

# SCIE NEWSLETTER



## SCIE:

**Symbiosis Centre for International Education (SCIE)** is a centralised department of SIU created for International Students. This department takes care of international students' right from their admission till the time they graduate from Symbiosis University. It also acts as a common platform for International Students not only of SIU but from colleges and Universities across Pune. SCIE aspires to expand its horizons for academic enrichment with foreign higher educational institutions through collaborative arrangements. It works with universities that feature in the top 100 of Times Higher Education or QS World University ranking. Actively working with European partners for Study in India Programs & Erasmus + Projects facilitates students, faculty mobility and strategic partnerships.

## SIU:

**Symbiosis International University (SIU)** was conceptualised by Prof. (Dr.) S. B. Mujumdar with an aim to promote international understanding through the medium of quality education. Its objective is to develop students, who not only have growth in their careers but are also counted as ambassadors for promoting the idea of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' which means 'The world is one family'. It aims at providing a feeling of being 'home away from home' for International students in India.

## Credits:

A heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the creation of this newsletter, including Ms. Megan Bavaskar for her design expertise as a Member of the Symbiosis International Students' Council, Ms. Aparna Soman for her role as Content Coordinator at SCIE, and the SCIE Department for their valuable content contributions.

## INITIATIVES AND COLLABORATIONS:



Dr. Manjeet Ridon, Associate Dean at De Montfort University, UK visited Symbiosis Institute of Technology (SIT), Pune. She met with Dr. Ketan Kotecha, Dean – Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Prakash Rao, Head – Symbiosis Centre for Climate Change & Sustainability (SCCS) along with their teams and Dr. Anupama Kotur, Head – International Academic Programs, SCIE leading to interesting discussions regarding students' mobility and joint research focusing on Sustainability and Responsible AI.



Delegates from Aalto University, Finland visited Symbiosis Institute Of Technology (SIT), Pune for discussion on joint programs and research for the students in all disciplines. They had fruitful discussions with faculty from Symbiosis Institute of Technology (SIT), Pune and SCIE members.



Prof. Syed Tofail, UL India committee chair along with Mr. James Sergeant, UL Global officer, Prof. Nanasaheb Thorat, UL India committee member and Dr. Charlie O'Mahony, Research Scientist from the University of Limerick visited SIU Lavale to sign an MoU to further strengthen the partnership between the universities.

The MoU signing ceremony was attended by Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Pro-Chancellor, SIU; Dr. Rajiv Yeravdekar, Provost, FoMHS; Lt Col (Dr) T Vijaya Sagar, Dean, SMCW; Dr. Sammita Jadhav, Director, SIHS; Dr. Nayana Nimkar, Director, DSRW; Dr. Sonopant Joshi, Director, SCON; Dr. Girija Mahale, Head, SCEW; Dr. Kavitha Menon, Head, Nutrition and Dietetics; Dr. Alaka Chandak, Director, SCHC; Dr. Anshuman Sevda, Head, MPH programme; Dr. Abhijit Deshpande, Director, BCUD; Dr. Anupama Kotur Head, International Academic Programs, SCIE and Ms. Sonali Hardikar, Sr Officer, Academic Collaborations, SCIE.



SCIE hosted a QS Discover Fair, where representative of University of Hawaii, USA – Mr Marc Endrigat, Senior Director Graduate Programs and Admissions interacted with students regarding the opportunities available in the USA. Mr Ravin Nair, COO, QS I- GAUGE also attended the event





Macquarie University delegation comprising Professor Chris Dixon, Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts, Professor Tess Lea, Dean of School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Dr. Sarah Sorial, Professor of Law, Macquarie Law School (Australia) and Associate Dean, Research Training and Performance in the Faculty of Arts, Abizer Merchant, Director (India & Sri Lanka) and Mr. Anuj visited SIU to discuss collaboration opportunities. The visiting delegation engaged in fruitful discussions for future collaborations with Dr. Shashikala Gulpur, Dean - Faculty of Law, and SCIE members



Mr Wooi-Hsen ONG and Mr Jeremiah Kwok from Singapore Polytechnic Institute, Singapore visited SIU for a RECCE visit of 4 days in December 2024. RECCE was for LeX program which will be conducted in March 2025

## CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES:

The image shows the cover of the EAIE Forum Member Magazine. At the top left is the Symbiosis International (Deemed University) logo. The title 'EAIE Forum Member Magazine' is in a white box. Below it, the article title 'POST-PANDEMIC VIRTUALISATION: IS IT HERE TO STAY?' is displayed, followed by 'new RELEASE' in orange. Two circular portraits of the authors are shown: Prof Nidhi Piplani Kapur on the left and Ms Nikita Varghese on the right. Their names and titles are listed below their portraits. At the bottom, the affiliations 'SYMBIOSIS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES (SCES)' and 'SYMBIOSIS CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (SCIE)' are listed.

**SYMBIOSIS**  
INTERNATIONAL (DEEMED UNIVERSITY)

**EAIE Forum Member  
Magazine**

**POST-PANDEMIC VIRTUALISATION: IS IT HERE TO STAY?**  
*new*  
**RELEASE**

**Prof Nidhi Piplani Kapur**  
Head  
Symbiosis Centre for European Studies (SCES)  
Symbiosis International (Deemed University), SIU

**Ms Nikita Varghese**  
Senior Geopolitical Risk Analyst,  
MitKat Advisory

**SYMBIOSIS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES (SCES)**  
**SYMBIOSIS CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (SCIE)**

Prof Nidhi Piplani Kapur and Ms Nikita Varghese co-authored an article on 'Post-Pandemic Virtualisation: Is it here to stay?' that has been published in EAIE Forum Member Magazine.

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RELATIONS AND EVENTS:

## SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' SPORTS MEET 2024-25 (SISSM):

We organize annual sports meet for foreign nationals within and outside Symbiosis in the months of November and December. SCIE appointed a students' sports committee consisting of 18 members to handle various aspects of the Symbiosis International Students' Sports Meet (SISSM) 2024, including organization, advertising, participant engagement, document verification, and overall assistance to SCIE. The theme for the event, as in previous years, was 'Play for Peace,' emphasizing the spirit of unity and harmony through sports.

SISSM 2024 took place with technical support from Symbiosis Department of Sports, Recreation and Wellness (DSRW). The Sports Committee took on the responsibility of verifying the documents submitted by the participants.

A diverse range of sports activities were organized for both girls and boys, including Table Tennis, Pool, Chess, Badminton, Swimming, Basketball, Volleyball, Futsal, and Football.

A total of 563 students from 21 different countries, participated in the sports activities, showcasing the international nature of the event.

The Prize Distribution ceremony for SISSM 2024 is scheduled to take place during the Symbiosis Anniversary celebrations i.e., on 26th January 2025.

### **Swimming held on 6th December, 2024:**

A total of 8 countries participated in swimming competition.

- 25m & 50m Freestyle, 50m Back stroke, 50m Breast stroke and 25m Butterfly stroke was won by Nepal with Mauritius as the runner up for Men's category
- 25m & 50m Freestyle, 50m Breast stroke was won by Iran with Zimbabwe being the runner up in Women's category

### **Pool held on 6th December, 2024:**

Pool was played by 14 Men from 9 countries and 2 Women from 2 countries.

- Iran won the Men's Final against Bhutan
- Ms. Constance Chitombo from Zimbabwe won the Women's Final against Ms. Aditi Singh from Nepal

The matches for indoor games like Badminton (Singles and Doubles), Table Tennis (Singles and Doubles) and Chess were held at Symbiosis School on Prabhat road on 4th and 5th November, 2024.

#### **Chess:**

8 male players from 5 countries and 3 female players from 3 countries took part in the Chess competition.

- Nepal won the Men's final against Bangladesh
- Ms. D.K. Gavithri Dilesha Amarasinghe from Sri Lanka won the Female's final against Ms. Sanchaita Dewan from Bangladesh

#### **Badminton:**

A total of 10 countries in the Men's event and 4 Countries in the Women's event participated

- Men's - Singles - Japan won against Bangladesh
- Men's - Doubles - Bangladesh won against Sri Lanka
- Women's - Singles - Sri Lanka won against Bangladesh
- Women's - Doubles - Bangladesh won against Sri Lanka

#### **Table Tennis:**

The Table Tennis game was played amongst 5 countries for Men's category and by 2 countries for Women's category

- Men's - Singles - Nepal won against Iran
- Women's - Singles - Turkmenistan won against Turkmenistan

The matches for outdoor sports like Basketball, Volleyball, Futsal and Football were held at Viman nagar campus and Multipurpose Sports Ground, Lavale Hill top on 12, 13, 14 and 15th December, 2024.

#### **Basketball:**

The Basketball competition was played by 10 countries for the Men's category and by 2 countries for Women's category

- Men's - South Sudan won against Nepal
- Women's - Bhutan won against Sri Lanka

#### **Volleyball:**

The Volleyball competition was played by 11 countries for the Men's category and by 3 countries for Women's category

- Men's - South Sudan won against Bangladesh
- Women's - Turkmenistan won against Zimbabwe



Football, is the most awaited game of SISSM, each year. Students represent their country with great gusto and look forward to winning the coveted trophies. The Inaugural Function of the Football Competition took place on 17th December, 2024 with great pomp and fare, with Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar ma'am presiding over the function. The Football and Futsal matches were held from 17th – 21st December, 2024.

#### Football and Futsal:

A total of 12 teams for Men's category and 3 teams for Women's category participated

- Sudan won the Men's Final against South Sudan
- Nigeria won the Women's Final against Zimbabwe

It is noteworthy to mention that Sudan and South Sudan have been the teams to reach the finals for 3 consecutive years from 2022,2023 and this year 2024, with their strong performances. Sudan has continued its winning streak to be named champions **3 times in a row at SISSM!!**

Overall, the event was a grand success, fostering sportsmanship, international collaboration, and the pursuit of peace through athletic competition.







## **BHUTAN'S NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION:**

The Bhutanese students from Symbiosis celebrated their country, Bhutan's 117th National Day in collaboration with SCIE at the Convention Hall, Lavale Hill top on 17th December, 2024 in the morning. The joyous occasion began with a 'Marchang Ceremony' and offering of Butter Lamp. The students recited the national anthem of Bhutan bringing in a sense of pride. The multitalented students performed cultural songs and dance to showcase the rich culture and traditions of Bhutan. The amazing performances received a huge round of applause from the audience. One of the most important part of the celebration was his

Majesty, The King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's speech to his countrymates which was broadcasted. The students eagerly listened to his Majesty vision for a brighter, happier, developed and prosperous country of Bhutan. Ms. Rupali Chaudhary, HoD – International Student Relations and Events was the Chief Guest for the celebration.

This celebration not only reinforced the strong bonds we share with the student community but also provided an opportunity for students to honour their rich heritage and culture. Such celebrations provide an enriching student experience and foster cultural inclusivity at the campus, creating awareness of the rich cultures across the world.





### **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION:**

The Christmas celebration was organised on 22nd December, 2024 by SCIE at Symbiosis Senapati Bapat Road Campus. Around 570 international students from different countries attended this festive and joyous celebration. The Christmas cheer was definitely in the air with carols, hymns and festive songs being sung and played. Students enjoyed delicious food for dinner. A special appearance of Santa Claus brought a big round of cheer from the students who were presented with gifts. Everyone enjoyed clicking photos by the beautifully decorated Christmas tree.

The presence and welcoming address of Hon'ble Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, Founder and President of Symbiosis, along with Mrs. S. S. Mujumdar, Hon. Director of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial and Museum, added a touch of significance to the celebration.

