

# **SOUTH INDIAN ASSOCIATION (Annual Report 2019-2020)**

## **INAUGURATION CEREMONY & ONAM CELEBRATIONS**

On 24th September 2019, the South Indian Association celebrated its first event for the academic year 2019-2020, i.e the “Inauguration Ceremony and Onam Celebration”.

Ms.Padmaleela D (Coordinator, BSc (CS) was called upon to speak a few words on SIA and she announced the inauguration for the year 2019-20.

Following this was a ramp walk of the faculty (Mr. R. Perumal, (Faculty BBI and Convenor), Mr. Mithun Pillai (Coordinator, BMM and Co-convenor), and other faculty members, Dr. B. Indumathi (Co-ordinator, BAF), Ms. Padmaleela D and Ms. AshwathyRavindran (Faculty, BCom) with a few students displaying the culture and clothing style of all the four states of Southern India namely, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. This was followed by an inauguration dance that combined the dance forms of South India. This marked the bringing together of the traditions and customs of South India.

Mr.Mithun Pillai started the Onam Celebrations by speaking about its history and the various festivities involved.

A graceful performance of the traditional dance of Kerala, Thiruvadhira, in the traditional settumundu attire had set the mood for further celebrations.This was followed by a folk dance that is prevalent in Kerala. It brought to light the folk culture of Kerala. The next thing on the agenda was the singing of Malayalam Songs related to Onam.

Next, the audience were treated with a session of games.

The organising team took special efforts to make sure that every woman faculty member was given gajra to decorate her hair and all the faculty members were served with traditional Kerala snacks.

The minute one set foot in the quadrangle one could feel the vibrancy. The students dressed in their ethnic best, set the mood for festivities. The decorations and the feeling of celebration that was present in the air made a lasting impression on everyone’s heart.

There was a vote of thanks by the host and the Onam Celebration came to its end.

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## **Food Fest and Exhibition**

On 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019, the South Indian Association organized another spectacular event for the academic year 2019-2020 - 'Food Fest and Exhibition'. The event took place in the Quadrangle from 11.30 am onwards.

This half day event mainly showcased the food, culture and architectural richness of South India. The student members of SIA laid out an array of homemade delicacies, and showcased models of different heritage sites from all the five states of the South. The exhibits also included the life and history of a few famous personalities and also the art forms from different parts of the South.

The Principal Dr. Milind Vaidya, SIA Convenor Mr. R. Perumal (Faculty, BBI), SIA Co-Convenor Mr. Mithun Pillai (Faculty, BMM), Registrar Mr. Muralikrishnan Nambiar, and faculty members Dr. Indumathi B. (Faculty, BAF), Ms. Padmaleela D. (Coordinator, BSc CS), Ms. Ashwathy R. (Faculty, BCom) presided over the event. They inaugurated the event purchasing delicacies of their choices from the food counter, and then by inspecting the exhibits. After this, the quadrangle was open for all visitors - students and teachers alike.

The architectural models displayed included: Brihadisvara Temple (Tamil Nadu), Charminar (Andhra Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Church (Kerala). Further, famous personalities including poets like Thiruvalluvar (Tamil Nadu), Tikkana Somayati (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana), Cherusseri Namboothiri (Kerala), Adikavi Pampa (Karnataka) and their craft found coverage in the presentations. In addition to these, the arts forms like Karakattam (Tamil Nadu), Mohiniyattam (Kerala), Kuchi Pudi (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana), Yakshagana (Karnataka) also found a place in the exhibition area.

The buffet included Perupu Vada (Karnataka), Bonda Chutney (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana), Tattai (Tamil Nadu), Unni Appam (Kerala) along with drinks like Panakam, Buttermilk and fritters of various kinds.

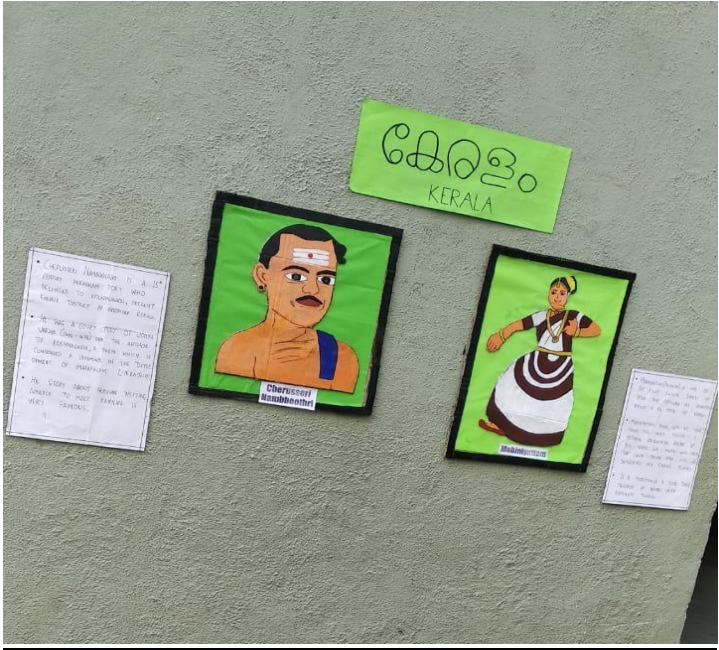
All the members of the SIA were dressed in their ethnic attire representing different southern cultures and added to the spirit of the celebration. The lip smacking dishes as well as the hand crafted models as symbols of culture allowed the SIA to spread awareness about the unacknowledged diversity in South India among students and teachers in a fulfilling manner.



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## **Pongal and Sankranti Celebrations**

The South Indian Association started the New Year 2020 with Pongal and Sankranti Celebrations in the College premises on 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 in the Quadrangle from 11 am. This celebration aimed at presenting a contrasting visual of harvest festivals celebrated in three states namely, Telengana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

The celebrations started with the lighting of the lamp, followed by the inaugural address by the Principal Dr.Milind Vaidya. Thereafter, Ms. Padmaleela D. ( Coordinator, BSc CS, and Member, SIA) spoke about Sankranti - the harvest festival of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and Dr.Indumati B. (Faculty, BAF, and Member, SIA) spoke about Pongal - the Tamil harvest festival.

The festivities were conducted in the Quadrangle, which was setup like a village, giving a spectacle of any Tamil or Telugu household on the day of Pongal or Sankranti respectively. The SIA Members had prepared a spot in the quadrangle with sugarcanes tied together and an earthen pot set in between to prepare the traditional delicacy for the day - Pongal. In addition, a portrait of the Sun God and Rain God Indra, miniatures of huts, and life size cows and bulls signifying the traditional sport 'Jallikattu' played on the occasion, altogether set the mood for the day.

On one end a group of girls, lit fit to the preparation of pongal invoking the blessings of the almighty, while on the other end the members of SIA performed songs in both Tamil and Telugu, and folk performances like Karakattam. However, the highlight of the event was the skit performed by the student members showcasing the mythological story behind the rituals and celebrations related to these harvest festivals. As though in a very organic manner, the pongal was cooked by the time the story was enacted - a moment of blessedness which was shared by the SIA members and onlookers.

Finally, the Pongal was served to everyone fresh and hot from the pot, and the students sought blessings from the teachers. Thereafter, as per tradition the students moved on the authentic games played as a part of the festival including splitting sugarcanes, balloon popping, arm wrestling and the like.

All in all it was an exercise filled with fun and information.

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## **“Calmness during Crisis”**

While everyone was battling with a situation of pandemic due to Covid-19, The IQAC and The South Indian Association (SIA) of SIES (Nerul) College of Arts, Science and Commerce came up with an idea to tackle the quarantine boredom by conducting an online webinar on the topic “Calmness during Crisis”.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2020 the webinar was conducted via the Microsoft Teams platform and was open for all the Students, Teaching and Non-teaching staff of the college. The initiative of this webinar was taken by the Convenor of SIA- Mr R. Perumal and the Co-Convenor Mr Mithun Pillai.

Mr E.V Gireesh, a well-known trainer across industries known for his unique style and ability to inspire people; who were also an Ex-Professor of the SIES (Nerul) college was invited as the Speaker for the Webinar. The webinar started at 11 am and continued for about 1 and half hour. Around 80 people joined the webinar virtually via the Microsoft Teams app. The webinar ideally covered the topics like how to spend a quality life by enjoying everyone's presence, to spend some time with the family members, the real meaning of living a joyful life and many such inspiring and motivating situations and their solutions from our day-to-day life.

E-Certificates were provided to all the participants and a vote of thanks was given by the faculty member of SIA Ms. Padmaleela.D which marked the ending of the webinar. Overall this webinar helped the attendees to understand how to actually deal with an unexpected situation like this and carved a smile on everyone's face too.