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Young photographers at work Tasmayi shree guruve namah

Three months companionship with camera results in public photo exhibition

The first year students pursuing MA Mass Communication in PU put up a public photo exhibition from Oct 30 to Nov 4 at Exhibition House, opposite The Promenade hotel, Beach Road. This was their second attempt at photo journalistic work after a maiden attempt on the topic 'Hope'.

Children studying, playing, young girls supporting their families, working women and men. These became the subjects as the students attempted to document the ordinary workers and their struggle for livelihood.

Wordsworth could see the humble work of "The Solitary Reaper" in the Highlands and make a poem out of it. Her sweet singing and pleasure at work charmed him. How many of us really put a thought over the amount of tilling, ploughing, sowing, hard labour of days under the scorching sun as we stop awhile on the roadside to feast our eyes on the golden harvest of the fields?

For most human beings, work is life and life is work. The work becomes worthwhile as one sees efforts come to fruition. That was the kind of euphoria the first year Mass Communication students were in as they visualized their photographs, printed and framed in Sri Aurobindo Ashram's Gallery.

For majority of them, their companionship with the camera was just three months old and putting up a public photo exhibition was undreamt of. Yet the six days proved to them, that even their wildest dreams can be realized.

"If not for the effervescent spirit of our mentor Ms. Radhika Khanna, the thoughtful and timely assistance from Prof. J. A. K. Tareen, Vice Chancellor of Pondicherry University, adjunct faculty Mr. Gopinath S, Mr. Navroze Contractor, Mr. Nicolas Joffroy and Ms. Soudhamini, our photographs would have remained an unnoticed folder in our desktops..." recalls Haseeba Ashraf, a first year Mass Communication student.

"It was not that they were behind us with a stick all the time...they first gave us the equipment, the spark needed to pursue our goal and told

us to spend as much time as possible with our subjects. The right frame will appear in front of us 101%".

It is not just the 'Work' photo exhibition that the first years had in their mettle. This year's NAAC visit to the University also saw them working in full swing for their first photo exhibition 'Hope'; whose success gave enough confidence to realize this public exhibition of over 100 prints.

The students themselves had prepared the panels for display and volunteered despite internal examination throughout the exhibition week, with clear guidance



Photo: Nicolas Joffroy

All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.

-Martin Luther King

Action is the foundational key to all success.

-Pablo Picasso

from their faculty.

"It is not just bookish knowledge but the real competence and practical skills required to survive in the media field that we get from these tasks entrusted upon us," says Maneesha, another first year student. Thousands from in and around Puducherry visited the exhibition. They appreciated and critiqued the amateur photojournalists through written comments as well as face to face. The

way visitors took time to interact with the young photographers helped them further in their learning. G. S. Pattnaik feels, "It gave some insight to the world through the eyes of the present generation. Sensitive, has a message therein." Raju asks, "How about going one step further? I saw a photo where a person was cooking for many boys in the hostel mess. Can it at least be tried that the fellow gets paid more?"

Trupti Doshi of Sri Aurobindo Society says the exhibition was deeply reflective and made her see what we tend to overlook in everyday life. Mr. Seloyee Ponooswami from Mauritius

calls it, "An excellent initiative of students to value people's work and its dignity." Simran Gopal (9) from Pune says, "I like the picture in which the girls are working hard while the boys are sitting idle at home. The message was what I liked."

Ashwin Kumar, a student says, "Getting comments for one's work is normal but we got a chance to hear varied opinions and suggestions, which I believe is the greatest merit of such an exhibition. I got to know where I stand and how I should improve. The feedback, I feel has given me confidence and inputs required to fine tune my work. The support we got from every corner was fantastic. We owe a lot to the gallery where we hosted this exhibition. It was nice to see leading dailies like 'The Hindu' covering our event. It was quite an experience. I'll cherish it for my entire life."

Shruthy K



Photo: Nitesh Kumar Pandey

"Teachers should always keep a smile on their face so that students won't sleep in the classrooms," Dr. Anandkrishnan, enlightened the faculty of the university with his speech during the Teachers' Day celebrations here. Padmashree Dr. Anandkrishnan, Chairman of IIT, Kanpur was the chief guest of the event.

Forty 'Best Teachers' were selected based on the assessment made by the students. Dr. Anandkrishnan gave out the token of appreciation to the

award winning teachers and also presented a paper on 'Destiny Shaped Over Classrooms'.

On behalf of the award winners, Mr. Kuppusswami from the Department of Computer Science and Ms. Velari from the Department of Anthropology expressed their gratitude to the university and the students.

The function, inaugurated by Prof. J.A.K. Tareen, Vice Chancellor of PU was attended by a majority of students and faculty.

PU NCC Air Wing takes off

Students' Welfare Wing of PU organized the Raising Ceremony of the NCC Air Wing in the university.

Wg. Cdr. Vishal B Tugnait, Commanding Officer, NCC Pondicherry lauded the university for forming NCC unit on its campus.

"It's a golden day in the history of Pondicherry Air Squadron to have one of the most prestigious institutions of India, Pondicherry University, enlisting in the NCC Air Wing," he said.

Col. (Prof.) J. A. K Tareen, Vice Chancellor, Pondicherry University delivered the presidential address.

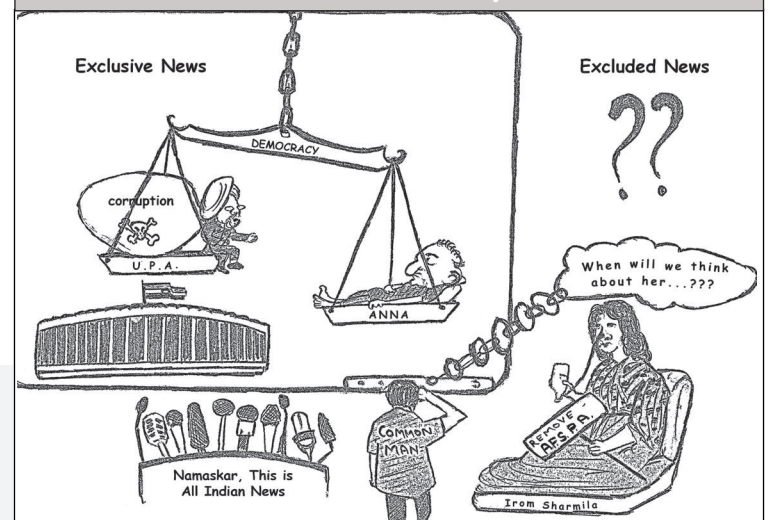
"Pondicherry University is poised



Photo: Centre for Electronic Media

to become number one university. It has excelled in every parameter during the assessment (by NAAC)," he said.

Cartoonscape



Turn to Page 4 & 5 of this issue to see a selection of the work. Visit 'Hope' - a photo exhibition at the Centre for Electronic Media and Mass Communication, open Monday-Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, till April 2012.



Inkpot

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." - Mother Teresa

The months from July - Nov 2011 have been dedicated to actions with ardour and sincerity.

As students from different parts of the country entered PU to pursue their graduate studies in Mass Communication, they started a journey which would become a milestone in their lives. This issue of 'The Inquirer' is indeed special as it bring to you the first achievements of these students. Team work is

their mantra and each individual has made concerted efforts to accomplish the goals set out by the class of 2011-2013.

In the process of reporting and meeting people from different walks of life with their cameras; they learnt about journalism, photography, photojournalism, photo editing and

curating a photo exhibition. Most importantly, these exercises made them step out of their comfort zones and experience the socio economic reality of people's lives.

Through their public photo exhibition on 'Work', they sought to portray people involved in different kinds of work.

'The Inquirer' also brings to you campus news and students' views (see Think Tank). We are also online at www.puinquirer.edu.in and look forward to your suggestions and feedback at puinquirer@gmail.com

Radhika Khanna
Editor

news briefs

PU Quiz society was inaugurated by Prof. M. Ramadass, Director (SEI & RR), on Aug 1. Prof. K. M. Thamizhmani, Dean, Students Welfare, felicitated the function and Dr. B. Charumathy, Assistant Dean, welcomed the gathering. The function was followed by a quiz competition for the students.

'Anna tum sangharsh karo, hum tumhare sath hai.' (Anna, carry on the struggle, we are with you). On Aug 9, the students of PU organised a candle-lit demonstration to support the 'India against Corruption Movement' led by Anna Hazare.

An awareness campaign against war organised by the Malayalee students on Aug 9, projecting the consequences of the nuclear explosion in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It opened up various aspects of peace and harmony. Students took a pledge for world peace and distributed badges among them as a symbol of love, peace and humanity.

The Department of Earth Sciences organised a seminar on 'Role of renewable energy towards making a sustainable city: a case study of Auroville' by Lalit Kishore Bhati, Architect and Urban Planner at Auroville on Aug 23 at the Earth Sciences seminar hall.

'Navin baran ustab', Freshers' Party for the Bengali newcomers, was conducted on Aug 28. Cultural programmes, 'Sampriti 2011' was also organised as part of the function. All the Bengali newcomers attended the programme.

The Directorate of Physical Education and Sports celebrated this year's National Sports Day by conducting an open mini marathon on Aug 29. This was also to commemorate the great hockey player Dhyan Chand.

Students from north eastern states organised a get together-cum-freshers' meet on Sep 3 at St. James Court Resort. Nearly 60 students have enrolled in the university this year. Though away from home, most of them feel comfortable and secure here.

Members of Arul Ashram and Pondicherry University student community, 'Anugraha' organised Freshers Party at Arul Ashram on Sep 17. Inmates of the ashram and students of PU celebrated the event with dance, song, mime and skit.

UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute of South Asian Regional Cooperation (UMISARC) held a talk 'Parliamentary Democracy in South Asia' on Sep 30. It was delivered by Dr. S. Prabhakar Joint Director (Reporting), Lok Sabha.

The School of Management inaugurated Entrepreneurship Development Cell on Oct 6 at the SOM auditorium. Prof. M. Ramadass, Director (SEI & RR) gave the inaugural address.

South Asian Studies Programme, UMISARC, held a talk on 'South Asian Regionalism: Prospects and Challenges for SAARC' on Oct 18. It was delivered by Ambassador Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, IFS (Retd).

Filmy Fridays

After weeklong assignments and classes, students of the Pondicherry University look forward to the screening of films at the studio theatre of the Department of Performing Arts.

For the past three years, it has been screening classic movies from around the world every Friday evening. Mr. Ravindra, a guest faculty of the Department of Performing Arts facilitates these film screenings from his collection of films.

Parmeet Kumar, a student of the Department of Statistics shared that it was a golden opportunity for the students to have access to evergreen films like 'Cyclo', 'Three Iron', etc. within the University. Each film screening includes an introduction and a discussion after the screening. Students from various departments joined in these sessions.

Independence day in PU



Photo: Rishna K K

Pondicherry University celebrated India's 65th Independence Day on Aug 15. The flag was hoisted by Prof. J.A.K. Tareen, the Vice Chancellor of the University.

In his address, Prof. Tareen spoke of the unity and diversity within the campus. He mentioned that the campus was a mini India where students from Kashmir to

Kanyakumari, Gujarat to West Bengal, all live in harmony. During the occasion, the campus newsletter "Harmony" was also released. One hundred and one new bicycles for students were released, increasing the green commutation on campus to 400 bicycles. The students and staff from various departments expressed their solidarity on this occasion.

Onam celebrations in University



Photo: Bagalavan Perier

Malayalee students of PU organized a gala of cultural events, literary and sports competitions as a part of the week long Onam celebrations, Poovili 2011.

More than 150 students participated in the literary competitions which included story

writing, essay writing, poem writing etc. in both English and Malayalam. Cricket and football tournaments were also conducted. The grand finale was held at JN auditorium on Oct 10 with Mr. Valsaraj, former Home Minister of Puducherry as the chief guest.

International Seminar on "Students' Mental Health: Issues and Challenges"

Department of Applied Psychology in association with Sri Balaji Vidhyapeeth University conducted a two day international seminar on 'Students' Mental Health: Issues and Challenges.'

Barbara Bonner, a Child Psychologist and Director of the Centre of Child Abuse and Neglect, Health Sciences Centre, University of Oklahoma, organized a work shop on 'New Approaches for Treating Maltreated Children and Their Families.' She also interacted with the school students, researchers

and scholars in the city. They shared issues such as parental expectations, attitudes of elders and teachers and also their personal problems. Barbara stressed the need for adopting evidence-based treatment in mitigating problems of children with post-traumatic experience.

Workshops and presentations on several related topics including, 'Role of Psychologists', 'Stress and Mental Health', 'Risk Behaviour', 'Health and Positive Psychology', were held at the Cultural-cum-Convention Centre and Earth Sciences seminar hall.

Calicut University wins Kho-Kho tournament



Photo: Ramanjaneyulu

Calicut University emerged champions in the South Zone Inter University Kho-Kho Tournament for Women held at Pondicherry University from Sep 27 to 30. Teams from 43 South Indian varsities participated in the tournament.

Mr. Cholleti Prabhakar I.A.S, Secretary to the Govt. of Puducherry

inaugurated the tournament. Addressing the participants, he said that such tournaments help instill sportsmanship among students. "Women should cash in on every opportunity that comes their way," he added. Satya, captain of Pondicherry University team lit the torch to open the tournament.

Ramadhan observed by hundreds

Muslim students at the university organized iftar on Aug 1 in continuation to the month-long fast observed as part of Ramadhan. Iftar meal for girls was provided at the Mother Teresa Mess. The venue of the feast for boys was the terrace of the Valmiki hostel.



Photo: Abdul Salam

Documentary film appreciation workshop



Photo: Vijith Narayan

The Centre for Electronic Media conducted a three-day workshop on 'Documentary Film Appreciation', at the School of Management Auditorium, from July 20-22. Mr. R. R. Srinivasan, a member of the

Kanchanai Film Society, facilitated the workshop for students from various streams.

Documentaries such as Jean Rouch's 'The Lion Hunters', K. Stalin's 'India Untouched', Robert Flaherty's 'Nanook of the North', Dziga Vertov's 'The Man with the Movie Camera' and many others were screened. Each screening was preceded by an introduction to the director and was followed by a discussion. Students made short presentations on various revolutionary film makers and their films. The workshop ended with the screening of a documentary by Mr. Srinivasan, 'The Mask is the Face.'

Thousand saplings added to PU

As part of the Wildlife Week celebrations from Sep 30 to Oct 4, Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences organised various programmes to create awareness among the students and faculty of the University. Towards observing 2011 as the International Year of Forests, 1000 saplings were planted behind the Mother Teresa mess.

Prof. M. Ramadass, Director (SEI & RR) released a documentary 'Snippets', featuring the flora and fauna of the campus, during the inaugural ceremony. He urged the ecologists to conserve and preserve the existing biodiversity of PU. Dr. Ajith Kumar

Deputy Director, NCBS & Wildlife Conservation Society, Bangalore, in his keynote address detailed on wildlife conservation in India, its flaws, achievements and status and conservation efforts by the forest department and various other organisations. Dr. S. Balachandran, BNHS, Mumbai, stressed the conservation of migratory water birds in India with special reference to Tamilnadu and Puducherry.

A debate, quiz, treasure hunt, photography competition and exhibition along with a drama performance for school audiences were a part of the week-long celebrations.

Vigilance Awareness Week 2011

Pledge against corruption

As per the intimation received from Central Vigilance Commission, Govt. of India, PU teaching and non-teaching staff pledged to fight corruption. Prof. J.A.K Tareen, Vice Chancellor, administered the pledge on Oct 31 as part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2011 at JN Auditorium. Prizes were also distributed for the various creative competitions organised by PU.

Students using free cycles provided by PU for green commutation on campus



Photo: Vangamla Salle

World Tourism Day celebrated

Department of Tourism Studies in collaboration with Puducherry Tourism Department celebrated the World Tourism Day on Sep 27.

Several programmes were organised based on the theme 'Linking Cultures'. It included a photo exhibition, workshop on 'Tourism Linking Cultures', awareness programmes for school children, cultural evening, culture-walk, quiz programme and tableau.

Dr. Y. Venkata Rao, Head, Department of Tourism Studies said "Indians, known for respecting diverse cultures, should not have any bias in terms of caste, race and religion."

Prof. J.A.K. Tareen, Vice Chancellor of PU, inaugurated the 'DTS Travel Desk' and released a



Photo: Tourism Dept.

documentary on 'Tourism Resources and Tourist Destinations of Pondicherry'.

The cultural programme held near The Promenade Hotel was inaugurated by Prof. M. Ramadass, Director (SEI & RR). Based on the theme of 'Incredible India', it attracted tourists and people who visit the beach frequently.

Around the campus



Inter-college fashion show at Pondicherry Engineering College on Sep 29

Know Your Library

Dr. R. Samyuktha, the PU University Librarian had an interaction with all the newly admitted students to orient them to the Ananda Rangapillai Library. It was held on Sep 12 at the JN Auditorium.

The library has over two lakh books and 31,000 E-journals, the sheer size of which might overwhelm a fresher. The programme was organized with the purpose of showing the new students how user-friendly the library is, the vast possibilities for study and research that it holds and to acquaint them with the wide range of resources.

Ability beyond Disability

Pondicherry University celebrated Ability Nite on Sep 10 where students from over 15 not-for-profit organizations from around Puducherry participated. Various persons with different abilities were honoured for their achievements including the medal winners from Special Olympics at Athens-Tamizharasan, Rupa and Santhosh.

G. Chidambaranathan, the State President of the Federation of Tamilnadu Physically Handicapped Association, was the chief guest. He said that calling someone disabled is not a reflection on the abilities of the differently abled, but a reflection on the disabilities of society.

He mentioned that persons with disabilities need to be empowered through various schemes. He felt that although the government has introduced some schemes, much more needs to be done.

Prof. J.A.K Tareen, Vice Chancellor of PU, said the University welcomed the differently abled with open arms. The campus is equipped with ramps and other facilities to

allow wheelchair access, he said. He welcomed all the students who participated in the event to study at the University and said that education for the physically challenged was free.

Dr. R. Nalini, Head of the Department of Social Work at the University mentioned that the aim of this programme is to sensitise people and create a positive attitude towards the differently abled in the society.

'The Inquirer' has reported extensively on several activities of PU organized for the differently abled (See previous issues online*)



Photos: (top) MSW Dept., (bottom) Raheena Abdurehim

Conflict and Cooperation in South Asia: a dialogue

UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute of South Asia Regional Cooperation (UMISARC) & Southern Asia Studies programme organised a talk on 'Conflict and Cooperation in South Asia: In case of India- Pakistan-China Triangle' on Sep 2. Dr. W. Lawrence S. Prabhakar, Associate Professor of Strategic Studies and International Relation, Madras Christian College, spoke during the programme.

Students walk to clean the beach

Malayalee students of PU held a beach walk at the beach near the University on July 31, as they welcomed the newcomers. The students also cleared plastic garbage from the beach. They collected six sacks of garbage which was dumped in the municipality dustbin.

More than 300 students took part in this walk. "It helped us to get acquainted with students from all departments. It also felt good to

World Breast Feeding Day

On the occasion of the World Breast Feeding Day, Department of Food Science and Technology conducted an awareness programme on the importance of breast feeding.

Dr. Rama Chandramohan, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children, Chennai, presented a paper on 'The Fine Art of Breast Feeding' at the SOM Auditorium.



Photo: John Jacob
be able to actually do something to clean the environment" said Dijina a fresher.

Sanskrit day celebrations

The Department of Sanskrit conducted various programmes as a part of the Sanskrit Day celebrations on Sep 28 at the Earth Sciences Seminar Hall. Dr. C.L. Ramakrishnan, IPS, delivered a special lecture on "Management Principles of Sanskrit Literature". It was followed by a power point presentation by Dr. Chitra Madhavan on "Sanskrit Inscriptions of Tamilnadu". Dr. R. Venguattaramane, Dean of School of Humanities, presided over the event.

Theru-k-koothu

School of Performing Arts presented an intensive workshop on *Theru-k-koothu*, on Oct 31. The workshop was directed and co-ordinated by Dr. V. Arumugham, Associate Professor, Department of Performing Arts.

Gandhi Jayanti celebrations

Pondicherry University celebrated the 143rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at JN Auditorium. Prof. M. Ramadass, Director (SEI & RR) garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and this was followed by elocution, painting, essay writing and quiz competitions. Students from various departments participated in the elocution, painting, essay writing and quiz competitions organized on this day. Organized by the Centre for Gandhian Studies, it also included a film screening of "Struggle of Mahatma Gandhi".

Photo Exhibition on "Hope"

MA Mass Communication first year students organized a week-long photo exhibition on "Hope" from Oct 12 to 21. The venue of the exhibition was the Centre of Electronic Media and Mass Communication.

The exhibition was a platform for the first years to display their maiden attempt at photography. To be able to share the students' work with more people, the department has decided to keep the exhibit open throughout the year. (Monday-Friday, 10 am-5 pm)

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News + Views by MA Mass Communication students online*

Email us at

puinquirer@gmail.com

National Education Day

School of Education organized a celebration on Nov 11 on the occasion of the National Education Day. The programme included a poster exhibition, documentary show and performances by students of School of Education and Kendriya Vidyalaya -II, PU.

Examination Wing shifted

The office of the Controller of Examinations has been shifted from the administrative block to the newly constructed examination building opposite the JN auditorium.

ICPR Special Lectures

Department of Philosophy organized ICPR special lectures on Nov 11 and 12 at the Silver Jubilee Campus. The lectures were given by Françoise Dastur, Honorary Professor of Philosophy, Archives Husserl, Paris. Topics included 'Phenomenology of Event and Surprise', 'Phenomenology and Psychiatry: The Question of Identity', 'The Question of the Other in French Philosophy' and 'What is Understanding?'

Former RBI Governor at PU

Department of Economics organized a special lecture by Y. V. Reddy, former Governor of RBI on Aug 12 at Jawaharlal Nehru (JN) Auditorium. Prof. J. A. K. Tareen, Vice Chancellor of Pondicherry University presided over the function.

news briefs

The School of Physical, Chemical and Applied Sciences conducted a seminar on 'The Ethics in Higher Education' on Oct 20 at JN Auditorium. The speakers were Prof. K.L. Chopra, Former Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan, Pro-Chancellor (Research), Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai.

Department of Statistics celebrated the second World Statistics Day and also inaugurated the PU Forum of Statistics (PUFOS) on Oct 20. It was inaugurated by Prof. R. Sathiyamoorthy, former Professor and Head, Annamalai University and the keynote address was delivered by Prof. M. Rajagopalan, former Professor and HOD of Statistics, Annamalai University.

Department of English conducted a national conference on 'New Bearings in Ecocriticism' on Oct 20 and 21 at the Convention-Cum-Cultural Centre.

Department of Chemistry organized a lecture on 'Progress in Catalyst for Oxygen Reduction in Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell' on Oct 21 at the Centre for Green Energy Technology Seminar Hall. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Kothandaraman Ramanujan, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras.

Philosophy Department conducted a seminar on 'The Dialects of Power and Civilization' on Oct 25 at the Seminar Hall, Department of Philosophy, Silver Jubilee Campus. Dr. Raghavendra Prathap Singh Prof. and Chair, Philosophy Programme, JNU, New Delhi spoke on the topic.

Department of Chemistry conducted a seminar on 'Organic Synthesis in Drug Discovery' on Oct 27. It was presented by Dr. T. K. Chakraborty, FNA, FASc, FNASc, Director, Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR), Lucknow.

School of Management under the patronage of The Hindu News Group inaugurated the Business Line Club on Oct 31 at JN Auditorium. Mr. K. Venugopal, Director, Kasturi & Sons Ltd, inaugurated the function.

Department of Food Science and Technology organized a national conference on 'Agro Food Processing Technologies' on Nov 3 and 4 at the Convention-Cum-Cultural Centre. Dr. P.N. Reddy, Vice President, Food Cert. India Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad inaugurated the function.

Department of Tourism Studies alumni meet on Nov 5 offered career Counselling, fun games and cultural evening along with many other events.

Department of Banking Technology inaugurated the MMA: Student Chapter on Nov 9.

Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy organized a seminar on 'Dr. B. R Ambedkar's Perspective of Equality and its Relevance in the Era of Globalization' on Nov 29 and 30. This national seminar was sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and UGC.



Joy of childhood. Play is our work.

Ashwin Kumar



1st year MA Mass Communication students, Pondicherry University, class of 2011-2013 with Radhika Khanna and Navroze Contractor.



Sujatha, an auto driver in Puducherry with a student on a photo assignment.

Meera



A worker sanding iron panels. To me, there was a beauty beyond the rough work he was engaged in.

Nitesh Kumar Pandey



School of Patience

Meera



Working with love and attention to details, a blacksmith near Auroville.

Ashwin Kumar



One gets dirty to make other clean.

Ashwin Kumar



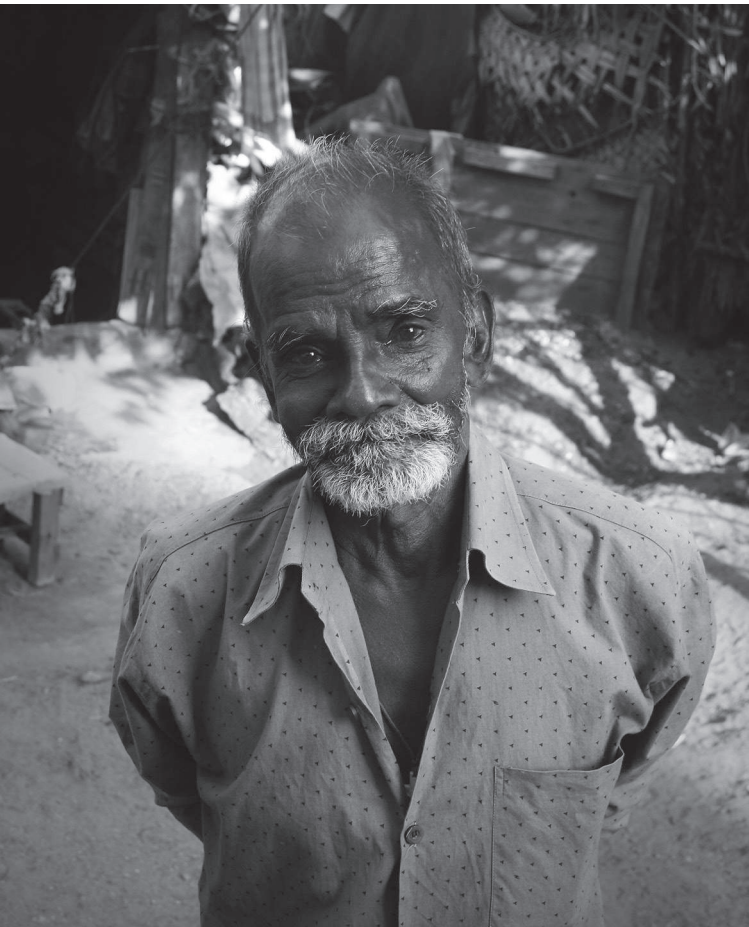
Come Diwali and tailors in town have their hands full. A snap from the tailors lane, Pandy main market.

Shruthy K



A good catch at Puducherry's old harbour.

Ashwin Kumar



He's lived a full life yet lives in a temporary make shift hovel near a public watertank.
Manikandan



No shortcuts

Nitesh Kumar Pandey



Shall I?

Meera



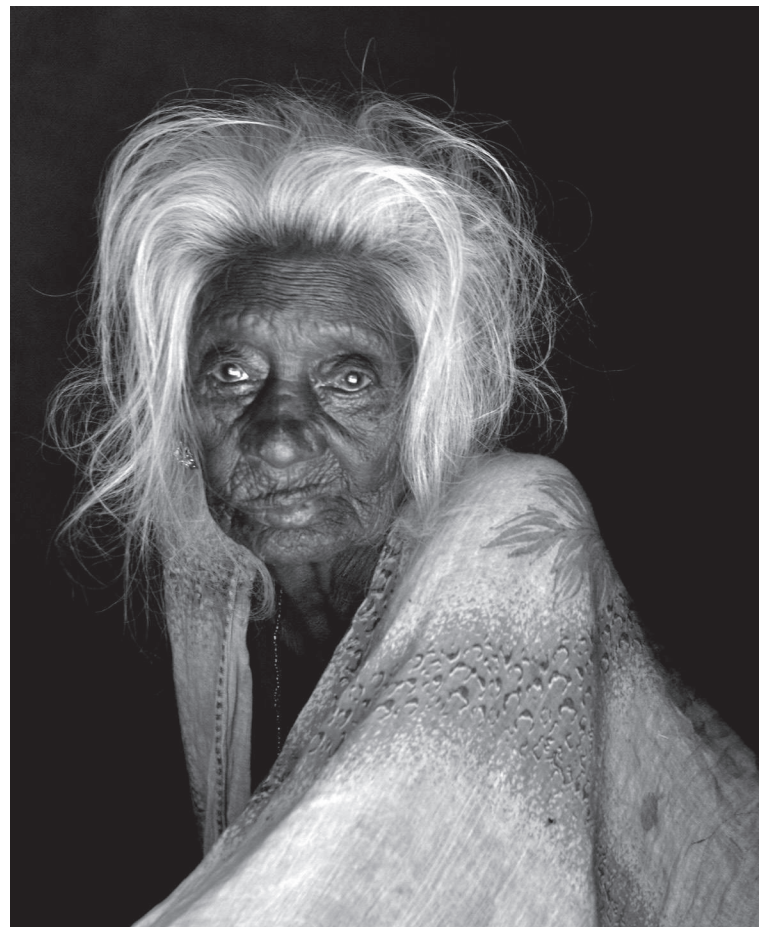
Rest

Ramis Salam



Migrant tribal construction workers from Andhra Pradesh at their shacks.

Ramanjaneyulu



Grace

M Elangovan



Time for sowing seeds. A paddy field at Villupuram.

Vasudevan



A worker at a cement work factory. Prefab concrete units have become popular as they make construction easier.

Rishna

Ramesh: travelling miles to read

It is easy to give up and walk back in the midst of an activity, that too for a person with a disability. But Ramesh, a visually challenged student at Pondicherry University, attributes his success to his disability. According to him, it was his disability that pushed him forward and helped him reach this far in life.

Though unable to see the world, he never thought of stepping back. Now, Ramesh is pursuing MA English in Pondicherry University (PU). He has used Braille system to read from Class I. Today, he travels every week from Pondicherry to Chennai, 165 km, to read Braille scripts. For Ramesh, the four-hour bus journey is not a tiresome activity, instead a joyful venture.

"I travel the length and breadth of Chennai. It is the best place for me. There are many reading centres where people from different walks of life come in search of knowledge," says Ramesh.

A brilliant student, he aspires to become a college lecturer. The government has been helping him with scholarships and much needed financial support for his studies. He completed his BA English from

Vivekananda College, Mailapur. There he was facilitated with stay in a government hostel and a scholarship of Rs 5,000 per semester. At PU too he is provided with free food and



Photo: Aslam K M

accommodation and a scholarship of Rs 6,000 per semester.

Despite all these facilities, Ramesh says, his journey till date has not been easy. "There were many hurdles on my path. During graduation, my hostel was quite far from the college. I had to walk for more than half an hour to reach the college."

However, at PU Ramesh is blessed with umpteen friends who

all are in one mind in lending their helping hands to him. "Here I feel relaxed with all these friends around me", says Ramesh.

Ask him about his hobby, he will surprise you by saying 'reading' - an unlikely answer from a visually challenged person. He likes reading literature, listening to radio, cricket commentary, etc. He is a great fan of Yuvraj Singh, whom he calls 'Punjab Singh'.

His parents are farmers, and his sister is in her final year of school. His brother, who recently got his impairment rectified, works at a bakery to fend for the family. Despite all the difficulties that thwart his way, Ramesh seems determined in achieving his goals. He has cleared the Teachers Recruitment Board Exam recently.

"I am aiming at achieving things step by step," says a spirited Ramesh. When he utters these words one can see his face gleaming with confidence and sheer determination, which has helped him come this far in his career and life. Meeting Ramesh reminds 'The Inquirer' team of Vijeta and Muruganandan. (See online*)

Aslam K M

Camera kodunga

Santhosh, an amateur photographer, called out in excitement to us, trying to snatch the camera mobile one of us was holding, "Camera kodunga" (give me the camera).

A bubbly boy with stars in his eyes, Santhosh fascinated the four of us. Constant meeting with the kid had created a special place in our hearts for him.

For those who wonder, why Santhosh is the hero in our hearts lately, we would like to share the unexplored life of a 12-year-old boy.

We met Santhosh in a cycle repair shop outside the premises of our university. He welcomed us excitedly to his shop and enquired about the trouble we had with our cycle. We had no idea about what problem our cycle was having but like a true expert and guardian angel, he did the troubleshooting leaving us spellbound.

A child worker at that dingy little cycle shop, Santhosh left us in awe. With his imaginative stories, we learnt that he hailed from a tiny village nearby. His father works in Puducherry to support a family with constant ailments. A motherless child,

Santhosh left his schooling in midway along with his sisters to do some odd jobs to help his father.

When asked about why he didn't continue education after failing in 7th standard, he gave us a repartee with



Photo: Raheena Abdurehim
a mysterious emotion in his eyes. "Ungalukku aen karuppu vellayakka mudiyumaa?" (Could you change my blackish skin into white?)

He dreams to be a photographer and as a first timer on holding camera, his snaps were amazing. For a person with not even a single pair of sandals, the dream is as distant as the stars but he has in him a will to go on.

Haseeba, Raheena & Shruthy

Arul Ashram: giving a new lease of life

AIDS has killed more than 25 million people worldwide since it was first identified. More than 15 million children have been orphaned by HIV. As the world is fighting with this deadly disease, Arul Ashram, a monastery located in Chinna kalapet, Puducherry, is doing its bit by taking care of the HIV/AIDS positive people.

Arul Ashram is the monastery of the Brothers of St. John. It consists of Shanti Bhavan - a medical care centre for adults and children infected with HIV/AIDS, Jeeva Niwas - the home for school-aged HIV positive children and Mary Morningstar convent - the convent of the sisters of St. John.

Shanti Bhavan, which means 'House of Peace', was set up in July 1999, to care for the rapidly growing number of adults in southern India infected with HIV/AIDS. The disease marks any person as a social outcast within the society and even among family, but Shanti Bhavan is open to all men, women and children. Shanti Bhavan was one of the first HIV/AIDS care center in

south India and it's an inspiring model of compassionate health care. As HIV/AIDS is considered the new leprosy of India, ignorance about disease transmission has led to an environment of fear and exclusion.

The patients get sufficient medical and nutritional care, along with food, clothing and shelter free of cost. They are provided with sufficient help to improve their physical and psychological health.



Symptomatic treatment and antiretroviral therapy (ART) are administered on a regular basis. Nearly everyone returns to a regular life situation and live a normal life. The HIV patients are engaged in various

income generating schemes like making of candles, baskets, envelopes, bread, greeting cards etc. This programme aims to restore the dignity of people living with HIV/AIDS and also creates awareness.

Jeeva Niwas which means 'House of Life' was set up in Sep 2006 and is currently home to forty school going, HIV positive children. The children are orphaned and have been witnesses to the deadly effect of AIDS on their parents. Most of the children attend nearby schools, either in English or Tamil medium. Those who cannot attend school, receive special tutoring at Jeeva Niwas. The main objective of Jeeva Niwas is to make the children feel comfortable and give them strength and confidence. It also aims to give proper education to fend for themselves once they move out from the ashram.

From Aug 2008, the Community Care Centre (CCC) funded by Pondicherry AIDS Control Society (PACS) has also started functioning at Arul Ashram. Some PU students also volunteer here. Just like the saying that every single drop counts in an ocean, every single deed by this ashram makes a better world.

Salih T M & Vangamla Salle

The Melting Pot of Pondicherry

The world has become a global village and Pondicherry University (PU) is an apt example of this. It is no stranger to playing host to a plethora of cultures and diversity.

Strolling down the streets of the PU, you'll see a blend of students from different countries, races, ethnicity, colour and from across the country. Bangladesh, Sri Lanka,

them join each year in Departments such as South Asian Studies, Performing Arts, Library and Information Science etc, through scholarships extended by their governments.

Mimgal from Nepal and Sajna from Maldives, both students of South Asian Studies shared with us their experiences here in the university. From completely different backgrounds, they have been roommates for more than a year. As a result, Sajna has been able to learn Nepalese. The cross cultural exposure has given optimum exposure to the different cultures and people across the world.

For Archana Minj, lack of facilities at Andaman for higher studies made her utilize the scholarship programme extended by PU. **continued on page 8>**



Photo: Mimgal

PU reflects the rich cultural setting of this Union Territory which has the international township of Auroville as its neighbour.

Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, United States, European countries and Africa are just some of the places from which students enroll. Most of

Anjalai, 70 and going strong

For 70-year-old Anjalai, selling fish is more than a job. It has been a part of her life since she was a teenager. Anjalai, who sells fish at the 'Periya' (big) fish market in Puducherry, started the business with her father at the age of 14 and continued with her husband. A mother of four, now she sells the fish captured by her sons. She currently lives with her elder son and grandsons. She comes each day to the market at 3 am. Even a full day's work doesn't tire her. "Life as a fish seller gives me happiness," says a happy Anjalai who seems fully satisfied with her job. She likes to continue the tradition that she is following from childhood. While men in the community go to the sea for fishing, it is the women who sell them in the market and bring profit home.

On asking her about her experience, she smiles and says 'romba santhosham' (I am very happy). Many local fish sellers come to the Periya market early in the morning to buy

fish for retail. Anjalai mainly sells fish to them.

Even though they seem satisfied with their work, the fisher folk here are facing numerous socio-economic



Photo: Salih

problems. Most of their children are deprived of formal education. Anjalai told us that most of them don't send their children to school as they prefer to teach them the traditional skill of fishing.

Salih T M

Cheerful caring accelerates cure

Cancer has become a subject to worry about for the new generation as the disease is continuously on the rise.

The Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) at Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), shows how the number of cancer patients are increasing yearly.

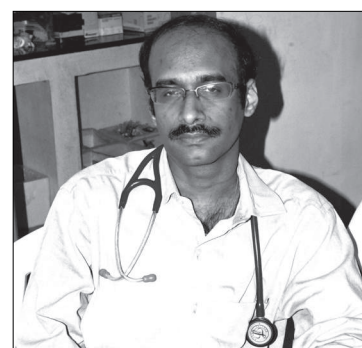


Photo: Rishna K K

Dr. Viswajith, Asst. Prof., JIPMER said that the RCC was started in 2004 and is witnessing a rush these days. "We have an inpatient general ward with twenty beds for each, male and female." Almost every cancer

ward has children who are under chemotherapy treatment. Most of them are unaware of the disease and get delayed treatment.

Eight kids, most of them under the age of ten are among the forty cancer patients here. Children play around without knowing why their head was shaved and 'why doctor uncle often carries them to the dark room.'

In the cancer ward, they make friends, see films together and have fun. Selvam and Sandeep are fans of Rajanikanth whereas Rehan loves to read and write. Doctors and nurses play with them and bring them sweets. Their parents are unaware of the consequences of cancer such as Raju, father of Vikas, the five year boy suffering with blood cancer.

According to recent research, proper care and parents' support is more effective than medicines. However, due to the high cost of treatment, many parents are unable to cope. **Maneesha & Rishna**

Home away from home

Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in India

Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living in Puthupettu have close cultural and ethnic relations with the Tamil population in India. When a blast occurs in Sri Lanka, its repercussions are felt in Tamil politics in India. For long, the problems of Sri Lankan Tamilians has remained the main agenda for Tamil politicians.

The local population considers the refugees at various camps in Tamilnadu as foreigners and they are also seen as those would take away the local jobs and opportunities.

In Puthupettu, they are not allowed to work outside of the camp and they struggle to live with the government giving Rs. 400 a month and 12 kg rice. It is impossible to live with the paltry government handout, especially in the current uncontrollable price hike the country is witnessing. In many ways one could say that they live in a jail without locks.

There have been many cases of scuffles between the local people of Puthupettu and the refugees. Inebriated local youth entering the camp have been a primary source of trouble. There have been cases of sexual abuse. In September this year, a three year old girl child was molested by a local youth.

Often, nationalism and humanism do not co-exist; a case in point is Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in India. Though they are ethnically and culturally related to the Tamils in India, they are still considered as outsiders and continue to face hardships.

In today's world we witness a large scale movement of labour, both within and across international borders. There is marked increase in the overseas Indian population. It is time we stopped treating the Sri Lankan Tamils as refugees but as migrants and provide them with equal opportunities.

Saheed



Photo: Ramis Salam

The Central government must consider sympathetically the case of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who are neither in a position to return to Sri Lanka nor are they treated as citizens of India.

Sri Lankan Tamils who came to India were leading a 'captive life' in the camps of Tamilnadu and their issue needs a solution. The refugees expressed disappointment at the Centre's 'inconsistent and callous attitude' in dealing with the problem of the Sri Lankan Tamils. Nor have the Tamil political parties helped them. India should convince Sri Lanka to repatriate the refugees or provide them an Indian citizenship, so that they are entitled to benefits here.

Though the Sri Lankan government declared the war against the LTTE over on May 17, 2011, the displaced Tamils still languish in the camps. This is a violation of human rights.

The CPI national council appealed to the Centre to set up an agency to oversee the implementation of refugee rehabilitation programmes, besides pressing the Sri Lankan government for a permanent political settlement within a time frame.

Ramis Salam

Anna in the eye of the storm

Anna Hazare, a name in every Indian's mouth! Not mere gossip, but lengthy discussions across all generations. Some may say that here is a man who is standing in front of an entire nation, or some may even say here is a fraud who just wants publicity! Questions at every step he takes, question at every word he speaks. Who is this Anna Hazare? Is he a media cult figure, or is he a genuine man who has stepped up to save our country from corruption.

Let's leave the man for a moment, and let's discuss corruption.

Corruption is everywhere; corruption is in every country and also in the minutest of levels. Aren't we corrupted? Haven't we ever paid a bribe to someone to get our things done? Why blame the government and government officials and not ourselves? Aren't our hands dirty as well?

So why didn't we think of standing up against corruption? Why does a 74 year old man need do that? Forget the issue of hunger strike or if he is affiliated with the opposition party. The fact still remains that he alone

stood up against corruption and we didn't. Support him or don't support him, but this man has lit a fire within all of us and the young generation. This man has taught us to stand up against a system which is wrong and most importantly this man has given us the belief that change is inevitable. In the long run, I see change at the end of the tunnel. I see people questioning the government and not swallowing whatever is thrown at them. I see a united nation, a united India fighting corruption!

Aritra Bose

64 years of independence, but are we really free ?

All of us have celebrated our 64th independence day with great pleasure. We are really lucky to be a part of this great nation. There is no other nation with such unique features. A vast country containing 357 million people, 28 states, 1618 languages, 6400 castes, 29 major festivals. All living with the same proud feeling of being "an Indian".

At this 64th Independence Day, let us not forget that we had a great story of struggle behind our freedom. Our forefathers suffered a lot to get free from the turbulent British yoke. In these 64 years of freedom, India has achieved a lot. The achievements that the country has made in several sectors such as science and technology, sports and arts are really remarkable. Now Indians are among the most competitive in the world. Our economy is also becoming powerful as we have made through the global economic crises even when developed nations such as the US have suffered. All these achievements make us one of the most powerful nations in this world.

As citizens of an independent nation, we should think about our freedom. Do we have the right kind of freedom? The constitution of India guarantees freedom as a

fundamental right to live, to speech, to get education, to travel, to buy, and also to express. Think! In reality do we really have the freedom to do all these things in one of the most populous democracy in the world? If the answer is no, then how can we say that we are independent?

On September 8 this year, 13 Indian souls have breathed their last in the premises of Delhi High Court due to the infamous bomb blast. They also had the freedom to live but did they get it? All of them were common people, but in a single bomb blast all their expectations and dreams were burned. Moreover, they lost the very freedom to live in this land. What happened in Gujarat? Thousands of people were killed by their own government. When the government forgot to protect the people in Gujarat, it became a scar in Indian history. The situation in Kashmir is no different. People there still live under full control of the military. They are facing many problems and all human rights are being blatantly violated. Women are being raped by our own soldiers; youngsters are getting killed in their struggle for freedom. Have the Kashmiris got the right kind of freedom? Even in God's own country, Kerala, women still find it unsafe to

travel at night. Parents are caught selling their daughters. A 16 year old girl being brutally raped by more than a hundred people in a fully literate state like Kerala is indeed shameful to our great culture.

Majority of Indians live in poverty. They are not even able to get the basic

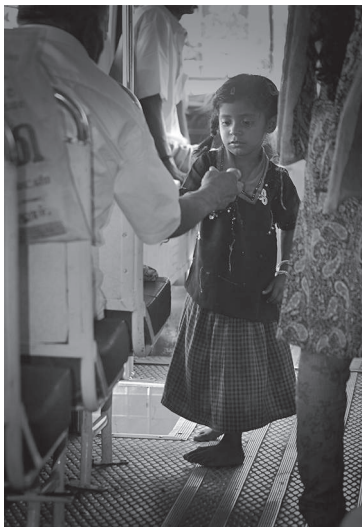


Photo: Ramanjaneyulu

needs of life. Most of the people in cities still live in slums. More than 1.4 billion child labour cases have been recorded in India. Most Indians are still illiterate. Children do not get basic education in many states. After analyzing the entire problem that poses a threat to our nation's

We take a look into the lives of tsunami survivors in Puducherry. The roaring waves of tsunami are still fresh in their minds even after seven years of the incident. That Sunday in



Photo: Shimjitha

December 2004 washed away all their dreams along with their belongings.

The fisher folk of Pillaichavadi shared their grievances with us. Though the government and NGOs provided relief funds, boats and built houses, they could not make the best utilisation of these aids due to various reasons. The houses they got are kilometers inland and this forces them to let the houses for rent and continue to stay near the

sea in makeshift huts. The four kg rice and one kg dal provided by the government per person every month is not enough to meet their demands. The situation of families who do not

own boats is much worse. Hike in food and petroleum prices adds to their woes.

Nature has also turned its face against them. Tsunami has altered the topography and the nature of sea bed, dramatically dwindling fish population leaving their nets empty.

Even though the sea has taken their lives and left deep scars, it is the same sea they depend on to rebuild their lives.

Shruthy K

Media's role in society

One cannot imagine a day without radio, television, newspaper and the latest fad of the generation-the internet, all these constitute the media. Every day, we wake up to know about some breaking news or the other which informs us on what is going on around us.

Today, we have a multitude of 24*7 news channels even giving live coverage of the budget discussions in the parliament. Once upon a time, it was nearly impossible to know the exact details of train or air tragedy. Now news channels not only bring to us live coverage of the accident, but also gives details about the victims, Help Line numbers, analysis of the causes that led to the tragedy, and so on. In short, news from all over the world are available at a mere click of a

button, all thanks to the media boom. People nowadays are keen to update themselves with the latest happenings in every field- be it politics, science and technology, sports, or entertainment. Media has truly gained the power to influence, and to corrupt too. This situation is beautifully summarized in the saying, "If media can make you, it can break you too".

Its wide reach and coverage notwithstanding, media may at times stray away from reporting reality, and authenticity. Communication is the greatest tool human society has ever seen. It should not degenerate to sensationalism and irresponsibility, but should endorse moral values and ethics so that the world we live in could be transformed into a better place.

Aslam K M

stability, we can well understand that most of the people are still living in the 'Dark Age'. This is the right time to rethink about where India stands as an independent state. If we are still bound by these fetters, do we have the right to celebrate an Independence Day?

In a rapidly-growing nation like India, if we fail to improve the standard of living of our fellow-Indians, it is sure that we are not moving in the right path. The real problem faced by our nation is the increasing gulf between the rich and the poor. The poor are seen to be getting poorer while the rich, conversely, are getting richer. When a nation lives under the control of a few corporates, it is very difficult to ensure equality. The responsible government and judiciary are also functioning in the shadow of corruption. Recent issues have revealed the real political situation in India. Most politicians are not interested in development-oriented issues. Everyone is trying to fatten up their pockets. This is the very reason that some Indian politicians celebrated their Independence Day inside the Tihar Jail. The media, working to increase their TRP rates, invariably fail to focus on real human problems. Most of the pages and

bulletins are reserved for Bollywood gossip and cricket. Media no longer wants to protect their ethics: they are working only to protect their ideologies and affiliations. Again, if the media is silent about human issues then who will talk for the people of India? It is enlightening to see Anna Hazare and some other patriots fighting against corruption.

We should remember that it is not only the duty of valiant men like Hazare to protect India from corruption but also the duty of every "living" citizen of India. If we don't do it, the situation will continue without any change. If we function shoulder to shoulder, we can achieve all our dreams. We have to do a lot for creating a better future. In every aspect like standard of living, education and women welfare, we really need improvement. It is also necessary to eradicate, terrorism and corruption from our land. Otherwise, we will never get the right kind of freedom. Until then, we definitely do not have the right to celebrate our Independence.

The fruits of independence are being enjoyed only by some, while majority are denied of its benefits. India should strive to include all.

Abdul Salam

In Focus

Anandarangapillai Government Special School for the Visually Handicapped and Hearing Impaired at Pillaichavady provides education up to 10th standard. With 99 students on roll, it also offers free boarding and lodging facilities. The school began operating under the Education Department from the year 1963 in an area of 1.73 hectares of land



which was donated by Sri Ananda Rangapillai. It is now being run by the Social Welfare Department of Puducherry. Apart from academics, the children are also taught instrumental music. The school plans to introduce vocational training in order to give employable skills to the students.

Nix Jose

Kameleon: Puducherry festival of Theatre and Performing Arts

The second edition of Kameleon-The Puducherry Festival of Theatre and Performing Arts, was organized from July 28 to 31. The festival was a common stage for performing arts from France, Kerala and Tamilnadu. It included street and folk arts, theatre workshops to Hindustani music performance, tribal arts and performances and dance-both traditional as well as contemporary.

The festival was inaugurated by Dr. Iqbal Singh, Lt. Governor of Puducherry at the French Consulate. It began on a vibrant note with Les Fourberies de scapin (Scapin's Mischief)- a French play by Moliere presented in Tamil by Koumarane and his troop. Kalaripayattu - the martial art form of Kerala was a major

attraction of the festival. Renowned artists from France interacted with Indian masters.

Shruthy K

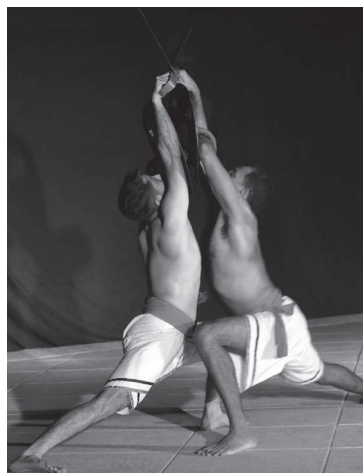


Photo: Aritra Bose

It's time to update

Students of Mass Communication, PU conducted a one day survey on Aug 9 on the 'update' status of government organizations' websites.

The research results showed a lethargic pace that inflicts the maintenance of the websites of most organizations. However, some organizations were found to be maintaining their websites upto date.

Ministry of Tourism had kept itself and surfers abreast of events with latest updates on Aug 9, along with NCERT & ISRO.

Runners-up were the Indian Army with latest update on Aug 8. India Post alleged to be snail paced,

was in neck-to-neck competition with defense itself. In case of visitors, Telecom Authority of India (TRAI) leads the group with 48, 79,439 visits.

Right to Information seems to have kept the website untouched as pre-designed, developed and hosted by National Informatics Centre (NIC) on Nov 25, 2010. But about over 10,000 visits are reported since. Archeological Survey of India and Railways however are devoid of a record of these details as per the home page of their official website. With the advent of the internet, e-governance is the buzz word but it too needs an effort.

Shruthy K

The man behind Kameleon

The Puducherry Festival of Theatre and Performing Arts was started by Koumarane Valavane, a French national of Tamil origin. A talented director and actor, with a passion for the performing arts and French and Tamil literature, Koumarane Valavane wanted to bring together and celebrate the two cultures in the cosmopolitan city of Puducherry.

In April 2010, Koumarane launched the first edition of this festival. Koumarane's mission was to breach the gap between the Indo-Western culture, to showcase the richness of Indo-French performing arts tradition, and to give a platform

to local artists around Puducherry.

Aritra Bose



A still from Scapin's Mischief

A memorable and healing trip to Palani

That morning I woke up listening to the melodious sound of the devotional hymns sung from the nearby temple. "Yes, this is the day.... this is the day..." I murmured ecstatically with my eyes closed. "I am finally going to Palani again." The last time I had gone to Palani was when I was seven years old. I was overwhelmed by the serenity and sanctity of the place and I had vowed that I would go back. That day had finally arrived.

The trip was carefully planned as my family looked upon the journey as being auspicious. The journey to Palani itself was a memorable one for me. I had the fortune to see many picturesque places along the way. Although I cherished each and every moment of the journey, my thoughts were all about the temple at Palani, the deity there and all the festivities that I would witness.

As we travelled from Calicut to Malappuram, I noticed the difference in the surroundings of both places. Both of the places have their own significance and beauty. At Malappuram, the beauty of the place is based on its name which means on top of a mountain. It looks like a high

range place with scenic valleys and hills. We could feel that nature was really alive there. The trip also gave me an awareness of our contemporary lifestyle. Life is a journey. A journey with lots of victories and failures that

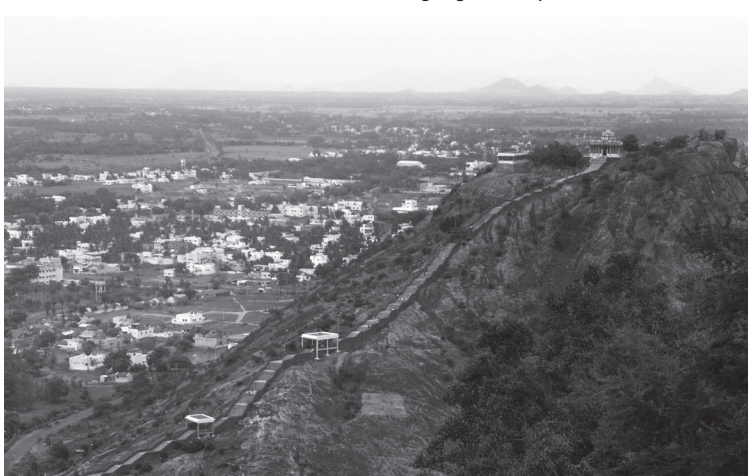


Photo: Maneesha

helps to mould us into what we are.

When we finally reached Palghat, I was very eager to see the famous "Walayar check post". The uniqueness of the place was a totally new kind of experience for me. It gave me a sense of self purification and calmness which I have never experienced before. It strengthened my mind and

at the same time lightened my mood.

From Walayar, the Tamilnadu border onwards we could see that everything was written in Tamil. The Tamilians have a high regard for their language. Everywhere in Tamilnadu

one finds boards and posters only in Tamil, even in government offices. The status of the language is like that of a God for them.

After eight hours of journey we finally reached Palani. But the journey was not over yet. There were still thousands of steps to be climbed before reaching the holy Palani

temple. Luckily there were lots of resting places for the pilgrims along the way. The climb was a powerful experience and also a good exercise. While we reached the top we heard the sound of "Rathothsavam" which is a festival on chariots. We could see pilgrims had mostly shaved their heads bald as an offering to the deity.

When we finally reached the top of Palani mountain I knew the climb was worth it. Each and every minute detail of the city was so vivid and clear from the top. The view was breathtaking. As Hannah Montana said 'Life is a climb. But the view is great.' I remembered my childhood dream of coming back to Palani and I realised that no matter how many times I come back here, I would still feel like coming another time.

Maneesha

Palani Hills

Location: Tamilnadu, India
Range: Western Ghats
Distance: 303 km from
Puducherry

Students' use and abuse of drugs

One of the widespread problems amongst students in India and all over the world is high alcohol and drug use. Many campuses around the nation experience problems arising from students' use and abuse of drugs.

Young people experiment with drugs for different reasons. Out of curiosity, to have a good time, out of peer pressure and bonding with friends, to improve athletic performance or ease stress, anxiety, or depression.

Use doesn't automatically lead to abuse, and there is no specific level at which drug use moves from casual to

problematic. It varies from individual to individual.

People who experiment with drugs continue to use them because



the substance either makes them feel good, or stops them from feeling bad. In many cases, however, there is a fine line between regular use and

drug abuse and addiction. Very few addicts are able to recognize when they have crossed that line.

While frequency or the amount of drugs consumed don't in themselves constitute drug abuse or addiction, they can often be indicators of drug-related problems.

Some persons are able to use recreational or prescription drugs without experiencing negative consequences or addiction. For many others, use of these substances can cause problems at work, home, school, and in relationships, leaving them feeling isolated, helpless, or ashamed.

Salih T M

The Melting Pot of Pondicherry

Continued from Page 1

Studying here has turned out to be an amazing experience for her as she shares a class with students from all over the SAARC region. Krishanthi from Sri Lanka has a different story to tell. Her limited hold on English had at first scared her but a few weeks at the university made her a fluent conversant not just in English but in a few other languages as well.

Preethy, from Gujarat says "What I like the most here is the dedication of the faculty members. The university makes sure that they have an expert in each subject that is being taught and that we get the quality education that we deserve. I was also concerned about how I

would adjust to South Indian food. They serve good food in a clean and hygienic atmosphere which is more than enough for me."

The students also speak of the peaceful atmosphere here. The positive aura of the people on campus has led to contentment and harmony in PU. Be it students or teachers, everyone believes in helping each other and in human compassion. These are just some of the many stories of inter-cultural exchange. To really feel the essence of harmony, unity and diversity one must visit this melting pot of Pondicherry University.

Haseeba, Raheena & Shruthy

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Acknowledgements

Bagalavan Perier
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Navroze Contractor
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THE INQUIRER is a lab journal of MA Mass Communication students, Pondicherry University. The colour version is available online at

www.puinquirer.edu.in

and also in the Publications Section of University's website

www.pondiuni.edu.in

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