

## SOUTHERN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION REPORT- 2017-18

Southern Cultural Association is the prime committees of SIWS College constituted for conducting various cultural events linked to the southern states of India. The platforms provided by the association inculcate cultural bonding amongst the students and encourage affinity to their mother tongue. Brief reports of the events are mentioned below:

This year the Theme of the events are connected to cleanliness and environment.

- 1) **Poster Making Competition** was held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017 on “Clean Environment”. The participation was both from degree and junior college.
- 2) **Essay writing competition** was held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2017 on the topic ‘Cleanliness is Godliness’. Students wrote these essay in either of the Southern languages namely Tamil, Kannada, and some in Hindi and Marathi. 25 students participated in this competitions.
- 3) **Onam celebrations**; It is marked to bring about the cultural heritage of Kerala. This event was celebrated with much efforts and enthusiasm at SIWS college hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017, from 8 a.m. to 1.30pm. It started with Pookalam showing the vibrant rangolis decorated with flowers and more than 16 groups comprising of 5 to 6 students in each group participated in this competition and brought out their immense talents in this art. More than 16 items were presented in this function featuring dances, music sung by the teachers of Junior college, drama depicting the story of Mahabilli Chakravarthi to bring about the cause of celebrating Onam festival.  
Best dressed persons representing Malayala Mangai and Keralathu Purushan and a fashion show relating to the diverse dressing couple of Kerala were done so effectively and about 56 students participated in this dressing competition. Judges for these competitions were invited from SIWS School and Society. The dances comprises of the various forms of Thiruvathira, folk dances, Bharatha Natyam and Malayalam fusion dance.
- 4) ‘**Pattimandram**’, a debate, was held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The topic for the debate was “**Who is more responsible for the Growth of Youth in India – Society or Family**”. Leading Scholars in Tamil Literature were invited for the program as speakers. This programme was well received and also telecasted on the local channel.
- 5) **Participation of SCA in Indian linguistic conference organized by the Hindi Welfare Trust at University of Mumbai:**  
On Jan 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2018, a conference of various Indian languages was organized by the Hindi Welfare Trust at Marathi Bhasha Bhavan, **University of Mumbai**. The main motto of this trust is to promote Hindi as our national language and at the same time to generate interest and appreciation for one’s own mother tongue. The trust publishes a magazine “Mein Bharat Hoon” which instills respect for the various languages in our country.  
Our College being a minority institution promoting Tamil, has taken immense interest in nurturing its culture amongst the students. The students of our college presented various cultural programmes like the folk dance of Tamilnadu, Bharathanatyam and a fusion dance.

The performance of our students was highly appreciated by the audiences and dignitaries present. Students were awarded with certificates for their participation. Cultural programmes in various Indian languages were also presented by the other students.

**6) Thirukural competition - Southern Cultural Association (16<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 )**

Thirukural recitation contest was held by selecting three Thirukural chapters and students were asked to recite from them. Thirukural sung by Sangeetha Kalnidini Shasikiran was presented to the students. Fourteen Students from Junior and degree students participated in the competition.

**7) Debate Competition - Southern Cultural Association (16<sup>th</sup> January, 2018)**


Followed by Thirukural recitation the SCA conducted a debate on the topic "Progress of the Nation depends on agriculture? Or Industry?" Students had the opportunities to bring out various factors binding this topic. They very well brought out their arguments in a logical sequence and expressed their views with diction and clarity. Principal while in her address pointed out the three layered economy and explained the significance of agriculture to the progress of our nation.

**8) Pongal Celebrations - Southern Cultural Association (January 17, 2018)**

Lot of events were clustered for celebrating Pongal festival. It emancipated the significance of the Southern culture reflecting the various forms of thanks giving to nature. The theme of celebrations was cleanliness and Charity, wherein donations of ingredients of Pongal was brought by students and staff members. Pongal was made and distributed to the gathering and the remaining grains were donated to Ahobili Mutt Temple, Chembur.


The Pongal celebrations started with Rangoli and Kolam competitions in the early morning and the gymkhana hall was decorated with various flowers. In cooking without fire competition, many students exhibited their culinary skills and prepared healthy and tasty food items. In the quadrangle 23 groups of students started the program with making Pongal in earthen pots lighted with wood and pulps of cowdung. Banana Eating Competition where many boys students participated revealed their digestive valour. This was followed by various dances like kottatam, samukhaattam, BharathNatyam and rural dances based on folk culture.

All staff and students participated in the celebrations. They participated in the function and contributed in for the beautiful stage arrangements and encouraged the students. Since cleanliness was the theme of the function, the organizers invited the BMC employees in the surrounding area to participate in the Pongal festival. Joy filled the air as the guests and staff tasted the Pongal prepared by the students and it was a memorable and joyful Pongal.



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