

An SIIB Publication

REKINDLE

FEBRUARY 2026



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WORD OF THE MONTH

“ Sonder ”

the realization that each random passerby is living a life as vivid and complex as your own.



On 04th February 2026, the Symbiosis Institute of International Business (SIIB), in collaboration with SCMHRD and SCIT, celebrated Pongal, the traditional harvest festival, with great enthusiasm and cultural vibrancy at the Symbiosis International Campus (SIC), Pune. The celebration brought together students, faculty, and staff, fostering a spirit of gratitude, prosperity, and unity while honouring India's rich cultural heritage.

The celebrations commenced with the Pongal Pooja held from 7:00 A.M. to 8:30 A.M. at the SCMHRD Atrium, where the ceremonial preparation of Pongal was conducted with traditional rituals and devotional chants. The occasion reflected gratitude toward nature and the harvest, creating a serene and culturally enriching start to the day.

In the afternoon, the Pongal Feast was held from 12:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. at the SIC Mess, bringing together students and faculty from SIIB, SCMHRD, and SCIT over a spread of authentic festive delicacies. The meal symbolised abundance and togetherness, encouraging interaction and strengthening bonds among members of the Symbiosis community.

The celebrations continued in the evening with cultural performances held from 8:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at the Sports Arena, where students showcased traditional and contemporary acts reflecting India's diverse cultural heritage. The event concluded with an energetic DJ Night from 9:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M., creating a lively and festive atmosphere. The Pongal celebration successfully fostered cultural appreciation, community engagement, and a shared sense of festivity among students and faculty.



On 17th February 2026, Symbiosis Institute of International Business (SIIB), Pune, hosted its flagship event, AGRISUMMIT, themed “Bridging Local and Global: Building a Sustainable Agri-Economy for Viksit Bharat.” It brought together industry leaders, academicians, and students to deliberate on the future of India's agri-food sector. The summit commenced with a ceremonial lamp-lighting, followed by the welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Alka Maurya, Director, SIIB, highlighted the transformative potential of Indian agriculture through technological integration, sustainability, value addition, and alignment with global trade.

A key highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SIIB and BAIF Development Research Foundation to strengthen industry-academia collaboration through joint research, academic initiatives, and student engagement.

The summit featured insightful keynote sessions from distinguished industry leaders. Mr Nirvanjyoti Bhattacharjee, Director - Agri & Food Sector, PwC India, emphasised India's transition from being a "volume player" to a "value player" in global agricultural trade. Dr Prashant Pawar, Head - People Strategy & Learning Initiatives, BioPrime, spoke on sustainable agricultural practices, biological innovations, soil health, and the importance of maintaining economic viability for farmers alongside environmental sustainability.

Mr Amrut Arole, Managing Partner & Co-Founder, Kluger Kopf, highlighted the role of strategic execution, governance, and brand building in transforming agricultural enterprises, while Ms Lalita Joshi, Researcher, BAIF, addressed challenges such as fragmented landholdings, infrastructure gaps, and the need for scalable aggregation and rural livelihood models.

The event also featured a panel discussion moderated by Dr Sushant Malik, Head of the Department, Agri Business. AGRISUMMIT 2026 successfully provided students across Agribusiness, International Business, and Sustainability Management specialisations with meaningful exposure to industry perspectives, reinforcing SIIB's commitment to bridging academia and industry and advancing the vision of a sustainable, globally competitive agri-economy.



On 18th february, 2026, ENECON , the flagship sustainability conclave of the Department of Sustainability Management at SIIB, Pune, commenced with the ceremonial lamp lighting and opening formalities. Dr. Alka Maurya, Director, SIIB, delivered the opening address, emphasising the need to translate sustainability intent into measurable impact and highlighting the shared responsibility of governments, corporations, and individuals in addressing climate challenges. The event also witnessed the launch of the department's sustainability newsletter, Equilibria, showcasing student-led research and thought leadership.

This was followed by a thematic address by Dr. Ravi Sharma, Head of the Department of Sustainability Management, who elaborated on the theme "Leadership and Sustainability Unbound: From Intent to Impact." He emphasised that sustainability must move beyond intent and be integrated into organisational systems, governance, and data-driven decision-making to create measurable outcomes.

The conclave then featured expert sessions by industry leaders. Mr. Amey Desai of A.P. Moller–Maersk spoke about the decarbonisation of global logistics and the importance of carbon accounting and alternative fuels. Mr. P. K. Verma from Henkel Adhesives discussed lifecycle-based sustainability and innovations in material technologies, while Mr. Avanish Kumar of Tech Mahindra highlighted the role of ERP systems, digital tools, and analytics in embedding sustainability into enterprise operations.

The final session by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Associate Director – ESG at KPMG India, focused on the growing significance of ESG in corporate strategy, governance, and regulatory frameworks. The conclave concluded with an engaging Q&A session and a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Dipen Paul, Deputy Director, SIIB, summarising the key insights and reinforcing the importance of leadership and collaboration in advancing sustainability.



Ignisense 2026, the annual flagship cultural, management, and sports fest of the Symbiosis Institute of International Business (SIIB), Pune, was held from 19th to 21st February 2026 at the SIIB Auditorium and SIC Grounds. The event offered students a platform to participate in management competitions, cultural showcases, and sports activities, promoting experiential learning, creativity, and collaboration. The fest commenced with a ceremonial lamp-lighting ceremony in the presence of Prof. (Dr.) Alka Maurya, Director, SIIB, and Dr. Dipen Paul, Deputy Director, SIIB.

The first day featured key competitions such as Optiflow (Supply Chain Management case competition), PeopleVerse (HR case competition), and Synergy (Sustainability Management case competition). The day also included Inquisitive, a national-level quiz competition, and the inaugural edition of SIIB Model United Nations (SIIB MUN), where students engaged in diplomatic discussions and policy debates. The evening began with VogueVerse, the inter-college fashion show, followed by a live musical performance by Devender Pal Singh.

The second day continued with competitions such as The Capitalist 2026 (Finance case competition), Thousand Faces (Managerial Challenge), and Prastaav (Business Proposal competition), along with the interactive Trailblazer Treasure Quest. The evening featured the Rhythm inter-college dance competition, followed by performances by SIIB's student clubs: Drishyam, iBeats, and Raag. The celebrations concluded with a performance by Maahi and a DJ session.

The final day featured sports events, including Volleyball and Futsal, organised by the SIIB Sports Committee, highlighting teamwork and sportsmanship.

Management Events Under Ignisense

SIIB

UBON
WALK TO BE FREE

IGNISENSE

PRESENTS

IGNISENSE

REQUIEM: ECHOES OF THE BEYOND

POWERED BY

VAYU FARMS unstop

MANAGEMENT EVENTS | CULTURAL EVENTS | SPORTS EVENTS

1000 FACES	THE CAPITAL	ENTREPRENEUR	PEOPLEVERSE	enecon SYNERGY 2026	SIIB MUN
THE ULTIMATE TREASURE QUEST	INQUISITIVE D.D	PRASTAAB	WALK TO BE FREE	VIVID	WORLDVERSE



Optiflow

A Supply Chain Management case competition with the following winners: Team Deadend - KJ SIM, Mumbai and Runner-Up: Team SCM Mavericks - NMIMS, Mumbai



Pepleverse

A Human Resource case competition with Winner: Team Strategic Synergy - KJ SIM, Mumbai Runner-Up: Team Samanvay - SIIB, Pune



Synergy

A sustainable management case competition with
Winner: Team Alpha - Masters Union School of
Business
Runner-Up: Team DeadEnd - KJ SIM, Mumbai



Inquizitive

A National-Level Quiz (International & Global Scenario) with
Winner: Team Credence - NIBM, Pune
Runner-Up: Team Athadu - SIIB, Pune



Capitalist

A Management event by Finequity with
Winner Team: Finsmart – KJ Somaiya Institute of Management,
Mumbai - Maitri Kothari, Arth M Shama
Runner-Up: Team Alpha Bulls – SIBM Pune - Uma Lohia,
Shubham Agrawal



1000 Faces

A competition by Markadiction club with
Winner: The Apex Crew - SIBM Bangalore
- Mirza Saif Beg, Nisarg Jain
Runner-Up: Team Flash - Welingkar, Mumbai
- Pranay Rupchand Thakre, Rushikesh Khose



Prastaav

An Agrobiz event with winner team VISIONX - MANAGE
- Party Vinod Patil, Ashish Madhukar Rajnoor
Runner-Up: Team NAARM - ICAR NAARM
- Dalvi Durgesh Datty, Patel Meet Dilipbhai



Trailblazers

An Entrepreneurship Cell Competition with
Winner: Team Alpha – Masters' Union, Delhi
• Saurabh Bhopale, Aman Agarwal, Vrajesh
Runner-Up: Team Wizards – SIIB, Pune
• Darshil, Aadi Juneja, Krishna Behera



From 19th to 21st February 2026, the Symbiosis Institute of International Business (SIIB), Pune hosted the inaugural edition of SIIB Model United Nations (SIIB MUN), bringing together students to engage in structured diplomatic simulations and policy debates. The conference was organised under the guidance of Dr. Ganesh Vailachi, Convener. The event commenced with an opening ceremony where Prof. (Dr.) Alka Maurya, Director, SIIB, formally declared the conference open.

Day 1 – 19 February 2026: The conference began with committee briefings and opening statements, where delegates introduced their positions on key global and national issues. The G20 Committee initiated discussions on carbon border adjustment mechanisms and their implications for climate governance and global trade. The WTO Committee examined geopolitical tensions affecting global energy trade, particularly focusing on Venezuela's oil sector. Meanwhile, the UNGA DISEC Committee began deliberations on reforming the United Nations Security Council, while the Lok Sabha Committee debated the proposed Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025.

Day 2 – 20 February 2026: The second day witnessed deeper engagement across committees as delegates refined policy positions through moderated and unmoderated caucuses. Discussions expanded to include climate governance challenges, trade dispute mechanisms within the WTO framework, and strategies to improve transparency and implementation in rural employment programmes. A highlight of the day was the Executive Board panel discussion on India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, where delegates explored the implications of regional diplomacy and strategic cooperation in South Asia.

Day 3 – 21 February 2026: The final day focused on drafting committee outputs and consolidating policy proposals developed during the conference. Delegates worked collaboratively to finalise working papers addressing Security Council reform, global climate cooperation, trade governance challenges, and rural development policy frameworks. The conference concluded with a closing ceremony recognising outstanding delegates for their research, diplomacy, and leadership, marking the successful culmination of SIIB MUN 2026.



TIMELINE OF INDUSTRY VISITS

- **04th February 2026 - Cummins India Ltd. (Supply Chain Management)**
 - **14th February 2026 - Dynamic Logistics (International Business)**
 - **14th February 2026 - Henkel Adhesives Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (Sustainability Management)**
 - **27th February 2026 - Reserve Bank of India Archives (Finance)**
- 

Cummins India Ltd. - Industry Visit (Supply Chain Management)

February
04th, 2026



On 04th February 2026, the students of MBA - International Business (Batch 2024-26 and 2025-27), Supply Chain Management Specialisation, undertook an industrial field visit to the PHP Phaltan Plant of Cummins India Ltd. The visit aimed to provide practical exposure to manufacturing operations, shopfloor practices, and supply chain processes in a large-scale industrial setup.

The visit commenced with an introductory session by Mr. Mahesh Ghanekar sir, the plant in-charge, who explained the dos and don'ts to be followed on the shopfloor. He also shared insights into the history and development of the PHP Phaltan plant, highlighting its growth journey, operational scale, and commitment to diversity. Special emphasis was laid on the importance of women's participation in the workforce, with the plant maintaining significant women representation across functions.

Following the briefing, the students were taken through the shopfloor for a detailed walkthrough. The session covered various aspects of engine and genset assembly, including inline and V-type engine assembly processes. The students gained insights into automated and robotic assembly lines, machine stop lines, quality kitting, part picking, and direct sourcing from suppliers to reduce trans-shipments. Concepts such as Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE), condition-based monitoring, Cummins Manufacturing Serial System (CMSS), and error-proofing practices were also explained.

The visit further helped students understand operational planning mechanisms such as Annual Operating Planning (AOP) and Sales & Operations Planning (S&OP), along with strategies adopted to manage demand fluctuations. The importance of lean, green, and sustainable manufacturing practices adopted by Cummins was highlighted, including energy efficient systems and optimized power consumption within the plant.

Overall, the Cummins PHP Phaltan plant visit was an enriching learning experience that bridged the gap between theoretical concepts and practical industrial applications, offering students a deeper understanding of modern manufacturing, operations, and supply chain practices.

Dynamic Logistics - Industry Visit (International Business)

February
14th, 2026



On 14th February 2026, the students of MBA – International Business (Batch 2025–27) undertook an industrial field visit to Dynamic Logistics ICD (Inland Container Depot), Dighi, Pune. The visit aimed to provide practical exposure to global trade operations, logistics infrastructure, and the processes involved in international trade facilitation. Students gained first-hand insights into how an ICD functions as a crucial link in India's export–import ecosystem.

The session was facilitated by Mr. Roshan Talera, Executive Director, and Ms. Trishala Talera, Founder Director, Dynamic Logistics ICD, who provided an overview of the facility's operations and its significance in global trade. Mr. Rahul Bhandwalkar further guided the students through the practical aspects of EXIM procedures and customs clearance, explaining the documentation processes and operational steps involved in cargo movement and trade compliance.

During the facility walkthrough, students visited key operational areas including the customs bonded warehouse, container inspection zones, and cargo handling sections. They observed scanning and examination procedures carried out by customs authorities and learned how multimodal logistics coordination takes place among shipping lines, road transporters, customs brokers, and ICD management.

Overall, the visit offered valuable insights into ICD operations, EXIM documentation, customs clearance, multimodal logistics, and stakeholder coordination in global supply chains. The experience helped students connect classroom learning with real-world trade facilitation practices, reinforcing SIIB's emphasis on experiential learning in international business and logistics management.

Henkel Adhesive Technologies Pvt Ltd. - Industry Visit (Sustainability Management)

February
14th, 2026



On 14th February 2026, the students of MBA - Sustainability Management (Batch 2025-27), undertook an industrial field visit to the Innovation and Manufacturing Centre of Henkel Adhesive Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Hinjewadi, Pune, as part of the MBA – Sustainability Management program.

The visit commenced with an introductory session by Mr P. K. Verma, Global Sustainability Portfolio Manager – Automotive OEMs, and Dr Prasad Khandagale, Team Lead Manager, Henkel Adhesive Technologies. They introduced students to Henkel's global presence, its leadership in adhesive technologies, and the company's strong focus on sustainability, innovation, and operational excellence across industries such as automotive, aerospace, electronics, and industrial manufacturing.

Following the briefing, students were introduced to the Pune Innovation and Manufacturing Centre, a modern facility spread across approximately 18,000 square feet that integrates research laboratories, testing centres, and product validation units. Operating under internationally recognised standards such as IATF 16949, the facility ensures high levels of quality, reliability, and safety in automotive manufacturing processes.

During the walkthrough, students gained insights into the manufacturing and development of industrial adhesives, sealants, and surface treatment solutions. The process includes raw material inspection, controlled formulation and mixing, performance testing, and final product validation. The session highlighted how adhesives are increasingly replacing traditional welding techniques in the automotive industry to improve structural strength, reduce vehicle weight, and enhance passenger safety.

Overall, the visit provided students with valuable insights into sustainable product innovation, advanced manufacturing processes, and environmental responsibility in industrial operations, effectively bridging the gap between theoretical learning and real-world industrial practices.



On 27 February 2026, the students of MBA – International Business (Batch 2025–27), Finance Specialisation, undertook an educational visit to the Reserve Bank of India Archives at the College of Agricultural Banking, Pune. The visit aimed to provide students with practical exposure to India’s financial history, archival preservation practices, and the evolution of the country’s central banking system. Students gained valuable insights into how archival records contribute to understanding economic policy, financial institutions, and the development of India’s banking framework.

The session was coordinated by Shri Ravi Kiran Pala, Chief Archivist & DGM, RBI Archives, and facilitated by Mr. Jha, who introduced students to rare historical records preserved at the archives. The students were given an overview of early RBI documentation, archival registers, and historical currency issued since 1935. The session also highlighted the importance of scientific preservation techniques and the role of archives in supporting academic research, institutional memory, and policy analysis.

During the visit, students explored key archival sections that house historically significant documents related to India’s financial and banking development. They observed the preservation methods used to maintain delicate records and learned about the processes involved in cataloguing, storing, and providing access to archival materials for researchers and policymakers.

The visit was undertaken under the academic guidance of Dr. Neha Patvardhan, Assistant Professor and Dr. (CA) Madhura Ranade, Assistant Professor, who accompanied the students and facilitated the learning experience throughout the visit.

Overall, the visit provided meaningful insights into India’s central banking history, archival management, financial documentation, and the role of institutional records in shaping economic understanding. The experience helped students connect theoretical learning with historical and institutional perspectives, reinforcing SIIB’s emphasis on experiential learning in finance and international business.

Guest Lecture - The Choke Points of Power and Master Key of World Trade

February
28th, 2026



Mr. Praful Talera, Ms. Hema Thakar, Mr. Reza Ahmed, and Mr. Bajrang Wable



The guest lecture on "The Choke Points of Power and Master Key of World Trade." brought diverse industry perspectives on global trade and logistics dynamics.

On 28th February 2026, Symbiosis Institute of International Business (SIIB), Pune hosted an insightful guest lecture on "The Choke Points of Power and Master Key of World Trade." The session was delivered by Mr. Praful Talera, Owner, Dynamic Logistics, Ms. Hema Thakar, Mr. Reza Ahmed, and Mr. Bajrang Wable, who brought diverse industry perspectives on global trade and logistics dynamics.

The session began with the speakers introducing the concept of logistics choke points and their strategic significance in global trade. They explained how certain geographical routes and trade corridors act as critical nodes in international supply chains, influencing the movement of goods and shaping global economic activity.

The speakers further discussed the impact of these choke points on agri-business and international trade, highlighting how disruptions, geopolitical tensions, and logistical constraints can significantly affect trade flows, pricing, and supply chain stability. Real-world examples helped students better understand the complexities involved in managing global logistics networks.

Overall, the lecture provided valuable insights into the interconnected nature of global supply chains and trade infrastructure. The session proved to be highly engaging and enriching, successfully bridging theoretical concepts with practical industry perspectives for the students.

Feather in The Cap



We are proud to feature Vineet Shastry, a distinguished alumnus of the Symbiosis Institute of International Business (SIIB), MBA – Energy & Environment, Batch of 2011–2013, who has recently joined NSE India as Associate Vice President – Product Development, Listings (Mainboard) and Social Stock Exchange (SSE). In his current role, he works at the intersection of markets, regulation, and institutional development, contributing to key product strategy and listing initiatives.

With over 15 years of experience in sustainability, ESG strategy, and sustainable finance, Vineet has held leadership roles across reputed organizations including Kalpataru Projects International Limited, PwC India, API Holdings, Voltas (A Tata Enterprise), and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories. He has led global sustainability initiatives, strengthened ESG disclosures, enhanced ratings such as DJSI and CDP, and anchored long-term ESG roadmaps aligned with international frameworks.

Beginning his career at Infosys as an engineer, Vineet transitioned into sustainability consulting and corporate leadership, advising CXOs on ESG strategy, reporting, and governance. His journey reflects a strong blend of technical expertise, strategic foresight, and purpose-driven leadership.

Over the years, he has played a key role in integrating sustainability with business strategy, helping organizations align environmental and social priorities with long-term value creation.



Mr. Vineet Shastry

**MBA (Energy & Environment),
2011 - 2013**

We celebrate Vineet's continued success and his meaningful contribution to strengthening India's capital markets and sustainability ecosystem. His journey reflects the impact of purpose-driven leadership and the growing importance of integrating sustainability with financial innovation.

The SIIB community takes pride in his achievements and wishes him continued success as he contributes to shaping responsible and future-ready market institutions.

From Likes to Logistics: The Rise of the Creator-Entrepreneur

E-Cell
Column



The "Influencer" era is undergoing a fundamental evolution. For years, social media personalities were seen merely as digital billboards—hired by big brands to post a photo and move on. Today, the script has been flipped. We are witnessing the birth of the "Creator-Entrepreneur," where content creators are no longer just promoting products; they are building, owning, and scaling their own business empires.

This shift is powered by a move from "reach" to "relevance." While traditional celebrities have broad appeal, creators have deeply engaged communities. By leveraging this trust, creators in India are launching Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) brands in beauty, fashion, fitness, and even electronics. The business model has shifted from "Pay-per-Post" to "Profit-per-Product." Because these founders already have an audience, their Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC) is significantly lower than traditional startups that spend millions on Google and Meta ads.

The ripple effect of this revolution is felt most strongly in India's Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Regional creators speaking in Marathi, Bhojpuri, Tamil, or Bengali—are building massive trust with audiences who feel ignored by mainstream advertising. This has paved the way for a new infrastructure of "Enablement Startups" companies that handle the "boring" side of business, such as manufacturing, inventory management, and logistics, allowing the creator to focus solely on community and design.

However, the transition from "likable personality" to "CEO" isn't without its hurdles. These new founders are quickly learning that while a viral video can spark a sale, only "Unit Economics" and "Supply Chain Resilience" can build a sustainable brand. As we move forward, the most successful startups won't just be the ones with the best tech, but the ones that can turn a loyal follower base into a long-term community of customers. The era of the "Solo-preneur" is officially over; the era of the Creator-CEO has begun.

STAFF'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Staff Achievements

We take immense pride in congratulating Mr. Yogesh M. Kalbhor on being conferred the 2026 Leadership Award in the category “Exemplary Skills & Competence in Facilities Management.”

Mr. Kalbhor received this recognition at the 191st Procurement, Project Management, Corporate Real Estate, and Facilities Management Leadership Award Conference, held on 20th February 2026 at Sayaji Hotel, Wakad, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Pune, organized by CE Worldwide. This prestigious recognition reflects his outstanding professional expertise, dedication, and significant contributions to the field of Facilities Management. His achievement exemplifies the standards of excellence and leadership that continue to inspire professionals across the industry.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Kalbhor on this remarkable accomplishment and wish him continued success in his professional journey.



STUDENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Student Achievements

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Atmadeep Upadhyay (MBA-Agri Business), Diksha Sharma (MBA-Agri Business), and Yogitha Yadav Nalla (MBA-Energy & Environment) from the Batch of 2024-26 for securing the Runner-Up position at the Trial by Fire – Season 12 Quiz Competition held at XLRI Jamshedpur.

Their remarkable performance reflects their strong conceptual clarity, teamwork, and commitment to academic excellence. Competing against some of the brightest minds from premier institutions, they showcased SIIB's spirit of intellectual rigor and competitive excellence.

We are immensely proud of their achievement and wish them continued success as they scale new heights in their academic and professional journeys.



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pr@siib.ac.in
alumni@siib.ac.in