



Football for unity: P2

Changed value system ‘affecting our education’

Vice President Hamid Ansari interacts with inquisitive Sharda University students

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GREATER NOIDA: There was a time when ‘Masterji’ of a village was revered. Not anymore, because our value system has changed. Those in civil services and other jobs are given more importance than people engaged in academics. Matrimonial columns in the newspapers are testimony to this. These were some of the observations of Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari while interacting with the students of Sharda University on April 17.

Saying that our priorities have changed, Mr. Ansari said that the country was not investing in education as much as it should. “Our allocation both at the central and state government levels to education is abysmally low which is unfortunate but our public opinion is not willing to address the problem,” he said in reply to a question on lower budget allocation to education than defence.

The Vice President began the session by saying that the idea of interacting with students intrigued him more as he wanted to know what the young generation “thinks of the world today”. He did not make any speech and directly invited questions.

Mr. Ansari complained that the primary education was not the priority of today’s governments. “You can’t have higher education if your school education is low. Without input we can’t expect output,” he said and posed a question: “Why is it that in earlier generation in per capita terms, we produced many more eminent scholars and scientists than we are producing today?”

Research and classroom learning cannot be separated

In reply to another question, he said, “Research and classroom learning cannot be



Photos by Joydeep Chanda, MA (J&MC)

Chancellor P.K. Gupta and Pro-Chancellor Y.K. Gupta honour Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari at Sharda University on April 17.

separated; they go hand in hand. But we made the mistake of separating the two at university level six decades ago.” He said India hasn’t been producing enough researchers or scholars over the last decade which has resulted in the lowering of the educational standard of our universities.

A student asked him why private universities were not at a par with government universities. To this the Vice President said, “Higher education in private universities are not a part of comprehensive regulatory framework, despite the fact that today 60% students were going to private universities.” He was of the view that the concept was new to India. It would take some time to evolve. “In the United States, it took over 100 years for private universities to come to a certain level.”

The Chancellor, Mr. P.K. Gupta, and the Pro-Chancellor, Mr. Y.K. Gupta, felicitated the Vice President. Vice Chancellor Vijay Gupta presented vote of thanks.



Moot Court draws 60 teams from all over India

The Shardans Team

GREATER NOIDA: The School of Law organised the 2nd Anand Swaroop Gupta Memorial National Moot Court Competition from April 5-7, 2017.

Moot Court is a mock court where participants argue imaginary cases for practice and establish a strong base for themselves.

This was the second edition of the moot court competition named after Late Anand Swaroop Gupta, father of Mr. P. K Gupta, Chancellor of Sharda University.

The competition was inaugurated by Justice Vinay K. Mathur, former judge, Allahabad High Court and former Chairman, Foreign Exchange Appellate Tribunal.

The valedictory session was

graced with the presence of Mr. Salman Khurshid, Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court and India’s former minister of external affairs. Mr. Khurshid enlightened the students by quoting his own life journey and also motivated them to achieve success in their lives.

The Chancellor of Sharda University, Mr. P.K. Gupta, Pro-Chancellor Y.K. Gupta, Vice Chancellor Vijay Gupta and Mr. R.P. Agarwal, principal advisor to the Chancellor, were present on both the occasions.

The three-day competition attracted 60 teams with 180

participants from all over the country. The competition was divided into four rounds – preliminary, quarter final, semi-final and final round.

Vaishali Sairam, Srinivas Krishnan and Krishna of Sastra University, Tanjavur, won the first prize and received prize money of Rs. 50,000 along with subscriptions of SCC online for one year worth Rs. 69,000.

Chandni Babunu, Chantal Sharma and Shivani Dushyanth of CMR University, Bangalore, were the runners up who won prize money of Rs. 25,000 along with SCC online for 6 months’ worth Rs.

34,500.

Priyanka Pillai of NUALS, Kochi, was adjudged the Best Researcher and won prize money worth Rs. 10,000/- and one year subscription of SCC online worth 23,000/-

Adarsh Maurya of the University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab University, was adjudged the Best Mooter – Male; and the Best Mooter - Female was bagged by Aparna Singh of Amity University, Lucknow. Both the winners received prize money of Rs. 10,000 each and one year subscription of SCC online.

The convener of the event was Dr. Pradeep Kulshrestha, Professor-in-charge, School of Law, and co-conveners Dr. R.P. Yadav, Associate Professor, and Dr. Ashish Singhal, Assistant professor. Dr. Yadav proposed the vote of thanks.

The competition was divided into four rounds – preliminary, quarter final, semi-final and final round



Former Union Minister Salman Khurshid at valedictory session of Moot Court Competition

Football for unity

Friendly match played at Sharda sends positive signals to the world

Adity Kumar

BA (J&MC), 2nd Semester

GREATER NOIDA: Sharda University recently hosted a friendly football match between Embassy 11 and Chancellor 11 that consisted of students belonging to various countries such as Nigeria, Congo, Uganda, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Vietnam as well as India.

The match, played on April 5, was part of a goodwill gesture by the university authorities and the district administration of Gautam Budh Nagar to defuse tension prevailing in Greater Noida.

Diplomats of several African embassies, guests from African universities as well as high officials from the district administration graced the occasion.

The match was preceded by speeches by Chancellor P.K. Gupta and Gautam Budh Nagar District Magistrate N.P. Singh. A cultural programme was also organised in which Sharda students

performed dance and sang popular numbers of various countries.

The event was organised in the background of tensions between African students and local residents. On March 27, four Nigerian students were attacked by a mob in Greater Noida following protests over the death of a Class 12 student of a residential colony due to drug overdose. The death was blamed on the Nigerians in the colony. The Nigerians have refuted the charge.

"Africa and India have a long history of strong ties. Some unfortunate incidents should not hamper relations. Hence, we decided to organise this event to strengthen bonding among the students," Gautam Budh Nagar District Magistrate N.P. Singh told a local daily. All the major newspapers of Delhi gave extensive coverage to the match.

Osman Mohammed, the deputy head of mission, Embassy of Sudan, who was among the guests, said, "There is no

doubt that India is a friendly and secular nation, but when such incidents are reported, we see very little support from the civil society. Racism is not good for any country."

The football ground was covered with flags of various countries in a spirited show of unity in diversity. Sharda University has 1,500 students from 56 countries, of which nearly 200 are from African countries.

Chancellor Gupta said, "When someone greets us in African countries with 'Namaste', it shows how much they love us. Keeping such things in mind, we all have to fight against the odds."

The football match was evenly contested by both the teams in the first half as both teams scored one goal each. However, the Embassy 11 took the game by the scruff of the neck in the second half and scored two goals to win the game 3-1. The goals for the winning team were scored by Nabil, Abubakar and Aron.

The occasion was also graced by some guests from the universities of Uganda and Tanzania who were visiting Sharda that day. They were pleased to know about the match and readily accepted the invitation to be part of the event. In an interview to Germany's Deutsche Welle or DW, Kampala International University's Vice Chancellor Dr. Mouhamad Mpezamihigo hailed Sharda for organising the event. He told the DW representative present on the occasion that the reported attack on Nigerians in Greater Noida should be taken as an isolated incident. "It is not going to affect the cooperation that India is having with the countries of Africa."

- With input from local newspapers



HIGH-SPIRITED GOAL: Both the teams had players from global community studying at Sharda. Flags of various countries adorned the playground. (The Shardans photos by Joydeep Chanda, MA (J&MC), Second Semester)



Chancellor P.K. Gupta welcomes Gautam Budh Nagar District Magistrate N.P. Singh.



Sudanese diplomat Osman Mohammed greets the players.



Executive Director Prashant Gupta along with African guests in a group photo with the players.

There was no sign of prejudice on the campus

Shafiu Sadiq Ahmad

BA (J&MC), 2nd Semester

THE attack on some African students suddenly changed the lives of all Africans living in Greater Noida. They were forced to remain indoors for several days. Those living in university hostels were safe. But those staying in rented apartments faced hardships. Sharda University offered its day-scholars to stay on the campus. They were accommodated in the Mandela Hostel. It was a timely gesture.

Initially, I was stressed and worried about our safety, specially those who

stay outside. But there was no sign of discrimination on the campus. The response of my classmates and teachers was very reassuring. They supported me and gave me and my friends help and advice that was needed at the time. They treated me like their family member. The concern that they showed was heartening. I received plenty of messages on social media. Several people called me on the phone as well.

I am short of words to show my appreciation to them. I would like to express my gratitude to you my lovely friends and lecturers for your support. This is an unforgettable memory of my life. You have a saying 'Guest is a god. You have really proved it.



For day-scholars, study at home is tough but not impossible

Nancy Vinayak

BA (J&MC), 2nd Semester

GREATER NOIDA: Do the day-scholars get less time to study than the hostellers? Do the long hours they spend in commuting to college have any bearing on their results?

These were some of the questions that the first year undergraduate students of Mass Communication posed to Sharda University students as part of their class assignment.

They got interesting results from the interviews that they conducted with day-scholars and hostellers. Managing time

for study at home was found to be the biggest challenge for the day-scholars. However, it was not impossible, said majority of them.

More than half of Sharda students are said to be day-scholars. As per the survey, up to 40 percent of them live in Greater Noida. The rest come from various parts of Delhi NCR.

Students who come from Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida, etc spend considerable time in buses or Metro to reach Sharda University. In some cases, students spend up to two hours in commuting to Sharda.

Himani Wadhwa, final year student

of engineering, said: "subah saat bajey ghar se nikaltey hain aur sham ko saat bajey ghar pahunchtey hain aur us ke baad itna zyada thak chuke hotey hain

'If I don't study, I'll fail. So I study, even if it's one hour or half-an-hour'

jiski wajah se mann nhi karta kuch padhne ka" (I start at 7 in the morning and return home by 7 in the evening. I get so tired that I don't feel like reading).

Most of the students who were interviewed said that they get up as early as 05:30 in the morning to catch the bus by 06:30. As the classes start from 8:45, they aim to reach the university by 08:30 a.m. The classes get over at 04:00 p.m. They reach home by 06:30 or 7 in the evening. Sometimes if the traffic is heavy they are delayed even further. This leaves them with little time to relax and then study.

However, more than half of the day-scholars said that despite spending considerable time in buses and Metro, they do study at home, even if it's only for half-an-hour. Those who man-

age time to study go to bed by 11 p.m. But those who said they are unable to study go to bed past mid-night after watching movies.

"As university students we enjoy more freedom. Pressure from parents to study is less compared to our school days. That means, we are on our own. If I don't study, I'll fail. So I study, even if it's one hour or half-an-hour," said a Dental student who does not want her name to be given.

She said she relaxes on Saturdays and Sundays. But week-end is also meant for completing assignment, which she does.



Chancellor P.K. Gupta presents honorary D.Lit on Sri Sri Ravi Shankar as Pro Chancellor Y.K. Gupta looks on at the second Convocation of Sharda University held on March 4, 2017.



Sharda honours 3,500 students with degrees

Ufaira Fayaz
BA(J&MC), 4th Semester

GREATER NOIDA: Sharda University organized its 2nd Convocation on March 4. This grand occasion was marked by the presence of well known Spiritual leader and founder of Art and Living Sri Sri Ravi Shankar as the chief guest of the event.

All the past students from batches 2014-15 and 2015-16 once again came to Sharda - this time to hurl their degree caps in the air. The moment added to their memory forever.

Some of the students shared their experiences with this reporter. "Sharda has been a medium to make us think beyond boundaries and it has uplifted our spirit to reach towards our goal," said one of the graduates.

Nearly 3,500 students were awarded degrees by Sri Sri Ravishankar. Thirty-three students were given Ph.D. degrees, 650 masters degrees and the rest bachelors degrees.

Certificates of Merit were given to the meritorious students by respective deans of different schools just before the

commencement of the actual program.

Sujit Kumar and Farhana Fayaz were the two receivers of Chancellors Medal for 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively. Both the students from Electrical Engineering Department held the highest academic position in the entire university.

Moreover, toppers of each of the 11 schools got Gold Medals. These medals were given by the Chancellor, Mr. P.K Gupta.

The main programme of the convocation started at 3pm. Before that the students wearing black gowns were seen taking photographs all over the campus.

The university hosted lunch for everyone present on the occasion from students to their parents to the faculty and staff members.

To make the event successful, the university authorities sought the help of its students.

Representatives of local and national dailies as well as television channels were assisted by the students of Mass Communication Department. The convocation got prominent coverage in the media.



Neha Dixit in conversation with students

Investigative reporter interacts with Mass Comm students

Ufaira Fayaz
BA (J&MC), 4th Semester

GREATER NOIDA: The profession of journalism is full of hardships to which one must prepare oneself from the very beginning, said Neha Dixit in an interaction with the students of Mass Communication at Sharda on April 7. Ms Dixit is a young journalist who is known for her investigative reporting. She has won several national and international awards.

She said as journalist you must keep challenging yourself and keep challenging the people around you. "The moment you start succumbing to the set of ideas that are presented to you, you have co-opted and compromised on your principles. Try to break the status quo and keep doing whatever needs to be done for the betterment of society," she added.

Ms Dixit said as an employee of a media house one has to do stories that one is asked to do. But there is always room for asserting yourself. "If you are doing five stories that sell, the six must be something valuable to the society. It would give you professional satisfaction and keep you

alive," she said.

Speaking on the challenges that a women journalist faces in India, Ms Dixit said people have a very patriarchal attitude towards women. Even when people talk about women's rights, their understanding deep inside is very patriarchal. "The moment a woman starts asserting herself, starts fighting for her rights, she is seen as a troublemaker."

Neha Dixit is an independent journalist who has extensively covered gender, development and conflict in South Asia. She started her career as an investigative journalist with Tehelka magazine. Later, she

joined the Special Investigation team of the Headlines Today news channel. She is also a member of the Network of Women in Media in India. Since 2013, she is working as an independent journalist, writing for national and international media outlets.

Ms Dixit's talk was followed by a lively question-and-answer session in which students posed hosts of questions. It prompted healthy discussion on the burning topics of the day such as recent election result, 'Romeo squad', meet ban, etc.

Speaking about her career, she said that investigative journalism came to her as a challenge. Her pro-

fession gives her the opportunity to fight against injustice and bigotry. She specially focuses on human rights and women issues.

Ms. Dixit is the recipient of the Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Woman Journalist for 2016. This is said to be the highest award for women journalists in India. She has also won the Kurt Schork award for investigative journalism, and has been a World Press Institute fellow.

In 2015, she won the Press Institute of India-Red Cross award for her story titled 'Shadow Lines highlighting the plight of Muzaffarnagar women who were subjected to mass rapes during communal riot. She has also won awards such as Trust Women Honorary Journalist award by Thomson Reuters Foundation, Young Journalist Award by Thomson Foundation, Lorenzo Natali Award by the European Commission, Best Television Reporter, News Television Awards, UNFPA Laadli Award, Anupama Jayaraman Award.

She has also contributed to The Global Casebook of Investigative Journalism 2012 and an anthology of sexual violence in South Asia 2016 by Zubaan Books.



A view of the interactive session



Mass Comm students get placement

Eight students of Mass Communication have been recruited by Byju's Classes and 'Karambhoomi'. It was for the first time that the two companies visited the Department of Mass Communication and conducted interviews. After two rounds of interviews, they selected seven BA (J&MC) and one MA (J&MC) students. Those selected are in their final semesters. The department is in the process of more such interviews in the near future.



Prof. Bhaskar Bhattacharya, Dean, SBSR, and Chairman of NCFM-2017 briefs participants about the activities of his school.

NCFM-2017 offers forum to scientists, young researchers

The Shardans Team

GREATER NOIDA: The School of Basic Sciences & Research (SBSR) organized 2nd National Conference on Functional Materials (NCFM-2017) on March 31st-April 1st.

The conference provided a common platform to scientists and young researchers who shared their knowledge with the participants in frontier areas of material science. The conference delved upon the remarkable advancements in science, from theory to practical applications of functional materials.

Chief guest and key-note speaker of the event was Dr. R. K. Sharma, who is Outstanding Scientist, Director SSPL (Solid State Physics Laboratory), and awardee of MRSI 2016 towards development of Semiconductor Materials Technologies.

In his address titled "Semiconductors Technologies for Defence Applications", Dr. Sharma emphasized on the applications of semiconductors in inorganic/organic materials, polymers, thin films and quantum dots. He also drew attention of the research undertaken by DRDO for

naval requirements, armaments and development of solid state devices/functional materials for CNTs, 2D materials and TE coolers.

Prof. Bhaskar Bhattacharya, Dean, SBSR, and Chairman of the conference, briefed the participants about how SBSR was serving the dynamic mission to achieve excellence in both academic and research perspectives. He further elaborated on the UG, PG and research programmes offered by the SBSR.

The event was graced by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Vijay Gupta, who highlighted the use of functional materials in weaponry.

The conference also saw some of the renowned experts for delivering lectures on Material Sciences. They included Dr. Jai Singh (Harisingh Gour Central Univ. Sagar), Prof. Sugriva Nath Tiwari (HoD, Physics, DDU), Dr. Yogesh Kumar (ASRD, DU), Prof. Zishan Husain Khan (DU), Dr. K.P. Singh (HoD, Chemistry Deptt, NIET, Gr Noida), Prof. R. P. Dwivedi (Shoolini Univ.), Dr. S.K. Shukla (Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, DU) and Dr. Manoj Singh (Swami Shradhdhanad College,

DU).

Dr. Jai Singh spoke on "Controlled Synthesis of MoS₂, Graphene and Zinc Oxide Nanostructures by Chemical Vapour Deposition", while Prof. Sugriva Nath Tiwari gave an overview of Molecular Interactions in Liquid Crystals. Prof. Zishan Husain Khan emphasized on diversion from Chalcogenides to Nano-chalcogenides. Prof. K.P. Singh drew attention of researchers towards applications of Functional Materials in today's scenario. Dr. Manoj Singh gave a talk on "Performance of Solid-State Hybrid Supercapacitor Fabricated using Lithium Iron Phosphate and their Composite with PEDOT:PSS as Cathode". Dr. Sunita Sharma delivered her talk on "Dye Sensitized Solar Cells: From Provenance to Recent Drifts". Applications and significance of Nanowire Gas Sensors and Non Enzymatic Bio Sensors as functional materials were highlighted by Prof. R. P. Dwivedi and Dr. S.K. Shukla.

The papers delivered at the conference will be published in International Journal of Electroactive Materials, said the organisers.

Photo exhibition, workshop on Street Photography

Ankit Kumar
BA (J&MC), Second Semester

GREATER NOIDA: The Photography Club of Sharda University organised a Photo Exhibition on March 28 in Block 2. The club, which goes by the name of Clickers, had invited entries from all the schools of Sharda.

The theme of the exhibition was Street Life, Animal Love and Nature. Up to 200 entries were received. The organisers selected and displayed 80 photographs.

Mr. Mohit Tejpal, a prominent photographer who has the honour of being featured in National Geographic, was invited to judge the photographs.

The exhibition was followed by a workshop conducted by Mr. Tejpal. With

the help of his own photographs, he explained various kinds of photography. He shared his experiences of clicking images of nature and street lives.

The workshop was well attended. Students from the Department of Mass Communication and the Department of Design as well as the School of Architecture and Planning specially took keen interest in the presentations of Mr. Tejpal.

They asked questions seeking clarifications on the finer aspects of photography. Mr. Tejpal advised the students to do street photography.

Associate DSW Noor-e-Zahra, Photography Club faculty coordinator C.P. Rashmi and Mass Communication faculty members including HOD Eqbal Ahmad graced the occasion.



Well known photographer Mohit Tejpal inaugurates the Photo exhibition in Block 2 on March 28.

DISCLAIMER: The contents in The Shardans are generated by students as part of their journalistic practice. They do not reflect the views of Sharda University in anyway.

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