The last cab ride

Dattaram drives a cab in Pune for a living. Once he arrived in the middle of the night for a pick up at a building that was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window. Unlike other drivers who just sit inside the cab and honk impatiently, he walked up to the door and knocked.

“Just a minute,” answered a frail, elderly voice. He could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A short weak woman in her eighties stood before him. She was wearing a printed cotton nightie. By her side was a small canvas suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks.

“Would you carry my bag out to the car?” she made a request. Dattaram took the suitcase to the cab, and then returned to assist the woman. She took his arm and they walked slowly toward the cab. She kept thanking him for his kindness.

“Oh, you’re such a good boy,” she said. When they got in the cab, she gave him an address, and then asked, “Could you drive through downtown?”

“It’s not the shortest way,” he answered quickly.

“Oh, I don’t mind,” she said. “I’m in no hurry. I’m on my way to a hospice.” He looked in the rear view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. “I don’t have any family left,” she continued. “The doctor says I don’t have very long…”

He quietly reached over and shut off the meter. “What route would you like me to take?” he asked.

For the next two hours, they drove through the city. She showed him the building where she had once worked as a receptionist. They drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had him pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a dance school where she had studied as a girl. Sometimes she’d ask him to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creeping the horizon, she suddenly said, “I’m tired. Let’s go now.” They drove in silence to the address she had given him. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as they pulled up. They were solicitous, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. He opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

“How much do I owe you?” she asked, reaching into her purse. “Nothing,” he said. “You have to make a living,” she answered. “There are other passengers.” Almost without thinking, he bent and gave her a hug. She held onto him tightly. “You gave an old woman a little moment of joy,” she said. “Thank you.”

He squeezed her hand, then walked into the dim morning light. Behind him, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life. Dattaram didn’t pick up any more passengers that shift. He drove aimlessly, lost in thought. For the rest of that day, he could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an unsympathetic driver who was impatient to end his shift? On a quick review, he didn’t think that he had done anything more important in his life.

We’re conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware—all wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

Dr. G.P.C. Nayar

SCMS Centre for Robotics hosts international internship in robotics

The students from Daffodil International University (standing behind) along with members of SCMS Centre for Robotics at the SSET campus. Sitting (from left to right): Dr. Sunil Jacob, Director, SCMS Centre for Robotics, Prof. S. Gopakumar, Group Director, Dr. Praveen C. J., Principal-SSET, Mr. Khandker M. Quaiduzzaman, International Exchange Faculty and Lecturer in Software Engineering at Daffodil International University and Dr. Varun G. Menon, Associate Professor, Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering and International Relations-in-charge.

Contd. on page 2
SCMS Centre for Robotics that has won various prestigious national and international awards like AICTE Chhatra Vishwakarma Award 2017 and Gandhiyan Young Technological and Innovation Award 2018 has hosted a fortnight long international internship in robotics for students from Daffodil International University, Bangladesh.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. S. Gopakumar, Group Director on June 17 at SSET Campus. Dr. Praveen S. C. J., Principal-SSET, Dr. Varun G. Menon, Associate Professor and International Relations-in-charge and Dr. Sunil Jacob, Director, SCMS Centre for Robotics spoke at the inaugural function.

Nimai Chandra Das, M. Atique Faisal Rafi, Md. Sazzad Sarkar and Ramit Arko, BSc students from Daffodil International University, were the participants of the internship programme. The programme was designed to impart knowledge in the field of robotics to the students and enable the team to build prototypes. The objective was also to make their innovative ideas come to reality. The programme and the sessions were led by Dr. Sunil Jacob.

Mr. Khandker M. Quaiduzzaman, Lecturer, Department of Software Engineering, Daffodil International University also accompanied the students as an international exchange faculty. He conducted sessions on artificial intelligence, robotics and machine learning at SSET and SCMS College of Polytechnics.

Excellent placement for PGDM batch 26

The actual proof of the quality and effectiveness of any business school lies in the acceptance of its graduates in the business world. The placement of the graduating students marks the culmination of the rigorous two-year PGDM programme at SCMS COCHIN School of Business. Keeping its past 25 years of legacy of consistently achieving excellent placement record, in another year of summer placements at SCMS COCHIN School of Business the trend continued with progress for the PGDM batch 26 (2017-19).

The highlight of this year’s placement season was the participation of around 60 esteemed firms. The average compensation has gone up to Rs. 4.75 lakh p.a. from Rs. 4.59 lakh p.a. from the recruitment last year. The highest salary offered abroad by Abudawood Al Saifar, Bahrain, an FMCG company, was Rs. 19.53 lakh p.a. The highest salary offered in India by Federal Bank was Rs. 9 lakh p.a.


This marks the ascent of SCMS as a preferred recruitment destination for managers in industry sectors such as manufacturing, banking & finance, consultancy, IT, FMCG, retail, travel & tourism, healthcare, insurance, e-learning, e-commerce, logistics, advertising, media, consumer durables, microfinance and the like.

SCMS is still the best b-school in the State.

SatChat series of lectures

The first session of SatChat lecture series was held on May 25. There were three presentations of 45 minutes duration each. The first presentation was by Mr. Pradeep K. V., Assistant Professor-PGDM on the topic ‘Behavioural Finance – beyond greed and fear.’ The second presentation was by Ms. Athira S. Nair, Lecturer-SSTM on the topic ‘Natyasastra: Reference to Kerala dance forms.’ The third presentation was by Dr. C. Sethulekshmy Nair, Dy. Director, SIBB-R&D on the topic ‘Mirror neurons in our day-to-day life context.’ The presentations were followed by a question answer and discussion session.
Exhibition of cloth carry bags.

Ms. Fousiya Kalapatt, Writer speaking. Sitting beside L-R: Dr. G. Sashi Kumar, Principal, Ms. Nikitha Baby and Dr. Radha P. Thevannoor, Registrar and Group Director.

Dr. Rajeswari R., Associate Professor took classes of life motivation for the traditional artisans as part of the craft awareness programme under the Integrated Development Promotion of Handicrafts of Kairali, a unit of Handicrafts Development Corporation of Kerala Ltd., a Kerala government undertaking. The classes were held on June 12, 13 and 14 at three locations in Palakkad district, namely, Nenmara, Kuzhalmannam and Peruvembu. In total, 310 artisans attended the programme.


Waste management is a major problem in India today. The volume of waste generated here is astounding. Plastic pollution is rampant in our country.

About 75 percent of plastic waste in the US ends up in landfills, and less than 10 percent is successfully recycled. A recent study indicates that India would need a landfill of 88 sq. km., nearly the size of Bengaluru, to dump all its waste by 2030.

As India continues to solve the waste management and recycling challenges we face, there are many reasons to be optimistic. Improvements are being made, and some cities across India are beginning to build sustainable waste management programmes.

Reading Day was celebrated at SCMS Campus under the auspices of the NSS unit on June 19.

Young writers, Ms. Fousiya Kalapatt and Ms. Nikitha Baby were the guests. They presented their works to the audience. Dr. Radha P. Thevannoor, Registrar and Group Director presided. Dr. G. Sashi Kumar, Principal offered felicitations. Mr. M. Arunkumar, NSS Programme Officer also spoke. Anjali Soorej, NSS Volunteer welcomed the gathering and Amritha Madhusoodhanan, NSS Volunteer proposed the vote of thanks.

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World Environment Day celebration by NSS unit

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By learning to extract greater value out of its waste through recycling and reuse, India will reduce the amount of trash going straight to the landfill.

This year the World Environment Day was celebrated by the NSS unit at SSTM in a totally different manner. Unlike the usual practice of planting trees in the campus the volunteers gathered old cloths and dresses and converted them into attractive carry bags. The purpose was to save the environment from the menace of plastic carry bags.

An exhibition and sale of the cloth bags they made was conducted in the atrium on June 3.

Exhibition of cloth carry bags.

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Ms. Jisha J., Assistant Professor cleared the online NPTEL Certification Exam in Business Analytics for Management Decision (Elite Certificate).

Ms. S. Priya, Assistant Professor cleared the online NPTEL Certification Exam in Supply Chain Analytics with an Elite Gold and Top 1 percent certificate. She also cleared the online NPTEL Certification Exam in Business Statistics with an Elite Silver and Top 5 percent certificate and Marketing Research and Analysis II with an Elite Certificate.

Dr. Lishin M.J., Associate Professor has cleared the online NPTEL Certification Exam in Managing Change in Organisations with an Elite Certificate. She has also cleared the online NPTEL Certification Exam in Principles of Human Resource Management with Elite Silver and Top 5 percent certificate.
The undergraduate programmes – BCom, BSc and BA (Eco) – for the new academic year at SSTM were inaugurated by Dr.V.A.Joseph, former Chairman and Managing Director of South Indian Bank, on June 24.

The success of parents depends on being able to bring up their children as good citizens who possess integrity and character and who can do service to the society, said Dr. V.A. Joseph in his inaugural address. He observed that the confidence level of students who come from major cities of India seems to be much better than that of those brought up in Kerala. The lack of independence given to the children by their parents in Kerala is responsible for this situation, he commented. He stressed on the importance of developing communication skill, particularly in English, by the students.

World Environment Day was celebrated at SIBB-R&D on June 13. The full day event was aimed at inspiring the youth to be aware and responsible for their environment. The activities included an invited talk by Mr. V.J. Jose, environmentalist, a collage competition for students with a theme of ‘pollution control,’ inauguration of nature club ‘Naisargika’ and exhibition of medicinal plants.

The celebration was inaugurated by Dr. G.Sashi Kumar, Principal-SSTM by presenting an ashoka sapling to the invited speaker Mr. V.J. Jose. Dr. G.Sashi Kumar, in his inaugural address, emphasised on the need to stay committed to the cause of environmental protection, more so by the students and youngsters in the present day-to-day scenario of overload of plastic and other environmental hazards.

Dr. Sashi Kumar released the nature club name and logo designed by the students and congratulated the students on the formation of the nature club and the medicinal plant garden initiative. About 100 different varieties of medicinal plant seedlings obtained from KFRI were exhibited at the event which will eventually be transplanted as a garden at SIBB R&D.

Dr. Sethulekshmy Nair, Dy.Director, SIBB-R&D spoke on the need for such initiatives.

Mr. Sanal Potty, PR Manager took to the stage with a soulful rendition of the poem ‘Oru pattu pinneyum’ by renowned poet and environmentalist Ms. Sugathakumari, which talked of a lone bird with broken wings, perched on the branches of a felled tree, singing softly of her comrades and home, so appropriate for the occasion by all means.

Mr. V.J. Jose, otherwise known as Periyar River Keeper, is one of the only two men in the world known as a river keeper. He started with his early child hood bond with the river and described how slowly the water body deteriorated with pollution and how that made him the environmentalist he has become eventually. He shared the valuable lessons, challenges and guidelines on protection of our immediate environment, drawing from his 33 years of experience protecting Periyar river and the surrounding ecology, a very inspiring real life story. Mr. Jose gave a realistic picture of how cumulative effects of improper chemical and other waste management can become a continuous health hazard to people living in the vicinity. He showed some carefully crafted short video clips showing effective energy conservation and waste management. Much to the delight of our students Mr. Jose demonstrated how to convert a dupatta into an ecofriendly carry bag or even tote.

Only those who are smart will survive in this highly competitive world, he cautioned.

Presiding over the function, Dr.Radha PThevannoor, Registrar and Group Director appreciated the unstinted support the institution enjoys from the students and their parents. She took the opportunity to announce the beginning of a new undergraduate programme BCA from this year onwards.

Offering felicitation, Dr.C.Mohankumar, Director, SCMS Institute for Bioscience and Biotech Research and Development said that quality education is the measure of the growth of a country.

Dr.G.Sashi Kumar, Principal-SSTM welcomed the gathering and Dr.Sherin Mariam Alex, Vice Principal proposed the vote of thanks.
As part of the International Yoga Day, a practical session on yoga was conducted on June 20 under the guidance of Dr. Ravi Vijay, Director, Yoga Sikshak, Bihar School of Yoga, Kochi. Various yogasanas were taught to the NSS volunteers and faculty members. It was a memorable interactive session.

Student achievement

Tiglin George, MBA batch 16 won second prize in Kathan, the HR article writing competition organised by IMM Udaipur for her article entitled ‘Green HR.’ the article has been published in the magazine Kathan that was released on June 15 during Spandan, annual HR summit of IIM Udaipur.

As per the most urgent request made by CIAL management, SCMS Water Institute had taken up a consultancy for identifying the reason for transmission loss of treated drinking water from within a three kilometer long pipe line laid underground at the Kochi International Airport. CIAL authorities were observing severe mismatch of readings between drinking water supplied by Kerala Water Authority and the quantity of water used at the airport. In the light of this mismatch KWA was requested to do inspections to find the reason for the same, as the quantity of water lost during transmission was observed to be considerably high. Even after several inspections carried out during the last few months, KWA was unable to identify the location of a possible leak.

CIAL management later approached SCMS Management for help from SWI in sorting out the issue. SWI team headed by Prof. Baiju Radhakrishnan, Group Director visited CIAL and had discussions with their senior officials which culminated in a consultancy offered to SWI. SWI team made intensive investigations along the pipe line with the leak detection sensors donated to SCMS by the German company named SEWERIN. We were successful in pinpointing the leak which was at the underground pipe within the golf course area of CIAL and the findings of SWI were proved to be absolutely correct when excavations were made at this location. Senior officials of CIAL praised SCMS for helping them for identifying a leak which was causing heavy loss of revenue and the precious treated water resource.

Congratulations to the SWI team for their skillful work and our heartfelt thanks to SEWERIN company who donated us the leak detection equipment as part of an MoU which SCMS have with them. Mr. Anilkumar, Head of Civil Department of CIAL and his team worked with SWI team for several hours in the scorching sun to solve the issue.

Subsequently, the leak was finally plugged in by CIAL Civil Department to their satisfaction. It’s a pleasure to see CIAL also in the client list of SWI.

The SCMS Water Institute team under the leadership of Dr. Sunny George engaged in the waterline leak detection at CIAL.

Dr. Sunny George, Director, SCMS Water Institute, Dr. Ratish Menon, Associate Professor, Mr. Anilkumar, Head of Civil Department, CIAL and other members of the team at the site.
SEWERIN leak detection equipment

SEWERIN sensors avoid the need for digging up the ground for leak detection. Drinking water escapes from the water supply system into the surrounding environment through the leaks, due to the significant pressure differential, producing a noise comparable to that made by blowing across the top of an open bottle. Thus an audible noise is produced at the site of almost every leak. These noises could be either structure borne (acoustic oscillations induced in the wall of the pipe at the point where the water escapes) or ground borne (noise transmitted through ground to the surface). In both cases, the quality of the sound transmission is dependent on a variety of influencing factors such as type and size of leak, operating pressure, pipe diameter, pipe material, depth of earth covering and so on.

The first step in detecting a leak is to carry out a pre-location procedure by listening at point of contact to the pipe network. It is not important whether this point is at a slide gate, hydrant or home shut-off valve. In principle, all types of shut-off fitting in the pipe network are suitable for this application, because they represent a point of contact to the pipe carrying the structure-borne noise. By comparing the volume at these points, the operator can use this kind of technique to narrow down the site of the defect to a small range. The noise gets louder as the leak detector gets closer to the point at which the pipe is damaged. Once the detector has passed over the leak the sound level will start to decrease.

The equipment for leak detection has been donated to SCMS Water Institute by the renowned German company named SEWERIN as per the MoU which the company has with SCMS. The cost of the leak detection equipment comes around Rs. 9 lakh.

Outlook ranks SSET as Kerala’s 2nd best Engineering College

In the Outlook Drshti All India Survey of Professional Colleges 2019, SCMS School of Engineering and Technology (SSET) has been ranked as the 85th Best Engineering College in the country, and the 2nd Best in the State. The ranking has been made on criteria such as academic standard, infrastructure facilities, placement, teaching excellence and so on.
The feasibility study report on implementation of rain water harvesting systems at Kochi Metro facilities have been submitted by SCMS Water Institute. The study was entrusted to SCMS Water Institute by KMRL for exploring the possibility of rain water harvesting at metro stations, depot and viaducts.

Rain water harvesting is one of the most effective methods of water management and water conservation. The harvested water not only can be used at the time in need, but can also help to reduce the ever increasing cost of water. When the harvested rainwater after filtration is recharged into the ground or to open wells or to bore wells, it can augment the natural processes of replenishment.

The study at KMRL by SCMS Water Institute will certainly be an eye opener for other government and public buildings of the state. This initiative has particular importance as Kerala is one of the exceptional geographical areas of our country, which receives maximum annual rainfall. The state of Kerala is blessed with an annual average rainfall of 3100 m.m. The recent changes in the rainfall pattern, population explosion, ground water exploitation and extensive urbanisation have put a considerable burden on the state’s water resources. It is surprising to see that many regions in the state are facing water scarcity despite Kerala being one of the wettest places in India. Recent study by SCMS Water Institute found that majority of wards in Kochi Municipal Corporation are under immense water stress and urban water scarcity is a major challenge to be addressed for this fastest-growing city of Kerala.

Kochi Metro exerts a significant demand on urban water. KMRL wants to reduce the water footprint so as to contribute towards urban water security and sustainability. Reduction in water footprint can be achieved in two ways. (1) by preventing misuse or overuse of water at metro facilities, and (2) by reducing dependency on public water distribution system. A detailed water audit at metro stations and yard would help in understanding water conservation opportunities at metro facilities. On the other hand, harvesting the rainwater collected on station roof tops, depot and viaducts would help in reducing the dependency on Kerala Water Authority water supply.

KMRL has entrusted SCMS Water Institute to study both the above aspects. The report submitted is the outcome of such a study where SCMS Water Institute conducted a detailed water audit and also assessed the feasibility of harvesting rain water from the roof tops of metro stations and depot. A draft water policy of Kochi Metro was also provided to act as a guide for further activities of KMRL.

In the light of the study report submitted by SCMS Water Institute to KMRL, KMRL management had requested SWI to join their civil engineering team to have a joint verification of the measurements, data collected and the like, and to develop a detailed and explicit project budget for each of the stations in order to initiate roof top rain water harvesting. Accordingly, the combined inspection was carried out successfully. KMRL engineers expressed utmost satisfaction in the accuracy and professionalism of our study and thanked SCMS for the technological assistance, innovative ideas and knowledge partnership.

**Publication**

Dr. Varun G. Menon, Associate Professor in Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering published a paper titled ‘An efficient and adaptable Multimedia System for Converting PAL to VGA’ in *Journal of Real Time Image Processing* with Impact factor 1.574.

**Student achievement**

Aswathy P. S. of Electronics and Communication department, SSET (batch 2018-2019) has been awarded the NSS Top Scorer award for the academic year 2018-19.

**Placement news**

The following numbers of offers were given to our 2019 batch students by various companies:

- CTS – 4, Neudesic – 1, Quest Global – 3, Elevation Services – 3
- Perfectfit Systems – 1, Federal Bank – 4, Mu Sigma – 1, PKJ Technologies – 24, Redeemer Technologies – 1
- Sutherland Global Services(Non Voice) – 22, Valued Epistemics – 1, Tech Mahindra – 3, OEN India Pvt. Ltd – 2, Zerone Consulting – 1
- UL Technology Solutions -1, Apollo Tyres –4

The final results of UST Global, Cabot Technology, Manhattan Associates and Takeyon Systems are awaited.

**Dr. Sunny George speaks at Carborundum Universal**

Dr. Sunny George, Director, SCMS Water Institute was the Chief Guest and keynote speaker for a seminar at Carborundum Universal (under Murugappa Group) on June 17. He spoke on the projects and activities of SCMS Water Institute. The company staff and invited guests attended the programme.
Student achievement

‘Smart Rail System,’ an idea suggested by Vinayak R., Semester 3 EEE student of SCMS College of Polytechnics has been selected by Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC) jury of Young Innovators Programme. His idea has been included in the YIP programme cycle 2018-21. The first round of the programme was conducted at SCMS College of Engineering and Technology. Another round was conducted at SCMS Prathap Nagar Campus. The final round was conducted at ICFOSS office Thiruvananthapuram. He is eligible for a fund of Rs10 lakh as scholarship from K-DISC in the first phase.

World Blood Donors’ Day observed

The World Blood Donors’ Day was observed in SCMS College of Polytechnics on June 14. Mr. Joseph Sunny, PRO, Rajagiri Hospital, Aluva engaged an awareness class on blood donation, precautions to be taken and the like. Prof. Baby PP, Principal inaugurated the function. NSS volunteer secretary Asha Mathews welcomed the gathering. NSS volunteers Muhammed Fazal, Hari A. C. and Athul Krishna donated their blood at Sanjeev Hospital, Perumbavoor.

World Environment Day observed

SCMS College of Polytechnics observed the World Environmental Day focusing on the theme ‘Beat Air Pollution,’ on June 6. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. P.P. Baby, Principal by planting a teak wood sapling in the college campus. The students planted 45 teakwood saplings in the college premises.

Reading Day observed

Reading Day was observed under the auspices of the NSS units, on June 19. Prof. C.I. Abdul Rahiman, Director-SCP, in his keynote address, touched upon the benefits of regular reading such as mental stimulation, knowledge gain, memory improvement, improved focus and concentration, better analytical skill, better writing skill and formation of a good personality. Mr. Baby P. P., Principal distributed the prizes to the winners of the reading and writing competition conducted as a part of Reading Day. Ms Deepa Das, Librarian welcomed the gathering and Asha Mathews, NSS volunteer proposed the vote of thanks.

SCMS School of Architecture ranked the Top Best in Kerala

In the Outlook Drshti All India Survey of Professional Colleges 2019, SCMS School of Architecture has been ranked as the Number 1 among the Architecture Colleges in the state of Kerala, and the 17th Best Architecture College in the country. The ranking has been made based on criteria such as academic standard, infrastructure facilities, placement, teaching excellence and so on.