Our priority should be to grow at 10 percent per year for 10 years — Dr. Subramanian Swamy

Dr. Subramanian Swamy MP and Chairman, Board of Governors, SCMS COCHIN School of Business addressed the PGDM students on the topic, ‘Regaining India’s Economic Legacy,’ on October 5. The talk was based on Dr. Swamy’s latest book – RESET: Regaining India’s Economic Legacy.

India was the most developed country economically right for thousands of years, for at least 10,000 years, he said. Up to 1750, India was considered as the most developed country of the world. We were ahead of anybody by leaps and bounds until about 1200 AD. After that, Islamic invasion took place which was followed by the British colonisation. As a result, India started going down. During the British rule the resources of the country were taken out of the country. It was so substantial. My calculation shows it was to the tune of $71 trillion. The industrial revolution that took place in the western world was not allowed to come to India by the Britishers.

The important periods that contributed to the formation of what we are today were: (1) the period from 1870 to 1947, (2) from 1950 to 1990 when the planning method from the Soviet Union was utilised by Jawaharlal Nehru, (3) during early 1990s the two Prime Ministers, Chandrasekhar and Narasimha Rao, transformed our growth rate and put us on a wholly new path from a growth rate of 3 percent by growing at 8 percent per year, and (4) then again when these two PMs went economy was again on a stagnant path.

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GPC Nayar has devoted his entire life

GPC Nayar is a person who has devoted his entire life to build this great institution from scratches without any government support. Today, I feel extremely proud of him for his never-give-up attitude and hard work in building up this institution which has established the national ranking.

Some ten years ago, we had an international seminar – India-China- US conference - here which was organised by three institutions, namely, SCMS, Harvard University and China’s Tsinghua University. (Tsinghua is considered as the Harvard of China.) All those invitees who came here were surprised to see this building, the infrastructure, and the conference setup. All the arrangements were done by GPC and his family. The entire team worked so hard to make that conference the most successful one I had ever been to.

Some ten days ago, I had been to China to give a talk in an important global symposium. I was surprised to note that they all still remembered the success of the conference held in SCMS.

– Dr. Subramanian Swamy

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Nehru’s choice of the Soviet model extracting resources from agriculture for financing industrial development was a mistake, said Dr. Swamy. As a result agriculture of India suffered as also the industry. Finally, we had a major food problem in 1955. It required to work on a green revolution to transform India from a food deficient country to a food sufficient country. India showed its capacity to overcome the difficult period. Even now India has the power to recapture its legacy.

Growth rate in India till 1947 was only 0.5 percent per year. From 1950 to 1990 during the Soviet model it was 3.5 percent. After liberalisation was brought in by Narasimha Rao for five years it rose from 3.5 to 8 percent. During the last three years the growth rate has come down.

Now what we should do to regain our legacy? When we talk about our policy we should talk about our objective, our priority, our strategy and the method of resource mobilisation. According to me our first priority should be to grow at 10 percent per year for 10 years. Can we achieve it? In my opinion our first preference to achieve it should be to focus on agricultural development. The second preference should be industrial development based on new technology and new innovation. The third priority should be to develop the service sector to modern communication facilities.

Dr. Radha P. Thevannoor, Group Director welcomed Dr. Subramanian Swamy and the gathering.

Special workshop by Mr. Praveen Kamath

Mr. Praveen Kamath, General Manager & Global Delivery Head - HR, WIPRO Technologies, Bengaluru conducted a special workshop on ‘Compensation Structuring in Organisations’ for the PGDM HR students of the SCMS Cochin School of Business on October 19. He elaborated on the practical issues of designing and structuring salary packages for employees and gave the students some hands-on experience of constructing the compensation components. The session was attended by all the HR students of the PGDM Batch 27 and the faculty members. It was a fruitful session and was well appreciated by the participants as it was so beneficial to them from the practical standpoint.

SatChat series of lectures

Another session of SatChat lecture series was held on July 27. The first presentation was by Dr. Deepa Pillai on the topic ‘Lively Classrooms.’ The second presentation was by Dr. Bijith George on the topic ‘Dreaming Better Life – Why do people move?’ The third talk was by Ms. Aiswarya Murali and the topic was ‘A walk through the handloom villages of Kerala.’

The MBA programme receives accreditation from NBA

The SCMS School of Technology and Management has received Accreditation from NBA (National Board of Accreditation) for its MBA programme. NBA is one of the two major bodies responsible for accreditation of higher education institutions in India. The programme is affiliated to M.G. University. SCMS is one of the few institutions having MBA programme accredited by MBA and NAAC in the state.

Student achievements

Students of SSTM bag ranks in MG University exams

Aparna Ashok, student of SSTM has bagged Second rank in the DDMCA programme conducted by M.G. University. Aishwarya Vijayan and C. Durga, students of BA Economics (Foreign Trade) have secured First and Second ranks.

Aparna Ashok Aishwarya Vijayan C. Durga
Batch 16 MBA students won second prize in Janpada - The Marketing Game at ‘Case De Gestao 2019’ a National Level Management Fest conducted by Bhavan’s Royal Institute of Management, Kochi, on September 3. The winners were Shabeer, Anjali B., Amal Thomas, Abhirami and Alfiya.

As a part of the study by SCMS Centre of Research, Consultancy & Training (SCRCT) for Petronet LNG Foundation, batch 17 students conducted a survey to understand the impact of ‘Numma Oonu’ - a hunger eradication project in Ernakulam district. The students collected the data from the beneficiaries and other stakeholders of the project from various places in the district.

Faculty achievements

Mr. Dibin K., Ms. Devi S. Nair and Ms. Rinu Jayaprakash, Assistant Professors completed a Faculty Development Programme on Financial Modelling and Valuation, a two-day intensive workshop held at Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamassery on October 15 and 16.

Dr. Shobha Menon, Associate Professor, attended a MDP on ‘Digital Marketing’ at XIME, Kochi on September 24 and 25.

Mr. Vignesh Karthik, Assistant Professor, MBA, was invited as resource person for one-day national level conference on ‘Step ahead in research methodology with software applications,’ organised by the Department of Business Administration at Wavoo Wajeeha Womens College of Arts & Science, Kyalatpanam, Toothukudi District, Tamilnadu on September 20.

The Marketing Forum named ‘The Hawk’ was inaugurated on September 25. Mr. Rajesh Vijayan, Head of Digital Marketing, Popular Vehicles, Kochi was the chief guest.

Data collection
IEDC activities

The Department of Civil Engineering in association with Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre – IEDC - (Supported by Kerala Startup Mission) conducted a two-day QGIS Workshop for Civil Engineering students on September 26 and 27. 40 students from SSET and 50 students from various engineering colleges across Kerala attended the workshop. Dr. Ratish Menon, Associate Professor, Civil Engineering led the workshop and was assisted by M Tech Environmental Engineering students who took on the role of student mentors.

Department of Automobile Engineering in association with SAE INDIA Collegiate Club of SCMS and IEDC organised a two-day Auto Workshop exclusively for Mechanical Engineering / Automobile Engineering students on September 26 and 27. The programme had an overwhelming response with 45 registrations. Students of technical institutions from all over Kerala, Chennai and Coimbatore attended the event.

Department activities

The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering organised a talk on the theme ‘An insight into the systems of Kochi Metro’ by Mr. Jayananda Somasundara, Deputy General Manager, Signaling and Telecommunication, Kochi Metro Rail Limited on October 11.

Sports achievements

The KTU D-zone Kabaddi championship was held at SSET campus on September 30. This was the first time SSET hosted a university level sports championship and SSET bagged the first place in both Men’s and Women’s category. SNGIST bagged the runner up position in both categories.

A poster making competition was held on October 6 by the literature club of Mechanical Engineering department to commemorate the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi. The theme for the competition was ‘Shades of Freedom’ and the first place was secured by Sanjay T.J. of S1 ME, second position was awarded to Goutham Manohar of S7 ME, and the third place to Jeomon Jose of S3 ME. The programme was organised by Mr. K. K. Gopalakrishnan, Staff in charge of the literature club and by student coordinator Allen M. Chandi.

Department of Computer Science & Engineering conducted a full day hands-on workshop on Blockchain on October 19. The event was conducted by eminent speakers from TCS, Kochi Office. The workshop was attended by faculty members and students of final/pre-final year.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, in association with BMW EVM Autokraft and Ducati EVM organised two-day workshop on Future Technologies for students on October 15 and 16. The programme had an overwhelming response with 246 registrations. Students of technical institutions from all over Kerala attended the event. An Auto Tech Quiz was conducted on day one and the 1st prize winner was John K. Loyson of S5 ME 2. The 2nd prize was shared by Nihal K. T. of S7 AU and Mohammed Jasime P. of S5 AU. The Makeathon Competition was conducted on day two. The students were asked to build a walking mechanism using the materials given within limited time schedule.

Glimpses of the workshop on Future Technologies organised by Dept. of ME.

Dr. M. Nandakumar, HoD, Dept. of EEE handing over the memento to Mr. Jayananda Somasundara, DGM, S&T, KMRL. Dr. Saira Joseph, HoD, Dept. of ECE is also seen in the picture.

Dr. Praveensal C. J., Principal addressing the gathering during the inauguration of the KTU D-zone Kabaddi championship.
NSS activities

On September 24, the NSS unit of SSET celebrated its golden jubilee. The programme began with a flag hosting ceremony by Dr. Praveensal C. J. and volunteers who had assembled at the campus were given hand-made badges. Senior Programme Officer Mr. K. K. Gopalakrishnan addressed the gathering on how the national service scheme emerged over the past 50 years and became one of the largest organisations in the world. A blood donation camp was also conducted. About 90 volunteers attended the programme.

The NSS unit, in association with the forest department of Athirapilly gave a helping hand to the hillock before the cattle breeding farm, Thumburmuzhi, which had about 14 debris flows in the past two years during the devastating flood that happened in Kerala. In the first phase of the project ‘Thaiveru,’ more than 50 bamboo saplings were planted at Konnakuzhy in Pariyaram gramapanchayat near Athirapilly on September 15. The inauguration of the project was done by Mr. N. Satheeshan (Forester, SFO) by planting a bamboo sapling. Mr. N. Satheeshan and Mr. Rakesh A. (SSET Programme Officer) addressed the gathering on the positive effects of using bamboo plants to control landslides. The project was carried out by 35 NSS volunteers of SSET and the residents of Konnakuzhy who dug the pits and planted bamboo saplings under the supervision and advice of officers of forest department.

Staff achievements

A book titled ‘Advances in Visualization and Optimization Techniques for multidisciplinary Research’ that was edited by Dr. Sheeja Janardhanan, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering has been published by Springer and is now available online at https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-981-13-9806-3. Dr. Sheeja has also authored the fourth chapter in the book.

Dr. Mahesa Rengaraj R., Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering and Dr. Saira Joseph, Associate Professor and HoD, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering have been approved as PhD guides affiliated to APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University.

Dr. Vinod P, Dean- Research and Publication, Professor and HoD of Department of Computer Science and Engineering was invited for a keynote speech as part of the Annual Security Conference SecCon APJ 2019 at CISCO, Bengaluru on October 16. Dr. Vinod gave a talk on the topic ‘Is Machine Learning Secure?’

Student achievements

A three-member team from S7 Civil Engineering, consisting Nandana S., Vani Vijayakumar and Teena Mariya Jose were adjudged 2nd from among twelve teams (eleven teams from India and one team from Indonesia) in the 5th University Challenge India held at Mumbai in association with German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) & Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT – India) on October 17 and 18.

Alumni meet

The annual SSET alumni meet of the UAE chapter was held at Ajman Beach Resort on October 5. Dr. Praveensal C. J., Principal, Dr. Anitha G. Pillai, Dean- Academic Affairs and HoD, Department of Civil Engineering, Ms. Sonal Ayyappan, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Mr. Anil G., Deputy Librarian attended the event.

Placement news

The following numbers of offers were given to our 2020 batch students by various companies:

- Infosys Limited – 103
- Quest Global – 10
- TCS – 36
- SOTI – 3

The final results of IBS, CTS, Speridan, Mitsogo and Novelworx are awaited.

Ninth and tenth day of aptitude training by Konfidence were conducted for final year B.Tech and M.Tech students on September 25 and 30 and mock interview sessions were conducted during September 23 to 27.
As announced in our previous edition, the German Academic Exchange Workshop (DAAD) for which SCMS Water institute was the Indian partner was conducted at SCMS Prathap Nagar Campus from October 9 to 15. The six-day workshop was on ‘Efficient Water Use – Waste and Waste Water Management.’ 20 selected alumni from various countries in Asia who availed German Academic Exchange Fellowship to do research in Germany, along with six renowned senior professors from various German universities participated in this workshop. Selected leading Indian experts in the water sector also gave presentations about the state of the art developments of this field in India.

Mr.Karl Philipp Ehlerding, Honorable Deputy Consulate General of the German Consulate at Bengaluru inaugurated the programme. Prof.Pramod P Thevannoor, Vice Chairman, SCMS Group, Prof. Ruger Winnegge, Programme Manager, University of Siegen, Centre for International Capacity Development, Siegen, Germany.

Prof.Ruger Winnegge, Programme Manager, University of Siegen, Centre for International Capacity Development, Siegen, Germany presented two topics in the workshop: (1) ) International Activities at the Centre for International Capacity Development, University of Siegen and (2) Impact of water-related networks for international collaboration and capacity building. The main motive of DAAD alumni was to create a cultural and scientific exchange programme, he said.

Prof. (Dr.) Johannes Fritsch, Professor (retired), Ravensburg – Weingarten University, Germany presented the topic, ‘From desalination to micro pollutants: The usage of membranes in water treatment.’ Micropolllutants which are organic compounds found in very low concentrations along with trace organic compounds are more or less persistent in the environment and are considered to be a new challenge in public waste water treatment, he explained. MBR is one of the best technologies to be used for removing micropolllutants.

Dr.Sunny George, Director, SCMS Water Institute, Kochi spoke on ‘Regional Strategies in Kerala to protect and conserve the water resources.’ Urban water security is becoming a serious problem all over India. But urban-rural divide is becoming narrow now and how long rural areas can provide water for the former is uncertain. Therefore proper policy and technology level changes are needed for achieving water security for urban areas, he argued.

Innovation potential at SCMS Water Institute was the topic for the presentation by Dr.Ratish Menon, Associate Professor, SSET. SCMS Water Institute has come up with innovative projects and ideas such as better storm water management projects for Thrissur, sanitation safety planning, Kochi Metro information systems and the like. All these would happen with better collaborations, he clarified.

Ms.Ratchada Arpornsilp, Research Associate / PhD Candidate, The Centre for People and Forests, Kasetsart University / Australian National University, Bangkok, Ms. Ha Thuy Nguyen, Water and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank, Hanoi, Vietnam, Dr. Ova Candra Dewi, Lecturer Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta, Prof. Dr. Hu mayun Kabir, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh, Dr. Shyamal Karmakar, Associate Professor of Environmental Science, Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, University of Chittagong, Ms.Sabina Khatri, Technical Officer and Hydrogeologist, Department of Water Resources and Irrigation, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Kathmandu, Nepal, Dr. Yosef Manik, Dean of the Faculty of Industrial Technology, Institut Teknologi Del, Indonesia, Ms.Erna Megawati Manna, Head of Joint Secretariat and International Development Collaboration, Regional Planning, Research and Development, Board of Sumba Barat Daya, Indonesia, Dr.Trung Dung Nguyen, Lecturer/ Consultant, Thuyloi University, Vietnam, Ms.Ocasa Preditha Prayitno, Intern, Akvota Technologies GmbH, Indonesia, Ms.Sarita Shreotha, Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene Engineer, Nepal, Mr.Cornelius Swiyanto, Consultant and Contractor, CSP Consult Service, Indonesia, Ms. Nori Andriany Teguh, Lecturer, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology, Indonesia, Ms.Thanh Huyen Tran, Scientific Researcher, Centre for Environmental Fluid Dynamics, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Prof.Anupam Kumar Singh, Professor and Director Indus Institute of Technology and Engineering, Indus University,
Ahmedabad, Prof. Bhagwan Sing Choudhury, Professor and Chairman, Kurukshetra University, Dr.Sundhraj Bankaru Swamy, Assistant Professor, Amrita Visha Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore and Mr.Vinay Varma, Assistant Technical Manager, GKW Consult GmbH, Mumbai Were the other participants who presented papers.

The delegates who attended the workshop are with Prof. Pramod P. Thevannoor, Vice Chairman, SCMS Group, Mr. Karl Philipp Ehlerding, Honorable Deputy Consulate General of the German Consulate at Bengaluru, Prof. Ruger Winnegge, Programme Manager, University of Siegen, Germany and Prof. (Dr.) Johannes Fritsch, Ravensburg – Weingarten University, Germany.

Prof. Pramod P. Thevannoor, Vice Chairman, SCMS Group speaking at the inaugural session. Others in the picture are: Prof. Ruger Winnegge, Programme Manager, University of Siegen, Germany Mr. Karl Philipp Ehlerding, Honorable Deputy Consulate General of the German Consulate at Bengaluru, Prof. (Dr.) Johannes Fritsch, Ravensburg – Weingarten University, Germany.
Prof. Kerstin Frick at TU Berlin campus in El Gouna, Egypt

Technische Universitaet Berlin, Alumni Seminar on ‘Innovations for New Town Development in the MENA Region’ conducted at the TU Berlin Campus El Gouna in Egypt from October 10 to 16.

Prof. Kerstin Frick, Principal, SCMS School of Architecture, was one of 34 selected participants, representing 12 countries, to attend the seminar at the TU Campus in El Gouna in Egypt, the only TU Campus outside of Berlin, offering Master Programmes in Water Engineering, Energy Engineering and Urban Development.

On October 15, Prof. Kerstin Frick gave a presentation titled: Challenges in the Urban Development of Kochi, Kerala.

During the seminar participants reported about and discussed challenges faced in their respective countries and analysed the development of New Towns in Egypt, comparing the situations of old and new towns.

SCMS students participate in Kerala Awards for Thesis in Architecture

Four students from SCMS School of Architecture, Karukutty – Dilshana Siyad, Kailasnath K.L., Sanju M. Sudakaran and Sreehari R. – submitted their entries for the Kerala Awards for Thesis in Architecture (KATHA), conducted by IIA. The competition serves as a platform to create a collective community of architects, designers and students, broadening the horizons of architecture discipline. The aim is to promote, reward and give visibility to young graduates of architecture who are capable of bringing forward exceptional works, ideas and experimentations, to take architecture to the next level and change the built environment for the better.

The competition was open to all recent graduates, from across the state and to those who have completed their thesis project in the field of architecture.

Out of 20 students who were shortlisted for the final jury, the following students’ entries from SCMS School of Architecture were included. Dilshana Siyad, Kailasnath K.L. and Sreehari R.

The final presentation will be on October 27 and 28 at Vanitha Veedu Pavilion, JLN Stadium and the award ceremony will be held at Holiday Inn on October 29.

SSA faculty members win IIA Award

Two faculty members of SCMS School of Architecture won the title under ‘Unbuilt Category’ for their work – 1868 House – at Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) Awards 2018 held at Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram. Assistant Professors Madhushitha C.A. and Lijo John Mathew won the title. Alankar Residence, Changanassery, the work by Professor Design Chair Roy Antony was short-listed under the category ‘Residence: Type A.’ IIA awards are the highest recognition that can be achieved by an architect in the country, which is judged by a panel of architects.