue rather than a religious one. It's a fight to save our own identity and to protect ourselves from becoming a minority in our own homeland. Therefore, as an Assamese and an Indian, I oppose CAA."

Kaustubh Das, who chose not to reveal the name of his college, levied accusations towards the government of trying to clear the indigenous population of Assam, as reflected by the historic neglect for the protection of Assamese culture by governments past and present. "The act is a planned cleansing of the Assamese culture by reducing the number of Assamese people in their own native state. The state of Assam has

always had illegal immigrants migrate and take refuge in our land."

Gargee Deka from IP College for Women, Delhi said, "We as a state, ourselves, lack the basic facilities and amenities which means, we as the very indigenous group have not been able to receive our basic rights."

At this point we can't afford to become minorities and share whatever we have for us and our future generations with random outsiders who're crossing boundaries. No, we can't and we won't."

Rhidhwiman Baruah of Manipal University, Sikkim Campus spoke with us about the threat that Assamese culture is under and asked for empathy so that we could better understand the situation. But the question he posed left us thinking. He said, "Just think of yourself as a minority in your own state. How will you feel?"

No one likes to see what makes their culture erode because of circumstances not under their control. The people of Assam have been living this truth for many years now, and may have to fight a little harder to ensure that they can rebuild their identity.

Pune students join CAA protest

Aditi Parida

With protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) taking the country by storm, Pune also joined in to show solidarity with Jamia and AMU students.

A student-led protest was held in front of Pune's District Collector's Office on 17 December. With more than 500 people in attendance, this protest saw teachers, students and working professionals sloganeering against the CAA-NRC.

Amidst slogans like "Modi sarkar hosh mei aao, jawab tumko dena hoga" and "Inquilab Zindabad" various student leaders, activists and even professors gave speeches to the crowd. A representative from the ILS Law College, Pune believed that the actions of the government were "attacking the ability to speak out." A Jamia alumnus explained the situation to the gathering, taking them through every



Picture by: Kavisha Manwani

step of what happened during the protests, whilst a Symbiosis professor condemned the actions taken by the police.

The organisers of the protest had spoken to the District Collector, Shri. Naval Kishore Ram and submitted a memorandum containing seven demands to him. These included demands like an independent judicial probe into the incident and assurance of safety and security of educational campuses and

students.

They had also asked him to convey the message to the Home Minister, Amit Shah, that "we are ready to fight for our freedom again" which instilled a sense of enthusiasm in the group.

The students present at the protests had resonating sentiments about their show of solidarity. Jennifer, a student at Symbiosis Institute of Design said, "The CAB is unconstitutional which is very clearly trying to turn people against each other." She strongly believed that, "nobody should be called illegal just because they practice a certain religion." Inshrah Mirza, another student stated that she turned up for the protest because she "wants equality to be there".

The Pune police had helped the organisers in containing and regulating the group of protestors making it a peaceful turnout. The protest started at 2.30 pm and ended around 4.00 pm.

Viman leads in open mic events

Govind Choudhary

The hub of students in Viman Nagar have a cultural dimension of their own. It is not only famous for its color changing skies but also for the promotion of diversity and inclusion through various art events. Such events bring people from different communities and languages together.

Vaibhav Paliwal, the organiser of open mics, told that there are 40 to 50 events in a month across the city, out of which at least 20 take place in Viman. People get a great platform to express themselves through poetry and stand-up comedy gigs.

Paliwal said, "Viman has a cosmopolitan population dominated by students and working class coming from outside Maharashtra. So, the Marathi expression takes a backseat and both comedy and

poetry have a wide scope with a blend of Hindi and English dialect."

"Although there is a niche audience for Marathi poetry that usually takes place in areas like Kothrud and Deccan area, it also needs a refined talent to perform certain stand up comedies having common puns in Hindi and Marathi. Wordplay with different contexts by tweaking the punches produces a great humor for the marathi audience," added Paliwal.

Orange Comedy Club is one of the active groups in Viman that attract a large audience. Kapil Aggarwal, a member of Orange Club said, "Laughter clubs over Youtube have helped to promote a comedy culture and it has opened a new market in open mic gigs. We are working to make room for comedy in Nukkad Cafe and Viman Social where people can get



vibes like Canvas Laughter Club".

"Usually, budding comedians participate in open mics to try and test their scripts. Both the performer and the audience pay an amount between Rs.150-200 to be a part of the show. Another format of comedy shows is performing 12 minutes long acts. Comedians from Mumbai also perform in Viman and get applause from the audience," added Aggarwal.

Journo students visit Parliament



The Journalism specialisation students of the Final Year of Batch of 2020 visited the capital Delhi for a five-day study tour in December 2019.

During the study tour, the students visited the Parliament and viewed an ongoing session of the Lok Sabha.

Later, students interacted with the well known editor Mr Kumar Ketkar who is a nominated MP in the Rajya Sabha. He spoke about the role and challenges for the media in present times.

Students also interacted with Mr Pradyut Bordoloi who is a Lok Sabha MP from Assam at the Constitution Club of India. Mr Bordoloi briefed the students about the issues raised due to the Constitution Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens, especially in case of the North East States.

The students also visited the India Gate, the National War Memorial, the Nehru Planetarium and the Qutub Minar.



1. The Batch seen with Kumar Ketkar (center, white sweater vest) at his official residence on Ashoka Road.

2. Students seen posing against the dome of the Nehru planetarium, after witnessing the show on 'Cosmic Life'.

3. Students pose in front of the India Gate after seeing the Amar Jawan Jyoti and paying tribute at the National War Memorial.

4. The Batch seen with LS MP Pradyut Bordoloi (centre, grey blazer) at the Constitution Club of India.



“Greater than the pain” A teenager’s fight against scoliosis



Saanvi Jitendra

— Audita Bhattacharya —

Saanvi Jitendra, a 15 year old Scoliosis Warrior is releasing a documentary on her Youtube Channel (Sincerely, Saanvi) about her journey with scoliosis.

Scoliosis is a sideways curvature of the spine that occurs most often during the growth spurt just before puberty. While scoliosis can be caused by conditions such as cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy, the cause of most scoliosis is unknown. The documentary is titled “Greater Than The Pain” and speaks all about the different aspects that go into fighting scoliosis. Saanvi has interviewed scoliosis warriors from Bangalore, France, as well as patients from all over the world. She has also included small clips that various individuals from around the world shared with her and she has compiled all of these snippets into her documentary.

Saanvi also interviewed her doctor, the late Ketan Khurjekar. “Dr. Ketan always wanted to spread awareness about scoliosis as much as possible and make people aware about this condition and it’s early diagnosis. He wanted to go to many schools as well and create campaigns, to diagnose school students with scoliosis, as the symptoms are mostly seen in teenagers. Infact, the day before the tragic accident, doctor messaged me about his idea to create a storyline and execute it as a

comic strip about a scoliosis patient and how they achieve superpowers from their spinal fusion surgery”, shared Saanvi. “He was always emotionally connected with his patients and he wanted to help them as well as create awareness about the condition in every possible way.”, added Saanvi.

Speaking about her own journey, she said “I was diagnosed when I was 12 and I got my surgery six months ago. My fight with scoliosis has led me to believe that I have to help other warriors around the world and make people aware about scoliosis and other such chronic conditions. I wanted people to know that we’re not alone and I reflected upon that and took out this initiative.”

Speaking about the title of her documentary, Saanvi said “I am very active on instagram and I even run a scoliosis account (@scoliqueen). I wanted as many people as possible and fellow scoliosis warriors to know that scoliosis is greater than just back pain, it is a fight against one’s own body. I understood how scoliosis affects every single aspect of our lives. We fight mentally, socially, physically, and even spiritually. My ultimate goal is to shed light on all these aspects, the causes and the pain. I want people to know the truth behind scoliosis and ultimately spread awareness about it.”

Why are people giving up on FB, WhatsApp ?

— Madhavi Jain —

There has been a long standing discussion on privacy of data (or the lack thereof) on Facebook, the largest social media platform.

The misuse of personal data from Facebook by research firm Cambridge Analytica that caused an uproar worldwide, triggered many to delete their Facebook accounts permanently. Mark Zuckerberg apologised and said “We have a responsibility to protect your data, and if we can’t then we don’t deserve to serve you.”

But, the problem did not end there. Facebook owns some major social media platforms, the biggest one of which is WhatsApp. In India specifically, over the last 5 years, WhatsApp has become the most preferred messaging app for Indians who have access to a smartphone. And unlike Instagram, WhatsApp came with no age bar condition.

From school kids to retired professionals, WhatsApp had something to offer to everyone. However, with data security issues on the rise now more than ever, there has been a slow transition from the ‘WhatsApp phenomena’ that once took the urban population by storm, to better, safer and more secure mediums.

The transition came with the coming of apps like Telegram and Signal. Started in 2013, Telegram is quickly becoming popular amongst people for a variety of reasons. Krysanne Martis, a 20-year old media student who is on Telegram says, “I switched because Facebook owns WhatsApp and I’m very wary of media monopolies, such as Facebook.”

Although, like Telegram, WhatsApp also does not display ads, but users are

aware of the fact that WhatsApp is owned by Facebook which is monetised through apps. So, there is no question of compromising on privacy. It also offers its patrons better features.

Users can choose to not give their numbers at all to fellow users. They can chat through a unique ID. Telegram allows sending files upto 1.5 GB as opposed to WhatsApp’s 16 MB and it also allows secret chats and can be accessed through multiple platforms independently. There is also a super group feature that allows up to 5000 people in a group on Telegram!



On the other hand, Signal has screen security which blocks all other apps on a phone from taking screenshots of your chats on Signal. So, an app that keeps track of your activities, can’t keep track of your texts on signal.

Manan Azad, a 23 year old MBBS student who switched to Signal says, “I was fed up of the data breach news on WhatsApp that made headlines every day. I hold my privacy in high regard, so I switched and even convinced my friends to switch.” This is not all. Many youngsters are growing increasingly vocal about their migration from WhatsApp.

The Heroine’s Journey features Aditya’s photos

— Roop Sawhney —

In a recent exhibition titled The Heroine’s Journey, SCMC alumnus, Aditya Sinha displayed one of his most treasured photographs.

The exhibition, held at Gyaan Adab on 21st December had the underlying theme of empowerment of women and attempted to capture and honour the women in our lives. Aditya’s photograph is one of his twin sister and pays homage to their grandmother. His sister is pictured wearing their grandmother’s saree against the backdrop of photographs from the days that were.

The photograph which is titled Ranzrez is especially close to Sinha’s heart and much like his other photographs carry a sense of personal nostalgia. The festival also featured poetry sessions, panel discussions and short plays. The exhibition re: Frame displayed the works of other



Due to the strong female influence in his life, this photograph is especially close to Aditya’s heart.



Artworks from the exhibition also attempted to highlight ongoing social issues including the crisis in Kashmir.

upcoming artists from all over the country and from all age groups and attempted to reframe heroines from literature, film and other art forms, keeping in mind the current reality as a background.

One of the art works also represented and addressed the turmoil that Indian administered Kashmir faced in the past year.

The exhibition featured colourful reimaginings and reframings of the likes of goddesses Lakshmi, Durga and Saraswati, goddess of harmony, Venus, Sita and the quintessential Gangu Tai. Contributing artists included Kokila Bhattacharya, Upasana Valia, Rajasee Ray and Mrunmayee Pathak among others. “Owing to the strong female influence in my family, my mother, my sister and my grandmother, I’m continuously inspired to make content that honours and reflects that influence”, says Sinha about his work.

Pics by Roop Sawhney

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Write in to thescmchronicle@scmc.edu.in